

The Bulletin March 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 month's 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—March 2019

March is shaping up to be a very busy month. We will be celebrating National Women's History Month. Can you name some of the important women in our history and what they did? If this gets you to thinking, go to your public library or your computer and learn all you can. Women are not just good cooks, home-makers, and friends. Learn all you can about our contributions to history.

Plan to attend a World Day of Prayer service in your area on March 1st.

I am sure many of you will be taking part in "Shrove Tuesday" activities. In much earlier days it was known as "Pancake Day". We also call this time "Mardi Gras". This is a time



for self-examination, of considering what wrongs we need to repent, and what areas in our spiritual growth that we need to ask God's help in. This fasting, indulging and asking for repentance comes the week right before Ash Wednesday. During this time we indulge ourselves in pancakes, eating richer, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of the Lenten season which begins on March 6th. Many of you may decide to give up chocolate, desserts, meat, coffee, or some other craving during this time. This year let's do more than just give up something... let's take the money we save by giving up and give it to a needy cause. It may be a time to clean out closets and shoes that can be used by those less fortunate. Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on the 9th of March and then there is 40 days until Easter. Lent is a time for prayer, fasting, acts of mercy, and paying alms. Some churches burn the palms from the previous year to be used during the Ash Wednesday service while others refrain from using "Alleluia". One church I know of has an "Alleluia Banner" that is hidden during the Lenten season and the children hunt it until Easter when it reappears. As the Lenten season progresses remember we are not earning Grace, we are acknowledging what we have received.

I hope to see many of you at the Spring Retreat at Kure Beach, March 10-12. "I Am She" is the title and we will be looking at Bold Women of yesterday, today, and tomorrow. This retreat will inspire us, encourage bold actions, befriend our fears, and design the future as we mold it according to our faith. Let's act boldly ladies.

The NC SWO Board will be meeting on March 22-23. During this time, we will be planning for the SWO Gathering that will be held in June. Ladies if you have been thinking and praying about possibly running for an officer or board position, it is still not too late. Contact Donna Prunkl or myself immediately. Also remember you can be nominated from the floor during the Gathering. We want to grow our WELCA and you can be a part of this. Help us make the change.

Thank you, ladies for all your hard work.

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



We are continuing to work hard for you to prepare the program for the Women of the ELCA Annual Gathering on June 21-23 , 2019 at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory, NC.

We have a wonderful and uplifting key note speaker picked out, the entertainment on Saturday night will be a lot of fun; and we have lots of interesting and educational Awareness sessions lined up. The registration forms are enclosed.

Annual Gathering Lutheran World Relief School Kit Project

We of your Gathering Planning Committee are asking the conferences to bring the items listed. 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



Racism – we thought we had that fixed

We are created in the image of God -- female and male, with many different faces, different colors, different cultures and ways of life, rural, urban, rich, poor and in between. We are God's children, baptized into God's family and because we are made in the image of God and WE ARE GOOD!

Each year as you face my annual article on anti-racism you may have felt a little discomfort. For years we thought if people would just stop bringing up the topic of racism, maybe it would just go away on its own. And, anyway – we do not personally have the problem. And, things were getting so much better, right? Then, this year when you realized you were about to face my annual article you may have felt a little more uneasy than in prior years.

Recently, we have been bombarded in the media and social media concerning the sharp increase in hate crimes, that bigotry is more acceptable, that there is an increase in racist threats, racial violence and bullying, and workplace abuse. What happened? We thought we had it fixed.

I, personally, do not believe that the number of people with racist beliefs has suddenly increased. I believe that in the last few years we have been given new permission to voice and to act on racist beliefs. We have been given license to express the views that we previously knew we had to suppress or to hide. And now, more than ever, we Lutheran women and We the Church have an even great responsibility to fight racism.

There are reasons Lutherans and THE CHURCH are committed to Anti-Racism:

The ELCA's Social Statement on: "Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture" adopted at the Churchwide Assembly in 1993 states that the **Church** cannot remain silent. It states that NOW is a time to confront racism through public leadership, witness, advocacy.

The Women of the ELCA has a history with Anti-racism that began at the 1993 Triennial and has now become one of our organizational principles.

And probably, most important of all – we have a Biblical Background directing us to be anti-racists: Colossians 3:9-11 and Galatians 3:27-28 state that in Christ there is not male or female, slave, free, Jew, Gentile. Our differences are not intended to be our dividers. There is not superiority or favoritism in God's order.

Institutionalized, systemic racism is so entrenched in the very fabric of the United States that it becomes unconscious racism. Racism is an accepted part of our society – our culture.

The Women of the ELCA has committed itself to learn how to be actively anti-racist. To be a racially just organization, we must understand and identify racism in our organizations, churches. It is incumbent on us to name and challenge racism, challenge the racist comments and racist behaviors. Racism should offend all of us. It is up to us to advocate for racial justice. It is up to us to make a change in our church and in our society.

Resources may be downloaded from the womenoftheelca.org website or contact Tamarah Hefner from the NC WELCA Racial Justice team to enlist the assistance of Today Dream Tomorrow's Reality peer educators.

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. Everyone is welcome to participate. Write a paragraph about what is going on in your church or church group. For example, a new pastor, your gracious gift-giving, your church anniversaries, your Outreach Ministries, etc. You can send a picture, if you'd like; also send your Conference, the name of your church and your town. Please send your short article to Joyce Ohlson at karmagma@gmail.com

Here's a little something going on at Mt Zion Lutheran Church, our Women of the ELCA make baptismal banners to present to those being baptized. At our recent meeting we completed 2 banners for 2 little girls that will be baptized.

Chrissy Chandler, President
Mt Zion Lutheran Church
Richfield, NC
Cabarrus/Stanly Conference



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

April 2019 Autism Awareness Month

21 Easter

May 2019 National Military Appreciation Month

5 Rachel's Day
12 Mothers Day

June 2019 National Safety Month

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

July 2019

August 2019

September 2019

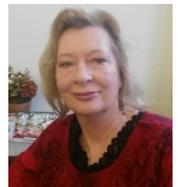
27-29 Fall Retreat

Spring Gatherings

Enclosed are the Spring Gatherings scheduled so far, if you have any questions about them, contact your Conference Leaders Tamarah Hefner (tamarahncwelca.org@gamil.com) or Lorri Monterose (lorrimonterose@gmail.com) , or the Discipleship Committee Chairs, Alecia Harrison (Alecia.a.Harrison@gmail.com) or Lisa Philbeck (lwphilbeck@gmail.com)



Stewardship—Nena Babb, Terri Brown and Debra Weinel



There is an excess of Lutheran World Relief (LWR) shipping money, thanks to the generous support of the conferences for the past few years. We recently sent them a check for \$6000 to help reduce this surplus. We, of your NC Women of the ELCA Board, ask you to not send money for LWR shipping for at least 1 year. We will reevaluate this in the summer of 2019 and inform you of the needs at that time.



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Change of Name/Address or Change of Status in Church/Conference

Name of Conference.....

Date of Change.....

Church Name/Town.....

Retiring Officer.....

Officer _____ **President** _____ **Treasurer's Assistant** _____ **Dir. of Comm.**

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Email.....

Phone.....

Send all changes to Joyce Ohlson
12034 Asbury Chapel Road or
Huntersville, NC 28078

karmagma@gmail.com

