

The Flame



Newsletter of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA

Volume 12 Issue 4

December 2011

Northeastern PA Synod Women of the ELCA
SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT

“Kindness & Compassion”

**“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other just
as Christ God forgave you.”**

Ephesians 4:32

“Always respond to others with kindness and compassion”

Guest – Bruce Becker-artist and author of “Kindness and Compassion”

He will share his story of the Nickel Mine tragedy.

NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH,

(Directions inside)

Saturday, March 17, 2012

Snow date-March 24, 2012

8:30a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Registration-\$20.00 (includes lunch)

(Registration form inside)

Workshops and Worship will also be part of the day

**DIRECTIONS TO
NATIVITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
4004 West Tilghman Street
Allentown, PA 18104-4426
(610) 395-5062**

FROM EASTON PA and Points East:

Take RT 22 West to Cedar Crest Blvd exit at end of ramp - Turn LEFT onto North Cedar Crest Blvd
Go 0.9 mile, at Traffic light (Sunoco station on left hand corner), Turn RIGHT onto West Tilghman St.
Go 1 mile, Nativity Lutheran Church will be on your LEFT.

FROM READING and Points West

Take US 222 North toward Allentown, PA, (18.7 mi)
Merge onto PA-100N/US-222N/Fred Jandl Memorial Hwy via the ramp on the left to Fogelsville/
Allentown, continue to follow US-222 N (3.2 mi)
Take the 1st right onto Cetronia Rd/State Route 3008 Continue to follow State Route 3008
Destination will be on the RIGHT

FROM POCONOS and Points North

Take I-80 East to RT 33 South, continue on RT 33 South (approx 20 mi) to RT 22 West (Bethlehem/
Allentown)
Exit onto PA-309 South toward Quakertown (1 mi), take the Tilghman St East exit ramp
Merge onto West Tilghman St (0.5 mi)
Destination will be on the RIGHT

FROM BOYERTOWN and Points South:

Take RT 100 North (12 mi), continue onto PA-29 N/Chestnut St, (2.6 mi),
Turn LEFT onto PA 29 North/ S Cedar Crest BLVD (3.1 mi)
Slight RIGHT to merge onto RT 78W/PA-309 North toward Harrisburg,
Take exit 53 to merge onto PA 309 N toward Tamaqua
Take the Tilghman ST East exit ramp, merge onto West Tilghman ST
Destination will be on your RIGHT

Registration Form
Spiritual Growth Retreat
“Kindness & Compassion”

March 17, 2012
(Snow Date March 24, 2012)

Registration Form:

Name _____

Address: _____ Phone _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

Congregation _____ City _____

CLUSTER (CIRCLE ONE)

BETHLEHEM/EASTON	EAST BERKS	LEHIGH
HAZLETON/LEHIGHTON	WEST BERKS	NORTHERN LEHIGH
POCONO	SCHUYLKILL	SCRANTON/WILKES BARRE

Workshop sign-up (Select 2)

1. Beading workshop _____
2. Bible Study _____
3. Sharing your stories (Kathy Long) _____

Registration Deadline March 3, 2012

Form may be duplicated Scholarships are available (see scholarship application on page5)

Make check (\$20.00) per person payable to: **NEPA Women of the ELCA**

Send reservation form (for each attendee) along with check to:
Vicki Espinoza -19 Eagle Lane. Reading, PA 19607

FOR QUESTIONS OR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Vicki Espinoza (espydad@verizon.net) (610-777-3702)



President's Message:

As the year comes to a close and the Church celebrates the birth of the Christ Child, people tend to reflect upon what transpired in their lives over the course of the past twelve months. No one knows what an upcoming new year might bring, but I always look upon it as a time of wonderful possibilities. A brand-new calendar is available to fill with countless opportunities to reach out beyond my home and interact with others in Christian discipleship and fellowship.

The SWO will be hosting the Spring Spiritual Growth Retreat on March 17 and the Region 7 Gathering will be April 27 – 29 in at Camp of the Woods - Speculator, New York. Information on both of these events are available in The Flame. The events are wonderful ways to connect with our Christian sisters in the synod and in our region. A lot of time and effort goes into the planning of these events, please support the SWO and the region by attending.

The WELCA Mission Statement is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. How will you implement this in your own life? I encourage all women to use this time of year to look back through their current year and move forward to the new year to see what new opportunities may present themselves to you. Act Boldly on your faith in Jesus Christ and see where it leads you. Boundless opportunities await!

May all of you have a blessed and peaceful holiday season. Stay safe and healthy!

God Bless!

Dawn Talley



LET'S GET TO KNOW OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Suzan Andrews was elected WELCA Synod treasurer at the convention in May. Her term will begin in February 2012. St. John's in Nazareth is her home church, where she is the WELCA CU Treasurer, a lector, greeter and usher. She also enjoys Bible Study. In July 2012, Suzan will travel to New Orleans with the St John's youth for the Youth Gathering. She is the WELCA Cluster Recorder for the Northern Lehigh Valley Mission District.

Suzan lives in Bethlehem with her husband, Chris, three daughters, Jennifer, Elizabeth and Kristin and Charlotte, a German exchange student. She works as a Business Analyst for SunGard K-12 writing Financial and Payroll software for school districts.

Suzan would like to see more women of all ages benefit from the fellowship, service projects, learning events and fun of WELCA.

SPIRITUAL GROWTH RETREAT
“Kindness & Compassion”
SCHORLARSHIP APPLICATION

Mail to: Priscilla Unger
RR2 Box 2051, Gouldsboro PA 18424

I am applying for \$20 registration fee.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **ST** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Congregation/City** _____

Email address _____

Age Group: 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-75 76-90

Is this your first time attending a Spiritual Growth Retreat? Yes No

If not, when was the last time you attended? _____

What is your involvement in your unit? _____

In response to receiving this grant, a written article of your impression/ spiritual growth would be appreciated. This article will be published in The Flame. Please complete within 3 weeks of the event and either email to Elorac5707@RCN.com or postal mail to Carole Snyder, 118 Bridge St Apt #205, Catasauqua, PA 18032-2559

Mission Community

Fall 2011 Report

The Fall Cluster Meeting Topic was “Bold Women – Celebrating the Bold Women in Our Lives”. Seven of the Nine Clusters held meetings.

The most successful seems to have been the Hazelton/Lehigh Cluster with their presentation of “Katie, Anna, and me...so who are you?” Invitations were sent to each church in the Synod (I know my church received one) and I saw an article in the Flame. This program was headed by Dr Jean Godsall-Myers, Professor of German Language & Literature and a Co-director with her husband of the Wittenberg Center in Germany from 2006 – 2009. That is a prime example of how you can take the information presented at the Planning meeting and make it your own!

The Spring Cluster Planning Meeting was held on a very Un-Spring like day, at St John’s Nazareth on October 29, 2011. Just as the snow was starting, we were gathering to hear more about the Topic “Love Your Heart”. Our speaker was Sue Himmelrich, RN, a Diabetic Nurse Educator from Warren Hospital in Phillipsburg, NJ. Amazingly, all but four clusters sent representatives to a very interesting talk. The missing clusters were all excused prior to the meeting due to the weather forecast, and I am hoping that I can give them the information needed for their Spring Meetings at this Board Meeting.

Fall Cluster Meeting Results:

	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Special Offering</u>	<u>Location</u>
1. Beth/Easton	11	35.40	Good Shepherd, Easton
2. Schuylkill	33	160.00	Christ United, Ashland
3. Lehigh	12	36.00	St. Paul’s, Trexlertown
4. N. Lehigh	28	126.00	Hope Lutheran, Cherryville
5. Pocono	NO MEETING		
6. Hazelton/Lehigh	32	103.00	Trinity Lutheran, Bowmanstown
7. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre		NO MEETING	
8. East Berks	28	143.00	Zion Lutheran, Maxatawney
9. West Berks	21	0	Trinity Lutheran

Scheduled Spring Cluster Meetings as of 11/11/11

	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
1. Bethlehem/Easton	TBA		
2. Schuylkill	Trinity Lutheran, Pottsville	April 14, 2012	8:30-12:00
3. Lehigh	TBA		
4. N. Lehigh	Faith Lutheran, Whitehall	May 8, 2012	6:30 pm
5. Pocono	Gouldsboro		
6. Hazelton/Lehigh	Grace Lutheran, Lehigh	TBA	
7. Scranton/Wilkes-Barre			
8. East Berks	St. Joseph's Hill Church	April 23, 2012	6:30 pm
9. West Berks	TBA		

A Topic has not yet been chosen for Fall 2012. We are also in need of a Host Church for our Planning Meeting on May 19, 2012. Any ideas, please let one of us on the committee know.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kathleen Mathews, Convener, Mission Community

Laila Sunday

Donna Duckworth



Save the Date! 23rd Annual Convention

Mark your calendars! On **June 9, 2012**, the 23rd Annual Convention of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA will be held at **Union Lutheran Church** in Schnecksville.

The theme this year is **Responding to God's Call**, with the following goals:

- To know when and how we are called
- To know what our calling is
- To live out our calling
- To conduct the business of the NEPA Women of the ELCA
- To celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Women of the ELCA

Watch your mailbox for more information coming soon! We want to see you there!

Church history chronicled at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bowmanstown

Tuesday, October 11, 2011 (Times News)



Portraying woman throughout the history of the church during a skit titled "Katie, Anna, and Me ... So Who Are You ?" are, from left, Dr. Jean Godsall-Myers as Katharina von Bora, Linda Beck as Anna Maria Weiser Muhlenberg, and Amy Schenkenberger as the modern day woman. The skit was presented by the Women of the ELCA at Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowmanstown.

The Women of the ELCA, Hazleton/Lehighton Cluster presented a skit about 500 years of church history from the 1500s to the present day this past weekend at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bowmanstown.

Their presentation, titled "**Katie, Anna, and Me ... So Who Are You?**", chronicled the history of the church from a woman's point of view and was attended by 32 women and men.

The three characters featured in the skit were Katharina von Bora, the wife of Martin Luther; Anna Maria Weiser Muhlenberg, the wife of Henry Melchior Muhlenberg; and a modern day woman of the year 2011.

Katharina von Bora is one of the most significant women in church history who, following her mother's death, was placed in a convent school when she was 5 years old. She took her vows at the age of 16 and escaped the cloister with 11 other nuns in fish barrels when she was 24 years old.

She met and later married Martin Luther at the age of 26 and they had six children, four lived to be adults.

They also raised four orphans. Katharina took care of the vegetable garden, orchard, fishpond, and barnyard animals, served as a nurse to her husband and family, and was a teacher. She was portrayed by the program's author Dr. Jean Godsall-Myers.

Anna Maria Weiser Muhlenberg was a daughter of a famous Pennsylvania diplomat Conrad Weiser.

Conrad Weiser was an intermediary between colonial governors and Indians and was a key figure with treaty negotiations and land purchases. There's a parallel to this historical figure in that the Gnaden Huetten massacre occurred Nov. 24, 1755, both Conrad and Anna were alive when this unfortunate event took place.

Anna married Henry Melchior Muhlenberg in 1745 when he was 34 years old and she was 18.

They had 11 children, four died as infants. Their children went on to play lead roles in society.

Linda Beck portrayed Anna Maria

Continued on next page

The third actor was a modern-day woman, Amy Schenkenberger, a member of the host church. Dr. Godsall-Myers is a wife, mother, and grandmother and is currently a member of Advent Lutheran Church, Old Goshenhoppen in Harleysville. She has been a college professor, instructor of German language and literature. She and her husband have been co-directors at the Wittenberg Center, where Martin Luther nailed his 95 Thesis to the door of the Castle Church in Germany. Their positions were terminated due to budget cuts. Officers of the Hazleton/Lehighton Cluster of the Women of the ELCA are co-coordinators Josephine Rhyder and Mary Ann Hazel, members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Lehighton. The recorder was Kathy Heller, a member of St. John's-in-the-Heights in Jim Thorpe. The hostess was Barbara Solliday, president of the Women of the ELCA at Trinity.



Getting Ready to Celebrate 25 Years

The 25th anniversary of Women of the ELCA is in 2012 (the Constituting Convention was held June 1987). Observing our 25th anniversary will be a wonderful opportunity to lift up our mission and purpose as an organization. In doing so, we remind one another of our shared history and why we are still organized today as a community of faith-filled women. Our anniversary will both celebrate our past but also affirm our relevance for the future as a women's organization committed to acting boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ.

As part of our 25th celebration, we will have a special anniversary appeal, of which 50 percent of the offerings received will go directly to the ELCA Malaria Campaign toward three specific areas: medicine, clean water and advocacy. Our contribution as the women's organization of the church to the malaria campaign will be recognized and celebrated at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2013. The remaining 50 percent of offerings received in honor of our anniversary will support the ongoing work of Women of the ELCA.

Look for anniversary materials beginning in February 2012 that will include anniversary stories in *Gather* and *Interchange*, a special anniversary section on the Women of the ELCA website, a printed anniversary resource with ideas for celebrating our anniversary as well as more detailed information about the anniversary appeal and our commitment to the ELCA Malaria Campaign.

Region 7 Spiritual Retreat / Women of the ELCA
April 27 - 29, 2012



"Angels among Us"
Hebrews 13:2

Keynote Speaker
Pr. Mary Jane Hastings,
St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Morristown, N.J.

Bible Study Leader
Pr. Wendy Abrahamson,
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Florham Park, N.J.

At The Purdy Center
Camp-of-the-Woods <http://www.camp-of-the-woods.org/>
Speculator, N.Y.

For more information, contact O'B Rock
obrock@comcast.net 508.431.2598

Motel-style rooms and modern conveniences on a beautiful lake. Private baths. Easy to find. Indoor pool, free wi-fi, delicious buffet. Cost includes six meals, Friday supper through Sunday lunch.

Mt. Saint Alphonsus has closed.
Registration opens January 2012



Women of the ELCA



ANGELS AMONG US

Hebrews 13:2

REGION 7

A Spiritual Gathering April 27-29, 2012
Purdy Center @ Camp of the Woods Speculator NY

Please Print

NAME _____ BADGE NICKNAME _____

ADDRESS _____ E-mail _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE: Primary _____ Secondary _____ HOME SYNOD _____

Registration Fee for 3 days (everyone needs to pay this fee).....	\$ 35.00	_____
Meals/Lodging (2 nights lodging and 6 meals)		
Single.....	\$ 215.00	_____
Double	\$ 175.00	_____
Triple/Quad.....	\$ 160.00	_____
Commuter Fee (6 meals--Friday Dinner thru Sunday Lunch)	\$ 125.00	_____
Late Registration Fee (March 15-April 15, 2012)	\$ 20.00	_____

TOTAL (must be paid at time of registration) _____

I am sharing a double room with _____

I am sharing a Triple/Quad room with _____

I would like you to match me with a woman who needs a roommate in the room size I have indicated above.

Please make checks payable to "REGION 7—WOMEN OF THE ELCA" and mail to the Registrar.

O'B Rock Phone: 508.431.2598
30 Thacher St.
Attleboro MA 02703-4916 Email: obrock@comcast.net

CANCELLATION POLICY: A \$20 cancellation fee will be charged for registrations cancelled between March 15, and April 15, 2012. NO Refunds after April 16, 2012.

Please indicate any dietary or mobility issues or other special needs

Please include a self-addressed stamped business size envelope with your registration if you need confirmation by mail. All other confirmations and updates will be provided by email to the address provided above.

Connecting the dots

A strategy for women disciples by Valora K Starr

For many years Women of the ELCA and its predecessor organizations have supported the daily ministry of women and local women's groups by providing a collective Bible study and other resources essential to growing in faith. Today, while some still debate the relevance of a women's organization, Women of the ELCA continues to provide space for women to articulate and act on their faith in Jesus Christ and to multiply the effects of its participants' ministry for greater impact in the church, society and the world.

The purpose and mission of the organization is grounded in the great commission (Matthew 28: 19-20) which provides a foundation for our ministry and keeps us focused on mission. It is not easy in this society and culture to live out our call to discipleship. What does it mean to be a community of women created in the image of God called to discipleship in Jesus Christ? You start with who you are, what you do and why you do it in order to complete your mission.

The first women disciples who followed Jesus (Luke 8:1-3) were each called to the community because of who they were, what they could do and why they were needed. Mary, Joanna, Suzanne and many other women supported the ministry (the community) out of their own resources. Today God continues to call individuals to discipleship, expecting them to work in community. That first organized group of women disciples gives our community of women evidence that collective support and pooling of resources helps us connect the dots to accomplish the mission.

How will our community of women support and affirm one another if we are not clear ourselves about supporting the community in its task to promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world? We have to return to the one who called us to community for clarity and support. Ultimately we are called to live out the great commission and make an impact on the world rather than waiting to see what the world will drop on our plate.

Along with a purpose statement and a mission statement that describes the great commission, Women of the ELCA provides the community with a strategic plan which includes an array of resources, programs and an initiative for equipping and supporting women disciples for ministry in daily life. This plan eliminates the guess work and duplication that results in each small group attempting to produce all they need to do ministry alone.

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**Northeastern PA Women of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
118 Bridge St Apt #205
Catasauqua PA 18032-2559**

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Schedule of Meetings

February 23-26	Conference of Presidents, Chicago IL
February 26	Bold Women's Day
March 3	Board meeting
March 17	Spiritual Growth Retreat (Snow Date March 24)
April 9-21	Spring Meetings of Mission Clusters
April 2-29	Region 7 Spiritual Retreat, Speculator NY
May 5	Board Meeting (tentative date)
June	Synod Assembly
June 9	Annual Synodical Convention, Union Lutheran Church, Schnecksville, PA
July 21	Board Transition Meeting
September	Fall Meetings of Mission Clusters
October 20	Fall Learning Event

Purpose Statement

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.