

OSLC Women of the ELCA
Annual Report, 2015

“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.” (Mission and Purpose, WELCA)

The Women of the ELCA at OSLC have grown in faith; affirmed and shared our gifts; and supported one another, our church, community, nation, and world. The Women of OSLC have been busy!

Circles: The Women of the Circles -- Elizabeth, Lydia, Miriam, Naomi, and Ruth – joined in fellowship and the study of God’s Word. They shared in celebrations at Tufte Manor (Ruth), Valley Eldercare (Naomi), and Good Samaritan Heritage Grove (Lydia), and with the Bethesda Society (Miriam). There is a new Circle being formed; its first gathering is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 2016 at 8:30 am!

Committees: Women of OSLC have been active in the Altar Guild, the making of Baptismal Cloths, the completion of several Needlepoint canvases for the kneelers, Kitchen responsibilities, and the Library. Several also serve as Wedding Coordinators.

Mission Growth: Women working in Mission Growth promote evangelism through the Circles, Lenten Coffees, and General Meetings. The Lenten Coffees in 2015 focused on Women of the Bible. Program speakers for our three General Meetings included Beth Nelson sharing stories and slides of her mission trip to Haiti; Marti Vanderpan and Carol Svendson speaking on *Relationships*, and Joan Enright and Len Vonasek sharing experiences and slides of their trip to the Holy Land. Women from Bethany joined us for Beth’s presentation, and Women from Sacred Heart joined us for Joan and Len’s presentation.

Mission Action: Women working in Mission Action coordinate service projects. They gathered, packed, and sent 100 School Kits and 101 Personal Care Kits to Lutheran World Relief. The Lydia Circle prepared 21 Baby Care Kits, also for LWR. Quilters cut, sewed, tied, and shared nearly 370 quilts. Of these, approximately 100 quilts stayed in the community and were gifted to OSLC new members at Baptism, OSLC Seniors upon HS Graduation, the Northland Rescue Mission, the Salvation Army, the Community Violence and Intervention Center (CVIC), and the End-of-Life Program at Valley Eldercare. The remaining 270+ quilts were sent to Lutheran World Relief. The LWR shipment of quilts in May was sent to Thailand; the Personal Care Kits were sent to Burkina Faso in West Africa. Stay tuned as to the destination of the Fall 2015 shipments!

Mission Community: Women working with Mission Community shared WELCA Notes in the Newsletter. In February, they coordinated the Love Offering which supports activities of OSLC Women throughout the year. The women also coordinated the ThankOffering in November which supports the mission of WELCA at the national and global levels.

WELCA Business Meeting Summary: Activities and decisions from the Board and General Meetings of 2015 include:

- making changes in Funeral Reception menus and reimbursement processes;
- purchasing of service items for the kitchen, (e.g., forks and carafes) and routine supplies;
- affirming that the financial structure of OSLC WELCA is in line with national guidelines;
- initiating a routine audit of OSLC WELCA financial records, and updating financial processes.
- reviewing and initiating updates to the OSLC WELCA Constitution, thus aligning the Constitution with national guidelines and current language within the ELCA.
- supporting local and regional needs of Lutheran Social Services, EGF Food Shelf, Backpack programs, Home Delivered Meals, and Concordia College (to name a few) with monetary gifts from OSLC WELCA.

Thank you to all the Women who served in the ministries of OSLC WELCA! Thank you to all Members of the Congregation who supported our work. **Thank you for sharing your Gifts.**

Submitted by
Renee Mabey
President, 2015 WELCA