



Women of the ELCA



Grace Unit Newsletter.....February 2020

What is “**Bold Women Day**” which is celebrated by the Women of the ELCA on **Sunday, February 23**?

It is a special day set aside by WELCA to recognize and give thanks for the **Bold Women** of the faith who are making a difference for Christ.

BOLD is defined as: showing an ability to take risks; confident, courageous, strong, vibrant.

As I reflect back on the **BOLD** women of faith in my life, Sis Altenbern immediately comes to mind. Sis was my 6th grade Sunday School teacher in the little country church I attended in Minnesota. She made the Scriptures come alive as we studied the Journeys of Paul. Sis (she must have had a real first name, I just have no idea what it was!) was animated, engaged and quite the storyteller! She sparked in me a hunger for the Word. I will be forever thankful to her faithfulness and **BOLD** enthusiasm for the Bible.

Arvella Lang was another **BOLD** woman of faith in my life. At a very early age she knew that she was destined to be a missionary and bring the Good News of Jesus to children in a far away land. She tells of how she received a Sunday School pamphlet with a story of a little African girl who had never heard of Jesus. Arvella taped the picture of the little girl on her bedroom wall. Lo and behold, years later, Arvella attends a Bible College and is equipped to be sent to Madagascar as a missionary teacher. She served faithfully for 30 years before returning stateside and then continued ministering in my church as a Volunteer Leader and a Bethel Bible Series Teacher. The trajectory of my life changed as I heard Arvella’s story and then opened my heart to go where God would lead me.

At the nursing home where I served as chaplain, it was my distinct honor to care for **BOLD** Mildred LeRud. Mildred served as the National President of the American Lutheran Church Women when the ordination of women became reality in 1970. Oh, the stories she shared! She would often tell of the national convention held in Texas where every state of the union was represented by its **BOLD** Woman President. The state presidents entered the convention stadium waving their respective flags with the entire national gathering singing “O When the Saints Come Marching In!” Mildred declared that the walls of the stadium literally shook in celebration of this new **BOLD** step for women of faith! Mildred encouraged me in my ministry as a woman chaplain bolstering my confidence and affirming my call.

And then there is Magda who at the grand age of 93 **BOLDLY** and with a very loud voice called down the heavenly realm to battle illness, depression, fear and worries for whoever was in need. And small, quiet Evelyn who rarely left her bed but blessed every caregiver with her soft voice that was **BOLD** to give thanks for their help with cares. And who could forget Marjorie who **BOLDLY** encouraged everyone at her table to hold hands and say a prayer before receiving their meal. Then there was Ron and Millie still completely and over-the-top in love for 60 some years. Infirmities left Ron with very little mobility, but still Millie **BOLDLY** encouraged him to read their morning Scripture for devotions as she sat at his side helping find the right page in the Bible and then raptly listening to him as he read aloud the Good News.

Of course, we could also search the Scriptures and read about the many **BOLD** women including Miriam as she aids her brothers Moses and Aaron, Deborah the Judge, Mary the Mother of Jesus, Elizabeth the mother of John, Naomi and Ruth as they support each other in times of distress, the Syro-Phoenician mother **BOLDLY** committed to her child, sisters Mary and Martha, the pesky, persistent **BOLD** widow, the named and unnamed **BOLD** women who provided for Jesus and His disciples in their years of ministry...oh, the list goes **BOLDLY** on and on!

Who are the **BOLD** women in your life? Who has **BOLDLY** encouraged you to grow in faith and to discover your God-given gifts? What **BOLD** woman has made her mark in the Kingdom and made a difference for Christ?

We don’t have to wait for one special day, but Sunday, February 23, does give us a deadline to remember and lift up the **BOLD** women in our lives. Do you have a story to share? I would love to hear it! Be **BOLD** and drop me a line: vicki.marthaler@gmail.com Let us **BOLDLY** continue to grow in faith and seek out ways to love and serve others for the sake of Christ.

Vicki Marthaler

One-Day Retreat

For our Smoky Mountain Conference

Saturday, February 15, 2020 at Trinity View in Arden

Topic: Elder Care and Hospice

Cost: \$10

Time: 9:30am – 2:30 pm



Betsie Letterle of *Four Seasons Palliative & Hospice Care* will be a presenter. Betsie is a Hospice Partner Relationship Manager and can provide us the nuts and bolts of Hospice and Palliative Care that is offered in our area.

Please register at Grace Lutheran's sign-in station. We can plan ride sharing closer to the event. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend time with our Lutheran Sisters learning and talking about important issues. We are all aging. We can all expect somewhere along the line to be in need of help or assistance. Good information helps us to make good and informed decisions. Let's look forward to this day of information and discussion!

Feel free to bring a friend....she doesn't have to be Lutheran! ☺ And bring your Bible!

Honoring **BOLD** Women :

"I remember of one of my Sunday School teachers named "Ruth". We must have been studying the story of creation in the book of Genesis in our class, because she offered to take us to the Planetarium in New York City to see the awesome creation of our God. A **BOLD** step for a young woman, with no children of her own, to tackle taking 5 or 6 children of 7 or 8 years old on a field trip. I believe it was **BOLD** of our mothers to consent to this trip. For me, thinking back on it, I believe it was **BOLD** of me to take my first ride on the Subway. If we look back to the women in our families, we will surely find all the **BOLD** steps they have taken. My grandmothers, both German and Italian, crossing the ocean to a new land, away from families and friends. My experience crossing back over that same ocean joining husband, birthing a child away from a supportive family, was scary but **BOLD**. Look back over your lives, sisters in Christ, and get some inspiration to continue doing **BOLD** things to serve the Lord and inspire others to do the same. In Christ, Rhoda Hargrave"

2020 Dates

Please put these dates on your 2020 calendar, in your phone, tacked on your frig!

March 13-15 - NC Synod-Wide Spring Retreat in Kure Beach, NC

March 13-15 – Wild Women Weekend at Lutheridge

April 18, Saturday – Grace Lutheran is hosting the Smoky Mountain Conference Spring Gathering!

May 9, Saturday – Grace Lutheran Women's General Meeting

June 12-14 – North Carolina's WELCA Annual Gathering at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory

October 18, Sunday – Grace Lutheran Women's Thankoffering Sunday/Blessing of the Quilts

December 5, Saturday – Grace Lutheran Women's Christmas Tea – A Reading Theater of Christmas Stories!



**Grace Lutheran
Quilters**
gather their hands,
scissors, cutters,
edgers, yarn for ties,
pins, tables,
thimbles and most
importantly, their
coffee mugs and
get busy quilting!
9:30am – 2:30pm
Monthly
Third Tuesday

Can you cut?
Measure? Tie?
Sew? Pin? Would
you like to take
some squares home
to work on them?

It takes a dedicated
group to make over
200 quilts a year.



**Everyone is welcome
at the Quilting Table!**

**Questions?
Talk with Irene Carlson
or Janet Harms**

OUR BOLD PURPOSE STATEMENT



Please start your day, begin your devotions, or open your meeting with the Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement:

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.

Recognizing our **Bold Women** (Submitted by Lori Schaefer)

I hesitate to write this recognition of the “**Bold Women**” of our Congregation for two reasons.

- 1) I don’t want to overlook anyone.
- 2) I don’t want to appear to promote sex-role stereotypes.

Despite my hesitation, the women of Grace Lutheran Church should be commended. **Bold Women’s Sunday** celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting **boldly** on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Some women are **bold** in their unceasing prayers. Other women are **bold** in their service to those in need. Still other women are **bold** in their advocacy or through their hospitality. My mind goes to the women of the quilting, pillowcase dress, and prayer shawl ministries. Our services are enhanced by the Altar Guild. I am also grateful for the hospitality and fellowship volunteers.

The women of Grace benefit from the leadership of our WELCA Board members who plan programs to keep us informed and relevant. I appreciate the Study Buddies and fellow sisters in Christ who are involved with the Congregational Care and Social Ministries. Insert here _____ **the Bold Woman** you appreciate.

Whether we live out our **bold** story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It’s all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. **How are you bold?**

Women of Grace.....Sarah Circle invites you to attend their February meeting.

Thursday, February 20

***** Hospitality begins at 9:30am with the program at 10am *****

Grace Lutheran Fellowship Hall

Christy Zbylut, Director of Outreach & Volunteer Engagement for the Hendersonville Council on Aging, will speak on what the Council does, how it serves the community such as Meals on Wheels, and the many possibilities for volunteering. We encourage attendance by all interested individuals. All are welcome!

“So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord...but join with me in suffering for the Gospel, by the power of God, Who has saved us and called us to a holy life --- not because of anything we have done but because of His own purpose and grace..”

2 Timothy 1:8-9 Do not be ashamed...be Bold. We have Good News to Share!