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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Meet your board member—Donna Greifzu,
I was baptized in June 1957, by Rev. John Harkins, at Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greencastle, where I have been a lifelong member. My service on the synodical board has been as newsletter editor for 15 years, as well as preparing the Bulletin of Reports for a number of years, and brochure designer and updater. I also keep the email database current.
I served as Triennial Gathering Promoter twice, traveling around the LS Synod, as well as other areas of PA, promoting the upcoming Triennials. I have met some very interesting women who are committed to serving the Lord with much enthusiasm and with their many different gifts.
I retired as church secretary at my home congregation in 2010, after 15 years, and then traveled with my daughter, a Schneider driver, to many different states, all east of the Mississippi. What a great time we had! But then I was the passenger and did not have the responsibility of driving. I did learn a lot, and helped with the pre-trip safety items. After my husband’s death in 2018 I have had a time of adjusting to this new life—of being on my own for the first time in my life. It has kept me busy with decisions I never thought I would be faced with. It’s a different world.
I would have put a picture of me on this bio but no matter how I tried I couldn’t get a good selfie. How do these youngsters do it? 😊
Peace, Donna
“Celebremos todo aquello que no’s conecta uno Otto”
“Let us celebrate all that connects us to one another”

CONNECTING...

“A Connecting Story”
Once upon a time there were 3 churches thinking about becoming one. After many prayers, meetings, and conversations, it was decided that Zion, Penbrook and Good Shepherd, Paxtang would merge.

A “for the church” Connection
After telling our WELCA story, the women of Good Shepherd decided to join us. We’ve been together for a few years now. During the pandemic WELCA have done Zoom Bible studies and meetings.

Instead of distributing homemade Christmas cookies to our homebound members, we packed individually wrapped Christmas candies

A “for the society, and the world” Connection
Even before we became one church, the Women’s Workshop had connected and were together making quilts, LWR kits, etc. Our Women’s Workshop was working from home making masks, and knitting and crocheting baby sweater sets, blankets and lap robes. Some have returned to the church to work on their projects. Yes, our LWR ingathering was completed in October. (better than last year!)

The Women’s Workshop have made over 3,700 + masks so far! We had a neighborhood drive by to give away free masks and other helpful items. Some masks have gone to CCU, Christian Churches United, which serves the needs of Dauphin, Cumberland and Perry counties. CCU helps the most vulnerable, the homeless, and Harrisburg’s overnight men and women’s shelters. Other local groups continue to receive donations.

Other local connections:
♦ masks 3700+ (wherever needed)
♦ twin quilts - 17 to CCU’s Women’s Shelter.
♦ lap robes - 5 to Lebanon VA
♦ layettes - 52 to Morningstar Pregnancy Services and Family Promise
♦ quilted runner -1 to Lutheran Camping Corporation’s Quilt Auction
♦ quilt 1 to Family Promise Art Auction
♦ They meet 9:30- noon every Tuesday for sewing projects, ministry opportunities, fellowship and lunch.

A new Connection
Since August Deaf Can! has been meeting at our church. This is a social service organization that provides assistance with health, housing, job and food concerns. They are helping the Deaf Bhutanese of the Central Pennsylvania region. They meet on Saturdays to learn English and American Sign Language. They know Nepali Sign Language. The exciting news is that some of the men and women have joined the Women’s workshop on Tuesday mornings. They are immigrants and refugees who learned to sew while living for about 8 years in refugee camps. The men sew and also keep check on the machines. It’s been another way to connect. The name is now Workshop.

Your connections
Please share with us for future articles in “News and Views” how you have stayed connected.

CONNECTING...

Lois Ann Griffiths,
President, LS SWO

FROM OUR PRESIDENT
Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Events

It’s important to get these dates on your calendars now—as you know with Covid there is always the possibility they may be cancelled. Let’s pray that we can get together soon to celebrate as Sisters in Christ and rejoice in all he has done for us.

Day of Renewal
Date and Place to be finalized
More information and registration form in the March/April Newsletter
Norma Good will be the speaker.

Thirty-Third Annual Convention of the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization
St. Johns Evangelical Lutheran Church
Berrysburg, PA 17005
September 25, 2021

2021 Camp Hebron Fall Retreat
October 29-31, 2021
Women of the ELCA - Faithful Friends

Provide Ongoing Support

Join Faithful Friends and provide consistent, powerful, sustaining support for the churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA, wherever it is needed most. It’s convenient for you and makes a big difference for our beloved community of women created in the image of God.

How it works

- Your recurring gift of $10 or more will be automatically charged to your credit card on the 1st or 15th of every month, whichever date is more convenient for you. *(Please allow up to two weeks for your first gift to be processed.)*
- A consolidated annual receipt will be mailed to your home in the first quarter (January-March) of every year. Your gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.
- You can change, update, or cancel your automatic monthly gift at any time by calling 800-638-3522 and pressing 0 for the operator, who can assist you.

To give through your checking account, please download and mail the form found on page 5 of this newsletter. Please do not use this form for updates to your current giving plan.

Questions? Call 800-638-3522, ext. 2730.

“More on Faithful Friends Giving”

The goal of Churchwide is to have 1,000 “Faithful Friends” commit to a recurring gift to Women of the ELCA. As a synodical women’s organization, of the Lower Susquehanna Synod, it is our hope/and goal that at least 25 women will participate.

See page 5 of this newsletter to find out how you can sign-up and support this automatic giving opportunity monthly. Thank you!!
MAKE A MONTHLY GIFT

Make a monthly recurring gift and join

Faithful 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 $_____ (at least $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 $_____ (at least $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

Or join online at: welca.org/faithfulfriendsonline

Thank You!
In a specially called meeting December 23, Women of the ELCA’s executive board decided how and when to hold the organization’s convention and gathering. The meeting and Just Love Gathering were initially scheduled for July 14-16, 2020. When the coronavirus pandemic hit, the board, in its April 2020 meeting, rescheduled the convention and gathering for early August 2021.

“Since the April board meeting, the coronavirus has spread in ways that few would have imagined,” said Linda Post Bushkofsky, churchwide executive director. As of December 23, more than 323,000 people have died in the United States due to the coronavirus, she said. More than 18.2 million people have been infected to date in the U.S. Leading epidemiologists describe the current trajectory of the virus as a “surge upon surge upon surge.”

THREE RECOMMENDATIONS
Therefore, believing that in-person meetings will be unsafe into 2021, the executive board approved three recommendations:

- That the Eleventh Triennial Convention, currently scheduled for August 3-5, 2021, be held virtually (or digitally) on those same dates. “The triennial convention cannot meet virtually until the 2017 voting members amend the constitution to allow for virtual meetings,” said Bushkofsky.

Before the organization can hold a virtual convention, she said, voting members of the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) must approve it. “So, the staff will take steps necessary to be in touch with the voting members regarding proposed changes to the constitution.” Those proposed changes were made by the executive board at its October 2020 meeting.

- That the Just Love Gathering, currently scheduled for August 5-8, 2021, be postponed and registration refunds be offered. Staff will then find other ways to build community and bring women together virtually in 2021 and 2022.

- That the Twelfth Triennial Convention and a Gathering be held in Phoenix, Arizona, during the week of September 18, 2023.

“The executive board recognizes that the recommendations carry with them several other implications,” Bushkofsky said. “Despite the challenges, we feel that these are the best options at the current time.”
OFFERING DEADLINE FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021

For Congregational Unit contributions to the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization to be credited for the year 2020/2021, all checks must be RECEIVED by January 18, 2021. Churchwide will only credit money (received not postmarked before January 31, 2021). Therefore, the Treasurer needs to have everything in to her so that she can send our SWO offering in time to make the deadline.

Another consideration to keep in mind is that all Congregational Units must make a remittance of record – either to the Synodical Treasurer or to Churchwide – to be considered as an Active Unit. This information is important when Units send voting members to Synodical Conventions, and when Churchwide allocates the number of voting members we may send to Triennial Conventions.

Use Form A for regular offerings and other offerings that go to your synodical treasurer. Other offerings include Convention Offering, Day of Renewal Offering and Camp Hebron Retreat offerings. Checks should be written to: “LS SWO Women of the ELCA”

Please send contributions with remittance form to:

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

Use Form B for Thankofferings, (remember Thankofferings are sent directly to churchwide) Katie’s Fund and all other offerings to support churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA or the ELCA (i.e. World Hunger, ELCA Malaria Campaign, Lutheran Disaster Response). Checks should be made out to: “Women of the ELCA”

Mail these forms to:

Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gifts Processing Center
PO Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Downloadable Form A and Form B remittance forms can be found at: https://www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/stewardship

MINISTRY & ACTION

An screen shot of the different ways Women of the ELCA are involved in to carry out Christ work in the world...

Through various program areas, Women of the ELCA’s community of women provide services in their churches, communities, and even the world.

We engage in ministry; we take action through advocacy; we promote healing and wholeness, and we support one another in our callings.

We offer anti-racism training; address domestic violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and human trafficking; and support families with special needs.

We assist participants in their desire to discern God’s call in their lives and to discover their spiritual gifts through workshops, retreats, resources, scholarships, and global education. We offer grants to not-for-profit organizations, both domestic and international, that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women’s emotional, physical, and spiritual health.

Join us as we make a difference in the world.

-7-
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 January/February 2021 issue is now on the synod website. Share this information with the other women in your congregation and let them know about our upcoming scheduled events. You can share it with your church secretary and see the information gets in your newsletter. Invite! You can always forward the newsletter to other women in an email attachment.

“Election Information 2021-2022 Term”

Elections this year for the 2021-2022 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.
When an anniversary or birthday card isn’t enough…
When flowers and food are great gifts, but they don’t last…
When you want to stay connected, but remain apart…
When you want to send a gift that keeps on giving…
When you appreciate great photography and art…
When you want to go “deep and wide” in Bible studies…
When you want to keep your mind and heart open…

Consider a subscription to yourself or a friend
If it’s your first time for yourself or another,
There is a special 1 year rate of $9.95.

My mother enjoyed the articles because they weren’t too long.
My sister a pastor and prison chaplain, was able to learn about W/ELCA.
My friend, a young mother of 4 with 2 daughters, carries her copy every-
where because you never know when you might have a few minutes to read.
My friend, former LS SWO President and board member, is delighted to re-
ceive GATHER
Like LWR, GATHER started as Lutheran Women Today, a magazine for
Lutheran women,
Then women of all faiths found our magazine was worth the read. So we be-
came GATHER, an inspirational and education magazine to share God’s love
with everyone.

Visit: gathermagazine.org/subscribe or call 1-844-409-0576
What would you say if someone asked you why you care about Women of the ELCA?

By, Audrey Novak Riley

I mean, clearly, you do. You wouldn't be reading this if you didn't. But why do you care? What makes you care enough to spend your precious time and thought and energy with the women's ministry of the church?

What one thing would you say to someone who asked you that question? Thinking about why we care about something leads to our being able to tell others why we care. And that’s what draws people to come and discover something they can care about too.

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. (Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement)

OKAY, I’LL GO FIRST.

Here’s one thing I’d tell someone who asked me why I care about Women of the ELCA: Because here I find companions on my faith journey, companions who affirm the way I live my faith, even if their way of living their faith is different than mine. And now, during this time of physical distancing, we need our companions more than ever, don’t we? For me, I find deep satisfaction in the rituals that have been part of worship for centuries, and my companions at church help me celebrate that, if now only virtually. Yes, I confess, I’m a liturgy nerd. One of my companions on the journey finds her bliss in advocacy and inspiring others to service. Yes, she cheerfully says, she’s a justice junkie. We live our faith in different ways, but together, we affirm and enrich each other’s growth in faith.

That’s one reason I care about Women of the ELCA. Now it’s your turn! What’s one reason you care about Women of the ELCA?

Audrey Novak Riley is director for Stewardship and for Women of the ELCA.
WOMEN OF THE ELCA, LOWER SUSQUEHANNA
SYNODICAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION
2019-2021 EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Jennifer.DeLeon@elca.org

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

Act boldly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DAY OF RENEWAL
Date and Place to be announced.

33rd ANNUAL LS SWO CONVENTION
St. John, Berrysburg

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