Purpose Statement
As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

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Address Correction
Send your postal and email address corrections for News & Views to Donna Greifzu, 422 Cleveland Avenue, Waynesboro, PA 17268, or email changes to donnaleegreifzu@gmail.com. To read or print the newsletter go to: https://www.lss-elca.org/mission-partners/choose the option in the heading, “Mission Partners”, then down to option nine, Women of the ELCA, LS SWO. Our newsletters and other information are found on the right side of the page.

Easy find!

“Called to be Political”
Women of the ELCA Resource
Like it or not, Christians are called to be political. This resource explores that call, looking at personal reflections of Lutheran women, the Bible and the writings of Martin Luther. Fears or questions about our church’s involvement in politics may reflect a misunderstanding of how Christians, and especially Lutheran Christians, are called to participate in the political arena.

You can find this timely study on the Women of the ELCA Resource Page. It’s a free download.

President's Message:

THE TIME IS NOW!

"AGREED TO DIFFER, RESOLVED TO LOVE, UNITED TO SERVE"

These words are the motto for Church Women United, CWU, and its theme for 2019-2020.

These words could very well be my family's motto- maybe even yours. As a teenager, I thought I was adopted. I just didn't belong. Why? Religion and politics. My mother believed the Bible was about hospitality and love - no exceptions. She lived it. My father made exceptions. My dad read the Bible literally. I didn't. When my dad would say that God created the world in six days. I would ask, "What about the dinosaurs?" He would say, "O Lois!" It took me too long to realize neither one of us was going to change. I love my father and finally let it go. My "agreed to differ" decision.

One of the Lay School of Theology summer sessions at Gettysburg Seminary was taught by Churchwide Bishop, H. George Anderson. It was about schisms in the Lutheran church. Basically, one issue was about how to interpret the Bible. Unfortunately, unlike my dad and my disagreement, the Lutheran church would split.

Politically, it was a straight ticket GOP voting family. and later a single issue vote. I was an independent voter. My voting process was to research, pray, make my decisions and vote. Later when climate change was denied, I became a single issue voter. For me, it's a baptismal/confirmation promise to be faithful stewards of God's creation.

When I married, I would tease my husband that he only voted to cancel my vote. Yes, it could get ugly. We decided to prevent a divorce, we wouldn't talk politics during campaign seasons. That didn't always work. Then in 2008, he changed. His friends think I put a spell on him. Never happened. It was totally his decision. Still like some families, there are holiday celebrations or everyday times when we try to avoid certain topics of conversation. Yet, like the wall hanging quote in my children's homes, "Our family is a circle of love...."

So "for such a time as this" - a time of listening and participating in Zoom church services, meetings, webinars and reading articles. We are isolated. It was fascinating to realize how our Gather magazine articles and Bible studies this year are similar to CWU's motto.

- Agreed to Differ - Plenty Good Room - May
- Resolved to love - Just Love - June, July/ August
- United to Serve - We are called - January/ February
- Called to Serve - March
- Calling Networks - April
- The Time Is Now!- Holy Time- September
- The "Holy"- October
- Holy Future - November

Here are three of my favorite BOLD women stories. Their passion and strength made a difference not just for American women. They made America better as a country.

This is a time to honor:
- Our 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment, women's right to vote.
- Fannie Lou Hamer, daughter of Mississippi sharecroppers, fought for civil rights and the right to vote.
- Ruth Bader Ginsburg, "you can't spell truth without Ruth", an icon and champion of gender equality.

This is a time to VOTE

Lois Ann Griffiths, President
Lower Susquehanna, SWO
2020 has certainly been a trying year. Isolation and uncertainty, two words that describe what everyone is feeling due to COVID 19. This summer was to be the 11th Triennial Convention and Gathering of the Women of the ELCA in sunny Phoenix, AZ, but due to the circumstances this event was postponed until August of 2021. Many other events were also cancelled or postponed, events that we, as women of the ELCA look forward to. Retreats, conventions, bible studies, regular worship just to name a few. We are all in the same boat!

Over the past several weeks, myself and Executive Director Linda Post Bushkofsky have been meeting with the regional Synodical presidents over ZOOM. We use this time to connect and brainstorm ideas on how to thrive as a community of women. Yes, there is some lamenting, but the common denominator is shared through the words of our purpose statement “As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.”

I’d like to take this opportunity to remind you that this amazing organization is there for YOU! Yes, we still need to practice social distancing and conduct much of our business virtually – but it can be done.

Whether you need ideas to revitalize your group or simply inspiration on how to live out our ministry as individuals, we’re here for YOU!

Please take some time today to remember your calling. Go to womenoftheelca.org and re-familiarize yourself with the many resources available. Take advantage of simple things like Tuesday prayers at noon. This is an opportunity to pray with Lutheran women across the church every Tuesday at noon (in your time zone) in prayer. Design a Thank offerings container and make a conscious decision to look for things to be grateful for each and every day. Drop a few coins in the container and forward these Thank offerings on to churchwide. Reach out to the Region 8 liaison Jennifer DeLeon (800-638-3522, ext. 2455) for support. These small gestures will help you feel connected to your siblings in Christ across the entire churchwide expression.

Hang in there, my Friends, for soon we will be celebrating together in fellowship and praise in Phoenix in August of 2021!

Lisa

A Letter from Lisa Plorin
Churchwide Board President
GIVE MONTHLY

Make a monthly recurring gift and join

**Faith Friends,**
A group of especially devoted friends of Women of the ELCA
Who provide consistent, sustaining support for our many ministries.

☐ YES! I want to join **Faithful Friends of Women of the ELCA!**

Please deduct my recurring gift of $_____ ($10 or above) to my **checking account** on the 15th of each month.
My voided check is enclosed.

Signature ____________________________________________

My signature authorized Women of the ELCA, Through ELCA Gift processing, to initiate and continue monthly deductions as indicated on the form.
I understand that I can cancel my recurring gift at any time by calling Women of the ELCA at 773-380-2730 or emailing women.elca@elca.org

Please mail this form and your voided check to:
Women of the ELCA Faithful Friends
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

OR

To give by **credit card,** please fill in and mail the bottom half of this form

Detach here

☐ YES! I want to join **Faithful Friends of Women of the ELCA!**

Please charge my recurring gift of $_____ ($10 or above) to my credit card on the 15th of each month.

☐ Visa ☐ American Express ☐ Discover ☐ Mastercard

Credit card number ________________ Expiration date ________________

Name as it appears on the card (please print)

Address ___________________________ City, State, Zip ___________________________

Signature ____________________________________________

My signature authorized Women of the ELCA, Through ELCA Gift processing, to initiate and continue monthly deductions as indicated on the form. I understand that I can cancel my recurring gift at any time by calling Women of the ELCA at 773-380-2730 or emailing women.elca@elca.org

Please mail this form to: Women of the ELCA Faithful Friends,
ELCA Gift Processing Center,
P.O. Box 1809,
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Thank You!

Or join online at: welca.org/faithfulfriendsonline

Thank You!
GATHER MAGAZINE FALL Bible Study

Fall 2020: “Holy Time”
By, Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

In this three-session Bible study, the Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni invites us to remember the past, recognize the present and reimagine the future.

Session 1: Holy time: Remembering the past
Themes/Questions: What is faithful memory? How do we remember the past—good and bad? How do we embody memory in our worship through Word and Sacrament, and why is this important? How does faithful memory put us back together (re-member us) as faithful people?

Session 2: Holy time: Recognizing the now
Themes/Questions: How do we grasp the times we are living in? How did Jesus, the woman who anointed him, and Paul all recognize “kairos” time—and what is it? What does it mean to recognize our calling to “be present”?

Session 3: Holy time: Reimagining the future
Scriptures: Isaiah 55, Revelation 21-22
Themes/Questions: How do we faithfully look to the future? What does it mean to reimagine the future in light of the promises of God’s reign? How do we live now in hope and active expectation, and how does this open us (individuals, churches, communities) to transformation?

This study began with the September issue of Gather. There are now videos to accompany the fall Bible study on the Gather website: gather@elca.org.
May we celebrate Thanksgiving with family again this year and thank God for all our blessings. Despite everything, there is still much to be thankful for.

Happy Thanksgiving!

PRAYER MINISTRY

The Women of the LS SWO has an ongoing prayer ministry - "Prayer Warriors". The executive board feels a need to be supported with the ongoing projects of the women in our synodical organization.

If you want to participate as a “Prayer Warrior,” contact Mary Hafer at 717-234-5442 and talk with her. This prayer ministry is set up much like many prayer chains that are in the churches we represent. We average around 10 participants and new women are welcome to join in this prayer ministry at any time.

Visit the Women of the ELCA churchwide website at: www.womenoftheelca.org

The Lower Susquehanna Synodical Woman’s Organization is on the synod website: www.lss-elca.org - select the home page, click on the option in the heading, “Mission Partners”. The “Women of the ELCA, LS SWO near the bottom.

The Fall 2020 issue can now be accessed on the synod website. Share this information with your congregational unit or circle. Thanks
The Youth of the Upper Dauphin Conference have again accomplished a great job. They collected, with the help of their congregations, packed 504 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief. There were also a total of 438 quilts donated, and of that total 88 quilts went to local projects and the others were delivered to the Brethren Service Center Warehouse in New Windsor, MD. Along with these items were sent 6 Baby Care Kits and 31 Personal Care Kits.

For the last few years we have included with our kits and quilts a number of items from a sister church in New York. This year the folks at St. Paul Lutheran Church from Penn Yan, New York, brought to us to deliver a donation 35 Quilts, 12 School Kits and 6 Baby Care Kits. Thank you ladies for your help to LWR.

A big thank you goes out to two of our amazing pastors who picked up the truck and drove the items to New Windsor Maryland. So THANK YOU to Pastor Jenkins and Pastor Effisah.

In this past year we have all felt the extra weight of problems on us as people and congregations. So I am looking at the fact that everyone was able to accomplish their Parish Projects the best way possible. Another year is coming up and things will be better. Keep the prayers going in every way. Thank you.

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**Year** | **Deadline** | **Mailed** | **Issue**
---|---|---|---
2021 | December 30 | January 8 | Jan/Feb.
 | February 24 | March 5 | March/April

Email your newsletter articles to: donnaleegreiz9@gmail.com, or postal mail: 422 Cleveland Avenue, Waynesboro, PA 17268
The donations of W/ELCA members and a member of the congregation shared a gift they received in 2019 from Thrivent that made it possible to purchase material and large spools of thread to match the material to assemble 19 Fabric Kits.

The women gathered on September 28, to assemble “Personal Care Kits” as well as “Fabric Kits” as their LWR Parish Projects in 2020. Great response ladies! Article shared by, Sister Janice Ruch

**ELEVENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING**

Details

**START:** - August 5, 2021

**END:** - August 8, 2021

Registration officially opened September 30, 2019. Registration is $375. Day registration is $200. ...Start Saving Now!

For news and updates visit the webpage: WELCATG.COM
How different was the week of September 21st for me? No TV, no phone, no email, no Covid reports...just the total silence of the mountain at my campsite at Cowan’s Gap State Park (except for the tree frogs, katydids, morning crows and crickets). That was beautiful music in a class by itself, and may I add, tolerated very well!

Monday morning when I woke up at 6:00 a.m., I wondered if my toes were frostbitten or just numb. At 10:00 a.m. I realized, once the feeling came back, that they were just numb from the cold. I had a bowl of cereal for breakfast with a sliced frozen banana on top - not bad at all if you’re really hungry.

I would have to admit that after a week I was ready to come back to civilization—wondering how my family was (personal and church), if my grass needed mowed and if the house was okay. Things you would normally wonder about while you are gone from home.

I know that during this time of Covid our lives have had to adjust to a scenario that most of us have never had to deal with in our lifetime. (I now have a new sense of what it might be like for those in prison who have to deal with solitary confinement). We have had to learn to entertain ourselves in our homes—finding things to do and being creative. Seems many people have lost weight, surprisingly because they actually cooked healthy meals instead of eating out several times a week. That turned out to be a positive thing.

But most of all the silence made us realize how busy we had been—running from one meeting to another. We actually found the time to gather our senses and reevaluate our day-to-day priorities.

As we continue to live out our lives in this time of Covid, may we center on our God and spend time in His Word. Perhaps when things get back to “normal”, we will have been refreshed. Letting the Holy Spirit speak within and to us, we will be renewed and ready to serve Him with new energy and strength. How can God use you ALL ANEW in ministry with your gifts?

Let us remember that it is Almighty God who is in control and may we pray fervently and stand on His promises, as never before, knowing that He is in control.

In closing, what has your Women’s Group, W/ELCA Group done to reach out in your community or world during this time to make life a little easier for others to cope during this crisis?

If you or your Women’s Group, W/ELCA Group have an experience/activity you would like to share during this time, please send it to me at donnaleegreifzu@gmail.com. I will share your faith or group’s story in our newsletter.

I am sure there are many stories—we are Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in service to our Lord Jesus Christ each day!

Peace to you all—Donna Greifzu
Elections this year for the 2020-2021 term, we need to elect a President, (2 year term); Treasurer (2 year term) and four board members. One for a—(one year term) and 3—for (two year terms). More information in the Convention only newsletter coming out in late May.

Please consider submitting your name for one of the positions. The Nominating Form will be provided in the “Convention Newsletter” that will be published and mailed in late May. A complete description of these board positions as well as the number of positions needed will be included in that special edition newsletter.

Thank you in advance for prayerfully considering serving on the board of the Women of the ELCA, Lower Susquehanna, Synodical Women’s Organization. Nominating Committee Members: Lois Ann Griffiths 717-545-0076; Donna Greifzu 717-377-1780; or Shirley Johns 717-418-2489 or any board member, listed on the back page of this newsletter.

NEED A RIDE TO W/ELCA, LS SWO EVENTS?

The women of the ELCA, LS SWO are in the process of organizing transportation to our events in the synod. It has been brought to our attention, that some of our Lutheran women do not feel comfortable driving to these events because of unfamiliar territory.

We want to coordinate travel for those who would like to participate but no longer drive or who would be more comfortable riding with someone else at the wheel.

Starting with the Day of Renewal 2021, (DOR), there will be a place on the registration form where you can indicate that you would like to attend the event but would need a ride. For the time being, the board will be coordinating this travel opportunity. Be sure to check the correct box on the registration page.

Lets see if this new idea can improve attendance at our events!

EVERYONE WELCOME.
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UPCOMING EVENTS
DAY OF RENEWAL
St. Mark, Harrisburg
Date to be announced

33rd ANNUAL LS SWO CONVENTION
St. John
Berrysburg
August 21, 2021

FALL RETREAT
Camp Hebron
Halifax, PA
Oct. 29-31, 2021

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America