

The Columbine

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

As I reflect over my first year as Director of Women's Ministry for the Eastern Synod, I can relate fully to that quote above. Many times, in the beginning, I would find asking myself just exactly what was I getting into - there was no real job description, no real structure to follow, just Bishop Pryse's desire to make sure that the women of the Eastern Synod stay an informed, cohesive group, and to ensure their voices were being heard. And he picked me to do it. So, armed with not much more than a desire to serve, I took my first steps.

We have quite a few accomplishments in the past year. First, we have maintained a committee of volunteers from each conference, to make sure that women were still meeting as a group at least once a year. Some of these volunteers also formed the planning committee for our first biennial event - S.P.A.— Sacred Place Away, held May 25-27 at Seneca College in Toronto. The event was a 'huge' success, more spiritual and fun than we ever dreamed possible. Please see the article and a picture in this issue of the Columbine. Look also for a power-point presentation to be available on our Women's Ministry Blog later in October. Our photographer, Seija Hyhko, took some great shots to provide us with a pictorial record of the event.

Many of you in the conferences still arrange to meet once or twice a year and I encourage you to continue that trend in the future. The volunteers in each conference do a wonderful job of making sure that there are opportunities for women to gather, and I try myself to attend when I can. Take the opportunity to attend the one in your area (or one close to you)! Fall Meetings for 2013 are:

<u>Conference</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location/Theme</u>
Hamilton/Niagara	Oct 22/13	Grace, Hamilton - "A Crop of Friends"
Georgian Bay	Oct 5/13	St. James, Williamsford - "Thankful Loving Hearts"
Kitchener-Waterloo	No 2/13	St. James, St. Jacobs - "Plug into the Power"
Northern	Oct 5/13	St. Timothy, Coppercliff
Ottawa-St.Lawrence	Oct 26/13	Good Shepherd, Brockville

Eastern Synod Women's Ministry Group - a message from Cathy Calvin



An enterprising group of women from K-W Conference, Kay Wentzell, Ruby Janssen, Linda Mittelholtz and Mildred Knacksted, approached me earlier this year regarding the Women of Faith Fund that was established by the dissolution of ELW a few years ago. They wanted to apply for a grant to establish a scholarship at the Seminary for a female student(s). The new undergraduate Christian Studies and Global Citizenship program at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary has opportunities for leadership training and I thought this was very worthwhile. One of the major downfalls of ELW dissolving is the leadership training that ELW provided for many of the women in the Synod (something we definitely have to address for our future). We applied for the grant and were happy to receive news that our application was approved. See the letter from the Scholarship Committee in this issue of the Columbine and consider contributing to the continuity of the scholarship fund.

Our first mission project was established and will continue to the end of 2014. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) Libraries Project: *Opening a World of Possibilities* (English books sent overseas to the library at the Lutheran School) was the one that we chose and many of the conferences have already contributed. We will continue to send any contributions to the end of 2014. We will be looking for another mission project for 2015-2016, so if anyone has any suggestions, please contact me with your ideas.

Lastly, we are just beginning planning for the next biennial event. Mark your calendars for May 29-31, 2015. The theme (tentatively) is "Singspiration! Making a Joyful Noise". The venue is the Cambridge Conference Centre in Cambridge, Ontario. Plan to be there!

Our journey as Women of the Eastern Synod continues. The staircase doesn't seem as daunting now, but the end is nowhere in sight. The possibilities are endless. And that is a very, very good thing.

Till next time - may your Fall and Winter be filled with God's blessings for you and your family.

Cathy Calvin

Director of Women's Ministry,
Eastern Synod



Be still and know that He is God
For pathways steep and rough,
Not what He brings,
But what He is
Will always be enough.

—Anon.

Biennial Convention - Seneca College, Toronto - May 24 to 26, 2013

Sacred Place Away

"Wow, what a wonderful gathering!" That was the exclamation heard from so many of the ninety-five spirited women who attended the Eastern Synod Lutheran Women's SPA gathering at Seneca College in Toronto from May 24 to 26. In sessions lead by Melissa Bone, a passionate, insightful speaker, participants had moments of laughter, tears and meditations. She spoke to the three generations of women, the Marys, the Elizabeths and the Annas who came to the SPA pause for prayer, praise and play. There definitely was plenty for all three in every part of the program over the three days. It was wonderful to see so many women from varied age groups and communities come together in spirit-filled activities.

Friday night started with an opportunity to watch a thought-provoking movie, *"As it is in Heaven"* while relaxing with treats such as chocolate encrusted fruit from a chocolate fountain, popcorn, and trail mix. We were provided with nurture for the body, mind and soul.

There was no lack of options to fill the day Saturday. The workshops were so inviting that the only complaint expressed was that we could not attend them all. The laughter yoga drew attention from passers-by who wondered what could be so amusing; those in meditation sat quietly in reflection; those in the Zumba session experienced the satisfaction of physical exertion. That is only a taste of the choices made available to the participants. There was something for everyone. Many took time out for some private relaxation by checking in for a manicure, a facial or a Reiki session. I am certain that some may have even taken time out for a nap in

their own private room. Those with a passion for shopping had opportunities to purchase various items from areas set up by Sperling, Ten Thousand Villages, Blessings Materials and Nanso Fashions. Some even went out in their free time to check out neighbouring retail outlets.

The Lounge Party on Saturday evening proved to be a relaxed yet joyful opportunity to catch up with old friends and/or make new friends while enjoying a scrumptious buffet and a delightful program. Ten of our own women served as models for the Fashion Show featuring the colourful and appealing Nanso Leisurewear from Finland. Andrea Hansen and her niece, Debbie Jones, who are accomplished musicians, entertained the group talking about their "Strings Across the Sky" program and demonstrating their humour and musical talent. Most people were laughing so hard that they were almost crying as Andrea and Debbie engaged Bishop Mike as an instrumentalist in their performance. In learning to play the



violin and the "Ugly Stick", Bishop Michael certainly demonstrated his good humour and talent as well! We finished the evening singing God's praises under Pastor Loretta's guiding hand.

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Sacred Place Away ...continued

by Seija Hyhko,

Sunday's service led by Riitta and assisted by Bishop Michael was uplifting. The message given by Pastor Tuula in her sermon was stimulating and helped us transition to the mission ahead of us all.

Cathy Calvin, the director of Women's ministry in the Eastern Synod, announced that there will be another event coming up two years from now from May 29 - 31, 2015. The theme of that gathering will be "Singspiration! Making a Joyful Noise". The location of the gathering will be announced later this year. We look forward to getting together in song, in spirit and in fellowship. Don't miss it!

Seija Hyhko
Toronto Conference Rep
Women's Ministry Committee

Ploughing

The little birds by God are fed
But man must earn his daily bread,
And work that he may eat;
Striving his best, as John does now,
The broad ten-acre field to plough,
Wherein to sow the wheat.

Old John, the ploughman, ne'er repines,
Whether it blows, or rains, or shines,
But happy still does seem;
And Dick, who leads the foremost horse,
Goes whistling as he walks across
The field beside the team.

Let us perform as gladly, too,
The work our Master bids us do,
And then we need not fear;
But when from earthly toil we rest,
We shall meet among the blest
Who served Him truly here.

Christian Poetry by Anonymous
Public Domain

By serving Others - we serve God

Wanted: New Editor for the Columbine!!!

After being the editor of the Columbine for eight years it is time for me to retire. I think the Columbine needs a new look as we are now "Lutheran Women of the Eastern Synod". A person with new ideas and skills might just be waiting for this opportunity to serve.

Over the eight years I have enjoyed reading your articles, poems and stories. The common thread in each issue was to **SERVE** - to be women in **Mission for Others!**

If you feel called to be the new editor please contact Cathy Calvin. I will be happy to give any necessary support needed.

May the Lord give you new visions and strength to do His work!

In Christian love,

Waltraut (Val) Weingartner



Ideas for Memorial Contributions

When the ELW Inc. was dissolved in 2010, a residual amount of approximately \$350,000 was used to establish the ELCIC Women of Faith Fund. The intent of this fund is to "honour the work of the women in our church in the areas of faith and spiritual growth, fostering supportive communities, developing leadership skills and working towards Justice and Peace". Quote from ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson.

Each year grants are issued to organizations that submit an application which meets the criteria as set out in the parameters of the ELCIC Women of Faith Fund.

On May 31, 2013, the Women of the Eastern Synod received a grant of \$12,000 from the ELCIC Women of Faith Fund. We are indeed please to have received this grant which has been invested in a segregated fund in the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary investment fund. The investment income from this grant will be used to fund an entrance scholarship for a female student enrolled in the undergraduate Christian Studies and Global Citizenship program at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Before we can begin to award this scholarship, the principal sum in the fund must reach at least \$20,000, in order to grant a scholarship of \$1,500 or more each year. This means that we need to raise another \$8,000 to bring the total in the fund to \$20,000.

Donations to this fund will be accepted as memorial donations in memory of loved ones or a mission project within your group. Alternatively, an amount can be designated in your will as a gesture of faith in this project.

Cheques are to be made payable to:

**Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
Women of Faith Scholarship Fund
75 University Ave. W.
Waterloo, ON N2L 3C5.**

(Receipts for tax purposes will be issued by WLS)

In gratitude for God's Blessings, as we seek to serve others -

*from
the women of Faith Scholarship Committee,*

*Mildred Knackstedt
Ruby Janssen
Linda Mittelholtz
Kay Wentzell
Cathy Calvin*

To everything
there is a season,
and a time
to every purpose
under heaven.



Ecclesiastes 3:1

St. Mark's Lutheran Church - Chesley by Dianne King

St. Mark's Lutheran Women have had an exciting and very busy year and it is only September! In keeping with our congregational Mission Statement, "We Serve" our women have continued to put their faith into action by caring not only for our own congregation but for the wider community of Grey and Bruce counties, as well as nationally and the world.

We started off with hosting a Breakfast Brunch prior to our Palm Sunday church service and the free-will offering was to raise monies to support the **"Women's Ministry of the Eastern Synod"**. This was a big success. With our Canadian Penny being taken out of circulation we decided that we could get our congregation to fill a **BIG JAR** with all their pennies and we would purchase **Mosquito Nets** for CLWR. **And fill the jar we did!**



We were able to purchase 4 nets that will enable children in Africa to be safeguarded against Malaria. As well in May we held our **Layette campaign** and encouraged members of the congregation to assist us in filling 6 Layettes for the Camps and Mission Hospitals in remote villages.

In June we hosted a fundraiser event and this was an evening of Contemporary and Old Time Hymns and Gospel music. This was a Faith Life match event and our

free-will offering brought in \$1070.00. The monies were divided between the **Chaplaincy programs** for our Hospitals and Long Term Care Facilities run by the Grey Bruce Regional Health Services and our own local projects at St. Mark's. It was a wonderful evening and it brought people together from all the surrounding areas.

We were so pleased that three women of our congregation chose to attend and represent St. Mark's at the **SPA** weekend in Toronto held by the Eastern Synod Women's Ministry.

Another group of women in church have been meeting every week for the last three months to knit and crochet **Prayer Shawls and Lap Covers**. As they are made they get blessed at our Sunday morning service by our Pastor and are then distributed to individuals in need with love and prayer. So far we have distributed 25 to hospitals, long term care facilities, shut-ins and members who have had newborns or special Birthdays.

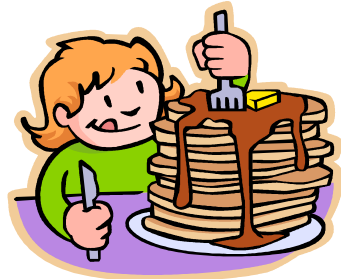
Our **Shepherd Program at St. Mark's** is hosting another Stew Supper this fall and the proceeds will go to support programs in the communities i.e. Food Banks and Christmas Hampers. **We will be very busy supporting this again.**

We know that we are going to have a busy Sept—Dec with other projects and activities, one of them being the **90th Anniversary Celebration of the first Women's Group started at St. Mark's**. And then it is Thanksgiving, Christmas and 2013 is gone and we **START ALL OVER AGAIN!!**

(Watch for the next edition of the Columbine to see how we celebrated and what else kept us busy as we continue to SERVE!)

St. Paul's - Listowel, ELW of Georgian Bay Conference by: Karen Bowman

Starting our year with a smaller group, we decided at our first meeting to help with our church projects. We contributed \$2,000 to assist with the fixing of the roof over the kitchen and office. We also support Youth for Christ in our community which helps and also has classes for adults. We have a Tree of Warmth that supplies mitts and hats for school children.



We help with our annual Pancake Supper. In April we co-hosted the Spring Conference. Rev. Heather Spencer and her husband Wayne were the guest speakers. They spoke of their experiences in prison ministry.

On Mother's Day, with our Pastor away on vacation, our ELW organized and celebrated our Praise Appeal Sunday as well as Mother's Day. The program and message sent by Bishop Susan Johnson, was used and we were happy to take advantage of it. All of our ladies participated and our Sunday School children added a blessing to the service by singing praises with tambourines with much enthusiasm. The congregation was caught up in the children's excitement and waved banners during the songs! It is events like these that keep us motivated

and determined to continue in our "Mission for Others".

At the end of May, including our Pastor and husbands, we enjoyed a luncheon put on by the VON followed with Bingo which everyone enjoyed. In June we go to the local Nursing Home to celebrate the birthdays of the month. A program of singing was followed by delicious cupcakes and ice cream.

Throughout the year we make donations to support many organizations.

We appreciate all the support given to us by the congregation and our Pastor. May God bless them all.

If we pray,
we will believe;
If we believe,
we will love;
If we love,
we will serve.

Mother Teresa

**Giving thanks
means little
unless
you are living thanks!**



Editor:

**Deadline for Spring Issue:
March 31, 2014**



Pat Schmetzer from Trinity New Hamburg writes:

For many years, Pastor Syd Hills (retired), who is a pastoral assistant at Trinity, New Hamburg, has been attending the Spring and Fall Women's Conferences of the K-W conference. He is always supportive of our work and often graces us with a song or poem he has written for us. He read the following poem to us at our recent Women of Faith Spring Conference at St. Matthew's, Kitchener. We'd love to have you publish it in the next Columbine.

Dear Women of Faith;

Your commitment is so inspiring
It is what, for all pastors, I am desiring.
Your conferences are always informative,
They make me very supportive.
Each time when I arrive
I thank God your group is still alive.
For if it were to disappear
The loss, would cause me many a tear.
So keep on with your conferences
They provide me many glad remembrances
May God continue to bless you all
As you gather each spring and fall.

Thanks from my heart
Pastor Syd



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