

SNOW Newsletter

From the Desk of the President

Special points of interest:

- Sue Ellwanger and RoxAnn Goulet attend AELC Women's Convention
- Fall Cluster Gathering 2015 Reports
- Spring Cluster Gathering Schedule
- Do you have a "Sitting Disease"?
- Healthy Soup Recipe
- Minnesota Leading in Anti-Trafficking
- Hospitality Corner



Happy New Year!

I hope all of you got to enjoy the Christmas season with your family and friends, but that you also made time to reflect on the real reason for this season, the birth of the Christ Child.

Many units are planning the program for their 2016 year. Check out the many resources available on the Women of the ELCA website at www.womenoftheelca.org. There are Bible studies, short programs, and programs for retreats, and the best part is—they are FREE!

Many ladies are busy this time of year working on quilts that are donated both locally and to Lutheran World Relief. There were over 300,000 quilts distributed throughout the world, where they are needed most, through Lutheran World Relief in 2015. If you have a group of women in your congregation not ready to take on quilts; LWR is also looking for tied fleece blankets. Great project for other groups as well. You can also download shipping labels and track the quilts your group has made. As we find out the dates for spring pick up times and locations, we will post them on our synod website at www.nwmnsynod.org

Spring Cluster Gatherings are just around the corner. The dates and places of each gathering are found on page 5 of this newsletter. Following the spring gatherings, the SWO will transition into 8 conferences, along with the NW MN Synod. We will also be changing our name from "clusters" to "WELCA Conferences".

Our 2016 SWO Convention will be held on September 16-17 at Calvary in Perham. The convention will be co-hosted by the ladies of Immanuel in Wadena and Calvary, Perham. Our theme is "She is..." Our keynote speaker is Pastor Jodi Houge, from Humble Walk Lutheran church, in St. Paul, MN. Pastor Jodi served as an intern at Zion, Amor. We are in the early stages planning for this convention, but there will be exciting things happening at it!

Your Sister in Christ,

Sue Ellwanger, President



Inside this issue:

God is Alive and Flourishing in India	2
Fall 2015 Cluster Gatherings Reports	4-9
Spring 2016 Cluster Scheduled Gatherings	5
Healthy Lifestyle	10
Human Trafficking	11

God is Alive and Flourishing in India

How do I adequately write about the sights, sounds, joy, enthusiasm, the love of God, or the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

In Visakhapatman, the city where we stayed, it was hard to believe that while we were staying in a very nice hotel that there were men, women and children sleeping along the streets by our hotel; our hearts went out to them. The sides of the streets were crowded with street vendors, dogs, cows, calves, goats, and a few pigs. There were always crowds of people in the streets and sidewalks, among the vendors all day and night. Motorcycles were in abundance, with 1 to 5 passengers aboard. Included in the mix were three wheel cabs and cars, mid-size cars, and dump trucks. Horns sounded incessantly, while motorcycles zipped in and out of traffic. Surprisingly we did not see one accident, or any sign of road rage.

Joy, enthusiasm, the love of God and the blessings of the Holy Spirit were abundant once we arrived at the convention. The convention itself was the most spiritually inspired experience of my life. The women radiated joy as exhibited by the numerous choirs (about 35) from various congregations. One after another they took their place and sang a joyful noise unto the Lord. We could not understand the words, but we could feel their love and joy.

They would sit for hours and hours, without breaks in the 85 to 90 degree heat. They were enthralled with the

lengthy sermons, song after song, followed by another sermon. Most sermons, or keynote speakers spoke for an hour or more. We were told the women wanted to get their monies worth, and did not want the days cut short. This was quite evident as the first session ended after 11:00 pm.

Many of the women slept on blankets on the church floor, shared two showers, one wash room, and two toilets. Each morning they were showered and ready to start a new session. Each meal was the same: white rice, fried rice, chicken in hot gravy, chicken gizzards in hot gravy, and curd. I never heard one complaint. The reason I mention these things is to convey the reason for their coming to this convention, and undergoing some hardships, as we see them. They were at the convention to renew and refresh their faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Truly, the love of God illuminated from their smiles, their eyes, from songs and their whole being. It uplifted me in a way that I can not put into words.

They are considered poor by our standards, but I would call them rich in Spirit. Perhaps it is time we take lessons from our sisters here, our riches come from our faith in God, not our earthly possessions or status. This is an experience I treasure always.

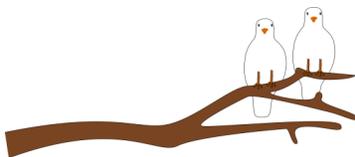
RoxAnne Goulet, Board Member



Sue and RoxAnne Attend AELC Convention—India



Cluster 2 Fall Gathering



Cluster Two held their fall gather, Saturday, September 19th at First Lutheran Church, Middle River. The theme for the day was “Don’t Worry about the Years; Grow Closer to the Lord.” Based on Psalm 31:15. Our Savior’s Women of Thief Lake served morning coffee and treats.

Barb Geer and Breanna Helm opened the program with piano and organ duets.

Cluster Two Coordinator, Judy Scramstad, welcomed the group, followed by a welcome from Lois Peterson, First Lutheran Co-president. Sheryl Carriere led in a brief Bible study and devo-

tions. Guest Speaker was Pastor Cathie Rhodes who shared her experiences on her trip to Africa. Special music was provided by Lois Anderson and Lois Peterson and Barb Geer and Breanna Helm. Middle River area youth told us of their experiences on their mission trips.

Greetings and information from the SWO Board were extended by Roxanne Goulet, SWO Board Representative. Offering Meditation by Gloria Ness Cluster Financial Reporter and roll call by Marjorie Iverson, Cluster Recorder with 75 attending.

After closing comments, the Lord’s Prayer was said, table grace was sung, and First Lutheran Women served a delicious noon luncheon.

Marjorie Iverson, Cluster Two Recorder

Cluster 3 Fall Gathering

“*Sharing the Harvest*” was the theme of the Fall Cluster #3 Gathering September 2nd at Fisher Lutheran Church in Fisher, Minnesota. The theme verse, from 2nd Corinthians 9:8, was “*And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work*”.

We were greeted with beautiful harvest decorations throughout the church, with coffee and muffins served by the women of neighboring Bygland Lutheran. Senora Pederson had a bookstore display.

Bonnie Knutson played the organ prelude, with Host Committee Chair Sheryl Tinkham and Cluster Coordinator Jeannine Windels welcoming attendees. The congregation sang the theme hymn, “*For the Fruit of All Creation*” and participated in a Hymn Sing. Pastor Karen Young Trenne of Fisher Lutheran led devotions, with everyone participating by listing of gifts and talents we have been given to share. Roll call was answered by 40 women representing 13 churches. Financial Recorder Kay Carlsen gave the financial report and also the offering meditation. Merrily Burmeister, Board Representative, presented the NW MN SWO Report. Special music was provided by Anna Larson, who also shared information about Thrivent Action Teams.

Pastor Karen Young Trenne gave an impromptu, inspiring talk about her sister, in the stead of the scheduled speaker who was unable to

attend. Pastor Karen asked the women to keep her sister in their prayers, and stressed that the poor are a gift we have been given to minister to.

The physical offering resulted in 32 towel sets and seven pairs of hand-crafted mittens, which were given to the Care & Share Center of Crookston. A delicious fall luncheon was served by the Fisher Women.

The Spring Cluster Gathering will be hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church of Red Lake Falls; date to be announced.

Sandy Knudsvig, Cluster Recorder ELCA!



Cluster 4 Fall Gathering

The Cluster 4 Fall Gathering was held on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2015 at Clearwater Lutheran Church in Shevlin.

The theme was “God Rescues”.

Bible Study was given by Pastor Jeremiah Holst on 1 John 4: 13-19. “God is Love” Everyone sang “You are Mine”

Coordinator, Betty Wignes called the Business meeting to order.

Vicki Heydt gave the MN SWO Board report. The NW MN SWO Convention that was held at Trinity Lutheran, Moorhead was a success. The Triennial Convention & Gathering will be held in Minneapolis, July 2017. We are hoping to get a bus so more of us can attend. Roll call was taken - 47 attending from 14 different churches. Marie Hamre had the treasurers

report. She agreed to stay on as the Financial Recorder.

Geneva Paulson from Eagle Bend, MN, author of the book “Rescuing Randy” was our key note speaker. Their son had been involved in a religious cult. She told how God had opened doors so they could get him and go to a cabin where they could deprogram him. A very touching story.

Our physical offering were items for the Clearwater County Food Shelf. Door Prizes were drawn for, and a delicious lunch was served by the Clearwater Lutheran WELCA. We thanked them for being the host.

Our spring meeting will be held at First Lutheran in Bemidji on Saturday, April 9th at 9 0'clock.

PLAN TO ATTEND AND BRING A FRIEND.



Cluster 4 Officers: Ardella Lindberg, Marie Hamre and Betty Wignes ,



Geneva Paulson, Guest Speaker

2016 Spring Cluster Gathering Schedule

- Cluster #1 - April 16, 2016 8:30 AM Registration, Sion Lutheran - Lancaster, MN**
- Cluster #2 - April 16, 2016 8:30 AM Nazareth Lutheran - Holt, MN**
- Cluster #3 - April 30, 2016 8:30 AM Bethany Lutheran - Red Lake Falls**
- Cluster #4 - April 9, 2016 8:45 AM 1st Lutheran - Bemidji**
- Cluster #5 - April 30, 2016 9:00 AM Immanuel Lutheran - Hendrum**
- Cluster #6 - April 28, 2016 5:30 PM Glyndon Lutheran - Glyndon**
- Cluster #7 - April 9, 2016 8:30 AM St. Peter's Lutheran - Audubon**
- Cluster #8 - April 4, 2016 5:00 PM 1st Lutheran - Battle Lake**
- Cluster #9 - April 19, 2016 8:00 AM Faith Lutheran - Staples**
- Cluster #10 - April 16, 2016 8:30 AM Osakis Lutheran - Osakis**



hello
spring!

Cluster 5 Fall Gathering

Cluster 5 women gathered on a beautiful fall morning on September 26, 2015, at Zion Lutheran Church, Twin Valley, MN., with 108 women in attendance. The women of Zion served a delicious brunch, and were dressed in vintage dresses and aprons. Theme of the gathering was, "Growing up Country."

Audrey Airhart, from Zion welcomed everyone to the gathering. The opening hymn was "To God Be the Glory." Pastor Dille gave the devotions and a homily based on the theme verse, Psalm 71: 18. Pastor Dille shared memories of growing up on her grandmother's farm, hiding in the closet with the refuge of quilts, using blankets to build a tent, and seeking refuge from "grown-ups." She emphasized that God is our refuge and strength, our rock and shelter. God provides us refuge from storms, the chaos of life, and trials that come our way. The church is called to be a refuge and safe place.

The women of Zion led a sing-a-long medley of Sunday School Songs, as well as providing special music at the gathering. The key note speaker was Maxine Bergerson Werner, author of Country Ragamuffins. She shared memories of growing up on a dairy farm in a Norwegian rural Minnesota community. Maxine authored her book so that her grandchildren could understand what it was like growing up on a

dairy farm. Her journey recalled her upbringing as the oldest girl among eight siblings, sharing her experiences of a family heritage of strength, faith, connectedness, and a thorough enjoyment of life.

The business meeting was led by Cluster 5 Coordinator, Elaine Scheer, with the Spring cluster minutes being read by Joy Bang recorder and the treasurer report being reviewed by Renae Hoekstra, cluster 5 treasurer. Margaret Kragerud, NW SWO Board Member brought greetings and shared pertinent information from the September NW MN Women's Synod Convention.

The gathering closed with singing, "On Our Way Rejoicing."

It was a memorable morning, and as the program stated, "Go in peace and keep your memories close to your heart!"

The 2016 Spring Cluster 5 Gathering is scheduled for April 27th at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Hendrum, MN.

Joy Bang, Cluster 5 Recorder



Cluster 6 Fall Gathering



Cluster 6 Fall Gathering was held on September 24th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN. There were 85 ladies in attendance with 10 churches be represented. We were served a scrumptious pork loin dinner which included the Best Homemade Apple Pie Ever! Our speaker for the evening was Taunya Todd from Hawley, MN. She is a songwriter and inspirational speaker. In telling her life/faith journey, she used a message of words and her original songs. Her message included that we trust that God

has a plan for our lives instead of trusting so much in our plan for our life. Being diagnosed with Crohn's disease has helped her trust. We should "Be Still, Listen, and Grow". She concluded with her song "I'll Follow You Still". Her website is: www.taunyatodd.com

Our business meeting besides current cluster business included reports on the Annual Convention, reports from SWO board members and the election of Terry Piphon as the new financial recorder for Cluster 6. It was a very good Gathering.

Cluster 7 Fall Gathering

Cluster 7 gathering was held at Cormorant Lutheran Church on September 26, 2015. The theme was "God's Love is Bountiful". There were 70 member present.

Linda Braaten, President of CLCW, welcomed the gathering and introduced the Cormorant Bell Choir, who played "Be Thou My Vision" and "Bless the Lord, Oh My Soul. Ardys Horner led us in devotions. The Bible Study, led by Pastor Wade Dutton, was based on Isaiah 35: 1-10, which emphasized God's bountiful Love. Nancy Sitz gave a humorous reading of "Who's in my Pew", which everyone enjoyed.

Nancy Schafer, former First Lady of North Dakota, was our speaker who told about her experiences in jail chaplaincy ministry. She related stories of inmates whose lives have been changed by this program and invited anyone who might be interested in this ministry to contact her.

Carolyn Nelson, treasurer of the Synodical Women's Organization, gave a report on the recent SWO convention held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead. She is hoping that many women will attend the triennial convention in Minneapolis in 2017.

Luanne Gerdes, Coordinator of Cluster 7, presided over the business part of the morning. Ardys Horner was nominated and elected for a two year term as treasurer of Cluster 7, after filling the term of Carolyn Nelson, who was elected to the SWO Board. Changes to the clusters will take place in 2017. There will be 8 instead of 10 and our cluster will be # 6 and will include ELCA churches in Perham, New York Mills, Sebeka and a few others in that area. Luanne included a letter that was put in each church packet and encouraged the members to read it.

After the Lord's Prayer and the Table Blessing, a delicious lunch was served by the women of Cormorant Lutheran.

Respectfully submitted, Rachel Johnson, Recorder .



Our Purpose Statement

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world

"End of Year Blessing"

As the year wraps up and draws to a close, may you let go of any lies you picked up along the way. May you shake off any offenses that are still hanging on. May you instead wrap yourself up in the complete love and acceptance of Christ. May you forgive others and forgive yourself. May you believe that God's promises are more powerful than your blunders. May you embrace God's redemptive plan for your life with hope and expectancy. May you be healed and restored as you sleep tonight. And may you wake up with fresh faith and vision for the year ahead. God bless

Cluster 8 Fall Gathering

Cluster 8 held their Fall Gathering at New Life Lutheran Church in Rothsay on Oct. 24th, 2015. There were 132 women and 3 guests in attendance.

Dr. Heidi Manning, Professor of Science and Mathematics at Concordia College, was the Guest Speaker. Dr. Manning worked as a research scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD where she tested and calibrated an instrument currently orbiting Saturn on the Cassini spacecraft. Her presentation, "Exploring God's Creation", was centered around Psalm 19:1 and 1 Corinthians 15: 40-41. Each star differs from each other in their glory. Dr. Manning shared the latest discoveries of the objects explored in the solar system to help us appreciate the glory of each of these objects. She concluded with a quote by Martin Luther, "Study not only the written gospel, but the gospel written in nature. From reading all these different versions of the gospel, we obtain a more complete view of God. We better know the creator by studying his creation.

Special Music was provided by a quartet of girls from the Rothsay High School and Heather Reber, Music teacher at Rothsay High



School, played a trumpet solo.

At the Business Meeting, Else Andersen was elected to the position of Financial Recorder. Coordinator asked for three volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee. Doris Wilcox, Zion Lutheran of Amor, volunteered. Kathy Jacobson will contact others from the Cluster to be on the Committee.

Representing the SWO Board were Sue Ellwanger, Carolyn Nelson and Carol Gealow.

Esther Youngberg, Cluster 8 Recorder



From left to right: Dr. Heidi Manning, Kathy Jacobson and Esther Youngberg.

Cluster 9 Fall Gathering

The 2015 Cluster 9 Fall Gathering took place on Tuesday, September 29, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Perham. There were 118 women attending representing 14 congregations plus 5 visitors.

Morning coffee and muffins were provided by the women of Calvary. Gathering music preceded the meeting. Attendees were welcomed by Cluster 9 Coordinator Nancy Kjeldahl and Terri Olson from Calvary Lutheran.

Pastor Cassie Anderson led Bible Study and devotions based on the theme verse Romans 12:4-5. She connected with the theme "Stitched Together to Serve the Lord" and emphasized the role of the Women of the ELCA in giving women leadership opportunities and developing leadership skills. Pastor Cassie concluded by leading us in a communion service.

Coordinator Nancy Kjeldahl called the meeting to order and led in

the reading of the Statement of Purpose. Recorder Diane Teigland took roll call. The minutes and financial report for the 2015 Spring Gathering were presented. A motion passed to approve the minutes as written. The financial report will be filed for audit.

New Business:

A representative of the nominating committee presented Elaine Salvog as a candidate for treasurer. A motion passed to cast a unanimous ballot for Elaine.

Diane Teigland was recognized for her year of service as Cluster 9 Recorder. She has been elected to the NW MN SWO Board and cannot hold both positions. LuAnn Holt was appointed to fill out the term of recorder. Elaine Salvog and LuAnn Holt were installed as officers.

Cluster 9 Fall Gathering Continued

The 2016 Spring Gathering on Tuesday, April 19, will be held at Faith in Staples.

Carol Gealow, NW MN SWO Board Member, brought greetings from the board and a report on the SWO 2015 Convention which was held September 11th & 12th at Trinity Lutheran in Moorhead. The speaker was Dawn Keiser from Lake Park and Ellie Smith was there to represent church wide. Pr. Laurie Natwick led the Bible study. All Units are urged to send a delegate next year. Carol also reminded us to look forward to the 2017 Triennial in Minneapolis.

Thrivent representative Jean Hallberg presented information on the Action Projects program. Each Thrivent member may apply for two grants of up to \$250 each year for a project. It must involve some action by the member. You may contact your Thrivent representative for details.

Shawn Thurston reported on the program "Someplace Safe". She made available information on types of donations that are welcomed and addresses of the county resource offices.

The meeting was adjourned.

The program was presented by Nancy Kazlaukas from Sauk Centre who is an artisan quilter and author of quilting books. She showed us numerous beautiful examples of her work. We were impressed and awed by her work. She has used much of her work to bring beauty and comfort to others and after lunch she gave pieces of her work as door prizes.

After the Lord's Prayer and Benediction the women of Calvary served a delicious lunch,

Respectfully submitted, Diane Teigland, Cluster 9 Recorder



Cluster 10 Fall Gathering

Cluster 10 (Runestone) met on Saturday, September 19, 2015, at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Alexandria. We were welcomed with morning coffee treats provided by the women of Shalom Lutheran Church of Alexandria.

Our business meeting included reports from Luther Crest Bible Camp, Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries, NW MN SWO Board by Vicki Heydt, and from our Coordinator, Karen Erickson, with LWR facts about refugees and prayer shawl ministries. The Cluster 10 positions which were up for election (Coordinator Karen Erickson and Recorder Ruth Amundson) will continue their jobs until next year when the cluster borders change.

Our program was presented by Marilee Bergerson and Cindy Bigger, "The Preacher and The Teacher" about Homecoming. They shared part of their own stories from a one room school house, Sunday church doings, and a variety of little escapades. They closed by emphasizing the importance for each of us to tell our own story. Good music, food, and fellowship was enjoyed by all.



Left to right: Vicki Heydt—SWO VP, Karen Erickson—Cluster Coordinator, Carolyn Nelson—SWO Treasurer

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE



Do you have 'sitting disease'?

How many hours each day do you sit? At work? In the car? At meals? In front of the TV?

You might be surprised to learn that:

- 50 to 70 percent of people spend six or more hours sitting a day
- 20 to 35 percent spend four or more hours a day watching TV

These numbers come from a recent study looking at sedentary behavior. The study looked at the most recently available data from the National Health and Nutrition

Examination Surveys — a program of studies designed to assess the health and nutritional status of adults and children in the United States. This survey examines a nationally representative sample of about 5,000 people each year.

This study went on to reveal that Americans' sedentary lifestyle shortens their life expectancy. If Americans would cut their sitting time in half, their life expectancy would increase by roughly:

- 2 years (by reducing sitting to less than 3 hours a day)
- 1.4 years (by reducing TV time to less than 2 hours a day)

From previous studies we also know that a sedentary lifestyle is associated with increased risk for type 2 diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers (breast and colon).

Physical activity seems to reduce risks by increasing insulin sensitivity, reducing body fat, inflammation and certain hormonal imbalances. So becoming more active also

makes life — in general — healthier and easier.

Experts are beginning to agree that being more active simply means moving more during the day. So how can we fight "sitting disease"? Here are some thoughts:

- Stand more (set a timer and stand hourly)
- Change traditional video games into activity promoting ones — or buy an exercise video
- Walk while on the phone
- Get a pedometer and count your steps — increase from your baseline
- Take stairs up one floor or down two (consider more)

The solutions seem simple, but the effects may be profound. In addition to increasing your life expectancy, you may lose a few pounds and stress less. What are your suggestions for stamping out "sitting disease"?

Jennifer K. Nelson, R.D., L.D. and Katherine Zeratsky, R.D., L.D.

Low-Fat Potato Soup Recipe

Ingredients

- 1-3/4 cups diced peeled potatoes
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup chopped celery
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 3 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1 can (12 ounces) fat-free evaporated milk, divided
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded reduced-fat cheddar cheese

Directions

In a large saucepan, combine the potatoes, onion, celery, broth and pepper. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 15-18 minutes or until vegetables are tender.

Combine cornstarch and 1/4 cup milk until smooth; stir into potato mixture. Add the remaining milk. Bring to a boil; cook and stir for 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from the heat. Stir in cheese until melted.



Nutritional Facts

1 cup equals 178 calories, 2 g fat (0 saturated fat), 9 mg cholesterol, 274 mg sodium, 26 g carbohydrate, 0 fiber, 14 g protein. **Diabetic Exchanges:** 2 starch, 1 medium-fat meat.



Minnesota Leads on Anti-Trafficking Fight

Human trafficking is a growing global scourge. And while the problem is more acute in some countries, the U.S. is certainly not immune. Its efforts to fight the crime will be enhanced through interagency cooperation, making it especially positive news that the U.S. Departments of Justice, Labor and Homeland Security have jointly announced that six cities will be sites of new Anti-Trafficking Coordination Teams.

It's even better news that Minneapolis will be one of them.

Each team will be led by the local U.S. attorney (Andrew Luger in Minnesota) and the highest-ranking federal investigative agents in the FBI, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Department of Labor regional field offices. They'll lead what's called Phase II of the ACTeam Initiative, which the Justice Department describes as an interagency effort to streamline federal criminal investigations and prosecution of human-trafficking offenses.

The selection of Minneapolis as one of the six cities reflects strong local leadership on an international issue.

"It's a recognition of the work we have done over the last two years in building all kinds of state, local and federal partnerships to better investigate and prosecute these cases," Laura Provinzino, assistant U.S. attorney and human-trafficking coordinator, told an editorial writer.

U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar agrees. "It's an acknowledgment of the work we've been doing, the coordination, the model and the work we've done in Congress," she said last week.

In fact, some of the congressional action, such as this year's Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, was led by Klobuchar, a Democrat, and Minnesota's Third District Republican Rep. Erik Paulsen. The act was modeled on Minnesota's "Safe Harbor" law.

Beyond lawmakers and attorneys, advocates combating human trafficking in numerous nongovernmental organizations based in Minnesota are also important players in the local — and global — efforts.

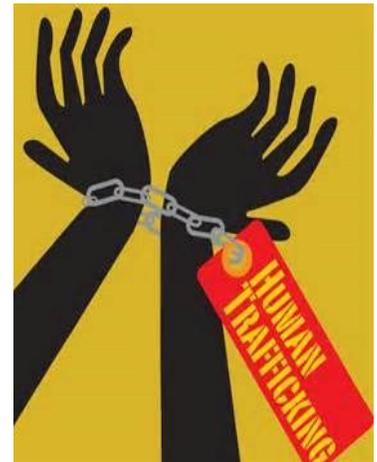
The designation doesn't immediately bring new resources. But Klobuchar said that she "strongly believes" it makes Minnesota much more competitive when additional grants become available.

It's easy to be cynical about public service. But beyond the campaign rhetoric denigrating "government," there are hardworking professionals who eschew partisanship for professionalism and try to tackle intractable problems like human trafficking. Minnesota is fortunate to be recognized for such efforts.

"As a citizen of the state and a law enforcement official, I want to be in a community

where children and our immigrant workforce and others are not for sale," said Provinzino. "That's a big piece of what we are trying to combat. To make sure that human trafficking doesn't take place in Minnesota, and through aggressive law enforcement and through prosecution we can hopefully deter more of it from happening."

*By Editorial Board, Star Tribune
December 23, 2015*



Hospitality Corner

According to Wikipedia **Hospitality** refers to the relationship between a guest and a host, wherein the host receives the guest with goodwill, including the reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. Louis, chevalier de Jaucourt describes hospitality in the Encyclopédie as the virtue of a great soul that cares for the whole universe through the ties of humanity.^[4]

A few ways to show hospitality

- ◆ Is someone you know is under the weather, offer to pick up things from the store they may need.
- ◆ If gardening is your thing and you're growing a vegetable garden, share your bounty with those around you—it's a great way to connect with your neighbors.

- ◆ Invite someone who could use a break for coffee or tea to a nearby coffee shop and spend some time catching up.





Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA

NW MN SNOW Newsletter

Lois Bylund, Editor

1911 19th Street S

Moorhead, MN 56560

Phone: 218-236-1439

Cell: 701-261-3481

E-mail: snoweditor@gmail.com

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
FERGUS FALLS, MN
PERMIT NO. 210

Women ^{of the} ELCA

NW MN SWO Convention—September 16 & 17, 2016



She is clothed
with **STRENGTH**
& **DIGNITY**
and laughs
without **FEAR**
of the **FUTURE**
Proverbs 31:25

Theme: **She is....**

Calvary Lutheran
Church, Perham, MN

Keynote Speaker:

Pastor Jodi Houge

Humble Walk Lutheran Church
St. Paul, MN