



THE BRIDGE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR
CONGREGATIONS OF THE
SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD, ELCA

CONNECTING THE
CONGREGATIONAL, SYNODICAL, AND
CHURCHWIDE EXPRESSIONS OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA: NOT JUST YOUR GRANDMOTHER'S CIRCLE

Portions from *About Us* on the website of the Women of the ELCA (www.womenoftheelca.org/about)

Lutheran tradition features women as the ones feeding the congregation hot dish and Jell-O meals and keep everyone covered in beautiful quilts. The lives of today's women have changed, and also many women just aren't interested in cooking or sewing. So how do today's women fit into the Women of the ELCA?

Women of the ELCA is the women's organization of the 4.8 million-member Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This network of nearly 500,000 participants in 64 geographical areas (called synods) in the United States and the Caribbean exists for mutual support and bold action on participants' faith in Jesus Christ.

The organization builds on the strong history of women's missionary movements, Bible study, and service in which our foremothers engaged. Some of us recall stories from our grandmothers of how they saved "egg money" (from the sale of eggs) so they would have money to donate for support of missionaries in other countries. You may have heard how our foremothers trudged through snow for hours to get to Bible study at another woman's house, hung their stockings on the line to dry while they studied, and then trudged home again the same day. Or you may have heard about schools and orphanages built in various parts of the world with women's Thankofferings. Of course, that's only part of the history.

Today, women's lives have changed. Women enjoy access to a wide variety of careers and have greater freedom and ability to contribute to the ministries they value. Women also now have the opportunity to respond to the call to ordained ministry as well as the call to teach Sunday school. Still, embracing the world

as God's gift and God's people as sisters and brothers, being committed to growth in faith and action, standing for justice with the poor and oppressed — these remain.

An example of a major initiative of the Women of the ELCA today is "Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls," which aims to help women and girls in individual communities and throughout the world live healthier lives in every aspect of health through education, resources, and advocacy.

Women of the ELCA are active on the "acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ." This mission of the Women of the ELCA is manifested in a variety of ways, and there's bound to be one for you (or your wife, daughter, sister, or friend!).

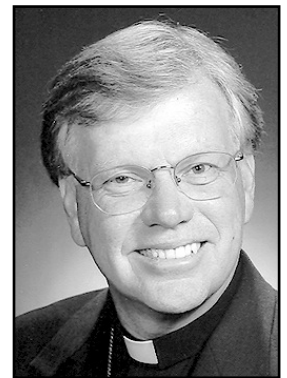
FEATURED RESOURCE

- Churchwide Women of the ELCA - www.womenoftheelca.org
- Synodical Women of the ELCA - www.semnsynod.org/WELCA.html
- Cafe E-Zine - www.boldcafe.org
- Lutheran Woman Today - www.lutheranwomantoday.org

MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE

This Bible verse was selected by Harold Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, for everyone in the synod to study.

"So that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work."
2 TIMOTHY 3:17



ABOUT OUR SYNOD

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 132,000 baptized people in 184 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

The Bridge is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

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