

NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

www.ncwelca.org

BULLETIN, December 2011

*Luke 2:10 - 14 " . . . a great and joyful event that is meant for everyone worldwide:
A Savior has just been born . . . , a Savior who is Messiah and Master. . .
Glory to God in the heavenly heights, Peace to all men and women on earth . . . "*

Dear Sisters in Christ,

During this Christmas season, I encourage you to relish the excitement and hubbub that is part of this time of year, but also take time to enjoy and to reflect in amazement on the 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.

Share this *Bulletin*:

In this *Bulletin* you will find information from the committees of the NC Women of the ELCA. Use these ideas as you plan the events, projects, bible studies, activities and the focus for yourself and your congregational unit. Share the information in the *Bulletin* with all of the other participants – email it, put it in your church newsletter, post it on your unit's Women of the ELCA *Bulletin* board, or make copies. Be sure each woman gets this information. Additionally, anyone not currently receiving the *Bulletin* can be added to the e-mail list by contacting Sue Misenheimer, our secretary.

In this issue you will find:

Mission: Community

Taste those M&M's - Mission Morsels

- ❖ December 1 is **World AIDS Day**
- ❖ Do you know **when Advent is?**
"The Colors of Christmas: A Reflection on Preparing for Christmas" is a wonderful downloadable resource you can use as a program.
- ❖ Here are some fun **suggestions to include in your Christmas celebration**

Mission: Action

- ❖ **Help the environment:** here are tips on replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs to save money and energy
- ❖ Read the update on the **changes to the Lutheran World Relief Parish Projects**

Mission: Growth

- ❖ A **prayer** for your use.
- ❖ **Happy New Year** – Advent begins the new church year.
- ❖ Check out some **resources available** to you

- ❖ Plan now to attend the **One-day Retreat on February 18 - "Renew your Spirit, Respond with Love, Rejoice in the Lord"**. The retreat will be held at locations in **each of the 15 Conferences** – each on the same day at the same time.
- ❖ Blue Christmas — One Mind Mental Illness Ministry
- ❖ Put March 23-25, 2012, on your calendar; it's the **Spring Retreat at the Beach**.
- * *Note to One Day Retreat Leaders and Host congregations* – Maxine Amos **Wants and Needs** your contact information.

Gathering Planning

- ❖ The **25th "Anniversary" Gathering** of the NC Synodical Women's Organization is less than seven months away, June 22 - 24, 2012. The planning committee updates you on the plans and reminds you that they need your help to **locate the last of the banners** from the past 24 years.
- ❖ Begin now to determine **who will be the delegate to the Gathering from your unit**. Agree now that **the unit should pay her way**. How about sending someone along with her?

Nomination Forms and Job Descriptions

- ❖ At our Gathering in June we will **elect a synodical President, a Treasurer, and four Board Members**. There are so many bright and committed women throughout our synod who would do such a good job as an officer or board member with our organization. In this *Bulletin* you will find the forms so you may **nominate those women**. You will also find the **job descriptions** to help you match the talented women you know with just the right Women of the ELCA positions.

Churchwide

- ❖ Does your unit need a financial boost to move efforts forward on a health initiative to "Raise Up Healthy Women and Girls?" The **Seed Grant Program** has a total of \$50,000 available with a maximum grant of \$1,000 for any one unit. The **deadline to apply is December 15**. See the womenoftheelca.org website for details and to download an application.

- ❖ December 15 begins the **scholarship application** period for ELCA women pursuing ordained ministry, administration and management. See the womenofheelca.org website for details.

Pray with your sisters around the synod **each Monday at noon**. Just stop for a few minutes to pray for all the many projects in which we are all involved and remember those who might need a special prayer on that particular Monday 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
sadj@bellsouth.net

M&M's -- "MISSION MORSELS"

from

MISSION: COMMUNITY COMMITTEE

WORLD AIDS DAY – December 1: The United Nations' (UN) World AIDS Day is held on December 1 each year to honor the victims of the AIDS pandemic and focus attention on the prevention and treatment of HIV and AIDS related conditions. AIDS is a condition resulting from damage done to the human immune system by HIV. It affects tens of millions of people around the world.

What can we do?

World AIDS Day is the focal point of the World AIDS Campaign, which is active all year round. During the days and weeks leading up to World AIDS Day, there is often a lot of coverage of the condition in the media and fundraising for AIDS and HIV-related charities. In addition, health education campaigns aiming to reduce the transmission of HIV and discrimination of people living with HIV and AIDS are often launched on or around December 1.

On World AIDS Day, many community, national and international leaders issue proclamations on supporting and treating people living with HIV and AIDS and stimulating research into the treatment of these conditions. Local communities may hold events to remember and honor members who have died of AIDS-related conditions or exhibitions around the subject. A particularly well-known example is the AIDS Memorial Quilt. This project allows friends or family members of a person who has died of AIDS to construct a quilt panel. The panels are then exhibited all over the United States.

Advent: In Western Christianity, [Advent](#) begins on the fourth Sunday prior to [Christmas](#) Day, or the Sunday which falls closest to November 30, and lasts through Christmas Eve, or December 24. When Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday, it is the last or fourth Sunday of Advent.



The Colors of Christmas: A Reflection on Preparing for Christmas

Our celebrations are often sprinkled with seasonal traditions that bring us joy and remind us of times gone by or people who have graced our lives. Do you know where or when your traditions began and the meaning behind them? This resource takes a look at the some of the customs around Christmas. [Download](http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/All-our-resources/Resources-alpha.aspx) your **free** copy at <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/All-our-resources/Resources-alpha.aspx>

HERE ARE FUN WAYS TO CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

1. Get a group together to create a living nativity scene one night a week in front of your church.
2. Get together with friends to look at each other's family photos from past Christmases.
3. Make hot cocoa & cookies for your grandparents or go to a local nursing home and ask them about Christmases past and their favorite traditions.
4. Offer free babysitting for a busy mom in your church while she goes shopping.
5. Form a Kazoo band and go caroling NO singing allowed.

**Merry Christmas to You
from MISSION COMMUNITY.**

A PRAYER FOR DECEMBER

Great and wondrous God, you are our creator and our keeper of the world. We thank you and praise you for all your gifts of love, forgiveness and mercy. We can never say enough in praise of your perfect love for us.

Thank you for being the perfect example for us and for sending Jesus to us.

Grant us wisdom that we have the strength and courage to walk in that wisdom. Give us the wisdom day by day according to our need. We need wisdom to see what our faith and love ought to be doing and give us energy and enthusiasm to do it joyfully.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

Prepared by Geraldine Aldridge, Mission: Growth Committee Member



GATHERING PLANNING COMMITTEE

Women of the ELCA in North Carolina are going to be surprised and delighted at some of the new changes and special events our team of hard-working, dedicated women have planned to make your 25th Anniversary Annual Gathering one you will never forget.

To those of you who took the time to fill out your evaluation forms, Thank You. This input has been most helpful in gauging your preferences; and also your concerns. We have attempted to implement this information into our planning process in such a manner as to please all. Some of you offered great ideas that we have been able to incorporate.

We would like to do a walk down memory lane. Already, we have all the GPR's, almost all the banners, some tote bags with logos and the list of Past Presidents. If you have anything of interest along these lines, we would be delighted to borrow it. Photos would be wonderful to add to your memory experience. Just contact Melanie Denny: pageantoma1@aol.com, or Phyllis Myers: phylma@suddenlink.com.

Once again, we are blessed to have Ada Smith (you met her last year) serve as our Music Director. She and the committee have been very busy picking hymns that you all know and love, and adding some more contemporary music as well. One hint is that stretch breaks are going to be FUN!

There are going to be different awareness sessions; one that will even run the entire week-end. There will be

things for you to experience from the moment you arrive until you pack your car to head home. Make sure you look for registration forms at Committee Day II and in upcoming *Bulletins*. You don't want to miss out on this event-filled, blessed Gathering!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year! Yes, Advent is the beginning of the new church year on our liturgical church calendar. What does advent mean? Some may say that it means start, beginning or approach. It is a time of preparation, waiting and anticipation of the coming of our Lord, the birth of Jesus Christ when we celebrate Christmas. As we wait for His coming, do you begin to feel anxious? One may ask, "Why are we not singing Christmas hymns in church because we hear them on the airways?" Yet, we are told, "Not yet". We are waiting for His coming and the hymns should be comforting and strengthening.

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have a new resource for use during the Advent Season. It is "*A Different Kind of Journey: Advent as a Walk, Not a Sprint*". It was written by Sonia Solomonson for use by units, conferences and synodical women's organizations. Also, it may be used by individuals, families and congregations.

As you make this journey, follow Mary's example and ponder things in your heart as you await the coming of Jesus Christ. In the study there are practices to explore: reclaim Advent from commercialized experiences, reflect on Advent hymns, affirm justice in the world of injustice, yearn for hope and deliverance, journaling, Advent art, and create your own Advent calendar. Whatever you do, it is the inner journey we take to become Christbearers that is meaningful.

This resource may be downloaded and reproduced by visiting this website: www.welca.org
(Prepared by Mission: Growth Committee based on materials from Women of the ELCA)



**March Board Meeting – changed to
March 30-31 at Kimball-Kannapolis**

OTHER RESOURCES FROM WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Lucinda Pins– These are custom pins for Women of the ELCA. The pin tells the story of women of various ages, ethnicities, physical characteristics and personalities. The proceeds from the purchase of the pins benefit the Women of the ELCA grants program. These grants support projects that assist women and their families here at home and around the world to become stronger and healthier.

- ❖ **Welcome to Women of the ELCA brochure**– This brochure is perfect for new members and outreach efforts.
- ❖ **Living From the Heart of God** – This is a new journal from Women of the ELCA for women of all ages. It offers reflections, devotions and prayers on the many life stages and experiences of women.

Mission Action: Environment

This:



Not this:



Sometimes to help the environment, we may have to spend some money! In these times, that is not an easy thing to say but nevertheless just spending the money to begin replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) will save money and energy in the long run. Here are some facts to consider:

CFL bulbs last up to 10 years, use 75% less energy than incandescent, decrease your carbon footprint and can provide up to \$40 in energy savings.

If you are a Duke Energy customer, you can receive free CFL bulbs by going to this website: www.duke-energy.com/CFLsForFree. Watch for sales such as the one recently at Lowes hardware. Bulbs were sold in packs of 4 to 6 for \$1/bulb. Considering that one bulb often costs close to \$3.00 this is a deal!

If you want to know more about CFL bulbs or the newer LED bulbs try this website: www.eartheasy.com.

Kate Esch, Mission: Action

UPDATE ON LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF CHANGES TO THEIR PARISH PROJECTS

In 2010 Lutheran World Relief conducted an in-depth evaluation of its quilt and kit ministry. They interviewed more than 450 recipients of the parish projects, 21 overseas partner organizations and more than 1,000 of their dedicated quilters and kit-makers in the U.S. They determined that, overall, LWR quilts and kits are effective and that with a few small tweaks, they can do an even better job of meeting people's needs. All but the school kits have new names as well as new contents. Check the January through March SWO Bulletins for the reason for the changes in the other kits.



Lutheran World Relief Sewing Kits are now FABRIC KITS

Sewing is a valuable skill, one that leads to a reliable income for many women. Fabric Kits are used in vocational training programs, and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing businesses.

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, or strip of fabric.

Q: Why don't Fabric Kits have needles and buttons?

A: LWR's Fabric Kits are usually sent to sewing schools to train people to make clothing. Since the schools have sewing machines, providing fabric and thread is the most effective way to help students practice their skill. In many countries, buttons and other fasteners are not used on people's clothing.



BLUE CHRISTMAS

We are in the midst of the very busy Advent and Christmas time—The Holidays. There are many activities at church and in our homes. Plans are being made, cards written, food prepared, homes decorated and gifts purchased and wrapped. Hopefully we are also taking time to focus on the true meaning of Christmas as we prepare and look forward to celebrating the birth of Our Savior.

JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Job Title: Board Member, North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization Board

Purpose: The purpose of the position shall be to conduct the business of the SWO between conventions.

Responsibilities:

1. Chair or co-chair a synodical committee as directed by the President.
2. Perform other duties as the Board may from time to time direct (e.g. submit reports, write articles for the newsletter, lead workshops, and attend events.)

Time Required: The Board generally meets six times a year including two meetings held in conjunction with the convention. Preparation time could take 10 hours a month.

Length of Service: The term of office for this position is two years, with the person eligible for one re-election to the same position.

Qualification and Skills:

1. Be committed to the mission of the Women of the ELCA
2. Be an active participant of a unit of Women of the ELCA
3. Have the ability to organize, motivate and enable
4. Be able to travel for meetings on weekends

Job Title: President, North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization Board

Purpose: The purpose of this position shall be to ensure that all aspects of Women of the ELCA are administered and carried out according to the organization's constitution.

Responsibilities: Preside at all Conventions of the synodical women's organization and at meetings of the Board and Administrative Committee.

1. Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the Synodical Women's Organization are duly observed and that the actions thereof are carried into effect, and appoint all committees not otherwise provided for.
2. Be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Synodical Women's Organization except the Nominating Committee.
3. Assist secretary in notifying congregational units of the regular convention at least three months in advance and of a special convention at least one month in advance.
4. Submit a report of each regular convention of the Synodical Women's Organization concerning her work, with observations and recommendations affecting the Synodical Women's Organization.
5. Serve as liaison with the church wide women's organization and attend the meetings of the Conference of Synodical Presidents.
6. Represent the Synodical Women's organization, or appoint representative to inter-Lutheran and ecumenical association and councils in which the organization participates.
7. Serve as representative to the Synod Council or appoint a representative.

Time Required: The Board generally meets six times a year including two meetings held in conjunction with the convention. Preparation time could take from 10-15 hours a week.

Length of Service: The term of office for this position is two years with the person eligible for one re-election.

Qualifications and Skills:

1. Be committed to the mission of the women of the ELCA
2. Be an active participant of a unit of the women of the ELCA
3. Have the ability to organize, motivate and enable.

Job Title: Treasurer, North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization Board

Purpose: The purpose of this position shall be to handle accurately the financial actions of the synodical Women Organization.

Responsibilities:

1. Provide for the keeping of all records and be accountable for all funds.
2. Be responsible for disbursing funds in accordance with the financial policies of Women of the ELCA and the budget of the synodical women's organization.
3. Present a complete report, including an audit, to the synodical women's organization convention and an interim report at each Board and Administrative Committee meeting.

Article VIII -- Financial Matters

SECTION 1. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year and the budget year for this Synodical Women's Organization shall be February 1 through January 31.

SECTION 2. Annual Budget

Item 1. The annual budget shall include the synodical women's organizational program and operating costs and reflect the interdependent relationship between the synodical women's organization and the church wide women's organization.

Item 2. The proposed annual budget shall be presented to the church wide Women's Organization Executive Board for information prior to being submitted to the Synodical Women's Organization for adoption.

SECTION 3. Financial Reports

The Synodical Women's Organization Board shall provide annual financial reports to the congregational/intercongregational units within the organization.

SECTION 4. Remittances

Regular remittances to the church wide women's organization according to the established procedures shall reflect the interdependent relationship between the synodical women's organization and the church wide women's organization.

SECTION 5. Audit

An annual audit of the synodical women's organization's financial records shall be conducted by a certified public accountant.

Length of Service:

The treasurer is elected for a two-year term and eligible for re-election.

Time Required:

The time needed to do this job varies from day to day. A time line is not feasible. The treasurer meets the necessary duties and deadlines as they occur.

Qualifications and Skills:

1. Be committed to the mission of the Women of the ELCA
2. Be an active participant of a unit of the Women of the ELCA
3. Be able to keep financial records and to handle receipts and disbursements in an accurate and timely manner.

**EXPERIENCE beginning with the most RECENT.
List the experience in each area over the LAST 5 YEARS.**

WOMEN OF THE ELCA:

Congregational _____

Conference _____

Synodical Women's Organization _____

Churchwide Women's Organization _____

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

OTHER CHURCH EXPERIENCE:

Congregational _____

Synodical _____

Church-at-Large _____

Interdenominational _____

MISCELLANEOUS EXPERIENCE:

Occupational _____

Community Participation _____

Other _____

REASON FOR ACCEPTING NOMINATION:

