

NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

www.ncwelca.org

OCTOBER 2009 BULLETIN

Sisters in Christ,

Last year at this time I was getting ready for my trip to Papua New Guinea (PNG), and I am amazed at what has transpired this past year. I had a marvelous trip and met so many wonderful women in PNG. We invited four guests from PNG to come to America for our Annual Gathering and the Synod Assembly. They were with us for two weeks and saw much of North Carolina from our retreat center at Kure Beach to Lutheridge /Lutherock in the mountains and everything "Lutheran" in between. I have put together a power point presentation and have shared it with a few congregational expressions. We have been invited to the PNG Synod Assembly in January 2010. Our Board has asked The Reverend Charlene Limenih (who was our chaplain at our Annual Gathering) to represent us at that Assembly. The Board has also designated the Fall Gathering offering to the North Carolina Synod's PNG Task Force to help cover the cost for Pastor Charlene. Please keep your sisters in PNG in mind when giving your offering at the Fall Gathering

- **Fall Conference Gatherings** – The complete schedule for Conference Fall Gatherings is attached. Conferences will be held in September and October.
 - What to **expect** at the gathering:
 - The program is entitled "The Gift of Water" and I know you will find out much you didn't know about the water stories in the Bible. There are many opportunities for projects that will assist you, Sister (to) Take My Hand...come to the fountain...dance with me...let us serve together.
 - Bring your pennies for our Pennies project – Appalachian Women's Alliance –The Appalachian Women's Alliance is a movement of women and girls who are raising consciousness and self-esteem, creating a common vision, and taking collective action to make things better in Appalachian communities
 - Our offering will go to the North Carolina Synod PNG Task Force.
 - Memorial service for our sisters who have died this past year.
 - Music, fellowship, great food, and fun.
- **Conference Leaders** are planning programs, securing dates and locations for the Spring Gatherings for 2010 and the Fall Gatherings 2011. They welcome your input. If you have an idea for a program or if your congregation would like to host a Gathering let your Presider know. The Directors for Communication will be meeting at Committee Day II to put together the spring 2010 program. Please **encourage** your participants to attend the conference gatherings. If you have any questions, please contact your board liaison or conference presider.
- **Mission: Action Information:** Goals that your congregational unit can **adopt** throughout the year.
 - Hosting Prayer Project Lifesaver
 - Attending Anti-Racism and Adults Saving Kids training

- Coordinating a variety of health related events (relating to women & girls)
 - Hosting Rachel's Day service
 - Writing letters, campaign for peace/justice.
 - See the Mission-Action article for information on domestic violence.
 - **Lutheran World Relief:** Rachel Price shares important information about LWR drop-offs. Please be sure to share this information with your congregational unit. (see insert) Encourage your participants to meet or exceed the generous contribution made in 2009 and remember LWR is in need of health kits. Please thank them on behalf of the NC Women of the ELCA and LWR for their support and enthusiasm for this important ministry.
- **Mission: Community:** Ideas to help you share “**Living Waters –Flood of Grace**”
 - **Women of the ELCA Sunday:** Mission: Community **encourages** all congregational units to make plans to observe Women of the ELCA Sunday either on the designated Sunday of November 8, 2009 or one that fits into your church calendar.
 - **Advocate** for a culture of justice, non-violence, peace and understanding. Start an ASK program, have the TDTR team in to do training and become involved in the advocacy.
 - **Campbell Soup UPC codes:** Remember **now** we need to save the UPC code instead of the label front.
 - **Tidbits and More:** Learn about “growing your community”.
 - **Mission: Growth:** Prayers and retreat information where you can expect to see God's face and to hear His voice. O Lord, hear our prayers.
 - **Join your sisters** in prayer Mondays at noon.
 - **ONE-DAY** retreat: February 27 - The topic is “Refill the Well”
 - **The Spring Retreat** will be held at Kure Beach, April 7-11, 2010. The topic is “Come to the Fountain of Mary”.
 - **Leadership:** See the attached notice on housing from Leadership.
 - The Leadership committee also reviews the constitutions and if your unit constitution is out of **date or not on file** you will be hearing from them. Each expression (congregation) is encouraged to submit their updated constitution to the Leadership Committee as soon as possible. It will save time and resources.
 - **Gathering Planning:** The Gathering Planning Committee has a request. Read the article attached to find out what it is.
 - **Communications Committee:** See the due dates for submitting articles to the Carolina Vine editor.
 - **Triennial Gathering:** See message from our Triennial Gathering Promoter (TGP), Melissa Jernigan.

Important Date Reminders:

- Fall Conference meetings in September and October (see attached calendar)
- February 27, 2010 - One-Day Retreat (sites to be announced)
- 23rd Annual Gathering – June 11-13, 2010
- Other items found in this mailing:
 - Planning Calendar
 - LWR drop sites and package restrictions

Finally, I share some thoughts regarding our theme:

Reach out your hand to your sisters – no matter if they agree with you or not? Peter tells us to “be attentive to one another”.

Sister take my hand and **come to the fountain** to not only draw the life giving water that Jesus promised us but to get washed with the grace of the Spirit. We also become “...God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved...” Col 3:12 We are called in the one body, “and whatever you do , in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”Col 3:17

Sister take my hand and **dance with me.** After Moses brought the Israelites out of Egypt and they stood on the other side of the Red Sea,” ...the prophet Miriam, Aaron’s sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and with dancing.”Exod 15:20. We are sometimes reluctant to sway with the music in church, but dancing has always been a form of praising God. We can raise our hands together in worship and praise.

Sister take my hand and **let us serve together.** The North Carolina Women of the ELCA offer us many ways to serve the community, the church and the world. Our committees met August 15 to plan for the program year. If you would like to join a committee, please feel free to contact me and I will be happy to help steer you to the committee that suits your gifts. Right now the Gathering Planning and Mission-Growth committees could use some more members.

This month I challenge each of you to make what you do a labor of love, and **Sister take my hand...come to the fountain...dance with me...let us serve together... – stretch out and touch the future.**

Peace and God bless,

Cathy Sell

Cathy Sell, President
NC Women of the ELCA

CALLED TO ACTION

Let us then pursue what makes for peace and for mutual upbuilding. Romans 14:19

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

The first Domestic Violence Awareness Month was observed in October 1987. This month evolved out of the first Day of Unity in October, 1981 by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The Day of Unity was started with the idea of connecting advocates across the country in their efforts to battle violence against women and children. It eventually became a special week which included many activities conducted at many levels, and now has activities scheduled throughout the whole month of October each year. The Day of Unity is still celebrated on the first Monday in October, which starts the month of awareness off in a powerful way.

What is Domestic Violence?

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure or wound someone. Domestic violence can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion or gender. It can happen to couples who are married, living together or who are dating. Domestic violence affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels and often includes children, elder adults and even pet animals.

Some examples of abuse:

- Physical abuse is the use of physical force
- Sexual abuse means any forced sexual activity
- Emotional abuse includes threats, constant criticism and put-downs
- Controlling access to money and controlling activities are other abusive behaviors.

If you are a victim of abuse or violence at the hands of someone you know or love, or you are recovering from an assault by a stranger, you are not alone. To get immediate help and support call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1-800-656-4673. For the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence call toll-free (888) 232-9124 or (919) 682-1449, the web site address: <http://www.nccadv.org/>

continued

If you know someone who is abused, here are some things you can do as a friend:

- **Learn about domestic violence**, so you will understand her experience.
- **Let your friend know you're concerned** about her safety.
- **Be supportive** of her, but not of the abusive relationship.
- **Don't place shame, blame, or guilt** on your friend. Also, say nothing against him. Focus on her, her safety and your love for her.
- **If your friend decides to stay, continue to be supportive.** She may leave and then go back to the relationship many times.
- **Help her make a safety plan.**
- **If your friend decides to leave, continue to be supportive.** Even though the relationship was abusive, she may still feel sad and lonely once it is over.
- **Encourage your friend to talk to someone who can help.** Find a local domestic violence agency and offer to go with her to the agency.
- **Let your friend know that you will always be there no matter what.**

Lucee was in high school when she became pregnant. She dropped out of school to be with her boyfriend and baby. Lucee was home alone most of the time as her boyfriend worked odd hours bussing tables at an all-night café and spent any free time he had with his buddies. When he was home all he did was yell at her. Her family convinced her to complete her GED so she went to the junior college. There she met the "love of her life" and married him hoping for security. When the second baby came along, her family convinced her to have her children baptized. The baptisms gave Lucee a connection with loving people in an accepting environment. The "love of her life" became jealous of the time she spent with her church friends and his emotional abuse soon became physical abuse. It took more than two years but her friends at church helped her see the options available to her and that none of the options included enduring more abuse. Now Lucee and her friends pray and visit and study and laugh and DANCE together as she experiences her new life.

READY : Go to www.ncwelca.org--click on 'committees', then 'Mission: Action' to find a LIST of North Carolina shelters for anyone suffering domestic violence, a SAMPLE PLAN for leaving an abusive situation, and MANY OTHER IDEAS on stopping the abuse.

SET : Call your local domestic abuse program (there is one in every county). Ask how you and your church can best help them. To begin, collect toiletries for the shelters to use (travel size is OK) and anything else they need.

DO :

- 1-Volunteer at a local domestic violence shelter or another organization helping survivors or working to prevent violence.
- 2-Participate in a Take Back the Night march, a yearly march held in most major cities to raise awareness about violence against women.
- 3-Tell your congressional representatives that you expect their support for the funding of domestic violence survivor services and prevention programs.

Tidbits & More

October 2009

Tidbits & More brings a variety of ideas to help women grow and celebrate their community in Christ. This month's issue offers ideas not only for the month of October, but ones to help you plan ahead for November as well.

Grow your community of women

Women of the ELCA at St. James, Fayetteville, are challenging the circles in their organization to **grow participation by 10%**. Women are intentionally inviting others to come enjoy the fellowship they share. Tonie Neal says it is working. Although not all groups are experiencing a 10% increase in participation, some have shown signs of growth, and it feels good to offer a hand of invitation to sisters in Christ.

Reminding us of the 2009-2010 N. C. Women of the ELCA theme, "Sister Take My Hand . . . come to the fountain. . . dance with me. . . let us serve together," Glennie Beam at Cedar Grove, Vale, says, "**As we invite many more to come to the fountain, let us not forget our youth.**" One suggestion is to have young girls in your congregation complete a simple card with name, grade in school, birthday, and a prayer request. At one of your meetings or informal gatherings, invite women to draw names from the cards submitted. The name drawn by each will remain a secret for a year while the women pray daily for the girl whose name they have.

Celebrate community

World Community Day is November 6, 2009. Sponsored by Church Women United, this year's theme is "Piecing Earth Together." The logo depicts a scene from the creation story in Genesis being sewn together in a quilt. Reminding women of the broken nature in the environment and the need to repair the earth, the program will deal with environmental issues. Contact your local Church Women United group or visit www.churchwomen.org, and participate in an ecumenical gathering with your sisters in Christ on the first Friday in November.

Many local communities will be joining efforts in an annual **CROP Walk** for Hunger this fall. Sponsored by Church World Service, CROP Walks raise money to combat hunger both locally and globally. More than 850 million people lack adequate sources of food and water throughout the world. "We walk because they walk," is the CROP Walk slogan that reminds us to walk in solidarity with the women and children who walk daily to seek fresh water or a nourishing meal. Visit www.churchworldservice.org to find out when the next local walk is in your area.

Finally, finalize your plans to celebrate **Women of the ELCA Sunday**. Some planning helps are included in this **Bulletin**.

Mission Community: Women of the ELCA Sunday

Traditionally, the first Sunday in November has been designated as Women of the ELCA Sunday. This year it falls on November 1, but that date may not be conducive for every congregation. The Mission Community Committee has compiled a few ideas and suggestions to help augment your "Celebration Sunday". A congregational unit (CU) may decide to use some or all of them.

1. Have the CU president or other participant give a "Temple Talk" to encourage starting more circles or creating larger ones, and give the times which they meet, their projects, etc. The temple talk may be prepared by the Mission Growth Committee or other committee. Unit members may serve as greeters, lay readers and ushers. Have a participant give the children's sermon or other sermon. Perhaps, for this special occasion, a Women of the ELCA Choir or special groups could perform musical selections for the day.
2. Prepare a tri-fold pamphlet of the organization's purpose statement, meeting times, list of projects and activities, etc. It may include a special invitation to ALL women in the congregation to attend a Women's Holiday Gathering to be held in early December (meal, meditation/program and music) or some other event. Lutheran Women need to be reminded that **each and every woman** is considered to be a member of Women of the ELCA whether she chooses to participate in circle events or not. Participants can personally hand these out especially inviting "non-members" to join.
3. Set up a display table in the narthex with numerous items such as: a framed Women of the ELCA logo, large soup can for labels, samples of projects - college buckets, health kits, school kits, layettes, angel tree, shoe boxes, cleaning supplies for LFS, Rachel's Day, nursing home birthday party pictures, and piggy bank for Pennies of Hope collection. Display copies of the Lutheran Woman Today, Carolina Vine, and notebooks from state gatherings at Lenoir-Rhyne along with program agendas from spring and fall gatherings.
4. Incorporate your Thankoffering collection into the service by having women bring their offerings to the altar or other collection place during an appropriate hymn. There are several suggestions on the Women of the ELCA web site for a Thankoffering service.
5. Design your own bulletin for the day using the Women of the ELCA logo, the Mission Statement or the NC Synodical Women's Organization theme. If your group is incorporating a Thankoffering service, use a purchased bulletin with a Thanksgiving motif.
6. Some CU's prefer to have as many participants as possible present a skit. Such skits can be obtained from companies such as Augsburg Fortress or other publishers. Perhaps, one of your participants is inclined to write a skit for the day. Since the first Sunday is "All Saints Day", a skit could center around the "saints" or "saintly happenings" in Women of the ELCA. The November 1 date would, also, make a great setting for a skit taking place the day after Halloween. Envision Halloween costumes scattered all around which were left over from a party held the night before. The costumes could come to life as they portray the desirable reasons for becoming a participant in Women of the ELCA and the excuses given for not becoming a participant. The possibilities are endless!!! Whatever format your group chooses, enjoy the process of the planning... the camaraderie of your Sisters in Christ and most of all...the presentation of your Women of the ELCA Sunday!

Meditation for 2009 Women of the ELCA Sunday

Scripture text: Matthew 25:1-13

INTRODUCTION: Today we observe Women of the ELCA in our congregation. As we gather to worship God for the many blessings that are ours in Christ Jesus, among those blessings we will thank God for the faithful witness of women throughout the history of the church. Women of the ELCA is an organization that is now 22 years old, and there are a number of women in our congregation who have been blessed to be participants for that entire time. As a matter of fact, this congregation has been blessed to have a community of women who have met together for fellowship and service as a part of a larger expression of Lutheran women throughout the United States for the past ____ years. (Insert number of years for your CU.) Those of us who are participants in (Insert congregation's name.) Women of the ELCA are indeed thankful for the witness of all the faithful women who have come before us, and we are privileged to inherit a ministry based upon a foundation so carefully and prayerfully laid.

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION: Matthew 25:1-13 records the parable of the five wise and five foolish bridesmaids. It is an eschatological parable that speaks of the end times, of Christ's final return, and its clear message is, "BE READY!" The setting of the parable is a wedding and specifically the marriage feast.

Weddings are very happy occasions, ones that women and men alike can anticipate with great joy and excitement. The wedding in the parable is obviously a very happy occasion as well, but the celebration takes an unfortunate twist when five of the bridesmaids are caught unprepared and ultimately excluded from the banquet festivities because they went to buy more oil for their lamps. This predicament is a bit difficult for us to relate to in our 21st century society. We don't quite "get it" why the oil is such a big deal to the foolish bridesmaids. Indeed, a number of Bible scholars say that even in the days when Jesus told this parable, it would have been uncommon for bridesmaids to have been in the quandary that befalls the women in this parable.

Still, in honor of Women of the ELCA Sunday, and to present some of the meaning of the Gospel lesson in a contemporary setting, the following story is offered for your consideration:

Not long ago (Insert names of women from your CU who attended the recent conference Fall Gathering) went to a Fall Gathering of the (Insert name of your conference.) Conference of the North Carolina Women of the ELCA. These gatherings are held in our conference once each spring and fall. They are a delightful opportunity for women from area Lutheran congregations to come together for worship, study, information, and fellowship. At this year's Fall Gathering, (Insert Fall Gathering attendee's names again.) were thrilled when _____, our Conference Presider, told them that she was coming to take all the women at (Insert congregation's name.) to a wonderful retreat. She assured them that it would be the best retreat they had ever attended. She said it would be at a very lavish retreat center with spacious accommodations. Every woman would have her own luxurious room and private bath. The food would be scrumptious and bountiful. And the program would be out of this world! (Presider's name) said that it was VERY expensive, but not to worry. She had already paid the entire cost for each attendee. All the women at _____ had to do is be ready and waiting for her. She would be coming down (Insert name of major highway near congregation.) soon. She told (Insert Fall Gathering attendees' names.) to go back and tell all the women at (congregation's name) the good news.

Well, yes, indeed, (Fall Gathering attendees names) got busy right away when they got home telling all the women they could at (congregation's name) about (Presider's name) invitation to attend the retreat. They told them when they bumped into them at the grocery store. They called some of them up on the telephone. They sent others emails and letters. They made announcements at church and wrote another announcement for the Sunday bulletin. They put an article in the congregation's newsletter, and a few of them even made some colorful posters and displayed them around the church.

They got a lot of mixed reactions. Some of the women thought it was a great idea, but they didn't think they had time for it right now. They were just too busy with so many responsibilities and all. Others just couldn't believe that (Presider's name) would really pay ALL of the cost for such a lavish retreat. And even if she would, they were afraid that they hadn't been good enough participants in Women of the ELCA. They thought they needed to earn their way to the retreat. Still other women just were not interested. Even though (Presider's name) had said that the retreat program would be out of this world, they figured it would probably be boring instead. And some of them didn't have any idea who this (Presider's name) person was and wondered why she wanted to have anything to do with them in the first place. Some of them forgot all about it. As a matter of fact, a few of the women who had received phone calls, Sunday bulletins, and a newsletter said that they didn't know anything about a retreat.

But some of the women did accept (Presider's name) invitation. Now I want you to know that some of those women were not the ones who regularly attended the Women of the ELCA meetings. As a matter of fact, a couple of them had never attended a meeting at all. And that was just fine because, remember, (Presider's name) had invited ALL of the women at (congregation's name). Besides women don't have to attend monthly meetings to be participants in Women of the ELCA anyway. Remember that to be a participant in Women of the ELCA, you just have to be a woman who participates in at least one of the activities of the organization and who supports its Purpose Statement: *As a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church the society and the world.* All ten of those women accepted (Presider's invitation). They believed that she truly did mean that ALL the women of (congregation's name) were welcome at the retreat, and they were very grateful that she had paid the entire cost for each of them to attend.

Some of the women who were going piled into two cars, five in one and five in the other, and drove over to (name of major highway near church) and waited. Now the women in first car were wise. They remembered the gas shortage we had in North Carolina a year or so ago and all those plastic bags hanging over the nozzles at empty gas pumps throughout the state. They weren't exactly sure how far it was to this lavish retreat site, and they wanted to be sure that they had plenty of gas. So each of them had brought along a full two gallon gas can and stored it safely in the car just in case. The five women in the other car thought this was foolish. It had been over a year since the gas shortage, and they didn't want to take up room in their car with smelly cans of gasoline. They didn't even notice that their driver's gas gage was showing that they only had about a quarter tank of gas.

The two carloads of women waited and waited for (Presider's name) along the side of (name of major highway near church). She had said she was coming soon, but they waited for what seemed like a VERY long time. As a matter of fact, it got late and cold. Ever so often the drivers would crack a window and turn on the car engine to warm up the cars, and of course that used up some of the gas. After they had gotten the cars nice and warm, they turned off the motors, and soon they all nodded off to sleep. They were awakened by cell phones going off in both a cars. A few of the women from (congregation's name) who were going on the retreat were waiting a little further up the road. They were calling to say that (Presider's name) had just passed (local landmark) and would be pulling up soon.

The women started up the motors in both cars. It was at that time one of the women in the second car took a gander at the gas gage and noticed how low it was. When she said something about it to the driver, all of the women in the second car started yelling at the women in the first car asking them for some of their gas. But the women in the first car said, "No." They didn't know how far they were going to have to travel to this retreat. If they gave some of their gas to the women in the second car, they might not have enough to get to the retreat. They told those foolish women they just better go to the nearest gas station that they could find open so late at

night and fill up their tank. And that's just what the women in that second car did. (Now we just have to interrupt our story here long enough to realize that it's hard to imagine that any good Lutheran woman would be so selfish as to not share the gas from her five gallon gas can, but that's how the story goes.)

Anyway, when they saw lights flashing and heard a loud horn blaring in the distance, the women in the second car hurried off fast to buy gas, so fast that they failed to notice that (Presider's name) was driving a big ol' chartered bus, big enough to take ALL of the women from (congregation's name) to the retreat. She opened up that big bus door and gathered up all the women in the first car who were ready and waiting to go to retreat, and they got there in no time at all.

And that retreat was even more wonderful than any of them could have ever imagined or hoped. They had been there quite a while and were having a wonderful time when the women in the second car came driving up. (You see, someone in the second car called the cell phone of one of the women at the retreat, got the address, and went to Map Quest to get directions.) They hurried out of the car and started banging on the door. But (Presider's name) wouldn't let them in because they had not been ready and waiting as she asked, and they were too late. The retreat had already started, and if you've ever been on a retreat you know how important it is to be there from the very beginning. So ends our modern day tale.

Isn't it remarkable that all of the women in our story were worried about gasoline and it didn't even matter. Although the gospel parable doesn't say so, it's entirely possible that the oil for the bridesmaids' lamps didn't matter either. Maybe it wasn't because the women had no oil in their lamps that they missed out on the wedding banquet. Maybe it was because they were more concerned about their lack of oil than they were about the bridegroom. Maybe it's because they went away from the bridegroom in search of the oil. It seems quite probable that if they had only stayed with the bridegroom and traveled along with him that the light from his procession would have been all that was needed to mark the way to the banquet hall.

The lesson in the parable of the five wise and five foolish bridesmaids is twofold - first, be ready; second, follow where Christ leads. Jesus says, "Keep awake for you do not know the day or hour of my final coming." We are admonished to be ready, to be vigilant in our faith. In I Thessalonians, we read that what is needed to be ready is to believe that Jesus died and rose again so that God through Jesus will gather all who believe to be with the Lord forever. WE are made ready in Christ. Second, it is obvious that we need to be ready to follow where Christ leads, trusting in him to provide ALL that is needed and not to be distracted by all of our shortcomings.

All ten of the women in the gospel parable obviously knew the bridegroom. They were bridesmaids, members of the wedding party. They were most certainly invited to the wedding banquet, and they had all accepted the invitation. Five of them followed the bridegroom into the banquet. Even though they weren't perfect - maybe they didn't get it right when they thought they had to have extra oil for their lamps and they didn't share. But they remained with the bridegroom, and they were welcomed to the banquet. Five of them got distracted by what they didn't have. They turned away from the bridegroom. They went looking somewhere else for what they thought they needed, and they got turned away from the banquet hall. May God grant us grace to be faithful, vigilant, awake, and ready to follow our Lord Christ so that we might evermore say "God is great!"

Our current churchwide triennial theme is "Come to the Waters." This theme reminds us of God's life giving water, everflowing over and through us from our baptism. God bathes us in the waters of our baptism, and we experience God's justice as mercy, in a flood of grace that unites us with the saints of every time and every place to offer everlasting praise to the God who loves us beyond measure and redeems us at all costs - even the death of his beloved Son Jesus. To Him be glory and praise now and forevermore. AMEN

Message from MISSION - GROWTH

Do you feel worn and weary - physically, emotionally, and spiritually? Plan now to attend one of the **One-Day Lenten Retreats** to be held around the state on February 27, 2010. Mark your calendar to "**Refill at the Well.**"

The popular Spring Weekend Retreat at Kure Beach will take place April 9-11, 2010. We have so much to learn from Mary, the mother of Jesus. So set aside this weekend to "Come to the Fountain with Mary." Look for more information coming in next month's Bulletin.

Sister, take my hand...come to the fountain

As children of God, we come to your fountain. We seek You in prayer and the waters of the Holy Spirit flow over us, washing us with the glory that can only come from You, Lord!

When we come to a well and drop in our bucket, we do not know if it will return empty or if it will overflow. Many of us drop our buckets into empty wells before we find the fountain filled with your Grace. Lord hear our prayers. Grant us floods of grace, forgiveness, and renewal of our Baptism in the everlasting fountain that flows from You. Amen.

By Marie Piisila (Mission Growth, Sept-2009)

FALL GATHERING'S 2009

CONFERENCE	LOCATION	DATE
Alexander/Iredell	Friendship, Taylorsville	September 19th
Blue Ridge	Grace, Boone	October 3 rd
Cabarrus/Stanly	Mt. Olive, Mt. Pleasant	October 10 th
Catawba	Zion, Hickory	October 17 th
Central	Becks, Lexington	September 19 th
Mecklenburg/Union	Morningstar, Matthews	October 17 th
North Coastal	Shepherd of the Sea, Atlantic Beach	September 12th
Northern	Alamance & St. Paul	October 17th
Rowan	St. James, Rockwell	October 24 th
Salem	Epiphany, Winston-Salem	October 3 rd
Sandhills	St. Mark, Lumberton	September 12 th
Smoky Mountain	St. Marks, Asheville	September 19 th
South Coastal	Lutheran Ch of Reconciliation, Wilmington	October 17 th
Southwestern	Bethphage, Lincolnton	October 17th
Triangle	Christus Victor, Durham	October 10th

URGENT! NEW & IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE LWR FALL COLLECTION!

TO: All Women of the NC Synod of the ELCA
FROM: Rachel Price, Synod Coordinator for Lutheran World Relief
Women of the ELCA/Mission: Action Committee/ Lutheran World Relief
RE: Parish Projects/ Drop-off Info
DATE: August 27, 2009

As I write to you, I am **anxiously awaiting a left knee replacement on Wed., Sept. 2 at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte. After three days, I will go somewhere for therapy.** My doctor will decide where following surgery. I will be unable to get e-mails and phone messages for an indefinite period. I may not be allowed a cell phone, either. If you have questions about the pick-up of your LWR parish projects during my recuperation, please contact the Mission: Action Chair, Alice Nelson (919-828-1687 or 919-359-1179).

I hope your congregation is continuing its efforts in these LWR Year Round Projects. In the year 2008, 1083 cases were collected for LWR with one and one-half trailer loads being delivered to New Windsor. The weight was approximately 19, 891 pounds. **THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HARD WORK.**

Remember, the two important recent changes in the projects--**NO CLOTHING WHATSOEVER AND NO TOOTHPASTE IN THE HEALTH KITS.** You can refer to **BE INVOLVED** for further information and for instructions on assembling and packing items. **PLEASE pay close attention to pages 20 & 21.** You can call **1-800-LWR-LWR2** for extra copies, which are free. Please keep these brochures as they probably will be used for several more years. You can also get the same info at the website **lwr.org** by clicking on **Be Involved.**

Please follow packing directions carefully.

No more than 40 pounds to a carton; Only one kind of an item to a carton; No plastic or paper bags!
PLEASE REMEMBER TO TAPE CASES AND WEIGH THEM! The churches at the drop-off sites may contact you if your donations are not packed according to LWR specifications!

Label each carton with contents and your church information; address each carton to:

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
601 MAIN STREET
NEW WINDSOR, MD 21776

There are no new drop-off sites for 2009, so they are the same as last year. We have tried to use drop-off sites distributed across the synod but it is impossible to have a separate site for each conference. **(If the drop-off site listed for your conference is not convenient for your church, you may take your items to another drop-off site. It does not matter which drop-off site you use, as all items are consolidated in Hickory and sent as one shipment from the NC Synod.)**

The dates are (Mon- Fri.) Nov 2-6, and (Mon-Fri) Nov 9-13 (EXCEPT FOR ASHEVILLE AND HICKORY-- SEE DETAILS BELOW). These two drop-off churches have elections on Nov. 3--NO DELIVERIES THERE UNTIL AFTER NOV. 3.

We gratefully appreciate these churches agreeing to be drop-off sites for the conferences.

Asheville--St. Mark's (Blue Ridge Mtn. and Smokey Mtn. Conferences)

Dates are Wed., Nov. 4 through Sat., Nov. 14.

P O Box 8608

10 N Liberty St.

Asheville NC 28814-8608

Contact Eileen Cram 828-253-0043

Charlotte--St. Luke's (Mecklenburg/Union and Cabarrus Conferences)

PO BOX 11063

3200 Park Rd.

Charlotte NC 28220

Contact Sandra Taylor 704-523-7981

Dallas--St. Paul's (Southwestern and Gaston Conferences)

531 Hardin Rd.

Dallas NC 28034

Contact Joe Rhyne and Gail Summey 704-922-4387

Hickory--New Jerusalem (East Catawba and West Catawba Conferences)

Dates are Wed., Nov. 4 through Mon., Nov. 16. (No Saturday deliveries, please)

2120 Startown Rd.

Hickory NC 28602

Contact Pastor Randall Cauble 828-324-7272

Jacksonville--Church of Our Savior (Northeast and Southeast Conferences)

1115 Lejuene Boulevard Road

Jacksonville, NC 28540

Contact Sherry Ercolanese 910-347-2207

Raleigh--Grace (Northeast Piedmont and Sandhills/Piedmont Conferences)

5010 Six Forks Rd

Raleigh NC 27609

Contact "Amazing Grace"==Lorrie Rhea and Peggy Koehler 919-787-1815

Salisbury Area--Faith (West Central, West Rowan and East Rowan Conferences)

P. O. Box 669

205 S. Main St.

Faith, NC 28041

Contact Betty Hunt 704-279-4597 **Mondays (Nov. 2 & 9) 9-11 AM, Tuesdays (Nov. 3 & 10) 1-3 PM, and Thursdays (Nov. 5 & 12), 5-7 PM**

Winston-Salem--Augsburg (Northern Piedmont, Triad, and Northwestern Conferences)

845 W. 5th St.

Winston-Salem NC 27101

Contact Phyllis Still 336-722-8144

These cartons will then be picked up by Estes Express Lines, consolidated in Hickory, and delivered to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor, Md. **Many, Many, Many THANKS to Estes who has delivered our goods to New Windsor all these years. They have also picked up some of the local shipments FREE OF CHARGE. What a wonderful display of love and friendship!**

Thank you so much for your efforts,
Rachel T. Price, LWR Coordinator
1330 Wessex Lane Hickory 28602
Home Phone--828-294-1135
Cell Phone--828-381-0955
Email: rtp1330@gmail.com

P.S. To the eight churches that are drop-off sites for LWR:

This is a copy of the info that will be coming out in this month's Synod Servant and the Monthly Bulletin (for the Women of the ELCA) and the Carolina Vine. These are also available on line.

Please try to have volunteers (EX. Boy Scouts, Senior Citizens, etc. available to help load the trucks.) The truck drivers **REALLY DO APPRECIATE IT.**

file:lwrannouncementcongregation

August 28, 2009

To: All Congregations of the North Carolina Synod of the ELCA

From: Rachel T. Price, LWR Synod Coordinator
1330 Wessex Lane, Hickory, NC 28602
Home Phone: 828 294 1135
Cell 828 381 0955
Email: rtp1330@gmail.com

Re: 2009 Information Sheet for LWR Clothing and Parish Projects

(NOTE: We do NOT need clothing of any kind, NOR do we need toothpaste in the health kits. Also the number of bars of soap is not needed.)

Please fill in the following information for your 2009 collection of clothing and parish projects for your congregation. Make 3 copies. **One goes with your collection to your drop off site, send one to me by December 18, 2009 at the above address and keep one for your record.** Thanks for your participation in our on-going efforts for Lutheran World Relief.

Name of donor church: _____.

Address: _____.

_____ **Conference** _____.

LWR Contact Person: _____.

<u>Item</u>	<u># of Items</u>	<u># of Cases</u>	<u>Weight (lbs)</u>
Blankets & Quilts	_____.	_____.	_____.
..			
Health Kits/No Toothpaste	_____.	_____.	_____.
Layettes	_____.	_____.	_____.
School Kits	_____.	_____.	_____.
Sewing Kits	_____.	_____.	_____.
Soap		_____.	_____.
	TOTALS	_____.	_____.

file:lwr contribution record