

NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

www.ncwelca.org

MAY/JUNE BULLETIN 2009

*“Christ Jesus lay in death’s strong bands for our offenses given;
But now at God’s right hand he stands and brings us life from heaven.
Therefore let us joyful be and sing to God right thankfully
loud sounds of hallelujah! Hallelujah!”*

(Hymn370 – ELW)

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I sincerely hope that you had a blessed and peace filled Easter season. John is doing another Intentional Interim so we were again very busy during Lent and Holy Week. It was wonderful! The anticipation of Lent was fulfilled in a glorious Easter Sunday celebration. Holy Week is always an emotional time for me but when we are without at least a part of our family it is even more emotional. From the tenderness of the foot washing on Holy Thursday I feel the pain of the Good Friday and, anticipate the excitement of the resurrection. Even the music – “Were You There” to “I know that my Redeemer Lives” – encourages us to travel that road with Christ, as He travels with us in our need.

Spring Conference Gatherings have begun. The first was held on March 7th at Good Shepherd in Raleigh. They elected Jan Street presider (her second term). I have since attended Southwestern on April 4th. There are many more gatherings to be held. All conferences will be electing presidors. Thank you to all that have attended and will attend a conference gathering; a heartfelt thank you to all the conference leaders, the host congregations and to the board members for an excellent job well done. If you missed your gathering and have an opportunity to attend one somewhere else, please go. You don’t want to miss it! I hope to see all of you at the NC SWO gathering May 29-31, 2009.

- **Twenty-second Annual NC Synodical Women’s Gathering:**

- **Delegate Responsibilities:** if you haven’t registered your delegate a Registration Form can be found on the website – www.ncwelca.org. As of this writing we only have 50 delegates registered out of 190 active units. Please encourage your congregational unit to send a delegate. It is so important.
- **Submitting Resolutions:** Resolutions are your voice. They provide for the vision and direction of our organization. If you have an area of concern that you feel needs to be addressed, a resolution is a way of requesting action and beginning discussion and deliberation. Find more information about submitting resolutions on the website – www.ncwelca.org.
- **Sunday Worship Singers:** Remember to bring your voices to the Annual Gathering. We will assemble a choir as before. Rehearsal will be held during the Awareness Forum time. (Check your Gathering Program of Reports [GPR] for times.)
- **T.A.G.G.’S AND T.G.I.F.’S:** Totally Awesome Groopies (11-14) and Tweens Gathering in Faith (15-19) – be sure to register your “tween” for these special programs. Deadline is May 1, 2009. Avoid the late fee – get your registration in now. Registration Forms can be found on the website – www.ncwelca.org.
- **Rev Sue Gamelin:** Pastor Sue is our keynote speaker. She along with her husband, Tim, is Pastor of Emmanuel Lutheran Church in High Point. She has written bible studies for Lutheran Woman Today and is very active in her community. I know you will enjoy her share her gifts with us.

- **vEnnessa Acham** will be our CWO representative. **Rev. Charlene Limejon** will be our Chaplain
- **BAG LADY:** If you don't have a bag to bring or would like a new one we will have canvas bags with the water-lily symbol and "North Carolina Women of the ELCA" imprinted on them for \$3 (which was our cost to have them made).
- **Saturday night entertainment:** We are the entertainment for Saturday evening. Each conference has been asked to provide an act of 3-5 minutes. It should be lots of fun.
- **Mission: Action:**
 - **Advocacy:** Support Earth Day – and go "green".
 - **Quilts:** Is quilting ACTION? You bet it is.
- **Mission: Community:**
 - **May Morsels:** Bring your Lutheran Family Service Kits and the form we sent in the last Bulletin to the 22nd Annual SWO Gathering May 29-31, 2009.
- **Mission: Growth:**
 - **Events for fall: Pray** for homeless and for our youth. Also check the Women of the ELCA website – www.womenoftheelca.org for information on Rachel's Day.
- **Remember to send your** offerings to Karen Mitchell and not Dot Fairchild. Karen took over on February 1, 2009.
- **Women of the ELCA Update:** You can make a friend, daughter, niece or other young woman in your life a partner in the Women of the ELCA. For \$20 she will receive the Lutheran Woman Today and Café magazines and learn about our organization.
- **Important Reminders:**
 - **Conference Spring Gatherings** (Check the website or the April President's mail for the schedule).
 - **Visitor/TAIG/TGIF Annual Gathering registration:** Deadline is May 1, 2009.
 - **Things to bring to our Annual Gathering:**
 - § Health/ School/kits for Lutheran Social Services
 - § Your convention offering (50% to Nicaraguan Water Project; 50% to (ChurchWide)
 - § Tabs/UPC codes
 - § A friend

Remember our theme **LIVING WATER – FLOOD OF GRACE. Make a ripple, make a wave, make a difference. Reach out and touch the future.**

Peace,

Cathy Sell

NC Women of the ELCA President

MISSION: COMMUNITY MORSELS FOR MAY, 2009

- May 1st is Church Women United May Friendship Day. May Friendship Day is celebrated on or near the first Friday in May and acts as a catalyst for building healing relationships within the local community. The day of the service may vary to meet the needs of women in a variety of situations. Because MFD focuses on local concerns, units often use it to reach out to women in their communities. A meal is recommended as a way of providing opportunities for sharing, networking, and community building in addition to worship and study. The offering remains with the Local Unit, with a portion sent to the state Unit for support. Think of ways your church unit might celebrate May Friendship Day.
- May 3rd is Rachel's Day where women boldly speak up for children. **What is Rachel's Day?** In 1994, one woman urged her congregation, Bethel Lutheran Church on the west side of Chicago, to support children facing violence. They began by clearing a vacant lot and turning it into a garden—Rachel's Garden. It became a place where folks could come, mostly mothers, to mourn children killed by gun violence in that past year and plant a simple white cross and flowers in remembrance of these young ones. Years later the Metro Chicago synodical women's organization brought a memorial to the 1996 Triennial Convention to broaden awareness of the violence. The convention passed the memorial, and encouraged their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May each year as "Rachel's Day", based on Jeremiah 31:15-17 where in Rachel grieved for her children, to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation". **Why do we still need Rachel's Day?** We still need Rachel's Day because violence is embedded into every area of a child's life, and the effect is a slow death for all of our children. It is more difficult today because the media, the economy, community divisions, isolation, entertainment, and even our children's forms of play have created a dangerous environment for them. No one group of children is safe until all children are safe. Using Rachel as an example, we're all in this together.
- Church Units please bring your Lutheran Family Services Form filled out to the Annual North Carolina Synodical Women's Gathering in Hickory on May 29 – 31. Also bring you Campbell's Soup Bar Codes with the Campbell's soup kid, your pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House and a friend.
- Come to the Mission Community Committee Awareness Session about "Happy's Farm Rodeo" given by Rhonda Stirewalt. Learn about this tutoring facility and program at Rhonda's farm in Salisbury for children in need. Come and share the fun and a few surprises.

MISSION COMMUNITY COMMITTEE : Judy Gainey, chair

From the Gathering Planning Committee

It won't be long now! We do hope you have made your plans and have already sent in your delegate's registration. The deadline for all others is May 1, so there is still time. Registration forms were included in the March Bulletin and are available on the web site.

We have a great Keynoter, a great Chaplain, wonderful musicians, a variety of Awareness Sessions, new and regular vendors and

Don't forget the "**Showcase of Conference Stars - 2009 Talent/No Talent Show**"!

We need at least one act from each conference. These are due by May 1 so we can get the program together! (We can give you about a week's grace period, but after that we can't promise your group will get a spot...) Please mail the form to Krickett Militello or send it to her via email.

We can't wait to see the variety of talent we are sure will be displayed!

Please review the brochure for reminders of what to bring.

On that note: Although our budget still prevents us from providing 'gathering bags', the Gathering Planning Committee and the Board decided upon another option for us. We will have "**Bags for Sale**" for the low price of \$3.00 (our cost). These will be natural colored canvas bags with our Women of the ELCA Logo and 'NC Women of the ELCA' printed on them. We decided to make them specific to our SWO rather than to the Gathering.

We are excited about our 22nd Gathering so please come and join us!! *And bring as many of your Sisters in Christ with you as you can.*

Krickett & Kathy
Co-Chairs Gathering Planning Committee



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LIVING WATER – FLOOD OF GRACE

**Please Share This Mailing With Your
Congregational Participants**

Kiana Sinz
123 Crescent St.
Kannapolis, NC 28081-7107

Change of Name/Address for Unit Officers

Name of Conference _____
Effective date of change: _____
Church Name: _____
Church Town: _____

President Treasurer

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip Code: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Send information to: Kiana Sinz, 123 Crescent St., Kannapolis, NC 28081-7107
Or
E-mail information to: ksinz@vnet.net