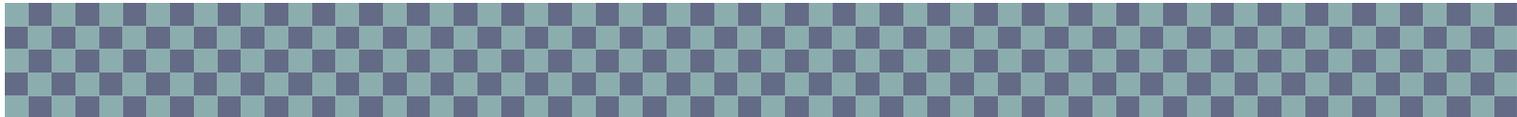


**The Bulletin August/September 2018**

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—August/September 2018



During this month we observe the issues of Literacy. Literacy has traditionally meant the ability to read and write but now it has been expanded to include the use of language, numbers, images, computers, to read, write, spell, listen, and speak.

Literacy is the ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, compute, and communicate using visual, audible, and digital materials across disciplines and in any context.

The ability to write, read, and communicate connects people to each other and empowers

them to achieve. Today communication and connection are the basis of who we are , how we live together, and how we interact with the world.

It is astonishing that in this day an age of books, computers, lap tops, and many other devices that there are still millions who are denied this literacy education.

12% of the world's population is considered functionally illiterate, with only basic or below basic literacy levels in their native languages. 781 million people worldwide still cannot read or write, and 126 youth are illiterate.

International Literacy Day is celebrated on September 8<sup>th</sup>. UNESCO has partnered with governments, charities, local communities, and experts in the field worldwide.

As Women of the ELCA let us find ways to help in the fight against illiteracy. Read to children at home and/or volunteer in a school. Help our children with school work and not leave it up just to the teachers. I am sure you can come up with many more ways to help in this cause. Don't brag or boast about what you can do...**Just Do It!!!!!!!!!!**

May peace, love, and joy be with you,

*Jane,*

NC Women of the ELCA President

*Speak out for those who cannot speak,  
for the rights of all the destitute.  
Speak out, judge righteously,  
defend the rights of the poor and needy.*

*Proverbs 31:8-9*

## Justice Committee—Anita Miller and Tonie Neal



2018-2019 JUSTICE GOALS—WHAT'S MISSING?

BY ANITA MILLER CO-CHAIR JUSTICE COMMITTEE

July 20-22, 2018

The SWO Board met in Blowing Rock to discuss 2018-2019 Goals. Tonie Neal and I worked together to set the goals for the Justice Committee. During this time it was decided that we can no longer support the collection and reuse of medicine bottles. We have worked diligently to find other opportunities for reusing the medicine bottles. There are so many empty medicine bottles on the market, we are overwhelmed with inventory. In view of this, we are discontinuing the collection of medicine bottles by the Justice Committee.

However this is not the end of the story. It is our hope another vessel can be introduced that is more environmentally and hygienically acceptable for medicine. The current bottles can be decorated and reused for collecting small items, sewing kits, match boxes, first aid kits, campfire kits, waterproof money holders, quarter holders, bobby pins and pony tail ties, beads, buttons, craft supplies, office supplies, paper clips, rubber bands, push pins, travel size shampoo, conditioner and lotions.

And remember medicine bottles are recyclable. We don't want plastic in our landfills and oceans. Please recycle at every opportunity to save our mother earth.

Also, if you have leftover medicines, please do not flush, as the drugs may get in our water supply. Prescription meds can be taken to the police station for incineration. CVS and WalGreens also have medicine take back programs. Please get rid of unused medications as soon as possible for safety purposes.

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### Our 2018 Fall Conference Offerings

Some of us like to know ahead of time, what NC WELCA will be supporting at our next conference gatherings. Today, we will give you a taste of The Marketplace. If you were in attendance at our Annual Gathering this past June, you met Marisa Sellman. She had the big trailer outside the Cromer Center with all the beautiful accessories and clothing for sale. Marisa also spoke to our Gathering in the Belk Centrum.

Marisa has a Christian fair-trade store that celebrates the artisans, from 3<sup>rd</sup> World Countries. She has connections that invite you to purchase wares from all over the world, and in the meantime, support ladies trying to build new lives and support families. She is interested in teaching business principles in 3<sup>rd</sup> World countries, empowering individuals with a hand up and not a hand out. Each product represents a life changing journey from hopelessness to empowerment; from being lost to experience the love of Christ. The campaign helps rescue women from trafficking and you can find more information on [#onewomancampaign facebook.com/theworkshopmarketplace](https://www.facebook.com/theworkshopmarketplace). Spectrum News chose to feature The Marketplace. [#handmade#everdayheroes#spectrumnews](https://www.facebook.com/theworkshopmarketplace). Folks are hearing about the work. Kay Killar, Director of Samaritan, visited with Marisa on July 18, from 6-8, hearing the full story.

If in the area, go see The Marketplace, 19725 Oak Street, Cornelius, N. C. 28031. And then join the Women of the ELCA of N.C. in supporting her at your local Fall Conference.



## **Justice Committee**

What are our US Members of Congress up to the week ending July 20<sup>th</sup>?

Our Fayetteville Observer, while not a real popular newspaper, since being bought from a local family of 100 years duration, brings me the voting issues weekly. Here are a few from this past week, that I felt were worth sharing.

The House decided our fuel supplies didn't need more taxes to discourage their use and reduce emissions of green house gases, brought to us by the use of coal, natural gas and petroleum products. One side asserted that a "carbon tax would be detrimental to American families and businesses and not in the best interest of the United States." Critics defended such a tax as a cost-efficient way to reduce toxic emissions and be equitable in helping those most affected by the higher cost of using fossil fuels.

Our elected folks decided to cut funds of \$100 million for the Environmental Protection Administration, protectors of our air, water. They also decided to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring disclosure of political contribution to shareholders. They gave D.C. \$45 million for vouchers for students to go to private and parochial schools, and at the same time scaled back certain Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act regulations.

There will be 6 Constitutional Amendments on the fall ballot.

- 1) Expand Crime Victims' Rights
- 2) Create right to hunt and fish
- 3) Curb governor's power for filling vacancies for Judges.
- 4) Another would specify that the Legislature will control the appointment of duties to any board or commission it creates.
- 5) Another referendum seeks to bring back a photo identification mandate to vote
- 6) Voters also would decide to decrease the maximum income tax rate allowed by law

These Amendments are being reworded and the Congress is having a hard time figuring out how to have the ballots read. Hopefully they will come to a decision, that all of us will know what we are voting for/against when we read them. The headline in the newspaper reads "Amendments are ballot twist in power struggle". General Assembly boundaries are still in the news, as well.

Please note 170 legislative seats are up for election in November. Please be aware of your "stand" and how your "choice of a candidate" stands on the same issues before you go to the polls.

You can go to the web site for the Fayetteville Observer, Fayetteville, N. C. b [www.fayobserver.com](http://www.fayobserver.com) and find the articles on line, July 20, 2018 page A7 and A 12. In Sunday's edition July 22, 2018 on page D4, the Roll Call. Health care bills will be in the House for debate next week, also, with Homeland Security budget. Always good reading. If you need help finding how your representative or Senator voted, I have the articles and will be glad to share. [jmp0247@aol.com](mailto:jmp0247@aol.com).

Tonie Neal, NC WELCA Board Co-Chair Justice

## Stewardship Committee

Lutheran Services of the Carolinas at the Annual Gathering  
June 2018



LSC made available to us our final results for gifts to them this summer. We collected \$660.00 in cash and In-Kind Gifts totaled \$3,311.15. That would include quilts, hygiene items, cleaning items and paper products. We are indeed God's Hands doing His Work. Thank you to all who participated.



### **Faithful Friends Program**

Do you know someone who gives regularly to Women of the ELCA, rain or shine, no matter what? Someone who's a faithful friend and steadfast supporter of the organization we all love? What does the Bible say about people like that?

Sturdy shelter. Beyond price. Life-saving medicine. Yes, we thought, those phrases certainly describe the many steadfast supporters of Women of the ELCA. So that's what we've named our new giving program: "Faithful Friends."

"Faithful Friends" is an easy way for you (or your congregational unit or your synodical organization) to give monthly to Women of the ELCA by automatic withdrawal from your checking account or by automatic charge to your credit card.

The "Faithful Friends" program supports the Women of the ELCA General Fund, which makes it possible for your churchwide organization to act quickly and flexibly in response to any need that may arise.

The prophet Isaiah tells us that God says, "I am about to do a new thing" (43:19a). And "Faithful Friends" is one way you can help Women of the ELCA be ready for whatever new thing God has in store.

Faithful Friends recurring gift form is attached



**Discipleship Committee Alecia Harrison and Lisa Philbeck**



WOW! Is my Summer busy! Bet yours is too.....

We enjoyed a wonderful time at the Annual Gathering at Lenoir Rhyne University in June. I hope you were able to attend! I always enjoying catching up with old friends and meeting new ones! I especially enjoyed meeting Pastor Naomi, our SWO Gathering Chaplain, and Kandy Pflaster, our Church-wide Women of the ELCA Representative. We are very fortunate to have such a wide variety of Lutheran Women in North Carolina. I am glad that YOU are part of our group!!!!

We have FIVE committees. \_

Conference Leaders are the President, Director of Communication and the Treasurer's Assistant from each of our 9 conferences across North Carolina.

Justice is Faith in Action, by serving God in ways that bring healing and wholeness to the church, society and the world.

Stewardship is a careful and responsible management of money, property and resources that God has entrusted to us.

Gathering Planning plans the annual NC State Women's Organization (SWO) to include the site, presenters, program and worship.

Lisa and I save the "best" committee for last! Discipleship is a lifelong journey of living out and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ! There are seven marks of Discipleship:

praying

studying

worshiping

inviting

encouraging

serving

giving

The Discipleship Committee plans opportunities for spiritual education and growth, predominately through the Fall and Spring Retreats.

Our Fall Retreat will be at Blowing Rock Retreat Center on November 2-4, 2018. "Living Worry-Free" will be presented by Pastor Jenni Zima. The cost is \$175 for the entire weekend to include housing, food and program materials. There will be an OPTIONAL field trip to the Crossnore School on Friday after noon at 1pm led by former SWO President, Susan Harris. We will enjoy dinner at Susan's Blowing Rock home on Friday evening before returning to the Retreat Center. The commuter cost for this Retreat is \$65 to include meals and program.

Our Spring Retreat will be at the Kure Beach Retreat Center on March 8-10, 2019. Program is to be determined. Look for more details in future issues of the Bulletin.

Also plan to attend your NEW committee at Committee Day II that will be held in January; date and location to follow.

So YES, it is a busy time of year. But look at our Women go! Together we can share the Love of God with others that we meet along the way. We need YOU to be successful. Share your love and energy with all the women in your world!

Blessings,  
Alecia Harrison  
Co-Chair Discipleship Committee  
NC Women of the ELCA Board

*Where two or three are gathered together in my Name,*

*I am there in the midst of them.*

*Matthew 18:20*



## Committee Day 1 Update

Committee Day 1 was held at First Lutheran Church in Lexington on August 18. The First Lutheran ladies hosted a wonderful day and meal for us all.

This was the first meeting of the year for the Committees to meet and plan their year's activities. It was a reunion for current Committee members, and an introduction for new members.

Justice planned their activities and assigned their members to write articles for this Bulletin, they keep us updated on Justice issues all year. Discipleship planned our Retreats and Gatherings; Stewardship worked on their Budgets and other monetary issues. The Conference Leaders Committee reviewed the roles of the Presiders, the Treasurer's Assistant and your Director's of Communications with their members. Your Gathering Planning Committee started the choosing of the speakers and entertainment for your Annual Gathering.

All in all, it was an enjoyable and productive day for all, filled with lots of laughter and praying.

Joyce Ohlson, Gathering Planning Committee



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## Calendar September 2018-June 2019

### September 2018 Hunger Action Month

- 3 Labor Day
- 9 "God's work, our Hands"
- 21 International Day of Peace

### October 2018 Breast Cancer Awareness Month

- 6 Salem Conference Fall Gathering--Shiloh
- 6 Northern Conference Fall Gathering--First Lutheran, Greensboro
- 13 Alexander/Iredell Conference Fall Gathering--St Mark's, Mooresville
- 13 Catawba Conference Fall Gathering--Holy Trinity, Hickory
- 13 Rowan Conference Fall Gathering--St Enoch, Kannapolis
- 13 Southwestern Conference Fall Gathering--Salem
- 20 Blue Ridge Conference Fall Gathering--Calvary, Morganton
- 20 Mecklenburg/Union Conference Fall Gathering--Holy Trinity, Charlotte
- 20 Smoky Mountain Conference Fall Gathering--Grace, Hendersonville
- 21 Sandhills Conference Fall Gathering--St James, Fayetteville
- 27 Cabarrus/Stanly Conference Fall Gathering--Kimball, Kannapolis

**November 2018 Homelessness Awareness Month**

- 1 SWO Board Reports Due
- 2-4 Fall Retreat—Blowing Rock, NC
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 16-17 SWO Board Retreat—High Rock Lake

**December 2018**

- 1 World Aids Day

**January 2019 Human Trafficking Month**

- 1 World Day of Peace
- Committee Day 2

**February 2018 Black History Month**

**March 2018 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 2018 Autism Awareness Month**

- 1 Easter

**May 2018 National Military Appreciation Month**

- 13 Mothers Day

**June 2018 National Safety Month**

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





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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  
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karmagma@gmail.com

