

# Southeastern Pennsylvania Synodical Women’s Organization of



## 23rd Biennial Convention

**“Love One Another with the Promise of God’s Justice”**

Hebrews 10:24-25 ~ “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...” (English Standard Version)

## Bulletin of Reports June 1, 2024



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## OUR MISSION

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

## 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.”



Blessings to each of you, my siblings in Christ! I bring you greetings from your churchwide executive board, representing all of you as we continue to breathe new life into the bones of our beloved Women of the ELCA. You are part of this revitalization, and I give thanks for each of you, and for your congregational units, your conferences and clusters, and your synodical women's organizations. As you convene in your annual or biennial synodical women's conventions, know that

you are being lifted up in prayer by the leadership of your executive board. Your conventions involve more than transacting necessary business. They are also opportunities to be inspired by the messages of clergy and gifted speakers and to be challenged by issues facing our neighbors and our communities, including immigration, human trafficking, and racism. You also celebrate accomplishments, make new friends, and reconnect with old. You eat together, pray together, laugh together, grow in faith together. And you leave re-energized to continue our mission and ministry. You are bold Women of the ELCA!

Thank you for being the face of Christ as we learn to dismantle actions that exclude our siblings from feeling welcomed, included, and heard. Each of you are ambassadors of God's Just Love.

Together, we are the women's ministry arm of our ELCA. God has called us into this work. I pray you will feel the call, and the power of the Holy Spirit, as you gather together. I walk with you on this journey.

With Just Love,



Myrna Wells-Ulland  
President, 2023-2026 Triennium  
Women of the ELCA

8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, Illinois 60631-4101

800-638-3522, ext. 2730  
773-380-2730

[womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org)



# 2024 SPRING CONVENTION

**Southeastern Pennsylvania Synodical Women's Organization  
of Women of the ELCA**

## “Love One Another with the Promise of God’s Justice”

Hebrews 10:24-25 ~ “And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, <sup>25</sup>not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another...”

### Saturday, June 1, 2024

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church • 1000 W Main Street •  
Lansdale, PA • 19446 • Phone: (215) 368-1710

**Speaker:** Cheryl Lafferty from Feast of Justice, ‘Addressing Hunger, Meeting Needs, and Inspiring Hope as they work for Abundant Justice in Northeast Philadelphia and beyond.’

**Churchwide Representative:** Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA

**Day’s Schedule:** Worship, Business meeting, Election of Board Officers & Members, Speaker, Lunch, Speaker, Recognition of outgoing board members and installation of New Board members, Displays, In-kind Gifts Blessing, and closing of convention.

**In-kind Gifts for Feast of Justice:** Food and personal care items.

**Offering:** will be split between churchwide and Feast of Justice

## In Memoriam

Remembering the bold women who came before us

Augustus Lutheran Church, Trappe

Dorothy Waltz

Diane Mills

Christ Lutheran Church, Harleysville

Betsy Anderson

Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown

Carol Jean Bruner

Mediator Lutheran Church, Philadelphia

Rose Peterson,

Anita Jones

Eloise Brown

Jennifer Lewis

St. John's Lutheran Church, Melrose Park

Maryann Reynolds

Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasie:

Charlotte "Dolly" Moyer



Tentative Time	Topic	Presenter
12:00PM-12:30PM	'Addressing hunger, meeting needs, and inspiring Hope as they work for Abundant Justice in Northeast Philadelphia and Beyond'	Carolyn Edwards will introduce Cheryl Lafferty from Feast of Justice
12:30PM-1:30PM	Lunch	
1:30PM – 2:30PM	Introduction of Linda Post Bushkofsky and Joy Grace  "2122: Sustaining WELCA for Future Generations"  Blessing of in-kind gifts	Joy Grace will introduce presenters: self and Linda Post Bushkofsky
2:30PM – 2:40PM	Final reports: offering, in-kind and final credential report	
2:40PM – 3:00PM	Recognition of outgoing board members. Installation of synodical board officers and board members	Linda Post Bushkofsky
3:00PM	Close of convention Collect Evaluations	Linda Garcia



Actions during 12<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention plenary sessions, voting members:

- Encouraged Women of the ELCA participants to participate in the Truth and Healing Movement and to ask their congregations to create their own land acknowledgment statements.
- Recommended that Women of the ELCA participants engage in *Now Is the Time: A Study Guide for ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent*, which “stresses realism, self-examination and accountability as the church acknowledges and apologizes for the history and impact of slavery and systemic racism,” according to [www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice](http://www.elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice).
- Rejected two attempts to reduce future triennial convention costs, via a memorial and a proposed bylaw change that would have set the number of voting members to three per synod in addition to synodical presidents.
- Adopted a 2024 churchwide budget of \$1.9 million.
- Received a greeting and a special “Just Love” plaque from Faustina Nillan, National Director for Women and Children, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The plaque was to commemorate the Women of the ELCA Just Love Triennial Gathering, which began after the convention closed.

## Credentials Report and Committees

Dale O'Hara, Chair of Credentials Committee

As of \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ the credentials committee reports the following: (will be completed June 1, 2024)

Synodical Officers and Board Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Voting members \_\_\_\_\_

Total eligible to vote \_\_\_\_\_

Convention Business Committees

Credentials Committee

Elections Committee

Minutes Approval Committee

Nominations Committee

Reference and Counsel Committee

## Proposed Rules of Procedure for 2024 SWO Convention

(As initially adopted by the churchwide executive board at its April 2019 meeting and subsequently modified for this hybrid, in person and digital convention)

### DELEGATE BODY

The voting members of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synodical Women of Women of the ELCA Convention (Spring 2024) shall be the officers of the SWO women's organization, the members of the SWO board, those women elected as voting members by the congregational units, and those voting members appointed to fulfill the inclusiveness guidelines of Women of the ELCA (Article XI, Section 5, Items 1 and 2).

### SEATING OF VOTING MEMBERS

Voting members will be deemed credentialed when they register at the convention or log into the convention. The roll of voting members may not be changed after June 1, 2024, 10AM without specific approval of the convention.

### QUORUM

A majority of the registered voting members shall constitute a quorum.

### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Voice shall be given to staff and guests when granted by the presiding officer.

Upon request by a voting member, and with the approval of a two-thirds majority of the voting members, a resource person may speak on a pending question for a period of time not to exceed two minutes. Such speakers shall identify themselves by name and office.

### APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

At the opening business meeting, the SWO president shall announce the membership of the following committees:

- Credentials Committee
- Elections Committee
- Minutes Approval Committee
- Nominating Committee
- Reference and Counsel Committee

### CONVENTION BUSINESS AGENDA

The SWO president shall be granted the privilege of adjusting the agenda and calling up any item of business she deems necessary in light of schedule and time constraints.

## CONVENTION MINUTES

The minutes approval committee is authorized to approve the minutes.

## VOTING PROCEDURES

To be eligible to vote, a voting member must be present. No proxy or absentee voting is permitted. All voting shall be in person.

## NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR

Nominations from the floor for president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and board members may be made by completing a nomination form and submitting it in person. A paper copy for the nomination form will be provided during the convention.

All nominations for president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer must be completed and submitted before 1000 on Saturday June 1, 2024.

All nominations for SWO board members must be completed and submitted before 1000 on Saturday, June 1, 2024.

A floor nomination form must be signed by one (1) voting member.

Before submitting a floor nomination, you must ensure that the nominee shall have given her consent and indicated her willingness to serve if elected.

Nominations from the floor will be reported in alphabetical order by last name.

## ELECTIONS

Refer to Southeastern Pennsylvania SWO of the Women of the ELCA Constitution and Bylaws, Article VI, Section 4.

## MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

Any voting member may make a motion or present a resolution from the floor if the motion or resolution is germane to the question under consideration.

Motions and resolutions of a general character and not germane to a pending question must reflect the consent of three (3) voting members and introduced no later than the end of the business meeting, at the time the chair calls for the second and final opportunity to present new business.

All motions shall be submitted in person in the manner provided.

Any motion necessitating the allocation of funds shall be referred to the SWO board. The SWO board shall make a report at a subsequent meeting of the convention.

## SPEECHES

- All speeches in general discussion, unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds vote of the convention, shall be limited to two minutes. Total debate on any motion will be limited to 10 minutes.
- No person shall speak more than twice on the same issue without the consent of the convention and only after all others who wish to speak have spoken.
- The chair will ask for debate on an alternating pro and con basis.
- A motion shall be put to vote immediately when no one wishes to speak in opposition to a pending question.
- A speaker who has spoken on the pending question(s) may not move the previous question(s) at the conclusion of her speech.

## ATTENDANCE

All voting members shall attend the business meetings of the Southeastern PA SWO Convention (2024), June 1, 0930 – 12Noon.

## DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

After the convention is in session, permission to distribute materials other than official convention materials within the convention and not issued by the secretary must be secured from the reference and counsel committee.

## POLICY ON ELECTIONEERING

The Policy on Electioneering as adopted by the executive board of Women of the ELCA shall apply throughout the nomination and election process for the convention. This policy is printed below.

There are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit  
AND

There are a variety of services, but the same Lord  
AND

There are a variety of activities, but the same God who activates them in everyone.

Women of the ELCA affirms and believes all women should have equal opportunity for involvement and leadership in the organization.

Women of the ELCA further believes that the Spirit that binds us all through baptism is the guiding factor for each voting member prayerfully to review and consider each nominee's biographical information prior to the synodical women's conventions or churchwide triennial convention.

Each participant further understands that promoting one candidate over another through campaigning is in fact interfering with God's plan and actions for participants of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

#### GOVERNING PARLIAMENTARY LAW

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary procedure of this convention, except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of Women of the ELCA.

## Convention Voting Members

Per SE PA SWO constitution: ARTICLE VI Convention

### SECTION 2. Representation Item 1

Voting members of a convention shall be the elected officers or SWO leaders and board members of the synodical women's organization and one voting member from each unit on the roll of this synodical women's organization.

Aronson Marjorie – Congregational Unit: St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Springfield, Delaware Conference

Bell Alice – Congregational Unit: Mediator Lutheran Church, Philadelphia Central Conference

Burgess Elaine – Congregational Unit: Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, Chester Conference

Hlavaty Kathryn – Congregational Unit: ELC of Durham, Durham, Upper Bucks Conference

O'Boyle Minetta – Congregational Unit: Augustus Lutheran Church, Collegeville (Trappe) Upper Montgomery Conference

Ryan Cindy - Congregational Unit: Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale Lower Montgomery Conference

Seader Joan – Congregational Unit: St. John's Lutheran Church, Melrose Park Lower Montgomery Conference

Swope Susan – Congregational Unit: Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasie Upper Bucks Conference

### Alternate Voting Members

Madden Miriam- Congregational Unit: Messiah Lutheran Church, Downingtown, Chester Conference

Parker Beatrice – Congregational Unit: Mediator Lutheran Church, Philadelphia Central Conference

Walker Ann- Congregational Unit: Augustus Lutheran Church, Collegeville (Trappe), Upper Montgomery Conference

### Officers and Board Members

Linda Garcia, President, Congregational Unit, Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasie, Upper Bucks Conference

Joy Grace, Vice-President – Congregational Unit: The Church of the Good Shepherd, Coatesville, Chester Conference

Helen Dungan, Secretary, Congregational Unit, Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham, Durham, Upper Bucks Conference

Carolyn Edwards, Treasurer, Congregational Unit,

Dale O'Hara, Board Member, Congregational Unit, Augustus Lutheran Church, Collegeville (Trappe), Upper Montgomery Conference

Joan Seader, Board Member, Congregational Unit, St. John's Lutheran Church, Melrose Park, Lower Montgomery Conference

Sandra Zimmermann, Board Member, Congregational Unit, St. John Lutheran Church Phoenixville, Chester Conference



## Nominees for SEPA SWO officers and Board Members

### Board President

Nominee: Joy Grace

Congregation: The Church of the Good Shepherd, Coatesville

SEPA Conference: Chester

Age: 51 - 60

Brief listing of positions:

### Women of ELCA Positions:

- SEPa SWO Vice-President, current
- Katie's Fund, 2122 Campaign Leadership Team, current
- Organizer/SWO POC - LWR Ingatherings at SEPa Synod Assemblies
- Voting Member, 2017, 2021, 2023 WELCA Triennials
- Nominating Committee, 2017 Triennial
- SEPa SWO President, 2013 – 2017
- St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Sarah Circle member

### Congregational Positions:

- The Church of the Good Shepherd, Coatesville – new member, Social Ministry committee
- St. Matthew Lutheran, Springfield – Sunday School teacher, congregational adult leader - Youth Gathering in Detroit, choir, Church Council member and Vice President, VBS song leader
- Holy Trinity Lutheran, Wallingford – VBS teacher, Nursery School Advisory Board, Christian Education committee, Church Council member, chair of rebuilding committee following fire (*while pregnant!*)

### Community Participation:

- Member and current President of the Pine Flats Association of Pike County, PA – leaseholder

- Work:
  - Full-time technical writer for the Construction Services division of Partner Engineering and Science, Inc.
  - Mother of 3 adult children and 2 lovely cats
- Skills/Interests:
  - Quilting/sewing/learning to crochet
  - Reading
  - Choral singing

### Board Secretary

Nominee: None at present

### Board Treasurer

Nominee: Sue Swope

Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasio

SEPA Conference: Upper Bucks

Age: 71+

Brief Listing of Positions

### Women of ELCA Positions

- SEPA SWO Voting member for 12<sup>th</sup> Triennial 2023
- leads several C.U. *Gather* Bible study each year;
- voting member in SEPA SWO convention 2018 & 2022,
- treasurer for congregational unit for over 10 years

### Congregational Positions

- Church treasurer for 2-3 years
- Taught Sunday school and Vacation Bible School
- Involved in youth and senior activities;
- planning committee for senior group;
- plays bells; communion assistant; altar guild; keeps cradle roll;
- delivers bulletins to shut-ins

### Community Participation

- raises puppies to become seeing eye dogs;
- assists with RAM Packs program – food pack of kid-friendly food for families with kids who need financial assistance with food over the weekend
- Girl Scout leader for over 25 years.

### Board Member

Nominee: Minetta O’Boyle

Congregation: Augustus Lutheran Church, Collegeville (Trappe)

SEPA Conference: Upper Montgomery

Age: 71+

Brief listing of positions:

#### Women of ELCA Positions:

- Active member of Augustus WELCA
- Upper Montgomery Conference WELCA Bible study

#### Congregation Positions

- Augustus Lutheran Church Altar Guild committee member
- 

### Community Participation

- Participant of the Community Club of Collegeville, membership chairperson,
- member of the Education Committee
- member of the Programming Committee
- worked in chemistry, information technology, and substitute teacher.
- Likes Bible study.

## Report of President for SEPA SWO of Women of the ELCA, 2024 Convention

We are blessed to have many bold women in our Southeastern PA SWO that continue our mission by rebuilding our communication with congregational units, offer SWO and Conference gatherings, and renew a presence at the synod assembly via Ingathering collection and using a WELCA table to talk to participants about WELCA. I have been blessed to work with many bold women over these past two years and continue to see God's work in the many ministries our women accomplish to help others in our synod as well as the world. God truly answers prayer.

We held our Southeastern Pennsylvania Synodical Women's Organization Convention in person on June 3, 2023, at Augustus Lutheran Church Trappe, PA. We had 24 attendees. Our offering was split with \$225.00 to churchwide Women of the ELCA and \$225.00 to Augustus congregational unit of Women of the ELCA to be used to support their ELCA missionaries working with sick children in Tanzania. Our theme was 'Celebrating what makes our SE PA women so unique'. Bible verse, 'Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Serve the Lord with joy; come before him with singing. The Lord is good. His love is forever, and his faithfulness continues through all generations.' Psalm 100: 1-2, 5. We were uplifted to hear about the how Gemma services help children; the work in Africa by the ELCA missionaries supported by Augustus Lutheran Church; and the history of Augustus Lutheran church. We also took a tour of 'The Old Trappe Church' designed by Henry Melchoir Muhlenberg.

September 18-21, 2023, our 4 voting members Pastor Gwendolyn King, Sue Swope, Joy Grace, and Joan Seader represented us at the Twelfth Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA in Phoenix, Arizona and stayed for the Triennial Gathering. The theme was 'Just Love'. More than 251 Women of the ELCA voting members worshiped together, conducted business, and elected new officers and churchwide executive board members. Women of the ELCA participants were encouraged to participate in the Truth and Healing Movement and to ask their congregations to create their own land acknowledgment statements.

On October 14, 2023, we had a women's retreat at the United Lutheran Seminary with support from Katie's Fund \$1,000 seed grant. Led by The Reverend Leslie Richard with theme 'the blessing of the sabbath', we spent a day of sharing, prayer, discussion, and contemplative exercise aimed at renewing our sense of self and growing recognition of 'God's Self' in our daily life.

On May 3<sup>rd</sup> we held an Ingathering at the Synod Assembly and collected and distributed 2,105 pounds of items to Lutheran World Relief Warehouse in Maryland. We also established a SWO presence at the Synod Assembly on May 2, and 3, 2024 by giving participants information about Women of the ELCA (WELCA) and meeting and talking to many people in our synod.

During every Women of the ELCA meeting we acknowledge that we are meeting on the ancestral homelands of the Lenni-Lenape people. Our plans for 2024 include following the Women of the ELCA mission and purpose statements, following the recommendations from the Twelfth Triennial voting members by learning and discussing: immigration, human trafficking, justice for indigenous women, climate change, the Truth and Healing Movement and allyship. We also plan to schedule several Conference sponsored events, and support our congregational units.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Linda Garcia  
President of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synodical Women's  
Organization of the Women of the ELCA

## Treasurer's Report

(to be added by 6/1/2024)







## Speaker

Cheryl Lafferty is the President of the Executive Board at Feast of Justice and has served in that capacity for 2 years. In her professional life, Cheryl is the Senior Program Director for Philadelphia Academies, Inc. Previous to her current role, Cheryl was instrumental in the creation and operation of Rhawnhurst Turning Point, an afterschool program located in the Rhawnhurst section of Philadelphia. Cheryl holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Ancient History as well as a Master of Divinity degree. Cheryl and her husband Michael reside in Philadelphia.

## Churchwide Representative and speaker



- Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA since 2002, loves to quilt and her scones are legendary. She's also a creative and versatile strategist with more than 30 years of non-profit leadership following a successful legal career. When asked to describe herself, however, she always starts with "writer," because she processes the world through her writing. If not at a church function, Linda can be found in her garden, reading a book, or quilting. Widowed in 2023, she has a daughter and three grandchildren and makes her home in the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania.

-

22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention  
June 4, 2022  
St Matthew Lutheran Church, Springfield, Pa.

Opening: Acting President Linda Garcia welcomed us to the 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Convention. She remembered the original inhabitants of our land with a reading from the Lenni-Lenape; we read the Women of the ELCA's mission and purpose statement

Devotions: We sang the hymn On Eagles Wings. Pastor Karl Richard led us in prayer and devotions.

Memorials: Helen Dungan gave a brief remembrance of Phyllis Boyer, our late Board President. Then all the names, sent to us from our congregational units, of our departed members were read while sand of different colors was placed in a vase.

Churchwide representative: Elizabeth Burgess, representing churchwide, gave greetings and an update on what churchwide is doing and the changes made during the 2021 Zoom 11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Conference. Changes to the constitution 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

Business meeting: Dale O'Hara, chairperson of the Credentials Committee, reported – there were 12 voting members, 10 in person and 2 online. The Acting President, Linda Garcia, adopted the report and declared the convention open. She introduced the committee chairs, and Marjorie Aronson who is serving as parliamentarian. Secretary Helen Dungan moved the adoption of the Rules of Procedure; this requires a 2/3 vote. The Rules of Procedure were adopted.

Linda Garcia reviewed the changes in the churchwide constitution as our Zoom reception of Elizabeth Burgess' report was hard to hear. Helen Dungan moved the adoption of the agenda. It was adopted.

Elections: Barbara Naska chairman of the Nominating committee reported.

Nominees for President – Linda Garcia. There were no nominations from the floor.

Nominees for Vice President –No nominees, then Joy Grace was nominated from the floor.

Nominees for Secretary – Helen Dungan. There were no nominees from the floor

Nominees for Treasurer – Carolyn Edwards. There were no nominees from the floor

Nominees for Board members – Dale O’Hara, Joan Seader, and Sandra Zimmermann. Joy Grace’s nomination was changed to Vice President. There were no nominations from the floor.

Cindy Ryan, Election Committee chair, reviewed the instructions for in person voting. Kevin O’Hara was appointed by the chair to assist with the virtual voting and reviewed the procedures for virtual voting. Cindy Ryan had the ballots for each officer and for the board members distributed. Ballots were collected after each vote. Virtual voters voted on=line, and ballots were tabulated by Kevin O’Hara.

New Business – none.

Linda Garcia recognized the current board members and officers. Helen Dungan. Secretary; Cindy Ryan, treasurer; board members Dale O’Hara, Joan Seader, and Sandra Zimmermann.

Report on the election - Each nominee received 12 votes - 10 on paper and 2 via Zoom. The chair declared Linda Garcia elected to the position of president, Joy Grace elected to the position of vice president, Helen Dungan elected to the position of secretary, Carolyn Edwards elected to the position of treasurer, and Dale O’Hara, Joan Seader, and Sandra Zimmermann voted to the position of board member.

Linda Garcia gave the president’s report which is on page 25 of the Bulletin of Reports.

Cindy Ryan gave the treasurer’s report and handed out the proposed budgets for 2022-2023 & 2023-2024. The budgets were passed.

New officers and board members were installed by Elizabeth Burgess over Zoom; two nominees Carolyn Edwards and Sandra Zimmerman were installed over Zoom.

Speaker: Linda Garcia introduced our keynote speaker Bishop Patricia Davenport who 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 to do something and used the solar panels in Liberia as an example.

Linda Garcia presented the Bishop with Philadelphia sport team scarfs made for her by Joan Seader.

We sang Jesu Jesu fill us with your love, and dismissed for lunch.

After lunch, Linda Garcia led us in a short Laughter yoga session.

Afternoon speakers: Joy Grace introduced Pastor Violet Little and Pastor Schaunel Steinnegal who talked about the Welcome Church. Pastor 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 shared how they are giving homeless women a chance to do crafts, and to journal. The men and women of 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.

Linda Garcia reviewed how to keep connected with Southeastern PA SWO and churchwide Women of the ELCA. Giving opportunities to support Women of the ELCA were also described.

Offering was \$ half to go to churchwide and half to the Welcome Church. In-kind offering to The Welcome Church: 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 on line attendees. There were 3 first time participants.

Cindy Ryan, treasurer was recognized by a short service for those who complete their service, led by Elizabeth Burgess, churchwide representative.

Linda Garcia, president gave Cindy Ryan a gift in appreciation of her service.

New officers and board members were installed by Elizabeth Burgess over Zoom; two nominees Carolyn Edwards and Sandra Zimmerman were installed over Zoom.

We adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

Helen Dungan  
Secretary

## **WELCA Southeastern Pa. Synod Special Meeting**

### **Minutes Saturday November 12, 2022 – Online via Zoom**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am. By Board president Linda Garcia. Our constitution states a special SWO convention meeting can be called for one purpose. The one purpose of this special SWO convention meeting is to vote for voting members for the Twelfth Triennial Convention.

**Board members present:** Helen Dungan, Carolyn Edwards, Linda Garcia, Joy Grace, Dale O'Hara, Joan Seader, and Sandra Zimmermann

**Land acknowledgement:** Linda Garcia did a short presentation on the role of women in the Lenape Indian culture.

**Opening Devotions:** Joan Seader did a devotion based on our hands – how much we do with them, and how we should do for others with them.

**Purpose statement Women of ELCA:**

*“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.”*

**Dale O’Hara reported the credentials of who is eligible to vote.**

**Voting members:**

- Those voting as a board member or officer: Linda Garcia, Helen Dungan, Dale O’Hara
- Those voting representing their congregational unit: Alice Bell, Joy Grace, Nancy Loughery, Joan Seader, Susan Swope, Sandra Zimmerman
- **There were a total of nine voting members.**

A quorum was established and the chair declared the special convention of the Southeastern PA synodical women’s organization open in due form and ready for the transaction of business of election of voting members for the Twelfth Triennial Convention in 2023.

The chair appointed Kevin O’Hara to assist in collecting and tabulating the votes virtually.

**Report of nominations:** Helen Dungan read biographical information on nominated candidates. The rank of order process for the Twelfth Triennial Convention (2023) was

used in the selection of voting member candidates. Kevin O'Hara gave instructions for voting.

**Ticket A** - Woman of color or one whose primary language is other than English

**Pastor Gwen King**

Congregation: Mediator Lutheran Church, Philadelphia  
SEPA CONFERENCE: Central

There were no other nominations. Pastor King was elected

**Ticket B** – First time voting member

**Sue Swope**

Congregation: Trinity Lutheran Church, Perkasie  
SEPA CONFERENCE: Upper Bucks

**Sandra Zimmerman**

Congregation: St. John, Phoenixville  
SEPA CONFERENCE: Chester

**Sue Swope was elected.** Sandra Zimmermann is alternate, but her name was also moved to ticket C.

**Ticket C** – Remaining 2 voting members

**Joy Grace**

Congregation: St Mathew Lutheran, Springfield  
SEPA CONFERENCE: Delaware

**Joan Seader**

Congregation: St John's Lutheran, Melrose Park  
SEPA CONFERENCE: Lower Montgomery

**Jennifer Wentworth**

Congregation: Augustus Lutheran Church  
SEPA CONFERENCE: Upper Montgomery

**Sandra Zimmerman**

Congregation: St. John, Phoenixville

## SEPA CONFERENCE: Chester

**Joan Seader and Jennifer Wentworth** were elected. Joy Grace and Sandy Zimmerman are alternates.

The chair introduced the elected voting members: Pastor Gwen King, Sue Swope, Joan Seader, and Jennifer Wentworth. Linda Garcia as the president of the synodical women's organization, per SWO constitution, shall be a voting member of the convention by virtue of office.

**Adjourned** at 10:09 with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Dungan, Secretary

## Conference Reports

## CONFERENCE REPORT: Spring 2024

<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># OF BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># OF CHURCHES</u>
Chester	Our speaker: Anita Friday Facilitator: Pastor Jane Marston, member of the ELCA Anti-Racism Team there as a facilitator -	35	1	Several
Upper Bucks	Human Trafficking - Speaker Tina Tranaus Kas from Worthwhile Wear	23	4	6
Upper Montgomery	First Tuesday Monthly Bible Studies at the home of Kitty Pell.	Not Applicable		

### CONFERENCE REPORT FALL 2023

<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># OF BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># OF CHURCHES</u>
Upper Montgomery	First Tuesday Monthly <i>Gather</i> Magazine Bible Studies at the home of Kitty Pell.			

### CONFERENCE REPORT SPRING 2023

<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># OF BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># OF CHURCHES</u>
Upper Montgomery	First Tuesday Monthly <i>Gather</i> Magazine Bible Studies at the home of Kitty Pell.			

### CONFERENCE REPORT FALL 2022

<u>CONFERENCE</u>	<u>PROGRAM</u>	<u>TOTAL ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># OF BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE</u>	<u># OF CHURCHES</u>
Upper Montgomery	First Tuesday Monthly <i>Gather</i> Magazine Bible Studies at the home of Kitty Pell.			



## SEPA Synod Assembly Ingathering Report

Items donated by Lutheran churches, boy scouts, and individuals were received by SEPA SWO of Women of ELCA at an Ingathering conducted during the SEPA Synod Assembly on May 3, 2024 and transported to Lutheran World Relief.

The items included: 291 quilts; 268 personal care kits; 3 baby kits; 134 school kits; and 4 sewing kits. Plus additional items to equal 2105 pounds of donated items.

Letter sent to all SEPA Synod churches regarding the Ingathering:

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

February 2024

Dear Friends,

After a 4-year hiatus, The Women of the ELCA (WELCA) of the Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod are once again holding an Ingathering in conjunction with the Annual Synod Assembly. Lutherans have a long history of serving the most vulnerable communities, and in the SEPA Synod, we have hosted Ingatherings to provide for people in need, both locally and globally. In past years, we have collected as many as 500 quilts and 100's of kits, all of which were donated by over 30 congregations. We are excited to continue the tradition of gathering quilts and kits and transporting them to the Lutheran World Reliefs warehouse in Maryland, a round-trip distance of 300 miles, taking more than 4 hours total.

The 2024 LWR Ingathering will take place at the Synod Assembly at Franconia Mennonite Church on Saturday, May 4, 2024. Congregations are invited and encouraged to bring quilts and kits (personal care, baby care, school and fabric kits) to load on the truck between 7:30 a.m. — 8:30 a.m., which is before the morning worship



service. Everyone making a donation that morning is invited to stay for the worship service and a blessing as we send the donations to Maryland, and then on to the world.

In order to make this a success, please:

- Review the instructions for assembling and packaging LWR quilts and kits, which can be found at <https://lwr.org/quilts-and-kits> or downloaded from our Assembly website.
  - Consider participating, even if your congregation has not participated in past years. Kits are easy to assemble and even one quilt or kit can make a difference!
- e Contribute towards transportation costs by making a monetary donation to help offset the cost of delivering the donations to the LWR warehouse in Maryland. The cost of the truck rental, gasoline and tolls will be around \$950.

Checks can be made out to WELCA — SEPA and sent to:

Carolyn Edwards  
35 Bliss Blvd  
Shillington, PA 19607

God calls us to share the light of Christ with the world! Please prayerfully consider participating in our Ingathering this year and help make a difference in the lives of our world-wide brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Patricia A. Davenport*

The Rev. Dr. Patricia Davenport  
Bishop, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod

*Linda Garcia*

Linda Garcia  
President, Women of the ELCA

*Southeastern Pennsylvania Synodical Women's Organization*  
synodical

God's work. Our hands.

7241 Germantown Avenue Philadelphia, PA 191 19-1 723 phone 267.323.3737 fax 267.323.3777 [www.ministrylink.org](http://www.ministrylink.org)

## Addendum

Ways to stay connected with Women of the ELCA and Southeastern Pennsylvania Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA

### Women of the ELCA Information Sources

- [Womenoftheelca.org](http://Womenoftheelca.org)
- [Facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA](https://Facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA)
- [Twitter.com/WomenoftheELCA](https://Twitter.com/WomenoftheELCA)
- [Pinterest.com/WomenoftheELCA](https://Pinterest.com/WomenoftheELCA)
- [Instagram.com/WomenoftheELCA](https://Instagram.com/WomenoftheELCA)



### Publications

- Gather
- Café ([boldcafe.org](http://boldcafe.org))
- Bold Connections
- Daily Grace

### SEPA SWO Facebook Site

[www.facebook.com/sepaWELCA](http://www.facebook.com/sepaWELCA)

### SEPA SWO website:

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

### SEPA SWO Newsletter

**THE VOICE**

## Giving opportunities

- Thankoffering: Gifts made in gratitude for blessings received are a longstanding custom of Women of the ELCA. Your generous thankofferings go to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA.
- Women of the ELCA General Scholarship Fund: Our scholarships for women seeking education for rostered leadership or other fields are another longstanding custom of Women of the ELCA.
- Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls: This innovative program supports seed grants to congregational units in order to promote better health -- physical, mental, or spiritual.
- Café is the free online magazine for young adult women published by Women of the ELCA. You can sponsor an entire issue with a gift of just \$400!



Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years

- 2122 is a \$1 million campaign for Katie's Fund that is designed to support the organization into the next 100 years of mission and ministry.
- Katharina von Bora Luther was a practical and bold woman of faith. Through Katie's Fund, Women of the ELCA honors her life by supporting global connections, leadership development and living theology.

## God's Gift of Money: Stewarding Money Wisely

- God's Gift of Money: Stewarding Money Wisely, a component of the **2122: Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years** campaign, is a series of five videos on financial literacy. The sessions explore basic financial concepts, methods of charitable giving, biblical foundations for giving, retirement strategies and much more. A team of experts guide the explorations and answer questions.



● Main Entrances

● Exterior Doors

↕ Stairs

♿ Restrooms

Main Street

Valley Forge Road

Narthex

Sanctuary

Chapel

Columbarium

Chapel Lobby

Lobby

Hyson Hall

Social Hall

Parlor

Church Office Upstairs

Nursery

Storage

Kitchen

Bell Room

Playground

Handicap Parking

Parking

# Second Floor

Main Street



Valley Forge Road

