



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.



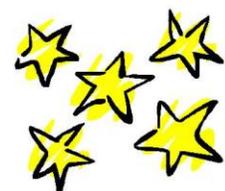
“If you look for Me at Christmas
You won’t need a special star.
I’m no longer just in Bethlehem..
I’m right there...where you are.

You may not be aware of Me
amid the celebrations..
You’ll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.

But if you take a moment
from your list of things “to do”
And listen to your heart, you’ll find,
I’m waiting there..... for you.

You’re the one I want to be with....
You’re the reason that I came....
And you’ll find Me in the stillness
as I’m whispering your name.”

Love, Jesus



WOMEN OF THE ELCA

National:

The Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering meets **July 16-19, 2020 in Phoenix, AZ.**

Early bird registration through January 6, 2020, is \$325. Every three years women of the ELCA from all fifty states gather to celebrate their faith, fellowship with their sisters and seek inspiration and guidance on how to best use their gifts for the Kingdom. "Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect. We are one body in Christ!" See information in the Fellowship Hall on the Women of Grace Bulletin Board for more information.

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Please make sure you make time to read the wonderfully inspirational articles in the December issue of the "**Gather**" Magazine. If you are not a subscriber, check out a magazine from our church library. This month's issue has excellent articles written about waiting (who doesn't struggle with that!) and also a heart-touching article on grieving at Christmas. "**Gather**" is our national women's magazine. Be a reader.

North Carolina State:

Save the Date: **June 12-14, 2020 Spring Gathering at Lenoir Rhyne Campus in Hickory.** Rumor has it that Lucinda Yates – homeless in the 80's and now a successful business woman and champion of the homeless and other non-profit endeavors – will be our guest speaker! She is recognized world wide as the "Pin Lady." We do NOT want to miss this!! Tuck away \$160 for registration and plan to attend!

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All North Carolina Women of the ELCA are asked to pray together in:
December for the Homeless and for Affordable Housing.



January for Human Trafficking Prevention and for the Rescue and Recovery of its victims.

Smoky Mountain Conference:

February One-Day Retreat! February 15 at the Trinity View Retirement Center 9:30am – 2pm \$8.00

Save the date: Saturday, April 18, 2020 - Grace Lutheran Women (Yes, Us! You and me!) We are hosting the Spring Conference Meeting ☺ Watch for details in the next newsletter....



Our Grace Lutheran Unit:

Saturday, December 7, 2019....2pm...Christmas Tea! Celebrating the birth of Christ, welcoming new Grace women, installing newly elected Vice President and Secretary, thanking for "Angels Among Us!" Sign up at the Sign Up Station. Bring your Pennies Project offering as well. The Pennies Project (which is a state project) this year supports Vigilante Truth.

The Women of Grace have a bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall that provides additional information, including extra Newsletters, so you can keep informed and invite others to join in our mission of growing in faith and serving our neighbor.

The Women of the Naomi Circle invited Alyce Knaflich, a retired veteran, to present a program on **The Aura House** in Asheville. Aura House is a residence for homeless women veterans. She shared that the needs of women veterans tend to be largely ignored and that there are a great number of women veterans who are in need. The average age of the homeless women vets is age 57. Those in attendance of this informative presentation were asked to bring in-kind gifts of cleaning supplies and personal hygiene supplies. There is work being done at the present time to make plans to build a second house in Hendersonville!



The Dorcas Circle has purchased (with a Thrivent grant) 20 Heavenly Sunshine music books to be used by the residents at The Gardens of Hendersonville. Every month the members of the Dorcas Circle bring refreshments and spend an hour singing praises and hymns, uplifting spirits and sharing the love of Christ. Wanna join in the fun? You are always invited to join the third Thursday of the month at 1pm

The Prayer Shawl Ministry

Don't be shy....if you like to crochet or knit, or if you want to learn...do it!



“For All The Saints”

Adding to the Grace Women who have gone before us
this last All Saints year are:
+ Evenlyn Barringer + Valerie Lehr + Ruthie Masna +

Thank you.....

Lori Vaccaro from “On Eagles Wing Ministry” wants to thank all who gifted the girls at Hope House with recipes and the ingredients to make nutritious meals.

The girls have been rescued from human sex trafficking and as they are recovering from dark days, these gifts from the heart are lightening their burdens and helping to restore life. Lori writes:

“Wow! You blessed us in a huge way and brought smiles and hope to all our girls! Thank you!”

Let us continue to hold the ministry of On Eagles Wings and the girls that are ministered to in our prayers. (www.oewHOPE.org)

An encouraging note:

The pull tops that are being saved for Clayton Beaver of Cherokee, NC, are making a difference! Clayton is a 9-year-old boy who has to wear a brace. This year alone he has needed to have the brace replaced three times to accommodate his growing body. Insurance paid for one of the braces. The metal tabs collected have paid for the other TWO!! Please continue to save the pull tops and bring them to church. There is a basket in the Fellowship Hall in which you can put your donation in. Clayton appreciates your help!



Merry Christmas!
To All the Women of Grace
From the Grace WELCA Leadership



Be not afraid! For behold, we are given Good News of Great Joy! A Savior Who is Christ the King has been born for you and me and all the world!