

The Joyful News

The Women of the ELCA
Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization

March 2009



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A Message from the President

Dear Sisters,

"**Mission, Ministry, Message, and Mentoring**" was the theme of the February Conference of Synodical Women's Organization Presidents. We considered these words and their meanings for the Women of the ELCA through presentations by Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director of the Women of the ELCA, and Valora Starr, Director of Discipleship for the Women of the ELCA, and through Bible study with conference chaplain Terasita Valeriano, Regional Officer for North America for Lutheran World Federation. The **Mission** of the Women of the ELCA is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. The mission then becomes the **Ministry** of proclamation, service, and advocacy to unify women in their faith. Our **Message** of Christ's transforming, reconciling power is to make Christ known and to take the message of our ministry to those women who have never been involved in the Women of the ELCA. Disciples make disciples and we need to create that excitement for others by **Mentoring** their faith journeys.

As a community of women created in the image of God, we are called to discipleship in Jesus Christ to act boldly on our mission, our ministry, delivering the message, and mentoring. Read this retelling of Luke 5:1-11 where Christ calls his first disciples. Experience the power of women being called by Christ. Insert your own name in the story to make it a truly personal experience:

Once while Jesus was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fisherwomen had gone out on them earlier and were now washing their nets. He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Sarah, and asked her to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. When he had finished speaking, he said to Sarah, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Sarah answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so

many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so they began to sink. But when Sarah saw it, she fell at Jesus' knees saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful woman!" For she and all who were with her were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken; and so also were Julia and Johanna, daughters of Maria, who were partners with Sarah. Then Jesus said to Sarah, "Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

What if the first disciples had been women? How does this change your Ministry, Mission, Message, and Mentoring as a woman of the ELCA? Reflect a moment on these study questions created by Rev. Valeriano.

- What significance does the retelling of the story have for women in discernment of their vocation and purpose of life?
- What image of God would women have?
- What relationship would we have with a God who creates, redeems, and sanctifies us?
- What would be the images, models, and metaphors of Christian discipleship for you?
- How does this challenge your present model, inspiration for, and practice of Christian discipleship?
- To whom would you reach out?
- How would you define power and what would constitute the sharing of power?
- How would a different understanding of power affect how you advocate?

Our Metro DC community of women disciples will continue this exploration of Ministry, Mission, Message, and Mentoring with worship, fellowship, workshops, exhibits, and the business meeting when we *Come to the Waters* at our annual Spring Convention, which will be held at St. Luke, Silver Spring on May 2, 2009. Please find detailed information about the convention and a registration form in the newsletter. I encourage you to practice Mentoring by inviting to the convention a woman in your congregation who has not participated in a Women of the ELCA event.

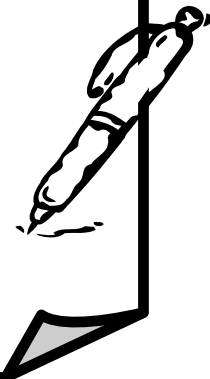
The Joyful News, one of our ways of delivering our Message to the community, has a new editor. Welcome to Cheryl Dwyer who is a member of St. Mark's, Springfield. Cheryl is the Vice President of her WELCA congregational unit and the editor of the unit's newsletter.

Your sister in Christ,
Marcia Ihnen



Mark Your Calendar!

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 15 | Donation deadline for STAND WITH AFRICA project (page 9) |
| May 2 | Metro DC SWO Spring Convention
St. Luke, Silver Spring (page 6) |
| May 2 | Deadline for recycled cell phones (page 8) |
| Sept 12 | Fall Gathering
Faith Lutheran Church, Arlington (page 3) |



Around the Synod...

Fresh Ideas Are Bubbling at Faith Lutheran Church!

Toward the end of 2008, the two active units of the Women of the ELCA at Faith Lutheran in Arlington, Virginia, decided the time was right to reach out to women of our congregation who were not currently participating in activities of the Women of the ELCA.. Our first step was to host an Advent party at church where the women of Faith could meet new people, enjoy a delicious brunch, and share ideas. Hand-addressed invitations were sent to every woman in the congregation, an effort that brought many of our newer members to the event. We also invited guests from two other churches who graciously shared with us some of the activities and ministries at their home congregations. Before the brunch, we developed an inventory of our favorite ministries, social events, physical activities, service projects, and educational opportunities and asked all of the attendees to tell us what they wanted to do during the coming year - and if they would be willing to be in charge! At a second brunch on February 14 (with a Valentine theme, including plenty of strawberries and chocolate), we shared with everyone the results of the interest inventory and decided to put the suggestions into action immediately..

The result? Many of the women were interested in yoga, so we organized a class at Faith on February 28. A committee is already making plans for a mother/daughter banquet in April, the first such

banquet in many years. There was a lot of interest in our new prayer shawl ministry (and in learning how to knit). The altar guild and our WELCA unit welcomed new members, and several younger women are hoping to form a new bible study/book club. Plans are being made for a Norwegian lefsa-making party later in the spring, and there is strong interest in going as a group to the Kennedy Center. Ideas are bubbling, plans are forming, and there is new enthusiasm among the women of Faith Lutheran Church.

~ Paulette Sandene

A Visit with WELCA's Executive Director

Linda Bushkofsky, Executive Director of the Women of the ELCA, is currently on a three month sabbatical, visiting churches in various regions of the USA. She wants to find out just what the WELCA church units do and how they function.

St. Mark's was privileged to have been one of the "grassroots WELCA groups" she chose to visit on her very tight schedule. Several of us were able to meet with Linda and Marcia Ihnen, Metro DC Synod President, on February 11th. For almost two hours, we explained our ministries in detail.

Her very interesting and entertaining travel blog is found at <http://blogs.elca.org/boldwomentour>. Enjoy reading about her travels as well as the comments she invites; or post your own comment!

~ Cheryl Dwyer



Fall Gathering

All Metro DC women with an interest in women's ministry are invited to the Fall Gathering at Faith Lutheran Church, Arlington, Virginia, on September 12, 2009, from 9:30 am to 2:00 pm. Our guest speaker will be Marga Fripp, founder of Empowered Women International, an organization based in Alexandria, Virginia, that uses the arts to empower immigrant and refugee women and families living in America. Empowered Women International has created

workshops to encourage the women to be artisans and to teach them entrepreneurial skills. It also provides exposure for the women's art and cultures. Please visit www.ewint.org for more information about the organization.

The Fall Gathering will also include a light breakfast, luncheon, and an opportunity for a panel discussion with the SWO Executive Board about the responsibilities of WELCA officers and leaders, resources for programming, and a discussion of your ministries within your congregations. Please mark this date on your calendars now and plan to attend this exciting event.



Did you know that you can access *The Joyful News* online? It is now available at www.metrodcelca.org:

- Click **Synod News** on the left side of the home page.
- Then, once on the Synod News page, you can click the down arrow of the *Joyful News* drop-down menu box and the date of the latest edition will appear.
- Click that date selection and enjoy the current news from the Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization.

The SWO's Nominating Committee is seeking nominees for the following positions: Secretary, Treasurer, Board members, and Nominating Committee members. The election will be held at the Spring Convention.

Please submit names of nominees to Barbara O'Keefe at baokeefe@cox.net or 703-354-4762.

Our Roanoke College Scholarship recipient for the 2008-09 academic year was awarded \$3,398 from the \$60,500 scholarship fund created with donations from the women of the Metro DC Synod.

Read all about it! Go to <http://blogs.elca.org/boldwomentour> to view Women of the ELCA Executive Director Linda Bushkofsky's travel blog...

Bulletin Board

Marcia Ihnen	President, Holy Trinity, Falls Church
Barbara Piotter	Vice President, Good Shepherd, Woodbridge
Paulette Sandene	Secretary, Faith, Arlington
Fran Eck	Treasurer, St. Mark's, Springfield
Laura McDowell	Board Member, Our Redeemer, Washington, DC
Angela Miller	Board Member, Epiphany, Alexandria
Patricia Nau	Board Member, Christ, Fairfax
Gloria Cline-Smythe	Board Member, Zion, Tacoma Park
Sheri Swackhamer	Board Member, Good Shepherd, Alexandria

2008-2009 SWO OFFICERS

PROGRAM IDEAS AND RESOURCES

A Service Project Workshop

... will be offered at the Synodical Women's Organization's Spring Convention on May 2nd as an alternative to the business meeting for convention participants who are not delegates. During the workshop the convention in-kind offering of Lutheran World Relief Layette Kit items will be sorted into complete layette kits.

Looking Into The Mirror: A Lenten Reflection

... is a new resource from the Women of the ELCA, which invites you to use the Lenten season to refocus your faith and realign your relationship with God. This is the first of the new monthly resources the Women of the ELCA will be publishing this year on the liturgical seasons, for Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls, on environmental topics, for spiritual practices, and much more. Each will be appropriate for an hour-long program and will require minimal preparation. Check for a new resource toward the end of each month at www.womenoftheelca.org.

Observe Rachel's Day

... on May 3, 2009. Rachel's Day was started on the first Sunday in May 1996 in the Metropolitan Chicago Synod for children at risk for violence. The observance takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17 where Rachel grieves for her children. It is not only a day of mourning for the loss of our children, but is also a day to build community between adults and children through inter-generational activities. A downloadable resource for Rachel's Day is available at www.womenoftheelca.org. It contains the history of Rachel's Day, help in planning a Rachel's Day observance, worship suggestions and ideas for action beyond the observance.

Act Boldly Through Stewardship!

Check out The Women of the ELCA *Stewardship Planning Guide 2008-09* at

www.womenoftheelca.org by clicking on the **Engage in action** link (on the left side of the page) and then click the **Stewardship** link, which is in blue print within the text on that page. The guide includes an offerings report for the Women of the ELCA, information on ways to give, and designated gifts options for ELCA and Women of the ELCA ministries. For treasurers, it features a Bible study reflection, task list, and offerings transmittal information. It also includes two bulletin inserts, details on partnerships (the Good Deed Foundation and the Lutheran World Relief Chocolate Project), and a guide to additional stewardship resources. A Thankoffering Service and a booklet of monthly offering devotions are also available. If you don't have access to the Internet, you can order the free guide by calling Laura Barkenquast, Women of the ELCA, at 1-800-638-3522 ext 2737.

Become An Individual Partner

Here is a new way to connect important women in your life with the Women of the ELCA and to give them the opportunity to experience the fellowship, friendship, and support that mean so much to you. For \$20.00 you can give them a one-year subscription to *Lutheran Women Today* and *Café*. They will have access to Bible studies, global networks, advocacy efforts, and other resources. To make someone an individual partner, visit www.womenoftheelca.com and download the Individual Partner flyer, complete the form, and send it to the designated address. You can order copies of the full-color brochure that also includes a reply envelope by calling 800-638-3522 ext 2737 or emailing your request to Women.ELCA@elca.org

“COME TO THE WATERS”

*Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said,
“Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.” ~ John 7:37b, 38*

**METRO DC SYNODICAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION
SPRING CONVENTION
ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH • SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND**

**MAY 2, 2009
8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$20.00 prior to APRIL 1; \$25.00 after April 1
** Registration fee *waived* for women under the age of 40 ****

• CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS •



• **OPENING EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP SERVICE** •
Bishop Richard Graham Presiding

• **KEYNOTE SPEAKER AND WORKSHOP PRESENTER** •
Mary Minette
Director, ELCA Environmental Education and Advocacy

• ADDITIONAL WORKSHOP PRESENTERS •

Rev. Dr. Marguerite Rourke
Linda Seeman, RN, MSN
Charlene Spillman, Churchwide WELCA Board Representative
Laura McDowell and Martha Sherman, Metro DC Synod’s Women of the ELCA Anti-Racism Education Team
David Rivera, Esq.

• A SAMPLING OF THE EXHIBITORS •

10,000 Villages; Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate; Thrivent;
Good Shepherd Housing Foundation;
Global Mission Committee; Outdoor Ministries

• OFFERINGS •

Eucharistic service offering will be split between the Women of the ELCA and
Good Shepherd Housing Foundation

• IN-KIND OFFERINGS •

Items for Lutheran World Relief Layette Kits
Cell Phones For Recycling with the Good Deed Foundation

• BUSINESS •

General Business Meeting of the Metro DC Synodical Women’s Organization
Elections for Executive Board Positions

**THE METRO D.C. SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
2009 SPRING CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**

Come To The Waters

MAY 2, 2009

8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

**ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH
9100 COLESVILLE ROAD, SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND**

**REGISTRATION FEE before APRIL 1: \$20.00 per person
** INCLUDES LUNCH ****

**REGISTRATION FEE after APRIL 1: \$25.00 per person
** INCLUDES LUNCH ****

**** Registration fee *waived* for women under the age of 40 **

**DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE APRIL 1, 2009

Church _____

Delegate's (Voting Member's) Name, E-Mail Address, and Phone Number:

PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN DELEGATE AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Please indicate if you need exhibit space _____

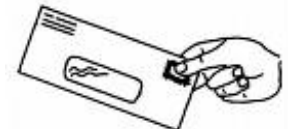
Please indicate if you need child care _____

PLEASE return your REGISTRATION FORM with a CHECK payable to:

"METRO D.C. SYNODICAL WOMEN"



**Send to:
PAT MARTIN
7444 SPRING VILLAGE DRIVE, # 214
SPRINGFIELD, VIRGINIA 22150
PHONE: 703-913-9790**



2009 CONVENTION IN-KIND OFFERINGS

ITEMS FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF LAYETTE KITS

Kits will be assembled by St. Luke WELCA for a Mother's Day project

PLEASE DONATE ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Shirts or Onesies (or similar item)
- Gowns or sleepers
- Receiving blankets
- Cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- Sweater or sweatshirt
- Washcloths
- Bath-size bar (4-5 oz) of gentle soap, in its original wrapping
- Diaper pins

TIPS

- Gently used, clean items can be substituted for new ones.
- Sizes up to 24 months may be used.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits or fleece. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- A bolt of flannel can furnish a number of receiving blankets, diapers and gowns. A square cut width of fabric (usually 36" or 45") easily makes a blanket. Diapers can be made by using a pinking shear to cut pieces 25" X 27"
- Use care when making blankets and diapers with flannel. It may be necessary to zigzag edges or sew a hem to prevent raveling.
- Please give new items only, except where noted otherwise.
- Please do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or your parish'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.

PROJECT COMFORT FUND NOTE: LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one LWR layette overseas is \$1.10.

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RECYCLING CELL PHONES WITH THE GOOD DEED FOUNDATION

Do you know that in the United States there are half a billion cell phones that are no longer being used and that the recycling, rather than the discarding, of these phones can generate much needed income to lift women and families out of poverty, provide lasting solutions to climate change, which is a major contributor to poverty, and provide 911 emergency phones for senior citizens and people at risk?



The Women of the ELCA, a member of the Good Deed Foundation, has set a goal with the foundation to recycle 250,000 cell phones. To help reach this goal bring your old cell phones to the convention for recycling. Please note the phone charger and other accessories may be recycled with the cell phone.

THE METRO DC SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
2008 - 2009 FUNDRAISER
STAND WITH AFRICA WATER PROJECT

A Project of the **WOMEN OF THE ELCA** with **ELCA HUNGER**
and **LUTHERAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES OF ZIMBABWE**

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

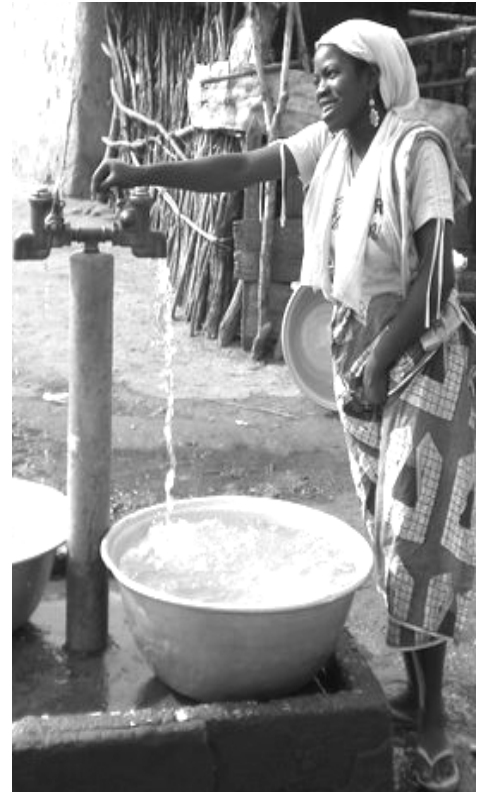
Lutheran Development Services of Zimbabwe, an independent program of the Lutheran World Federation, is focused on sustainable community development in Zimbabwe, including access to safe, drinkable water supplies. The organization plans to provide all households in its targeted area with safe, drinkable water by the end of 2009. Donations from the Women of the ELCA have already funded twelve bore holes and wells in this area. Our SWO goal is to raise \$5,000 for the Stand with Africa Water Project.

WHAT CAN OUR MONEY DO?

There is great need in Zimbabwe today following months of political unrest, social upheaval, staggering unemployment of 85% and devastating inflation. Many are in dire poverty, hungry and homeless. Women and girls spend many hours of each day walking to a source of water and then walking home. But lives can be changed and it all begins with water.

Our money will:

**BE AN ADVOCACY FOR JUSTICE FOR WOMEN
STRENGTHEN FAMILIES
PROVIDE HOPE FOR THE FUTURE
CHANGE LIVES**



WHAT CAN YOUR UNIT DO?

WELCA units and all congregations are invited to share their blessings and donate \$250 to the project so we can reach our goal of \$5,000.

WHERE DO WE SEND OUR COLLECTED MONEY?

By April 15, 2009 please send your contribution in the form of a check to

SWO Treasurer, Fran Eck
6215 Hibbling Avenue
Springfield, Virginia 22150

Active congregational units are also asked to complete and enclose Offering Form A
www.womenoftheelca.org/resources/forms.html

