



Fall 2019

The Tapestry

NT-NL Synodical Women's Organization SWO Fall Retreat Success

About 40 women gathered at Butman Methodist Camp outside of Merkel, TX the second weekend of October for mission, fellowship, and study. The bi-annual retreat was relaxing and rejuvenating. On Friday, women traveled from all over the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana Synod to delve into the theme, "God's Undivided Neighborhood."



Pastor Leslie Dunlap welcomed everyone as they flattened and cut plastic grocery bags, hooked loops together to make plarn, and crocheted the plarn into 3'x6' mats for the homeless ministry of Abilene. The weekend work produced 14-15 mats.

Pastor Deb Loudin-McCann was our worship leader. She helped everyone loosen up drums and other rhythm instruments. She also shared about her ministry with homeless LGBTQ teens and young adults in the Deep Ellum area of Dallas. Pastor Deb also led the Bible study, challenging participants to define their neighborhoods, using I Corinthians 12:4-31 to define the gifts within unity and diversity, giving a fresh perspective on the parable of the good Samaritan.

Other speakers included Pastor Diane Eggemeyer from Miles speaking about their food bank and the diverse community with whom they get to interact and Pastor Irma Banales speaking about being intentional in mixing our synod events with the Latino congregations. Pastor Irma and several women from various Latino congregations shared about their experiences with transitioning and bilingual congregations.

An in kind offering of personal care kits supplies were brought by attendants. After lunch on Saturday, gallon bags were filled with personal care items, snacks, and water. The Blessing bags were sent to Abilene to be distributed to the homeless.

President's Message



When I was a young child time seemed to pass SOOOOO slowly. Five minutes seemed like an hour and the three-month summer vacation from school seemed to last FOREVER. However, now that I am an adult it seems like there is never enough hours in the day to accomplish everything that I need to get done.

Unlike our mothers, most women now work outside the home. This means that by the time most women work an eight-hour work-day, come home, fix dinner for the family, help the kids with homework, get the kids ready for bed, do a little housework (a load of laundry or two), it leaves little to no time for a woman to relax and just be a woman. Believe me I know what I'm talking about because this has been my life for the past 35 years.

I also know that if a woman doesn't take time for herself, time to relax, time to feel like a woman, eventually, she will get burned out and lose her zest for living.

Looking for a way to temporarily get away from the daily routine, a way to relax, a way to refresh your attitude, a way to make new friends, as well as a way to strengthen your relationship with God? Well I think I have the solution for you. The Eleventh Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention and Gathering which is being held in Phoenix, AZ July 14-19.

The Triennial Convention will be held July 14-16 and is when the business of our organization will be handled which will include electing a new WELCA President and Board. The Triennial Gathering, which will be held July 16-19, includes a multitude of activities. There will be exhibits and vendors offering a ton of information. There will be a choice of about six day-tours/trips that you can take and get to know more about the Phoenix area. There will also be a Run, Walk, Roll activity to benefit the WELCA health initiative, Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls.



Sound like fun? If so now is the time to register so that you won't miss out on any of the fun. Early Bird registration is now open and continues thru Jan. 6, 2020 at a base cost of \$325.00 (Trips and other activities are available at an additional cost). After Jan. 6, 2020 the price increases to a base cost of \$375.00 and is available thru June 9, 2020. Where can you register and get more information? You can register on line at welcatg.org or, if you prefer, you can print out a registration form from this same web site and mail it in. In addition, on this same web site you can also order Lands' End clothing items embroidered with the Triennial Logo.

Be sure and act now so you won't miss any of the fun.

HOPE TO SEE YOU IN PHOENIX!!!!

~Pam Nye

Upcoming Events



- November 2019 Synodical Board Meeting by teleconference
- 2020**
- January 31 End of financial year
- March 28 Dallas Metro North Spring Retreat, Preston Meadow, Plano
8:30 – 4:00, Daycare will be provided.
The theme will be about how to include women of all ages.
- April 4 Heart of Texas Spring Gathering at St. Matthew, Waco
- Spring Eastern Cluster/Eastern Conference Spring Gathering
First, Longview
- July 16-19 National Gathering 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona “JUST LOVE”
- 2nd weekend in October NT-NL SWO Synod Convention, Metro West conference

NT-NL Synod Convention special guest to celebrate the ordination of women

The year 2020 will be the 50th anniversary for ordination of women in the Lutheran church. At synod assembly next year, we would like to have a special artist come and present her work on women in the Old Testament. Her name is Sarah Novenston. The cost is about \$4000. We are looking for funds to help defray the costs. Please consider having your church donate. In addition, a special service will be held and we would like as many women as possible to attend. Watch for more details as to time and place. Contact Sandra Gass to let her know if and how much you choose to donate. Her email address is gass@att.net.

Heart of Texas begins planning for Spring Gathering



The women of First Lutheran and St. Matthew churches in Waco met to begin planning the Heart of Texas Spring Gathering. Their gathering will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2020 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. Mark your calendar!

Share upcoming events of your unit and conference to our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/ntnlsw/>. You can also email news to ntnlwelca@gmail.com and it will be included in the next newsletter.

Past Events

Women's/Girl's Retreat

Thirty women and one man from several congregations attended this event at Our Redeemer, Grand Prairie on August 17. The event was sponsored by the Women of the ELCA groups of Lord of Life, Glenn Height, New Life in Christ, Duncanville and Our Redeemer. The Rev. Dr. Kendra Mohn, lead pastor of Trinity, Fort Worth, led the group in an in-depth study of the book of Esther. She highlighted the culture and history of the time Esther lived in and encouraged the audience to find themselves in the text. A freewill offering was taken for Freedom House, located in Weaterford, a ministry that works with women and children which brought in \$200.

The closing worship was led by Pastor Yvonne Kiebler and Pastor Suzanne Guinn played the music. Breakfast treats were provided by New Life in Christ, lunch by Our Redeemer and desserts by Lord of Life of Life.

If you would like to share past or upcoming events in the any of our media, send the information and pictures to ntnlwelca@gmail.com.

Do you have a social media skill to share?



NT-NL SWO is seeking a media coordinator to manage our social media, newsletter creation and distribution, and website. This role is responsible for posting frequently on Facebook, collecting and editing newsletter content from synod WELCA groups and leaders, creating print and email versions of the newsletter, and sending the newsletter on a quarterly basis.

Social Media: Experience using Facebook is required; experience managing a Facebook Business Page is beneficial. Responsibilities include creating original posts, sharing content from other pages and individuals, creating event pages, and moderating posts from page visitors.

Newsletter: Experience using Word or another full document editor is required. Experience using MailChimp is beneficial, but can be taught. Responsibilities include editing content submitted by WELCA groups and SWO leaders, formatting content for a print version of the newsletter, adding content to the website, and formatting the emailed newsletter sent via MailChimp.

Website: Experience using WordPress or a similar website management system is beneficial. Responsibilities include adding pages and/or posts for events, news, and announcements and utilizing that content to create the email newsletter.

Tapestry Subscription

The Tapestry newsletter is distributed via email and online. If you are interested in receiving the bi-monthly newsletter by email, you can sign up online at

ntnllutheranwomen.com or facebook.com/ntnlsw.

If you aren't able to access digital copies, visit your church's office to ask for a printed copy that can be found on our website.

Our Mission

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose

As a community of women
created in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,
and empowered by the Holy Spirit,

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.

Conference Coordinators

The NT-NL Synod conferences are ELCA congregations grouped together from Northern Louisiana to Eastern New Mexico and Southern Oklahoma to Central Texas. Each conference within the NT-NL Synodical Women's Organization has a conference coordinator to work with the congregational unit leader in each of the congregations. The conference coordinators facilitate sharing information between congregations themselves and between the NT-NL SWO and the congregations.

The Conference Coordinators are listed below for the conferences. Ideally, it would be good to have a coordinator for all of the conferences. If you live in one of these conferences and have info/questions, please contact your coordinator. If the below information needs to be updated, let the board know. You can email us at ntnlwomen@gmail.com.

Eastern Conference	Sherry Galloway, St. Stephen, Shreveport, 318-469-4806, sgalloway52@comcast.net
Heart of Texas	Kim Fehler, Zion McGregor, 254-366-0411, kdfehler@gmail.com
Dallas Metroplex North	Pamela Grosze, Christ the Servant Allen, 918-978-4046, pgrosze@tx.rr.com
Panhandle	Sharon Holmes, St. Paul Levelland, 806-894-7791, mjholmes02@windstream.net
Conference Out West	information needed
Metroplex West	information needed
Latino Conference	information needed