



Summer July 2019

President's Message

Greetings to all Women of the ELCA in the Southeast PA Synod. Lots of exciting things have happened since our last issue of the VOICE!

The Board completed the first half of our 2-year term. Pastor Sarah Stobie resigned from the board in April as she moved to Wisconsin. We wish her well in her future endeavors. The board appointed and welcomed Joyce Adams, representing the Delaware Conference, for 1 year (6-1-2019 through 6-6-2020) to fill the vacant position. The vacant position of Vice President has been filled by Linda Garcia, also by appointment, for the balance of the term, ending June 6, 2020. I have agreed to finish out my term as President, ending on June 6, 2020.

We were able to bring you 5 Spring Conference Events – Central Philadelphia, Delaware (combined with National Quilt Day), Upper Bucks, Lower Montgomery, and Upper Montgomery. We still need leaders for Lower Bucks, Chester, and NE/NW Philadelphia. Please let me know if you would be willing to try serving in this capacity, even if it would only be for one event. Women from the current Board have been trying to continue these events for your women but we know there are capable women out there in your conference. Please put on your bold and give this a try.

On May 3rd and 4th our women of SE Pa Synod participated in Synod Assembly. We had a display table in the Mission Center where we talked with visitors who stopped by and told them all about the Women of the ELCA organization. On Saturday we held the annual LWR Ingathering of Tie Knot Quilts and various Lutheran World Relief kits that the churches have been working on for the past year. We sincerely want to thank all the women (plus children and men) who helped with these much-needed donations. With the help of your monetary donations given to pay for the cost of a trailer and driver (a little over \$1,000) we were able to get these items to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor, MD. From there they will be sent to people in need all around the world. THANK YOU! Letters will be mailed to the churches in the fall giving specific details on what to do for the 2020 Ingathering. Please do not stop doing this very important work.

June 1, 2019 was our Annual SE Pa SWO Gathering held at Trinity Lansdale where our theme for the day was “Water of Life” with a focus on helping the people of Flint, MI who are suffering from a contaminated water condition. During this past Lenten season and beyond, people in our congregations made contributions at each service to be sent to the churches in Flint, Michigan who are continuing to help provide these people with clean water until this problem can be corrected. We raised \$1,582.54 and wrote 22 notecards of encouragement to be sent to Salem Lutheran Church to be distributed to these people in need.

Respectfully,

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

Report from June 1, 2019 Biennial SEPA Women of the ELCA Gathering



On Saturday June 1, 2019 30 women gathered at Trinity Lutheran Church Lansdale for the 2019 Biennial Gathering of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA. Six of our conferences were represented (Central Philadelphia, Chester, Delaware, Lower Montgomery, Upper Bucks, and Upper Montgomery). Twelve church units were represented, and 3 women were first time attendees.

Phyllis Boyer, our president began the Gathering with a welcome to all attendees.

Cindy Ryan presented the devotions using the topic *“I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink”*



Her message included the following thoughts: She talked about “another kind of thirst. One that does not include water, one that we take for granted every day. One that some of us may not even realize exists.” “Each of us is thirsty and each of us are able to provide a drink. We need to open our eyes to see where God is leading us. There are days when you may be the one looking to quench your thirst and there are days when you will be quenching someone else’s thirst. Life gives us so many opportunities” “Another way to share is to let someone help. You may not think they will do it as good as you, but that does not mean they could not try. And if they do it differently, then so be it.” “Our goal is to love one another as Jesus loves us. Doing that enjoy your water today and every day and never take it for granted for there are those who do not have this blessing – it is up to us to pass it on. Remember when you sip it is a gift from God and serving it to another is your gift to Him.”

Pastor Chris Glod from Trinity Lutheran Lansdale also shared a short devotion.

Our main order of business was to elect voting members to represent us at the 2020 Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA to be held in Phoenix, AZ in July 2020. The ballot included three tickets used to elect 4 voting member delegates. The fifth voting member delegate will be the SE PA Synod Women of the ELCA president as of June 6, 2020.

Election Results:

Ticket one - Women of Color or whose primary language is other than English.

**Joyce Adams received more than 50% of the votes and was designated the voting member to attend the 2020 convention
Pastor Gwendolyn King is the alternate.**

Ticket two – First time attendee

**Patricia Leberman received more than 50% of the votes and was designated the voting member to attend the 2020 convention.
Helen Dungan is the alternate.**

Ticket three – vote for two

As Cindy Ryan and Helen Dungan received more than 50% of the votes, they were designated the voting members to attend the 2020 convention.

Joan Seeder, Joy Grace and Pastor Gwendolyn King were designated alternates.

Speakers:

Our featured speaker, Trudy Phillips, spoke about how our water ways run and what affects them. She began with a dramatic demonstration; she had 5-gallon bottles of water; from this she measured out 1 ¼ cups – this represented fresh as opposed to saltwater. She then used an **eye dropper** to show the amount of that water which was drinkable. She explained and demonstrated how water moves downward either above or underground, picking up debris as it travels. The debris, including trash, eventually ends in our streams and rivers, then flows into the oceans. (See picture demonstration)



Helen Dungan shared information regarding the water needs in Flint, Michigan. She obtained this information from Pastor Monica Villarreal, of Salem Lutheran Church in Flint Michigan. Salem and Shiloh Baptist Church are delivering water to 170 vulnerable homes – people with immunity impairments which make them extremely susceptible to infection. The cost of this mission runs about \$5,000 per month and is being paid for by donations. Pastor said the church leaders and members are serving people especially when death occurs - praying for them and responding to their spiritual needs, not just their physical needs.

Our offerings included: the money we have collected (\$1,582.54 as of June 21, 2019) to be sent to churches in Flint Michigan to help with their water distribution. Half of the offering collected this gathering will be added to the money sent to Flint, Michigan and the other half of the offering \$162.50 will be given to our Southeastern Pennsylvania Women of the ELCA synod.

Our third speaker was Hope Grosse who with Joanne Stanton recently formed the Buxmont Coalition for Safe Water, website <https://www.buxmontwater.org/> Both women are originally from the Warminster area and they and their families have suffered serious health issues as a result of the release of chemicals, PFAS (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), into the ground water and local water supply from Willow Grove Naval Base. This chemical is part of firefighting foam used in training exercises. The foam seeped through the ground into the ground water. She cautioned us that this chemical is not included in normal water tests; and strongly suggested everyone install a **reverse osmosis water filter**.

We adjourned our 2019 gathering with prayer and our purpose statement.

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

Keynote speaker SE PA Synod Bishop Davenport

Elections will be held for the new term of officers and board. Please consider serving if you are asked or volunteer to run for one of these positions. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

2019 Ingathering Donations

What did we collect for
Lutheran World Relief?

476 quilts

22 blankets

55 personal care kits

57 school kits

47 baby kits

9 fabric & sewing kits

2019 SEPA SYNOD ASSEMBLY #sepaforward #sepacommunity

SAVE THE DATE – 2019 Fall Conference Gatherings

Topic “Being Family” Bible Verse Proverbs 22:6

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it.”

**November 2, 2019 Upper Bucks Gathering
At Peace-Tohickon Lutheran Church, Perkasie**

October 26, 2019 Upper Montgomery Gathering

Upper Montgomery's Fall Gathering will be held on Saturday morning, October 26, at **Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe**. The Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel will be our guest speaker. She will speak on "Being Family" from Proverbs 22:6, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old, they will not turn from it." The Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel is a summa cum laude graduate of the Philadelphia High School for Girls, a cum laude graduate of Ursinus College with a B.S. degree (pre-med), an honor graduate of the Lancaster Theological Seminary, with a B.D., and an S.T.M. (Masters in Sacred Theology) from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. Ursinus College conferred the Doctor of Divinity degree in 1984. The Rev. Dr. Kriebel is now Pastor Emerita of Trinity United Church of Christ in Collegeville after serving as Pastor for over 30 years. She is married and has two sons. The Rev. Martha Kriebel and her husband, The Rev. Howard Kriebel, currently serve on the staff of Augustus Lutheran Church Trappe as Honorary Assistants.

More conference information to follow

**SAVE THE DATE - 11th Triennial Gathering of
Women of the ELCA: July 16 – 19, 2020**

Triennial Gathering 2020 Registration opens Sept. 30. Triennial gatherings bring Lutheran women together from across the nation with life-changing workshops, worship, Bible study and more. The Eleventh Triennial Gathering, July 16–19, 2020, will be no exception. Women will gather in Phoenix, Ariz., under the theme "Just Love." Early-bird registration, September 30 through January 6, 2020, is \$325; after that registration is \$375. Day registration is \$200. Register at welca.org after September 30 or email women.elca@elca.org for a registration form.

Information about SEPA Synod WELCA Facebook page

Our Facebook page for our synod's Women of the ELCA can be found at www.facebook.com/sepaWELCA or blogging 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!

Officers & Board Members

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Joyce Adams, Board member	C: 267-678-9502	Email: jadams7582@gmail.com
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Conference Coordinator Joy Grace – past Board of Directors president – contact by C: 484-432-8087 or Email: jgrace@partneresi.com (non-board member)

In this Issue

Topic	<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>
President's message	Page 1, 2	
Report from SE PA 2019 Biennial Gathering	Page 2, 3, 4, 5	
Ingathering LWR items collection during SE PA Synod convention	Page 6	
SAVE the dates	Page 6, 7	
-Upper Bucks Fall Gathering	Page 7	November 2, 2019
-Upper Montgomery Fall Gathering	Page 7	October 2019
-SE PA Synod Women of the ELCA 2020 Convention	Page 5	June 6, 2020
-11 th Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA	Page 7	July 16 – 19, 2020
-11 th Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA registration	Page 7	Open Sept 30, 2019
Information about SEPA Synod Women of the ELCA Facebook page	Page 7, 8	