



Living Threads

Newsletter for the Women of the ELCA North/West Lower Michigan Synod

"I will be their God and they will be my people." Jeremiah 31:33b



N/WLM Women of the ELCA Synodical Board

Dear Women of the ELCA,

Well, here we are your Board hard at work. I say this tongue in cheek as this is one of the few breaks we took the weekend of January 30 & 31, 2015. We held our quarterly board meeting at Eagle Village near Reed City as a working retreat and work is exactly what we did.

We managed to complete the much needed review of our constitution to assure the changes made by church-wide at the Triennial last July were in order and to approve the Hillsdale unit's new constitution. We established a working agenda for our newly formed Anti-Human Trafficking Committee of which Barbara Hazlett is our chairwoman. *Barb will be speaking at our Spring Gathering in Kent City on April 18. You won't want to miss this event..* Finally we were able to put together the program, entertainment, speakers etc. for our Fall Convention/Retreat that is to be held at the Kettenun Center in Tustin, the weekend of

September 25 & 26, 2015. This is another event you won't want to miss, so mark the date on your calendar.

On February 20th I flew to the Lutheran Center in Chicago where I attended the annual Conference of Presidents for the weekend along with most of the other synodical presidents from various regions. I learned a great deal and got some fabulous ideas from the other regions on programming, conventions, retreats and where to find workshop leaders. I can't wait to share it with the other board members so that it will keep our Region of 6B refreshing and new.

My next sojourn will be the tail end of May when I attend the Synod Assembly in Lansing, until then I will be getting rid of the nasty cold I managed to catch the end of January and still have. I made the mistake of bragging about how I hadn't gotten a cold in over six years and that cold bug chuckled to herself and followed me home from the Board Retreat. Evidently, it was Formica I knocked on and not wood.

I hope to see many of you at the Spring Gathering, it looks to be another productive day of fellowship, gaining knowledge, and good food which we all know is definitely important....

Take care and have a glorious Easter!

June

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Newsletter Articles & Distribution

The *Living Threads* Newsletter is published four times annually (Spring/Summer/Fall/Winter) and is distributed free via e-mail to all churches in our synod and to individuals who request it. If you want to receive *Living Threads* via regular mail, the cost is \$5.00 per year. Send checks made payable to **Women of the ELCA** to

Lynn Flegel
1425 Trent Rd,
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Letters and articles of interest are welcome and may be submitted to the editor. Please include with your typewritten or clearly legible handwritten article, author's name, address, and telephone number, your church name and city where church is located. The Editor reserves the right to edit or publish any article.

Information should be sent to:

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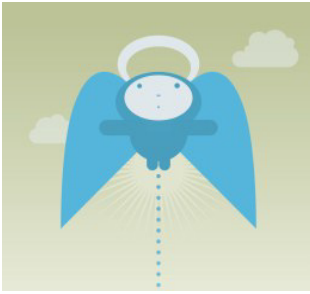
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Mission of Women of the ELCA

*"To mobilize women to act
boldly on their faith in Jesus
Christ."*

Holy Humor



By
Linda Ward

A flight attendant was having a bad morning with numerous problems. Some of the passengers were causing grief too. When she started taking lunch orders, she approached one of the more troublesome passengers and asked, "Would you like some lunch?" He said,

"Well, that depends: what are the choices?" She replied, "Yes or no".

Sometimes in life we seem to complicate things for ourselves. When we have choices, we use all kinds of rationalizations and qualifiers. We add all kinds of trivial specifications to make the choice even harder. Maybe we need to simplify and ask ourselves, "Yes or no" first!

From The Editor's Desk

By
June Keysor

What is a hero? According to Webster a hero is a person who is admired for great or brave acts or fine qualities. We have many heroes in our lives usually beginning with our parents and quickly we are taught about the greatest of all our Holy Father and His son our Lord Jesus.

What about the other heroes? You know the ones you admire from afar or the ones you hear about in the news. Like the rescuers from 9-11, or the soldiers who have so bravely served our country in the armed forces. Then there are the ones we see on a regular basis. You know the ones I am talking about, the friend who is fighting a horrid disease but you would never know it because even when

asked she never dwells on it and somehow always manages to change the subject. This is the one you never seem to be able to tell that she is a hero in your eyes.

I have such a person in my life. I am going to call her Gloria because if I use her name she will truly be embarrassed and that is not what this is about.

Gloria is the woman who can't just join an organization, she has to jump in with both feet and has never heard the word no. It just isn't in her vocabulary. When I need help or a sounding board for one of my many problems she is always just a phone call away.

She has a family, husband, career and home but always has time for something at the church, community events, friends, or organizations that need help from a volunteer. It amazes me that she has anytime for herself but she finds that too. She puts the Lord first in her life and everyone knows this without being told. She is lovely on the outside because she has such a beautiful soul that lets her glow from within.

She is my hero and the person I want to grow up to be like. I have never told her this because I just assumed she would know how I felt.

I know each of you reading this understand what I am talking about because you are lucky enough to have one or two women similar to this in your life.

So, I challenge you to quietly go up to her within the next few days and say just to her, "You are my hero and I thank God that He put you in my life." I'm going to.

Please don't throw me away or stick me in a pile. Instead take me apart, copy me and share me with your friends.

The Editor and I will appreciate it!

Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality

Racial Justice Advocacy

By Phyllis Lindsey

Ferris State University invited Thirza Defoe, from the Ojibwe and Oneida Native American tribes of Wisconsin to present a terrific program this February.

Today people of American Indian tribes walk in two worlds. The desire is strong to keep alive the traditions and the soul of their culture. There is also a strong wish to share the way of life they know with the other people among whom they live and work, and to learn of the ways of others in return. Only through a greater knowing can we live together in harmony, accepting, and celebrating what makes us one as well as what makes us unique.

Thirza brought two other Native Americans with her, Raymond Cadotte whom shared his traditional knowledge through museum tours and presentations as well as spiritual and culture events. Ray is a champion men's traditional dancer.

Raymond's wife, Julie Whitepigeon has been a jingle dress dancer for 22 years. She teaches at Central Michigan University the Ojibway language in the history department. She practices the traditional native teachings.

Thirza is widely known for her sacred hoop dancing and eagle dancer. She shares her culture: Traditional Iroquois social songs, storytelling, hoop dancing, eagle dancing and the Ojibwe language through educational presentations and performances for audiences of all ages and cultural backgrounds.

SPRING GATHERING

By Lynn Flegel

It's time to think Spring. Spring Gathering that is.... and it is upon us! When? Saturday, April 18. Where? Mamrelund Lutheran Church, Kent City.

Mamrelund is located out in the country among the fruit trees north and slightly west of Grand Rapids.

If we are lucky, the tree bark may be turning reddish-brown, one of the earliest signs of spring. Hopefully the air will be balmy, and the snow will be melted.

Surely there will be spring colors on the tables, bright smiles, and cheerful voices to welcome you to a day filled with fellowship with your sisters in Christ!

Early registration is appreciated for planning purposes, but the cost is only \$10 which includes lunch and refreshments on arrival and it can be paid at the door (see registration form elsewhere in this newsletter.) You can use the form for multiple women and girls. If you forget to register early, you are welcome to register at the door.

Our program is coming together nicely. We know for sure you will be inspired by the music we have planned to help us lift our voices in praise and worship! We will also be conducting a tour of the Mamrelund Community Center, which houses several ministries in which BOLD women take an active role. Our keynote speaker, Barb Hazlett, is getting ready to give you all the latest information on a vital and important issue Women of the ELCA have chosen as an initiative to become BOLDLY involved in: Human Trafficking. It is not only at our doorstep here in lower Michigan but has wedged it's ugly head in the door.

We need to learn more about this so we can prevent it from happening to someone we know, or being pervasive in our communities.

On a practical note, we would like to encourage as many of you who are able to bring diapers with you when you come.

In 2015 our Lutheran youth are collecting this item for use in Detroit when they go there for the annual ELCA Youth Gathering.

What a great way to support our youth on their service day in that city! The greatest need is for sizes 3 and 4, but all sizes, including incontinence supplies for adults, will be appreciated. We will see they get to the right place. Checks made out to Women of the ELCA with "Youth Gathering—diapers" in the memo line, will be used for us to buy diapers.

Look for the diaper bags at the registration table when you arrive. See you there!

Let's have a great turn out

Focus On The Lord

"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears are open unto their cry." Psalm 34:15

Women of the ELCA 2015 Convention/Retreat

Where: Kettenun Center Tustin, MI
When: September 25 & 26, 2015

Prices: Friday only \$ 25.00
Saturday only 45.00
Friday & Saturday w/o lodging 70.00
Friday & Saturday w/lodging sgl 145.00
Friday & Saturday w/lodging dbl 125.00

**CONVENTION TO BEGIN AT
9:00 am ON SATURDAY
MORNING!!!!!!!**

Start NOW to select who you will have to represent your unit as a voting member at the convention. Don't forget to check your organization for qualified women to serve as officers or board members for 2015 to 2017. Get their names submitted on the correct form at the back of this newsletter.

We are planning lots of surprises for all who attend. The music, Bible study, Speakers and workshops will be fantastic.

Registration Forms will be in the June Newsletter

**Start Planning NOW to Attend,
Join us as we *FOCUS ON THE
LORD***

Scholarship Fund

By June Keysor

Just what is the N/WLM Scholarship Fund all about? It is a way to help any woman of our organization who can't afford to go to an event sponsored by our synod, region, or national organization.

I for one live on a fixed income, believe me I would like to fix it to make it stretch further every month. There are many things I couldn't have done if not for the scholarship fund.

So, if things are tight and you need some help to attend an event you see in the newsletter like the Fall Convention/Retreat in September. Contact our Vice-president Peggy Ruitter who is also in charge of the Scholarship Fund. Just fill out the form you will find at the back of this newsletter and send it to:

**Peggy Ruitter
1965 Cutler Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49441
ruitpeggy@gmail.com
(231) 670-5751**

Ladies I implore you to take advantage of this benefit so that you may attend any event offered to you. We do have limited funds and would like anyone who applies to receive some help so we are asking you to pay a part of the funds you need to attend the event. This can be done through your own funds, those of a friend or relative or your home church. Many have special funds budgeted just for this purpose.

As my Granny used to say "It never hurts to ask," you could be pleasantly surprised.



BOLD PEOPLE OF GOD

"I will be their God and they will be my people." Jeremiah 31:33b

Spring Gathering 2015

April 18, 2015

*Mamrelund Lutheran Church
4085 Lutheran Church Rd, Kent City, MI*

Registration begins at 9:00 am

Lunch is provided

Cost is \$10.00 and can be paid at the door

Please Pre-register

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Send this form/payment to:

**Kay Fortin
10060 S. Leer Rd.
Posen, MI 49778**

If you have any questions about registration contact Kay at (989) 379-4538 or email her at

fortinkus@yahoo.com

Make checks payable to: Women of the ELCA

To the Women of the ELCA N/WLM Synod:

Below you will find a special nomination form to be used if you feel you have a bold woman in your church unit who would make an excellent delegate to our Triennial in July of 2017. She is someone who has been active at both your local level and the synod level, either as an officer or board member and she regularly attends functions i.e. gatherings, retreats, conventions etc. We would prefer if she attends the Convention on September 26, 2015, so that she is available if the delegates have any questions to ask her prior to the vote for our Triennial delegates. We will be selecting three (3) delegates and two (2) alternates in case one of our delegates are unable to attend for any reason. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

June Keysor, N/WLM Synodical President

TRIENNIAL DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

Women of the ELCA Tenth Triennial Convention

Each congregational unit may nominate one woman and submit that name to the Synodical Nominating Committee. The Committee will prepare the slate of candidates to be voted on at the N/WLM Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention at Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI on September 26, 2015.

Of the three (3) delegates elected from N/WLM Synod one (1) must be a first time delegate. Returning delegates can only serve 2 conventions in succession.

Please complete this nomination form and send it by September 13, 2015 to:

June Keysor
828 S. Mill St. Apt. 86
Reed City, MI 49677 or
Email at: keysorj66@yahoo.com

We, the members of _____ Lutheran Church in _____, Michigan, nominate for Women of the ELCA Triennial delegate
(Name) _____
(Address) _____ (Town) _____ (Zip) _____
(Home phone) _____ (Cell) _____
E-mail _____
Age category ____ under 21 ____ 21□30 ____ 31□40 ____ 41□50
____ 51□60 ____ 61□70 ____ 71□80 ____ 81 and over
Ethnicity _____
Language ____ English ____ Other (please specify) _____
Special Needs: _____

Women of the ELCA Participation and Leadership:

Nomination Form for Fall Convention/Retreat 2015

To Be Used for Officer or Board Member

Person's Name _____

Sponsor/Church Name & City _____

Position Selecting (Circle One) Officer Board Member

If Officer (circle One) Secretary Treasurer

What will this person bring to enhance the position being nominated for:

Nominee's Home Church _____

Nominee's Mailing Address _____

City, State, & Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

Signature of Person Nominating _____

Date _____

Send This Completed Form To:

June Keysor
828 S Mill St. Apt. 86
Reed City, MI 49677 or
email keysorj66@yahoo.com

Before September 20, 2015

Scholarship Application Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone _____ e-mail _____

Home Church _____ Phone _____

Event you are applying for _____

Synodical Event _____ Church Wide _____ Date _____ Cost _____

Will you be able to attend without financial help? _____

Will you incur extra costs besides the event that you will need assistance with? _____ If so approximately how much? _____ *Example: Mileage, Baby Sitting, Food etc.*

What do you hope to learn from this event ? _____

Are you willing to share this experience with members of your congregation and other women? _____

Are you willing to write an article summarizing your experience for the Living Threads? _____

*****Please apply 30 days prior to the event. All Applications should be sent to:***

Peggy Ruitter
1965 Cutler Ave
Muskegon, MI 49441
(231) 670 5751 ruitpeggy@gmail.com

You will receive confirmation of your scholarship by e-mail or mail prior to the event

CHANGE OF OFFICERS

Month _____ Year _____

Congregation _____

City _____

PRESIDENT

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

VICE PRESIDENT

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

SECRETARY

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

TREASURER

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone Number _____

*****If you do not have an organized W/ELCA unit in your congregation, please
give us information on a contact person for your group for this year.*****

Name _____

Address _____

E mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail to

June Keysor, President
828 S Mill St. Apt. 86
Reed City MI 49677, or
email keysorj66@yahoo.com