

The 8th Annual Convocation of Carolinas Lutheran Women was held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Statesville, NC on September 29, 2018. The theme for the day was "ROAD TRIP: NAVIGATING YOUR FAITH JOURNEY"

Lynn Coughenour, CLW Council Chair, opened the meeting, along with Brenda Dunn, St. John's Lutheran Church Women's President, who brought greetings from the host congregation.

An opening skit entitled "Are We There Yet?" was presented by the ladies of Concordia Lutheran Church, China Grove, NC.

Rev. Ernie Sheldon, St. John's Lutheran Church, Statesville, NC had the opening prayer, and then gave an update on the NALC disaster response, as St. John's is a collection point. All that has been collected has been sent to the east coast, and the storage building is about ½ full again. That will also be going out soon. We fill the gaps after the government stops – or isn't present. Dean Nathan Yoder will be sending a letter to challenge each congregation to complete 25 flood buckets and 25 health kits. There is a CRITICAL need for N95 respirator mask and trash bags. Money can also be sent to NALC disaster relief.

The opening hymn: "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" was sung.

MISSION CHURCHES UPDATE :

Rev. Paulette McHugh reported on Joy Lutheran Church, West Columbia, SC which began nearly a year ago when she felt the need to do more with her gifts . She had been working as a supply pastor and there was no congregation in the Columbia area at the time. The congregation is doing a mission of the month with September being the first one . The supported an ALS walk in honor of a member and had 33 people participating. They also held a paper towel drive. The October project came early because of Hurricane Florence, and members helped with that. In November they will be holding an Alzheimer's walk. Members are going to nursing homes and reading to the residents. God has certainly been with them as they just opened their own bank account so money can now be sent directly to them. (Use Holy Trinity, Little Mountain, SC address). They are hoping to reach the unchurched. Currently they are worshiping at a funeral home so they have use of a piano & organ – FREE of charge. They are forming a leadership team and will officially receive new members/missionary disciples on Reformation Sunday.

Rev. David Brooks was absent and in Raleigh today, so Pastor Ernie Sheldon presented letter prepared by Pr. Brooks for Triangle Mission Congregation, which is supported by St. John's Statesville as the fiscal agent. Donations for Triangle Mission should be sent to St. John's and memo to Triangle. The reason for this is that this allows the pastor of the mission congregation to minister and someone else handles the finances. The pastor there has a full time job to support himself – as the congregation is not large enough yet to pay a salary.

The Business Session began with the Roll Call of the CLW affiliated congregations with Janet Rash, CLW Council Secretary. There were 73 present plus 3 visitors from Virginia and one male visitor. This included 3 pastors present.

A copy of the 2017 Convocation Minutes are available on the website: www.CarolinasLutheranWomen.org, and a copy was provided for each table. After review and one correction of the name of Karen Pawluk, a motion to accept was made by Thelma Horres, Advent, N. Charleston, and seconded by Gloria Ziemer. The motion passed.

The Treasurer's Report was presented by Jennie Cannon, CLW Council Treasurer. The total in our treasure is \$5037.51. Jennie then presented the 2019 proposed expenditure budget, and it was approved as presented.

2019 CLW COUNCIL ELECTION : Kay Weaver, CLW Council presented the nominees for council. There was only one name on the ballot, Janet Rash (currently on the council, and eligible for re-election), but 3 are needed to fill the vacant seats. Nominations were accepted from the floor and were: Thelma Horres, Advent, N. Charleston and Ginger Klock, Holy Trinity, Troutman. The nominations were closed. Rev. Paulette McHugh had the prayer before the voting. A motion was made by Jayne Lingle and seconded by Susanne Bebbler to accept the nominations by acclamation. The motion passed.

The offering was received and will be divided between the 2 mission congregations: Joy Lutheran Church and Triangle Lutheran Mission. **In-Kind Gifts** were brought for Iredell Christian Ministries. Gloria Ziemer, CLW council had the prayer for the offering and in-kind gifts. The offering received for Iredell Christian Ministries included non-perishable items and also \$200 in checks. The offering for the 2 mission congregations received totaled \$1826.00.

Bible Study: Road Trip – Navigating Your Faith Journey was presented by Brenda Dunn, CLW council and was based on Proverbs 3:6 – “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” A book given out (1 to each church in attendance) entitled Knowing God’s Word – Women of Faith Study Guide Series.

HYMN: “THY WORD IS A LAMP UNTO MY FEET” was sung, followed by the installation service of the newly elected council members.

The Benediction by Rev. Ernie Sheldon, St. John’s Lutheran Church, Statesville, NC was followed by the closing hymn: “God Be With You Till We Meet Again.”

The ladies of St. John’s served a delicious lunch.

UPCOMING CONVOCATIONS:

2019 CLW Convocation – September 28 - Concordia Lutheran Church, China Grove, NC

2020 CLW Convocation – September 26 – St. Jacob’s Lutheran Church, Chapin, SC

2021 CLW Convocation – (Date TBA) - Faith Lutheran Church, Faith, NC

Lynn Coughenour, CLW Council Chair
Janet Rash, Secretary