

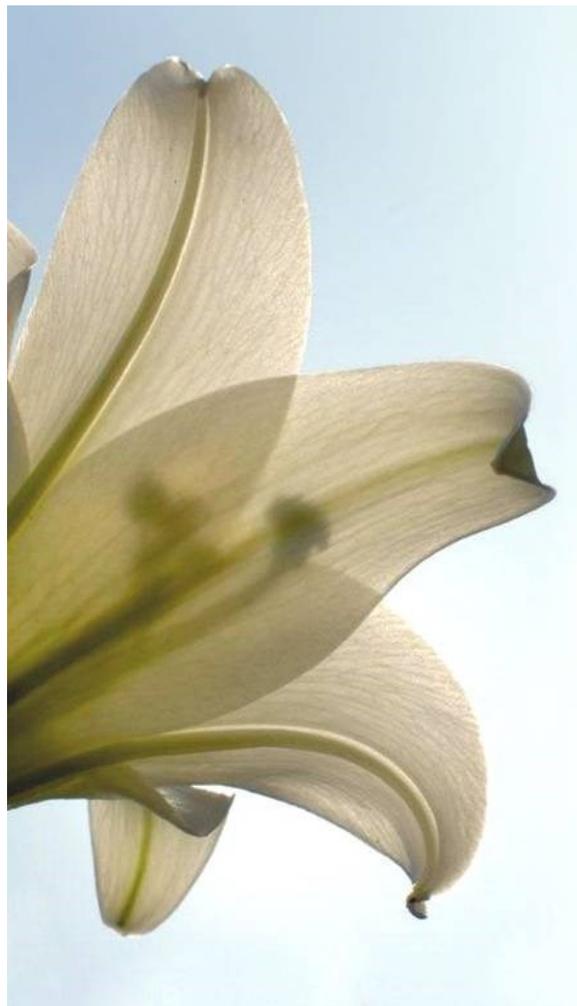


# LUTHERAN SCOUTING

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 1

WWW.NLAS.ORG

SPRING 2021



Christ  
is  
Risen!

Alleluia

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## **The National Silver Buffalo Award**

*Created in 1925, the **Silver Buffalo Award** for distinguished service to youth is awarded to those persons who give noteworthy and extraordinary service to youth. This award is Scouting's highest commendation of the invaluable contributions that outstanding Americans make to youth. The service must be national in scope and can be independent of, or directly through, the Boy Scouts of America.*

***This year, one of our Board members is being presented this prestigious award during the 2021 Virtual National Annual Meeting.***

**Reid Christopherson**, ELCA Representative for the NLAS Executive Board, has had a tremendous impact at both National and International areas of service. In the area of Scouting, he has held each position at the Unit, District and Council, including Council President and Commissioner. At the Area and Region, Reid served as the Area President and Central Region Commissioner. In February of this year, it was announced that Reid is the Chair-Elect for the BSA's new National Service Territory (NST) 4. The NSTs are replacing Regions and Areas as the single support layer between the National Office and local councils.



National and World Jamborees have been impacted by Reid. He has staffed seven National Jamborees. He has served as Subcamp Chief, where he was responsible for the encampment of 2,000 Scouts, adult leaders and staff. At the 2017 National Jamboree, Reid was the one of the Base Camp Chief, where he had responsibility of overseeing several subcamp chiefs and was lead for the encampment of 8,000 Scouts, adult leaders and staff. Since then, Reid has been diligently preparing to serve as the 2021 National Jamboree Logistics Chairman, which unfortunately has been postponed due to COVID concerns.

Reid has had a lasting impact on millions of Lutherans, both youth and adults. Before Reid became a member of the NLAS Executive Committee, his leadership skills were utilized while volunteering with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He has been a member of the ELCA National Executive Committee (11 members), Global Church Wide Council, Joint Leadership Table, and the Planning and Evaluation Committee.

Reid's military travels took him throughout the world in response to global and domestic demands, serving as Deputy Director of Public Affairs for US Air Force Central Command in SW Asia where he was responsible for public affairs involving air wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and oversight of US Air Force public affairs activities in six countries. He also served as the National Guard Chief of Public Affairs Officer for response to four hurricanes including Katrina and Rita in New Orleans. Lt. Col. Christopherson retired in 2014 after 39 years of service in the US Air Force and South Dakota Air National Guard.

**[Christopherson continued on pg. 4](#)**



## ***The National Duty to God Award***

*This award was created in 2016 and it recognizes adult individuals who have demonstrated an exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting. It acknowledges the unwavering dedication to faith, fellowship, and national service of those whose character embodies the moral principles and shared ideals of the Boy Scouts of America. The award distinguishes persons who selflessly work to prepare youth for life by perpetuating the merit and legacy of a Scout's duty to their Creator. Nominations are open to candidates from all faiths and religious groups chartered by the Boy Scouts of America.*

***This year, two members of the NLAS are being presented this prestigious award during the 2021 Virtual National Annual Meeting.***

***Judi C. Miller*** is a faithful servant of her Lord, having served Him through the Ministry of Scouting for some 40 years. With her late husband, George, Judi served her local Chief Seattle Council, BSA, Legacy Councils and her Lutheran congregation. She and George became involved in the work of the Puget Sound Area Lutheran Association of Scouters, also the fledging National Lutheran Association of Scouters and now the National Lutheran Association on Scouting. Based on her exemplary service to Scouting and her church, Judi received local council recognitions, including the Silver Beaver, and the Lutheran Lamb Award.

Judi served as NLAS display chair, membership co-chair, recognition chair, President Elect and President. She was instrumental in spearheading the development of a new mission and vision statements and laid the groundwork for NLAS to amend its Bylaws and recharter as the National Lutheran Association on Scouting. She also served as faculty for several Lutheran Conferences on Scouting or Lutheran Breakouts at the Philmont Training Center. She is the 2nd longest – tenured leadership role in the NLAS.

Judi is an active member at St Andrew's Lutheran Church in Bellevue, WA.



***James "Jim" Whitehead*** is passionate about leading adult Scouters to be their best by sharing his faith, his knowledge, and a lifetime passion for Scouting. He has served as an adult leader in Scouting for over 50 years. On the unit level, Jim has served as a Cub Master, Scoutmaster, Exploring Advisor and Venturing Crew Committee Chair. He has served as District Commissioner and as Council Executive Board Member and Vice-president.

For the past 12 years, he has been a member of the Executive Board of the National Lutheran Association on Scouting, including a term as its President. He has been a member of the National Religious Relationship Committee since 2012, serving on the Training Sub-committee. He has served on eight National Jamboree Staffs including three times on the

[Whitehead continued on pg. 6](#)



## P.R.A.Y. Corner

Jason Noland—Chief Executive Officer

*The P.R.A.Y. Program - a Bible-based religious emblems program for Protestant and Independent Christian churches designed to bring children, youth, and families to Christ. Our program has impacted the lives of thousands of children nationwide.*

P.R.A.Y. has made many revisions to its website (<https://www.praypub.org/>) to better serve and answer questions. We know that the world has changed how we teach and learn. Now any parent, counselor, or clergy, will easily find the information they need, whether virtual, in-person, or with help at home. It is our hope you will continue to visit our pages as a resource for our shared work.

One of the changes is how the Bible Basics/RP3 lessons will be delivered. These free curricula are now available as individual units instead of downloads of the entire set. In addition, we are developing teaching PowerPoints to support any work in a virtual or class environment. Some are already available and are also free for download. Downloads are available through the P.R.A.Y. webstore and revised information and links can be found at: <https://www.praypub.org/rp3>.

Throughout 2021 we will be presenting Virtual RP3 classes each month and would welcome volunteer presenters. Please reach out to us via email, [info@praypub.org](mailto:info@praypub.org), with RP3 in the subject line. We would welcome your ministry.

**P.R.A.Y. Corner continued on page 8**

### **Christopherson continued from pg. 2**

Currently, Reid serves as the Executive Director of the South Dakota Wheat Commission, one of only 18 similar positions in the nation. With this role, he is volunteering to serve as the Past National Chairman of the Board for the Wheat Foods Council and also on the National Board of Trustees of the Wheat Quality Council. He also provides leadership to U.S. Wheat Associates (USW), which is the export market development organization for the U.S. wheat industry, serving on the National Food Aid Working Group, National Sanitary-Phytosanitary Working Group, National Communications Working Group and as part of the wheat food aid delegation to Tanzania.

Considering it one of his most rewarding experiences, Reid, for many years served as a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and Committee Member for a troop of 35 men with physical and developmental disabilities. Several of these men earned the Eagle Scout Award because of the support and commitment that he made

Reid has received countless awards for his community service and was honored by South Dakota State University as a Distinguished Alumnus for his service to the State of South Dakota and the BSA. He has been recognized for serving in significant leadership positions for countless youth serving and charitable/civic organizations such as the Congressional Military Academy Selection Panels, Girl Scouts USA, Sioux Empire United Way and as a charter member of the Liberty Center, a unique after-school program for special needs children.

**Christopherson continued on pg. 5**



February 7, 2021, NLAS Executive Board members, Tom Miller and Wayne Stuckey, participated, in a Zoom Scout Sunday service at Paulskirche / St. Paul's International Congregation in Hamburg, Germany. During this service, Pastor Paul Otterstein was presented the Lutheran Lamb award.

Paul Otterstein began his Scouting career as a Cub Scout in Tonawanda, NY. After being ordained by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, he first served as a U.S. Air Force Chaplain and then accepted a call in 1994 with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Northern Germany. It was here that he assumed the duties as Pastor of the Paulskirche in Schenefeld.

Throughout his ministry Pastor Paul extended his example of faith deeply into the community, serving as a Christian role model and leader to approximately 250 young people each year (more than 5000 youth members!). As the lead mentor instructor he served the local students enrolled in the Lutheran Faith Confirmation program at the Gymnasium/ Gemeinschaft Schule in Schenefeld.

In 2004, Pastor Paul expanded his ministry by establishing the St. Paul's International Congregation, Hamburg's first English-speaking church. After "retiring" from full-time ministry, he continued his

[Otterstein continued on pg. 8](#)




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[Christopherson continued from pg. 4](#)

He has served as President of the SD Lions Foundation, SD Industries for the Blind, National Guard Association of SD, SD National Guard Museum, Sioux Falls Regional Airport Authority, Downtown Lions Club and several local churches. Reid has served as a director of the SD Air Shows, SD National Guard Minuteman Fund, SD State Historical Society, SD Lions Eye Bank, American Red Cross, and the American Legion.

The impact that Reid Christopherson has made nationally and internationally when it comes to Scouting, his faith, Middle East air conflicts, US natural disasters and putting food on the table is immeasurable.

***Thank you and Congratulations Reid!!***

***“It is with great excitement that we bring you this update: Preparations for the 2021 summer season are underway!”***



With these words, the cloud of uncertainty has lifted – we are a **GO!** for the **Scouting in the Lutheran Church** conference, July 11<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> at the Philmont Training Center! Certainly, COVID mitigation protocols will be in place to keep us safe – the latest details are posted on the Philmont website and updated weekly. The important thing is that ***WE CAN MEET!***

Our conference will focus on how Lutheran congregations can use Scouting as a tool to enhance their ministry. Planned sessions include: Duty to God (National, Council and Congregation levels); P.R.A.Y. and Religious Emblems Programs; Unit and Adult Recognitions; Sharing our Faith with Scouts; Organizing Scouting Units; Selecting Quality Leaders; Duty to God in Advancement; and more. We'll also hold **The Annual Meeting of the N.L.A.S during the conference.**

Make it a family trip! The Philmont Training Center offers a full, organized program for every member of the family—from infants to spouses, organized by age group and participating in a carefully designed, age/ability specific program under the leadership of trained, experienced staff. Groups will get to enjoy hiking, tours, handicrafts, games, campfires, and outdoor activities.

To register, go to Philmont Training Center's 2021 registration:

[www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc](http://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc)



***Join us in New Mexico!***

***Come and Share the Peace!***

[Whitehead continued from pg. 3](#)

disAbilities Awareness Challenge staff and has received both the Special Needs Scouting Service and the Torch of Gold Awards. As a Scout, Jim earned his God & Country Award. He has remained a strong advocate for the Religious Emblems Awards through his life and is a recipient of the Lutheran Church's Lamb Award. He is a Vigil Honor member of the Order of the Arrow and has received the District Award of Merit and the Silver Beaver Award.

As a member of Providence Lutheran Church in Holland, Ohio, Jim has filled many roles including President of the Congregation Council

***Thank you and Congratulations Judi and Jim !!***



## President's Perspective

*To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1*

As we begin 2021, it looks a lot like 2020 – social distancing, masks, inability to gather, and it seems like we're stuck in neutral. But unlike 2020, there is a glimmer of hope – vaccines, falling death rates and hospitalizations, and loosening restrictions. A growing sense of optimism seems to be creeping into more and more lives.

In Minnesota, spring is always a welcome time. While we still have patches of snow around, we also have temperatures in the 50's and 60's and the first green shoots of new plant growth. I'm always amazed by how warm 50 degrees in March feels, as opposed to September. The renewal and rebirth of the outdoors is beginning – a new season under heaven.

As Christians, we have been in the season of Lent. We reflect, reassess, and ponder our journey and the path that Jesus showed us so long ago. It would be pretty discouraging if not for Easter morning. Jesus won the battle for us and by grace we have salvation and the promise of eternal life. Rev. Jim Hoke shared a story about being a Cornhuskers fan and not being able to see many football games live on Saturdays because of church commitments, but he would be able to see the replays early in the following week knowing the outcome. His perspective of how the game unfolded was really impacted by knowing the final score, so when a fumble or interception occurred in the first half, he didn't get too excited because he knew the ending. He pointed out that as Christians we already know the ending, so while we will have trials and tribulations that block our paths, we know the ending. That simple story has provided me with a great deal of peace during this pandemic.

Our youth programs have needed to get creative in staying connected and moving forward. PRAY has launched online opportunities to deliver their Emblems programs, units have had virtual meetings and done their best to stay relevant. Some have even begun to plan for getting back together and having outdoor gatherings. NLAS is no different – we're hoping to have our annual meeting at Philmont Scout Ranch this summer and waiting for opportunities to be at national gatherings to carry our message. We are also busy with updating the NLAS certificates program and membership renewal processes to provide a convenient electronic option for those who have become digitally proficient. Our goal is for our newsletters to be quarterly and easily delivered in an electronic format.

I'm always amazed by the creative and insightful volunteers that I get to work with to maintain our traditions and Lutheran legacy while also becoming responsive to the changing times and needs of our youth and units that are served. If you'd like to join us and help, please feel free to contact me about opportunities within NLAS. As the days get longer and the evenings get warmer, may you have the chance to spend some of them with family and friends around a campfire enjoying a good laugh and good company.

In service,  
Phill Lawonn  
612-619-6779  
[plawonn33@outlook.com](mailto:plawonn33@outlook.com)

**P.R.A.Y. continued from page 3**

P.R.A.Y. has also released five outstanding pieces. They have been developed in collaboration with volunteers and staff, and designed to support using both graphics and instruction those individuals who might be leading or inclined to lead classroom style or virtual courses. These are **free** resources, but because of their size, must be ordered and downloaded through the P.R.A.Y. store. The Counselor manual is still required to teach the program, and students are required to have their own original Student work-books.

**P.R.A.Y. wants to put these in your hands!**



**Otterstein continued from pg. 5**

commitment of promoting religious growth programs for youth. He played a principal role in establishing Cub Scout Family Pack 808 at Paulskirche / St. Paul's. It is his leadership that is instrumental as these programs continue to grow, serving a larger number of U.S. and International expatriates in the Hamburg community.

Numerous members and parents from Pack 808 were in attendance for the presentation and Scout Sunday international service via Zoom, where there were several youth reading the scripture lessons for the day. Pastor Paul was both surprised and honored to received the Lamb Award.

*Special Note: This is believed to be the first time the Lutheran Churches in the US have presented the Lamb Award internationally. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Northern Germany are affiliates in the Lutheran World Federation.*





NLAS would Love your Help..  
Not even an 1 hour a week!  
Assist with....

- Recognitions
- Newsletter
- Membership
- Accounting
- Chaplains

NO experience? We TRAIN!

please contact Phill Lawonn at 612-619-6779  
or by email [plawonn33@outlook.com](mailto:plawonn33@outlook.com)

Help WANTED!!





### *Girl Scouts Girls of Faith: Celebrating Together*

Girl Scouts was proud to partner with the **National Lutheran Association on Scouting** and other faith partners to host **Girls of Faith: Celebrating Together** national virtual event series on March 11-14. Girls of all faiths had the chance to celebrate their own faith, explore other faiths, learn more about their religious emblems, and earn their [My Promise, My Faith](#) pin. Watch and share the free, on-demand playbacks here – each session is designed for girls of all faiths (you'll need to register to view the playbacks).

- Thursday March 11 On Demand Playback ([Interfaith Celebration, Orthodox Christian Speakers](#))
- Friday March 12 On Demand Playback ([Lutheran Buddhist, Roman Catholic Speakers](#))
- Sunday March 14 On-Demand Playback ([Baha'i, Islam, Judaism, United Methodist Speakers](#))

Girl Scouts has launched the [Girl Scouts Tree Promise](#), a new initiative to plant five million trees in five years that will make our communities healthier and cleaner, benefit wildlife, address climate change, and foster environmental stewardship values. Faith partners can partner with Girl Scouts on this initiative by providing places to plant trees, volunteering to help plant, or sponsoring a tree planting to honor your leaders or commemorate celebration dates. Girl Scouts is also proud to support connections to faith-based opportunities for further study related to the Girl Scouts Tree Promise, including the My Promise, My Faith pin and the new "[Great Trees](#)" patch in P.R.A.Y.'s bible Basic RP3 series. From the opening of "Great Trees:"



[Girl Scouts Girls of Faith continued on pg 11](#)

# The N.L.A.S. Gear Store

## “LIVE” on the NLAS Website!

### Stop in today and get your NLAS Logo shirt!



Wicking Polos



Dressy Poplin



Casual Denim

**We have the style for You!**  
**Order at: [nlas.org/](http://nlas.org/)**  
**NLAS GEAR**

#### [Girl Scouts Girls of Faith continued from pg 10](#)

***“We sometimes take trees and our planet for granted. But the Bible uses great trees to teach us important lessons about being rooted in Scripture, responding to God through worship, and God’s transforming power!”***

Join Girl Scouts for a [virtual Earth Day celebration on April 22](#) to learn about the power of trees to keep our communities healthy and strong. Register for this free event [here](#). Girls of all ages are welcome.

To learn more about these programs and how to partner with Girl Scouts in your area to build compassionate girl leaders, [please reach out to your local Girl Scouts council](#).

Kara Ball – Director, Faith-Based Partnerships,  
 Girl Scouts USA [kball@girlscouts.org](mailto:kball@girlscouts.org)



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**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**  
[www.nlas.org](http://www.nlas.org)



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

