

Gleanings

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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.

ADVENT APPROACHES

Philip Doddridge was the last of 20 children. Of the 20, only he and his sister lived through childhood. His parents died when he was 13 so on his own he got an education and at the age of 28 became a minister. Life was not easy for him having faced many tragedies very early in life.

While preparing a sermon based on Luke 4:18 and Isaiah 61:1-2 Philip penned one of our beautiful Advent Hymns - "*Hark the Glad Sound*". On December 28, 1735, following his sermon, Philip asked his congregation to sing this hymn for the very first time. Imagine how many millions of times one or more of God's people have sung this thrilling song since.

Before you get all wrapped up with all of the Christmas shopping, cookie baking and holiday parties, you are encouraged to sit down and read this hymn aloud. Savor the words and really think about what the words mean.

Hark the glad sound! The Savior Comes,
The Savior promised long'
Let every heart prepare a throne
And every voice a song.

He comes the prisoners to release,
In Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before Him burst,
The iron fetters yield.

He comes the broken heart to bind,
The bleeding soul to cure,
And with the treasures of His grace
T'enrich the humble poor.

Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace,
Thy welcome shall proclaim
And heaven's eternal arches ring
With Thy beloved name.

Advent 2013 begins on Sunday, December 1st. Be mindful of what this season is really all about - it's time for us to prepare to celebrate the birth of our Lord. However, it's also a time to think about the Lord's second coming. As we go through these weeks, listen carefully to the lessons we hear read and preached on. Be thoughtful of the beautiful hymns we sing and rejoice!

2013 CONVENTION IN REVIEW



Very early in the morning on Saturday, October 12th St. Olaf Lutheran Church was bustling with activity as women in the Greater Milwaukee Synod gathered to do the business of the Women of the ELCA. St. Olaf's women provided a "yummy" breakfast buffet.



During our opening devotions we were once again inspired by Amy Kiesner as she signed "*Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness, blow through the wilderness calling and free; Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.....*"



We received our Convention Offering which totaled \$2,006.00. One half of that (\$1,003) was sent to Churchwide. One fourth (\$501) was sent to Katie's Fund and the other fourth (\$501) stayed in our Synodical Treasury for ministries within the Greater Milwaukee Synod.



Our Churchwide Representative, Gwen Edwards gave us a power point presentation about the work of the Women of the ELCA. Gwen also presented a workshop on Katie Luther.



Always a popular Workshop is that of "Face to Face with the Bishop". Here we see women listening to what Bishop Jeff had to say about our Greater Milwaukee Synod and the Church-at-large.

Workshops are always a highlight of our Conventions - especially those where participants are actively involved. Above we see Pastor Matthew Lee instructing women how to defend themselves and stay safe in their surrounds.

The second photo shows women "Knitting 4 peace". Call Elaine Monis for more information about this project.



We elected four delegates to represent us at the Ninth Triennial Convention in July 2014. Left to right is **Caitlin Vang** (Woman of Color or primary language other than English); **Char Guiliani** (First time delegate); Center is Queen **Carole Ropel** (Triennial Promoter); **Marilyn Day** and **Mary Ellen Kiesner**. **Betty Warber** (not pictured) will also serve as a delegate by the virtue of her office as President. Should one of these ladies be unable to attend the alternates are: LaWonda Johnson-Boyles, Elaine Monis, Borgne McClelland and Nancy Sack.



The women from St. Olaf prepared and served a delicious luncheon which included a choice of home-made pies.

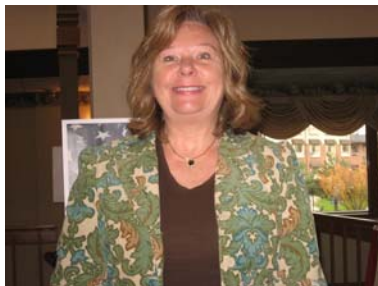


WE WELCOMED THREE NEWLY ELECTED SWO BOARD MEMBERS

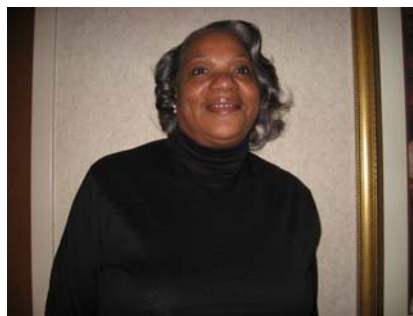
Also re-elected were Betty Warber, Sue Seidemann and Gayle Cameron
 We bid farewell to Carol Gilmore, Donna Hallada and Laura Lee and thank them for their service.



VIVIAN MARIE JOHNSON ... Born in Chicago, Illinois is married and the mother of three daughters. Vivian is a member at All Peoples Lutheran Church where she has an "Outreach Ministry ... A Creative Challenge Outreach". Vivian's goal is to help more people live a productive life. Vivian will be serving our Board on the Mission Team which is responsible of Discipleship, Justice and Stewardship.



DONNA YOURELL ... is a member at St. John's in Brookfield. She and her husband have been married for 36 years and are the parents of two children and grandparents of three. Donna has previously served on the SWO Board as part of the Mission Team, Vice-President and President until she was elected to the Churchwide Board 2005-2008. This time around Donna will serve as our Convention Intern.



ARNITA SPADE ... has been a member at Incarnation Lutheran Church for 22 years. She is the mother of a 31 year old daughter and has three grandchildren. She loves to sing and does Tie Bo (dancing) every other day. Arnita will be serving on our Mission Team.

A Message from the Synodical Women's Organization President

*All these **with one accord** devoted themselves to prayer,
together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.
Acts 1:14*

Sisters in Christ,

I have been reading a book entitled "What Happens When Women Pray" and one chapter was on praying **with one accord**. So just what does this **with one accord mean**? To me it means that where one, two, three or more are gathered together to pray and they pray for one specific thing they are praying **with one accord**. They begin by praying to our Heavenly Father ... they are focused on one particular thing ... a reason, whatever that might be, for this talk with God.

Keeping in mind the Mission Statement of Women of the ELCA "**Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ**" the Synodical **W**omen's **O**rganization's Board has decided to pray **with one accord** that the Holy Spirit will work within the Women of the Greater Milwaukee Synod to come together for study, support and action. It will take some discipline on our part but we want you to know that at **8:00 AM every morning** we are praying for you.

How are your UNITS doing? I would love to hear what is going on with the women in your congregation. I would love to be invited to join your women for some special function you are having but you'll have to issue the invitation. Has your UNIT kind-of fizzled in the past months, years? Maybe I could help you revitalize it ... call me. Are Bible Study Circles something for those "gray-haired" ladies? Absolutely not! How about inviting your friends to a coffee shop and work with our on-line magazine Café. How are you being creative in inviting younger women to study? Share those ideas with other women in our Synod.

On Saturday, November 9th your SWO Board met at Luther Manor for an all-day meeting. Eva Yeo, Director of Congregational Unit support and individual partnerships from our Churchwide Staff, was with us as a resource person. Using one of the Women of the ELCA Resources "Gift for You" she led us through an exercise doing a "Spiritual Gifts Assessment". This resource is available on-line by going to womenoftheelca.org and I think you would find it a good tool to use personally or with your UNIT. Eva also talked about the different ways UNITS might be organized. The days of having a President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer are probably gone. However there are other models for organizations that work ... for instance "**A Coordinating Committee**" which is two, three, four or more women who get together and organize the women's program. Another option would be "**Co-Leaders**". This model is very informal but might work well for congregations just beginning a women's group.

However your congregational UNIT functions or whatever kind of model of organization you use, please remember the following ... to define an "ACTIVE UNIT" in the Women of the ELCA you must commit to these four items:

- 1) Come together for study, support and action.
- 2) Participate in the ministry of Women of the ELCA beyond the congregation.
- 3) Support financially the total program for Women of the ELCA. (this means collecting regular offerings and sharing a portion with the **S**ynodical **W**omen's **O**rganization ... having a regular Thankoffering Service with the entire offering going to the Churchwide Organization ... participating in occasional giving opportunities, like the anniversary of the organization, a memorial or even disaster relief ... subscribing to *Gather* and *Interchange*.)
- 4) Designate leadership that shall be in communication with the Synodical and Churchwide women's organization. This means that every congregation must have a contact person.

If you have questions, or if I can be of any help, please contact me by phone or e-mail ...

- ◆ Phone 262-886-8918
- ◆ e-mail: betty@warber.net

Betty Warber

Receipts	Actual YTD	2013 Budget
Board Offerings	\$300.00	
Cluster Funds	\$218.96	\$500.00
Unit Offerings	\$2858.21	\$,6500.00
Convention Offering	\$2011.00	\$2,250.00
Convention Registration (Synod)	\$2954.44	\$4,500.00
Retreat Offering	\$0.00	\$200.00
Retreat Registrations	\$0.00	\$400.00
Designated Income	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$250.00
Total Receipts	\$4,965.44	\$15600.00
Disbursements		
Board Offering Disbursements	\$235.00	
Unit Offerings to CWO	\$1838.58	\$3,000.00
Convention Offering Disbursement	\$1467.00	\$2,250.00
Retreat Offering Disbursement	\$0.00	
Designated Expense	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Program I Mission Growth	\$0.00	\$25.00
Program II Mission Community	\$0.00	\$25.00
Program III Mission Action	\$0.00	\$25.00
Program IV & V Executive Com & Brd	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Program VI Convention Committee	\$2120.16	\$4,500.00
Program VII Clusters	\$0.00	\$25.00
Program VIII Financial Matters	\$107.53	\$150.00
Program IX Newsletter	\$811.69	\$1,200.00
Program X Special Events	\$0.00	\$750.00
Program XI Scholarships -Synod Conv.	\$0.00	\$200.00
-Triennial	\$0.00	\$600.00
-Retreat	\$0.00	\$200.00
Program XII Anti-Racism	\$275.60	\$50.00
Program XIII Miscellaneous	\$39.70	\$250.00
Triennial Promoter	\$89.03	\$150.00
Total Disbursements	\$2,348.57	\$15600.00

Assets	
SWO Checking	\$11,000.44
SWO Savings	\$1,680.25
Certificate of Deposit	\$2,256.16
Mission Investment Fund	\$596.89
Total Assets	\$15,533.74

Designated Funds	
1/2 Unit Offering	\$0.00
Board Offering	\$65.00
Campus Ministries	\$74.00
Convention Offering	\$37.50
Scholarship-Synod Convention	\$200.00
-Triennial Conv.	\$1,960.00
-Retreat	\$200.00
Triennial Promoter	\$153.39
CD	\$2,256.16
Mission Investment Fund	596.89
Unexpected Expense	325.00
Total Designated Funds	\$5,867.94
Funds Available in Checking and savings	\$6,812.75
Total Funds Available	\$6,812.75

THANKOFFERING

As we receive “**thankofferings**” today, we share in a tradition dating back to the 1800’s, when Christian women formed “mite” or “cent” societies to fund mission. When others in the church said there was not enough money to carry out these projects, the women believed otherwise. In “cent” societies, each woman collected offerings at home. They would gather as we do today to worship and combine their offerings and offer them up with thanks and praise, dedicating the funds to mission. When Women of the ELCA was formed more than 25 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, **Thankofferings** are collected and sent to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. In gratitude for all God has given us, and with hope for all that is to come, we continue to give **Thankofferings**.

Copied from Your Offerings at work - WELCA

GIVE WARMTH

Touch someone with a warm word. Warm someone with a genuine smile. Comfort another as you’ve been comforted (2 Corinthians 1:4). Stand by one who is standing alone.

The “sympathizing tear” and the echoing laughter can each warm a cold day. Warmth, as a song, is of such character that you cannot give it without enjoying it yourself.



**TRIENNIAL GATHERING ... JULY 24-27, 2014
REGISTER NOW AT A REDUCED COST OF \$325**

Early Bird registration is now open, Triennial Gathering Registration booklets with forms have been distributed and are also available on line.....now it is your time to actually register your intent to attend the Ninth Triennial Gathering on July 24 – 27, 2014. An important date for you to remember is that the Early Bird registration fee is available only through **January 6, 2014**. That fee increases to \$350 as of January 7, 2014. You certainly can still decide to attend the Triennial after January 6th, but it will cost you more.

One comment I've received that I would like to share with you, is this: "If I register now, next July is SO far off, what if I can't attend for some reason?" Here's the answer; your registration fee is not refundable, but it is transferable. If that situation should occur, you would contact me and I would put the word out that "someone who planned on attending the Triennial finds that she is not able to do so. Who is interested in purchasing her registration?" You would tell me your asking price. Anyone interested would be referred directly to you. You would handle cancelling hotel and transportation reservations as you would if you had planned a vacation that had to be cancelled.

I have investigated travel to and from Charlotte. **Amtrak** does travel to Charlotte. It is a two-day trip; Milwaukee to Chicago, Chicago to Charlotte, Virginia, (Virginia is correct) to Charlotte, North Carolina. The return trip would be Charlotte to Washington D.C., D. C. to Chicago, Chicago to Milwaukee. Current round trip cost per person is \$422. Group rates for 20 or more would bring the cost down. The transfer times and the wait between trains were not very desirable. **Wisconsin Coach Line/USA** does offer chartered buses. The current cost is \$8,725, individual cost would depend on how many travel by bus. The coach hold 56 persons, has a bathroom, reclining seats, heat and A/C and a DVD player with monitors throughout the coach. Travel time is about 13 ½ hours plus stopping time for meals and stretching. The group would be responsible for paying the driver's hotel room while in Charlotte, adding to the initial cost. **Travel by Air**; U. S. Air has a non-stop flight to Charlotte at a current cost of \$429.50. Delta also flies into Charlotte from Mitchell Field, but there is a stop in Detroit. That current cost is \$529.

Congratulations to the Triennial Delegates who were elected at the SWO Convention on October 12th; Caitlin Vang, Woman of Color, Alternate LaWonda Johnson-Boyles; Char Guiliani, First Time Delegate, Alternate Elaine Monis; Mary Ellen Kiesner and Marilyn Day, other Delegates, Alternates Nancy Sack and Borgne McClelland. President, Betty Warber, is also a voting delegate by virtue of her office. These women will represent you and me at the Convention portion of the Triennial that takes place July 22 – 24, 2014.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year.

Carole Ropel, 2014 Triennial Promoter

Questions may be directed to Carole by phone or via e-mail

Phone: 262-523-4130

e-mail: caroleropel@wi.rr.com

QUILTS ... LAYETTES ... SCHOOL KITS ... HEALTH KITS FOR LUTHRAN WORLD RELIEF

We heard from thirty-seven (37) congregations and all one can say is “well done thou good and faithful servants” ... the response to Lutheran World Relief and their quilt challenge of 500,000 quilts is overwhelming! THANK YOU! These 37 congregations sent **5,076 quilts!**

St. John's - Jackson.....	270	Nativity - Wauwatosa.....	209
Mount Olive - Mukwonago 22 blankets... ..	18	(also sent 100 school kits)	
St. Luke's - Greendale.....	203	Christ - Paddock Lake.....	106
Our Savior's - Milwaukee.....	39	Prince of Peace - Milwaukee	40
Christ Our Savior - Sussex.....	143	First United - Sheboygan.....	256
(10 of these were sent to the Pine Ridge Reservation)		(also sent 60 school kits, 20 baby care kits , 20 health kits)	
Trinity - South Milwaukee.....	77	St. Luke's - Slinger.....	130
(plus 5 more quilts were sent to the Pine Ridge Reservation)		Cross - Burlington.....	461
Trinity - West Bend.....	147	Capitol Drive - Milwaukee.....	40
Mt. Hope - West Allis (made over 300).....	285	Whitnall Park - Hales Corners.....	103
(also sent 324 Personal Care Kits plus a box of soap)		Grace - Grafton.....	176
St. Paul's - Random Lake.....	137	Abiding Savior - Milwaukee.....	500
St. John's - Grafton (made over 140	31	First Lutheran - West Allis.....	62
(some of these quilts were sent to Pine Ridge and also		All Saints - Wales.....	29
Some were used here within the Milwaukee Synod)		(also sent \$70 to help cover the cost of shipping)	
St. John's - Brookfield.....	80	St. Paul's - Kenosha.....	50
Immanuel - Cedarburg.....	136	(also sent 14 layettes, 6 sewing kits and 20 lbs. of soap)	
(also sent 133 layettes)		St. Stephen the Martyr - Greendale.....	123
Grace - Kenosha.....	11	(plus 12 quilts were given to LSS in Milwaukee)	
(plus 12 quilts will be sent to the Lakota Indians in S.D.)		Norway - Wind Lake.....	537
St. Paul's - Milwaukee.....	30	(also sent 115 layettes, 35 fabric kits, 54 school kits)	
Holy Cross - Menomonee Falls.....	50	Christ the Victor - New Belin.....	50 Personal Care Kits
Faith - Cedarburg.....	88	Emmanuel - Racine.....	139
St. Mark's - Cudahy.....	30	(also sent 36 school kits and 130 layettes)	
St. John's - West Milwaukee.....	30	St. Andrew - Sheboygan.....	60
(also sent 23 health kits)		(also sent 56 school kits and 34 personal care kits.)	
		Mt. Carmel - Milwaukee.....	250



If your congregation sent “quilts” to Lutheran World Relief and your name is not listed above ... please send that number to betty@warber.net and we'll include it in the March 2014 issue of Gleanings.

The United Nations recently reported that 11.8 million children, women and men have been affected by the Super Typhoon that hit the central Philippines. More than 920,000 people are without homes and thousands have died as a result of this storm.

Lutheran World Relief is responding with building materials and clean water. They are distributing essential household item and they are sending **Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, School Kits and QUILTS**. Women of the ELCA are to be “thanked” for what they do in making these quilts and putting together the various kits. This is work we do right here at home but, with the help of LWR, our donations go where we physically can't go. So if you ever wonder about the work you put into making a quilt or about the items you collect for a kit ... please, wonder no more and know that you are indeed the hands and feet of our Lord.

As you look at the above list of congregations who sent quilts to LWR, you will note that All Saints Lutheran Church, in Wales, noted they had also sent a donation of \$70 to help with the cost of shipping. Lutheran World Relief tells us that it cost them about \$2.25, per quilt, to ship it. So to All Saints, for being thoughtful and generous with their time and money we say thank you.

As we go into 2014 please remember that when you cut squares of material, tie a quilt, or financially support this project you are not only making a warm blanket for someone but it might be a baby carrier tied around a mother's back. It might be a sunshade or a market display, spread on the ground and piled with vegetables. It is also a constant reminder that someone, far away, cares a lot.



Saturday, April 15, 2014 ... Joint Cluster Meeting

“Fair Trade Shopping with a Conscience”

St. Stephen they Martyr Lutheran Church
6101 S. 51st Street
Greendale, WI 53129

Saturday, October 11, 2014 ... SWO ANNUAL CONVENTION*

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church
8633 W. Becher Street
West Allis, WI 53227

Saturday, November 15, 2014 ... Joint Cluster Meeting

Program to be Announced

Luther Manor
4545 North 92nd Street
Wauwatosa, WI 53225

*The 2013 SWO Convention received good reviews regarding the one-day event. Therefore the SWO Board has decided to have another one-day Convention in 2014. If anyone has questions or suggestions about this event, please contact one the Board people (you will find all their names and phone numbers on page 11).



I love the words, but I especially love the images that we share - the way that through Café. God stirs our spirits”.
-The Rev. Dr. Joy McDonald Coltvett

Café, Women of the ELCA’s on-line Magazine for (and written by) young adult women turns 10 years old this year. Since its inception, Café has been a resource for young adult women who want to discuss issues about life and faith. But Café also has been a way that women of every age involved with Women of the ELCA and beyond can connect, ask questions and share their thoughts in the articles posted to the website boldcafe.org.

Many of the women who have contributed to each issue are women in ministry, like The Rev. Joy McDonald Coltvett, quoted above. She wrote in the November 2012 issue about being thankful. “Material abundance is by no means everyone’s daily reality, particularly in these tough economic times in this country and globally. Yet, the writer to the Corinthians promises that God is able ‘to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly ...’ II Corinthians 9:8. God is able. How might we participate as God’s hands and feet - as God’s body - in this abundant distribution?”

Ways to help celebrate Café’s 10th Anniversary in your congregation: Meet socially in cafes, bars or in each other’s home for dinner or you can start one with these ideas found at www.boldcafe.org/blog/start-café-group.

Share the abundance: During this year, Women of the ELCA UNITS can sponsor an issue of Café for \$400. The name of your congregation, city and state will appear at the end of both articles in an issue.

Share the love: If you are a reader of Café and you’ve a favorite article, share that with a younger woman in your congregation. If you are on Facebook, follow Café - Stirring the Spirit Within, and follow @Boldcafe on Twitter and Instagram. If you do not currently use social media, ask a woman who does and who can show you how you can participate.

PINE RIDGE

Mitakuye Oyasin (we are all related),

After two years of disruption as the school was rebuilt in sections, Batesland School was completed in time for the September opening. Batesland students are finally safe and warm!

Now there is ample room for storage so quilts and clothing can be mailed any time school is in session. Things still needed are Cuddle Quilts (our new project for Headstart) clothing for students (Headstart to Eighth Grade), and of course regular sized quilts for families.

Unfortunately, living conditions for the area haven't really changed since I distributed the fact sheet about the Pine Ridge reservation 2002. Pine Ridge has not benefitted from the money flowing into the North Dakota oil industry. Extension cords still run between homes for electricity, when pipes freeze there is no running water. LP gas trucks won't haul the small amounts of fuel the families can afford and the nearest full grocery store is over 25 miles from the school.

The Lakota share the few resources they have because they believe *mitakuye oyasin*; in Lakota Sioux this means *we are all related*. This belief extends beyond the tribe to include you and me.

So in the spirit of mitakuye oyasin I would like to thank the following churches for their donations of quilts, clothing and funds they have contributed this fall: Galilee Lutheran, King of Glory Lutheran, Nativity Lutheran, St. Matthew Lutheran, St. Paul's Lutheran, and Trinity Lutheran Church. If you've sent something without my knowledge thank you so much as well.

Merry Christmas and God bless you in the coming year,
LaVerne Mueller



"GATHER"

Our Women of the ELCA Magazine is filled with so many wonderful articles plus a monthly Bible Study.

This year's Study (beginning in September 2013 and concluding in May 2014) has been exciting as we have begun meeting women from the Bible. So far we've met Hannah, Deborah,

The Widow of Zarephath and in December we'll meet Miriam, the sister of Moses. As we read about these women we see that they were **BOLD WOMEN** in their faith and in their day. As our study continues, we'll meet more **BOLD WOMEN**: Abigail, The Woman of Endor, Daughter (An Honest Virgin), Rizpah and Rahab.

These studies help us identify with women from Biblical Days ... we see their challenges ... we feel their anxieties ... we see their faith in God and their total dedication to His purpose. These women help us to become **BOLD WOMEN** in 2013-2014 and beyond.

Have you invited someone to attend this Study with you? Have you targeted a younger woman inviting her to join you. If not, you are encouraged to do so in December - if the person you invites says "no" ask her again next month and the following months need be.

GATHER is a wonderful magazine ... this would make a wonderful Christmas gift for women of all ages. A year's subscription (10 issues) cost is only \$15.

In Christian Sympathy: We hold a former SWO Board Member, Lona Eubanks, in our prayers as she grieves the death of her beloved husband. Lona wrote, "after a long and courageous battle John passed into the communion of saints in light on Sunday, November 17th."

XXXXXXXXXXXX

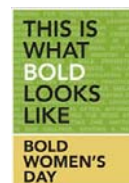
Action from the Churchwide Board Meeting October 19-20th.

- ◆ Fulfilling its constitutional mandate, the Board received and acted on the recommendation of the Executive Director review committee that conducted the annual review of the organization's Executive Director. The Board extended an offer of a fourth four-year term to Linda Post Bushkofsky that would extend from 2014-2018. Linda is the fourth installed Executive Director of the Women of the ELCA and has served since 2002.
- ◆ The Board learned that the 25th Anniversary Appeal has generated over \$140,000 as of mid-September, with half earmarked for the ELCA Malaria Campaign.
- ◆ Approved a budget for FY2014 that reflects a decrease in expected offerings and Thankofferings.

XXXXXXXXXXXX

Honor and celebrate the bold women in your congregation and community on Bold Women's Day, Sunday, **February 23, 2014**. Be bold, take risks on account of the gospel, but believe more boldly still in Jesus, said Martin Luther. And that's what we celebrate through Bold Women's Day: women who are bold, women who take risks on account of the gospel, women who believe more boldly still in Jesus. - See more at...

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/bold-women-s-day>.



THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

When the Christmas spirit springs to life
In the human heart each year,
The world becomes, for a little time,
A haven of love and cheer.

The poor in body are clothed and fed,
And the lonely know once more
The warmth of hearing a welcome knock
On a too long silent door.

For these few days we remember well
That all mankind is kin,
Bound by the love of the Babe who found
No room in that long-ago inn.

But the days go by, and the spirit dies,
So busy with living are we,
And the poor and the lonely are left once more
In hunger and apathy.

We have been guilty too, God knows,
Too busy to lend a hand,
Too busy to stop for a friendly chat,
Too busy to understand.

“No more, no more let this happen to us,
Dear Lord,” we earnestly pray.
“Let us keep the Spirit the whole year through
As bright as it is today”.

-Virginia Blanck Moore

From the Synodical Women's Organization's Board

Betty Warber

Marilyn Smithyman

Donna Yourell

Jan Fox

Ginny Oistad

Pastor Viviane

Arnita Spade

Sue Seidemann

Vivian Johnson

Gayle Cameron

Joanne Ruesch



Merry Christmas

IN UNEXPECTED PLACE

No one has learned the first essential of the good life
until he know that every day is Christmas Day.

Every day God can be found somewhere, getting a fresh
start in unexpected, stable-like places.

Anyone has learned life's first essential who knows that
one such humble, manger-place

is
his
very
own
heart.



Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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