

Women of the ELCA at Shepherd of the Sea

The Women of Shepherd of the Sea are a busy group, not only in our own Church family, but in our Epiphany Conference, the Synod and the Ecumenical community of the Grand Strand.

Annually, in early Spring, we celebrate **WELCA Sunday**. The women of SOS, with the help of Kim Holts, plan and execute the entire Sunday Service of the Word at the 8:30 and 11:00 services. This was indeed a blessing for all involved and all who were present.

In May of 2009 the Women of the ELCA at SOS along with Churchwide ELCA, collected and recycled Cell Phones in support of Good Deed Foundation's efforts to provide lasting solutions for women and families in poverty and for climate change. A total of 75 used cell phones were collected and delivered to the Foundation.

Before we knew it, we were finalizing arrangements to attend the **SC Women of the ELCA 2009 Convention** at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Lexington, South Carolina. Our missions... collect Bingo prizes for the SC Lutheran Homes, the 2009 Convention Project. Our ladies were very generous.

On going each month, we have Circle meetings. **Mary Martha** meets in the morning of the second Monday of each month and **Friendship Circle** meets in the evening on the second Monday. We also have groups that do crafts and knitting and crocheting. We have Fellowship Gatherings in the mid year (June) and for the Holidays (December). And there is always a needed for helping hands for miscellaneous projects.

We are active members of the **Grand Strand Chapter of Church Women United**, a world wide ecumenical organization sanctioned by the ELCA. With sisters in our community, we meet five times a year at different locations to observe World Day of Prayer, and to participate in Celebrations such as May Friendship, Human Rights, and World Community Day. Donations are collected for various charities and needs.

Each August we kick off our free **BI-LO Bonuscard campaign** to support SC Lutheran Retreat Centers. At no cost to you, one percent 1% of your total purchases at BI-LO grocery store goes to our SCLRC.

We attended the **Epiphany Conference** in the Spring and hosted the Fall Conference where we invited Lutheran Men in Mission to join us in learning more about reaching out to a growing population in our State, the Latino population. Pastor Sandy Jones of Spring of Life Lutheran Church, Columbia, SC was our guest speaker.

We support Churchwide WELCA by collecting **Thankofferings** in May and November. We support our own Food Pantry at the Church.

Feel free to take a copy of our **ongoing knitting and crocheting project pamphlet** in the Narthex. We had another successful campaign for caps for babies with the Save the Children Foundation. Soldier helmets and scarves and blankets for the homeless were also made. This is an ongoing project.

And last but not least, the support of both men and women of our Church for our very successful **Bake Sale** has allowed us to replace our table linens, coffee urns and crock pots.

Please look for future events and announcements on the Narthex Bulletin Board. Join us in service, doing God's work.

Your sister in Christ,

Maggie Fancher, WELCA President