

Women of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

www.ncwelca.org

DECEMBER 2009 BULLETIN

May every road you travel this season
Remind you that God's gift of Jesus
Is with you wherever you go

Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'

Matthew 1:23

Sisters in Christ,

I want to wish you the peace and joy of the Christmas season. It is my hope that you and yours will find time to enjoy the wonders of this holy time. Remember to dance in praise to God for his bountiful love.

All 15 conference gatherings have been held and I had the pleasure of attending three of them. I am very excited to report to you that each conference had good attendance and I want to thank all the conference leaders and board representatives who did such a fine job keeping you informed. Thank you for your generosity. Please refer to the article from Karen Mitchell, treasurer for all the details about your contributions. New Directors for Communication and Treasurer's Assistants will be elected at the Spring Conference Gatherings so please make sure you are there to vote. If your Conference Nominating Committee should contact you to serve, please give it prayerful consideration and when you are asked to take a leadership role remember WHO is calling you.

We have taken our "Bucket" to all the conference meetings and have collected almost \$1,000. But we still have a way to go. See the article about our "Buck in the Bucket" campaign.

- **SWO Officer and Board Nominations:** It is time for nominations for President, Treasurer, and four board members for 2010 - 2011. Elections will be held at the Twenty-third Annual NC Women of the ELCA Gathering on June 11-13, 2010. Please read the job descriptions that were in the November *Bulletin* and prayerfully consider allowing your name to be placed in nomination. If you are interested in serving or wish to nominate someone else (be sure to get their permission), send the form to Maxine Amos, nominating chair, by the January 2, 2010 deadline. (Forms were in the November *Bulletin*).
- **Triennial Delegate Election:** We will also be electing eight delegates for the Triennial Gathering in Spokane, Washington in July of 2011. Nominations for delegate must be made by the nominee's congregational expression and sent to Maxine Amos. The nomination form is enclosed.
- **Congregational Expression President and Treasurer Lists:** Many congregational expressions install new officers beginning January 1st. Please be sure to update the information about your congregational expression president and treasurer to Kiana Sinz, our secretary. For more information see Kiana's article in this *Bulletin*.
- **Treasurer's Note:** See the enclosed article from Karen Mitchell, our Treasurer.
- **Mission-Action:** See the call to action article and learn how you can have a "Fair Trade" Christmas.
- **Mission-Community:**

- **December Tidbits**
- **Lutheran Family Services** in Raleigh has informed us that you may donate to the General Fund for LFS for Christmas or at anytime of the year. The Gifts of Christmas Joy program has been discontinued. This will enable them to give gift cards to the children during special times of the year not just at Christmas.
- **Mission-Growth:**
 - **One-Day Retreats: Refill the Well** - Make plans now to attend February 27, 2010. Ten sites have been confirmed. See the registration form attached for locations. Registration is \$8 which includes lunch and materials.
 - **Spring Retreat:** April 9-11, 2010 – Kure Beach Retreat House – “Come to the Fountain of Mary” (watch for the registration information in January’s Bulletin.)
 - **Prayer for December:** attached
- **Leadership:** Remember to encourage your young women to attend the Annual Gathering, or better yet nominate them to be a Young Woman Gifted and Blessed. Also bring your daughters, granddaughters and nieces who are between the ages of 11-18 for the special TAGG and TGIF programs.
- **Gathering Planning:** The Gathering Planning Committee is hard at work. They already have a keynote speaker and Chaplain. There are going to be some exciting changes this year and we are all excited about it. For more details see the article attached.

Important Reminders:

- **SWO Officer, Board and Triennial Delegate Nominations Deadline:** January 2, 2010
- **Committee Day II:** January 23, 2010 – Salem, Salisbury – 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.(Snow Date: January 30)
- **One-Day Fall Retreats:** February 27, 2010
- **Patterson Memorial Fund:** Deadline for application is May 30, 2010.
- **Twenty-third Annual Gathering:** June 11-13, 2010 at Lenoir – Rhyne University

I wish you the peace and joy of the Christ Child as you enjoy the season’s beauty and spirit. **“Sister take my hand...** Remember those around you who are less fortunate – “and **come to the fountain**” by visiting the shut-ins and elderly in your neighborhood or congregation or “**dance with me**” by participating in one of the many “Angel Trees” in your community or “**let us serve together**” by helping to feed the homeless at your local soup kitchen or shelter. Finally “**be a bold woman**” by inviting an acquaintance to church at Christmas time. **Reach out and touch the future.**

Peace,

Cathy Sell

Cathy Sell
NC Women of the ELCA President

DELEGATE TO TRIENNIAL CONVENTION
NOMINATION FORM
NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF THE
WOMEN OF THE ELCA

THE INDIVIDUAL NOMINATED MUST CONSENT TO SERVE IF ELECTED.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

HOME PHONE _____

AGE RANGE: _____ 34 OR UNDER _____ 50-64

_____ 35-49 _____ 65 OR OVER

ETHNIC/RACIAL HERITAGE: _____ AMERICAN INDIAN
_____ ASIAN
_____ CAUCASIAN
_____ AFRICAN AMERICAN
_____ HISPANIC
_____ OTHER _____
(SPECIFY)

PRIMARY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH _____

HAVE YOU ATTENDED A TRIENNIAL GATHERING AS A DELEGATE BEFORE?

_____ YES _____ NO

NAME OF CONGREGATION _____
**(Triennial Delegate MUST be nominated by their Congregation and only ONE
nominee from a congregation.)**

ADDRESS OF CONGREGATION _____

CONFERENCE _____

DATE NOMINATION MAILED _____

COMPLETE PAGE TWO OF THIS FORM AND RETURN BY JANUARY 2

**TO: Maxine Amos
9 Robin Road
Lumberton, NC 28358-9177
910-738-3309
macmaxx@bellsouth.net**

EXPERIENCE beginning with the most RECENT.
List the experience in each area over the LAST FIVE YEARS.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA:

Congregational _____

Conference _____

Synodical Women's Organization _____

Churchwide Women's Organization _____

Significant involvement in Women of the ELCA prior to last 5 years _____

OTHER CHURCH EXPERIENCE:

Congregational _____

Synodical _____

Church-at-Large _____

Interdenominational _____

MISCELLANEOUS EXPERIENCE:

Occupational _____

Community Participation _____

Other _____

CALLED
TO

ACTION

Give her a share of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the city gates.

Proverbs 31:31

Make This a FAIR TRADE CHRISTMAS!

By selling through Fair Trade, farmers and artisans build a better future for themselves, their families and their communities. By supporting Fair Trade, we make choices in line with our religious beliefs and affirm human dignity. Fair Trade helps producers use their skills and expertise to break out of the cycle of poverty by turning a simple exchange of goods into a human connection that benefits all participants. In particular, Fair Trade benefits women. As mothers, wives, community members, and participants in the global economy, Fair Trade gives women new opportunities to prosper.

According to the International Labor Organization, there are 1.3 billion people in the world living on less than a dollar a day, and 70 percent of them are women or girls. Since women represent only half of the world's population, this disparity demonstrates serious inequalities in the global economy. Women work longer hours for less pay in worse jobs than men in every country in the world and, even when doing the same work, their income is two-thirds less than men's. Women become full participants when they join Fair Trade cooperatives and worker groups. Working together, they can enjoy the same economic and social benefits as men and take increasing responsibility and pride in their work. Fair Trade standards value women not only as workers, but also as citizens and family members.

Due to the long conflict in Sudan, Suraya Juma had to flee with thousands of others to a Sudanese refugee camp in northern Uganda. Because she is a widowed woman with children to provide for, the challenges she faces to survive in a foreign country after losing everything are especially harsh. Suraya now supports her family through handcrafts — weaving the brightly-colored baskets and trays her grandmother taught her to make. She is a member of the International Widows Association for South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda (IWASSRU), which creates income-generating opportunities for women through craft production and agriculture. IWASSRU also operates two orphanages that shelter children, sponsor a foster program for children and offer educational opportunities for disabled children. Speaking for the women of IWASSRU, Suraya says, “We want to improve our living standards and support our families. Coming together allows us to help each other solve our problems — together we have a stronger voice.”

READY : Go to www.lwr.org and click on 'Fair Trade'. Read the stories from artisans who benefit from the sale of their handmade products.

SET : SERRV is a partner of LWR when related to handicrafts. Be sure to look through their catalog of gifts. Order catalogs and share them with all your friends. A link is available on the www.lwr.org website.



Crochet Nativity

DO : 1-Order fair-trade items as Christmas gifts. Several gifts are reasonably priced and perfect for school teachers and Sunday school teachers.
2-Put a fair-trade chocolate bar in each Christmas stocking.
3-Plan a Fair Trade Fair for your congregation. A good time to hold such a fair would be spring when everyone is looking for special gifts for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations and weddings. Check the LWR website for complete plans to make your Fair Trade Fair successful.



Animal Jamboree Mobile



Peru Bird Water Whistle



Rainbow Cross Necklace

Lutheran Services for the Aging invites us all to help **Keep the Promise** made to our older adults as they plan for the future.

Check further Bulletins and be sure to attend the Annual Gathering in June to join the excitement!



LUTHERAN SERVICES FOR THE AGING
Post Office Box 947
Salisbury, NC 28145
www.lsanc.net
Phone: 704-637-2870
Toll-free: 866-855-3967

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR TREASURER

North Carolina Lutheran Women are awesome. Let me give you a list of what you as a community of women have given to the glory of God. The spring offering to the Me Fine Foundation totaled \$5882.92, the offering at our annual gathering of \$5006.92 was split half and half to the Nicaraguan Water Project and Church Wide and there were in-kind gifts of \$7,978 given to Lutheran Family Services. This fall you have already given \$1235 to the Rainbow Scholarship, \$4627.36 to the PNG Task Force, and have increased the total of our pennies project to Mountain Women Rising to \$6406.43. The final report of your donations to Lutheran World Relief is not in but we know you always give generously to this worthy cause.

This is such an incomplete listing of all that you do. I would like to make a presentation of your gifts at the spring gatherings but I need your help. I know that each CE (congregational expression, formally know as congregational units) participates in many projects and I would like to add these to my presentation. Would you be willing to send me a listing of your activities, especially local projects that you participate in or support with your offerings?

In addition many of our CEs send regular Thankofferings to Churchwide. Are you going to use the Thankoffering materials in the stewardship materials sent to each church the first of September? If your president or treasurer did not receive this packet, please ask your church secretary or pastor if they will pass it on to you.

I am so pleased and proud of the many churches that send their regular offerings to the treasurer assistants in each conference. We count on 30% of these offerings to cover our Synodical budget. We have sent \$30290.53 to Churchwide to help them with their budget and I will be sharing with you in my presentation at spring gathering how these offerings are use both at churchwide and here in NC.

At Committee Day I, we kicked off a campaign called "Buck in the Bucket to Build-up the Budget." Our goal is to give each woman of the NC Women of the ELCA the opportunity to donate \$1 to help us erase the deficit in the NC budget. Can you help? Please put out a bucket at your circle meeting, annual meeting or whenever and send your contributions on to the treasurer's assistants, designated to this campaign. I'll keep you informed on how we are doing. The board is working really hard to keep expenses down while giving each of you all the support we can. Thank you for your support.

Please send your CE activities and projects to me as soon as possible.

Karen Mitchell, 280 Carter Loop Rd, Rockwell, NC 28138.

A NOTE FROM YOUR SECRETARY

Merry Christmas to all the Women of the ELCA! I just wanted to remind all the Congregational Expressions to send me the names and addresses of your newly elected presidents and treasurers for the next year. If you are getting the *Bulletin* and are not the current president, please forward it to her and send me her information. If you know of someone who is to get the *Bulletin* and is not getting it please pass on my information on the cover sheet of this issue.

I would also like to ask the presidents of the congregational expressions if you use email to send information to your members of your church. How about sending them the *Bulletin* via email? You would still get it by US Mail, but I could also send it to you via email and then you can forward it on to the ladies of your church. This may be one way to spread the information that is in the *Bulletin* to more ladies. If you are interested in this please let me know by sending your email address to ksinz@vnet.net.

As always it is a good idea to post the *Bulletin* where your ladies can see and read what is happening around the state. There is a lot of information in the *Bulletin* that just might spark an interest in someone who may not be active in the Women of the ELCA.

Remember if I can help in any way please let me know.

Kiana Sinz

Mission Community: Tidbits and More

- Started on December 1, 1988, World AIDS Day is about raising money, increasing awareness, fighting prejudice and improving education. The World AIDS Day theme for 2009 is 'Universal Access and Human Rights'. World AIDS Day is important in reminding people that HIV has not gone away, and that there are many things still to be done. World AIDS Day, December 1, 2009, provides an opportunity for all of us individuals, communities and political leaders to take action to ensure that human rights are protected and global targets for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care are met. To read more go to www.avert.org/world-aids-day.htm.
- Here are a few ways we can use our theme 'Sister Take My Hand.... Come to the fountain, Dance with me, Let us serve together, from the NC Synodical Women's Organization for the coming Advent and Christmas Season.
 - a. Donate your time at area Community Ministries Outreach with feeding the homeless at soup kitchens.
 - b. Crossnore School could use your help at this time of the year with Santa for the children. Go to www.crossnoteschool.org for more information on how you can help.
 - c. Lutheran Family Services accepts gift cards, money donations, and personal toiletry articles for their Women's Shelters.
 - d. Area Malls, Churches and Civic groups have Angel Trees for children who are in need for Christmas.
 - e. Donate money to the Salvation Army.
 - f. Contribute to your local Food Bank.
 - g. Form a singing group from your church unit and go Christmas Caroling to area Senior Retirement or Nursing Homes or your church shut-ins.

Let us inspire our sisters to dance together in praise and celebration for preparation for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to be held on January 18-25, 2010.

Judy Gainey: Mission Community Committee, chair

A Buck in the Bucket

If you attended one of the Fall Conference Gatherings, you should be familiar with our NC SWO "Buck in the Bucket" campaign. The Board voted at their retreat to try to bolster our budget and keep us out of "the red" by asking women to contribute \$1. If every member from our 190 congregational expressions just give \$1 – WOW!

Bright green and pink buckets, passed at the nine conference gatherings and Committee Day I, have garnered \$502. We could still use your help. As of October 1, we still have a deficit of about \$800, so we're not yet out of the woods.

Won't you please "pass the bucket" at your congregational expression quarterly meetings or even at your circle meetings? When you send in any of these funds, be sure to mark them for "Buck in the Bucket."

Your board is cutting expenses every way we can. During our November board meeting and Committee Day II in January both in Salisbury we are using home hospitality to cut hotel costs.

Many thanks to those who have contributed their buck. We hope the rest of you will promote this in your congregational expressions. Donna Prunkl wrote these words to be sung to the tune of "There's a Hole in My Bucket Dear Liza" that you can sing while you pass the pail.

Put a buck in the bucket
To build up our budget
Put a buck in the bucket
Do a good deed

Put a buck in the bucket
To build up our budgets.
Put a buck in the bucket
To help us succeed.

Gathering Planning Committee: Trying some new steps!

Based on the 121 evaluations received (of the 250+ attendees) the 22nd Gathering was an overall success! Of course, there is always room for improvement and we have taken your comments and suggestions into consideration as we plan for 2010.

We have a lot to accomplish at the 2010 Gathering, too! So we are looking for ways to help get it all done and have time for fun and fellowship.

One change is that we will be moving to Belk Centrum for our Business Sessions rather than the large, rather dark, and *always* cold, Monroe Auditorium.

The Belk Centrum can be expanded to seat up to 299 and will be easier to regulate both the temperature and the lighting. While this move will present other changes to our format, we believe this is a good one. Also, the Awareness Sessions will be in the same building! No traveling across campus and getting lost!

In order to accomplish all we need to do, registration will begin at Noon on Friday. Orientation and the First session will begin Friday at 3:00 or 3:30PM. This means that delegates will need to plan to be there early. More information will be available with the registration forms.

As Cathy has mentioned before, we will be electing delegates to the Triennial in 2011.

Some of you may remember that this can be a time consuming process and we want to allow plenty of time for fellowship with our sisters in Christ.

We are also exploring the possibility of additional awareness sessions or workshops for visitors during some of the business sessions – including Friday afternoon.

Exciting News! Our Keynote Speaker will be Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA. How blessed we are that she will be joining us. Also Rev. Judy Klusman, our liaison to the Bishop, has agreed to be our Chaplain.

Your Gathering Planning committee will have more to report in the coming months so stay tuned and check the website periodically as well!

Our primary goal is to focus on our theme: Sister, take my hand – and provide plenty of opportunities for you to... Come to the Fountain, Dance with me, Let us serve together.

Prayer for December

Sister take my hand...Dance with me

May be spoken or sung to the tune of "Lord of the Dance."

We will dance with you at the nativity.
And we'll dance with you in Galilee;
And we'll follow you to Calvary;
Then we'll celebrate in victory.

Dance, dance wherever you may be;
You are the Lord of the dance we see.
And we'll follow you wherever you may be,
And we'll follow you in the dance we see.

Amen (Shout)

By Judy Schlegel, Mission Growth



LIVING WATER – FLOOD OF GRACE

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

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

| |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Non-Profit Organization US Postage Paid Kannapolis, NC PERMIT No. 18 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

Change of Name/Address for Expression 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