

# THE VOICE

SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA SYNOD

Fall 2016

Greetings from the SEPA Synodical Board of the Women of the ELCA,

I'm very excited that we're finally getting this issue of The Voice out to you all. We had planned to send it out several weeks ago, but for one reason after another, it didn't get off the desktop.

The unfortunate part to this delay is that we weren't able to publicize 2 of our 4 Conference events. I attended both, and I'm happy to report that they were well-attended and the presentations on the theme of Repentance by Pastor Karen Sease at Upper Montgomery's event, and Pastor Laura Tancredi at Delaware's were very meaningful and thought-provoking. We're extremely fortunate to have such wonderful pastors serving in our Synod.

However, we now have complete information on the 2 remaining Conference events, an update on WELCA's new role with the synod-wide LWR Ingathering, and the announcement of a special Stewardship workshop being offered by **inFaith** in conjunction with the churchwide organization on Sunday, November 6. **[Read on for the details!](#)**

The last few days have really felt like Fall. I'm not sorry to see the heat of summer fade away, but along with the cooler weather comes a busier schedule, a more hectic pace. One of the things I like best about this season is the significance we place on being thankful. We are reminded to take a break from the daily grind to praise God for his goodness and thank him for all the blessings He has showered upon us. At this time of year, we also remember to give special thanks to our churchwide women's organization (CWO) through our **Thankofferings**. There are several resources available to assist you with planning a Thankoffering Service, educating your women on the history and tradition of Thankofferings, and regularly supporting the CWO. We've highlighted a few in this issue.

On a final note, we're still looking for someone to fill the role of All-Conference Coordinator. This position is extremely important to our vision for strengthening the WELCA organization in this synod, because we believe it is through this person (or persons) that communications between the SWO and Congregational Units can be improved most efficiently. Please contact me if you are interested, or know someone who might be ideal for this work.

Thank you all for your support of this organization and our Board. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

Give Thanks and Rejoice!

Joy Grace  
Synodical Board President



## In this issue of The Voice:



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## 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.*

## Officers & Board Members

Joy Grace, President Email: <a href="mailto:jgrace@partneresi.com">jgrace@partneresi.com</a>	C: 484-432-8087	Phyllis Boyer Email: <a href="mailto:frauphillv@verizon.net">frauphillv@verizon.net</a>	C: 215-679-6626
Beatrice Parker, Vice-President Email: <a href="mailto:54126105a@gmail.com">54126105a@gmail.com</a>	C: 215-888-8675	Liz Harmon Email: <a href="mailto:Lzharmon63@gmail.com">Lzharmon63@gmail.com</a>	610-225-0976
Carol Herstine, Secretary Email: <a href="mailto:cahott@hotmail.com">cahott@hotmail.com</a>	H: 215-257-5811	CindyRyan Email: <a href="mailto:freecandlesrock@aim.com">freecandlesrock@aim.com</a>	C:215-290-1891
Elaine Keller, Treasurer Email: <a href="mailto:elaineakeller@comcast.net">elaineakeller@comcast.net</a>	C: 215-262-5366	Arlette Stansbury Email: <a href="mailto:astans@msn.com">astans@msn.com</a>	215-727-8582
		Helen Dungan * (webpage) Email: <a href="mailto:dunganh@lafayette.edu">dunganh@lafayette.edu</a>	H: 610-346-8829 C. 610-417-8184

\*Not a board member

# Workshop: **WomenGive inFaith**



Change happens when we pool our talents and share our gifts.

**inFaith** aims to intentionally align faith and finances for generous giving. Individually and collectively, we will put our hopes and dreams for the world into action.

**You're invited!** Share your passion for changing lives and spreading the joy of good stewardship with other women of faith. Join the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) of the Southeastern PA Synod; Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director of the churchwide organization of WELCA; and inFaith on:

**Sunday, November 6 from 1:00 - 4:00 pm**

**St. Matthew Lutheran Church**

400 Lynbrooke Road, Springfield, Pennsylvania

Refreshments and lunch provided. Check-in begins at 12:30. Giving Circle Registration: \$25

**Register at [infaithfound.org/womengive/retreats](http://infaithfound.org/womengive/retreats)**

**CELEBRATE** the power of women's giving and leadership to change the world!

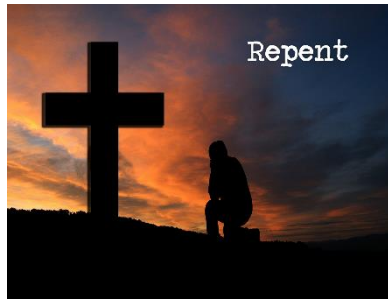
- Women hold 50% of the country's wealth.
- Women make up 63% of churches.
- Women live generously, giving 3.5% of our wealth.

**CONNECT** with other women as we explore ways to **align our faith and passion with our giving to make change** in our lives, our families, and our communities!

**At the Workshop:** Share your stories, learn about giving tools and financial planning, ways to take action, and strengthen your capacity to create change with others.

**Questions?** Contact Joy Grace, Synodical Board President and member of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Springfield

(The mission of InFaith Community Foundation is intentionally aligned with Thrivent's mission. The Foundation is a public charity and community foundation and is independent of Thrivent Financial and its financial representatives. No products will be sold or gifts solicited.)



## Conference News

The 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation is in 2017. Martin Luther's 95 theses centered on the idea of God intending believers to repent and that faith, not deeds, would lead to salvation. Our Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 conference themes will be *Repentance* and *Salvation* respectively.

The theme verse for Fall is Matthew 4:17 -

**From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."**

Please consider attending at least one of the conferences. Try visiting another conference to discover what is happening outside your area. Spend time with your fellow Lutheran women learning about God's word.

### Upper Bucks Conference

Coordinator: Paulette Gerhart

Email: [gerhartpaulette@yahoo.com](mailto:gerhartpaulette@yahoo.com) phone: 215-723-2044

Saturday, November 5, 2016

Little Zion Lutheran Church

Morwood Road, Telford, PA

Registration – 8:45

A lunch will follow the Program:

The Life of Martin and Katie Luther

### Central Philadelphia

Co-coordinators: Lisa Brown & Arlette Stansbury

Lisa Brown: email [brown.lisa.welca@gmail.com](mailto:brown.lisa.welca@gmail.com)

phone: 267-258-6803

Arlette Stansbury: email [astans@msn.com](mailto:astans@msn.com)

phone: 215 727-8582

Prayer Breakfast- Saturday November 12 at 9:00

Registration - 8:30

Mediator Lutheran

2832 N 28th St, Philadelphia, PA

A \$10 donation is suggested.



## **Upper Montgomery Conference**

Coordinator: Pat Leberman phone: (610) 326-4660

Saturday, October 15, 2016

Grace Lutheran Church

660 Charlotte Street Pottstown, PA

Registration – 9:00      Program 9:30

Speaker: Pastor Karen Sease, Pastor at Grace Lutheran



## **Delaware Conference**

Coordinator: Doris Krewson

Email: [dkrewson5@verizon.net](mailto:dkrewson5@verizon.net) phone: 610-497-9026

Saturday, October 22, 2016

St. Matthew's 400 Lynbrooke Rd, Springfield, PA

Registration – 10:00      Brunch- 10:30

Speaker: Pastor Laura Tancredi, Assoc Pastor at St. Paul's in Ardmore, PA



**These are the Conference events known to us when we went to print. If you have an upcoming Conference event that was not included here, please notify Helen Dungan and she will have it added to the website.**

Salvation is the theme for the spring conferences. The Bible passage is Romans 3:23-25 -

**“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement,[a] through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished.”**





## 2016 Convention



Our convention was held at Silver Springs-Martin Luther School on Saturday June 4<sup>th</sup>.



We began our program with worship led by Pastor Linnea Clark from St John's Melrose Park. She shared an interactive meditation on our theme Renewal Through the Holy Spirit.

She was followed by Anissa Canova, a member of the churchwide board who brought greetings and shared some of the activities that are happening on the national level, including finances and budget. In July of 2017 our tenth Triennial Convention and Gathering will take place in Minneapolis, Minn. Needless to say, this is the biggest upcoming event, and the most expensive!



Our keynote speakers, Denise Sterns and Sarah DeGeorge spoke of the services and students at the school. The school's goal is to give the students a new beginning. Renewal Through the Holy Spirit!

At breakout sessions, we had opportunities to tour the campus, have a conversation with our Churchwide executive director, Linda Post Bushkofsky, and learn about the New Day drop-in center run by the Salvation Army to help women caught in human trafficking.



The conversations with Linda Post Bushkofsky revolved around what is happening in our local units, the challenges we face, and how this is mirrored on the national level.



Five attendees won subscriptions to Gather Magazine as gifts from the SEPA board. The lucky winners were: Joyce Edmunds, Bea Parker, Joan Krauter, Eloise Brown and Diane Mohr. Diane already had a subscription, and wanted someone else to enjoy the magazine. Her gift subscription went to Helene Newton, our long-time Conference Facilitator. The subscriptions are on their way ladies! We hope this gift will inspire others to give the gift of Gather to their sisters, mothers, daughters and granddaughters, or to their units for bible study and discussion.

We asked convention attendees to bring In-Kind gifts of hygiene supplies such as toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap. Our donations provided supplies to fill boxes for new students of the residential program at Silver Spring – Martin Luther School.

## Convention Business

During our business meeting we elected Lisa Brown and Carol Herstine as our voting members to the Churchwide Triennial Convention in 2017. Our third voting member is Joy Grace who, by virtue of office, is automatically a voting member. The alternates are Arlette Stansbury and Nancy Loughery.

Voting members: Joy Grace, Carol Herstine, and Lisa Brown. Alternate: Arlette Stansbury



We elected our 2016-18 board members and officers. Joy Grace, president; Beatrice Parker, vice president; Carol Herstine, secretary; and Elaine Keller, treasurer. Board members are: Phyllis Boyer, Liz Harmon, Cindy Ryan, and Arlette Stansbury. We still have vacancies on the board; if you are interested in serving, please contact our president, Joy Grace.



**Churchwide representative Anissa Canova installs our new board and officers: Arlette Stansbury, Cindy Ryan, Beatrice Parker, Elaine Keller, Carol Herstine, Joy Grace, Phyllis Boyer and Liz Harmon**

Treasurer Elaine Keller reported on our income and expenditures over the last two years and presented the budgets for the next two years, which were approved. We voted to formalize our tradition of sending a minimum of 60% of unit offerings to Churchwide.

President Joy Grace reported that we completed two major projects over the last two years – we updated our constitution to bring it into agreement with changes arising from the past two Triennial Conventions, and we began a webpage which is still a work in progress. The updated constitution is available there. We would like to highlight conference and unit events on our webpage. <http://ministrylink.org/women>.

One goal we did not meet was the completion of our active unit assessment. The number of voting members we are allotted for the triennial conventions depends on the number of active units in the synod. This is a major goal to be completed within the next year.

There were 44 registered attendees including 17 voting members. Our offerings of \$402 were split between Silver Springs - Martin Luther School and Churchwide. A silent auction netted another \$310 which was donated to the school.

# THANKOFFERING

It's that time of year again - a time to show our thanks for all the blessings we have received. We traditionally thank God for the bounty of the harvest, but that bounty isn't limited to just fruits and vegetables! If you take a walk through the 'fields' of the [WELCA.org](http://WELCA.org) website, you'll find so many resources ripe for the picking, for FREE. If you have a question about something WELCA-related, you can call or email an actual staffperson at the Churchwide Office. If you need a devotion, ideas for a retreat, or a leader for a workshop, there are tons of options available.



This bounty is made possible through our regular and Thankoffering donations, collected at circle meetings and special Sunday Services. Download the 2016-2017 Thankoffering Service from the website to use as either a full worship service or devotion. Our purpose statement tells us to support one another in our callings. Please give generously to the Churchwide Women's Organization to ensure a bountiful harvest for years to come!

(Download the Fall 2016 issue of **interchange** for the annual financial update of the Churchwide Women's Organization. Another suggestion: check out the resource entitled 'All about Thankofferings' for a brief history of our tradition of giving.)





## Christmas Ingathering and Lutheran World Relief

Every congregation of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod will soon receive a letter from Bishop Burkat explaining that, because of changes in financial and other resources over the past year, the Synod will not sponsor a Christmas Ingathering this year.



However, one portion of the traditional Ingathering will continue. Women of the ELCA (WELCA) of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod will collect quilts and kits for Lutheran World Relief at the Synod Assembly at Franconia Mennonite Church in Telford on Saturday, May 6, 2017. Donations of quilts and kits will be loaded on a truck from 8:00 a.m. until 9:30 a.m. when worship begins. Everyone making a donation that morning is invited to stay for worship, and to participate with the assembly as they bless and send the donations out into the world.

In order to make the LWR Ingathering a success, please consider:

- Instructions for LWR quilts and kits are available here: <https://lwr.org/get-involved>
- A contribution of \$50 per congregation donating quilts and kits is suggested to cover the shared cost of trucking the donations to the LWR warehouse in Maryland. It is helpful to have these funds in advance. Checks should be written to Women of the ELCA, note *Ingathering 2017* and mailed to Elaine Keller, WELCA Synodical Board Treasurer.
- Volunteers will be needed on Saturday, May 6 to collect, count and organize donations, and pack the truck. If you are interested in volunteering, or have any questions or concerns about the Ingathering, please contact Joy Grace, Synodical Board President, at 484-432-8087.



Thank you in advance for continuing WELCA's long tradition of supporting Lutheran World Relief with quilts and kits. Your Synodical Board is proud to be entrusted with coordinating the gathering and transport of these amazing gifts to New Windsor, MD on behalf of the Bishop and our entire synod.

## WOMEN OF THE ELCA TRIENNIAL GATHERING

July 13-16  
Minneapolis, Minnesota



Did you do it? Are you going to? If you didn't, you REALLY should!! Peer pressure - we tell our kids not to succumb to it, but this time - you definitely should!!! Why, because I am talking about the greatest three days that come once every three years - The Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering! And next July it is happening in Minneapolis - right near the Mall of America (ok there are other fun places to see as well).

How do you sign up? Where do you stay? What is the cost? I have no one to travel with..... Never fear, we are here for you. Simply sign on to the Women of the ELCA website at [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org) and follow the prompts. *If you need a roommate, I have placed a reservation for July 13 to 16 at the Hilton Minneapolis, or you can check out the options on the website when registering for the Gathering.*

This will be my third gathering and I am so excited to attend. If you have never attended - NOW is the time to start a new tradition.

Have questions, concerns, unsure - feel free to text me at 215-290-1891 or email me at [freecandlesrock@aim.com](mailto:freecandlesrock@aim.com) . Either way - I am happy to encourage you to attend.

Cindy Quirk Ryan

PS: Go to [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org) for ways you can contribute to the Gathering, even if you won't be able to attend.

Nobel Peace Prize winner and ELCA International Leaders scholarship recipient [Leymah Gbowee](#) will be a keynote speaker at the Tenth Triennial Gathering (2017) in Minneapolis next summer, July 13-16.





## DON'T MISS OUT on GREAT ARTICLES

**Gather** is the award-winning magazine published by Women of the ELCA. Each issue contains interesting, thought-provoking articles, theological reflections, and Bible studies with leader guides. Past articles included “Slacks in the Freezer”, using the scriptures to find comfort; “What We Deserve”, learning about fairness from Girl Scout cookies; and “School and Stewardship”, what you want your child to learn. Recent Bible studies have included “When God’s Not Fair- Jesus and the Evil Eye” in October and “Paul and the Power of Failure” in November. Don’t miss out! Subscribe today. Print subscriptions cost \$15 for ten issues. Digital access is free with a paid subscription. Order at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org).

## TELL YOUR STORY

We are requesting stories of bold women for our use at the SEPA Spring 2017 Gathering. Our theme for 2017 is **Luther’s Ladies**. Please send us stories about the work you or other women have done to make a contribution in your congregation or community, or of women who have inspired you. Send us essays, blogs, picture collages, art work, interviews or videos. Different generations can be included in your project. Include information about the change you or other women have made in the lives of others, the events that helped to develop the faith of the people involved, or important moments in your life.



Contributions can be sent to Carol Herstine, SEPA Board Secretary at e-mail address [cahott@hotmail.com](mailto:cahott@hotmail.com) or Beatrice Parker, SEPA Board Vice President at 3210 W. Allegheny Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19132.

This request was inspired by the ELCA’s call for stories, which we published in our Spring edition of The Voice. Direct your questions to Joy Grace, Board President.

# FAITHFUL FRIENDS – A New Way to Give

(taken from the welca.org website)

*Do you know someone who gives regularly to Women of the ELCA, rain or shine, no matter what? Someone who's a faithful friend and steadfast supporter of the organization we all love? What does the Bible say about people like that?*

**"Faithful friends** are a sturdy shelter;  
whoever finds one has found a treasure.  
**Faithful friends** are beyond price;  
no amount can balance their worth.  
**Faithful friends** are life-saving medicine;  
and those who fear the Lord will find them.

(Ecclesiasticus 6:14-16)



**Sturdy shelter. Beyond price. Life-saving medicine.** Yes, we thought, those phrases certainly describe the many steadfast supporters of Women of the ELCA. So that's what we've named our new giving program: **"Faithful Friends."**

**"Faithful Friends"** is an easy way for you (or your congregational unit or your synodical organization) to give monthly to Women of the ELCA by automatic withdrawal from your checking account or by automatic charge to your credit card.

The **"Faithful Friends"** program supports the Women of the ELCA General Fund, which makes it possible for your churchwide organization to act quickly and flexibly in response to any need that may arise.

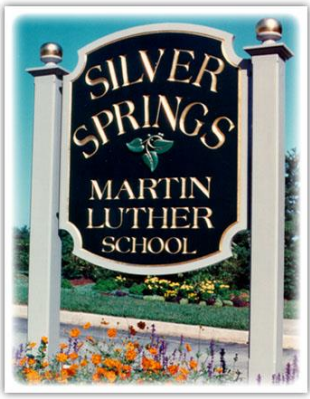
*The prophet Isaiah tells us that God says, "I am about to do a new thing" (43:19a). And "Faithful Friends" is one way you can help Women of the ELCA be ready for whatever new thing God has in store.*

All you need to do is download the form ([womenoftheelca.org/faithful-friends](http://womenoftheelca.org/faithful-friends)), print it out, fill it in, and mail it to:

ELCA Gift Processing Supervisor  
8765 W. Higgins Road, 5th floor  
Chicago IL 60631

You can start giving on-line right away, and you can stop any time with just a phone call to Women of the ELCA, 773-380-2730, or by email at [women.elca@elca.org](mailto:women.elca@elca.org).





## SILVER SPRINGS HISTORY

*This article was written by Phyllis Boyer, member of the Lutheran Historical Society of Eastern Pennsylvania and WELCA board member.*

Silver Springs Martin Luther School was founded in 1859 by a woman named Elizabeth Ashmead Schaeffer who started an orphanage in Germantown for the cost of just \$1.00. There was only one child at the time whose name was George Silvers. It started out as part of the Lutheran Home at Germantown for elderly residents. It was later moved to its present location in Plymouth Meeting, PA.

In 1969 it was established as a private school with the Penna. Dept. of Education and licensed as an approved private school. It is now a residential program that serves the special educational needs of children who have learning disabilities and often traumatic home life situations they need to be removed from. They can accommodate 240 students from Kindergarten through Eighth Grade. Some of these are commuters who live at home and others are housed at the school until they are ready to again join their families and transition back to the public school system.

The Women of the ELCA - Southeastern PA Synod are grateful to the staff and residents of the Silver Springs – Martin Luther School for allowing us to hold our 2016 convention at their facility. It was a wonderful day and we hope to continue our relationship with them for many years to come.

### We are on the web!

Southeastern Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA are now on the web!

We are a part of the SEPA Synod website:

<http://ministrylink.org/women>. Please check here for information about upcoming events and more.



