

## WHO ARE WE?

The following 18 churches make up the Northern Conference of the La Crosse Synod:

Bells Coulee – Mindoro

Blair Lutheran – Blair

Christ Lutheran – Arcadia

Fagerness Lutheran – Blair

French Creek – Ettrick

Halfway Creek – Holmen

Hardies Creek – Ettrick

Holmen Lutheran – Holmen

Journey Lutheran – Onalaska

Lewis Valley – Holmen

Living Hope – Ettrick

Mindoro Lutheran – Mindoro

Mt. Calvary – Trempealeau

North Beaver Creek – Ettrick

South Beaver Creek – Ettrick

St. John's Lutheran – Alma

Tamarack – Arcadia

Zion Lutheran - Galesville

# NORTH CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Issue 17, July 2018

## North Conference Summer Event Hosted by Mindoro Lutheran

The weather was beautiful and the drive to Mindoro Lutheran delightful as 53 women attended the June 13, 2018, annual North Conference Summer Event. Everyone was greeted warmly by the Mindoro WELCA women. After devotions and a brief meeting, Sharon Pfaff shared with the group pictures and recollections of her recent trip to the Holy Land. Cindy Tracey from the Mindoro WELCA sent the following thank you to all:

*Thank you to everyone that attended the WELCA North Conference Summer Event at Mindoro Lutheran. It was a great day with many ladies attending from area churches. Special thanks to Sharon Pfaff for the wonderful program on her recent trip to the Holy Land and for providing accompaniment for our songs. Another huge thanks to Mary Kastenschmidt and Cindy Roberts and their lunch committee Ginny Wegner, Sandy Stetzer, and Sandy Freng for the delicious luncheon. Thanks to Betty Kirchner for her readings and Alice Baumer and Ruth Pfaff for setup of the dining room. It was a great day at Mindoro Lutheran church.*

## WELCA

## La Crosse Synod

Yes, it was a great day for all! \$267 was collected in the offering with it being designated to the shipping of quilts and kits to LWR. The luncheon featuring a Flag Day theme along with delicious chicken salad (recipe elsewhere in this

newsletter) and torte desserts topped off the day. Many thanks to Mindoro Lutheran for hosting this year's gathering!!! Next year's event will be hosted by Zion Lutheran of Galesville on June 12, 2019.

## **COME TO SUPPER SERVERS NEEDED**

Norma Conrad of Hardies Creek Lutheran has made known the dates servers will be needed at the Come to Supper programs at LaCrosse and Ettrick. The dates for both places for 2019 are as follows. Let Norma (608-525-4060) know when your unit would like to help.

### [LaCrosse Location:](#)

January 15, February 19, March 19, April 16, May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, September 17, October 15, November 19, and December 17.

### [Ettrick Location:](#)

January 20, February 17, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 18, September 15, October 20, November 17, and December 15

## **10 Ways to Invite and Attract New Members to WELCA**

(Source [women.elca@elca.org](mailto:women.elca@elca.org))

1. Host an open house.
2. Organize a service project that reaches out to local community.
3. Invite women to attend a retreat or special event.
4. Give prospective members a subscription to Gather.
5. Invite women to a Bible study.
6. Share experiences of WELCA with women over coffee.
7. Invite new members to a collaboration event to share new ideas.
8. Share Café.
9. Meet at a different location.
10. Share a WELCA resource and identity item.

## **Dates and Reminders**

**- Rummage Sale – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church – July 28<sup>th</sup> –Mormon Coulee Rd., LaCrosse, WI**  
**Ettrick Days Bingo –August 25<sup>th</sup> – 2 pm – sponsored by Living Hope WELCA**  
**LaCrosse Area Synod WELCA Fall Renewal – October 20, 2018, Holmen Lutheran, Holmen, WI**

### **Grape Pecan Chicken Salad**

**6 cups cooked chicken, shredded**

**1 1/2 cups finely chopped pecans**

**2-3 stalks of celery, chopped fine**

**4 cups halved red seedless grapes**

**1 cup finely diced fresh dill**

**1 cup sour cream**

**1 cup mayonnaise**

**1 teaspoon salt**

**1 teaspoon pepper**

**Stir together the chicken, celery, grapes, and pecans.**

**Whisk together the sour cream, mayonnaise, dill, salt, and pepper. Pour into the chicken mix until completely covered.**

**Refrigerate at least 2 hours for the flavors to develop. Serve with bread or pretzel crackers.**

**If you are going to use dried dill for this recipe, you will only use about 1/3 of the amount.**

**(Served by Mindoro WELCA at North Conference Summer Event)**

Excerpts from

## **HOLY CIRCLES**

By Linda Post Bushkofsky

Gather June 2018

So many of our ministries occur in small groups, often referred to as circles...Two thoughts about to me...one thought was that in advance of meeting, women would read the Bible study, often jotting answers to the questions posed in the study...currently many have a different approach. When we see a Bible study, we read the study word-for-word, out loud. Generally, no one has prepared anything in advance...sitting together and reading aloud is a beautiful throwback to what the early church did. It is how worship traditions were born, with believers coming together to share and talk about Scripture and the life of Jesus.

The second circle story involved a young mother and toddler in an airport, waiting to board a flight. The woman was having a meltdown...The mom, pregnant and traveling alone with the toddler, couldn't manage to go any further...Six or seven women – strangers to the woman and to each other – slowly came and sat around the woman and child, forming a circle around them. One sang a calming song to the child. One offered a prayer, another offered an orange. Another gave the child a little toy. Mom and child soon calmed down and boarded their plane... one woman later in a Facebook post said, **“It occurred to me that a circle of women in mission, can save the world.”**

**Whatever happens in our circles – communal reading and prayer, collective listening, joint service, laughter and tears – can indeed save the world...As we gather as a community of women, may we always respect the transforming power of our circles, always making room inside them for new women.**

## **NEED IDEAS AND RESOURCES?**

**Check out [women.elca@elca.org](mailto:women.elca@elca.org) – find out how to make global connections, leadership development, plan local events, etc.**

## **Does your unit have any ideas it can share with the other WELCA groups of the North Conference? Please share them here!**

### **Our Purpose:**

**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.**

### **LEADERS OF THE NORTH CONFERENCE**

The North Conference Board Member is Jackie Joanis. She represents our conference at all Synodical WELCA Board Meetings. Her address is W21676 Red Fox Ln., Trempealeau, WI 54661. Jackie's phone number is 608-534-6728, and her e-mail address is [jjjoanis@centurytel.net](mailto:jjjoanis@centurytel.net).

The North Conference Coordinator is Deb Sveen. Deb helps coordinate all WELCA activities of the North units. Her address is N24431 Lunde Coulee, Ettrick, WI 54627. Deb's land phone is 608-525-3000, and her e-mail is [cmsveen@hotmail.com](mailto:cmsveen@hotmail.com).

Be sure to contact Jackie if you have concerns that need the attention of the Synodical Board. Contact Deb with any invitations for North Conference WELCA events and/or activities that other churches need to be made aware of.

***It is the goal of this newsletter that the 18 churches of the North Conference of the La Crosse Synod use this for WELCA ministry. The intentions are to have this newsletter come out four times a year: January, April, July, and October. All items for inclusion are requested by the first of these respective months: December, March, June, and September.***

***All items are to be sent to Deb Sveen, NC Coordinator, N24431 Lunde Coulee, Ettrick, WI 54627. Phone number is 608-525-3000. E-mail: [cmsveen@hotmail.com](mailto:cmsveen@hotmail.com)***