



THE COLUMBINE

Evangelical Lutheran Women's Newsletter

FALL 2005

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◆ From the Editor

Dear Friends in Christ,
I hope you all enjoyed the summer, albeit we had strange weather and so many tragic events which occurred all over the world. It seemed that it took forever for the summer sun to arrive and then it became so very hot; so many unbelievable changes in the weather occurred all over the world. As well, so many tragic events have taken place, we sometimes wonder if God has abandoned us and when it will all end. Let us pray for those millions of people who are suffering, that they don't forget through all their sadness, pain and grief, that hope stands eternal which manifested itself as a baby boy a long time ago in Bethlehem. Nothing can be so difficult that Jesus will not help his people through it. Like the story of "Footprints in the

sand", He will not abandon you but he will carry you through all the darkest days.

Peace,
Nancy

Evangelical Lutheran Women - Biennial Convention

*submitted by Audrey Krotz
(delegate from St. Paul's
Lutheran, Wallace Township)*

The 10th Biennial Convention of the Eastern Synodical Evangelical Lutheran Women was held from May 27th to 29th, 2005 at the CAW Centre in Port Elgin Ontario. The theme of this year's gathering was "Walking by Faith Through Life's Transitions".

The opening worship for the

conference was held in Faith Lutheran Church, Port Elgin. At this service, a choir of voices from the Georgian Bay Conference performed beautifully providing us with a meaningful entry into our week-end of activities. Our own Frieda Klassen, Audrey Orth, Ruth Bauer and from Listowel, Jan and Al Kipher along with Joyce and Vern Spencer were familiar voices for us to hear in this choir of faith.

Following the service we gathered at the CAW Centre for registration and the official opening of the conference by our Synodical ELW outgoing president, Irene Churchill.

Music was so much a part of

the conference. Rev. Dwight Biggs frequently led us in "Singspiration", a time to Rev. Annette Smith, Pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, Eganville, presided as the Conference Chaplain leading us through times of worship which always returned us to considering the labyrinth - "walking by faith through life's transitions", based on selected passages from Ephesians. A large floor model labyrinth on which we could walk was available and we were encouraged to follow the path, reflect on our options in life, venture into the centre, come to apparent dead-ends (as we do in life), but then discover, believe, know, trust, pray - there is always a way back to the centre of our Christian faith by trying yet another path on our journey. There are indeed times when we do carry one cross or another at various times in our life, but by centering on Christ we find our way back. Pastor Annette assured us by the end of the conference we would most definitely know the difference between a maze and a labyrinth and ---- we do! Do you?

Bishop Pryce, who remains a

enjoy some old, and learn some new, songs of inspiration.

most entertaining speaker, challenged our thinking in many ways but most especially regarding the importance of stewardship in our churches. Stewardship committees, we heard, are so beneficial for all congregations. They bring people together, hold people together and keep congregations sustainable in fellowship and in finances.

In light of the recent controversy regarding the release of Karla Holmolka from prison, and also the release of the movie production entitled "Karla", the following resolution was put forward from the Ottawa-St. Lawrence ELW Conference.

"All levels of ELW will use their influence to discourage production, promotion and distribution of any materials based on the lives of criminals and their activities that depict violence against society in all of its forms".

When voted upon, it passed unanimously. A sister of

Kristen French is an ELW member from the Ottawa-St. Lawrence Conference.

The free choices in our days at the conference were of course the transition workshops that were offered - many wonderful experiences and learning opportunities were provided such as "Mentoring/Nurturing", "Music Therapy", "It's Your Call", "Boom Whackers" (It was the most popular!), "Prayer Walk", "Life as Career Missionaries", and "Native Spirituality and Christianity".

Special Guest Speakers

- Ruth Vince, who is from Winnipeg and serves as The Lutheran World Federation North American Regional Coordinator for women in church and society, involved us in a fascinating and informative presentation regarding her recent trip to Madagascar. Her photos and slides gave us almost a "first hand" understanding of the growth and development of

the Lutheran church in this area.

· Bibi Zabeida Gobin is from our Companion Synod of Guyana, South America. She is a Sunday School teacher, counsellor, and advisor to the District ELCW. Her "guided tour" through the use of slides and delightful conversation was so well received and informative. Her greatest love is working with women and children, planning and participating in seminars, retreats, camps and outings. Zabeida remained in the area visiting with Marie Dale, dining at the home of Audrey Orth and then traveling on to various meetings with Irene Churchill.

· Tony Chegano spoke briefly on the topic of Native Spirituality and Christianity. He was extremely humorous and fascinating. Of particular interest in his address was the analogy he drew between his mother's craft of woven sweet grass, (three blades woven in a braid to become one) and that of the three in one of the Holy Trinity. He told us of the many articles his mom constructed from

the woven sweet grass - such as serving trays, baskets etc. The love he so strongly had for his mother and the love he has for the Christian life and faith, shone brightly and were felt deeply, in his words.

Elections

The delegates elected the following officers:

President, Eastern Synodical ELW - Eleanor McLeod, Georgian Bay Conference

Vice-president, Eastern Synodical ELW - Janet Bennewies, Kitchener/Waterloo Conference

Secretary, Eastern Synodical ELW (acclaimed) - Elaine Agarand, Ottawa/St.Lawrence Conference

Treasurer, Eastern Synodical ELW (acclaimed) - Wynonna McCulloch, Georgian Bay Conference

During our closing worship, which was held in the Assembly hall at the CAW,

we were once again treated to the beautiful music of the Georgian Bay Conference Choir. This service was also a culmination of all that had transpired through the past three days. It left us with a message to carry with us through life -" Just as one season of the year moves on to the next, so goes our life. We have "summer" times of warmth and growth, "autumn" times of when we seem to wither and fade, "winter" times of rest and restoration and "spring" times of growth in new directions".

The three day excursion was one of joy, faith and fellowship; of learning, growing and meeting new friends who share the common bond of Christianity and Lutheranism. We came away knowing our journey involves believing (through worship), belonging (through fellowship) and becoming (through stewardship).

Sister Act

Submitted by Audrey Krotz

May 15, 2005 saw the

Evangelical Lutheran Women at St. Paul’s Wallace Township, enjoying a very special evening entitled “Sister Act”. We invited guests from the ELW at our sister church in Listowel, the UCW members from Zion United Wallace Township and also the Wallace United UCW. Each member, as well as each guest, was asked to bring along her sister(s), or a friend who seemed like a sister. What a unique, fun-filled night it was for all in attendance.

Catherine House, seminary student and member of St. Paul’s was the chairperson for the evening and she reflected on the true meaning all inclusive understanding of sisterhood.

Devotions were led by Karen Burnett and Audrey Krotz in the form of a very entertaining skit about Mary, the frivolous one, and Martha who was “always left with all the work to do!” I guess even in the time of Jesus there was sibling conflict! There certainly was on this night anyway and none will soon forget the story of Mary and Martha.

Audrey Orth and Joyce Spencer performed a musical rendition of “Sisters, sisters, there were never such devoted sisters!” These two sisters were devoted and synchronized; they had fitted themselves into one skirt for the two of them so you can just imagine how together they had to be!

One of our ELW members, Allison Ament, had three sisters and one sister-in-law in attendance for the evening. Needless to say they won the grand prize for the “most closely-knit family of the evening”.

Of course what would a night out at St. Paul’s be without a delicious lunch of cheese, crackers, a tray of chocolate, Ruth Nuhn’s butter tarts and juice or coffee to quench our thirst. It was indeed a truly memorable event.

I always know God won't give me more than I can handle but there are times I wish He didn't trust me quite so much.

The History of Stone

Soup

During wartime, food was not very plentiful. One day a group of soldiers arrived in a small village. They were very hungry and were hoping to get a nice hot meal. When they approached some people on the street asking for food, they were told they didn’t have enough food to feed their own families and could not spare any food for the soldiers.

The soldiers were very clever. They asked if they could build a fire pit in the center of town, and they were given permission. Then they asked if anyone had a large pot they could use to boil water over the fire. That too was provided.

The soldiers now had a fire going and a pot of boiling water. The soldiers gathered a few stones and placed them in the pot.

The people were gathering around the fire to see what was taking place. One lady commented “stones have no flavour – you won’t get much nourishment from stones – how about I give you an onion?” The soldier

was delighted! Another lady offered a couple of carrots. Before long, all of the people gathered at the fire raced home to find something to put in the pot. In just a short

The ELW at Peace Lutheran Church, Pickering, for their September meeting, have a “stone soup supper”. Someone prepares a chicken stock and each lady is asked to bring one cup of vegetables, rice or pasta. All is added to the “pot” and we enjoy a hearty soup and bread supper. The most important ingredient is a stone (a well washed real stone – usually given to the newest member in attendance).

GUYANA

submitted by Irene Churchill

When Zabeida Gobin invited me to their Convention in Guyana my first reaction was to decline but with encouragement from the Bishop, the Synodical board, my husband and friends I do not regret the decision to visit our Companion Synod. It was a learning experience that will be with me for a lifetime. Thanks to all for giving me

time, the pot was overflowing with onions, carrots, turnip, cabbage, potatoes, rice, leftover bits of chicken and beef.

this great opportunity.

The first thing I saw when stepping off the plane in Guyana at 5:30 A.M. was a palm tree and flowers, larger and more lush than plants on my window sill at home. It was comforting to see that being in a faraway country was not so unfamiliar. Soon Zabeida’s friendly smile was greeting me and we were driving on the wrong side of the road with sights not so familiar looming of either side. Our driver zipped in and around traffic and cattle walking alongside or crossing the road. He seemed to always have one hand on the wheel and the other on the horn alerting everything of his intentions. We drove for some miles along the sea wall where people were getting their morning exercise, jogging on the wall. By this time it was getting quite warm and the thought of walking let alone jogging were activities that I would not be pursuing.

Later in the day we saw the local sights; homes on

The soldiers now had a hearty meal with enough left over to even feed the town’s people.

stilts, large beautiful houses, the sea wall with fishermen bringing in their catch, drains taking water out to sea, squatters living in homes of corrugated metal and scrape pieces of wood, cyclists going to and fro about their business, empty stalls where yesterday was a bustling market place. Then too, there were smells, the fresh sea air, and the smell from the fishing boats, smoke from burning rubbish heaps, the sweet smell of flowers everywhere. These contrasts so vivid all within three blocks.

The next day we drove to the ferry and crossed the Berbice River to New Amsterdam and their 29th Biennial Convention. They had 26 delegates with about as many visitors. Everyone was billeted in homes. There was worship, Bible study, guest speaker, and the business was similar to ours. The big difference was the number of reports, each congregation had a report and also read them, and so

you can imagine what happened to their agenda. I presented their new executive with a plaque depicting the Canadian Loon as a

One afternoon we visited a children's home. That was a wonderful experience. All seventeen of the children were given gifts and the home was supplied with toiletries and new clothing to be distributed to the children. Some of us were asked to write a letter for one of the children reassuring them that Jesus loved them. I wrote to Marquis, a nine-year old boy. I also gave him a Canadian flag. We shared in a talent show, and sang songs for almost an hour. The ELCW supplied a meal and the women then spent time visiting with the children. Unfortunately, I was booked for another meeting and did not have more time to spend with my child. They were such shy, happy, and well behaved children.

After convention I had my first opportunity to experience their public transportation, "THE MINI BUS". The sign on the bus says 15 passengers, not sure if that means a minimum. It reminds me of the college challenge as to how many

remembrance of their sisters in Eastern Synodical. I also presented everyone present with a Trillium pin and told how it reminded me of our people you can squeeze in a Volkswagen. Then there is the driving; the next time you see me you will notice more silver in my hair.

In Corriverton, there was a very informal ecumenical gathering. There were two women there that are on the team to write the 2008 World Day of Prayer Service. That was very amazing since I have been appointed to WICC. It will be interesting to share pictures and impressions at my first board meeting in November. The next day we toured the area including Immanuel and the Lutheran Camp and Retreat Centre.

There were two more speaking engagements that were quite well attended and was asked many questions about our country and church. The main difference with these meetings compared to a gathering here were the number of young people including children attending. They all start with songs, even their worship services, unaccompanied, without books, and

Lord, the triune God. They were impressed and anywhere I spoke was asked to talk about our provincial flower.

apparently led by the Spirit because one song leads into the next without anyone saying anything.

Probably the most relaxing and fun time was joining a Sunday school outing. After doing their thing, meeting with an Anglican Youth group where we had to cross the floating bridge over the Demerara River (not so relaxing), we had lunch in a park and was asked informally to talk of Canada. The children were especially intrigued to hear about snow and snowmen.

Things are different in Guyana. I saw coconut and sugar plantations. You want fruit, people have mangos, bananas, coconuts, dansk, and others just to pick and eat. They do not have high-rise apartment buildings. They do not have transports, or the highways that they could use. Cattle freely roam the roads. Cattle and pets look very thin. They have market stalls not big box department stores. People have really clean yards (when my grandson

saw a picture of them sweeping the yard he said, "But, Gramma, it's still dirt.") In contrast, the roadsides are littered with garbage. The sun is searing hot, even the locals had cloths to dry their skin. You do not have hot and cold water taps. After my first cold shower I looked forward to being able to shower two or three times a day just to cool off. The water did get warmer as the day passed. You sleep with a fan and mosquito netting. The hospitality is A-One. The people are happy and certainly make you feel welcome and comfortable. If you ever have the opportunity to visit and experience another culture do not pass it by.

ELW of St. John's Waterloo

submitted by Ilse Conrad

Ontario are busy people, meeting monthly in circle meetings or at general meetings.

Here are some highlights of meetings, held in 2005..

☺ Speaker from the Leprosy Mission, Canada, told us about their work. Used stamps were brought in by the members to help in this work.

☺ Had a valentine exchange and our prayer partners for Lent were chosen through this exchange.

☺ 128 women and girls attended the "Daughters of St. John's banquet in May. Eleanor Wood, a raconteur, was a delightful story teller.

☺ Don Rutz, a member of St. John's, told of his experiences in Haiti when he helped there in building and reconstruction.

☺ Enjoyed a corn and hamburger lunch with the 60+ Senior's Group. Musical entertainment was given by Harry Koegler, on the flute and Cedric Abday on the organ.

☺ St. Columba Anglican ACW invited us for lunch and an interesting program.

☺ Held 2 Bible studies on "Trying our wings and Launching out to fly", from the Esprit magazine.

☺ On Christian Action day we tied comforters, packed Kits and cleaned the church kitchen.

☺ We are trying to "Walk by Faith" as we face " Life's Transitions".

A Tribute to Tomira

As May 7, 2005 drew to a close, Zion Lutheran's ELW members gave thanks for a very successful Tribute to Tomira Sierzputowski. Tomira was a long time member of Zion's

church family, known and loved by the congregation and community of Sault Ste. Marie as a gifted seamstress and fashion designer. From the 1950's into the 1990's she designed, and sewed her way into hearts and memories, with detailed wedding gowns being her speciality. Shortly after her passing in March of 2004, Carolyn Fremlin ignited the spark to honour Tomira's gifts with a fashion show and a year long project began.

First, a call went out to the congregation and community to see what of Tomira's work still existed. ELW was overwhelmed by the response they received, - definitely more than enough to have a show ! ELW realized that a Tomira's Tribute was to be a huge undertaking. The entire congregation was asked to become involved. Again, we were overjoyed at the response of those willing to lend a hand. The volunteers joined the ranks of our hard working ELW with a variety of talents, and experience. Linda Marasco, one such volunteer, would use her skills to produce a video of Tomira's life and work to be part of the event. Zion's church choir would provide entertainment before the show and a community trio, who's accompanist was our church organist, would sing during the

show. Committees were formed and the work began in earnest. A large high school cafeteria was chosen as the location of our fashion show. Plans were made for refreshments, decorations, tickets, advertising, and models. Calls were made to recruit bakers. As well, about 50 calls were made to those that had let us know they had clothing from Tomira's shop in their closets. Much thought went into the care and security of the items of clothing that we were asking people to loan for the fashion show. These details were shared in the calls as well a request for pictures, stories, and possible models.

May 7 was a night to remember, indeed! Minilights and plants dressed up the cafeteria. Some of Tomira's creations were put on display to add to the setting. Members of the congregation, Tomira's granddaughter, relatives of fashion contributors and high school students modeled. Students participating gained volunteered community hours.

What memories were presented when the fashion show began the evening! Wedding attire for brides, attendants, dresses of mothers of brides and grooms, flower girls, evening wear, baptismal gowns, everyday fashions, and theater costumes

from 5 decades graced the run-way. The commentary contained a story about Tomira's role in each and every outfit. Tomira made beautiful clothing that fit just right and looked fantastic. Tomira was indeed far more than just a seamstress. One bride said she was her "Fairy Godmother". She waved her magic needle and there was the dress of her dreams.

The video presentation reinforced the remarkable talent and life of the lady we chose to honour. Many tears were shed as we watched Tomira's life unfold before us on the large screen with her family as our special guests. The video featured Tomira's life as a girl in Poland, her time spent in a work camp during the war, her move to Canada, raising a family and opening her business. Photos in the video of her creations, as they were originally worn, added a new dimension to the outfits just seen on the runway. The video was indeed a tribute to Tomira Sierzputowski, wife, mother, grandmother, business woman, patron of local theatre, gifted artist, and woman of faith.

May 7 was a night to remember Tomira. It was also a night for members of Zion to remember. We had worked so hard and successfully together. We

created a wonderful evening of fashions and refreshments. We rekindled old memories and made great new ones. We had achieved our two goals. We paid tribute to a special lady in style. We made a sizable amount for Zion's ELW to present to our church council. The evening's show on tape and the Tomira Tribute video are now in Zion's church library as a permanent memory of this successful ELW event.

St. John's ELW Ruth Group

Feltzen South, NS

Submitted by Cathy Creaser

We have a very small membership that by working together as a team do many good things throughout the year.

Some of the things that our group has done in the past 6 months:

We buy small gifts and visit our shut-ins at Easter, Christmas and their birthdays.

We provide a Christmas dinner and gifts every year to a needy family inviting all members of the congregation to participate.

We have individual secret sisters that we remember throughout the year on special occasions with cards and gifts.

We prepared a salad supper and had a night of fun, fellowship and laughs in September inviting our Twin ELW.

The Lord Bless Us and
Keep Us.

The Lord Make His Face
to Shine on Us and Be
Gracious to Us.

The Lord Look Upon
Us with Favor and Give
Us Peace.

AMEN