



# LUTHERAN SCOUTING

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## Is Scouting in *Your* Toolbox?

Like all congregations, yours has a call to ministry - to youth, to families, to your community. When faced with any task, we sort through our tools to find the best ones to meet the challenge. As you look through your congregation's tools for ministry, do you find the programs of the Boy Scouts of America among them? These tools are available to any congregation but you may ask, "How do we use them?"

The National Lutheran Association on Scouting is hosting an opportunity for your congregation to get the answers to this and related questions during the Scouting in the Lutheran Church Conference to be held July 15 to 21, 2018 at the BSA's Philmont Training Center in northeastern New Mexico. This conference is designed for Lutheran congregations, schools, clergy, and all Lutheran Scouters who want to learn more about using Scouting as an outreach ministry to young people and their families. Join us and see how to use Scouting as part of your congregation's youth/outreach/community ministry strategy that contributes to reaching young families and building and sustaining membership.

Our faculty includes leaders of our Lutheran Association, BSA national volunteer and professional representatives, plus guest presenters from affiliated agencies. This will afford the opportunity to learn



about the religious education opportunities of the P.R.A.Y. religious emblems program and how it builds faith in youth. In addition, participants can share with Lutherans from across the country success stories, best practices for developing and maintaining relationships with Lutheran charter partners and how to best serve our youth and our churches.

Philmont Training Center provides opportunity for families to join their

Scouters with a wide variety of family programs. The PTC staff offers a full, organized program for every member of the family - from infants to spouses. Family members will be joined by others in their age group and will participate in a carefully designed, age and ability specific program under the leadership of trained, experienced staff. Groups will get to enjoy hiking, tours, handicrafts, games, campfires, and outdoor activities.

Join us as we enjoy the Philmont experience while growing in faith, knowledge and renewal with like minded, dedicated and experienced Scouters. For full conference center information and registration visit the PTC website at: <http://PhilmontTrainingCenter.org>.

Registration is open now. Come and share the Peace.





## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

# The Caldron of Death!



After retiring from the US Army, I bought a house in Lincoln, NE. The previous owners had a tennis court in the back yard but had removed. This which was OK by me because now I had a good sized back yard completely fenced off from my neighbors – my own little world!

Being a Master Naturalist, I immediately planted the entire area in native Nebraska prairie plants and grasses – and presto! the whole ecology of my yard was transformed from a sea of green grass (which required constant mowing) to a wild spot! Soon insects were abundant, which brought scores of birds, which brought the hawks, then rabbits, squirrels, foxes, raccoons, opossums and woodchucks. If Bison had showed up, I was moving!

It was a marvelous natural food chain environment at work, a literal “caldron of death.” I restored something to a more or less ‘natural’ environment and even though it is beautiful when the plants bloom, death was always prowling about looking for something to devour.

As our Lutheran Confessions state in Luther’s Small Catechism, question #95, “Man...is by nature blind, dead and an enemy of God.” Nature is a physically violent environment and the spiritual environment is no different. The Devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour (1 Pe 5:8ff). Like the ever-alert squirrels and rabbits (nature’s fast food), we too must be ever alert to the spiritual dangers around us. The internet, TV, Netflix and other electronic devices have the ability to bring all of the ills of the world right into our homes and show them uncensored to our children. The language used on TV shows during prime-time viewing is disgusting to say the least. Yet society seems not to notice or care. Society only sees all the bright and glittery things – and the Devil

continues to prowl.

In my prairie I see all the beauty of the plants but fail to see all the death that is hidden within this beauty. Thanks be to God that we have the Church to help us pull back the curtain of deception and see sin, confront it and through the merits of Christ declare victory over it! Oh death, where is thy victory; Oh death, where is thy sting?

One of my favorite hymns written by Martin Franzmann is “O God, O Lord of Heaven and Earth, (LW #319). It talks about Christ entering our hall of death to breathe our poisoned air and drink the cup of our despair. As I mentor my grand-

daughter through the “God and Family” program, I again realize the mystery of Christmas, the glory of God coming down to us to live in the world he created giving us the hope of the world to come.

The mission of the NLAS is to perpetuate this faith in our children and in those in our youth organizations so as the Devil prowls around they won’t become victims.

To this end, God grant us the wisdom and strength to carry forth the banner!

NLAS Chaplain  
James Hoke



## Send NLAS News Items

The deadline to submit articles for the next issue is March 9, 2018. Send Association and other news for the *Lutheran Scouting* newsletter to Pam Ciccarello at eaglesnest0810@att.net, and include NLAS in the subject line. Please spell out acronyms and give state and area or city locations so complete information is included in the publication. For events, be sure to include the date. For photos, either e-mail or send a glossy print.

# Meet the 2018 NLAS Officer Candidates

## **President - Wendy Cibils**

Wendy lives in Claremore, Oklahoma, has been married to Andy for 21 years and has two daughters, Jenna (11) and Tessa (6). They are members of Redeemer Lutheran Church where she currently serves as the church's Sunday School curriculum evaluator. She has also served as a Sunday School teacher, VBS Director and volunteer coordinator/recruiter for Youth Club and Sunday School. Award recipient of the "Lutheran Living Faith Award", Wendy is a life NLAS member.

Her service and leadership with American Heritage Girls includes five years as a Troop Coordinator, Vice Coordinator, Unit Leader and now as an Adult Member in their new troop. She founded the first AHG troop in Hutchinson, KS and helped start the home-school troop the next year. She is also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution for 6 years and serves as the Vice Regent for the Hutchinson, KS chapter. Her daughters are both American Heritage Girls and are working on the P.R.A.Y. awards. Wendy comes from a Scouting family and has attended conferences at Philmont as a child and adult since 1983 and will be in attendance at the Scouting in the Lutheran Church conference in 2018. She looks forward to sharing her organizational abilities if elected to the NLAS Board.

## **Secretary - Wayne Stuckey**

Wayne Stuckey lives in Oakland, Maryland. He is a member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church where he is a communion assistant and lectionary reader. He served on the Servant Leadership Team and taught Sunday School for fifth and seventh grades at his former congregation. Wayne has been an active Scouter since 1996. He was a founding leader in Pack 719 in 2003 and served as Scoutmaster of Troop 719 for 1998 – 2004. Wayne served as staff on four National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) and two Wood Badge courses and he conducted youth leadership training at the Troop level for 2002-2016. Wayne is a God and Life Religious Emblems counselor. He served as Advisor for 37 Eagle Scouts. He has received the Vigil honor in the Order of the Arrow. Wayne received the God and Service award in 2005 after nomination by his Troop and Church. He has been an NLAS member since 2007 and a member of the board since 2010. He currently serves as NLAS President for the 2016-2018 term. He served on National Jamboree NLAS exhibit

staff in 2010, 2013, and 2017, and attended the "Scouting in the Lutheran Church" conference at PTC in 2008, 2012 and 2014. Wayne retired from The Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory in 2016 completing 39 years of service. Wayne is the father of two Eagle Scouts and a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient.

## **Treasurer - Phill Lawonn**

Phill currently reside in Mounds View, MN and is a member of Christ the King Lutheran Church, New Brighton, MN (ELCA). He became a member of NLAS in 2009 and have served as NLAS Treasurer since 2014. The father of two Eagle Scouts (Andy and Ben), Phill has been actively serving BSA since 2005. He is currently the Committee Chair for Troop 106, the Northwest District Advancement Chair for the Northern Star Council and will be serving as a Scoutmaster for NYLT in 2018. A recipient of the Servant of Youth award in 2009, he served as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Scoutmaster to the 2013 National Jamboree and received the OA Vigil Honor in 2017. Employed by Boston Scientific as a Principal Scientist in the Twin Cities, he looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve as an Executive Board member for NLAS.

## **Member at Large - Loren Meinke**

During Loren's adult life he has belonged to several Lutheran Churches and in each served on various committees and council: Immanuel Lutheran, North Minneapolis, Minnesota; Lutheran Church of the Triune God, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota; Zion Lutheran, Hopkins, Minnesota and currently Trinity Lutheran in Brainerd, Minnesota. Additionally, he has served as a synodical conference delegate and will do so again in May 2018 for Trinity.

This is his 49<sup>th</sup> year as an adult Scouting volunteer. Most of his Scouting time has been in Boy Scouts - with a little in Cubs and Explorers - at the unit, district, council, sectional, area levels. He has also staffed NOACs since 1990 and as the Viking Council's Protestant Committee chairman and member for years - now a merged council.

Currently he is serving Scouting as Trinity's Chartered Organizational Representative, Pine Tree District's Recognitions Chair and the Central Minnesota's Silver Beaver Selections Co-chairman and a couple of others since we all wear many hats.

A retired professional educator, he was a primary teacher in the Minneapolis Public Schools for 33 years, project manager for the Learning Disability Association of Minnesota for 5 years and an adjunct professor at St. Cloud State University serving as a supervising teacher to student teachers in the urban setting for 5 years. Mr. Meinke has belonged to many community and professional organizations one of which was the Association for Childhood Education International headquartered in Washington DC. where he was honored to serve on their international board of directors for 3 years.

## **Member at Large - Rev. Dana Narring**

Rev Narring connection with Scouting began in 1967: beginning as a Cub Scout (earning the Arrow of Light) and later advancing to Life Scout (achieving the Order of the Arrow Brotherhood and earning the Pro Deo et Patria religious emblem). Monthly campouts, trips to the 1973 Jamboree in Moraine State Park, PA and boundary waters portaging/canoeing in the U.S. and Canada were part of the life-enhancing experience he enjoyed. As a Woodbadge participant and 3-time staffer, Seabadge, two Philmont Training Staffs (Scouting in the Lutheran Church) plus the Doctorate of Commissioner Science and of Scouting Arts plus many more training courses, he has been blessed to become a highly-trained Scouter - even establishing a Venturing Crew in 2011.

Previous positions as District Commissioner, Assistant Council Commissioner, Roundtable Commissioner, Scout-O-Rama Chair, Unit Commissioner, Pack Committee Chair, Pastoral Advisor for the NLAS, and current position as Unit Religious Emblems Chair have provided many opportunities to assist him with molding both adults and youth with the "Timeless Values" of Scouting. His passion for Scouting has also led him to become a fundraiser for the Friends of Scouting effort in the local units. Over the past eight years he has raised more than \$78,000 to support Scouting in the Southwest Florida Council.

He is called as the pastor to Faith Lutheran, Punta Gorda, Florida since 2009 and currently serves on the six-person LCMS Task Force on Scouting and on the FL/GA District Nominating Committee.

# Girl Scout National Interfaith Committee Meeting Report



By Kristin Rogahn

In October, the Program of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) facilitated a meeting of the National Interfaith Committee for Girl Scouting at the G.I.R.L. 2017 conference in Columbus, OH. Jennifer Allebach, Vice President of Girl Experience, represented GSUSA, shared her own faith and her background in Girl Scouting and discussed her role and the work of the Girl Experience Team. Kristin Rogahn and Matthew Rogahn (President-Elect of NLAS) represented NLAS.

The Girl Scout National Interfaith Committee comprises representatives of the many faith based organizations, the Vice President of Girl Experience (Jennifer Allebach), and P.R.A.Y. (Deb Hazlewood and CEO Jason Noland). The faith based organizations represented were: United Methodist Church Office of Civic Youth-Serving Agencies & Scouting, Association of African Methodist Episcopal Scouters, National Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts and Camp Fire, Members of Churches of Christ for Scouting, Volunteer Faith Engagement



Team of the NOOR Islamic Cultural Center (Columbus), National Buddhist Committee on Scouting, National Jewish Committee on Girl Scouting, and National Lutheran Association on Scouting. Also in attendance were GSUSA National Volunteer, Faith Engagement Team lead (Rev. Carol Rhan) and Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan Faith-Based Initiative Specialist (Joy Diete-Spiff).

Discussion was held on how to strengthen the connection between the Interfaith Committee and GSUSA and how to better integrate faith-based programs into Girl Scouting. GSUSA has an element in its program called My Promise, My Faith (MPMF). This element promotes building of faith

without favoring any particular faith. The interfaith meeting explored ways to connect the Religious Emblems Program, which promotes growth in the girl's own faith, to the Girl Scout program. Discussed not as a replacement for MPMF, but as an extension of how MPMF could point the way to learning more about her own faith. Methods were discussed on how to promote interest in the Religious Emblems at the ground level such as adding a Faith Based Programs Coordinator to the volunteer matrix, and emphasis in membership recruiting, adult training, and selection of meeting places in religious institutions.

Participants were energized by the open dialogue and exchange of ideas and look forward to the follow-up and continued dialogue with Jennifer Allebach. Overall, the Conference was a success in that the faith based organizations and Girl Scouts are starting to talk about how we can help each other in the future. I see this being a great beginning to building bridges between the GSUSA and LAS. I pray for all involved and for the conversations to continue within the Interfaith Committee.



**Wayne Stuckey  
President, NLAS**

# President's Perspective

In the Fall 2017 issue of Lutheran Scouting, I dedicated a long article to report on the 2017 NLAS annual meeting, which occurred the day before the staff reported to the BSA National Scout Jamboree. I dedicated my President's Perspective article to a brief overview of our activities at the NLAS exhibit and recognizing those who worked to create and staff the exhibit. With just a few notes on important happenings around the NLAS, I want to dedicate most of my space this time to my perspective on the Jamboree exhibit experience.

## Happenings Around the NLAS

After ten years of dedicated and faithful service, Trent and Terri Christian have decided to step down as membership co-chairs. Along the way, Trent also served as NLAS President (2008-2010) and was Jamboree exhibit chair for 2010 and 2013. Terri provided many services to NLAS, including creating much of the artwork that we use on banners and printed materials, and as layout editor for Lutheran Scouting. We will miss their service very much. I am pleased to announce that Robert Moreno has agreed to take over as membership chair. Lutheran Scouting editor, Pam Ciccarello, has agreed to take over layout editing. Thanks to Robert and Pam for stepping up to keep us running.

P.R.A.Y. and NLAS partnered to prepare a joint email newsletter to all Lutheran chartered organizations that are registered with BSA and their top unit leaders. The newsletter encourages Lutheran clergy and Scouters to attend the Scouting in the Lutheran Church conference during "PTC Faith Week" (15-21 July 2018) at Philmont Training Center,

encourages participation in Lutheran Scouting Associations at the local level, and provides information about the adult leader religious recognitions administered by NLAS. P.R.A.Y. prepared an article about religious emblems for youth that links to a new Lutheran-specific PRAY Awards brochure. The brochure contains information about the religious emblems for Lutheran youth, and how to participate in and conduct a religious emblems program. We are excited about this partnership, and anticipate that the newsletter may be an introduction to NLAS and the Religious Emblems Program for many recipients.

## My Jamboree Exhibit Story

The National Lutheran Association on Scouting (NLAS) had an exhibit in the Duty to God and Country area of the 2017 Boy Scouts of America (BSA) National Scout Jamboree held 19-27 July, supporting BSA's emphasis on its core value of Duty to God. Encouraging faith in the youth, leaders and families of our youth serving partners is our mission, and this is our ministry.

The theme of the exhibit, in addition to encouraging the use of the religious emblems to promote growth in faith of youth, was celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of the Protestant Reformation, which is dated from Dr. Martin Luther's posting of the 95 Theses on the door of All Saints' Church in Wittenberg, Germany on October 31, 1517.



In addition to the exhibit, we were invited to submit a video explaining

the Reformation. The 500th anniversary of the Reformation was observed during Protestant worship at the BSA National Scout Jamboree with the playing of the video "Reformation Rock," sung by Lost and Found. "Reformation Rock" was produced by The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod for the 2016 LCMS National Youth Gathering. The video was followed by an "introduction" by NLAS Head Lutheran Chaplain Rev Sherman Martell and Eagle Scout Zachary Rogahn.



In keeping with the Reformation theme, Martin Luther made an appearance at the entrance to the exhibit, inviting passersby to join him for a "selfie."



A very popular activity was the tying of knot crosses. The crosses captured the attention of many visitors, causing them to stop and chat, giving the opportunity for significant interaction. Before the official start of the Jamboree, many staff had stopped by to take or make a cross. Perhaps the champion “gifter” was Kristin Rogahn, who took the ministry to the staff pathways and buses. The West Virginia National Guard was providing security for the Jamboree. Kristin rarely missed presenting passing persons in camouflage fatigues with a camo cross and thanking them for their service. Some even left with tears in their eyes. Camo crosses began appearing on backpacks all over The Summit. Over 4200 knot crosses were tied and gifted during the Jamboree.



The NLAS exhibit is a witnessing exhibit. Assisting that was a new welcome center in the Duty to God and Country entryway. Gail in the Welcome Center had crafted 1000 laser etched coins for each exhibit. Participants could collect coins from each exhibit with which they had meaningful interaction. At the end, they could have their coins mounted permanently in a coin holder and also “cash in” the number of coins for laser etched prizes. The top prize was a laser etched walking stick (only 100 copies). This encouraged youth to visit many exhibits and to explore the various faiths represented. They asked questions at our exhibit such as “Tell me what Lutherans stand for” and “What do Lutherans believe?”



We responded with a brief recitation of the events surrounding the posting of the 95 Theses, Luther’s subsequent summons to court in the Diet of Worms, his refusal to recant unless proven to be in error by Scripture, his kidnapping and protective custody in Wartburg Castle, translation of the Bible into German so the people could understand Scripture when it was read to them, the wide distribution of the German Bible and Luther’s writings via Gutenberg’s new printing press. Many were impressed by Luther’s bold stand and the 500-year heritage of the Lutheran church. We explained the doctrine of the Lutheran faith, embodied in the “Sola’s” surrounding Luther’s rose: Luther’s insistence that Scripture is the authoritative Word of God, other writings being man-made and subject to error; that we are separated from a just God by a wall of sin and we cannot of our own merit earn reconciliation, yet God overcame that separation on our behalf by grace through the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus Christ; that we cannot earn that reconciliation through good works, but that it comes to us by faith; our good works are out of thanksgiving for what God has done for us.



I went around Luther’s rose many times. Always, Scouts listened respectfully and intently. Occasionally they asked additional questions. My favorite was, “You mean it’s that simple?” Yes, it’s that simple!

# Scouting Impacts Lives

By Gordon Ssorg

I am a retired LCMS pastor in Colorado and have been a member of NLAS for years. In 1965 I was pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Memphis, TN and went to a week-long training course at Philmont Training Center that summer with my family (wife & 4 kids) on a Lutheran Brotherhood Scholarship. Our congregation had Scout, Explorer, and Cub programs at that time. The event was an eye-opener for me and super experience for the family.

As pastor I went with our Scouts in 1967 on a 12-day trek at Philmont as one of the advisers for the 11 scouts. In 1983 I was nominated to be Protestant chaplain at Philmont and since have served Philmont as chaplain for 13 summers.

In July last summer we had the 50th anniversary of our trek from Memphis. The kids are gray-headed and mostly retired, unanimously attesting to the



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impact that Scouting has had on their lives. We had 5 “kids” for 4 days at the reunion, plus the other adviser, age 90 and me, at 85. Also one wife. Amazing event! We returned in September for a week to do volunteer work at the Casa del Gavilan within Philmont where we stayed for the reunion. They can’t stay away. On their trek in ‘67 they came to Philmont as boys and left 12 days later as young men!

The Scouting program has impacted my life and the hundreds of young folks affected by my ministry at Philmont. I

want that now for my pastor... With my help - for “outreach” purposes, Pastor and family are now considering it as one of their vacation weeks. (I’m the Outreach Leader in our congregation.)

Despite the bad press that BSA is taking, there is no civic organization in the U.S. doing more for the values, skills, and servant leadership of our young folks than BSA! At Philmont you see that up-close-and-personal in the more than 23,000 high school participants and 1,100 college summer staff each year!

Blessings to you and NLAS in your movement to display the legitimate BSA presence in the local church. After all, the local congregation still determines the policies and values of its BSA units!

I am planning to come to Philmont for the conference, but don’t know yet if I’m staying all week. I’ll probably have a chance to give a message or two at the 7:00 p.m. camping-side evening services...



**Visit our website:  
[www.nlas.org](http://www.nlas.org)**

*and*



## In Memoriam

NLAS extends condolences to the loved ones of NLAS member Paul Norbert who passed away in June, 2017 at the age of 57. Mr. Norbert resided in Burlington, Wisconsin where he attended Cross Lutheran Church and was a member of the Three Harbors Council. He was a 2012 recipient of the Lamb Award.



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We are a resource for youth and adults who wish to know more about the religious emblems program, endorsed by the Lutheran Churches for members of Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls, 4H and Camp Fire USA.

### **NLAS Mission**

To equip Lutherans and other Christians to minister to young people, using the programs of our partner youth serving agencies.

### **NLAS Vision**

That all young people and their families are exposed to Jesus Christ and have an opportunity to know him as Lord and Savior

The mission and visions statements were accepted by the NLAS Executive Board on October 12th, 2002