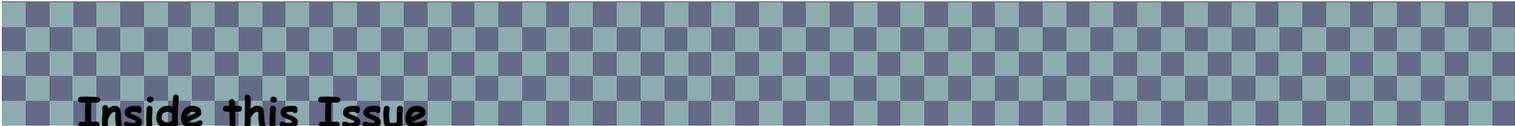


The Bulletin April 2019

The Bulletin is issued monthly, except July and August; and is the major method of communication with the congregational units. Receive it either by email or regular mail. You automatically receive it if you are a unit president, a conference leader, a board member, or serve on a committee. The deadline for articles to be entered into The Bulletin is the first of the month, for the next months issue. You are welcome to print as many copies as you'd like. Anyone not currently receiving The Bulletin can be added to the list by contacting Joyce Ohlson, secretary, at karmagma@gmail.com or calling 406-852-3649.



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From the Desk of our President—April 2019



It is hard to believe April is here. We are still in the Lenten Season though and will be for three more weeks. I hope that during this time all have and still are really taking a good look at ourselves and evaluating our faith life and relationship with God. Also, during this season, we need to look at how we as Women of the ELCA live our lives so that we really Live Out our Purpose Statement.

During the Spring Retreat at Kure Beach we looked at Boldness in Prayer, Actions, and Teaching. I can't think of a better way to really begin acting more boldly than during this Lenten season.

In this month of April, we will be looking and learning about Autism. This disorder has a variety of conditions that challenge an individual's social skills, verbal and written communication, and repetitive behaviors. Statistics now estimates that one out of every sixty-eight children in the USA is autistic. Let's learn all we can and help as much as we can to understand the symptoms as we show patience and kindness to these children. Many of these children are non-verbal and do not make eye contact. Let's be BOLD and help in any way possible.

Also, during this month many conferences will be hold Spring Conference Gathering. Please plan to attend this worthwhile meeting. The program is "Called to be Women in Mission". Ladies will explore and understand God's call to us in our mission at home, in our congregations, in our communities, and in our world. During this time, you will also learn what your conference is responsible to bring to the North Carolina Women of the ELCA Gathering in June. This year we will be assembling school kits to go to Lutheran World Relief.

Last but definitely not least, we will all celebrate Easter on April 21st. What a glorious day that will be. I am not speaking of new clothes, the Easter bunny, or candy. This is a time to Rejoice and remember what God has done for us. May you all have a blessed Easter season.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the North Carolina Women of the ELCA Gathering at Lenoir Rhyne University on June 21-23.

Thank you for your continuing hard work in Women of the ELCA. I challenge each of you to get more of our women and congregations involved.

May Love, Joy, and Peace be with you.

Jane Cadwallader

NC Women of the ELCA President



Gathering Planning Committee—Joyce Ohlson, Linda Davis,
Cindy Whisenant



Gathering Planning Updates

Our Key note speaker is a young woman named **Savanna Hartman**.

Savanna Hartman is an author, speaker, and spoken-word poet with an authenticity that has captured hearts around the world. She is known to cover topics ranging from social justice to Jesus. www.savannahartman.com

Our entertainment for Saturday night is the **Southern Style Cloggers**, a talented group of ladies from China Grove. They vary in age from 70+ to 8. They will give us an amazing performance. [Facebook.com/southernstylecloggers](https://www.facebook.com/southernstylecloggers)

Annual Gathering Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project

We of your Gathering Planning Committee are asking the conferences to bring the items listed to the Annual Gathering in June. These items are what is required for the LWR School Kits. All Gathering participants will make the school kits during the Annual Gathering in a designated room in the Rhyne Building during free time. We are looking at this project as a time for Fellowship and Stewardship. Please take the information to your conferences and let us know if your conference is unable to supply the required number of items. Carefully review the Lutheran World Relief School Kits explanation, so you purchase the proper sized items. We priced a lot of the items on the Dollar Tree web site, we recommend using one of those sites for better prices on bulk items.



Justice Committee—Anita Miller and Tonie Neal



AUTISM AWARENESS

Submitted by Anita Miller

What is Autism? Autism is a development disorder that is often confused with being undisciplined. I am a great aunt to a beautiful 7 year old little boy with autism. At first, I would say, leave him alone and let him be himself. He was diagnosed very young and has received much love and therapy.

At times it has been heartbreaking to watch how he is treated. I am an advocate for teachers and the public school system. However, the public school system here, had no idea what to do with him. And the after school had zero tolerance. He was suspended numerous times in kindergarten! His mother was called to come get him practically every day.

Thank God, his mother found an opportunity in a private Christian school where he has been accepted and nurtured. He sat down with me just this week and read to me! I am so proud of him.

Here are 10 signs your child or your neighbor's child might have autism.

1. Intense struggle with ordinary activities. Sociability, playing, hygiene, etc.

Our Jaxson plays better with only one person. Several playmates at one time is overwhelming and upsetting to him.

2. Extraordinary sensitivity: Sounds, tastes, smells, etc.

Jaxson can make sounds like sirens and the beeps of the microwave. When he was little and we would go by a cattle farm, he would say, "what's that schmell?"

3. Extreme lack of sensitivity or sense of danger.

Jaxson is a runner. He has no understanding of running in a parking lot or into the street.

4. Repetitive Actions

When he comes to my house, he has oatmeal and chocolate milk. He sits in the same spot in the same chair.

5. Attachment to Objects.

When Jaxson was in day care he had a little stuffed puppy that he kept with him all the time. Sometimes it was a little car, but usually a stuffed puppy.

6. Aloofness

Jaxson prefers to play alone or with one person at a time. Too many is too much. In public school he ran round and round the cafeteria. Way too loud and over stimulating.

7. Communication struggles

Jaxson is a talker. However, he struggles to answer questions. I would ask him how was his day and who did he play with today. You can see it in his eyes. He really does not know and can't tell you.

8. Fixations

Cars and trucks! He loves everything about them! He races them, drives them on everything. He notices all vehicles on the road, esp. cars like his mommy's and his nonny's.

9. Self injury

10. Obvious Delays in Development

I noticed Jaxson's delay while coloring. He had no concept of coloring in the lines or even on the paper. He would color everywhere, on everything and still does! It took a long time, but he's getting it now!

I have one request and one request only. When you see a child acting out in the grocery store or anywhere, please don't automatically assume that child needs to be disciplined. They may be autistic and this is what their parents have to deal with everyday 24/7. Please pray for their families. At times it is heartbreaking. But most of the time there are precious moments of joy that remind us of the simple things in life. For that I am truly thankful and I am thankful for this precious little boy.



Why Not?

I read a headline in the news today about the first African-American cruise ship captain. I thought, "Why not?" A woman is just as capable as a man, regardless of her skin color.

The same day the United Methodist Church body voted to disallow same-sex marriages and LGBTQ pastors and I thought, "Why not?" Why not allow them to be a part of that church? After all, God loves all people regardless of their sexual orientation.

Then there was a report on the television news about a senator breaking ranks with his party to vote with the minority on an issue. I thought, "Why not?" Why not stand up for what is right, even if it is unpopular?

Why not stand up for what you believe? Why not love our neighbors despite our differences? Why not welcome the poor and homeless? Why not comfort the stranger? Why not feed the hungry?

The theme of the NC Women of the ELCA for 2019-2020 is "Why Not?" Over the next two years, this theme will hopefully cause us to think about these issues and others too. So why not? Why not take part in your congregational unit? Why not attend the conference gathering? Why not serve as a voting member to the Annual Gathering? Why not send a Thankoffering to the Churchwide Women of the ELCA? Why not invite someone – a friend, a sister, a daughter – to join you? Why not?

Only you can answer those questions? Only you can answer the question, "Why not?"

Susan Harris

What's Going On in North Carolina?

This is a new section of our Bulletin. Our readers are wanting to know more about you and your congregations. Every-graph about what is going on ple, a new pastor, your gra-your Outreach Ministries, etc. send your Conference , the send your short article to

one is welcome to participate. Write a para-in your church or church group. For exam-cious gift-giving, your church anniversaries, You can send a picture, if you'd like; also name of your church and your town. Please Joyce Ohlson at karmagma@gmail.com

.The Women of the ELCA at St. Paul's, Burlington celebrate Thankoffering/W.E.L.C.A. Day on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Each year from January to November every family in the congregation is encouraged to drop a coin in a container each time they feel blessed. This year St. Paul's W.E.L.C.A. members have created a special container for all families who are participating in their "BEE THANKFUL" campaign. On November 24th all coins will be collected in a "noisy offering" and sent to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide W.E.L.C.A. There will also be a brief temple talk preceding the collection and a display in the narthex highlighting St. Paul's 2019 W.E.L.C.A. projects and activities.

Melba Chou Isley
Northern Conference
St. Paul's, Burlington



As we enter into this season of Lent, a time of meditation and reflection, we offer for you a discipline designed to increase the physical, spiritual and emotional health of all who take part. Did you know that it's 6,142 miles from Fayetteville to Jerusalem?

As a congregation, we are going to put on our walking shoes and "share the road" with Jesus as we track our miles of walking or other daily activities. In preparation for each day, a Bible verse with a reflection/devotion will be provided for you to contemplate on your activity. This is a time to refocus spiritually as well as physically. When we are actively engaged in our health and spirituality, inspiration begins to flow and take shape. When we are feeling our physical and spiritual best, we are better equipped to engage with each other to listen to the Word and to serve using the talents given to each of us.

Tonie Neal

St James Lutheran church, Fayetteville

Sandhills conference



2019 Pennies Offering @ Vigilante Truth

by Lorri Monterose

When Bo Quickel, founder of *Vigilante Truth* (VT), spoke at my church last year, I was expecting to meet a big man based on the stories I had heard about him. But instead the man I met was in stark contrast to who I was expecting – Bo was of average stature and rather soft-spoken. Not the warrior I thought I was going to meet.

Bo had been invited to speak to our congregation because *Vigilante Truth* had been involved in closing three “houses of prostitution” in Mooresville earlier in 2018. It was hard to contemplate sex trafficking was happening in our backyard, in Mooresville, and not just the big city of Charlotte. And it wasn’t in the seedy sections of town either – these brothels were in good neighborhoods, out at the lake even. Hiding in plain sight, as it were.

As Bo talked about the facts of sex trafficking globally and here in North Carolina, the numbers are damning. Sex-trafficking is a \$150 billion industry and Charlotte is the number one spot in North Carolina for human trafficking. On any given day, the state of North Carolina ranks in the top ten in the nation for human trafficking. An international airport, conventions, sporting events, concerts and highways make Charlotte the perfect breeding ground for the dark industry.

Bo’s passion is evident and his calling is deeply rooted in his faith. It took a reversal in the real estate market for this Mooresville businessman to reverse his personal goals and find his true calling. A visionary in the construction industry, he had no idea he’d be fighting sex trafficking in the next phase of his life.

Until 2007, Bo Quickel enjoyed what he called, a “rock star” lifestyle. He and his wife, Paula, had reached most of their goals, including Bo’s plan to become a millionaire by age 25. Quickel founded and co-founded more than 10 multi-million dollar businesses in eight industries, with projects all over the Charlotte area. But like so many, when the economy floundered, his life as he knew it was gone and he found himself in a position of overwhelming debt.

Over the next few years, Bo worked at developing a closer relationship with God and ultimately, he found his calling when he was asked to do a consultation for a couple involved in working to abolish human slavery in Nicaragua. The couple had spent their life savings to help these girls sold into slavery and asked if Quickel could create a business model for their organization. 7

He left the meeting and wasn't able to sleep that night after learning how some of the girls would get raped 30 times a night. For a man who knew nothing about human trafficking, he was determined to find a way to help.

Vigilante Truckers was born in 2011 with the goal of drying up the customer base for the sex slaves. The “industry” recruits children with an average age of 12-16. When he found out most transactions happen at truck stops, he had an idea. He decided to “wrap” a truck and park it for 24 hours a day in the parking lot. The message was simple: “Stop the ‘Selling of Rape.’”

The strategy worked... and Bo had found his life's calling.

INITIALLY WORKING JUST WITH TRUCKERS, THE VISION HAS BECOME BROADER AND THE ORIGINAL ORGANIZATION, *VIGILANTE TRUCKERS*, HAS BECOME *VIGILANTE TRUTH*. THEIR CRUSADE IS “TO END SEX TRAFFICKING IN THE USA... BOLDLY, SIMPLY, PASSIONATELY, AND WITH EVERLASTING DETERMINATION”. VT ARMIES WORK NOT ONLY WITH TRUCKERS, BUT WITH MOTORCYCLE CLUBS AND WITHIN ORGANIZED SPORTS. VT MADE LOCAL HEADLINES WHEN THEY RESCUED SIX GIRLS AFTER THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION IN CHARLOTTE SEVERAL SUMMERS AGO.

One way that Quickel's organization tries to prevent the exploitation of women is through phony ads posted on popular escort sections of a website, including ones in Mooresville. A team from *Vigilante Truth* will arrange an encounter and then stake out a hotel room, where a female will lure the man into a hotel room. Quickel then steps in and speaks to the man one-on-one about why he is there without confrontation. (He said that he makes it clear from the start that he's not law enforcement and is detaining the individual). After his talk, he said, a pastoral figure will speak to the man about his values.

The vast majority of *Vigilante Truth's* work is here in North Carolina and they recognize that the fight to end human trafficking is not one that can be won if they are fighting alone. Along the way, *Vigilante Truth* has partnered with many organizations, one of which that is well-known to us – Lily Pad Haven. *Vigilante Truth* also has a corporate partner that will match dollar-for-dollar any donation made by Women of the ELCA.

Please take time to visit VT's web site and become familiar with *Vigilante Truth* and its mission to end human sex trafficking – www.vigilantetruth.com.

Resolutions: What They Are and Why We Write Them

(The following information is from the churchwide website, www.womenoftheelca.org.)

Among the benefits of participating in Women of the ELCA is the opportunity to have a voice in determining the activities and direction of the organization. Where we go and what we do as a churchwide organization and as synodical organizations is very much up to you. That is why we meet in conventions, and at those conventions, we conduct business via resolutions. A resolution should be thought of as:

- A way to participate in the democratic process and have your voice heard;
- A means of educating women about a need or concern;
- A vehicle for inspiring others to take action.

If you are intimidated at the idea of writing a resolution, you shouldn't be. It isn't that difficult. Resolutions are a way to introduce and deliberate business when you assemble a fairly large number of people together. Five people sitting around a table can discuss business one way; 100 people in a banquet hall must conduct business in a more formalized way if they are going to make any progress.

Resolutions are also a way to plan and think ahead, and to hold ourselves accountable for the decisions we make: A resolution, when passed, is no longer an idea to consider—it is a commitment.

The goal of a resolution is to inform and educate the readers so that they are inspired to take action and approve the resolution. Therefore, every resolution should:

- have a clear and concise title.
- address only one issue—call attention to a need for action.
- call Women of the ELCA to action on something it can influence.
- address concerns relevant to Women of the ELCA that relate to our mission, purpose, ongoing activities, triennium theme, triennium focus, or governance.
- propose an action or a solution to a problem.
- be based on sufficient background and analysis. You should be able to back it up.
- provide enough background to give someone with little knowledge of the subject sufficient information to make an intelligent and informed decision.
- be a source of direction, an instrument in planning.

For help in drafting a resolution for the Annual Gathering, go to the website, womenoftheelca.org, click on "Tools for Leaders" and scroll to the bottom of the page to find "How to Write a Resolution." It is time to take a stand on some of the topics that touch our lives and hearts every day.

Or, go to our www.ncwelca.org website, Resources tab, Footsteps to Leadership, Chapter 6, Page 12-14 for more information and the downloadable paperwork for making a Resolution.

Calendar March 2019-September 2019

March 2019 National Women's History Month

- 1 SWO Board Reports Due
- 8-10 Kure Beach Spring Retreat
- 22-23 SWO Board Retreat High Rock Lake
- 30 Alexander/Iredell Spring Conf.—Reformation, Taylorsville
- 30 Cabarrus/Stanley Conf. —St Johns Concord
- 30 Northern Conf. —Alamance Luth, Alamance

April 2019 Autism Awareness Month

- 6 Blue Ridge Conf.—Philadelphia, Granite Falls
- 6 Catawba Conf.—Sardis, Hickory
- 6 Salem Conf.—Augsburg, Winston-Salem
- 6 Rowan Conf.—Lutheran Chapel, China Grove
- 6 Southwestern Conf. —Bethpage, Lincolnton
- 13 Sandhills Conf.—Trinity, Sanford
- 13 Smoky Mountain Conf. —Living Waters, Cherokee
- 21 Easter
- 27 Triangle Conf. —Sty Paul's, Durham

May 2019 National Military Appreciation Month

- 4 Central Conf.—Grace, Thomasville
- 5 Rachel's Day
- 12 Mothers Day
- 18 Mecklenburg/Union Conf. —Morning Star, Matthews

June 2019 National Safety Month

- 16 Father's Day
- 21-23 Annual Gathering—Lenoir Rhyne University, Hickory NC

July 2019

- 12-14 Board Meeting

August 2019

- 17 Committee Day 1—St Luke's, Mooresville

September 2019

- 27-29 Fall Retreat

Spring Gathering Offering—Days for Girls

The money you will be collecting at your Spring Gatherings will be going to the West Denver NC Days for Girls Team, a small group of volunteers that meet once a month to make the kit items. Two volunteers involved lead mission trips to Guatemala. So, they have been taking the kits to places near the el Sitan village that they partner with. Last year Lisa Morris took 25 kits to the Mercy Clinic at Casa Angelina Orphanage (What Matters Most Ministries). This year girls age 11-18 that are involved in our L.E.A.P. Scholarship program, will be receiving the kits that the West Denver NC Days for Girls Team make. We also raised monies to purchase 200+ kits for the employees of Maria Pacheco's Wakami Global businesses. This included the women in el Sitan who choose to make product for income to pay for their children's education which eventually will end our scholarship program. (Teaching them how to fish rather than giving them fish). Last year, Lisa Morris visited the Guatemala Corporate Days for Girls office and we have established a partnership with them. Thus, we are empowering women and the Guatemala economy who make the kits. We buy as many as can from them—providing them jobs and income. We then provide the education and distribute the Days for Girls kits to the women in Guatemala to empower them to be able to work daily whether they have their period or not.

Lutheran Services Carolina

Bring items listed on the insert for Child and Family Services Program needs for 2019 to the Annual Gathering and they will be distributed as needed throughout the Carolinas. Also included is a LSC Gift in Kind Contribution Form.

Micah 6: 8-9

He has told you , O Mortal, what is good;

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice,
and to love kindness,

And to walk humbly with your God?



Joyce Ohlson
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Huntersville, NC 28078

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12034 Asbury Chapel Road or
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