

Gleanings

Happy New Church Year

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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.

We begin a “New Church Year” on Sunday, November 30th, the First Sunday in ADVENT which means “coming”. It is a season of four weeks of waiting for Christmas. It is a season for us to prepare ourselves to celebrate Jesus’ Birthday ... it is also a time for us to think about, and prepare, for the second coming of King Jesus.

The Sunday Gospel Lessons, during this season of Advent, come from Mark, John and Luke. They talk about the Jesus’ Second Coming; they tell of John the Baptist saying “prepare ye the way”... “He who comes after me, the thong of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie”. Finally, on December 21st we’ll hear the announcement of Jesus’ birth.

This ADVENT is a strange time of year ... holiday sale ads, stories about crowded shopping malls, and articles that offer Christmas gift suggestions clutter our mailboxes, fill the airwaves and invade our homes.

We are so preoccupied with shopping, decorating, going to parties, baking cookies that there is little time left for quiet reflection on the significance of the season. Since ADVENT is the beginning of a new Church year let’s begin it with the Lord by our side. Set aside each day to read from scripture, meditate, pray, sing those beautiful ADVENT hymns and be ready to celebrate Jesus’ Birthday and at the same time be ready to meet Him at his second coming.

The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks.
When beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child,
to bear the fight and die.
but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.

The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
Come quickly, King of kings.

(taken from the Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book ... hymn #260)

THE 2014 ANNUAL SWO CONVENTION IN REVIEW



Mt. Hope Lutheran Church on the corner of 86th & Becher in West Allis was the site of our 27th Annual Convention.



Lots of yummy goodies were waiting for us when we arrived on Saturday, October 11th.



The women working the registration desk were kept busy as they welcomed convention guests.



Voting members worked diligently during the business session electing new Board Members and passing two resolutions;

Resolution #1 is to continue the Indian Quilting ministry (for the Lakota Sioux living on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota) LaVerne Mueller began in 2001.

Resolution #2 is for the women to put together "Backpacks for Homeless Children" in the Greater Milwaukee Synod.



TASHA SCHUH, a C-5 quadriplegic, inspired us from her state-of-the-art wheelchair. Tasha grew up in Ellsworth Wisconsin and was a happy, normal teenager. She was involved in sports, music, work and theater.

A dramatic changed at the age of 16, while at play practice, Tasha says "I took My Last Step Backward",

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS



KAREN HOFFMAN is the new SWO Secretary. She has been married for 43 years to her husband, John and has two children. Karen retired in 2009 as secretary from Woods Associates, Inc. She is very active at St. Stephen the Martyr where she is a member and loves helping out in the church office when needed. Among other things, she sings in the Church Choir, plays hand bells and is a lay reader.

Away from congregational actives, Karen love doing counted cross stitch projects, works with ceramics, plays cards and loves to cook.



DEBRA BURNS grew up in Milwaukee and went to a WELS grade school and then Milwaukee Lutheran High School. It wasn't until after High School that she joined the ELCA. She is now a member at Trinity Lutheran Church in West Bend. She serves on the stewardship and worship ministry teams.

Debbie has a demanding job at WE Energies and in her free time she enjoys hiking, camping and spending time with friends. Debbie says she looks forward to the new challenges of serving on the SWO as the Convention Intern.

At the present time the SWO Board is short two members and we hope to appoint someone to fill those positions in the very near future. We have appointed Carole Ropel to be the Congregational Liaison for a one-year term. Carole will be welcome to attend any/all of the regular Board Meetings where she will have a voice but not a vote.



The 2014 Convention goers were entertained by the Cream City Crooners.

We thank our out-going Board Members for a job well done! Secretary Marilyn Smithyman and 2014 Convention Chair, Ginny Oistad.

Ginny Oistad, a recipient of a friend's kidney, had many hospital stays while she was on our Board. Her donor, Cathy Hinricks pitched in to help Ginny and all of us as we planned the Convention. Cathy, we want you to know that we appreciated all that you did to make the Convention so successful.

Ladies, you will be missed and our parting words to each of you ... "Remember that "Bold Women Laugh".



Looking ahead to our 2015 Annual SWO Convention
Saturday, October 3, 2015

Norway Lutheran Church
6321 Heg Park Road
Wind Lake, WI 53185

Theme: **Bold Women HOPE**

Theme Verse: Romans 15:13

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



A Message from the Synodical Women's Organization President

*I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you,
Because your faith is proclaimed in all the world ... Romans 1:8*

Sisters in Christ,

Yes, we are “sisters” in our Lord Jesus Christ because we have been claimed by Him in waters of our Baptisms. For me, “sisters” is a strange word because I am an only child. However, someone pointed out to me that I have many “sisters” in Christ and for that I’m so very grateful. The women in the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization is a “sisterhood” because we are made up of ELCA Women and have the same interest in carrying out our Purpose Statement “of supporting one another in our callings, engaging in ministry and action, and promoting healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world”.

Our SWO Board is made up of “sisters” who work in the areas of justice, discipleship and stewardship. These are women who are dedicated and willing to take risks and venture into areas not yet tapped in the Greater Milwaukee Synod. It’s always hard to have to say “goodbye” to these “sisters” when their term of office is completed and this year we had to say those words to our Secretary, Marilyn Smithyman and Convention Chair, Ginny Oistad. I thank them for the gifts they shared and wish them God’s richest blessings as they continue to serve in new and uncharted waters.

Then in the same breath I welcome two new “sisters” to our Board ... Debra Burns, our new Convention Intern and Karen Hoffman our new secretary. I look forward to serving with you and I wish you God’s blessings as you venture into new areas of ministry.

At our 2014 Annual SWO Convention the voting members were presented with two resolutions and both passed. Resolution #1 was to continue the Pine Ridge Reservation Project Ministry which was started back in 2001 by LaVerne Mueller. Because of LaVerne, many quilts, blankets, scarves and mittens have been sent to the Lakota Sioux living on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. The SWO will now form a committee to help finance this project and to take some of the burden off LaVerne. When I asked congregations for the number of quilts made for LWR it was great seeing Trinity in South Milwaukee saying they had sent 16 quilts to Pine Ridge and Faith in Cedarburg saying they had sent 12 to an Indian Reservation. If there are any other congregation who’ve sent quilts to Pine Ridge please let me know.

Resolution #2 was to provide Backpacks for homeless children in the Greater Milwaukee Synod - this does not mean just the inner city of Milwaukee. We have homeless children in the Sheboygan area, in Kenosha and we might have homeless children as far west as Oconomowoc. So what we want you to do is begin collecting “stuff” to fill these backpacks ... school supplies, toiletries (bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand-sanitizers etc.), also suggested was to include small personal security items (Beanie Babies, matchbox cars, nerf balls), small lasting flashlights. Keep these items in mind when it comes to “after Christmas sales”.

It would be wonderful to have one person in each of our Clusters to step forward and say, “I’m willing to work with this committee and be the contact person in my Cluster”. If there is one congregation in each Cluster that would be willing to serve as a drop-off site that would be great! Our goal is to meet in early August 2015 to assembly these backpacks so they can be given out prior to the opening of school. If you are willing to serve in anyway, or if you have questions or suggestions, please contact Pastor Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld (262-366-2676), Vivian Johnson (414-736-0368) or Betty Warber (262-886-8918).

I take this opportunity to wish my “sisters” a Blessed Advent Season and a Merry, Merry Christmas.

In gratitude for your partnership,
Betty Warber

Treasurer's Report ... October 31, 2014

| Receipts | Actual YTD | 2014 Budget |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Board Offerings | \$225.00 | |
| Cluster Funds | \$1075.61 | \$0.00 |
| Unit Offerings | \$3,646.93 | \$6,000.00 |
| Convention Offering | \$2,881.00 | \$2,500.00 |
| Convention Registration (Synod) | \$5,530.00 | \$4,500.00 |
| Special Event/Retreat Offering | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Special Event/Retreat Registrations | \$0.00 | \$400.00 |
| Designated Income | \$1,155.00 | \$1,000.00 |
| Miscellaneous | \$50.00 | \$250.00 |
| Total Receipts | \$14,563.54 | \$14,850.00 |
| Disbursements | | |
| Board Offering Disbursements | \$290.00 | |
| Unit Offerings to CWO | \$1,975.30 | \$3,000.00 |
| Convention Offering Disbursement | \$2,160.75 | \$2,500.00 |
| Retreat Offering Disbursement | \$0.00 | |
| Designated Expense | \$124.00 | \$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 | \$476.56 | \$750.00 |
| Program VI Convention Committee | \$4,421.81 | \$4,500.00 |
| Program VII Clusters | \$109.73 | \$25.00 |
| Program VIII Financial Matters | \$0.00 | \$150.00 |
| Program IX Newsletter | \$876.40 | \$1,200.00 |
| Program X Special Events | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Program XI Scholarships -Synod Conv. | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| -Triennial | \$1020.00 | \$600.00 |
| -Retreat | \$0.00 | \$200.00 |
| Program XII Anti-Racism | \$0.00 | \$50.00 |
| Program XIII Miscellaneous | \$217.24 | \$250.00 |
| Triennial Promoter | \$166.77 | \$150.00 |
| Total Disbursements | \$11,838.72 | \$14,850.00 |

| Assets | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| SWO Checking | \$13,519.59 |
| SWO Savings | \$1,681.09 |
| Certificate of Deposit (moved to MIF) | \$0.00 |
| Mission Investment Fund | \$2,896.08 |
| Total Assets | \$18,096.76 |

| Designated Funds | |
|--|--------------------|
| 1/2 Unit Offering | \$0.00 |
| Board Offering | \$0.00 |
| Campus Ministries | \$0.00 |
| Convention Offering | \$0.00 |
| Scholarship-Synod Convention | \$50.00 |
| -Triennial Conv. | \$180.00 |
| -Retreat | \$200.00 |
| Triennial Promoter | \$303.39 |
| CD | \$0.00 |
| Mission Investment Fund | \$2,896.08 |
| Unexpected Expense | \$325.00 |
| Total Designated Funds | \$3,954.47 |
| Funds Available in Checking and savings | \$11,246.21 |
| Total Funds Available | \$11,246.21 |

KATIE'S FUND EXCEEDS GOAL, CONTINUES GROWTH



Women of the ELCA had been challenged to grow Katie's Fund to \$1 million by the start of the Ninth Triennial Gathering in July of 2014.

On Saturday morning, July 26, 2014 Emma Crossen, director of Stewardship, stood before a crowd of more than 2,300 women to announce that this goal had exceeded the goal, reaching a total of \$1,051,112. Emma also reminded the women that the \$1 million was not a finish line and that we should continue to support this fund.

Each year, the interest from Katie's Fund is available to support ministries of leadership development, global connections and living theology.

On Sunday morning, July 27, 2014, during the closing worship service an offering of \$41,649.06 was received ... one fourth of that was dedicated to Katie's Fund.

Designated gifts to other ELCA Ministries

Do you, or your UNIT, give to World Hunger, Disaster Response, Malaria Campaign, Global Missions, or another ELCA ministry? Women of the ELCA has a strong tradition of supporting the larger church above and beyond our support for Women of the ELCA ministries. As with other designated gifts, make the check out to "Women of the ELCA" and write the designation in the memo line, and send it with Form B.

Questions (?) call Treasurer, Sue Seidemann at 920-4521634.

See Thankoffering article on page 9

Seeing So Much Light – Meru Diocese, Tanzania,

Submitted by Julie Starks who visited the Meru Diocese for the second time in September 2014

Arrival at Kilimanjaro International Airport is in the dark, literally. It is night in a land that shares the precious amenity of electricity carefully. I walk down the stairs, across the tarmac to a small, one story terminal lit with low watt CFL's. After picking up baggage and moving to the parking lot I see the first bright light, a welcome party! Their smiles, hugs and handshakes overcome the dark parking lot where our group loads onto a bus.

It is dark along the highway where small businesses carry on with little "light". We pull into the Guest House (owned by the Meru Diocese in Usa River) and the yard lights up with greetings from Mama Kiera. Her smiles, creamy soup, plentiful meals and table prayers make the Guest House a home. She is the hostess and manager of this gathering place who knows how to get things done and is a wonderful resource for local information.

I did not experience any BRIGHT lights in rooms, parking lots or streets during my visit in September of 2014. I met many people whose faith and leadership lit up the programs they lead. A few examples of these beacons of light are described below. These are the people that remain in my heart and pull me back to visit and learn again and again. Ms. Lydia Mbise is the headmistress of Ailanga Junior Seminary, a boarding school for nearly 500 students aged 11-19 years old. She was asked out of retirement to lead this school and is a treasure that is overseeing the addition of buildings and has students passing national exams at a much higher rate than many other schools.



Mama Mariki leads the successful Meru Diocese goat project. In the past few years, 250 goats have been given to carefully selected recipients, primarily widows and orphans. The female dairy goats are locally purchased with sale of their milk providing income for owners. The first female offspring is donated forward. A donation of \$150 purchases a goat and a supply of high nutrient food. We visited many of these recipients and were graciously welcomed by a group connected with Ndoombo parish. They enthusiastically shared with us the success of those receiving goats and the savings accounts created as a result.

On a cool and moist morning I met Eliamani Nassari, kindergarten teacher at Canaan, part of the Mbaaseny parish. She teaches 30+ youngsters in a very humble wood slat building, dirt floor without electricity. As a volunteer with only a blackboard as a resource, she energetically leads the children through recitations of numbers and letters. She leads them in active song and movement and welcomes our small group with flowers, warmth and graciousness. Another bright light.



One of my fellow travelers asked, "What do you see?" So many ways to answer, at first, darkness. Then a small light here and there and then many. I return to Milwaukee inspired to be a light like so many who brightened my days in Meru. This partnership IS about sharing, relationships and learning how to be people of faith in our communities no matter where they are.

Julie is willing to speak to any group about her travels to Tanzania. Julie Starks, jastarks@earthlink.net

The Greater Milwaukee Synod is officially in a "companion Synod" partnership with the Diocese of Meru, Tanzania. We fulfill the mission of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19,20 and John 17:20) by upholding each other in prayer, exchange of personnel and bilateral visits of partnership in an endeavor to improve our relationship and bilateral sharing of information. Many have been part of delegations traveling to the Meru Diocese and many have had the privilege of hosting delegations visiting the Greater Milwaukee Synod from the Meru Diocese.

The GMS started the Meru Coffee project - words that describe this project are "Justice Never Tasted So Good". By our purchasing Meru coffee we are helping to support the "coffee bean farmers". As a Synod we've help fund well and water harvesting projects & emergency food needs. We celebrate ministry together & we're blessed by this partnership.



Materials copied from LWR web-site ... used with permission

Lutheran World Relief writes ... “When you make and send a quilt, you are not only comforting someone you have never met, but providing an object that is useful in ways you probably never imagined.

The ultimate purpose of a quilt is to provide warmth, an essential need for people in every climate, and LWR tries to ensure top standards in fabrics and filler accordingly.

In addition to being a cozy, clean new bed cover, a quilt can be ... a baby carrier, tied around a mother’s back ... a market display, spread on the ground and piled with vegetables ... a sack for transporting those goods to market ... a sunshade ... a shawl and most importantly a constant reminder that someone, far away, cares a lot.

THANK YOU TO THE GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD QUILTERS

To-date we’ve heard from **30 congregations** and they provided LWR with **4,385 Quilts**

| | |
|--|---|
| Nativity (Wauwatosa).....263 | St. Luke’s (Slinger).....19 |
| (plus 77 School Kits) | St. Paul’s (Random Lake).....24 |
| North Cape (Franksville).....150 | Our Savior’s (Milwaukee).....37 |
| Dr. Martin Luther (Oconomowoc).....155 | Martin Luther (Milwaukee).....40 |
| St. Paul’s (Kenosha).....45 | St. Luke’s (Greendale).....233 |
| St. Stephen the Martyr (Greendale).....80 | (plus 70 personal care kits) |
| (plus 15 more which were given locally) | Faith (Cedarburg).....69 |
| St. Luke’s (Waukesha).....520 | (plus 12 given to an Indian Reservation) |
| Capitol Drive (Milwaukee).....27 | Mt. Carmel (Milwaukee).....208 |
| Holy Cross (Menomonee Falls).....43 | (plus 160 school kits ... 34 layette 229 bars of soap) |
| Trinity (West Bend).....161 | Christ Our Savior (Sussex).....140 |
| Redemption (Wauwatosa).....47 | Whitnall Park (Hales Corners).....77 |
| St. John’s (Brookfield).....89 | (plus 410 School Kits) |
| Mt. Pleasant (Racine).....120 | Norway (Wind Lake).....655 |
| Abiding Savior (Milwaukee).....570 | First United (Sheboygan).....228 |
| Trinity (South Milwaukee).....70 | Grace (Kenosha).....38 |
| (plus another 16 send to Pine Ridge Reservation) | First Lutheran (West Allis).....45 |
| Immanuel (Cedarburg).....90 | Galilee (Pewaukee).....80 |
| St. Luke’s (Sheboygan Falls).....62 | |

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF HAS GUIDELINES FOR QUILTS

- ◆ Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your congregation’s name.
- ◆ Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.
- ◆ LWR quilts should measure approximately 60” x 80”. Full-size quilts best serve adult recipients and children as they grow older. Please donate only full-size quilts.
- ◆ Quilt tops and bottoms can be made from whole pieces of fabric or any type of patchwork pattern of smaller squares. Twelve 21-inch squares or 48 eleven-inch squares sewn together using a half-inch seam allowance make a 60” by 80” top.
- ◆ Recommended fabrics for Mission Quilts include cotton, cotton blends, twill, corduroy, polyester, knits, fleece and donated upholstery and drapery samples (no fiberglass). Please ensure that there are no stains or holes before using in a Quilt.
- ◆ Use crochet or similar cord for tying. It is easier to thread and pull through than yarn and is more durable. Ties should be no more than 8 to 10 inches apart.

Financial donations to help LWR offset the cost of shipping quilts overseas are welcome. It costs about \$2.25 per quilt for shipping from the LWR warehouses to designations in need of our care and love.

Merry Christmas

From your S.W.C. Board

Christ Bell

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil 3 :20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3).. I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph 1:5)

I belong to God

Do you know

Who you are?

**'The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you;
The LORD turn His face toward you
And give you peace...
Numbers 6:24-26**

Donna Yourell

Debra Burns

Vivian Johnson

Jan Fox

Sue Seidemann

Betty Warber

Gayle Cameron

Pastor Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld

Karen Hoffman

The Train of life

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train, and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of your life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. The train ride will be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes, and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.

The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

May you have a joyful journey on the train of life. Reap success and give lots of love. More importantly, thank God for the journey.



In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers

Is our sister Carol Gillmore whose husband passed away this past September. Carol has served on the SWO Board many years, including serving as one of our presidents. Several of us were able to attend Les Gillmore's funeral and the following version of the 23rd Psalm (translated

from Japanese) was printed on his Memorial Cards.

The Lord is my pace-setter, I shall not rush. He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals, he provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity. He leads me in the ways of efficiency through calmness of mind, and his guidance is peace. Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret, for his presence is here. His timelessness, his all-importance will keep me in balance. He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity by anointing my mind with his oil of tranquility. My cup of joyous energy overflows. Surely hamony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours, for I shall walk in the pace of my Lord and dwell in his house forever.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA PARTICIPATE IN ANNUAL THANKOFFERING INGATHERINGS

The idea of collecting "thankofferings" goes back to the very early 1800's when women formed "mite" or "cent" societies to raise money. Before our merger in 1988 women had small boxes in which they were encouraged to put in coins in thankfulness for blessings received. The motto that went with those boxes was a "a penny a day the thankoffering way".

Women of the ELCA no longer provides boxes or containers but some of you make your own. Does your congregation have a "Thankoffering" Service giving women the opportunity to share with the entire congregation? Many places do just that. It's interesting to note that ELCA Women collect more than \$1 million in Thankofferings on an annual basis

Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important, and tangible, way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully and give thanks for what God has given us.

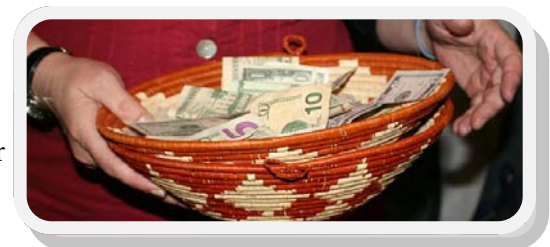
IT'S ALL ABOUT #ADVENTACTION

On the front page of this issue of *Gleanings* you read about preparing to celebrate Jesus' birth and preparing for Jesus' second coming.

Women of the ELCA have been invited to share stories and photos of the ways in which they are preparing for the long-awaited reign of God to come among us ... this is being called #ADVENTACTION.

Stories & photos (signs of God's presence among us) are being collected to create a montage of #AdventAction. You are invited to post photos and stories to Twitter, Facebook, Instagram or a social media of choice, tag @womenoftheELCA and use the #AdventAction hashtag. Women of the ELCA have created a tagboard where we'll collect up all the photos and stories, a visual representation of love in action in this season of preparation.

Our Executive Director, Linda Post Bushkofsky, wrote an article about #ADVENTACTION in the December issue of the *Gather* magazine, page 41. Be sure to read.





Pine Ridge News

I'd like to thank those ladies who attended the Annual SWO Convention and voted to assist the Indian Quilting ministry I began in 2001. I appreciated the decision to pass the resolution that assures the work will go on.. Although the children of Batesland now have a wonderful new school building the village of Batesland is still depressed financially. They will continue to have serious needs, so again, I thank you for the support you have for the community.

Janice Nissian delivered 18 quilts to Batesland School from Nativity Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa. She visited with my contact, Melody, the school counselor, and told me she was impressed with the new facility. She met children and saw the school store, where they can purchase items earned by good attendance, grades and behavior. Incidentally, Janice and her friend, Beverly Neusen are members of St. Rita's Catholic Church, but they quilt with the Nativity Lutheran Group! What a wonderful example of how we can grow quilting memberships.

Again, thank you for all your prayers and support throughout the years, and especially for the passing of Resolution #1 on continuing the Pine Ridge Reservation Project Ministry.

LaVerne Mueller

2017 TRIENNIAL GATHERING July 13th - 16th

More than 500 women have already pre-registered for the Tenth Triennial Gathering which will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Join the crowd and pre-register before the end of this year (December 31, 2014) and you get a discounted registration fee of just **\$280**.

In the September (2014) issue of the Gleanings there was a quiz asking you "How well do you know Minnesota?" The answers are as follows:

1. The Minneapolis' name means? **City of Lakes**
2. What famous cartoon character was born in Minnesota? **Snoopy**
3. Name the professional wrestler turned governor of Minnesota from 1999-2003? **Jesse "The Body" Ventura**
4. What fruit is on the "Spoonbridge" sculpture in Minneapolis Sculpture Garden? **Cherry**
5. Tonka Trucks were created & manufactured in Minnetonka ... **True**
6. What Minnesota company produces Spam? **Hormel**
7. What is Minnesota's nickname? **Land of 10,000 lakes**
8. What is the State Bird of Minnesota? **Loon**



WOMEN'S RETREAT WEEKEND

Pine Lake Camp

"Be Bold, Be Faithful, Be You" - Women of all ages from all around the state of Wisconsin gathered at Pine Lake Camp on August 15-17 for our annual weekend retreat. What did we do? We studied God's Word, worshipped, prayed, had meditations and sang together. We renewed friendships and made new friends. Shopping was available at the Third World Shoppe, Hearts in Unity and the camp canteen. Plenty of free time was spent swimming, boating, taking trust walks, reading, taking naps and in a book discussion group. A certified massage therapist was present for therapy either in a chair or on a table.

Our theme for the weekend was "Women of the Bible" and Pastor Alexis Twito was our Bible Study and Worship leader. We learned about the various women who inspired, touched and challenged us to be bold, to be faithful and to be ourselves. Worship Services were held both Saturday and Sunday morning with Communion. Women also attended the Taizé Service on Saturday evening and the program on Saturday afternoon was "Really Bad Girls of the Bible".

The food was excellent and we lucked out because the Pine Lake Staff set the tables, served the food and then cleared the tables. The beds were comfortable (The Evergreen Lodge is a high-comfort facility). A great time was had by all and we hope that more women will consider joining us next August 14-16, 2015.

Nancy Sack - Camp Coordinator

Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization

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Submit Gleanings articles to Betty Warber
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