



LUTHERAN SCOUTING

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WWW.NLAS.ORG

WINTER 2024

The Lutheran Hour Float

The 135th Tournament of Roses Parade, held on Jan. 1, 2024, in Pasadena, California, was themed "Celebrating a World of Music." The iconic annual parade again included a majestic floral float sponsored by The Lutheran Hour.



The 2024 LHM float, "Make a Joyful Noise unto the Lord," marked the 73rd time LHM has participated in the parade. This year's design featured three heralding trumpets proceeding from a hymn book. Hanging from the trumpets were banners featuring the great mantra of the Lutheran Reformation, which is God's plan of salvation: Grace Alone, Faith Alone, Christ Alone.

As a self-funded project of the Southern California District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, the LHM float is the only Christian float in the annual parade. The float carries on a mission to provide a Gospel witness to viewers everywhere.

If you watched the parade, you probably did not miss the BSA and GSA Scouts carrying the banners that preceded some of the floats. The Scouts BSA members were all Eagle Scouts. The banners identified the award-winning floats.

Ever wanted to help decorate one of these floats? If you will be in southern California in December, contact Tom Miller and he can help—see the President's Message on p. 4.



The Right Answer to the Wrong Question

by Jim Whitehead, NLAS past-president



Have you ever invited a fellow Lutheran to join NLAS only to hear this question in response?

I have . . . many times. Actually, it's a really common question most people have when asked to join a group; a reflection of today's society interest or focus. I must admit that it took quite a while before I came up with a good way to deal with the question. We just have to redirect the asker to a better question.

To paraphrase a famous quote, *"Ask not what the NLAS can do for you; ask what your membership will help the NLAS do for youth."* I've found that most would love to provide information on Religious Emblems; help with adult recognitions; provide scholarships, special certificates and other support; recognize units; provide "Duty to God" support to volunteers, districts and councils - - - if only they had the resources to do it.

Membership in the NLAS gives access to those resources, programs and recognitions. When combined with other members', one's annual dues are multiplied and make it possible for the NLAS to support Lutheran congregations, schools and organizations in using the programs of our partner youth-serving agencies . . . the Boy Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of the USA, The American Heritage Girls.



Eagles in Action



New Eagle scout Piersen Martin receiving her NLAS certificate of achievement.

For her Eagle Scout Project, Piersen Martin from Troop 800, led a team of Scouts in constructing wooden crosses that have been and will continue to be laid on the graves of local veterans on Memorial Day and Veterans

Day. Piersen partnered with the King of Kings Lutheran

Laymen's League to help fund her Eagle Project. Piersen is a baptized member of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Gardner, KS.

Piersen joins her two older brothers Tristan and Gaven as Eagle Scouts.

Certificates Available

Upon request, the NLAS Recognition Committee offers a recognition certificate to youth and adults who have achieved Lutheran or Scouting awards. Complete the form on the NLAS website (one submission per award) and NLAS will recognize you or your scout with an NLAS Certificate of Commendation.





*Have YOU registered for the
Religious Relationships Conference
at the Philmont Training Center yet?*

This year, NLAS is collaborating with other faith groups in a **BRAND-NEW WEEK** offered by the BSA National Religious Relationships Committee. This conference is designed so you are constantly networking with subject matter experts on faith topics, general BSA program topics, and geographic based Scouting resources. In fact, you're going to switch classrooms throughout the week based on what topic you want to hear about most!

We hope you can join us at PTC the week of July 7th-13th!

Here's an overview of the Week:

- **Monday- Position Breakout Classes:** Choose two positions you want to learn more about. Example: learn about the resources available Unit Leaders in the morning and Religious Emblems Coordinators in the afternoon.
- **Tuesday- Faith Specific Classes:** Learn in-depth resources specific to an individual faith group in three (3) sessions during the week. There is a whole list to choose from. Some faiths will be repeating the same session three times, others may have a different topic in each of their sessions, and some faiths may only have one session offered.
- **Wednesday & Friday Morning- Free Choice Classes OR Service Projects OR Field Trips:** The choice is yours during these two half days. We have a wide variety of University of Scouting classes from which to choose. OR you can participate in a half day field trip or service project.
- **Wednesday Afternoon- Family Time:** You've got the afternoon off to explore PTC, the National BSA Museum, the Kit Carson living history museum at Rayado or the surrounding areas of beautiful Northern New Mexico.
- **Thursday Morning- All Faith Sessions:** We'll all be together for this half day answering the always important question, "I have a Scout in my unit that is ___ faith. What do I need to know to help them with Duty to God?"
- **Friday Afternoon- Speed Networking:** The topics are your choice throughout the week. We'll hold up signs with a topic name and you choose which one to go to in our 20-minute lightning networking sessions. PLUS Graduation, goal setting, and celebrating an awesome week.



All conference participants will receive a Religious Relationships Week patch, neckerchief, and t-shirt. If you want to order one for your spouse, children or just an extra, or some other cool swag like polo shirts and hats: Check out our Pre-Order Store on the dutytogodbsa.org website.

Complete conference registration and housing information is now live at:
<https://www.philmontscoutranch.org/ptc/ptc-conferences/>

President's Perspective



Several weeks ago, a number of members of my congregation donned sweatshirts and headed up towards Pasadena to help decorate Rose Parade Floats. Lutheran Hour Ministries has had a float in the parade for over 70 years. One of the ways in which it is funded is through thousands of hours of volunteer labor. Volunteers help to decorate the Lutheran Hour float as well as a number of other floats crafted by Phoenix Decorating. If you're ever in Southern California during December and would like to help, contact me and I'll make the connection.



For the first time, NLAS will be an exhibitor at the Best Practices in Ministry Conference (BPM). If you're in the area and want to work at our booth (actually ½ of an 8' table), encouraging congregations to be charter partners and teaching people how to tie cross knots, please let me know.

BPM 2024
February 22-24

BPM is a conference hosted by Christ Church Lutheran. For over 10 years we have offered this FREE conference to remind professional and lay church workers that you are loved, you are not alone, and you matter. And when we say free, we truly mean that: free meals, free shuttling, free speakers, free snacks, free activities, free registration.

In His Service,

Tom

NLAS President

From the Editor

by Marti Jernberg

As your new editor, I would like to try to get on a regular publication schedule for the *Lutheran Scouter*. If you would like anything included in an upcoming issue, the submittal dates are:

Winter - January 1

Spring - April 1

Summer - July 1

Fall - October 1

These are intended to be hard deadlines, however if there is a reason for you to delay an article, please contact me either by email or phone (847-337-0903). Of course, you can submit articles or pictures at any time in the month preceding the deadline.

I would like to see more articles like "Eagles in Action" or "Scout Sunday Activities".

NLAS Executive Board

Notes: Sunday, 17 Dec 2023

Times are PST

17:00: Opening prayer

17:05 Partner Updates

❖ P.R.A.Y. (Jason) – Effective 1 Jan, there will be price increases for P.R.A.Y. books and awards. Jason also would like to increase the price of the Lutheran adult awards by \$5.00, due to increase in postal expenses. He would like to enhance the award nomination applications to clarify who files the paperwork. Nomination paperwork has to be submitted by someone other than the recipient and they need to identify who they are. The Board is supportive of these modifications. There was a discussion of who has the originals of the nomination forms. Wayne has Word .doc versions of these forms that came from Deb Hazlewood, in case we need them for modification. Tom will contact Jason to see how he wants to proceed.

❖ BSA (Wendy) – No report.

❖ Girls Scouts (Christin)- No report. From Wayne: Noorain Khan was announced as the new National President of Girl Scouts USA in a message dated 16 Sept.

17:30 NLAS Board

❖ Minutes (Wayne) –Minutes of Executive Board meeting of 15 July and Annual Meeting of 15 July were distributed on 1 August. Minutes stand as submitted.

❖ Financials (Phil)

- Monthly report: We currently have \$3096.36 in checking and \$110,235.74 in investment accounts; no outstanding bills.
- QuickBooks has changed from desktop to online version, now costing \$85/month. Means of using corporate or non-profit purchasing mechanisms to lower cost were discussed. Phill will look into.

❖ Membership (Robert & Ben)

- Updated membership numbers submitted by Robert. We currently have 305 members, representing an increase in membership (i.e., reverse of trend from past several years).

Current Membership: 12/15/2023		
	# of type	# of persons
Complimentary:	7	8
New-Complimentary:	29	29
Couple:	18	36
Individual:	92	92
Life:	92	92
Life Couple:	15	30
Partial Life:	16	16
Partial Life Couple:	1	2
TOTAL	270	305

❖ Robert reports that he has already updated the 2024-2025 membership renewal letter. He also has updated a template for membership cards that can be sent out with membership renewals. Many members have commented that they have not received new ones for a while. Because the process of printing and cutting all of the membership cards was very time consuming in the past and they were sent separately after membership renewals, Robert had discontinued them. Now that the process has been streamlined, membership cards will be included with the renewals.

❖ Website (Ryan)

- Status of Updates – After meeting with Ron, Ryan now has admin control of the web sites and the new newsletter was posted. He will be able to do updates in the current format, while exploring templates for updating the site format.

- Wayne provided a Facebook page status update:

❖ NLAS FB page has 682 followers.

❖ Insights for last 28 days:

- Post reach: 693
- Post engagement: 211

Board Notes (continued)

- New followers: 2
- Link clicks: 30
- ❖ Posts with highest “reach”:
 - *Lutheran Scouting* Fall edition: 516, Engagement: 71
 - Dear Christian Parents: 464, Engagement: 75
 - Thanks for virtual religious emblems counselors: 345
 - Suggestions for promoting the Facebook page to convert “followers” into members were discussed. Suggestions include asking other organizations to promote the page (synods & districts), using the NRRC Membership Committee, and running membership notices on the page itself (Note: this has been done each year at membership renewal).
- ❖ NRRC/National (Wayne/Ron A/Jim W)
- ❖ Sub-Committee Reports – DTG Breakfast: The Most Reverend Michael W Fisher, Bishop of the Diocese of Buffalo has been selected to speak at the Duty-to-God breakfast at the BSA annual meeting on May 8th. Bishop Fischer is an Eagle Scout and received the Ad Altari Dei award as a youth.
- ❖ Spirituality Award – It was reported in the NRRC meeting that draft requirements are being prepared for the K-2 level of the Spirituality Award. There has been no review in the Duty to God group yet. NLAS would like to see that it is consistent with the BSA Declaration of Religious Principle. Tom will speak with Bob Vogt on the purpose of the award. (Note from Duty to God sub-committee dated 1 June 2020: *This would focus on the “nones”. It opens the door for an organized exploration of spirituality/faith without the specific tie to an organized religion. There is international precedent in Canada with the “Spirituality Award.”* The idea was presented as similar to the faith exploration that may be selected as part of the Venturing Trust Award.)
- ❖ 2024 Interfaith Week (July 7 – 13, 2024) – This year’s “faith week” is a departure from the traditional format. There is some Lutheran content, but also content that may be of interest to many can be selected at registration, creating an opportunity to customize the individual experience. There are also group service opportunities, such as the opportunity to refurbish back country chapels.
- ❖ Newsletter (Marti)
 - Thanks! – Tom expressed thanks. The Fall 2023 newsletter was great!
 - Newsletter - Deadline is moved to end of December for the winter edition. It is important to get articles in time for publication. Expect the newsletter to be published quarterly, and submit articles appropriately.
- ❖ Awards/Recognition (Judi) – no report. Observation: Awards seem to be going strongly, based on reimbursement requests.
- ❖ Chaplaincy Committee (Pastor Rick)–no report.
 - Recruiting/training for Philmont
- ❖ Events
 - Best Practices in Ministry, Phoenix, Feb 22-24 (Tom – need local help); The NLAS presentation was not accepted for the conference (only 250 accepted from 500+ submissions!), but NLAS will be presenting a display on the topic of how chartering a scouting unit helps the congregation. A QR codes will be used as a take-away reference. Ryan offered to create codes for the display.
 - National Meeting, Orlando: May 5-9, NRRC meeting (5/7), DTG Breakfast (5/8)
- ❖ New business/old business
 - Budget (Phil) – The proposed budget represents a 17% increase over 2023. It reflects a \$600 increase for recognitions, software, travel reimbursement for President (33% increase), and a significant decrease in postal fees (due to the use of digital means for distribution. Anticipated income ~\$6000. Four voting members are in favor of adopting, but no quorum at the meeting. An email vote before 12/31 will be needed to approve. **Update:** The budget was approved by email vote on 12/19/23.
 - Slate for upcoming Term (Kristin) – no report. Tom will reach out to find what progress may have been made.
- ❖ Next meeting: Annual Meeting @ Philmont during Faith Week. Next Board meeting March 3.
- ❖ Closing prayer (Tom)

NLAS Board

NLAS Officers

President:	Tom Miller	occnslt@gmail.com
President-Elect, Nominations and Bylaws:	Kristin Rogahn	Kristin.rogahn@gmail.com
Secretary:	Wayne Stuckey	wstuckey.nlas@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Phill Lawonn	plawonn33@outlook.com
Member at Large:	Aaro Froese	
Member at Large:	Mark Trivilino	TMA41@yahoo.com
ELCA Representative:	Reid Christopherson	reidchris@alliancecom.net
LCMS Representative:	Rev. Mark Kiessling	mark.kiesling@lcms.org

Ex-Officio

Pastoral Advisor:	Rev. Dana Narring	
Past President:	Phill Lawonn	plawonn33@outlook.com
Parliamentarian:	Ronald Adolphi, PhD.	

Standing Chairs

Publications:	Marti Jernberg	mjscouter@aol.com
Membership:	Robert Moreno	membership.nlas@gmail.com
	Ben Wheeler	benjamin.wheeler@scouting.org
	Ryan Emblem	ryanemblem@gmail.com
Webmaster:	Open	
Associations:	Open	
Recognition:	Judi Miller	millerj1959@comcast.net
Chaplaincy:	Rev. Richard Egtvedt	chaplain@nlas.org

Special Committees

NLAS Lead Chaplain:	Rev. Richard Egtvedt	chaplain@nlas.org
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NLAS introduces:

Build-it-Yourself Religious Emblems Tabletop Display Kits

Have you ever wanted to explain the Religious Emblems at an event, or talk about your Lutheran faith to youth? Is making a nice Religious Emblems display too hard? NLAS is pleased to present two build-it-yourself tabletop displays. The free downloadable kit includes two images that are sized perfectly for a 36" x 48" tri-fold project board, and a list of links to downloadable documents for display or handouts. Send an image to your vendor of choice for printing on adhesive backed vinyl (costs about \$30) and select and print the documents you wish to hand out (or hand out the list of links). Place the vinyl image on your own display board (~\$10 at your office supply store), and you're ready to go!

The kit is downloadable from <https://bit.ly/3ZkLZQE>. Or from the Volunteers - >Resources page at <https://nlas.org/resources/>



NLAS tri-fold poster A.png is an image such as NLAS might use to witness to the Christian faith in Lutheran terms, such as at the BSA National Jamboree Duty to God and Country exhibits.

NLA Four Star Scholarship

Amount: Two (2) \$500.00 scholarships will be awarded annually by NLAS

Eligibility: Open to all youth registered with American Heritage Girls, Girl Scouts of the USA, or Boy Scouts of America who have successfully earned four (4) P.R.A.Y. Program Awards and are seniors in High School. Scholarships are for post-secondary education and will be paid directly to the designated institution.

Criteria for consideration:

1. P.R.A.Y Awards: Earning the following: 1) either Jesus & Me or God & Me, 2) God & Family, 3) God & Church, and 4) God & Life.

2. Congregational activities: Summary of participation in home congregation such as confirmation education, youth group activities, or church sponsored programs. In addition:

A 500-1000 word faith statement from applicant.

Letter of Recommendation from Pastor of home congregation.

3. Academics: High School transcript reflecting a minimum of six (6) semesters of academic achievement that states unweighted and weighted GPA.

4. Summary of Extra-Curricular activities/awards: Summary of activities (such as athletics, drama, robotics, band, or choir) and awards (such as varsity letter(s), NHS, or John Philip Sousa award).

5. Scouting program: Summary of participation years and highest rank achieved (such as Gold Award, Stars & Stripes Award, Eagle Scout rank).

Qualifying Institutions: Accredited Junior Colleges, Colleges, Universities, or Vocational Schools. Awarded scholarship funds will be paid directly to the institution in the name of the recipient for tuition costs only. Funds cannot be applied to books, room & board, or travel expenses.

Application Process:

Applications may be submitted to NLAS from January 1 to May 1, 2024

Review by NLAS will be completed by May 15, 2024

Recommended recipients will be approved by NLAS Board by June 1, 2024

Recipients will be notified by June 15, 2024

Council-level Duty to God Award.

Shortly after the National Duty to God Award was established in 2016 to recognize transformational leadership in promoting Duty to God at the national level, applications began arriving for Scouters who were doing exceptional work at the council level. The need for a council-level award similar to the National award was recognized.

The BSA National Religious Relationships Committee announced at the Duty to God Breakfast of the National Annual Meeting on 31 May the establishment of a *Council Duty to God Award*. The Council Duty to God Award was created to recognize those registered Scouters who have demonstrated an exemplary history of transformational leadership in supporting and promoting the spiritual foundation of Scouting at the local Council level. The award is ready to kick off for the 2024 year,



with information and nomination application available at the Duty to God BSA web site <http://bit.ly/3LqUtjB>

An unlimited number of nominations can be submitted to any Council each year, but a maximum of

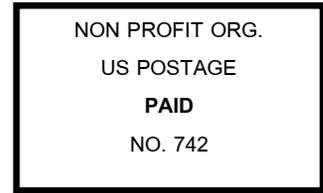
two Council Duty to God Awards per year may be awarded by 100 and 200 level councils and a maximum of one Council Duty to God Award per year may be awarded by 300, 400, and 500 level councils.

The NRRC suggests that the Council Duty to God Award presentation should be conducted with the highest level of honor at a council event (such as the council's Silver Beaver recognition) or a religious emblem ceremony of the recipient's faith. Each recipient should receive recognition worthy of the service rendered on Scouting's behalf.



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUEST-

IN THIS ISSUE

Of Interest: Eagles in Action, The Right Answer to the Wrong Question, Rose Parade Float. **Spread the Word:** Philmont Conference, DIY Display Kit, Council Duty to God Award, NLAS 4-Star Scholarship. **President's Perspective:** Tom Miller. **NLAS Board Meeting Notes**

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR SPRING ISSUE: APRIL 1, 2024



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