Time to get ready for convention and this is my convenient check off reminder list...
I choose this day to learn more about our theme: “Lead me Where My Trust is Without Borders”

and I have:

_____Sent in the REGISTRATION FORM ($35, one day) ($45 two days) to Treasurer, Kathy Kauffman. (send form by July 22).

_____Encouraged a friend to come along with me.

_____Shared information about convention with my Congregational Unit/Intercongregational Unit and Special Unit of Women of the ELCA

_____Prayed about our upcoming convention.

I AM:

_____Getting all my things together including my Bible, notepad, my offerings, (which might include a grocery gift card for the United Lutheran Seminary Food Bank), and children’s quilts for the “Covered With God’s Love” quilt project.

_____Bringing along several checks, one for Convention Offering. This offering will go directly to the churchwide body in Chicago for the ongoing ministries of the Women of the ELCA. (Goal $2,000)

_____Encouraged a friend to come along with me.

_____Shared information about convention with my Congregational Unit/Intercongregational Unit and Special Unit of Women of the ELCA

_____Prayed about our upcoming convention.

I WILL:

_____Be prepared to come home and share my experiences and information, and new ideas I received at convention, with my Congregational/Intercongregational and Special Unit of Women of the ELCA.
President’s Message

"WE NEED MORE ESTHERS"

Maybe you remember last year’s convention Bulletin of Reports … the cover was lavender, a crown with sparkles and the words, "For Just Such a Time As This". Remember Bishop Dunlop’s sermon when he repeated the words, "We need more Esthers".

What do you remember about Esther? Are you curious to learn more? Do you remember my earlier article about Jennifer DeLeon, Director for Justice and Region 8, on her Advocacy Workshop, Esther 101 at the President’s Conference in February. Gather magazine’s 3 part summer Bible study, "For Just a Time As This" by Kay Ward is just what’s needed. Phyllis Frankhauser, a former LS SWO president, likes this writer and was hoping it could be used during the coming year. Please check it out and try to find time for the study this year or next. Kay Ward mentions Ephesians 4:11-16. It’s about "when we are called to speak the truth in love."

WE NEED MORE ESTHERS

In January a churchwide W/ELCA exploratory committee was formed to "discuss how best to fulfill Women of the ELCA’s mission and purpose." The Reverend Leila Ortiz, the committee’s chaplain focused on 2 Kings 5. She asked these questions: "Who is not at this table? Who could give this organization new life? Who has wisdom to share?" The committee is seeking answers to these 3 questions from church women and church units:

#1 If you could make changes to our constitution to encourage more participation in the organization what would they be?
#2 The Triennial Convention costs approximately $2,400 per voting member. Annual revenue from offerings has been insufficient to pay for the convention over the past 2 Triennials. How could your SWO assist with this cost?
#3 Why is this organization important to you? If this organization went away tomorrow, would you miss it? Would it matter? Why?

To read more check out the last Interchange.

WE NEED MORE ESTHERS

Since last fall our LS SWO Board has had serious discussions on how to grow… We invite all church units and women to answer these questions and to use their faithful voices "to speak the truth in love."

We’re listening!

We have our 32nd Annual Convention of the LS SWO August 16 & 17, 2019 at St. Paul’s in Lititz. Our theme is "Lead me Where My Trust is Without Borders." Our scripture is Roman's 12:2. We need voting members and participants. We need to elect 7 Board positions. Use prayers, actions, and the Holy Spirit. Be Bold!

WE NEED MORE ESTHERS

In closing, a quote of Vicki Kemper, a UCC pastor, from one of her Daily Devotions. "The Holy Spirit

The Spirit of God is a Spirit of Power
The power of Grace
The power of transformation
The power to restore what was broken
To dream, to live and work in community
The power to choose solidarity over privilege,
And understanding over judgment
The power to open doors and build bridges
The power of new life
The power of peace
The superpower of love"

Lois Ann Griffiths,
President
LS SWO, W/ELCA
Inside this issue:

Constitutional Reminders Cover
President’s Message 2
Camp Hebron Registration 4 & 5
Story of the ‘pray’ rock 6
Election Request 7
Tanzania News 8
Fall Gather Bible Study 9
W/ELCA Publications 10
LS SWO Board Listing 11

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.

Visit the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Woman’s Organization at the synod website: www.lss-elca.org - 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.

The July/August issue is now on the synod website, along with the 32nd Annual Convention Newsletter, and the registration form for the 30th Annual Camp Hebron Fall Retreat, to be held Nov. 1-3, 2019. The registration form for the retreat is found on page 4 & 5 of this newsletter.

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

News & Views Newsletter Deadlines
September/October—Wednesday, August 28
November/December—Wednesday, October 30

Email your newsletter articles to donnaleegreifzu@gmail.com, or mail them to her at 422 Cleveland Avenue, Waynesboro, PA 17268

Gathering 2020 registration opens September 30. Visit welca.org for more information and welca.org/shop to order Gathering 2020 logo items.

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

Keep Informed...Read your News & Views Newsletter
Pastor Denise Horn was born and raised in Northwestern Connecticut, the daughter of James and Grace Bement. Her father's family has been here since the 1600’s. Her mother is the child of immigrants, one German and one Italian. Pastor Denise was a life long member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Torrington, CT.

She is a graduate of the University of CT, with a degree in Sociology, and a 2002 graduate of Gettysburg Seminary (ULS). She is married to the Rev. Martin H. Horn, pastor of ELC, Greencastle. They met at Philadelphia Seminary and have been married since 1983. They have three children, Michael, Rachel and Timothy, as well as two cats, Milo and Leo. They live in Greencastle.

Pastor Denise serves as pastor at Salem Lutheran Church in Marion, and has been since her ordination in 2002. She is now 1/3-time interim pastor at St. Thomas Lutheran Church in St. Thomas, PA, serving there since January 1 of this year.

She also served three two-year terms as Dean of the Chambersburg Conference LSS. She has been supervising interns from the seminary for the last two years.

Pastor Denise was one of our synod R3 coaches for the last few years. She also has been trained and certified as a Pastor Redeveloper.

Pastor Denise speaks three languages, English, Spanish and Welsh. Her hobbies include Astronomy, Gardening, growing trees, crocheting, reading mysteries, listening to music and singing with the Salem choir. Her concerns include congregational renewal, women’s issues, racism, care of the elderly and children, and the environment.

Retreat Theme: “Women of Faith, Their Story and Ours”

SATURDAY AFTERNOON THERE WILL BE A FREE WAGON RIDE OFFERED, AND A CRAFT TIME IN THE DINING ROOM.

DRIVING INSTRUCTIONS AND OTHER INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE RETREAT WILL BE SENT UPON REGISTRATION.

The special retreat offering will go to the scholarship fund at Manow Lutheran Secondary School, in the Konde Diocese, Tanzania.
Registration Form for Nov. 1-3, 2019 Fall Retreat
Use one form per person. Copy as needed.
(please print information legibly)

Name: ______________________________________________ Phone: _____________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________
                             Street    City            State               Zip
Home congregation: _______________________________________________________________
Emergency phone number:_________________ Email address: _______________________________
I would like to room with: _______________________  ________________________________________
(possible up to 4 to a room sharing two double beds)

THOSE INTERESTED IN THE FRIDAY NIGHT LODGING MAY NEED TO BOOK ROOMS WITH
OTHER “WEEKEND” REGISTRANTS TO AVOID SINGLE ROOM RATE CHARGES.

1. TOTAL AMOUNT (WEEKEND PACKAGE) _______ $195.00
   (includes 2 nights lodging and 5 meals) (Friday & Saturday night)

2. FRIDAY NIGHT ONLY, AND SATURDAY _______ Total of $125.00
   (Friday night lodging and 3 meals + speaker)

3. SATURDAY ONLY _______ Total of $60.00 (3 meals + speaker)

4. I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TOWARD THE CAMP HEBRON ATTENDEE
   SCHOLARSHIP FUND $__________ (this scholarship fund is not for the Manow
   Lutheran Secondary School weekend special offering)

5. TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED $

Because of our obligation to pay Camp Hebron, we will not accept
registrations after the postmarked date of Monday, September 9, 2019

IT IS IMPORTANT TO CHECK ONLY THE MEALS YOU PLAN TO ATTEND:

SATURDAY MEALS: Breakfast ____ Lunch ____ Dinner ____

SUNDAY MEALS: Breakfast ____ Lunch ____

Saturday breakfast served at 8:00 a.m.
Session 2 begins at 9:00 a.m.

Make check payable to “LS SWO Women of the ELCA”Mail check with
registration form by Monday, September 9 to:
Kathy Kauffman, 970 Stephens Road, York Haven, PA 17370

Questions, regarding registration or the retreat, should be directed
to: Chris Todd, 717-652-0729 (H) 717-439-6071 (C)
or Shirley Keister (717) 362-8666.
A church in southern Minnesota had a congregation with a number of fixed income families, young couples with families that were struggling to make ends meet and low income farm families. The church had grown to the extent they felt they needed additional space to meet the needs of the parish. But many questions arose. Is this God’s will or our will? How can we pay for this? Will this divide and destroy our parish? How much of an expansion should this be?

On and on the questions rolled. They knew the only answer to these questions was God’s wisdom. To glean that wisdom they needed to pray and wait for the answer. Everyone agreed to pray. They knew everyone who said they would pray had the best intention to keep their promise to pray but they also knew the best of intentions is not enough. They devised the prayer plan that these rocks promote.

Every member of the congregation from the youngest to the oldest took home a rock with the word ‘pray’ inscribed on it. They were to place it where they would see it and be reminded to pray without ceasing. They were to find a field rock and inscribe it with the word ‘pray’ and give it to someone else with the request to place it where it would remind them to pray. The next ones were to find a field rock and inscribe it and pass it on. On and on the people passed on the “pray” rock ministry. Soon you could see the “pray” rock in the store windows, at mail boxes, and in places too many to mention. The request to “pray” even ended up in the surrounding towns. People were praying.

After a period of time the congregation called for a vote on the building project. It passed with only 4 votes against. They did the ground breaking and the footing forms were put in. The day the contractor poured the footing, the congregation brought their ‘pray’ rock and threw them into the concrete. This church was built both figuratively and literally on ‘pray’.

It is the hope and prayer of your Synodical Board that this could be used to God’s Glory here in the NE MN Synod of the ELCA. We believe our Father has issued a call to prayer. Prayer for our ELCA, for leaders both Christian and secular, for the world situation and for those who are oppressed by the power of Satan to do evil among us. Will you each accept the call to pray? We know that our Holy God and Father only need our willing call and He will hear and answer. PRAY! Ask God to bless this rock and ministry and PRAY and PASS IT ON!

Continued on the next page...
THE CONTINUING STORY OF THE ‘PRAY’ ROCK

A CHURCH IN SOUTHERN MINNESOTA MADE THE CASE; THEY HAD TOO MANY PEOPLE AND TOO LITTLE SPACE.

QUESTION AROSE—WHO’S WILL? AND HOW TO PAY? THE ANSWER WAS TO ASK FOR GOD’S WISDOM AND PRAY.

THE ROCK INSCRIBED WITH ‘PRAY’ WAS GIVEN TO THE FLOCK SOON THE ‘PRAY’ MINISTRY SPREAD, AND MOST PEOPLE HAD A ROCK.

AS THE FOOTING WAS POURED, THE ROCKS WERE THROWN INTO CONCRETE YES, THE CHURCH WAS BUILT ON ‘PRAY’. WHAT A FEAT!

GOD IS CALLING US TO PRAY SAYS THE NE MN SYNOD BOARD BOLDLY, FIND A ROCK, PASS IT ON, PRAY TO THE LORD.

THE LS SWO WOMEN OF THE WELCA ANSWERED THE CALL BOARD MEETINGS ARE CALLED TO ORDER, ROCKS ARE SHARED BY ALL.

CU’S CLUSTERS, SYNOD, FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE PRAYING. IT’S TIME W/ELCA FOR MORE LOVE, GROWTH, ACTION.

LISTEN LS SWO—GOD IS CALLING!

😊 “Board Members Needed for the 😊 2019-2020 Term”

Elections this year for the 2019-2020 term, - we need to elect a Vice-President, (2 year term); Secretary (2 year term) and three board members (2 year terms), and two board members for one year terms.

Please consider submitting your name for one of the positions. The Nominating Form will be provided in the “Convention Newsletter” that was published and mailed in late May. A complete description of these board positions were included in that special edition newsletter. You can also access the convention newsletter on the synod website.

Thank you in advance for prayerfully considering serving on the board of the Women of the ELCA, Lower Susquehanna, Synodical Women’s Organization. Please contact any board member, listed on the back page of this newsletter for more information, or call Sandy Bingaman, 717-665-5265; Donna Greifzu 717-377-1780. Thank you!

Remember…God doesn’t call the equipped—but equips the called.
Dr. and Mrs. Mwankenja attended the Konde Diocese Committee Meeting on May 14, 2019. They visited the area to attend their son’s, Elazar Mwankenja, graduation from Messiah College.

Dr. Mwankenja is an ordained pastor of 26 years and currently serves as Director of Education for the Konde Diocese. He is responsible for the operations of the Manow Junior Lutheran Seminary and the Matema Bible and Technical School.

There is a shortage of pastors and evangelists at the Konde Diocese. In the past, to become an ordained pastor required a bachelor's degree followed by a theological degree. Because of the shortage of pastors, a "crash program" has been developed. This allows evangelists to be trained at a school in Matema for three years and upon graduation receive a certificate and a license to serve in the Konde. This is a work in progress which shows promise in helping to meet the demand for shortage of pastors in the Konde Diocese.

Vicar Angela Hammer is leaving for Tanzania on June 30th with her team from St. Paul, Lititz and St. Paul, Penryn. The St. Paul congregation in Penryn has agreed to fund Angie's travel costs and take a cash gift to the Konde Diocese. Additional funds will be given to Kanga Lutheran Church in the diocese by St. Paul Church in Lititz.

One week of the trip will be spent at the Manow School where they will work on improvement projects at the Lower Susquehanna Synod House. They will also spend time touring the diocese, including a day with the bishop and staff. Angie will continue her stay and visit congregations in the Mbeya and Uyole areas. We wish them a safe journey.

Picture of LSS Synod House provided by Rev. Cliff Eshbaugh.
GATHER MAGAZINE’S 2019
UPCOMING FALL BIBLE STUDY

Fall 2019: No hard feelings? Poetry and emotions in the Old Testament church repents?

This September, October and November, we will study selections of Old Testament poetry from Job, Psalms, Lamentations and Song of Solomon. Drawing from the experiences of these ancient writers, we will learn to look for God for help in stewarding our deep emotions, finding hope and grace along the way.

✦ September: Stewarding the angst of anger
✦ October: Stewarding the ache of grief
✦ November: Stewarding the gift of joy

This series will be presented by the Rev. Dr. Anna Madsen. Anna is a freelance theologian and proud mama to daughter, Else, and son, Karl. She works with OMG: Center for Theological Conversation (omgcenter.com) and enjoys seeing the occasional moose and bear in their woods.

December 2019: Advent/Christmas devotional (title TBD) by visual artist Vonda Drees

This December, visual artist Vonda Drees invites us to contemplate the prophesies of Isaiah through artistic practices. Through meditation, prayer and creative journaling geared toward all ability levels, we will learn to see art as meditation, intercession, devotion and inspiration. Everyone can do this! Vonda Drees, a creative contemplative, served as the artist-in-residence for Women of the ELCA’s Tenth Triennial Gathering. She and her husband, Jim, are the executive directors of the Grünewald Guild in the Cascade Mountains of Washington. The Guild is a sanctuary for the exploration of art, faith and community. Vonda uses her artistic gifts and passion in the Guild’s retreats, workshops and classes.

You can learn more at: https://www.gathermagazine.org
We want to connect with you

Women of the ELCA connects with participants in many ways. We use magazines, e-zines, e-newsletters, and paper newsletters to tell others how the organization (and that means all of us) is acting boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ.

Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions, and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. Gather is published 10 times a year with combined issues in January/February and July/August. Many women (and enlightened men) in Lutheran and full-communion partner congregations read the magazine.

Café is an award-winning web-based magazine for young adult women who want to build community, participate in advocacy, and strengthen their faith. It incorporates a Lutheran perspective but is a great read for any woman who is interested in how faith can relate to every-day life.

Bold Connections is a free monthly e-newsletter of Women of the ELCA. Whether you participate a lot or a little in Women of the ELCA, you'll find helpful news and information on our programs and activities, and stories of how together we live out our purpose and mission.

Interchange is our leadership newsletter sent by regular mail to Women of the ELCA leaders in congregational units, synodical organizations, and clusters and conferences. It contains organizational news, new resource information, programmatic updates, and more. Leaders are encouraged to share the contents with all the women in their group. It can also be downloaded in PDF format from the Women of the ELCA website. Interchange ill be going totally digital in Fall of 2020.

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. In these brief writings you'll encounter God’s extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. You will be comforted, challenged, inspired, consoled and confronted. The daily reflection will stir you to live out your baptismal calling. Take time to reflect, offer a prayer and prepare for the day.

SWO BOARD OFFICERS

President
Lois Ann Griffiths
5576 Edsel Street
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-545-0076
dlcgrif@yahoo.com

Vice President
Sue Lyons
39 W. King Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257
717-816-6533
maryslyons@yahoo.com

Secretary
Christine Todd
3910 Walnut Street
Harrisburg, PA 17109
717-652-0729
butty652@aol.com

Treasurer
Kathy Kauffman
970 Stevens Road
York Haven, PA 17370
717-712-8983
kck970@yahoo.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Ellie Bauerle
11675 N. Landis Avenue
Waynesboro, PA 17268
717-762-5465
kwye9@innernet.net

Sandra Bingaman
446 Oak Lane
Lititz, PA 17543
717-665-5265
sandyi.bingaman@gmail.com

Barbara S. Bullock
636 Center St.,
Millersburg, PA 17061
717-692-3896
jbullock636@comcast.net

Donna L. Greifzu
422 Cleveland Ave
Waynesboro, PA 17268
717-377-1780
donaleegreifzu@gmail.com

Linda Lubold
1846 Wexford Road
Palmyra, PA 17078
717-533-8853
lindalubold9@hotmail.com

Lois Rode
1001 East Oregon Road
Lititz, PA 17543
717-581-3861
cliffnlois@comcast.net

NON-BOARD LISTING
Jennifer DeLeon
Director for Justice
Director of Operations,
Region 8
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631
800-638-3522, ext. 2455.
Jennifer.DeLeon@elca.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

32nd ANNUAL LS, SWO CONVENTION
St. Paul, Lititz
August 16-17, 2019
(two day)

30th FALL RETREAT
Camp Hebron
Halifax, PA
Nov. 1-3, 2019

DAY OF RENEWAL
2019—to be announced

Mission Statement

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.