

Grace Lutheran Church Unit

Purpose Statement, Women of the ELCA

As a community of women created in the image of God called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.



We, the women of the Grace Lutheran Church Unit

Shall commit ourselves to:

Come together for study, support and action. Participate in the ministry of Women of ELCA beyond the congregation. Support financially the total program of the Women of the ELCA. Designate leadership that shall be in communication with the Synodical and Church-wide Women's Organization.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE

All women of Grace Lutheran Church constitute this "unit" of Women of the ELCA. We have chosen to call our local "unit", Grace Lutheran Church Women, (GLCW). All women are placed in Bible study groups, known as Circles. Participation is open to all women in our community who subscribe to our purpose.

In each "circle" list are names of those who actively participate in the monthly Bible studies AND others whom that circle calls upon when opportunities arise for events such as a Salad Luncheon, Ice Cream Social, or Soup Supper which provide fellowship and funds for projects determined by the GLCW. (Traditionally, all proceeds from the Soup Supper are used for World Hunger.)

Our local "unit" connects with women from congregations known as the Shetek Conference Women's organization. The Shetek Conference connects to the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Women's organization (SSWO). All of us together across the USA constitute the Churchwide Women's Organization (CWO) of the ELCA.

The Shetek Conference provides a fall workshop for new and returning officers at Lake Shetek Bible Camp. The Conference Women also host a spring gathering, usually in April, for ALL women of the Shetek Conference and churches rotate hosting this event.

The Southwestern Minnesota Synod Women's Organization holds a Synod Assembly for ALL women in the Synod.

The Churchwide Women's Organization is based at the ELCA Headquarters in Chicago and conventions of the group are held triennially.

GLCW INFORMATION

I. Schedule of Meetings

- **General:** There shall be up to 12 monthly meetings of the GLCW, which meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month unless otherwise indicated. The majority of the meetings are at 2.00 p.m., however, other meeting times may be scheduled.
- **GLCW Executive Board:** There shall be up to 12 monthly meetings prior to the general meetings.
- **Circles:** There shall be up to 12 monthly circle meetings, which currently meet on the 4th Tuesday, early morning or evening, and the 4th Thursday, morning, afternoon or evening.

Day of Doing: Participants meet the first and fifth Thursdays of each month with hours designated by the Community Action Chairperson. Occasionally we will meet on the Third Thursday of the month.

MISSION ACTION ACTIVITIES

- **Goal:** To enable women to articulate and act upon their faith as disciples of Jesus Christ in all areas of life.
- **Mission ACTION** - is about being in direct servant roles, assisting women in understanding that stewardship of time, talent, skills and resources is a way of promoting life and action in the world. The November Thankoffering received goes to support some of the many worthy programs of the Churchwide organization.
- **DAY OF DOING** - is a very significant phase of our community life. Most months we meet the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month. You are invited to come and help put the quilts together and work on other projects.
- There are several sewing machines available. There is always a need of materials for tops; fillers and backs, and cash donations for buying supplies are greatly appreciated. Our finished quilts measure 60 inches by 80 inches.
- **Circle groups and individuals are encouraged to participate in other Lutheran World Relief - LWR - projects which are described on the following pages.**

1. SCHOOL KITS

- 6 unsharpened #2 pencils (with erasers)
- 12 sheets of construction paper
- Spiral notebooks (8 1/2" x 11" paper)
- 150-200 pages (3-70 count notebooks)
- 1 pencil sharpener
- 1 12" metric ruler
- 1 blunt scissors
- 1 box of crayons (16-24)
- 1 eraser 2½" long

2. HEALTH KITS

- 1 hand towel (dark color)—
- 1 nail clipper with a file
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 wash cloth (dark color)
- 1 comb (wide tooth preferred)
- 6 Band Aids (½"- ¾")
- 1 new bath-size bar of soap (in original wrapping)
- Wrap all items in towel and tie with string or yarn.

3. LAYETTES

- 2 shirts or *onesies*
- 2 wash cloths
- 2 receiving blankets
- 2 gowns or 2 sleepers
- 1 bath size bar of gentle soap in original wrapping
- 2 safety pins
- 4 cloth diapers
- 1 sweater or infant sweatshirts
- (Sizes up to 24 months may be used).

Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted or made from heavy double knits. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.

Wrap layette items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with the safety pins.

Disposable diapers are used in the layettes made for McKennan Hospital or Birthright.

4. STAMPS

Canceled stamps provide occupational therapy and income for clients at Bethphage Mission of the Great Plain, Inc. Axtell, NE Trim the stamps leaving a ½" border around the stamps.

5. CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS

Labels provide educational equipment and material at the Children's Haven Int'l, Pharr, TX and St Judes in Boulder City, NV. Only the front of the label is needed.

6. QUILTS

A LWR quilt is special! It brings warmth on a cold night, shelter from the sun on a hot day. It becomes a bed, a room divider, a backpack to carry belongings, and at times, even a home. Quilts can be made from recycled or new materials.

Donations are always welcome. Quilt tops do not need to be made of squares. Large pieces do not need to be cut up. If squares are preferred, twelve 22" squares make a 64"x 84"quilt top. Tops and bottoms need to measure at least 62" x 82" to allow for the finished size of 60" x 80" for LWR.

Our GLCW also gives quilts to local and area needs. Also give to Cross Road Missions

7. CARDS

Used greetings are brought to Mary Jane Brown Home in Luverne. The residents recycle them and make new cards out of them. We can use the whole card, just make sure there is no message in it. They trim the verses and put them in cards also.

8. SOAP

A brand new bar of soap signals dignity and cleanliness. LWR accepts new bars of any brand of soap, in its original wrapping. All bars sizes are accepted; however, bath-size is highly preferred.

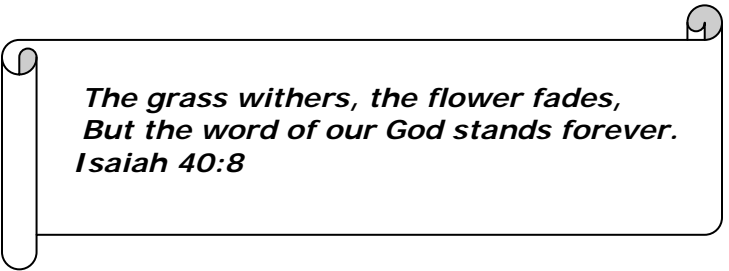
FUNERAL SERVING GROUPS

There are 10 serving groups that will serve the lunch for funerals. These groups are called upon in rotation when there is a funeral. These groups are organized by the GLCWomen's organization, but encompass the entire congregation, not just the women.

LUTHERAN WOMAN TODAY MAGAZINE TODAY

The Lutheran Woman Today magazine contains inspiring and informative articles, which keep us in touch with the mission and ministry of the Women of the ELCA. September through May issues contain a 9-month Bible study, with a separate study for the summer months. The GLCW will give complimentary one-year subscriptions to new members.

The Women of the ELCA will send individual renewal reminders. For questions about your subscription call Augsburg Fortress 1-800-328-4648.



***The grass withers, the flower fades,
But the word of our God stands forever.
Isaiah 40:8***