

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Southwestern



Minnesota Synod

The SW MN Synodical Women of the ELCA met June 19 & 20, 2015, for their 28th annual convention at the University of MN at Morris. Attendance was 166. Theme was "Repair, Rebuild, Restore." Theme verse was Isaiah 58:12 "Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets to live in."

Opening Worship was 'He Didn't Throw the Clay Away' by Ren Fuglestad, potter. Author Dennis Herschbach talked on "Human Trafficking." Dawn Smith brought greetings from churchwide. Workshops were: Campus Ministries, Church Kitchen Protocol, Healing Oils and Scripture, Heartland Girls Ranch, Laughter Yoga, Recharge Your Batteries, and The American Indian School at Morris. Bible Studies were led by Pastoral Intern Chris Richards and Pastor Joyce Tollefson Capp. Glenn Henriksen provided musical entertainment on Friday evening.

Convention offerings totaled \$9,713.13. 50% was given to churchwide, 25% to Heartland Ranch, and 25% to the 3 Campus Ministries in SW MN. Also received was \$2180.00 for LWR shipping. In-Kind Offerings were Fabric Kits-50, quilts-3296, Personal Care Kits-1157, Baby Care Kits-544, and School Kits-96, plus, a FULL van of Christian Literature. Cans for Katie's Fund collected \$341.50.

Elected to serve on the board were: Vice President-Ruth Ann Anderson; Secretary-Diane Fredin; Board Members At Large-Coral Ackman, Marcella Chapman, Sonja Farmer, Bonnie Jaeger, and Sara Larson.

The Serving in God's World ministry invited the Women of the ELCA to partner with them to raise \$12,000.00 to match funds given for a Hunger Packing Event held during Synod Assembly in 2015. The amount was raised with nearly 200,000 meals packaged and distributed to local foodshelves, backpack programs, and disabled veterans groups.

Kristy Henriksen and Sara Larson presented at workshop at the Synod Assembly entitled, "Women of the ELCA: Not Your Mother's Ladies Aid." About 40 people attended.

Leadership Training was held September 12th at Vinje in Willmar. 80 officers from 10 conferences attended. Theme was "Powered by the Son." Pastor Andy Smith presented information on Phebe Hospital in Liberia. At the 2014 Triennial a memorial was passed to raise funds to bring solar power to the hospital founded by Lutherans. Sarah Brock shared her experiences in Rwanda as a Young Adult in Global Mission. Pastor Amy Juel-Palmer led the Bible Study. Over 664 women attended 10 Conference Fall Gatherings.

Joan Iverson serves on the Churchwide Board of the Women of the ELCA. Maria Lokensgard was asked to serve as a Triennial Gathering Promoter.

Kristy Henriksen
President SW MN SWO Women of the ELCA