



Fall September 2022

SOUTHEASTERN PENNSY

President's Message

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

We were blessed to hold our SE PA Convention in June at St Matthew Church Springfield, PA. By having in person as well as virtual we had 42 attendees. Our theme was reconnecting with hope for the future. We were uplifted by our speakers, Bishop Patricia Davenport, Pastor Violet Little, and Pastor Schaunel Steinnagel. Board members were elected.

This fiscal year, the board decided on the theme of 'Gather, renew, and rebuild'. We want to focus on helping the congregational units as they start to gather in person. We also want to help conferences rebuild by planning events for women to attend. Your input of ideas is needed as we 'gather, renew, and rebuild'.

I am starting to meet with individual congregational units and have an October meeting with St. Luke's Devon. Contact me at jaglsg@comcast.net if you would like me to visit you and send me your ideas of how to best renew and rebuild our congregational units and conference gatherings.

We are planning on having a special SWO meeting to vote for 4 voting members (the president will be the 5th voting member) for the 12th Triennial Convention held on September 19 – 21, 2023, in Phoenix Arizona. See below for more information.

I am blessed and honored to be your president. Please continue to pray for all women of the ELCA.

Your Sister in Christ,

Linda Garcia, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA, Board President

Special meeting to vote for voting members for 12th Triennial Convention

We want to vote for the Southeastern PA SWO voting members before our June 2023 SWO Gathering (as we had done during the past) so they can participate in more of the voting member activities prior to the triennial convention. In order to vote for the voting members earlier than June 2023, our constitution allows us to call a special

convention with the voting members of the June 2022 SWO convention. We plan to do this in November.

During the Twelfth Triennial Convention, voting members, elected in the 64 synodical women's organizations, will conduct the business of the organization. They will elect leaders for the 2023-2026 triennium, act on memorials from synodical organizations and resolutions from the floor, approve a budget and much more.

We, the Southeastern PA SWO board, need nominations from our congregational units. Per our constitution "Each unit shall submit the name of only one person, who shall be a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in the unit." We have included the nomination form at the end of the Voice. (Page 9)

Thank you for your participation in this important process to have our SWO represented during the Triennial business meeting in September 19 – 21, 2023.



Southeastern PA SWO 2022 Convention

The 2022 convention of the Southeastern PA Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA was held on June 4, 2022, at St Matthew Lutheran Church Springfield, PA. We did something new, we met both in person and via Zoom. Voting members were also able to attend and vote via Zoom. There were 12 voting members, 10 in person and 2 via Zoom.

We began with devotions by Pastor Karl Richard, followed by a memorial ritual to honor those of our members who had died over the past 4 years. We read their names beginning with Phyllis Boyer, our late president as sand was being poured into a vase.

Our churchwide representative, Elizabeth Burgess, also joined us via Zoom. She gave greetings and an update on what churchwide is doing and the constitutional changes made during the 2021 Zoom 11th Triennial Conference which include:

- Number of Churchwide Board members was reduced from 21 to 15
- Participating in a congregational unit is encouraged but no longer required for leadership in either the synodical or churchwide expressions; however, voting membership in an ELCA congregation is required
- Synodical boards may number "3 or more".

- Two members of the same congregational unit can serve as leaders of a SWO; one as an officer and the other as a board member.
- SWO leaders may be called presidents and vice-presidents, chairs or co-chairs, conveners or co-conveners, or coordinators

During our business we elected new officers and board members: President, Linda Garcia; Vice President, Joy Grace; Secretary, Helen Dungan; Treasurer, Carolyn Edwards; Board members, Dale O'Hara, Joan Seader, and Sandra Zimmermann. The budget was distributed and passed.

Bishop Patricia Davenport was our keynote speaker. She spoke on our theme Reconnecting with Hope for the Future. She urged us to wait on the Lord, to listen to what he is telling us, and then act. She used Phyllis Boyer as an example of someone who worked for the Lord. She urged us take action and described how one woman started WELCA's involvement of installing solar panels to provide continuous electricity for a hospital in Liberia as an example. After her talk we presented Bishop Davenport with a counted cross stitch ornament and scarfs commemorating each of Philadelphia's sport teams. These were made for her by Joan Seader.

After lunch Pastor Violet Little described how she became aware of homeless women (from SEPTA restrooms) and how she began reaching out to them. The ministry grew from there. Pastor Schaunel Steinnegal shared how they are giving homeless women a chance to do crafts, and to journal. The men and women of The Welcome Church are also developing a fund so that they can assist others. The city of Philadelphia has given them land and money to construct some small homes for the homeless. They hope to begin building in 2023.

Our offering of \$641.10 was split between Churchwide and The Welcome Church. Our In-kind offering to The Welcome Church was over 400 snack bags, 20 journals and pens, and 11 - \$5.00 'Wawa' gift cards

Dale Ohara reported there were a total of 42 participants at the convention which included 12 voting members and 7 guests. Seven conferences and 11 congregational units were represented. There were 34 in person attendees and 8 online attendees. There were 3 first time participants.



Lunch with some of the participants



Board members from left to right: Dale O'Hara, board member; Joy Grace, vice president; Helen Dungan, secretary; Joan Seader, board member; Linda Garcia, president. Missing from picture: Carolyn Edwards, treasurer and Sandra Zimmermann, board member

Giving opportunities to The Welcome church

We received this request from Pastor Schaunel Steinnagel from The Welcome Church. The following items are needed for The Well (the women's shelter which was founded by The Welcome Church).

People can feel free to reach out to Schaunel Steinnagel email: rvschaunel@aol.com for any other details or to talk about how best to share donations.

Current List of Items for The Well (women's shelter)

> Food Items:

>

> Pudding Cups

> Hot Sauce

> Ketchup

> Cereals

> Granola Bars

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Non-Food Items:

Big Spray Bottles

Paper Towels

Umbrellas

Clorox Wipes

Spoons & Forks

Reusable Microwaveable Meal Containers

Water Bottles

Laundry Detergent

Katie's Fund



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Growing Katie's Fund for the r

Women of the ELCA is raising \$1 million for Katie's Fund (officially the Katharina von Bora Luther Fund), an endowment that supports mission and ministry. There are two blogs on their website that offers background information about Women of the ELCA and the campaign. After reading both blogs, readers will be better equipped to make a contribution to the campaign 2122: Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years.

Katie's Fund, an endowment created in 1997, honors the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, seeking to raise up bold leaders and enable bold and creative ministry for generations to come. You can learn more about the extraordinary life of Katie Luther in a free resource, *A Bold Life of Faith* (English and Spanish). See

www.womenoftheelca.org

The annual budget of Women of the ELCA supports a no-frills operation and leaves little funding for special initiatives or unexpected ministry opportunities. That's where Katie's Fund steps in. It supports opportunities beyond the annual operating budget, offering funding for ministries and activities in leadership development, global connections, and living theology.

By increasing Katie's Fund through **2122: Growing Katie's Fund** for the next 100 years, the organization will be able to support special initiatives and unexpected ministry opportunities into the next century. Women of the ELCA can expand the footprint, reach, and impact of women's leadership and ministry in the church for the sake of the world.

The Opportunity

Women of all ages and abilities can support the vision of a *future* where women continue to lead the church in new and innovative ways. We all have the opportunity and the joy of leaving a legacy to equip future leaders.

Key Assumptions

- **2122: Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years** launched in June 2022
- Funds raised through the campaign will continue to be used to support ministry in three areas: leadership development, global connections, and living theology
- Estate gifts, appreciated assets, gifts of stock, and cash are all vehicles by which a gift can be made to the campaign
- The campaign begins by focusing on individual giving; at a future point, groups of women, such as congregational units or circles, will be encouraged to contribute

To learn more about **2122: Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years**, visit the Katie's Fund page : www.womenoftheelca.org/katiesfund

Communication from SEPA SWO of the Women of the ELCA

SEPA SWO Facebook Site (be sure to 'like' us)

- www.facebook.com/sepaWELCA

SEPA SWO website:

<https://ministrylink.org/congregational-vitality/women-of-the-elca/>

SEPA SWO Newsletter

- **THE VOICE**

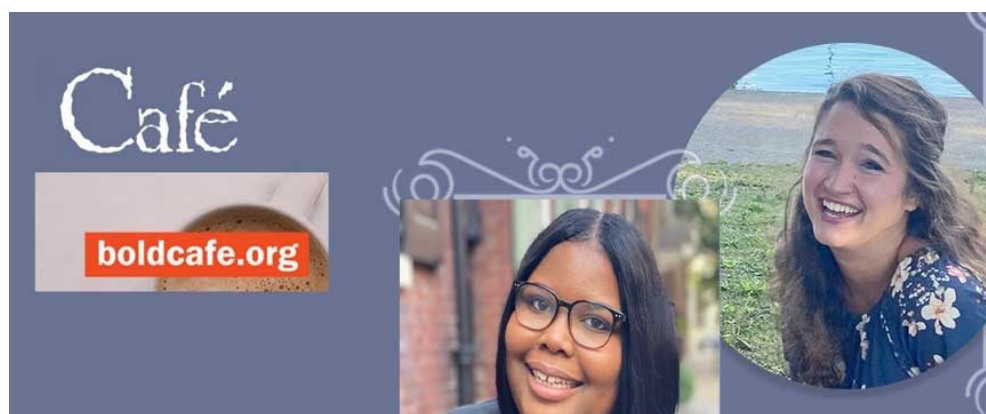
Info about churchwide events

Next Triennial convention and gathering will be held in Phoenix Arizona.

The Convention - September 19 – 21, 2023;

The Gathering - September 21 - 24, 2023

Bold café



BOLDCAFE MONTHLY DINNER

October 6 @ 7:00 pm

Once a month we meet with some of our popular writers to talk about our favorite articles and more! Bring your own dinner (B.Y.O.D) and sign up via Zoom. Thursday, October 6, at 7 (CDT) These past two years, we've shared laughter, grief, and wisdom in a community built virtually. Join us as we mark this anniversary with a ritual and a reflection of our past year. B. Y. O. C. (Bring your own cake). Register on

www.womenoftheelca.org/events

NOVEMBER 2022

CHURCHWIDE THANKOFFERING SERVICE

November 5 @ 3:00 pm

Saturday, November 5 at 3 p.m. (CDT) Join women from across the United States and the Caribbean in celebrating God's grace and redeeming love through the 2022 Thankoffering Service. Spanish translation provided. Advance registration required.

REGISTER at www.womenoftheelca.org/events After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Bold connections



View the latest issue of *Bold Connections*,

the monthly e-newsletter that features the latest news and information about our programs and activities. ***Bold Connections*** is delivered via e-mail on the first of every month. Go to www.womenoftheelca.org/publications to sign up.

Gather magazine

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. See www.gathermagazine.org

Officers & Board Members

Linda Garcia, President	H: 215-257-2925	Email: jaglsg@comcast.net
Joy Grace, Vice President	C: 484-432-8087	Email: joygrace414lna@gmail.com
Helen Dungan, Secretary	H: 610-346-8829	Email: dunganh@lafayette.edu
Carolyn Edwards, Treasurer	C: 267-235-6977	Email: ceds71@yahoo.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 Zimmerman, Board member	H: 610-933-2778	Email: spzimm@icloud.com

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**TRIENNIAL VOTING MEMBER
NOMINATION FORM
Women of the ELCA
Twelfth Triennial Convention – September 19-21, 2023
Phoenix, Arizona**

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? _____

Return to Helen Dungan 2067 Gallows Hill Rd Riegelsville Pa. 18077; dunganh@lafayette.edu