

SHARE

Spring 2026



Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization

President's Prose

Hello Ladies,

I hope you enjoyed a good old- fashioned winter. And now to look back on what happened in 2025 and get you up to speed for 2026.

Last Spring we held a Painting Party and a Pop-up shop with items made by (WAR) Women at Risk, women who have escaped sex trafficking. Forty-two ladies attended.

In July we held our annual Convention with thirty-two ladies attending. Our outreach project was packing 200 Period Packs to go to CWS. There was a great number of items brought in.

The extra products were delivered to several local Shelters, all of whom were very thankful for them.

We did not have a dedicated Fall Event. However, all ladies were invited to a Murder Mystery Dinner Theater in Berwick. Those who attended had a great time. The Board has made many decisions for the 2026 Day of Learning and Convention. Registration forms are included in this newsletter.

The Day of Learning and Renewal is set for April 25th at Messiah Lutheran Church in South Williamsport PA. The theme for the day is Meditating with God. Refreshments and registration begin at 9:30. The program will include two sessions: one will be a presentation by Rev. Ken Elkin speaking about his experiences on an inspirational trail in Spain; the other session will be a hands-on activity of making a stained- glass angel ornament at the studio of Keith Whitesel located at 607 Cemetery Street, Williamsport. Transportation will be provided.

The cost to attend is \$35 and the deadline to register is April 10th.

The Convention will be held on July 25th at United Lutheran Church in Sunbury PA with the theme of I Am

Worthy. There are details about the Convention included in this newsletter.

A possible bus trip to Philadelphia, to celebrate our country's 250th birthday is being planned for October.

Call to Convention

I am inviting you, as Women of the ELCA, to attend the 38th Convention of the Women of the Upper Susquehanna Synod

- **Date:** July 25, 2026
- **Location:** United Lutheran Church, Sunbury
- **Cost:** \$40

The day will include the necessary business meetings, a Bible study and a breakout session involving the packing of 150 School Kits which will go to CWS (Church World Service) for distribution. Items for the kits will be purchased by the USSWO Board. We're asking churches to donate toward the cost of the items.

This year for our In-Kind donation will be to bring Pet supplies to be given to a pet shelter and a pet clinic in the area. The items that are requested include: dog treats, garbage bags, blankets, laundry detergents, towels, wet dog food, Piddle pads, small dog beds, belly and surgical suits. Bring a friend or two and enjoy the day with other women from across the Synod. Your presence and opinions are important to us. Registration forms are available in this SHARE.

Kathy Whitesel

Calendar of Events

April 25 – Day of Learning – South Williamsport
July 25 – USSWO Convention – Sunbury
October – Tentative Philadelphia Bus Trip

Officers And Executive Board
Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

President

Term Ends

Kathy Whitesel, 337 Hammer Hollow Road, Mifflintown, PA 17059 2027
717-436-2401 (home) 717-363-6144 (cell) jkwhitesel@embarqmail.com

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Elizabeth (Sue) Baylor, 364 Kaseville Rd., Danville, PA 17821 2027
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Secretary

Rita Avery, 771 Foye Rd., Sunbury, PA 17801 2026
570-286-6827 (home). 570-850-8346 (cell) tnravery@ptd.net

Treasurer

Alison Whitmoyer, 602 W. Front St., Berwick, PA 18603 2026
570-752-2533 (home). 570-380-3474 (cell) taillightman@yahoo.com

Board Members

Robin Latsha, 507 Slutter Valley Rd., Dornsife, PA 17823 570- 2027
758-4610(home) 570-556-7691(cell) rlatsha@tds.net

Linda Leister, 10397 Licking Creek Road, Mifflintown, PA 17059 2026
717-436-8589 (home). 717-348-1248 (cell) lindaleister22@gmail.com

Karen McAfee, 562 Martzville Road, Berwick, PA 18603 2027
570-759-8016 (home) 570-245-8111(cell) karenmcafee@pa.metrocast.net

Tonya Tabb, 159 Swamp Road Apt. 3, Mifflintown, PA 17059 2027
717-436-8916 (home) 717-994-4702 (cell) tabbtonya@gmail.com

Wendy Zajac, 792 Hetlerville Rd. Nescopeck, PA 18635 2025
570-759-1304(home) 570-336-7023 wzajac61@gmail.com

NEWS FROM THE UNITS

Himmel's, Dornsife - Robin Latsha

- We have four Bloodmobiles throughout the year at Himmel's and our women provide refreshments, including hot dogs, BBQ and cookies.
- We have a "Prayer and Care" group of ladies that visit our shut-ins and nursing home residents once a month. They may be members or non-members. This is a very rewarding experience and they love the visits!
- We plan on some women participating in the Day of Learning on April 25.
- We will have a Mother's Day Banquet on May 11. Our speaker will be Charmaine Welby, a former area teacher, who will talk about a book she wrote discussing women in the Anthracite region surrounding us.
- We will have a Father's Day Banquet on June 22 with, hopefully, a former radio personality as our guest speaker.
- We hope to have some of our women participate in the annual USSWO Convention on July 25.
- Our annual Summer Festival will be on August 1 (7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), beginning with breakfast. This will be followed by entertainment beginning at 10:00 a.m., lots more delicious food, various demonstrators, book sale, bake sale, children's games, duck derby, and giveaway of many door prizes throughout the day. This draws many from the community and from faraway.
- Following several different days of preparing vegetables, we get together and prepare homemade chow chow. People give us orders and we sell it at our church festival and at the Fall Food Fair in October. This has been a very popular project for many years.
- We participate in God's Work, Our Hands Sunday in September, beginning with worship, then a noon meal, followed by a day of service, including preparing meals for shut-ins and a local homeless shelter, filling of OCC shoeboxes, filling of school kits for CWS, sorting of clothes for a local clothing closet, knotting blankets, a trash pickup and other service projects.
- We have a speaker on "Blanket Sunday" (to be determined, possibly someone on a mission trip to Peru).
- On October 24 we will have our annual Fall Food Fair (8:00 a.m. to noon). We prepare chicken and ham potpie, four kinds of soup, and chow chow. There are baked goods for sale; also fresh vegetables and a book sale.

- On Praise and Thanksgiving Sunday, November 15, we will hear from Natalie Buffington, a woman who went on a mission trip to Honduras.
 - On November 17 we will prepare a bag lunch for local veterans and their family members (approximately 100 lunches) and deliver it to their homes to thank them for their service to our country.
 - We also do a lot of projects for the Christmas season, including gifts for local school students in need, Bethany Children's Home (homeless), Selinsgrove Center (physically and mentally challenged persons) and our local church member shut-ins and nursing home residents.
- Throughout the year we strive to be the hands and heart of Jesus!***

- **Messiah, South Williamsport - Ruth Doran**
Our WELCA group is enjoying a "special project" this year as America celebrates the 250th Anniversary of the "Declaration of Independence". We are learning about "Women In History" through reports by our members. First, there was a pictorial presentation about Eleanor Roosevelt. Next, we heard about the life and ministries of Sojourner Truth. Finally, this Spring, there will be a portrayal of Betsy Ross and her flag-making skills, but what more?? This project will resume in the Fall, along with our scheduled programs and activities. Whose lives will be researched and presented? We'll decide this at our May Planning Meeting. Note to the other UNITS in our Synod ...

Are you doing anything "special" to celebrate America's Anniversary? If so, please send me an article—by September 1—for the Fall issue of SHARE.

Maybe you aren't doing something special?? Even so, please share your programs and activities with the other Units in our Synod. Please send me an article—by September 1—for the Fall issue of SHARE.

You will have my unending thanks and gratitude.

Ruth E. Doran (SHARE Editor)

77 Linvic Drive, Muncy, Pa. 17756

Email – ruthedoran@comcast.net

Proposed Budget 2026–2027

Upper Susquehanna Women's Organization Proposed Budget February 1, 2026—January 31, 2027

Receipts

Offerings:	
Congregational Units Freewill	\$3,000.00
Convention	\$250.00
Cluster Gatherings	.00
Day of Learning/Renewal	\$200.00
Fall Event Special Offering:	\$100.00
Mission in Gathering	\$1,500.00
Mission in Kind	\$200.00
Misc offering donations	

Events:

Convention	\$1,200.00
Cluster Gathering	\$50.00
Day of Learning/Renewal	\$1,000.00
Fall Event	\$200.00
Other- Triennial	\$300.00

Total Receipts Expenses (Offerings to Church Wide) \$5,250.00

Congregational Units Freewill	\$1,500.00
Convention	\$125.00
Cluster Gatherings	.00
Day of Learning/Renewal	\$100.00
Fall Event Special Offering:	\$50.00

Mission In Gathering sent to Recipients \$1,200.00
 Mission In Kind sent to Recipients Events: \$200.00

Convention	\$1,000.00
Cluster Gathering	.00
Day of Learning/Renewal	\$1,000.00
Fall Event Misc. Expenses:	\$50.00

Executive Board Convention	\$300.00
Executive Board Other	\$200.00
Newsletter	\$700.00
Treasurer	\$200.00
Mission: Action Committee	\$50.00
Mission: Community	\$50.00
Mission: Growth	\$50.00
Compilation Report	\$200.00

Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization

Profit & Loss

January 2026

Travel Insurance / LWR	\$25.00
Triennial Convention	\$1,000.00
Executive Board-other	\$100.00
Honoring past officers	\$100.00

Total Expenses \$8,200.00

Ordinary Income/Expense

Income

Offerings

Congregational Freewill Offerings

BV30593 Holy spirit, Turbotville. \$55.00

JUN1223 Messiah, Mifflintown \$50.00

Total 301 • Congregational Freewill Offerings \$105.00

Total 300 • Offerings \$105.00

Total Income \$105.00

Expense

Triennial contribution \$500.00

Triennial Gathering expense \$500.00

401 • Offerings to CW Organization

402 • Congregational Units Freewill \$552.50

Total 401 • Offerings to CW Organization \$552.50

535 • Other Expenses \$250.00

Total Expense \$1,802.50

Net Ordinary Income -\$1,697.50

Net Income **-\$1,697.50**

Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization

Day of Learning – April 25, 2026

The USSWO's Day of Renewal will be held on Saturday, April 25, 2026, at Messiah Lutheran Church in South Williamsport. The day's focus will be "Meditating with God". The day will begin with registration and refreshments at 9:30 am and end with closing around 2:00 pm. The fee for the day is \$35.00.

The program will include two sessions: one will be a presentation by Rev. Ken Elkin speaking about his experiences on an inspirational trail in Spain; the other session will be a hands-on activity of making a stained-glass angel ornament at the studio of Keith Whitesel (travel/carpooling will be necessary to attend this session).

The registration fee will cover morning refreshments, lunch, and the ornament project. An offering will be collected during the day to be given to SALT (Share Abundance Love & Thanks), an appeal from the ELCA Women's Organization to sustain their missions.

DIRECTIONS TO MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH, SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT

Messiah Lutheran Church is located at 324 South Howard St. South Williamsport, PA 17702.

Follow RTE 15 N toward Williamsport. As you near South Williamsport, Little League Headquarters is on the right and Beiter's store is on the left. As you continue north, there will be 3 traffic lights. Move to the left lane and turn LEFT at the 3RD traffic light. Dunkin Donuts is on the corner. Travel 2 blocks west, through one more traffic light. There will be a large parking lot and the church on the left.

ENTRANCE: The entrance may be reached from the parking lot, by walking along the church and alley, to the entrance. There is an elevator to reach Shaheen Hall, where the event will take place.

To register, please complete and detach the bottom portion of this page and mail with a check for \$35.00 (made payable to USSWO) by Friday, April 10, 2026, to Karen McAfee, 562 Martzville Rd, Berwick PA 18603. Registration by this date is important so we can adequately prepare for the day.

2026 USSWO Day of Learning Registration

Name _____ Congregation _____

Address _____

Preferred Telephone Number _____ Email _____

Do you have any dietary restrictions we need to accommodate? If so, please list:

Upper Susquehanna SWO
Thirty-Eighth Annual Convention
“I Am Worthy”
United Lutheran Church
167 Seven Points Road, Sunbury, PA 17801
July 25, 2026

REGISTRATION FORM

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 YOUR first time to attend a convention? _____ Yes _____ NO

I will be attending the Convention as (Please check one)

Delegate _____ Participant _____ Board _____ Officer _____

_____ My Congregational Unit is a member of the Women of the ELCA

_____ My Congregational Unit is not a member of the Women of the ELCA

Special Food Needs _____

MAKE CHECK OR MONEY ORDER FOR \$40.00 PAYABLE TO:
Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization (or USSWO)

Return Registration form and full payment by July 1 2026:

Rita Avery

771 Foye Road; Sunbury, PA 17801

570-286-6827 (home) 570-850-8346 (cell); travery@ptd.net

NO REFUNDS AFTER July 15, 2026

Directions to United Lutheran Church, 167 Seven Points Road, Sunbury 17801

From Route 15:

15 North (from Selinsgrove/Middleburg/Lewistown) --- OR --- 15 South (from Lewisburg/Mifflinburg) --- OR --- Route 180/147 South from Williamsport which now leads across the high river bridge to Rt 15 South:

Approach Sunbury via the Veteran's Bridge which connects to route 15 at Shamokin Dam. When crossing the bridge towards Sunbury, use the right lane (overhead signs indicate Herndon/Rte 147 south). Exit the bridge and bear right to the stop sign (you'll be across the street from Weis Markets ice cream plant and main office complex). Travel south on route 147 for 1 mile (mountain on your left, railroad on the right). At the end of the mountain (it ends abruptly) you will need to turn left onto Brush Valley Road. Go 4 miles on Brush Valley Road to the stop sign (Intersection with Rt. 890). This is a busy intersection with poor visibility to the right, please be cautious. Proceed straight across this intersection.

If you look ahead you should be able to see the church's carillon tower (cemetery with stone parsonage are on the left). The red brick church building at the intersection is our Parish Hall and not where the event will be held.

From Northumberland via Route 11 South from Danville/Bloomsburg/Berwick:

Follow signs to Sunbury via route 11 then route 61 South (it will lead you across a bridge from Northumberland to an island and then another bridge to Sunbury). Exit the second bridge from the right lane onto Front Street of Sunbury (travels along the river wall). Stay on Front Street to the second red light which will be the intersection with Market Street. Turn left at this Market Street light – Route 61 South. Follow Rte 61 South thru Sunbury. Approx. a quarter mile after you travel through an underpass watch for signs indicating intersection with Route 890. Turn right onto route 890 and travel on this highway for 2.5 miles. As you approach the intersection (United has a lighted sign on the left side just before picnic pavilion and a red brick church). Turn left at this intersection. This intersection can be a busy one – be cautious! The red brick church building at the intersection is our Parish Hall and not where the event will be held. After you have turned left, the church will be at the top of the hill (you should be able to see the carillon tower just past the stone parsonage and cemetery on the left).

Entrance to Fellowship Hall is at lower end of the parking lot down the "hill" from the church main entrance

**Upper Susquehanna SWO
Thirty-Eighth Annual Convention**

“I Am Worthy”
United Lutheran Church
167 Seven Points Road, Sunbury, PA 17801

DELEGATE CERTIFICATION

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)

This Form Must Be Returned In Order To Certify Your Delegate!!!

Return form by July 1 2026:

Rita Avery

771 Foye Road; Sunbury, PA 17801

570-286-6827 (home) 570-850-8346 (cell); travery@ptd.net

Responsibilities Of The Delegate:

Attend all business meetings AND

Report on the convention to congregational/intercongregational units concerning the actions and events of the convention.

**Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women's Organization
NOMINATION FORM**

EXECUTIVE BOARD _____ SECRETARY _____ TREASURER _____

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 _____

PERSONAL INFORMATION (Please use back of form, if necessary)

Church Activities (including Conference, Synodical and Ecumenical activities) –

Community Activities -

Occupations, Hobbies and Interests -

Consent of the Nominee has been obtained Yes _____ No _____

Submitted by _____ Congregational Unit _____

Mail by July 1, 2026

to Rita Avery Rita Avery, 771 Foye Road, Sunbury, PA 17801

