



The Bulletin

November 2025

*“Mobilizing women
to act boldly on
their faith in Jesus
Christ”*

Our Purpose

“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.”



Greetings, dear sisters,

As I write this, we are only a couple of weeks away from Thanksgiving and the beginning of Advent. This time of year is usually a joyful one, as we anticipate celebrations of all kinds and the fun of Christmas

But for many of our friends and neighbors, times are hard this year. We all know why and I won't elaborate. Those friends and neighbors are in our prayers, but as we pray for them, let's not stop there.

Knowing that so many are struggling to put food on the table, to keep a roof over their family's head, to get from day to day... makes me thankful for everything God has given to me. My husband and I have food in our refrigerator, a home which certainly not fancy is safe and warm, everything we need and some of what we want. We are blessed.

There are many ways to help those who are struggling this season. Find some and do what you can. That's what we do when times are uncertain. We come together. We help. It's in our DNA as Americans. Gratitude means giving from what you have, not just saying thank you for it.

I wish you all a blessed, peaceful Thanksgiving, whether you celebrate surrounded by friends and family or simply and quietly...

Be well, be blessed,

Julie Arndt, Secretary, NC ELCA

The Bulletin is published monthly by the North Carolina Women of the ELCA. Submissions for photos, news stories, and other items of interest are welcome. Please limit stories to 500 words. Photos should be submitted with a brief caption that explains what is shown, date of the event, and who is shown.

Deadline for monthly submissions is the **6th of each month for publication on or about the 15th of each month.**

Send submissions to Julie Arndt, Secretary and Bulletin Editor, at the following email: **secretaryncwelca@gmail.com** as either word documents or Google documents.

From the President

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Wow-- it is already November! Thanksgiving is just around the corner, and Christmas will be here before we know it. As I sit and write this message, I find myself reflecting on the All-Saints Sunday service from yesterday. Our church lost three members this past year and our pastor shared touching reflections on their lives. When he spoke about their selfless service to the church and its members, I was reminded me of the Service of Remembrance we hold at our

Fall Gatherings.

Each time I attend that service, I hear the names of women I have known – and some I haven't. What always strikes me is that every one of these women is remembered for her faithful service to the Women of the ELCA and to her church family. What a legacy of love and dedication!

The Fall Gatherings are now behind us, and I had the blessing of attending four of them this year. Each one was truly rewarding. I was able to renew friendships with sisters that I don't see often and meet many inspiring women who I look forward to seeing again in the future.

As we move into November and December, our congregations will be filled with special activities and celebrations. Then, in January, we look forward to gathering again for Committee Day – another wonderful opportunity to connect and serve together.

Watch for more information in upcoming editions of the ***Bulletin***.

May this season of gratitude and anticipation fill your hearts with peace and joy.

**Your sister in
Christ,
Terri Brown**

Fall Offerings benefit women, children around the world

How do you gift wrap a rooster? The obvious answer might be, "Very carefully." But if you give one through ELCA GOOD GIFTS, the answer becomes, "You don't!" North Carolina's Women of the ELCA chose GOOD GIFTS as the purpose for offerings from Fall Gatherings this year.

When women from over North Carolina met in October for their Fall Conference Gatherings, the offerings were headed for GOOD GIFTS.

"Our offerings always support a

great cause, especially ones that benefit women and children here in our state," said Terri Brown, president of NC Women of the ELCA. "This year we chose ELCA GOOD GIFTS. We wanted to support women and children around the world, and to support the ELCA ministries. It's in our purpose statement: we support and affirm women in our society and the world."

GOOD GIFTS supports ministries of the ELCA in nearly 80 countries. They can include baby chicks, blankets, and school supplies for \$10 all the way to \$2500 for a semester of seminary, a bundle that provides a community resources like bees, goats, seeds and tools for around \$1000.

With a little over \$2200 in Fall

Gathering funds to spend, the board of NC Women of the ELCA went shopping. Selections included microloans, safe birth resources, vaccines for two children, two fully stocked medical clinics, field school for two women, a cook stove, nutrition for a child for a year, school supplies for 23 children, and a rooster.

Said Brown, "We looked for gifts that could make a real difference in people's lives. We were happy to see microloans for women to support small businesses, and the medical clinics, which will benefit entire communities. We were surprised by the range of gifts available and the price range. And we were thankful that our conferences were so generous. Your contributions really do matter. Thank you all."

Maxine Amos Triennial Scholarship established

Maxine Locklear Amos rarely missed a Women of the ELCA Fall or Spring Gathering. She was a fixture at annual Gatherings at Lenoir-Rhyne every summer, and attended every Triennial Gathering, no matter where it was held.

The organization was near and dear to her heart, and Maxine meant a lot to the women of the North Carolina Women of the ELCA. Most current board members can share stories about her influence and encouragement of their involvement in the organization that she often said “gave me a home, a voice, and helped me find a way to serve the Lord boldly. As a woman of color, who understood what it meant to be voiceless, the Women of the ELCA empowered me in more ways than anyone can ever imagine.”

So it was not surprising that, when she passed away this past summer, she left a bequest for the group, expressing her wishes that it be used

“to help the women of North Carolina.”

When the NC WELCA Board convened in November, one of the items on their agenda was how to best fulfill that simple request.

After some discussion, at their November meeting, the Board established the Maxine Amos Triennial Scholarship. Maxine attended every Triennial Gathering and wanted other women to have the opportunity to do the same.

Says President Terri Brown, “Going to Triennial is not inexpensive. There’s airfare, hotels, meals, transportation like bus and cab fares... It adds up in a hurry and can be prohibitive for a lot of women who really want to experience it.” Scholarship funds can be used to cover some of those expenses, and make it possible for a woman to attend, and enjoy the worship and the many activities that are available.

Scholarship recipients will be expected to attend worship services and activities during the Gathering and to write an article for the Bulletin, NC WELCA’s monthly newsletter, about their experience. Scholar-

ships will be given to one woman of color or whose primary language is not English, and to one woman who would not be able to attend a Triennial Gathering due to finances.

Recipients will be expected to take part in Triennial events and worship services, and attend worship services at the convention, which takes place in Des Moines, Iowa in July 16-19, 2026 under the theme “I Am Worthy.”

“We wanted to honor Maxine’s wishes in a meaningful way,” Brown said. “We believe this would make her very happy.”

To apply, complete the simple application that can be found on the website NCWelca.com. A copy will also be attached in this mailing.



Add SALT to your giving: *Share Abundance, Love, and Thanks!*

Women of the ELCA’s fundraising team has launched a new appeal to close last year’s \$250,000 funding gap.

The appeal’s name comes from Leviticus and gives instructions on how to season grain offerings made to God and gives us an important message: We are not just called to

give our “first fruits” but to offer them with seasoning. We define salt as a verb: Share Abundance, Love, and Thanks! (SALT).

Consider adding a little SALT to your donation to Women of the ELCA. Your generosity supports our day-to-day operations (salaries, insurance, postage, technology, rent) and allows us to continue our women’s ministries, anti-racist efforts, Gather magazine, Bold Café, scholarships, grants, and so much more.

The Fundraising team and church-wide executive board member Julia Hong Sabella believes in the power of our shared support for the ministries of Women of the ELCA and has offered a \$50,000 match for the SALT Appeal. **Every dollar you donate to the SALT Appeal will be matched by Julia’s gift up to \$50,000**

Please encourage those you know to SALT their offerings to Women of the ELCA too. Make your special SALT donation today!

Christine Bohr Anderson Scholarship is updated

By Nena Babb, Stewardship Committee

The NC Board of the Women of the ELCA has discussed and agreed to modify the scope of the scholarship to increase participation in the Christine Bohr Anderson scholarship.

Previously, the scholarship was to benefit women of the ELCA who attended a Lutheran seminary. We are now offering the scholarship to a woman who is attending an ACCREDITED seminary. We also agreed that women who are called to go into lay ministry could also apply for the scholarship.

According to the Qualifications form:

"The purpose of the scholarship is to assist women from North Carolina who wish to pursue a seminary education. The scholarship is not restricted to age of applicant or nationality. The amount of the scholarship is one thousand (\$1,000.00) dollars. Notification will be made to the recipient(s) prior to the North Carolina Synodical Women's Organization Gathering in June. The deadline for the applications to be received is May 1. Checks will be mailed to the individual or seminary around August 1.

for the applicant. One of the three requirements must be met.

- A. Applicant must be attending an accredited Seminary. This can include on-line courses.
- B. Applicant must be serving currently in an ELCA Synodical Lay Ministry role.
- C. Applicant must be an ordained minister in the ELCA church and enrolled in courses for Leadership Education.

Please inform members of your congregation who may be considering these ministries.

- I. Eligibility requirements

Showing gratitude through prayer

By Karen Overcash, Discipleship Committee

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

When we pray with a heart of gratitude, we open our hearts to behold God's faithfulness, love, care and grace in our lives. Speak to God from your heart, expressing your thanks for His goodness and guidance. A grateful heart helps us draw closer to

God. We are surrounded by contentment and peace.

My mom and dad have always been my inspiration. Before having breakfast and going to work, they would pray every morning, holding hands, as they thanked God for his blessings. They were grateful for a new day! For the sunrise and sunset, for their loving family, caring friends, food on the table, their home, and for God's love and forgiveness. My parents lived a very simple life. They taught my four brothers and me to be thankful for everything God provided for us.

May our gratitude inspire us to be a blessing to others, and may our hearts be full of thanksgiving

and praise, as we pray to God thanking him for his goodness and mercy.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good: his love endures forever."

Psalms 107:1



Land Acknowledgement: Is it enough?

By Patty Schmid, Justice Committee

Most of our meetings begin with our WELCA mission statement and prayers. Recently, the openings of those meetings include a land acknowledgement to the Indigenous people who once lived on the very land where we stand and pray. Most acknowledgments evoke the sentiment that indigenous peoples acted as “stewards” or “custodians” of the land now occupied by “us”, translated white non-indigenous European settlers.

WELCA carefully constructed our acknowledgement statement and we as members are expected to re-

search and list or name the native peoples who were in the area of our meetings. Of course the intent was correct, righting a wrong perpetrated hundreds of years ago. These acknowledgements have been used to start conversations regarding how non-Indigenous people can support sovereignty and advocate for land repatriation. Unfortunately, these acknowledgements may work against the very intent of the idea and communicate false ideas about the history of dispossession and the current realities of American Indians and Alaska Natives. And those ideas can have detrimental consequences for indigenous peoples and nations.

Oddly, the Association of Indigenous Anthropologists requested a pause to land acknowledgements to recommend changes and reexamine

these practices. No data exists to demonstrate that land acknowledgements lead to measurable concrete change. Instead they often serve as little more than feel-good conformity to what historians Amna Khalid and Jeffrey Aaron Snyder have called “naïve, left-wing paint-by-numbers approach to social justice.”

Even if unintentional, such assertions tacitly affirm the right of the non-indigenous to claim the land as their own. The implication is that “what was once yours is now ours!” Many natives assert this is a denial of their trauma.

The full text of the article by Elisa J. Sobo, Michael Lambert and Valerie Lambert (UNC Chapel Hill) can be found at the **Fayetteville Observer**, Monday October 13, 2025.

Thinking ahead to Spring Gatherings: Planning note

From the Justice Committee

While our Fall Gatherings just wrapped, it seems a little early to start talking about Spring Gatherings already! But the program planners for the upcoming event want everyone to be prepared for an element of the program that might be problematic for some.

The program will include a short video. Someone from host churches or WELCA groups should be able to provide and operate a projector/TV screen/internet connection to show the program video.

If your church does not have access to the needed equipment, begin now to locate someone who can facilitate or loan you equipment for this program.

The program being planned for the Spring is a little different, but the Justice Committee thinks you will find it interesting and insightful. Plan ahead so you can enjoy it to the fullest!

Committee Day II Plans underway

Make your New Year's Resolution now! Attend Committee Day II!

It's happening on January 10 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Garner. Information on hotel accommodations and meals will be available in the next BULLETIN.

We'll hear plans for Spring Gathering programming, touch base with committees, and discuss plans for the June Gathering at Lenoir- Rhyne.

If you're not currently serving on a committee, this is your opportunity to get involved.



Doris Lackey Roof

September 12, 1933 – November 12, 2025



Doris Lackey Roof, 92, of Newton, passed away Wednesday, November 12, 2025 at her residence. Doris was born September 12, 1933, in Cleveland County, to the late James M. Lackey and Lillian G. Harmon Lackey. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband Rev. Lester O. Roof, Jr. and a sister Joann Lackey Collins.

Doris graduated from Lenoir-Rhyne College in 1954 and was a middle school teacher in several school systems in North Carolina including, Lee County, Newton-Conover City Schools, Rowan, and Lincoln Counties. She was a member of the inaugural faculty of Newton-Conover Middle School. **She also served as a past state president of the NC Women of ELCA** and a past president of the Women's Auxiliary of Southern Seminary. She was very involved in the churches of which her husband was pastor.

Doris is survived by two daughters, Carol Eanes and husband Tom of Hampstead and Becky Gladden and husband Jon of Vale; sister, Juanita Lutz, of Kings Mountain; grandchildren, Drew and Matt Eanes of Hampstead, Sarah Grove (Tyler) of Hickory, Caroline Bost (Joe) of Indian Land, SC, and Meredith Gladden of Hickory; great-grandchildren, Sadie and Henry Bost, and Emory and Oliver Grove.

A service to celebrate her life will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 13, 2025 at Faith Lutheran Church, Conover, with the Rev. Rachael Theisen officiating. The family will receive friends following the service in the church fellowship hall.

A family interment was held earlier at St. Luke Cemetery in Kings Mountain. Serving as pallbearers were Drew Eanes, Matt Eanes, Joe Bost, Tyler Grove, Robert Lutz, and Thad Lutz.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions be made to Faith Lutheran Church, 439 7th St. Pl. SW, Conover, NC 28613 or St. Luke Cemetery Fund, c/o Fred Kiser, 2049 County Line Rd. Kings Mountain, NC 28086.

Condolences may be sent to the Roof family at www.willisreynoldsfh.com.

Fall Gatherings around the state....



Southwestern
Bethpage, Lin-
colnton.



Northern Conference, Alamance Lutheran,
Alamance

Central/Salem, Holly Grove, Lexington

Sandhills, St. James, Fayetteville



Rowan, Lutheran
Chapel, China Grove



Triangle, Grace, Raleigh



North Carolina's Women of the ELCA always welcome opportunities to get together for learning, sisterhood, laughter, and God's work in our communities, our society and the world beyond our orders. Whether 10 or 100 ladies attended your Conference Gathering, it looks like this year's meetings were fun for all!

