



Swatch

 Newsletter of the Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization—Region 1 C
 Women of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

December 2020/January 2021walk hum-

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.



A Message from the President

Christmas Greetings from your President of SW WA SWO. This is my very favorite time of the year. It is a time to anticipate the birth of our Lord Jesus and celebrate his coming with Advent. I know this has been a year like no other, but we as bold Lutheran women, have faith that keeps us strong and looking forward to the end of this COVID!! I know there have been dark and lonely days for each of us for a variety of reasons. Hopefully, family or friends contacted you or prayed for you. But remember, God's promise to always be with us----lifting, prodding, sending angel friends or family or just a sense of his presence. SO, maybe Advent may urge you to reach out to someone else who might need the same. The Synodical Board met on the 14th of November and started planning a few activities for next year like our Convention next Oct. 9th and of course, the Triennial in August. The Board also voted to continue the officers until the Convention as we didn't have much to plan this year. I'm sending pictures (see page 3) of an activity we did at my church, Bethel, that could be adapted to any holiday or special occasion. It was a drive-thru Trunk or Treat based on the game, "Candyland". The title was "Pathway to Jesus". Members dressed as characters from the game, decorated their trunks to continue the idea, acted out or waved at cars that passed by and each child received a bag of goodies at the end. It was so much fun, and we had a large number of cars that drove through. We also tied in a new sock barrel to give the proceeds to homeless shelters. If this is something your church or ladies might do and would like more information about, just let me know. The Board and I want to wish you a very special Advent, and a joyous Christmas filled with hope for our future and an end of the Corona virus!!

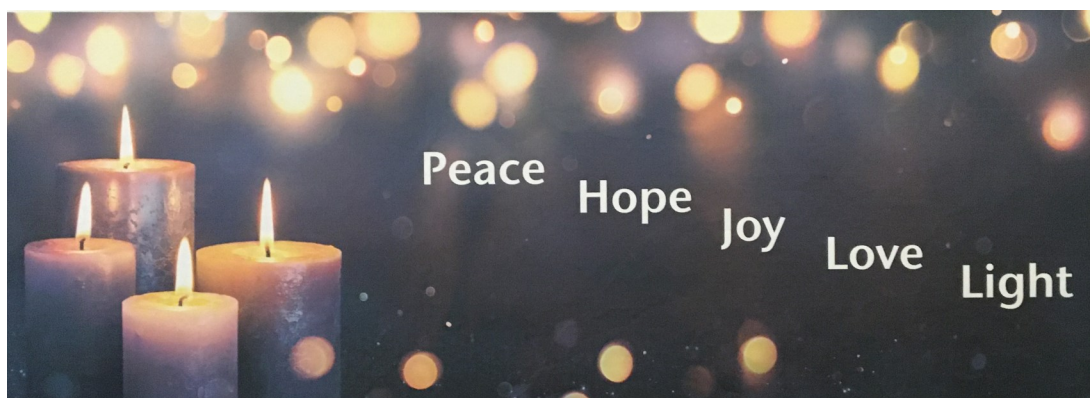
Blessings to each of you, Jan Saylor

Mission Statement of Women of the ELCA

**TO MOBILIZE WOMEN
 TO ACT BOLDLY
 ON THEIR FAITH
 IN JESUS CHRIST!**

Purpose Statement of the Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization

The purpose of this synodical women's organization shall be to assist congregational and inter-congregational units within its territory to fulfill the purpose of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



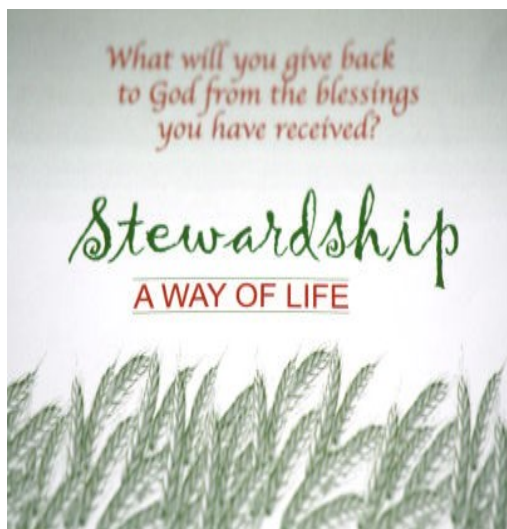
SW WA SWO Treasurer' Report

By Kathy Ifft

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Thank you all for your faithful giving to WELCA. This has been a trying time for many of you and your congregations. Not being able to meet in our normal manner is a challenge. We recognize the extra effort many groups have given to send in unit offerings. Please consider as individuals giving to the women of the ELCA program Faithful Friends You choose the amount to give automatically on a monthly basis.

Remember to look at the Women of the ELCA for resources on Thankofferings, Advent, etc., and Gather magazine for Bible Studies.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all SWATCH readers. The position for Editor of the SWATCH is still open. If you would like to take over as editor, please contact Jan Sayler, our SWO President.

Women of the ELCA - Faithful Friends

Provide Ongoing Support

Join Faithful Friends and provide consistent, powerful, sustaining support for the churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA, wherever it is needed most. It's convenient for you and makes a big difference for our beloved community of women created in the image of God.

How It Works

Your recurring gift of \$10 or more will be automatically charged to your credit card on the 1st or 15th of every month, whichever date is more convenient for you. (*Please allow up to two weeks for your first gift to be processed.*)

A consolidated annual receipt will be mailed to your home in the first quarter (January-March) of every year. Your gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.

You can change, update, or cancel your automatic monthly gift at any time by calling 800-638-3522 and pressing 0 for the operator, who can assist you.

To give through your checking account, please download and mail this form.

(<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/stewardship/FaithfulFriends.pdf>). Please do not use this form for updates to your current giving plan.

Questions? Call 800-638-3522, ext. 2730

Make A Special Gift

Support Women of the ELCA by making a special gift to one of our many programs or ministries. Click here (<https://community.elca.org/welca>) to find out more!





T'was a month before Christmas,
And all through the town,
People wore masks,
That covered their frown.

The frown had begun
Way back in the Spring,
When a global pandemic
Changed everything.

They called it corona,
But unlike the beer,
It didn't bring good times,
It didn't bring cheer.

Airplanes were grounded
Travel was banned.
Borders were closed
Across air, sea and land.

As the world entered lockdown
To flatten the curve,
The economy halted,
And folks lost their nerve.

From March to July
We rode the first wave,
People stayed home,
They tried to behave.

When summer emerged
The lockdown was lifted.
But away from caution,
Many folks drifted.

Now it's November
And cases are spiking.
Wave two has arrived,
Much to our disliking.

It's true that this year
Has had sadness a plenty.
We'll never forget
The year 2020.

And just 'round the corner-
The holiday season,
But why be merry?
Is there even one reason?

To decorate the house
And put up the tree,
Who will see it,
No one but me.

But outside my window
The snow gently falls,
And I think to myself,
Let's deck the halls!

So I gather the ribbon
The garland and bows,
As I play those old carols,
My happiness grows.

Christmas is not cancelled
And neither is hope.
If we lean on each other,
I know we can cope!

Author Unknown



Shirley Trantum Mitten Tree

This tree is decorated with hats, gloves and mittens for school children. People also donate baby clothes, adult socks, and sweat tops and pants for children. It is set up yearly at The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd, Olympia, WA.

Fourth Thursday in Advent Christmas Eve

Romans 13:12

The night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.

Isaiah foretold the passing of the night and the nearness of the new day with these words, "*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-on them light has shined.*" Isaiah 9:2 Likewise, the Apostle John writes of Jesus' birth, "*What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.*" John 1:3-5 Since his birth, the light of life in Jesus Christ has been among us; bringing the new day near, reconciling us to God our Father and strengthening us for life in community with one another.

In Romans 13:12, Paul admonishes us to lay aside the works of darkness. Perhaps the most egregious and difficult darkness that has reared its ugly head throughout history, is hatred of an enemy and the division between peoples that results. How hard it is to forgive those we view as enemies. How harder still is the practice of praying for them asking God to bless and keep them. Another equally insidious force of darkness that has been a part of the human story since the beginning of time is inequality between peoples for various reasons...class, race, religion, economic status, gender, etc. Since the inception of our own country, equality for all under the law remains an elusive dream.

In the same verse that urges us to lay aside the forces of darkness, Paul directs us to put on the armor of light. Where do we find this armor of light? It is as wonderfully close as our inner being. This is because light radiates from Jesus who lives within us through the power of the Holy Spirit. This armor of light is able to overcome all the forces of darkness. The armor of light shines forth from us whether we attempt to reconcile with a family member or friend or are inspired to bring dinner to a neighbor. Paul urges us to live honorably as in the day. Romans 13:13 Jesus taught his listeners, "*You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.*" Matthew 5:14,16. Sharing the gift of Jesus' armor of light will help bring the new day for our world to fruition. May Jesus' armor of light surround you and your family with warmth and peace this Advent season and guide you throughout the coming days.

By Linnea Glover



Ideas for Women's Groups to do at Church

1. Prayer Walk, Prayer Vigil, Prayer Service

Select a date. Make a sign-up sheet with time slots/ one person per slot. Go to church and walk the neighborhood and pray. Walk the church perimeter and pray from a list of prayer requests. If praying in church, clean in-between slots.
Suggested by several churches.

2. Women's or Men's Night Out

Pick a night of the month/2nd Tuesday for example. Gather in the church parking lot. Bring lawn chairs, own snacks and drinks. Visit, pray, etc.
Suggested by Silverdale Lutheran.

3. Sunday Services

Parking Lot Church— Set up music equipment needed, service altar area, etc. Gather on Sunday.
Online services— Zoom service, Facebook live, YouTube live, tape and people can play at own convenience.
Suggested by several churches.

4. Women's Group called 6x6

Six women gather(grassy courtyard is ideal) and space themselves 6 feet apart. Visit, pray, share, etc.
Suggested by Trinity Lutheran, Parkland

5. Rally Day

Socially distance to pack school kits for LWR. Regular service is to follow—outdoor church. Talent Show follows as part of Rally Day.
Suggested by Silverdale Lutheran

6. Church Drive-by or Church Drive Through Activities

Pick up supplies to assemble LWR school kits: supplies are pre-gathered, families assemble and put into individual kits and return to church.
Individuals in churches have sewn LWR school kit bags, serged diapers, etc. while in quarantine.
Wash windows and pick up quarterly devotional books, communion packs, encouragement cards, etc.
Fundraisers— Pay for tickets for gift certificates for all kinds of items.
Also, one church is a satellite supply pick-up spot for diapers/toilet paper for the Latino community.
Suggested by several churches.

7. Zoom Meetings For Everything

Gather Bible Study for Women
Inside church service for those at home.
Outdoor church service for those who want to watch from home.
Suggested by several churches

8. WELCA Women's Site

Thankoffering— virtual opportunity
Dear Friends in Christ— lettering writing event
Virtual WELCA
Online Bold Café
Online Gather
Online Interchange
How to do churchwide offerings
Suggested by several churches

9. We Miss You Project

Cricut (or use other similar cutting machine) a tea-cup shape. Include a teabag folded into devotional with string and cup sent to all women telling them they are missed! Took the place of the usual spring tea.
Suggested by Resurrection Lutheran

10. Joy Brigade

Every two weeks, a small group goes to homes of those not attending outdoor church. Bring a bouquet and cookies just to see how people are doing and if they need anything.
Suggested by Resurrection Lutheran.

11. Dinners Taken To Those Recovering From Surgery

Sign-up sheet begins with days and who to bring dinners to after that person is home in recovery.
Suggested by Resurrection Lutheran and others



Snippets of Wisdom

The first to apologize is the bravest.
The first to forgive is the strongest.
The first to forget is the happiest.
Anonymous

It is nice to be important but it is
more important to be nice.
Mark Yormark

Bold Women's Sunday Activities

The Lutheran Church of The Good Shepherd hosted a Bold Women's Luncheon on Saturday, February 22. We enjoyed great fellowship, great food and a wonderful speaker. Lois Williams is a poet, author and speaker who makes her home in Lacey, WA. Lois's theme for her presentation was ***Fresh Fire: Let God Rekindle His Fire In You.*** She urged us to fall in love again with Jesus, our first love.



On Sunday, February 23, two members of our LCGS congregation who are involved with a Historical Heritage Players group celebrating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, were introduced by the pastor as two bold women from the past who wrote letters, gave speeches and marched boldly to win the right to vote. These two ladies were dressed as their characters and they gave the children's message that morning. They emphasized what acting boldly on something they really believed in entailed. To act boldly is to be courageous and confident. The actions that are taken when you act boldly are prominent and clear. May we, as members of WELCA, adhere to our Mission Statement, To Mobilize Women To Act Boldly on Their Faith In Jesus Christ.



Meet Your Board Members

Elaine Twogood
Board Member

I grew up a Lutheran in the mid-west, primarily Fargo, North Dakota. I attended college across the river at Moorhead State College where I received a BS in education. After marrying, my husband and I moved to Tacoma, Washington where I began my career as a school library media specialist. I worked in library education in Tacoma Public Schools for 38 years. I was confirmed at American Lutheran Church in Fargo and now attend Resurrection Lutheran Church in northeast Tacoma where I am actively involved in WELCA and serve on the church council, as well. I enjoy participating in quilting for Lutheran World Relief. About 30 years ago, along with a friend, I began basket weaving; and now teach basket weaving and lead an open weave circle at Resurrection every Tuesday morning. I am now a widow, but all three of my children and their families live nearby with my five grandchildren and now my first great-grandchild, about a month old. The Lord has blessed me with a wonderful life.



Our Symbol-Cross, Water and Water Lily

Identifies the Women of the ELCA as children of God, baptized, forgiven, and adopted into God's family. It is the reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving water.

It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

WE'VE MOVED



(DATES, NOT LOCATION)

We are moving this life-changing event to **August 5-8, 2021!**
Join your sisters of faith in Phoenix for the Gathering 2021. Then
begin living out your faith in new and invigorating ways.

August 5-8, 2021
Phoenix, Arizona

Visit welcatg.org for details and registration.



A Look At Upcoming *Gather* Magazine's Bible Studies

Winter

The Bible features numerous encounters with angels who show up on an array of missions from wielding a sword (Genesis 3:24), to rescuing a child (Genesis 22:11), to a mass choir singing, "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14).

Angels are not a major focus of Holy Scripture, nor are they ever mentioned in our Christian creeds. Yet they show up with frequency and at pivotal moments in both Old and New Testaments. Church Reformer Martin Luther is quoted as saying, "If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant."

In Winter 2021, the Rev. Christa von Zychlin will present the four-part study "Journeys with angels" in which we will shake those biblical branches, watch for angels and listen for God's calls to action.

Session topics:

January: Looking up—New beginnings, awe-full, awesome angels

February: Repentance and route-changing angels

March: Loneliness, abandonment and holy comfort

April: Feasting Angels

The Rev. Christa von Zychlin has served Lutheran churches around the world through ELCA Global partnerships. She co-pastors St. Luke Lutheran Church in Albuquerque, NM where she also loves exploring the spirituality of mountains and deserts.



May 2021: Annual Intergenerational Devotional
Author TBD

Summer 2021: Just Love, Part 2

Three new summer sessions on this topic will come to us from the Rev. Angela Khaheb. Angela Khaheb is a pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. She has an amazing husband, Benhi, and three spectacular children, Konami, Khenna and Khonni. More information on this study will be available soon. In the meantime, check out Khaheb's presentation on "Just Love" from Women of the ELCA's "Just Love: A virtual preview."

Fall 2021: "You are a leader too!" by the Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling

What does it mean to be a healthy, effective church leader in your own congregation? The Rev. Dr. Laurie Jungling, bishop of the ELCA Montana Synod, will offer a three-session Bible study, "You are a church leader too."

Bishop Jungling will look at leadership in the light of Scripture and other resources from Lutheran tradition and experience of leadership in the congregation. She'll offer practical guidance as we explore ways for followers of Christ to lead adaptively through changing and challenging times.



<p style="text-align: center;">Southwestern Washington Synod Churches listed by Clusters Women of the ELCA Updated September 2018</p>

Coastal Cluster

Aberdeen, Amazing Grace
Chinook, Chinook
Grayland, Twin harbors
Hoquim, Saron Lutheran-First
Presbyterian
Naselle, Naselle
Ocean Park, Ocean Park
Ocean Shores, Galilean Chapel
South Bend, First

Evergreen Cluster

Auburn, All Saints
Auburn, Family of Grace
Auburn, Messiah
Auburn, New Wave Lutheran
Mission
Enumclaw, Hope
Enumclaw, Trinity
Federal Way, Calvary
Federal Way, Chinese
Fellowship
Federal Way, Christ
Federal Way, Light of Grace
Tacoma, Resurrection

Ft Vancouver Cluster

Brush Prairie, Bethel
Camas, Zion
La Center, Highland
Stevenson, Shepherd of the
Hills
Vancouver, Beautiful Saviour
Vancouver, Family of Christ
Vancouver, Immanuel
Vancouver, Messiah
Vancouver, St Andrew
Vancouver, St Paul
Vancouver, Trinity

Narrows Cluster

Fircrest, Redeemer
Gig Harbor, Agnus Dei
Gig Harbor, Peninsula
Lakebay, Key Peninsula
Lakewood, Christ
Lakewood, St John's
Tacoma, Bethlehem
Tacoma, Emmanuel
Tacoma, First
Tacoma, Gloria Dei
Tacoma, Hope
Tacoma, Mision de Belen
Tacoma, Peace
Tacoma, Pueblo de Dios
Tacoma, Salishan Mission
Tacoma, St Marks's by the
Narrows
Tacoma, United
University Place, Mt Cross

Olympic Cluster

Belfair, Christ
Bremerton, Emmanuel
Bremerton, Family of God
Bremerton, Our Saviour's
Forks, Prince of Peace
Port Angeles, Holy Trinity
Port Ludlow, Peace Lutheran
Fellowship
Port Townsend, Grace
Port Orchard, Elim
Port Orchard, First
Port Orchard, Spirit of Life
Poulsbo, First
Poulsbo, Vinland
Sequim, Dungeness Valley
Silverdale, Silverdale

Mt Rainier Cluster

Bonney Lake, Creator
Edgewood, Mountain View
Puyallup, Celebration!
Puyallup, Peace
Puyallup, Pilgrim
Spanaway, Bethany
Spanaway, Spanaway
Sumner, Christ the King
Tacoma, Lutheran Church of
Christ the King
Tacoma, Trinity
Tacoma, University
Congregation-PLU

South Sound Cluster

Centralia, Immanuel
Chehalis, St John's
Elma, Faith
Lacey, St Mark
Olympia, Gloria Dei
Olympia, Gull Harbor
Olympia, St Christopher's
Episcopal
Olympia, The Lutheran Church
of The Good Shepherd
Shelton, Faith
Shelton, Living Stones Prison
Congregation
Yelm, Emanuel

Three Rivers Cluster

Castle Rock, St Paul
Kelso, Gloria Dei
Longview, Bethany
Longview, Stella Chapel
Longview, Trinity
Winlock, St Paul

Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization (1-C)

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

October 2018



President

Jan Saylor
Bethel, Brush Prairie
 25514 NE 165th Street
 BATTLEGROUND, WA 98312

Vice President

Jeanne Patterson
Silverdale, Silverdale
 1546 Bloomington Avenue
 BREMERTON, WA 98312
 360-627-8848
 Cell 253-250-5565
 jeannep414@msn.com

Secretary

Ann Meacham
Pennisula, Gig Harbor
 3918 77th Ave. Ct NW
 GIG HARBOR, WA 98335
 253-279-1609
 ann.meacham.plcplace@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kathy Ifft
All Saints, Auburn
 PO Box 73754
 PUYALLUP, WA 98373
 253-307-5761
 kathyiff@msn.com

Empowering Life... Beyond Incarceration! SWO Prison Mission and Ministry Team

Sharon Peterson 253-549-6782
 empoweringlife@aol.com

Joan Nelson 253-208-3307
 joan2nelson@comcast.net
 PO Box 1803
 GIG HARBOR, WA 98335

Pamela Deacon-Joyner,
 253-590-8068
 Chair of SW WA Synod
 Prison Ministry Board
 Church Membership:
 Living Stones Congregation
 pamdj27@gmail.com

Board Members:

Board Member 1 (Position open)

Board Member 2
 Elaine Twogood
 2539 56th Ave NE
 TACOMA WA 98422
 Cell-253-217-1935
 A.twogood@att.net

Board Member 3

Mary Ann Nelson
Stella, Longview
 PO Box 368
 CATHLAMET, WA 98612
 360-849-4340
 manelson@teleport.com

Board Member 4

Virginia Garrison
Trinity, Parkland
 4932 South State Street
 TACOMA, WA 98409
 253-471-9569
 vgarrison4932@comcast.net

Board Member 5

Sue Anna Tucker
Elim, Port Orchard
 P.O. Box 1569
 PORT ORCHARD, WA 98366
 360-871-8478
 Cell 360-981-4777
 sueannagrace@gmail.com

Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality Racial Justice Advocacy Team

Sue Ferber-Goodspeed,
 Janean Moriarty, Denise Powell,
 Barbara Robertson, and Helene Pearch
 4806 Bend Drive NE
 LACEY, WA 98516
 360-915-8268
 bhpearch@comcast.net

Cluster Leaders:

Coastal Cluster [Position open]

Evergreen Cluster

Kathy Ifft
 PO Box 73754
 PUYALLUP, WA 98373
 253-307-5761

Ft. Vancouver Cluster

Sue Calvert
 15002 NE 3rd St
 VANCOUVER, WA 98664
 1 360-892-7553 or 1 360-798-1326
 ric_sue@msn.com

Mt. Rainier Cluster

Maren K. Johnson
 7801 49th Ave. E
 TACOMA, WA 98443
 253-531-3718 (H)
 253-297-5414 ©
 mkjttacoma@hotmail.com

Narrows Cluster [Position open]

Olympic Cluster

Linda Zeh
 P O Box 650
 ALLYN, WA 98524
 360-620-6787
 lakelanders@wavecable.com

South Sound Cluster

Verna Westman
 17006 Littlerock Road SW
 ROCHESTER, WA 98579
 360-273-0595
 Cell phone 360-508-9523
 verna.westman@gmail.com

Three Rivers Cluster

Grace Kennedy
 2103 35th ST
 LONGVIEW, WA 98632
 360-562-7644
 glmlkennedy5@gmail.com

Churchwide Board Member From SW WA Synod Women Elected at Triennial 2017

Tina Bigelow
 23631 Coburg Place NW
 POULSBORO, WA 98370
 360-697-3465
 tina.bigelow@earthlink.net



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Calendar of Upcoming Events

***August 5-8, 2021* Triennial Convention and Gathering**
Phoenix, AZ

***October 9, 2021* Annual Synodical Women's Organization Convention**
Silverdale Lutheran Church, Silverdale, WA

"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!" II Corinthians 5:17

Café stirring the spirit within
www.boldcafe.org

Check us out on Facebook:
SW WA Women of the ELCA
Tell us what you are doing in your WELCA