

The Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana (NT-NL) Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)

May 15, 2024

Happy Maycember! This month's new nickname is due to being like December with activities, gatherings and celebrations. We continue to strive to fulfill our #1 goal is to improve communications to our churches in the synod.

The HOT Conference had 60 people attend their Spring Gathering at Covenant Church in Temple on April 27th with retired Rev. Pat Dietrich as our keynote speaker and worship leader.



Rev. Pat Dietrich with Sheryl Yauk, Communion Assistant



Robin Schuricht, HOT Conference Coordinator, conducted the business meeting and held drawings for door prizes.



Craft activity decoupageing wooden crosses and sharing stories about being served or serving with joy.



During a memorial service, candles were lit and Chris Andrews, Spring Gathering Chairperson, distributed roses to each church whose saints passed away since our last Spring Gathering.

Sally Hawthorne, SWO Board Member, emailed a letter asking how their congregational units are doing and she received the following response:

Hi Sally,

Thank you for your letter of February 22, 2024. Just to let you know a little about our WELCA group at Emmanuel Lutheran in Granbury.

We are a group of about 12 retired women who attend monthly meetings held at church preceded by lunch at a local restaurant.

We have five ongoing ministries:

- Casserole Ministry for anyone needing help with food during a family crisis or illness.
- Flower Ministry for any woman in the congregation who needs cheering up.
- Prayer Shawl Ministry for anyone who is sick or needing comfort in their life.
- Blanket Ministry which donates hand knotted fleece blankets to a foster parents' group, men's and women's shelters, our Granbury police department, local nursing homes and CPS for children taken from their homes due to abuse.
- Good Grief, which is a Sunday luncheon group for anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one and may be lonely.

Thanks to Thrivent's Action Team grants we have helped stock our local food pantry, bought hygiene kits for the men's and women's shelters and purchased blanket making supplies.

The three bake sales a year we hold are supported by our congregation. All the proceeds go to local charities. We send cards to a juvenile detention center in Arizona and "thinking of you" cards are sent to residents of local nursing homes. Starting this month, we are going to help with the birthday celebrations at a local Medicaid nursing home. In the fall, we hope to donate lunch once a quarter to the local Habitat for Humanity work site.

Our Thankoffering service will be held June 9th this year.

I pray Pastor Sturm has recovered from his terrible car accident.

Blessings,

Laurie Seymour

Thanks to the Emmanuel women for fulfilling our mission in "Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ" in Granbury. Please share what your congregational unit is doing in your area and provide ideas to others by emailing your SWO Board Conference Liaison or jwinge@aol.com.

You can be recognized as an active WELCA unit by simply meeting together for study, support and mission using <https://www.gathermagazine.org/> or <https://www.boldcafe.org/>. If you missed the May 4th WELCA event, visit <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/servant>. Please save the dates for:

- May 18 at 1pm for the WELCA Conference Out West (COW) meeting at Calvary Lutheran Church, 3231 Rolling Hills Blvd., San Angelo with Bishop Erik Gronberg. No RSVP needed.
- October 11-12 at our SWO Fall Retreat at King of Glory Lutheran in Dallas with Catherine Walker, author of *Boosting Your Joy*, Rev. Rachel Ringlaben and Rev. Mallory Morris.

God bless you,
Jane Winge