

Evangel-Lines

June 2018

SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF THE WOMEN OF UPSTATE NY SYNOD

Bi-annual CONFERENCE RETREATS ANNOUNCED!

Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts



Saturday, September 22, 2018

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

6360 Route 241 Ellicottville, NY 14731

9:30 AM — 3:30 PM

Cost: \$20.00

Luncheon Provided

~ Guest Speaker ~

PETE HILL

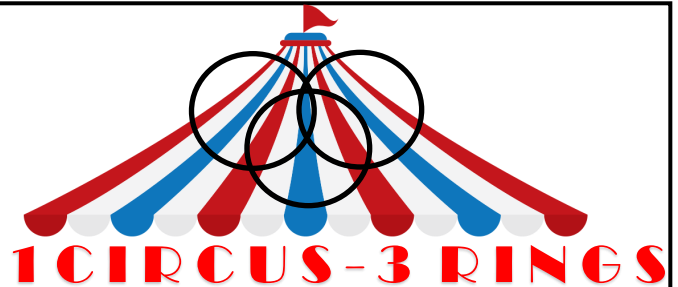
Member of the Cayuga Nation-Heron Clan

~ Discover our individual spirituality ~
~ Explore Native American spirituality ~
~ Celebrate the Holy Spirit in worship
and fellowship as women of faith ~

Registration Deadline—September 10, 2018

Contact Ruth Schmidt (716) 827-8694
for more details

Hosted by the Niagara Frontier and
Southwestern Conferences
Women of the ELCA



Friday, November 2 - Saturday, November 3

CAMP PINNACLE

VOORHEESVILLE, NY

in the beautiful Helderberg Mountains
overlooking the Hudson Valley

**COME DISCOVER THE
FRUITS OF THE SPIRIT**

illustrated in the movie

“THE GREATEST SHOWMAN”

which will be shown on Friday night

*While this popular movie has been criticized for not
being historically accurate, it offers many messages
that help us see how Christ would want us to live.*

*Come explore themes of exclusion, racism,
classism, and ultimately - redemption!*

*You'll go away feeling good, singing the songs,
and cheering for the underdog!*

Overnight in lovely rooms, three 5-star meals
and registration fee: \$88—Sat. only \$30

Contact Marilyn Dyer at dyermm48@gmail.com

OR Mary Rainey at
mezrainey55@gmail.com for more info

Hosted by the Foothills and Hudson Mohawk
Conferences, Women of the ELCA



OUR DAILY BREAD

Women of the ELCA Fall 2018 Retreat
*Presented by the Genesee Finger Lakes and
 Central Crossroads Conferences*

*Please join us as we explore the multiple meanings
 of "Our Daily Bread," from the simple act of
 breaking bread together to
 paying it forward in the world.
 Come — refresh your spirit and rejoice with
 your sisters in Christ*

When: 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9 to
 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 10, 2018
Where: LeTourneau Christian Center
 Rushville, NY (<http://www.letourneau.org>)
Cost: \$25 for those coming only on Saturday

Overnight guests: (Friday dinner included)
 \$75 per person for a double room
 \$95 for a single room

*Saturday breakfast and lunch is included for
 everyone who registers*

Registration: Deadline is Oct. 20, 2018. No registra-
 tions will be accepted after Oct. 20. No refunds will
 be allowed after Oct. 20. Reservations must be paid
 in advance. Please fill out the enclosed form.

More information, call or email:

Barbara Morey, GFL co-coordinator,
 (585) 682-3457 bamtreas@yahoo.com
 OR

Judy Holmes, CCC co-coordinator
 (315) 673-9393 Judyholmes76@gmail.com



Highlights of some of the items discussed. We had 11 women attending. Great turn out. We are still hoping to get representation from the Hudson Mohawk conference.

1. A good deal of our discussions returned to the same subject – increasing our income so we can do more programming. **Cindy Rivera (synodical treasurer)** stressed to us that we have fewer and fewer units contributing. Some are sending donations to Churchwide but are forgetting our Synodical organization. Our lunch discussion consisted of ideas that have been successful at conventions, conference assemblies, church meetings, etc. It is always fun to share what has worked in the past and here are a few of the ideas we discussed at lunch:

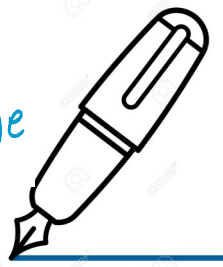
- a. Jewelry sales
- b. Purse sales/auction
- c. Calendar giving
- d. Cookie, cakes, pie, etc. sales
- e. Quilt raffle
- f. Birthday Jar

There were more but if some of these ideas spark an idea in you – let us know! Maybe plan a fund raising event for a WELCA project or to donate part to SWO!

Cindy Rivera reported that we collected \$144 in our offering at the meeting. All will go to Church Wide Organization. Also, our Scholarship activity raised \$87 for the Carol Grimes Scholarship fund. WOW. How generous everyone was.

Thank you all for all you do. 'Til next time. Sue Fox

President's Message



Dear Sisters in Faith,

I cannot believe we are into our summer months already. I would like to share with you some of the activities in which our Women of the ELCA have been participating and others that will happen in the coming months.

I was able to attend the WELCA Conference of Presidents in Chicago, Ill. last February. At that time, sixty- two presidents from synods across the country met and discussed our future and the challenges we face within our organization. I enjoyed meeting our new President, Lisa Plorin, who shared her enthusiasm and optimism for the work of our organization.

We heard of new plans for WELCA that will happen in the next three years (triennial). One such plan is for the organization to increase **Katie's Fund to \$3 million**. This endowment fund supports ministry in three key areas: leadership development, global connections and living theology. By increasing the endowment fund our organization will be able to continue its mission of helping women well into the future. Our Churchwide Organization is currently working with synodical groups to participate in a nationwide fundraising effort. If you wish to learn more about Katie's Fund, check out the Women of the ELCA website. Consider making Katie's Fund a priority in your unit this year. Checks in support of this program may be sent to our treasurer, Cindy Rivera, marked for "Katie's Fund."

In the last three years our Upstate NY Women of the ELCA has been an active participant in helping to raise funds for **PV for Phebe**, an initiative to provide solar energy for Phebe Hospital in Liberia, Africa. That project has been completed! No more expensive diesel powered generators!

With that project complete, the same planning group turned its attention to another Liberian hospital. **Curran Hospital** was destroyed twice during the 14 year civil war in Liberia. Plans are moving

forward to install solar panels in this hospital, too. The project is called **Current for Curran**. We are being asked to support this project as well. For more information see SkipTheGrid.org.

Early in April the Upstate NY Women of the ELCA Board met in Camillus, NY, to plan for 2018. At that time, we discussed the upcoming regional events to be held this fall across our state.

Later in April, the **Region 7 Spiritual Gathering** was held in West Hartford, Conn. It was three days of inspiration, rejuvenation and fun. This event occurs only every three years and is entirely dedicated to spiritual renewal. Anticipation is already high for 2021!

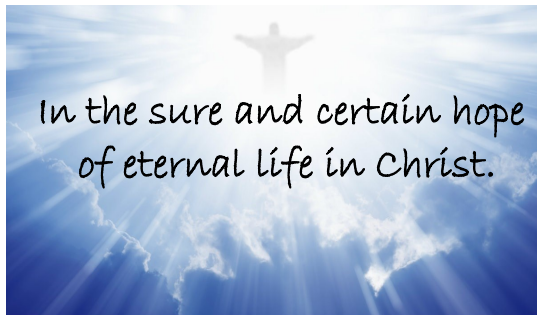
Later in April our annual **Lutheran World Relief** pick up occurred. The truck went from the western part of NY to the east stopping in three different areas to pick up quilts, kits and soap. If your church is making or collecting for LWR keep watching for the dates of our pick up next spring.

In June, I attended the **Synod Assembly** and was able to share with all those who stopped at our display, what our organization is about and what our mission is. We also hosted the fellowship time on Monday evening and with the generosity of some of our members we were able to provide a lovely gathering place and delicious snacks. Our display area included information on upcoming events as well as information about **Cherish All Children** and our **Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality** program. This is an opportunity for us to represent you and the great programs in which you are involved. Please continue to keep me informed about your activities so I can share them with others in our Synod.

As you can see, Women of the ELCA are very involved locally, nationally and globally. You are a part of this great mission. Your continued participation in WELCA makes our purpose of supporting women and children a reality. Be proud of what we are doing in God's name. Share your story.

Sincerely,

Sue Fox, President
Upstate NY Women of the ELCA



CONFERENCE Happenings

NIAGARA FRONTIER

A thoughtful prayer life

It is with great sadness that we let you know that Millie McCann, mother of our synodical president, Sue Fox, died unexpectedly on Friday, June 15th. Although she had been ailing intermittently for the past few years, she had just returned to her senior living apartment that day from rehab at Seneca Manor. When Sue Nalle, Board Secretary, spoke with Millie that day, she was doing fine and was in good spirits.

Millie was always active in Grace Lutheran's women's group be it LCW, WELCA or a predecessor. Donations to Grace, Oswego in her memory would be lovely. Also, friends of Sue's from the board are planning a donation to Katie's Fund in Millie's name. If you would like to be part of that gift please send your gift to Cindy Rivera, treasurer, with a note that the gift is in Millie's name. Condolence cards may be sent to Sue Fox, 245 E 5th Street, Oswego, NY 13126

Please hold Sue and her family in your prayers for comfort and strength now, and pray for Millie that she may rest in God's eternal light and peace.



On Tuesday evening, April 17, 2018, 26 women from 6 congregations in the Niagara Frontier Conference gathered at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Depew, for an evening of fellowship and sharing. During the registration time, the women of Prince of Peace served light refreshments. Information about Women of the ELCA was available. Our offering for the evening was divided equally between our SWO and Jericho Road/VIVE.

Nancy Morth, Conference Coordinator introduced members of the Planning Team: Joyce Boyer, secretary; Ruth Schmidt, financial secretary and Synod board member; and Barb Wozniak. Ruth gave a brief report of the April 7 Board meeting. Barb Wozniak gave a brief outline of our Fall joint meeting with Southwestern Conference to be held on Sept. 22 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ellicottville. The theme is "Unwrapping Our Spiritual Gifts". Pete Hill, a Native American, will be our morning speaker.

Pastor Rebecca Mentzer from Prince of Peace then led us in the program "A Thoughtful Prayer Life". This is a short program on prayer prepared by Women of the ELCA. We began with a Taize Prayer Service led by Pastor Rebecca. We then broke into two discussion groups to discuss the material presented in the program.

Nancy Morth, NFC Coordinator

HUDSON-MOHAWK

The cup of our life

On Sunday, May 20th, twenty women from the conference gathered at West Central Rensselaer County Lutheran Parish (the union of Trinity, West Sand Lake and St. Timothy's, Troy) for a high tea and spiritual reflection based on *The Cup of Our Life*—a guide to spiritual growth—by Joyce Rupp. Each woman brought a favorite cup or the story about one to share with the group.

Mary Rainey led five short exercises to introduce the women to an overview of the book's daily devotions. Each featured a brief scripture reading, a breathprayer (e.g., breathing in: I am... breathing out: a love song...), a prayer and an intentional action (e.g., I will try to be a love song for others this day). The themes were: The Cup of My Life, A Container of God's Presence, A Vessel of Loving Energy, Boundaries of the Cup, and The Cup As My Teacher.

One half of the offering was given to churchwide Women of the ELCA to support ministries. Women were gifted with journals and pens to begin their daily devotions.

Marilyn Dyer, HM Coordinator



SOUTHWESTERN Renewed in god's creation

Women from the Southwestern Conference gathered on a cold and rainy April Saturday morning to fellowship and learn about the mission and ministry of Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center while enjoying the beauty of its surroundings.

Kurt Schlewitt, Program Director at LCLC, presented a most enlightening presentation centered around Romans 12:2 – “Do not be conformed to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” He emphasized the point that “the earth is the same, but the community/environment has changed.” That’s why getting away from the “addictions” (cell phones, computers, etc....) of our community is so necessary and renewing. Get back in touch with creation.

Schlewitt, using several resources, shared the importance of renewal. Downtime restores attention and motivation. It fosters creativity and improves productivity. Renewing through contact with nature gives our mind a break and reduces stress. Looking at nature is *literally* good for our brains.

Getting in touch with nature is especially beneficial for teenage girls – it helps in their body perception. They need to get away and enjoy the beauty and benefits of nature.

Schlewitt then expressed the extreme importance of LCLC as a ministry that strives to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in ways that give life: through cultivating a Christ-centered community (nature and God's creation). Since its beginning in 1936, LCLC has served all ages with this mission in mind. Located on 150 acres, LCLC offers a variety of renewing experiences from Grade 1's mini-camp to adult retreats. One-third of the campers come from the inner cities, so this experience truly helps them renew and transform.

LCLC provides rest, renewal and restoration for all ages in order to be transformed to do God's work in a world in need of care and compassion.

The women felt renewed by the presentation and the surroundings – quiet, serene and blessed. The warmth of the Spirit filled the air, even with the cold and rain. We closed the Assembly with a luncheon provided by LCLC. Truly a wonderful day!

*Lois Rumfelt,
SWC Secretary*

CENTRAL CROSSROADS—SOUTHERN TIER Journey to Wellness Conversations Along the Way

On Saturday, April 14th, thirty five women—many first-timers from Southern Tier—gathered at Our Saviour in Endwell to discover *God at work through all our interrelated dimensions —intellectual, emotional, social/interpersonal, vocational, physical and spiritual*. A delicious brunch was shared. The offering was given to a Southern Tier charity. CCC and ST conference together as women of the ELCA.



The LWR truck stopped across upstate NY this spring to pick up kits, tied blankets, quilts and soap donations from churches in Rochester, Syracuse and the Albany area.

Although we don't have figures from Rochester, Judy Holmes from Atonement, Syracuse, reports that approximately 40 boxes of various items were loaded onto the truck at their location. Sarah Fisher reports that in Clifton Park, 6 church groups donated 35 boxes of items totaling 660 pounds. They consisted of 60 quilts, 16 fleece tied blankets, 42 personal care kits, 11 fabric kits, 18 school kits and 997 bars of soap!!

Plan to be part of the Ingathering next spring usually at the end of April or early May! A great way to get stuff to the LWR warehouse in Maryland without having to pay the very expensive postage. Thanks to all who organized and donated! Thanks to Board Member Sarah Fisher for organizing the truck each year.



Don't forget that when you shop on Amazon you can be helping Women of the ELCA. Sign up for Amazon Smile and enter **Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** (must write the whole thing out!) as your designated recipient. Every time you shop, WELCA gets a small donation. It adds up!!!



REGION 7 SPIRITUAL GATHERING ENJOYED BY ALL

If you missed it...over 60 women from across Region 7 Women of the ELCA gathered at Holy Family Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT from Friday, April 27—Sunday, April 29 to explore their spiritual and actual gifts, make some new friends, learn, grow, share and generally have a great time in a beautiful place!

Each portion of the program reflected the theme of the weekend—We Are An Offering—and how all that we have, all that we are and all that we hope to be can be used to the glory of God!

The four workshops presented all centered around preparation for and participation in the Sunday morning worship service. Our own Pastor Marie Jerge shared beautiful devotions centered around some of her favorite poetry and some she has written herself. For example, our Friday evening devotion was *All That We Have* with the Call to Worship from Psalm 103 which began: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name. This was followed by a poem by Billy Collins, *The Lanyard*, which I share with you here because of its impact on all those who heard it:

The other day I was ricocheting slowly
off the blue walls of this room,
moving as if underwater from typewriter to piano,
from bookshelf to an envelope lying on the floor,
when I found myself in the L section of the dictionary
where my eyes fell upon the word lanyard.

No cookie nibbled by a French novelist
could send one into the past more suddenly—
a past where I sat at a workbench at a camp
by a deep Adirondack lake
learning how to braid long thin plastic strips
into a lanyard, a gift for my mother.

I had never seen anyone use a lanyard
or wear one, if that's what you did with them,
but that did not keep me from crossing
strand over strand again and again
until I had made a boxy
red and white lanyard for my mother.

She gave me life and milk from her breasts,
and I gave her a lanyard.
She nursed me in many a sick room,
lifted spoons of medicine to my lips,
laid cold face-cloths on my forehead,
and then led me out into the airy light

and taught me to walk and swim,
and I, in turn, presented her with a lanyard.
Here are thousands of meals, she said,
and here is clothing and a good education.
And here is your lanyard, I replied,
which I made with a little help from a counselor.

Here is a breathing body and a beating heart,
strong legs, bones and teeth,
and two clear eyes to read the world, she whispered,
and here, I said, is the lanyard I made at camp.
And here, I wish to say to her now,
is a smaller gift—not the worn truth

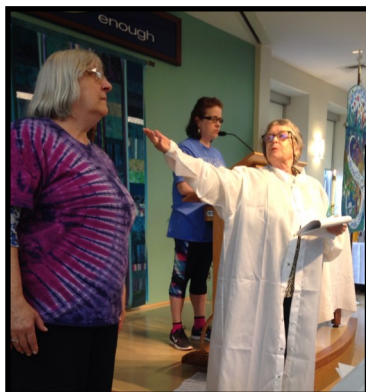
that you can never repay your mother,
but the rueful admission that when she took
the two-tone lanyard from my hand,
I was as sure as a boy could be
that this useless, worthless thing I wove
out of boredom would be enough to make us even.

We shared the impact of the poem with one another and closed the devotion with the hymn: *Praise and Thanksgiving*. Each morning and evening devotion followed this pattern—with its own special scripture, poem, reflection and song to help us understand how this beautiful form of writing can lead us into spiritual reflection.

The participants in Pastor Marie's workshop continued delving into Poetry As A Spiritual Practice and prepared the prayers in poetry form for Sunday morning's worship service.



Pastor Tiffany Nicely Holleck, a Presbyterian minister by background who co-pastors with her husband on Cape Cod at Trinity Lutheran in Harwich, Massachusetts, led a workshop on Acting Out the Gospel. The women who attended worked on presenting Sunday morning's lessons.



Philip Baptizes An Ethiopian Eunuch—Acts 8:26-40



The entire congregation participated in the Gospel lesson as the vine and the branches! We were intertwined! Pastor Tiffany (at right) also led our bible studies with much good discussion.

President of the New England Synod, Ade Monareh, who is from Indonesia, taught her workshop to play Angklung instruments. Each instrument—akin to chimes but made out of bamboo tubes—is a different note. So like chimes (or handbells) she would indicate when each player should sound their instrument. The gals learned to play our theme—We Are An Offering for Sunday morning. It was just lovely.



The Angklung players (Ade at far left). As you can see in the mosaic behind them, it appears Baby Jesus is giving them a thumbs up!

Janice Walz, Redeemer, Scotia, offered a beautiful liturgical dance to the Magnificat as our Prelude to Sunday's worship service. It was truly moving. Her workshop worked on a movement piece to present the offering and the communion table elements.



Part of Sunday's worship was the dedication and blessing of the ingathering of towels, socks, undies, and toilet



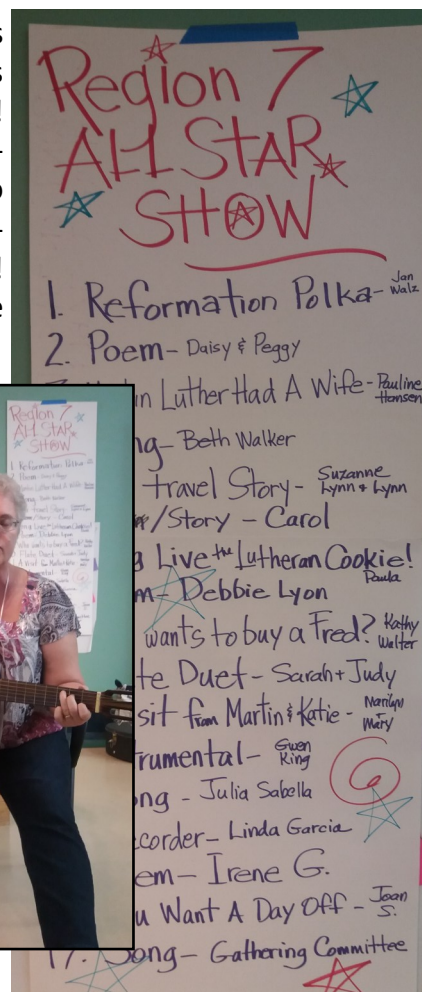
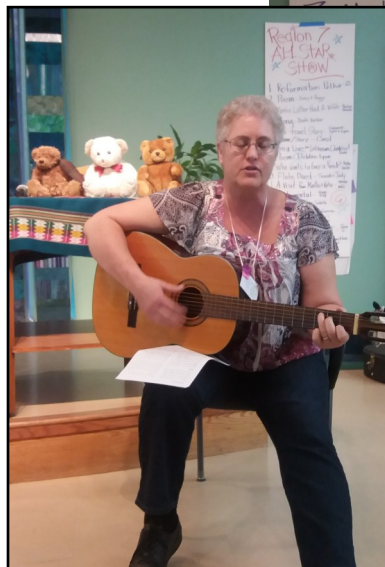
-ries that were given to a local DV Shelter and Transitional Housing Program— The Prudence Crandall Home.



Prayer rocks for residents at Prudence Crandall Home

Bishop Wilma Kucharrek, Slovak Zion Synod, was our key note speaker and Sunday's preacher. On Sunday morning, she gave us an auto mechanic's lesson on manifolds and how this wonderful word truly expresses God's abundant grace and gifts!

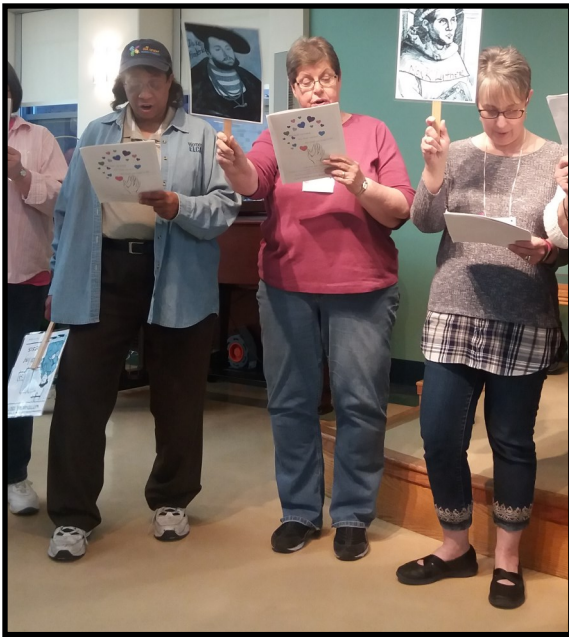
One of the highlights of the weekend was the Talent Show! Everything from serious musical gifts to the silliest presentations were offered! We sang! We laughed!



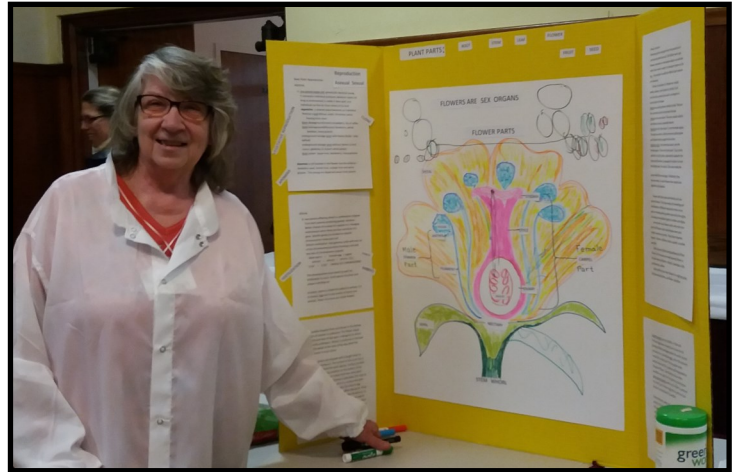
Beth Walker (UpNYS) and her back up singers — Upstate NY—perform Waltzing with Bears! And we got to sing along! She also presented on Global Mission to the gathering—a subject we all know she knows so well as the coordinator for Upstate NY.

You have never heard *When the Saints Go Marching In* until you've heard it on Pastor Gwen King's (NJ) Kazoo! FABulous! We're ready for next year's Mardi Gras!





Upstate NY WELCA Synodical President Sue Fox helps lead the Reformation Polka! It was supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!

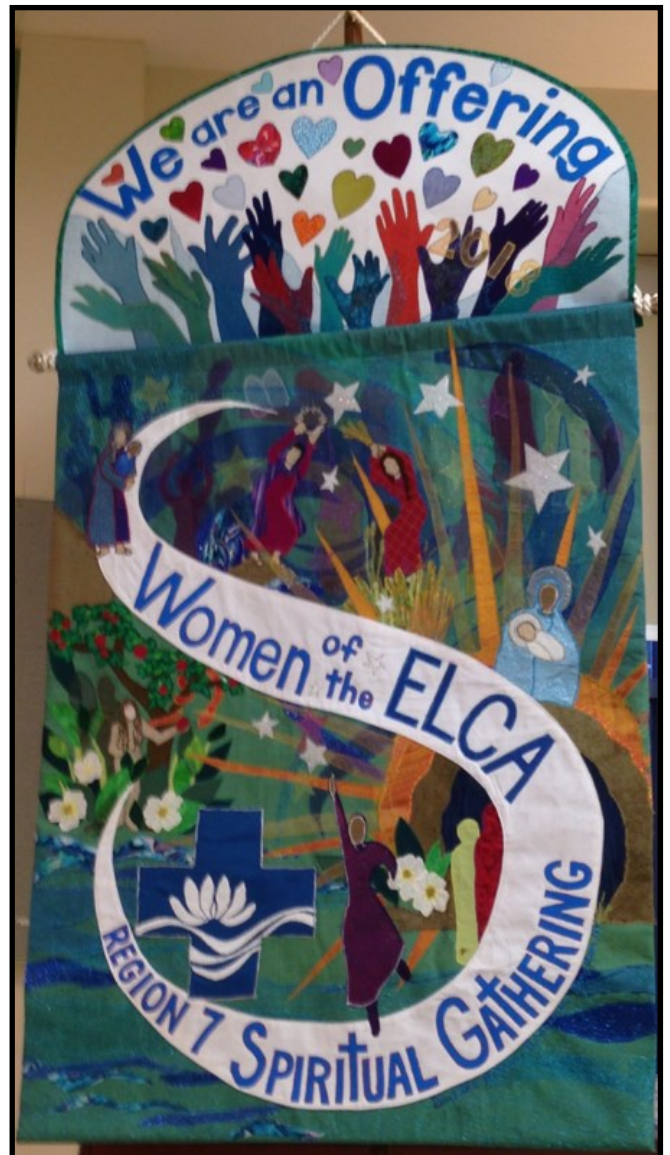


Friday night fun with Professor Alice Carlson (NE Synod) who taught us about Sex and Flowers!! Fun AND educational!

One of seven fleece tied blankets made at the Gathering! So many lovely fleece designs. Thanks Thrivent!



The magnificent banner, created by Deacon Elke Hekler from Hudson, features a removable top that she changes for each Region 7 Triennial Gathering. It is worth the trip to the Gathering just to be able to get a close up look at this incredible piece of fabric art. Just one more way we can praise God through our gifts! She has agreed to let us display ALL of the tops she has made through the years at our next Gathering, Spring 2021!





The Labyrinth—one of the many lovely spots on the Holy Family campus—a truly meditative experience.



Audrey Novak Riley, CWO Director for Stewardship was with us for the weekend.



The Planning Committee for the Gathering:

Back row L-R: Lisa Proffit (NE Synod) - Holy Family Liaison; Sarah Fisher (UpNYS HM Conf) - Accompanist and LWR info; Upstate NY Pres. Sue Fox (CCC) - Favors; Irene Germain (Metro NY) - Refreshments; Barbara Tormondsen (Metro) - Fleece and Tote Bags; Alice Carlson (NE Synod) - Sex and Flowers; Paula Rosenstock (NE Synod) - Registrar & fleece

Front row L-R: Sue Nalle (UpNYS CCC) Table prayers; Marilyn Dyer (UpNYS H-M) Chair; Marilyn Mazsa (NEPA) Treasurer; and Ade Monareh, Pres NE Synod, Angklung Music



Women
of the
EVANGELICAL
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IN AMERICA

EVANGEL LINES NEWSLETTER

Marilyn Dyer, Editor
47 Deer Haven Lane
Rensselaer, New York
12144

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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.