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.

Address Corrections
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: www.lss-elca.org. On the home page, click on the option in the heading, “Mission Partners”. The “Women of the ELCA, LS SWO: is at the bottom of the list. Newsletters and brochures are listed to the right side of the page. Very easy find!

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- Trip to Konde 5
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Gather Magazine
Fall 2018, Bible Study

As fall approaches, we know many of our readers are planning their Bible studies for the coming year. Gather’s Bible studies and devotionals, scheduled through November 2018, are now posted on our website. We will post information about subsequent studies online as more details become available.

To get a preview of this year’s Bible studies, follow the link: gathermagazine.org/bible-study/

Fall theme for 2018: “Repentance” by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

- September: Session one – Time after time: Turning to God
- October: Session two – If I could turn back time: Turning to others
- November: Session three – Turning points: Turning as the church to the world

Resources are also available to help you plan your program year. Go to: womenoftheelca.org/resources.

“Lord, send forth your spirit...and renew the face of the earth”
Psalm 104:30
President’s Message:
"For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief
and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another
quarter, but you and your father’s family will per-
ish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal
dignity for just such a time as this." Esther 4:14
NRSV

YES, January 21, 2017

I became a Woman of Steel, Chapter 10. My friend
Pat, found a place for me on a Steelton union bus
to D.C. I was welcomed and adopted by 2 younger
women. The 3 of us marched. We were proud of the
diversity of the crowd-women with walkers, fami-
lies, wheelchairs, young, and old. Everyone was
kind. The signs were inspiring. Many were lined up
and left on the grass by the White House. We
stayed with the multitudes. We were in the mo-
ment. We were proud of the record setting crowds
in D.C., USA, and the world.

YES, Summer and Fall, 2018

Georgia’s daughter-in-law wrote a chapter in the book, "The Nasty Women’s Project: Voices from the Resistance". There is also a book of poetry. While
lighting 3 candles, I read a poem, "What if", about
women becoming BOLD at our first meeting as
Good Shepherd W/ELCA. We are doing the Bible
study from Gather, "Repentance".

We’ve been welcomed with enthusiasm. Zion’s,
Penbrook and Good Shepherd’s transition team
has chosen our 2018-2019 theme, "For Such a
Time as This".

YES, August 18, 2018

I was a voting member from Zion, Penbrook. (That
evening Zion was having a 125th Anniversary Ban-
quet. Our last celebration in our church’s history).
Entering the sanctuary for the convention’s open-
ing worship, the hymn, "We Are Called" was play-
ing. This was the hymn my sister, Chaplain Sadie
Pounder, taught at her last service at Trinity, Lan-
caster.

It was time for her to be able to continue her call-
ing as a chaplain at SCI Camp Hill.
After the formal opening of the convention, it was
inspiring to hear our Churchwide President, Lisa
Plorin, address us. She has a passion for W/ELCA
and our future. When Jennifer De Leon, Director
for Justice, W/ELCA, spoke...finally another pas-
sionate voice for justice, an AdvoCaTe. She was a
call to ACT. She is a Micah 6:8 person.

I remember walking back to the sanctuary to pray-
listen. When I returned, I talked and thought some
more. Later, I decided to put my name in nomina-
tion. This was not a time for silence...it was time to
AdvoCaTe. I had served for 7 years on the synod
board, 2 as president. I felt it was time well spent.
But now-2018, I’m president again. The Board is
blessed with wonderful women "called to disciple-
ship". All is GOOD!

Later, I’m like panicked! What did I do? I’m old, 75,
technically challenged, too involved in church and
justice issues. Then in preparing this article, I
looked at my notes on Bishop Dunlop’s sermon. He
asked, "What are we afraid of?” He spoke of Esther,
an ethnic minority...Jewish. Jesus, an illegal immi-
grant.

“He asked, "Where is God?” He talked about pain, a
lifeline of Bold Women, W/ELCA’s work in human
trafficking. "Who will speak for...?"

"THE WORLD NEEDS MORE ESTHER’S"
"As a community of women", 'We Are Called'".

Lois Ann Griffiths,
President
Lower Susquehanna, SWO

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Keep Informed...Read your
News & Views Newsletter

Email your newsletter articles to:
donnaleegreifzu@gmail.com,
or postal mail: 422 Cleveland Avenue,
Waynesboro, PA 17268
LS SWO YEARLY PROJECTS
August 2017 – July 2018
By: Barbara Bullock

Congregational Units in the LSS were asked to report to the Women of the ELCA Mission Committee the many different projects their units had participated in so that we can rejoice together in the many ways the Women of the ELCA in the LSS reach out to serve our neighbors. Thank you for your service to humankind and to the God we serve. There were 21 Congregational Units that responded. Thank you for your Christian service and generosity! The results are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lutheran World Relief</th>
<th>Gettysburg Seminary Food Bank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bars of Soap - 298</td>
<td>Gift Cards—$2,055.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care Kits - 818</td>
<td>Cans of Soup— 98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby Care Kits - 142</td>
<td>Mission Quilts - 815</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mission Quilts - 815</td>
<td>School Kits - 1,779</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Kits - 1,779</td>
<td>Fabric kits—28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fabric kits—28</td>
<td>Total = 3880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Baby Quilts, 6—donated to: the Lifeline Pregnancy Care in Millersburg, PA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OTHER OUTREACH

- Local Community Outreach
  - Lap Robes
  - Blankets
  - Pillow Case Dresses
  - Sweaters
  - Caps and Mittens
  - Funeral Luncheons
  - Christmas Stockings
  - Angel Tree Gifts
  - Prenatal gifts
  - Fair Trade Products
  - Mother/Daughter Banquet
  - Rummage Bake Sale
  - Prayer Chain
  - Prayer Shawls = 112
  - Valentines for Shut-ins
  - Yard Sale
- Gettysburg Seminary Food Bank
  - Gift Cards—$2,055.00
  - Cans of Soup— 98
  - Reusable bags for pantry— 153

- Prayer Chain
- Altar Guild Organization
- Birthday Party at Luther Ridge

...and many more projects.

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS.
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 **this year’s August 18, 2018, synodical convention**, and the **upcoming August 16 & 17, 2019, LS SWO convention**.

This would include Lutheran World Relief Projects, Local Projects, Fair Trade Coffee, and other outreach projects your **congregational unit/women’s group** were responsible for **organizing and carrying out**.

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

**DATE SUBMITTED**: __________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Total Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MISSION QUILTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FABRIC KITS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERSONAL CARE KITS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOL KITS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BABY CARE KITS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BARS SOAP</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FLEECE TIED BLANKETS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER PROJECTS</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the community…

and the world

Please mail to Barbara by Tuesday, August 1, 2019:
Barbara Bullock, 363 Center St., Millersburg, PA 17016
Phone 717-692-3896 Or email her at: jbullock636@comcast.net

Contact Person: __________________________________________________________

Phone Number/Email: ___________________________________________________

Congregation: __________________________ City_________________________

Cluster: __________________________

-4-
Trip to the Konde Diocese

Five persons from the Lower Susquehanna Synod traveled to the Konde Diocese from July 12 through August 5. And from August 5 through August 9, three persons from our synod attended the ELCA/ELCT conference which was held at the Lutheran Retreat Center in Moshi. The trip was comprehensive. The group visited the diocese office, Manow School, Itete Hospital, Matema Lutheran Retreat Center, Matema Bible School & Vocational Training Center. Additionally, the group spent three days with their respective companion congregations. After leaving the diocese, the group visited the Mikumi National Park, and made some stops in the dar es Salaam area, including a visit to the historic town of Bagamoyo, recognized as the oldest town in Tanzania, and the former capital of German East Africa.

At the diocese office, the group met with Bishop Mwaikali and other members of the staff. The bishop shared to notable changes. First Boaz Mwakisilwas has been moved from being treasurer of the diocese to treasurer at the Manow School. Christopher Mwankenja has been named acting treasurer of the diocese. Second, Alice Mtui has been named director of the Iwanmbi Orphanage. The bishop went on to outline some of his priorities with the group as follows:

1. Finding more companions for their growing number of congregations.
2. Working to improve the technology of the diocese office.
3. Secure funding for a deep well project in the Western Mission District near Ifwenkenya congregation. The congregation was consecrated and opened on Sunday, July 29. People are walking a long way to fill containers at a location where their farm animals also get their water. There is well drilling equipment at a neighboring dioceses that could be made available to the Konde project.
4. The bishop in cooperation with the Manow school, are developing new method for identifying students to receive our scholarship money to attend the Manow school. A entrance exam is being prepared for potential students to take. If they pass the exam they will be eligible for a scholarship.

These are some additional highlights of the trip. The group visited the Itete Hospital which has opened a new maternity ward, labor ward and woman's ward. Future plans are to construct a small store at the base of the road which leads up to the hospital. There are plans to upgrade the facilities for family members to live near the hospital. Family members provide food to their loved ones who are patients.

The Matema Bible and Vocational Technical School under the direction of Dr. Gwamaka Mwankenja (a German owned and run hospital) listed the following goals for the school.
1. Bring electricity to the school (the cost is about $8,000 USD)
2. Construct a new dining hall
3. Upgrade other infrastructure buildings such as student housing and classrooms
4. Tools for the carpentry and masonry classes.

The Lutheran Retreat Center continues to attract tourists. Ms. Gema Moi continues as the director. Her goals are to improve the infrastructure especially water supply issues and to continue to renovate more cottages.

At the ELCA/ELCT Conference, the preaching minister at the opening of the worship service said something quite direct and interesting. "Companionship is not for the coward. Companionship is not for the skeptic." This rings true. It is a journey of faith which take Pastor Eshbach and his groups to Tanzania. Hopefully future groups will embrace the call to visit this country and really become an engaged partner.

Article by, Sandy Bingaman
**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 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.

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**Thirty-First LS SWO Convention Minutes Online**

You can access the minutes for the 31st Annual Convention, of the Women of the ELCA, Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization at the synod website. To access the website see the direct link at the bottom of this page.

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

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You can locate the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Woman’s Organization on the synod’s website: Here is the direct link: www.lss-elca.org. On the home page, click on the option in the heading, “Mission Partners”. The “Women of the ELCA, LS SWO is at the bottom of the list. Newsletters and brochures are listed to the right side of the page.
LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Ingathering News

The final information and forms you will need for the October 6 & 7, 2018 LWR Ingathering are on the Lower Susquehanna Synod’s (LSS) website and all 28 pages can be found at:

https://www.lss-elca.org/about-us/synodical-ministries/lwr-ingathering/
and then scroll down to “Click here to download the 2018 Ingathering packet.

If you have any questions or are in need of offering envelopes for the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, you can contact your Conference Contact listed on Page 21.

Many of you are aware that after 30 years of serving as "Volunteer Coordinator for Relief Projects" for the LSS, I needed to "retire" and find some new people to assume the job of helping congregations in their ministries on behalf of LWR. I am happy to announce that the new volunteers are The Rev. Martha S. Boyd, Pastor at St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church, Hummelstown and Sue Gordon, a member of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Lewisberry. I met with them and two staff from LWR, Melanie Gibbons, LWR Quilt and Kit Ministry Manager and Elise Adrian, a recent college graduate from Minnesota who is serving a 2 year Fellowship as LWR's Marketing Outreach-Specialist.

I will continue to be your contact for LWR through December 2018 and then you will be hearing from Pastor Martha and Sue beginning in 2019.

You can reach them at:
♦ Pastor Martha at (717) 440-1177 or stjohnpastor158@gmail.com
♦ Sue at (717) 448-5074 or at sap4 joys@comcast.net.

(Both the phone numbers are cell phones as both women say this is the best number to reach them). I will continue as your contact for all things concerning Heifer International and for the "bricks" at the Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza at LWR headquarters at the Lutheran Center in Baltimore, MD.

Thank you for all the assistance and support you have given me through the years and I know you will continue to work with the two new volunteers as they continue in new and exciting ways to support you in your ministry for LWR.

By the way - good news to share that my husband, Harold, is doing well and is in remission for his pancreatic cancer! Thank you for your past and future prayers for us!

Gratefully, Norma R. Good
Lutheran women in the United States have been gathering in mission since the 1800s, and we owe much to our foremothers who responded to God’s call, created a place and lived out a purpose when women had no voice in the church.

Three groups came together in 1987 to form Women of the ELCA. These groups were the American Lutheran Church Women (of the American Lutheran Church), the Lutheran Church Women (of the Lutheran Church in America) and Women in Action for Mission (of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches). The constituting convention was held June 13-14, 1987, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with the theme “Embrace God’s World.” The organization was officially constituted Jan. 1, 1988, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Communication tools would soon follow. The magazine Lutheran Woman Today began publishing in January 1988 and Newsletter (the predecessor to Interchange) followed in June of that year. The organization’s first website was inaugurated in 1995. Café, our electronic magazine for young women launched in 2006, with podcasts soon to follow.

In 2011, Lutheran Woman Today changed its name to Gather, and continued providing award-winning content (Bible studies and articles) to more than 45,000 readers, with a pass-along rate of 3 additional people per subscriber.

The organization’s first smart phone app, Daily Grace, was unveiled in 2011 (available for IOS and Android), the same year that the magazine took on a new name, Gather.

Various program initiatives were launched in 1988, some of which continue today such as our scholarship program. Initiatives came and went, meeting the needs of the women at the time. Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls, the organization’s health initiative, began in 2005. Bold Women’s Day, an annual celebration of our mission and the women who accomplish it, launched in 2007.

Today the organization is active in approximately 7,000 of the 9,200 ELCA congregations and in 64 of the 65 synods (the only synod without a synodical organization is the Slovak Zion Synod, the ELCA’s only non-geographical synod).

Our purpose hasn’t wavered since we created our first constitution. “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.”

Since constituting in 1988, Women of the ELCA has belonged to the women; it is self-incorporated. No money from the ELCA budget is given to Women of the ELCA; all monetary support comes from the women themselves.

Thanks to you, Women of the ELCA continues its ministry today.
29th Annual Camp Hebron Retreat

Hope you have had opportunity to register for this year’s Camp Hebron retreat, Nov. 3-5. A reminder to bring your well read book(s) for the book exchange and then take a few new books home.

The free wagon ride will take place on Saturday afternoon. In addition, there will be an optional craft in the afternoon. Fair Trade Coffee, tea and chocolate will also be available.

As usual, for those who wish to participate, the gift exchange will take place on Sunday morning. For more information, please refer to your confirmation letter – driving directions will be included along with the letter.

Fall Retreat Committee

News & Views Overview

Page 4 of the newsletter has a copy of the form “WOMEN OF THE ELCA YEARLY PROJECTS”. The reason this is included in the September/October issue is because many of you will fill this out this time of year since Ingathering Sunday is the first weekend in October. Please see that someone in your congregation takes ownership for seeing the quilts, kits, and other projects are logged and the form is mailed in a timely manner to Barbara Bullock. Thank you.

As the program year and meetings begin in your congregation or circle, remember to send articles for News & Views. Pictures are really exciting to include in the News & Views as you hold events. Share with the other women in your synod and let them know what you are doing—it serves to build community and Christian spirit as we work together to build God’s kingdom here on earth.
WHAT DOES OUR LOGO MEAN?

Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God’s family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to “Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 28:19).

I would like to thank the Women of the ELCA, LS SWO, for the sympathy cards, phone calls and heartfelt compassion shown me during the time of my husband’s death in August.

I am so thankful to have all of you in my life. Bless you all.

Donna Greifzu
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UPCOMING EVENTS

FALL RETREAT
Camp Hebron
Halifax, PA
Nov. 2-4, 2018
(Registration deadline Monday, Sept. 10)

DAY OF RENEWAL
To be announced

32nd ANNUAL LS SWO CONVENTION
St. Paul
Lititz, PA.
August 16-17, 2019.