

Mission Action/Stewardship

Then Peter said to Jesus, *“Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.”* Matthew 17:4 NRSV

Last May was my first WELCA Synod Convention as a board member and Mission Action committee member. It was my first time standing out in the cold hours before the convention wondering if anyone would come. As many of you know, our Southwestern Minnesota Synod has had a semi truck and convention to collect our in-kind offerings. We are always so grateful for the businesses that have donated the use of a full semi for us over the years. Last year, however, standing out there in the cold, looking at an empty truck I couldn't help but wonder why we did that. Would people even come? Would this enormous truck be worth it?

I should not have doubted. Within an hour, that semi was over half full! That is know small feat, and I felt that sense of awe and wonder. I found myself on the the mountaintop with Peter crying “Lord, it is good for us to be here!”

This year will be no different. We have been blessed to be a blessing to others, and the women of our Synod exemplify this every year. When we come up to the podium to announce our in-kind offerings, don't be afraid to be on the mountaintop. For we climbed it together, you and I, with our time, talent and treasure. A celebration is in order.

Yet, we are not called to stay on the mountaintop. Those three dwellings were never built. God is constantly calling us back down the mountain to get our hands dirty and start again. And, what good news it is that God comes down the mountain with us!

In past years, the Mission Action team will decide in September what the in-kind offering focus will be for the next convention. This year we are doing things a little different. We are announcing TODAY that the 2019 In-Kind offering focus will be School Kits! This is meant to give you all an opportunity to take advantage of back to school sales in August and really fill up those backpacks! Let's come back down the mountain together, get our hands dirty and start again. The work may seem to never end, but have faith. We will see the mountaintop again in Marshall on May 3, 2019 when we once again overflow our semi with our collective gifts. God bless us on our journey back up.

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