

WELCA News



With your help and support we hosted our sixth Summer Bible Study for the women in our area. This event has grown a bit each year and increases the fellowship and understanding we have being sisters in Christ. This year we raised \$76.00 to support the Mushona Children's Foundation in Arusha, Tanzania. The children there will be able to have uniforms and school supplies thanks to this support.

Events to share in the future:

Sept 19th - at Bethany in Greenlake area. The women there will be hosting a day retreat titled "Laughing Matters" \$15 will get you a day (9:30 am - 3:00 pm) of fellowship with laughter and lunch. Information fliers are on the quilt closet door. A carpool will be leaving ELC around 8:45 am. Please let Carol Swackhammer know if you wish to join us so we can let the women of Bethany know to bring enough food.

Oct 3rd - at Holy Trinity Lutheran on Mercer Island. The Northwest Washington Synodical Women's Organization will be hosting their Biennial Convention. It will be a great opportunity to get to know other women in the area and hear great speakers as well as a Bible Study led by the Reverend Heidi Fish and worship led by HTLC's Pastor Diana Wildermuth. This convention's theme is "God's Grace - Justice in Action," We will hear from Leslie Urie about human trafficking and Police Chief Bonnie Bowers, from Anacortes, on racial issues. It is shaping up to be a very informative and engaging event of relevant issues for our day along with fellowship and lunch. Delegates will be

voting in new board members. If you have ever given a thought to being part of the bigger church, consider joining the Synodical Women's Organization board as an "at large member". Being a board member is a great, energizing experience with some truly wonderful women. We hope to have delegates from every congregation in the synod come to vote on board members and voting delegates to the next church-wide triennial to be held in Minneapolis in July of 2017. We need to know the name and address of your voting member so that we can give them the information they need to be an informed participant in the proceedings. To identify voting member, please send in the registration form as soon as possible and call Carol Swackhammer to be sure you get the information you need on time. A great deal for the low price of \$45 if you register before September 15th.

Oct 10th- at Trinity in Tacoma. We are invited to join in the Bible study review by the Reverend Liv Larson Andrews from Salem Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA . "Slow Faith" is the topic of her three Bible studies in the **Gather** magazine for September, October and November, 2015. Why "Slow Faith"? Pastor Andrews says, "...scripture holds up a vision for living in God's time. We cannot rush the growth of the seed that lands in good soil, or the yeast leavening the dough. Carpooling to this event will leave ELC around 8 am.

July 11-13, 2017 will be the 10th Triennial for the Women of the ELCA. To worship with thousands of other Lutheran women - well it is truly a life event that everyone should have.

If you have any questions on any of these events, please feel free to contact Carol Swackhammer.

Melanie Hughey thankyou

ELC Council News

Treasurer's Report – Offerings and other income for July basically met expenses. We are still \$16,000 below what was budgeted.

Pastor Tim's Report – *Pastoral Assistant:* We said thank you and goodbye to our Pastoral Assistant Kira Day. She has done an absolutely wonderful job and great ministry for ELC. She was a great member to have on staff for the last four months and she will be missed.

Nest Mission (Jean Kim) Feeding Program: We have begun dialogue with Jean Kim from Nest Mission about possibly partnering with us by using our space for an evening feeding program. The time would consist of approximately running from 3pm-7pm and would include classes for homeless individuals, worship and a community meal. There are many people that need to be involved in talking through this partnership and exploring this possibility.

Goal Setting/Task Force: July/August the team has been focusing on doing community interviews. They have been going well and we have been gleaning good information from these. The invitation for the congregation to do interviews with family members or with someone from the community has not had any traction, and we have not received any information or any indication that the congregation is participating in this.

Confirmation/Youth: We had a fun hike to celebrate our confirmation time together in the middle of July. We had 4 youth participate in the hike up Mt. Si. It was an incredibly tough hike for the older folks like me but it was a successful outing for the group. They expressed wanting to do something like this again and definitely Whirly Ball, which we did this last year, as a social even for the winter. We talked with the youth about possibly changing the confirmation flow/schedule up a little bit and maybe doing a once a month thing for a longer period of time. This was met with a resounding "NO" and they all expressed how meeting regularly every week was helpful in building relationships and in the learning of the bible topics covered. So we will plan to stick with the same

schedule as last year for confirmation meeting on Wednesdays from 6-7. I also have found a new confirmation curriculum that I think will work very well for the students this year and will have Pastor Julie look at it when she is back to see if she too would like to use it as she also will be teaching confirmation from the curriculum we choose. Also, questions have been asked about having a traditional Sunday morning Sunday School program again, but we do not have a good base of teachers nor regular youth participants to, from my point of view, merit us expending a great deal of energy and coordination on this. However, this fall I am going to invite the families with young children to meet together and talk about doing a monthly "Family Sunday School" to see if we can get buy-in and participation in this approach.

Liturgical Art Workshop: We had our liturgical art workshop that was part of the Renewal Grant and led by Anna Montgomery. It was a huge success with about 20 people from the congregation participating and at least 80% of the Wednesday night community participating. The projects worked on will now be woven together by Anna and given to us to hang up and decorate our fellowship hall.

Council Business

Nest Mission: Jean Kim presented her program and ideas at the August Council meeting. The Council agreed to convene a smaller group to discuss the request.

Death of Spouse Support: The Care and Compassion Team plans to set up a social event in the fall.

Endowment Committee Update: Bill Anderson shared that the Endowment Fund holds around \$90,000. It is currently earning a 2% return.

Parking Lot Restriping: With the very positive reception by church members of the restriping mini-campaign, the Council gave approval to begin the job.

Tithing: The Council agreed to donate \$1000 each to the Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and Luther Seminary. ELC has had a strong relationship with both institutions.