

NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

www.ncwelca.org

APRIL 2011 BULLETIN

Women of Faith – With Arms Wide Open

Dear Sisters in Christ,

NC Women of the ELCA are in the very busiest time of the year. You can tell by the size of this *Bulletin*. We just had very successful One Day retreats in the conferences. By the time you read this, we'll be in the midst of the 15 Spring Conference Gatherings with host congregations preparing for visitors, conference leaders and ASK team members preparing programs, and nominating committees working to get a slate for the Presider elections. Then there is the Spring Retreat. Throughout the next two months the board members and their committees will be working furiously to finish projects and plans and meet the goals they have been working on since last summer. We worry that the time for the Annual Gathering and the Triennial is coming too quickly, and there is so much to do. Then, to that is added the rest of life's demands, professional and personal. I find myself rushing from one thing to the next, and worrying where in all that "busy-ness" I can possibly fit in Lent and Easter. I am the champion of spinning lots of plates in the air and multi-tasking. It reminds me of a line from one of Frost's poems ". . . I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep." I know what we should do instead. We should follow the example of Jesus. When he became exhausted by the demands on him or he became stressed, he would withdraw from the hubbub and spend some time in meditation and prayer. He says in a portion of Mark 6:31 "Come away . . . and rest awhile." We need to give ourselves permission to take a breath, pause the plate spinning and multi-tasking, and just be still with Him for a few minutes. And, He will give us rest. Does that sound too simple, or too difficult? Let's try this for the next few weeks. At least once a day when the plate spinning is getting the better of us, we will follow the example of Jesus. For a few minutes we will withdraw, meditate and pray. When I see you at the Annual Gathering, tell me how it went for you. We can compare notes, and we'll see how we did.

The next few months are filled opportunities for you to participate. They will be busy, exciting and challenging. Come and take part. In this issue of the *Bulletin* you will find:

- **Spring Conference Gatherings:** Check the website (ncwelca.org) or last month's *Bulletin* for the dates in your conference
 - **Offering:** The monetary offering and the in-kind offering of books and supplies are designated for Motherhead.
 - The **2011 Pennies for Hope** campaign began February 1. This project will help women to escape poverty by providing microloans to start small businesses.
 - **What's going to be happening?**
 - The program, "Women of Faith - With Arms Wide Open" will be available for the adults in the crowd.
 - A special program will be presented for the TAGG's and TGIF's (age 11 – 19).
 - Each conference will be electing and installing a Presider.
- **Mission: Action**
 - **Support Fair Trade:** here is how to support our international sisters
 - New **Lutheran World Relief Parish Projects:** this article tells of changes in the specifications for the LWR kits
 - **Lutheran Services for the Aging (LSA)** report on the *Keeping the Promise* campaign

- **Mission: Community**
 - Taste those **M&M's - Mission Morsels**
 - **April is Child Abuse Awareness Month** – What can you do? Can you provide a **Safe Haven?** Would you be willing to volunteer as a **Guardian ad Litem?**
 - **April 22 is Earth Day** – Save our earth by celebrating conservation
 - **Lutheran Family Service In-kind Gift's "Needs" sheet:** Start collecting these in-kind gifts to bring to the annual gathering in June

- **Mission: Growth**
 - **A prayer** for you
 - **A Time to Knit** – This one's for you whether you are an experienced knitter or always wanted to learn
 - **Spring Retreat – "Sacred Spaces"** is at Kure Beach – April 8 – 10, 2011. There is still time to register.

- **The 24th Annual NC Synodical Women's Gathering is June 10 – 12, 2011**, at Lenoir- Rhyne University. We are "Women of the Faith – With Our Arms Wide Open"
 - **Registration forms** for the Annual Gathering are enclosed. Use these forms for all registrations sent in after March 31. ("Early Bird" forms for discounted registrations must be postmarked by March 31 and are found on the website or in last month's *Bulletin*.)
 - **Delegate Registration** should be in by **April 30**. Read the short article listing some of the delegate responsibilities. Every unit needs to send a delegate. Be sure you are represented.
 - **Visitor Registration** should be in by **May 10**.
 - **TGIF and TAGG Registration** should be in by **May 10** (this is for younger women and girls ages 15-19 and 11-14)
 - **YWGaB: Young Woman Gifted and Blessed, ages 20-35**, applications should be in by **April 1**. We are inviting a group of these young women to attend the Annual Gathering as our guests.
 - **Submitting Resolutions:** Submit your resolutions by **May 15**. Read the article about how to write a resolution and use the attached form as your format.

- **Triennial Gathering** will be held in Spokane, Washington, July 14 - 17, 2011.
 - Register for the **Triennial Gathering** online at www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial4 or call 800-638-3522, ext.2730.

- **Preparing for College:** Perhaps a Patterson Memorial Scholarship can help. Deadline is May 30, 2011

Mark your Calendar:

- **Spring Retreat at Kure Beach:** April 8 – 10, 2011 (brochure enclosed)
- **Annual Gathering:** June 10 – 12, 2011
- **Triennial Gathering:** July 14 - 17, 2011
- **Theological Seminar for Women:** November 11-12, 2011

Sisters, join me and your sisters around the nation **each Monday at noon**. Stop for a few minutes to pray for all the many projects in which we are all involved and in remembering all those in need of a special prayer. If you wish to receive our list of individuals wanting prayer, let me know by sending me your email address.

Share the information in the *Bulletin* with all of the other participants. 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.

Grace and peace,

Sharon Johnson

NC Women of the ELCA President

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF HAS CHANGED ITS SPECIFICATIONS FOR PARISH PROJECTS

Lutheran World Relief surveyed their distribution partners and recipients of our quilts and other parish projects and have made changes to the specifications based upon what the recipients worldwide really want or need. This year will be a year of transition so if you have already started your parish projects, you may follow the previous guidelines. If your parish projects are not yet underway, please use the following new guidelines.

Health Kits are now PERSONAL CARE KITS

When natural disaster strikes or political conflict flares, families often have little chance to gather their belongings before fleeing the danger. They arrive in a refugee camp or other place of safety scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit allow them to wash away the dirt and sweat, with the fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel as reminders of someone's care and concern for them in their plight.

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

- **One bath-size towel** (approximately 52" X 27"), dark color recommended
- **Two bath-size bars** (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers, remove packaging

*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a #10 envelope. Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

SCHOOL KITS

Education is important for any community, especially where poverty or disaster has limited the options for young people to reach their potential. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children—and in some cases, adults—continue learning despite the hardships they face. And that learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Include the following items in each School Kit:

- **Four 70-sheet notebooks** of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or ruler with centimeters on one side, inches on the other
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- **Five unsharpened #2 pencils** with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- **Five ballpoint pens** (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One eraser approximately 2 1/2" long*
- **One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)**

Remove any excess packaging, pack all items in bag and close.

FABRIC KITS-Sewing is a valuable skill, one that leads to a reliable income for many women. Fabric Kits supply vocational training programs, and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing businesses. This is an excellent complement to the Pennies of Hope for microloans for women to start their own home business.

Include the following items in each Fabric Kit:

- **Two** pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester); fabric should have no stains or holes and be cut into pieces measuring:
 - 2 1/4 yards of 60" wide fabric, or
 - 3 yards of 44" wide fabric, or
 - 4 yards of 36" wide fabric
- **Two** spools of matching general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each

Fold thread and one piece of fabric inside second fabric piece and tie with yarn, sturdy string, ribbon or strip of fabric.

BABY CARE KITS

Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. She worries about her baby's health and well-being when there is a lack of money to buy the things every mother wants for her newborn. The items included in a Baby Care Kit provide the things a mother needs to care for her baby the way she hopes to.

Include the following items in each Baby Care Kit:

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts
- Two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, *or include a baby cap*
- Two pairs of socks
- One hand towel, dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins.

MISSION QUILTS

Imagine the comfort that comes with a hug when someone is in a time of deepest need. Through a simple combination of fabric and thread, you can reach out to those with some of the greatest needs in the world, not wrapping them in your arms, but wrapping them in the work of your hands through an LWR Quilt. Most often recipients use their LWR Quilts to shield against the cold and rain, but their versatility also makes them useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on his mother's back.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL KITS

All items should be new (see exception in Baby Care Kits) and all bars of soap and toothbrushes should be in original wrapping (one exception in Personal Care Kit). **Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed for each kit. NO** plastic bags or wrap.

THE CHANGES IN A NUTSHELL

Personal Care Kits – bath-size towel replaces washcloth and hand towel; two bars of soap; NO band-aids
School Kits – NO construction paper; additional spiral notebook; new item ball point pens;
BIGGEST CHANGE: Drawstring School Bag (see instructions on next page)

Fabric Kits – Two pieces of fabric and spools of matching thread; No other notions

GENERAL ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS FOR ALL KITS

Careful adherence to these instructions and guidelines keeps LWR's material resources program running smoothly and efficiently. Please follow the instructions exactly so that our distributions are consistent and fair. **Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed for each kit.** For all projects, please also follow these guidelines:

- Sending top quality items makes a caring statement to the recipient about the giver. **Please give new items only, except where noted otherwise.**
- **Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or with your congregation's name.** LWR provides material resources based on need, regardless of religious creed. Religious references could be misinterpreted by the governments of the receiving countries, jeopardizing the delivery to the people who need the items most.
- **Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.** LWR and our overseas partners have access to areas of the world others do not because we are impartial humanitarian organizations. If our intentions are misinterpreted as being politically motivated, our work, our partners and the people we assist could be endangered.

Drawstring School Kit Bag Pattern

14" w X 17" h final size (within 1/2" to 1" either measurement is fine). For diagrams of the steps below, visit www.lwr.org or www.ncwelca.org or contact any North Carolina Women of the ELCA Officer or Board Member.

Materials:

1 piece sturdy fabric (denim, canvas, twill, corduroy); 42" X 16"

1 piece strong cord/rope (1/4" – 1/2"); 4 yards (*instructions for alternative fabric straps at end of pattern*) if you use nylon cord, be sure to burn the ends to prevent fraying

Directions:

1. Cut one large and two small pieces from fabric:
 - a. One piece 38" X 16"
 - b. Two pieces 3" X 4"
2. Make tabs for loops:
 - a. Fold one piece lengthwise in half; press.
 - b. Unfold; fold each edge, lengthwise, to center crease. Fold again at center crease; press.
 - c. Stitch lengthwise, 1/2" from outside edge or straight up the center. Repeat with other tab.
3. Make drawstring casing:
 - a. Hem each short (16") edge. Turn raw edge in 1/4", turn again and stitch to keep raw edge on inside.
 - b. Measure 2 1/2" from the short edge and 1" from the long edge and mark the spot with a pin or fabric marker. Repeat on each corner.
 - c. Snip from the long edge to the mark on each corner.
 - d. Fold each corner in (lengthwise) 1/2", fold again and stitch along the lengthwise edge.

4. Sew main bag:

- a. Hem each long edge. Turn raw edge in $\frac{1}{4}$ ", turn again and stitch to keep raw edge on inside.
- b. Bring short edges together, right-sides together, and mark the fold at the bottom with a fabric marker or pin. Unfold with right-side up.
- c. Fold tabs in half to form a loop. Place against each side seam, matching bottom of loop with the fold mark. Place loop ends even with side seams (loops facing inside). Offset loop ends so they are side by side and pin in place. *Note: If the ends are stacked on top of each other, the seam may be too thick to sew.*
- d. Bring short edges together, right-sides together, and pin lengthwise.
- e. Starting at the top of the bag, stitch sides together using $\frac{1}{2}$ " seam allowance. Reinforce stitching over loop ends.

5. Finish drawstring casing:

- a. Fold casing edges down to create a casing $1\frac{1}{4}$ " deep. Pin in place and stitch with a $\frac{1}{4}$ " seam allowance along the bottom edge of each casing.
- b. Cut cord/rope into 2 two-yard lengths. Thread first piece through the casing on both sides. Repeat with second piece of cord/rope, starting at the opposite side of the bag. *If making straps out of fabric, see instructions at bottom of pattern.*

6. Complete bag:

- a. Turn bag right-side out. Run one strap on each side through the loop on the same side and knot each securely with a square knot (right over left, then left over right).
- b. Fill with LWR School Kit supplies!

*Notes:

- Upholstery material may also be used; no drapery
- Used or repurposed fabric in the recommended materials (ex., recycled jeans) may be used – absolutely no stains, holes or tears
- You may also serge the inside edges rather than hemming. If you choose to do so, be sure to reinforce the stress points over the loop tabs and top corners.
- Tip: if you will be making multiple bags, consider making a cardboard template to speed up the cutting process!
- Alternative Fabric Straps instructions
 - ✓ If you prefer, you may substitute fabric straps for the cord/rope straps.
 - ✓ Cut 2 pieces of fabric (same material as bag) 2 yards by 3".
 - ✓ As with loops in step 2, fold one piece lengthwise in half; press.
 - ✓ Unfold; fold each edge, lengthwise, to center crease; press. Fold again at center crease; press.
 - ✓ Stitch lengthwise, $\frac{1}{2}$ " from outside edge or straight up the center of the strap.
 - ✓ Fold each raw end $\frac{1}{4}$ ", then fold again and stitch to secure. Reinforce for sturdiness.
 - ✓ Repeat with other piece. Thread straps through casing as in step 5.

Shipping Note: You may also participate by helping cover the cost of shipping the projects from North Carolina to Lutheran World Relief. Shipping costs are based primarily on weight and range from \$1.00 per fabric kit to \$2.25 per mission quilt. Make checks payable to North Carolina Women of the ELCA and write 'shipping to LWR' on the memo line.

As Women of Faith with Arms Wide Open

Mission: Action wants you to support **FAIR TRADE**

Pay to all what is due them – taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Romans 13: 7, 10

Martin Luther teaches us in his explanation of the seventh commandment that “we are to fear and love God, so that we neither take our neighbors’ money or property nor use shoddy merchandise or crooked deals to obtain it for ourselves, but instead help them to improve and protect their property and income.”

In this twenty-first century we are all part of an international neighborhood, more than ever before in our history. Before we finish breakfast each morning we have already depended on half of the world. When was the last time you thought of a coffee farmer as you brewed a pot of coffee or bought a double espresso at the local coffee shop? Did you remember that the big box of chocolates you received (or gave someone) for Valentine’s Day actually originated from a bean on a tree somewhere in the tropics? Through our purchases of the products we use every day, we are connected to more people and regions of the world than we ever realize. But many with whom we share this connection are literally living in a state of economic crisis. The prices that coffee and cocoa farmers receive for their products are unpredictable – sometimes far below their cost of production. Women suffer acutely in situations of economic vulnerability. Seventy percent of the world’s 1.3 billion people who live on less than \$1 per day are women or girls. In agriculture, there is sometimes a distinct difference between a woman’s job and a man’s job in the fields. Women work under more difficult conditions and earn less respect and pay.

Fair Trade offers an opportunity that promotes care of both the worker and the environment. By purchasing **Fair Trade** products, we are closely connected with the workers and producers of our products – we know that they receive fair prices and their methods are environmentally sustainable. They know that we value their labor, experience and commitment to quality.

Fair Trade offers unique benefits to communities. Women, who are often marginalized in the global economic system, are full participants in **Fair Trade** cooperatives. Consequently, they are able to capture **Fair Trade**’s economic and social benefits in the same way as men.

For your convenience Mission: Action will have Fair Trade snacks (including nuts, fruits, and CHOCOLATE bars) and Fair Trade beverages (coffee, tea, cocoa) for sale at the Women of the ELCA SWO Annual Gathering at Lenoir-Rhyne on June 10-11, 2011. Please support our international sisters through your purchase!

M&M's -- "MISSION MORSELS"
from MISSION: COMMUNITY
April 2011

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

APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

- **SAFE HAVEN FOR CHILDREN:** This is one of our ongoing projects for many years for Mission Community Committee. In today's society with all the many peer pressures, stress, and juggling of time, our children more than ever need our help and an ongoing relationship with caring adults. There is a story of "The little red wagon. It is a symbol of childhood. It could be filled with a child's hopes and dreams or weighed down with their burdens. Millions of American children need our help to pull that wagon along. Let's all pull together." This is a quote from General Colin L. Powell USA (Ret.). Someday, somewhere; somebody is going to ask you: What did you do for the children? Did you treat them right? Do you have the answers? We can make a difference for our youth – our future. Every child in our state needs and deserves an ongoing relationship with a caring adult. Our youth needs the support and opportunity we had. Children and young people are our nation's future. They need our congregations to point them in the right direction. For more information and a form to sign up for **Safe Haven for Children** go to www.ncwelca.org and click on **Projects** then click on the **little red wagon, print form and mail to Judy Gainey, chairperson, for Mission: Community Committee.**
- **GUARDIAN ad LITEM PROGRAM:** This is also a program that Mission Community Committee supports. This program, with the help of volunteers, represents thousands of children. Program volunteers donate countless hours to the children they represent. The unique perspectives of volunteers, and their often creative solutions, are highly valued by court judges. A Guardian ad Litem is a volunteer appointed by the court to protect the rights and advocate the best interests of a child involved in a court proceeding. If you are interested in volunteering or finding out information go to www.guardianadlitem.org and fill out the application or see your local circuit office or call 866-341-1GAL.

APRIL 22, 2011 IS EARTH DAY:

- **Save our Earth by celebrating Conservation:** Did you know that our streams and rivers are less polluted today than 30 years ago? In 1972, 36% of America's rivers and streams were safe for fishing and swimming and in 1994, 86% were safe. Did you know that some experts estimate that more trees grow in North America now than when Columbus landed? They estimate that forest still cover 1/3 of the land area of the United States. During the last quarter of the 20th century, the average smog levels in all major cities fell by half. We are doing a lot correctly. We still have a long way to go if we are to save this planet for our grandchildren's grandchildren. The above figures show how we started, but we still have a long way to go to reverse some of the damage done to date. Do what you can: purchase office supplies made from recycled or natural materials. Bring your own mug and dishware for what you consume at the office. Switch to Fair Trade and organic coffee and tea, buying local food as much as possible. Try printing on both sides of the paper or use the back side of old documents for scrap or fax. Reconsider your commute, i.e. carpooling, riding the bus, walking or biking when possible. Purchase non-toxic cleaning products for your home or office. Dispose of hazardous wastes properly. Recycle glass, paper, metal, and plastic. Do it as part of the heritage you will leave for your children and their children. Submitted by: Tonie Neal for Mission: Community Committee.

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS TO THE TWENTY-FOURTH NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING

1. WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?

It is a formal written proposal that a specific action or position be taken. It includes a statement of facts that support the proposal. It is presented to a legislative body for consideration.

A resolution is a main motion, which, either because of its importance and/or because of its length and complexity, is submitted in writing in advance of the convention/gathering. The introduction of a resolution brings business before the convention/gathering that must be discussed and voted upon. Congregational units, individuals and committees are encouraged to submit resolutions on this form to the President of the NC Women of the ELCA by May 15. (Resolutions that cannot meet the deadline because of late-breaking information or concerns must be received by the SWO President a minimum of 48 hours prior to the opening of the convention/gathering. She will determine whether or not the resolution will be reviewed by the Committee on Resolutions and presented for consideration and vote.)

The Committee on Resolutions reviews submitted resolutions and makes copies, which are distributed to delegates prior to the opening session. Resolutions are then brought before the convention on Saturday afternoon or evening as being recommended or not recommended by the Committee on Resolutions, or they can be referred to a committee for consideration. The delegates can discuss and vote on the RECOMMENDATION FROM THE COMMITTEE, not on the Resolution.

2. WHO WRITES A RESOLUTION?

Any congregational/intercongregational unit, member of a congregational/ intercongregational unit, or Synodical Committee within the synodical women's organization can propose a resolution for consideration at the SWO Gathering.

3. ARE RESOLUTIONS LIMITED TO CERTAIN SUBJECTS OR ISSUES?

No, but keep in mind the following:

- North Carolina's Women of the ELCA's Constitution and Bylaws
- Women of the ELCA's Purpose Statement
- The impact of your resolution on the North Carolina Women of the ELCA's financial and staff resources and the organization's existing programs and projects
- Any long-term effects of the resolution on the SWO

4. WHAT INFORMATION SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE RESOLUTION?

Be sure to include sender's name, address, and date submitted. Submit by email or surface mail. If using surface mail, submit the resolution on a diskette along with a hard copy. (Diskette should be in "Word", "Text file", etc.)

To accomplish its purpose, a resolution says, "Please. Here is an opportunity, situation, or issue. This is why we think it is important that the North Carolina Women of the ELCA should do something. This is what we think should be done."

- Be accurate and factual.
- Be simple and direct in your words.
- Avoid adjectives, adverbs, inflammatory words, and generalized statements.
- Write in third person.

PRESENT YOUR RESOLUTION IN TWO PARTS:

- **FIRST** – the "why" or **WHEREAS**. This should clearly describe the issue, concern, problem, or situation. Be sure to provide facts and data that support the "why". If there are a number of "why's", list each separately beginning with the word "WHEREAS".
- **SECOND** – the "what" or **RESOLVED**. This is a clear statement of what should be done - (1) the action you want to be taken, (2) who should take it and when, (3) the cost, if any, and how it should be funded, (4) how the results should be reported, etc. If there are a number of "what's", list each separately beginning with the word "RESOLVED".

**RESOLUTIONS to the TWENTY-FOURTH
NORTH CAROLINA WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING**

Please complete and email by May 15, 2011 to: sadj@bellsouth.net (Complete the form, save the document, and email as an attachment.) If you are unable to email, copy the resolution to a diskette and send both the diskette and a hard copy to: Sharon Johnson, 4237 Freedom Drive, Charlotte, NC 28208.

Submitted by (name of person or group and church organization):
Address:
Date:

WHEREAS,

WHEREAS,

WHEREAS,
(Continue as many "WHEREAS's as necessary)

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that . . . ,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that...
(Continue as many "RESOLVED'S as necessary)



Gathering Planning Committee Women of Faith-With Arms Wide Open



Time-What is time? Webster's dictionary gave 18 definitions for the word time. The best one for what I am trying to say goes like this "Proper season; fitting moment". TIME is running out, have you mailed in your registration form yet? I know this is the April Bulletin and you are reading this in March and you think you have plenty of time. TIME has a bad habit of creeping up on us. As I write this, two months of this year have already gone by. Where did the last two months go? Please take the time now and fill out your registration form and take advantage of the \$25.00 discount. All CU Presidents, you should want to take advantage of the \$25.00 discount and make sure your delegate gets her registration in on time. Early Bird registration ends March 31st!!!

We are happy to announce that Ada Smith, Choir Director for St. Andrew's – Hickory, will be our Music Leader and Choir Director for our Annual Gathering. She has a Masters degree in music and teaches music at Mountain View Elementary in Hickory.

Some more Awareness Sessions are: Linking Online - Connecting Through Social Media, Zumba Dance Exercise, Clearing the Cobwebs-A Study of Isaiah 1:16-20, and Sustainable Development - Lasting Promise/A New LWR.

Tell your family, friends, and co workers to come and experience one of the greatest spirit filled weekends ever. Time is running out and waits for no one. Meet and make new friends. Once you have experienced a Women of the ELCA Annual Gathering you will want to return.

Submitted by: Kathy Wallace, Gathering Planning

A TIME TO KNIT

Cast on, knit, purl, cast off! Does this sound familiar? How often have you said, “I wish I could knit”? Now is the time to learn! There is a new Bible Study that can be downloaded from www.welca.org that will help you knit a scarf and a dishcloth/washcloth. It is STITCHES AND SCRIPTURE. It is a Bible study where everyone learns how knitting is used in the Scriptures as a metaphor to describe God’s creative and intimate relationship with us. We are knitted together as a community of “faithful women” into the body of Christ by God who is the master knitter.

As your group studies the Scriptures, seasoned knitters will serve as mentors and will pair with non-knitters to make a scarf and a dishcloth. In time some may become proficient knitters and begin making caps, prayer shawls and other item to share with those in need. Where could you share such items? Visit the hospitals, nursing homes, treatment centers and even shut-ins and you will find individuals who would welcome receiving a knitted item. There may be children in a local school who could use a cap/hat on a cold day. You may consider making dishcloths as gifts to share with friends or make them for a bazaar.

Through this study one may form a strong relationship with their mentor. Invite a friend to participate in this study. This could be a way of reaching out to younger women and the youth in our congregations. Even men learn to knit. Remember: “Each one teach one”.

Cast on, knit, purl and cast off. Share your results. (Prepared by Mission: Growth Committee)

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

There is still time for your expression to pledge!

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 last year’s June gathering, the NC Women of the ELCA adopted a goal of raising at least \$40,000 for LSA’s campaign. At this time, over \$28,000 has been pledged towards that goal.** When this goal is achieved, one resident room at each of the four new LSA nursing homes will be named in recognition of the Women of the ELCA. Please make this campaign a success by ensuring that your expression participates with a pledge. 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, mcd2@twave.net

Alice Nelson, hakady@juno.com

Phyllis Myers, phylma@suddenlink.net

Prayer for April Bulletin – 2011

Dear Lord and loving Father, we give thanks for the love you bestow on all of us. We know you are with us, even when we don't feel your presence. Today we pray especially for those who feel so alone, and who long for some comforting presence. We pray for children who do not know loving parents or other caregivers, for those who are abused in body, mind and spirit. We pray for parents and caregivers that they may know the peace and love and strength that you give to each of us. May we continue to grow in our love for those whom the world is forsaking, so that we become better bearers of your peace and love, wherever we are and at all times?

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

(Prepared by Edna Wagschal, member of Mission: Growth Committee)

Located in this month's Bulletin you will find the Lutheran Family Services In-Kind Gift's Need Sheet. Please post this in your church so you can bring donations to our North Carolina Synodical Women's Annual Gathering at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory. Also, May's Bulletin will contain a Lutheran Family Services Donations form. Have your unit fill one out before you came to the Gathering. It will save time for you and for our volunteers. Next month we will let you know where the LFS tent will be located at the university.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DELEGATE

Each Congregational/Intercongregational/Special Unit may send one delegate to convention. There is no limit to the number of women who may register to attend as visitors.

The delegate should read all material sent to her, which will allow her to become familiar with business and elections that will be conducted.

Other responsibilities include:

- Attend the Delegate Orientation that will be held prior to the opening session of the convention
- Be present at all convention sessions
- Be seated in the section reserved for **DELEGATES ONLY**
- Participate in all other activities offered during the convention – for example, awareness sessions, worship, etc.
- Take notes that will allow you to report on the convention when you return to your CU
- Report on election results, business that was voted upon, budget that was adopted, as well as other facts and ideas that you gained as a result of attending



LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES

Each year, we collect needed items and gift cards for the children, families, special needs adults, refugees and homeless veterans served by Lutheran Family Services in the Carolinas (LFS Carolinas). We bring these items to the 24th NC Gathering of the Women of the ELCA, which will be held this year June 10-12, 2011, at Lenoir-Rhyne University. LFS Carolinas' staff will be there to assist in unloading our contributions.

Items do not need to be packaged in kits or in any specific combination. If, however, you would like to package your collection, here are some ideas for containers: backpacks, gym bags, laundry baskets, paper bags, or boxes. Also, if you plan to donate gift cards, please be sure to indicate the dollar amount on the gift card.

In lieu of bringing donated items, you may also consider making a generous financial contribution to LFS Carolinas. Your gift provides hope to someone in crisis by helping LFS reach out to people who otherwise fall through the cracks of the traditional human services system.

Thank you for your continued support of LFS Carolinas!

MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT

Thousands of vulnerable people in the Carolinas need your help. Your gift, multiplied with the gifts of others, goes to work immediately to help children in crisis, adults with special needs, refugees, homeless veterans, and families struggling to recover from man-made and natural disasters.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Suggested Container: backpack

- 2-inch loose leaf notebook
- Pencil bag
- Notebook dividers
- Notebook paper (college ruled)
- Pencils & pens
- Spiral Notebooks
- Pocket folders
- Paperback dictionary
- Markers or colored pencils
- Youth Bible

CLEANING SUPPLIES

Suggested Container: laundry basket

- Dishwasher and dish detergent
- Laundry detergent & stain remover
- Dishcloths & towels
- Sponge or scrub brush
- All purpose liquid or powdered cleanser
- Glass cleaner
- Wood cleaner
- Bible

PERSONAL SUPPLIES

Suggested Container: duffle bag or small suitcase

- Washcloth & towel
- Toothpaste, toothbrush & dental floss
- Deodorant
- Soap
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Hand lotion
- Shaving supplies
- Hairbrush & comb
- Bible

Women of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION



June 10-12, 2011

Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC

Registration due April 30, 2011

DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORM

North Carolina Women of the ELCA Gathering 2011 ~ Women Of Faith With Arms Wide Open

Delegate's Name _____ Telephone _____
 Address _____ City _____ Zip _____
 E-Mail Address _____
 Congregation _____ Conference _____
 Church City _____
 Roommate _____ Dorm Preference _____ Living Learning Center
 _____ Fritz/Conrad _____ None

Check here if this will be your 1st SWO Gathering ___ * Note: Dorm preference honored based on availability.
 Complete the following if your child, T.A.G.G., or T.G.I.F. will be staying with you:

CHILD CARE FOR AGES 10 AND YOUNGER will be available during the Business & Awareness Sessions Friday and Saturday.

Child's Name: _____ Age: _____ (There is no lodging charge for children under 6.)

"T.A.G.G." Name _____ "T.G.I.F." Name _____

T.A.G.G. (Totally Awesome Groupies for God) ages 11-14 & T.G.I.F. (Teens Gathering in Faith) girls ages 15-19.

(You must complete additional registration form and return by March 15 for Early Bird discount.)

Check here if you need 1st floor because of a physical condition _____

Check here if you need a sign interpreter for the gathering _____

Would you be interested in singing in the choir on Sunday morning? _____ Soprano or Alto

Do you play an instrument that you would be willing to play at Sunday Worship? _____

What Instrument? _____ How many years experience? _____

ROOMMATES MUST MAIL REGISTRATIONS TOGETHER!

ENTIRE WEEKEND (\$155.00-lodging included)	\$ _____
SATURDAY ONLY (Registration and Lunch) (\$45.00)	\$ _____
SATURDAY ONLY (Registration, Lunch & Dinner(\$55.00)	\$ _____
COMMUTER (Registration & five (5) meals) (\$80.00)	\$ _____
CHILD'S LODGING (Ages 6 -10) (\$45.00)	\$ _____
CHILD'S MEALS (5) ages 2-10 if applicable(\$16.75)	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

REFUNDS will only be made if extenuating circumstances occur and only after written request to the SWO Treasurer and approval by the SWO Board. Refund requests must be received in writing or via email by June 25.

NON-REFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE (\$20.00)

A check for the correct amount must be included. Make check payable to NC Women of the ELCA.

Mail To: Jean Beaver, 1963 13th Street NE, Hickory, NC 28601

(828-327-2490) jean.beaver@lr.edu

CRITERIA FOR RECOGNITION AS A CONGREGATIONAL UNIT

- * Agrees to the Statement of Purpose of the Women of the ELCA
- * Agrees to come together to fulfill the purpose
- * Agrees to participate in the program activities of Women of the ELCA beyond the congregation
- * Agrees to support financially the total program of Women of the ELCA
- * Agrees to designate leadership that shall be in communication with the Synodical women's organization and Churchwide women's organization

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Amount Received _____ Date Received _____



June 10-12, 2011

Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC

Registration due May 10, 2011

**T.A.G.G (Totally Awesome Groupies for God)
T.G.I.F. (Teens Gathering in Faith)
REGISTRATION FORM**

North Carolina Women of the ELCA Gathering 2011 ~ Women of Faith With Arms Wide Open

TAGG or TGIF Name _____ Age _____
Parent/Guardian Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ Email _____
City _____ Zip _____
Congregation _____ Church City _____
Conference _____
Roommate _____ Dorm Preference _____

- TAGGs and TGIFs eat/sleep with their mothers while at the Gathering. I would like to stay in Living Learning Center with other moms and their TAGGs and TGIFs. Circle one: YES NO
- Registration is required by May 10, 2011.
- Absolutely NO walk-ins due to supplies that must be pre-purchased.
- This program will be offered for girls **11-19** years of age.
- List any health conditions that the adult staff will need to know _____
- List any allergies and specific medications the adult staff will need to know (You must provide meds)
- Would you be interested in singing in the Choir on Sunday morning? _____ Soprano or Alto
- Do you play an instrument that you would be willing to play at Sunday Worship? _____
- What instrument? _____ How many years experience? _____

ROOMMATES MUST MAIL REGISTRATIONS TOGETHER!

ENTIRE WEEKEND (\$105.00-lodging included)	\$ _____
SATURDAY ONLY (Registration and Lunch) (\$20.00)	\$ _____
SATURDAY ONLY (Registration, Lunch & Dinner(\$25.00)	\$ _____
COMMUTER (Registration and five (5) meals) (\$45.00)	\$ _____
TOTAL	\$ _____

***\$40.00 discount from Leadership Committee & \$10.00 discount from Gathering/Planning Committee

Refunds will only be made if extenuating circumstances occur and only after written request to the SWO Treasurer and approval by the SWO Board. Refund requests must be received in writing or via email by June 25.
NONREFUNDABLE REGISTRATION FEE (\$20.00).

A check for the correct amount must be included. Make check payable to NC Women of the ELCA.

**Mail To: Jean Beaver, 1963 13th Street NE, Hickory, NC 28601
(828-327-2490) jean.beaver@lr.edu**

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE

Amount Received _____ Date Received _____

Young Woman Gifted and Blessed

*Application to be a Guest
North Carolina Women of the ELCA Gathering
Lenoir-Rhyne University
June 10-12, 2011*

Name of applicant: _____

Please print.

Address: _____ City: _____

Zip Code: _____ Email: _____

Telephone: _____ Age: _____

School? Yes No Where: _____

Reasons why I would like to attend and ways I would like to be involved:

Nominated by Congregational Unit:

Name of church: _____ City: _____

CU President: _____

Address: _____

Conference: _____ Date this form was sent: _____

Brief statement giving the reason for nominating this young woman:

Nominee must be between the ages of 20 and 35. Return this completed form by US mail or email no later than April 1, 2011 to:

**Sherry Grissino
1759 Stoney Creek Church Rd
Burlington, NC 27217-9410
Email: shegrissino@gmail.com**



*Women of Faith
With Arms Wide Open*

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage Paid
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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