

# Grace Lutheran Church Women

All are welcome to join a unit. If there is interest to create another unit, please contact either the church office (345-4248) or a GLCW Board member.

**ALL Grace Lutheran Church Women (even those young ladies in high school!) are invited to join a Unit. ALL congregation members and visitors to Grace are invited to Grace Lutheran events.**

Currently, four Units meet either at Grace or in member homes. Units gather for the WELCA and other Bible studies, devotions, create events, and more. GLCW members host a weekly Bible Study group, and also encourage our members and visitors to attend the Prayer Group, held each Thursday at 1 p.m. in the Ramp Room. The Prayer Group is hosted by our Parish Nurse, Meredith Fitch, and is a time for prayer, scripture study and fellowship.

## 2014 EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

- Annual Meeting/Potato Bake:** January 26
- Supper Club:** January 23 - 5 p.m. - Pathstone
- Valentine Party:** February 14 - 2:30 p.m. - Pathstone
- Birthday Party:** March 12 - 2:30 p.m. - Pathstone
- Omelet Breakfast - Mission Support:** March 16 - 10:30 a.m.
- Pizza Party:** March 20 - 5 p.m. - Pathstone
- Lenten Supper:** Potluck - Wednesdays - March 12 - April 9
- Volunteer Tea:** TBD
- MN River Conference:** April 26 - Location/Details TBD
- Supper Club:** April 24 - 5 p.m. - Pathstone
- Gustavus Choir:** GLCW Provides Meal to Choir members, details TBD - April 24
- Mother/Child Banquet:** May 9 - 6:30 p.m.
- Pillow Cleaning:** TBD
- Graduation Brunch Reception & Quilt Presentation:** May 18
- Grace Mid Summer Picnic:** June, TBD
- Mid Summer Party:** June 16 - 2:30 p.m. - Pathstone
- Women's Day at Good Earth Village:** TBD
- SM - Pathstone Ice Cream Social:** August 2 - 2:30 p.m. - Pathstone
- Pillow Cleaning:** TBD
- SM-Supper Club:** September 11 - 5 p.m. - Pathstone
- Lutefisk & Swedish Meatball Dinner:** TBD, October 11 would be 2nd Sat.
- SM-Chili Dinner - Habitat for Humanity:** October 26 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- Thanksgiving Dinner/Thank Offering:** November 23 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
- SM - Distribute Pathstone Bows:** November 23
- Decorate for Christmas at Pathstone:** December 1 - 1 p.m.
- Grace Cookie Bake:** December 4 - 9 a.m.
- Scandinavian Experience at Pathstone:** December 6 - 9 a.m.
- Lucia Party at Pathstone:** December 11 - 2:30 p.m.
- Lucia Breakfast at Grace:** December 14 - 10:45 a.m.
- Children's Program:** GLCW Reception - TBD

**NOTE:** GLCW serves at Crossroads Campus Ministry on the 4th Tuesday of the month 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., Sept-Nov and Jan-April.

# ACTIVITIES & INFORMATION

## Unit Meetings

Unit meetings are held each month except July and August. Units set their own meeting time, usually during the second week of the month. New Units can be established at any time. All women are invited to be a part of a organized unit. It is a time for Bible Study, a short business meeting to discuss monthly responsibilities for upcoming events, and warm fellowship.

## Receptions

The Fellowship Hall, kitchen, and other rooms in the building are available for special events such as birthdays, anniversaries, wedding receptions and other events. Arrangements to use the building should be made with the church office by calling 507-345-4248.

## Wednesday Faith Night Meal

Four teams take turns serving a meal every Wednesday from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. If you would like to help prepare and serve, or have a suggestion for a meal, please contact a team leader or the church office (345-4248).

## Crossroads Campus Ministry

Grace hosts the fourth Tuesday each month "Lunch for a Buck".

If you can volunteer your time as we prepare meals for 40-70 students the fourth Tuesday morning of the month, leave a message with the church office (345-4248) and a leader will get in touch with you.

## Pathstone *(Formerly the Mankato Lutheran Home)*

Volunteers are always needed and appreciated. To volunteer during a Grace event (see above, 'Pathstone') please leave a message with the church office or contact a member of the GLCW. To schedule an activity, or to volunteer, call Pathstone at 345-5676 and ask to speak with Linda. Help is needed with selected activities, presenting programs, etc. The GLCW recommends Units provide something special (such as fruit, flowers, etc.) for the following holidays – Valentine's Day, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and birthdays.

## Altar Guild

The primary duties of the Altar Guild are to help with the distribution of Holy Communion and assist with Holy Baptism. The Guild is also in charge of decorating the church altar area at Christmas, Easter and other special occasions. Volunteers are always appreciated.

## Sunshine

This committee sends "get well," "cheer," and "thinking of you" cards to church members who are ill, hospitalized, or just in need of a lift. If you know of someone who would benefit from our thoughts and prayers, please contact the church office (345-4248).

## Quilting

Quilting is held fall through spring. Meetings are usually held on Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Quilts are tied; so no experience is necessary! We create quilts for Grace baptisms, high school graduations and for the Mankato community. **All interested are invited.** Please join us!

## Knit and Chain

Meets first Monday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in the Heritage Room. We create prayer shawls, caps for babies, and scarves and mittens. Everyone is welcome - please join us!

## Friendship Group

The Friendship Group is an opportunity for widows and divorced women to gather in fellowship. If you would like to join, please contact the church office (345-4248) with your name and phone number, and we will be sure to invite you to the next gathering.

### **Book Club**

Meets the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in member homes or in the Heritage Room at church. Books are distributed a few weeks before each gathering. Check the church office calendar for locations, dates and times.

### **Cookie Support for New Members**

Each unit is asked to provide 3-4 dozen cookies for the months assigned; same Unit as kitchen support month. Cookies should be dated, placed on paper plates, put into plastic bags and stored in marked containers in the kitchen freezer. Chairperson of Unit should check on month they are scheduled.

### **Kitchen Support**

Units to assist with care of the kitchen on a monthly basis.

### **Food Shelf Month in March - Social Ministry**

Each March, Minnesota FoodShare directs the March Campaign, the largest food drive in the state and restocks almost 300 food shelves across Minnesota. It recruits thousands of congregations, companies, schools and community groups to run local fund and food drives to aid in the effort. Throughout the year, Grace Lutheran supports the ECHO Food Shelf in Mankato, and in March our Social Ministry Team educates Grace members and leads a project.

### **Holiday Season: November and December**

In the months of November and December, we support many programs at Grace and Pathstone.

***Pathstone Bows:*** Social Ministry will receive a basket of bows from Pathstone. These bows will be available on the narthex's coffee bar for congregation members to choose and purchase a gift for a resident of Pathstone. You may either return your gift to the narthex, or drop it off at Pathstone (718 Mound Avenue, Mankato).

***Saint Peter Regional Treatment Center:*** The GLCW has been supportive of 'SPRTC' for *many* decades (there is even a 1970s article in the Grace archives). Each year the GLCW receives a small list of suggested donations that they share with the congregation. Items such as clothing, art supplies, books, and movies are to support the **Holiday Cheer** program, which provides a gift during holiday gatherings to approximately 400+ individuals who are mentally ill, age 18-100+, 85% of who are "forgotten" by family members and friends.

## **Augsburg Fortress Publications**

***Christ in Our Home*** is a booklet of daily devotionals that encourage readers to live out their faith daily. Each reflective reading is accompanied by a daily scripture reference and prayer for the day. Also available in a large print format. Copies are available in the church office and the Welcome desk quarterly.

***Gather***, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions, and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. *Gather* is published 10 times a year with combined issues in January/February and July/August. \$15 a year. Call 1-800-328-4648 to subscribe.

***Café*** is an award-winning web-based magazine for young adult women who want to build community, participate in advocacy, and strengthen their faith. It incorporates a Lutheran perspective but is a great read for any woman who is interested in how faith can relate to every-day life. Learn more by visiting [www.boldcafe.org](http://www.boldcafe.org).

***Bold Connections*** is a free monthly e-newsletter of Women of the ELCA. Whether you participate a lot or a little in Women of the ELCA, you'll find helpful news and information on our programs and activities, and stories of how together we live out our purpose and mission.

***Daily Grace*** is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. In these brief writings you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. You will be comforted, challenged, inspired, consoled and confronted. The daily reflection will stir you to live out your baptismal calling. Take time to reflect, offer a prayer and prepare for the day. Read the daily message or choose *Random Grace*. Sign up by visiting [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org).

## **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED**

One of the GLCW Board Members serves as the contact for the local group of Church Women United (CWU) in greater Mankato, which is an ecumenical expression of the national movement and shares in its goals and responsibilities. The purpose of CWU is to encourage church women to come together in a visible fellowship to witness to their faith in Jesus Christ as Divine Lord and Savior, and enabled by his instruments of Jesus' reconciling love. CWU was founded in 1941 and engages millions of women representing twenty six-denominations. More information may be found at [www.churchwomen.org](http://www.churchwomen.org).

Friday, March 7	1:00 p.m.	World Day of Prayer
Friday, May 2	6:00 p.m.	May Friendship
Friday, November 7	9:00 a.m.	World Community Day

# ABOUT THE WOMEN OF THE ELCA

## MISSION: COMMUNITY

*To enable each woman to value herself and others as created in God's image and redeemed through Christ; and to build up and celebrate relationships which are global, diverse and interdependent.*

- Organization of Congregational Units
- Family Life
- Affirmation of Women
- Woman to Woman International Cross-Cultural Program
- Speakers' Bureau
- Stewardship Interpretation
- Communications, Newsletter, Worship
- Thank offering Services, Ecumenical Relations
- Church Women United Events
- Financial Support for Global Ministries

## MISSION: GROWTH

*To provide a variety of learning experiences which strengthen each woman as a whole person, develop her potential and equip her for ministry.*

- Bible Studies
- Program Resources
- Leadership Gatherings
- Theological Conferences
- Lutheran Woman Today
- Evangelism, Witness

## MISSION: ACTION

*To enable women to articulate, and, act upon their faith as Disciples of Christ in all areas of life.*

- Service Projects
- Justice Concerns
- Global and Domestic Projects for Women in Development
- Parenting for Peace and Justice
- Lutheran World Relief, World Hunger
- Literacy, Peace Enablers, Service & Development Networks
- Campaign in Support of Women in Namibia
- Volunteer Reading Aides

## ORGANIZATION OF ELCA WOMEN (WELCA)

### **CWO – Church Wide Organization**

**Region 3 – North and South Dakota and Minnesota** There are 9 regions in the church.

### **SWO – Synod Wide Organization**

9 board members are elected at the annual conventions held every two years. We belong to the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.

### **Conference**

There are 5 conferences in our SE Minnesota Synod, all named for the rivers that run through them. The GLCW is a member of the Minnesota River Conference. To learn more, visit [semnsynod.org](http://semnsynod.org).

### **Unit – Local Church**

The heart and soul of the organization - US!!!



## WELCA 2014 Triennial Gathering Charlotte, N.C.

July 24 - 27

*Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise  
up the foundations of many generations;  
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in.*

Isaiah 58:12

**Visit [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org) for more information.**

You need time away for rest and renewal. You need time with women of bold faith and courage. You need time to dance and sing and praise God. **You need time with women of many generations.**

Join the conversation as we explore the triennial gathering theme of many generations. Listen to inspiring speakers; participate in worship and praise; learn by attending workshops, viewing films and engaging in servant events. Visit the exhibit hall where you can gather, shop and connect. And don't forget our special events where women in their 20s and 30s can eat chocolate and join others to run it off later. And where's it all happening? The Charlotte Convention Center.

**These opportunities require advance commitment on your part.**

**If you're interested, sign up during registration.**

*If you plan to attend, please also inform the GLCW Board.*

### **This theme:**

- Describes who we are: women of many ages, places, and experiences.
- Reminds us whose we are: women surrounded by generations – those among us now, those who came before and those who will come after.
- Invites every women to claim her place at the gathering, not despite her age or experience, but because of it.
- Invites every women to claim her place in Women of the ELCA, not despite her age or experience, but because of it.

### **Notes:**

- Discounted registration ended January 6. Adults are now \$325, Spouse/Partner \$125, Girls age 13-18 \$75, Children under 13 Free
- **Register online by June 15.** Registration packet may be found on the website.