



NORTH CAROLINA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

www.ncwelca.org

THE BULLETIN

August 2022

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*The Bulletin* is the official publication of the NC Women of the ELCA, published August through May, monthly. Articles and information relating to the Women of the ELCA are accepted for publication, following review by the Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) President and the SWO Secretary, who serves as the Editor. Distribution is scheduled for the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month; therefore, articles **must be submitted no later than the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the month** that you would like the information to be included. You may submit articles to Susan P. Harris, [sepharris@bellsouth.net](mailto:sepharris@bellsouth.net) or 4369 Herter Road, Lincolnton, NC 28092.

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PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to 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.

OUR MISSION

MOBILIZING WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST.

From the Desk of the President:

As I reflect on Sunday's Gospel and sermon, a few things really stand out for me and play on a loop in my mind. These are especially evident as we, ladies of the NC Synodical Women's board, and we, members of our organization, are working relentlessly to get things back to a slightly more controlled and festive example to all. The thoughts that replay almost continually are that WE are **Renewed Day by Day**; WE love our neighbors as the Lord loves us; and WE are all in. Now, some of you may be shaking your head and thinking what on earth is this crazy woman talking about?!? Hear me out, please.

One, as faithful believers, we have such a huge advantage over others. Where others fade and begrudgingly wait for their end, WE are Restored, Revived, and **Renewed Day by Day**! I have come to realize that the older I get, the more I appreciate this aspect of our Christian teachings. Just these past three years much has been shown in a completely different light and it has proven this renewal over and over again. Before, the nasty little "C" came along, we were doing our own thing; working; serving; praying. But, were we REALLY walking the path of the Lord? Or, were we just pawns in the day-to-day mindless repetition that we once called our lives?

The truth is, a person never really stops to think about this unless things have taken a turn for the worse, or a little pandemic rears its ugly head and turns our world upside-down. I mean, if you just won \$5,000 would you think of how you now need to be renewed? Hmm, probably not at the moment. However, when life gets real, and we are faced with some not so glamorous situations again and again, we quickly and continually think of being renewed.

Times when it is hard to find the "good" in getting fired; the "joy" of receiving repeated past-due notices; or the "thankfulness" of having to pay \$4.68 for a gallon of gas, it's hard. So very hard. We begin to feel as if we have been betrayed, unloved, or forsaken; but that is not the case. This is the time when our renewal becomes extremely important! It's very easy to just give up; to accept you are a failure; or a waste of space.

As Christians, we know of the Glory to come as we walk in our relationship with Jesus; BUT, that does not exempt us from the problems of life. There are stories throughout the Bible that share lessons of these times. One of my favorites is 2 Corinthians 1:8. Poor ole Paul is just really in a difficult season of his life. He shares his humanness by describing how he

feels. Paul speaks of his thoughts of being a burden, lacking strength, despair, and feeling that his life is just one huge mistake. But, wait! Tada!! Along comes 2 Corinthians 4:16-18 *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day."* Yes, we are being Renewed day by day! Just like Paul, we will face many challenges, but God still holds the good news of renewal day by day.

My second thought is neighbors. In Luke 10:25-37, we learn of a man that has great knowledge of Jewish laws. He decides to test Jesus about how to obtain eternal life. Well, needless to say, he did not know what he was about to step into. Of course, Jesus, our "teacher", simply gives a story. He tells of neighbors. After he describes the three men in the story, he asks, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

This is where it sinks in. This is where we learn of mercy: God's mercy for us and the mercy that we must show to others. Our neighbors. But maybe this leads to the question of Who are our neighbors? How should they be treated? Your neighbors are anyone and everyone that you encounter. Be it the neighbor on your pew at church; the neighbor across the street from your house; or the neighbor three counties away. ALL are your neighbors, and all should be treated as you would treat yourself. Powerful, huh?

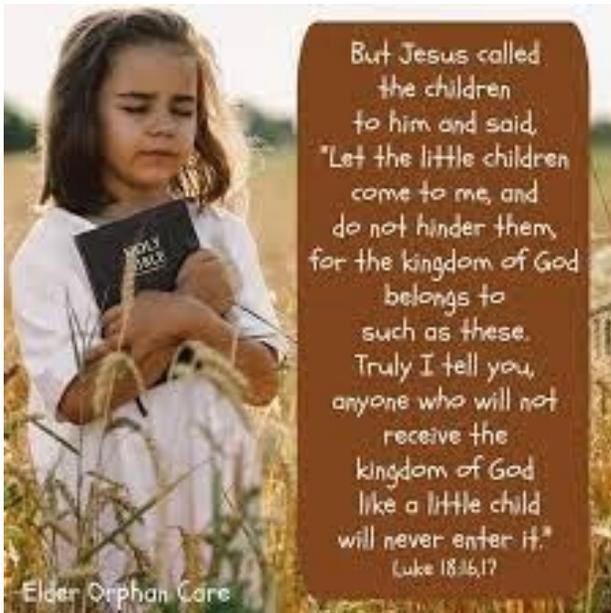
My last thought on repeat is.....Are you all in? Father Kramer spoke of this Sunday. Remember back when you used to hang out with your friends? Had a little neighborhood crew? When new games were imagined, new treasures needed to be found, or lazy summer days were better with a good pal down by the creek? If you were asked if you wanted to participate, nine times out of ten you would jump at the chance to have the excitement. The feeling of anticipation of what is to come. The warmth of feeling like you belonged. You knew, these! Were! Your people!

Now, let's go the other way. Go back and try to remember the day that this feeling of belonging and friendship went away or was darkened? The day you didn't want to chase the fireflies with your friends in the evening. Or maybe, the day that you had your first heartbreak and you realized that life was not all rainbows, gumdrops, and lollipops. What if...try to imagine, what if, those moments did not exist? What would you be like today? Would you be more carefree, loving, eager? What if, we never had to think about it? No matter what, you will be "All In"

when asked to do something new, fun, or even dare I say dangerous? Do you miss that childish wonder? That safety of no hardship in the world except which color of popsicle you were getting next? We NEED to get that back! That “All In” feeling back into our souls. Back into our women’s groups. Back into our churches, communities, homes. It needs to become our first automatic response.....So much so that it is just like breathing. A renewed sense of Christian values and love. Something not thought about. Not studied for. Not second guessed. It. Just. Is. And, it is good. Good? Yes, good. That childish mentality of dreams and no boundaries. The fact-of-the-matter in which you spoke of God. The innocence of praying as if you were talking to your best friend.

He is the wonder of our imaginations. The answer to our prayers. The Father with undying love. Do you think you could try this? Could/would you throw adulthood to the wind and speak to your Father without shame? Are you ready to be.....ALL IN?

Lisa Philbeck, President



OFFERING REMITTANCES SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO:

DEBRA WEINEL, SWO TREASURER
1612 Sherburg Court
Raleigh, NC 27606

CU Treasurers should continue to use Form A.

deweinel@gmail.com

(919)851-3093 Home (919)215-6624 Cell

An Update from Conference Leaders Committee



For those of you who don't know, I grew up in New England where sailing is a common activity. I learned something from the sailing community as a young child that has served me well as a “Life Lesson” that I would like to share with you.

You can't change the direction of the wind, but you can adjust your sails.

Along the way, I've added to this saying... *And if there is no wind and you're just sitting there, pull out the oars and start rowing!* You might not get very far very fast, but at least you'll be moving! This is the exact situation that NC WELCA was in regarding our Annual Gathering scheduled June 24-26 at Lenoir-Rhyne University (LRU).

Unfortunately, with LRU being so preoccupied with the NC Synod Gathering held the first weekend in June, NC WELCA fell to the back burner. Although our Gathering Planning Committee has been in constant communication since last year, as of early June, LRU would still not commit to having the cafeteria or a meeting space available for our Gathering. With being less than a month away, we were forced into “adjusting our sails” and canceled the in-person Annual Gathering at LRU. We have asked them to carry over our long-held deposit to the same weekend June 2023, with the hope that planning will be more successful next year.

That left the NC WELCA Board and officers in a position where there was no wind and we were dead in the water. So, we pulled out the oars and we all started rowing! And I'm glad to say that we've made a lot of progress to date planning and preparing for a Virtual Annual Gathering via Zoom in the fall. Additional good news is that the NC WELCA Board and officers met for our first in-person Board Retreat at Grace in Salisbury the same weekend the gathering would have been held, June 24-25th.

Now, we have a new date so mark your calendar! **We have scheduled the 2022 Annual Gathering on Friday evening and Saturday, September 16th-17th. Voting members and visitors from all churches are encouraged to attend and participate!**

Now, I heard your deep sighs when you read that this is going to be a virtual event, but I want to be very clear when I say that this year the virtual meeting will be nothing like last years. First, we will be allowing visitors to register for this year's Annual Gathering. We used our Board Retreat in June to flush out more details, and we have a lot more than voting planned for the September event. And we learned some lessons from the Virtual Spring Gathering in April. We have hired a skilled technical aid who will help facilitate all of our virtual events going forward to ensure they run smoothly from a technical standpoint.

I encourage your continued patience and prayers as NC WELCA pivots to more up-to-date methods of communicating in today's virtual world.

Some of the things we have planned for September's Annual Gathering are a Bible Study led by our Chaplain, Rev. Karin O'Donnell, a message from Bishop Tim Smith, greetings from Lutheran Men in Mission and others, and a report from our Churchwide Board representative. We will also present several short 30-minute Awareness Sessions during the Saturday afternoon session for you to participate in. Music will be a strong presence throughout the gathering.

Voting will be a minor component of the gathering. On Friday evening we will vote to approve our Budget, proposed Constitutional changes and Resolutions. The Saturday morning session will include elections. The President's Message at the explained why the only election that will be held are for six (6) Triennial voting members for the 2023 Triennial Convention to be held in Phoenix, AZ next year. Additional good news - we no longer need Teller Teams because voting results are tallied instantly on Zoom, which will make our voting process so much faster and less cumbersome. Triennial voting member nomination forms are included with this Bulletin.

For those of you who missed the Spring Gathering and Program held in April, I am working with web master, Laurie Suggs, to post the program, "Voices For Justice," on our website. We are creating a new page for Programs. There is so much

content that we are breaking it into a 3-part program to allow sufficient time to discuss all of the material covered. Maxine Amos' video, the PowerPoint with the visuals, and the handout with the discussion questions and resources will all be posted online as part of the program. Thank you for your patience as we work through the logistics to make it available to everyone in a user-friendly format.

In regards to the 2022 Fall Conference Gatherings, we are planning to hold in-person Fall Conference Gatherings in October and early November at as many Conferences as we can. If your church is willing to host a Fall Gathering, please let me know as soon as possible! I'm excited to announce that we already have our first Fall Conference Gathering scheduled at Redeemer in Gastonia on Nov. 12th, We will be soliciting host churches throughout this summer so we can have enough time to prepare for getting back to "business as usual" without holding a Committee Day in August like we used to do. The Conference Leaders Co-Chairs will also be soliciting Congregational Unit (CU) contact lists to send invitations for the Fall Conference Gatherings. If you have any CU contact lists, please send them to myself or Heidi Gibson.

Our long-term plan is to have the Conference Leaders Co-Chairs handle the upcoming 2022 Fall Conference Gatherings, but we will be holding elections to replace Conference Leaders (Presiders and Directors of Communications) at the 2023 Spring Conference Gatherings. So, I'm giving all y'all fair warning now. If you're not on the NC WELCA Board, I *am* going to ask you to step up and run for Conference Leaders next spring!

In closing, I acknowledge that it can be difficult when we are put in a position where we have no choice but to make fundamental changes to long-standing traditions. Praise the Lord! I have all the confidence in the world that we are an amazing group of women who have the skills, knowledge and wherewithal to be "Bold Women of Faith" and accept the challenges at hand.

God's Peace,

Lorri Montecose

Conference Leader Co-Chair

Crossnore Educational Labels



After spending three days at the ELCA Synod Gathering the first of June, I'm still humming. What a glorious time. So many hugs, good food, good beds, good company, good displays by Women of the ELCA (thanks to Anita Miller) and many others to include Crossnore, good learning opportunities, (we used to call them breakout sessions), great worship time and sermons, and fellowship with friends disconnected for the last two years. Praise God.

When I got home, waiting was the latest Crossnore publication and it dawned on me I failed to carry my educational labels with me, to give the ladies at the display table. Ugh! Yes, I know Anita wrote us so nicely of the new way to send labels to Crossnore a few months back, but I fail to keep my register tape and so just cut them off the box and save. Of course, I had intended to take them to the Gathering. Well "best intentions are the road paved to ???".

The magazine from Crossnore was full of good information, so I decided to share what I read with you as a way to appease the guilt of not taking my labels to the Synod Gathering. For those of you that haven't been to Crossnore, NC to see this great campus you have missed a real eyeopener. They have a coffee shop and cafe with great deserts. They have a thrift store in High Country, that is full of treasures. They have a store that sells hand-woven pieces made on the campus as a way of preserving Appalachian hand weaving technique. There is also a fine arts gallery representing local and regional painters, sculptors, fine craftspeople, plus their talented students. And my most favorite stop at Crossnore School is the E. H. Sloop Chapel with the fresco by Ben Long, *Suffer the Little Children*. He used the local children for his models.

All of the shops are staffed by Crossnore residents. so young children are earning and learning. They spend time not just in the classroom but in the business world as well.

Crossnore also has a campus in Winston-Salem. Some of the ways to help the children in residence at that campus include:

- 1) Donate www.crossnore.org/donate
- 2) Shop www.crossnore.org/businesses-events
- 3) Wish Lists needs are published seasonally
www.amzn.to/3xW5ldW Amazon.smile
- 4) Support the Box Tops for Education app.
- 5) Link your Ingles, Harris Teeter, Office Depot/Office Max, or Publix Partners loyalty cards to benefit Marjorie Williams Academy, their public charter school.

"According to research on childhood trauma, all of the risk factors for adverse experiences can be offset by the presence of a stable, caring adult in a child's life..."

And 94% of their clients reported that they have at least one staff member they trust...

Submitted by Tonie Neal, Co-Chair of Justice Committee

Source: Miracles, Vol. V111, No 1, Spring 2022, Page 38.

A New Way of Giving



Tithe.ly is here! Do not forget you can use the secure online site to give offerings during online meetings or anytime. Go to the website (www.ncwelca.org). Click the "Give" button on the front page of the website to make your offering. As you fill out the information, click the box next to "remember me" to save yourself time the next time you make an offering. If you would like your church to get credit for your offering, please type the name of your church into the memo section. If you prefer to send in a check, you can still do that by mailing your offering to Debra Weinel, Treasurer. Please let us know how you like the new online option and if you have any questions or difficulties with it. Thank you for all you do for NC WELCA and the ministries it supports!"

A Prayer to Share



As part of the monthly *Bulletin* published by the NC Women of the ELCA, we will be including this new section, “A Prayer to Share.”

This month Debra Weinel, NC Synodical Women’s Organization Treasurer shares the following prayer:

The Five Finger Prayer (made popular by Pope Francis) is a great prayer to pray on your own, or with the kids in your life. This simple prayer method acts as a visual aid that helps us remember who to pray for.



The Five Finger Prayer

This prayer method is really simple. Each finger represents a group of people for whom you can pray.

You can open your prayer time with “Dear God,” or however you normally open prayer. (We usually alternate between “Dear God,” and “Hey, God...” depending on how formal – or informal – we are feeling that day.)

As you pray, go through each of the fingers (and thumb) on your hand. Pray for the people those fingers represent.

Thumb: Pray for those closest to you: your family and friends.

Pointer finger: Pray for those who point you in the right direction: your teachers, and other leaders in your life. Pray for wisdom and support.

Middle finger (tallest): Pray for those that lead us: those in government, in business, in church leadership. Pray for guidance and wisdom.

Ring finger (weakest): Pray for those who are poor, sick, in pain, in trouble: those most in need.

Pinkie finger (smallest): Pray for ourselves and our own needs.

PTSD and Pyrotechnics

In the faith column in the local *Up and Coming Weekly.Com*, I found an interesting read. (As you know, I love to read.)

Rabbi Dov Goldberg, Rabbi of Beth Israel Synagogue wrote about our patriotism, the July 4th holiday, and the need to consider our local military population. Here in Fayetteville, NC we have as a next-door neighbor, Fort Bragg. This base is home to over 50,000 soldiers and their families. So it is quite a big neighbor. This base also employs contractors and civil defense workers, local folks from a large, retired military population. We truly feel blessed in this community to have them here.

Rabbi Dov explores the idea of our PTSD-diagnosed neighbors and their reaction to the holiday and the fireworks that accompany the celebration of the day. I have not read a lot about the diagnosis but have heard enough to be aware loud explosions are a trigger for many.

We have local individuals setting off fireworks, that I hear from my apartment, throughout the neighborhood. Few, but enough I am aware that the police have notices out, to not use them individually because they are not legal in our state. But we also have parades, festivals, symphonies and generally celebrations that also hire professionals to set off these pyrotechnics.

Rabbi Dov calls it “competing priorities” when comparing the need/want/desire to celebrate with the concerns of the effects of the noise level on our PTSD neighbors. And as you probably have all read, the U.S. and Fort Bragg has a high number of soldiers that have returned from war with horrid injuries, some visible and some not so noticeable.

He states: “We are in the midst of Mental Health Awareness Month. I would suggest that taking note of this kind of weighing of values, wherever it occurs, is just the type of awareness-raising regarding the mental health issues that we are meant to engage in at this time of year.”

My thought is that the effects of fireworks on persons suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is more hurtful than our enjoyment. These folks suffer daily because of their patriotism to our dear U.S. of A. We continually hear from the pulpit, devotions and scripture reading of being our brother’s keeper.

We are to love our neighbor as ourselves. Tall order, but doable, if we are compassionate.

Romans 14:13

“Let us therefore not judge one another anymore; but rather be mindful of this, that you should never place a stumbling-block in the way of your brother.”

Submitted by Tonie Neal, Co-Chair, Justice Committee



Eden Village of Wilmington Construction Update

Eden Village is one of the benefactors of our 2022 Pennies project.!

- Water, storm water, and sewer have been completed.
- Nine tiny homes on site.
- Community center construction has started.
- Home foundation construction continues.
-

If funding is available, construction will be completed in 2022.



Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Fall Collection Information

Thanks for all your hard work in making quilts and preparing kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Trucking companies continue to have driver and other personnel shortages, but the LWR Warehouse in New Windsor, MD will be coordinating with sites to use their truck driver and truck with trailer to assist again this year.

The Ingathering will take place between October 28th and November 12th. The truck will be in North Carolina for pick-up after November 15th. You will see the list below of each ingathering site and the dates and times that someone will be available at these sites.

In 2021, North Carolina had 19,905 pounds of quilts and kits that were shipped to the LWR Warehouse. Let’s work this year to gather as many kits and quilts as we can. There is a great need for this in our world today.

For assembling and packing quilts and kits, please refer to the [LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide](#). This can be found by logging onto lwr.org and under the tab [Get Involved](#). You may also call 1-800-LWR-LWR2 for copies of the guide which are free from the website.

The different kinds of kits are “Personal Care Kits,” “Baby Care Kits,” “School Kits” and “Fabric Kits.” Then of course there are the “Mission Quilts.” Once you have all of your different kits together, the next step is to get them packed and ready for pick up at an Ingathering. Please follow the packing directions:

- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.

- Pack completed quilts and kits separately in boxes; like items together (pack School Kits separately from Personal Care kits, etc.).
- Label each box in LARGE, BLOCK STYLE LETTERS with contents and the name and address of your congregation. You may also use the [LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker](#) to create box labels. These labels make it easy to track where in the world your quilts and kits are shipped.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.
- The return address should be your congregation and carton addressed to: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
 - 601 MAIN STREET
 - NEW WINDSOR, MD 2177

The following are Ingathering sites. If the Ingathering site listed for your conference is not convenient, you may take your items to a site that is convenient. All items are going to the same place. Also, if times listed for a drop-off location are not suited to your schedule, please use the contact information to see if you can work out a suitable drop-off time.

I want to thank all those who have agreed to host an Ingathering site. Thank you for the use of your facility and your space.

- **Hendersonville – Grace (Blue Ridge Mountain and Smoky Mountain area)**
1245 6th Ave. West
Hendersonville, NC 28739
Drop-off dates & times – Nov. 7-10 from 9am to 4pm
Contact - Gregg Dodd 828-693-4890
(church phone number)
gdodd@gracehendersonville.com
- **Charlotte – Morning Star (Mecklenburg/Union and Cabarrus county area)**
12509 Idlewild Rd
Matthews, NC 28105
Drop-off dates & times – Oct 31 to Nov 10 (Mon-Thurs) from 10am to 2pm or by appointment. Please call before delivery.
Contact – Wendy Roberts 704-502-3898
wendyr1002@gmail.com
- **Hickory – Zion (Catawba county area)**
1911 Zion Church Rd.
Hickory, NC 28602

Drop-off dates & times – Drop-off dates & times – Oct 31 - Nov 3 9am to 5pm, Nov 4 - 9am to 12:30pm, Nov 7 - 10 9am to 5pm, Nov 11 - 9am to 12:30pm (will not be able to offer weekend drop-offs)

Contact – Sandra Parker 828-294-2532
office@zionhickory.org

- **Jacksonville – Calvary Lutheran LCMS (Northeast and Southeast area)**
206 Pine Valley Rd
Jacksonville, NC 28546
Drop-off dates & times – Nov 7-10 from 9am to 2pm
Contact – Gail Coleman 757-719-2131
gcoleman53@icloud.com
- **Lincolnton – Emmanuel (Southwestern and Gaston county area)**
216 S. Aspen Street
Lincolnton, NC 28092
Drop-off dates & times – Oct 31 to Nov 10 (Mon-Thurs) from 8am to 1pm or by appointment. Check-in at the church office.
Contact – Carol Lake 908-675-7290
- **Raleigh – Grace (Northeast Piedmont and Sandhills area)**
5010 Six Forks Road
Raleigh, NC 27609
Drop-off dates & times – Nov 1, 2, 8 & 9 from 9:30am to 12:30pm or by appointment
Contact – Bonnie Morrison 919-787-1815
glc@gracelutheranraleigh.org
Helen Hauser 919-649-3558
helenhauser46@gmail.com
- **Salisbury – Grace (Rowan county area)**
3020 Grace Church Rd
Salisbury, NC 28147
Drop-off dates & times – Oct 31 to Nov 10 (Mon-Thurs) from 10am to 2pm or by appointment. Please call before delivery.
Contact – Terri Brown 704-213-4202
tmbrown366@gmail.com
- **Winston-Salem – Augsburg (Northern Piedmont, Triad, Northwestern area)**
845 W. 5th Street
Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Drop-off dates & times – Oct 31 to Nov 10 Call before delivery

Contact – Nancy Carbone 336-722-8144
parishadministrator@alcws.org
Richard Tababen
rstobaben@gmail.com

Your quilts and kits will be picked up by a truck and delivered to the LWR Warehouse in New Windsor, MD. I will contact the ingathering sites to let them know when the truck will arrive at the church.

According to the LWR website, LWR spends around \$1.3 million to operate the quilt and kit shipping program. This helps distribute about \$13 million worth of quilts and kits around the world each year. The generosity of donors helps ensure LWR has the resources needed to move these items. You and your congregation can help this process!

The approximate cost to deliver quilts and kits overseas is as follows:

One Mission Quilt	\$2.25
One School Kit	\$1.40
One Personal Care Kit	\$2.65*
(*Includes the cost of toothpaste)	
One Baby Care Kit	\$1.30
One Fabric Kit	\$1.00

If you feel so moved, you may send your donations to: NC Women of the ELCA

Debra Weinel
1612 Sherburg Court
Raleigh, NC 27606

Many thanks for your patience this year and thank you so much for all that you do!!

Submitted by Terri Brown, LWR Coordinator

Offerings Update

Just as all other organizations in the church, the NC WELCA was impacted by COVID 19. There were several months of little to no activities. Then adjustments had to be made by using more up-to-date methods of communicating in today's virtual world. We started off in late 2020 by holding meetings virtually. Then we started holding retreats and gatherings both virtual and in person. At a recent Board Retreat, we saw how much COVID had impacted our organization in our offerings. Our fiscal

year begins February 1 each year, so we were looking at the time up to the end of May. The following is a comparison for the same time each year.

February 1, 2017 to May 31, 2017	
Regular offerings	\$11,742.89
February 1, 2018 to May 31, 2018	
Regular offerings	\$ 9,848.61
February 1, 2019 to May 31, 2019	
Regular offerings	\$ 9,929.80
February 1, 2020 to May 31, 2020	
Regular offerings	\$ 5,142.68
February 1, 2021 to May 31, 2021	
Regular offerings	\$ 3,358.89
February 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022	
Regular offerings	\$ 5,372.86

As you can see, there is an increase in offerings for this time from 2021 to 2022. This does show what happens when groups begin meeting and supporting the work of our organization. We have retreats on the calendar and Fall Gatherings scheduled. Any offerings can be mailed to Debra Weinel, 1612 Sherburg Court, Raleigh, NC 27606 or use the GIVE button on the website at ncwelca.org.

Together, we are a group of amazing women who have the skills and knowledge to be **Renewed Day by Day**.

Submitted by Terri Brown, Co-Chair Stewardship Committee

From the Desk of the Secretary:

There is something I have learned over the past two years. You may have learned the same thing during that time. What I have learned is nothing is set in stone. Well, actually, the one thing set in stone would have been the Ten Commandments that Moses received from God. Otherwise, I (and we) have needed to learn to be flexible because things change from hour to hour (and maybe even minute to minute in some cases) due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As an example, the Gathering Planning committee and the Synodical Women's Organization board had earlier planned for an in-person Annual Gathering this June; but issues beyond our control forced us to change those plans. Now, instead, we will be having a virtual Annual Gathering in September (16-17). The registration form for that

Annual Gathering should be included with this e-mail. If not, please reach out to me or another board member for a copy.

Another thing that has changed is I, as the secretary, have not been mailing copies of the Bulletin via US mail. It is a costly effort and the mailing list we had was outdated. I mean, there were names on that mailing list with addresses that had not been updated in close to ten years. Because of that, I ask each of you to look around your congregation and, if there are women who do not have e-mail capabilities, please share the monthly Bulletin with them, especially the registration forms.

We have held SWO Board meetings, conference gathering meetings, and Annual Gatherings virtually but we are hopefully excited to be able to plan an in-person fall retreat this year. It will be held at the Blowing Rock Conference Center September 30 through October 2. (That registration form should also be included.) We hope you will join us for that retreat. And we hope this will be the beginning of a return to "normal" activities for the NC Women of the ELCA.

In Memoriam

Elizabeth "Beth" Gilbert Wrenn
08/20/51 - 07/03/22



Beth was born in Lincolnton, NC to amazing parents, Hubert and Miriam Gilbert who taught her kindness, love, joy, generosity, responsibility, and service to others, enduring qualities that defined Beth's life.

She is survived by her husband Lee of 47 years, her son Philip Wrenn (Anna), her daughter Anna Bruton (Michael), and her granddaughter Kayla Bruton. She was predeceased by her parents and her brother Larry Gilbert.

Beth attended Greensboro College where she made lifelong friendships which she dearly cherished. In 1973 she received her bachelor's degree in elementary education. She taught in Highpoint and later at Tileston Elementary in Wilmington until the birth of their son Philip when she transitioned to full-time in the family business, the Islander Food Mart. By the time Anna was born Beth had mastered the art of juggling business obligations and being the ultimate soccer mom.

Beth loved her involvement with Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She welcomed opportunities to serve on projects that uplifted women and families. Her devotion to the organization led her to leadership roles on the district, statewide and churchwide levels. As president of the churchwide organization she championed the idea that an organization must change with the times to address the needs of young women and their families. In her travels with the organization, Beth met many women who told their stories which gave her insight and perspective into how the organization could reach out and make a difference.

Beth's work career with her business partner husband took her to various places along the coast acquiring easements for Corps of Engineers beach nourishment projects until they landed in Kill Devil Hills in the Outer Banks. Shortly after arriving Beth and Lee found the Outer Banks Shag Club and hardly ever missed dance night or a special event. Beth did aerobics three days a week at the Baum Center. While she enjoyed the workouts, the real fun was the coffee sessions after class, sitting and talking with that special friend or friends. Beth truly cherished those friendships and the sharing of stories about family.

With Beth, the sharing of family stories most likely involved stories about Kayla or Philip and Anna's childhood or their careers. Whether it was the latest video or pictures of the activity of the day, there was no shortage of information or pride to share with her friends.

A celebration of life was held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, July 31st at Kure Memorial Lutheran Church in Kure Beach. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to Kure Memorial Lutheran Church, PO Box 1, Kure Beach, NC 28449 or to Lower Cape Fear Lifecare (lifecare.org).

The following article is shared from the Crossnore School newsletter:

THE WAY HOME THROUGH THERAPY

For many of the children and families we serve at Crossnore, therapy services are [the way home](#). When a child comes into therapy, the first step is a clinical assessment, which drives the services needed to best meet each child or youth's needs and goals. Crossnore therapists work with kids in all our foster care programs, as well as serving children in outpatient and school-based settings.

[Therapists](#) play an important role in every child's team, working with everyone including case managers, foster parents, legal guardians, Guardians Ad Litem, social workers, and other important individuals to provide a cohesive and consistent environment for healing. Licensed therapists help children and families learn new strategies to address challenges, break ineffective patterns, evaluate difficult decisions, and overcome obstacles in order to lead a more fulfilling life together.

Crossnore therapists are licensed in a number of modalities, including Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Dialectical Behavior Therapy, Individual and Family Counseling, and Group Therapies. Additionally, we offer psychiatric services and medication management through our Senior Director of Clinical Services, Dr. Dawn O'Malley.

Our Thrive Scholarships provide support for children who are uninsured or under-insured, but in need of outpatient therapy services.

Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention and Gathering

The Twelfth Triennial Convention is currently scheduled for September 19-21, 2023, Phoenix, Arizona and the Triennial Gathering will follow beginning September 21-24.

Voting members of the Twelfth Triennial Convention will elect officers and board members to serve for the 2023-2026 triennium. The president and vice president are elected at the convention by nominating ballot, and no advance nominations are needed for these two positions. Nominations for secretary, treasurer, and board members will be received between August 1 and November 30, 2022. Additional nominations, consistent with the constitution and bylaws, may be made from the floor during the convention.

The theme for the convention and Gathering will be **JUST LOVE**. Watch the Women of the ELCA website (womenoftheelca.org) for updates as the time gets closer.

Voting members representing the NC Synod of the Women of the ELCA will be elected to serve when we hold the virtual Annual Gathering. A nomination form is attached to nominate women to attend the Triennial next year.

