

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.

Oregon SWO Mission Statement:
To promote spiritual growth through faith in Jesus Christ.

Please don't throw me away or stick me in a file! Take me apart, copy me! Share me with your friends. Your editor and I thank you.

*The Oregon Grapevine
Oregon Synodical Women's Organization
Volume 23, No. 1 - January 2009*

Happy New Year!

It seems like I'm always playing catch up when the next Grapevine issue goes out. That's because I am. This issue should have been out last month. My apologies. Too many things on my plate. I trust each of you had a blessed Christmas, and a white one at that. Who knew the New Year would be the same. Just not as much. With the new year, comes a new president. We as Lutheran Women need to keep President elect Obama and his family in our prayers for the work, guidance and hope he brings to us.

My travels in 2008 were complete as I left on September 23rd for Poland to represent our ELCA Women of Oregon through our exchange program we have with them.

Words cannot explain what a wonderful experience this was for me. If you are at all interested in this exchange program and would like to travel abroad, don't hesitate for the opportunity. If I can do it anyone can. I had no prior experience, just a willingness. I met such wonderful gracious people who literally rolled out the red carpet for me. An experience I will never forget. God is so good to his people!

*Blessings for this New Year!
Becky Smith,
Grapevine Editor*

Women of the ELCA Mission Statement:
**"TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT
BOLDLY ON THEIR FAITH IN
JESUS CHRIST."**

**Oregon Synodical Women of the ELCA
Board Members
October 7, 2007 to October, 2009**

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Cluster Liaison assignments made. Call the board member assigned to your congregation with any questions or concerns you may have.

Columbia Coast: Judy Ann Johnson, 503-543-2031
(First and Peace in Astoria; Faith, Clatskanie; Our Saviour's, Seaside and St. Peter, Tillamook)

Southern Coast: Cindy Greaves, 541-396-4342 or Judy Ann Johnson, 503-543-2031
(Gloria Dei, Coos Bay; Faith, Coquille; New Life, Florence; Bethany, Gold Beach; Atonement, Newport; Faith, North Bend and Zion, Port Orford)

Sunset: Sonja Hoffman, 503-282-8119
(Light of Life, Aloha; Mission of Atonement, St. Matthew, St. Andrew, Shepherd of the Valley and Portland Taiwanese, all Beaverton; Emanuel, Cornelius; Trinity, McMinnville; Calvary and Community of Christ, Hillsboro; Joyful Servant, Newberg and Christ the King, Tigard)

Mt. Tabor/Rose/Plum: Marcia McClanahan, 503-659-3440
(Augustana, Holy Trinity, Bethel, Luther Memorial, Bethany, Bethlehem, Central, First Immanuel, Messiah, Mt. Carmel, Peace, Portsmouth Trinity, St. Mark's, Redeemer, St. Paul, St. James and St. Luke, Portland; First, St. Helens and Bethany, Warren)

Mt. Hood: Ruth Vandenbos, 503-666-7273
(Trinity, Gresham; Our Redeemer, Hood River; Gethsemane, St. Timothy, Resurrection and Good Spirit Mission, Portland; Zion, The Dalles and Hoodland, Brightwood)

Oregon Trail: Naoma Lee, 503-655-7655
(Christ, Aurora; St. Paul of Damascus; Macksburg and Zoar, Canby; Creator, Clackamas; Colton; St. Stephen, Gladstone; Our Savior's, Lake Oswego; Milwaukie and King of Kings, Milwaukie; Prince of Life and Zion, Oregon City; West Linn; and Community of Hope, Wilsonville.

Vineyard: Charlene Beedle, 503-581-7588
(Faith and Good Shepherd, Albany; Grace, Corvallis; Christ the Good Shepherd, Holy Cross, Our Savior's and St. Mark, Salem; Trinity, Dallas; Faith, Keizer; Our Saviour's, Lebanon; Immanuel and Trinity, Silverton; Fir Lawn, Sweet Home; Emmanuel, Willamina; and House of Zion and Immanuel, Woodburn)

Emerald: Gloria McCuchen, 541-344-1969
(Bethesda, Central, Emmaus, Good Shepherd, Our Saviour's, Our Redeemer and United, Eugene; Faith, Junction City; Faith, Roseberg; and Springfield Lutheran)

Crater Lake: Virginia Van Nortwick, 541-734-5065
(Good Shepherd, Cave Junction; St. Matthew, Central Point; Calvary, Grants Pass; Hope and Klamath, Klamath Falls; Ascension and Zion, Medford; and Trinity, Tule Lake)

High Desert: Anna Munson-Lund, 541-617-8985
(Grace First and Nativity, Bend; Peace, Burns; Good Shepherd, Madras; Our Savior, Prineville; Zion, Redmond; Shepherd of the Hills, Sisters; and

Shepherd of the Mountains, Sunriver)

Blue Mountain: Marilyn Crawford, 503-581-4803 and Margrethe Farnstom, 503-526-1025

(First, Baker City; Good Shepherd, Boardman; Grace, Enterprise; Hope, Heppner; Trinity, Hermiston; Valby, Ione; Zion, La Grande; Christ the King, Milton-Freewater; St. Paul, Ontario; Peace, Pendleton and Grace, Vale)

**Highlights of the Oregon Women of the ELCA
Synodical Board Meeting Minutes
Atonement Lutheran Church, Newport
October 4, 2008**

The Oregon Synodical Board met on Saturday, October 4th at Atonement Lutheran Church in Newport. Delores Bennett provided light refreshments prior to the meeting.

Margrethe opened the meeting at 9:30 a.m. with devotions using a new version of 'Footprints'. During sharing of personal comments, prayers were requested for Gloria's husband and daughter, Sonja's dad and Charlene's sister.

Minutes of the previous meeting: Sonja moved, seconded by Marcia, to approve the minutes of the August 9th meeting as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

Standing Rules: Marilyn moved, seconded by Charlene, to increase the board mileage rate to 50 cents per mile effective immediately. With the higher cost of gasoline, it was felt appropriate that the rate be increased, while noting that the government rate is now over 55 cents. Motion passed with one abstention.

Treasurer's Report: Naoma presented a report showing a current balance of \$6604.44. Income since the previous report totaled \$2833.76, with expenses of \$1591.92. The travel fund balance is \$475.00. Report was accepted with the motion made by Sonja, seconded by Gloria, and passed unanimously.

Old Business: Sonja reported on Becky Smith's trip to Poland for the Women's Forum. Becky has communicated by email, and another arrived during the meeting, which Sonja shared with the group. Becky has had an enjoyable trip, including visiting both Halina and Malgorzata who have been with us in Oregon. She will return home soon, and will be available to speak about her experiences.

Roster: An updated contact roster was distributed and briefly reviewed. Several changes were noted. After revision, new pages will be distributed via email.

Grapevine: Several people, including some board members, reported problems opening the latest version of the Grapevine on line. The synod had upgraded their

website, so the old address no longer works. Sonja was unable to bring up the site on her laptop, but Judy Ann reported doing so at home. She will send the new web address via email. Information will also be sent to cluster and unit contacts regarding how to access older issues and how to sign up to receive the electronic version. (Note: Only the April and August issues were available, the January issue was listed but not available, when the site was checked following the meeting.)

Bible Study Event: This year's attendance was 100, with several women registering late. A suggestion about having the leader's guides and companion Bibles available for sale at the event next year, if held, was discussed. Prepayment would be required, which might increase earlier registration. An increased registration cost for those who pay at the door was also discussed. The group discussed holding the event earlier in the summer, perhaps in June. The author for next year, Dr. Sarah Henrich, will be contacted regarding her availability and costs.

New Business:

Region 1 Gathering: A Region 1 event will be incorporated into the 2011 Triennial Gathering in Spokane. Montana SWO will hold the next region gathering in 2013.

Convention: Margrethe, Charlene and Sonja visited the Black Bear Inn in Salem. Cost would be \$850.00 for using the board meeting room on Friday and Saturday, the Santiam room on Friday, and the Columbia room (includes the Santiam) on Saturday. Coffee and ice water would be included. Sleeping room rates are \$65 (plus tax) for single, \$4 more for a second person. Double (2 beds) are \$75 (plus tax), with \$4 each for a third and fourth person. This offer is good until November. An outside caterer will be required. Marcia moved that we expend not to exceed \$1000 to reserve the Black Bear Inn, seconded by Judy Ann. Approving this amount allows some flexibility for extra tables, etc. that may be required. Motion passed unanimously. Banquet rounds will be set up during the entire event, with perhaps varied colors of plastic covers used during breakfast and lunch, to avoid the added laundry charge for soiled table cloths, which would be used at dinner. Simple decorations can be added. The plan is to keep things simple.

Break for lunch: Pizza and salads from the local Abby's were enjoyed for lunch. During the break, the board viewed the last video from Churchwide Women of the ELCA, Community of Women.

More on Convention: Following the break, discussion about the convention resumed. Goals and theme were discussed. Gloria's idea about "Reflections" was adapted into 'Reflecting God's Glory' for the theme, adopted by consensus. Two goals were established: 1. Engage in ministry; 2. Reflect our faith through service and fellowship. Suggested speakers included retired Pastor Cy Eberhardt, Rob Kugler of Lewis and Clark College, or Pastor Chuck Hunt. Naoma will contact Pastor Eberhardt, or others if necessary, to determine availability. Suggestions for a Bible Study leader included Shelly Willem of St. Marks in Salem, Kit Neely of St.

Luke or Solveig Nilsen-Goodin. Marilyn will contact Shelly. Judy Ann will contact Susan Kintner, assistant to the Bishop, regarding serving as convention chaplain, and leading communion. Marilyn will check with the group Interfaith in Salem, which provides services to the homeless, regarding needs for a visible offering. Marcia has a friend who might do a logo. Ideas and volunteers for the logo and banner will be requested via the next Grapevine.

Budget Committee: The executive board will serve as the budget committee, with a meeting scheduled for Friday, November 14th at 12:30 p.m. at Naoma's house.

A Nominating Committee is needed. Several members will be going off the board after serving the maximum number of years. Those ineligible for re-election are Margrethe, Charlene, Judy Ann, and Marilyn. Ruth can only serve again as an officer. All others are in their first term. A suggestion was made that the board break into committee groups at the next meeting, to work on items such as nominations, budget and convention planning.

Changes to the Constitution: Margrethe distributed copies of the Synodical constitution with changes mandated by the Triennial Convention highlighted in red. No action is necessary. The changes are automatically incorporated into the constitution. A new version will be submitted to the Churchwide staff. One change is that a review by a committee can now be done in place of an audit, providing the committee is not from the treasurer's own congregation.

Board Vacancies: Marilyn moved, seconded by Naoma, to remove Anna Munson-Lund from the board. She has been unable to fulfill her duties. Motion passed unanimously. A letter of thanks and support will be sent to Anna. A replacement will be sought, preferably from Eastern Oregon. Gini has also indicated that she might want to withdraw from the board.

Thank You for our Hostess: Judy Ann moved that we give \$25 to Delores Bennett from Atonement for today's hospitality, seconded by Sonja, and passed unanimously.

Goals for the Board: Contacts with units will be continued. Naoma suggests repeated calls to those who don't respond the first time. Discussion was held about presenting three or four programs or visits around the state, using the video as a starting point. Possibly using the 'Healthy Heart' program was also suggested. Cindy would like a session for the South Coast cluster, and gathered some ideas for a cluster meeting.

Cross Cultural Event: A cross cultural event conducted by Eric Law is scheduled in Vancouver, WA for November 6th at a cost of \$50 per person. Members are encouraged to attend. Marilyn moved, with second by Naoma, to pay a subsidy of \$25 each for up to two to attend the event. Motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 17, 2009 at St. Mark in Salem, beginning at 9 a.m.

Meeting closed at 3:30 p.m. with prayer.

Judy Ann Johnson,
Secretary

Dear Oregon Women of the ELCA,

Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas are past. **HAPPY NEW YEAR!!**

Did you find anything to be thankful for after listening to the news and watching the stock market numbers? We Christians are the people of hope for the world. We, too, are concerned, but we also have a special, wonderful message to share with the world.

What will this New Year bring? We do not know because God does not want us to be worried about tomorrow. He wants us to trust his promise that he will walk with us every step of the way and he will provide for our needs. We don't always understand his ways, but he will be there with us in every situation.

Your board is working to plan events for the coming year. We are looking to host the Bible Study author, Sarah Heinrich, June 20th (has been in August the past several years). We are working on our bi-annual Synodical Convention, October 2nd & 3rd, 2009, at the Black Bear Inn, Salem. Mark your calendars now to set these dates aside so you will not double up your schedule. More information will follow in the next months.

Your board members are hoping to meet more of you by coming to various locations around the state for informal get-togethers some way or another. If you would like to host such a gathering for your cluster or your general area, please contact your liaison person for details. We would like to get to know you better and chat with you.

Until then, may the peace of the Lord be with you. We wish you a blessed New Year with the Lord at your side throughout 2009 and always.

Margrethe Farnstom, OR SWO President

“A New Heaven and A New Earth”

On Thursday, November 6, 2008, I attended a workshop at Salmon Creek United Methodist Church with Eric H.F. Law and a team of Pastor’s as presenters. Our SWO President Margrethe Farmstrom also attended.

The workshop is designed to empower communities to grow and change constructively and faithfully in response to changing diversity, building skills in communication and deepening relationships across cultural, ethnic and racial differences. The day consisted of bible study, small group table discussions, photo language, and a segment entitled “What Color Should the Church Be?” We worked from a booklet published by the Kaleidoscope Institute and were given Respectful Communication Guidelines. We reflected on who we are as individuals and our cultural makeup. We talked about stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination, and destructive isms. The presenters were good and although I’ve had some of this type of training before, the tools and examples of diversity of people and our relationship with each other are always helpful to review. It’s a good resource of skills to use whenever needed.

**Becky Smith,
Grapevine Editor**

OREGON TRAIL CLUSTER FALL GATHERING

By Naoma Lee

Prince of Life Lutheran Church in Oregon City opened their doors and their hearts to welcome the churches in our Oregon Trail Cluster.

Barbara Renken, the Volunteer Coordinator at Prince of Life, was the coordinator for our event. The beautiful programs, centerpieces (given as door prizes) music, inspirational reading, coffee, punch, tea and sandwiches were all provided by the wonderful women at Prince of Life.

Milwaukie Lutheran Women brought an array of yummy pies for dessert. Zoar Lutheran from Canby treated us to special salads, including pasta, jello (yes green) and a wonderful red raspberry salad. Nita Hoops from Creator Lutheran, Clackamas, OR contributed cheese for the sandwiches. Barbara’s granddaughter Nicky made each and every one of us a precious favor containing a tea bag and chocolate.

Churches shared their ministry projects with displays in the fellowship hall. Cindy Borders presented a quilting ministry for women in prison called Coffee Creek Quilters. Pauline Vorderstrasse shared Red Cross, Start Right program. Irma Peterson displayed knit hats for infants, prayer shawls and quilts. Linda Schmuck from St. Stephen Lutheran showed envelopes designed for donations just for the women of the ELCA to contribute for LWR kits, explaining volunteers shopped for supplies for those who were unable. Bev Spilseth demonstrated the contents for the

Backpack Buddies. This heart trenching ministry provides food for children who would go hungry over the weekend. Teachers slip these gallon bags with soup, juice, peanut butter/cheese and crackers into the packs of the children who receive breakfast and lunch during the week. She had a lovely display of Bev's Quilt Ministry.

After lunch the program continued. Margrethe Farnstrom, President of the Oregon Synodical Organization gave highlights of the Triennial Gathering in Salt Lake City. She highlighted the many services our Churchwide organization provides, both in hard copy and on the internet. She was pleased with the many ideas of the Outreach Ministry president.

Betsy Packer presented the LOVE, INC. Outreach program at Prince of Life. They build bunk beds for foster children. Our thank you offering today went to help them buy hardware for the beds. She showed pictures of the first two little boys to receive beds. We were overcome and rejoiced that these two darlings have been adopted. A slide presentation informed us of the working of LOVE, INC. how it works and the many churches involved in this ministry. A shared warehouse in Canby stores the items from the 40 churches involved in LOVE. INC.

1 John 3:18

Three women will meet to determine the next Cluster. Probably after the convention in October.

NEW WELCA GROUP AT CREATOR LUTHERAN IN CLACKAMAS

FIRST MEETING:

Creator Lutheran Women of the ELCA had their first meeting on April 19, 2008 at Creator Lutheran Church in Clackamas. There were 10 women in attendance. Pastor Dayle Askey talked about the Mary and Martha in all of us. She also talked about starting an LCW (Lutheran Church Women) Group while in her 20's and living in Spokane.

Nita Hoops spoke about attending the Oregon Synod's WELCA convention in Portland last October and how she wanted to become the catalyst in starting a WELCA group at Creator Lutheran.

A film entitled: **GROUNDS FOR HOPE** was viewed. This described the Lutheran World Relief project of selling Fair Trade coffee in Nicaragua. Vera James volunteered to oversee the sale of Fair Trade items at Creator. Vera currently has a Fair Trade table display once a month in the narthex at church. Vera also takes orders for the coffee, tea, chocolate, etc. on any Sunday. This project had been started before at Creator and is once again in full swing.

SECOND MEETING:

For their second meeting, Creator's WELCA met on August 5, 2008 at Green Acres Tree Farm in Estacada. Following a farm tour and potluck, there was an election of officers. The following people agreed to serve: Nita Hoops, President; Sharilyn Brooks, Vice President; Michele Miller, Secretary; Mary Schulstad, Treasurer.

MONTHLY WOMEN'S LUNCHEON: Once a month the women from Creator meet at Stanford's Restaurant in Clackamas and have lunch. The average attendance is about 8, but as many as 12 have attended.

BIBLE STUDY: The Lutheran Women Today magazine bible study has been incorporated into the Adult Education hour during the Sunday School time following the church service once a month. There were 11 men and women at the first study (Ruth 1). Different members of WELCA have volunteered to facilitate the study each month.

KITCHEN SHOWER: Several women at Creator cleaned and organized the church kitchen. Next on the list is painting the kitchen. Sharilyn Brooks headed up a kitchen shower at Creator on October 18 to supply necessary kitchen items so that the church is better equipped to host wedding receptions, etc.

MIDWIFE KITS: Ruth Knepper has completed the first Midwife Kit that will be sent via Global Health Ministries to Africa. Creator's WELCA goal is to complete 30 kits and send them after the first of the year. Volunteer interest is very high in donating the necessary items on the list ranging from: newborn knitted caps to Ivory soap and wash rags.

FALL RETREAT: The River's Edge Manor in Albany was booked for Creator's first Women's Retreat November 14, 15 & 16. Linda Kiggans and Pastor Dayle lead the retreat with the theme: REFRESHED, RENEWED, REBALANCED.

Respectfully submitted, Nita Hoops

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Advent Brunch

Our Advent Brunch was held in the Fireside Room at OSLC and was a wonderful time of fellowship and sharing! We hosted the Madras and the Redmond WELCA ladies, as well as our own and it was a tremendous success, due in a large part to our wonderful committee and "our own" Carol Parker, speaking about the Crook County Kids Club!

As most of you know, the Boy's and Girl's Club of Central Oregon dropped the Prineville B&G C last August and gave them almost no time to get a new home. Carol Parker, former director of the B&GC just could not tell those children they would have no place to go so she and other members of the board set out to find a home. They did, at OSLC and we have been blessed in having them!

Patti Maki gave the devotion and then we were served a delicious main dish full of ham, cheese, mushrooms and peppers, mini muffins and topped off with cream puffs, made by Nancy Conlee. Carol Parker gave a heartfelt talk about the Kids Club and “introduced” us to many of their “kids”, leaving very few dry eyes. Everyone brought “gifts” to help the Kids Club along with some generous checks, which gave them enough to buy “walkie talkies” and a camera that they needed. The “kids” also made all of our name tags, which were “keepers”! We also introduced our wonderful new Pastor Barbara!

We also had a table set up to sell our Fair Trade items and we sold almost \$300 yesterday, along with about 15 “Christmas Trees” full of fruit and nuts and candy, that the “kids” made for a fund raiser for their club.

This was in keeping with our theme of reaching out to our community and our world. It was also in the spirit of Christmas and giving to others and we received far more than we gave!

Blessings,
Pat Cunningham, WELCA President

UNIT LEADERSHIP CHANGES

Please remember to send all changes in unit leadership to the Synodical secretary, currently Judy Ann Johnson. The SWO board keeps a roster of units and contact information and try to have that be as up-to-date as possible. Send the name of either the president or other designated contact person, along with her complete mailing address, phone number(s) and email information. Don’t forget to include the name and address of the congregation!

Any unit who would like to receive the Grapevine electronically should also be listed. For these, just the name and email address are sufficient. This information will be forwarded to the Synod office, who also have a page on their web site where individuals can sign up for themselves. Use the box on the right side of the page at www.oregonsynod.org/growingfaith/ministries/women.

Send changes and information to Judy Ann via judyanni@centurytel.net or mail to 52068 SE 5th, Scappoose, OR 97056. Thanks for helping keep our records current.

GRAPEVINE NEWS FROM TREASURER:

Women of the ELCA with heartfelt thanks to our faithful women for sending their offerings for the last quarter:

Springfield Lutheran; Good Shepherd, Eugene; Zion Lutheran, LaGrande; St. Stephen Lutheran, Gladstone; St. Luke, Beaverton; Peace Lutheran, Astoria; Emanuel, Cornelius; Bethany Lutheran, Portland; Vineyard Cluster offering from Cluster gathering; St. Timothy, Portland; Trinity Lutheran, Gresham; Springfield Lutheran; First Lutheran, St. Helens; and Our Savior’s, Lake Oswego. You are all blessed.

Remember to send to Naoma Lee, 8960 SE Dean Dr., Clackamas, OR 97015. If you need any Forms A or B, write, email or call, and I will send you a small supply. 503-655-7655.

**Love in Christ's Service,
Naoma Lee, Oregon Synodical Treasurer**

WOMEN OF THE ELCA: An online churchwide book discussion is being held January through May 2009. Please check out the web page www.womenoftheelca.org/hospitality.

Prayer Concerns

Teisha Helgerson (niece to Becky Smith - Grapevine Editor) who received a bone marrow transplant on March 2, 2007. Engraftment has taken hold. No sign of cancer. Brand new immune system is maturing and developing.

Board Member Concerns:

**Cynthia Greaves diagnosed with pancreatic cancer (board member).
Ruth Vandebos diagnosed with cancer (board member).**