

Key Attributes of the NALC

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, “according to which all doctrines should and must be judged” (*Formula of Concord*). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission-Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples — in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world — must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.

How does the NALC handle the adoption of teaching statements?

Members and congregations of the NALC have direct involvement in the decisions and life of the NALC. All teaching statements must be endorsed by the bishop, approved by a two-thirds majority vote at a Convocation comprised of representatives from each NALC congregation, and ratified by two-thirds of NALC congregations.

How can we join the NALC?

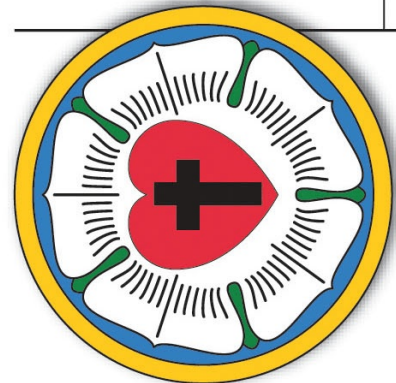
To join the NALC, a congregation must subscribe to the NALC constitution. Congregations vote according to the procedures specified in their own constitutions and bylaws, not procedures mandated by the NALC.

How can I learn more?

Information about the NALC is available online at www.thenalc.org. You may also contact our office for more information.



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NALC

North American Lutheran Church

Consider the North American Lutheran Church

Confessing Lutherans in North America have asked for a new denominational body that is faithful in its preaching and practice to the Holy Bible and to the teachings of the Lutheran Confessions. We invite you to consider the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). We hope that you will see the NALC as a church body that will enable your congregation to carry out its mission and ministry faithfully.

The NALC embodies the theological center of Lutheranism in North America. It is a church body committed to the authority of the Bible as the inspired Word of God and the authoritative source and norm of its proclamation, faith, and life. In keeping with the Lutheran Confessions, we believe all doctrines should and must be judged by the teaching of Scripture.

The NALC is committed to shaping its life around four attributes: Christ-Centered, Mission-Driven, Traditionally-Grounded, and Congregationally-Focused.

Many congregations joining the NALC are leaving the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada as they have seen those bodies move further from traditional Biblical teaching. But the NALC is much more than a reaction to the errors of other church bodies. The NALC will be a renewed Lutheran community moving forward in faith and mission, focused on living out Christ's Great Commission to go and make disciples.

What is the difference between the NALC and Lutheran CORE?

The NALC is a church body. Lutheran CORE is not a church body. Lutheran CORE is a confessional and confessing unity movement for Lutherans regardless of their church body affiliation. Lutheran CORE is a way for traditional Lutherans in North America to work together in mission. The NALC is a member of Lutheran CORE.

How does the NALC relate to LCMC?

The NALC and Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ (LCMC) are committed to working in close partnership. Some have called the two church bodies fraternal twins. LCMC is a vibrant and faithful association of congregations, rather than a denominational church body. Like LCMC, the NALC will be focused on and do its ministry through congregations, but it will have more of a traditional denominational structure to assist congregations in their mission and ministry and in calling pastoral leadership. Congregations can be members of both NALC and LCMC.

Will the NALC work in partnership with Lutherans around the world?

Yes. The NALC is committed to working in partnership with faithful Lutherans in other parts of the world. The NALC will also encourage congregations to enter into partnership relationships with other congregations in North America and around the world and will help to facilitate those relationships.

Does the NALC have a bishop?

Yes. The NALC is led by a bishop, whose role is pastoral and theological rather than administrative. The bishop conducts a ministry of visitation throughout the NALC and promotes the mission of the church. The bishop will also lead NALC inter-Lutheran and ecumenical dialogues. Regional Deans, who may also serve as pastors of local congregations, work with the bishop to provide oversight and pastoral care to pastors and congregations in their area. A General Secretary handles NALC administrative and operational functions.

Will the NALC have a large structure and a large national headquarters?

No. The NALC is very lean structurally, but there is enough structure to help congregations with their ministries. The NALC's focus is on assisting the ministry of congregations, not on congregations assisting the ministry of the national church body.

How does NALC handle benevolence giving from congregations?

Congregations decide which ministries to support with their benevolence giving. The NALC will help congregations find the best ways to support Christ's mission in the world. NALC congregations are encouraged to support ministries and mission congregations directly. The NALC needs direct support, especially during its formative years, but ongoing administrative costs will be limited because of the NALC's commitment to a lean structure.