



Winter February 2019

President's Message

Greetings to all Women of the ELCA in the Southeast PA Synod.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Board is anxious to hear about your programs and the service projects you have been working on. Please email me, Phyllis Boyer, at frauphilly@gmail.com and tell me what your women have been doing so we can share ideas with other women in the synod. At my church in Zion Hill, located in the Upper Bucks Conference, we are currently studying the lesser known books of the Bible and the minor prophets. For service projects we make tie-knot quilts for Lutheran World Relief and participate in Pie Day for the children at the Silver Springs Martin Luther School in Plymouth Meeting. On two special days each year women from the Upper Bucks churches provide homemade baked goods for the children at the school to enjoy. We also at Christmas donate Stocking Stuffer Gifts for them. Please share with us what Women's Ministries you are doing at your church.

In other areas your Synodical Board in Southeastern Pa is working hard to re-establish Fall and Spring Gatherings for the conferences who have lost their leadership. We are also reaching out to churches who do not currently have an active Women of the ELCA unit to help them start one for their women. Please contact me if your women would like to hear more about this wonderful faith-based organization.

Your Sister in Christ,

Phyllis Boyer, Women of the ELCA Synodical Board President
Southeastern PA Synod

2017 Triennial Resolutions

During the business meeting at the 2017 Triennial the following Resolutions were discussed and voted on with a request that all Women of the ELCA make a concentrated effort to help alleviate these problems during this triennium period and beyond. If you have done anything to promote awareness of these problems, please let Phyllis Boyer know about it before the Conference of Presidents in February 21, 2019 as all SWO presidents have been asked to bring a report with them to that meeting. You should also report any plans you may have for future action.

- Affirm this need for clean and potable water and be encouraged to act upon it by raising awareness and /or offering tangible support to the people of Flint, Michigan.
- Support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by stating clearly that it condemns all forms of corporal punishment of children.
- Recognize domestic abuse and violence as a serious issue in our communities and our churches; and that Women of the ELCA educate themselves about the signs of domestic abuse and violence and the services available in the community.
- For more information about the resolutions refer to this Women of the ELCA web link www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/TCActions.pdf

Respectfully,

Phyllis Boyer
Women of the ELCA Synodical Board President
Southeastern PA Synod

Scam Alert

Southeastern Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA were the victims of an internet scam and lost \$2,500 from our Treasury. Similar scams have plagued most of the other 64 synodical Women of the ELCA boards over the last few years, and many have also lost money. The important thing to note here was the treasurer received a request for funds from the president and the email was sent from the president's email account.

We now have a new board; and are establishing procedures to help prevent this in the future. However, the scammers are still active. Once we updated our webpage, the board received emails from our new president, using her email account. We questioned the emails; and while we are still getting them, they are coming in her name from another account.

We want to alert you to this because we don't want you to be victims also. That is why we are sharing these suggestions for email security practices.

Helen Dungan
Women of the ELCA Synodical Board Secretary
Southeastern PA Synod

Email Security BEST Practices
From Know Be 4

DO NOT

DO NOT: open any email accounts that end with .exe, .scr, .bat, .com, or other executable files you do not recognize.

DO NOT: ever click embedded links in messages without hovering your mouse over them first to check the URL.

DO NOT: “unsubscribe” - it is easier to delete the e-mail than to deal with the security risks

DO NOT: respond or reply to spam in any way. Use the delete button.

ALWAYS

ALWAYS: check the email 'From' field to validate the sender. This 'From' address may be spoofed.

ALWAYS: report all suspicious emails to your Information Technology help desk.

Always: Check for so-called ‘double-extended’ scam attachments. A text file named ‘safe.txt’ is safe, but a file called ‘safe txt.exe.’ is not.

Always: Note that www.microsoft.com and www.support.microsoft.com are two different domains. (only the first is real)

Information about SEPA Synod WELCA Facebook page

Our Facebook page for our synod's Women of the ELCA has been updated! You can find us at www.facebook.com/sepaWELCA or logging into your Facebook account and searching for @sepawelca

We encourage units and groups to tag us as well with #sepawelca

You can help spread the news about our updated page! Our churches, using their own church Facebook page accounts, should share and like the page, as well as individuals. If units/groups/conferences would like to share an event, they can do it through Facebook by making us a "co-host" or by emailing us the information to create a Facebook event. Please email all details to SWOsepaWELCA@gmail.com

We hope to keep our Facebook page in "real time" and updated. But we will need your help in promoting and using this social media. Thank you for your help!

SAVE THE DATE – Bold Women's Day February 24, 2019

Bold Women's Day - observed annually on the Fourth Sunday of February - celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

Go to welca.org/bwd to download the free resource for this program and use it on February 24 or any more convenient day close to that one with your women and friends. Include women of different generations. Add your own thoughts and ideas. Many different ideas and suggestions are included. Find your bold through your faith in Jesus Christ.

Phyllis Boyer –
President of SE PA Women of the ELCA Synodical Board

NORTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN OF THE ELCA

SPRING JUSTICE RETREAT
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 2019
8:30 am to 2:30 pm



FOR FREEDOM, CHRIST HAS SET US FREE. STAND FIRM, THEREFORE, AND DO NOT SUBMIT AGAIN TO A YOKE OF SLAVERY. -----GALATIANS 5:1

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: VAST—Valley Against Sex Trafficking

Christiana Dominguez, MSW—Executive Director

Location: St. John's Lutheran Church

200 S Broad Street, Nazareth, PA 18064

Telephone: 610-759-3090

Designated Offering: Lutheran Disaster Response

Service Project - Assembling Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief

NEPA WELCA March 30, 2019 Registration form

- 8:30 Registration and light breakfast
9:00 Worship
10:15 Keynote – Christiana Dominguez, MSW - Executive Director of VAST (Valley Against Sex Trafficking)
11:15 Bible Study – What does the Bible have to say to victims of human trafficking?
12:00 Lunch
1:00 Walking the Way of a Trafficking Victim – a learning activity
1:45 Service Project – Assembling **Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits** – see below
2:30 Closing Litany
3:00 Synodical Board meeting will be held immediately after the retreat.

The items needed for each of these kits:

- One light-weight **bath-size towel** (20" x 40" or 52" x 27") – dark color is recommended
- 2 to 3 bath-size bars of **soap** in original packaging totaling 8-9 ounces (no hotel sizes)
- One adult-size **toothbrush** in original package
- One sturdy **comb** (no picks or fine toothed) out of the package
- One metal **nail clippers** (with or without file) out of the package

All items should be new and in good condition. No religious, military or patriotic symbols.
Please encourage members of your congregation to be generous in donating items for this project.

Designated Offering - cash or check to **Lutheran Disaster Response**

Worship Service Offering – cash or check to **NEPA Women of the ELCA**

Any questions or concerns? Contact Sandi Wagaman (610-203-8085) or Kathy Walter (484-226-0584)

Cut
here++++
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Name _____

Address _____

Home Church and Cluster _____

Phone # _____ Email _____

Registration: cost \$ 10.00 per person (includes light breakfast and lunch) Deadline: March 16, 2019

Checks payable to **NEPA Women of the ELCA**

Send check and registration form to:

**Kathy Walter
7685 Weisenberg Church Road
New Tripoli, PA 18066**

DIRECTIONS
St. John's Lutheran Church
200 South Broad Street
Nazareth, PA 18064

From the West: Allentown, Reading, etc.

Take Rt 22 East to the 191 Exit.

At the stop light, turn right and head North on 191.

Approximately 4 miles, turn right on Easton Road- Rt.248 (0.2 miles).

Turn left on S. Broad Street (0.4 miles) The Lutheran church is on the left.

There is a parking lot behind the church.

From Easton area

Take Rt 248 North approximately 4 miles.

Turn right at Nazareth Diner.

The church will be 4 blocks North. The Lutheran church is on the left.

There is a parking lot behind the church.

From the North

Take Rt 33 South to Stockertown (Rt 191 South exit).

Follow 191 through Nazareth.

At the first stop light (Broad St) turn left.

St John's will be 4 blocks South on your right.

There is a parking lot behind the church.

From the South: Landsdale, Quakertown area

Take PA 309 North to I-78 East to Bethlehem.

4.6 miles Take Exit 71 for PA-33 N toward US-22, Stroudsburg.

6.3 miles Take PA-248 Exit toward Nazareth/Wilson.

0.3 miles Turn left onto Easton Nazareth Highway toward Palmer, Wilson.

700 feet make a U-turn.

1.8 miles turn right onto S. Broad St. Go 0.3 miles, destination on the left.

There is a parking lot behind the church.

2018 Fall Gatherings Upper Bucks



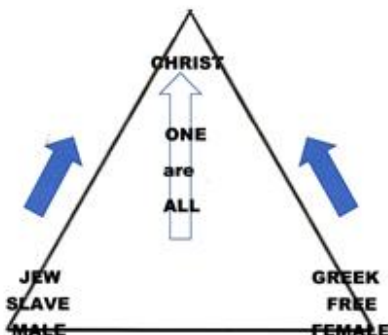
On October 20, 2018 Women of Trinity, Perkasie welcomed 33 women from 8 churches in the ELCA PA synod to the Upper Bucks WELCA Fall Gathering for breakfast, fellowship, devotions and program about led by our Pastor Jenn discussing her article in September 2018 Gather magazine. The women and their churches donated 405 hygiene items to Poverty Resolutions for women in Haiti and part of the offering collected will also be donated to Poverty Resolutions and the churchwide WELCA. It took many bold women to make this event a success.

Upper Montgomery



On October 20, 2018 Women of Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe welcomed 19 women from 6 churches to the Upper Montgomery WELCA gathering. The program was on “Equality” using Galatians 3:28 – There is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, male or female, for all of you are one in Christ. The Reverend Dr. Martha Kriebel, currently on staff at Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe and serving as an Honorary Assistant, gave a power point presentation on all-inclusiveness. No matter who we are or where we live, we are all called as one body in Christ.

Refreshments were shared by the women. Canned goods for the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry were donated by the participants.



Upper Bucks Spring Gathering – March 30, 2019

On March 30, 2019 the Upper Bucks Conference will hold their Spring Gathering. The gathering start at 1p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church (Pleasant Valley) 2170 Route 212 Coopersburg, PA 18036. Our speaker, Pastor Suzanne Spaulding, will use the Theme: Created in God's Image.

Lower Montgomery Spring Gathering - April 27, 2019

On April 27, 2019 the Lower Montgomery Conference will hold their Spring Gathering. The gathering will be from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., at St. John Lutheran Church, 1802 Skippack Pike, Blue Bell. Our speaker, Rev. Rebecca Erlich, will talk about Christian Minimalism and how it can help grow our faith. We will have snacks, and a brief conference meeting at the end.

Upper Montgomery and Delaware Conference's Spring Gathering's dates are being determined.

INGATHERING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF ITEMS
Saturday May 4, 2019

Arrangements are being made to have Lutheran World Relief (LWR) mission quilts, fleece-tied blankets, school kits, baby kits, personal care kits and fabric kits picked up at the PA SE Synod Assembly on **Saturday Only, May 4, 2019**. Please put together as many items as you can by May 4, to take advantage of this transportation to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor, MD. More specific details will be sent to each church shortly. You may use the link provided below to find the current items to be included in each kit and instructions for making the quilts. <https://lwr.org/quilts-and-kits> (listed under 'get involved' on the LWR website tool bar)

It would be helpful if you could provide us with an estimate of the quantity of each kit/quilt/blanket that you intend to send by contacting Joy Grace at 484-432-8087 or jgrace@partneresi.com. A suggested cash donation of \$30 per congregation will help cover transportation costs (rental, gas and tolls) to New Windsor and back. We sincerely appreciate your donations that will benefit people around the world.

Southeast Pennsylvania Synod Women of the ELCA.

**SAVE THE DATE – SE PA Synod Women of the ELCA Gathering –
June 1, 2019**

Theme – Water of Life

Place – Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA 2019 gathering will be held Saturday June 1, 2019 at Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Lansdale. Registration will begin at 8:45. Our theme is **Water of Life**. We will give thanks for God's gift of water and learn ways to care for our water. Our synod's sister synod is Southeastern Michigan – the home of Flint, MI. We want to learn more about their problems. Our own neighborhoods, the Willow Grove Naval Station for example, also have water problems. Therefore, we want to look at what is happening locally as well as around the world. We cannot live without water; so, it is important not to take it for granted. We are going to do something different for our In-Kind gifts. We would like to collect 'bottles of water' for the people in Flint. We have been told that the churches there are giving bottles of water to those who attend church. Obviously, shipping physical bottles of water to the Flint, Mi churches does not make sense. What we suggest is to collect money in each of our congregations during Lent to give to the churches in Flint to buy water. We envision putting an empty gallon water bottle out and asking everyone to donate the cost of a bottle of water (or a six pack) each Sunday in Lent. Bring your collection bottle, June 1, to the gathering. If you cannot make it to the gathering, mail a check for the amount collected to our treasurer, Cindy Ryan, (1045 Nash Ave Lansdale Pa. 19446.). Our offering at the gathering will also support this endeavor.

**SAVE THE DATE – SE PA Synod Women of the ELCA 2020 Convention
June 6, 2020**

Keynote speaker SE PA Synod Bishop Davenport



ministrylink.org accessed: 2/6/2019

SAVE THE DATE - *11th Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA*
July 14 – 16, 2020

The eleventh Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA will be held July 14 to July 16, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona. The triennial convention is the business meeting of our organization. Women will be elected in each of the 64 synodical women's organizations to serve as voting members at this convention. These women have the wonderful opportunity to have a voice in determining the activities and direction of our organization over the next three years. At our SE PA synod Women of the ELCA Gathering on Saturday June 1st, 2019 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale we will be electing our representatives. Right now, we are asking for nominations. Our president is automatically a voting member of the convention. We will have a minimum of 3 voting members; we are still doing an active unit assessment, so we won't know the final number until the assessment is finished.

In order to have a diverse representation at the convention, there are some requirements the Women of the ELCA Churchwide has put in place.

1. We need to have a first time representative, someone who has not served in this capacity before. Obviously, this is so they get fresh blood and new ideas.
2. We need one woman of color or whose native language is other than English. This is to bring a diverse viewpoint to the deliberations.

Each of our active units may nominate one of their participants to serve at the convention. Her expenses are covered for the days of business; however, room and board are her responsibility if she stays for the gathering. All we ask is that she share her experiences with us.

Please fill out the nomination form and send it to Dale O'Hara. The Nominating Committee will prepare a ballot, and the election will be held at our 2019 gathering held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale on Saturday June 1, 2019.

Helen Dungan



**TRIENNIAL VOTING MEMBER
NOMINATION FORM
Women of the ELCA
Eleventh Triennial Convention – July 14-16, 2020
Phoenix, Arizona**

Return by: May 6, 2019

Return to:
Dale O'Hara
5049 Cold Spring Drive
Collegeville, Pa 19426
610-489-0417
oharadvd@aol.com

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Church _____ City _____

Conference _____

Occupation _____ Age _____

Congregational involvement and responsibility for the last five years _____

Women of the ELCA responsibilities for the last five years (include Congregational Unit - C.U., Conference and Synodical Unit, other): _____

Community Participation: _____

Ethnic / Racial heritage: _____

Rationale for nominating to serve as a triennial delegate: _____

Name, address and church of person nominating: _____

Differently-abled (mobility / visual / audio) _____

Has this person served as Triennial voting member before? _____ When? _____



**SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA WOMEN OF THE ELCA
Upper Montgomery Conference
First Tuesday Bible Studies**

10 a.m. (Coffee and treats at 9:30 a.m.)

Fall: Repentance Winter: Meetings with Jesus: John's Gospel
9:30 a.m. — 11:30 a.m. Fall/ Winter 2018; Winter/ Spring 2019



September 4, 2018	“Time after time: Turning to God” When we turn to God, we find grace.	Emmanuel Lutheran Church Hanover & Walnut Sts., Pottstown
Presenter, Kitty Pell	Session one	
October 2, 2018	“If I could turn back time: Turning to others”	St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Walnut & Gassgow Sts., Pottstown
Presenter, Janet Luyben	Session two	
November 6, 2018	“Turning points: Turning as the church to the world”	Augustus Lutheran Church 717 W. Main St., Trappe
Presenter, Barbara Thornton	Session three	
December 4, 2018	“Fear not: an Advent/ Christmas devotional”	St. James Lutheran Church High & Price Streets, Pottstown

When God’s people are afraid, it doesn’t mean we are outside of faith. “Fear not” appears frequently in the Bible, in a way that is comforting. Knowing God is with us, we can face our fears. As we enter the season of Advent, this devotional by the Rev. Katie Hines-Shah, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Hinsdale, Illinois, will help us begin to see that the Christmas story is also the story of life in faith.

Presenter, Jean John

January - February 2019 Mid-winter break — SAVE GATHER Magazines

March 5, 2019	“Come and see: Seeking and finding faith”	St. Mark’s Lutheran Church 81 Main St., Pennsburg
Presenter, Debra Long	Session one	
April 2, 2019	“By night and day: Coming to faith in Jesus”	St. James Lutheran Church Kugler Rd. & Swamp Pk., Limerick
Presenter, Bobbie Hoffman	Session two	
May 7, 2019	“Friends for life in Christ”	Augustus Lutheran Church 717 W. Main St., Trappe
Presenter, Pat Leberman	Session Three	
June 4, 2019	“Seeing the risen Christ”	St. John’s Lutheran Church 3104 Main St., Sumneytown
Presenter, Fran Iverson	Session Four	

Study from **January/ February** issue of *GATHER*
Study from **January/ February** issue of *GATHER*
Study from **March** issue of *GATHER*
Study from **April** issue of *GATHER*

2019 Summer Bible Study to be announced in the Spring

ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND BRING FRIENDS. Study materials are found in the *Gather* magazine.

Subscriptions available at \$19.95 per year. Please call (844) 409-0576. THANK YOU.

Officers & Board Members

Phyllis Boyer, President	C: 215-679-6626	Email: frauphilly@gmail.com
Vice-President vacant		
Helen Dungan, Secretary	H: 610-346-8829 C: 610-417-8184	Email: dunganh@lafayette.edu
Cindy Ryan, Treasurer	C: 215-290-1891	Email: cindryan817@gmail.com
Joan Seader, Board member	H: 215-884-1551	Email: joaneseader@gmail.com
Dale O'Hara, Board member	H: 610-489-0417 C: 610-4201849	Email: oharadvd@aol.com
Pastor Sarah Stobie, Board member	C: 215-704-3397	Email: pastorsarahstobie@gmail.com
Sandra Zimmerman, Board member	H: 610-933-2778	Email: spzimm@icloud.com
Linda Garcia, Board member	H: 215-257-2925	Email: jaglsg@comcast.net

Conference Coordinator Joy Grace – past Board of Directors president – contact by C: 484-432-8087 or Email: jgrace@partnersi.com (non-board member)

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