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.

Meet Lindy Hiney
Member of St John Lutheran in Lancaster, PA.
Born, baptized, confirmed, married in the Lutheran church.
My paternal Great Grandmother told me on my Confirmation day that I was now a
“woman of the church” and needed to be coming to the “Womens’ Meeting”. You didn’t
disagree with her, so I began attending in 1966.
Graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in 1972, being the first wom-
an admitted to the college after it became coed.
I served as District Chairwoman for two terms elected first in 1975 in the
Lancaster District.
I have served on Church Council at Zion Lutheran, Lancaster (now
closed), at Incarnate Word Lutheran in Rochester, New York and serve as
Secretary to the Council at St. John.
I have attended two Triennial Conventions for Lutheran Church Women
in Atlanta, GA and in St Paul, MN, in the company of my mother, Edith Geist.
I am currently retired from various position in legal offices and accounting firms, and
many years in retailing, most recently at AAA Central Penn.
I love to read and knit. I have knit hundreds of mittens and hats for our food bank to
distribute and for a cousin who is a midwife in Texas and Mexico. I am now adding sweat-
ers to that list.
I look forward to serving on the SWO Board!

Meet Board Member, Linda Geist Hiney
Member of St John Lutheran in Lancaster, PA.
Born, baptized, confirmed, married in the Lutheran church.
My paternal Great Grandmother told me on my Confirmation day that I was now a
“woman of the church” and needed to be coming to the “Womens’ Meeting”. You didn’t
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ers to that list.
I look forward to serving on the SWO Board!
President's Message -
"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth...
"Then God said, 'Let there be light...it was good
"Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters...
"Let the waters under the heaven be gathered in one place...
"Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit...
"Let there be lights in the firmament...
"Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth...
"Let the earth bring forth the living creature according to its kind...
"And God saw that it was good."  Genesis 1

Then God created male and female, blessed them and gave them dominion over all.
In worship we say. "I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth."

Sadly, we have not been good servants when it comes to creation. April 22 was Earth Day. Every day should be Earth Day.
My generation, at least those with power, have chosen to not change and to not think about the future of the world and its inhabitants.
When you bring a snowball to congress and speak of weather reports to deny climate change and that's scary.

My hope and inspiration are the youth of the world. They are letting their light shine. They protest, march and AdvoCaTe. ACT!
Once again a shoutout for the students of Parkland and Greta Thunberg. On pages 100-101 in Time magazine's The 100 Most Influential People issue, Emma Gonzalez praises Greta Thunberg for "fighting...for a future free from pollution, environmental degradation and climate change. Greta is inspiring steadfast students and shaming apathetic adults." Once she stood alone on a street in Sweden, in March she led 1.6 million people in a worldwide climate strike.

In worship we sing the hymns, "For the Beauty of the Earth", "This Is My Father's World" and many more praising God and creation. We need to do more than sing. AdvoCaTe. ACT!

Be a catalyst! Have family, friends, adult/children Sunday school classes, Boy/Girl Scouts, VBS, confirmation classes/camps and congregations email, call and send postcards to your legislators. Urge them to believe and pass legislation to protect God's creation and his people from the dangers of climate change. Be creative, polite and bold.

Pope Francis wrote an encyclical letter, "On Care For Our Common Home". "There are 246 messages/thoughts urging every person living on this planet to recognize "the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path."
In closing, a few lines from one of his prayers, "God of love, show us our place in this world as channels of your love for all the creatures of this earth, for not one of them is forgotten in your sight. 
Enlighten those who possess power and money that they might avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live. The poor and the earth are crying out, O Lord, seize us with your power and light, help us to protect all life, to prepare for a better future, for the coming of your Kingdom of justice, peace, love and beauty. Praise be to you! Amen"

Lois Ann Griffiths,
President, LS SWO
Camp Hebron Fall Retreat Update

Dear Sisters,

First of all - we are praying that you are doing okay during this pandemic that has touched all of us.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the recommendation from Churchwide Women of the ELCA to postpone our events through the end of 2020, we now need to postpone the LS-SWO Camp Hebron Fall Retreat until 2021. Per Camp Hebron, we were able to transfer our deposit from 2020 to 2021.

We were looking forward to announcing our Speaker for this year: Pastor Angela Zimmann. Pastor Angela has graciously agreed to be our speaker for next year. You may remember hearing her speak at a previous Day of Renewal event.

Please mark your calendar for October 29-31, 2021, to enjoy the weekend of new and renewed friendships. Please share this information with others.

Information about the Retreat will be forthcoming in the News & Views Newsletter.

Please stay safe until we can connect again.

Blessings, Chris Todd and Shirley Keister
Fall Retreat Co-chairs

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 May/June issue is now on the synod website. Share with you units.

There may not be a July/August issue of News & Views, depending on the amount of information sent to the editor.

Visit the Website

Newsletter Deadlines

The deadline for the July/August News & Views is Wednesday, June 24. 
The deadline for the September/October issue is Wednesday, Aug. 26.

Email your newsletter articles to donnaleegreifzu@gmail.com, or mail them to 422 Cleveland Avenue, Waynesboro, PA 17268
Give Monthly
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 $______ ($10 or above) from my checking account on the 15th of each month.

My voided check is enclosed.

______________________________
Signature

My signature authorizes Women of the ELCA, through ELCA Gift Processing, to initiate and continue monthly deduction 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
ELCA Gift Processing Supervisor
8765 W. Higgins Road, 5th floor
Chicago, IL 60631

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)

______________________________
Signature

My signature authorizes Women of the ELCA, through ELCA Gift Processing, to initiate and continue monthly deduction 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:
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Chicago, IL 60631
With no Covid-19 vaccine on the horizon, Women of the ELCA’s executive board voted to postpone the organization’s convention and gathering until August 2021. The executive board met by video on April 25. “We are postponing not canceling,” said Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA. The Eleventh Triennial Convention scheduled for July 14-16, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona, is being rescheduled for August 3-5, 2021. And the 2020 “Just Love” Gathering, scheduled for July 16-19, 2020, is being rescheduled for August 5-8, 2021. “We hope that everyone who is currently registered will come next year,” Bushkofsky said. “And if they aren’t able to come, they could gift their registration to someone else.” Staff will be working out final arrangements with the Phoenix businesses and communicating directly with all who are voting members-elect for the convention and who have registered for the gathering.

ELEVENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION
Postponing the convention means that the current executive board will serve another year until “replacements are elected and installed,” Bushkofsky said. Then, the board elected in 2021 will serve a two-year term. For the 2023 convention, “we would be back to our three-year cycle. That works best with the churchwide assembly, the youth gathering, and the rostered leaders’ event.”

BUDGETS AND FINANCES
“In an April 1, 2020, year-end fiscal monitoring memo from our executive director,” Anna Sarver, executive board treasurer, said “we learned revenue underperformed in fiscal year 2019.” Nine synodical organizations did not send any regular offerings, she said. “While expenses were significantly under budget, expenses exceeded income. Total revenue received in fiscal year 2019 was $2,055,194 or 71.3 percent of what was projected. The board-approved budget anticipated a total revenue of $2,881,531. Thus, the budget underperformed by $826,337. Sarver said the organization cannot yet determine how the coronavirus pandemic will impact giving, but that if women are not meeting in units, clusters, conferences, and at SWO events, it is unlikely that offerings will be collected. “That means less money will be sent to the churchwide organization,” she said. “So, we’ll need to closely monitor revenue and expenses as we move further into 2020 to determine what mid-course changes to the budget will be needed.”
The executive board voted to re-designate four funds into general use and use interest from 13 funds to cover the 2019 balance. Sara Larson, chair of the budget and finance committee, said the committee will present a 2021 budget at the October executive board meeting “because we can’t get our hands on hard figures to make any type of decision for now. “We are very aware that the financial status will continue to be fluid,” she said. “We will continue to stay in touch with the numbers and the revenue coming in and will manage the situation.”

GOOD NEWS
Some good news about the budget, Bushkofsky said. One is that Women of the ELCA is receiving two months of salary and retirement contributions for staff under the federal government’s Paycheck Protection Program.
Surprisingly, I found myself singing this as I washed my hands. A surprise because I usually sing “Row, row, row your boat...” Maybe because it’s the 50th Anniversary of EARTH DAY!
I can’t count how many petitions I’ve signed and rallies from Harrisburg to D.C., I’ve participated in to champion the cause of climate change.
From Genesis 1:28, then God blessed them, and God said to them, Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over very living thing that moves on the earth.”
It’s baptismal. It’s a covenant. It’s in our Purpose Statement, to promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.” It’s not just for people but also for our planet, our cosmos.
It’s much like a May/June Sierra Magazine article, “The Fundamental Law, about how Native Americans helped invent American democracy. There’s a Dine Fundamental Law that includes traditional, customary, natural and common law. According to the Navajo Supreme Court, one fundamental value of Navajo society is complete equality among people. Under Dine natural law, this equality extends to nonhuman beings: All creation, from Mother Earth and Father Sky to the animals, those who live in water, those who fly, and plant life have their own laws and have rights and freedoms to exist.’ The article also mentions a permanent relationship with Place, land is a healing place - a way to live in harmony.
In Biblical relationships we usually think of God, family, friends, neighbors and others. It’s time to reaffirm our relationship with land, nature, and creation every day. Thanking you who already are doing that. I remember sunsets at Camp Nawakwa’s Upper Temple. I also remember my “see America” summer in 1966 as we went cross country from Pennsylvania to California with a National Park pass.
Yes, beautiful, majestic America. I also love my suburban backyard facing the woods with deer, wild turkeys, squirrels, birds, bees and butterflies.
Some thoughts from the March/April issue of Sierra magazine.

“He’s Got the Whole World in his Hands...”

Continued on page 7
“Earth Day should be among other things a festival for those who wish to remind everyone that we should let other living things be just because they are alive.”

“Earth Day as usual, a polite exercise of stewardship, is wholly inadequate considering the scope and urgency of the climate emergency.”

We are asking the world to transition, but as a movement are we willing to change?

The notion of environmentalism has to change - no more can it be an act of charity. The system needs overhauled. - hold corporations accountable for climate change. Be responsible.

Pope Francis on Earth Day 2020 said, “Take to the streets to teach us what is obvious. That is, that there will be no future for us if we destroy the environment that sustains us”

Our Mission Statement: To mobilize women to ACT BOLDLY on their faith in Jesus Christ.

From 2 BOLD WOMEN who wrote editorials in the Patriot News.

Option 1 - Naomi Somerville writes that PA House Bill 1100” would award rich companies like Shell Oil and Exxon Mobil $600 million in tax credits subsidy per project over the next 30 years for petrochemical-related building projects...Supporters of HB 1100 argue it will provide jobs...

Now is the time to invest in cleaner, renewable energy, not a dying industry...uphold Gov. Wolf’s veto.

Option 2 - Hallie Tischendorf writes that there is a bipartisan proposal in PA to transition to 100% renewable energy HB 1425 SB 630 by 2050 with 100 co-
sponsors. Urge your representatives and senators to vote for these bills.

Option 3 - Butterflies were everywhere at last year’s LS, SWO -W/ELCA’s Convention. However Monarch Butterflies (orange/black wings) are disappearing. Since 1990 about 970 million have disappeared-they travel in the spring from Mexico to US to Canada. This year’s migration is down 53%. Climate change and pesticides are the problem. The solution is to plant milkweed and nectar plants on public lands, farms and gardens.

Soooo, we can’t take to the streets, but we can use social media, emails and phones to urge our legislatures and family and friends to AdvoCAte. ACT. “He’s got the whole world in his hands” and we say “God’s Work our Hands”

By: Lois Ann Giffiths

We need a few BOLD WOMEN!
Vulnerable communities are defenseless against COVID-19

Reach neighbors in need without leaving home. The masks you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world. Our generous community reached our first goal of 75,000 masks in record time. Let’s make 75,000 More!

Not all heroes wear capes. Some make face masks.

Many people in developing countries don’t have the option of social distancing or frequent handwashing to slow the spread of COVID-19. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention now says cloth face masks, along with hand washing and social distancing may help reduce transmission.

We need your help to sew cloth face masks to help us reach men, women and children in vulnerable communities.

After all, Lutheran World Relief was founded 75 years ago to help neighbors around the globe who were suffering during World War II. What will be our generation’s legacy during this time of crisis?

Please send your face masks as soon as possible so we can start shipping. We hope to have all masks before October 1, 2020, though we plan to continue to accept masks after the deadline. Plans are to included 2 completed mask, in each LWR Health Kit, once they are received at the New Windsor warehouse. For more information and instructions on how to make a mask, go to LWR.org/masks. Where to ship the masks, how they will be distributed, and other questions you may have can be answered at this address.

See page 14 of the LWR 2020 Quilt and Kit Ministry Guide for more information.
Download a copy here: https://lwr.org/downloads/quilt-kit-ministry-guide-2020
Sheltering in Place

At times I feel a paralysis
So much data for analysis
So many uncertainties
So great are anxieties

To go or to stay
To help or not
The needs are there
So much for prayer

Yes the church pews are empty
But our hearts are full
So we patiently and gently
Stay out of view

Let the truckers, healthcare and workers
Have the highway so others
May see a new day
As at home we each pray

May the God of Glory and Grace
Grant us safe voyage and place
In out hearts and minds
Hope of many kinds

Sally Hagy
April 1, 2020

TREASURER’S NEWS

Praying you are all well during this crazy time we are in, in our country and the world.
Thank you to all Congregational Units (CU) who have been faithfully sending in donations to our SWO even as they have not been meeting face-to-face. It is important to continue to support, not only your home church but the organizations that are important to you. It helps our mission to serve women here and around the world. I wanted to remind CU Treasurers to send donations to me at:

Kathy Kauffman, Treasurer
970 Stevens Rd
York Haven, PA 17370

Also, for anyone who would individually like to send a donation to Churchwide, you can do so on the website: womenoftheelca.org/donate. Go to “Tools for Leaders” then click on donate. You can make a onetime donation or there are three other ways:

♦ By Mail
♦ By Phone
♦ or automatically through Faithful Friends.

(See the sign-up form for Faithful Friends on page 4 of this newsletter)

Again, thank you for all you do for the Women of the ELCA.
What is WELCA? It’s an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Quite a mouthful, we know. Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in more than 7,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA.

HOW DOES WELCA WORK?

There are three expressions of Women of the ELCA, each with its own constitution:
- Congregational, inter-congregational and special units (about 7,000)
- Synodical Women’s Organization (in 64 of the ELCA’s 65 synods)
- Churchwide Women’s Organization

The congregational, inter-congregational and special units are the largest expression of the organization and are the heart of the organization. This is where we grow the organization, inviting women to experience the reconciling and transforming love of God through Jesus Christ, encouraging women to act on their baptismal covenant.

The synodical women’s organizations (SWOs) establish a partnership with units in their geographic areas and with the churchwide women’s organization. SWOs exist to support women in congregations. Each SWO has a board whose members are elected at an annual or biennial convention by voting members from units. Each SWO establishes clusters or conferences of units within its geographic area.

Conferences and clusters are groupings of congregations within a synodical organization. While they have no legislative responsibilities, conferences and clusters provide learning opportunities through leadership development, community building, stewardship education, networks for communication and opportunities for joint ministry and action with the guidance of the SWO.

The churchwide women’s organization (CWO) is the entire organization. Within the churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA, the triennial convention is the highest legislative authority; voting members to the convention are elected by synodical organizations. Between conventions, the churchwide executive board (volunteers elected by the triennial convention) conducts the business of the organization.

The churchwide executive board hires an executive director to oversee the operations of the CWO; the executive director, in turn, hires staff to assist in that endeavor. The only paid staff is located within the CWO. In all other expressions of the organization, volunteers carry out the organization’s mission and purpose.

WELCA is the women’s ministry organization of the ELCA. It is separately incorporated and is not an auxiliary of the church. It is financially independent and responsible for its own financial affairs. Financial support comes from individual and group offerings and gifts.

Want to know more? Contact Eva James Yeo, our director for membership.
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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**DAY OF RENEWAL**  
St. Mark, Harrisburg  
Date TBA: Spring 2021

**32nd ANNUAL LS SWO CONVENTION**  
St. Johns, Berrysburg  
August 21, 2021.

**FALL RETREAT**  
Camp Hebron  
October 29-31, 2021  
Halifax, PA

**MISSION STATEMENT**

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