Inside this issue:

- Vice-President’s Letter 2
- Day of Renewal 4
- DOR Special Offering 7
- Tanzania Trip Planned 8
- Yearly Project Form 10
- Lutheran World Relief 11
- Election Information 12
- Board Listing 13

Meet Board President, Lois Ann Griffiths

I am a person, a woman, a child of God. My favorite number is 7. I was born 7-7-1943.

On September 12, 1943, I was baptized Lutheran.

I grew up on the "Hill" in Harrisburg. St. Francis of Assisi rectory, church and school was on our right. The Singers, a Jewish family, lived on our left. We were "good neighbors".

Our mother believed and lived that the Bible was all about love and hospitality. Our children have signs in their homes that say, "Our family is a circle of Love..." We are blessed.

We’re celebrating 51 years of marriage. We have 3 amazing children and their spouses. Our 8 grandchildren are unique and wonderful. We've had our share of "hills and valleys", but that "circle of love" makes us stronger.

Our 3 children are teachers. Our daughter teaches first grade. A son teaches high school Health and Physical Ed., and our other son teaches IT in an international school in Rome.

I have a passion for justice...racial and criminal justice. My favorite Bible verse is Micah 6:8.
Child of God—
"Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcome me". Matthew 18:5

Welcome to some thoughts and actions from our three workshops at the 2019 Conference of Presidents. From BOLD WOMEN to BOLD WOMEN

The 2016 Churchwide Assembly gave overwhelming approval of Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities, AMMPARO

Mary Campbell is its Program Director. She shared thoughts on AMMPARO and Reflections on Family Detention. She does pro bono legal work and organizes congregation and synod involvement with migrant children and families.

We learned that family detention is not:
- legally required for asylum seekers.
- financially justifiable for taxpayers.
- morally aligned with our values as a nation of immigrants.

These children are kept in private facilities. One could call them "baby jails". They are not allowed crayons or toys. Phones are too expensive. Temperature is cold, and water is contaminated from fracking. They respond to roll call by shouting their number. This is traumatic enough. Then remember, they are separated from family.

This is the "New Ellis Island."

Actions:
Correspond with your legislators, call, email, write a postcard. Educate and Advocate.
Become a welcoming congregation, donate, pray and participate in ELCA.org/AMMPARO

Matthew 25:35. Psalm 46:11

Talk Saves Lives—Suicide Prevention: 'Restoring Hope/Inspiring Action'

Sherry Bryant is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a retired school social worker. During a PowerPoint presentation Bishop Easton's introduction told about youth from 15 to 24 years old committing suicide by 1 every 2 hours. She also spoke that suicide is not an unforgivable sin.

Sherry told us many facts. There are more than twice as many suicides in the U.S. as homicides. It's also under reported. Women are three times more likely to attempt suicide, but men are three times more likely to die of suicide.

She spoke of how people wear masks. Then she told about her son's suicide at 21 years old ...a college graduate, engaged, employed and successful. Now, she's talking to save lives. She's cofounder/chair of the Suicide Prevention Ministry.

One myth is that when a person decides to complete suicide, nothing can stop them. It's preventable and positive action may stop it from happening. Listen, talk, care, involve others, be direct are some ways to help.

Workshop report continues on next page.
Sisters in Christ,

Jennifer De Leon is director of justice for W/ELCA. We are blessed to have her as our Region 8 Director of Operations.

Advocacy... We were challenged to remember the who, what, why and how of Esther’s life.

Advocacy was defined as to take a stand, speak out, work for change, create space and give voice to the voiceless. It's about community and relationships.

Justice issues in W/ELCA are about anti-trafficking, Domestic Violence, Immigration and Racial Justice.

The latest issue of "Living Lutheran" tells of advocacy in Pennsylvania and the passage of SB 554 Safe Harbor. It resulted in children that are involved in sex trafficking not being arrested and becoming a part of the criminal justice system. They are victims.

Jennifer explained how to communicate and meet with our legislators. It's about creating relationships. We were encouraged to get involved and follow up on Advocacy Alerts.

There is a new bill, “Buyer Beware” being introduced in Pennsylvania. This focuses on those who are the customer in human trafficking. Once again we need to advocate.

Our workshops on Immigration and Family Detention, Suicide, and Advocacy were all followed by listening to personal stories about those topics and how synods across the country have and continue to promote awareness and actions as W/ELCA.

This was Bold Woman's Sunday. In conclusion I quote from a Bold Woman's Litany of Thanksgiving during one of our worship services.

"Lord our God, we give thanks for the witness of bold women. In early times, today and into the future, bold woman show us how to live as God's beloved children in God's beloved creation. We live into our baptismal call to work for justice and peace for all God's creatures. Together, we say: Thank you, God." BE BOLD!

"JUST LOVE" (The 2020 Triennial Theme)

Lois Ann Griffiths, President, Lower Susquehanna, Synodical Women’s Organization
DAY OF RENEWAL REGISTRATION FORM

Date: Saturday, May 11, 2019
Time: 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Registration: 9:00-9:30 a.m. (refreshments upon arrival)
Place: St. Bartholomew United, Hanover
Cost: $20.00 (Includes program and lunch)
Theme: “Showing Hospitality to Strangers”

Scripture: Hebrews 13:2

Special Offering: United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg “Annual Fund”
(see page 7 for more details)

Contact for Questions:
Sue Lyons: Phone: 717-816-6533
Email: maryslyons@yahoo.com

The church is handicap accessible.

About the Speaker:
Reverend Angela Zimmann United Lutheran Seminary, will be the guest speaker for Day of Renewal.

She will speak about the hospitality she experienced during her time in Jerusalem.

Pastor Angela Zimmann serves as the Vice President of Advancement and Adjunct Professor of Homiletics at United Lutheran Seminary. Angela served as a parish pastor from 1998-2014 in Southeast Michigan and in Jerusalem, Palestine/Israel, and also taught full-time at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. Her leadership experience includes serving as President of the Lucas County Education Service Center School Board, Trustee for the Ohio School Boards Association, and charter member of the United States Presidential Scholars Alumni Board in Washington, DC. Locally, she is involved in the Gettysburg Area Dollars for Scholars as a board member and the Board for the ARC of Adams County. Angela is the author of the book “Turning the Noose that Binds into a Rope To Climb,” as well as a chapter in the book entitled “Composing Feminist Interventions,” and various articles in a number of journals and magazines. Angela is married to Rev. Martin Otto Zimmann, Ph.D. They have an adult son, Seth, and a teenage daughter, Chelsea.

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 Monday, April 9)

Make check payable to LS SWO WOMEN OF THE ELCA and mail to:
Kathy Kauffman, 970 Stevens Road, York Haven, Pa 17370

Name: _______________________________ Phone: _______________________________
Address: _______________________________ City: _______________________________

Email address: _______________________________

Home Church: _______________________________ City: _______________________________
Directions to St. Bartholomew’s United
1204 Grand Valley Rd. Hanover, PA 17331

From York area: Take 30 to 116 and follow that through to Grandview Rd. (Hanover Canning Company on the right and the Sensening Meat Market on the left.) Cross the railroad tracks and turn left at the light; Follow Grandview to the end and turn left onto Westminster Road. Stay on that road, bearing right at the Y. Same road becomes the Grand Valley Rd. just before the Long Arm Dam. The church will come into view on the left a few minutes after you pass the dam.

From Harrisburg area: follow route 15 south to 94. Turn left towards Hanover. A sign marks this turn to Hanover. Drive through Cross Keys (Where route 30 intersects) and continue straight ahead. Route 94 becomes “Carlisle Road”. As you pass the square or center of Hanover, the road name becomes Baltimore Street. (Same road). About the fifth stop light after the square (Gas stations on both corners at a light and a shopping mall on the left) is Grandview Road. Turn right at the light and go to the end of Grandview Road. Turn left onto Westminster Road. That road becomes Grand Valley Road. Stay right at the Y and after you pass the Long Arm Dam the church will shortly come into view. Turn left into the parking lot.

From Gettysburg – Route 116 towards Hanover. Just after Brushtown there is a small red schoolhouse on your right and a traffic light, turn right there at “Racehorse Road.” Follow the road and bear left rather than going into the housing development. When the road ends, turn left on Route 194. Drive to Westminster Road. (Just after passing the Landing restaurant and a former fire station on your right) Turn right onto Westminster Road. and follow it staying right at the Y until it becomes Grand Valley Rd. Pass the Long Arm Dam and the church will come into view on your left a few minutes after passing the dam.

From Lebanon: Turnpike to the Gettysburg exit. Follow Harrisburg directions.

Handicap entrance/elevator is to the back of the church.
At the triennial gathering 2017 closing worship service, the Rev. Angela Khabeb exclaimed: “News flash! Christianity is not comfortable. If you are comfortable in Jesus, you’re doing it wrong.”

Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect, we are often broken, sometimes we don’t fit. Sometimes our edges are rough—but we are one body in Christ.

The inspiration for Women of the ELCA Gathering logo came as I walked around downtown Phoenix, the site of the 2020 gathering. I noticed a mural outside of the convention hotel. Its collection of broken mirrors, tiles, shards of plates and painted rocks ebbed and flowed in a kinetic frenzy of color and textures.

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST
The mural reminded me of the body of Christ and how we are all misshapen pieces in one glorious and beautiful work of art.

The palette of deep purple and bright green in the new gathering logo is reflective of the scenery of the valley in the Phoenix area. Along the streets of this city, dusty earth tones are punctuated with bright purple flowers and vibrant green cacti. The turquoise color connects to the history of native cultures in Arizona and the southwest region. Red signifies love. The shade of red in our gathering logo is not one of fire or caution, but rather one of joy.

As we embrace the theme “Just love” we remember the words of the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra at the gathering in 2017 in Minneapolis: “I believe that if we follow mercy all the way, go deep into mercy, we end up at justice.”


Elizabeth McBride, director for intergenerational programs and editor of Café, designed the Gathering 2020 logo. She has a bachelor of arts degree from Arizona State University and has designed graphics for Women of the ELCA since 2000.
Yearly Project Reminder

Just a reminder to all CU leaders - please complete the “Yearly Project Form” that is included on page 8 of this issue of News & Views.

Mail to Barbara Bullock BEFORE Wednesday, August 1, 2019 (her address is on the form and the back page of this newsletter). These are projects that were completed between last year’s August 18 & 19, 2017 convention, and the upcoming August 16 & 17, 2019, LS SWO Synodical Convention at St. Paul, Lititz.

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.

A form is available on page 10 of this newsletter, and additional forms will be available at the Day of Renewal, Saturday, May 11, at St. Bartholomew United, 1204 Grand Valley Rd, Hanover, PA.

Day of Renewal Special Offering

The special offering for this year’s Day of Renewal will go to the “Annual Fund” at the United Lutheran Seminary at Gettysburg. This fund is the bread-and-butter of the seminary. Since we don’t charge tuition for our full-time Lutheran students, the Annual Fund is what we count on to sustain high-quality education – it pays for everything from the communion bread in chapel to the electricity to the professors’ salaries. We need to raise about $2 million dollars a year, every year!

Let’s help our seminary to reach it financial goal in 2019!
Summer Trips to Tanzania

Vicar Angie Hammer will be leaving for Tanzania on June 30, 2019 along with Pastor Robert Myallis from St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lititz, Pastor Rob’s brother Tim, and two members from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Penryn, PA. During their stay Vicar Angie and her team will be working on the LSS House (Lower Susquehanna Synod) House at Manow. In addition to their work project, the group will visit the Diocese office, Itete Hospital, and Matema Lutheran Retreat Center. Pastor Myallis will be visiting Kanga Lutheran Church (sister church of St. Paul, Lititz).

Later in the week, the team will head to Arusha where they will visit Dr. Stephen Swanson and his wife, Jodi, and family. Dr. Swanson is a pediatrician who attends to critically ill newborn infants. The last stop will be at Mt. Kilimanjaro and the Serengeti before their departure to the U.S. Vicar Angie will stay through to the end of July to work with the Diocese orphanage, the Olive Branch for Children, and will and do visitation at some Tanzania churches in the area.

St. Paul, Carlisle, has a trip planned to Tanzania this summer involving youth and adults. There are a possible 11 youth from the congregation and a possible 17 adults traveling under the leadership of Moses Kavishe. The tentative dates for departure are June 13-27, 2019. This will be a cultural immersion for the youth. They will not only learn about life in Tanzania through a textbook but have the opportunity to experience life there.

By: Sandy Bingaman

Mt. Kilimanjaro

Serengeti

Remember to keep those groups traveling to Tanzania this summer in your prayers for a safe trip and enjoyable experience.
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 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 4. The event is planned for Saturday, May 11, 2019, at St. Bartholomew United, Hanover. Deadline to send in your registration form to our treasurer, Kathy Kauffman, is **Monday, April 9**. Her address is: Kathy Kauffman, 970 Stevens Road, York Haven, PA 17370

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**Looking Ahead...**

The Thirty-Second Annual Convention of the Women of the ELCA, LS SWO, will be held Friday and Saturday, August 16 & 17, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Carlisle.

This year’s churchwide representative attending our convention will be Angela Bell, Churchwide Board Member from Belleville TX.

We are looking forward to welcoming Angela to the Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women’s 2019 Convention!

Theme is “Just Love”.

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**Newsletter Deadline**

The deadline to submit news or articles of interest for the May/June News & Views is **Wednesday, April 24, 2019.**

Keep Informed...Read the “News & Views” Newsletter.
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 last year’s August 18 synodical convention, and the upcoming August 16 & 17, 2019, 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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<th>Project</th>
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Please mail to Barbara Bullock by Wednesday, **August 1, 2019**
636 Center Street, Millersburg, PA 17016    717-692-3896

Contact Person: ________________________________
Phone Number/Email: ___________________________ ___________________
Congregation: ______________________ City: ____________________
In January 2019 the following was announced in a press release: International humanitarian organizations Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health are combining operations to dramatically increase their impact on breaking the cycle of poverty and promoting healthier families and communities throughout the world. Lutheran World Relief, based in Baltimore, and IMA World Health, a faith-based public health agency headquartered in Washington, D.C., integrated January 1, with a single CEO, leadership team and staff, and identical boards of directors. The combined organization mobilizes a joint staff of 550 people in 21 countries around the world. The move is a natural evolution for Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health, which have worked together for more than half a century. IMA World Health was founded in 1960 by a coalition of faith-based organizations, including Lutheran World Relief, to provide medical supplies to the world’s poorest populations. Over the years, IMA World Health has provided $75 million in medical-related materials to Lutheran programs and has evolved to become a comprehensive public health agency. In addition to the ongoing work serving more than 35 million people around the world, the combined agency is expanding programs to improve water and sanitation and thwart cholera in Haiti, prevent the spread of Ebola along the Ugandan-Congolese border, and provide treatment for pediatric and cervical cancer in Tanzania. The two organizations’ financial strength and complementary work in public health, rural livelihoods and emergency relief greatly extends the unified agency’s reach throughout the world. Please keep LWR and IMA in prayer as they continue their transition and serve our neighbors in need. Want to learn more? Go to: https://lwr.org/imaworldhealth.

Blessings and peace,
Rev. Martha Boyd
Volunteer Co-coordinator, LWR
Lower Susquehanna Synod
“Election Information
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 will be published and mailed in late May. A complete description of these board positions 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. 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.

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.
WOMEN OF THE ELCA, LOWER SUSQUEHANNA SYNODICAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION
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UPCOMING EVENTS

DAY OF RENEWAL
St. Bartholomew United Church
Hanover, PA
May 11, 2019

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

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

NON-BORD Listing

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