



# LUTHERAN SCOUTING

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 4

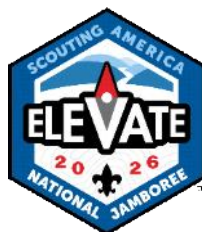
WWW.NLAS.ORG

SPRING 2026



## Do You Know any Scouts or Venturers who:

- 🎯 Are active Lutherans?
- 🎯 Are ages 16 to 21?
- 🎯 Are friendly and interact well with others?
- 🎯 Would like to attend the National Jamboree for just \$350?



## "How can that be? What's the catch?"

Well, it's not a "catch" as such. The National Lutheran Association on Scouting can still add youth staff to our booth in the Duty to God and Country area at the Jamboree. We've already had some register and have room for four to six more! Our youth staff will interact with Scouts, leaders and visitors to our booth, talking about the Lutheran faith. They'll also have plenty of time off to participate in the rest of the Jamboree.

As a side benefit, they'll learn to tie a really cool knot to use back home in their Scouting unit program as well as in their church youth group witnessing!



The Sailor's Cross

## "Sounds great! What are the details?"



- 🎯 Dates - the full Jamboree session is July 19-31. If your Scout can't attend the full Jamboree session, half-sessions are available - either July 19-25 or July 25-31.
- 🎯 The youth staff Jamboree fee for the full session is \$70. The youth fee for either half-session is \$450.
- 🎯 The NLAS board will reimburse youth half of their staff fee.
- 🎯 Register on the Jamboree web site: <https://jamboree.scouting.org/staff>
- 🎯 Select "Duty to God and Country Staff" be sure to indicate "Lutheran"
- 🎯 Pay your registration fee and then contact our NLAS President Kristin Rogahn at [nlas.kristin@gmail.com](mailto:nlas.kristin@gmail.com) so she can be sure to get you assigned to our staff and arrange for the NLAS board to reimburse half of your registration.

Questions? Contact either:

NLAS President Kristin Rogahn:  
[nlas.kristin@gmail.com](mailto:nlas.kristin@gmail.com)

... Or ...

Past President Jim Whitehead:  
[jcwscouter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jcwscouter@sbcglobal.net)

Has your Pack,  
Troop, Crew or  
Post Accepted the

**LIBERTY IN  
ACTION 250<sup>th</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
CHALLENGE ?**



As just announced on March 2<sup>nd</sup> -

Get ready, Scouts and Explorers — this is **YOUR** moment! As America celebrates 250 years, you're invited to dive into the adventure of a lifetime. Explore bold ideas, take on creative challenges, visit historic places, and team up with friends and family to make a real impact in your community.

From uncovering the meaning of freedom to designing cool patches, from building time capsules to stepping up in service — this challenge is all about **learning, leading, and having fun while making history.**

Completing one challenge in each of five areas (now through February 2027) can qualify your members to purchase the commemorative patch.

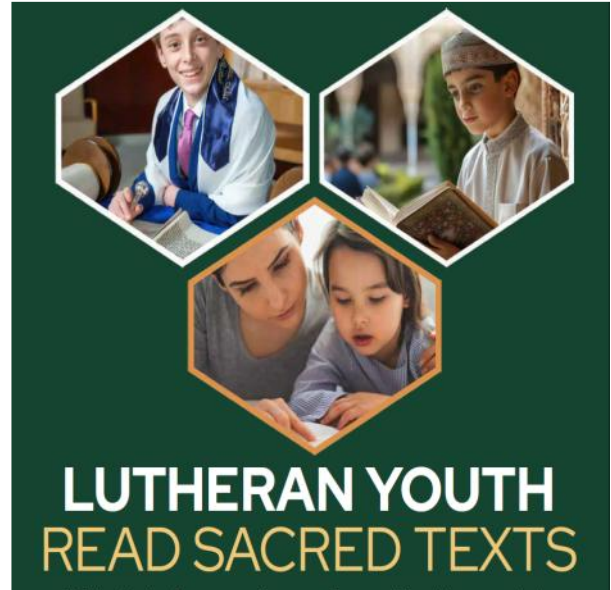
Parents and leaders, you're part of the journey too! Together, let's spark curiosity, build character, and celebrate the spirit of liberty that shapes us all. For details, log on to:

<https://www.scouting.org/service/a250/>



**IT'S BIG.  
IT'S INSPIRING.  
AND... IT STARTS WITH  
YOU.  
LET'S MAKE HISTORY  
TOGETHER!**

## Now in its third year!

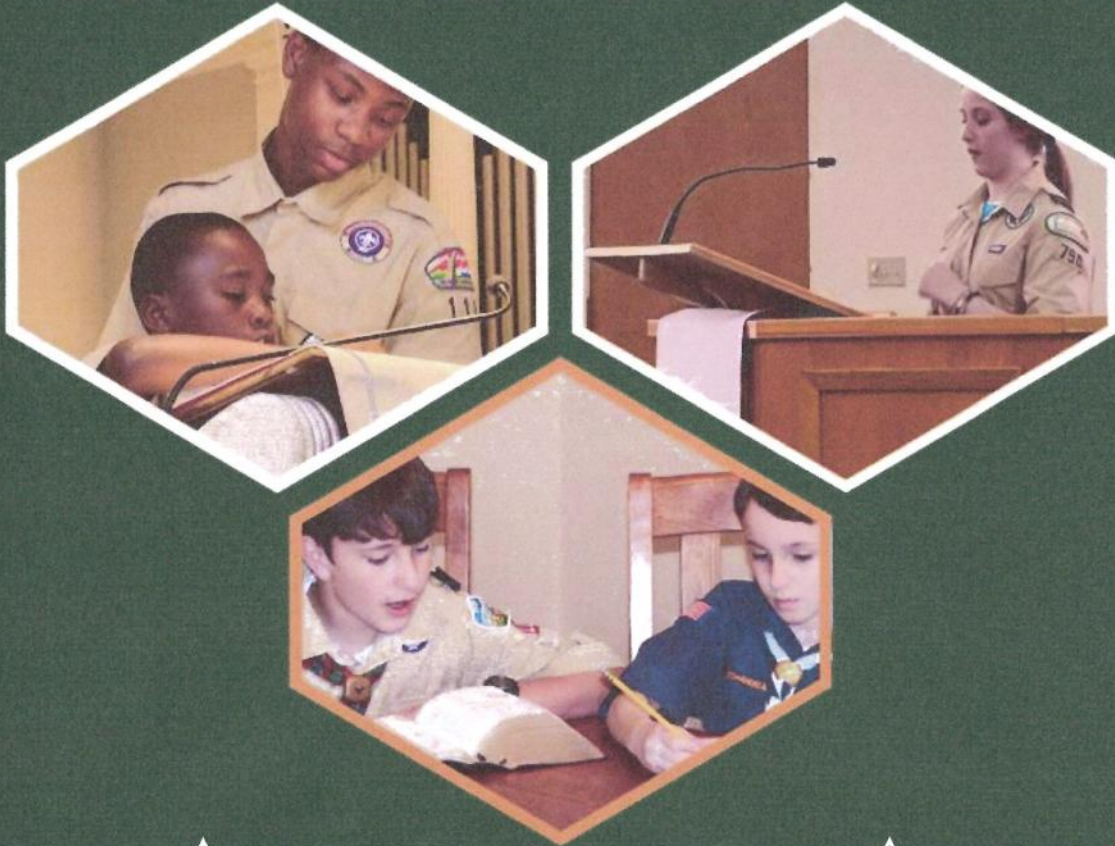


The *Scouts Read Sacred Texts* program of Scouting America's Religious Relationships Committee has grown to a world-wide event to encourage youth to read their sacred texts in conjunction with the U.S. National Day of Prayer.

We invite Lutherans across the world to join us again in reading our faith's sacred texts such as the Bible or writings of Martin Luther. Together, we can recognize our **Duty to God**, participating on your own, with your family or as a group on May 7<sup>th</sup>, or any time that week. Most youth read at home with their family.

Although registration is not required to participate, those who do can also order commemorative patches. [https://  
ScoutsReadSacredTextsWorldwide.org](https://ScoutsReadSacredTextsWorldwide.org)





# SCOUTS



## READ SACRED TEXTS

We invite Scouts & youth across the world to join us again in reading their own faith's sacred texts. Together, we can recognize our **Duty to God**, participating as a group or on your own.

Read your sacred texts on **May 7th, 2026**, or any time that week. Join Scouting America, other youth organizations and all faith youth groups in a celebration of sacred texts.

### REGISTER NOW

**INFO & TO REGISTER**

[ScoutsReadSacredTextsWorldwide.org](https://ScoutsReadSacredTextsWorldwide.org)



**MORE INFORMATION**

[ScoutsReadSacredTexts@gmail.com](mailto:ScoutsReadSacredTexts@gmail.com)

# Scout Sunday

Scout Sunday is a special observance that helps Scouts honor their faith and celebrate one of the core values of the Scouts BSA program – a Scout is Reverent. It provides an opportunity for Scouts to thank their congregations and charter organizations for their support and to demonstrate the positive impact Scouting can have on a young person’s life. While Scout Sunday can be celebrated on a date that is most acceptable to the congregation and pastor, many congregations choose the Sunday that falls on or before February 8, Scouting’s birthday.



**Packs 146, 159 and Troop 46** celebrate Scout Sunday at Bethany Lutheran Church, Emmetsburg IA. Photo thanks to Peter Morlock.



Cub Scout **Pack 361** says thank you to “the best Charter Organization ever”- St. John Lutheran Church, Port Clinton, OH, for a very memorable Scout Sunday. The congregation was honored to award 3 of our cubs Jesus & Me Religious Emblems and to thank David Barth for his decades of service to the Pack and the Church by awarding him the NLAS Servant of Youth Award.



Andrew Rusch sends thanks to Pastor Grant Sorenson at Calvary Lutheran Church in Bedford, IN, for mentoring our Scouts! Cub Scouts from **Pack 343** and others received their Jesus and Me emblem. A Scout from **Troop 333** received her God and Life emblem! Submitted photos. Thanks for sharing.



Scout leader Pierre “Frank” O’Hare was recognized with the Lamb Award during Scout Sunday at Faith Lutheran Church in Mount Vernon, Ohio. Congratulations to Frank on this well-deserved recognition and for a lifetime of service to faith and community. From a shared post from Scouting Alumni.



## Scout Sunday (continued)

Since the beginning of Scouts BSA **Troop 9111**, a girls' troop chartered to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Elgin, IL, Scout Sunday has been observed with Scouts handling as much of the service as they could.

This year's Scout Sunday was "kicked up a notch" at Bethlehem, thanks to the newly installed Pastor Dawn Roucka. Like other years, Scouts and Scouters from two troops and a pack handled almost every part of the service: greeting, ushering, readings, prayers, collecting the offering, serving communion, playing a cello solo, operating the tech (PTZ camera controller, audio & video switching) and hosting Coffee Hour.

In past years, a Scouter also presented a sermon. This year, Pastor Dawn asked to write the sermon. What she wrote was a skit, based on Matthew 5: 13-16 (MSG), and presented as readers' theatre. It featured "Wavy Waters", "Salina O'Salty" and "Bright Lumens", portrayed by three Scouts with a Scouter as the "interviewer". Their jobs were to help people understand the lesson. It was a memorable sermon, filled with puns but delivering a serious message. The congregation loved it.



# NLAS Membership Renewals

Now is the time to renew your membership in the NLAS. All memberships renew at the end of the fiscal year.

NLAS is moving into the 21<sup>st</sup> century (albeit a bit late). Starting with this year, we're moving our membership roster and renewal process on-line. Working with our partner, P.R.A.Y., we've integrated both membership application and renewals into their shopping portal. We expect to have this up and running no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> of June. Once live, you should be able to either go directly to the Faith Partners pages at [praypub.org](http://praypub.org) or be redirected there by clicking a link on the NLAS website to renew your membership or update your information.

You can still send a physical check, if that is your preferred method. Watch for an invoice in the mail.

If you would like to pay online after June 1, here is the link: <https://store.praypub.org/national-lutheran-association-on-scouting>



## President's Perspective

My fellow Lutheran Scouters,

I am often asked why I continue to go to conferences for church, or why teach Scouts the Religious Emblems Programs, or why I continue to talk to people about Christ, or why would I spend two weeks, camping in a tent, to work at Jamboree. My answer? Well, that usually goes something like: I enjoy working with youth; I enjoy learning more at the conferences; I enjoy telling people about Christ. But it is harder to explain why anyone would be willing to spend two weeks tent camping, taking cold showers, getting sweaty, fly and mosquito bitten, sun burnt, and hiking to and from camp to your work station. Most people would think that I am crazy, then just look at me like I am crazy. I guess I am, in a way.

I am crazy enough about Christ that I am not worried about spending two weeks camping in West Virginia, hiking, sweating, getting bitten, taking cold showers, and having the best time doing what I love most. Planting a seed.

Because you see, I am not here to grow a congregation, I am not here to take count of how many people I have brought to Christ, (that isn't my job to begin with). I am here to plant a seed and let God do all the heavy lifting. Let the Holy Spirit work in ways that I never could. What we worry about isn't what God is worried about. We make mountains out of molehills and think that the world is crumbling down around us, when what we need to do is, plant a seed and let go and let God to the work.

1 Corinthians 3:6 says, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow." We serve an amazing God who can do anything, if we would only let HIM.

Yours in Christ and Scouting,  
Kristin Rogahn  
NLAS President

## From the Editor

by Marti Jernberg

Due to the timing of our Annual Meeting, Jamboree and Girl Scouts Unite, the deadline for the summer issue of the *Lutheran Scouter* will be postponed until

**August 1.**

Subsequent issues will adhere to the normal schedule:

Winter - January 1; Spring - April 1; Summer - July 1; Fall - October 1

If you would like anything included in an upcoming issue, please submit articles and/or photos by the dates listed. 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 (mjscouter@aol.com) or phone (847-337-0903). Of course, you can submit articles or pictures at any time.

We would love to include news items from and about your units. Service projects for your churches? P.R.A.Y. awards earned? Adult awards earned? Scout Sunday observances? Is your chaplain aide doing it right? A Scouts own service that your unit did. Did a Lutheran Scout earn Gold or Eagle or both? Lutheran Scouts' Eagle/Gold projects? Send your news for *Lutheran Scouting* newsletter to Marti Jernberg, mjscouter@aol.com. 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, email in .jpg or .png format.

# Nominees for National Offices

Every two years a **Nominating Committee** is formed to develop a slate of nominees for the national officers of the Executive Board of the National Lutheran Association on Scouting: President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, and two Members at Large. The officers are elected by the voting membership (dues-paid and honorary members) of NLAS and are installed at the annual meeting in even numbered years. Terms are for two years with the exception of President-Elect who succeeds to the office of President after two years. Members should expect an email with the link for online voting to come out in May.

## President-Elect— Rick McClelland

Rick McClelland is a life member of NLAS, currently serving as the Recognitions Chair. He serves as a counselor for the PRAY awards both in person and virtually. He is a member of First Lutheran Church in Xenia, Ohio where he serves as the Chartered Organization Representative for the church's pack and troop. He has served on the church council including a 3-year term as the president of the congregation during a pastoral call process.

Rick joined Cub Scouts on his 8<sup>th</sup> birthday and has been a member of Scouting America ever since. He earned the Arrow of Light award as a Cub Scout and is an Eagle Scout. He earned the Pro Deo et Patria (predecessor of the God and Life) as a youth. He is a member of the Executive Board of Tecumseh Council, Scouting America and is the Council Advancement Chair. His Scouting awards include the Lamb, Silver Beaver, Council Duty to God, District Award of Merit and numerous training awards. He is a Vigil member of Tarhe Lodge Order of the Arrow. He has served in various staff positions at the National Scout Jamborees in 1983, 2001, 2017, and 2023.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Aerospace Engineering degree from the United States Naval Academy, a Master of Science in Engineering Management from the University of Dayton, and a Doctor of Management Degree from the University of Phoenix.

Rick, a U. S. Navy veteran, retired from a 40-year career as a civilian employee of the United States Air Force in 2023. That time was spent engineering weapons systems acquisition, sustainment, and disposal and technology development.

Rick and his wife, Alberta, are the parents of 4 wonderful children, with two grandsons, and 4 grand dogs.

## Secretary —Phillip Rauscher

Phillip Rauscher, MPH, CAE, ACNP, CSP, CIH, is a nonprofit executive and Scouting volunteer from Port Clinton, Ohio. He currently serves as Executive Director of ACGIH and the Corporate Secretary for the *Journal of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene*.

As a member of St. John ELCA Church in Port Clinton, he has served on committees supporting congregational life and youth engagement, including the 2025 Mission and Values Committee.

Within the Erie Shores Council, he has served in numerous leadership roles, including District Member-at-Large, District Membership Committee Chair, Key 3 Delegate, Merit Badge Counselor, Council Camp Staff, Den Leader, and Cubmaster of Pack 3361. As Cubmaster, Pack 361 met the qualifications for the NLAS Unit Award of Excellence.

Phillip has received the Cub Scout Rookie of the Year and the Fran Deitze Awards for his work with his unit and the district, including service as Day Camp Physical Arrangements Director. He earned the Den Leader Training Award, completed the Scouter Training Award, and holds the Veteran Award for 15 years of service.

Phillip and his wife, Mollie, are raising their 4 children in the Lutheran faith and Scouting program; he is passionate about strengthening the partnership between Lutheran congregations and Scouting units. He seeks to bring his experience as a nonprofit executive, church leader, Eagle Scout, and active Scouter to the National Lutheran Association on Scouting Board to support strong governance, sustainable growth, and Christ-centered service to youth and families.

**Treasurer – Tom Miller**

Tom currently resides in Westminster, CA, and is an Associate Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Huntington Beach, CA (LCMS). He has completed an unexpired term for President-elect (2022), then served as President (2023-24) and Treasurer (2024-26) of NLAS.

The father of three Eagle Scouts (David, Jon, and Sam), Tom has been active in BSA since 1968. An Eagle Scout, and Vigil Honor member of the Wiata-va Lodge, he is currently the Charter Organization Representative for Troop 558 in Orange County, which is chartered to the church. He has previously served in numerous leadership positions in the Cub Scout, Scouts BSA, and Sea Scout programs. He served as Scoutmaster for the Orange County Council Spring Wood Badge course in 2015. He was co-creator of the Game Design Merit Badge and coordinated that booth at the 2013 and 2017 National Jamborees. He staffed the Faith and Beliefs area at the 2019 World Jamboree and the 2023 National Jamboree and is currently serving on the Duty to God and County Program areteam at the 2026 Jamboree.

He has been recognized with the Silver Beaver, the God and Service, and the Lamb Awards. His wife, Karen, is a rostered teacher (emeritus) and has staffed numerous Wood Badge courses.

He currently splits his time between his roles as Pastor, Adjunct Professor of Entrepreneurship at CSUF, and his own consulting practice (Persuasive Business Plans). He looks forward to the opportunity to continue to serve as an Executive Board member for NLAS.

**Member-at-Large - Kevin Westly**

Kevin Westley is a devoted member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles, Missouri. A proud father of three sons — Brendan, Zachary, and Joshua — he has been deeply involved in Scouting since 2019. He currently serves as Scoutmaster of his sons' troop, a role he has held for nearly four years, and has proudly supported two of his sons in earning the rank of Eagle Scout before aging out of the program. Joshua currently holds the Tenderfoot rank and participates as a special needs Scout.

Kevin is passionate about the Duty to God aspect of Scouting. He has taught multiple P.R.A.Y. courses and provides ongoing religious instruction and support at both the troop and district levels. As an adult leader, he has backpacked Philmont Scout Ranch twice and served as an advisor at Northern Tier's Okpik program.

Professionally, Kevin is a Technical Leader at Boeing and a retired Senior Officer in the United States Air Force. He holds engineering degrees from Virginia Tech and West Coast University.

He and his wife Kristen live in Missouri and are grateful to be raising their three boys together.

**Member-at-Large - James C. Whitehead**

As a past president of the NLAS, Jim views Scouting as one of the tools his church uses to accomplish its mission in the community. Jim and his wife Sonya are members of Providence Lutheran Church in Holland, Ohio where he serves as Chartered Organization Representative. He also chairs the Advisory Board of the Erie Shores Council.

A current member of the BSA National Religious Relationships Committee, Jim's background includes eighteen years as a professional Scouter, as well as unit positions in Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting and Exploring/Venturing, district and council committees. Jim has been an adviser for 15 Philmont treks, 2 Seabase adventures and 2 Summit experiences. He has served on staff for Wood Badge, nine National Jamborees, BSA National Camping School and 4 Scouting in the Lutheran Church conferences at the Philmont Training Center. He earned the God and Country Award as a Scout and received the Lamb Award in 2012 and the National Duty to God Award in 2021.

Through the years Jim has held several volunteer positions in his church congregations including Religious Emblems Mentor, Congregation Council and President. Other community organizations for which he has volunteered include Alpha Phi Omega; the Jaycees; the Rotary Club; the National Exchange Club; Habitat for Humanity and as a 9-gallon Red Cross Blood Donor.

Jim and Sonya are the parents of three sons, all Eagle Scouts.

**Membership Chair -Phil Jensen** (not an elected position, but new to the board)

Scouting is a family affair for the Jensen family. Phil Jensen serves as chartered organization representative for a Cub Scout pack and Scouts BSA troop in his local Lutheran congregation near Duluth, Minnesota, his wife, Erin, is a Hiking and Backpacking merit badge counselor, and their son, Brent, is a First Class Scout.

Phil has held leadership roles at the unit, district, council, territory, and national levels of Scouting, often with a focus on strengthening membership and supporting local units. He is

currently chair-elect of the National Scouts BSA Program Committee and serves as the membership lead for Council Service Territory 4, which serves thirteen councils in the (Lutheran-heavy) Upper Midwest. Locally, he is a Scoutmaster and a member of the Northern Star Council's board of directors. This fall he began to work with NLAS to identify zip codes that may be ripe targets for growth of Lutheran packs and troops.

Phil was recently awarded the Silver Antelope by the National Council. Congratulations, Phil!

## NLAS 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 un-weighted 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.

# AMERICA



## NLAS Board

### NLAS Officers

President:	Kristin Rogahn	nlas.kristin@gmail.com
President-Elect:	Ben Wheeler	benjamin.wheeler@scouting.org
Secretary:	Wayne Stuckey	wstuckey.nlas@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Tom Miller	occnslt@gmail.com
Member at Large:	James C. Whitehead	jcwscouter@sbcglobal.net
Member at Large:	Aaron Rogahn	nyrogi@gmail.com
ELCA Representative:	Reid Christopherson	reidchris@alliancecom.net
LCMS Representative:	Rev. Mark Kiessling	mark.kiessling@lcms.org

### Ex-Officio

Pastoral Advisor:	Rev. Dana Narring	faithlutheranpg@gmail.com
Past President:	Tom Miller	occnslt@gmail.com
Parliamentarian:	Ronald Adolphi, PhD.	Ronald.adolphi@cox.net

### Standing Chairs

Editor, <i>Lutheran Scouting</i> :	Marti Jernberg	mjscouter@aol.com
Membership:	Robert Moreno	membership.nlas@gmail.com
	Ben Wheeler	benjamin.wheeler@scouting.org
Webmaster:	Ryan Emblem	webmaster.nlas@gmail.com
Associations:	Open	
Recognition:	Rick McClelland	jrmclella@aol.com
	Jim Heinrich	jeheinrich@aol.com
Chaplaincy:	Rev. Richard Egtvedt	2kingsrick@gmail.com
Special Committees		
NLAS Lead Chaplain:	Rev. Richard Egtvedt	2kingsrick@gmail.com

## 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.



**All current registered members should watch for your ballot—via email—in May 2026**



A Publication of National Lutheran Association on Scouting

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## IN THIS ISSUE

**Of Interest:** Scout Sunday, Lamb Award, Board Candidate Bios. **Spread the Word:** Scouts Read Sacred Texts, Liberty in Action Challenge, Jamboree Staff, NLAS 4-Star Scholarship, NLAS Certificates. Membership renewals. **President's Perspective:** Kristin Rogahn

**DEADLINE TO SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR SUMMER ISSUE: AUGUST 1, 2026**



We are a resource for youth and adults who wish to know more about the religious emblem program, endorsed by the Lutheran Churches for members of Scouting America, Girl Scouts USA, 4-H, 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 vision statements were accepted by the NLAS Executive Board on October 12, 2002.