NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN

Women of the ELCA

The Northwester

Newsletter for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
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Ash Wednesday is the name given to the first day of the season of Lent, when ashes are applied to the foreheads of Christians. Ashes are mentioned in both the Jewish and Christian traditions where they suggest judgment and the need for forgiveness.

In the 8th Century writings there are descriptions of Ash Wednesday, "*...at the beginning of Lent we ought to strew ashes on our heads to signify that we ought to repent of our sins during the Lenten fast.*" As we receive the ashes in the shape of a cross on our foreheads we hear the ancient words found in Genesis, "For dust you are and to dust you shall return". Those words remind us of our sinfulness and mortality, and the good news that through Jesus Christ crucified, there is forgiveness for all sins, all guilt, and all punishment. It is a witness that all of our sins are forgiven through faith.

The word *Lent* comes from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning springtime, and brings to mind a second meaning in the use of ashes. We use ashes to fertilize our gardens and to repel insects. This season can be a time of personal renewal as we wait with hope for springtime and the planting season. After this long-drawn-out cold winter, we are anxious to feel the warmth of spring and rebirth. Ash Wednesday calls to us to receive the cross on our foreheads as a sign that God is beginning a change of mind and heart in us and to wait for the new growth fertilized by the cross in our hearts and lives.

Create in me a new heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me, in Jesus' name, Amen.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I had the privilege of representing you on February 21-23, 2014 at the Conference of Presidents at the ELCA Church Center in Chicago. Every February the Women of the ELCA invite all 64 synod women presidents to come to Chicago for a conference at the ELCA Church Center. This meeting is mandated in the Constitution of Women of the ELCA which sets out the goals of the annual Conference of Synodical Presidents as follows:

- To provide and receive information related to emphases, priorities, and projected programs of Women of the ELCA
- To make recommendations to the executive board
- To develop leadership skills
- To foster community and renewal

Greetings were brought by newly installed ELCA Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. Rev. Diana Ceballos-Gonzalez led the worship services, Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director of the Women of the ELCA, led the Bible Study on Philippians 3:12, 14, and "State of the Ministry" reports were given by Linda Post Bushkofsky, Ely Smith, W/ELCA Treasurer, and Jenny Michael, President of the Women of the ELCA.

Several workshops were held – one on Leadership by Valora Starr, Director for Discipleship; one on Stewardship by Emma Crossen, Director for Stewardship; and a Listening Event concerning the ELCA Social Statement on "Women and Justice: One in Christ." Inez Torres Davis, Director for Justice, gave a talk on "Sex Trafficking."

Emma Crossen announced that Katie's Fund Million Dollar Challenge just reached the million dollar mark! The nine regions met by region to discuss Synodical Constitution and Policy, SWO Conventions, Parliamentary Procedures and Constitution Review.

It was a very full two days but it was a time of gathering with many BOLD WOMEN to discuss, learn, fellowship, and plan on behalf of the Women of the ELCA. Your offering dollars go to support meetings such as these so again, thank you for your offerings that go to our churchwide Women of the ELCA!

I want to thank all our Conferences and women in our congregations who participated in the Lutheran World Relief Quilt Challenge for 2013. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you can read about our Synod's response to this Challenge. Together we made 10,170 quilts – an amazing feat! Thank you so much for your hard work and participation in this Quilt Challenge.

I hope that many of you observed World Day of Prayer on March 7th. It was a wonderful service, written by the women of Egypt. It was called *"Streams in the Desert,"* and it helped us learn about Egypt's history and rich cultural diversity, cooperation between young people of different faiths during the Arab Spring, availability of clean water, support for girls' education worldwide, and intergenerational and interfaith dialogue. The women of Egypt engaged us in conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42), identifying and encouraging streams of living water in their lives and urging us to do the same. My church always has an ecumenical observance of World Day of Prayer. It was a wonderful morning of worshipping with our fellow sisters in Christ from our community. Start planning now to celebrate World Day of Prayer in 2015! It will be held **March 6, 2015.** Written by the women in the Bahamas, we will be invited into the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet in John 13, focusing on his question to them: *Do you understand what I have done for you?* Join women around the world next March 6th to explore what Jesus' actions meant, and how they call us to respond with prayer and action.

I know that many of our Conferences will soon be having their spring Morning of Renewal or Spring Rally meetings. I do hope all the women of our synod will make a point of trying to attend one of these special days in your conference. These are always special times to come together as women to engage with each other and be spiritually renewed by excellent programs that your conference leaders are planning for you. My prayers are with you as you come together this spring!

Walking Together
A Congregational Resource Event

Our Synod Women will be presenting a couple workshops at the Synod's "Walking Together" event on Saturday, June 7th at UW-Eau Claire. Our Racial Justice Advocates, Gail Lando, Diane Kaufmann, and Marcia Lindseth, will present a workshop utilizing the film, *White Like Me.* The women from New Hope Lutheran Church in Sand Creek (who made 1,000 quilts last year!) will join with our SWO leaders to give a hands-on workshop related to our stewardship emphasis – sharing how women can get involved with quilt making and kit making for Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries. If you are attending "Walking Together," do stop and see what our SWO women are sharing and thank them for their efforts.

If your unit or your conference has not yet given an offering to Katie's Endowment Fund of the Women of the ELCA, please do so by the start of the Ninth Triennial Gathering, July 24th. This is one of our Synod initiatives and I hope you are participating in it by sending an offering to the Women of the ELCA for Katie's Fund!

of many generations

It's not too late to sign up to attend the Ninth Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina on July 24-27. Elsewhere in this newsletter is information about the Gathering. It will be a most special time. If you can attend, please do so. For more information, you can also go to the website: www.womenoftheelca/tg14. Many exciting things are being planned for that Gathering. Don't miss it!

Of course, I am hoping to see many of you at our Synod Women's Convention on May 2-3, 2014 at the Plaza Inn and Suites in Eau Claire. Our convention committee, chaired by Janet Allison, has been working extremely hard for the past many months, planning a wonderful convention for us. You should have recently received a special convention issue of the *Northwester.* Look it over carefully to see what you'll be missing if you don't attend the convention! Come for inspiration, fellowship, worship, singing, and LOTS of good information to enhance your knowledge on many subjects. Don't miss this special opportunity coming up!

Finally, I want to thank all the women of Northwest Wisconsin Synod for giving me the opportunity to serve you the past two years as your SWO President. I have thoroughly enjoyed the experience of working on your behalf, getting to know so many of you so much better, and being able to share much with you, in person and through the written word. Together we have taken on challenges and met them. We celebrated our 25 year history of the Women of the ELCA, we shared offerings which made it possible for us to give thousands of dollars away to worthy causes and scholarships, we worshipped and studied together at retreats, we met to do the business of the SWO, we made over 10,000 quilts and countless kits together, and we even cried and laughed together. It's been a wonderful journey for me and I thank you for walking with me the past two years. I want to especially thank the very dedicated Synod Women's Organization Board. They are an extremely dedicated group of women who give countless volunteer hours for the work of our SWO. I have been grateful for their ongoing leadership in our organization. At the upcoming SWO Convention, you will elect new leadership and I know you will work just as faithfully with the new leaders as you have with me. In closing, I'd like to share from the Apostle Paul's Prayer found in the 1st Chapter of Ephesians as I think about you:

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power." Ephesians 1:15-19

With Gratitude for You and In His Service,

Marcia Lindseth
SWO President, 2012-14

FROM THE VICE-PRESIDENT

In late winter when the ground is all covered with snow and ice, the promise of spring seems an illusion. I begin to look desperately for signs of life. It's a bittersweet time of contrasts. The sobering season of Lent is upon us and we gather each week for life-giving rituals of worship and reflection. Ashes remind us of our own brokenness, our own mortality.

Outside my window, I see a few stray leaves still hanging from the limbs of an oak tree. But the days are growing longer and we know that in the end, there will be Easter resurrection. There will be new life of green blades of grass sprouting up through the snow and spring songbirds looking for earthworms and foliage for which to build their nest.

The gray season of late winter sometimes resembles the gray seasons of our inner lives. God's presence is restorative when doubt and fear are kicking at our heels. Sometimes God is most present in the darkest places where our sighs are the only prayers we can manage.

Let this season of Lent and Easter be a time when we reflect on the true meaning of the Crucifixion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Daily meditation is a good way to get started. Find time each day for personal meditation and always remember Jesus is love.

The nominating committee has begun the process of inviting women to be a part of our Executive Board for the Women of the ELCA of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin 2014-2016. A special thank-you to the following committee members for their hard work and dedicated efforts.

Chairman, Avalene Swanson, St. Croix Conference;
Helen Anderson, Apple River Conference
Sonja Brookhart, Chequamegon Conference
Angie Riemer, Chippewa Valley Conference
Sadie Odegard, Dairyland Conference
Dawn Olson, Heart of the North Conference
Mary Sedin, Lake Superior Conference.

Your sister in Christ, Ellie McMahon, SWO Vice President

Life is an opportunity, benefit from it.
Life is beauty, admire it.
Life is a challenge, meet it.
Life is a duty, complete it.
Life is a game, play it.
Life is a promise, fulfill it.
Life is sorrow, overcome it.
Life is a song, sing it.
Life is a struggle, accept it.
Life is a tragedy, confront it.
Life is an adventure, dare it.
Life is luck, make it.
Life is life, fight for it. - Mother Teresa

DISCIPLESHIP

Discipleship is teaching. We teach in lessons, and we teach by example. Christ instructed us to go into the world and make disciples of all nations. Well, we can start right at home—in OUR homes, our churches, our communities, and the list goes on. Like it or not, once people know we are Christians, we ARE examples.

Our church and community makes quilts. You might say that Sand Creek is so small there is nothing else to do—and that could be fairly close to accurate this long, cold winter. However, we open the church doors on Monday mornings for the "quilters". Friends drop in to quilt, to have coffee, and sometimes just to watch. The word has gotten around that we accept donations of fabric to turn into cozy quilts to send to our "neighbors". We have "taught" others that there is always a quilt for someone in need—be it to keep warm, or simply for comfort. We are teaching by example.

One Wednesday each month adult mentors meet with our Confirmation students. Mentors and students have supper together and participate in a lesson led by our pastor. In this way we are taught through lessons (the mentors are learning as well).

Discipleship is a broad subject. It mingles with stewardship and justice. It is difficult to separate these three subjects, and it isn't important to separate them. We simply need to be aware of the needs of the people around us and we need to seek ways to meet those needs. Therefore we are "going into all the world", starting at home and spreading to our missions throughout the world.

Jan Allison, Discipleship

JUSTICE

Wow. What a winter. This brings the need to share our blessings with those who are not as fortunate. It is a chance to show the love the same as Jesus showed us. Take time to review all the chances we have to reach out to those in need. It may be in monetary funds, food, clothing, heat or many other ways.

I am reminded of the need to just be there as a friend or neighbor and supply a listening ear. I have a friend who lost her son, and is having a difficult time accepting and understanding it. She has now joined a mentoring group. Have we thought of that as a way of continuing our stewardship? Perhaps it is an opportunity to form such a group within your program structure.

Money is not always the answer for all problems. Often when we hear the word "stewardship" that is the first thing that comes to mind. Let us continue to keep all those in need in our prayers. Show our compassion and serve them in any way that we can.

Marian Nernberger, Chequamegon Board Rep

YOUR OFFERINGS AT WORK

Offerings are received in your congregational unit when women gather for Bible study, circles, meetings, and perhaps at other times when women gather (quilting, planning sessions, and luncheons). A portion is kept for your local ministry, a portion (recommended 50%) is sent to me, your Synodical Women's Organization Treasurer to support the ministry of the Synodical and Churchwide Women's Organizations. I send 50% of the offerings received to Churchwide Women of the ELCA to support their ministry. For example, if you give a $10 offering to your unit, your unit keeps $5 and sends the other $5 to me. The SWO keeps $2.50 and sends the other $2.50 to Churchwide. So your regular offering supports all expressions of Women of the ELCA and the ministries they support. Even though some treasurers identify the giving as "dues" when sent to me, we do not have "dues" in Women of the ELCA. Our offering or giving is an expression of gratitude and stewardship.

It is with a grateful heart I thank the many units who faithfully send a portion of their offerings to the SWO. Of the 199 congregations in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, 115 women's units sent funds in the form of offerings, convention expense fund or convention offering in our fiscal year which ended January 31st. Listed below are the totals by conferences. These dollar amounts include offerings, convention expense fund, and the convention offerings.

Apple River Conference (22 units of 30 congregations)	*$ 4,916.42*
Chequamegon Conference (11 units of 22 congregations)	*$ 2,008.93*
Chippewa Valley Conference (20 units of 35 congregations)	*$ 5,983.87*
Dairyland Conference (19 units of 34 congregations)	*$ 4,094.91*
Heart of the North Conference (21 units of 35 congregations)	*$ 4,963.59*
Lake Superior Conference (3 units of 17 congregations)	*$ 320.00*
St Croix Valley Conference (19 units of 26 congregations)	*$ 5,536.29*

I'm sorry to report that offerings sent to the SWO were down $2065 from the previous year.

For fiscal year ending Jan	*2014*	*2013*	*2012*	*2011*
Offering Total	*$25,134*	*$27,199*	*$24,805*	*$28,815*

As an organization of bold women, I encourage you to share this information with your women and ask "How might we strengthen our stewardship?" "Are we fulfilling our commitment to provide for Women of the ELCA?"

On the next page is a financial report of the Synodical Women's Organization as it ended its fiscal year on January 31st. A more detailed report along with the conference report will be in the SWO Convention booklet.

REMINDERS

1 – Each congregational unit shall send $30 YEARLY to the SWO Treasurer for the Convention Expense Fund. This purpose of this fund is to help defray the expenses of the convention and to keep the convention registration fee low enabling more women the opportunity of attending. This can be sent at any time, but preferably early in the year – February through May – submit with Form A.

2 – Each congregational unit is encouraged to give an offering for the SWO Convention. The offering may be brought to the SWO Convention May 2-3 or it can be mailed to me. The offering at this year's SWO Convention has been designated as ½ to Women of the ELCA, ¼ for Malawi support and ¼ for the Community Table in Eau Claire. If mailed to me, submit with Form A.

3 – Each congregational unit is encouraged to give an offering for the Triennial Convention. This may be a special offering from individuals, from the unit, or a combination of both. The Triennial Convention Offering is designated as follows: ¼ to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service which is celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2014; ¼ to On Eagle's Wings Ministries, a North Carolina based organization that restores women and girls who have been sexually exploited through the commercial sex industry; and ½ to churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA.

The Triennial Convention Offering along with submittal Form B is to be sent to:
Women of the ELCA, PO Box 71256, Chicago IL 60694-1256.

We thank and praise God for the active, faithful, and joyful stewardship of Women in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. It is <u>you</u> and <u>your offerings</u> that support many ministries in our synod and throughout the church.

Phyllis Beastrom, SWO Treasurer
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FROM OUR RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATES

I was searching on the Women of the ELCA web site recently, and I noted a thought-provoking "blog" that had been posted by Inez Torres Davis, Director of Justice for the Women of the ELCA. In the event that you did not see it, I decided to share it with you in our newsletter as its content is worthy of note when we think of justice and issues surrounding justice. Read the "blog" and then take a moment to answer the last question that Inez asks of us in her writing. Marcia Lindseth, SWO President and Racial Justice Advocate

"On November 14, 2013, a US Airways flight from Philadelphia did not take off as planned due to misbehavior. Upon investigation, the only "misbehavior" appears to have been on the part of the airline when first an attendant and then the captain ordered a blind man and his guide dog off the plane. The service dog was too large to fit under the seat.

The privilege that says it is okay to be completely ignorant about whoever is "the other" is so very old and simply intolerable. It is time for humanity to grow up, evolve and choose healing.

As part of the planning group for the ELCA's Congregational and Synodical Mission's disabilities ministries, as Women of the ELCA's core anti-racist trainer and as a cross-cultural educator, I know well that it takes intention to learn and understand diversity in all of its manifestations. Because diversity can be taken to the smallest particle, too many of us draw what we have of our own oppression(s) about us as a cloak to deaden the Spirit's prompting to learn of the oppression of others.

It may help to think about intersectionality. Intersectionality is when two or more oppressions cross. For example, I am both a woman and a person of color. Each of these primary dimensions of diversity provides their own baggage and their own drag on my energy. And, frankly, I am sometimes unsure which one of these primary dimensions of diversity is causing someone a problem.

Some attacks are horrific. Others are like the tiny little something that finds its way into a sock we are wearing—it hurts like you-know-what yet it mystifies us that something so very small can provide such pain and hobbling of walk. Other attacks are like the thousand little cuts. So, I applaud those who left the airplane in protest to US Airways putting the blind man and his service dog off the plane that was leaving Philadelphia. I applaud every act for justice regardless its size even as I continually work to expand my own actions to ease the suffering of others.

When have you seen such actions for justice?"

Inez Torres Davis, Director of Justice, Women of the ELCA

Reminder: We now have *five* Racial Justice Advocates in our NW Wisconsin Synod. Any of us are willing to come to your units or conferences and make justice presentations on anti-racism. Please feel free to contact any of us if you'd like us to make a presentation for you! We have three presentations scheduled for this spring. If you are near any of these, do plan to attend:

- **Saturday, April 5th, St. Croix Conference Morning of Renewal, First Lutheran Church, New Richmond**
- **Wednesday, April 23rd, Dairyland Conference Day of Renewal, Elk Creek Lutheran, Osseo**
- **Saturday, June 7th, NW Wisconsin Synod's "Walking Together" Event, UW-Eau Claire**

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SWO Awards Six Scholarships to Women Seminarians

This year our Synod Women's Organization has awarded six $500 scholarships to women from our synod who are studying at one of our ELCA seminaries. This mandate is found in our policies and procedures document and we've honored it for many years. A year ago, our SWO Board voted to approve up to ten seminary scholarships per year and we increased the amount from $400 to $500. Because of this change in our policy, we were able to award a scholarship to every woman seminarian who applied this year. Many of the women who receive our scholarships tell us that school debt, upon graduation and while they are pursuing their studies, is a real concern for them, and that without the financial help that we, and others, give them, it would be difficult for them to continue in their seminary studies. We are happy that we can encourage these women in their studies that lead to their ordination to be pastors.

In 2014, our SWO Executive Board awarded Seminary Scholarships to the following women seminarians:

Alyssa Augustson is in her final year at Wartburg Theological Seminary, after spending her internship year in Coos Bay, Oregon where she shared preaching, teaching, planning, and visitation with the pastor there. Alyssa is graduating this May and is looking forward to receiving a call to the ordained ministry of the ELCA. Alyssa's home church is Bethany Lutheran in Grantsburg.

Kayla Billings is on her internship year at Hope Lutheran Church in Bozeman, Montana. While there, she has actively led worship services and Bible studies, helped with Confirmation classes, and met with committees at church and in the community. She will return soon to Luther Seminary to take her final classes and graduate next December if possible so that she can seek a call to ordained ministry in early 2015. Kayla's home church is First Lutheran in Eau Claire.

Sara S.V. Bishop is a full time student in her first year at Luther Seminary. She is in the Distance Learning program at Luther because she lives in Ankara, Turkey and attends the Anglican/Episcopalian church on the grounds of the British Embassy, a church started and supported by the British and American diplomatic community. There she coordinates their Children's Ministries, organized the Sunday School program, created an Acolyte program, and directs the Confirmation classes. She also preaches regularly and leads worship services when the priest is away. When Sara graduates, she'd like to serve in a rural and underserved area. Sara's home church is First Lutheran Church in Ogema where they sponsor her Candidacy and provide her a support network.

Jamie Brieske is receiving her fourth scholarship from our SWO. She is in her final year at Luther Seminary after serving her internship year at Hope Lutheran in Eau Claire. She is currently serving as a part-time pastoral assistant at Central Lutheran in Mondovi. Jamie will be graduating in May and is looking forward to being ordained in the ELCA. She is hoping to be assigned to our Northwest Wisconsin Synod for her first call. Jamie writes that "the support of your SWO, financially and prayerfully, has been so appreciated the past four years." Jamie's home church is Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire where she served as lay leader, worship leader, youth minister, youth band leader, and sang in the praise band.

Angela Kutney is in her 3rd year of a 5 year Distance Learning Program at Wartburg Theological Seminary. She is receiving one of our SWO scholarships for the second time. She writes that "receiving this scholarship not only affirms, as an outward sign of my call, but financially every dollar is a blessing." Angie has been involved with extensive community outreach and mission projects. Work with justice issues is a passion for her. Last summer she was trained as one of our SWO's Racial Justice Educators and is available to speak on anti-racism/white privilege topics in our synod churches. This summer she will be serving as a Chaplain in St. Joseph, Missouri. Angie's home church is West Immanuel Lutheran in Osceola.

Karen Ressel is serving her internship year in an ELCA church in Greenville, Michigan. She attends Wartburg Seminary where she will be a senior in 2014-15. Karen is receiving her third scholarship from our SWO. She has worked "in the trenches" at her home church, Osseo Evangelical Lutheran, served on their council, attended the lay school program of our synod, worked on the synod malaria campaign, and served on the mission fields of Zambia, Malawi, and Uganda. This August she will lead a group of people from a UCC church to visit a village in northern Uganda to see the sustainable livelihood project they funded and she developed while working with Lutheran World Federation.

Unit News

From Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls, Dairyland Conference

Last year, during Lent, we had a "Basket of Promise" campaign as suggested by Lutheran World Relief. It was very successful as Peace Lutheran's first mission project as a "new" church. After a "campaign" speech to explain everything, large baskets were set up in the rear of the church – for towels, soap, clippers, combs and toothbrushes. Oh, and a red coffee can for cash! I made a chart so every week we could see how many articles had been brought in and what was needed the most.

By Easter Sunday, we had collected 96 personal care kits and $310 for needed supplies and shipping, it was great! Our young women (some of whom do not worship regularly) made 28 kits and have asked if we will do it again. I think it is a good "visual project."

Our late summer project was school kits. Our W/ELCA provided the school bags and the members filled them, 104 of them! One woman was so "into it" that she said she has 40 notebooks ready for start of school in 2014.

The merging of congregations is not "all" pleasant. At first, there were two quilting groups, one in church and one in the Sunday school building, now all are in the church. As a result, the two made 230 quilts, how wonderful! We have also organized a knitting group at church called "The Knit-Wits." One of our faithful members passed away, leaving "tons" of yarn to the church. One of our experienced knitters decided to teach the rest of us. Young and old meet to knit prayer shawls, sweaters for layettes, scarves, mittens, etc. So we will have prayer shawls to bring to the convention!

There are many pictures of our group on Facebook – Peace Lutheran of Pigeon Falls. You might enjoy checking us out!

(Submitted by Gudrun Ringlien, Peace Lutheran Church, a church that was established when two Pigeon Falls churches combined to form Peace Lutheran after a fire destroyed one of the churches.)
Thanks, Gudrun, and Peace Lutheran for sharing how your church reaches out in mission! Thank you!

From Deronda Lutheran, rural Amery, Apple River Conference

92 years young, Lois Christenson from Deronda Lutheran Church quilts regularly, prepares her special recipe meatballs for the annual spring dinner for over 200, drives her own car and maintains a large home where her family of 4 children and 14 grandchildren gather on special occasions. She is truly a most remarkable woman.

Whenever a dinner, funeral, bake sale or other special event calls for service or good food, Lois is there helping out.

(Submitted by Betty Lou Anderson, Deronda Lutheran)

We Did It! Over 10,000 Quilts Were Made in our Synod in 2013!

It all started when our Northwest Synod Women were challenged to help Lutheran World Relief meet their 2013 Quilt Challenge Goal of 500,000 quilts donated. This represented a 25% increase over the 400,000 quilts that had been donated to LWR in 2012. Many of our churches rose to the challenge and increased the number of quilts they made in 2013 by 25%. Some churches that had never quilted, or had not quilted in many years, began quilting groups in 2013 to help meet the challenge. And together, our synod women made over 10,000 quilts! Although the majority of the quilts made were given to Lutheran World Relief, some churches gave quilts to local charities such as food shelves, gifts for needy children at Christmas, tornado or fire victims, or some quilts were given for special projects in their own churches such as baby quilts for new-born or baptized babies or gifts to graduating seniors. Thanks to all who ***"Tied in Faith, Sent in Hope, Wrapped in Love."***

Total quilts made, reported by Conferences, were as follows:

Apple River	**1,728**	**Chippewa Valley**	**2,030**
Chequamegon	**518**	**Dairyland**	**598**
Heart of the North	**3,917**	**St. Croix Conference**	**1,379**

TOTAL = 10,170

Although not all conferences reported by individual churches, some conferences did. Among those that did, we congratulate those congregations, (some large, some small), that made over 100 quilts:

Holy Cross, Glenwood City
Trinity, Hammond
Ezekiel, River Falls
Chetek Lutheran, Chetek
First, Barron
Trinity, McKinley
Evangelical Lutheran, Black River Falls
First, New Richmond
Bethel, Hudson
Bethany, Rice Lake
Dovre, New Auburn
New Hope, Sand Creek
Trinity, Rice Lake
Trinity, Spooner

The church that made the **MOST QUILTS** was **NEW HOPE** in **SAND CREEK** (Heart of the North Conference). They made a total of 1.026 quilts – an amazing number! We featured them in our last December *Northwester* when they were celebrating the making of their 1000th quilt. Of their total quilts made, 870 of them were destined for Lutheran World Relief. Some of their other quilts are used as gifts for their graduating seniors on Senior Recognition Day (each quilt depicting that senior's special interests), as gifts to offer comfort to people who have had hospitalizations or have severe medical situations, gifts to newly baptized children, gifts to those who have had a fire in their home, or a comfort quilt to survivors of people who have died (some of these quilts drape the loved one's casket). Quilts are also given to six different area food pantries for distribution with the free food. Quilters gather every Monday throughout the year, excluding holidays, and quilt. They average about 20-25 quilters each Monday and about 1/3 of them do not belong to New Hope but come from other churches in the community, or no church affiliation at all. They have been quilting for 40 years, although have been doing weekly quilting since the 1990's. Many people donate the supplies used for quilting. Often when people pass away, the heirs donate materials that are used in the quilting projects. They also get many discarded sheets, gowns, or towels from a hospital in Menomonie. Women also go home after quilting with "homework" such as putting together middles, backs, and tops of quilts, cutting squares, etc. Our congratulations and thanks to the women of New Hope for their extraordinary efforts in making all these quilts!

TRIENNIAL – 2014!!

Hi, everyone! So far, over 20 women from our synod have registered for the Triennial. You can still join us! There is a woman from Balsam Lake who has reserved a room at the Hilton in Charlotte for the Gathering (Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights), and is looking for a roommate. Please let me know if you are interested. Our new Bishop will be there, and other great speakers and workshops. I want to let you know about things you can bring to Charlotte, or even if you're not going to Charlotte, you can still do or provide.

PRAYER SHAWL COLLECTION: We are collecting knitted or crocheted prayer shawls for Charlotte. If you need a pattern, go to shawlministry.com or check out other books on prayer shawls. They can be brought to the Exhibit Hall at Charlotte, or mail them to Women of the ELCA, Prayer Shawl Collection, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101, to arrive at Chicago by June 15, 2014. Or bring your prayer shawls to our SWO Convention in Eau Claire and those of us going to the Triennial will be able to take them. There is a prayer upon beginning a shawl: *"Blessed are you, Creator God, for you wrap your creation in the warmth of your loving kindness. As I take up my yarn and my tools to begin this shawl, bless my hands and my heart. With my small skill and compassion and this yarn and tools, may I be a repairer of the breach, a restorer of streets. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."* There is a prayer upon completing a shawl: *"Loving God, may the prayers for healing, peace and comfort I have worked into each stitch of this shawl rise to you and blessings a hundredfold descend to the shawl's recipient. May all the shawls made by women of this church be visible signs of renovation and restoration. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen."* **If you are making a prayer shawl, let me know and I'll forward you a label that you can fill out, laminate and attach to the prayer shawl with a piece of ribbon or yarn. In 2011, we collected 2,225 prayer shawls, and they were a sight to see. Can we collect even more in 2014?** [there are instructions for knitting or crocheting a prayer shawl on another page.]

IN-KIND GIFTS: QUILT KITS: **Quilt Kit Option 1**: Fill a gallon-size re-sealable plastic bag with one each of the following: Twelve 21-inch squares of cotton fabric; one spool of Coats & Clark Dual Duty thread to match fabric; one piece of cotton fabric for backing, 2 1/2 yards if 60" wide fabric or 5 yards if 35"-45" wide fabric. **Quilt Kit Option 2**: Fill a gallon-size re-sealable plastic bag with one each of the following: 2 pieces of fabric (2 1/2 yards of 60" wide fabric or 5 yards of 35"-45" wide fabric); one spool of Coats & Clark Dual Duty thread to match fabric. **GIFT CARDS**: Gift cards can be purchased in any amount, beginning with a minimum of $10 from the following national retailers: Target, Walmart and K-Mart. **PRE-PAID PHONE CARDS:** They are needed in any amount; they can be purchased at national retail stores and grocery stores. **HYGIENE ITEMS**: Hygiene items for women, teen girls and teen boys are needed: deodorant or antiperspirant (no aerosol cans), body wash and body puffs, shampoo and conditioner, hair gels, moisturizers, toothbrushes (in original packaging), toothpaste, dental floss, disposable razors, feminine hygiene products, wide-toothed hair combs and brushes. **CLOTHING**: Socks and underwear are needed in any size and color for women, teen girls and teen boys. Bras in any size are also needed for women and teen girls. In-kind gifts can be brought to the Exhibit Hall at Charlotte or mailed to Chicago at the address mentioned in the prayer shawl collection. They need to arrive at Chicago by June 15, 2014, and put In-Kind Gifts on the label. Or bring them to our SWO Convention in Eau Claire and we will see about getting them to Charlotte. In 2011, we collected $10,420 in gift cards, 11,160 minutes of phone cards, 600 health kits, hundreds of school supplies, 58 clothing support kits and nearly 800 bags of socks plus participants made 80 quilts on site. Can we top that in Charlotte?

QUILT CHALLENGE: Again, we are having a quilt challenge, making a quilt interpreting the theme "of many generations." This year the quilt must include a challenge fabric along with any other fabrics you choose. To obtain a fat-quarter of the challenge fabric, send an email request to women.elca@elca.org or call 800.638.3522, ext. 2730. The quilt must be 40 inches square, and must be quilted, not tied. Both machine quilting and hand quilting are acceptable. There are several other rules to this challenge, and rather than print them all here, if you're interested in making a quilt for this challenge, please let me know and I'll send you a copy of the rules. There is a limit of 2 entries per person and there is a $10 entry fee which includes return shipping. Quilts must be received at the churchwide office by June 15, 2014, along with a completed

entry form, which I can also send you if you're interested. There were beautiful quilts made for the last Triennial; they were fun to see.

So even if you can't join us in Charlotte, you can still participate! Maybe your circle or unit can put together some quilt kits, or buy some hygiene items. "God's Work, Our Hands." As always, if you have any questions, contact me: Roberta Bitler, edbert@sirentel.net, or 715.349.5908.

Blessings,
Roberta

Julie Riemenschneider and Sue Saarem are driving to the Triennial in Charlotte by van. They said they will have lots of room to take prayer shawls from Apple River Conference and NW Wisconsin. People can bring them to our convention in Eau Claire in May and they will be there to pick them up. There could be other opportunities between May and July to gather them in as well, if arrangements are made with them. Contact either Sue Saarem at 715-268-5586 or Julie Riemenschneider at 715-268-6151.

A Holy Week prayer for pastors at Easter

Dear Lord, I pray for all the
pastors today
Who will feel
enormous pressure to
have their sermon
Match the greatness of the subject
And will surely feel they have failed.
(I pray even more for those who think they have succeeded.)
Help them to know that it is enough
Simply and faithfully to tell the story
Of women in dawn hush...
Of men running half-believing...
Of rolled stones and folded graveclothes...
Of a supposed gardener saying the name of a crying woman...
Of sad walkers encountering a stranger on the road home...
Of an empty tomb and overflowing hearts.
Give them the wisdom to know that sincere humility and awe
Surpass all homiletic flourish
On this day of mysterious hope beyond all words.
Make them less conscious of their responsibility to preach,
And more confident of the Risen Christ
Whose presence trumps all efforts to proclaim it.
Considering all the Easter choirs who will sing beautifully,
And those who won't,
And all the Easter prayers that will soar in faith, and those
That will stumble and flounder,
And all the Easter attendance numbers and offering
Numbers that will exceed expectations
And those that will disappoint...
I pray they all will be surpassed by the simple joy
Of women and men standing in the presence of women
And men,
Daring to proclaim and echo the good news:
Risen indeed! Alleluia!
For death is not the last word.
Violence is not the last word.
Hate is not the last word.
Money is not the last word.
Intimidation is not the last word.
Political power is not the last word.
Condemnation is not the last word.
Betrayal and failure are not the last word.
No: each of them are left like rags in a tomb,
And from that tomb,
Arises Christ,
Alive.
Help the preachers feel it,
And if they don't feel it, help them
Preach it anyway, allowing themselves
To be the receivers as well as the bearers of the Easter News.
Alleluia!

—Brian McLaren

(Brian D. McLaren composed this "prayer for pastors at Easter." He can be reached at mclaren.grace@gmail.com. Printed with permission.)

FULL SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2014

10 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.
Gathering and Run, Walk and Roll registration open

11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Exhibit hall open

12 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Optional tours

5 p.m.
"I Believe You" film screening

7 p.m.
Opening worship

Following worship
Opening reception/informal meet-and greet

9:30 p.m. 11 p.m.
Young Women's Chocolate Lounge (pre-registration required)

FRIDAY, JULY 25, 2014

7 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Gathering and Run Walk and Roll registration open

9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Let's chat (plenary)

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Exhibit hall open

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Learning opportunities

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Learning opportunities

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Exhibit hall open

7 30 p.m.
"Harvest of Empire" film screening

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2014

6:30 a.m. – 8 a.m.
Run, Walk and Roll

8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Gathering registration open

9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
Let's chat (plenary)

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Exhibit hall open

JOIN THE GATHERING CHOIR

Make a joyful noise with other participants in our gathering choir and lead worship on Sunday, with Kevin Anderson. Complete the required information on the registration form. Music will be sent to you in advance so you can rehearse before arriving in Charlotte. Check the schedule in the Gathering Guide once in Charlotte for scheduled rehearsals.

THE TRIENNIAL GATHERING CHOIR

JULY 24-27, 2014
Ninth Triennial Gathering
of many generations

12 p.m. – 5 p.m.
Pre-register for TG17

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Learning opportunities

4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Learning opportunities

5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
Exhibit hall open

7 30 p.m.
"Miss Representation" film screening

SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2014

9 a.m.
Closing Worship

Enjoy optional and post tours
Explore Charlotte on your own

Women of the ELCA

NINTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING FACT SHEET

In-Kind Gifts

of many generations

July 24-27, 2014

Can we exceed our giving in 2011? At that gathering, we collected $10,420 in gift cards, 11,160 minutes of phone cards, 600 health kits, hundreds of school supplies, 58 clothing support kits and nearly 800 bags of socks plus participants made 80 quilts on site.

In-kind gifts are about relationships and partnerships. They are a way for all women to participate in the triennial gathering, whether attending the event or not. The gifts we are collecting in 2014 have been determined, working in community with women in local agencies and Lutheran Social Services of the Carolinas. We are giving these tangible items to meet immediate needs and to stand in solidarity with the recipients. The in-kind gifts will be distributed among many of the agencies and organizations leading the interactive learning opportunities in The Dor (the exhibit hall) at the gathering.

You can focus on one in-kind gift or collect all of them. It's your choice. Make this a congregational unit project or involve your whole congregation. Add a local component by giving a gift in your community for every gift given to the triennial gathering.

Quilt kits

Two different kinds of quilt kits are needed. Do not use fabric prints with religious symbols, U.S. flags or military insignia. The quilts will be completed on-site and distributed by Lutheran World Relief as part of the gathering's global gift.

QUILT KIT OPTION 1

Fill a gallon-size resealable plastic bag with one each of the following:

- Twelve 21-inch squares of cotton fabric
- One spool of Coats & Clark Dual Duty thread to match fabric
- One piece of cotton fabric for backing, 2½ yards if 60" wide fabric or 5 yards of 35"-45" wide fabric.

QUILT KIT OPTION 2

Fill a gallon-size resealable plastic bag with one each of the following:

- 2 pieces of fabric (2½ yards of 60" wide fabric or 5 yards of 35"-45" wide fabric)
- One spool of Coats & Clark Dual Duty thread to match fabric

Gift cards

Gift cards can be purchased in any amount, beginning with a minimum of $10, from the following national retailers: Target, Walmart, and K-mart. Visa cards are also welcome.

For North and South Carolina participants: grocery store and gas cards from regional chains are also welcome.

Pre-paid phone cards

Pre-paid phone cards are needed in any amount; they can be purchased at national retail stores and grocery stores.

Hygiene items

Hygiene items for women, teen girls and teen boys are needed: deodorant or antiperspirant (no aerosol cans), body wash and body puffs, shampoo and conditioner, hair gels, moisturizers, toothbrushes (in original packaging), toothpaste, dental floss, disposable razors, feminine hygiene products, wide-toothed hair combs and brushes.

Clothing

Socks and underwear are needed in any size and color for women, teen girls and teen boys. Bras in any size are also needed for women and teen girls.

In-kind gifts can be brought to the exhibit hall, The Dor, at the Charlotte Convention Center during the gathering. Items can also be mailed to the following address, for arrival between May 15, 2014 and June 15, 2014.

Women of the ELCA
In-Kind Gifts
8765 W Higgins Road
Chicago IL 60631-4101

Women of the ELCA

NINTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING FACT SHEET

Quilt Challenge

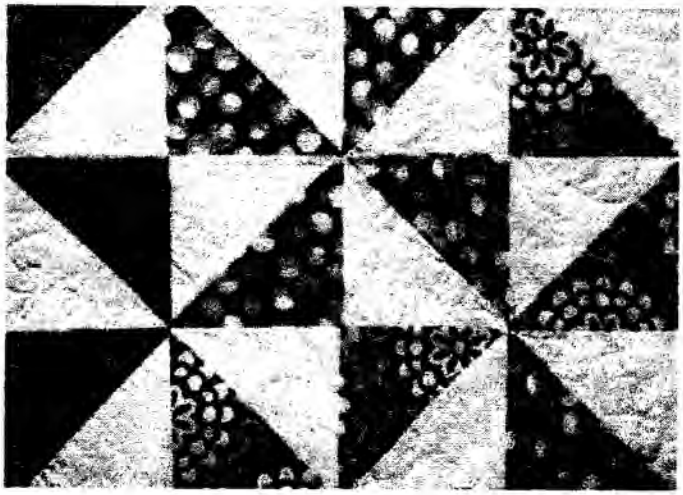
of many generations

July 24-27, 2014

What's new in 2014? The challenge of incorporating a particular fabric into your quilt!

Quilters of all abilities are invited to create a quilt interpreting the gathering theme, **of many generations**. The challenge comes not only in interpreting the gathering theme but also in working within certain rules.

1. The quilt must interpret the gathering theme **of many generations.**
2. **New in 2014!** The quilt must include the challenge fabric along with any other fabrics of your own choosing. To obtain a fat-quarter of the challenge fabric, send an email request to *women.elca@elca.org*, or call 800.638.3522, ext. 2730.
3. Finished size of the quilt must be 40 inches square.
4. Traditional or original patterns may be used. Credit must be given when using the pattern or design of another.
5. Quilts may be pieced or appliquéd or a combination. They may include surface embellishment techniques (e.g., dying, trapunto, stenciling, whole cloth, embroidery, batik, painting, embossing, etc.).
6. Each quilt must be quilted, not tied. Both machine quilting and hand quilting are acceptable.
7. Each quilt must have a sleeve attached to the top back for hanging. The sleeve opening must be 4 inches wide after it is attached to the quilt and must be attached in a way that it will not show when the quilt is handing.
8. A fabric identification label must be securely sewn to a bottom back corner of the quilt (a paper label pinned to the quilt is not acceptable) with the name, address and telephone number of the entrant.
9. The challenge is open to all women who are members of ELCA congregations. The quilt must be the work of a single individual; no group or two person quilts will be accepted. Quilt(s) must be constructed and quilted by the person named on the entry blank. The quilter need not be planning to attend the Ninth Triennial Gathering (2014) in order to participate in the quilt challenge.



10. Limit of 2 entries per person. Entry fee is $10 which includes return shipping. Quilts may be picked up on site with proper identification at 7:30 pm on Saturday, July 26, 2014, in the exhibit hall. If you are unable to pick up your quilt(s), you must notify Women of the ELCA in writing with the name of the person picking it up; that person must also show identification. Those quilts not picked up will be shipped to the entrant following the gathering.
11. All quilts must be received in the churchwide office by June 15, 2014, along with a completed entry form. Mail quilts to Women of the ELCA, Quilt Challenge, 8765 W Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631-4101.
12. Entries will be judged by a committee of fiber artists and sewing and quilting professionals. Winners will be selected for originality, adherence to selected theme, workmanship, creative use of materials and overall design execution. All winners and qualifying entries will be on display at the Ninth Triennial Gathering, Charlotte Convention Center, Charlotte, N.C.

Women of the ELCA

NINTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING FACT SHEET

Prayer Shawl Collection

of many generations

July 24-27, 2014

In 2011 we collected 2,225 prayer shawls. **Can we exceed that number in 2014?**

Grab your crochet hook or knitting needles and get started! Work some prayers into a shawl for **of many generations**, our Ninth Triennial Gathering. You're invited to contribute to our Prayer Shawl Collection whether you are attending the gathering or not. The shawls will be given to ministries in the ELCA North Carolina Synod.

Work alone or get together in a group for regular sessions. Don't know how to knit or crochet? Find someone in your congregation who can teach you. Imagine women and girls of all ages, gathering together in prayer, creating beautiful shawls!

Need some patterns? Visit *shawlministry.com* or check out the many books on prayer shawls that are available at your local library.

Use the following prayers as you begin and finish a prayer shawl. You can easily adapt the prayers for group use or create your own. Print out the label and add in the information. Laminate the completed label, punch a hole in it and attach the label to the completed shawl with a piece of ribbon or yarn.

Shawls can be brought to the exhibit hall, The Dor, at the Charlotte Convention Center during the gathering. Shawls can also be mailed to the following address, for arrival between May 15, 2014 and June 15, 2014.

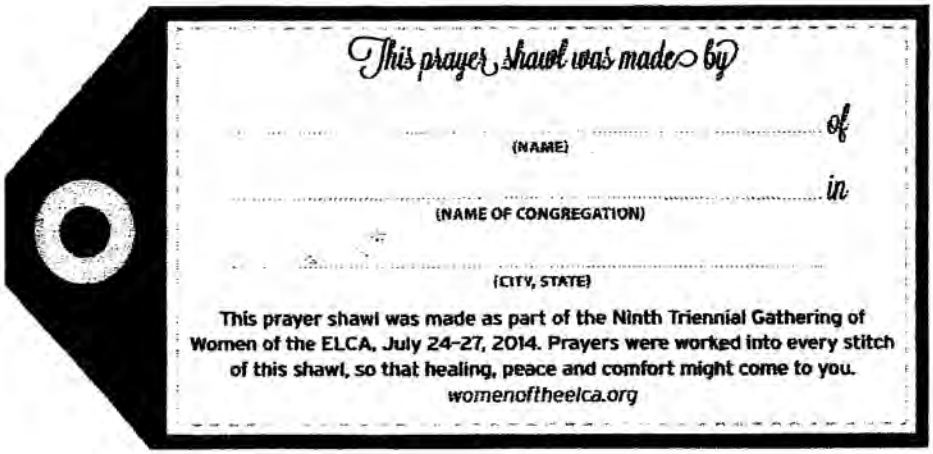
Women of the ELCA
Prayer Shawl Collection
8765 W Higgins Road
Chicago IL 60631-4101

Prayer upon beginning a shawl:

Blessed are you, Creator God, for you wrap your creation in the warmth of your loving kindness. As I take up my yarn and my tools to begin this shawl, bless my hands and my heart. With my small skill and compassion and this yarn and tools, may I be a repairer of the breach, a restorer of streets. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Prayer upon completing a shawl:

Loving God, may the prayers for healing, peace and comfort I have worked into each stitch of this shawl rise to you and blessings a hundredfold descend to the shawl's recipient. May all the shawls made by women of this church be visible signs of renovation and restoration. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen



PRAYER SHAWL KNITTING OR CROCHETING INSTRUCTIONS

Before You Begin: Because this is a spiritual practice, before one begins the knitting (crochet) process, a ***blessing, prayer or wish*** can be said, dedicating the work of your hands and the intentions of the receiver. You may want to light a candle and play soft music to enhance your knitting time, remembering that this is a prayerful time. When working in a group, you may want to pass the work-in-progress around the circle, asking each person to add some stitches to the shawl, or to just hold it for a while to add their prayers, energy and good wishes.

The Original Prayer Shawl - Knitting Pattern © 2014 All rights reserved.

1998 - Written & Developed By Victoria Galo and Janet Severi Bristow

It is important to us that the origins of this ministry be honored. We have worked diligently to keep this ministry a 'grass-roots' effort. These shawls are meant to be given away unconditionally and NOT to be sold. The information on this site is provided freely for your personal use. All copied material that is used for 'personal use' must have the Shawl Ministry web address (www.shawlministry.com) and credit given to the authors. As all the material on this site is copyright protected, duplicating, distributing, or displaying any part of it, outside of personal use, is prohibited. If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us at shawlministry@yahoo.com © 2014

Cast on stitches in multiples of three - 54, 57, or 60. For example, if you use size 11 needles and cast on 54 stitches, 3 skeins of 'slightly bulky' yarn is enough. Some yarns vary in elasticity which will affect your outcome, as will your knitting tension. If the yarn you have chosen has a multicolored stripe, be careful when tying on a new skein. Make sure the color sequence is correct. Also, tie on the new skein in the body of the shawl, instead of an edge, as the ends tend to show.

* **First Row:** k3, p3, to end
* **Second Row:**

Always start the next row with the opposite stitch of what you see.
For instance, if the first stitch on the needle is a knit, then start with a purl.
KNIT THE PURLS AND PURL THE KNITS!!!
It should NOT look like ribbing.
Note: If you cast on 57 stitches you will always start with K3

The Original Prayer Shawl Crochet Pattern © 2014 All rights reserved.

Developed by Rita Glod

Chain 54 stitches or desired width of shawl.
Chain 1, turn, single crochet in each of the stitches to end. Chain 3 and turn.
Double crochet in top of each single crochet. Repeat this row 2 more times.
Chain 1 and do 1 row of single crochet to end. Chain 3 and turn.
Do 3 rows of double crochet. Repeat pattern to end (1 row single, 3 rows double)
End with 1 row of single. Finish with fringe.
*Note: that crocheting typically uses more yarn than knitting, so you might have to adjust the width and size of hook or use another 1/2 skein.
It has been suggested that skeins of the same dye lot be purchased.

To Complete the shawl:

Knit (crochet) until the piece measures from wrist to wrist, or approximately 57-58" long. (Knitting: bind off with a knit row). Use what you have left to cut *fringe. Suggestion for fringe: you can also do this before using the last skein. Divide the pile in half and slip knot them to the ends, evenly spaced.
If the yarn is manufactured loosely wound, you might have to knot the ends of the fringe to keep it from unraveling.

Now that the shawl is completed:

Before you give it away, say a ***blessing, prayer or wish*** over the shawl, keeping the receiver in mind. Enclose an explanation and/or a blessing, prayer or wish for the receiver. For instance, if you choose a certain *symbolic color* for the yarn, beads or charms it's interesting and helpful to explain your reason.

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH
- 22 – SWO Board Meeting, Bone Lake Lutheran, Luck, 1101 255th Avenue, Luck

APRIL
- 5 – Heart of the North Conference, Day of Renewal, New Scandinavia, Dallas
- 5 – Apple River Conference, Spring Day of Renewal, Luck Lutheran, Luck
- 5 – St Croix Valley Conference, Morning of Renewal, First Lutheran, New Richmond
- 5 – Chequamegon Conference, Spring Rally, Zion American Lutheran, Granton
- 5 – Chippewa Valley Conference, Day of Renewal, Big Elk Creek Lutheran, Elk Mound
- 23 – Dairyland Conference, Morning of Renewal, Elk Creek Lutheran Osseo

MAY
- 2-3 – Synodical Women's Organization Convention, Plaza Inn & Suites, Eau Claire

JUNE
- 17 – SWO Board Meeting – Incoming/outgoing Board Members, Synod Office, Chetek

JULY
- 22-24 – NINTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION, Charlotte, North Carolina
  Our Delegates: Dawn Wicklund & Rhonda Cummings – First-time attendees
  Avalene Swanson, Phyllis Beastrom, Carol Medchill, Marcia Lindseth, Audrey Severson, and Carol Johnson
  Alternates: Diane Campbell, Gail Lando, Mary Lou Wold, and Kay Shager.
  Kay Shager is also alternate for first-time attendee
- 24-27 – NINTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING, Charlotte, North Carolina

AUGUST
- 11-12 – Heart of the North Conference Retreat, Luther Park, Chetek
- 14-15 – Dairyland Conference Retreat, Luther Park, Chetek
- 16 –Fall Retreat, Apple River Conference, Luther Point Bible Camp, Grantsburg

SEPTEMBER
- 27 – SWO Leadership Training Meeting, Bethany Lutheran, Rice Lake

OCTOBER
- 8 – Leader Training Meeting, Dairyland Conference, Little Norway Lutheran, Black River Falls
- 25 – Leader Training Meeting, Apple River Conference, Balsam Lutheran, Amery

NOVEMBER
- 15 *or* 22 – SWO Board **and** Conference Coordinators, Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran, Elk Mound

JULY 24-27, 2014 Ninth Triennial Gathering of many generations

Are YOU going to the Ninth Triennial Gathering
at Charlotte, North Carolina - July 24-27, 2014?
There is *still* time to Register!
Registration ends June 10, 2014
Also - housing reservations *need* to be made by June 19, 2014.

You can register online at www.welcatg.org [credit card only]
Questions? Contact Gabriela Contreras at 800-638-3522-ext 2747
Or Gabriela Contreras@elca.org

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN SWO BOARD MEMBERS – 2012 – 2014

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