



SNOW

Winter 2006-07
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A publication of the Women of the ELCA, Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Acting Boldly: Cluster meetings highlight fall activities

Fall Cluster Gatherings were held all over the Synod, and attended by over 930 members. Here is a summary of the events.

Cluster 1

Laroki Cluster 1 met Saturday morning, October 7 at Moe Lutheran Church in Roseau. Sixty-five ladies were present to hear Mary VandeWege speak on the theme of "Praying Women" with the theme verse of "pray constantly"-1 Thessalonians 5:17. There was special music and the devotions also fit in with the singing of songs related to prayer—such as "Whisper a Prayer." New officers were elected: Linda Burk, Financial Recorder; Elaine Baker, Recorder and Ina Baumgartner, Coordinator.



Cluster 1 - Financial Recorder Linda Burk, Recorder Elaine Baker, Coordinator Ina Baumgartner.

Cluster 2

United Lutheran, Gatzke was the location of Cluster 2's Fall Gathering on September 16. Their theme, "This is the Day the Lord Hath Made," was taken from Psalms 118:24. The speaker was Beverly Slavin from Roseau.

Cluster 3

Our Fall Cluster Gathering was held on September 16 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in East Grand Forks. The speaker for the morning was Laura Munski. She told us about the

organization Church Women United. Elections were held. The officers for the 2007 year will be Mavis Werner, Coordinator; Norma VanHorn, Financial Recorder and Nancy Andree, Recorder.

Cluster 4

Our women in Cluster 4 had a wonderful morning at Calvary Lutheran in Bemidji. "Women of Unity and Mission" was the theme for the day. Pastor Steve Trandem gave the Bible study on "Women in Missions." We all learned new words for "Jesus Loves Me" which you'll find elsewhere in the SNOW. Eric Bergeson gave such an interesting and thoughtful talk on "Lutheran Church Women-Doing God's Work." What a wonderful piano player he is also. The next order of business was election of officers. The spring gathering will be at Trinity Lutheran in Laporte.



Cluster 3 - SWO Pres. Wenda Sang, Recorder Nancy Andree, Financial Recorder Norma VanHorn, SWO Bd. Rep. Diane Nord, Coordinator Mavis Werner.

Cluster 5

Cluster 5 women were reminded how good it is to laugh as Vicki Marthaler and Kim Schnitzer presented the program, "Let's Laugh – The Gift of Joy." We ate, we sang, we laughed, we prayed and a good time was had by all.

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2007 CONVENTION

Please mark **June 15-16, 2007** on your calendar. That is the date of our Northwestern Minnesota SWO Convention that will be held at Hope Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls.

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Cluster 6

“Jesus Loves Me, This I Know” was the theme for our Fall Cluster Gathering held on September 27 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. Kevin Wallevand spoke to us on “The Carlsen Twins – The Abby and Belle Story.” The officers for 2007 are: Kathy Byers, Coordinator; Laurie Radde, Financial Recorder and Judy Videen, Recorder.

The spring gathering will be April 26 at Faith Lutheran, Wolverton.

Cluster 7

“As God’s Creation, We Serve” was the title of Cluster 7 Fall Gathering at Lake Park Lutheran Church on October 28, 2006. Lake Park and Eskjo Lutheran Bell Choir played several selections and Lori Engeseth sang. Pastor Shane Anderson, Lake Park Lutheran led Bible study and challenged us with the question “As God’s creation, how do we serve?” The speaker for the day was Ardys Horner of Detroit Lakes. Her talk, “The Gifts We Use To Serve,” was based on Philippians 4:8-9. She challenged us with the question “How are you using the gift package given by God?” Jean Rolle was elected coordinator and Mary Hanebuth was elected recorder. The Spring gathering will be at Immanuel Lutheran of Osage on April 28, 2007.



Cluster 7 - Speaker Ardys Horner

Cluster 8

Zion Lutheran Church of Amor hosted the Fall Gathering on October 21. The theme for the day, “I will put my law within them and I will write it upon their hearts.” was taken from Jer. 31:33. The program was “Lutern Legalities, the ten commandments with Inga and Lena.”

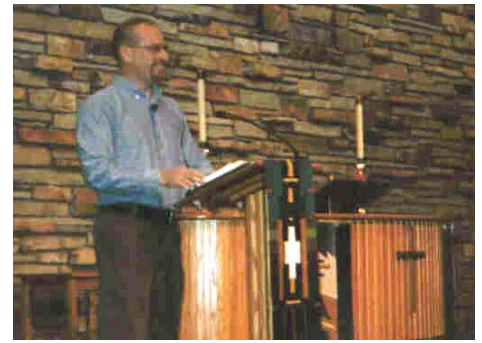
Cluster 9

The Fall Gathering was held on September 25 at Vining Lutheran Church, Vining. The theme for the day was “Heirlooms” based on Lam. 3:22-23. The speakers were Vicki Marthalar and Kim Schnitzer and in keeping with the theme, spoke on treasures; emphasizing that our treasures are not on earth, but in Heaven.

Cluster 7 Coordinator Jean Rolle



Pastor Shane Anderson



Cluster 4 - Speaker Eric Bergeson



Cluster 6 - Coordinator Kathy Byers, Outgoing Coordinator Lois Byland, Recorder Judy Videen, Financial Recorder Laurie Radde.

Cluster 10

As the leaves of gold, orange and bronze floated through the air, the women of Cluster 10 gathered at Calvary Lutheran Church in Alexandria on a beautiful Saturday late in September. The air was brisk outside but the fellowship of over 100 women warmed hearts. Wonderful music was provided by a flute trio from the Alexandria area and a message of Hope in Difficult Situations was shared by Vicki Haverkamp, RN and pastor from Meritcare Hospital in Fargo.

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow,
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still he bids me trust in Him.

(Chorus)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME...
YES, JESUS LOVES ME...
YES, JESUS LOVES ME
FOR THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go.
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

(Chorus)

Though I am no longer young
I have much which He's begun
Let me serve Christ with a smile
Go with others the extra mile.

(Chorus)

When the nights are dark and long,
In my Heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
“Have no fear, for I am near.”

(Chorus)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.

(Chorus)

Pause for Prayer

By Carolyn Engebretson

Ask someone to lead in prayer at a meeting and you can cause a real case of panic.

How do we learn to pray? Some Sunday school leaders have shared that they are teaching how to pray in their Sunday classes. First, the children are given written prayers and then proceed to a simple one sentence prayer until they are comfortable. Soon the children are praying to God just as naturally as talking to their parents. But now we are adults, and how do we learn to pray? We must realize that prayer is talking to God. Start with thanksgiv-



ing. We don't need to be sitting down for this. Wherever you are, you have an altar. Today my altar is my computer as I pray about my words to you. When I wash dishes my sink is the altar and I can be thankful for the dishes to wash as many do not have food enough to dirty a plate. As I drive my car to meetings I pray for the meeting and for safe travels for all. Mailing a letter....be it a note to a friend or a bill that is being paid....asking God to bless the receiver of the mail. Be active. Pause for Prayer and in that pause listen, too, for God's voice. Blessings on your growth in prayer.

Scandinavian Cooking

By Pat Isaacson

Each year our church holds two Scandinavian dinners. In June we do a Smorgasbord with all the Scandinavian breads, cookies, Swedish baked rice, sot ost, and romegrot. And in the fall we do a lutefisk dinner and again we serve lefse, flat bread and homemade dark bread. As the ladies in our congregation get older, we are going to have to teach our younger women how to make some of these traditional dishes. This year we are giving classes in Scandinavian cooking. All ages are invited to attend. The idea is to have a hands on experience making these foods. It is our hope that the younger women in our congregation will learn how and gain interest in carrying on these traditions.

Our first class had seventeen women, mothers and young daughters attending. It was a fun evening of fellowship, laughter, and learning. Our more experienced women gave tips on producing a good product and the younger gals got to make each food that was presented that evening. The foods we prepared were lefse, krumkaka, spritz, sandbakkels and Swedish baked rice.

As some of our women asked how to make certain foods, we will continue our classes. I would like to share Sion Lutheran's Smorgasbord Lefse recipe with you, and hope it inspires you to try and make this food our ancestors brought to this country.

Smorgasbord Lefse

8 cups riced potatoes	Scant Tbs. salt
½ cup cream	1 Tbs. sugar
½ cup butter	2 2/3 cup flour

Mix all together and roll in balls. Roll on a floured cloth until as thin as possible. Lefse should be THIN. Fry on a hot lefse grill until lightly browned on both sides. Use less salt if the potatoes are salted when cooked.

Leadership training offered in March

There has been much interest expressed about having some leadership training for cluster officers and unit officers. The SWO Board has discussed this and have planned two sessions. Mark you calendars for March 17, 2007 at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes and March 31, 2007, at Thief River Falls, the location to be announced at a later date. We tried to find centrally located sites to make it convenient for all our units. Please come with questions and ideas. We plan to have registration at 9:00 a.m. with the training starting at 9:30. There will be more information as the events get closer.

Women's Health Initiative

Put your heart into raising up healthy women and girls

The Women of the ELCA will put a lot of emphasis in the next three years on improving the health of women and girls. According to the American Heart Association, heart disease and stroke are the No. 1 and No. 3 killers of women in America. Because so many are directly affected by heart disease and stroke, and indirectly by the high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity and upper respiratory illnesses, this is an area we need to start making women aware. Twenty-one million Americans have diabetes, about 1/3 don't know they have it. As we age, we are more likely to get diabetes and if we have a family history, we are at a greater risk.

As you start planning for next year, please think about getting some healthy programs into your meetings. Remember we are the role models for the girls we are raising. Spend a day learning proper eating habits and introducing fun ways to get active. Maybe have a Run/Walk to start the day. It is our responsibility to take care of the life that God gave us.

SWO Board passes resolution to advocate for children, youth

During the 2006 Convention of the Women of the ELCA of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, a resolution was presented by the SWO board about the youth in Minnesota and one of the worst problems that they face. On any given night over 3,200 children and youth face vulnerability and the risks associated with homelessness. We, as a body of Christ, resolved to actively strive to join and lift up the Lutheran Social Service campaign to end homelessness and advocate for every child and youth. Since that time, the SWO board has met with Judy Poss of Lutheran Social Service to discuss our resolution and how we could partner with them to put an end to this growing problem. All 6 Minnesota Synodical Women's Organizations are joining in this goal to eliminate youth homelessness by 2015.

A recent mailing sent to each W/ELCA unit president outlined a campaign to join with LSS advocates who seek to change public policy regarding the problem. Along with this, each unit is encouraged to consider a pledge for the financial support needed to continue the work LSS is currently doing in support of homeless youth.

As your local units disperse financial gifts to worthwhile organizations this year, please consider a gift in support of this resolution. In the NW MN Synod alone with each unit participating, many dollars could be raised with incredible potential!

SNOW on the web

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

“Women Building Global Community”

“Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” I Corinthians 1:3. My name is Susan Haukaas, I am 28 years old and I am writing to tell you about an amazing opportunity I have been blessed with. I have been selected as the Northwestern Minnesota representative to the “Women Building Global Community” advocacy seminar to India in February of 2007. This is part of a cooperative program by the Women of the ELCA and the ELCA Global Mission Companion Synods Program. The purpose of this program is to develop and nurture a group of committed young women in each ELCA synod who will serve as a global education advocate to help promote global education and justice, especially related to the situation and status of women in ELCA companion churches around the world. Our companion church in India is the Andhra Evangelical Lutheran Church. Women selected for this trip are ages 21-35.

I am so thrilled and overwhelmed by this amazing opportunity. I am looking forward to learning more about India and particularly learning more about the issues that women there face. I know the trip will be life changing. I hope to bring back what I learn to increase awareness in this country about the struggles of our sisters in Christ in other places.

It's important for you to know more about the person being sent by this synod as your representative. I am the daughter of an ELCA pastor and a social worker (Charles and Marilou Bade of Twin Valley, Minn.). My husband of six years, Mike, is an assistant librarian. I work for Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls as the Director of Youth Ministry where I have served for over four years. I attended the Triennial Gatherings of the Women of the ELCA in 2002 (in Philadelphia) and 2005 (in San Antonio). In my previous congregation (Good Shepherd in Moorhead) I served as the vice-president of our WELCA group. Working with youth and as a young woman myself, I am passionate about the need for young voices in the church.

So, why I am writing to you? I need your support, your prayers, and your invitation to speak to your group when I come back. The job description for this trip requires that I not just have this amazing experience, but share my experience with others. Invite me to a meeting before I go so I can introduce myself and when I come back I'll share pictures and video and tell you what I learned. Also please keep me in your prayers as I travel February 15-26! Last but not least, I need your support. This is a \$3700 trip and we are encouraged to fundraise as much of that as possible so others are invested in our trip. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Here the instructions on how to make a donation:

Make checks payable to The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) Include in the memo line of your check “India Seminar – Susan Haukaas” Send to: Sandra Holloway, ELCA Global Mission, 8765 W Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631

Thank you so much and God bless you. I'll be thinking of you in India!

In Christ
Susan Haukaas <><

From the Heart

By Carla Gauwitz, SWO Secretary

In all my years of work as a nurse, I look back on many times where I thought I could just not do enough to help. Problems that people try to overcome daily seem overwhelming and I have often looked with admiration at the young families who are really trying to make all the pieces of the puzzle fit together. I know that as I head home at the end of my day, my house will be as I left it – safe, secure, warm and welcoming. Home – a haven against the rest of the world.

Part of my job includes referring families to resources available in Otter Tail County communities. There

is one resource that is very close to home with its roots at my church home of Calvary Lutheran in Perham. The Perham Community Outreach program was started a few years ago with an occasional bulletin announcement requesting a piece of furniture, bedding, a lamp, etc. The congregation responded and before you know it, houses were being made into homes. Now the outreach efforts stretch up and down Highway 10 from Wadena to Detroit Lakes with donations collected and delivered as needed. Sharing and caring - a few prayers go with each item as it fills a need in a family's life and home.

Thoughts from a Board Member

By Diane Nord

I was sitting at our convention in June listening to Pastor Tim Iverson from Global Health Ministries tell us about how small donations add up to large donations that do such wonderful things. During his presentation I heard someone's cell phone ring which sidetracked me a little from Pastor Iverson.

We live in a part of the world that has many choices. We can have a cell phone that we carry with us at all times that is a wonderful help when we find ourselves with car trouble and need to call for service; to check on our children when we are away from home for the evening; to have our children call in when they are away from home for the evening; we can call home when we are at the grocery store to check if we need a certain item. A lot of convenience for a small monthly charge. Along with that we can have a fancy ring tone, the ability to text message, music, picture taking and games.

We also can go to a coffee shop and order not just a cup of coffee but a

latte with 25 different flavors. What a wonderful way to start the day. Swing through the drive-up, order a \$4.00 flavored coffee and away we go. Don't get me wrong. We have every right to these conveniences if we want to take advantage of them.

Consider taking the amount you spend in a week or a month on a particular luxury you have and giving that to Global Health Ministries or another organization of your choosing. Many times we feel that we can't afford to give to charitable organizations. We just can't seem to make it fit into our budget. But if we were to really think about everything we spend our money on, I bet there are a lot of things that we could get along without for a week or a month. Maybe you don't even have to give it up but give it in addition. All it takes is a little thought. There are many organizations in your local area that could benefit from this, especially now that we are nearing the end of the year. Make a list, pray about it and see where it takes you.



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Synodical News Of Women

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LWR announces change to material resource program

For more than 60 years, Lutheran World Relief has served as the hand of Christ through its Material Resources Program – a ministry of sharing hand-made quilts, kits, soap and clothing. The collection of these material resources has long been a cherished ministry of many Lutheran congregations throughout the United States as a way of putting faith into action, and the program remains an important element of LWR’s work.

As part of LWR’s ongoing assessment of the positive impact it can offer in times of crisis or chronic poverty, it has identified a necessary change in its practice of the distribution of material resources. To maintain LWR’s effectiveness and efficiency in its relief work, **it will no longer collect clothing for distribution through its Material Resources Program. All other LWR Parish Projects – quilts, kits and soap – will remain vital components of the program.**

Many countries have altered their policies regarding used clothing imports; some are even prohibiting such imports. Clothing imports may disrupt local economies and, in some instances, threaten local textile and clothing manufacturing jobs. Other countries are charging increasingly high customs duty taxes, making shipping costs prohibitively expensive. In many cases, purchasing clothing locally to support communities in crisis is a better approach. Items purchased locally are cost effective, suitable for local needs, and help to bolster local economies.

LWR will continue to ship any previously collected clothing that remains in its warehouse until those supplies have been exhausted.

This is a portion of the article announcing the change taken from the W/ELCA website.

Bold Women’s Day

Join with women and girls across the ELCA in celebrating the first Bold Women’s Day, Sunday, February 25, 2007. This new annual celebration gives us a way to honor the women and girls who are acting boldly on their faith.

Go to www.womenoftheelca.org near the end of November to find a complete list of ideas on how your congregation can observe Bold Women’s Day. This could be the kick-off event of your yearlong celebration of the 20th anniversary of Women of the ELCA.

Since the “Act Boldly” triennium was launched nearly 18 months ago at the Sixth Triennial Gathering, celebrating Bold Women’s Day provides a chance to assess and celebrate how our units are living out the mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.