



LUTHERAN SCOUTING

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 4

WWW.NLAS.ORG

NOVEMBER 2018

MEMORIES FROM P.T.C.

submitted by Jim Whitehead

The plans were laid and the invitation read, “JOIN US AT PHILMONT”. In response, Lutherans from across the country did just that as we came together for the *Scouting in the Lutheran Church* conference at the Philmont Training Center in July. Hosted by the NLAS, this week-long training course was designed as an opportunity for Lutheran adults to learn more about using the Scouting program as a tool for ministry in their home congregations.

Attending this year’s course were: Kristin and Zachary Rogahn of the Mid-Iowa Council, Des Moines, IA; Rev. Greg Rogahn of the Hawkeye Area Council, Cedar Rapids, IA; Cole Petersen, of the Northern Star Council, Minneapolis, MN; Alice Breon of the Washington Crossing Council, Doylestown, PA; Rev. Dan Kletke of the Rocky Mountain Council, Pueblo, CO; Walter Forst of the Greater New York Council, New York, NY; Linda and Rodney Brown of the Black Hills Area Council, Rapid City SD; Loren Meinke and Kenneth Toole of the Central Minnesota Council, Sartel, MN.

The conference faculty was drawn from the association’s officers: Wayne Stuckey, President; Matt Rogahn, President-elect; Rev. Sherman Martell, ELCA Pastoral Advisor; Jim Whitehead, Past-president. In addition, we were joined by national BSA staff adviser Gene Butler, P.R.A.Y. CEO Jason Noland, Past BSA National Religious Relationships Chair “Chip” Turner, and special presenter Susan Lawyer of the United Methodist Church.



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The conference syllabus was presented over a five-day period. Each day started with a worship service. We kicked off on Monday with presentations on the national picture of *“Duty to God and Scouting”* relationships between various Lutheran church bodies and Scouting, the BSA’s National Religious Relationships Committee and ended the day’s class session with *“N.L.A.S. – Who We Are, What We Do”*. The Association’s Annual Meeting was held that evening featuring the installation of officers and members of the Executive Board as well as reports from our treasurer and out-going president.

Tuesday opened with: *“The Local Picture – How Scouting Fits into the Ministry of the Local Congregation”* and *“Organizing Scouting Units”*. We were blessed to have in-depth presentations on P.R.A.Y. programs and resources including a detailed look at the NEW *“Jesus and Me”* curriculum for Kindergarten/First Grade (not printed quite yet) as well as the other grade level programs and resources. We followed with *“Unit and Adult Recognitions”* – forms processes and presentations with a closing session on *“Duty to God in Your Council”*. A bit of rain didn’t prevent us from enjoying a buffalo BBQ dinner on the lawn of the Villa Philmont followed by a performance of Native American dance given by a Venturing Crew from Texas.

Wednesday morning classes focused on *“The FBI and Scouting”* (no, NOT the law enforcement agency), and *“Conducting Worship Services”*. The afternoon and evening were free for conference attendees to explore the ranch and its environs.

Thursday’s sessions included *“Scouting Programs Overview”* – a detailed look at the recent Duty to God enhancements in advancement in the Cub Scouting, Scouting and Venturing programs - *“Selecting Quality Leaders”* – steps to success and resources. We were privileged to join the participants of all the conferences to have the new BSA National Commissioner, Ellie Morrison, share with us background and “How will it work?” information on the Family Scouting programs as well as time for an unscripted Q&A session. Our afternoon was packed with *“Sharing Our Faith With Scouts”*, Gene Butler’s presentation on *“The New Member Coordinator”*, *“Unit, Council and Event Chaplaincy”*, and *“Benefits of Social Media”*.

Friday completed the conference with sessions on *“disAbilities Awareness”* – serving ALL youth, person-first, and experiential simulations of the effects of various disAbilities; *“Scout Sunday”* – making it relevant, elements and resources. After a wrap-up, *“What Will You Do With All This Stuff When You Get Home?”* we amended our closing and graduation in the PTC Chapel to feature the presentation of a well-deserved Lamb Award to our (now) Past-President Wayne Stuckey. It was time for packing up and the closing camp-fire! As we said our “Good-Byes” on Saturday morning, we promised to stay in touch and to spread the word:

“JOIN US AT PHILMONT IN 2020!”





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

It's snowing here in Nebraska! Wow! It is beautiful! Only 70 more days until Christmas!

I love Christmas: love to watch my grandchildren open their presents – oddly enough they never seem to be overly thrilled when they find out the present was a pair of socks – ingrates. But what to you get children that have virtually everything?

My wife, Linda, and I are the only grandparents that our five grandchildren have. In some ways that's OK; we don't have to share the grandchildren but in other ways it would be nice to be able to have the companionship of other adult peers that have the same loving interest in our grandchildren.

Of course, my grandchildren all have superior intelligence as well being very clever, excelling in all they do!

When you read the Old Testament genealogies (if you don't skip over them) you get the idea that it is important for families to understand where they come from, whom they're descended from. Of course, we're all descended from nobility, aren't we? My 13th great grandfather was a German *Ritter*, a knight – we have a legitimate historical coat-of-arms. We also have a coat tree in the hall.

Yet in a very real sense we all are descended from a King – the King of Kings!

He came as a babe and brought with Him the greatest gift of all...not a pair of socks, but the gift of eternal life, purchased by His death and resurrection and given to us, His children, as the greatest of all gifts.

It didn't cost us anything, but it cost Him His life!

Probably the greatest gift I ever gave my children was sharing my faith with them as my parents did with me and theirs with them.

Taking them, not dropping them off, to Church, Sunday School and our Lutheran parochial school where the Holy Spirit can inculcate in them saving faith.

My children are all successful adults but the thing that pleases me the most is that they have stayed in the Christian faith, in the Church, bring up my grandbabies in the fear and love of the Lord.

Is there anything more precious than when we sit down to eat that the grandchildren automatically bow their heads, close their eyes, fold their hands and say the common table prayer!

As we go about our Scouting we need to keep foremost in our minds the 12th points of the Scout Law – *A Scout is Reverent*. To help those lambs who are without a family shepherd to lead them to the Lord we can help guide them to eternal life through our religious emblem programs.

P.R.A.Y. does a great job assisting us in this endeavor. Helping us, the NLAS, to fulfill our mission of getting the Gospel message to our Scouts.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving, we have a lot to be thankful for and remember Christmas is just around the corner! Whoa! The sun's out and the snow is gone! Winter must be over already!

Chaplain James Hoke
NLAS Member since 1982





President's Perspective

A few thoughts:

Past, Present, Future

Matthew Rogahn, NLAS President

Expand NLAS membership, participation, and opportunities.

Membership:

According to Robert Moreno, Membership Chairman, the past six months have shown a decline in NLAS Membership. Although new membership has not grown, I am pleased that a number of applications have been sent to prospective members with follow-up conversations by phone and social media. Of course, getting the word out and promoting membership is an opportunity given to all NLAS members.

Religious Growth Programs:

PRAY (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) has just released its newest program for building faith in youth, The *Jesus and Me* program. This three book set includes resources for youth, mentor, and counselor/pastor. It is being well received. Check out this new program for Kindergarten and 1st Grade at: www.praypub.org/Jesus-me

Let us also keep in mind and promote the other religious growth programs offered through PRAY: *God and Me*, *God and Family*, *God and Church*, and *God and Life*! All are available at www.praypub.org PRAY CEO Jason R. Noland and the PRAY staff are always ready to provide service and answer questions/concerns.

Adult Recognitions and Awards:

The Servant of Youth Adult Recognition is given to acknowledge distinguished volunteer service by adults in ministry to young people through one or more civic youth agency programs. Eligibility includes five years of service and being an active member of a Lutheran congregation OR being an active member of another Christian congregation serving Lutheran young people through a civic youth agency such as BSA, GSUSA, American Heritage Girls, Camp Fire USA, and 4-H. See www.praypub.org/servantofyouth

The Lamb Award is given to acknowledge the distinguished service of Lutheran adults in fostering the spiritual growth of you through church and civic youth serving agencies, such as BSA, GSUSA, American Heritage Girls, Camp Fire USA, and 4-H. Eligibility includes ten years of distinguished service. See www.praypub.org/lambaward. It is very important that NLAS members be aware of those adults who might qualify for either of these recognitions. Hats off to NLAS members, Loren Meinke and Gregory Rogahn, who have identified and spearheaded some 10 of these recognitions among Lutheran and other Christian denominations.

Please join me in a little Bible study of mission and ministry to children and youth as it is presented by the good physician Luke in **Luke 18:15-17!!**

Seven Scouts Receive Four Star Award

Submitted by Bob Elliott, Northern Star Council

On May 6, 2018, Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Apple Valley, Minnesota, presented the P.R.A.Y. Protestant 4 Star Award to seven Scouts who have completed all four of the P.R.A.Y. Protestant religious emblems. They were among 35 total Scouts who received religious emblems at this year's religious emblems award ceremony.

Bob Elliott, SOTV's God & Life counselor for the past 11 years, attributes the achievements by these 7 Scouts to their desire to learn about Christ and their dedication to the P.R.A.Y. program, and also to their parents' steadfast encouragement and support for their Christian education. "Once Scouts reach middle school age, their willingness to participate in the P.R.A.Y. program is essential, and the parent's scheduling prioritization to drive them to class is just as essential. The P.R.A.Y. program truly is a family program, from beginning to end."

Lindsay had this to say about The P.R.A.Y program: "This program has led me to see God in a whole new light. Without the P.R.A.Y. program, I would not be where I am today. Many aspects of my life can be related back to what I have learned throughout each portion of the program."

Mason noted that: "Throughout my Scouting career, the P.R.A.Y program has brought me closer to God and expanded my knowledge in faith."

Andrew said that: "This program has helped me understand my relationship with God and to always make room for God in my everyday life, no matter how busy I may be."

The unwavering support of the pastors and staff at SOTV is another indispensable part of the program: providing 3 classrooms for each class date and hosting an awards ceremony for Scouts, their families and friends, conducted by a pastor and a pianist.

Since SOTV started offering religious emblems classes in 2002, a total of 490 boys and girls have earned a total of 700 religious emblems. Of those 490 Scouts, 27 have earned the 4 Star Award (so far, since many more are too young to have completed all four levels yet). This year's group of seven 4 Stars is by far the largest in the history of SOTV.

The seven 4 Stars, pictured, left to right, are: Andrew K., Douglas H., Lindsay B., (Bob Elliott, God & Life counselor), Grant H., Ben S., Nicholas R., and Mason C.



Congratulations and God's blessings so you continue your walk in faith
NLAS celebrates this accomplishment and encourages all youth to engage in the PRAY programs

Additional information can be found at www.praypub.org

HELP WANTED

VOLUNTEER PUBLISHER AND EDITOR NEEDED

The NLAS Lutheran Scouting newsletter is a quarterly publication bringing the news of the national and local Lutheran Scouting organizations to the membership via print and digital distribution.

This volunteer position includes fielding email inquiries from NLAS members, participating in bi-monthly conference calls, gathering article submissions, follow up for missing newsletter components, editing articles for grammar, spelling and content space, article layout, graphics, submission to printer and all details related to distribution.

Education and experience in areas of editing, graphics, publishing, multiple software formats as well as organizational skills working in a nonprofit organization and access to computer software necessary. Interested volunteers, please email Matt Rogahn at mgrogahn@gmail.com.



Send NLAS News Items

The deadline to submit articles for the next issue is **January 19, 2019**. Send Association and other news for the Lutheran Scouting newsletter to Pam Ciccarello at eaglesnest0810@att.net.

Please include

- 'NLAS' in the subject line
 - be certain to spell out acronyms
 - provide city/state/council
- for events, be sure to include the date. Photos are welcome.



A Publication of National Lutheran Association on Scouting

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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