

SHARE **Fall 2025**

Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization

President's Prose

Greetings to you from Hammer Hollow,

As time continues to move at an incredible speed, I'm eagerly looking forward to serving another year as president of this amazing organization. However, let's take the time to review the last year. In October of 2024, a bus load of ladies and spouses, enjoyed a trip to United Seminary in Gettysburg followed by a meal at The Barn. In April there was a very well attended Painting Party along with Women At Risk (WAR) products to buy. This event was hosted by Salem Lutheran Church, Selinsgrove. Thirty-one ladies attended the 37th Convention on July 26th at Faith Lutheran Church in Lewisburg. Carol Winter served the maximum time on the Board and therefore had to give up her seat. Wendy Zajac was willing to return to the Board and it's great to have her back. We packed 200 Period Packs to go to CWS. The extra items donated were given to local shelters. Robin Latsha will serve as the USSWO delegate for the WELCA Triennial Convention July 13-14 via zoom with Rita Avery as the alternate. The Gathering will be held, in-person, in Des Moines IA July 16 -19, 2026. There are a few of us planning to make the drive to Des Moines. If you're interested in being part of this "group" please let me know ASAP.

Any and all ideas for speakers or places you'd like to visit along with other women of the Upper Susquehanna Synod are always appreciated. Simply talk to one of the Board members and we'll take care of it from there. Thanks again for being a strong support system for me through this last year and I look forward to growing the USSWO even stronger, empowered by the mission and values we all cherish.

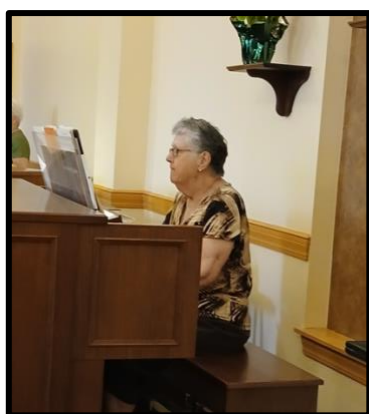
Til we meet again, stay well and may God's peace be with you.

Kathy Whitesel

USSWO Executive Board and the Churchwide Representative



Front Row - left to right) - Carol Winter, Allison Whitmoyer, Wendy Zajac, Sue Baylor, Robin Latsha and Ginger Cutrell (Churchwide Rep.)
 (Back Row - left to right) - Linda Leister, Karen McAfee, Tonya Tabb, Rita Avery, Kathy Whitsel



Ginger Cutrell, Churchwide Representative and Workshop Leade



Carol Winter, Convention Parliamentarian



Carol Waltz, Pianist for the Convention

Assembling the "Period Packs"



Filling the Period Packs



The Rev. Robin Moulfair, Worship and Bible Study Leader

The Women of the ELCA, The Committee for Global Missions, and the Upper Susquehanna Synod



Blanket Sunday

Will be held on October 5, 2025

Blanket collection will occur on Saturday, October 18, 2025

At Faith Lutheran Church, Lewisburg

(It is possible that the container may be available from Wednesday, October 15 – Wednesday, October 22, 2025)

Biography:

My name is Alison Whitmoyer. Last year I was elected as Treasurer of the USSWO. Recently I was reelected at the USWO Convention. I was born in Long Island New York, and moved to Berwick PA in 1961 when my father relocated his business, Penngora Knitting Mills from New York City. I grew up here, graduated from Berwick Area High School and married my high school sweetheart on July 15, 1972. We moved away from 1975 to 1979 while Karl served in the Army at Colorado Springs. We returned home and moved again when my husband's employer left the area in 1990. We moved Chester County and our children met and married and began their families. In 2006 we moved back to the homestead after my father's passing to care for my older sister. In a 30 year span I had worked at two dentist offices as Front Desk or Insurance Claim processing. In 2020 I retired after 21 years in banking as a teller supervisor.

Formerly a Roman Catholic, I became a Lutheran and joined St. John's Evangelical Lutheran in Mifflinville PA. I immediately became a council member and after some time met Wendy Zajac who invited me to join WELCA. I am currently working part time as the church's secretary. I look forward to getting to know more of the members as time allows.

Regards, Alison



MINUTES OF THE THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL CONVENTION

Women of the ELCA Upper Susquehanna Synod
Faith Lutheran Church, Lewisburg, PA
Saturday, July 26, 2025. Theme: All The Faithful Women

President Kathy Whitesel welcomed those in attendance. A brief orientation for delegates was offered to acquaint those attending with the Bulletin of Reports and Recommendations (BRR). The Ecclesiastical balloting procedure, which was detailed on page 4 of the booklet, was reviewed.

The Order for Opening of Convention was led by Pres. Whitesel.

First Business Meeting

Report of the Committee on Credentials

Robin Latsha reported the following to be in attendance: 9 Delegates, 4 Officers, 5 Board, 10 Participants, 3 Guests for a total of 31. It was determined a quorum was present.

On behalf of the Executive Board, Rita Avery gave the Presentation of Standing Rules for the Convention, the Presentation of Agenda for the Convention, and the Appointment of Committees of the Convention. All were approved unanimously.

President Whitesel introduced our guests: Rev. Robin Moulfair, our Worship and Bible Study leader, and Ginger Cutrell, our Churchwide Representative. Pres. Whitesel read a letter of greeting from USS Bishop Craig Miller who could not attend in person.

On behalf of the Executive Board, Rita Avery presented the motion that the minutes of today's event be reviewed by the Administrative Committee and following approval be distributed to all congregational/intercongregational units. Motion carried. The minutes will be printed/distributed in the Fall edition of the SHARE newsletter.

Vice President Sue Baylor gave instructions for elections to be conducted during today's convention.

The first/nominating ballot for President was held.

Delegate Valerie Barnwell requested the opportunity for those in attendance to introduce themselves, particularly with the ecclesiastical balloting process being utilized. She suggested that self-introductions be offered at the beginning of future events as well. Each attendee offered a self-introduction.

President Whitesel presented her report (found on page 16 of the BRR). Additionally, she highlighted the opportunity to consider the opportunity to be a Triennial delegate – and the availability of nomination forms to be completed prior to the afternoon session when the delegate would be elected. One designated delegate from our synod is needed to attend in addition to the President. The event will be held July 14, 15 and 16th of 2026 via Zoom. The Triennial Gathering is being held in Des Moines, Iowa July 16-18th following the convention.

Robin Latsha returned the results of the first ballot for President. Kathy Whitesel received 81% of the votes. With this percentage of the votes being received, it was determined that an election had been determined. The first ballot for Vice President was conducted.

Minutes Of The Thirty Seventh Annual Convention Continued

Vice President Sue Baylor presented the report of the Vice President (printed on page 17 of the BRR). She also offered the opportunity for a fall event (still to be determined). We have investigated local community theaters in Benton, Williamsport and Lewisburg. As details are available, information will be distributed via SHARE and/or email.

Robin Latsha reported on the results of balloting for Vice President. Sue Baylor received the necessary percentage of votes required for election.

Vice President Baylor reported on the Mission: Action Committee found on page 20 of the BRR. She also highlighted the opportunity to pick up Seafarer Bags on a table beside our meeting area. Please sign the accompanying list indicating the number of bags you are taking.

President Whitesel introduced Ruth Doran and noted that Ruth was available for any questions regarding Mission: Community and/or Mission: Growth activities or information (report on page 21 of BRR).

Wendy Zajac noted the location of a table beside our meeting area where forms could be obtained for submitting offerings: General offerings should be directed to our USSWO treasurer, Alison Whitmoyer; Blanket offerings should be directed via our USS synod office; and Thankofferings should be directed to the churchwide Chicago office.

President Whitesel recognized the list of Past Presidents of our USSWO and offered a prayer in their honor/memory.

Our Churchwide Representative, Ginger Cuttrell, offered greetings and information on behalf of the Board of our national women's organization. She noted that Katie's Fund is still an active source of financial support for applicants and donations are very much appreciated. She reported on financial challenges being worked through by the Board relating back to costs incurred during the last triennial convention event.

The Mission Ingathering was received, and a prayer of blessing was offered by Treasurer Alison Whitmoyer. The first business meeting was closed, and we proceeded to the sanctuary for our worship service with communion before proceeding to our first workshop/Bible study period. Bible Study was based on our convention theme "All the faithful women" with reflections on Luke 1:45. The workshop led by Ginger Cuttrell was titled "The Transgender Experience."

We enjoyed a lunch consisting of baked potato bar followed by pie and ice cream for dessert. Food items were donated by units within our synod as well as officers and board members. Many thanks to those who contributed not only for our lunch but also for refreshments offered in the morning.

When we had finished lunch, attendees proceeded to assemble Period Packs for Church World Service utilizing items gathered from units in our synod as well as items purchased with the help of a Thrivent Action Team card. It was a busy time!!

Second Business Meeting

The meeting was opened with devotions led by Rita Avery suggesting that sharing a smile can be a very effective gift.

Report of the Committee on Credentials

Robin Latsha reported the following to be in attendance: 7 Delegates, 4 Officers, 5 Board, 9 Participants, 2 Guests for a total of 27. It was determined a quorum was present.

Review of the current Board members indicated Carol Winter was completing her second term and was not eligible for re-election. The remaining board members who were eligible for re-election were: Robin Latsha, Karen McAfee, Tonya Tabb and Linda Leister. The name of Wendy Zajac was received as a nominee for Board.

Minutes Of The Thirty Seventh Annual Convention Continued

Balloting for Executive Board was conducted and collected. Report of the vote tally showed the required number of ballots was received to elect Wendy Zajac to fill the position being vacated by Carol Winter. Approval was made for the remaining board members eligible for reelection to return for another two-year term.

President Whitesel reported two nominations had been received for the Triennial convention representative. Balloting proceeded for an election between the names offered: Robin Latsha and Rita Avery. The vote count revealed Robin Latsha to be elected as our triennial delegate. Rita Avery will serve as an alternate if needed. President Whitesel also encouraged all to watch for information regarding the Triennial Gathering which will be held “in person” in Des Moines IA following the Triennial convention. Kathy currently plans to travel to the event – possibly others could join her.

The second business meeting was closed, and we proceeded to the opposing workshop/Bible Study session from what we attended during the morning workshop period.

Third Business Meeting

The third business meeting was opened with devotions led by Robin Latsha based on a portion of the Book of Acts.

The report of the Committee on Credentials showed the following: 7 Delegates, 4 Officers 5 Board, 9 Participants for a total of 26.

Wendy Zajac offered the following report of receipts for today’s offering collections: Mission In-gathering for Lutheran Disaster Response \$1485.00; In-kind offering \$80.00 (to be utilized for project needs); and the Worship service offering, which totaled \$242.00.

Treasurer Alison Whitmoyer presented the report of the treasurer as distributed to the attendees along with the report of the accountant, Darlene C.Gabsewics, CPA, regarding her review of receipts and disbursements for our USSWO. Coming from the Board, no second was required and the motion to accept this information was passed.

Sheets indicating prior year budgets along with the proposed amounts for the 2025-2026 year were distributed to the attendees.

Report of the Committees of Convention: Sue Baylor thanked everyone involved in making the convention a success – our representative from the national organization, Ginger, our Worship and Bible study leader, Rev. Robin Moulfair, our musician, Executive Board members and officers and all those participating in the event.

Report of the Committee on Credentials:

Robin Latsha reported the following representation details of those attending today’s event:

Buffalo Valley Cluster: 1	West Branch Cluster: 5
Middle Creek Cluster: 2	North Branch Cluster: 9
Tulpehocken Cluster: 3	Juniata Valley Cluster: 8

Ginger Cuttrell recognized and expressed gratitude to Carol Winter as she completed her term(s) on the Executive Board. Ginger then conducted the service of Installation for Wendy Zajac as she joined the Executive Board for the 2025/2026 term.

President Whitesel led the gathering in The Order for Closing of Convention. The convention was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, ***Rita Avery***

**UPPER SUSQUEHANNA WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
PROPOSED BUDGET**

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 – JANUARY 31, 2026



RECEIPTS

Category	Amount
Offerings - Congregational	\$3500.00
Units Freewill Convention	
Cluster Gatherings	\$300.00
Day of Learning/Renewal Fall Event	\$60.00
Special Offering	\$200.00
Misc offering donations	\$100.00
Mission in Gathering	\$1000.00
Mission in Kind	\$200.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS: \$7,410.00

EXPENSES

Category	Amount
½ Offerings to Churchwide	\$1750.00
Congregational Units Freewill Convention	\$150.00
Cluster Gatherings	\$30.00
Day of Learning/Renewal Fall Event	\$100.00
Special Offering	\$50.00
Mission In Gathering sent to Recipients	\$1200.00
Mission In Kind sent to Recipients	\$300.00
Convention	\$1000.00
Cluster Gathering	\$50.00
Day of Learning/Renewal Fall Event	\$60.00

Other - Triennial	\$50.00
Executive Board Convention	\$300.00
Executive Board Other	\$200.00
Newsletter	\$782.00
Treasurer	\$200.00
Mission: Action Committee	\$50.00
Mission	\$50.00
Mission: Growth	\$50.00
Compilation Report	\$200.00
Travel Insurance / LWR	\$25.00
Triennial Convention	\$100.00
Executive Board-other	\$100.00
Honoring past officers	\$100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES: \$6,897.00

Podcast Recommendations

- ***The Bible Project Podcast*** – Deep dives into Scripture and theology, explained in a conversational way.
- ***Ask NT Wright Anything*** – Listeners send in faith and life questions, answered by theologian N.T. Wright.
- ***Pray As You Go*** – A short daily devotional with Scripture, prayer, and music—great for busy mornings.

Book Recommendations

- ***The Ruthless Elimination of Hurry* by John Mark Comer** – A timely book on slowing down, practicing Sabbath, and finding rest in God. Perfect for fall when life gets busy again.
- ***Gratitude: Reflections on What We Owe to God* by Cornelius Plantinga** – A short, thoughtful read for the Thanksgiving season.



2025 Lutheran World Relief Donations Form

Please COMPLETE and RETURN this form.

You may take the form to the collection point at: **Faith Lutheran Church, 2349 Old Turnpike Road, Lewisburg, PA,**

October 18, 2025, from 9 a.m. until noon, and give it to the person who receives your donations. The container should be there from October 15 until Oct 21. Please check to see if the container is there before you make the trip.

If you take your donations directly to the New Windsor Processing Center and Warehouse, please mail this form to:

Elizabeth A 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	
Our donations were given to a different agency for disaster relief.	

NO ITEMS WILL BE ACCEPTED IN PLASTIC BAGS

Only the kits listed below

Number of Mission Cotton Quilts 60 by 80	
Number of Personal Care Kits	
Number of School Kits	
Number of Fabric Kits	
Number of Baby Care Kits	
No fleece blankets or fabric	
Number of Bars of Soap (NOT POUNDS)	



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 when loaded with In-gathering donations. 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