



Today is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

I heard birds chirping the other day – Spring is close. I can't recall ever meeting anyone who didn't look forward to Spring. It's the season of new life and new beginnings, when the earth is renewed: the season of the Resurrection. As Women of the ELCA, we have so many things to look forward to!

Many of us are planning to attend our Spring Cluster (or Conference) gatherings, the theme for each being "The Well-Watered Garden". When the board selected the theme, we had no way of knowing whether the winter would be as brutal as last year, but we thought it would give us all a lift after many cold and gray months, and remind us of the new season to come. I'm looking forward to seeing all the different interpretations of this Garden theme over the next several weeks. I hope to see you there!

Many of us are also looking forward to attending the Region 7 Spiritual Retreat being held in Hartford, CT in April. Please see the flyer within this newsletter for more information. The theme is "A Time for Every Season – A Time for You". This is a time to learn, worship, and share our faith with sisters from Eastern PA, New Jersey, New York, and New England. There isn't much time left to register – please contact Paula Rosenbeck ASAP if you would like to attend (her contact information is on the registration form). And don't let the distance keep you from this great opportunity – carpooling can be arranged.

Finally, please mark your calendars for the Annual Gathering of the Women of the ELCA of the Southeastern PA Synod – 7F! This year's event will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansdale, with speakers, workshops, fellowship and service opportunities all focused on the theme of "Helping in Jesus' Name". The theme is based on Matthew 25: 35-40, and inspired by the 2014 Triennial Gathering, at which we heard about God's work being done to help those suffering with mental illness, immobilized by the human trafficking industry, and struggling with the challenges of immigration.

Please join us as often as you are able. We are the Women of the ELCA, watering our gardens well in this new season that God has given us, helping others in Jesus' name. Hallelujah!

Joy Grace, WELCA Board President

Women of the ELCA Southeastern PA Synod

2015 Gathering



When- Saturday, June 27, 2015

Registration and continental breakfast- 8:30 AM

Where- Trinity Lutheran Church, 1000 W. Main St. Lansdale, PA

Phone- 215- 368-1710

Biblical text- Matthew 25: 35-40

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’

Theme – Helping in Jesus’ Name

Keynote Speaker- Reverend Jennifer Ollikanien, Executive Director of Lutheran Congregational Services

Topics to be addressed- Immigration refugees, victims of sexual trafficking, and mental illness

Workshops – Sister Michelle from Dawn’s Place will discuss human trafficking.

Carol Ann Caruso from the National Alliance on Mental Illness will speak about mental health.

Hands- on project

Participants may attend two workshops.

Come and enjoy various vendors and displays.

Cost- \$30

In-Kind Gifts – Toiletries to be given to various organizations helping those in need

Examples- toothbrushes, toothpaste, combs, soap, shampoo/conditioner, deodorant, tissue packets, shaving cream, nail files, nail clippers, washcloths, hand towels, feminine hygiene products (no glass, aerosols, or Pepsident)

Complete registration form attached to this issue of “The Voice”.

Reverend Dr. Jennifer Ollikainen



Reverend Dr. Jennifer Ollikainen will be the keynote speaker at the Women of the ELCA Southeastern PA Synod's 2015 Gathering. Reverend Ollikainen is currently the Executive Director of Lutheran Congregational Services. She previously served as Director of Ministries. She earned a Master of Divinity, a Sacred Theology Masters in New Testament, and a Doctor of Ministry from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia.

Reverend Ollikainen works with the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians. She edits worship and music publications and works with congregations to make their ministries stronger.

Prior to serving with Lutheran Congregational Services, Reverend Ollikainen was the Associate for Worship Resources for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and an Associate Pastor at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Springfield, PA.

Presidential Conference

Our president, Joy Grace, traveled to the Women of ELCA President Conference. The board voted to send ten gift cards in ten dollar increments to contribute to a safe house for human trafficking victims.



Keep me safe, O God, for I come to you for refuge. Psalms 16:1

Conference News

The theme for the spring 2015 gatherings is A Well Watered Garden

The Bible verse is Isaiah 58:11 *The LORD will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a **well-watered garden**, like a spring whose waters never fail.*

Chester Conference:

Sunday, March 15, 2015

Speaker- Verna Bowman- She writes for several publications and has had articles in Guideposts, Woman's Day, and Chicken Soup for the Soul

Centennial Lutheran Church 1300 Hares Hill Road Kimberton, PA 19442

1:00-4:00 Cost \$10 Luncheon included.

Coordinator: Kim Tapscott.

Email: tapscots@verizon.net phone: 484-678-9255



Delaware Conference:

Saturday, April 18, 2015

Speaker Dr. Dolores Littleton

Registration 10:00 Brunch 10:30

St. Timothy Lutheran Church Ashton, PA

Coordinator: Doris Krewson

Email: dkrewson5@verizon.net phone: 610-497-9026

Upper Bucks Conference

Saturday, May 2, 2015

Speakers- TBA

Mental Health

Registration starts 9:00 Lunch 12:00

St. Peter's Lutheran Church Reigelsville, PA

Coordinator: Paulette Gerhart

Email: PGerhart@harleysvillegroup.com phone: 215-723-2044

Upper Montgomery Conference:
Saturday, April 18, 2015
Speaker- Rev. Dr. Susan K. Folks
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
81 North Main Street Pennsburg, PA
215 679 9015
Registration will start at 9:00 A.M.

*WHAT TO BRING: Each church is asked to bring one refreshment to share.
In-Kind-Gifts: Canned goods for "Open Line," a Pennsburg local food cupboard.*

Coordinator: Pat Leberman
Email: info@stjohnlc.comcastbiz.net phone: 610.326.1120

Upper Montgomery Conference
First Tuesday BIBLE STUDIES 2014-2015
10 a.m. (Coffee and treats at 9:30 a.m.)

April 7, 2015
St. James Lutheran Church,
Presenter: Barbara Lutz

Session 8: **Inspired by the Risen Lord**
Kugler Rd. & Swamp Pike, Limerick, PA
Verse: 1 Corinthians 15:3-5

For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

May 5, 2015
Augustus Lutheran Church
Presenter: Jean John

Session 9: **The Church Transforming and Reforming**
717 W. Main St, Trappe-Collegeville, PA
Verse: Acts 15:16-17

After this I will return, and I will rebuild the dwelling of David, which has fallen; from its ruins I will rebuild it, and I will set it up, so that all other peoples may seek the Lord— even all the Gentiles over whom my name has been called. .

June, July and August studies to be announced.

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND BRING FRIENDS.

Diapers for Detroit

When the ELCA youth attend the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, July 15-19, they will be asked to “Rise Up Together” after studying passages in Mark’s gospel. Participants will help with a project organized by Detroit resident, Marybeth Levine, a.k.a. “The Diaper Lady”. After hearing stories of parents sending toddlers to preschool wearing plastic grocery bags, and tales of families reusing diapers, she started the Detroit Area Diaper Bank.



The youth are asking the Women of the ELCA to partner with them for their in-kind diaper collection. Diapers, especially sizes 3 and 4, wipes, incontinence supplies for adults, or monetary donations may be given to the youth in your church if they are traveling to the gathering. Diapers may be shipped directly to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 13031 Chandler Park Drive, Detroit, Mich., 48213. Checks, with “Youth Gathering–diapers” in the memo line may be sent to ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

The diapers will be collected at the various hotels. On the service day, the ELCA youth will delivered the diapers and sort them by size and take inventory.

See more at: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/gather---diapering-detroit--march-2015-news-311.php#sthash.IrIYIVPJ.dpuf>



WANTED

We are in the process of designing a website for the Women of the ELCA Southeastern Synod. We are in need of someone with computer skills to maintain this website. Contact Joy Grace if you are interested.

Looking for resources to improve your spiritual life?



Check out the Women of the ELCA website. Free, downloadable program resources are available. One-time use programs, individual or group study ideas, several session materials, or retreat resources can be found at the site.

www.womenoftheelca.org

Gather April 2015

Overcoming Doubts

Here are some articles included in the magazine.

One True Thing

Falling into doubt, like falling into love, is not a uniform experience. Susan K. Olson

Recognizing Jesus

Discover how the author learned to see Jesus in the homeless after ministering to them for twelve years.

Leading with Questions

Explore the need to take children's faith questions seriously.



Registration Form

Women of the ELCA Southeastern PA Synod

2015 Gathering



shutterstock · 123685771

Helping in Jesus' Name

Matthew 25: 35-40

"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me. Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.'"

Keynote Speaker- Reverend Dr. Jennifer Ollikainen

Saturday, June 27, 2015

Trinity Lutheran Church 1000 Main St. Lansdale, PA 19446

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Congregation _____ Conference _____

☐ I am a WELCA participant. ☐ I am a first time participant.

☐ I am a visitor. ☐ I am a student. (registration is only \$10)

Registration, continental breakfast, and buffet lunch is \$30.00 (students \$10). Please enclose check payable to Women of the ELCA-SEPA. Pre-registration is important in order to plan for the breakfast and buffet lunch. **Return this completed form and check before May 20th to:**

Dale O'Hara

5049 Cold Springs Drive

Collegeville, PA 19426 (phone - 610-489-0417)



"A Time for Every Season—A Time for YOU!"
2015 Region 7 Women of the ELCA SPIRITUAL RETREAT

April 17-19, 2015

Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center
West Hartford, CT 06107

REGISTRATION FORM

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____ Synod: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: (Home) _____ (Cell) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Church: _____ City/State: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Phone: _____

COST: \$255.00 per person* (Includes registration fee, 2 overnights, & 6 meals)

Saturday Commuter Fee: \$95.00 (includes registration fee, lunch, & dinner)

Make check payable to: "Region 7 Women of the ELCA"

*Double Occupancy in most cases

Please indicate Roommate Choice: _____

I prefer a handicapped room** if one is available: _____

**There are a very limited number of handicapped rooms available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is an elevator to travel between floors. Community restrooms & showers are available on each floor of the retreat center.

CANCELLATION POLICY: A \$20 cancellation fee will be charged for registrations cancelled between March 1st & 31st. NO Refunds after April 1st.

Please indicate any dietary or mobility issues or other special needs:

.....

Please include a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope with your registration if you need confirmation by mail. All other confirmations and updates will be provided by email to the address provided.

Please send completed form and payment to:

Paula Rosenbeck, Registrar

356 Torrington West St. #313, Torrington, CT 06790

teetee108@yahoo.com

860-567-9505

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 22, 2015

HELPING IN JESUS' NAME

20th Biennial Gathering

Of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Women of the ELCA

Saturday June 27, 2015

Trinity Lutheran Church
Lansdale, Pa

A Time for Every Season, A Time for YOU!

Region 7 Spiritual Retreat

April 17-19, 2015

Passionist Retreat Center
West Hartford, Conn.

In this issue of the Voice:

- A Message from the President.
- 20th Biennial Gathering Information
- Meet Reverend Dr. Jennifer Ollikainen
- Report on Conference activities
- Diapers for Detroit
- April Gathering
- Registration form for 20th Biennial Conference
- Registration form for 2015 Region 7 Conference
Please join us

Officers & Board Members

Joy Grace, President C: 484-432-8087
Email: joy_grace4@hotmail.com

Lisa Brown, Vice President C: 267-258-6803
Email: brown.lisa.welca@gmail.com

Helen Dungan, Secretary H: 610-346-8829
Email: dunganh@lafayette.edu

Elaine Keller, Treasurer C: 215-262-5366
Email: elaineakeller@comcast.net

Carol Herstine H: 215-257-5811
Email: cahott@hotmail.com

Beatrice Parker C: 215-888-8675
Email: 54126105a@gmail.com

Joan Seader H: 215-884-1551

Helene Newton** H: 215 699 8231
C: 215 896 3665

Phyllis Boyer C 215-679-6626
Email: frauphilly@verizon.net

CindyRyan* C:215-290-1891
Email: freecandlesrock@aim.com

*Non Voting Board Member
**Conference Facilitator

