

NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

www.ncwelca.org

DECEMBER 2010 BULLETIN

*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid;
for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people. . ."
"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace . . ." Luke 2:10 and 14*

Dear Sisters in Christ,

The Fall Gatherings are completed. Thanksgiving is here, and Christmas is fast approaching. There is so much to do. Amid the excitement and hubbub that is part of this time of year, give yourself time to slow down and reflect and enjoy the amazement, hope and magic of this wondrous season. May your heart be filled with God's love, grace, and peace. I wish for you the blessings and joy of Christmas.

Several of the committees of the NC Women of the ELCA has included in this "Bulletin" opportunities for all of us for growth, ministry and service.

Be sure to share the information in the Bulletin with all of the other participants. Additionally, anyone not currently receiving the "Bulletin" can be added to the e-mail list by contacting Kiana Sinz, our secretary. The "Bulletin" and lots of other information can be accessed on the NC Women of the ELCA website ncwelca.org.

In this issue of the Bulletin you will find:

- **Mission: Community**
 - Taste those M&M's - Mission Morsels
 - Ideas for Christmas giving to Crossnore School and Lutheran Family Services
 - Going Green! At Christmas!

- **Mission: Growth**
 - A prayer for your use.
 - Grow Your Group – a wonderful article on how to bring people into your group. It discusses preparation, removing impediments, nurturing and encouraging. Look at the wonderful list of things you want to plant in that garden.
 - ELCA Good Gifts – gifts you can give that will make a significant impact on the mission and ministries of our church
 - The Faces of Grief –The need to grieve extends to any loss, not just death. Download this resource/program idea.
 - Plan now to attend the One-day Retreat on February 26 - "Faithful Women: Invite, Encourage, Serve". The retreat will be held at locations in each of the 15 Conferences – each on the same day at the same time.
Note to One Day Retreat Leaders – please send Maxine Amos your contact information.
 - Put April 8 – 10, 2011 on your calendar; it's the Spring Retreat at the Beach.

▪ **Mission: Action**

- World AIDS Day is observed annually on December 1st. The day serves to strengthen the global effort to face the challenges of the AIDS pandemic, which continues to spread in all regions of the world. It is a time to renew focus. This article includes ideas for you and your congregation.
- Mission: Action Survey Results – what you do and what are your concerns
- Lutheran Services for the Aging's campaign - Keeping the Promise - Women of the ELCA expressions are asked to participate by making a pledge to the campaign by December 31, 2010.

▪ **Gathering Planning**

The 24th Annual NC Synodical Women's Organization Women of the ELCA Gathering is June 10 – 12, 2011, at Lenoir Rhyne. Planning is in full swing.

- Gathering Planning highlights Rev. Christina Johnson, the Keynote Speaker for our Gathering. Day care will be available at the Gatherings. There will be programs for teens and tweens. Begin now to encourage the young women of your congregations to attend. Some scholarship opportunities will be available to cover their registration.
- Gathering Planning Committee would like your ideas for Awareness Sessions...

▪ **Eighth Triennial Gathering** will be held in Spokane, Washington, July 14 through 17, 2011

- Registration has begun for the **Eighth Triennial Gathering**. Find out more online at www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial4 or call 800-638-3522, ext.2730.
- See the article on the Triennial Quilt Challenge – will some of our quilters enter?
- Are you a knitter? Prayer shawls will be collected at the Triennial. Bring them to the exhibit hall, and they will be given to ministries in the host synod.
- You can order shirts with the Women of the ELCA or the Triennial logo through this website: http://ocs.landsend.com/cd/frontdoor?store_name=WomenoftheELCA&store_type=3

• **Nominations:**

- **For SWO officers and board** – it is time for nominations for Vice President, Secretary and four board members. You will find the nomination form and job descriptions in the November Bulletin. (The November Bulletin can be found on the website ncwelca.org) Prayerfully consider this opportunity. The deadline is January 2, 2011. Tamarah Hefner and Jane Cadwallader are the nominating co-chairs.

Sisters – Pray With Me and your sisters around the nation **each Monday at noon**. Just stop for a few minutes to pray for all the many projects in which we are all involved and in remembering all those who might need a special prayer on that particular day or throughout that week. If you wish to receive our list of individuals wanting prayer, let me know by sending me your email address.

Grace and peace,

Sharon Johnson

NC Women of the ELCA President

M&M's
“MISSION MORSELS” from MISSION: COMMUNITY
DECEMBER, 2010

M&M's are tiny bits of information from Mission Community Committee for you to share with your church expressions (units). Go to www.ncwelca.org or www.wonenoftheelca.org for more information.

We would like to share some ways you can make a difference in celebrating the most giving time of the year, “CHRISTMAS”.

- The Crossnore School is always in need for items for the “Bird Cage” where a child can purchase small items throughout the year such as: backpacks, basketballs, board games, footballs, model cars, puzzles, curling irons, CD players, colognes, craft kits, handbags, dolls and Wal-mart gift cards, etc. Please do not wrap the gifts. Direct your gifts and donations to “The Bird Cage” c/o The Crossnore School, 100 D.A.R. Drive PO Box 249, Crossnore, NC 28616
- Lutheran Family Services has a suggestion that you consider placing an angel tree in your place of worship and encouraging your members to GIVE JOY to a person in need. It's as easy as setting up a tree! We will provide an ornament for the sponsoring member to add to their own tree with the wishes of one of your neighbors attached. This year, we are asking that sponsors GIVE JOY through a gift card or cash donation. This will allow us to serve more people and allow for us to fulfill the wishes of the child that enters our care on Christmas Eve. If you are interested in participating this year, please contact us at info@ifscarolinas.org . Please have your donations in by December 13, 2010 so the gifts may be distributed in time for Christmas.
- Christmas Green? Green Christmas trees, green Christmas wreaths, green Christmas tablecloths, and green money being spent are some of the green we think of at the most glorious of seasons. Now think about, **Going Green! At Christmas!** On the web sites Planet Green, A Discovery Company, <http://planetgree.discovery.com> and www.deq.louisiana.gov there was more information about having a GREEN CHRISTMAS than you could read in one day. Some of the suggestions will work for me. See if you can find one or two that will fit your budget this year and enjoy the season all the more for it:
 - a. Reuse and recycle those appliances, electronics, computers, and phones you are replacing.
 - b. Donate outgrown toys, clothes, and furniture.
 - c. Create your own recycling wrapping paper for gifts.
 - d. Buy trees that can be reused or replanted. If you do buy and throw out a cut tree, minimize flocking, tinsel and decorations or take to landfill for mulching.
 - e. Buy recycled products.
 - f. Recycle those foam peanuts and the cardboard you receive.
 - g. Finding a Fair Trade alternative for a gift.
 - h. Use energy saving LED lights.
 - i. Make a donation to environmental charities.
 - j. Use local or/and organic ingredients for that Christmas dinner.

The trimming of the tree, the singing of carols, the shopping, the cooking, and the decorating is all part of the season we celebrate every year, but we know that is not the Reason for the Season. We are celebrating our Lord Jesus' birthday. Our blessings at this time of year are endless as we hear the Christmas story, told in our churches. This wonderful planet is one of those blessings. Let us be the stewards our Lord has called us to be as we thank Him for our family and friends gathered together at this most wonderful of all seasons.

Article: “Christmas Green” was submitted by: Toni Neal for Mission Community
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM MISSION COMMUNITY

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Christmas is coming! Have you made your gift list and checked it twice? Have you been worrying about what to purchase for certain individuals, especially those who have everything? If so, help is on the way through the ELCA Good Gifts. In the catalogue there are more than 65 gift ideas filled with meaning and love.

The ELCA Good Gifts are a special way you can help make a significant impact on the mission and ministries of our church while giving a gift to a friend, pastor, teacher, neighbor, grandchild, or loved one. The ELCA Good Gifts are an opportunity to go beyond your regular congregational offering to support and strengthen the work of the church.

What kinds of gifts are available? What is the cost for each gift? Here is a list of some of the gifts that may be purchased:

- \$10 – provides a mosquito net for a family in a malaria-prone area
- \$10 – 10 chicks grow into chickens within a few months and will begin to lay eggs. Eggs make nutritious meals for growing children and extra eggs generate income to grow a small business
- \$15 – covers health and dental insurance for a child in an orphanage
- \$18 – buys a bundle of roof shingles to help repair a roof
- \$40 – 50 pound box of nails to help rebuild a home
- \$30 – a pig in a pen is like money in a bank. Within a few months, a piglet grows to weigh a couple hundred pounds and brings a big payoff at the market
- \$40 – helps purchase one school uniform for a student attending one of the Lutheran Schools in the Holy Land
- \$50 – immunizes a child against preventable diseases
- \$60 – provides a home clean-up kit after a disaster
- \$75 – provides a Survival Kit (tarp, water jug, clothes and cooking supplies)
- \$125 – offers a microloan to a woman starting a new business
- \$200 – covers a month's rent for a missionary
- \$500 – a cow has it all. Its milk, fertilizer, calves, and meat strengthens a family's financial stability and may help them escape hunger for good
- \$2,500 – digs and installs a well to bring water to a village

For additional information, you may call 1-800-638-3522 or check this website www.elca.org and look for ELCA Good Gifts.

Prepared by Mission: Growth Committee

GROW YOUR GROUP - Mission: Growth Committee

Recently when asked, “How can we grow our women’s group?” The real question was - how to reach out to the younger women in our congregations. If we are to grow our organization, maybe we need to think about how we grow our gardens - flower or vegetable gardens.

Before planting, we prepare the soil by tilling and removing any clods, stones and debris. We want the ground to be well prepared before planting the seeds. What do you do in preparation for reaching out to younger women? Do you share information about the work of your group? What about invitations? There is a saying that “people need invitations like flowers need sunshine”. If they have children, could you provide child care for a few hours to allow them to meet? Mom’s Morning Out could be a way to let the young mothers know that you are truly interested in them and their spiritual growth. Encourage them to use the website of the Women of the ELCA to gain information, especially “CAFÉ”. That website is www.welca.org . Pray earnestly for the women in your congregation. Consider partnering with the younger women.

These are only a few ideas that may get you started to grow your group. Opportunities will be available for young girls at the Spring Conference Gatherings and the Annual Synodical Women’s Organization Gathering at Lenoir Rhyne University. There will be information in the BULLETIN and CAROLINA VINE during the next few months.

You may have seen this but it is worth sharing about how to plant your garden:

- Plant three rows of peas – peace of mind, peace of heart, peace of soul.
- Plant four rows of squash – squash gossip, squash indifference, squash grumbling, squash selfishness.
- Plant four rows of lettuce – lettuce be faithful, lettuce be kind, lettuce be patient, lettuce love one another.
- Plant turnips - turnip for meetings, turnip for service, turnip to help one another
- Nurture garden with thyme – thyme for prayer, thyme for family and friends, thyme for God. Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. GROW YOUR GROUP!

PRAYER for DECEMBER BULLETIN

Patient God, Father,

At just the right time, you sent your precious, promised, saving, Son.

Still us and fill us with unhurried reverence.

Help us to whisper with childlike wonder and awe as we tarry at the manger, “Jesus you are the best gift ever!”

In Jesus life giving name we pray. Amen

By Karen Birkedal, Mission: Growth Committee

++++ WANTED AND NEEDED +++++

ONE DAY RETREAT PRESENTERS INFORMATION

Please send the following information of each One Day Retreat Presenter to Maxine Amos, macmaxx@bellsouth.net, 910-738-3309, or 9 Robin Road, Lumberton, NC 28358:

Name of presenter:

Telephone Number:

E-mail Address:

Mailing Address:

Would also like to have the host congregational President's email address.

THE FACES OF GRIEF- A Program Idea

Too often when we hear the word **grief** we tend to think only of death. However, death is not the only event that can cause grief. Have you ever experienced any of the following: loss of a pet; illness; divorce or separation; moving; empty nest; job loss or change; loss of a pastor; change of a congregation; infertility; foreclosure or bankruptcy; retirement; relationship changes; physical, emotional, or sexual abuse; loss of independence and children moving away? The list could go on. Many times we do not consider these experiences as loss, therefore we do not think of the need to grieve.

The Faces of Grief is a program resource that is available through the Women of the ELCA designed for use by an individual or in a group setting. It is organized in three parts and may be adapted for use as a retreat. It is intended to help readers learn about and reflect on the journey of grief – **not to take the place of professional services.**

This resource may be downloaded from the website www.welca.org
Prepared by Mission: Growth Committee

SPRING RETREAT AT THE BEACH – Mission: Growth Committee

In December why should we be thinking of the beach? Some of us need to make plans for a weekend at the beach. What is to happen at Kure Beach on April 8-10, 2011? It the Spring Retreat sponsored by the Mission: Growth Committee.

Do you have a need to spiritually grow and heal and to seek inspiration and motivation? If so, mark your calendar to come to Kure Beach to hear Inez Torres Davis, Associate in Ministry and Director for Justice, Women of the ELCA, lead the retreat on SACRED SPACES. There will be an opportunity to feast on the word of God, spend time pondering in meditation and allow the Holy Spirit to work within and through you. You will find ways to strengthen your relationship with God.

Continue to look for additional information about this retreat.

called **TO** **ACTION**

*[Fear the Lord] It will be a healing for your flesh and refreshment for your body.
Proverbs 3:8*

World AIDS Day

World AIDS Day was first observed on December 1, 1988 as a result of an international summit of health ministers. The summit called for a "new spirit of social tolerance and a greater exchange of information on HIV/AIDS."

World AIDS Day is observed annually on December 1st. The day serves to strengthen the global effort to face the challenges of the AIDS pandemic, which continues to spread in all regions of the world. It is a time to renew focus on:

- prevention education
- care for persons with AIDS
- remembering those who have died of AIDS
- prayer for those infected and affected by the virus
- advocacy for continued efforts to fight HIV/AIDS around the world

Help raise HIV/AIDS awareness on World AIDS Day and throughout the year!

Ideas for your congregation include:

[Worship](#)

- Schedule a candlelight service of remembrance for those affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Schedule a service of healing.
- Observe a moment of silence during worship for those who have died of AIDS.
- During worship, pray for people infected with HIV, those living with AIDS, and family and friends who are affected by HIV/AIDS.
- Encourage your pastor to speak about HIV/AIDS in his/her sermon.

[Learning](#)

- Focus on the impact of HIV/AIDS during Christian education programs. Invite people living with HIV/AIDS to speak.
- Use an AIDS Quiz. Distribute to members to use as a tool to help open discussion about AIDS in your congregation.

- Distribute HIV/AIDS Awareness information and red ribbons prior to World AIDS Day
- Talk with young people about HIV prevention during confirmation and other weekly education programs.
- Invite people living with HIV/AIDS to share their stories with those in your congregation.
- Add books, videos, and other resources on HIV/AIDS to your church library.

Ministry

- Start a service program in which members work with a local AIDS group to provide meals, transportation, shelter, companionship and so forth to people living with AIDS.
- Form an HIV/AIDS advisory group within your congregation to advise all segments of your congregation on ways to be inclusive of people living with AIDS.
- Provide space within your congregation for various support groups for persons impacted by HIV including: family members, persons infected, care givers, and siblings.

Ideas for your community include:

- Decorate trees, buildings, and lampposts with red ribbons. Ask for permission first.
- Write a letter (or article) to your local newspaper supporting World AIDS Day.
- Contact the NAMES Project and bring the AIDS Memorial Quilt to your community.
- Mobilize groups of which you or your children are a member to participate in World AIDS Day.
- Help set up a special display of books, resource materials, and web sites about HIV/AIDS at your local library.
- Organize performances by musicians and artists to raise money and awareness.
- Find out about both secular and church-affiliated (other denominations or ecumenical groups) HIV/AIDS groups and ministries in your community.
- Initiate or participate in interfaith observances of World AIDS Day in your community.
- Organize an HIV/AIDS fundraising event (run, walk, and bike) and invite your community.
- Encourage work places to display posters or brochures about HIV/AIDS.
- Encourage local media to carry more HIV/AIDS related items.

(Ideas from American Association for World Health and General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church.)

* This article was copied directly from the ELCA website. There are many resources available by going onto www.elca.org and type in AIDS Awareness. We have so many resources already provided for us to use at this website.

Tamarah Hefner
Mission: Action Member

THANK YOU from MISSION: ACTION to all the individuals and congregational expressions that completed our surveys last spring. Based on an 18% response rate for the congregational expressions, we are very active in some areas and need more ideas in other areas.

Collectively and individually (more than 85%) we support our local food pantries, make quilts or provide other parish projects for Lutheran World Relief, and provide toiletries and other needs for homeless shelters, battered women shelters and other similar places.

Other areas where we provide strong support include Lutheran Family Services and teaching in our local Sunday Church Schools and Vacation Bible Schools. Ninety-three percent of us have annual medical and dental evaluations; 83% recognize the need for a healthy diet and 57% try to maintain a regular exercise program. BUT it sure is hard to avoid that old bugga-boo, **STRESS!**

When we asked what areas of concern you would like to see addressed, you responded with a number of ideas:

Environmental Concerns

Disproportionate consumption and waste of earth's resources by people in the US; recycling and conservation; wasteful use of resources; water conservation; climate changes and reducing carbon emissions; global warming; oil spills

Health Issues

Affordable health care and access to it; obesity (mentioned most often); diet (fast food & sugar); lack of exercise; cancer

Church-related Issues

Changes in the church; most recent churchwide social statement; taking care of our church and things in church (kitchen, robes, etc.); care of the spiritual life of all people – especially young people (18-35)

Check future copies of the Bulletin for new ideas in your area(s) of concern.

Women of the ELCA and the *Keeping the Promise* (KTP) Campaign

Lutheran Services for the Aging (LSA) has kicked off their *Keeping the Promise* campaign, which will build four new or replacement nursing homes, renovate existing facilities and launch a Home and Community Based Services project. At our June gathering, the NC Women of the ELCA adopted a goal of raising at least \$40,000 for LSA's campaign. Once this goal is reached, one resident room at each of the four new LSA nursing homes will be named in recognition of our contribution to the effort. All Women of the ELCA expressions are asked to participate by making a pledge to the campaign by December 31, 2010. If your expression has not been visited by a campaign volunteer or if you have questions, please contact one of the leaders of our *Keeping the Promise* campaign committee.



Marjorie McDaniel,
Chair

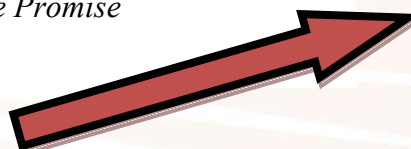
mcd2@twave.net

Alice Nelson,
Vice-Chair

hakady@juno.com

Phyllis Myers,
Vice-Chair

phylma@suddenlink.net



Gathering-Planning Committee Highlights Keynote Speaker Rev. Kristina Johnson

The Rev. Kristina Johnson is a second-generation American whose grandparents immigrated from Denmark, Germany and England. She herself was born and raised in New Jersey. She graduated from Wake Forest University in 1987 with a Bachelor's degree in Spanish that included three semesters of study at the University of Salamanca, Spain. She received her Masters of Divinity degree from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg in 1993. She has also completed two years of advanced Hospital Chaplaincy training.

Since 1993, Kristina, who speaks fluent Spanish, has worked as a pastor in an ecumenical Hispanic ministry, as an outreach worker to children of migrant farm workers, as a Spanish-English interpreter and as a teacher of English as a Second Language.

In 2006-2008 Kristina launched and coordinated the first Latino Mental Health Awareness Campaign for the Mental Health Association in Greensboro. In May 2007, she was the recipient of the North Carolina Latina Excellence Award in the category of "Friend" (awarded by the Latin American Women's Club of the Triangle and the Mental Health Association in North Carolina). In November 2007, the Moses Cone Wesley Long Health Foundation honored the campaign with the Vic Nussbaum Award for best new initiatives in multicultural outreach. At the national level, the campaign was chosen to receive the Betty Humphrey Cultural Competence Award in May 2008 by Mental Health America (formerly the National Mental Health Association).

In 2007 Kristina began working with the Reverend Dr. Brady Faggart to launch LaVela Latino Center for Spiritual Care. In April 2009 the center was awarded a \$44,000 grant from Wheat Ridge Ministries. Also in 2009 Kristina was called as a mission developer to branch off from this ecumenical ministry to develop a Spanish-speaking ELCA congregation in the greater Greensboro area called "La Iglesia Luterana – La Vela".

If there are any Awareness Sessions that we have not done like (Divorce Care, Grief Support) or other topics of interest please let Kathy Wallace herseywal@aol.com or Phyllis Myers phylma@suddenlink.net know as soon as possible. We appreciate all comments and suggestions.

Submitted by Kathy Wallace
Co. Chair Gathering/Planning Committee



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

TRIENNIAL GATHERING FACT SHEET

Quilt Challenge



Eighth Triennial Gathering • July 14–17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash. • www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial11 • 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2730

Quilters of all abilities are invited to create a quilt interpreting the gathering theme, *Renew, Respond, Rejoice!* The challenge comes not only in interpreting the gathering theme but also in working within certain rules.

1. The quilt must interpret the gathering theme, *Renew, Respond, Rejoice!*
2. Finished size of the quilt must be 40 inches square.
3. Traditional or original patterns may be used. Credit must be given when using the pattern or design of another.
4. Quilts may be pieced or appliquéd or a combination. They may include surface embellishment techniques (e.g., dyeing, trapunto, stenciling, whole cloth, embroidery, batik, painting, embossing, etc.).
5. Each quilt must be quilted, not tied. Both machine quilting and hand quilting are acceptable.
6. Each quilt must have a sleeve attached to the top back for hanging. The sleeve opening must be 4 inches wide after it is attached to the quilt and must be attached in a way that it will not show when the quilt is hanging.
7. A fabric identification label must be securely sewn to a bottom back corner of the quilt (a paper label pinned to the quilt is not acceptable) with the name, address and telephone number of the entrant.
8. The challenge is open to all women who are members of ELCA congregations. The quilt must be the work of a single individual; no group or two person quilts will be accepted. Quilt(s) must be constructed and quilted by the person named on the entry blank. The quilter need not be planning to attend the 2011 Triennial Gathering in order to participate in the quilt challenge.
9. Limit of 2 entries per person. Entry fee is \$5 which includes return shipping. Quilts may be picked up on site with proper identification at 6:30 pm on Saturday, July 16, 2011, in the exhibit hall. If you are unable to pick up your quilt(s), you must notify Women of the ELCA in writing with the name of the person picking it up; that person must also show identification. Those quilts not picked up will be shipped to the entrant following the gathering.
10. All quilts must be received in the churchwide office by May 1, 2011, along with a completed entry form. Mail quilts to Women of the ELCA Quilt Challenge, 8765 W Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631.
11. Entries will be judged by a committee of fiber artists and sewing and quilting professionals. Winners will be selected for originality, adherence to selected theme, workmanship, creative use of materials and overall design execution. All winners and qualifying entries will be on display at the 2011 Triennial Gathering, Spokane Convention Center, Spokane, Washington from July 14 – 16, 2011.



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!



Quilt Challenge Entry Form

Eighth Triennial Gathering • July 14–17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash. • www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial11 • 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2730

One form per submitted quilt.

NAME OF QUILT

DESCRIBE HOW THE QUILT INTERPRETS THE TRIENNIAL GATHERING THEME RENEW, RESPOND, REJOICE!:

YOUR NAME

YOUR ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

E-MAIL ADDRESS

PHONE NUMBER

I have read and agree to the rules of the Quilt Challenge. I understand that by entering this quilt into the challenge I agree that 1) this entry is original, it has not won previous prizes and it does not infringe on any third party rights and 2) my name, picture, likeness and city and state of residence may be used by Women of the ELCA in educational, informational and promotional materials in a variety of media, including electronic media.

SIGNATURE

DATE

Mail your quilt by May 1, 2011, along with this completed entry form and a \$5 check (entry fee) made payable to Women of the ELCA to:

Women of the ELCA Quilt Challenge
8765 W Higgins Road
Chicago IL 60631





Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

TRIENNIAL GATHERING FACT SHEET

Prayer Shawl Collection



Eighth Triennial Gathering • July 14–17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash. • www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial11 • 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2730

Get out your knitting needles and crochet hooks and create a prayer shawl.

This is a great opportunity for all women, whether attending the triennial gathering or not. The shawls will be given to ministries in our host synod, the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod. Work alone or in a group. For patterns, check out www.shawlministry.com or any of the many books on the topic available at your local library. Use the following prayers as you begin and finish a prayer shawl. Adapt the prayers for group use. Print out the label and add in the information. Laminate the completed label, punch a hole in the label, and attach the label to the completed shawl with a piece of ribbon or yarn.

Shawls can be brought to the exhibit hall, Camp Dianoigo, at the Spokane Convention Center. Shawls can also be mailed to the following address, for arrival between June 1 – July 1, 2011.

TG11 Prayer Shawls
Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod
314 S. Spruce Street, Suite A
Spokane, WA 99201-5823

A Prayer of Dedication upon Beginning a Prayer Shawl

Blessed are you, Creator God, for you wrap your creation in the warmth of your loving kindness. As I take up my yarn and my tools to begin this shawl, I ask you to bless my hands and my heart. Let my small skill and compassion be a hint of your own as I craft this yarn into a tangible prayer of healing, peace and comfort. I dedicate the work of my hands to your service, loving God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, whose mother has been depicted knitting with him by her side. Amen.

A Prayer of Blessing upon the Completion of a Shawl

Blessed are you, compassionate God, for you wrap your creation in the softness of your loving kindness. May the prayers for healing, peace and comfort I have worked into every stitch rise to you and come back to the shawl's recipient a hundredfold. I ask you to bless the recipient of this shawl and all your children with your peace, which passes all understanding. I make this prayer through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

This prayer shawl was made by

..... of

(NAME)

..... in

(NAME OF CONGREGATION)

.....

(CITY, STATE)

This prayer shawl was made as part of the 8th Triennial Gathering of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, July 14-17, 2011.

Prayers were worked into every stitch of this shawl, so that healing, peace and comfort might come to you. www.womenoftheelca.org





Sister take my hand

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

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

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

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