

**7th Annual Convocation
Carolinas Lutheran Women
September 30, 2017**

The 7th Annual Convocation of the Carolinas Lutheran Women was held on September 30, 2017 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Lexington, SC. Refreshments were provided prior to the meeting, while Carol Wyndham, St. Peter's, provided prelude music. Lynn Coughenour, CLW Council Chair welcomed everyone and introduced the current council members.

The purpose statement of CLW was recited, followed by a brief Bible study on the 28th chapter of Matthew on Mary at the tomb given by Vicar Todd Cook (a recent seminary graduate and member of St. Peter's).

Clyde Sanders, St. Peter's Lutheran Church Women's President and Council of WNALC (Women of the NALC) brought greetings and gave some instructions on how to send donations to WNALC for proper credit. There are two separate accounts – one is the Operating Fund and the other Mission Banks. A total of \$9226.50 was collected last year for the Mission Banks. Half of this went to the Malawi Orphanage and half to Lutheran Military Families for guide dogs. Next year the Mission Banks will be split between NALC missionaries, the Ekka family, in India to assist in building boarding schools for girls, and the Disaster Response Team.

The opening hymn of "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" was followed by the devotional by Brenda Dunn, CLW Council/St. John's Statesville, entitled "Living as 'Son' Flowers," based on Ephesians 5:1-21. Each table read the scripture, then answered a question relating to the passage. These were then shared with the entire group. Just as *sunflowers* need the *sun*, we need the SON, to grow and thrive.

Lynn Morris from the Mission Congregation, New Hope Lutheran Church, Ballentine, SC introduced Karen Pawluk, who gave us an update on their congregation. They began in 2013, and September 4, 2017 broke ground for their new building. They currently have 79 members, with average attendance of 59 each week for worship.

The business session began with CLW Secretary Janet Rash calling roll. There were 77 members and 2 visitors in attendance representing 16 of the 41 affiliated congregations in North and South Carolina. Minutes from the last meeting were published on the CLW website, and also copies placed on the tables for review. Gloria Ziemer/St. Jacob's, Chapin, SC made a motion to approve the minutes. Carolyn Wilfon/St. Martin's, Maiden seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The treasurer's report was presented by CLW Treasurer Jennie Cannon along with the proposed 2018 budget, which had no changes from 2017. Jennie moved to adopt the budget which was seconded by Peggy Moose/St. Martin's, Maiden. The motion passed unanimously.

Susanne Bebber, CLW Council, presented the nominees for Council. Two-year terms expiring are Pam Cansler, Susanne Bebber, Brenda Dunn and Lynn Coughenour, with Brenda and Lynn eligible for re-election and on the ballot. Also on the ballot was Kay Weaver/New Jerusalem, Hickory. Nominations were opened from the floor, as a fourth nominee was needed. Nelsie Lawing/Concondia, China Grove was nominated, and presented her biographical information. A prayer before voting was offered by Rev. Dawn Rister/Salem, Salisbury. Libby Brown/Holy Trinity, Troutman made a motion to vote by acclamation, which was seconded by Lisa Overcash/Faith, Faith.

The Convocation offerings were designated to the Gary Sinise foundation for their RISE (Restoring Independence Supporting Empowerment) program. A video outlining the Gary Sinise programs was shown. Janet Rash shared how the foundation provided funds for an ATV to her nephew's fire department, as shown in the video. The in-kind gifts of underwear collected would go to the LICS (Lexington Interfaith Community Services). Floods from 2015 depleted their supplies. The offerings were received and a prayer was offered by Gloria Ziemer. Offerings received included \$1544 for RISE, \$95 plus the underwear collected for LICS, and a yearly contribution of \$60.

Following the hymn "Shine, Jesus, Shine" those present attended break out sessions which included:

- Share-sheets (Projects/ideas for service projects)
- Resources available for programs/Bible studies
- How to rejuvenate your circles
- Youth & Evangelism/Witnessing

Each attendee could attend 2 different sessions with a break in-between.

The new CLW Council was installed by the Rev. Dawn Rister/Salem, Salisbury, followed by the singing of the Doxology as our Benediction/Blessing for our meal.

The closing hymn of "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" was sung, followed by a delicious lunch served by the women of St. Peter's.

Janet Rash, CLW Secretary

The 8th Annual Convocation will be held at St. John's, Statesville (NC) on September 29, 2018.