



# Living Threads

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

*"The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and His ears are open unto their cry."*  
Psalm 34:15



N/WLM Women of the ELCA Synodical Board

## Dear Women of the ELCA,

**Wow**, it's hard to believe that the year is half over and it is almost time for our Fall Convention/Retreat. So much to do and so little time, but with the Lord's help I will prevail.

As some of you know I have been in the process of buying a home and now I am moving in and trying to find a place for everything.. I went from a very crowded two bedroom apartment to a three bedroom house with walk in closets in every bedroom. Now you know why the newsletter was so late in getting out and I apologize for the inconvenience.

I really am excited about the upcoming Convention/Retreat this September. You will find a flyer and registration form further back in the newsletter and I encourage you to print them off

and copy them so they can be available for the women who are interested in attending.

Take the time to choose someone to attend the Convention on **Saturday Morning** you may want to offer to pay for her to attend. If your unit can't afford to do this encourage her to send in the application for assistance through our Scholarship Fund.

Start planning now to take the time to attend you don't want to miss this one, we really went all out. We have a Bible studies, fantastic keynote speaker, a representative from our Churchwide Board, special workshop leaders, lots of music and even special entertainment from your Synodical board you won't want to miss.

I would like to take this time to thank my Officers and Board members for the fantastic job they did for me during the last two years. This is why I used the Board picture at the top of my article.

It is so hard to believe the last two years have passed by so quickly. It seems like only yesterday that I was elected and wondering what I could do to encourage our growth, make our units work more closely with each other and stress the needs in our area of Northern Michigan. I would also like to thank all of you for your support making the last two years a fantastic adventure.

Love,  
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  
[hilltop troll61@gmail.com](mailto:hilltop troll61@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) 829-5483  
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**

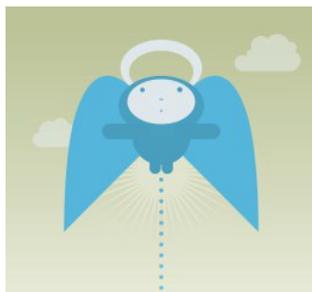
[livingthreads@yahoo.com](mailto:livingthreads@yahoo.com)

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



This is an actual call to customer service.

**Samsung Electronics**

**Caller: 'Can you give me the telephone number for Jack?'**

By  
Linda Ward

**Operator: 'I'm sorry, sir, I don't understand**

**who you are talking about.'**

**Caller: 'On page 1, section 5, of the user guide it clearly states that I need to unplug the fax machine from the AC wall socket and telephone Jack before cleaning. Now, can you give me the number for Jack?'**

Ahh, do we understand our own language? It seems to get more complicated every day. I have a dictionary published in 1966. Can you imagine how many words have come into usage since then?

But have courage: God's word is the same forever. Oh yes, we have new translations but the message is the same: Jesus Christ yesterday, today and always the same. Through His sacrifice we have hope for the future and through God's grace, life eternal! **Hallelujah!**

*Welcome back Linda. Your lessons in humor have been missed. Editor*

## ***From The Editor's Desk***

By  
***June Keyser***

I read a fantastic book this summer entitled "The Slave Across The Street" written by Theresa Flores. This compelling book kept me enthralled from beginning to end and made me

definitely look at my perception of "human trafficking" in a different way.

From beginning to end this sad but true story of a fifteen year old girl who was savagely treated by human traffickers while living with her family is mind boggling. For the two years that this continued without her family's knowledge gave me a real wake up call. This could happen to anyone, any where, even to my own family.

It is why I can't encourage you enough to take a look at this very serious issue that we, as Women of the ELCA, are involving ourselves in trying to eradicate not only her but worldwide. Read articles, use the search engine on your computers or read a book on "human trafficking" and then join us at our Fall Convention/Retreat in September where we are featuring the issue of "human trafficking" in Northern Michigan. Find out what we can do to stop this horrid issue from spreading any further in our area and how we can help those who have been affected already.

Barbara Hazlett, the chairwoman for our synodical group presented a powerful talk at our Spring Gathering in April on Human Trafficking. It is through her contacts that we have found our guest speakers and workshop leaders. You will get a full update on who they are and what they do in the pre-Convention/Retreat newsletter coming out before September 1st. Be looking for this edition in your August e-mail.

Be vigilant in being aware of what is going on in your children or grandchildren's lives because "human trafficking" is here in Northern Michigan and can happen to you..

See September 25-26, 2015, in Tustin for an informative and yes even fun Convention/Retreat.



**Please don't throw me away or stick me in a pile. Instead take me apart, copy me and share me with your friends.**

**The Editor and I will appreciate it!**

# QUILT RAFFLE

For Scholarship Fund

By Phyllis Lindsey

At our fall Convention/Retreat we encourage congregations to have their women create a quilt that can be raffled with monies going towards our scholarship fund. Some of the quilts are designated for our silent auction and others for a donation raffle.

Many congregations have donated quilts and everyone enjoys seeing them and either signing on silent auction sheets or making a donation towards the raffle drawings.

In addition to quilts, we would welcome any type of donations such as

Home canned jams or jellies, pickles, relishes

Other hand crafted items

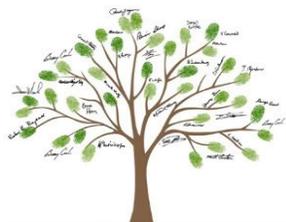
Knitted or crocheted afghans, dish cloths or hot pan holders.

Gift baskets of "goodies" etc.

So, if possible bring a quilt etc. from your church and we will display it at our Fall Convention/Retreat at Kettenun Center September 25-26, 2015, and have an enjoyable time admiring all these beautiful gifts.



our family tree



# 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 Fall Convention/Retreat in September. Contact our Vice-president Peggy Ruitter who is also in charge of the Scholarship Fund. Just fill out the form you will find at the back of this newsletter and send it to:

**Peggy Ruitter**  
**1965 Cutler Ave.**  
**Muskegon, MI 49441**  
**ruitpeggy@gmail.com**  
**(231) 670-5751**

Ladies I implore you to take advantage of this benefit so that you may attend any event offered to you. We do have limited funds and would like anyone who applies to receive some help so we are asking you to pay a part of the funds you need to attend the event. This can be done through your own funds, those of a friend or relative or your home church. Many have special funds budgeted just for this purpose.

As my Granny used to say "It never hurts to ask," you could be pleasantly surprised.





# Women of the ELCA 2015 Convention/Retreat

Where: Kettunen Center - Tustin, MI

When: September 25 & 26, 2015

Prices:

Friday only	\$ 25.00		
Saturday only	50.00		
Friday/Saturday w/o Lodging	75.00		
Friday/Saturday w Lodging	125.00 dbl	145.00 sgl	
<b>Early Bird Registration -</b>			
<b>Before September 13, 2015</b>	<b>115.00 dbl</b>	<b>135.00 sgl</b>	

For more information contact:

Roxy Montague

Phone: (231) 872-0032 or e-mail [roxy.montague@live.com](mailto:roxy.montague@live.com)



# FOCUS ON THE LORD

## 2015 Women of the ELCA Convention/Retreat Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Delegate yes no \_\_\_\_\_  
Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_

### OPTIONS AND COSTS

Friday Only \$25.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Registration from 5:30-7:00 pm  
Saturday Only \$50.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Registration from 7:30-9:00 am  
Friday/Saturday w/o Lodging \$75.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday/Saturday with Lodging Dbl Occ \$125.00 \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday/Saturday with Lodging Sgl Occ \$145.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Early Bird Registration Before September 20, 2014**  
**FULL PACKAGE ONLY Dbl. \$115.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Sgl \$135.00 \_\_\_\_\_**

Send this form with your payment to our Registrar  
Roxy Montague  
10106 Alpine  
Reed City, MI 49677

**Please make checks/money orders 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 26, 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 26, 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)    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)**