

North Conference

WELCA-LaCrosse Synod

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Why Go to WELCA Triennial?

By Joan Gardner, Zion
Lutheran Church,
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With a dozen LaCrosse Area Synod ladies, I attended the Ninth Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA in Charlotte, N.C. July 24–27, 2014. More than 2800 people from the United States, Canada, Latin America, the Caribbean and elsewhere were there, 700+ of whom were attending their first Gathering. I was lured to NC for the personal growth and fellowship

opportunities, but the Gathering was so much more rewarding. Here are just a few of the highlights.

- Inspirational worship services and messages from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Claire Burkat, and Pastor Linda Norman to name a few.

(Continue on
page three)



Inside this issue:

North Conference Project Report Leaders of North Conference Newsletter Purpose	2
Triennial Article Continued	3
Triennial Article Continued	3
Important Dates	3
Daily Grace	4

What Mission Projects Do We Do?

At the 2014 Fall Renewal some of the local missions carried out by WELCA's in our synod were: 1) Senior ministry for all who are 80+ such as birthday & holiday cards along with special dinners. 2) Scholarships for

graduating seniors from high school . 3) Baskets at Thanksgiving for the needy. 4) Coats for kids. 5) Recycling eyeglasses. 6) Creating Prayer Shawls. 7) After school programs for children. 8) Supporting local food pantries. 9) Supplying

free meals to needy and community. 10) Making stocking caps for newborns. 11) Providing funds and/or materials for local school needs. 12) Summer lunch program one day a week for all children who come. ETC. ETC. ETC.

Special points of interest:

- Does your unit want to go the 2017 Triennial?
- Let's help each other go to July 13-16, 2017, Triennial in the Cities!
- Input and ideas to help this happen need to be shared! Contact Ruth or Deb!

North Conference 2014 WELCA Projects Report

Quilts to LWR

Blair 59, French Creek 58, Halfway Creek 90, Hardies Creek 24, Lewis Valley 25, Living Hope 40, Mindoro 55, North Beaver Creek 87, Zion Galesville 134

Quilts to other Org.

Blair 97, Halfway Creek 69, Hardies Creek 73, Lewis Valley 70, Living Hope 98, Mindoro 36, North Beaver Creek 3

PersonalCareKits

Blair 16, French Creek 4,

Halfway Creek 4, Hardies 12, Lewis Valley 25, Living Hope 43, Mindoro 10, North Beaver Creek 18, Zion Galesville 18

More mission projects reports will come later. These were reported at the Fall Renewal.

The following 18 churches make up the Northern

Conference of the La Crosse Synod:

Bells Coulee – Mindoro;
Blair Lutheran – Blair;
Christ Lutheran – Arcadia;
Fagness Lutheran – Blair;
French Creek – Ettrick;
Halfway Creek – Holmen;
Hardies Creek – Ettrick;
Holmen Lutheran – Holmen;
Journey Lutheran– Onalaska;
Lewis Valley – Holmen;
Living Hope – Ettrick;
Mindoro Lutheran–Mindoro;
Mt. Calvary-Trempealeau;
North Beaver Creek–Ettrick;
South Beaver Creek–Ettrick;

Who are the Leaders of the North Conference?

The North Conference Board Member is Ruth Scholze.

Ruth represents our conference at all Synodical W-ELCA Board Meetings. Her address is N6692 Johnson Coulee Rd., Holmen, WI 54636. Ruth's phone number is: 608-526-3064 and her e-mail is: escholze@centurytel.net.

The North Conference Coordinator is Deb Sveen.

Deb helps coordinate all W-ELCA activities in the North Conference. Her address is N24431 Lunde Coulee, Ettrick, WI 54627. Deb's land phone is 608-525-3000 and her e-mail is: cmsveen@hotmail.com.

Be sure to contact Ruth if you have concerns that need the attention of the Synodical Board.

Contact Deb with any invitations for North Conference W-ELCA events and/or activities that other churches need to be made aware of.

AS A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP IN JESUS CHRIST, AND EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT...

Purpose of This Newsletter

The main purpose of the W-ELCA North Conference Newsletter is to use this as a menu for **the sharing of North Conference W-ELCA activities, events, ideas, etc.** As part of our purpose statement we commit ourselves to grow in *faith,*

affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

The sharing of Mission Projects will be one of the shared items. If your unit

has something special to offer, please share it with us! This newsletter will be a place to announce activities/events your church is hosting. The sharing of ideas/concerns could also be an outlet as well. Send items to cmsveen@hotmail.com

Ninth Triennial Report (Continued)

Featured speakers were: **Susan Sparks**, pastor of the Madison Avenue of the Madison Avenue Baptist Church in New York City, is also a lawyer, a cancer survivor, and a stand-up comedian. She authored *Laugh Your Way to Grace* and teaches a comedy course to clergy.

Becca Stevens spoke of her work among some of

the neediest women. Stevens is an Episcopal priest; chaplain at St. Augustine's at Vanderbilt University; and founder of Magdalene & Thistle Farms, enterprises that provide housing or employment for women recovering from violence, prostitution, addiction or life on the streets. Stevens is the author of eight

books.

Artist Stephanie Burke painted moving images of Jesus in a matter of minutes while we watched and tried to guess what she was painting.

The Global Musicians of the ELCA performed familiar Christian music for all plenary sessions and taught us to sing beautiful hymns from other cultures (Cont)

Conclusion to Ninth Triennial Report (Cont.)

In addition to the prior speakers and group singing, numerous exhibits, workshops, films, and servant opportunities were available. The Charlotte area or regional side trips were offered to attendees. (I visited the Duke Mansion and sampled a local wine/chocolate pairing while there.

I met many wonderful

people, enjoyed fun with my travel companions, learned about special WELCA activities and returned home with a greater appreciation for the work Lutherans do to help those in need. All in all, the Triennial Gathering was an exciting experience that I highly recommend. Fortunately for us, **the Tenth Triennial Gathering will**

be held in Minneapolis, MN, July 13-16, 2017.

More than 500 people have already preregistered. I hope to see you there. Please check out the Gathering website: welcatg.org for additional information.

Submitted by Joan Gardner



Spring Convention and Other Dates

The La Crosse Synod WELCA Spring Convention is: Saturday, April 18th, 2015, @ Trinity Lutheran in Sparta.

Living Hope WELCA QUILTING BEE in Parish Center March 2nd and March 3rd from 9AM to 4 PM each day. All materials and lunch furnished both days. Completed quilts go to Trempealeau County needs.

RSVP by Mon. Feb 23rd to Phyllis Wood (582-2196) or Deb Sveen (525-3000).

North Conference Spring Event is June 17th at North Beaver Creek Lutheran.

It is the goal of this newsletter for the 18 churches in the North Conference of the La Crosse Synod to be used as a way for the W-ELCA Units in these churches to share ministry. The intentions are to have this newsletter come out four times a year: January, April, July, and October. *All items for inclusion are requested by the first of these respective months: December, March, June, and September.*

All items are to be sent to: Deb Sveen, North Conference Coordinator, 24431 Lunde Coulee, Ettrick, WI 54627. Phone number is 608-525-3000. E-mail: cmsveen@hotmail.com



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's nearly mid-month but we're still saying "Happy New Year" to those we encounter for the first time in 2015. It's a wonderful greeting, not only for the happy wish, but for that great word, **new**. **New** and **waiting**.

The year waits for our scribbling and scratching to make it our own. The year waits with a clean start. We will not be the cartoon baby in diapers and top hat, for we are still ourselves, and that is not bad. God has

given us gifts to use and burnish and use again. We are gifts to the new year.

But when we look over the precipice into the new year, we are glued to the spot. We don't want to go there. We want to go back 10 years and begin at that spot. This is not our new, it is trackless. We want to work familiar paths.

God calls us, "Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The

past is forgotten and everything is new. God has done it all" (2Corinthians 5:17). We are as new as the new year. Walk in the new paths God has sketched for the new person God has made.

*This message was adapted from "All Things Made New" by Marj Leegard in the Jan/Feb 2002 issue of **Lutheran Women Today** (now **Gather**) magazine.*