

Women of the ELCA

SHARE

August 2021

Revised



CALL TO CONVENTION

Greetings fellow Women of the ELCA! We have endured a very challenging year (and it's not over!) due to the pandemic which has turned everything upside down and inside out! There have been many road bumps along the way. However, we must think of our future as Women of the ELCA and begin moving forward. Starting in September, the 25th to be exact, we will hold our Women's Convention at Camp Mount Luther. This will be an important day for us. We will be able to get together with our friends and this year, we are holding elections for a new President and Vice-President. I am always happy to be at our Convention, as I enjoy the company of the W/ELCA. I leave you with the words of Max Lucado from his book, MOCHA WITH MAX: "You have a God who hears you, the power of love behind you, the Holy Spirit within you, and all of heaven ahead of you. ... You have everything you need."

See you on September 25th!

Shalom ,
Jean Grumb

33rd Convention

at
Camp Mt. Luther
on
SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 25th 2021

Registration:

8:30 am - 9:00 a.m.

"Love One Another;"
Scripture 1 John 4:11

Ingathering:

Lutheran Disaster Response.

In-kind Gathering: Haven Ministry in Sunbury and The New Love Center in Jersey Shore. You may bring the following items to the convention or drop them off at the location and tell convention staff what you donated.

For HAVEN MINISTRY: Children's winter clothing and coats of all sizes; twin-and full-size blankets, sheets and comforters; extra-large frying pans; any cleaning products, paper products(e.g. towels) napkins, toilet paper and any non-perishable food.

For THE NEW LOVE CENTER: Noodles, Scalloped Potatoes and Pudding Mix.

Monetary Donations will be divided between the two ministries.

Our thanks for support of local needs.



Convention Forms are at the end of the newsletter and are to be reprinted as needed!!!

NEWS FROM WOMEN OF THE ELCA CHURCHWIDE

by Deacon Sandra Grier, WELCA Churchwide Ex. Board

Wow! A lot has transpired since our last Share. As I write this, the mask ban has just been lifted for those with vaccines. Things are starting to get back to normal. But it has been anything but normal these past many months and our women have adapted. We have seen units offer virtual Bible studies, meetings and "how to" sessions like learning to quilt blankets for babies and making lap robes for the homebound.

Some of our synods sponsored virtual Thank Offering services as well as virtual Bible studies, meetings and hymn sings.

Churchwide has and continues to offer Gather Magazine Bible Studies with the author offering additional insights on-line, a once a month Cafe BYOD(bring your own dinner) study with a variety of women and great discussion of various topics. We continue to offer Daily Grace (a free online devotion for women) or pray with hundreds of women across the country each Tuesday at noon(there is a downloadable page that shares a Bible verse and suggestions/ideas on various needs to pray about on our website) .

Those are just a few offerings happening over the past year from Units, Synods and Churchwide. It's been a tough year and a half, but we have coped, changed and even flourished. We have all learned new things - from asking What is Zoom? to using it on a regular basis. However, many of us are looking forward to actually sitting down with a cup of coffee and talking face to face.

Yes, we have had a lot of changes thrown at us this year and a half. That is true for churchwide as well. I've been on the Ex. Bd for 7 years - a term is 3 years and I have been blessed to be elected by Women across the country twice. However because of the pandemic we were all asked to stay on another year until a new board could be elected in Aug 2021 during our triennial convention.

Our convention was to take place in Phoenix last year, however, it was postponed and because of the pandemic continuing earlier this year, the board decided to go virtual for our triennial convention. The schedule will look a lot different than being there in person. There will be no Gathering as in past years because of everything being on line. However, I do have good news to report,

that in 2023 we will be in Phoenix AZ in September for the Triennial and Gathering(which should be cooler for those concerned about being there in July/Aug.).

If you haven't heard already, our churchwide staffing has gone down considerably - we now have 2 full time staffers and as of this writing 6 part time. In Sept. we may have 2 full-time staff with one part-time. We had to cut-back due to offerings being down. The pandemic certainly was a big factor, but giving has been down for a number of years and we had to get realistic with the amount of funds coming in and going out. The two full time employees are Linda Bushkowski, the Ex. Director and Elizabeth Hunter, Gather Magazine Editor. We hope that we will be able to up the staffing again, but for now, it is what it is.

The ministry has NOT CHANGED. Our mission statement is still relevant and our mission is the same, it's just that we have to do things somewhat differently than in the past. We've all found that out over the past 1 1/2 years, but we are still doing ministry in Christ's name and that is what counts. I hope and pray that our financial situation turns around so more ministry can be done to help women and children in our communities, nationally and internationally on a larger scale as we've done in past years. However, we are thankful for each of you and your commitment to Women of the ELCA .

Thank you

On a bright note: Cafe and Gather Magazine won 15 awards from Religion Communicators Council and Associated Church Press in 2021. As a member of the Churchwide Executive Board I want to thank each of you for your commitment, dedication and love of Women of the ELCA organization. We are stronger together. I look forward to seeing all of you in Sept. at our convention. I look forward to having a cup of coffee and catching up in person.

Until then,
Your friend in Christ,
Sandy



"ECCLESIASTICAL" Balloting Made Simple ...

First, let's consider what is an "Ecclesiastical" Ballot. It is a Spirit-led method for electing the President and Vice President of the Synodical Women's Organization ... delegates write on their first ballots the name of the person each delegate thinks would best fulfill the office, even without obtaining prior consent from that nominee. (NOTE: The Committee on Nominations does not present nominees for the offices of President and Vice President.)

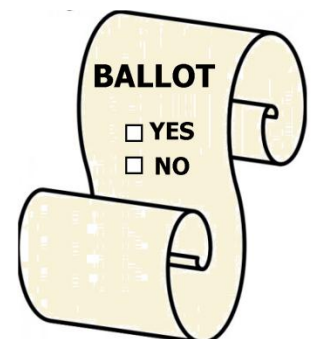
First Ballot – This is the nominating ballot, with all names and number of votes received to be reported ... **three-fourths of the votes cast shall be required for election on the first ballot.** If there is no election, time is given for the nominees to consider whether or not they wish to be nominees. If they decline, their names are withdrawn.

Second Ballot – All remaining names are listed ... **two-thirds of the votes cast shall be required for election.**

Third Ballot – The two persons (plus ties) receiving the highest number of votes on the second ballot are listed ... **a majority of votes shall elect.**

NOTE: Delegates to the September 25th USSWO Convention are to be made aware that there will be elections for President and Vice President that day, using the Ecclesiastical Ballot.

What is an Ecclesiastical Ballot?



TREASURER'S REPORT

Wendy Zajac, USSWO Treasurer
792 Hetlerville Road, Nescopeck, Pa.

USSWO Convention

While we did not meet, nor had a Convention last year, you continued to faithfully send your Regular Offerings. I did receive some Ingathering Offerings throughout the year. Gifts received--\$320.00. I forwarded this to the "Lutheran Disaster Response."

At the 2021 Convention the **Ingathering Offering** will again be for the "Lutheran Disaster Response." The **In-kind Offering** will be for Haven Ministries (a Homeless Shelter) in Sunbury and the New Love Center (a Food Pantry) in Jersey Shore.

Biography

Vicar Jodi Ellis Bible Study Leader for the 2021 Convention

Vicar Jodi Ellis was born and raised in Montgomery, PA, as a member of St. John "Brick" Lutheran Church. She is a 1989 graduate of Mansfield University, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics Education. In 2004, Vicar Jodi received her Master's degree in Education with an emphasis in Curriculum Development and Teaching Strategies from Wilkes University.

In June 2001, Vicar Jodi entered the Authorized Lay Worship Leader program, as part of only the second class to be held. She received her Authorization in June 2003 and has served throughout the Upper Susquehanna Synod within that position.

In September 1999, she began a seventeen-year career at Millersburg Area School District, serving as Middle School/High School Family Consumer Sciences Teacher. During her tenure with the School District, she served as Middle School Student Council Advisor, being awarded the Pennsylvania Association of Student Council Advisor's District 8 Advisor of the Year award for the year 2013. In 2016, her position ended as the School District curtailed their Family and Consumer Science program. Since that time she serves as an Associate Trainer in the Revenue Management Training Department for Geisinger Health Systems.

When she accepted the position at Millersburg School District, it was in conversation with God that she said, "I guess I will be here until it's time to go to seminary." As her position ended at Millersburg, she was reminded of that conversation through multiple sources telling her it was now time to do what she was supposed to do.

In January 2018, in communication with Bishop Collins and through the Synod's Candidacy Committee, Vicar Jodi was entered into the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (T.E.E.M) program toward ordination. She began classes through United Lutheran Seminary in January 2019. Vicar Jodi was endorsed by the Candidacy Committee in January 2021 and she is continuing her education as she works toward candidacy approval. Vicar Jodi currently serves St. John Lutheran Church, Leck Kill, PA. Vicar Jodi and her husband, Mark, are the proud parents of two children, Joshua (14) and Amber (12).

Tables at the Convention

Sandy Grier will bring her "ALONG THE WAY BOOKSTORE"
to the Convention on September 25th.

She always brings lovely gift items, boxed cards and plenty of interesting books for sale.

There will be a table with "SEAMEN'S SATCHELS" which can be picked up for your congregation,
in case you haven't already picked them up at the Synod Office

Christmas—at-Sea Bags

- * One Sweatshirt - hooded or unhooded (size M-L-XL ONLY)
- * Three Pairs of Socks - thermal or gym (NO ANKLE SOCKS)
- * One Knitted Winter Cap (coordinating scarf optional no pastels please)
- * One T- Shirt (size M-L-XL ONLY)
- * A Holiday or Christmas card from YOU!
- * One Can of Nuts, Large Bar of Chocolate, or Healthy Snack Bar

PLEASE REMOVE ALL STORE TAGS FROM CLOTHING

You pick the colors, styles and brands, but please no substitutions from the list. For the safety of seafarers, please do not add fringes or pom-poms. The Christmas-at-Sea satchels should be identical for each member of the crew. And, please assemble each satchel with sweatshirts and T-shirts of the same size and with a black magic marker label the satchel with a M, L, or XL on the back side.

DO NOT INCLUDE SWEATSHIRTS OR T-SHIRTS WITH WEAPONS OR INAPPROPRIATE PICTURES.

Brenda Krouse, Office Manager c/o Upper Susquehanna Synod, ELCA
500 Reitz Blvd. Lewisburg, PA 17837 * 570-524-9778

Please call ahead to arrange delivery! * **DEADLINE for donation is NOVEMBER 5, 2021**

Churchwide News & Notes

Deacon Sandy Grier-Member of the Churchwide Executive Board

I was asked to share why we give to Women of the ELCA and where the money goes. Well, you go to a Women of the ELCA meeting in your unit (church) and donate money.

Half of that money is used within your congregation and local community, such as: funeral luncheons, quilting supplies, local food pantries, etc. The other half of that money goes to the Synodical Women of the ELCA. The officers and executive board determine where the money is spent that is received ... such as keeping the cost at a minimum for our Synod's Women's Convention held at Camp Mt. Luther each year, sponsoring programs throughout the year such as Day of Learning/Renewal and the annual Women's Retreat at Mt. Luther. There is also an expense in getting the quilts shipped following Blanket Sunday each year and also printing and mailing SHARE, our synodical newsletter. Half of the money sent to our Synod's Women of the ELCA is sent to Chicago to Women of the ELCA Churchwide. That money is used for weekend meetings/workshops/discussions with all the Synodical Presidents of Women of the ELCA (expenses such as travel, housing and meals), Treasurer training, support programs/workshops/retreats that have been created and are downloadable for free to you, the congregational units. Expenses for travel to conventions are also covered for churchwide reps who represent Lisa Plorin, our Women of the ELCA president, and your dollars also support Lutheran women for their continuing education in the US; staffing—including Linda Post-Bushkowski, our Executive Director in Chicago—who is a wealth of information; also our diversity coordinator as well as our publicity/education staff members who produce our award-winning magazines/blogs/Facebook pages/pinterest/etc.

The money you donate also supports our mandated Triennial Convention which, in 2023, is in Phoenix AZ. Each president of Women of the ELCA in our 64 synods, as well as additional voting members elected at each synodical women's convention (your representatives) will have their transportation, lodging and meals paid for through your generous giving.

We also provide educational opportunities for women and children throughout the world through Katie's Fund and we are a leading force in education about, and awareness of, human trafficking.

These are just some of what your dollars go towards when you drop your donation in the basket while attending a Women of the ELCA meeting at your church. Should you have questions, please contact me.

(Deacon Sandy Grier) at sandygrier1616@gmail.com.

BLANKET SUNDAY

OCTOBER 3, 2021

Bring all donated items to the Upper Susquehanna
Synod Office, 500 Reitz Road, Lewisburg

on
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2021
9:00am to 12:00 noon.

If you are not able to be there at this time, please
contact Sue Baylor at sueb123@ptd.net or
570-279-4766 (cell)
*please note the time

Sponsored Jointly By
The Women of the ELCA and
The Committee for Global Missions
Upper Susquehanna Synod of the ELCA



Blanket Sunday Report **For 2020:**

Total: \$8826.00.

Total Blankets Purchased:

576 wool blankets: \$3,801.60

600 cotton blankets: \$3288.00.

Grand total: \$7089.60.

\$1736.40 given to Project Comfort toward
the cost of shipping.

President's Prose

Welcome W/ELCA! This has been quite a year-We have been living through a pandemic. Our lives have been turned upside down and inside out! We have lived through a year of unprecedented change due to COVID-19 Virus. We have had shortages (toilet paper, cleaning supplies, etc.) societal restrictions and so forth. Now, after surviving 2020-2021, we are beginning to emerge from this upheaval.

However, no matter how our lives have been affected we know that we are God's beloved children and He has always been with us. As we look forward, we are asked to trust Him and have faith. We are reminded that He is always there for us no matter what happens.

Throughout this past year of social distancing, masks and travel restrictions, I have been helped by people such as Shirley Brosius. Along with her two companions, Shirley appeared at one of our Fall Women's Retreat. Her blog has been very helpful to me. Sarah Young who has written several devotions including the Bible project (bibleproject.com) has also been very helpful. Her blog has helped me read through the Bible starting with Genesis. And, its accompanying videos have helped with my understanding, etc. There have been times when we were not able to attend church, when we had to fall back on our past learning experiences. Now, thankfully we are able to attend church services using YouTube, Facebook and Zoom.

We, the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, (W/ELCA) are a tried and true sisterhood who have survived this pandemic and have emerged stronger because of it!

I am looking forward to seeing my sisters on September 25, 2021 at our Women's Convention.

Go Forward with God,

Jean Grumb

President WELCA

Please COMPLETE and RETURN this form. You may take the form to the collection point at the Synod Office, October 9, 2021, from 9 a.m. until noon, and give it to the person who receives your donations. If you take your donations directly to the New Windsor Processing Center and Warehouse, please mail this form to:

Elizabeth Baylor
364 Kaseville Rd.
Danville, PA 17821
Phone 570-279-4766 *sueb123@ptd.net

Packing Instructions Are on Reverse Side

Name of Congregation	
Address of Congregation	
Cluster or Conference	
ELCA Congregation #	
NAME AND PHONE NUMBER OF PERSON COMPLETING REPORT	

CHECK ONE (x)	
Our donations were taken by us to the collection point	
Our donations were taken by us directly to New Windsor	

Only the kits listed below should be sent in 2021

List Number of Each	
Number of Mission Quilts (60"x80")	
Number of Personal Care Kits	
Number of School Kits	
Number of Fabric Kits	
Number of Baby Care Kits	
Number of Blankets (60"x80")	
Number of Bars of Soap (NOT POUNDS)	

LWR Collection will again be at the Synod Office on October 9th from 9 am to noon. Please note the time change. If you are not able to be there at this time. Please contact Sue Baylor at sueb123@ptd.net or 570-279-4766

PACKING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose boxes that can be easily carried by one person. PREFERRED boxes can be requested from the dairy section of your local grocery store. Eggs are crated in boxes that have hand-holds at both ends of each box and can be easily carried. They hold a great deal of material, can be stacked easily, and fit into cars and trucks easily. If you cannot carry the box, it is likely that our movers cannot carry it either.
2. Boxes must have solid lids.
3. Sort and pack each kind of item in separate boxes. PLEASE DO NOT MIX SEVERAL THINGS IN THE SAME BOX. Please label boxes accordingly or place a bar code label on the top and cover with clear tape.
4. Boxes are not to weigh more than 40 pounds.
5. Tape boxes securely with packing tape. This holds the lid on and reinforces the boxes.
6. Mark boxes “LWR” and list the general contents (i.e. “personal care kits,” “school kits,” “soap,” “quilts,” etc.) on the outside with a marking pen.

You can expect that each box will be handled and stacked and moved several times, just like it moves through a post office. It can be dropped, pushed, heaved, lifted, and stacked numerous times by numerous people – from your church to New Windsor Processing Center and Warehouse. Your care in packing and labeling is greatly appreciated!

To finish the job:

Complete the form on reverse side and take with you when you deliver your boxes to the collection point. If you take donations directly to New Windsor, mail this form to the address on the reverse side.

Deliver to the collection point during the hours specified.

PLEASE NO ITEMS IN PLASTIC BAGS

2020-2021

SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION EXECUTIVE BOARD

PRESIDENT

Jean Crumb

239 Railroad Street, Bloomsburg PA 17815

570-784-3352 (home) 570-441-9993 (cell)

jcduner@aol.com

Term ends: 2021

VICE PRESIDENT

Carol Winter

70 Maplewood Drive Apt 3 Lewisburg, PA 17837

570-447-2176 (cell)

cekwmw@gmail.com

Term ends: 2021

SECRETARY

Doris Mertz

9 Greenbriar Drive, Milton, PA 17847

570-742-3691 (home) 570-916-9612 (cell)

doris.mertz@gmail.com

Term ends: 2022

TREASURER

Wendy Zajac

792 Hetlerville Road, Nescopeck PA 18635

570-759-1304 (home) 570-336-7023 (cell)

wzajac61@gmail.com

Term ends: 2022

BOARD MEMBERS

Carol Bartoe

4443 Route 204 Selinsgrove, PA 17870

570-374-8788 (home) 570-452-5400 (cell)

Term ends: 2022

Frances Blatchley

215 Front Street PO Box 101 New Berlin, PA 17855

570-966-0288 (home)

fblatchley@yahoo.com

Term ends: 2021

Deborah Hackenberger

8892 Wm Penn Hwy Mifflintown, PA 17059

717-363-0277 (cell)

dktabb@gmail.com

Term ends: 2021

Chris Hollinger

371 Summerhill Road Berwick, PA 18603

570-854-1077 (cell)

chris16@pa.metrocast.net

Term ends: 2021

Robin Latsha

507 Slutter Valley Road, Dornsife, PA 17823

570-758-4610 (home) 570-556-7619 (cell)

rlatsha@tds.net

Term ends: 2022

Linda Leister

10397 Licking Creek Road Mifflintown PA 17059

717-436-8589 (home) 717-348-1248 (cell)

lindaleister22@gmail.com

Term ends: 2021

Anne Spicer

25 Ivy Lane, Lewistown, PA 17044

717-248-6562 (home)

Term ends: 2022

Upper Susquehanna SWO
Thirty-Third Annual Convention
“Love One Another”
September 25, 2021

Resolution

The Following Resolution Is Related To _____
(Indicate Topic)

I Submit The Following Resolution:

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT (Reasons To Support The Resolution)

WHEREAS.....

MOTION (Recommendations For Action Based On The Reasons)

RESOLVED, That.....

(If More Than One Resolution Is Presented, Use The Form Outlined Above On Another Sheet Of Paper)

Return Form By September 1, 2021 To:

Jean Crumb
239 Railroad Street
Bloomsburg, PA 17815

Submitted By:

Name_____

Congregation_____

Congregation Number_____

Cluster_____

**Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization
Nomination Form**

This form is to be used for nominees to a position for the Women of the Upper Susquehanna Synod. The individual nominated must consent to serve if elected. Each nominee must be a participant of a Congregational/Intercongregational Unit and a member of the ELCA.

Executive Board_____

Name_____

Address_____

(Street) (City) (Zip)

Phone_____ Cell Phone_____

E-Mail_____

Congregation_____

Congregation Number_____

Congregation Address_____

(Street) (City) (Zip)

Cluster (Please Check One):

Buffalo Valley_____ Juniata Valley_____ North Branch_____

Middle Creek_____ Tulpehocken_____ West Branch_____

Experience That Would Help This Person Serve In This Position

Please Indicate Up To Four Experiences, Offices And/Or Other Responsibilities Over The Last Ten Years For The Following:

Women Of The ELCA (Include Congregational Unit, Cluster, Synodical Women's Organization, Churchwide. May Include Experience In Previous Church Bodies)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

ELCA (Include Congregation, Conference, Synod And Churchwide. May Include Experiences In Previous Church Bodies.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Continued On Back

Ecumenical (Interchurch Related Activities. Include Local, State And National/International)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Community Participation(Please Indicate Offices, Volunteer Service And/Or Other Responsibilities)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Vocational/Occupational Experiences (Include Full Or Part-Time)

Age Category: 20-29 _____ 30-39 _____ 40-49 _____ 50-64 _____ 65 And Over _____

Consent Of The Nominee Has Been Secured? _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

Submitted By: _____
Congregational/Intercongregational Unit

Mail by September 1, 2021 To:

Chris Hollinger
371 Summerhill Road
Berwick, Pa 18603

REGISTRATION FORM

NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 1, 2021

UPPER SUSQUEHANNA SWO
THIRY-THIRD ANNUAL CONVENTION
“Love One Another”
Camp Mount Luther
September 25, 2021
Delegate Certification

Delegate's Name _____

Address _____

(Street) (City) (Zip)

Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Congregation _____

Congregation Number _____

Congregation Address _____

(Street) (City) (Zip)

Cluster (Please Check One):

Buffalo Valley _____ Juniata Valley _____ North Branch _____

Middle Creek _____ Tulpehocken _____ West Branch _____

Is this the DELEGATE'S first time to attend a convention? ____ Yes ____ No

(It is very important that this form be sent as well as the registration form in order to form the Committees of Convention)

Responsibilities of the Delegate:

1. Attend all Business Meetings and
2. Report on the convention to congregational/Intercongregational units concerning the actions and events of the Convention
3. Current CDC COVID restrictions will apply

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED IN ORDER TO CERTIFY YOUR DELEGATE!!!

Return form by September 1, 2021 to:

Elizabeth Baylor

364 Kaseville Rd.

Danville, PA 17821