

Convocation Recap

Annapolis ELC, Edgewater, MD

October 21 & 22, 2022

Seventy-four disciples of the Atlantic Mission Region gathered over two days at Annapolis Evangelical Lutheran Church, Edgewater, MD on October 21 & 22, 2022 for the annual regional Convocation. The theme for this year was "Trust the LORD in Anxious Times." Sixty-six gathered in person and eight attended virtually.

Presentations were made by the **Rev. Dan Schaefer** and **Rebecca Johnson** on *A Christian Response to Anxiety and Fear*. **Officer Dan Schaefer** led the assembly in understanding emergency preparedness on a congregational level (briefly covering natural disasters, medical emergencies, active shooter, etc.) A copy his book *The Church Emergency Handbook: All Hazards Emergency Management for Houses of Worship* was gifted to each congregation by the AMR. Assistant to the Bishop of the Eastern Area the **Rev. Dr. Bill White** spoke to the assembly about the new restructuring of the NALC and what it means for us as a Region.

The 2023 Ministry Spending Plan was approved. The assembly approved the \$58,950 Ministry Plan as presented.

Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries was the spotlight Ministry Partner this year. The Rev. Leslie Haines (Major) spoke to the assembly about LMVFM and the work they do with veterans both past and present and how vital their work is. Service dog Patrick Dooley was also present and was enjoyed by all who visited him.

Financial gifts were given to the Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries (\$1,210), Disaster Response (\$1,040), Annapolis ELC (\$100), and the NALS (\$50). The NALC also received \$500 from the AMR as an honorarium for the work done at this Convocation by our assistant to the Bishop for the Eastern Area the Rev. Dr. Bill White.

We heard a presentation from the Renewal & Discipleship Ministry Team re: **Having a Discipleship Conversation**. A follow up conversation on GoToMeeting is being planned for November 5.

Stuff the Truck for NALC Disaster Response! The truck was filled with health kits, school kits, flood buckets, blankets, Bibles, rakes, shovels, and gift cards. THANK YOU! All donations were taken to the warehouses in Middle River, MD and Elmer, NJ.

Worship: We opened the Convocation with a contemporary Eucharist led by the Worship Team from Trinity ELC, Joppa, MD with AMR dean the Rev. Steve Shipman preaching. Northeast Mission District dean the Rev. Gregory Davidson led us in Compline on Friday evening. We opened Saturday with a traditional Eucharist with the Rev. Mark Metze presiding and the Rev. Dr. Bill White preaching.

Mission District Meetings: The assembly broke into Mission Districts on Friday night and enjoyed fellowship with each other.

Fellowship! There were plenty of opportunities for fellowship at this year's Convocation. There was scheduled free time for networking and to visit the Ministry Partner and vendor displays. We also enjoyed an ice cream social on Friday evening. Yum!

Informal Bible Study: Assistant to the Bishop the Rev. Dr. Bill White led an informal Bible study for anyone interested in attending on Friday morning before the Convocation began.

Women's Conference: The Women of Atlantic Mission Region held their fourth Women's Conference on Friday morning in which they worked together to assemble 123 school kits for NALC Disaster Response. They also had sharing time, a Bible study, worship, and a visit from NALC Disaster Response coordinator Mary Bates.

The 2023 AMR Convocation will be held on October 20-21 at St. Paul Lutheran Church (250 Trinity Rd.), York, PA. A **Women's Conference** is also being planned for October 20 prior to the Convocation. Mark your calendars!