“Lord, send forth your spirit...and renew the face of the earth”
Psalm 104:30

30 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32 He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Luke 1:30-33 NRSV
President’s Message...

Walking along the Susquehanna River with my toddler grandson, Mason, was a time of joy and peace. We would always stop at the Memorial. The base was perfect for keeping him inside the space, and he enjoyed pointing out letters of the alphabet. Mason is now 18.

Sunday October 28, 2018 I drove back to Mason’s old neighborhood, parked my car and walked once again to this Memorial with a baker’s dozen of white roses. The letters are words that say,

"Dedicated by the Jewish community of greater Harrisburg and the city of Harrisburg to the victims of the Holocaust perpetrated by Nazi Germany. We hope humankind will never forget its lessons.

Conceived by those who survived.
Jews were the primary victims
6 million were slaughtered - including 1.5 million children
Several million other people were also murdered. We memorialize them all.
To those who persisted valiantly
To those murdered simply for who they were
To those righteous people who risked their lives to help
To liberators-some from Central Pennsylvania
Who helped end the nightmare.
And to those who survived some of whom rebuilt lives in this area and touched our consciences.
This Memorial is dedicated.
The Holocaust can happen again
To anyone anywhere unless
Anti-Semitism
Racism
Prejudice
Are rooted out
REMEMBER" (written in 14 languages)

The Memorial is not a gravestone. It is to educate against bigotry and hatred.
The pillar-the strength and continuity of Jews
The barbed wire twisting up the pillar-atrocities
It is a beacon rising to the sky.
When my other son was a teenager, we were driving home. We wanted to listen to NPR. They played jazz. Instead we got the talk radio station. It was the "3 hour mouth". What I call "hate radio". We listened for a minute or two, looked at each other and found NPR.

For decades talk/hate radio has been grooming generations of Americans to hate "the other". Sadly, there are many more voices with TV and social media outlets to further spread fear of "the other". His son, Gabri is 15.

For example, a young father armed with a rifle went to a pizza shop to rescue Hillary and Podesta's trafficked children. Sadly, this was a lie. A young father is now in prison and not home with his family.

Words have consequences.
Tragically, those in power by their rhetoric and silence have chosen to continue to use lies to spread hatred and fear of the “other”.
"We are our choices" Camus
From the book, You Had Better Make Some Noise..."
"I quote others in order the better to express myself" Michel De Montaigne
A final quote ...
" It's a wonder I haven't abandoned all my ideals
They seem so absurd and impractical
Yet I cling to them because I still believe
In spite of everything that people are truly Good at heart".  Anne Frank

Lois Ann Griffiths,
President,
Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization
The annual LS SWO, Fall Retreat was held Friday-Sunday, Nov. 2-4, at Camp Hebron, near Halifax.
There were sixty-five women in attendance. Speaker for the weekend was Tawn Battiste, The topic was: “Standing on the Promises of God”.

Within the sessions the women realized that we are all the same when we ask someone how they are doing, the majority of us say “fine”! We tend to not burden others with our problems. Tawn gave the women the letter breakdown for “Fine” - Freaked out, Insecure, Neurotic, Emotional.

The women enjoyed another weekend of good food, new and renewed friendships, a relaxing wagon ride, Fair Trade products and a beautiful worship service Saturday evening with Pastor Cindy Brommer.

The special offering for the retreat was earmarked for the Manow Lutheran Secondary School, located in the Konde Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania, (ELCT) the Lower Susquehanna Synod (LSS) sister synod. Scholarships came to $1,131, enough for 1 full plus and partial scholarship! Great response ladies!

Katie’s fund, an endowment of the Women of the ELCA came to $85.01.

Thank you to all involved in making this a wonderful event. We hope that you will be able to attend next year’s 30th annual Camp Hebron Retreat to be held Friday, November 1st through Sunday, November 3rd, 2019.

Katie’s fund, an endowment of the Women of the ELCA came to $85.01.

Thank you to all involved in making this a wonderful event. We hope that you will be able to attend next year’s 30th annual Camp Hebron Retreat to be held Friday, November 1st through Sunday, November 3rd, 2019.

Chris Todd & Shirley Keister,
Retreat Chairpersons

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Sweet Potato Banana Bread

1 cup butter, softened
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
2 1/2 cups flour
2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup mashed sweet potatoes
1 cup mashed banana
1 tsp. vanilla

Beat butter and sugar. Add eggs and mix well. Stir in flour, baking powder and salt.

Stir in sweet potatoes, banana and vanilla just until blended.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 60 min. depending on size of loaf pan. Makes 4 small loaves or 2 large loaves.

Recipe shared by: Sally Hagy and Kathy Kauffman

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Thank you to all those attending the fall retreat at Camp Hebron for your support in purchasing Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate. Total sales came to $475.45. This was a great response!
September 16 - 22, 2018, was the annual Gratz Fair. This year the ladies of the Upper Dauphin Conference Quilting Guild decided to bring awareness to Lutheran World Relief by having a booth and making quilts on site. It worked!! Lots of people stopped by to ask a question or reminisce about quilting in their family history.

The ladies from different churches came and brought supplies to make quilts. In all they were able to assemble 20 quilts on site from the beginning of the process to the finished quilt. There was cutting, sewing, assembling, knotting and hemming going on all week.

There was a group of about 15 -18 young girls that stopped by for a visit and Fay Nichols told them all about LWR and how they could help. They had never heard of this program and were quite impressed with all the ladies of the conference do to help. Also, on September 16th, the Lutheran Youth Organization assembled 410 school kits at the St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church Pavilion, and the girls asked questions about how they to could help.

The ladies were quite impressed when four young boys showed up and took the time to knot an entire quilt under the direction of Linda Zilinski. They did a very good job. So much love went into that quilt.

In the Upper Dauphin Conference there is a pastor who was the recipient of a quilt when he was younger and in his country.

By, Fay Nichols

Eleventh Triennial Convention

The Eleventh Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA will be held July 14-16, 2020, in Phoenix, Ariz. The triennial convention is the highest legislative authority within the organization.
Women of the ELCA executive director Linda Post Bushkofsky was among several leaders who signed a letter this past July demanding six of the largest baby formula manufacturers stop “unethical and irresponsible” marketing of breast milk substitutes.

“It is important that Women of the ELCA take a stand on this issue, especially in light of actions taken at our triennial conventions relating to ending world hunger, caring for children and supporting the 1,000 Days project,” Bushkofsky said. “We also stand on the shoulders of Lutheran women who boycotted products of the Nestle Company and its subsidiary organizations in the 1970s and 1980s on this very same issue.”

The letter was drafted by 1,000 Days (thousanddays.org), a non-profit that promotes good nutrition between a woman’s pregnancy and the baby’s second birthday. It calls on the formula manufacturers to desist from “unethical and irresponsible marketing of breast milk substitutes” and to “fully comply with the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes and subsequent resolutions.”

Voting members at the Eighth Triennial Convention (2011) took action encouraging synodical organizations, congregational units and individual women to support 1,000 Days.

The letter came on the heels of a U.S. administration attempt to halt the introduction of a resolution that encouraged breast feeding at the United Nations-affiliated World Health Assembly in Geneva in May. The resolution said that a mother’s milk is healthier for a child than breast milk substitutes.

The resolution also sought to restrain marketing efforts by infant formula manufacturers, calling on manufacturers to fully comply with the International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, a code that was established following the Nestle boycott of the 1970s and 1980s. A watered down version of the resolution was ultimately adopted.

The letter was sent to the chief executive offers of six formula-making companies: Nestle, Danone, Abbott, RB/Mead Johnson, Friesland Campina and Kraft Heinz. It asked that the companies “immediately cease from lobbying or using other means to undermine global efforts to protect breastfeeding.”

In a related effort, Bushkofsky also signed a letter to U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar, requesting a meeting with Department leadership to understand the actions taken by the U.S. administration at the World Health Assembly opposing the original resolution, actions that appeared to undermine 40 years of U.S. policy and commitment.

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Download Interchange with clickable links by visiting the “Publications” tab at womenoftheelca.org
It’s nice to know we made an impact’ - at the ELCA youth gathering

It’s one thing to create awareness about human trafficking among 30,000 Lutheran youth and their leaders. But it’s just as important to prevent human trafficking in the first place.

Women of the ELCA met both of these goals at its interactive exhibit at the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston this summer.

Churchwide Executive Board President Lisa Plorin shared what a group of girls in a North Dakota congregation learned at the exhibit. After filling hygiene kits at the exhibit, the girls went to a local mall. The girls told this story to their pastor who reported it to Plorin.

“A stranger came up to them and asked if they would be interested in modeling,” Plorin said. “They turned and walked away and said, ‘We just learned about this at the [human trafficking awareness] booth.’

“It’s nice to know we made an impact,” Plorin said.

**Women of the ELCA in action**

More than 40 million people are victims of human trafficking globally, with 25 percent of those children.

Recognizing this, Women of the ELCA voting members at triennial conventions since 2002 have called the organization to action through memorials and resolutions to create awareness and to end human trafficking.

In our exhibit this summer, we partnered with two local organizations that support victims of human trafficking and at-risk youth. During the three days our exhibit was open, youth assembled 2,005 hygiene bags for distribution to people who need them.

In every bag, youth inserted a pamphlet with Houston-area phone numbers and resources available to help. Visitors to our space also added a “compassion card” with messages of kindness and hope in every bag. The notes handwritten by youth gathering participants read, “You are loved,” “You matter,” or “I’m praying for you.”

One group brought quilts from the quilting circle at First Lutheran Church’s, Blair, Neb. to give to one of the anti-human trafficking organizations in Houston.

Jennifer DeLeon, director for justice for Women of the ELCA, attended the event and summed up her experience working in the exhibit: “The one thing that stands out to me is how much more work these young people were willing to do. They had hope and wanted to make a difference, right now.”

Participants involved in Women of the ELCA support the work of the organization and to address today’s pressing societal issues. Many churches and organization boast about what they plan to do in the future, but Women of the ELCA acts now.

By, Elizabeth McBride

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![Traffickers Target Homeless Youth](image)
“A DAY AT THE BEACH” is the theme of the Annual Women’s Retreat Saturday, January 26, 9:00 to 3:30 p.m. All women of all ages are invited to spend a day at the “beach” with Bible study, worship, our special speaker (to be announced), a craft and our famous lasagna lunch with dessert bar. Please bring a dessert if you are able—everything else will be provided. Bring a Bible, a note pad and something to write with, too! Friends and relatives are welcome to attend with you. Please complete the registration form and return it with your $15.00 check at the church office at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 30 W. Chestnut St., Hanover, PA 17331 by Sunday, January 20, 2019.

“A DAY AT THE BEACH” WOMEN’S RETREAT REGISTRATION

Name: _______________________________________________________________

E-mail: ______________________________________________________________

Phone number: ______________________________________________________

Please choose one or both: [ ] meat lasagna      [ ] vegetable lasagna

Please enclose with your $15.00 registration check made payable to: “St. Matthew Lutheran Church” with “women’s retreat” on the memo line.

( ) Yes, my husband (or other male family member or friend) will be able to help prepare, serve and clean up.
The season of mistletoe and holly berries is upon us. Time to think about the Christmas trees that twinkle with LED lights that are draped in decorations and tinsel, not to mention the shopping, cookies, and presents.

So I was curious to know how the people in Tanzania celebrate Christmas. Vicar Angie Hammer provided me with some interesting insight since she and her family experienced Christmas during their visitation to Tanzania in 2015. This is a synopsis of her Christmas time in Tanzania.

There may be some shops with Christmas lights for decoration in the town; however, there is no Santa Claus or Salvation Army bells ringing. On December 24th, shops may close early or be closed for the day.

The Tanzania people recognize and celebrate the Season of Advent through their church services and gospel readings. But the real time of celebration is Christmas Eve. This is when the congregants gather at their various churches in the Konde Diocese. On Christmas Eve, some churches may light candles depending on the tradition of the church. There are not our traditional Christmas songs and hymns sung on Christmas eve; however, the congregants sing songs in the Swahili language.

December 25th is just like any other day of the year. Shops reopen and business is as usual.

Fortunately, Angie and her family following the Christmas Eve church service were able to join a couple they befriended while in Tanzania. This couple founded and run the Olive Branch Orphanage of 40 children. The wife of this couple is from Canada and she was able to share with the orphans some western Christmas customs. Vicar Angie read the Christmas story in Luke, Silent Night was sung and Christmas presents were given to the orphans. By, Sandy Bingaman
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WOMEN OF THE ELCA - LOWER SUSQUEHANNA, SWO
2018-2019 EXECUTIVE BOARD

UPCOMING EVENTS

DAY OF RENEWAL
St. Bartholomew United
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

-9-
MAIL INFORMATION UPDATE

Name ____________________________________________________________

Old Address ______________________________________________________

New Address ______________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Congregation ___________________________ Cluster __________________________

Phone Number ___________________________ Email ___________________________

Note: If you receive the News & Views Newsletter U.S.P.S., and your mailing address has changed, please remember to fill out the above information and send your updated address to:

Donna Greifzu, 422 Cleveland Avenue, Waynesboro, PA 17268
or email the corrections to: donnaleegreifzu@gmail.com