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.

Inside this issue:

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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, 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.

Very easy find!

Gather Magazine Bible Studies
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 Winter 2020, 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 2019: No hard feelings? Poetry and emotions in the Old Testament by Anna Madsen
❖ December 2019: Wait, watch, create—An Advent devotional in Isaiah by visual artist Vonda Drees
❖ Winter 2020: We are called! by Kathryn A. Kleinhans

Resources are also available to help you plan your program year. Go to:

womenoftheelca.org/resources
President’s Message:

Dear Sisters in Christ,

For months...there were thoughts about the Holy Spirit, butterflies, and transformation. So naturally, I started seeing butterflies...and more butterflies everywhere. On August 11, our local paper had a 2 page spread on butterflies. Over 145 species have been sighted in Pennsylvania. Even though it was thought that they were endangered, for some unknown reason butterflies are thriving.

We heard Bishop Dunlop’s Dialog on the future of the church. Many of those attending thought his dialog and our worship service were the highlights of our 32nd convention. In our last issue of News and Views, we wrote about the Churchwide W/ELCA Exploratory Committee focusing on the future of the W/ELCA. Angela Bell, our Churchwide representative, also mentioned this in her report. We can choose to be fearful or hopeful. We can choose to allow ourselves to trust in God and the Holy Spirit.

In our beautiful butterfly gift purse with the butterfly fastener, 2 of 9 items were the lifesaver (Psalm 46:1) "Remember the Lord is always there to help." and the puzzle piece (Proverbs 14:20) "Remember without God we are not complete" Yes, butterflies were everywhere even as napkin holders for our meals.

Sunday after our convention, Sue Lyons sent a message and photo of a butterfly that landed on her foot and hand. Maybe you too are noticing more butterflies. The Holy Spirit is everywhere transforming our lives.

With gratitude, for everyone’s patience and kindness while we conducted our business and voting sessions. As you noticed, the board is a "community of women"... "empowered by the Holy Spirit". Tallying the Evaluation Forms from our convention, gave me hope and joy. We were ESTHERS enjoying MORE time to:

Be with W/ELCA friends

Learn from the Bishop’s Dialog, workshops, and LWR and Harbor House presenters

SUPPORT, ENGAGE and PROMOTE "one another in our callings"

Be generous of our time, talents and treasures.

Be appreciative of our "lovely worship, great music, message"

Give our Churchwide Representative a shout-out, "ANGELA! What a resource!"

Now it's time for ALL W/ELCA to do MORE: INVITE & WELCOME other women to our circles, Camp Hebron, Day of Renewal, Triennial Gathering, and LS-SWO Annual Convention.

TELL our stories...as Angela Bell urged us and Donna Greifzu needs for our newsletters.

PRAY for the future of our church, Christianity, W/ELCA and ALL GOD’s CHILDREN.

Grace and Peace

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
"I love to tell the story...of Jesus and his love." By, Lois Ann Griffiths
And as Martin Luther said, "Sometimes use words." And as we also remember our Mission, "To mobilize women to act BOLDLY on their faith in Jesus Christ."

Yes, our Churchwide Rep, Angela Bell, our board member and News and Views Editor, Donna Greifzu, and others at our 32nd Convention urged everyone there to tell our W/ELCA story. Bishop Dunlop's presentation, a convention favorite, showed and told the story of "The Future of the Church." He spoke during the dialog session and sermon how important it is that we find our voice and not let others misrepresent us.

One of the highlights of last February's Presidents Conference was when our Executive Board W/ELCA president, Lisa Plorin, spotlighted different Synodical Presidents who shared inspiring stories about happenings in their synods. Of course we were mentioned as an example for our advocacy work for helping pass SB 554, the Safe Haven Bill. Hopefully another synod's advocacy can pass a similar bill in their state (MN). The February, 2018 issue of Living Lutheran tells the story of how LAMPa and W/ELCA and others made this possible.

When we have our Region 8 President's Conference call, stories are told about what's happening in their synod. We have a call this September and another President's Conference in February. Where are our stories? What's happening in our synod? Who has a story to share? For example, in the January/February 2019 issue of News and Views on p. 8 is an article and photo of the Rebecca Circle of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Hershey. They made 110 gift bags for She's Somebody's Daughter (SSD). It's a local sex trafficking resistance organization fighting our area's sex industry. This group BOLDLY goes into adult dance, massage and book stores and ministers to the women working there. Their monthly gift bags help with their goal of building relationships and a support system.

Do you know that Dottie Wissler brought 1,000 small bars of soap to our convention? These soaps are wrapped with information to help trafficked women and placed in hotel and motel bathrooms.

Yes, it's not time for laryngitis, W/ELCA find our voices, tell our stories of how we of the Lower Susquehanna Synod are acting BOLDLY "to promote healing and wholeness in our church, the society and the world"
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

☐ 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_
Congregational Units in the LS SWO 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 17 Congregational Units that responded. Thank you for your Christian service and generosity! The results are:

**LS SWO YEARLY PROJECTS**

August 2018 – July 2019

By: Barbara Bullock

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Community and World Outreach</th>
<th>United Lutheran Seminary Food Bank</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Bank, soup for shut-ins</td>
<td>Gift Cards—$1,185</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blankets 8, Shawls 30</td>
<td>There was also a variety of tangible in-gathering items for the seminary including food items as well as paper products, toiletry items, soup, and cleaning products.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pillow Case Dresses, Shorts and T-Shirts (taken to Tanzania)</td>
<td>Baby Quilts: There were 25 baby quilts. 15 went to Lifeline and 10 to Upper Dauphin Human Services.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funeral Luncheons</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Angel Tree Gifts—30</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Fair Trade Products</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mother/Daughter Banquet</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer Shawls &amp; Lap Robes = 112</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Valentine cards and Thanksgiving for Shut-ins</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Yard Sale</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Prayer Chain</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Birthday Party at Luther Ridge</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

...and many more projects.

**GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS.**
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.

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Thirty-Second LS SWO Convention Minutes Online

You can access the minutes for the 32nd Annual Convention, of the Women of the ELCA, Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization at the synod website. To access the website follow the directions 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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The minutes for the 32nd Annual convention of the Women of the ELCA, LS SWO are on the synod website—go to:
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, brochures, event registration forms and other information are found on the right side of the page.
Lutheran World Relief (LWR)
Ingathering Scheduled for October 5th and 6th

It's not too late to start collecting items for the Annual Ingathering of Fleece Tied Blankets, Quilts, Baby Care kits, Fabric Kits, Personal Care Kits, School kits, or Soap. All over the Lower Susquehanna Synod, churches are gathering materials for kits, or partnering with other churches to collect items and assemble them.

Did you know that in 2018, the churches of the Synod provided to LWR:

- School Kits – 4,787
- Personal Care Kits – 4,308
- Quilts – 3,981
- Bars of Soap – 3,981
- Quilts & Blankets for Local Needs – 807
- Fabric Kits – 142
- Fleece Blankets – 132
- Blankets -125
- Children Quilts for Local Needs—9

You're not alone in this global outreach; there is a collection point and contact for each of our Conferences in the Synod. If you've never done it before, start simply. Collect soap all of September and then box it up for the Ingathering. Or ask for a different part of a kit each week until Ingathering weekend. For more information and details on what makes up each kit, click here: https://lwr.org/quilts-and-kits or copy and paste this link in your browser. Conference contacts and collection points are now on the Synod Website here: https://www.lss-elca.org/about-us/synodical-ministries/lwr-tingathering/

Get involved and make a difference!
The following women were elected to serve on the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Board for the 2019-2020 term:

L-R: Ellie Bauerle, Donna Greifzu, Miriam Burke, Susan Long, Lois Ann Griffiths (President), Chris Todd (Secretary), Sue Lyons (Vice President) Kathy Kauffman (Treasurer) and Peggi Norman. Also elected to the board was Barbara Dudek but was vacationing the week of convention.

ELEVENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING

July 16 —July 19, 2020

Details

START: - July 16, 2020

END: - July 19, 2020

Registration officially opens September 30. Early-bird registration through January 6, 2020, is $325. After that, registration is $375. Day registration is $200. ...Start Saving Now!
The following women were elected to the position of Triennial Convention Voting Members to the 11th Triennial Gathering in Phoenix in July 2020. Left to right are President Lois Ann Griffiths; Miriam Burke, first time attendee; Chris Todd, Alternate Voting Member and Peggi Norman, and Bettina Zellers, Voting Members.

30th Annual Camp Hebron Retreat

Hope you have had opportunity to register for this year’s Camp Hebron retreat, Nov. 1-3.

Reverend Denise Horn will be our retreat leader for the weekend. She serves as Pastor at Salem Lutheran Church, Marion, PA.

A reminder to bring your well read book(s) for the book exchange and then take a few new books home. Also, remember our special offering earmarked for Manow Lutheran Secondary School in our sister synod in Tanzania.

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 for purchase.

As usual, for those who wish to participate, the gift exchange (please keep the gift at a $10 limit) will take place on Sunday morning.

For more information, please refer to your confirmation letter – driving directions will be included along with the letter.
This letter is from Tracy DePasquale, LAMPa and our Justice Workshop presenter at convention. She suggested it could be used as part of "God's Work Our Hands" Sunday. Tracy wrote to thank those congregations and W/ELCA for their help in battling Human Trafficking. Please sign and send it to your state representative. Share with others. A personal postcard or letter will also help. Let's once again "Act BOLDLY". Micah:8

Sept. 8, 2019

Dear Rep. _______________________________

As a Lutheran and your constituent, I am grateful for the unanimous passage less than a year ago of the Safe Harbor Act protecting child victims of sex trafficking. Our congregation, ________________________________, continues to be active in trying to prevent trafficking and support the healing and restoration of victims. That is why I write to you today to encourage your support for HB12. If enacted, the bill, whose number reflects the average age (between 12 and 14) when young victims begin to be trafficked, would decrease the demand by increasing penalties for both those who sell and those who purchase sex. In addition, the increased fines would help fund the necessary and appropriate services that enable victims of sex trafficking to heal and become restored to community with the opportunity to thrive. Thank you for the work you do. Please let that include being a champion for this bill.

Sincerely,

________________________
________________________
________________________
________________________
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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

DAY OF RENEWAL
To be announced

33rd ANNUAL LS SWO CONVENTION
St. John
Berrysburg
August 15, 2020