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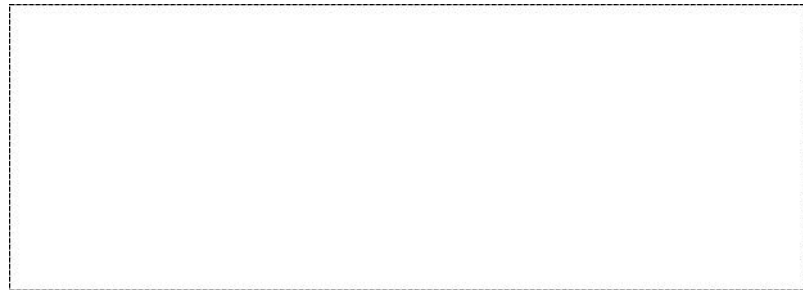
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*Women of the ELCA Circular
Thankoffering Flyer
Please share this newsletter!*



SAVE THE DATE!!!!!!
**26th Annual NJ Women of the ELCA
Convention Friday,
September 20 (Delegates &
Guests) Saturday,
September 21 (Workshops
& Worship) Redeemer
Lutheran Church
203 Eyland Ave, Succasunna, NJ 07876**

Thankoffering Service

Redeemer Lutheran Church

37 Warner Ave

Jersey City , NJ 07305

Saturday, April 6, 2013 @ 10 AM

The Rev. Mona Fitch-Elliot

*Come to Redeemer, Jersey City for this
Thankoffering Service! Churchwide
offering!*

Lunch is Provided!

Please contact Jean @ 201-725-2383

RSVP: March 27

So we can have a place set for YOU!

In-Kind offering:

**Please bring non-perishable food items for the food pantries at
Bethany Lutheran Church, and St. Paul Lutheran church, both in
Jersey City.**

Please use Mapquest for directions!

**We want to see you Challenge: to those living south of Beachwood (lower
portion of Ocean & Burlington Counties and southern counties. Car pool with
four or more in a vehicle, and you may request to be reimbursed for your tolls
and mileage @ the current reimbursement rate. We want to see you, but if you
cannot attend, please forward your Thankoffering to our Treasurer, Mary Hoh,
111 Voelbel Road, Hightstown, NJ 08520 marked for Churchwide.**

President's Corner

It was wonderful to meet and greet over 100 women attending our 25th Annual Convention which was held at St. Matthews in Moorestown. Thank you for your participation, it was a great Convention. One of the highlights: **Bishop Roy Riley** was honored for his support of the NJ Women of the ELCA, with a donation to the Katies Fund.

The Triennial Convention and Gathering in 2011 is still fresh in our minds as the news continually has articles of Liberia. **Leymah Gbowee**, gave a key note address at this Gathering. Leymah, a Liberian peace activist responsible for leading a women's peace movement that helped bring an end to the Second Liberian Civil War in 2003. Her efforts to end the war, along with her collaborator Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, helped usher in a period of peace and enabled a free election in 2005 that Sirleaf won. This made Liberia the first African nation to have a female president. She, along with Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Tawakkul Karman, were awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize "for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work. The recent 25th Anniversary Trip to Liberia, fifteen women and two churchwide staff members hand-delivered a resolution in support of the peace and justice in Liberia (was adopted by the churchwide executive board at their October 2012 meeting) to several leaders: President Johnson-Sirleaf; Leymah; Rev. Dr. Seynkulo, bishop of the Lutheran Church in Liberia; and Rose Farhat & Evelyn Gray, staff and national president of the NLCWFL, all received copies of the resolution.

We have been talking about the 1,000 Day Movement since the Triennial Convention and Gathering in 2011. We are continuing to advocate for better nutrition for women and children in the 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday. This 1000 day window is critical for give a child a healthy start in life. Your help is needed. Doing justice work requires stamina, passion and a solid faith. Go to womenoftheelca.org where you'll find a link to all resources.

Working though Lutheran churches in Africa, the ELCA Malaria Campaign is uniquely positioned to provide mosquito nets, insecticides, medication, health care, education and more to help eliminate deaths from this disease—for good. The NJ Women of the ELCA have partnered with the Synod and Churchwide to help in this Campaign. **The new statistic is this: "Every 60 seconds, a child in Africa dies from malaria."**

Women of the ELCA your support is needed. Be "Bold" on your faith and continue your "Unit/s". If you would like more information to start a new unit or continue, please contact a Board member. The "NJ Circular" our newsletter, is mailed to every church and approximately 200 women in New Jersey. You may obtain contact information from the Circular or from the www.njwomenelca.org

A Thankoffering Service will be held on **Saturday, April 6 at Redeemer, Jersey City at 10 am**. Worship and lunch is being planned. We also contribute "In Kind Gift" donations to organizations in the immediate community who help women and children. This year the "In Kind" gifts are non-perishable food items to benefit **the food pantries at Bethany Lutheran Church, and St. Paul Lutheran Church, both in Jersey City**. Traveling the state of New Jersey to our events can be a distance. Talking with the Presidents from other synods, we find that distance is a big factor in every state. Some travel over four hours to get to an event. **We can do it!!!!**

We want to see you Challenge: to those living south of Beachwood (lower portion of Ocean & Burlington Counties and south), car pool with four or more in a vehicle, and you may request to be reimbursed for your tolls and mileage @ the current reimbursement rate. We want to see you, but if you cannot attend, please forward your Thankoffering to our Treasurer, Mary Hoh, 111 Voelbel Road, Hightstown, NJ 08520 marked for Churchwide with a note from your unit/church.

The **26th Annual Convention** will be held at **Redeemer in Succasunna on Friday & Saturday, September 20-21**. The Delegates & guests will meet for the business meeting Friday afternoon and many workshops are planned for Saturday. Connect with women and youth in your church and bring them with you. We will vote for Triennial Delegates as well as Board members. **Plan to attend!**

I attended the Synodical Presidents' Conference in Chicago the end of February where 64 presidents met for wonderful workshops, region caucuses, Bible study on I Thessalonians 5:16-18, heard Bishop Hanson, guest speaker; mentor spotlights (my mentor is Janice Seifert), and worship services. It wasn't all work though. Our talent show – bling night was a great deal of fun. We found that there is a lot of talent out there or not. **Jenny Michael; Chaplain, Rev. Megan Jones; Linda Post Bushkofsky; Emma Crossen, Valora Starr; Rev. Wyvetta Bullock; Syd Brinkman; Inez Torres Davis;** and a host of others encouraged and guided us through each day. The **“In Kind” gift cards** that the presidents brought with them, supported **New Mom's Inc.** the 2011 Grant recipient, with **\$3,491.00**.

While at the Conference, I roomed with **Lois Bylund**, Northwester Minnesota SWO, our sister Synod. We are to keep in touch with the presidents of **Region 7** (NJ is 7A) because we are encouraged to partner with synodical organizations in other countries to invite and host international women from companion churches to spend time in our area and the Ninth Triennial Gathering in Charlotte. This effort takes many hands to make for a meaningful visit of a maximum of 10 days. The cost of this endeavor is approximately \$4,400.00 per guest.

We are still celebrating (thru May) our 25th Anniversary. Region 4 (Nebraska, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas & Louisiana) has pledged \$25,000.00 to the 25th Anniversary Campaign. For each contribution to this campaign, half is given to the Malaria Campaign.

It is a special treat to hear Bishop Hanson speak. During his conversation with us, he mentioned that this is a marvelous time to be ELCA – faith passed on “generation to generation”, the Triennial theme “of many generations”. Mark your calendar now and start saving for the Ninth Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina, July 24-27, 2014. Get more information from our **Triennial Promoter, Amy Palazzolo, 973-442-8039** or visit **womenoftheelca.org** or call **1-800-638-3522 ext. 2730**.

See you at the **Thankoffering Service** and the **26th Annual Convention**.

Sincerely, Wanda M. Nebiolo, President

DID YOU KNOW!!!! Women of the ELCA Spanish Resources may be obtained from Churchwide by going to www.womenoftheelca.org and click on En español.

Think social media is just for kids????

Cyber Seniors -- According to a recent Pew Research Center study:

For the first time, half of adults age 65 and older are online. One-third (34%) of people age 65 and older use social networking sites. Email rules: 86% of seniors use it, with nearly half using it daily.

Please supply your email address through www.njwelca.org ---- so we can email the Circular, etc.

Thank you received from Jenny Michael!

Dear Board Members,

Thank you so much for your faithful service to our organization. You are all filled with a vibrant faith and a sustaining love that is obvious to everyone at this event (25th Annual NJ W of ELCA Convention) this weekend.

Now as your work together continues, remember how very precious those gifts of the spirit will be to your synodical organization. I continue to hold each of you in my prayers as you step forward to do this good work!

You are all AMAZING!!

Jenny

To all of the NJ SWO,

Thank you so very much for your warmth and generosity of spirit – I felt so welcomed and supported throughout my time with you.

I am grateful for your diligent work during the business sessions, for your interest during the presentations and workshops and most of all, for your continued support for the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization.

Thank you so much – it was good to come home.

Love, Jenny

**NJ Women of the ELCA has a web master who coordinates everything on the site. Please check it out:
www.njwelca.org.**

Wanda,

You are such a treasure to this group of women in New Jersey – and also to our entire organization. You are such a graceful woman of faith – and I am so grateful for your voice within Women of the ELCA.

The convention was a delight! And it is clear that all of the participants were enriched by the experience.

You will be in my prayers as you start with some new faces around your table – take care and I'll see you in February!

Jenny

