

INFORMATION FOR 11TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION
October 3-4, 2008
Calumet Lutheran Camp and Conference Center, Freedom, NH

The convention theme is "**Praying Hearts**," based on **Thessalonians 5: 16-19**. Convention co-chairs are **Paula Rosenbeck** and **Marci Sharp**, both former members and officers of the New England Women of the ELCA synodical board. **Ursula Paradis**, current board member, and **Judie Schwalm**, former synodical board treasurer, are serving as registrar and assistant registrar, respectively. **Sarah Dorsch**, current synodical board president, will preside over the business of the convention.

The convention will take place at **Camp Calumet Lutheran, West Ossipee, New Hampshire**. A registration form is attached to this information sheet.

The Churchwide Board representative will be **Susan Humphrey** of Oklahoma. Convention chaplain will be the **Reverend Amanda Warner**, Prince of Peace, Brookfield, Connecticut. **Nancy Wogman**, former synodical board president, will serve as Parliamentarian for the plenary sessions; **Sarah Okerlund**, current New England Women of the ELCA board member, will be the song leader and **Edna Van Saun** of Camp Calumet will serve as musician. **Rev. Nancy Eldredge Hess**, executive director of Camp Calumet and convention committee member, will preach at the festive Eucharist on Saturday and **Pastor Anne Roser**, Nativity, North Conway, NH, will be the Prayer Walk guide on the grounds of Calumet.

Workshops being planned include the following topics:

- Healthy Hearts (Active Heart, Bold Heart, Kind Heart, Just Heart, Prayer-Filled Heart, and Strong Heart)
- Praying with Susan Humphrey, churchwide board representative
- Trafficking (hear about the partnership between NE/WELCA and Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services)
- A Heart to Heart Chat with OB Rock, synodical board treasurer
- Bible Study with Diane Hunt

Annie Boemig and **Nancy Stone**, former synodical board members and officers, are the worship coordinators for the weekend event.

Katie Luther will be our honored guest at the banquet on Friday evening. She will share stories of her life with Martin and the challenges they face.

You are encouraged to dress casually and comfortably. Dressing in layers is probably the best since northern New England weather in the fall can be unpredictable. "Dress-up" clothes for the banquet are **not** necessary.

On Thursday evening women are invited to come for fun and games in the conference center. We will have a big game of wall Scrabble as well as other games where we can get to know one another, enjoy fellowship, and relax. The "Jar Project" (see details on another sheet) will also begin on Thursday evening. Drop in as you are able anytime after 7:00PM in the Conference Center dining room.

The convention begins informally on Thursday evening but for those arriving on Friday or Saturday morning, sessions will begin at 9:00AM. (Meal times are listed on the registration form.) The convention will end with a festive closing Eucharist at approximately 1:30PM on Saturday.

A small Augsburg Fortress bookstore will be available at Calumet for your shopping needs. The Camp Calumet store will also be open during the weekend. Also, if you wish to arrive in New Hampshire early, or stay late, there is outlet shopping in nearby North Conway, about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour from Camp Calumet. Perhaps you would like to do some early Christmas shopping! There are also some gift shops closer to the camp.

The Jar Project will benefit **New England Women of the ELCA's Triennial Scholarship Fund**, which enables more women the opportunity to travel to triennial gatherings. Judie Schwalm is handling this fund raiser. You are invited to bring filled theme jars. (See the description on another sheet in this packet.) Invite women in your church to make donations of filled theme jars as well. (The next triennial gathering is set for July 2011 in Spokane, Washington.)

Congregational Unit Offerings will be received during the convention. One-half of the offerings will go to the **Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (www.lirs.org)** earmarked for their campaign against trafficking. Trafficking is modern-day slavery in which persons are illegally bought and used for sex and other illegal means of personal gain by the purchaser. Learn more about this violation of human rights on the LIRS website. The New England Women of the ELCA Synodical board has chosen **LIRS Campaign Against Trafficking** as their special project.

In-Kind Gifts will be collected to benefit the **Child Advocacy Center of Carroll County (New Hampshire)**. The Child Advocacy Center is a not for profit charity which embraces a coordinated, comprehensive and systematic approach to deal with issues associated with child abuse in the pursuit of justice. Love gifts that are collected will be dedicated on Saturday morning. A member of the Child Advocacy Center will be with us to tell us about their programs and answer questions. Items being collected include: children's coloring books; crayons (64 count); washable colored markers, new Beanie Baby stuffed animals; #2 lead pencils; colored paper; construction paper; children's scissors; glue sticks; blank journals; colored pencils; art pads; children's activity/puzzle books; portable CD players (Boom Box); children's music CDs; children's DVDs; ball point pens; paper towels; Lysol Spray cleaner; Tissues; individually boxed 6-oz. juice; individually wrapped cookies, crackers, chips, or fruit bars/snacks; gasoline gift cards; WalMart gift cards.

Personal monetary offerings will be received at the festive closing Eucharist early Saturday afternoon. One-half of offerings received will go to the **New England Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering Scholarship Fund**.

Six Convention Scholarships will be awarded to women in varying age categories. See the May issue of *Nellie's Notes* for details or call one of the co-chairs for an application. Deadline is July 1st.

Questions can be directed to the co-chairpersons:
Marci Sharp - 203-775-4657 or bowmanrae@aol.com

or

Paula Rosenbeck - 860-567-9505 or teetee108@yahoo.com

