



## Spring Meeting: Girls Find Hope at Elli's House in Detroit

No one likes to talk about it, but Council of Lutheran Women spring meeting speaker Deb Ellinger makes it her daily mission. Elli's House is a 501(c)3 nonprofit serving homeless and runaway women involved in human trafficking. The mission is to abolish sex trafficking in the city of Detroit through building relationships, offering safe shelter, and providing education.



Ellinger, a native Detroit who studied criminal justice at Ferris State University and started her career as a police officer, worked with teen girls who were consistently running away from home. There was a clear need for a shelter in the city so Deb began Elli's House in 2017. Today, the organization runs a two-

year residential shelter program, a middle school mentoring program, and it provides food, hygiene, and clothing to survivors weekly through street outreach.

Deb will share more stories of struggle and hope at the **Council's spring meeting on Monday, April 17th at Historic Trinity in Detroit.** Parking is available in lots on either side of the church. Please enter through the double doors on the Gratiot Ave. side.

Check-in for the Spring meeting begins at 9:15 a.m. with opening devotions at 9:45 a.m. The business meeting includes election of officers and updates from member inter-congregational organizations. Lunch (free-will offering) and the speaker's presentation follow the meeting. Please encourage your congregation to join you in donating ingathering items for our mission partners (see [www.clwmichigan.com](http://www.clwmichigan.com) under Opportunities for Participation tab). Let's keep their shelves full!

## Thirty-eight Women of the Year Honored at Annual Luncheon

Nearly 500 women and their guests enjoyed fellowship, food, celebration and reflection at the Council of Lutheran Women 59th Annual Luncheon on Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at Burton Manor in Livonia. Past President Doris August and WOY Coordinator Joan Monson introduced 38 Women of the Year and highlighted activities of the honorees in their churches and communities. Proceeds from this year will fund scholarships for seminarians and two CUA church work students in Fall 2023.

Speaker Ida Mall, Past President of Lutheran Women's Missionary League, inspired attendees with the story of her personal journey through a difficult time and her faith in God's promises in scripture. Michigan District President David Davis encouraged us to read our Bibles daily and faithfully. Ministry partners greeted guests at display tables and students from Guardian Lutheran School helped to receive and organize ingathering donations for all ministry partners.

**Mark your calendars for the 2024 CLW Annual Luncheon set for Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at an east side location to be determined.** Look for exciting developments as we plan to celebrate the 60th anniversary milestone of our Annual Luncheon!

Ministry partners accept donations throughout the year and CLW also accepts in-kind and cash donations for food banks, layette assembly, and seminarian scholarships. Information is available on the CLW website under the Opportunities for Participation and Support Us tabs.



## Browse the CLW Website and Facebook Page for Publicity and Project Ideas

The **organizations and projects supported** tab lists CLW-sponsored activities that are part of our ongoing mission to strengthen our Lutheran and civic communities. The Council supports seminarians from member congregations with financial gifts, prayers and cards of encouragement. Operation Layette volunteers assemble layettes for distribution to local organizations twice per year. Two CLW-sponsored food banks at Detroit congregations are open year-round to serve their local communities. The Council also provides

guidance on issues and actions that give us an opportunity for Christian witness.

A **photo gallery** tab on the CLW website and the photo tab on the Council of Lutheran Women Facebook page contain photos from events and scholarship recipients that you may use for promotion of CLW in your church publications and social media.

The **Council of Lutheran Women Facebook page** is updated regularly with events and registrations, seminarian news, and spring/fall meeting information.

### CLW Spring 2023 Meeting: Registration information

The Spring meeting will be at Historic Trinity, 1345 Gratiot Ave., Detroit, Michigan 48207. Register through Eventbrite on the CLW website ([www.clwmichigan.com](http://www.clwmichigan.com)) by April 13, 2022 or call Candie Sionkowski at (734) 323-8008 for assistance.