

Winter February 2020

## President's Message

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

It is with much regret that I need to advise you of the resignation of Joyce Adams from our SE PA Women of the ELCA Board. We enjoyed working with Joyce and wish her well in her future endeavors. Rev. Gwendolyn King, elected as our alternate voting delegate, will fill her spot at Triennial 2020 as our woman of color representative.

### 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](mailto:frauphilly@gmail.com) and tell me what your women have been doing so we can share ideas with other women in the synod.

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

### ***Information about SEPA Synodical Women June 6, 2020 convention***



**This is My Story is** the theme of our 2020 Southeastern Pennsylvania Synodical Women of the ELCA convention.

Our convention will be held **June 6, 2020** at **St. Matthew's**

**Lutheran church, address:** 400 Lynbrooke Rd, Springfield, PA

19064. We will be celebrating 50 years of Ordination of Women Pastors of the

Lutheran Church. In order to honor them, we are inviting all the active women pastors in our synod to join us for the day's event. Our scripture is from I Corinthians 4-6:

*"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. <sup>5</sup> There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. <sup>6</sup> There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.*



Bishop Patricia Davenport [ministrylink.org](http://ministrylink.org) accessed: 2/6/2019

Our keynote speaker will be our synod's Bishop Patricia Davenport.

In addition to our keynote speaker, two of our women pastors will share their experiences. We selected one ordained pastor with over 15 years of experience and one ordained pastor with less than 5 years of experience. During the business meeting, the chief order of business will be to elect new officers and board members. The business is conducted by the voting members. Each congressional unit should select and send one voting member to the convention. That voting member should complete both the convention registration form on page 3 and the voting member/alternate voting member registration form for each congregational unit found on page 4.

We would also deeply appreciate suggestions for names of capable women who could serve on the board to represent your conference. Nomination form on page 5. A representative from Churchwide Women of the ELCA will bring us greetings and share news.

The offering will be split between Women of the ELCA and a charity of Bishop Davenport's choice. More information about In-kind gifts will be forthcoming.

Plan on attending our convention to honor our women pastors, hear from our Bishop, hear the stories of our women pastors, elect our officers and board members, hear about our churchwide activities and support each other.

You can find the 2020 Spring Convention registration form on page 3 and the voting member/alternate voting member registration form on page 4

You can also find the nomination form for nominees for the 2020 election of Southeast PA Women of the ELCA officers and board members on page 5.

**2020 Spring Convention Registration Form - Women of the ELCA,  
Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod**



**“THIS IS MY STORY”**

**Celebrating 50 Years of Ordination of Women in the Lutheran Church**

**1 Corinthians 12: 4-6 ~ “There are different spiritual gifts but the same spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone.”**

**Saturday, June 6, 2020  
9:00a.m. Registration**

**St Matthew Lutheran Church • 400 Lynbrooke Rd • Springfield, PA • 19064  
Phone: (610) 543-8700**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Conference \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congregational Unit & Address \_\_\_\_\_

I am a Voting Member (please complete the Voting Member/Alternate Voting Member form by May 9)

I am an Alternate Voting Member (please complete the Voting Member/Alternate Voting Member form by May 9)

I am a SWO Officer  I am a SWO Board Member

I am a Non-Voting Member with Voice  I am attending for the first time

I am a guest  I am 18 yrs old or younger~ (ONLY \$15!!!!)

**Registration, including a buffet lunch, is \$30.00 (18 years old & younger \$15.00).  
Please enclose a check made payable to Women of the ELCA – SEPA. Thank you.**

**Keynote Speaker:** Bishop Patricia Ann Curtis Davenport who is the current Bishop of Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the first African-American woman to be elected Bishop in the 4-million-member ELCA, and Vice-Chair of the ELCA Conference of Bishops.

**Churchwide Representative:** To be announced

**Two-Woman Pastoral Panel:** Longest time ordained & most recent ordained. What changes have taken place??

**Schedule for the Day:** Worship, Election of SEPA Officers & Board Members, Speakers, Workshops, Displays, In-kind Gifts, and Lunch.

**In-kind Gifts:** To be announced

Please return this completed form along with your \$30 (\$15 for 18 & younger) registration/lunch fee before May 9, 2020 to:  
Dale O’Hara  
5049 Cold Springs Drive  
Collegetown, PA 19426 Telephone # 610-489-0417 email address [oharadvd@aol.com](mailto:oharadvd@aol.com)



# VOTING MEMBER / ALTERNATE VOTING MEMBER ENROLLMENT FORM

**Women of the ELCA – Southeastern Pennsylvania  
2020 Spring Convention – Saturday June 6, 2020 – 9:00a.m. Registration  
St Matthew Lutheran Church • 400 Lynbrooke Rd • Springfield, PA • 19064  
Theme: “THIS IS MY STORY”~ 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6**

This form is a voting member/alternate voting member form only. You must also register for the Convention using the attached registration form.

Congregational Unit \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

SEPA Conference \_\_\_\_\_

The Women of the ELCA, SEPA Constitution states (Article VI, Section 2, Item 1): Voting members of a convention shall be the elected officers of this SWO (Synodical Women’s organization) and one voting member from each unit (Congregational Unit) on the roll of this SWO.

Name of Voting Member \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Alternate Voting Member \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
CU President/Representative

Return this form by May 9, 2020 to:

Dale O’Hara  
5049 Cold Springs Drive  
Collegetown, PA 19426

610-489-0417  
[oharadvd@aol.com](mailto:oharadvd@aol.com)



# OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS NOMINATION FORM

## Women of the ELCA – Southeastern Pennsylvania

2020 Spring Convention – Saturday June 6, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. Registration  
St Matthew Lutheran Church • 400 Lynbrooke Rd • Springfield, PA • 19064

Theme: “THIS IS MY STORY” ~ 1 Corinthians 12: 4-6

Board Terms are two years – Check the position in which you are interested in serving.

President\_\_\_\_ Vice President\_\_\_\_ Secretary\_\_\_\_ Treasurer\_\_\_\_ Board Member\_\_\_\_

Name of Nominee\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Congregation\_\_\_\_\_

Church Address\_\_\_\_\_

SEPA Conference:

Chester\_\_\_\_ Delaware\_\_\_\_ NE/NW Philadelphia\_\_\_\_ Central Philadelphia\_\_\_\_

Lower Bucks\_\_\_\_ Upper Bucks\_\_\_\_ Lower Montgomery\_\_\_\_ Upper Montgomery\_\_\_\_

Age (please circle):            20-35    36-50            51-60            61-70            71+

Give a brief listing of positions you have held in Women of the ELCA:\_\_\_\_\_

Your Congregation and / or Synod:\_\_\_\_\_

Your Community:\_\_\_\_\_

List your work experiences / skills/ interests:\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – Nominee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature – Congregational President/Representative

Return by:    MAY 9, 2020

Return to:    **Helen Dungan**  
2967 Gallows Hill Rd.  
Riegelsville, Pa 18077  
610-346-8829    dunganh@lafayette.edu

## Spring 2020 Conference Gatherings

If there are any other conferences holding a spring gathering please let Linda Garcia or Phyllis Boyer know the details so we can post it on our Women of the ELCA social media sites. Please feel free to attend any that spark your interest. All are welcome.

The **Upper Montgomery Conference** will hold their Spring Gathering on Saturday, **March 21, 2020** to coincide with National Quilting day.

The gathering will be held at **Augustus Lutheran church**: 717 West Main Street Trappe, PA. Registration and refreshments begin at 9:00 AM. Program begins at 9:30AM. We will be tying quilts, led by the women of Augustus Lutheran church. Each church group is asked to bring a baked good, fruit, or similar refreshment item to share, as well as canned goods donations. Coffee, tea, and beverages will be served by our host church. Donations of canned goods will go to the Daily Bread Community Food Pantry in Collegetown.

The theme is “Women Serving” - Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me – taken from Matthew 25:40. The Rev. Dr. Martha Kriebel, currently on staff at Augustus Lutheran Church in Trappe serving as an Honorary Assistant, will be doing a brief devotional before the workshop. Children are welcome to attend, however, anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

The **Upper Bucks Conference Gathering** will be held  
**Saturday, April 25, 2020**



**Topic: Women Serving**

We will meet at **St. Michael's Evangelical Lutheran Church address**: 25 East Church Street Sellersville, PA 18960. Registration is from 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m. with breakfast following. The Bible text is '*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*' Matthew 25:40.

Our speaker / leader is Reverend Marcia Bell, Director of Mobility, SE PA ELCA Synod office. We will share how we are serving; what has changed over the past years; and the current challenges - both as individuals and as organizations.

In Kind Gifts and Offering Disbursement to be announced



Upper Montgomery Conference of the SE PA Synod Women of the ELCA

First Tuesday Gather Bible Studies  
**UPPER MONTGOMERY CONFERENCE  
OF THE SE PA SYNOD WOMEN OF THE ELCA**



**FIRST TUESDAY GATHER BIBLE STUDIES  
WINTER/SPRING 2020**

Coffee and treats at 9:30 am

Bible study 10:00 to 11:30 am

**ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND BRING FRIENDS.**

**JANUARY – FEBRUARY Mid-winter break; SAVE GATHER ISSUES FOR USE IN MARCH AND APRIL.**

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**GATHER magazine Winter/Spring 2020 Bible Study: WE ARE CALLED! by Kathryn A. Kleinhans**

Reformer Martin Luther used the word “vocation” or “calling” to refer to all aspects of human life. We are called to respond to God not just in our personal relationship with God but in our relationships with family and friends, in our work, and in our communities. This four-part Bible study will explore stories from both the Old and New Testament. As we reflect on how our biblical forebears heard and responded to God’s call, we will gain insight into how God is calling us—and how God may be calling others through us.

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**Tuesday, March 3** Bible study from the **January** issue of *Gather*  
**Session 1: Hearing God’s Call** Janet Luyben, Presenter

Focus is on men and women in the Old Testament. Some of them heard and recognized God’s call clearly. Others struggled to realize that it was God who was calling them or exactly what God was calling them to do.

**Where:** St. John’s Lutheran Church, 3104 Main Street, Sumneytown

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**Tuesday, April 7** Bible Study from the **February** issue of *Gather*  
**Session 2: The Call of Jesus** Kitty Pell, Presenter

This session focuses on Jesus’ calling of the disciples, on Jesus’ call to Saul (Paul) on the road to Damascus, and on Jesus’ call to all Christians to take up the cross and follow.

**Where:** St. James Lutheran Church, High & Price Streets, Pottstown

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**Tuesday, May 5** Bible study from the **March** issue of *Gather*  
**Session 3: Called to Serve** Bobbie Hoffman, Presenter

Jesus is clear that one of the central ways we respond to God’s call is by serving others. When we serve others, we are recognizing Christ present in their need. When we serve others, they see Christ visible in our loving service.

**Where:** St. James Lutheran Church, Kugler Rd. & Swamp Pike, Limerick

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(continued on page 7)

**Tuesday, June 2** Bible study from the **April** issue of *Gather*  
**Session 4: Calling Networks**

Pat Leberman, Presenter

The title of this Bible study, "We Are Called!" reminds us that calling is not something private or individualistic but are always interwoven with our relationships and our communities. This session focuses on how we support others in hearing and responding to God's call.

**Where:** Augustus Lutheran Church, 717 W. Main Street, Trappe

Study materials are found in the **Gather** magazine; subscriptions are available by calling 1-844-409-0576

## **News from our Congregational Units**

### **SAVE THE DATE**

**Peace-Tohickon Lutheran church Perkasie** will hold a meeting May 18, 2020 in their church. Julie Henning will present a program based on her life as an Amerasian child who was adopted by Pearl S. Buck. The program title is 'Rags to Riches'. More information will be available closer to the date.

### ***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](http://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](mailto: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 23, 2020

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 [www.womenoftheelca.org/bold-womens-day](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/bold-womens-day) to download the free resource for this program and use it on February 23 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

## *2019 Fall Conference Gatherings* **Upper Bucks**

On Saturday, November 2, 2019 Women of Peace-Tohickon Lutheran church, Perkasie welcomed women from churches in the ELCA PA synod to the Upper Bucks WELCA Fall Gathering for breakfast, fellowship, devotions and program. The theme was “Being Family” and program led by Jennifer Hind informed us about services for women who are involved in domestic violence.

She said domestic violence is NOT rare; abuse doesn’t have to be physical; the effects of emotional abuse are just as damaging as those of physical and sexual abuse. Men are also victims of domestic abuse as are teens and seniors. Women’s Place’s telephone hot line, **800-220-8116** is always answered, 24/7. Counselors are available to help, and they are both compassionate and knowledgeable.

The offering was split between Women of the ELCA and A Woman’s Place. The women and their churches also donated bras and underwear for women in A Women’s Place. Those coming from the hospital frequently have no clothes as their clothes are being held by the police for evidence.

## Upper Montgomery

On Saturday, October 26, 2019 Women of Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe welcomed 19 women from 7 churches to the Upper Montgomery WELCA gathering. The program was on “Being Family” using Proverbs 22:6. 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 about “Who are today’s children – Gen Z (1995 to 2015), Millennial (1980 to 1994), Gen X (1965 to 1979), and Baby Boomer (1944 to 1964). She also included a message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, “God loves everyone to the end”. Refreshments were shared by the women.

### ***INGATHERING FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF ITEMS*** **Saturday May 2, 2020**

Arrangements are being made by the Southeast Pennsylvania Synod Women of the ELCA 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 2, 2020**.

### **Registration open for - 11th Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA** **July 16 – 19, 2020**



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING  
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX  
WELCATG.ORG

The eleventh Triennial Gathering will take place in Phoenix, Arizona. The theme is Just Love and there will be featured speakers, workshops and service activities. You can get more information and register for the gathering at this website address:

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

Prior to the Gathering, 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 are 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 electing our representatives.

Our president, as of the June 6, 2020 election, is automatically a voting member of the convention. The other voting members are: Rev. Gwendolyn King (woman of color), Patricia Leberman (first time voting member), Helen Dungan, and an alternate to replace Cindy Ryan. One of the voting members, Helen Dungan is “looking forward to having a voice in determining the activities and direction of our organization over the next three years.”

Please keep all the women attending the Triennial Convention and Gathering in your prayers.

## ***Churchwide News***

### **WINTER 2020 interchange**

The *Interchange*, leadership news from the Women of the ELCA is now only distributed digitally from the Women of the ELCA go to [www.womenoftheelca.org/](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/) Look for download *Interchange* on the homepage and download it. The Winter 2020 *Interchange*, Volume 33, Number 1 is currently available.

*Gather*, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. *Gather* is published 10 times a year with combined issues in January/February and July/August. A print subscription is \$19.95 a year. [Digital access](#) (computer, iPad, Android) is free to print subscribers. [For more information](#), or to subscribe by phone, call 1-844-409-0576.

### **Boldcafe (boldcafe.org)**

*Café*, an on-line magazine, shares stories written by bold young women who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more. Readers and writers of *Café* include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use *Café* as a Bible study resource individually or with a group.

Although many women in their 20s and 30s contribute in every issue, *Café* can be used and shared by women of all ages.

## Officers & Board Members

Phyllis Boyer, President	H: 215-679-6626	Email: frauphilly@gmail.com
Lin da Garcia, Vice-President	H: 215-257-2925	Email: jaglsg@comcast.net
Helen Dungan, Secretary	H: 610-346-8829	Email: dunganh@lafayette.edu
Cindy Ryan, Treasurer	C: 215-290-1891	Email: cindyryan817@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
Sandra Zimmermann, Board member	H: 610-933-2778	Email: spzimm@icloud.com

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