



LUTHERAN SCOUTING

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NLAS: Loud and Proud at Ripley Rendezvous



The Central Minnesota Council of the Boy Scouts of America hosted an area wide Ripley Rendezvous (camporee) at Camp Ripley—Minnesota National Guard, near Little Falls, Minnesota in mid-May. Councils from through out the mid-west

arrived with 3,000 Scouts and leaders in spite of the 43-degree (34 degree wind chill) weather. Even though it rained the entire weekend, spirits weren't dampened! Games and adventures for all ages were on going with a fabulous mid-way area filled with patrol games, demonstrations, displays and exhibits. NLAS board member and member of the hosting council, Loren

Meinke, staffed a booth representing Lutheran Scouting, Religious Emblems and Lutheran adult awards. The most surprising comment that Loren heard was from the adults, whom most haven't heard of a National Lutheran Scouting organization. So, much of his work was informing guests of the organization— Thank You Loren for being Loud and Proud for the NLAS!



**WATCH
FOR UPCOMING NEWS
2020 LUTHERAN CONFERENCE
AT
PHILMONT TRAINING CENTER**

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

Providence Lutheran Church in Holland, Ohio is proud to announce the chartering of Scouts BSA Troop 144 for girls! Their charter kickoff meeting was held on February 18th, making it the first troop for girls in the Swan Creek District of the Erie Shores Council.

Assistant Scoutmaster Stephanie Sprow noted, "Even though our initial membership is small, the girls are really excited to be able to do the things they have seen their brothers doing in their troop or heard about from their dads or grandfathers." All of the girls are enthusiastic about attaining the Eagle Scout rank. Scoutmaster John Whitehead's daughter Sara declared, "I'm gonna beat my brother!"

Past NLAS president Jim Whitehead serves as the Charter Organization Rep for Providence. He



shared "Providence has been chartering Scouting units since the early days of the congregation. When given the opportunity to offer the benefits of the Scouts BSA program to area girls, our church council readily agreed. We have seen what a powerful tool the BSA program has been for our other units – Pack 144, Troop 210 and Venturing Crew 210." Scouting has been good for the congregation because several families have joined the church after their first contact through Scouting. This is a great example why Lutheran congregations should be offering troops for girls, but especially those already chartering other Scouting units, saying, "Fill out the family!"

A CHAPEL CHALLENGE

By James Whitehead, Past-President

While attending the *Scouting in the Lutheran Church* as well as other courses at the Philmont Training Center, many Scouters and their families have worshipped at the Chapel.



Whether seeing the sunset through the trees at evening services or feeling the rising sun warm your back in the early morning, its outdoor setting is truly inspirational.

However, maintaining that inspirational setting presents its own set of challenges. Although sturdily built, a closer look reveals that the chapel has not been immune to the ravages of what can be seen as stark conditions – baking sun, wind, rain, freezing winter, searing heat.

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President's Perspective

A few thoughts: Past, Present, Future

Expanded opportunities NLAS has in Youth Serving Organizations

Youth serving organizations for years have instilled citizenship, leadership and character building etc. to prepare youth today and for life. NLAS serves these such organizations: Girl Scouts USA, American Heritage Girls, Campfire Girls, 4H and Boy Scouts of America. These organizations have and continue to instill these values and many more. We as an organization, encourage everyone to become involved in one or more of these Youth Serving organizations.

With the addition of girls into the Cub Scout and Scouts BSA programs, we have another opportunity for mission and ministry to not only the new Scouts, but to the families as well. The question is, "How can we minister to these youth?" The answer is simple, the same way we have been ministering to the youth of these organizations for a long time. Sharing our faith through the word of God, when asked, and showing the benefits of the Religious Emblems programs. Jesus and Me, God and Me, God and Family, God and Church, and the God and Life programs are fantastic tools to introduce faith in God on a level that is age appropriate.

God gives us direction in Proverbs:22 "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it." And Christ tells us His approach to youth in Mark :10 "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

Our role, as Christians, is follow what God has laid out for us, through our acts of kindness and serving others. Remember it is HIS plan; HIS

day, HIS way! To God be the Glory; Great things HE has done. I encourage you to dive into Scripture: Matthew 28:19-20.

Matthew Rogahn, NLAS President

Tessa-Pack 141 in Claremore, OK



Scout Troop 84 in

Ava with her first Pinewood Trophy



Jenna -Scout Troop 84 in Owasso, OK



Jenna & Tessa - AHG Troop OK0412 in Bixby, OK





CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Well, Summer is here and plowing its way into our rain-soaked Midwest.

Speaking of plowing – I had my brother come over and till up my garden patch, he has a motorized tiller. It works much better than watching my Frau struggle to pull our 1-bottom plow. The nation will soon be plowing ahead with the political campaign season, the secular, the Church and our Annual NLAS Conference.

Having been to several Church conventions, as a delegate, I can attest to the scheming, back-biting and basic un-Christian behavior that flows right after we have the Lord's Supper and the worship service ends. Secular political conventions are, presumably, even more vitriolic. Our Nation is quickly becoming a Nation divided, which in the long run, cannot stand—someone said that once. In light of this I take comfort in the hymn that we sung at the Retirement Center last Tuesday, "I'm but a Stranger Here, Heaven is My Home."

Having been to several NLAS Annual Conferences I can say that even though our major Lutheran Church bodies aren't in altar and pulpit fellowship, we as the ground roots soldiers, can and do act with love and respect toward each other. We do this because we have a common goal in mind – spreading the Gospel of Jesus to our youth via our religious emblems programs and supporting our Lutheran Chaplaincies. To achieve this goal, we all must work together as Lutheran Christians. We cannot and should not model our behavior after our political masters.

As my Frau struggled to pull the 1-bottom plow through the tough Nebraska sod, we in the NLAS, also struggle to pull the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a scouting world that has, over the years, morphed into something that it was not when I was a young Scout in the 1960s. I sense an apathy in our scouting community for sustained and committed involvement in religious based programs. It often seems that Councils, and the scouting movement in general, are more interested in raising money and building a donor list of wealthy business associates than nurturing the youth that actually make up the scouting movement. How many Councils have functioning Religious Relationships Committees?

We, as the NLAS, need to "Plow" through all this political sod and, as we always have, cut to the chase – serving the youth we represent with the life transforming Gospel of Christ. To this end we link with P.R.A.Y. and "plow" the fertile minds of our youth with our religious emblem programs. For some it's the only contact they'll ever have with a loving and compassionate Savior. A Savior WHO loves and has died for them regardless of their political affiliation or their religious background. How can they believe if they've never heard?

Chaplain James Hoke
NLAS Member since 1982

A CHAPEL CHALLENGE

During our 2018 *Scouting in the Lutheran Church* conference, it was noted that the chapel is again in need of some good old-fashioned **Tender Lovin' Care!** Even though the Lutheran's did not originally build the chapel, we have been involved over the years as with the donation of the bell and its stand.



The structure is actually in good shape, it just needs a good sprucing up --- staining and sealing the wood trusses and ceiling; patching and painting walls, trim and the bell stand; cleaning and sealing the concrete floor. What struck me most is the condition of the furnishings - - the altar table and lectern. Over the years, the extremes of weather have caused the pieces to warp, split and become just plain weather-beaten.

After discussing the situation and checking with PTC administration, the NLAS Executive Board felt the call that - - -

*"It's up to **US** to do something about it!"*

Five phases have been established for the project. Each phase will be completed as we receive adequate funding.

Phase 1 - Provide outdoor-durable replacements for the Altar Table and Lectern. In addition, we could provide a cross for the altar that could be stored when the chapel is used by other faiths.

Phase 2 - Provide paint for interior and exterior walls, plus patching material where needed.

Phase 3 - Provide stain and sealant for wood trusses and ceiling

Phase 4 - Provide cleaner and sealant for the concrete floor

Phase 5 - Establish an endowment fund to provide for future maintenance of the chapel

Our plan is to raise funds and make designated donations to Philmont to provide the materials.

In years when we hold conferences, we can perhaps include some "sweat-equity" donation as well.

So . . . how can you join us in this endeavor? We invite you to join in our effort to provide for the refurbishment of this much-used chapel. Please prayerfully consider a donation. More details on how to give will follow.





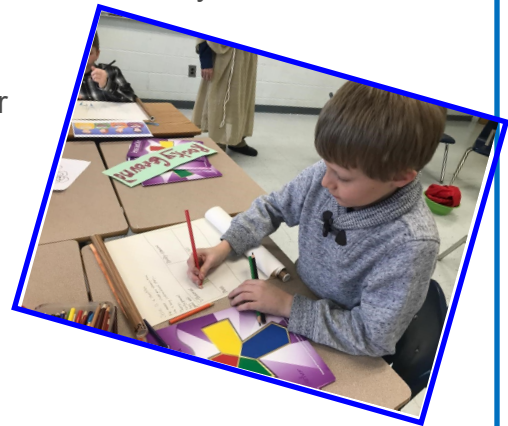
Sunday School Uses 'Jesus and Me'

Deaconess Sally Hiller from Ascension Lutheran Church in Landover, Maryland reports that she has had an exciting time working with 6 other adults and 12 children on the Jesus and Me Program.



"Our students have loved the scrolls and working their way through them. I really appreciate the lessons, the activity, and the purposeful way to include family in the fuller lifestyle experience that is needed. I work in our regional church office and have actually recommended this to several of our congregations with smaller Sunday schools. I'm looking forward to using God and Me in our Sunday School this Fall."

Note: Sally Hiller serves as the Executive Director for Congregational Outreach and District Operations in the Southeastern District of the LCMS.





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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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