



**TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION  
LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNODICAL  
WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CHAMBERSBURG, PA  
JUNE 25 & 26, 2010**

**Friday, June 25, 2010**

**Theme: Hope....In the Midst of Hopelessness**

Registration was held from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. During this time there was opportunity to visit the displays and to purchase jewelry made by Mongolian women who are finding new life through *Streams in the Desert* ministry. Contributions for the Tangible Ingathering (“Covered with God’s Love” quilt project and Gettysburg Seminary food bank items and gift card or monetary donations) were given at this time.

Nominations: The nominations desk was open to receive additional board and Triennial delegate nominations. These nominations were closed at 12:00 noon.

Delegate and Committee Orientation was held from 12:15 to 12:30 PM. The delegates were seated in the Fellowship Hall and instructed regarding convention procedures. The Convention Committees were given opportunity to meet with their advisors if they had not already done so. Participants were reminded that questions are to be directed through their delegates.

**FORMAL OPENING OF THE CONVENTION**

President Fay Nichols opened the convention at 12:30 PM with a litany emphasizing the many ways that hope is present in the midst of hopelessness.

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women of the ELCA was then declared opened.

The following presenters and guests were introduced by Fay Nichols, President:

- Norma Good, Presenter
- Amy Laurin, Northern Illinois Sister Synod President
- JoAnn Fuchs, Churchwide Women’s Organization Representative and Workshop Presenter
- Rev. Tara Magoon, Convention Chaplain
- Rev. Steve Dorsett, Pastor of First Lutheran, Chambersburg

Rev. Dorsett welcomed the convention to First Lutheran Church, and indicated that they are both pleased and proud to host this event.

President Nichols introduced Convention Chairperson, Elizabeth Winters, who welcomed everyone to this 23<sup>rd</sup> convention. Elizabeth indicated that we are here to reaffirm our hope in the midst of hopelessness. She thanked everyone for their prayers during her time of surgery and recuperation. Elizabeth then introduced the members of the Convention Committee:

Registration	Susan Lyons, Sue Piper
Site Preparation and Food	Joyce Ray
Worship/Devotions	Pastor Magoon, Ida Jeanne Smith, Floss Sterner
Workshops	Gertrude Kampmeyer
Banquet Program	Marlene Shilling
Displays	Kathy Springer
Hotel Planning	Sue Reed, Pat Dent

Rev. Tara Magoon, Convention Chaplain, led a devotion focused upon the definitions of hope. When we receive hope we can be instruments of God's grace to others. Hope is one of the great gifts of God.

Monetary Ingathering: The monetary ingathering was received at this time. This offering will go to *Streams in the Desert*, a ministry to women in Mongolia who are rebuilding their lives as they are coming out of prostitution.

Appointment of Committees of Convention: The President appointed the following Convention Committees:

Committee on Credentials: Advisor: Sue Lyons; Chair: Sue Piper; Member: Alice Boeshore

Committee on Minutes: Advisor: Roberta Anderson; Chair: Edna Hafer  
Members: Katharine Whitner, Kate Lemmon

Committee on Reference and Counsel (Resolutions): Advisor: Margaret Prosser;  
Chair: Helen Henninger; Member: Kathy Springer

Committee on Claims (Offerings): Advisor: Kathy Hefner; Chair: Joan Scott;  
Members: Geneva Cooper, Edna Sterner

Committee on Conduct of Elections: Advisor: Shirley Jackson; Chair: Patti Gartner;  
Members: Sue Maser, Linda Penny

President Nichols introduced Sue Lyons, Acting Credentials Committee Chair, who gave the following:

Report of Committee on Credentials

Delegates 15 Board Members 12 Participants 16 Guests 8 **TOTAL** 51

A quorum was present.

Adoption of Rules of Procedure

Executive Board Recommendation #1: President Nichols moved that the Rules of Procedure for the convention of the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA be adopted. Since this recommendation comes from the Executive Board, there is no need of a second. The motion was adopted.

Adoption of Proposed Agenda

Executive Board Recommendation #2: Roberta Anderson moved that the proposed agenda for the 2010 Lower Susquehanna SWO convention be adopted, giving the presiding officer flexibility to adjust the agenda as deemed necessary. Since this recommendation comes from the Executive Board, there is no need of a second. The motion was adopted.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Betty Kincaid, Chairperson

The following positions are to be filled and the nominees are as follows:

President (2 year term)	Karen Poe, West Cumberland Cluster
Treasurer (2 year term)	No Nominations
Secretary (1 year term)	No Nominations

Board Members needed: Five 2 year terms and one 1 year term

Nominees for Two Year Terms:

Donna L. Greifzu, Chambersburg Cluster  
Nancy Hamilton, Chambersburg Cluster  
Shirley I. Johns, Harrisburg Cluster  
Susan A. Master, Harrisburg Cluster  
Board Member (2 year term) No Nominations

Nominees for One Year Term

Board Member (1 year term) No Nominations

Nominees for Triennial Delegates:

Alice Jane Boeshore, Gettysburg Cluster  
Edna L. Hafer, Harrisburg Cluster  
Betty A. Kincaid, Lebanon Cluster  
Susan Lyons, Chambersburg Cluster  
Fay Nichols, Upper Dauphin Cluster  
Shirley I. Johns, Harrisburg Cluster  
Donna L. Greifzu, Chambersburg Cluster

Thanks were extended to Betty and her committee.

A prayer for election guidance was offered by the chaplain, Rev. Tara Magoon.

Ballot #1 – President (2 year term)

President Fay Nichols called on Patti Gartner, Committee Chair on Conduct of Elections, to distribute ballots for President. Ballot #1 for President was distributed and collected.

Introduction of SWO Board: President Nichols asked the current LS SWO board members to come forward: Shirley Jackson, Kathy Hefner, Roberta Anderson, Donna Greifzu, Betty Kincaid, Sue Lyons, Sandra Meyer, Karen Poe, Margaret Prosser, Violet Schaeffer and Elizabeth Winters. Members introduced themselves and described their areas of responsibility on the board.

Report on Ballot #1: Patti Gartner reported that there were 27 ballots cast, no invalid ballots. Karen Poe was elected President.

Ballot #2 – Board Members: President Fay Nichols called on Patti Gartner, Committee Chair on Conduct of Elections, to distribute the ballots for Board Members. Ballot #2 for Board Members was distributed and collected by the Elections Committee.

## Report of Treasurer & Accountant's Report

Executive Board Recommendation #3. Roberta Anderson, Secretary, moved that the report of the accountant concerning the statements of cash receipts and disbursement for the fiscal year 2009 of the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA be accepted. Since this recommendation comes from the Executive Board there is no need of a second. The report was accepted.

The Treasurer indicated that the board tries to be good stewards of the offerings that are collected. Board expenses have been kept to a minimum, with 85% of unit offerings going to Churchwide.

This year offerings were over \$1,000 behind where we were last year. We need to be aware of this and adjustments may need to be made in the future.

Kathy stated that a brief synopsis of the financial report from Churchwide is included in the convention packets. Giving is broken down by regions; this indicates how Region 8 fits into the larger picture.

Report on Ballot #2: Patti Gartner reported that the following board members have been elected to two year terms: Donna L. Greifzu, Nancy Hamilton, Shirley I. Johns and Susan A. Master. All were elected with 27 valid ballots. President Nichols declared the new board members elected.

Stretch Break: A brief stretch break was led by Marlene Shilling.

Ballot #3: Three Triennial Delegates and Three Alternate Delegates: President Fay Nichols called on Patti Gartner, Committee Chair on Conduct of Elections, to distribute ballots for Triennial delegates; participants were instructed to vote for three. Ballot # 3 was distributed and collected by the Elections Committee.

Adoption of Ministry Budget & Stewardship Presentation: Executive Board Recommendation #4

Treasurer Kathy Hefner presented and reviewed the February 1, 2011 to January 31, 2012 proposed ministry budget. She reminded us of the importance of voting for this budget, for with an affirmative vote you are taking on the responsibility within your congregation to see that this budget is achieved. Some units only contribute to Churchwide through thank offerings, not regular offerings. We all are an important part of the whole.

Since this recommendation comes from the Executive Board, there is no need of a second. The recommendation was approved by vote of the delegates.

Workshops: (3:30 – 4:30 PM) Gertrude Kampmeyer described the three workshops that will be available this afternoon and their locations. They are: *Mission Trip to Haiti* (youth from Trinity Lutheran Church, Chambersburg), *Beating the Odds in a Hopeless Race* (Sharon Weisser) and *Churchwide Representative Presentation* (JoAnn Fuchs).

Report of Committee on Reference & Counsel

Chairperson Helen Henninger reported that the Committee on Reference and Counsel has received two resolutions. She will have a report at the end of the convention.

Report on Ballot #3: Patti Gartner, Committee Chair on Conduct of Elections, reported that 27 votes were cast; 8 were invalid. Votes received were: Donna L. Greifzu (13), Fay Nichols (12), Susan Lyons (9), Edna L. Hafer (8), Shirley I. Johns (8), Alice Jane Boeshore (5) and Betty A. Kincaid (2).

Triennial Delegates are elected as follows: Donna L. Greifzu, Fay Nichols and Susan Lyons. Alternates are Edna L. Hafer, Shirley I. Johns and Alice Jane Boeshore. Karen Poe will also be attending in her capacity as President.

The business session ended at 3:05 PM. Following the workshops the meeting resumed in the chapel at 4:20 PM.

#### Lutheran World Relief Presentation by Norma Good

Norma reported that Lutheran World Relief continues to keep their administrative costs to a minimum; ninety-one cents out of every dollar supports program work. LWR works through partner groups to keep overhead costs down. Norma described the four components of LWR work (relief; development; advocacy and social justice) and gave examples of each of these categories. She indicated that the dates of the 2010 Ingathering are October 2 and 3, 2010. She also highlighted the Malaria Initiative and the "Fill the Well" project.

#### Sister Synod President, Amy Laurin

President Fay Nichols introduced Amy Laurin, the President of our sister synod in Northern Illinois. Amy described the makeup and work of her synod, and expressed her appreciation for the gifts we have sent to her women. She presented a gift of a pottery communion set to our incoming President, Karen Poe.

Amy indicated that she has been blessed by her friendship with our President, Fay Nichols, and presented her with a prayer shawl. Amy was given a gift of food items representative of our area as a "thank you" for attending our convention.

#### Conversation with Lower Susquehanna Synod Bishop B. Penrose Hoover

Bishop Hoover brought greetings from the Lower Susquehanna Synod. He reported on the recent synod assembly, highlighting the presentations of ELCA Presiding Bishop Rev. Mark Hanson. He stated that Rev. Virginia Cover has recently been appointed as a new Assistant to the Bishop. Virginia began her work at the beginning of May. Bishop Hoover also vividly described his trip to the West Bank, where he and other bishops visited the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land. Bishop Hoover entertained questions, and expressed his appreciation for being invited to participate in this convention.

The session was ended at 6:00 PM.

Following a time of fellowship and visits to displays, a lovely dinner was served in the Fellowship Hall. Accompanied by musicians Amy Gobrecht (flute), Erin Gobrecht (trumpet) and Linda Powelek (piano), Marlene Shilling led us in a joyful time of singing. Young harpist Erin Sempowski blessed us with her musical selections. Judy Smitley, portraying Noah's wife, challenged us to follow where God leads through her engaging monologue.

The convention will resume in the nave 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 26 with a Eucharist Worship Service.

## Saturday, June 26, 2010

Registration was held from 8:15 AM to 8:45 AM, and Tangible Ingathering items were once again received.

A Service of Holy Communion was held in the nave of First Lutheran Church, Chambersburg. The Rev. Tara Magoon presided, with Bishop B. Penrose Hoover preaching..

The convention Offering was taken at this time. This offering goes directly to the Churchwide organization in Chicago to help support the ongoing ministries of Women of the ELCA.

### Call to Order

The convention was called to order by President Fay Nichols at 10:30 AM in Fellowship Hall.

### Report of Committee on Credentials by Sue Lyons, Acting Chair

Delegates 15 Board Members 12 Participants 22 Guests 12

**TOTAL 61**

A quorum was present.

Churchwide Organization Representative Presentation: JoAnn Fuchs brought greetings from the national organization. She focused on the goals of the Women of the ELCA and resources and programs that are available to further these goals. The goals are as follows: (1) to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ; (2) to educate and involve women to focus on women's health; (3) to increase financial support to the Churchwide organization which makes so many resources and programs possible; (4) to increase awareness of and involvement in our organization.

JoAnn expressed thanks from all of those whose lives are touched by the ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

### Report on Tangible Ingathering

Betty Kincaid reported that \$1,940 in gift cards and 622 tangible items were collected for the Gettysburg Seminary food bank. The number of "Covered with God's Love" quilts was 36. These will be distributed to six organizations.

### Greetings from Gettysburg Seminary Food Bank Representative

Roberta Anderson introduced Peter Roy, who brought greetings and thanks from the seminarians. Peter's wife, Nicole, is the new coordinator for this project. Peter reported that the food bank serves approximately 120 students with 300 family members. There are single seminarians, families, and second career adults, all of whom are extremely grateful for our generosity.

Workshops were held from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. They were as follows: *Bridge of Hope* (Sue Groft); *Jazzercise – Lite Demo* (Kathy Baker).

After lunch in Fellowship Hall, devotions were led by Convention Chaplain Rev. Tara Magoon.

Workshops were held from 1:45 – 2:45 PM. Workshops offered were: *Agony and Hope* (Rev. William Harter); *Knowing Him* (Janet Johnston); *Churchwide Representative* (JoAnn Fuchs).

Report of the President: Vice President Shirley Jackson referred to the Report of the President. Hearing no questions or comments, she declared the report accepted.

Report of the Committee on Claims: Chair Joan Scott reported the following:

Monetary Ingathering	<b><u>\$2,346</u></b>
<i>To Streams in the Desert</i>	
Convention Offering	<b><u>\$2, 216</u></b>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$4, 562</u></b>

Note: Often more monies are forwarded after the report.

Joan moved for the adoption of the report. The motion was seconded and the report was adopted.

Report of the Committee on Minutes - Executive Board Recommendation #5 : Committee Advisor Roberta Anderson read the board recommendation that “Upon approval of the Committee on Minutes, the minutes of the Convention be printed and distributed to the delegates and also to the congregations in the Lower Susquehanna Synod not represented by delegates.” Since this recommendation comes from the Executive Board, there is no need of a second. The motion was accepted.

#### Promotions

- Tanzania Promoters Shirley Jackson and Karen Poe presented a skit depicting life in Tanzania.
- Marlene Shilling “sprayed” us with water to remind us to attend Camp Hebron (Oct. 28-30, 2010). The theme is “Soaked in Christ.”
- Donna Greifzu and Roberta Anderson encouraged us to participate fully in the Women of the ELCA, so that our times of hopelessness may turn to hope.
- Patti Gartner, Triennial Promoter, interviewed Shirley Jackson, who gave information about the 2011 Triennial to be held July 14-17, 2011 in Spokane, Washington. Ida Jeanne Smith described the Gathering and the Convention that will be taking place, both providing inspiration and education. Edna Hafer encouraged those who have not attended a Triennial to consider going to Spokane and Sue Lyons indicated that it is a time of refreshment and exposure to the diversity that is the Women of the ELCA.

#### Report of the Committee on Reference and Counsel

Kathy Springer, Acting Chair of the Committee on Reference and Counsel, presented the following resolution received from Jean Reed (Delegate from First Lutheran Chambersburg) and Joyce Ray (Unit President, First Lutheran, Chambersburg):

WHEREAS, the Constitution of the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization designates its functions and responsibilities as outlined in Article V, and

WHEREAS, it is sometimes difficult to find leadership for coordinating and planning the actions of the Convention of the Organization, and

WHEREAS, the expense of a yearly Convention is great, and the many hours required to plan and execute a yearly convention can be taxing, and

WHEREAS, attendance at the Convention has significantly decreased in the past several years, and

WHEREAS, the Constitution in Article VI states that the women’s organization shall meet at least biennially, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization Board appoint a task force to look into an alternate format for the Convention. This task force would report to the Synodical Board with suggestions, and the Board would present a memorial to the 2011 convention for consideration.

A motion to accept the resolution was made and seconded.

It was moved and seconded to allow Gertrude Kampmeyer to address the convention. The motion carried. Gertrude stated that at the beginning of the formation of Women of the ELCA it was necessary to have a convention every year for five years. However, that is not the case at the present time. She feels that it is exhausting to always be preparing for a convention each year. There are other ways that this can be done (i.e. one day conventions, every other year). Gertrude hopes that we will be open to considering another format.

The motion carried.

The following Courtesy Memorial was introduced by Kathy Springer, Acting Chairperson:

BE IT RESOLVED that the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lower Susquehanna Synod, express their sincere appreciation to:

JoAnn Fuchs, Churchwide Representative, for her insight, her encouragement, and for being an inspiring example of Women of the ELCA leadership beyond the boundaries of our congregation, synod and region;

The Rev. Tara Magoon for her leadership in serving as Chaplain and for her inspiring devotions and Bible study;

All workshop presenters: Trinity Youth, Sharon Weisser, Sue Groft, Kathy Baker, JoAnn Fuchs, Rev. William Harter and Janet Johnson;

Elizabeth Winters, our Convention Coordinator, and all the committees who attended to the details of the Convention;

Gertrude Kampmeyer for her service as Parliamentarian;

The Rev. B. Penrose Hoover, Bishop of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, for his informative time of dialogue and powerful preaching in the worship service;

Board President, Fay Nichols, for her faithful service to the women of this synod:

And to First Lutheran Church, Chambersburg, for hosting the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Women of the ELCA LS SWO.

BE IT RESOLVED that we continue to "have Hope...in the midst of hopelessness" and to hear God's commands through the scripture (Romans 15:13), and that we share this message in our daily walk as women of faith.

AND WHEREAS the Women of the ELCA, Lower Susquehanna Synod, promise to "have Hope...in the midst of hopelessness" in our lives and to listen and respond to God's call;

BE IT RESOLVED that we will encourage our sisters in Christ in our church units, in our clusters, and in our synod; to learn, to serve, and to be God's healing touch in our discipleship.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the Courtesy Memorial. The motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

Roberta Anderson expressed her deep gratitude for the support given to *Streams in the Desert*. It will be a source of great encouragement for those working with these Mongolian women.

Kathy Hefner described a DVD of presentations made at the synod assembly that will be available. It will include Bishop Mark Hanson's presentations and the material depicting the plight of the children in Bulgaria. Kathy also indicated that a handout is available describing the ministry of the Lutheran seminary in Russia.

Recognition of Outgoing LS SWO Board Members:

President Fay Nichols recognized the following outgoing LS SWO Board members: Kathy Hefner, Roberta Anderson, Violet Schaeffer, Betty Kincaid, Sue Lyons and Margaret Prosser.

Introduction and Installation of LS SWO Board and Triennial Delegates:

Churchwide Representative JoAnn Fuchs conducted the service of installation for the new LS SWO Board: Karen Poe, Shirley Jackson, Donna Greifzu, Elizabeth Winters, Sandy Meyer, Nancy Hamilton, Susan Master and Shirley Johns.

Also installed were Triennial Delegates, Alternates and President: Donna Greifzu, Fay Nichols and Sue Lyons, Delegates; Edna Hafer, Shirley Johns and Alice Boeshore, Alternates; Karen Poe, President.

Thanks were extended to JoAnn Fuchs, our Churchwide Representative, and a gift was given to her for her service to us.

JoAnn Fuchs chose a name from those who had attended her workshop, and Shirley Johns was given a W/ELCA pin.

**FORMAL CLOSING OF THE CONVENTION**

All present joined in a litany, following which the Convention was declared closed at 4:05 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Roberta Anderson, Board Secretary