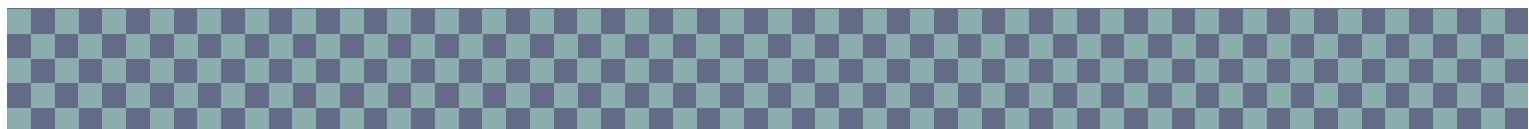


The Bulletin November 2020

The Bulletin is issued monthly, except the summer months; and is the major method of communication with the congregational units. Receive it either by email or regular mail. You automatically receive it if you are a unit president, a conference leader, a board member, or serve on a committee. The deadline for articles to be entered into The Bulletin is the first of the month, for the next months issue. You are welcome to print as many copies as you'd like. Anyone not currently receiving The Bulletin can be added to the list by contacting Joyce Ohlson, secretary, at karmagma@gmail.com or calling 406-852-3649.



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From the Desk of the President—November 2020

Fall has arrived and we are beginning to enjoy the cooler weather. Our beautiful leaves are beginning to fall which means more yard work but the kids in neighborhoods are enjoying jumping in the leaf piles. We are no longer in Daylight Savings Time and yes, we made it to phase 3 of the pandemic regulations. Please continue to follow the 3 w's of waiting 6 feet apart, wearing a mask, and washing our hands frequently. Please be safe because too many North Carolinians have not survived the virus and still in October our cases of the virus were rising. Also remember our



North Carolina sisters who lived through the hurricane earlier on our coast and especially those on Ocean Isle and in Birdie county. They still have a lot of damage to overcome. Also remember those in our Gulf States that have been repeatedly hit with hurricanes and tropical storms.

Yes, we are in November. Many look at this time as a time to be thankful for all the many blessings we have. But really, we should be thankful every day of the year. Our Heavenly Father has given us many blessings and we should include these in our daily prayers. I would like to challenge each and every one of you in your daily journal writings (if you do this) or just daily to make a list and add a different blessing each day during November and then add this to your daily prayers. I am sure many will run out of days before running out of things you are thankful for. Even though our lives are still stressed because of the virus we should always remember to GIVE THANKS.

During this month we will be focusing on Veterans Affairs. This topic has entered in a lot of different actions that our government is planning to do on this subject. Read the articles in this Bulletin about what is going on. Our men and women put their lives on the line for us and they need our support. Keep them in your daily prayers also.

Many will celebrate Thanksgiving a little different this year but don't forget the homeless, those now unemployed, and those without food. Giving food or money to local food banks could help many.

This month is the time to take our Thankoffering money and send it directly to Churchwide WELCA. You can go on line and print a copy of the devotion for this project.

Also, Regular offerings and Pennies money for Youth4Abolition can be sent to Nena Babb, our treasurer. Pennies money for Youth4Abolition is still taken until January 31, 2020.

I would like to ask each congregation that has had a Covid-19 death to please send me those names. It is only fitting that the North Carolina WELCA remember these ladies.

My hope is that each and everyone of you have a blessed Thanksgiving.

Thank you for all your hard work. Keep reading and getting the Bulletin to your ladies and don't forget to send our secretary information and pictures of activities that you are doing so this can be put in the Bulletin. Keep up with information on the NC WELCA website and also the Churchwide WELCA website.

Don't forget to vote.

May you have Love, Joy, Peace, and Good Health.

Jane Cadwallader, NC WELCA President



**Gathering Planning Committee—Joyce Ohlson, Linda Davis,
Cindy Whisenant**



NC WELCA “Pennies’ Project”- Youth4Abolition (Y4A) (www.Youth4Abolition.com)

Human Trafficking is more complex than just force, fraud, coercion, kidnapping, or finding victims on-line who are then sexually exploited in many horrendous ways, only to find themselves trapped. Youth4Abolition focuses on PREVENTION. Our youth-led peer-to-peer chapters have teens teaching teens about the details of human trafficking, right here in the Carolinas. Your support ensures that we keep these kids from “falling off the cliff” before we have to rescue and rehabilitate, if we even get the chance. Recently Y4A began bringing attention to a cultural shift that makes our job even harder and the trafficker’s job even easier.

In the last decade there has been a shift in our culture brought about by a combination of many things like social media, accountability, and perhaps even fear. There has been a desensitization and normalizing process going on right before eyes.

Desensitizing and normalizing sexual behaviors at an early age have a negative impact on many aspects of defining childhood. Once a child sees a behavior done over and over without consequences, they think it is alright, and are desensitized. Normalizing is the manipulation of another human being to get them to agree to, or accept something that is in conflict with the law, social norms or their own basic code of behavior.* These two processes are occurring everywhere around us and can be found in movies, social media, video games and more. This creates a very vulnerable population of children and teens and thus a huge potential pool of victims for our traffickers.

Youth4Abolition works to underscore these issues to our youth, parents, and communities on how to avoid becoming victim to the desensitizing and normalizing of behaviors that leave them more vulnerable to trafficking.

With your support, our current chapter growth in high schools, churches and colleges will help us educate, prevent, and protect our youth and their friends. Education is the cornerstone of prevention.

If you would like to learn more about the issue, contact Cindy@youth4abolition.com.

*<https://outofthefog.website/top-100-trait-blog/2015/11/4/normalizing>



Justice Committee—Anita Miller and Tonie Neal



Veterans Memorial

As you have read in previous articles, I'm a reader of the newspaper. I love the silence of reading. So, you are the beneficiary or not of my addiction to print. I go to the printed page for my sources of information. Today I bring you an upbeat story of several of Thomasville's local Girl Scouts, as they restore an important North Carolina landmark as a community service project. For the past couple of months, members of Lexington Girl Scout Troop 41495 have been painstakingly repainting the names of the more than 1,600 engraved NC veterans listed on the wall at the N.C. Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The brick wall monument was built and dedicated in 1991 and the names have grown faint.

Six 12-year-old girls have been involved in the project: Bailey Hicks of Lexington, Ashlyn Wright of Linwood, Hannah Hicks of Thomasville, Maddie and Emma Hinkle of Thomasville and Brooke Lambeth of Linwood. Three of their mothers—Beth Hicks, Carrie Hicks and Anna Hinkle—are assisting the girls. "we are working on our Silver Award project, which is the second-highest award in Girl Scouting," explained troop leader Beth Hicks. Awards are nothing new to this troop, having completed the Bronze Award a few years back. For that one they grew a garden and donated all the produce to local food banks. The girls must complete 50 hours of work toward the project.

Hanna Hicks was quoted "I think it is important because these people sacrificed their life for us, and the least we could do was sacrifice our time for them". Brooke Lambeth stated, "It makes me feel like I'm doing something to help remember all those brave men and women who died for our country". Maddie Hinkle said the work is not hard, but it's very detailed and time-consuming. "We just focus on one name at a time," she said. They focus on one letter at a time. First, they paint the letter black with a thin paintbrush, press it with a paper towel, then clean around it with a cotton swab before moving on.

"Pressure washing and age took a toll on the names over time," said N. C. Department of Transportation engineering technician Mike Lineberry, who oversees the rest area where the memorial is located along Interstate 85 south. For months, Lineberry had been searching in Davidson County for a group interested in restoring the memorial. Troop 41495 answered the call.

If you know any of these families, now might be a good time, to give them a "thank you". What a delight to find our leaders and children stepping up to renew an old memorial. We all need to be reminded of the sacrifice so many made for all of us. The Holy Spirit moves us to do what we can, when we can. It lifts the heart and makes it smile to think of these young girls listening to their call.

itomlin@hpenews.com 2019 The High Point Enterprise (High Point, N.C.) The Fayetteville Observer, August 6, 2019 By Jimmy Tomlin Tribune News Service

Submitted by Tonie Neal, NC WELCA Justice

Humanitarian Aid for Refugees, feared destroyed in Beirut Explosion, Found Intact

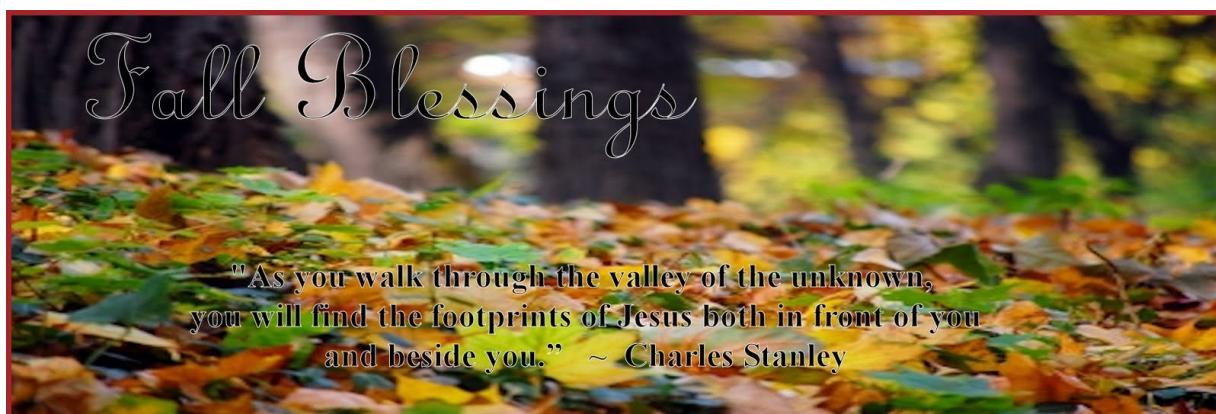
BALTIMORE, Sept. 24, 2020 — Three 40-foot shipping containers filled with humanitarian aid that included thousands of handmade quilts and baby-care items, which were reported as destroyed in the August 4 explosions at the port of Beirut, Lebanon, have been found intact and are ready to be distributed victims of the blast and refugees.



Authorities assumed the containers were lost in the historic blast that killed more than 200 people and laid waste to parts of the city. It took several weeks for longtime Lutheran World Relief partner Anera to gain access to the port, locate the containers and check their contents.

While other Anera shipping containers were heavily damaged, the three containers of quilts and kits were apparently stored behind a concrete block building that helped spare them from the blast. A fourth container, which was on a ship offshore when the explosion occurred, has since been delivered.

The contents of all four containers have been transferred to a warehouse and will be distributed to families displaced by the explosion, as well as to refugees living in Lebanon, principally from Syria and the Palestinian territories.





Discipleship Committee—Lisa Philbeck and Karen Overcash



Remembering Our Veterans

I am the proud daughter of a WWII veteran! My dad served in the military as a soldier in the United States Army; In fact, my dad was in the 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division that liberated Dachau, the Nazi concentration camp in Germany, April 29, 1945. He was only 18 years old during the time of this liberation. I can't imagine the impact this event has had on his life!

As my dad reminisces about the war, he is filled with emotions of tears of sadness but also a feeling of pride. He proudly wears his cap with national emblems of the U.S flag and the Bald Eagle, symbolizing the strength and freedom of America. My dad is so proud to be an American!

On Veterans Day, November 11, we honor all those men and women in the Military who have bravely fought for our country and our freedom. We celebrate their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice their lives.

Although we honor our veterans, some feel forgotten, lonely and unloved. “Being unwanted, unloved, uncared for, forgotten by everybody, I think that it is a much greater hunger, a much greater poverty, than the person who has nothing to eat.” ~ Mother Teresa

God’s Word gives us strength, comfort, hope and peace. I would like to share a few Bible verses for the US veterans and soldiers.

Joshua 1:9 “... Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Psalms 33:20-22 “Our soul waits for the LORD, he is our help and our shield for our heart is glad in him, because we trust in his holy name. Let your steadfast love, O LORD, be upon us, even as we hope in you.”

Romans 5:1 “Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through all our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Psalm 46:1 “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

As disciples in Christ, we minister to others by reaching out with compassion and love. I'd like to share several ways to make a difference for American veterans... 1.) Send a care package/ letter 'Operation Gratitude has sent more than 1.5 million individually addressed care packages to the military community.' 2.) Sponsor a companion dog for veterans with PTSD. 3.) Give a veteran a ride to the doctors, grocery store etc. 4.) Visiting with a veteran, and being a friend to talk to. These are definite ways to make a veteran smile!

This Veterans Day, think of a veteran by praying for them. It is a beautiful way to say “thank you” and spend some time in prayer thanking God for their service, lifting up their heartaches for Him, and reaching out to families to let them know you haven’t forgotten. We pray that God gives strength to the weary and increases the powers of those who are weak, whether they are struggling physically, emotionally and/or spiritually. Let’s remember our veterans with gratitude, respect, prayers and love! God Bless our Veterans! God Bless America!

Submitted by: Karen Overcash, Discipleship Co-Chair

What's Going On in North Carolina?

This is a new section of our Bulletin. Our readers are wanting to know more about you and your congregations. Everyone is welcome to participate. Write a paragraph about what is going on in your church or church group. For example, a new pastor, your gracious gift-giving, your church anniversaries, your Outreach Ministries, etc. You can send a picture, if you'd like; also send your Conference, the name of your church and your town. Please send your short article to Joyce Ohlson at karmagma@gmail.com

How is our stay at home practices affecting your church/meeting/worship practices? Send me your stories or pictures. We are going to publish a few Bulletins this summer, since we are not having our Annual Gathering. So send me some information, please.

Janet Creasy, Friedens/Gibsonville, Northern conference



Freidens, Gibsonville, with the help of many people across the North Carolina synod and beyond, has been able to raise over \$3500 for the naturalization expenses for Gracie Storholt. Thank you to all who have helped financially so far. The funds will be applied to securing a new green card, the next step in the process of Gracie being adopted into a forever family and made a citizen of the United States. In the meantime, Gracie is thankful that Liz, her current “mom”, found her as part of a medical mission to Haiti and has made her a part of her family here in the US for over 6 years. Liz continues to offer Gracie the extensive physical therapy she needs to deal with the major medical issues resulting from the loss of her legs. Gracie is happy and her optimism about the future is inspirational. For more of Gracie’s story, you can go to adoptinggracie.com. There you can see a video of Gracie and see what an inspiration she is. If you choose, you can also make a contribution. But, whether you donate or not, we ask that you add Gracie and her “hopeful” forever family to all of the prayer lists to which you have access. Gracie’s “hopeful” grandparents are members of Friedens.



On Eagles Wings

Angel's Story

Angel was rescued from sex trafficking with her baby. She is safe. She is healing. She needs her first care to take her next steps.

"My life is full. My daughter and I are safe and happy after more than a year of hard work at OEW Hope House. Now, I really need a good used car so I can work."

She needs you just a little longer, until she can fly on her own. Give her wings! Donate a reliable used car or cash today to help us purchase a good used care for Angel.

Email info@OEWHope to get started. #Giveherwings #Loveher



What Are You Thankful For?

During the most unprecedeted time in our lives, the COVID-19 pandemic, we have experienced drastic changes. Since March, our lives have been affected in different ways. We have isolated ourselves, practiced social distancing, worn masks and changed our habits. We have not been able to worship in community as we have been accustomed to doing and we have not been able to visit with our loved ones, especially those who may be elderly. This is taking a toll on all of us, with no end in sight. By this time, we may be, like the psalmist in Psalm 13, asking how long.

¹How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
²How long must I bear pain in my soul,

Some of us are wondering, how much longer it will be before we can worship together. How long will it be before we can hold an in-person Women of the ELCA meeting? How long will it be until we can gather as extended family without fear of spreading COVID-19? How long before life returns to normal? We want answers to these and perhaps other questions. As the psalmist said,

³Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!

We want the medical professionals and our government leaders to answer these questions, to tell us when it will be advisable to gather in groups; but even they do not have the answers to all our questions. Eventually, a vaccine will be produced, and treatments will be developed. Until then, we, like the psalmist, must put our faith and trust in Jesus. And when that happens, we will rejoice and give thanks.

⁵But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
⁶I will sing to the LORD,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.

(Continued on Page 10)

During this time, it is easy to grumble and complain and, even though we are tired and impatient, we have a lot to be thankful for. We may not be able to worship together or hold Women of the ELCA meetings, but we can gather by Zoom. Our families may be separated by the virus, but we can see them via FaceTime or visit in outdoor settings where we can socially distance. We may not feel comfortable going grocery shopping ourselves, but we are fortunate enough to have grocery pick-up or even at-home delivery. We may not be able to go to concerts or other entertainment venues, but we can watch performances on television or online.

Yes, a lot of things have changed, a lot of things are different; but we have so much for which we should be thankful. As Thanksgiving approaches, what do you have to be thankful for?

How much longer will we have to wait? No one knows. While we wait, think about all you have to be thankful for and start making a list of those things so that, when Thanksgiving Day arrives, you can recount the many blessings you have been given, the bounty you have received.

Submitted by Susan P. Harris

**NC WOMEN OF THE ELCA
Calendar
November 2020-January 2021**

November 2020 Veterans Affairs

26.....Thanksgiving

December 2020 Affordable Housing/Homelessness

5.....Zoom Synodical Board Meeting 4 pm
25.....Christmas

January 2021



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