



The Rock

January/February 2023

As promised during our annual Congregational meeting, I said I would provide additional information concerning us supporting the NALC's first Stewardship campaign. As I disclosed, part of our 2023 budget will go to support this initiative. The goal of this Stewardship campaign is to raise \$5 million over the next three years (2023-2025). This initiative is being called Today, Tomorrow, and Forever to highlight that the needs within our growing denomination are not only short-term, but long-term as well. Funds raised during this campaign will be used to support current needs of the NALC such as funding for part-time staff positions and the establishment of a central office in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Funds raised will also be used for long-term goals such as supporting new Mission starts throughout the North American continent, expanding educational opportunities through our North American Lutheran Seminary (NALS), and programs for renewal and growth such as the Fresh Eyes for Mission Summit.

What's important is that the NALC leadership **does not** want this Stewardship campaign to interfere or replace any of the current benevolence giving by individuals or congregations. Giving to this campaign can be done by individuals, congregations, or organizations. In the case of our 2023 budget, last year (2022), we set aside funds to support the repair and construction of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus Seminary. Because of the generous support of the denomination, the needed repairs and the construction of the new Education and Administrative center is almost complete. In response, I simply recommended that those funds be redesignated to support the Today, Tomorrow, and Forever stewardship campaign.

If you would like to take part in this campaign, please let me know and I will get you a pledge card or contribution letter for you to mail in. Or, if you prefer to give through Bethel, simply place your gift in the offering plate and mark the contribution, Today, Tomorrow, and Forever.

The key highlights of the NALC's Today, Tomorrow, and Forever stewardship campaign are: • The NALC was formed over 10 years ago through a number of Lutheran churches committed to the authority of God's word seeking to have a greater voice in their denominational body, and we embraced four Core Values: Christ Centered, Mission Driven, Traditionally Grounded and Congregationally Focused.

- Today's NALC unites more than 142,500 Lutherans from 475+ congregations across the United States and Canada.
- The 2020 Vision provides the pathway to ensuring a legacy of faith today, tomorrow, and forever in all NALC congregations, including ours, through four primary components: Grow, Serve, Renew and Fulfill. These components include programs, services, and resources to meet the needs, opportunities, and goals of each and every NALC congregation.
- In order to achieve the goals of the 2020 Vision, we will be raising \$5 million through individual donors and congregational support, above and beyond our current support.
- The GROW component features elements to ensure long-term congregational vitality. These include discipleship, church plants, and stewardship.
- The SERVE component focuses on pastoral leadership and mission work. These elements empower a congregation's ability for mission, youth and family ministries, communication, pastoral and leadership development, call process, and a centralized NALC office. A large focus of Serve is the expansion of the North American Lutheran Seminary to ensure the pipeline of future clergy to serve our congregations.
- The RENEW component provides resources for revitalization through the "Fresh Eyes for Mission Sum-

mit," mission and renewal grants, and renewal conferences.

- The FULFILL component focuses on the NALC legacy of faith that channels each NALC congregation’s voice into the NALC purpose, call to discipleship, adherence to the four Core Values, and ability to embrace new opportunities.
- We are asking for individuals and congregations to support the 2020 Vision through three primary ways: to commit to consistent prayer through the 2020 Vision Prayer Partnership, to be an ambassador spreading the word about this vision, and to consider making a financial donation.
- We have many ways for donations to be made such as cash, multi-year pledge, credit card, stocks, IRA roll-over, planned gift, donations of grain, etc.
- Your prayers are solicited and appreciated. Our Prayer Partnership is a pledge to pray for the initiative on a daily or weekly basis, or as inspired.

For complete information, updates, and videos about the Today, Tomorrow, and Forever stewardship campaign, simply type the link below into your web browser, or see me and I will get you the information you need.

<https://thenalc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/vision2020.html>

Pastor Steve

**Bethel’s New Prayer Groups
Begin Wednesday, January 4, 2023**

God is at work at Bethel as we look toward the future together. With this in mind, we are forming prayer groups to seek God’s will and direction for our congregation. These groups will regularly pray for our pastor, church council and other leaders, our ministries, as well as for the prayer requests of our members, loved ones and friends. Please make plans to join us as often as you are willing and able. All are welcome and are encouraged to come.

We believe there is power in agreement and are encouraged by the words of Jesus: *"If two of you on earth agree about whatever they may ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. For wherever two or three are gathered in My name, there I AM in the midst of them.*

(Matthew 18:19-20)



Women’s Prayer Group-Wednesday 9:30-10:30 AM

Men’s Prayer Group-Wednesday 6:00-7:00 PM

Both groups will meet in the Educational Building



Happy New Year 2023

“Here’s to a bright New Year and a fond farewell to the old; here’s to the things that are to come, and to the memories that we hold. May the New Year bless you with health, wealth, and happiness.”

January 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Happy New Year!	2	3	4 9AM Women Pray 6 PM Men Pray	5	6 NALC Youth Leaders Mtg., Holy Trinity	7 NALC Youth Leaders Mtg., 11 AM Evangelism Mtg.
8 4 PM Council Mtg.	9	10	11 9AM Women Pray 6 PM Men Pray	12	13	14
15 12PM Fellowship Comm. Mtg.	16	17	18 9AM Women Pray 6 PM Men Pray	19	20	21 6 PM Buddy Wilson Oyster Stew
22	23	24	25 9AM Women Pray 6 PM Men Pray	26	27	28
29 11 AM Pot Luck Dinner	30	31-Feb 2 NALC Pastor's Retreat				



January Birthdays

- 6 Dan Setzer
- 8 Jimmy Johnson
- 11 Martin Paul Carpenter
- 13 Maggie Engle
- 13 Helen Rudisill
- 16 Hugh Carpenter
- 17 Tyler Carpenter
- 28 Pat Chapman
- 30 Jody Kiser

January Anniversaries

No Anniversaries this month

Bethel Council Meetings

Council meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at 4:00 PM.

Dallas High Shoals Food Ministry

Food collections for January are: All food items may be left in the Narthex.

Soup, Mac & Cheese, Green Peas and any canned foods. Of course, personal hygiene products and all canned and boxed food items are always welcome.

Equipping Lutherans and their neighbors to be Gospel-Motivated Voices For Life! Life Week is January 15-21, 2023. Life Sunday is January 21. Please pick up your Winter edition of LifeDate in the Narthex



*Blessed with the gift of life.
Blessed by God for one's entire life.
Blessed to be a blessing to others.*

February 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9AM Women Pray 6 Pm Men Pray	2 Pastor's Retreat	3	4
5	6	7	8 9AM Women Pray 6 Pm Men Pray	9	10	11 11AM Cemetery Comm. Mtg
12 4 PM Council Mtg.	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 9AM Women Pray 6 Pm Men Pray	16	17	18
19	20 President's Day	21	22 9AM Women Pray 5:30 PM Pancake Supper 7 PM Ash Wed. Service	23	24	25
26	27	28				

Ash Wednesday Service

February 22, 2023

5:30 PM Pancake Supper

7 PM Ash Wednesday Service with
Imposition of Ashes

Congratulations! The following ladies
have been elected to serve on our church
council:

Kimberly Carpenter – 3-year term,
Amber Carpenter – 2-year term, and
Candace Carpenter – 1-year term

Thank! Thanks to our outgoing council
members; Trent Cable, Robert Carpen-
ter, Nathan Hester, and Tony Trudnak
we appreciate their faithful service.

Happy Anniversary!

February Anniversaries

- 5 Harold & Gail Cabiness
- 11 Gerald & Pat Chapman

Dallas High Shoals

Food Ministry

Food collections for February are:
Canned Pinto Beans, Canned Meats,
Canned Pork and Beans.

Of course, personal hygiene products
and all canned and boxed items are
always welcome.

Happy Birthday

February Birthdays

- 1 Matt Cox
- 1 Tony Trudnak
- 10 Sue Carpenter
- 11 Jaxson Martin
- 15 Libby Carpenter
- 17 Harold Cabiness
- 18 Brett Raynor
- 21 Claudia Carpenter
- 25 Trent Cable
- 25 Mack Harmon
- 26 Terry King
- 26 Annette Poole

Worship Assistants January

Assisting Minister

Marla Cody

Greeters/Ushers

Bruce Kiser, Nathan Hester, Wade Carpenter

Worship Assistants February

Assisting Minister

Wanda Huffstetler

Greeters/Ushers

Marla Cody, Martha Pruitt, Trent Cable

Social Ministry in 2022

The Social Ministry committee would like to thank you for your generosity during 2022 to the many causes you have supported, making it possible for us to touch many lives.

Our Supporting Christians Fund has been maintained by individual contributions made to this ministry and has not needed the funds budgeted in our annual budget. We have provided food cards and assisted with power bills in our community.

You have supported Meals on Wheels in Lincoln County, Disaster Relief Programs, Crisis Pregnancy of Gaston County, Haiti and the Congo Missionaries, Awakening Lives to World Missions, with the help of our sister Church, Antioch, approximately 500 pounds of food was donated to the Dallas Christian Ministry. This went a long way in feeding the approximate 300 families weekly with meals for their families.

Most recently, you adopted children and provided Christmas gifts to 20 children and 2 Homeless Adults. Dallas Christian Ministry supports over 500 children each year with their Christmas program.

God has touched the hearts of the people of Bethel and your support of these programs is most appreciated, ***“For it is in giving, that we receive”.***

Thank you so much!

The Golden Agers

Would like to thank all the Prayer Partners at Bethel for continually thinking of us with their prayers, cards and thoughtful gifts throughout 2022. It is so uplifting to know that we are so cared about.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Please add the following changes to your address book:

Justin, Jill, George, Henry and Maggie Engle
4 Chestnut Street
Phoenix, NY 13135



The Rock Newsletter

Please email any announcements, recipes you would like to share or articles of interests to Donna Setzer at:

donnalsetzer@gmail.com

Also please send all updated b'days/anniversaries and changes in phone numbers, addresses, email address, etc.

I get the birthday and anniversary dates from the last Congregational Photo Directory, please check to be sure your info is correct, if it isn't correct let me know.

Thank you!

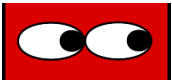
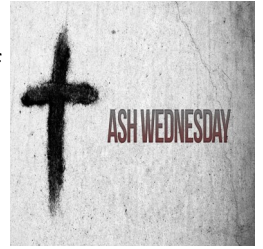
Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the Wednesday of the seventh week before Easter and the first day of Lent. The day is named for the practice of imposing ashes, a practice that many Lutheran congregations have found to be a very meaningful part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy.

Using ashes as a sign of repentance is an ancient practice, often mentioned in the Bible (e.g., Jonah 3:5-9; Job 42:6; Jeremiah 6:26; Matthew 11:21). The early Christians adopted the use of ashes from Jewish practice as an external mark of penitence.

Ashes symbolize several aspects of our human existence:

- Ashes remind us of God's condemnation of sin, as God said to Adam, "Dust you are and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19). ☒
- Ashes suggest cleansing and renewal. They were used anciently in the absence of soap. Even on Ash Wednesday, this most penitential day, we receive ashes in the form of the cross, the same symbol placed on our bodies with water in our baptism. Even in this ashen mark of death, we anticipate the new life of Easter.
- Ashes remind us of the shortness of human life, for it is said as we are buried into the ground or as ashes are placed in a columbarium . "We commit this body to the ground; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 284).
- Ashes are a symbol of our need to repent, confess our sins, and return to God.



Looking Ahead



March 1, 2023 Daylight Savings Time Begins. Set your clocks back 1 hour.

March 17, 2023, St. Patrick's Day

March 19, 2023, Mother's Day

March 20, 2023, First Day of Spring

April 2, 2023, Palm Sunday

April 6, 2023, 7:00 PM, Maundy Thursday Service

April 7, 2023, 7:00 PM Good Friday Service

April 9, 2023, Easter Sunday

April 10, 2023, Easter Monday

April 22, 2023, Earth Day

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

509 Long Shoals Road

Lincolnton, NC 28092

704.922.5487

Reverend Steven King, Pastor

pastorsteve@kfccloud.com

919.222.9071 cell



Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

509 Long Shoals Road

Lincolnton, NC 28092