

NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

www.ncwelca.org

BULLETIN, SEPTEMBER 2011

Dear Sisters in Christ,

The committees of the NC Women of the ELCA met this past Saturday, August 20, at Our Saviours Lutheran Church in Southern Pines. Our meeting was exceptional. The committees worked to plan events, projects, bible studies, and so much more. There will be countless opportunities for you to participate – everything from spiritual growth to hands on service projects.

The “Bulletin” comes out for each month except July and August and is the major method of communicating with the congregational units or expressions. It can be received either by e-mail or by regular mail. You should be automatically receiving the “Bulletin” if you are a unit president, if you serve on a committee, if you are a conference leader, or if you are an officer or board member. Share the information in the “Bulletin” with all of the other participants – email it, put the information in your church newsletter, post it on you unit’s Women of the ELCA Bulletin board, or make copies. Do whatever you need to do to be sure each women gets this information. Additionally, anyone not currently receiving the “Bulletin” can be added to the e-mailing list by contacting Sue Misenheimer, our secretary.

The September issue of the “Bulletin” is always the largest and is full of so much information. Look through it carefully and keep it for reference.

In this issue you will find:

- **Minutes** from the 24th Annual North Carolina Synodical Women’s Organization Gathering held at Lenoir-Rhyne University
- **List of Officers and Board Members**
Each board member is a liaison to one or two conferences and is responsible for a committee. Those committee assignments are listed as well.
- **List of Committee Members**
The committees work with the goals for the year and plan for how we will carry our theme. If you aren’t already on a committee, consider your interests and talents, contact one of the board members, and becoming a part of their committee.

▪ **List of Conference Leaders**

Fall Gatherings will be held in each of the Conferences between October 1 and November 5 this year. A listing of all the conference gatherings is included in the Planning Calendar in this mailing and on line on our website www.ncwelca.org. If you are not sure which conference is yours just e-mail Linda Holden, Conference Coordinator, and she will let you know.

▪ **Planning Calendar for 2011-2012**

List of the dates of things to come for the next year – we will keep you posted of additions and changes

▪ **Mission: Community**

- ❖ Participate in the **International Day of Prayer for Peace** on September 21

▪ **Mission: Action**

- ❖ **Q and A** about what to do with the **green bags** for Lutheran World Relief Parish Projects Fall Collections in November
- Updates on the **Keeping the Promise** campaign

▪ **Mission: Growth**

- ❖ Explains just how and why **Giving Matters**.
- ❖ We are encouraged to use the wonderful bible study - **To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark** found in *Gather*
- ❖ Don’t miss the **Fall Gathering** in your conference. The **bible study** will be a special experience

▪ **Conference Coordinator/Offering Interpretations**

- ❖ Just a reminder about all that will be happening at the **Fall Conference Gatherings**. Be a part of your Conference Gatherings. Since conferences cover a smaller geographic area, it’s easier for you to attend, and they are a great opportunity for “engaging in ministry and action” and fellowship. They really are fun!

■ Theological Seminar for Women

- ❖ Don't let the term "theology" scare you. Plan now to be a part of this event. Share the information and the seminar brochure with your sisters, and register soon to **“Participate as Women in the Holy Spirit’s Walk”!**

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.

And lastly, continue to focus on our current theme **Women of Faith, With Arms Wide Open.**

Grace and peace,

Sharon Johnson

NC Women of the ELCA President

UNITED IN PRAYER FOR PEACE

What will you be doing on September 21st? I pray that you will be participating or reflecting on the **International Day of Prayer for Peace**. Churches and communities throughout the world will be coming together through prayer, meditation and other forms of spiritual observance. It is an opportunity for church communities in all places to pray and act together to nurture lasting peace in the hearts of people, their families, communities and societies.

The idea of the International Day of Prayer for Peace is one of the initiatives of the World Council of Churches (WCC). It was proposed at a 2004 meeting between WCC general secretary Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia and UN secretary general Kofi Annan. The WCC’s invitation to pray for peace on 21 September, or the closest Sunday, coincides with a United Nations’ initiative that encourages “global 24-hour spiritual observation for peace,” which “is meant to demonstrate the power of prayer and other spiritual practices in promoting

peace and preventing violent conflict.”

The following links are some resources of information & suggestions of ways to participate in the International Day of Prayer for Peace:

<http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Decade-for-Nonviolence/International-Day-of-Prayer-for-Peace.aspx>,

<http://www.overcomingviolence.org/en/decade-to-overcome-violence/about-dov/international-day-of-prayer-for-peace/resources.html>,

<http://www.onearthpeace.org/resources>,

<http://internationaldayofpeace.org/>.

May Peace Prevail on Earth.

BIBLE STUDY 2011-2012

To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark is the title of the Bible Study presented in *Gather* (new name for *Lutheran Woman Today*). This is a nine-session study of the Gospel of Mark. It includes the life of Jesus, his death and resurrection.

Themes that will be addressed are: the identity of Jesus, the nature of discipleship, the meaning of the kingdom of God, the tension between understanding and not understanding, hope of the promises of God and the resurrection. These are questions one may consider during the study: 1) Who is this Jesus? 2) What does it mean to follow him? 3) How does God’s will affect our lives today? 4) Why doesn’t everyone turn and follow this Christ? 5) What does Jesus’ resurrection from the dead mean for us today? (Taken from the study)

The theme verse for the year is ***Take heart; get up, [Jesus] is calling you. Mark 10: 49b.*** This study is a study of good news for all. Remember, the Holy Spirit can speak through all.

GIVING MATTERS

For unto whosoever much is given, of him shall much be required. **Luke 12:48b**

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly; he who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. **2 Corinthians 9: 6**

God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. **2 Corinthians 9:8**

How did /do you feel when you read or hear these words? Most people feel uncomfortable when money or finances are mentioned. Why so? The Bible has a lot to say about money.

It is the subject of nearly half of the parables Jesus told. It has been reported that one of every seven verses in the New Testament deals with this topic. Scripture offers 500 verses on prayer, fewer than 500 on faith, and more than 2,000 verses dealing with the subject of money.

Could our uncomfortable feelings be because of the abuse in this area? Could this misrepresentation of God cause us to feel uncomfortable?

Let us remember that the Bible says a lot about giving and there are many promises attached to it. Yes, giving matters.

Evidence was shown throughout the Women of the ELCA Convention and Gathering. In the Mission Statement we read that women will grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Through the giving of women, we saw how these gifts were at work. *Gather* (called *Lutheran Woman Today* prior to September), *Café* are two publications that provide Bible studies, articles and features that challenge readers to grow in their faith. Programs and resources have been developed or written by Women of the ELCA and their production is supported by offerings which allow them to be free for use by participants in the organization. Delegates to the triennial convention who came to conduct the business were supported by offerings. Academic scholarships for undergraduate and graduate study have been available to women ranging in age from 21-72. This funding has provided support in helping them to accept calls to serve in churches and communities. Two churches in North Carolina received grants through the Raising Healthy Women and Girls Initiative. These grants are given to educate women to care for themselves

emotionally, physically and spiritually. There is partnering with ecumenical groups across the country and the globe. Through the partnerships we are a key voice in the faith community's responses to many issues involving women and children. Non-profit organizations receive grants that promote healing and wholeness.

*Seeing the work of the gifts of many women throughout the ELCA, yes, **GIVING MATTERS.***

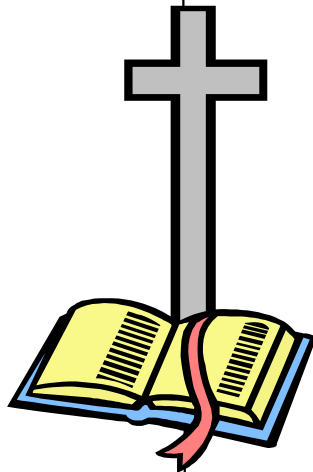
WOMEN of the ELCA and the *KEEPING THE PROMISE* (KTP) CAMPAIGN

At the Women of the ELCA Gathering in June, Lutheran Services for the Aging (LSA) announced that the Women of the ELCA had at that time raised \$30,645 from 58 expressions for the *Keeping the Promise* campaign. If your expression would like to participate, please send all pledges, payments and/or gifts to LSA, P.O. Box 947, Salisbury, NC 28145. Please be sure to write your Women of the ELCA expression name and *Keeping the Promise* on your submission. If you have any questions or would like to request a *Keeping the Promise* Women of the ELCA brochure and pledge form, please contact Emily Phillips, Capital Campaign

Director at 1-866-855-3967 ext. 01032 or ephillips@lsanc.net.

JUST A REMINDER!

In the next few weeks the Fall Conference Gatherings will be taking place. Oct. 1—Nov 5 will be a busy time. More than 700 participants will be attending the conference gatherings throughout the synod. The offering taken at the gatherings will be going to the Nazareth Children's Home (visit their website at nazch.com), and the pennies continue to go to ELCA Good Gifts Program offering micro loans to women starting new businesses. The gatherings will have a Service of Remembering giving participants an opportunity to honor Sister's In Christ who have died in the past year and make contributions to the Christine Bohr Anderson scholarship fund in "memory of" or in "honor of" a sister.



Minutes from the:

N.C. Synodical Women's Organization Women of the ELCA Twenty-Fourth Annual Gathering June 10 – 12, 2011 Lenoir-Rhyne University

Friday evening, June 10 – First Meeting

Sherry Grissino led the delegate orientation which was followed by the singing of our opening hymn. President Sharon Johnson opened the Twenty-Fourth Annual Gathering of the North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization. Phyllis Myers introduced our chaplain for the weekend, the Rev. Ruth Ann Sipe. Rev. Sipe then led us in devotions.

The Cabarrus/Stanly Conference presented a welcome skit.

Sandra Cline brought greetings for Lenoir-Rhyne University. She pointed out a new feature on the campus which is a statue of Martin Lutheran. Sandra also brought greetings for Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

Tammy Jones West brought greetings from the North Carolina Synod.

Phyllis Myers and Kathy Wallace presented the Gathering Program and Reports (GPR). There was one correction noted. It was moved, seconded and passed that the Gathering Program and Reports be adopted, as revised, and that the President be able to make any further adjustments, as needed, to the agenda. The introduction of the Gathering Committees and the Chairperson of each committee was made by the Secretary, Kiana Sinz. Jane Cadwallader presented "Everything you ever wanted to know about your weekend on Campus."

Ballot for Vice-President

Toni Neal, chair of the Credentials Committee, announced the following in attendance: delegates 70, visitors 56, Young Women Gifted and Blessed (YWGaB) 3, Teens Gathering in Faith (TGIF) 3, Totally Awesome Groupies for God (TAGG) 8, guests 8, clergy 3, NC Synodical Officers 4, NC Executive Board Members 8, CWO Representative 1, children 4, for a total of 168.

Tamarah Hefner and Jane Cadwallader, co-chairs for the Committee on Nominations, on behalf of the committee, proposed the names of Susan Harris and Kathy

Wallace for a two-year term as Vice President of the NC SWO. There being no further nominations, the vote was taken by ballot following a prayer for guidance by Rev. Sipe. Teller Team One collected and counted the ballots.

Brandi Honeycutt, from the Leadership Committee, introduced our YWGaB. They are Rachel Birkedal, Kathryn Riley, Ashleigh Gray and Lana Lange.

Glenn Deal brought greetings from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Kathy Wallace introduced our CWO Representative, Sydney (Syd) Brinkman. Syd gave greetings from the Executive Board of the Church Wide Organization (CWO) and from her Synodical Women's Organization. She mentioned that there are several items on the national web site to help with Bible studies and information to help us to grow.

Following a song, the offering was received. Half was designated for the Malaria initiative and half for the CWO.

Debbie Troutman, chair of the Elections Committee, announced the results of the balloting for Vice-President: 81 ballots cast, 0 illegal ballots, 81 legal ballots, 41 needed to elect. Susan Harris received 61 votes and Kathy Wallace received 20. Susan Harris was declared Vice-President.



Ballot for Secretary

Toni Neal, chair of the Credentials Committee, announced the following in attendance: delegates 70, visitors 56, Young Women Gifted and Blessed (YWGaB) 3, Teens Gathering in Faith (TGIF) 3, Totally Awesome Groupies for God (TAGG) 8, guests 8, clergy 3, NC Synodical Officers 4, NC Executive Board Members 8, CWO Representative 1, children 4, for a total of 168.

Tamarah Hefner and Jane Cadwallader, co-chairs for the Committee on Nominations, on behalf of the committee, proposed the name of Sue Misenheimer for a two year term as secretary. Being no other nominations, the vote was taken by ballot following a prayer for guidance by Rev. Sipe. Teller Team Two collected and counted the ballots.

Myra Griffie, Chief Operating Officer for Lutheran Family Services brought greetings. She thanked us for all the in-kind gifts that were brought this 39

Myra Griffie, Chief Operating Officer for Lutheran Family Services brought greetings. She thanked us for all the in-kind gifts that were brought this weekend.

Sharon Johnson read greetings from Central States SWO, our ELCA Synod Partner. Sharon then recognized the first delegate, Michele Clancy, and our first visitor, Janet Sellars, to register for the Annual Gathering. She also introduced some special participants, Beth Wrenn, Susie Sipe and Cathy Sell who are past presidents of the NC SWO.

We closed the evening with a hymn. Personal and/or group devotions followed in the residence halls.



Saturday, June 11 — Second Meeting

The business meeting resumed with the singing of a hymn, following a Bible Study by Rev. Ruth Ann Sipe.

Emily Phillips from Lutheran Services for the Aging brought greetings. She reported that so far we have pledged \$30,645 of the \$40,000 we were challenged to raise for the Keeping the Promise capital campaign. Trinity Grove, a new facility, was opened in Wilmington on June 6 with two clients.

Ballot for Board Members

Debbie Troutman, chair of the Elections Committee, announced the results of the balloting for secretary: 73 ballots cast, 0 illegal ballots, 73 legal ballots, 37 needed to elect. Sue Misenheimer received 73 votes. Sue Misenheimer was declared Secretary.

Toni Neal, chair of the Credentials Committee, announced the following in attendance: delegates 80, visitors 70, Young Women Gifted and Blessed (YWGaB) 4, Teens Gathering in Faith (TGIF) 5, Totally Awesome Groupies for God (TAGG) 8, guests 28, clergy 3, NC Synodical Officers 4, NC Executive Board Members 8, CWO Representative 1, children 5, for a total of 196.

Tamarah Hefner and Jane Cadwallader, co-chairs for the Committee on Nominations, on behalf of the committee, proposed the names of Judy Gainey, Brandi Honeycutt, Denise Ramsey, Kiana Sinz and Bobbie Slaughter. Leslie Pipan and Melanie Denny were nominated from the floor to run for board. Being no further nominations, the vote was taken by ballot following a prayer for guidance by Rev. Sipe. Teller Team One collected and counted the ballots.

Sherry Grissino introduced Jennie Zima and Debra Weinel who were working with the TAGGs and the TGIFs.

Donna Prunkl introduced our keynote speaker, the Rev. Kristina Johnson Palacios, at which time she delivered her message.

The offering was received which, again, will be divided between CWO and to the malaria ELCA Campaign. Rev. Sipe led us in Prayer.

Deborah Williams brought greetings from Motherhood. She read a story to us and we sang along with the story. Sharon Johnson presented her a check for \$3,677.46.

Susan Harris, Vice-President, assumed the chair as Sharon Johnson gave the report of the President. Sharon highlighted some of the many things she has done this year. Among other things, she attended several Fall and Spring Gatherings and wrote articles for the *Bulletin* and *Carolina Vine*.

Dale Nettin brought greetings from the Lutheran Men in Mission. He told us that their Churchwide convention will be in Colorado in July.

Pastor Jan Setzler brought greetings from Lutheridge/Lutherock. They now have two new camps, Luther Ranch in Georgia and Luther Spring in Florida.

Meagan Downey brought greetings from the Lutheran Youth Organization.

Shirley Damon brought greetings from North Carolina Church Women United. They will have their 70th convention in Atlantic City, NJ on December 1 – 2, 2011. Karen Mitchell presented Shirley with a check for \$500.

Karen Mitchell, Treasurer, presented the Budget for 2012-2013. The information was on pages 74 through 77 in the GPR. On behalf of the Executive Board, Karen made a motion to adopt the 2012-2013 budget. The motion was approved.

Melissa Jernigan, Triennial Gathering Promoter, reminded us that it is not too late to register for the Triennial Gathering in Spokane, Washington, and encouraged others to make plans to attend.



Saturday, June 10 — Third Meeting

Debbie Troutman, chair of the Elections Committee, announced the results of the balloting for board: 92 ballots, 46 needed to elect. Judy Gainey 43 votes, Brandi Honeycutt 68 votes, Denise Ramsey 59 votes, Kiana Sinz 63 votes, Bobbie Slaughter 41 votes, Melanie Denny 54 votes and Leslie Pipan 39 votes. Sharon declared that Brandi Honeycutt, Denise Ramsey, Kiana Sinz and Melanie Denny were elected SWO Board Members for a two-year term.

Melanie Denny, chair of the Resolutions Committee, presented a Resolution of Appreciation for all the work the NC Women of the ELCA does.

Toni Neal, chair of the Credentials Committee, announced the following in attendance: delegates 80, visitors 75, Young Women Gifted and Blessed (YWGaB) 4, Teens Gathering in Faith (TGIF) 5, Totally Awesome Groupies for God (TAGG) 9, guests 20, clergy 3, NC Synodical Officers 4, NC Executive Board Members 8, CWO Representative 1, children 7, for a total of 216.

Sharon Johnson presented a report of the SWO Board. The Board members participated with singing an original song about their individual roles.

Doris Roof brought greetings and gave a report from the Patterson Memorial Committee. They have changed the deadline for the scholarship from May to June 25th.

Diana Graham, chair of the Committee on the Report of the President, requested the report be submitted for information.

Janet Creasy, chair of the Committee on the Minutes, requested that the minutes be approved, and that the balance of the minutes be approved by the president and secretary.

Toni Neal, chair of the Credentials Committee, announced the following in attendance: delegates 80, visitors 75, Young Women Gifted and Blessed (YWGaB) 4, Teens Gathering in Faith (TGIF) 5, Totally Awesome Groupies for God (TAGG) 9, guests 20, clergy 3, NC Synodical Officers 4, NC Executive Board Members 8, CWO Representative 1, children 7, for a total of 216.

The amounts for the in-kinds gifts for Lutheran Family Services were reported as follows: items \$4,127.00, cash \$734.00 for a total of \$4,861.00.

There was also \$4,804.92 collected in the 2010 pennies project.

Cornelia Briggs brought greetings from Apage+Kure Beach Ministries. They will be having their 2nd Annual Quilt Auction on Saturday, October 29, 2011 at 4:00 P.M. at Camp Agape.

Janet Meisenbach brought greetings from the Book of Faith Task Force. She encourages more use of the Bible and Bible study. She mentioned the use of the Spark Bible Study for kids.

Gelene Lineberger gave a report on the Christine L. Bohr-Anderson Scholarship. There was only one applicant this year, Cynthia Hughes, and she received \$622.

Tamarah Hefner presented information on our Today's Dream Tomorrow's Reality team. We have 8 persons trained to bring this information to groups of any size. Tamarah recognized Sharon Johnson, Maxine Amos, Gail Starr, Phyllis Myers and Karin O'Donnell who are all members of the TDTR team.

Miriam Cooke, PhD. presented a brief overview of Islam. She will be leading an awareness session on Islam.

After singing a hymn we were adjourned to attend the awareness sessions. The awareness sessions can be found on pages 15 through 18 in the GPR.

Saturday, June 10

Saturday evening entertainment was a mix of several different groups. The Reformation Polka was presented by the Board members, Mission Community presented a Mission Morsels fashion show, the TGIFs did a couple of impromptu skits and the evening finished with a wonderful show by Kim Sheeks doing "Hats off to Women". Dorm devotions were held in the residence halls. TAGG's did a planned skit.

Sunday, June 12

A service of Holy Communion was led by Rev. Ruth Ann Sipe. The Rev. Doctor Leonard Bolick, Bishop of the N.C. Synod, delivered the sermon. Syd Brinkman recognized and thanked the retiring officers and board members. She installed the newly elected officers and board members for 2011-2012. There being no further business to come before the assembly, the Twenty-Fourth Annual Gathering of the North Carolina Women's Organization was closed by Sharon Johnson.

Kiana Sinz, *Secretary*

THEOLOGICAL SEMINAR FOR WOMEN

November 11-12, 2011
(Friday at 6:30 pm until Saturday at 3:30 pm)

Hampton Inn-Salisbury for those needing overnight accommodations (See registration form for details.)

Don't let the term "theology" scare you. The dictionary defines it as "the study of God's relation to the world."

Our theme is "Participating as Women in the Holy Spirit's Walk" so join your sisters in Christ for a time of exploration into the Holy Spirit's influence on the lives of today's women. Dr. Lois Malcolm, author and educator from Minnesota, is our leader.

Please include this information in your congregational communication and share the brochure (attached) with your units. This will be a wonderful event.



Fall Gathering Bible Study

Are you making plans to attend your Fall Conference Gathering? If so, you are in for a wonderful experience with the Bible Study that has been prepared by members of the Mission: Growth Committee members, Karen Birkedal and Edna Wagschal. The title is "With Strong Hands and Outstretched Arms". Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Big Green Bags Q and A

Q – Our delegate to the annual gathering in June brought back a pile of big green tote bags from the Catawba Valley Medical Center. What are we to do with them?

A – They are to be used for Lutheran World Relief school kits. Fill them with school supplies based on the “2008-2010 Be Involved” list below. Do not leave anything out and do not add anything not on the list.

- Spiral notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper totaling 150-200 sheets. If using 70-page, one subject notebooks, please include three. No loose leaf paper.
- One pair blunt scissors.
- One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- Six new unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, secured with a rubber band.
- One hand-held pencil sharpener.
- One eraser approximately 2½ inches long.
- 12 sheets of construction paper in assorted colors.
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons.

Please put a copy of the list in each bag. These bags CANNOT be used anywhere in North Carolina. They can only be used for Lutheran World Relief school kits prepared this year.

Q – These bags are bigger than the tote bags we usually use. Is there a special way they should be filled?

A – Yes. Slide the construction paper into one of the notebooks. Put the notebook(s) into the bag horizontally. Add the other supplies on top of the notebooks. Fold the sides of the bag toward the center and fold the handles down. Tie the bag both ways with sturdy cord, heavy yarn, or fabric strips.

Q – How do we pack them when they are ready to ship?

A – Pack the kits in a strong carton and secure with packing tape. Filled cartons should not weigh more than 40 pounds. Pack only school kits based on the list above in the carton; do not include quilts or other types of LWR kits in the same carton. Put three labels on each carton:

- 1) The name and address of your congregation.

2) The following mailing address:

- Lutheran World Relief
- 600 Main Street
- PO Box 188
- New Windsor, MD 21776

3) The contents information:

- SCHOOL KITS BASED ON 2008-2010 GUIDELINES
- Number of kits enclosed: _____
- Weight of the carton: _____

Q – Are there plans to pick up our finished kits?

A – There will be no special plans to pick up the cartons of school kits at your church or at the Conference Fall Gatherings. Please do not take the cartons to your conference fall gathering. Take **all** cartons to the Lutheran World Relief ingathering at the designated church most convenient for you. Complete information on all the churches that will collect LWR projects will be listed in the October and November issues of the SWO Bulletin. All ingathering of projects will be during the first two weeks in November, 2011.

Q – What do we do if we need more bags or if we cannot fill all the bags we were given?

A – At the present time, all 2000 special big green bags have been distributed so there are no extra bags available. If you find you cannot fill all the bags you were given, contact Alice Nelson at hakady@juno.com no later than October 10, 2011 and she will advise you.

Q – Is there anything else we need to know about using the big green tote bags for LWR school kits?

A – YES! Remember, no job is done until the paperwork is finished! In the case of donations to Lutheran World Relief, you need to complete **three** copies of the special form found in the October and November issues of the SWO Bulletin. **Keep** one copy for your records; **take** one copy with your cartons to the church collecting the LWR kits; **mail** one copy to Rachel Price, 1330 Wessex Lane, Hickory, NC 28602-9458

Q – This is all great information but none of it answers my specific question.

A – Contact Alice Nelson, Mission: Action Chair at hakady@juno.com with other questions.