



SNOW



Summer 2007
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A publication of the Women of the ELCA, Northwestern Minnesota Synod

20th Annual Convention: “Women Rooted in Faith”

“Women Rooted in Faith” is the theme of the 20th annual convention of the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women of the ELCA June 15 & 16 at Hope Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls. We hope you have all marked your calendars, sent in your registrations and have planned your car pool for this event.

Friday evening will start with the banquet and our speaker, Glenda Hage who will show us slides and talk about “Life Lessons Learned in My Garden.” The business session will follow. The delegates will be electing a President, Treasurer, 3 board members and 3 nominating committee members as well as delegates to the 2008 Triennial gathering in Salt Lake City, Utah. It is important that each unit send a delegate to the convention to make your voices heard. Delegate registration is due May 15, non-delegate registration is June 1.



Act boldly.

Saturday morning will begin with coffee and a worship service with communion led by Bishop Wangberg. Pastor Sarah Larsen-Tade´ will lead us in the Bible study on our

theme verse from Col. 2:6-7 “So, then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.” Remember to bring you Bibles for the study. Our keynote speaker is Marsha DesLauriers who will share her love of the Lord through music and word. Check out her website, www.marshades.com, to read more about her.

Eric Bergeson, www.countryscribe.com, third generation owner of Bergeson Nursery, Fertile, Minn., will also be with us. Our physical offering this year is new towels, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shampoo and conditioner, bar soap and facial tissue and will be distributed to Cluster 8, 9, & 10 area food shelves and crisis centers.

And of course, we will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of the W/ELCA. It is going to be an inspirational and inspiring two days and we hope to see many of you there. If you haven’t already sent in your registration, check with your unit president for the forms and fill up those cars.

“Come to the Waters”

This is the theme for the 7th Triennial Convention and Gathering in 2008. It will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 8 - 13. There is one BIG difference planned for this event. The convention for all the delegates will start on Tuesday, July 8 and run through July 10, concluding in the forenoon. This means the business meetings will all take place before the gathering starts. The delegates' expenses for these 2 days will be paid plus your travel expenses.

The Gathering starts Thursday afternoon with a special performance by The Mormon

Tabernacle Choir that evening. The gathering continues on July 11 & 12 with the closing communion service on Sunday, July 13.

I had the privilege of attending a training session for promoters in Salt Lake City in February. It's a beautiful location with many interesting places to explore. So salt away your money for this special event and watch for more information at your cluster gatherings and in future issues of the SNOW. You can also contact me at 218-294-6320 or email me at djlian@gvtel.com.

Janet Lian, Triennial Gathering Promoter



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Message from the Bishop

The many roles of grandparents

“Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!”

It is Easter as I write this. Pat and I are returning from celebrating Easter in Rochester with our daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren: Erik (almost 6) and Annika (2).

We were reminded on the way to Rochester that this is the coldest Easter since 1975, the year our planned baptism of our second oldest was changed from Palm Sunday to Easter because of a winter storm.

The way we celebrate Easter has changed with our station in life. Early in our ministry, we were too far away to get together with family for Easter. When we moved back to Minnesota, our whole family got together to celebrate Easter. The celebration was close enough that we could make it for the evening meal.

Now that we are grandparents and I am no longer “obligated” to preach on Easter, we get to celebrate Easter with the grandkids. It’s about being a grandparent that I write to you today. Those of you who are grandparents know there is no better station in life.

But what Bible stories do you know about grandparents? Precious few. The Bible – a book full of all kinds of stories of families – is almost silent about grandparents. There are two references that come to mind.

In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul writes to Timothy, “I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.” Here, Paul pictures faith as something that is passed on in families from one generation to another. Grandparents play no small role in shaping the faith of the grandchildren.

A second reference is Genesis 35:8, “And Deborah, Rebecca’s nurse, died, and she was buried under an oak below Bethel.”

It would never have occurred to me that this is a verse about grandparenting if it weren’t for Luther’s comment that Deborah was like a grandmother to Joseph, Rebecca’s son. Luther writes: “She was very dear to Jacob himself and also to the grandchildren. She nursed them and attended to them in all kindness; and the “natural affection” of grandmothers towards grandchildren is usually greater than that of mothers, because in their affection love gets down to the children’s level and in so doing becomes extraordinarily ardent.” So, a second role for grandparents is the role we relish: showering them with love.

There is yet a third role for grandparents. It incorporates both of the first two roles. But it is one we might be less intentional about. It is the role of storyteller. Grandparents tell all kinds of stories to be sure, but they are specially called to tell the family’s faith story. Luther writes, “His nurse took the place of a grandmother for him, and she still had a fresh memory of the patriarchs Noah, Shem, and Eber.” These words struck a chord in my heart. I will look for ways to tell Erik and Annika the faith stories of their ancestors. It is part of the joy of being a grandparent.

Bishop Rolf Wangberg

Where does the unit money go?

This is a question asked many times so here is a little breakdown of how it is working for you, the units.

Our offerings are divided and not all spent in the Synod. When you send in the money, quarterly I will send it to Churchwide:

- 70% of Regular Offering received
- 50% of Cluster Offering received
- 100% of Triennial Offering every Triennial Convention

The remaining 50% of Cluster Offering received is used for Benevolence with our Synod.

The remaining 30% of Regular Offering received is divided as such:

- 25% Benevolence
- 6% Convention
- 16% Board Expenses (mileage, meals, office supplies, postage, etc.)
- 3% SNOW
- 50% Cluster activities and other

We sent \$38,669 to Women of the ELCA this past fiscal year. They use the money to provide income for the core support of the work and ministry of the W/ELCA; cover the operational costs of the organization and make it possible for you to collectively make a difference in the world.

The Thankofferings, which you send directly to the Women of the ELCA, are used to help Women of ELCA provide the resources, events and programs women need to support their ministries, and support the organizations giving through an annual gift (undesignated contributions) to the ELCA.

The Stewardship Planning Guide has a lot of information for treasurer’s and an Offering Report from 2005 that might also help you understand how it is divided. Thank you for your support this past year and see you on June 15 and 16.

Carolyn Engebretson, treasurer

Namastè! Susan Haukaas finds sisters in Christ in India

By Susan Haukaas

Namastè! That is an Indian greeting meaning, “When my spirit encounters your spirit, I greet the God with you.” I went to India in February through a joint endeavor of the Women of the ELCA and the ELCA Global Missions Companion Synod program. Young women, ages 21 thru 35, were selected from ELCA synods that have a companion synods in south Asia to travel to India and meet with women from south Asia. I was selected as the Northwestern Minnesota Synod representative. The Northwestern Minnesota companion synod is the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church in India, which is located in the state of Andhra Pradesh in southern India. Our group included seven women representing their synods, two program observers, and three ELCA staff members.

We flew from Chicago into Hyderabad, a large city of about 3.6 million people. We were in Hyderabad for three days. The first morning we met our south Asian travel companions: four women from India, a woman from Japan, and a woman from Singapore. While we

visited the synod offices while we were there and met several times with the Bishop. While in Guntur we celebrated with a congregation that was dedicating its new church building. We also visited many schools for women and girls of various ages and occupations. We met many amazing women of great faith who spread the word of God to those who haven’t heard the Gospel.



Women’s Bible study class.

were in Hyderabad we visited a seminary, ACTC (Andhra Christian Theological College) where many Indian pastors are trained. We also attended local churches on Sunday morning and met with professional women from Hyderabad to discuss women’s issues. On our last day we visited Henry Martyn Institute, the International Centre for Research, Interfaith Relations and Reconciliation which works for peace between different religions.

In the afternoon on Monday, February 19, we traveled from Hyderabad to Guntur, a “small town” of over 500,000 people. We were in Guntur and surrounding areas for three days. Guntur is the headquarters of the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church in India and we

We spent the last three days of our trip in Chennai (Madras). Chennai is a very large city in the state of Tamil Nadu. This was the first place we visited that was not a part of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod’s companion synod. Chennai is part of the South Andhra Lutheran Church in India. While in Chennai we visited a Lutheran college, a slum community, an orphanage, and attended worship at a local Lutheran church. We also met with professional women and discussed women’s issues.

The ELCA website explains the Companion Synod program this way: “The Companion Synod Program enables a synod of the ELCA to experience the gifts and witness of a church in Africa, Latin America, Asia, Eastern Europe, or the Middle East. The companion synod relationship exists for the purpose of strengthening one another for life and mission within the body of Christ. It offers us the privilege of mutually participating in the life of another church through prayer, study, communication, and exchange of pastors, leaders, visitors, and resources. It opens our eyes to the global challenge that Christ offers us today.” Our trip was an endeavor to further that mission. By building relationships with women from our companion synods we learn so much more than by simply touring. Traveling with women from the area was so rewarding and they were able to give us great insight into what we saw and experienced.

Continued on page 4

Namastè! Continued from page 3

Our experiences in India taught us all a great deal. Often we found that women from different countries and backgrounds share similar challenges and struggles. Our faith is so important as we face these issues. Moreover our relationships with other women of faith give us strength, encouragement, perspective and support as we walk in the footsteps of Christ. By the end of our time together we were truly sisters in Christ.

If you'd like to hear more about my experience invite me to your next meeting and I'll share my pictures and tell you more about what I learned. Thank you for your prayers while I traveled and blessings to you and the women in your life who walk with you in your faith!
Namastè



Susan in a sari.

Here's to your health

Healthy eating begins in the grocery store. If healthy foods are in your cupboard and refrigerator, your family will eat them! Here are some tips for adding fruits and vegetables to your shopping cart – and your daily diet.

- Buy fresh and canned fruits for snacking. Try a new fruit each week.
- Serve vegetables at meals. Let vegetables cover half of your plate along with a smaller portion of protein and grains.
- Choose dark green lettuce such as romaine, leaf lettuce and spinach. Toss in more nutrition with tomatoes, peppers, cauliflower or shredded carrots.
- Add tomatoes, lettuce, cucumbers and even shredded carrots to sandwiches and wraps.
- Limit 100% fruit juices to ½ cup each day. Extra juice is extra calories!
- Stuff a potato with your favorite fillings and heat in the microwave.
- Plan a trip to the farmers market for a wonderful variety of locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Summer Chicken Salad

2 cups cooked chicken, cut into cubes

1 cup red grapes, sliced into halves

1 can (6 ounce) pineapple chunks, drained

1 can (11 ounce) mandarin oranges, drained

1 stalk celery, finely chopped

2 cups cooked small ring macaroni

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Add Fruit Dressing and mix together.

Serve! Makes 8 – 1 cup servings. Each serving contains 203 calories, 6.5 grams of fat (29%) and 1.5 grams of fiber.

Fruit Dressing

½ cup light mayonnaise

2 teaspoon sugar

¼ cup pineapple or orange juice

-Carla Gauwitz, SWO Secretary

Book Report

I'm a book store browser. If I should find a few extra minutes in my list of things to do when I go shopping, I stop at a book store. Oops, there went my few extra minutes and now I won't get anything done. I wander the aisles looking for familiar authors or at different book titles. One day I spotted "*Dinner with a Perfect Stranger*" by David Gregory.

I am always surprised at what draws me to a book. In this book Nick Cominsky accepts an invitation to join Jesus of Nazareth for dinner at a local restaurant. He is convinced that this is a prank his friends at work are pulling. What he leaves with made me ask myself what I would do if I suddenly found myself talking to Jesus. Right next to "*Dinner with a Perfect Stranger*" was "*a Day with a Perfect Stranger*" so of course I took that one too. This was about Mattie Cominsky taking an out of town trip and meeting an interesting person on the plane. I bet you see where this is going.

Both these books are interesting and fast reads. I really found myself wondering what I would be like in these situations and then I remember that I should always be prepared because we do not know the hour or day when our Lord is coming.

Diane Nord, Board Member

Forms available on the web

Some forms are available on the W/ELCA website, www.womenoftheelca.com, and also on ours, www.nwmnsynod.org.

Pause for Prayer

Joe Tarvestad had a special way of saying “thank you.” It was “Thank you for EVerything” with heavy emphasis on the first syllable of “everything.” In later years it became a signature expression of his, but it was never spoken lightly. As Dad grew older and more dependent on the help of others, those words were heard more frequently. His words came from the depth of a grateful heart. It seemed Dad never made assumptions about what he received—that he had somehow earned them and deserved them. He saw them as blessings and expressed his gratitude to us and to God.

Yes, I do thank God for specific blessings in my daily life. When it was time for me to make a long road trip along, I asked Him for good roads and an alert mind. Both were received—with gratitude to God. When I was to solo for nine days as caregiver to our two young grandsons, I asked God for energy and patience. I am happy and grateful that

both were indeed provided. Yes, I do thank the Lord for many things—but I assume too many other things.

I wonder how long it’s been since I’ve thanked God for my (almost!) pain-free, energetic body; for a church in which to worship; for our house which has never been ram-paged by fire or natural disaster; for a closely-knit, extended family; for freedom!

No, I don’t do it consciously, but I take for granted too many things, things that have always been a part of my life.

Lord, forgive my sin of ingratitude. You are and always have been so good to me. I ask you to make me mindful of the many blessings in my life which I seem to take for granted. Thank you, precious Lord, for EVerything. AMEN
Sharon Temanson

Thoughts from a Board Member

Just recently I made a trip to Thief River Falls for a leadership workshop and you know how when you are driving by yourself you think of a lot of things. Maybe stuff going on in your life or things coming up in your life or what you will say with your presentation at the workshop.

Whenever I drive places, I take notice of signs---road signs, billboard, etc. Since we have our own business, I really notice other billboards. Signs are a good thing. They tell us directions, where to go to buy certain products, what family is responsible for cleaning up this portion of the highway. I began to think about all the signs that God has given us. He has given us the Bible for direction. He may give us “signs” in our lives as to what to do with our lives---

some of us see those signs clearly and others take some time to realize what God wants them to do. Without God’s direction (leadership) our lives have no meaning. He sacrificed His only Son for us at Easter so that we may have “direction” in our lives. As the Bible says in the Christmas story, “Let this be a SIGN for you.” Luke 2:12.

So the next time you go for a drive or a ride, take notice of the signs---maybe the directional or advertising signs but also think about the “signs” God has given you or is giving you. He is an awesome God and won’t steer you wrong! The best place for “signs/direction” is your Bible. Blessings.

Carla Johnson, Vice President



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Aug. 1 for Fall issue

Nov. 1 for Winter issue

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Synodical News Of Women

Northwestern Minnesota Synod ELCA

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Convention Prayer

Heavenly Father:

Thank you for the women who gather together as Women of the ELCA. Thank you for your guidance during these past 20 years. Please continue to guide our mission and actions. Give us leaders who are moved by your Spirit and workers who are zealous.

Lord, we ask your blessing on our convention and pray that your Spirit will be moving among us. As we reach heavenward, remind us to stay grounded in your word, with the Bible study led by Pr. Sarah Larsen-Tade. Lift us with the music and words of Marsha DesLauriers and Eric Bergeson. Gather us together with grateful hearts at our worship as we hear your words through Bishop Rolf Wangberg and commune as sisters in Christ.

Thank you for all the wonderful, talented women who have had a part in planning, preparing and participating in this convention. Bless those who say yes when called on to place their name on the ballot. Give us your discerning Spirit, so that we may do the business of this organization.

May our time together be filled with fellowship, laughter and joy. Bless each person who attends in a special way. Grant safe travel to all.

We are women rooted in faith, faith in you, Our Lord and Risen Savior. Amen

Happy Anniversary!

The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America was formed in 1987.

This is our 20th anniversary and we need to celebrate.



Each unit should be planning on celebrating sometime during the year. The W/ELCA website, www.womenoftheelca.org has an excellent help, "Looking back, Looking ahead," that can be downloaded. It gives a brief history of what has happened to us in the last 20 years, from conventions to new programs. It also gives many ideas of activities that you can help plan for your celebration. Take a look and have a great party.

Cluster 3 & 5 Bible Retreat

June 12, 2007

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

\$20.00/person

Jan Bakken, morning speaker

Two for Life, afternoon entertainment

Walk to the Cross – Communion Closing, 3:00 p.m.

Pre-registration deadline – June 1

SNOW on the web

This and previous issues of SNOW (in color) are available on the Northwestern Minnesota Synod website: www.nwmnsynod.org