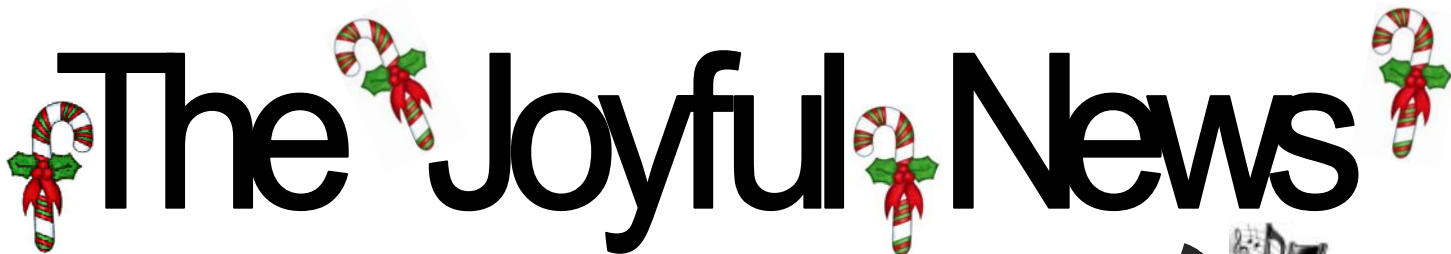


The Joyful News



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

December 2011




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Please email articles for *The Joyful News* to the editor, Cheryl Dwyer, at DWYERCL2@VERIZON.NET or send via snail-mail at:

8500 Oak Chase Circle
Fairfax Station, VA 22039-3322



A Message from the President

Dear Sisters in Faith,

May this Advent season bring you joy and peace as we sing praises in thankfulness to Christ our Lord for the many blessings we share each day.

As a new year approaches we make plans for the future and are hopeful for opportunities to better ourselves to be good stewards of all we have been given. I am hopeful that you will share a small portion of our faith journey together during our spring convention as we celebrate 25 years as Women of the ELCA. This 25th Anniversary celebration will be held on Saturday, March 31, 2012, at Christ Lutheran Church in Fairfax, Virginia. Please share the enclosed flyers and registration information within this newsletter with your units.

The theme for the day is "Gather." *Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.* (Matthew 28:19-20)

Joining us for the day will be the Rev. Bishop Richard Graham, Rev. Dr. Marguerite Rourk, Valarie Ashley from Southeast Ministry and of course, our churchwide representative. Christian actor, Anita Gutschick, will perform a dramatic story of biblical women. You will be inspired and touched by the messages of these women.

There will be workshops on "Detoxing Your Home" and "Today's Dream; Tomorrow's Reality" along with opportunity to

shop for fair trade items from Fair Trade Winds as well as peruse many exhibits. Please bring food items as In-Kind-Gifts. Critical items needed are: canned meats, pasta sauces, pasta, dried beans and rice, cookies and crackers, canned fruits, low sodium foods, peanut butter, jelly, juice, and cereal. Your gifts will be used in the local food pantry ministry of Christ Lutheran.

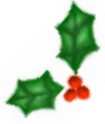
Thank you to those of you who have submitted a brief history and 4x6 picture of your church. If you haven't had a chance to do so it isn't too late. Please email the information to me at lindaheffern@aol.com.

Please plan on joining us for a day of worship, fellowship, renewal, and celebration as Women of the ELCA and bring a friend. Hope to see you there.

Have a blessed Christmas!

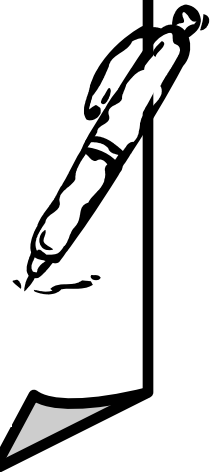
Yours in Christ,

Linda Heffern
President, Metro DC SWO
lindaheffern@aol.com • 540-822-4033



Mark Your 2011/2012 Calendar!

- December 15 **Grants and Scholarships applications open**
- Mid-January **Online Registration for Spring Convention opens**
- January 21 **Together-In-Mission**
King of Kings, Fairfax, VA
- March 16 **SWO Spring Convention Delegate registrations due**
- March 31 **SWO Spring Convention**
25th Anniversary of the Women of the ELCA
Christ Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA
- October 19-21 **All Lutheran Women's Retreat**
Williamsburg, VA



All Lutheran Women's Retreat 2012—SAVE THE DATE!!!

The All Lutheran Women's Retreat for 2012 will be on the weekend of October 19-21 in the Williamsburg/Virginia Beach area. This is a time for women of the ELCA and Missouri Synods throughout the Virginia, DC, and Maryland area to gather together to grow in our faith.

The theme for the retreat will be "Always Healthy All Ways." We will have a focus on our Emotional, Spiritual, and Physical (ESP) health. More details will be released in the coming months, but mark your calendar now for October 19-21, 2012.

If you are interested in serving on the planning committee, please contact Kathleen Newbern. She can be reached via email at kathleen.newbern@gmail.com or call her cell at 703-346-5887.



Around the Synod...

2012 SPRING CONVENTION— GATHER!

The Metro DC SWO convention will be held on Saturday, March 31, 2012, at Christ Lutheran Church, 3810 Meredith Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Joining us for the day will be the Rev. Bishop Richard Graham, Rev. Dr. Marguerite Rourk, Valarie Ashley from Southeast Ministry, and of course, our churchwide representative. Christian actor, Anita Gutschick, will perform a dramatic story of biblical women. You will be inspired and touched by the messages of these women. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there for a day of worship, fellowship, renewal, and celebration as Women of the ELCA.



Southeast Ministry

Your convention offering will be shared equally with the Southeast Ministry. The programs of this ministry address the root causes of poverty, illiteracy, and violence. Southeast Ministry was founded in 1990 with the support of the Lutheran Church of the Reformation and the Metro DC Synod of the ELCA. Under Executive Director Valarie Ashley, programs such as AMEN (Anacostia Mentoring and Employment Network), Byte Back PC for Beginners, GED prep, and ABE (Adult Basic Education) classes, people learn necessary job skills; students enrolled receive job placement assistance as well.

Our In-Kind gifts for the day will be items to be used by the local food pantry ministry of Christ Lutheran including such things as canned meats, pasta sauces, pasta, dried beans and rice, cookies and crackers, canned fruits, low sodium foods, peanut butter, jelly, juice, and cereal.



Nominations and Elections

All are welcome to attend the business meeting during the convention, however, we will need a

delegate from each active unit to serve as voting members. Delegate registrations are due by March 16, 2012.

We will be electing a president and three board members for a two year term; and three women to serve on next year's nominating committee.

You will be hearing from one of the following nominating committee members after the first of the year requesting the names of those who are willing to serve in these positions. Please feel free to contact one of them with your nominees.

JoAnn Fawley540-822-5109
New Jerusalem, Lovettsville
(fawley1@verizon.net)

Joyce Taylor703-455-6253
Abiding Presence, Burke
(dukelobo@cox.net)

Ruth Worman202-638-1955
First Trinity, DC
(fooferan@yahoo.com)



Roanoke College Giving Campaign

Enclosed for your convenience is a pledge/donation card and envelope or if you prefer, donations can also be made online through the college Web site www.roanoke.edu. Go to About Us then click on Give to Roanoke in the upper right hand corner. In the middle of this screen click Give Now. Under gift details check the box that says other and in the Details box beside it, type in METRO DC SWO.

We are also accepting checks made payable to METRO DC SWO; these can be sent to our treasurer at the following address:

Patricia Nau
9703 Water Oak Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031

The recipient of the Metro DC SWO endowment this year is Julia Boudrye. She is majoring in psychology and hopes to do graduate work in psychology, and then go on to seminary and

become a pastor. See more information on Ms. Boudrye and her scholarship on page 4.

Did you know that currently there are several Roanoke College scholarships available to Lutheran students of the Metro DC Synod churches? Six are endowed scholarships held by Roanoke College, and a seventh is funded every year by your local Lutheran Lay Fellowship group. There are others that may be completed after the first of the year.



NEW DIRECTORY

If you have had a change in officers, contact persons, addresses, phone numbers, or e-mail addresses, please provide your updated information to our secretary, Fran Eck, at 703-569-0814 or franalanec@msn.com. We hope to be able to distribute a new directory at convention.



ORDERING *Café* AND *Gather*

Café is a free online magazine that can be found monthly at www.boldcafe.org.

Gather can be ordered through Augsburg Fortress (\$12.00 for 1 year /10 issues) through:

Gather Subscription Order Center
Box 1553
Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730
Phone: 800-328-4648
subscriptions@augburgfortress.org



DC Metro SWO's Roanoke College Scholarship Fund

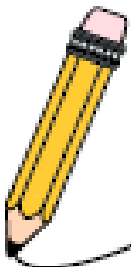
Re-printed with permission from Roanoke College:

Julia Boudrye '13 was awarded the Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization's Roanoke College Scholarship Fund from the DC metro ELCA synod for the 2011–2012 academic year. A psychology major with a concentration in youth parish leadership and interest in neuroscience, Ms. Boudrye became interested in youth ministry after going on a mission trip that helped her realize her calling. She says that her Roanoke College coursework has challenged her in defining what she truly believes in and why, allowing her to really strengthen her faith. On campus, Ms. Boudrye is active in InterVarsity, an interdenominational Christian fellowship group, of which she will serve as president throughout her senior year. In the future, she would love to be a professor and be active with campus ministry or a surrounding church. Ms. Boudrye can attest to the immense difference a scholarship like this makes for a college student.

"My time at Roanoke has been incredibly important for my development in my faith and figuring out my calling. It's the perfect school for me but the financial aspect has been challenging," said Ms. Boudrye. "Having this scholarship alleviates much of the stress that goes with financing a college education. I am honored to have received a scholarship that allows me to continue my education in pursuit of a degree in youth ministry."

Linda Heffern, president of the Women of ELCA, said, "We are very happy that we are able to give this gift in support of Roanoke College students." The generosity of this Lutheran women's group has allowed Roanoke students to receive financial assistance for approximately 10 years. The amount of the scholarship changes from year to year, but the impact of this gift on the student recipient remains the same.





Grants and Scholarships*:

December 15, 2011:

- Application process for 2012 grants opens.
- Application process for 2012-2013 scholarships opens.
- Deadline to apply for seed grant in the Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls health initiative.

For more information on any of these topics, go to www.womenoftheelca.org.

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

- Click the **Publications** tab at the top of the home page.
- Next, click the *Joyful News* link in the drop-down menu and the date of the latest editions appear.
- Click that date selection and enjoy the archived or current news from the Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization.

Café*:

Café is a monthly electronic magazine that offers topical exploration of timely issues for young women matched with a theological reflection and discussion questions. Many groups of young women gather each month, often in some inviting café setting, to discuss *Café's* hot topic. *Café* articles tie into the mission and purpose of Women of the ELCA and introduce the organization to young women. Since *Café* is also available by podcast, the organization provides an audio connection that's appreciated by many.

Gather*:

Every year the Women of the ELCA produces a nine-month Bible study for the community, published in *Gather* magazine, along with a three-month summer study. Thousands of women will gather every month to study, reflect, articulate, and apply God's word as they plan their next step in ministry, connecting the first dot of who we are and what we do.

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Bulletin Board

PROGRAM IDEAS AND RESOURCES

New Resource

A Different Kind of Journey offers several practices to explore, each helping you to discover what is waiting to be born in you in the season of Advent. Whichever of the practices you adopt, you are invited to follow Mary's example and ponder things in your heart as we await the coming of Jesus. You can download this short PDF file at www.womenoftheelca.org.



Stewardship

New stewardship resources came out in September. The 2011-2012 Stewardship Planning Guide and Thankoffering Service is available for downloading. New offering devotions are published every month. Thankoffering envelopes can be ordered from the ELCA e-store. You can find these resources at www.womenoftheelca.org.



Katie's Fund

Katharina von Bora Luther was a practical and bold woman of faith. She was also the dedicated partner of her husband, Martin. Her example as a mother, entrepreneur, and farmer continues to inspire us today. Katie's Fund began as an endowment fund in 1997 with gifts given in thanks for the first 10 years of Women of the ELCA ministries. To date, interest earned on the fund has provided leadership opportunities for young women at triennial gatherings and global networking on behalf of the

organization. It has also supported our participation in ELCA National Youth Gatherings and human trafficking advocacy training.

This fund can continue to do all these things and more, because now it includes an option that allows you to make gifts to meet more immediate needs or to help grow the fund's endowment. Gifts to the fund are available for ministries in three key areas: Leadership Development, Global Sharing, and Living Theology. For more information please call 800-638-3522, ext.2730.



Make a Planned Gift to Women of the ELCA

Express your compassion and values in a powerful way with a planned gift that will help shape our mission and ministry long after you are gone. For more information contact our area's Lutheran Planned Giving Consortium representative, Alice Benson, at Alice.Benson@elca.org.



Stewardship Programs for Small Groups

Grace-Full Living
Faithful Stewardship: An Offerings Report
All About Thankofferings



Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Programs

ADVENT: A Season for All Generations

THE COLORS OF CHRISTMAS: A Reflection on Preparing for Christmas

EPIPHANY: Unfolding the Discovery

A DIFFERENT KIND OF JOURNEY: Advent as a walk, not a sprint

These can all be downloaded free at www.womenoftheelca.org.



Today's Dream; Tomorrow's Reality

You can download a PDF version of an informative brochure at www.metrodcelca.org by clicking the Publications tab at the top of the page and then clicking the "Today's Dream; Tomorrow's Reality" linked text. To arrange for a presentation to any of your church groups, contact the Metro DC Synod presenters: Laura McDowell (Lauramd32@msn.com, 202-332-0570), Sheri Swackhamer (sheriswack@cox.net, 703-313-9003), and Rosario Hernandez-Cruz (rioderosas@hotmail.com, 301-221-0139).



AN INTERVIEW WITH OUR NEW CHURCHWIDE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Michael
Pensacola, Florida
Florida-Bahamas Synod (9E)

Q. When did you first become involved with Women of the ELCA and how?

A. I went to my first circle meeting in 1997 when an older friend invited me to the Elizabeth Circle of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Tampa, Fla. She was persistent, but not pushy. She just kept asking until one time I really didn't have any reason not to go. When I got there, I felt so welcome that I decided to keep going back.

Q. What other positions have you served for the organization?

A. I have served as a circle leader, congregational unit president, conference secretary and conference president, synodical board member, new unit coordinator for our SWO, synodical president (2005-2008), churchwide executive board member (2008-2011), and now as president of the churchwide women's organization.

Q. What do you hope to accomplish over the 2011-14 triennium?

A. It is exciting to think that we have these three years together: 2011-2014. But when I think of what I hope to accomplish in this triennium, I want to concentrate on what we do with the "dash" in between 2011 and 2014! We are an organization on the cusp of change. So it is my hope that I can inspire growth and discovery for our participants, that together we might push past old stereotypes and boundaries and that we can provide every woman with the encouragement to live Women of the ELCA's purpose statement in their everyday lives. In short, I want to make that "dash" resonate with innovation and faith.

Q. What's your favorite hymn?

A. "Here I Am, Lord" (ELW 574) I have a firm conviction that we are all called to ministry in some form or another to make manifest Christ's presence in the world. This hymn, more than any other, reminds me that when God asks, "Whom shall I send?" we should all answer that call.

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*Have a Blessed Christmas and
a Joyful New Year!*



For unto you is born this day in the
city of David a Savior, which is
Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:11

*...from your Officers and Board
Members of the Metro DC
Synodical Women's
Organization*



GATHER!

In Celebration of 25 Years
as Women of the ELCA
at
the Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization's
Spring Convention



*“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”
Matthew 28: 19*

**Saturday, March 31, 2012
8:00 am – 4:00 pm**

**Christ Lutheran Church
3810 Meredith Drive
Fairfax, VA 22030**

**Registration Fee: \$25.00 per person
There is no fee for women under the age of 40 or first time attendees.
(Lunch Included)**

**Eucharistic Worship Service/Keynote Speaker:
The Rev. Dr. Marguerite Rourk**

**Guest: Anita Gutschick, Women of the Bible
(<http://www.womenofthebible.com/>)**

**A dramatic presentation told through the
diverse voices of women from the Old and New Testaments.**



**CELEBRATION, FELLOWSHIP, WORKSHOPS, SHOPPING, AND
EXHIBITS AWAIT YOU!**

**METRO DC WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

**GIVING CAMPAIGN
FOR
ROANOKE COLLEGE ENDOWMENT FUND
GOAL OF \$5,000
2011-2013**



VISION – MISSION – PURPOSE

Roanoke College’s Mission is to engage students in their development as whole persons through an integrative learning approach that stresses intellectual, ethical, spiritual, and personal growth and prepares graduates for responsible lives of learning, service, and leadership in a diverse and changing world.

**Quote from Lindsay Ballowe who was the first student to receive funding from our scholarship and who served as a Youth and family Minister at Peace Lutheran Church in Manhattan, Kansas.
“Women of the ELCA is changing, changing and empowering women for ministry.”**



Let’s continue this blessed service by acting boldly in our faith with the gifts God has given us. This scholarship fund provides awards to needy Lutheran students who are members of the Metropolitan Washington, DC Synod or of a Companion Synod in Slovakia, Namibia, or El Salvador.

Please make checks payable to METRO DC WELCA noting *Roanoke College* in the memo line and send to:

**Patricia Nau
9703 Water Oak Drive
Fairfax, VA 22031**



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

25th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATING WOMEN OF THE ELCA

THE METRO D.C. SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
2012 SPRING CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

SATURDAY, MARCH 31, 2012
8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
3810 MEREDITH DRIVE, FAIRFAX, VA 22030

REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00 per person
**** INCLUDES LUNCH ****
Registration fee *waived* for women under the age of 40
and first time participants.

DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE MARCH 16, 2012.

Church _____

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

Participants other than delegates and e-mail addresses:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

First Time Participants or under 40:

1. _____

2. _____

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 DC SYNODICAL WOMEN”

SEND TO:

Fran Eck

6215 Hibbling Avenue

Springfield, Virginia 22150

Phone: 703-569-0814