



The Southeastern Weaver

November 2011 - Vol. 4 Newsletter of The Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA



RENEW YOUR HEART: 2011 Convention Highlights

by Janice Hawkins

It was a great weekend with an inspirational theme, "Renew Your Heart". We renewed friendships and were challenged to share our gifts and energy with one another. The Lodge at Lake Gunterville State Park was beautiful and provided great food and accommodations. It was wonderful to be able to sit out on the deck and overlook the power and beauty of our awesome God!

A total of 162 people participated in the convention this year. Patti Austin welcomed everyone and did a great job providing us with her leadership skills throughout the weekend. Sharon Heck, our Church-wide Representative, gave us a review of all the publications and material available for Bible studies and women's programs that are available on the Church-wide Women of the ELCA website. Women of the ELCA is also on Facebook! Sharon also stressed the importance of stewardship and let us know there are guidelines for our offerings available on the Women of the ELCA website. We had our opening worship service led by Pastor Morgan Gordy and Pastor Esther Ngomuo. Friday evening everyone gathered in their clusters, using the opportunity to plan fall programs and future growth.

Saturday we accomplished much! We heard a Synod Update from Rachel Alley. She brought us news about the Malaria Initiative, the Social Statement on Genetics, and a review of the economic picture and the effects on the Synod office and the congregations in the Synod. She also told us how Campus Ministries are growing and providing opportunities for youth ministry interns and a variety of musicians. The budget was presented and adopted. Elections were held. Jean Minkin was elected to a one

year term as President, Norma Reed for a term as Vice President and Paula McMillan as Secretary. New board members were also elected. You can read all of our newly elected Board members' bios in this edition of the Weaver. The board put on a great performance with their skit "Polish and Renew your Heart". After lunch we collected the In-Kind Gifts, gift cards for Mercy's Children's Clinic. Our keynote speaker was Amy Vehec, M.D., a key supporter and provider at Mercy. She gave an inspirational speech about overcoming many adversities in her life and how it helped to shape the great lady she has become.

The LWR truck was available to collect our donations. We also had a new opportunity to give directly from our hearts through a blood drive held with Life South. We hope to continue this much needed service in the future. Thank you to the ladies who shared this precious gift.

Saturday afternoon we were able to participate in some wonderful workshops. Patti Austin gave a workshop entitled "Achy Breaky Heart". Rachel Alley provided our younger Women of the ELCA ladies with one called "Young Hearts, Younger Women". We had two other popular workshops: "Healing Touch Spiritual Ministries" by Lisa John-

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Jean Minkin, President

Our hearts ARE RENEWED! All 160+ ladies at our 24th Convention, congratulations for choosing to come to beautiful Guntersville State Park for a fabulous weekend. From the beauty of this earth to the beauty of the people who attended, worked and prayed for this Convention, Praise God.

As newly elected President, I thank you for having confidence in me and in all the leaders in this organization and for electing us at this Convention.

The convention was a success, with the hard work of Joni Donegan and her committees from Cluster 8 and Hospitality Cluster 7, and the Board. Thank you all, as well as all others including the spouses who came, who made this a beautiful and heart renewing convention. The weather cooperated, and Lake Guntersville was a site to behold for our gathering to worship God and have wonderful fellowship.

Ladies, to comment on just a few of the highlights: You reported the workshops were so meaningful and you had the opportunity to pray together with your neighbor, and what more can we hope for.

A highlight of the sessions to me was the LWR video. We learned the what, the how, where and whom for our collections of kits and quilts. Have we not always longed to learn more about the distribution of our gifts?

The In-Kind was a collection which Dr. Amy Velec, our speaker most appreciated. You all came through AGAIN, this year for the children and parents of Mercy Children's Clinic.

And most importantly the worship services, with Pastor Morgan Gordy and Pastor Esther Ngomuo, uplifted our hearts and prepared us for the weekend, as well as sent us home with a renewed spirit.

So having read the Convention Objectives in the BOR, including the actual business portion of this convention, I believe the entire team met the objectives!

Just prior to the convention, I had lunch with friends and my fortune cookie prophesy read: "Success will come to your plans." At that time I

had just decided to run for office and knew this, along with my belief in God's plans, would tell the tale. Then I thought specifically about this convention, and believe this fortune also meant success of the 24th Convention. Now I believe that these few words taken from that special cookie mean "Success will come (again) this year to our organization."

God Bless You All,

Jean Minkin

(Continued from Page 1)

son, and "Life is Tough, Wear a Helmet" by Ann Fottrell, M.D. There were also several workshops covering Prayer Shawl Ministry, Disaster Relief Ministry, and Music Ministry.

We had opportunities throughout the weekend to explore many exhibits on display, including Katie's Table which included a silent auction and convention theme pins. There were ladies making quilts to send to those in need through LWR. Missions supported by Women of the ELCA were also highlighted with displays on Campbell's Labels for Education, Ronald McDonald House, and Samaritan's Purse, just to name a few.

The Red & White Banquet was wonderful! It was amazing to see all that Red & White in one room. We had a great time listening to The Latitude Adjustment Steel Band and singing some Jimmy Buffett tunes! We even had a line dancing and traveling around the room and participation by some ladies playing tambourines, maracas and shaking all sorts of things.

Sunday morning's plenary session wrapped up the business of the weekend nicely with a report from Norma Reed and video about LWR. Our worship service was a great closing up to the weekend with wonderful music by the choir and a beautiful performance by the dance team.

Capping off a great weekend was the announcement of next year's convention location. The 25th Annual Convention of the SE Synod Women of the ELCA will be held at Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, GA. There will be a few surprises included with your registration fee so plan to spend an extra day if you can! It is scheduled for Sept. 14-16, 2012, so make plans now to join us!

CONVENTION REPORT:

Giving Update

by Dian Luffman, Treasurer



As I reflect on the stewardship shared at the 24th Annual Convention, I am again moved by the spirit at the amazing things women can accomplish! Our hearts were renewed and the love of Christ was shared and very much reflected in our fellowship and giving.

During the convention, we not only loaded the truck with many, many pounds for LWR but we collected monetary offerings during two amazing worship services, gathered a generous Love Offering to benefit Campus Ministries and shared \$10 gift cards (In-Kind) to support the work at Mercy Children’s Clinic.

At other times during the weekend, people handed me envelopes to support Project Comfort – a wonderful program designed to defray shipping costs for items collected for LWR.

Since the financial period for SES Women of the ELCA runs from Feb 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012, these numbers only reflect eight months of our giving period – there’s still lots of time for unit treasurers to send offerings.

This list of funds will be given to the recipient 100% – we don’t keep any of this in our Synod.

	<u>At Convention</u>	<u>Year-to-Date</u>
Project Comfort	\$939.23	\$1,379.36
In-Kind Offering	\$2,700.00	
Love Offering	\$3,230.51	\$3,935.10
Katie’s Table	\$983.05	

In addition, half of all other offerings collected in our Synod go to support the work of the Churchwide Women of the ELCA. So far this year as many are struggling with economic hardship, you have generously contributed **\$9,073.29** to the Synod either in general offerings or offerings collected at cluster meetings and convention, which will allow us to send \$4,536.65 to Churchwide in Chicago.

Please remember that even though we elect officers in September, the financial year doesn’t end until January 31, 2012. We will continue to collect for the Campus Ministries through January 31 2012. Can we reach \$5,000 (or more) to support the young peo-

ple on our college campuses in the Southeast?

During the business conducted during convention, it was voted that our Love Offering for the next two years (beginning February 1, 2012) would go to support Lutheranch - with an annual goal of \$10,000. We have a unique opportunity to have expansion of such a wonderful facility located in our Synod. You’ll be hearing more about this opportunity.

NOTE....Since most units will be electing new officers for next year, please share with the new board that checks should be made payable to the Southeast Synod Women of the ELCA or SES Women of the ELCA. If checks are received made out to the recipient (for example, Lutheran World Relief), I can only forward on to the organization. The end result is that you will not receive credit on the annual report at convention. If that is important to you, please make sure checks are made payable to SES Women of the ELCA.

Save the date for
Southeastern Synod
Convention!




Pine Mountain, GA
September 14-16, 2012




UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

November 11-13, 2011
Lutheranch, Tallapoosa, GA

February 10-12, 2012
Atlanta, GA

May 18-20, 2012
Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA

September 13 - 16, 2012
Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, GA

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Jean Minkin

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Thank you for electing me to the position of President. With God’s help, I will do my best to serve the synod.

My husband Mel and I, and Maggie the poodle, live in Lawrenceville. Our church home is Trinity Lutheran Church in Lilburn, Georgia (23 years). We are originally from Midland, Michigan. We have 2 daughters and 2 grandchildren nearby.

My partner and I have a small commercial roof consulting and inspections firm. We are fortunate to be home based. I have been in this business 15 years now, enjoy working with clients and handling the administration. Fortunately I do not climb roofs.

Mel and I enjoy travel, family trips and our small groups activities at church. I like walking and running, which means sometimes we combine travel and running with others family members. I enjoy reading, including my “beach books”. I have been on the Women of the ELCA Southeastern Synod Board four years and served as convention chair in 2010. I LOVE the conventions and Triennials. They are rewarding opportunities to serve and associate with other women and are rejuvenating. I also serve as Events Coordinator of Gwinnett Chapter Thrivent Board and as co-leader of my church unit circle Rachel. And now I will add board activities that will bring a new dimension to my life as I serve as your president.



Norma Reed

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Norma has served on the board the past year and was elected to fill the position of vice-president vacated by Patti Austin, who is now serving on the Churchwide Board. We look forward to working with Norma in her new position on the board.



Paula McMillan

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Greetings from Birmingham, Alabama. I am humbled and appreciative of the opportunity to serve on synod board of the Women of the ELCA. The next two years will be filled with excitement, opportunity, growth, and making many new friends. The Women of the ELCA has always been close to my heart and an active aspect of my church life for 35 years.

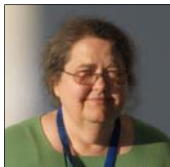
Since moving south in 1961 as a young teenager from California, I claim Alabama as home! I am a life-long Lutheran and member at Faith Lutheran, Birmingham. I met my husband at Faith and the rest is history. We celebrate his retirement on October 31st. Definitely a Halloween treat for us both!

We have been married 44 years with two adult children. Our daughter Shannon and her husband Chris have two children, Noah and Mia. Our son Corey and his wife Christy have two children, Gavin and Gracie but lost their third, Grant who went to live with Jesus at the sweet age of 5, just seventeen months ago. They are treasures whether on earth or in heaven.

I retired from the Department of Veterans Affairs after 34 years but still work part time for the Alabama Board of Examiners in counseling. I enjoy sewing and reading; and with my husband also enjoy yard work, a variety of church activities, camping, and cruising. We look forward to traveling the United States, spending more time with friends, family and most especially our grandchildren. I am also a Stephen Minister; and thank God for allowing me to deepen my walk with Him.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

To mobilize women
to act boldly on their faith
in Jesus Christ.



Patricia Barber

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Hello again, my name is Patricia Barber. I previously served on the board as treasurer. I am a South Dakota native, graduated from Augustana College, and a retired after a career as a civilian logistics manager for the US Army. I attend St Mark's in Huntsville, Alabama where I have served as circle, unit and church treasurer. I have also been cluster coordinator. I am single but answer to the demands of three bossy cats. I enjoy knitting and any embroidery involving beads.



Malisha Brown

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Malisha Brown hails from Maywood, IL where she attended Walther Lutheran High School and St. Paul Chicago Lutheran Church. She holds a Bachelor of Social Science from Mercer University and is currently enrolled at University of Medicine and Dentistry, NJ in the PhD in Psychiatric Rehabilitation program.

She has numerous years of experience in the ministry in various capacities and she is also an established grant writer. Currently she is Substance Abuse Counselor and active with her beloved church St. John's Atlanta.

Her motto is: "What God has for me, it is for me."



Jennie Mae Hill

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Jennie Mae Hill is a native southern belle and true Georgia Peach. She has been a member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Forest Park, GA for twenty-six years. Since January 2011 she has been attending Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Atlanta, GA where she and her family became members at the end of October.

Jennie Mae holds a BA in Political Science from Valdosta State University and is currently working on a BA in Middle Grades Education from Clayton State University. She is very active on the political scene and part of several local political organizations. She is dating a southern gentleman, Stephen Smith, who teaches in east-ern Kentucky.

Mica Inge Koli

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Mica Inge Koli is a newly-elected member of Women of the ELCA Board for the Southeastern Synod. She serves as a member of Saint Stephen Evangelical Lutheran Church in Decatur, GA where she has served as Director of Christian Education and Church Council President. Mica is a second year seminary student at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, serves on their worship planning team, and is a candidate for ordination.

Mica currently serves as Youth Director on the Leadership Board for the DeKalb Chapter of Thrivent Financials for Lutherans. She previously served as chapter vice president and president. Mica is also a member of The Georgia African American Lutheran Association and has served as a camp care leader at Lutheridge Outdoor Ministry.

Mica is a registered pharmacist, holds a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy from Florida A&M University and a Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of Florida. Mica is the proud mother of high school senior.



Carlyn Lundell Nankervis

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Greetings, My Sisters in Christ! I am Carlyn Nankervis. My husband Ron and I are members of Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Peachtree City, GA. We moved to Georgia in March 2010 after living in Utah for 20 years, to retire near family. (Ask me sometime what it is like to be a Lutheran living in Utah).

Ron and I are originally from New Jersey and lived in NJ, WI, IL as well as UT. We have three adult children and nine grandchildren.

I have taught English as a Second Language (ESL) for many years in the USA as well as Brazil, Hungary, Japan and Armenia. I speak four languages and love to travel. Ron likes traveling as well, so we enjoy visiting our grandchildren and going on cruises together (when I am not busy with volunteer activities).

I look forward to getting to know the women of the Southeast Synod. Being a member of the synod Board will provide a good way to achieve this goal as well as continue a life of service to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

“Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God....”



Lake Gunterville State Park Resort and Lake provided a peaceful setting for the convention.



Patti Austin took the “helm” and opened the convention until elections named our new President



Patti & Jean are Pajama Party boundwhile nearby Carol Hundebly’s slippers were ready for some action



Women from the Southeastern Synod took the actions of the synod at plenary sessions seriously



Convention Banner



Dana Lee Smith adds a little music to the session break outs



Patti Austin and Katherine Tillman worked together on a convention presentation



Amy Vehec, Keynote Speaker, shared her experiences at Mercy Clinic in Franklin, TN



Ronald McDonald House Display was a bright spot for convention attendees



Agnes & Carol had lot of clean up during one board skit



Convention brings past and present board members together for a lot of sharing...Robyn, Donna, Louise and Patti are busy at it.



Convention Chaplain Rev. Morgan Gordy led prayers and Bible study



Throughout the weekend, convention attendees had opportunity to visit with old friends and new

“...and Renew a Right Spirit within Me.”



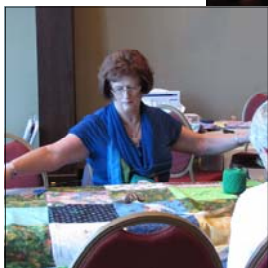
Anne Fottrell led a very popular workshop - "Life is Tough - Wear a Helmet"



Quilting was also very active with individuals like Carla and others in groups working diligently for LWR



Sunday service provided joyful Inspiration with choir and dancers participating along with pastoral leaders



Red and White was the theme of Saturday Evening's Banquet.....as bright and cheerful as it could be for all convention participants!



Patricia Snow presented the announcement of next year's convention at Callaway Gardens



Triennial 2011 SE Synod Quick Snaps



Latitude Adjustment Steel Band kept the party going during the Saturday evening Banquetattendees could not help but get up and dance



L-R Patti Austin, Renetta Ludgood, Louise Hamilton, Margery Kellar and Pat Barber



L-R Pat Barber, Margery Keller, Patti Austin, Renetta Ludgood and Louise Hamilton



During sessions with Renetta Ludgood and Patti Austin in foreground



JoAnn Fuchs and Jennifer Michael pose with Flamingo sunglasses as new Vice-President & President

Everyone got into the action with percussion instruments and the band during the banquet



The "Whole Gang" is gathered during Triennial

Lutheran World Relief:
Convention Update



by Norma Reed

Gathering to make quilts and put various LWR kits together is a long-standing project of Lutheran women that brightens lives both domestically and internationally. Although we recorded about 300 pounds less than our 30,000 pound goal, because of the number of churches that made additional donations following natural disasters across our Synod this past spring, it is likely that we did indeed exceed our goal. Cheers to all!

Rounded highlights are summarized below. For more detailed information, feel free to contact me.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Churches participating</u>
Cluster #1	2731	56.25
Cluster #2	3009	21.74
Cluster #3	2502	40.00
Cluster #4	903	36.36
Cluster #5	1546	31.58
Cluster #6	3527	55.55
Cluster #7	5120	46.15
Cluster #8	2933	33.33
Cluster #9	3326	50.00
Other	4088	(16 churches)

Clusters 1-5 are in Georgia, #7 is in Alabama, #6 and #8 are in Tennessee and Cluster 9 is Mississippi and Alabama. In addition to non-ELCA churches in our four states, the 'other' category includes churches in Florida, North and South Carolina. Imagine what a significantly greater impact we could have if each cluster promoted this project throughout its geographic area! Special kudos are extended to small churches with amazing donation totals and to those who used creative approaches to increase project participation.

Quilts are always of particular interest: Redeemer Atlanta recorded 1,563 pounds, Christus Victor, Ocean Springs MS recorded 1,245 and Shades Valley, Birmingham AL recorded 915. Numbers of Health/Personal Care Kits and old/new School Kits were similar. There were far fewer LAYETTES/Baby Care Kits and Sewing/Fabric Kits. Our 'easiest' donation, soap, totaled around 2,370 pounds.



KATIE'S FUND:
Katie's Table

by Katherine Tillman

The Katherine von Bora Luther Endowment (Katie's Fund) was established as an endowment in 1997, and exemplifies the life and work of this extraordinary woman. We honor her life, and the lives of faithful women everywhere.

Today, the Endowment Fund (using the interest) and the Annual Portion (for immediate needs) supports:

- ✦ Leadership Development
- ✦ Global Sharing
- ✦ Living Theology



At our most recent convention of our Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA, we made a total profit from the auction and Katie's Table (after all expenses) of \$983.05. We had a few items left over, and will sell them next year. Thanks for your support.

Please think of ways your congregational unit can educate your members and show financial support for Katie's Fund. Send me an e-mail so that I can share your ideas.

You can also order "*The Morning Star of Wittenberg*", available for \$19.95 from MOSAIC, the video magazine of the ELCA. (A study guide is available on the internet at the Women of the ELCA website www.welca.org. Select the stewardship and giving tab.) The same website will lead you to Katie's Fund - A Skit. For more information call 800-638-3522, ext 2730.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO
SPECIAL PEOPLE**

Being elected to the Board by our peers is an honor and a responsibility that every woman considers deeply prior to allowing her name to be placed in nomination. These ladies did and served faithfully. We wish to thank Patti Austin, Kathy Seraphine, Carol Hundebly, Rosa Janssen and Carla Stickle for a job well done. We wish them the best in future endeavors.

2011 IN-KIND GIFTS: *Mercy Childrens' Clinic*



Dear sisters in Christ,

Thank you so much for your tremendous support of the ministry at Mercy Children's Clinic. Your In-Kind offerings gave \$2700 in gift cards for our families at Mercy. As you know, we serve families from all backgrounds who travel from more than 30 counties in our region for medical and mental health care. It is often difficult for them to afford prescriptions or even the gas to get to and from the clinic. In these difficult times, even families with health insurance sometimes struggle with the medications copayments. These gift cards will be used to help families with these types of needs. We had been out of these cards for several weeks, and your gifts could not have come at a better time. Through these cards, Christ is working through you to minister to those in need.

May God continue to bless the work of your hands.

Amy

Lutheran Woman Today becomes *Gather*



by Kate Sprutta Elliott

(Partial reprint from August 2011 issue of *Interchange*)

A couple years ago, I was on a panel at a writers' conference at a Lutheran college and brought some copies of *LWT* to give away. After my talk, a young woman took a copy.

The next morning, she stopped me and told me she never picked up the magazine at church because she thought she was "too young to read it." She assumed it was for the older women involved in Bible study circle and quilting—not someone like her. But having read it—the entire issue in one evening!—she found articles that really inspired her. She loved it and became a subscriber.

That is one of many stories we've heard over the last few years.....So we did research and called groups of women together to see what they thought. We did paper and online surveys, brainstorming sessions and focus groups, and we met with a consultant with a history of working in the ELCA. The result of that year-long effort is the name *Gather*.

Lutheran women have long gathered for Bible study, quilting, service projects—and fun. Much of

our faith is lived out in community. Jesus said that where two or three are gathered, he is in the midst of them. Sounds like Jesus wants us to gather!

We believe that *Gather* will help us open our magazine to a wider, more inclusive audience—women of all ages who live out their faith in many ways but who come together in community to “affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness” (from the Women of the ELCA purpose statement).



We have heard from clergy who belong to our full-communion partners without a women's magazine. They say that they love our Bible study and articles but feel uncomfortable promoting a magazine with another denomination's name in the title. *Gather* will answer that for them.

The articles, columns and Bible study will continue to be the award-winning content you've come to enjoy. The September issue begins the new Bible study on the Gospel of Mark. We think you'll find it to be a terrific study—Mark is full of amazing stories. The writer, the Rev. Patricia Lull, does an excellent job of bringing readers into the action.

This is a good time to share the magazine with others—new folks at church, women who have long been members but are not connected to our organization, friends and younger women who might see this magazine with new eyes. You know how you feel when you read an article that particularly moves or encourages you. Share that feeling with the other women in your life and help them grow in faith!

(Kate Sprutta Elliott is editor of *Gather*. You may write to her at gathermagazine@elca.org)

To order *Gather* call 800-328-4648. It's a bargain—10 issues for only \$12. Current *LWT* subscribers will automatically receive *Gather* starting in September.

Visit our new website
at www.seswelca.com
for all the
latest information.

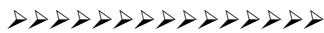
2011 LOVE OFFERING: *SES Campus Ministries*

by Jean Minkin



You have donated \$3,935.10 to date and still have time to increase giving. Please consider reopening your pockets and pocketbooks for the young people of our Synod. Campus Ministries offers college students a haven, whether it be someone's home, a college meeting space, or a campus house. It is a place to worship, to relax, and to meet new friends. These young adults need help in order to keep thriving and growing in faith; they need our moral support, spiritual support and financial support.

It's not too late! Please send your donations to Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA, Treasurer Dian Luffman. The final date for this Love Offering is January 31, 2012.



2012 & 2013 LOVE OFFERING: *Standing on the Promise*



The Love Offering for the next two years was selected at the Synod Convention.

Beneficiary: Lutheranch, Tallapoosa, GA
Length: Two Years
Amount: \$20,000
Need: Great!!

With this donation to the "Standing on the Promise" campaign, Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA will have a naming opportunity. We all understand the challenge this campaign presents. We also understand the great need to expand with a new retreat center to provide adequate space for more retreats, youth gatherings and family opportunities in our synod. More details will be provided in future issues of the *Weaver*. You can check out www.llmi.net/lutheranch to see what exciting opportunities are in store.



WHO DO YOU CALL?

NOTE: ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE MADE AND LISTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE. ADDITIONAL NUMBERS & EMAILS ARE LISTED BELOW.

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2011-2012 EXECUTIVE BOARD
Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA

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