



St. Mark's Bold Woman for 2024—Sandy Lind

Bold Women's Day celebrates Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers, in their service to those in need, in their advocacy, or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home, or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

This year, St. Mark's Women of the ELCA has designated **Sandra Lou Lind** as our **Bold Woman for 2024**.

Sandy was born in Spokane, Washington, and lived there along with her parents and sister Carolyn. She met her future husband, Bill, when they were both students at Washington State University. They married in 1959 while at WSU and relocated to Seattle where Bill went to graduate school and Sandy finished her Bachelor's degree in English. Upon her graduation, Sandy taught English in one of Seattle's public intermediate schools. They remained in Seattle, where their children were born, until 1972. Sandy and Bill were together for 62 wonderful years, until Bill's passing in 2021. They were blessed with four children, eleven grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

When asked how she became a Lutheran, Sandy related that, although she grew up as a Baptist, one of her Seattle neighbors needed someone to teach a teenage class at her Lutheran church's vacation Bible school. The neighbor knew that Sandy was a teacher at their local intermediate school, and she asked if Sandy could possibly help her out and teach the class. Sandy agreed and discovered that Lutheranism had much to offer their family, and they joined the Lutheran church.

The Lind family moved to Springfield, Virginia, in 1972, and Seattle's loss turned out to be St. Mark's gain as the Lind family joined our congregation. Coincidentally, Carla Yock was instrumental in Sandy's landing her first teaching job in Northern Virginia at Glasgow Middle School, as Carla introduced Sandy to the principal there. Sandy continued teaching in Fairfax county, and she was able to change schools to teach and to enrich young lives at West Springfield High School until her retirement in 1998.

Not surprisingly, Sandy's love of children and teaching also enriched St. Mark's Sunday School and our Vacation Bible School sessions for many years. She taught all ages in both venues for, in her own words, "a long, long time," and she was also Director of our VBS twice. She fondly remembers how much she enjoyed teaching Sunday School as she used her creative talents to engage her students in hands-on seasonal activities, like making

advent wreaths and involving them during Lent in reliving Jesus' life during the week before his crucifixion. Together they would place items on a cross—items such as a bag of silver coins, nail spikes, a rooster for Peter's betrayal—all reminders of what Jesus suffered for us. In good weather, she often moved her Sunday morning classes outside to further enjoy God's beautiful world. Often former students from her St. Mark's classes return as adults and remind her of these special times and how much they enjoyed them.

Other Ministries

Sandy also joined one of our women's circles (then we were called Lutheran Church Women or LCW) when she joined the church. She remembers walking up the sidewalk of Marilyn Meyer's home for her first meeting in 1972, not knowing anyone there but being welcomed warmly into Deborah circle, where she is still an active member today.

Sweet memories: Sandy related that Deborah's current leader, Anna Swann, was in her 8th grade VBS class once upon a time (!)—and she also recalls that so many of the members had small children that they pooled their resources and hired a sitter to watch their kiddos during their meetings wherever they met.

Sandy subsequently served as President of our LCW, now Women of the ELCA. Sandy's leadership abilities also spilled over into our women's combined meetings where she often led fun activities. Sandy noted that an added bonus of working with the women (and men) of St. Mark's is the many lifelong friendships that she has forged.

As an active St. Mark's member, Sandy served on the Congregation Council, and together with fellow council members Bill Dinnison and Bruce Wahl, felt the need to "meet and greet" visitors to our services. The three of them spearheaded the founding of our Welcome Committee (which they dubbed the "St. Andrews Committee" after Jesus' first disciple) to greet visitors and subsequently follow up with them after their visits. This committee has been instrumental in bringing many new members into our congregation.

But Sandy's "best job at St. Mark's" came about when Lance Quesenberry asked her to be his assistant with a new Flower Ministry. He and his wife Barbara, who is on the Flower Committee (whose members' talents enhance our sanctuary every Sunday), felt the beautiful blooms from our altar flowers could be repurposed by dividing them into smaller bouquets and delivering them to folks on our prayer list or who were unable to attend services. And thus began this new uplifting ministry from which many of our members have benefitted!

*It is with many thanks for her service to us all
that today we honor **Sandy Lind** as
St. Mark's Woman of the ELCA **Bold Woman of 2024!***

