



# Living Threads

Newsletter for the Women of the ELCA North/West Lower Michigan Synod

*"I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all mankind. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." Luke 2: 10-11*



June Keysor  
President

## Dear Women of the ELCA,

I want to take the time to apologize to you for this edition of the newsletter coming out so late. I fell on the ice earlier this month and used my left arm to help break my fall. Although it wasn't seriously hurt it was sufficient to make typing impossible. I haven't even sent any emails out other than those that were absolutely necessary. Anyway as you can see it is much better now and so here goes.

For those of you who missed our Fall Retreat in September you really missed out on a fabulous, fun learning experience. Our workshop leaders were wonderful and again I thank Donna, Dawn and Rasma for their help. A special thank you goes out to Lynn Flegel who found our fabulous speaker Anne King. You can read more about the Retreat in the articles in this newsletter.

I want to encourage **ALL** of you to consider coming to the Convention/Retreat in September 2015, as we will be electing officers and board members. We will be asking for the names of your delegates to the Convention by the middle of August so that we can get information they will need to them for the Convention. Also, we will be electing our delegates to the next Triennial in Minneapolis 2017 as this will be our the only Convention we will have before the next Triennial. Give so serious thought and prayer to selecting both the women you want sitting on our next synodical board and who you want to represent you in Minneapolis. If you know someone that you think would both like to

serve on the Board or as an Officer and truly wants to do this please make sure that a nomination ballot is submitted by your church's unit by August 25, 2015. This is 30 days prior to the Convention and will give us time to get everything out to our delegates. Remember you may send one delegate from your congregation to take care of the election and other business of the N/WLM Women of the ELCA. This is also the deadline for submitting the nomination ballots for anyone who is selected by your group to be considered as a delegate to the 2017 Triennial. You will find these ballots at the back of this newsletter.

The date and place for our upcoming Spring Gathering has been chosen. It will be held on April 18, 2015 at Mamrelund Lutheran in Kent City. A flyer with more details is enclosed and we suggest you start posting it early along with the registration information.

Our Board has decided to have a Board Retreat at Eagle Village the end of January as we have major planning and work that has to be done. Hopefully, this will make putting together a fantastic Convention/Retreat much easier and allow us to make proposals and necessary changes to our constitution. We will also be taking steps to forming our new Committee against Human Trafficking and establish programs to reach our goals.

[I would like to wish all of you a Blessed Christmas as we celebrate our Lord's birth.](#)

June

## 2013 - 2015 N/WLM Women of the ELCA SYNODICAL BOARD

### June Keysor - President

(St. Paul, Reed City)  
(231) 388-0849  
828 S Mill St. Apt. 86  
Reed City, MI 49677  
[keysorj66@yahoo.com](mailto:keysorj66@yahoo.com)

### Peggy Ruitter - Vice-President/ Scholarship Chairwoman

(Our Savior, Muskegon)  
(231) 670-5751  
1965 Cutler Ave.  
Muskegon, MI 49441  
[ruitpeggy@gmail.com](mailto:ruitpeggy@gmail.com)

### Judy O'Dell - Secretary

(Immanuel, Big Rapids)  
(231) 823-2845  
17684 Pierce Rd.  
Stanwood, MI 49346  
[Judyodel@yahoo.com](mailto:Judyodel@yahoo.com)

### Lynn Flegel - Treasurer

Mamrelund, (Kent City)  
(616) 801-3837  
1425 Trent Rd  
Ravenna, MI 49451  
[lynnflegel@gmail.com](mailto:lynnflegel@gmail.com)

### Board Members:

#### Barbara Johnson

(Trinity, Frankfort)  
(231)352-4727  
218 Sunset Dr.  
Frankfort, MI 49635  
[hilltroll61@gmail.com](mailto:hilltroll61@gmail.com)

#### Kay Fortin

(Leer, Posen)  
(989) 379-4538  
10060 S. Leer Rd  
Posen, MI 49776  
[fortinkus@yahoo.com](mailto:fortinkus@yahoo.com)

#### Mary Kallio

(Edgewood, Fruit Port)  
(616) 894-1695  
13211 160th Ave.  
Grand Haven, MI 49417  
[mormorkallio@gmail.com](mailto:mormorkallio@gmail.com)

### Board Members - Continued

#### Donna Loney

(Trinity, New Era)  
(231) 873-5117  
1753 N Young Rd  
Hart, MI  
[dkl1960@gmail.com](mailto:dkl1960@gmail.com)

#### Rasma McMullen

(Trinity, Kalamazoo)  
(269) 349-9429  
173 Riddewood St  
Kalamazoo, MI 49001  
[rasmamcm@msn.com](mailto:rasmamcm@msn.com)

### Racial Justice Advocacy

#### Phyllis Lindsey

{Immanuel, Big Rapids)  
(231) 796-6400  
604 Willow Ave.  
Big Rapids, MI 49307  
[jimlindsey@ferris.edu](mailto:jimlindsey@ferris.edu)

### LSSM Representative

#### Clarene Kersting

(Our Savior, Muskegon)  
(231) 755-4453  
1733 Woodside  
Muskegon, MI 49441  
[clare067@hotmail.com](mailto:clare067@hotmail.com)

### Anti-Human Trafficking Committee

#### Barbara Hazlett

(Augustana, Tustin)  
(231) 829-4583  
20797 200th Ave.  
Tustin, MI 49688  
[barbara5975@att.net](mailto:barbara5975@att.net)

### Newsletter Articles & Distribution

The *Living Threads* Newsletter is published four times annually (Spring/Summer/Fall/Winter) and is distributed free via e-mail to all churches in our synod and to individuals who request it. If you want to receive *Living Threads* via regular mail, the cost is \$5.00 per year. Send checks made payable to **Women of the ELCA** to

**Lynn Flegel**  
**1425 Trent Rd,**  
**Ravenna MI 49451**

Letters and articles of interest are welcome and may be submitted to the editor. Please include with your typewritten or clearly legible handwritten article, author's name, address, and telephone number, your church name and city where church is located. The Editor reserves the right to edit or publish any article.

Information should be sent to:

**June Keysor, Editor**  
**828 S Mill St. #86**  
**Reed City MI 49677**  
**(231) 388-0849**

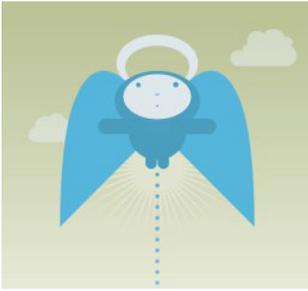
[livingthreads@yahoo.com](mailto:livingthreads@yahoo.com)

Permission is given by the SWO to copy any portion of *Living Threads* for distribution purposes. We encourage you to make copies for interested individuals or groups in your congregational unit

## Mission of Women of the ELCA

*"To mobilize women to act  
boldly on their faith in Jesus  
Christ."*

# Holy Humor



By  
Linda Ward

Unfortunately I did not receive anything from Linda this time but like all of you I am looking forward to her participation in our next issue of the Living Threads. It is because of this that I want to share with you something special I received from a dear friend of mine. I hope all of

you enjoy this as much as I did.

A 17 year old "girl" went to her friend's house and ended up staying longer than planned, and had to walk home alone. She wasn't afraid because it was a small COMMUNITY and she lived only a few blocks away.

As she walked along under the bike trail Diane asked God to keep her safe from harm and danger.

When she reached the alley, which was a shortcut to her house, she decided to take it. However, halfway down the alley she noticed a man standing at the end as though he were waiting for her.

Becoming uneasy she began to pray, asking for God's protection. Instantly a comforting feeling of quietness and security wrapped round her, she felt as though someone was walking with her. When she reached the end of the alley, she walked right past the man and arrived home safely.

The following day, she read in the newspaper that a young girl had been murdered in the same alley just twenty minutes after she had been there. Feeling overwhelmed by this tragedy and the fact that it could have been her, she began to weep. Thanking the Lord for her safety she felt the need to help this young woman, and so she decided to go to the police

station. She felt she could recognize the man and told them her story.

The police asked her if she would be willing to look at a lineup to see if she could identify him. She agreed and immediately pointed out the man she had seen in the alley the night before. When the man was told he had been identified, he immediately broke down and confessed.

The officer thanked Diane for her bravery and asked if there was anything they could do for her. She asked if they would ask the man one question, Diane was curious as to why he had not attacked her.

When the policeman asked him, he answered, "Because she wasn't alone. She had two tall men walking on either side of her." Goodness (Angel 1) and Mercy (Angel 2) shall follow you all the days of your life.

Amazingly, whether you believe or not, you're not alone.

Think about this as you celebrate this Christmas Season and remember **Jesus Loves You, ALL THE TIME.**



## Fall Retreat Workshops

### Church-wide Resources

By Dawn Smith

The fall W/ELCA Synodical Retreat was amazing! I was very excited to be leading a workshop on one of my very favorite topics, “Resources Created for our Women by the Women of the ELCA.”

I was able to share *Gather Magazine*, a magazine that has won numerous awards in the last 10 years including Best in Class from Religion Communicators Council. I was also able to share about *Café*, our online magazine, which has also won Best in Class eight years in a row. Another favorite of mine is *Daily Grace*, which is a daily devotion that takes highlights and snippets from all our resources. It just gives you a thought to ponder for the day. I also shared that there are over 80 retreat and program ideas on the website. All of which can be downloaded for free! The ladies shared their favorite programs with me and I shared mine with them. Favorite resources highlighted were the *Act Boldly* series and *Knitting as a Spiritual Practice*.

Also, shared was “A Place for You.” This is a pamphlet explaining about the programs of the W/ELCA. Churchwide is hoping to have an updated version of this resource out within the next couple of weeks.

If you need resource information or have questions, you can go to the website [www.womenoftheelca.org/resources](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/resources). You can also email me at [smith8286@att.net](mailto:smith8286@att.net).

It was fun to meet all the women at the retreat and to share all these programs, especially our love of Our Savior and of the Word.

Your Sister in Christ,

Dawn

## Being Homeless in Northern Michigan

By Donna Loney

I want to start by thanking all of the ladies that attended the workshop and I want to thank them for being open to the information that I shared. The feed back that I received was varied, but the most encouraging were the comments “you’ve painted a much different picture of homeless people I came here with” and “you have shared information regarding how people may become homeless that never occurred to me” To this I say “Thank God!” I came here to raise awareness and this must definitely considered a success.

Many of the ladies asked about getting involved on a local level, to make an impact in their own community. I encouraged them to contact their local Continuum of Care or “CofC”. Every county in Michigan is represented by CofC; a body of service agencies, concerned citizens and municipal leaders who come together to work toward ending homelessness in their county. You may also contact your local Housing Assessment Resource Agency. Each county has a Housing Assessment and Resource Agency known as HARA that provides most of the services and programs that are available to people who are homeless. For more information on what is happening in your area, please contact your local HARA and ask for information about your local CofC and when/where they are meeting next. County HARA may be found at the following link:

<http://www.michigangov/documents/mshda/HARAlist>

Thank you again Ladies for all that you do and for all you are yet to accomplish.

“Be the change that you wish to see in the world”. Mahatma Gandhi.

Donna

# She Won Our Hearts

By Lynn Flegel

Anne King, our guest speaker at the 2014 Synodical Fall Retreat, had us in the palm of her hand from the very first sentence spoke of Friday evening. Her manner was easy and her topic of "Caring for the Caregivers" was alternately humorous, serious, informative, or poignant. There were lots of heads nodding in affirmation. She made sure we were paying attention, too, by giving us relaxing exercises to do. We had to stand up and be counted!

After Friday night's introductory message, we were all waiting her eagerly on Saturday morning and she did not disappoint us. Going along with our "generations" theme, she spoke about the importance of keeping and passing on family traditions. We enjoyed sharing our experiences with other sisters in Christ. It hard to get us back to listening she allowed us to talk. Anne knew perfectly well that we would enjoy sharing.

We agreed that Anne was one of the best speakers we have ever had, so we expect to invite her back soon.

## Thank You For Your Help

Your Synodical Officers and Board members wish to thank the following people and corporations for their assistance in helping us put together the 75 bags we made for the homeless at our Fall Retreat.

1. Meijers for the cloth bags used to put the items in.
2. Aspen Dental of Mt. Pleasant for the 75 individually wrapped toothbrushes they donated.
3. Rasma McMullen for her unfailing effort in arranging the tables to put the bags together and explaining the process to the ladies.

## Scholarship Fund

By June Keysor

Just what is the N/WLM Scholarship Fund all about? It is a way to help any woman of our organization who can't afford to go to an event sponsored by our synod, region, or national organization.

I for one live on a fixed income, believe me I would like to fix it to make it stretch further every month. There are many things I couldn't have done if not for the scholarship fund.

So, if things are tight and you need some help to attend an event you see in the newsletter like the

## Human Trafficking in Our Area

By  
*Barbara Hazlett*

Are we ostriches with our heads in the sand?

Michigan ranks number eleven (11) in human trafficking in our nation and I sure don't like being that close to the Top 10!

I attended a work shop called "Stop the Traffic" led by Pastor Vivian and you can't imagine some of the innocent ruses that our used to lure our young people into the human trafficking ordeal. Very frequently these young people are never heard from again. The average age of females in human trafficking is eleven (11) and that overwhelmed me. What scares me most is that it can happen anywhere even in our small communities.

Advocacy is one of my passions and I hope to bring my experience to our committee, accomplishing awareness and action, from our little corner of this world. To move our ranking to fifty (50) and not up to the "Top Ten".

Using and abusing our fellow community members should never be tolerated, no matter how it is done. Using adults in this manner is horrible but to use children is intolerable.

*Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
From  
Your Synodical Board*



*June Keysor  
Judy O'Dell  
Mary Kallio  
Donna Loney  
Barbara Johnson  
Barbara Hazlett*

*Peggy Ruiter  
Lynn Flegel  
Kay Fortin  
Rasma McMullen  
Phyllis Lindsey  
Clarene Kersting*

# BOLD PEOPLE OF GOD

*"I will be their God and they will be my people." Jeremiah 31:33b*

## Spring Gathering 2015

*April 18, 2015*

*Mamrelund Lutheran Church  
4085 Lutheran Church Rd, Kent City, MI*

*Registration begins at 9:00 am*

*Lunch is provided*

*Cost is \$10.00 and can be paid at the door  
Please Pre-register*

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Send this form/payment to:

**Kay Fortin  
10060 S. Leer Rd.  
Posen, MI 49778**

If you have any questions about registration contact Kay at (989) 379-4538 or email her at  
[fortinkus@yahoo.com](mailto:fortinkus@yahoo.com)

**Make checks payable to: Women of the ELCA**

## To the Women of the ELCA N/WLM Synod:

Below you will find a special nomination form to be used if you feel you have a bold woman in your church unit who would make an excellent delegate to our Triennial in July of 2017. She is someone who has been active at both your local level and the synod level, either as an officer or board member and she regularly attends functions i.e. gatherings, retreats, conventions etc. We would prefer if she attends the Convention on September 25, 2015, so that she is available if the delegates have any questions to ask her prior to the vote for our Triennial delegates. We will be selecting three (3) delegates and two (2) alternates in case one of our delegates are unable to attend for any reason. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

June Keysor, N/WLM Synodical President

---

### TRIENNIAL DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM

#### *Women of the ELCA Tenth Triennial Convention*

Each congregational unit may nominate one woman and submit that name to the Synodical Nominating Committee. The Committee will prepare the slate of candidates to be voted on at the N/WLM Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention at Kettunen Center in Tustin, MI on September 25, 2015.

Of the three (3) delegates elected from N/WLM Synod one (1) must be a first time delegate. Returning delegates can only serve 2 conventions in succession.

Please complete this nomination form and send it by September 13, 2015 to:

June Keysor  
828 S. Mill St. Apt. 86  
Reed City, MI 49677 or  
Email at: [keysorj66@yahoo.com](mailto:keysorj66@yahoo.com)

We, the members of \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church in \_\_\_\_\_, Michigan, nominate for Women of the ELCA Triennial delegate  
(Name) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Address) \_\_\_\_\_ (Town) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_  
(Home phone) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Age category \_\_\_\_ under 21 \_\_\_\_ 21□30 \_\_\_\_ 31□40 \_\_\_\_ 41□50  
\_\_\_\_ 51□60 \_\_\_\_ 61□70 \_\_\_\_ 71□80 \_\_\_\_ 81 and over  
Ethnicity \_\_\_\_\_  
Language \_\_\_\_ English \_\_\_\_ Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Women of the ELCA Participation and Leadership:

# Nomination Form for Fall Convention/Retreat 2015

## To Be Used for Officer or Board Member

Person's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor/Church Name & City \_\_\_\_\_

Position Selecting (Circle One)    Officer    Board Member

If Officer (circle One)    President    Vice President    Secretary    Treasurer

What will this person bring to enhance the position being nominated for:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Nominee's Home Church \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Person Nominating \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send This Completed Form To:

June Keysor  
828 S Mill St. Apt. 86  
Reed City, MI 49677 or  
email [keysorj66@yahoo.com](mailto:keysorj66@yahoo.com)

Before September 20, 2015

# Scholarship Application Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Event you are applying for \_\_\_\_\_

Synodical Event \_\_\_\_\_ Church Wide \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Cost \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be able to attend without financial help? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you incur extra costs besides the event that you will need assistance with? \_\_\_\_\_ If so approximately how much? \_\_\_\_\_ *Example: Mileage, Baby Sitting, Food etc.*

What do you hope to learn from this event ? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to share this experience with members of your congregation and other women? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to write an article summarizing your experience for the Living Threads? \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please apply 30 days prior to the event. All Applications should be sent to:**

Peggy Ruitter  
1965 Cutler Ave  
Muskegon, MI 49441  
(231) 670 5751 [ruitpeggy@gmail.com](mailto:ruitpeggy@gmail.com)

*You will receive confirmation of your scholarship by e-mail or mail prior to the event*

## CHANGE OF OFFICERS

Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

### PRESIDENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### VICE PRESIDENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### SECRETARY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

### TREASURER

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*If you do not have an organized W/ELCA unit in your congregation, please  
give us information on a contact person for your group for this year.\*\*\*\*\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

E mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to

**June Keysor, President**  
**828 S Mill St. Apt. 86**  
**Reed City MI 49677, or**  
**email [keysorj66@yahoo.com](mailto:keysorj66@yahoo.com)**