



# Women of the ELCA



Grace Unit Newsletter.....November 2019

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.**

## “For All The Saints”

(Vicki Marthaler, President of the Grace Women of the ELCA)

November 1. All Saints Day. The “Saints” are those of the congregation who have died in the past year. Traditions vary but usually the names of the deceased are read, candles are lit signifying eternal light shining upon them and bells are rung to announce the promise of Christ as “ Jesus said unto her, “I am the Resurrection and the Life. They that believeth in Me, though they die, yet shall they live..” (John 11:25.)

To honor this tradition of remembering those who have gone before us, the Women of Grace name the following women who have died this past year and who have been a witness to their faith in Christ here at Grace:



- Helen Dunn***
- Virginia Green***
- Margorie Haddock***
- Ila Hollendar***
- Sue Janowiak***
- Trudy Kretzer***
- Mary Lou Leidheiser***
- Ethel VanDerVliet***

Let us pray: “O God, we remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served You on earth, who now rest from their labors, especially **Helen, Virginia, Margorie, Ila, Sue, Trudy, Mary Lou and Ethel**. Keep us in union with all Your saints and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.”

And let us sing: (Hymn 422)

“For all the saints who from their labors rest, who Thee, by faith,  
before the world confessed, Thy Name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thou wast their Rock, their Fortress and their Might;  
Thou, Lord, their Captain in the well-fought fight;  
Thou, in the darkness drear, their one True Light! Alleluia, Alleluia!”

And now may Eternal Light shine upon them.

In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, Amen.

(Any misspellings of names or omissions are unintentional. Please respond to Vicki Marthaler with any additions or corrections. )

**Naomi Circle** invites all Circle members AND non-members to their meeting on

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019  
that begins at 9:30am  
at Grace Lutheran Church.**

Alyce Knaflich was a destitute, homeless veteran for ten years. She struggled with health issues until she maneuvered through the VA system and began receiving money for a service connected disability. Alyce's passion for helping other homeless women veterans lead her to become the founder/director of Aura Home in Asheville. Aura Home provides temporary housing and services to homeless women vets.



Please continue to collect your pop tabs for Living Waters Lutheran Church. They are saving them for an elementary school boy who has to wear a brace. As he grows, the brace needs to be replaced and the pop tabs help defray the cost. Those pop tabs make a difference!



Newsletter Looking for an Editor

Would one of your gifts be putting together the monthly newsletter for the Women of Grace? Do you have a computer and some great ideas on how to add some "sparkle and pizzazz" as we learn and work together for the Kingdom? If interested, call 218 849 5683 and talk with Vicki Marthaler.



A quote from Vicki Marthaler's temple talk on Thankoffering Sunday:

*"Personally, I find the "sisterhood" of Lutheran Women to be strong and enduring – just like the coffee!"*



**A Note from the  
Prayer Shawl Ministers**

Although the ministry will not meet again until 2020, the work never ends.

The final congregational blessing will occur on Sunday, November 10. In addition to individuals, shawls have recently found their way Elizabeth House, "On Eagles Wings" Ministry, "Life Challenge" residential care in Sylva and homeless female Veterans in Asheville.

Shawls and Prayer Squares are available for celebrations as well as concerns. Please contact the Pastors if you know of anyone who could benefit from this tangible expression of God's Love.



**The 2019 Pennies Project**



ELCA Women everywhere are saving pennies this year to assist in the work to eradicate human trafficking. Vigilante Truth will receive the monies collected from all the pennies (and/or whatever you want to write out your check for!)



Your offering of pennies will be received at our December General Meeting (The Christmas Tea) to be held on

**Saturday, Dec 7, 2pm in the Fellowship Hall.**

We learned so much at our September meeting about Human Trafficking. This is a most worthy cause. Joining together with ELCA Women everywhere increases our power to stand for the victims and work for justice.



## IAM Is for Our Neighbors

Written by Chira Kirkland



The October meeting of Sarah Circle toured the Interfaith Assistance Ministry (IAM) and learned a lot about how we can help support its invaluable service to the community. The upcoming winter months and holidays add even more import to our efforts. Donations are accepted Monday-Friday from 9-4 p.m. and 9-1 p.m. on Saturdays. Please call IAM at 828-697-7029 for more information or to schedule a large pickup. There is also a large bin in Fellowship Hall for donations of blankets, sheets, towels, and pillows. My thanks to Bonnie Wells - one of the IAM volunteers - for the information below.

Food Pantry: *Continual needs:* Empty pill bottles (1 1/2" - 2" in diameter) and empty vitamin bottles, egg cartons, gallon Zip-loc bags, plastic grocery bags.

There is a special IAM *Holiday Food Drive* from now until December 20th for our neighbors to prepare and enjoy meals in their own homes. There is a complete listing on an informational flyer in Fellowship Hall.

Clothing: Warm winter coats, hats, gloves, washable clothes, new socks and underwear, hoodies, warm athletic clothes, men's athletic shoes, men's blue jeans.

For the homeless: Adult sleeping bags and adult backpacks, cooking pots and pans, flashlights.

Toys for Christmas: All ages up to 16. **\*\*Wrapping paper and gift bags needed\*\***

Gifts for adults: Could be lotions, wallets, perfumes, etc. that are recycled (just so it looks new!).

- Please support the "Warmth of Home Concert" on Monday, Nov. 18th at the Flat Rock Playhouse at 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$35. All proceeds go toward helping those who need heating assistance during the winter. Call IAM for more information or tickets at (828) 697-7029.

Thank you for anything you can do to help neighbors in need.

Grace Lutheran Women invite you to their General Meeting



**Saturday, December 7, 2:00pm**

**The Christmas Tea!**

**Held In the Fellowship Hall at Grace**



Topic: "Angels Among Us"

Speaker: Vicki Marthaler

The Business Meeting will include installation of officers and review of 2019 WELCA activities.



**Ten** tables will be beautifully decorated for this event. **Six** women of Grace have volunteered to decorate tables. Rhoda Hargrave and Barb Koch are looking for **four more** volunteers! If you would like to bring in decorative dishes that include a cup and saucer and cake plate for six people, please contact Rhoda (828-808-4334) or Barb (828-891-9088). Centerpieces are provided.

# Thankoffering Sunday 2019

Thank you to all who participated in this very special Sunday. Rev. Shelly Webb presented a message of encouragement and hope.



Grace Women gifted the congregation with a heart-warming worship. The women were greeters, ushers, provided special music, were the readers, displayed and talked about the varied ministries that take place at Grace Lutheran and, in general, covered the sanctuary with 125 quilts for LWR and covered the worshippers with love and prayers. Thank you for your role and the sharing of your gifts at Grace. **We are blessed!**

