

**5th Annual Convocation
Carolinas Lutheran Women
October 3, 2015**

The 5th Annual Convocation for the Carolinas Lutheran Women (CLW), entitled "Treasures from Heaven," was held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Troutman, North Carolina, on October 3, 2015. Seventy-six women and guests represented 14 congregations from North and South Carolina. All guests enjoyed light refreshments provided by the women of Christ United Lutheran Church, Granite Falls prior to the meeting. Jerry McGuire, a member from Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Troutman, provided prelude music as women gathered and greeted one another. Holy Trinity Lutheran Church President, June Hanson opened the Convocation with warm greetings from Christ United, Granite Falls and Holy Trinity, Troutman. Lisa Overcash (Faith, Faith), CLW Council Chair, welcomed those in attendance and introduced other Council members. Holy Trinity's Pastor Dieter Punt opened the assembly with a brief meditation suitable for the weather referencing "ducks in a row" and concluded with an opening prayer.

Historian, Susanne Bebber (Concordia, China Grove) led the Ice Breaker Bible Trivia. The general consensus was that we all still have a lot to learn from the Bible. Following the Ice Breaker, everyone joined in singing the opening hymn, "The Beautiful Treasures."

Pastor Heidi Punt and Dena Henkle, President of Christ United Lutheran Women gave an update on their Mission Church. The church was founded in 2011 and has been a beacon of light to the community in Granite Falls, NC. The church has been involved in many mission outreach events, but the most touching story shared was their homeless bags project. Pastor Punt had asked for the congregational women to supply enough items to fill two bags for the homeless, such as blankets, socks, snacks and toiletry items. Another lady from the congregation had taken it upon herself to make a third bag. After the homeless bags were dedicated for God's service, Pastor Punt went to deliver the bags only to discover that three bags were needed instead of two. God works in mysterious and wonderful ways.

The business session began with the roll call by Secretary, Pam Cansler (St. Martins Maiden). Christ United, Granite Falls – 8, Christiana, Salisbury – 1; Concordia, China Grove – 5; Faith, Faith – 1; Holy Trinity, Troutman – 34 and 2 guests; Mt. Calvary, Claremont - 1; New Jerusalem, Hickory – 5; Our Savior, Dallas – 1; Shiloh, Hickory - 2; St. Jacobs, Chapin, SC – 2; St. John's, Statesville – 3 and 1 guest; St. Martin's, Maiden – 6 and 1 guest; St. Peter, Chapin, SC – 1 and 1 guest; Union, Salisbury - 2. **Total Present: 76; Churches represented: 14.**

President, Lisa Overcash stated that minutes from the last convocation were on the tables. A motion to approve the 2014 Convocation Minutes was made by Carolyn Wilfong (St. Martins, Maiden) and seconded by Sandra Bollinger (New Jerusalem, Hickory). The motion passed unanimously.

LaVaughn Beaver, Treasurer (Christiana, Salisbury) provided the Treasurer's report located in each folder. The balance as of September 30, 2015 was \$4,098.23. She noted that 10 congregations had

made contributions thus far in 2015. \$435 was used to recreate and update the Carolinas Lutheran Women's website.

LaVaughn called upon President, Lisa Overcash to give a status report on the website. Lisa reported that early in the year, Council found out that the website had been taken down due to the expiration of our subscription. Council immediately went to work to secure a Webmaster. Fortunately, Council Member, Gloria Ziemer's son, Patrick Harmon was able to recreate a new website under the same name (carolinaslutheranwomen.org). The website was up and running the end of August. She encouraged everyone to visit the new website.

LaVaughn also presented the 2016 Proposed Expenditure Budget, located below the Financial Report in each folder. The CLW Council proposed a \$158 increase over last year's budget to maintain the website. LaVaughn explained that the Convocation's Love Offering was designated for Samaritan's Purse and would be rounded up to make an even number, at Council's approval. 32% of the total budget is planned for Mission Outreach next year. Reba Reinhardt (St. Martins, Maiden) made a motion to approve the 2015 Budget, and Elizabeth Morrison (Holy Trinity, Troutman) seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Council Member, Ann Tucker (Union, Salisbury), presented the slate of nominees for Council on pages 8-9: Susanne Bebber (Concordia, China Grove), Pam Cansler (St. Martins, Maiden), Lynn Coughenour (Union, Salisbury), Brenda Dunn (St. John's, Statesville), Janet Rash (Salem, Salisbury) and Kay Weaver (New Jerusalem, Hickory). No nominations were made from the floor. Pastor Heidi Punt from Christ United Lutheran Church, Granite Falls led the assembly in prayer before voting. According to guidelines, the nominees with the top highest number of votes will be elected to Council. The four nominees receiving the highest votes to fill the expired terms for 2016 were: Susanne Bebber (Concordia, China Grove), Pam Cansler (St. Martins, Maiden), Lynn Coughenour (Union, Salisbury) and Brenda Dunn (St. John's, Statesville).

President, Lisa Overcash (Faith, Faith) highlighted the Council's activities since the last Convocation. The Council met five times since September, 2014. An informational meeting was held in May at Christ United Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, NC and then Council traveled to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Troutman, NC. Greetings were shared from Carolinas Lutheran Women at the Carolinas Mission District Convocation at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Gastonia that same month. In August, one Council member was able to travel to the National NALC Conference in Dallas, TX.

Lisa received two comments from the assembly including a request to have the Convocation minutes mailed to the churches who could not attend the event. The minutes will be posted on the website and sent via email or by mail to the 24 churches not in attendance. Also, the question was asked if Carolinas Lutheran Women had a Facebook page. CLW does not have a Facebook page at this time, but Council would certainly discuss the suggestion. If anyone was particularly gifted in this area and would volunteer their input, Council would be grateful. Lisa announced that there were comment cards in each folder for feedback on the event and the willingness to host future Convocations.

The Convocation Offering will be given to Samaritan's Purse, a non-profit organization that works to meet the physical needs of the poor, sick and suffering all over the world while spreading the hope and love of Jesus. Council Treasurer, LaVaughn Beaver (Christiana, Salisbury) encouraged everyone to browse through the catalog for a brief description of the 42 Mission Projects that Samaritan's Purse currently supports. Unless individual checks specified a particular project, Council would decide how the funds would be allocated at their next meeting.

In-Kind Gifts of paper products collected will be divided between My Sister's House, a shelter that provides a safe living environment for victims of violence in Iredell County and South Caldwell Christian Ministries who provides crisis assistance to those in need in Caldwell County.

Treasurer, LaVaughn Beaver (Christiana, Salisbury), offered prayer for Samaritan's Purse, My Sister's House and South Caldwell Christian Ministries. The total amount collected for Samaritan's Purse was \$1,712.03, which Council voted to increase to \$2,000. In-kind gifts for my Sister's House totaled \$110 and was increased to \$275. In the same manner, South Caldwell Christian Ministries received \$125 and was increased to \$275 by Council.

A second hymn, "Take My Life" was sung.

Council Member, Jennie Cannon (St. Peter, Chapin, SC) led us in our program "Treasures From Heaven." Jennie read the Bible passage from Matthew 6: 19-24. This passage discusses two temptations to beware: (1) doing works to receive praise from man instead of doing works in secret where only God knows and (2) seeking treasures on earth instead of having meaningful relationships with God through Jesus Christ. "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" Matthew 6:21. Each participant was instructed to fill their treasure chests with the Bible verses provided, as well as write down some favorite verses of their own. We were asked to write down our blessings and place them in the chest and finally to decorate the treasure chests with beautiful gems. We were encouraged to keep the chests handy to lift us up when this earthly world gets us down and to add verses and blessings as God continues lead us throughout our lifetimes.

Rev. Nathan Yoder, Dean of Carolinas Mission District, (St. Martins, Maiden) installed the newly elected Council. Pastor Heidi Punt from Christ United Lutheran Church, Granite Falls then gave the benediction followed by everyone singing "God Be With You Till We Meet Again."

Following the benediction, lunch was provided by the women of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Troutman.

Pam Cansler
Carolinas Lutheran Women's Secretary
St. Martins Lutheran Church, Maiden, NC