

News from the Women of the ELCA

Before we turn to September's activities I do need to mention that Andrea and I had a wonderful time at the Synodical Women's Convention. Even though we were smaller in number the fellowship was great! We made sure we sat with a different group for meals and that way we got to visit with everyone. A more detailed report will follow this article. A joint circle meeting was held on the 16th at my home for our Ice Cream Social. Thank you Jane Kelley for helping me!

And now on to September! It is hard to believe we are planning again for our fall activities. Summer sure flew by. We will have a Planning Committee Meeting on September 7 at 10:AM in the Lounge. Please try to be there. If there is anyone with an interest in our women's groups who would like to help with planning, please come and join us! If you can't come at that time, but have some suggestions or ideas please talk to Andrea or myself. The Bible Study Group will also start back that afternoon at 1:00PM in the Lounge. We will be starting the Book of Job. Since this group was started we have read thru the New Testament and the Old Testament thru The Book of Esther. PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!

The Glad-Abouts Craft Group will start meeting on September 6 at 10:00AM in the Lounge. Please consider coming and joining them. They have lost several members due to illness and could really use some extra hands. They will be working on favors for our National Lutheran Home Lunch in October.

SEPTEMBER ACTIVITIES

September 7 – Women's Planning Committee will meet at 10:00AM in the Lounge

- The Bible Study Group will begin meeting at 1:00PM in the Lounge

September 18 – Lutheran Women in the Fast Lane will meet at 12:15PM in the Lounge

September 20 – Combined Circle Meetings – Salad Supper at 6:30PM in Luther Hall

ALL WOMEN OF THE CHURCH ARE INVITED TO JOIN US! More information on the back page

September 25 – The Book Club will meet at 1:00PM at the home of member Evelyn Coffinberger. We will be discussing the book *The Girl in the Gatehouse* by Julie Klassen. This will also be our "SUMMER PICNIC."

Brad will do hot dogs and you are asked to bring a salad or appetizer or dessert. Husbands are welcome!

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

October 8 – Cluster Meeting at Baker. I WILL NEED DRIVERS!! Please let me know if you can help!

October 9 – Set up for Monday. We have not had much help the last few years, so if anyone can come after second service it would be greatly appreciated. Let me or Betty Lou know if you can stay.

-Lutheran Women in the Fast Lane meet at 12:15PM in the Lounge

October 10 – National Lutheran Home Lunch. We need waitresses, bus people, potty helpers and a CLEAN-UP Crew. Let Betty Lou know if you can help.

October 15 – Apple Harvest Parade Food Sale

October 18 – St. John's and Mary/Martha Circles meet

November 4 – Soup and Sandwich Sale

Watch for information about National Lutheran Home Auxiliary Memberships!

TEA TIME WITH GOD Library

A special thank you to all who continue to support our library in memory of Jean Couchman. The following people have made recent donations.

In Memory of Ruth Ann Widmeyer by Jim and Linda Riley and Lauren and Tom Jackson

In Memory of John Coffinberger by Wayne, Karen and Tanner

Bill and Doris Agee

Karen Wainwright

WEST VIRGINIA – WESTERN MARYLAND SYNODICAL CONVEVTION REPORT

The Twenty – Fourth Annual Synodical Convention of the West Virginia – Western Maryland Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was held on August 5-6, 2011 at the Bishop Hodges Pastoral Center in Huttonsville, WV. The theme was “Sisters Supporting Sisters.” Thirty-eight people attended. Linda Riley, delegate and Andrea Prytz were present from St. John’s. Andrea is a member of the Board and also serves as co-editor of our *Lutheran Lines* newsletter along with Norma Boyer.

President, Dolly Nilsen opened the convention. Beverly McDonald and Jane Hazer, convention co-chairs welcomed us. Bishop Dunkin brought greetings and remarks. He and Pastor Christine Olson from Trinity, Arden presided over our closing worship.

Phyllis S. Rude from Anchorage, Alaska was our Churchwide Representative. We were very blessed to share the weekend with her. She has served in many areas of Women of the ELCA on both a local and national level and has a true passion for this organization. Our next Triennial Convention will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2014. Next year will be the 25th Anniversary of Women of the ELCA and thru the Board encouraged us to commemorate this in a special way in each of our congregations. She shared information on new resources and programs available to us. She addressed the name change of our LUTHERAN WOMAN TODAY magazine to GATHER. This was mainly done to encourage a wider base and to attract younger women. We were also asked to prayerfully consider any increase in our offerings.

Andrea Prytz, Norma Boyer, Linda Riley and Linda Roland shared wonderful devotions. Pastor Wendy Richter led us in our Bible Study. Pat and Lynn Schillings and Karen Stouch were once again our music leaders. Linda Riley presided over our Memorial Service to remember those members who passed away during the year.

Many women shared friendship stories throughout the convention. We were each asked to bring an item that showed something about ourselves and these were shared during our Thursday night fellowship time. Friday night Beverly McDonald presented a slide show of various points of interest in our state.

Deloris Alt Propst, President of Church Women United was also present and gave us an update on that organization.

So far \$1400 was collected for the Love Offering (one-half to Scholarship Fund, one-fourth to *Lutheran Lines* and one-fourth to Shenandoah Battered Women’s Center.) Beverly McDonald distributed our In-kind gifts of hygiene items to various agencies in Berkeley, Jefferson and Morgan counties. Everyone was so generous we had a lot more than we ever thought to share. St. John’s Bible School donated the items they collected, and thanks to Bernice Windholz, Dr. Randolph T. Banks, DDS also donated a very nice supply of dental samples. Again the Silent Auction was a big hit. All the baskets everyone donated were beautiful and raised \$629 for Lutheran World Relief.

Kara Propst was the recipient of this years \$1000 scholarship from the women. She is attending the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is the daughter of President Dolly Nilsen. She will be serving her internship year in Slovakia.

Election of officers was held. Norma Boyer was elected President and Linda Roland Vice-President by ecclesiastical ballot. Lois Broyles was elected Secretary. Jane Hazer, Beverly McDonald, Marilyn Pemberton and Janis Smith were elected to the Board. Phyllis Rude, our churchwide representative conducted the installation service.

Next year’s convention will be held at Blessed John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston, WV on August 3rd and 4th. Come and join us!!

Linda Riley, Delegate
Co-President, Women of the ELCA St. John’s