Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Lower Susquehanna, Synodical Women’s Organization

Volume 96 Number 2
March/April 2020

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Congregational Presidents and Unit Leaders
The “convention only newsletter” will be mailed the end of May. Please make every effort to see that the information about the convention is announced to your unit as well as advertised in your congregation’s newsletter and bulletin. Encourage a voting member and participant(s) from your unit to attend the Thirty-Third Annual Women of the ELCA, Lower Synodical, Synodical Women’s Convention, Saturday, August 15, 2020, at St. John’s Lutheran, Berrysburg. All women are invited to attend the convention of the LS SWO.

Meet Board Member, Mariam Burke
Mariam has been a member of The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Lancaster, since 2013. She is active as a Minister Assist, Book Club and interested in Human Trafficking. She volunteers at the Village Grande Board of Trustees, East Hempfield School Senior Volunteer, Beta Sigma, as Phi City Council President and the Fulton Theatre Usher. She has a Bachelor of Science degree from The Ohio State University.

Mariam worked as a Global Logistics Manager for Procter & Gamble. Strengths include being adept at helping teams focus on goals through collaboration.

- Led Global Case Fill Rate and provided direction to 5 regions (NA, LA, Western / Eastern Europe, and Asia), and 18 product categories.
- Led NA Electronic Data Interchange Team Transition. Cost savings $600M per year.
- Led pilot for Cross-Business Unit customized-cases.

We welcome Mariam to the board of the LS SWO.

Eleventh Triennial Gathering Theme
A message from our President

BOLD WOMEN & RACHEL’S DAY

Sunday February 23, 2020 was BOLD WOMEN’S SUNDAY. Here’s hoping you celebrated it in a meaningful way. If not, start planning for next years. It’s usually the last Sunday in February. At the 2020 Conference of Presidents last weekend our theme was “The Power of Community”. Our scripture verses were Hebrews 10: 24-25. During our Service of Holy Communion the following women were mentioned in our Litany of Thanksgiving: Katherine von Borra Luther Katharine Schultz Zell, “a publishing ‘Church Mother’ who married to bring voice to God’s truth.” Argula von Gumbach, writer of poems and letters for the reformers. Olympia Fulvia Morata, student and proclaimer of the Gospel as a child Harriet Tubman, a pathfinder to freedom Lisbeth Melendez Rivera, an voice to love those in need Rev. Wil Gafney, “a womanist scholar” Many of these names were not familiar to me. Take time to remember those who you’ve heard about and those who you’ve know personally. Thank them for being BOLD. “As a community of women”, we need to always think about our past, present and future BOLD women.

Many years ago one woman was BOLD. She gave voice to the violence that children in her church and community were facing. She lit a blazing candle. Now, many women leaders are calling attention to the domestic violence, gun violence, sexual abuse, and mental trauma of our children and youth. In 1994, a woman from Bethel Lutheran Church in Chicago wanted her congregation to help children deal with the violence in their lives. They acted. They cleared a vacant lot into a garden. Rachel’s Garden.

It was a place where mothers, families, friends could mourn children lost to violence. A place where they put white crosses and flowers. In 1996, the Metro Chicago SWO brought a memorial to the Triennial Convention in Minneapolis to make more communities aware of the violence in children’s lives. The memorial passed. It read, “That ELCA women encourage their congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May as Rachel’s Day, based upon Jeremiah 31:15-17 wherein Rachel grieved for her children, to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of evil and fear that plague our nation.” It’s 2020. Yes, we still need to have a Rachel’s Day. Now more than ever. We’ve seen the many headlines of Roman Catholic, other faiths, Boy Scouts and family member abuse. It’s rarely a stranger: it’s more likely someone the child and family knows even trusts. Declaring bankruptcy is not an answer to this trauma. Decades later these once children still need healing and whole-ness. Gardens and memorial services are healing, but we need more. When I see the separation of families at the border, it’s more than heartbreaking. When I hear their stories of sacrifice, suffering and separation, it’s hard to process. The amazing miracle of it all is that they are so thankful to God. It’s all about family and God’s love. There was a sign painted on the border wall. It said, “not——, not——, we are international workers. There were not blanks, right now I choose not to repeat the hateful rhetoric. They were quoting words those in power use here against them.....

Lois Ann Griffiths, President W/ELCA, LS SWO
DAY OF RENEWAL REGISTRATION FORM

Date: Saturday, May 16, 2020
Registration: 9:00-9:30 a.m. (refreshments upon arrival)
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Place: St. Mark’s Lutheran, Harrisburg
Cost: $20.00 (Includes program and lunch)
Theme: “Where God Leads Us”
Scripture: Psalm 25:4-5

Special Offering: Christ Lutheran Church Health Ministries (see page 4)
Contact for Questions:
Sue Lyons: Phone: 717-816-6533
Email: maryslyons@yahoo.com

Sponsored by the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization

Please complete and mail this section of the form postmarked by Friday, May 1
Make check payable to: LS SWO WOMEN OF THE ELCA and mail to: Kathy Kauffman, 970 Stevens Road, York Haven, PA 17370 717-712-8983

Name ____________________________________ Phone _______________________
Address___________________________________ City _________________________
Zip __________________ Email address: ___________________________________

Home Church ____________________________ City __________________________

Do you need transportation: YES _____ NO _____

Name: ________________________________
Phone: ________________________________

The church is handicap accessible.

About the Speaker:
Norma Good recently retired after more than 30 years from her role as Lower Susquehanna Synod’s contact for Lutheran World Relief. In this capacity she served as coordinator for all LWR related projects for our synod. During this same period of time, she was also the Area Volunteer Coordinator for Heifer International. She continues to serve on the South Eastern Pennsylvania Heifer International Committee.

She has visited Honduras in her work for HI, and did a study tour in the Holy Lands, with LWR. Norma is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Lancaster, where she serves on the Social Ministry Committee. She is also an associate member of Holy Spirit Lutheran, Lancaster.

Norma joins us today to share her faith journey as she has worked with Lutheran World Relief and Heifer International.

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Christ Lutheran Church has an effective and growing Health Ministry. We are not a social service agency. We are a church, a missionary congregation, blessed to be located in a neighborhood of intense need and great opportunity for mission work. Donations are welcome at any time. Our services include:

**Holy Spirit Hospital's Medical Outreach Service** – a nurse-run drop-in clinic open Monday through Friday, 10 AM – 2:30 PM. Services include first aid, simple lab tests, health assessments, health education, social service interventions, medical case management and items necessary to health, such as blankets, underwear, hygiene products and the like. Limited assistance in obtaining eye exams and glasses, life-sustaining prescription medications and over-the-counter medicines is available.

**Prenatal Care Clinic** – free prenatal care for those who are not able to access Medical Assistance.

**Dental Clinic** – free dental care available three times a month for urgent problems like replacement of lost fillings and simple extractions

**Urgent Care Clinic** – Doctor available weekly for urgent medical needs. By appointment only.

**English As A Second Language (ESL) and Literacy Classes** – English as a Second Language and Literacy classes are held on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 9 AM. Folks are welcome to join at any time. Drop-ins are always welcome. Each student is assisted to develop his or her own goals, and then to meet those goals.

**Hospitality Center** – Open every weekday offering beverages, phone, bathroom, internet, copying, fax and notary services. A lending library of bilingual children’s books is also offered.

**Free Baby Furniture Bank** – provides new or gently used strollers, pack-n-pla infant beds, baby seats and other items needed for a new baby

**Durable Medical Goods Bank and Orthopedic Bank** – provides walkers, bedside commodes, etc. as well as canes, splints, wraps and more.

Please read the information listed below describing the medical services provided by Christ Lutheran Church, Harrisburg.

The special offering for the Day of Renewal, being held Saturday, May 16, 2020, is earmarked for this church's outreach ministry.
1 in 3 women experience physical or sexual violence
8 in 10 (more than) girls experience street harassment
1 in 4 children under 5 are in households where domestic violence happens

These facts are from a video on Thursdays in Black from World Council of Churches. This is a global movement. WELCA/ELCA have joined this movement. It’s become ecumenical. Google for more information, photos and videos.

This is not about victims. It’s about SOLIDARITY. They have 2R’s; I’ve added #3R.

RESISTANCE ... RESILIENCE....and RESPECT.

The first time I heard anything about “Thursdays in Black” was when we picked up Angela Bell, our 2019 Convention Churchwide representative. She mentioned summer, traveling and wearing black, but she was committed to this movement. The next time was 2020 at the President’s Conference. We received a bag of THURSDAYS IN BLACK buttons. It begins with “Toward a world without rape and violence”. On the bottom is their logo and World Council of Churches.

Yes, the ELCA has a social message with facts and a study guide on gender based violence. At one of our Triennials the DVD’s on domestic violence “I Believe” from 3 faith perspectives, and a DVD “Miss Representation” on media messages on girls and women were shown and then copies were donated to resource centers. Lutheran World Federation published a report on “A Faith Reflection on Gender and Power. The ELCA has a social statement on Women and Justice. Our LS SWO, W/ELCA Executive Board, filled a table at a Study and Response session.

Trinity Lutheran Church in Camp Hill recently did a Sunday School series on Social Statements. What has your church or woman’s group done to study woman’s issues? If you have present or future plans, please let us know.

Yes, March 8 we celebrated International Woman’s Day. In America it’s the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment, woman’s right to vote. But we still need to AdvoCaTe-ACT. According to Melinda Gates article

“The Women Who Showed Me the Way”. She states that the “World’s Economic Forum projected that the United States won’t achieve gender equality for another 208 years.”

The Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, was allowed to expire after 25 years. It’s a federal law that “creates and supports comprehensive cost effective responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking.” There’s been no call for a vote. However, a federal law was passed that makes cruelty to animals a crime. We know that there were shelters for animals long before women and children had shelters. So, ladies, it’s time for a few more Esthers, it’s time to show our solidarity, resistance and resilience. It’s time to do THURSDAYS IN BLACK.

By: Lois Ann Griffiths

THURSDAYS IN BLACK -5-
Greetings from your Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Representatives! As you think about, or are preparing for LWR Ingathering, held this year on October 3rd and 4th, we want to make you aware of two changes highlighted in the 2020 Quilt and Kit Ministry Guide:

- Effective March 1, 2020, LWR will no longer accept bulk soap donations.
- Effective May 1, 2020, LWR will no longer accept full-sized fleece blankets.

You may be wondering why LWR is no longer accepting these two items. With regard to bulk soap, there are fewer and fewer requests made for this item. In fact, in 2019 there were no requests for bulk soap. Many partners are sourcing soap within their own country which promotes local economies; a good and positive move forward. (See graphics below)

**Please note:** Soap is still needed in the Baby Care and Personal Care Kits which need 2-3 (4 to 5 oz.) bars of soap.

Full size fleece blankets are not being accepted because of its impact on the environment. When fleece is washed, microfibers are released into the environment. The older fleece gets, the more it sheds. This can have a negative impact – particularly on water sources – in the places where LWR is working. While LWR will stop accepting these types of blankets, you may continue to donate these in the U.S. And that is because we have wastewater treatment plants that aid in reducing the amount of microfiber buildup in our water sources. Many of the communities we serve, however, don’t have the same resources to assist with cleaning the water, so the microfibers are continuing to accumulate. If you are using some fleece in squares for quilts or for baby capes/sweaters, LWR strongly encourages you to seek out other materials in the future. Fleece blankets already donated will be used and processed. Items not shipped will be donated to local organizations.

**Please note:** The receiving blankets in Baby Care Kits should always be made using cotton, flannel or lightweight yarn.

*Blessings as we work together united in our faith, loving and serving our neighbors in need.*

Rev. Martha Boyd and Sue Gordon,
Lower Susquehanna Synod LWR Representatives
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 is near the bottom.

The March/April issue is now on the synod website. The Day of Renewal registration form can be accessed online at the synod website, and also in this issue of News & Views, page 3. The event is planned for Saturday, May 16, 2020 at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Harrisburg. Deadline to send in your registration form to our treasurer, Kathy Kauffman, is **Friday, May 1**.

Her address is: Kathy Kauffman, 970 Stevens Road, York Haven, PA 17370

The Thirty-Third Annual Convention of the Women of the ELCA, LS SWO, will be held Saturday, August 15, 2020, at St. Johns Lutheran Church, Berrysburg.

This year’s churchwide representative attending our convention will be Anna K. Sarver, Churchwide Board Member, from Greensburg, PA

We are looking forward to welcoming Anna to the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women’s 2020 Convention!

Theme is “Praising God With Music”.

**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline to submit news or articles of interest for the May/June News & Views is **Wednesday, April 27, 2020**.

Keep Informed...Read the “News & Views” Newsletter.
**“Election Information 2020-2021 Term”**

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.

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**Gather magazine**

*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. A print subscription is $19.95 a year. Digital access: (computer, iPad, Android) is free to print subscribers. For more information, or to subscribe by phone, call 1-844-409-0576.
Yearly Project Reminder

Just a reminder to all CU leaders - please complete the “Yearly Project Form” that is included on page 10 of this issue of News & Views. Additional forms will be available at the Day of Renewal, Saturday, May 16, at St. Mark, 4200 Londonderry Road, Harrisburg, PA. If you are unsure if another woman for your congregation already sent a form to Barbara, send another one. Just make sure you include the name of the church on the form.

Mail form to Barbara Dudek BEFORE Wednesday, August 1, 2020 (her address is on the form and the back page of this newsletter). These are projects that were completed between last year’s August 16 & 17, 2019 convention, and the upcoming August 15, 2020, LS SWO Synodical Convention at St. Johns, Berrysburg.

This would include Lutheran World Relief, Local Projects, Fair Trade Products (Coffee, tea, Chocolate) and other projects your women’s group has carried out, or was responsible for organizing.

Women of the ELCA Website

Visit Women of the ELCA website at www.womenoftheelca.org and find helpful information to promote your Congregational Unit:

♦ Scholarship and grant application information
♦ Over 50 programs for your Unit
♦ Retreat Ideas
♦ Prayer and Worship Materials
♦ Updates on Gather Magazine, Interchange, and Café, Interchange
♦ 11th Triennial Convention and Gathering
♦ Offering Transmittal Forms to print
♦ Thankoffering Service
♦ Installation of CU Officers Service
♦ Blogs...and a whole lot more. Visit the site and see what it has to offer you and your congregational unit.

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WOMEN OF THE ELCA YEARLY PROJECTS

Please use this sheet to track the different projects your Women of the ELCA Congregational Unit/Women’s Group has completed throughout the past year - between the August 16 & 17, 2019, synodical convention, and the upcoming August 15, 2020, SWO convention.

This would include Lutheran World Relief Projects, Local Outreach Efforts, Fair Trade Coffee, and other projects you were responsible for completing.

The Synodical Women’s Organization would like to tally the different activities your group has completed during the past year and publish them following convention in News & Views. Thank you.

DATE SUBMITTED: ______________________

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<td>FABRIC KITS</td>
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Please mail to Barbara Dudek by Wednesday, August 1, 2020
445 Springlake Road, Harrisburg, PA 17112    717-692-3896

Congregation Contact Person: ___________________________
Phone: ___________________   Email: ___________________
Congregation: ___________________   City: ___________________
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Mission Statement
To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ