



Women of the ELCA

The SW MN Synodical Women of the ELCA met June 21-22, 2013, for their 26th annual convention at the Redwood Community Convention Center. Attendance was 243 on Friday and 194 on Saturday. Theme was "Legacy of Faith: Roots to Wings."

Artist and Pastor Paul Oman painted a canvas during the service that by the end was a beautiful scene of faithful people of many generations looking toward the cross. Pastor Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl led Bible Study on 1 Peter 2. Jody Smiley brought greetings from churchwide. Speakers were Candace Simar –poetry and stories of Minnesota immigrant life; Pat Stevermer--2014 Triennial Convention in Charlotte, NC; and Pastor Linda Pedersen--finding her roots in Romania. "Sister" entertained the group in the evening, which included singing "ELCA" to the "YMCA" tune.

Convention offerings totaled \$8955.00. 50% was given to churchwide, 25% to ELCA Disaster Relief, and 25% to LWR Quilt and Kits Shipping Fund. Also received was \$1254 for shipping, \$1068 for ELCA Malaria Campaign, and \$80 for Fabric Kits. In-Kind Offerings were Fabric Kits-1156 and a FULL van of Christian Literature. Cans for Katie's Fund totaled \$297.94.

Units were asked to total the number of quilts made and distributed from convention 2012-2013. 105 units reported a total of 10982 quilts.

Elected to serve on the board were: President- Kristy Henriksen; Vice President-Pearl Hanson; Secretary-Melanie Braunberger; Board Members At Large-Bonnie Jaeger, Sara Larson, Kay Mowbray, and JoAnn Pedersen. Delegates elected for the Triennial are: Kim Christianson, Algene Larson, Kay Mowbray, Cheryl Froelich, Maria Lokensgard, Marion McCrory, Bonnie Preuss, Karen Skarphol, Ardy Thorp, and Janice Zimmerman. Alternates are 1. Karol Markfelder and 2. Gayle Davidson.

Leadership Training was held in September. 100 officers from 10 conferences attended. Theme was Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." Pastor Margaret Yackel-Juleen led the Bible Study. Over 700 women attended 10 Conference Fall Gatherings.

SW MN Women of the ELCA received a Certificate of Recognition for outstanding support of the ELCA Malaria Campaign as a top10 donor. \$10,963.10 was given as of November 2013. The goal has been raised to \$15,000.00 by the 2015 Convention.

The Communicator is published 4 times per year to inform our women. Pam Tracey is the editor. Electronic delivery is being explored, as well as a Facebook page or website.

Joan Iverson serves on the Churchwide Board of the Women of the ELCA. It is great to have one of our own on that board.

Kristy Henriksen
President SW MN SWO Women of the ELCA