



Women^{of the} ELCA

The Communicator

I DON'T KNOW
EXACTLY WHAT
THE FUTURE HOLDS,
BUT I'M STEPPING
FORWARD WITH *grit*
ANCHORED IN *grace.*

Julie Graham



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Area of Interest

- [Sylvia Pridal Obituary](#)

A Word from Your President

Greetings!

So, how was your spring this year? Praying that it was a good one and now you can concentrate on looking forward to summer and all it has to offer!! It has been nice to hear of events opening up once again after a year of nothing going on!! I think most of us are ready to be back to our new normal routines and be able to “see” the women we have missed for over a year!

Your synod board is still meeting via ZOOM and no definite plans have been made for a possible 2021 Synod Women’s Convention. Just too many decisions on the churchwide level that we are waiting on. If and when we are ready to meet, you will be notified!!

CONFERENCE FALL GATHERINGS..... How are your conferences doing on possible Fall Gathering plans? I have reached out to the Conference Presidents asking about their plans and this is what we know as this publication goes to print:

An in-person **Crow River Conference Fall Gathering:** Saturday, September 25th at Ostmark Lutheran Church, rural Watkins. This will be a morning event. They will be collecting Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts. Marie Henriksen will be their featured speaker teaching about 12 women from the Bible using a quilt to tell the stories. The Crow River Conference Board will meet in June to iron out the details, so stay tuned for more information and feel free to contact a conference board member if you have questions!

An in-person **Glacial Ridge Conference Fall Gathering:** Monday, September 20th at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Chokio. Wayne and Donna Jo Kopitzke are scheduled to lead the program of “Angels Among Us”.

The last I heard Scenic Valley decided to NOT hold a Fall Conference Gathering. Watonwan River has decided to hold only a Spring Gathering. Other conferences have not responded with any plans, but if your conference is planning to hold a fall gathering, please get the word out not only to your own conference, but the synod board as well!! Most women are ready for that interaction with their conference women once again!!

A REMINDER ON THE 2022 SYNOD WOMEN’S CONVENTION.....of course no date has been set for that convention, but just to remind you, the synod nominating committee will be sending out nomination forms to the Units to get your women nominated to have their name on the ballot for election of the 2023 Churchwide Voting Delegates from our synod! Please keep this process and election in your prayers and if you are interested in having your name on the ballot, you need to have your own Unit

nominate you! The 2023 Churchwide Convention/Gathering is planned for Spokane, Washington.

UNIT OFFERINGS.....please pray hard that your Unit and Conference can get your offerings sent into the Synod and to Churchwide. This past year of COVID and the fact that the offerings really fell off, we certainly need to get that part of our organization up and moving again! Your offerings do make a difference!

CONFERENCE OFFICER LISTING.....If there has been a change in your conference officer listing since last year, please get that updated information sent to the Synod Secretary and to me as your Synod President.

I read this little ditty the other day and will share with you:

One Sunday morning in a small Texas church, the new pastor called on one of the older deacons to lead the closing prayer.

The deacon came up to the podium, stood by the pastor, bowed his head and said, “Lord, I hate buttermilk!”

The pastor opened one eye and wondered just where this was going.....

The deacon continued, “Lord, I hate lard!”

Now, the pastor was totally perplexed.....

The deacon continued, “Lord, and I ain’t too crazy about plain flour neither, but after you mix ‘em all together and bake ‘em in a hot oven, I just love biscuits!”

“So Lord, help us understand when life gets hard, when things come up that we don’t like, and we can’t figure out what you are doing, that we just need to wait and see what you are making. After you get through mixing and baking, it’ll probably be something even better than biscuits. Amen!”



Mission Action/Stewardship

The latest issue of "Faith in Action," the newsletter for Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Makers, includes the prayer below, dedicating the new Quilt and Kit Affinity pin and honoring our quilt making efforts. (See www.lwr.org/qkpin)

Dear God,

Thank you for this beautiful community you have stitched together across the United States and across the world. We celebrate all that brings us together in this community, and dedicate our faithfulness, creativity and compassion to this ministry.

Please bless the work we do together, those our quilts comfort and warm, and everyone involved in transporting, protecting and distributing these gifts of our hearts and hands. Open us to see your face in one another whether in person, through the miracle of technology, or even in the warm embrace of our imagination.

Thank you for inviting us in to be part of these bright, beautiful, colorful bursts of your kingdom into the world!

Amen

The LWR website and the Quilters and Kit Makers Facebook page abound with stories of hope, and photos of worship spaces and sanctuaries filled with a rainbow of quilts. What a colorful and joyous inspiration!

But as we all know, there is more to do. We encourage you to visit www.lwr.org to educate yourself and discover. You may find it is possible to match your monetary gifts by donating during a specific time period. Also, check out the new quick links along the top of the page. You will find the latest LWR news and response to COVID-19 which continues to overwhelm parts of the world.

As mentioned in the 2021 Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide, the shelves at the Lutheran World Relief warehouses in Maryland and Minnesota were empty early this spring. There is concern that there may not be enough quilts and kits on hand to fulfill upcoming needs in 2021 and beyond.

We've heard from WELCA groups in our synod and throughout the country who are starting to meet again. In many cases there is an abundance of partially completed quilts started at home, and in some cases, the quilts are finished and ready to go! Our work didn't stop during the pandemic – we just went underground, and now we are ready to burst into the light.

Below are some ideas and reminders to help you gear back up.

Quilting groups and Kit Makers:

- Continue to find creative ways to complete quilts,

whether it is a solo effort or in small groups, at home, or at church.

- Remember Thrivent Action Teams: If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you are eligible to apply twice each year for a \$250 grant for mission projects or aid to those in need. Associate members are eligible to apply for one project a year. Applying for the funds (www.thrivent.com) is easy online (click on the "What we Offer" tab and then on the "Generosity" tab, scroll down to "Thrivent Action Teams" and follow the apply tabs.
- Back to School season will soon be upon us. This is the perfect time to stock up on supplies for school kits.

Getting Quilts and Kits to the Warehouse:

- Consider lining up a truck and setting up an ingathering in your conference.
- Get together with another, or a few other churches in your area to fill and pack a trailer or truck, with volunteers to load and drive the quilts and kits to the warehouse.
- Use your church newsletter, bulletin, or word of mouth to ask for a volunteer from your congregation or town who would be willing to deliver the quilts and kits.
- The warehouses accept items year-round. **If you are dropping items off, please call ahead for driving directions and hours of operation.** Lutheran World Relief, 398 East Richmond Street, South St. Paul, MN 55075. Telephone number: 651-457-9009.

Thank you for your generous efforts!

Karla Conrad, Noreen Beranek, Katherine Claussen



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Mission Growth/Discipleship



The Good Shepherd

Recently some time was spent with two of my youngest “grandbabes.” We took a drive in the country to visit a sheep farm located not far from the town in which we live. As we traveled through the countryside, the allure of the green leaves on the trees was an experience to behold; they were set against a few darker green evergreens and the beauty of nature was at hand. It was awesome to see such beauty . . . God’s Creation! To add to the bright green of the leaves and the sprouting of crops in the black earth all added to the beauty that we witnessed. Spring had arrived and summer is about to begin.

Before long, we came to the winding gravel driveway that led us to the farmstead and the sheep barn. The sheep barn was filled to capacity with ewes that had given birth, several weeks prior, to their sweet little lambs. The lambs were bouncing and jumping in every direction. They were so happy and their excitement in life was most evident. We stood in awe as we watched the mothers tenderly taking care of their offspring . . . giving them shelter and strength and being watchful. The natural instinct to care for their young is remarkable. We watched intensely as the sheep farmer provided

food and water for his sheep. The sheep quietly began eating the food provided for them. Once in a while a lamb would raise its head to see what’s going on and we would hear the language of the sheep “blah” “blah” “blah”. Then she would lower her head and begin eating again. There was a calmness and quietness that seemed so peaceful within the sheep barn. The sheep ate together with one another and enjoyed the alfalfa that the sheep farmer had piled high in the feeding trough.

The “granbabes” loved watching the sheep. They had never seen sheep before or have had the experience of being close to them. It was a great experience and one to be remembered.

In visiting with my “granbabes” following our excursion, I related the story of “The Good Shepherd”. “The Good Shepherd” is Jesus Christ . . . and His sheep are you and me. “The Good Shepherd” is the one who loves so much and cares for us. He is always with us and he will always take care of us. As sheep follow and listen to their shepherd, we too listen and follow “The Good Shepherd”. We know that a shepherd takes good care of his flock; protecting and guarding his flock from predators; on the lookout for a lost sheep, always being aware.

Jesus Christ does the same for us. “The Good Shepherd” is a miraculous healer and protector of his flock. “The Good Shepherd” would lay down his life for His sheep . . . that’s you and me. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us. He died on the cross so we would live with him forever. God compares us to sheep in the Bible because He views us as His priceless treasures. In John 1:29 we read that when John the Baptist saw Jesus he said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world”!

Sheep are not the smartest animal and need a shepherd to follow. Sheep are defenseless against predators; they are afraid of moving water and can only be led to still water by a shepherd. They are especially afraid of strangers because they don’t recognize the voice. They only recognize the shepherd’s voice and will follow him. Sheep need a shepherd.

We only need a shepherd . . . “The Good Shepherd”. We are God’s sheep and we are helpless without Him! For all of us who are sheep, let us labor to be good sheep, following the voice of “The Good Shepherd”!

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures,

He leads me beside quiet waters, he restores my soul.

He guides me in paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Dianne Doscher, Betty Brandt, Janet Hagen

Mission Community/Justice

What are your summer plans this year? Do they include time with family and friends that you have not seen for a while? In the past year and a half, many special moments have been taken from us; those “in-person” connections of joyfulness, sharing and presence. Certainly, we can say they have been put on hold. With the pandemic restrictions now lessening up, we look forward to once again reuniting and catching up with one another. A “hope” that has kept us going, through a very challenging time. Now we find ourselves gathering together in a time of encouragement and gratitude.



True *hope* is a discipline, a determination to believe in God’s reality and power, even when the world seems to be crashing down around us. That is the genius and power of *HOPE*. It flies in the face of calamity.

This past year has been one which we have grown in awareness, of being “woke up” if you will, to the knowledge and awareness of problems and troubles of injustice in this country and beyond. God takes the problem of injustice very seriously. Throughout the book of Isaiah, God declares that Jesus’s purpose on earth was to establish justice, and He will not give up until that work is complete. In Him, we are agents of God’s mission in this world. It can often be discouraging and overwhelming to consider how much injustice seems to prevail. Yet we cannot let that stop us from taking steps to join God’s mission.

How can we do it? There is a biblical theme that threads throughout the Bible, and you know it well. Micah 6:8 reads, “*To do justice, to love mercy and to walk humbly with our God.*” These are the behaviors that God is looking for in all of us. Seeking justice is central to understanding Jesus.

- We must put our hope in Him.
- We must continue to pray and not give up. It is easy to think, where is God in all this? Let’s not grow impatient, God isn’t finished yet. It’s easy to get tired of praying for the same thing (justice) over and over again. We don’t always see justice and prayer working together.
- Ask God to show us ways to care for the marginalized. What acts of mercy are you doing for your family and community?
- In God’s calling, it is a matter of worship, to act justly in our day-to-day lives, not to be swayed by those who have power and those who do not.
- Feed the hungry, care for the poor, visit the sick, and encourage the discouraged (there just isn’t a shortage of needs in this broken world.)

God brings justice, and our mission (in justice) is to point people to Jesus, whom God sent to establish justice.

“We are called to be a church that embraces each person and confronts racial, ethnic, cultural, religious, age, gender, familial, sexual orientation, physical, personal and class barriers that often manifest themselves in unjust treatment, inequalities, exclusion and violence.” (ELCA Racial Justice Ministries)

How will you stay close to the WORD over the summer? Find *HOPE* in His plan for our lives. I have included in this writing a couple links to study God’s intention for serving others with justice and compassion.

- A Devotional into God’s Heart for Justice and Compassion at <https://40daysfaithandhope.files.wordpress.com/2014/04/40daysdevo-2014.pdf>
- A five-day plan on the Bible app, at www.bible.com, click on plans, and search for Real Hope: Love & Justice.

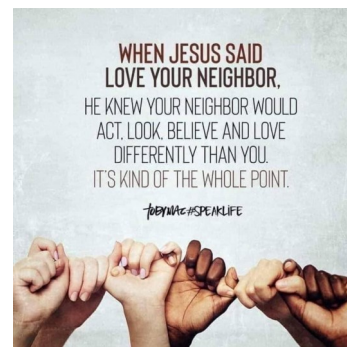
5 Prayers to meditate on:

- Lord, help us to show mercy and make us lovers of justice, so that we can make an impact in this world for you.
- Father, in your plan to bring justice, we thank you for sending your Son, Jesus. In our work for your justice in this world, give us wisdom and insight.
- Dear Jesus, like the disciples of Jesus, we need to learn patience and be persistence in prayer. Help us to see your hand at work and be grateful.
- Holy One, you have made us your heir and called us from fear into hope. Grant that through the gift of the Spirit we may rely on each other so that hope may flourish.
- Holy Spirit, Come. We invite YOU to fill us with your power and presence. Forgive us for the many times we’ve chosen to lean on our own strength instead of Yours.

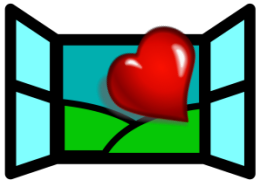
Jesus did warn that we will have trouble in this world, but He also said He has overcome the world. Nothing is too much to hope for when His power is at work within us. We shouldn’t be surprised that Jesus has greater plans for us than we do for ourselves.

God bless your summer.

Kim Christianson, Louise Ferry, Jane Tongen



Looking Out My Window by Joan



SUMMER IS HERE

As I write this it isn't quite summer yet as far as the calendar says, but after mowing the lawn today it sure does feel like summer today!! But by the time you read this it will officially be summer and that means it is time to break out the flip-flops, sunscreen, and charcoal!!!! As people make their way to the beaches, as they gather for summer BBQ's, and sit out by the pool it can be easy to allow the relaxed atmosphere of summertime to carry over into your walk with the Lord.

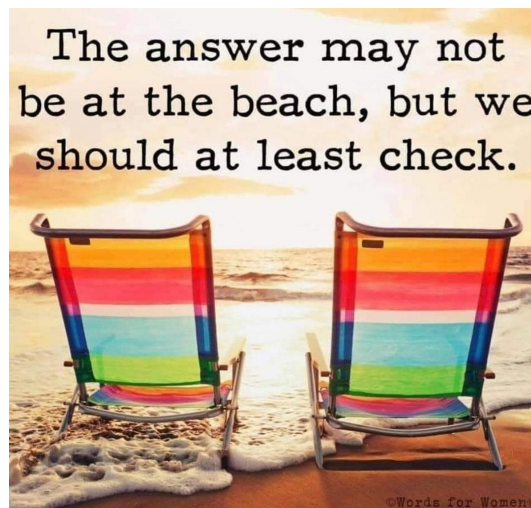
Summer and all that comes with it can have our calendars packed with summer weddings, family reunions, and squeezing in some sort of vacation can leave you needing a vacation from your vacation!! Ever felt like that?!!

Here are a few ways to help you keep God on your mind while you are on your way here and there to your summertime destinations.

If you're heading to the zoo, think about Noah and the ark and the diversity of God's nature and creatures. If you are headed to the beach, talk about the difference between building your house on shifting sand versus solid rock. Spending some time near a lake or on a boat, consider how Jesus calmed the storm. Cooking out at a BBQ, as you enjoy the sweet smell coming from the grill, consider how we are the fragrance of Christ.

There are many opportunities to bring God into your daily summer activities, so be creative and enjoy your summer more as you consider how God can be seen everywhere you go!

"But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads in every place the fragrance that comes from knowing him. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing." 2 Corinthians 2:14-15



Sylvia Pridal Obituary

Sylvia Pridal, 88, of Marshall, MN, formerly of Taunton, passed away Tuesday, June 8, 2021 in Sioux Falls, SD. A Memorial service for Sylvia and her husband, Jim was held June 14, 2021 at the Living Word Lutheran Church in Marshall, MN with burial at the Canby City Cemetery, Canby, MN. Sylvia was born Jul 1, 1932 in Madison, MN. She received her education and graduated from Madison High School. Sylvia also received her Teacher's Certificate and taught locally for several years. Sylvia was united in marriage to James Pridal in 1951 at the Faith Lutheran Church, Madison, MN. They lived and farmed near Taunton, MN where they raised their family. In 2008, they retired from farming and moved to Marshall, MN. Jim passed away on May 16, 2021. As Sylvia's health declined, she moved to her daughter Sharon's home in Sioux Falls, SD where she passed away surrounded by loved ones on Tuesday, June 8, 2021. She is lovingly remembered by her four children; eight grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren and one brother. The Houseman Funeral Home of Canby, MN assisted the family with the arrangements.

2021 Fall Conference Gatherings

Thank you for your patience as several conferences are still discerning whether to gather again in the fall. We will send more information as it becomes available. Please reach out to your conference president for more information in the meantime.

Conference	Date/Time	Location	Program
Crow River	Sept 25, 2021 8:30 am	Ostmark Lutheran Church Rural Watkins, MN	Marie Henriksen “Walking Through the Bible with 12 Remarkable Women”
Glacial Ridge	Sept 20, 2021	Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Chokio, MN	Wayne and Donna Jo Kopitzke “Angels Among Us”
Great River		Have not decided	
Lac Qui Parle	Oct 19, 2021		Jeri Popma “Walk With Jesus”
Lakeland		Have not decided	
Minnesota Valley		Have not decided	
Prairie		Have not decided	
Scenic Valley		NO FALL GATHERING SCHEDULED	
Shetek	Sept 18, 2021	Shetek Lutheran Ministries Shetek, MN	
Watsonwan River		NO FALL GATHERING SCHEDULED	

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