



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
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Good News

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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.

From the President

2020 has certainly been a trying year. Isolation and uncertainty, two words that describe what everyone is feeling due to COVID 19. This summer was to be the 11th Triennial Convention and Gathering of the Women of the ELCA in sunny Phoenix, AZ, but due to the circumstances this event was postponed until August of 2021. Many other events were also cancelled or postponed, events that we, as Women of the ELCA look forward to. Retreats, conventions, bible studies, regular worship just to name a few. We are all in the same boat!

Over the past several weeks, I and Executive Director Linda Post Bushkofsky have been meeting with the regional Synodical presidents over ZOOM. We use this time to connect and brainstorm ideas on how to thrive as a community of women. Yes, there is some lamenting, but the common denominator is shared through the words of our 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."

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that this amazing organization is there for YOU! Yes, we still need to practice social distancing and conduct much of our business virtually – but it can be done. Whether you need ideas to revitalize your group or simply inspiration on how to live out our ministry as individuals, we're here for YOU!

Please take some time today to remember your calling. Go to womenoftheelca.org and re-familiarize yourself with the many resources available. Take advantage of simple things like Tuesday prayers at noon, an opportunity to pray with Lutheran women across the church in prayer. Design a Thankoffering container and make a conscious decision to look for things to be grateful for each and every day. Drop a few coins in the container and forward on to churchwide. Reach out to the Region 5 liaison Sarah Carson (800-638-3522, ext. 2766) for support. These small gestures will help you feel

connected to your siblings in Christ across the entire churchwide expression.

Hang in there, my Friends, for soon we will be celebrating together in fellowship and praise in Phoenix in August of 2021!

*Blessings, Lisa Plorin,
President of Church-wide Women of the ELCA*

Discipleship Committee

God is our refuge, our rock. He is always with us. He protects and heals us. He holds our hand as we travel thru life and gives us confidence with His word.

What can we do, as believers, to thank God for his presence in our lives? I believe discipleship is a way of "paying it forward". Most of us are not saving lives as a doctor or nurse, running an organization that can help all people across the world or a minister wanting to bring and strengthen congregants into God's fold.

As an ordinary person we can do well by sharing garden veggies with neighbors, sew face masks and quilts for LWR, drive a person to church or to sewing guild, maybe grocery shop for an invalid or pray for better health and safety for someone. There are so many small, common acts of kindness we can do for others in the name of God.

Never think that we are not important. God loves all of us in the same manner.

God's Blessings, LuAnn Bruner

Justice Committee

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month? What plans have you made to talk about it in your groups, congregations or communities?

When the voting members of the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) addressed domestic abuse and violence, they called all expressions of our organization into action. First and foremost, they required women in this organization to educate themselves about the signs of domestic abuse and violence and the services available in their community by inviting shelter workers, social workers, counselors and police officers to speak.

Calling women to action, the voting members offered the following suggestions.

- Post information for local domestic violence hotlines and other hotlines in church restrooms, on bulletin boards, in church newsletters and in other publications:

Nat Domestic Violence Hotline 1-888-799-SAFE
 Nat Teen Dating Abuse Hotline 1-866-331-9474
 Nat Child Abuse Hotline 1-800-4-A-CHILD
 Nat Elder Abuse Hotline 1-800-677-1116

- Assist people in crisis by connecting them with agencies, professionals, and resources, offering financial support to local domestic abuse and violence shelters and donating items for their “need list”, such as personal hygiene items, food, clothing, furniture, toys, quilts, and attending their events and fundraisers.
- Volunteer at a local domestic abuse and violence shelter.
- Make every ELCA congregation, where possible, a safe space for victims of domestic abuse and violence, and making it known.
- Further educate ourselves about domestic abuse and violence, such as ELCA Justice for Women, Faith Trust Institute, National Coalition Against Domestic Violence Children’s Defense Fund.

Taken from www.womenoftheelca.org

Stewardship Committee

Giving. What does it mean for you? What does it mean for us during this time of Covid 19? This is my quick “go to list” of what I might do to share what God has given to me.

- **Giving Time:** Taking time to tell others of Jesus, time to share your faith journey, volunteering to help others, and time to listen to others.
- **Giving Talent:** Using your gift of music or song to bring joy to others, using the gift of baking to share with others, or using your gift of loving to sew, to make masks for nursing homes, hospitals and schools.
- **Giving Love:** Giving your loving kindness and compassion to others who may need your support.
- **Giving Monetary gifts:** Donating to MANNA, LSI, NEIA Synodical Women’s Organization, or to your local WELCA unit.

I wrote this today because someone has given our family an awesome gift. A new life. Our daughter and her husband are now the proud parents of a baby

boy. After numerous miscarriages, medical tests, failed adoptions and years of waiting, this little boy has brought joy to us and to our church family. God is so amazing.

What do you have to give to others? May God bless our using, sharing and giving of ourselves and our gifts.

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

CALENDAR

- Nov. 1 Deadline for December *Good News*
 Nov. 7 LWR Ingathering for Clusters CEH, St Timothy Lutheran, Hudson
 SWO Board Meeting, 9-noon, Zoom
 Dec 1 Deadline for January *Good News*
 Jan 1 Deadline for February *Good News*
 Jan 9 SWO Board Meeting, 9-3, Synod Office, (by Zoom if weather issues)
 Mar 13 SWO Board Meeting, 9-12, Zoom
 May 1 SWO Board Meeting, 9-12, Wartburg Coll.
 Jun 18 SWO Board Meeting, 7-9, Wartburg Coll.
 Jun 19 SWO Gathering @ Wartburg College
 Aug 2-5 Triennial Convention, Phoenix
 Aug 5-8 Triennial Gathering, Phoenix

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Articles are due the 1st of the month for the next month's newsletter (e.g. April 1 for May issue)

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