

2nd Annual Convocation Carolinas Lutheran Women October 13, 2012

The 2nd Annual Convocation for the Carolinas Lutheran Women (CLW) was held at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rockwell, North Carolina, on October 13, 2012. Ninety-four persons attending represented 22 congregations from North and South Carolina North American Lutheran Church (NALC) and Lutheran Congregations for Mission in Christ (LCMC). Brenda Dunn (St. John's, Statesville), CLW Council member and Historian, provided prelude music as women gathered and participated at their tables with an activity entitled "What's in Your Bag?" Genevieve Lambert (St. Paul's, Salisbury), CLW Council Chair, also welcomed those in attendance and introduced other Council members. Greetings and welcome were brought by Karen Goodman, Immanuel Lutheran Women's President.

Lambert highlighted the Council's activities since the last convocation. The Council met 7 times since organizing in October 2011, created a map to show NALC and LCMC congregations and marked the affiliated CLW congregations (map was on display); formed a website (www.carolinaslutheranwomen.org) and noted that the service provider had been changed; attended Carolinas Mission District in May and led 2 workshops; made recommendations to the WNALC provisional constitution; attended the annual meeting in August of the Women of the NALC (WNALC); recognized three WNALC Council members from North Carolina in attendance: Lynn Coughenour (Union, Salisbury), Dorothy Johnson (New Jerusalem, Hickory), and Jan Williams (Concordia, China Grove); began compiling project ideas for women's ministry to assist congregations in adding to or extending their ministries; mailed and/or e-mailed updates on contact list to affiliated women's congregations.

Following Immanuel Pastor Bruce Sheeks' word of welcome and prayer, Janet Rash (Salem, Salisbury) read the scripture from Galatians 2:20, and the women joined in the opening hymn, "Blessed Assurance."

Brenda Dunn and Genevieve Lambert presented a devotional entitled "What's in Your Bag?" that reminded us of some of the basics that Christians should carry with them in their everyday living. The nonessentials should be eliminated that do not allow us to serve Christ and praise God.

The business session began with the roll call by Sandra Bollinger (New Jerusalem, Hickory), Secretary. She called attention to the list of affiliated congregations on page 15 of the program: Advent, North Charleston-3, Christ United, Granite Falls-2, Christiana, Salisbury-5 (+1 Dean Haynes), Concordia, China Grove-4, Faith, Faith-6, Holy Trinity, Gastonia-2, Holy Trinity, Troutman-3, Immanuel, Rockwell-16 (+1 Pastor Sheeks), Immanuel, Sumter-2, New Jerusalem, Hickory-3, New Life, New London-1, Our Savior, Dallas-4, Salem, Salisbury-2, Shiloh, Hickory-5, St. James, Newton-6, St. John's, Asheboro-2, St. John's, Statesville-2 (+1 Brenda's Husband), St. Martin's, Maiden-2, St. Paul's, Salisbury-3, St. Peter's, Chapin-6, Union, Salisbury-4, Non-Affiliated: Cross of Christ, Concord-8 **TOTAL WOMEN PRESENT: 91, Churches represented: 22**

LaVaughn Beaver (Christiana, Salisbury) provided the Treasurer's report on pages 7-8. The balance is \$1568.16. She explained about contributions and offerings for the day. Donations were listed on page 9 and totaled \$629.07. The Treasurer's records are audited with Christiana's books, and checks are made to Christiana Lutheran Church for the CLW. The report was accepted as information.

The proposed distributions for October 2012 – October 2013 are \$2,422.00 and were recorded on page 9. A question was asked about the last three items: Great Commission Fund NALC, LCMC Missionary Fund, and Carolinas Mission District. Pastor Carl Haynes (Christiana, Salisbury), Dean of the Carolinas Mission District, explained that we have 35 churches affiliated in the NALC in North and South Carolina. Presently in the NALC there are four missionaries serving outside the country. He suggested checking the national website at www.thenalc.org for the details on missionaries. Lambert explained that the LCMC also has a similar missionary fund. A question was asked about giving more to missionary support. Through the love offerings for missionaries and through additional contributions to the CLW, the line items will be considered for increases in the future.

Another suggestion to provide more revenue was to charge \$10-15.00 for registration for the convocations so that the extra money could be added to the budget or offerings. Other discussion suggested that it was important to keep the registration expense at a minimum for those traveling long distances and for retirees on a limited budget. Karen Goodman noted that Immanuel women had worked closely within the designated amount, even furnishing the decorations and other items at their women's expense. It was suggested that additional offerings could be made to Christiana Lutheran Church for the CLW. The memo line should designate

whether the gift is for missionaries or the CLW. Comment cards were provided for additional suggestions. Following this discussion, the motion was made and seconded and the budget was approved.

The proposed guidelines change under Convocation (p. 10) was introduced as follows: The Carolinas Lutheran Women will hold its annual Convocation on a Saturday (**in the fall**) during the month of October. Changing the time to the fall would allow more flexibility in the choice of dates for the host church and the CLW Council's calendars. The proposed change was approved as amended.

Ann Tucker (Union, Salisbury), Council Member, presented the guidelines for election (Leadership on page 10 and Elections on page 11) and the slate of nominees on pages 12-13: Brenda Dunn (St. John's, Statesville), Thelma Horres (Advent, North Charleston), Lisa Overcash (Faith, Faith), and Reba Reinhardt (St. Martin's, Maiden). No nominations were made from the floor.

Dean Haynes had the prayer before the voting by ballot. The three WNALC Council members served as the Teller committee.

Genevieve Lambert had the prayer for the love offering for LCMC/NALC missionaries.

LaVaughn Beaver wrote and narrated a skit entitled "The Bag Lady." Other participants from Christiana Church included Joyce Cavanagh-Wood, the Bag Lady; Aubrey Honeycutt, the child; Abby Cozart, the teenager; and Jeniffer Honeycutt, the young adult. As the young person grew in years, she conversed with and became compassionate toward the Bag Lady, rather than ridiculing her. She eventually accepted the Bag Lady as a special earth angel.

The final offering was \$752.00 for the Missionary Love Offering and \$95.00 for CLW expenses for a total of \$847.00. The In-Kind gifts for the Battered Women's Shelter filled 2 pick-up truck beds and included everything from paper products, cleaning products, about 25 gas cards, children's toys, and products for women.

The election results for a two-year term were as follows: Brenda Dunn (St. John's, Statesville), Thelma Horres (Advent, North Charleston), and Lisa Overcash (Faith, Faith).

The women were asked to return their name tags to the registration table, along with the comment card (used or not).

Totals were shared from the ice breaker, "What's in Your Bag?" Winning tables received individual prizes for their bags. Take-home favors for everyone attending included the little bag (purse), a bookmark, and an angel ornament.

The women were organized into new table groups. The groups then shared additional ministry/project ideas besides the ones on the two-page handout. Additional ideas were to be handed to LaVaughn Beaver for an updated list to be posted on the website. Additional ideas presented to the total group included Smarties for Jesus, Sponsors for Papua, New Guinea, a prayer shawl ministry, a meal for Habitat workers, and pillowcase dresses for African girls.

Under additional business, Lynn Coughenour, Women of the NALC (WNALC) Liaison to Carolinas Mission District and Vice President of the WNALC Council, brought an update about what has been happening at the national level in women's ministries. The women's organization was begun in 2011 with a provisional constitution. The purpose was to assist women's organizations and link women's groups in faith, hope, and love and in the four attributes of the NALC (Christ-centered, Mission-driven, Traditionally-grounded, and Congregationally-focused). She thanked the CLW Council for their suggestions for the constitution. Adopting the CLW's example, operational guidelines were adopted at the 2012 WNALC convocation, rather than a constitution. The operational guidelines need to be ratified by each affiliated women's congregational group by April 15, 2013. The Council also included the proposal of giving donations rather than the original apportionment payment, but congregations do not have to give anything to be affiliated. Their website is www.wnalc.org and there is also a Facebook page. Coughenour had forms for affiliation that could be filled out immediately to get on the contact list. A congregation does not have to be affiliated with the CLW to affiliate with WNALC. Each congregation is asked to keep an up-to-date roster. Thus far 85 congregations are affiliated, 6 from Carolinas Mission District. Twenty-five churches contributed \$3,811.77. The focus of the offerings is DOMA for newborns in Ethiopia. There are eight WNALC Council Members. Jeanne Wallace (TX), Chair and Jan Williams, Treasurer.

Coughenour also shared information about the retreat sponsored by the women of South Carolina. The retreat will be at Camp Ebenezer, Rincon, Georgia, outside Savannah. She had the registration form for the November 9-11 event; the cost is \$150.00; the deadline for registering is October 28. Information is on the websites. There will be four session topics on Mary.

Dean Haynes installed the newly elected Council Members.

Pastor Sheeks had the closing thoughts about the history of Immanuel Church, the CLW powerful mission statement, and putting these words into action. It is in serving others that we see them as children of God; it is about helping one person at a time.

As outgoing Council Members, Janet Rash and Reba Reinhardt were recognized for their service. Appreciation was expressed to the Immanuel Church Women for hosting the event and providing many extras.

Pastor Sheeks had the benediction followed by everyone holding hands to the singing of the hymn, "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Following the benediction, guests enjoyed the "bag lunch" provided by Immanuel Lutheran Women. Desserts were provided by Christiana Lutheran Church Women.

Ann Tucker
Carolinas Lutheran Women's Council Member
Union Lutheran Church, Salisbury