That night there were shepherds staying in the fields nearby, guarding their flocks of sheep. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared among them, and the radiance of the Lord’s glory surrounded them. They were terrified, but the angel reassured them. “Don’t be afraid!” he said. “I bring you good news that will bring great joy to all people. The Savior—yes, the Messiah, the Lord—has been born today in Bethlehem, the city of David! And you will recognize him by this sign: You will find a baby wrapped snugly in strips of cloth, lying in a manger.” Luke 2:8-12 NLT
President’s Message…

GRATITUDE

Yes, it’s the season to give thanks, count our blessings and show gratitude. Gratitude is defined in a Community Library’s dictionary at Good Shepherd as- “quality of feeling grateful or thankful- satisfaction- pleasing.”

I have a confession to make. Last year at the W/ELCA President’s Conference in Chicago, all new presidents received a gratitude journal. Then all returning and retiring presidents received one too. The benefits of writing daily gratitudes were shared. It seemed like a good idea. My journal sits on a shelf…never used.

Recently, my daughter called. She was excited about an In-service. She talked on and on about a gratitude journal and what a positive difference it can make in one’s life. To do or not to do? Hopefully, I will start. I’ll see if not just thinking, but actually writing down gratitudes daily can make a difference.

At our LS SWO W/ELCA Convention in our Bulletin of Reports, instead of a “Thank-you” page I changed it to “With Gratitude”. A guilty conscience! All these coincidences!

At our first LS SWO Board meeting, I asked the board to talk about a memorable Women of the ELCA experience. It was a way to introduce our new and present board members to each other. What a pleasant surprise to hear many relate to being invited to join W/ELCA as a young person/mother. They were persistent and offered baby sitting, etc. Each on their own time became a part of W/ELCA and were basically welcomed and mentored by these older ladies.

We need to do this more. Imagine if each of us would invite a person to join us at our church or maybe invite someone to one of our events - Camp Hebron Retreat or our Day of Renewal. I vividly remember when one church, for a Camp Hebron Retreat, invited their daughters.

During a discussion, one of the daughters said, “You know many people look to find a “how-to-book” for whatever. Actually you only need one book, the Bible.” I’ve never forgotten that. At last year’s fun Day of Renewal, we learned about hospitality. Let’s put it into action! Even if you missed Day of Renewal, a heartfelt, persistent invitation can make a difference. Ask any of our board members.

Lois Ann Griffiths, President, Lower Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization

Newsletter Deadlines

Email your newsletter articles to donnalee-greifzu@gmail.com, or mail them to her at 422 Cleveland Avenue, Waynesboro, PA 17268

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<th>Year</th>
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A Memorial service will be held for Fred Anderson on Friday, November 22, at St. James Lutheran Church, Gettysburg. Family visitation will begin at 10:30 a.m., followed by the service at 11:30. A luncheon will be held after the service.

Fred was the husband of former LS SWO Board Secretary, Roberta Anderson. Cards can be sent to Roberta at: 80 Meadow Run Place, Harrisburg, PA 17112.
GATHER
So before Lutheran Woman Today became Gather, our church group decided we were going to change. Instead of circles (we were down to 1), we would now use the word, GATHER. Then LWT changed its name to ‘Gather”. It was all good. I remember Nan Buhrman. It was her annual mission to get our women to renew or start a subscription. Now, Gather is more ecumenical. It’s an award-winning magazine. You can do your own Bible study or use it in your circles. It’s a great read. Written by women pastors, women of faith and even men, the articles are insightful and thought-provoking. The covers and art work are amazing. If you haven’t gotten yourself a subscription yet, now’s a good time to consider. Actually, it’s a great way to give thanks and show gratitude. Instead of a card or flowers, consider a gift to a family member or friend. It’s a gift that keeps on giving throughout the year. www.gathermagazine.org.

I have gifted the magazine to family and friends. In fact, I’ve been annually giving Gather to a young mother of four. Her life is too busy now, but she thoroughly enjoys each issue. She carries it with her. Whenever she gets a short period of time, she’ll read an article. Hopefully, one day she and even her daughters will be able to become women of the ELCA.

From elementary school to now in high school, my grandchildren have participated in Penn State’s Thon. It’s great to contribute to a good cause, and I’m amazed how much money their schools have collected. We make an annual contribution to each of them. However, it’s also good to contribute to a cause and be gifted back. I remember for a previous Triennial, we decided to help the women of Tanzania, our sister synod. We bought jacket style tops that they made for us to wear at Triennial. It was easy to notice the Lower Susquehanna Synod. Many other synods loved our tops and the idea behind it. It was a win-win. That’s what it would be like to gift someone a Gather magazine subscription. Here’s another idea. Our Good Shepherd women purchase a gift subscription to Gather for our church. It’s on our shelf in the library where our other materials are kept. Any woman from our church can borrow and read them.

Let’s show our gratitude. Be inviting, be thankful, be a BOLD Woman of the ELCA.

Remember Psalm 100, a song of Thanksgiving, “Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands. Serve the LORD with gladness...be thankful to Him, and bless His name, for the LORD is Good.”

(P.S. I have another confession! I plagiarized from my monthly church newsletter article for parts of this article. When our churches merged, the church council suggested I write a monthly piece to have the congregation learn about W/ELCA. Another idea. Maybe someone from your circle could occasionally write an article for your church newsletter. It’s another way to reach out and invite. Keep telling our story in word and action.)

By, Lois Ann Griffiths
The 30th Annual Camp Hebron Retreat was held Friday, November 1, 2019 through Sunday, November 3, 2019. It was full of exciting moments. We were greeted with no power because of the storm the day before (only generators) Friday evening. The power was restored minutes before our First session began. Saturday morning, the women were greeted with cold showers (we were truly in a camping environment) and Camp Hebron kept the women abreast of what was happening. Sunday morning, we had hot showers and an extra hour of sleep!

Our speaker, Rev. Denise Horn, led us with her theme “Women of Faith – Their Story and Ours”. We learned of many women in the Bible who had true faith. The women shared their personal stories of faith and it was refreshing to know that many of us have lived through the same experiences and we felt “normal”, which led to more open discussions.

There were many new friendships made and renewed friendships with our Christian sisters throughout the weekend. There were a total of 62 women and of that total we had approximately 7 new attendees – WOW! We hope the “seed” will be planted for more attendees next year!

As always, we were well fed by the staff. We take many things for granted, such as the chef making our pumpkin dessert Friday evening (for Saturday’s lunch) without an electric mixer due to the power outage. He really worked those arm muscles!

Pastor Denise led us in a beautiful evening Eucharist service on Saturday and Deb Freed sang a beautiful solo.

The offering for the Manow Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania totaled $996.00 (which will cover at least one full scholarship). Katie’s Fund totaled $223.49

Sue Lyons made 23 beautiful table runners to sell for $10.00 each, totaling $230.00. This amount will be placed in the LS SWO Miscellaneous Fund.

THANK YOU to everyone for your monetary gifts.

On Sunday morning, Deb Freed and Sherri Warner gave a presentation of their trip to Haiti to help the missionaries in the surgical unit at the hospital there. Unfortunately, they did not make it to the hospital due to unrest/demonstrations near where they were staying and had to return to the United States. At a worship service while there, they looked up and there was a “heart shaped” cloud above them in the sky. They then felt that they had nothing to fear.

Please mark your calendars for October 30 – November 1, 2020 and spread the word so that we can fill to capacity another wonderful Retreat.

Blessings to each one of you,
Chris Todd and Shirley Keister
Camp Hebron Retreat Co-Chairs

Thank you to all those attending the fall retreat at Camp Hebron for your support in purchasing Fair Trade coffee, tea, chocolate and nuts. Total sales came to $460.50. This was a great response!
The Upper Dauphin County area was jumping with excitement the week of September 15, 2019. It was time for the annual Gratz Fair. The Quilting arranged for an area to do a live quilting demonstration and bring awareness to the valley about Lutheran World Relief. Ladies from St. Christopher, Lykens, and ladies from St. John, Berrysburg, each took a day to assemble quilts. The quilting guild filled out the rest of the week. At the end of the week the ladies had a combined total of 34 quilts assembled. These quilts will go out to Lutheran World Relief after Ingathering Sunday, October 5. There were many questions asked as people stopped by to inquire as to where the quilts go, how many quilts go out from our area, and what do I get from doing this kind of work. My answer to that is always the same; "I do God’s work with my hands." We all get a feeling of happiness and satisfaction knowing we are helping others in our world.

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. To register go to: https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page
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 this year’s August 16 & 17, 2019, synodical convention, and the upcoming August 15, 2020, LS SWO convention, to be held at St. John, Berrysburg.

This would include Lutheran World Relief Projects, Local Projects, Fair Trade Coffee, and other outreach projects your congregational unit/women’s group were responsible for organizing and carrying out.

The Synodical Women’s Organization would like to tally the different activities your group has completed during the past year and publish them following the convention in News & Views. If you are the person reading this then take ownership of seeing this is filled out and mailed to the name and address below. Thank you.

DATE SUBMITTED: __________________________

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
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<td>MISSION QUILTS</td>
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<td>OTHER PROJECTS</td>
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<td>BABY QUILTS</td>
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Please mail to Susan Long by Wednesday, August 1, 2020:
Address: 1936 Pool Forge, Lancaster, PA 17601 Phone: 717-471-0573

Contact Person:_________________________________________________________

Phone Number/Email:_____________________________________________________

Congregation: __________________________ City___________________________

Cluster: _______________________________________________________________
News & Views Overview

See Page 6 of this newsletter for a copy of the form “WOMEN OF THE ELCA YEARLY PROJECTS”. The reason this is included in the November/December issue is because many of you will fill this out this time of year since Ingathering Sunday was the first weekend in October. Please see that someone in your congregation takes ownership for seeing the quilts, kits, and other projects are logged and the form is mailed in a timely manner to Susan Long. Thank you.

As the program year and meetings begin in your congregational unit or circle, remember to send articles for News & Views. Pictures are really exciting to include in the News & Views as you hold events. (please email the pictures as I do not as yet have my printer set up to scan)

Share with the other women in our synod and let them know what you are doing—it serves to build community and Christian spirit as we work together to lift up Jesus Christ and continue to build God’s kingdom.

“Covered with God’s Love” Quilt Project

The Women of the ELCA, LS SWO, are encouraged to make baby quilts throughout the year. Quilts that will be accepted are 36 x 36 crib size, 40 x 48 child size, and 72 x 54 single bed size. We will be happy to receive and distribute these quilts if you have extras after taking care of the needs of the groups or organizations you support in your own community. But I would like to know the number of these quilts and where they are going so we have an idea how much our women are providing aid and comfort for the community at large. If you have quilts you would like us to distribute, please bring them to the convention, August 15, 2020, at St. John, Berrysburg. If you have questions about the quilts, please contact Susan Long at 717-471-0573, or email her at stl1943@aol.com

See page 6 of this newsletter for the form to fill out and mail to Sue. Thanks
St. Matthew, Hanover, to Host Women’s Retreat

“MOVING MOUNTAINS” is the theme of the Annual Women’s Retreat Saturday, January 25, from 9:00 to 3:30 p.m. All women are invited for a day of renewal and relaxation with Bible study, a craft, worship, and of course, our famous lasagna lunch. Our speaker will be Ed Books who will talk with us about rocks, minerals and maybe a fossil or two. Please bring a dessert if you are able, along with your Bible, and something to write with. Registrations are due by Sunday, January 19. Friends and family are welcome to come with you!

“MOVING MOUNTAINS” 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. Mail check to: 30 W. Chestnut St., Hanover, PA 17331.

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 On the home page, click on the option in the heading, “Mission Partners”. The “Women of the ELCA, LS SWO is the 8th selection on the list. Here you will find the Newsletters and brochures. The November/December issue is now on the synod website. Coming in the January/February issue will be the Saturday, May 16, 2020, Day of Renewal Registration Form. It will be held at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Harrisburg.
“Covered with God’s Love”
Children’s Quilts
By, Sue Lyons

This is a picture of the twenty-five children’s quilts donated at the Thirty-Second Annual Lower Susquehanna Synodical Convention at St. Paul, Lititz. Fifteen of the Quilts were given to Lifeline and ten to Upper Dauphin Human Services.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF NEWS
By Rev. Martha Boyd

In the last few months, the following shipments have departed LWR’s warehouses:

- **July**
  Peru – mix of Q&K for social service programs

- **August**
  Zambia – mix of Q&K for social service programs
  Angola – Quilts and Baby Care Kits to vulnerable families

- **September**
  Tanzania – mix of Q&K for social service programs
  Nicaragua – School Kits and Quilts for vulnerable children
  Burkina Faso – mix of Q&K for social service programs

In October, a shipment of Baby Care Kits departed for South Sudan. LWR often receives questions on what is needed most. Since there is a time delay between the various needs and the responses, LWR needs to have everything on hand. They do monitor trends for donations and requests and look at 3 and 9 year averages. For the last few years, there has been a sharp increase in requests for School Kits, and LWR expects that trend to continue. The kits are a foundational piece in helping families and communities with children support and encourage school attendance. So while all kits and quilts are important and needed, if a congregation wants to support LWR for the first time, or feels a call to education support, then school kits are a wonderful choice.

Finally, a statistic to share: For the last ten years, LWR has received about 50% of its donations in October and November. But in recent years, that has shifted and a whopping 80% of donations for the year come in those two months! This is why you may see a big delay in getting kits and quilts tracked. Understanding when donations are received also helps the LWR team have a clearer picture of what is available in the calendar year. Let your quilters and kit-makers know this important information, please.
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Jennifer.DeLeon@elca.org

UPCOMING EVENTS
DAY OF RENEWAL
St. Mark
Harrisburg
May 16, 2020

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

CAMP HEBRON RETREAT
Halifax
Oct. 30-Nov. 1, 2020

Merry Christmas
MAIL INFORMATION UPDATE

Name ________________________________________________________________

Old Address ________________________________________________________

New Address ________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

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________________________________________________________________________

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