



CONNECTIONS

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWSLETTER

Volume 21 No.1 www.eandsynodwelca.org November 2017-January 2018



quilts

WELCA Quilters are “Sew-n-Sews”

As the cold winter months linger in Eastern North Dakota, many women gather in churches to sew pieces of fabric into 60" x 80" inch rectangles. These become a quilt when a 64" x 84" backing is laid right side down; a 60" x 80" inch filler is put on top of it; and the 60" x 80" pieced fabric is placed on top of that, right side up. This is then sewn together with crochet thread (usually several inches apart) to hold the pieces firmly. Then the bottom edges are brought up and zig-zagged into place to form a solid edging.

The quilts are then distributed to homeless shelters, rape and abuse centers, needy families, and some are shipped to other countries through Lutheran World Relief.

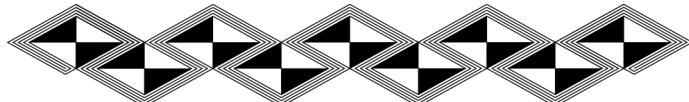
Since needs arise world-wide at various times, quilts are shipped to Baltimore, MD, where they are kept until a need arises. In our synod, two pick-up times are available—one in the spring and one in the fall. When the quilts are shipped to disaster areas, the cost is covered by donations,

Shipping costs LWR about \$2.25 per Quilt. Please give to the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, which pays for the shipping of donated Quilts and Kits.

Or give \$500 to sponsor a brick in the Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza at our Baltimore headquarters and help send 220 Quilts overseas!

Another way to help with shipping costs is to collect cancelled stamps. Buy and use Commemorative Stamps and save all cancelled stamps. See the article to the right.

You quilters are blessed to be blessing others with your volunteer work.

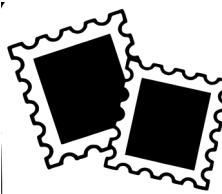


Please note:

As of January 31, 2018, all gifts, sponsorships, offerings, etc. should be mailed to:

Connie Radcliffe
EaND SWO Treasurer
PO Box 1022
Lisbon, ND 58054

(W)701-683-6219 (H)701-683-4759 (Cell)701-678-3334



Collect Cancelled Stamps for Lutheran World Relief

How often do you toss the envelope from the mail you receive into the trash? Did you know that cancelled stamp means money to Lutheran World Relief?

When you are ready TO MAIL YOUR LETTER OR BILL PAYMENT, place stamps on envelope in the upper right hand corner, allowing 1/4 inch space on each edge. Use Commemorative or High Value Stamps to mail packages and ask the recipient to save the stamps for you!

Go to local businesses, ask them to save the envelopes they receive for you. Either take the whole envelope or have the business person cut or tear the corner holding the stamp for your collection. Ask them to leave at least two inches per side, you can trim them to the size necessary. **Stamps need not be trimmed or removed from envelopes.

If trimming envelopes, leave at least 1/4-inch around stamp. Sorting into categories or weighing is not necessary. **DO NOT SOAK OFF!** Damaged stamps are those that are torn or the perforations have been destroyed.

One WELCA unit collects enough stamps to fill a flat rate envelope and pays for mailing (about \$7.00). It is an inexpensive way to ship those cancelled stamps.

Send stamps/envelopes to Sara Frank P.O. Box 1354 Kyle, TX 78640 If you have questions, contact sarafrank@yahoo.com Please put **LWML** in the subject line.



The stamps are sold to companies that re-sell them to stamp collectors. Consider this means to help LWR ship those quilts to areas in need!



We thank Nadine Olson, who faithfully served as EaND SWO treasurer for the past four years. The fiscal year for EaND SWO begins February 1, 2018, and ends January 31, 2019. All unit treasurers will have received this information by now. If your unit treasurer has NOT received its packet, please let Connie know.

2017-2018 EaND 3-B Synodical Women's Organization Board

Please keep this list for your future reference.

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CONNECTIONS

Karen Retzlaff
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A Reminder

Please remit your "Sponsorship" funds for the financial support of your Cluster Gatherings in the spring and our Synodical Convention in the fall. We suggest \$80-\$100 so that we can continue to provide spiritual events at a minimum cost to individuals in our SWO. With your help, we won't have to charge registration fees per individual. Thank you!

President's Message

Greetings as we begin the season of Lent.

This is the time of the liturgical calendar when we reflect on what God through His Son, Jesus, has done for us. Ash Wednesday falls on February 14th this year. How fitting!

When we focus on Valentine's Day, we think of love and expressions of love. Children exchange valentines, often with candy attached. Adults (male and female) exchange gifts of flowers, candy, and other tokens of affection. It's an opportunity to show how much we care. Generosity abounds.

When we focus on Lent, we think of sacrifice and sacrificial love. Some "give up something for Lent" as a sign of sacrifice—chocolate, movies, certain foods, etc. Some attend Lenten services on Wednesday evenings, donate money to charities, spend extra time in prayer. There are many ways of reflecting and meditating at this time.

After six weeks of Lent (and sacrifice), we celebrate Easter—on April Fools Day this year! Those who called for Jesus' death and crucified Him on the cross were certainly "fooled" by God who raised Jesus from the dead! God played the ultimate joke on Satan and his followers!

When we focus on Easter, we celebrate life eternally! The Resurrection calls us to new life in Christ, joy everlasting! It's not about Easter candy, bunnies, eggs! It's about God's Promise fulfilled. Let us rejoice!

On February 23-25, I will be attending my final Conference of Presidents in Chicago, IL. It will be bitter-sweet because I have so enjoyed meeting other Synodical presidents and sharing ideas with them. It has been a renewal time for all of us. We learn so many things and try to promote the work of Women of the ELCA. I will miss this time with my friends from around the US and Caribbean!

I will be taking gift cards to give to Sarah's Inn, a Chicago-area agency that offers comprehensive services for those whose lives are impacted by domestic violence. The wish list at Sarah's Inn indicates that gift cards in denominations of \$15-\$25 are requested and should come from "stores that carry groceries, toiletries, household items, school supplies, etc." This in-kind gift from EaND women will support women in the Chicago area as they and their families heal.

At our last board meeting, we accepted, with regret, the resignation of Jeanne Wubbema, our vice president. Jeanne has served faithfully as Cluster Representative, Retreat & Events Coordinator, and had begun a two year term as Vice President. She has accepted a full-time job with a newspaper, is active in her church, and is caring for her grandson. She felt that she couldn't devote the time needed to the role of VP as well. We thank her for her work on behalf of Eastern North Dakota and wish her well in the future.

Julie Hudson has accepted the role of Vice President for the remainder of this year. We thank Julie for her willingness to step into this position until elections will be held in September.

With that, I want to wish you "God Speed" as we begin a new time in our liturgical year.



President, EaND SWO

WELCA 101

Stewardship The practice of sharing God's gifts to us with those around us.

Types of Stewardship

- **Tithing** The practice of giving 1/10th of one's financial resources to charities or church. This was one of the guidelines used in many congregations in the past.
- **In-Kind** The practice of giving material gifts to people in need. This is often done by donating food, non-perishable items, or such to food pantries or other charitable organizations.
- **Talents** The practice of donating skills, volunteering your skills to help an organization meet a need locally or worldwide. (Habitat for Humanity, Medical Mission Trips, etc.)
- **Time** The practice of spending time visiting shut-ins, serving food at a homeless shelter kitchen, working with an after school program,

Many times the different types of stewardship can be combined to make the impact of God's gifts even greater. When in-kind is combined with talents and time, quilts are the end product. Many women will donate material along with their talent for selecting just the right combinations of colors, sewing squares together and time to make those beautiful quilts to give to those in need around the world.

Others will use their talent for teaching to lead Bible Studies in their churches and Sunday Schools. They choose to spend time preparing by praying, studying, and sharing God's Good News.

Still others set aside money to give to their congregation to pay salaries, for repairs, for regular expenses of their congregations. Each will be blessed as they practice stewardship in their lives.

2017 Benevolences distributed by EaND SWO

Churchwide Women's Organization	\$450.00
Red Willow Bible Camp	\$450.00
Park River Bible Camp	\$450.00
NDSU Lutheran Center	\$450.00
Christus Rex—UND	\$450.00
Northland Rescue Mission	\$450.00
Churches United for the Homeless	\$450.00
Great Plains Food Bank (summer food prog.)	\$450.00
Youthworks	\$450.00
EaND Multi-ethnic Mission Development Fund	<u>\$450.00</u>
For a total of	\$4500.00

The generosity of our congregational units made these gifts possible. We thank you!

Churchwide Board Member to attend EaND SWO Convention in September

Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She serves on the constitution review committee.



Viviane is an ordained minister in the ELCA and has served several Wisconsin congregations. Those include Cross Lutheran Church, Milwaukee; St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Milwaukee; and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Waukesha. She currently serves in intentional interim ministry to the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin.

Viviane has served on several ELCA boards, including the Board of Pensions, the Mission Investment Fund, and the Women of Color Clergy. Presently she is serving as the co-chair of the Task Force on Women and Justice.

Viviane is passionate about anti-racism work and has served on racial justice teams in two synods.

She graduated from Cornell University, Ithaca, NY., with a bachelor of science degree and from McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago, Ill., with a master of divinity degree. She is married to the Rev. Fred Thomas-Breitfeld. They have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Attention!

Were you ever active in the NDSU Lutheran Student Association? Did you attend services or spend time there during your "college" years?

If you were one of thousands of students who passed through the doors, Eastern North Dakota Synod would like to hear from you. The historical record of the NDSU Lutheran Center was lost when the records, stored in the basement, were discovered to be damp & mildewed beyond recovery.

In an effort to reconstruct some of the LSA story, an appeal is being made to send your information to :

Karen Retzlaff

11995 19th St NE

Aneta, ND 58212

or email Retzlaff@polarcomm.com

The LSA story needs to be recorded. If you can help, it would be greatly appreciated.

(Christus Rex at UND seems to be okay at this point!)



Connections

11995 19th St. NE

Aneta, ND 58212

Please Note: Update your Unit Mailing Address. If you are no longer president, please pass this on to her. If you are a subscriber, your expiration date is coded with your name, e.g., Jane Doe JA/16 (expires January 2016).

Frequency of Publication Information

CONNECTIONS is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Subscription rates are four (4) issues for \$3.00. Subscription requests and address changes should be sent to :

Please share the information in this newsletter. Photocopy as needed for your unit members, your bulletin boards, and church newsletters. Don't file this away! It's your message about what is happening in the Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization!

What's Inside?

- Page 1 Quilting & Stamping
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PRSR STD

U.S. POSTAGE PAID

Fordville, ND 58231

Permit No. 8

Return Service Requested

Unit Presidents, Please Note!

If your Congregational unit has any special events or programs you would like to share, please send a photo and story to: **Connections c/o Karen Retzlaff 11995 19th St. NE Aneta, ND 58212 Or Email to retzlaff@polarcomm.com** Your stories make this newsletter more interesting and may help other units with some ideas for programs or events! **Thank you!**

Check for more information in future issues of **Connections**, the packets received at the Spring Cluster Gatherings, and on the website:

Cluster Gatherings

Devils Lake
Fargo
Grafton
Grand Forks
Jamestown
Mayville
Prairie Rose
Wahpeton

Place

North Viking Lutheran Maddock, ND
Elim Lutheran Fargo
Adams-Mountain Lutheran Adams
Our Saviors Lutheran, Larimore
Gran Lutheran, rural Mayville
American Lutheran, Tolna
Milnor Lutheran, Milnor

Date

April 7
April 7
April 14
April 28
No info available yet.
April 28
No date yet
April 28

Your Cluster Representatives will be sending more information out in the near future, so please watch for the information as it becomes available!

If you would like to see **CONNECTIONS** in color, go to our website

<http://www.eandsynodwelca.org>