

2023 ANNUAL RESOURCE GUIDE (ARG)

Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA



"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

Luke 1: 46-49

Website - www.seswelca.com

Facebook Page - www.facebook.com

(search for Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA)



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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.*



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Annual Resource Guide contains all the information you will need to plan your activities for the coming year, from our planning calendar to the many resources available to you through our Synodical Organization and the Churchwide Organization. Each committee has included current information on their ministries and the many ways you can serve others through the Women of the ELCA.

I want to challenge each of you to become dedicated students of leadership. Becoming a good leader may not guarantee that you will be able to leave a spiritual legacy for future generations, but it certainly provides you the greatest opportunity to do so.

Our theme for 2023 is “**Be Uplifted—It’s Good for the Soul**”. The Bible verse is **Luke 1: 46– 49** - My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

We have also included information about the 2022-2023 Love Offering which will go to the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA.

Watch the newsletter and website for information on our In-Kind Gathering of Gifts which will go to **Child Enrichment of Augusta** which provides help, hope and healing to local children (ages birth to 18) and families that have experienced abuse, neglect and/or trafficking, in Augusta, GA.

You can find more details on the events and programs of our organization in *The Southeastern Weaver*, on our website at www.seswelca.com, or on our Facebook page.

Meet us in Augusta, the convention will be **uplifting and good for the soul!** *Join us for fellowship, gather at the table and share the grace of our Lord, we have missed seeing you and can't wait to see you again.*

Blessings,
Shirley Connelly

LOVE OFFERING

Our 2023-2024 Love Offering will go to Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA. Following our convention last fall, we met all our commitments, and our funds are depleted to begin the new year. Our Synod Board will work diligently to rebuild our attendance to pre-pandemic levels and beyond this year in Augusta. With our members' prayerful giving we will provide enthusiastic and inspiring programs that will lead our units to grow and attract new members of all ages.

Diana Palma
Treasurer

312 Honey Locust Ct
Peachtree City, GA 30269
palmadbmax@gmail.com



IMPORTANT DATES

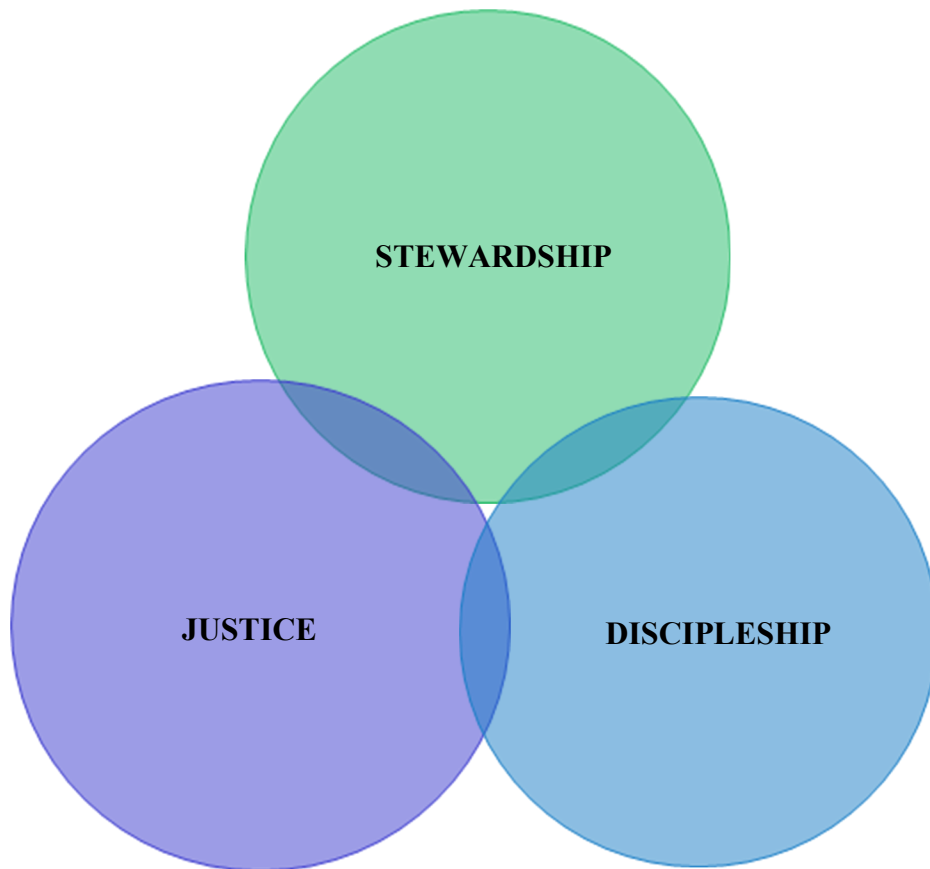
JAN 31	End of fiscal year - <i>All 2022 offerings must be received by this date</i>
FEB 1	Start of fiscal year - <i>Offerings for SES WELCA begins</i>
FEB 4	Winter Board Meeting - <i>Via Zoom</i>
FEB 17-18	2023 ZOOM LDRSHP EVENT: LIVING FAITHFUL: CALLED AND THRIVING
MAR 3	World Day of Prayer
MAR 5	Bold Women's Day - <i>Women of the ELCA</i>
MAR-APR	Spring Cluster Meetings
MAY 5-6	Spring Board Meeting - <i>Marriott Convention Center, Augusta, GA</i>
MAY 6	May Friendship Day - <i>Church Women United</i>
MAY 7	Rachel's Day - <i>Justice for Children and Youth (First Sunday in May)</i>
JUN 2-4	Southeastern Synod Assembly - <i>Chattanooga, TN</i>
AUG 25-26	Lutheran World Relief In-Gathering
SEP 15-16-17	35th Annual Convention - <i>Marriott Convention Center, Augusta, GA</i>
SEP 19-21	Twelfth Triennial Convention, Phoenix, AZ
SEP 21-24	2023 Triennial Gathering, Phoenix, AZ
NOV 3-5	Fall Board Meeting - <i>Lutheranch, Tallapoosa, GA</i>

THIRTY-FIFTH ANNUAL CONVENTION



Dates	September 15-16-17, 2023
Location	Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center 1 10 th Street, Augusta, GA. 30901-0100 (706)-722-8900
Theme	<i>Be Uplifted! It's Good for the Soul</i>
Bible Verse	<i>"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. Luke 1: 46-49</i>
Hymn	Every time I feel the Spirit
Logo	Linda Few
Churchwide Rep	President Joy Michalicek
Chaplain	Pastor Beverly Shaw
Keynote Speaker	TBD
Bible Study Leader	TBD
Music Director	Dana Lee Smith
Parliamentarian	TBD
Worship Services	Friday afternoon, Sunday morning
Love Offering	Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA
In-Kind Gifts	Child Enrichment of Augusta
Registrar	Barbara Schwanebeck
Board Liaison	Shirley Connelly
Host Cluster	Cluster 1/Ebenezer
Convention Chair	Sandy Gibson

ONE MISSION - THREE PERSPECTIVES



The Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA serves three overlapping mission areas: Each unique yet cohesive and interdependent integrals (essential or necessary for completeness) of the focus (center of activity).

For several years churchwide organization staff has emphasized Stewardship, Discipleship and Justice within the three mission perspectives. These names identify with programs that coincide with ongoing changes and missions of the church and society as a whole, and in particular needs of women throughout the world.

Please visit www.womenoftheelca.org, the churchwide website for further descriptions of our Stewardship, Justice and Discipleship missions. We look forward to your continued enthusiasm and support.

MISSION: STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

As each has received a gift, use it to serve another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

Mission Statement

The Action Committee supports, empowers, and encourages women to demonstrate their Christian love through actions of service to those in need throughout God's world.

Committee Members and Responsibilities

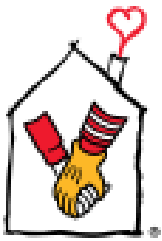
Christeen Yerby (chair) - cyerby@bellsouth.net

Kat Julius—gramkat@comcast.net

Alice Schunemann—schunemann.a@gmail.com

The Action Committee members will share in the responsibilities of making individual units aware of their opportunities for action. We are encouraging our Women of the ELCA to promote new action opportunities as well as to continue supporting some of our favorite ongoing actions.

ACTION OPPORTUNITIES



**RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES**

We give families comfort and peace of mind.

We are dedicated to nurturing the health and well-being of children and their families.

Betty Lou our certified therapy dog is here to spread love and give joy to the families we serve.



At Atlanta RMHC, we believe all children deserve access to quality pediatric healthcare. Our mission to nurture the health and well-being of children and families seeks to ensure life-saving healthcare accessibility regardless of race, color, ancestry, religion, sex, socioeconomic status, national origin, sexual orientation, age, citizenship, geography, marital status, disability or gender identity. Our two Atlanta Ronald McDonald Houses, Ronald McDonald Care Mobile and Ronald McDonald Family Room are committed to welcoming all families and removing barriers to access. Our commitment to family-centered care is validated by research which demonstrates that supporting the family results in better outcomes for the family and their child.

Women of the ELCA units have supported RMHC through since 1987. Encourage the members of your congregations and people at your work sites to save the tabs from the top of soda, pet foods and vegetable cans and deposit them in a central collection place. Check the tab with a magnet. If the magnet repels the tab, you need to save it because it is aluminum, but if the tab sticks to the magnet, it is tin or steel and can be recycled at your local recycling site. You may deliver the tabs to the nearest Ronald McDonald House or bring them to our annual convention.

You may go to the Ronald McDonald House Charities website at www.rmhc.org to sign up for their monthly newsletter and to find additional information regarding ways that your Women of the ELCA unit may help the RMH closest to you.



Days for Girls

Every Girl • Everywhere • Period •

Days for Girls is an organization that distributes sustainable feminine hygiene kits by partnering with non-profits, groups and organizations, by raising awareness, and by helping impoverished communities start their own programs to supply kits and training. Without feminine hygiene options, girls miss a week of school each month. For patterns and other helpful information or to contact a chapter or team near you, just go to their website at <http://www.daysforgirls.org/>.

Congregational Units can help by joining already established chapters, donating money, collecting Ziploc bags, panties, soap and fabric to give to the chapters and teams. Or by creating a new chapter.

Their Facebook page can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/DaysforGirls> and the Georgia Chapter Facebook page is at <https://www.facebook.com/DFG.Georgia>.

- Join us March 8, 2023 3pm EST/ 1pm MST/ 12pm PST/ 8pm UTC for an International Women's Day celebration to benefit Days for Girls.



Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization providing spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world. Since 1970, Samaritan's Purse has helped meet needs of people who are victims of war, poverty, natural disasters, disease, and famine with the purpose of sharing God's love through His Son, Jesus Christ.

From children to seniors, people pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Year-round volunteers support these efforts across the country world. Churches and groups of all sizes collect boxes from their communities. Thousands of volunteers serve annually preparing and inspecting shoeboxes for international shipping. Every hour work stops for a few minutes to pray for the children who will receive the boxes.

We encourage you to continue your support of Samaritan's Purse/Operation Christmas Child through shoebox gifts received from Operation Christmas Child. To get a list of the items needed and instructions go to www.samaritanaspurse.com.



Inspiritus is committed to providing the highest quality programs, acting as an advocate for each person with regard to diversity, equity and inclusion by building welcoming communities for refugees and immigrants, and by providing disaster relief. Other services include Children and Family programs as well as Disability and Health Services.

There are many opportunities to serve and support these programs, including hosting a fundraiser, engaging your community, or volunteering.

GreaterGood.com[®]

PEOPLE, PETS, PLANET

For more than 20 years GreaterGood has connected changemakers with causes they care about. Together, we've raised more than \$75 million for people, pets, and the planet and made more than \$52.7 million in artisan payments. Through shopping, daily free clicks, donations, and more — small actions make a big impact!

Helping People

Poverty, illness, and trauma affect people in every U.S. state, and in every nation around the world. Simple actions help real people survive and prosper in spite of tragedy. You can help.

Helping Pets

Our pets are our best friends, but some are still fighting to survive on the streets, or waiting in shelters for a family of their own. Working together, we can change their lives forever.

Helping the Planet

Our environment is facing unprecedented threats, including deforestation, pollution, and climate change. But hope is not lost. Our actions have the power to save the only world we have.



\$13,305,770 raised by members as of 2022

You Search, We Give

Do you know about GoodSearch? This is a Yahoo-powered search engine that allows you to choose a cause or charity to support, and each time you do an internet search using GoodSearch, the GoodSearch organization will make a monetary donation to your chosen charity. The website offers GoodShop and GoodDining that allows you to earn even more money for your chosen charity when you make online purchases or dine at certain restaurants using a registered credit or debit card.

Go to www.goodsearch.com to learn more about this great program. Register and choose a cause. We work with more than 110,000+ great organizations, ranging from national charities to local schools and community groups.



In 2013, AmazonSmile was launched to make it easier for customers to support their favorite charities. However, after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally—our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.

We are writing to let you know that we plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. We will continue to pursue and invest in other areas where we've seen we can make meaningful change—from building affordable housing to providing access to computer science education for students in underserved communities to using our logistics infrastructure and technology to assist broad communities impacted by natural disasters.

To help charities that have been a part of the AmazonSmile program with this transition, we will be providing them with a one-time donation equivalent to three months of what they earned in 2022 through the program, and they will also be able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February. Once AmazonSmile closes, charities will still be able to seek support from Amazon customers by creating their own wish lists.

MISSION: JUSTICE

Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow, Isaiah 1:17

Mission Statement

We are called as a diverse body of women to promote justice by embracing, educating and empowering women to be bold in their faith and to walk humbly with God.

Committee Members and Responsibilities

Sissy Gifford (*chair*) - ggiff819@aol.com
Diana Palma—palmadbmax@gmail.com
Phyllis Wade—wade.phyllis@gmail.com

Members of this committee will share in the responsibilities of making clusters and congregational units aware of bold opportunities.

Justice within a Community of Women

Justice is:

- Faith in action; it addresses inequities in political, economic and social systems;
- Equity and impartiality, mercy and compassion;
- Serving God in ways that bring healing and wholeness to the church, the society and the world;

Women of the ELCA justice initiatives include combating commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking and supporting families with special needs through our online resources. We advocate for racial and cultural equity through our anti-racism training and our cross-cultural programming. Go to www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/justice for more information and updates on resources.

OUR PROGRAMS

Rachel's Day—Justice for Youth and Children



Rachel's Day is usually observed on the first Sunday in May but could be observed on any Sunday. The day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17 in which the matriarch Rachel grieves for her children. The original focus for Rachel's Day was a time to mourn the loss of our children to gun violence and to renounce the forces of violence and fear. Sadly, gun violence is not the only threat to our children. Drugs, abuse, bullying, suicide, neglect, poor education, poor health, and hunger all pose threats to our children. **This year Rachel's Day is on May 7, 2023.**

Ideas for celebrating Rachel's Day:

Go to www.womenoftheelca.org/resources/rachels-day for resources.

Invite professionals to speak to groups in your congregation

Make a donation or volunteer at an appropriate center or agency that supports children and youth at risk for violence

Begin at home. Make children aware of how violence can affect our lives (TV, internet, texting, etc.)

Enlist youth to participate in an activity

Distribute blue ribbons (blue is the color of hope), have a Temple Talk, use prayers, Rachel's Day Litany, and other resources during worship or study. (A good source for premade blue ribbons is:

www.ribbonfactory.com.)

Human Trafficking



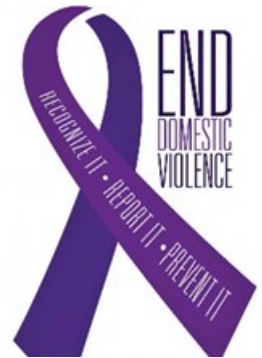
Human trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. It is estimated that human trafficking generates many billions of dollars of profit per year, second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of transnational crime. Human trafficking is a hidden crime as victims rarely come forward to seek help because of language barriers, fear of the traffickers, and/or fear of law enforcement. Since 2005, Women of the ELCA has been actively working to end human trafficking. Some work on education and awareness. Others provide support to agencies helping women to leave or who have left human trafficking. Others still are working to change laws that criminalize the victims of trafficking. January is human trafficking month so you might want to plan a program about trafficking by inviting a speaker. Blue is the color for trafficking (another use for your Rachel's Day blue ribbons).

For WELCA resources on understanding trafficking and links to other resources, go to www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/justice/human-trafficking.

Domestic Violence

One in three women and one in four men have been victims of [some form of] physical violence by an intimate partner within their lifetime, according to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV). On average, 20 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States—more than 10 million women and men a year, according to the NCADV. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

When the voting members of the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) addressed domestic abuse and violence, they called all expressions of our organization into action by educating 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.



For more WELCA resources and links to other resources, go to: www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/justice/domestic-violence.

Racial Justice Advocacy

In 2015, ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton encouraged all ELCA Lutherans and congregations to start having conversations about race. Women of the ELCA (WELCA) applauds this idea; we have been having helpful conversations about racial justice since 1997. We know some of the hazards of having conversations about race. We know far too many conversations about race fail to be helpful. This is a shame, because it takes a great deal of energy to have any conversation about race. It makes sense to direct some of that energy to learning how to have helpful conversations about race. Learn about the Racial Justice Advocacy Network and how you can get involved. Read and download the list of resources at www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/justice/racial-justice-advocacy so you can begin to work for a more just society and world.



Bold Women's Day

Bold Women's Day is observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February or the first Sunday in March (since March is Women's History month, you could choose to celebrate Bold Women's Day then.) . All Lutheran women have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unending prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home, or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. This is all about how we live out our baptismal call about being a disciple of Christ.

Many resources are available for use in planning this celebration at www.womenoftheelca.org/bold-womens-day. You will find a litany for Bold Women's Day, information on Katherine Von Bora Luther, bible studies and much more. Be BOLD and creative in your planning!

MAKE A BOOKMARK TO REMIND YOURSELF TO ACT BOLDLY! YOU COULD ALSO ADAPT IT TO BE A BRACELET.

Companion Synod Program



As a participant in the ELCA Companion Synod Program, the ELCA Southeastern Synod engages in companionship with five church bodies around the world: Augustinian Lutheran Church of Guatemala (ILAG); the Lutheran Church in Malaysia; the Lutheran Church in Singapore; the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria; and the La Crosse Area Synod in Wisconsin.

Companionships are bilateral relationships between ELCA synods and congregations in the United States and either church bodies in other countries or other synods here in the ELCA. The Companion Synod Program is a concrete expression of the communion fellowship among the 140 member churches of the Lutheran World Federation and an exciting way ELCA members can engage in global mission.

The Women of the ELCA may support this effort through the following: Make the companion synods a part of your opening prayer at each meeting and ask your church to include them each week in the prayers of the church. Create a bulletin board display. Call Global Missions for literature to display. Support special projects of these synods. Call the synod office for current or ongoing needs.

Prison Ministry

Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc. (Kairos) is a lay-led, interdenominational Christian ministry in which men and women volunteers bring Christ's love and forgiveness to prisoners and their families. The Kairos programs take the participants on a journey that demonstrates the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Kairos Prison Ministry is Christian in nature, although no religious affiliation is necessary to be a participant. More information is available at www.kairosprisonministry.org.



Church Women United



Church Women United is a racially, culturally and theologically inclusive Christian women's movement that has been celebrating unity in diversity and works for a world of peace and justice since 1941 with the motto: *Agreed to differ... Resolved to love... United to serve*. The United Nations recognizes CWU as a non-governmental organization. To learn more about Church Women United go to www.churchwomenunited.net. If you are unable to find a chapter in your area, there are several ways you can participate virtually. More information about upcoming events and how to register may be found on their website.

MISSION: DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

Mission Statement

Christian discipleship is about learning how to live a life like Christ would want us to live and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

Committee Members and Responsibilities

Beth Drane (Chair) - Tenneliz2000@yahoo.com

Barb Miller—barbs0066@gmail.com

Melodee Davis—tldavis@bellsouth.net

Welca practices the seven marks of discipleship by praying, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving, and giving. To fulfill these goals, the Women of the ELCA have created many printed and electronic resources to mentor us in our spiritual growth journey. These can be found at www.womenoftheelca.org.

CHURCHWIDE RESOURCES FOR GROWTH

Publications



Bold Connections is the free monthly e-newsletter of the Women of the ELCA. Whether you participate a lot or a little in the Women of the ELCA, and no matter what your role, you'll find helpful news and information on your programs and activities and stories of how together we are living out our purpose and mission.

For more information go to www.elca.org/Bold-Connections.

Café: Stirring the Spirit Within is an award winning web-based magazine that explores issues of interest to young women in their 20's and 30's from a faith-based perspective. Its mission is to be a resource for those who want to meaningfully build their understanding of community, advocacy, faith and enlightenment. Visit Café and sign up to receive email alerts when new issues are posted. The monthly Café podcast is available at www.boldcafe.org or through iTunes.





Gather, the magazine of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, www.gather.org offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions, and stories of comfort and challenge that lift up the mission of Women of the ELCA: to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. It is published 10 times a year with combined issues in January/February and July/August.

In every issue of *Gather*, there is the award-winning Women of the ELCA bible study. In addition to the feature articles centered on each issue's theme, there are also regular columns and a variety of resources to enhance the lives of women.

Gather is published in partnership with Augsburg Fortress Publishers, the publishing house of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Visit Augsburg at subscriptions@augburgfortress.org or mail to Gather Subscription Order Center, Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. The cost is \$19.95 per year. (Quantities for 11 or more are \$18 per copy - can be mailed to same or multiple addresses).

Daily Grace

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. In these brief writings you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. You will be comforted, challenged, inspired, consoled and confronted. The daily reflection will stir you to live out your baptismal calling. Take time to reflect, offer a prayer and prepare for the day. Read the daily message or choose Random Grace. Sign up for Daily Grace at www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace.



You can also download the app for your phone. This app is available on iTunes or Google Play and features.

- Daily readings, reflections and prayers.
- Connections to the liturgical and secular calendars
- Connections to Facebook, Twitter and www.womenoftheelca.org

Other Churchwide Resources and Programs



A Place for You

Have you ever wondered how you can become more involved in the wonderful organization we call the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA? Now you can learn how the churchwide and synodical organizations work, as well as the clusters and congregational units within our synod. You will discover your spiritual gifts and how you can use them as a woman of the ELCA.

Finding Your Place in the Women of the ELCA

Spiritual Gifts Assessment



***Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another
As good stewards of the varied grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10***

Each one of us has spiritual gifts that come from God and are received through the Holy Spirit. It can be exciting to discover your gifts and knowing them is essential for your work in the body of Christ, especially within our congregational units, clusters, and synodical organizations.

The ELCA offers an online (or printable) Spiritual Gifts Assessment tool, a quick survey you can take to identify your spiritual gifts. The assessment has 60 questions that will help you discern your gifts. Be honest with your answers and let the Holy Spirit guide you.

To take the assessment online or to print the forms, just go to <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Congregations-and-Synods/Faith-Practices/Spiritual-Renewal/Assessment-Tools>.

Young Women

There are Bible Studies directed toward younger women, and are some of the topics which we will be focusing on this year. Lots of conversation is advised for these Bible Studies! One young women are an integral part of the Lutheran church, and we encourage all to participate in Women of the ELCA activities.

“Miss Representation”- A 3-session Bible Study which examines equality for women. It looks at how the media affects the self-image of young girls, and how it forces them to feel about themselves. There are discussions on the video about how some well-known celebrities have been treated by the media. The film shows solutions that target the root of the problems in order to empower women.

“A Path Appears” - The first episode makes us aware that sex trafficking is not far from our back doors. There are stories from victims and survivors that give powerful insights into the lives of these young women and girls. The second episode goes on to discuss poverty and child labor. Episode three is about what we can change to make “A Path Appear”.

Women of the ELCA Academic Scholarships

Women of the ELCA offers scholarships in three categories: scholarships for Lutheran lay-women studying for a career other than ordained ministry, scholarships for administrative leadership to women interested in reaching the top of their field as administrators, and scholarships for women in their final year at an ELCA seminary. All applications must be received by February 15, and may be obtained from Valora Starr at - Valora.starr@elca.org or by contacting the Women of the ELCA at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2741. Your unit may also contribute to the scholarship fund by designating “Scholarship Fund” under special offerings on Form B.

Women of the ELCA Project Grants

No matter the size of your women’s group, sometimes finding the funding for certain projects can be a stumbling block to taking Action, establishing Community, or realizing Growth within your unit. The churchwide organization of the Women of the ELCA has grants available to help the women of your congregation overcome such obstacles.

The purpose of the grants is to assist non-profit organizations that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women’s emotional, physical, and spiritual health. Grants are awarded to programs that support one or more of the following three visions:

1. The making of a sound mind: Improving women’s inner health;
2. The building of a strong body: Medical prevention and treatment;
3. The affirmation of a steadfast faith: Sustaining our spiritual health.

For more information, including grant proposal requirements visit the Women of the ELCA website: www.womenoftheelca.org, and click on the Action and Advocacy: Mobilizing Women tab. Then click on the Grants tab. You will also be able to download the grant application from there. The deadline for submitting your grant requests is February 15 of each year.

Other Resources and Programs

There are many other programs and resources of the Women of the ELCA which are available on their website at www.womenoftheelca.org.

SYNODICAL RESOURCES FOR GROWTH

The Southeastern Weaver is the quarterly newsletter for the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA. It is published by our editors Louise Iconis and Linda Few to keep you informed about what is happening in our synod including programs the board is recommending, who to contact, what to expect at convention, etc.

This newsletter is excellent reading for any woman who is active or thinking of becoming active in the Women of the ELCA. To receive the newsletter: by email (which is free) contact the editors at louise@iconis.com or fewbaby@bellsouth.net.

Website

The Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA website is www.seswelca.com. It features information about the churchwide and synodical organizations, programs, resources and the annual convention. It also includes a calendar of events, photos and publications such as the latest Annual Resource Guide, Bulletin of Reports, newsletter, Leadership Manual, and other documents.



Our Facebook page is www.facebook.com (search for Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA). It is a great way to share your thoughts and prayer concerns as well as the activities of your cluster or congregational unit. It also has information and updates from the churchwide organization.

Synodical Convention Scholarships

There are several general scholarships available from the synodical board that are awarded on an as-needed basis worth \$100 to be used toward your convention registration. Please note that the scholarships will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Names and information will be kept confidential. Applications can be downloaded from our website www.seswelca.com or emailed to you by request from our president Shirley Connelly, at sconnelly@gmail.com. There is also a \$100 scholarship from the Caroline Gammell Memorial Fund for a woman over 65 and \$100 scholarship from the Whitney Hill Memorial Fund for a young woman under 35.

Donations can be made any time during the year to our general scholarship fund, which will allow even more women attend our convention, or to one of the memorial funds. Or you can start a new scholarship in honor or memory of someone. Just send your check, made payable to SESWELCA, to our synodical treasurer and designate which scholarship you would like to contribute to or make a note of who you would like to honor or memorialize.

Diana Palma, Treasurer
312 Honey Locust Court
Peachtree City, GA 30269
palmadbmax@gmail.com

Speakers Bureau



Please contact the following resource people to arrange for programs for congregational units, retreats and cluster events.

Faith

Patti Austin
404-819-5077
Paustin562@att.net

Living Well With Chronic Conditions

Muriel Williams
404-505-1052
nipreg@bellsouth.net

Grateful Giving

Barbara Schwanebeck
770-427-7808
barbara.schwanebeck@gmail.com

Spiritual Gifts

Louise Iconis
404-769-8253
Louise@iconis.com

Leadership

Patti Austin
404-819-5077
Paustin562@att.net

or

Debbie Lundell
770-815-8918
debrallundell@bellsouth.net

Racial Justice Advocacy

Cathy Crimi
615-414-8959
Cathy.a.crimi@gmail.com

Jacqui El Torro
404-452-5354
Jacquieltorro@yahoo.com

LINKS



AUGSBURG FORTRESS (*books, gifts, and resources*)

www.augsburgfortress.org

BOLD CONNECTIONS (*the free e-newsletter of the Women of the ELCA*)

www.elca.org/Bold-Connections

CAFE: Stirring the Spirit Within (*internet magazine of the Women of the ELCA*)

www.boldcafe.org

CHURCHWIDE ORGANIZATION

www.womenoftheelca.org

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

www.churchwomen.org

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

www.elca.org

FACEBOOK

Synodical Organization - [facebook.com/groups/167627626619339/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/167627626619339/)

Churchwide Organization - www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA

GATHER (*the official magazine of the Women of the ELCA*)

www.gather.org

LUTHERAN CAMPUS MINISTRIES (*Southeastern Synod*)

www.elca-ses.org/Campus-Ministries

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

www.lwr.org

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES (*pop tabs*)

www.rmhc.org

SAMARITAN'S PURSE (*Operation Christmas Child*)

www.samaritanspurse.com

SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD OF THE ELCA

www.elca-ses.org

SUICIDE OR CRISIS LIFELINE

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is a United States-based suicide prevention network of over 200+ crisis centers that provides 24/7 service via a toll-free hotline with the number 9-8-8. It is available to anyone in suicidal crisis or emotional distress you can also call the U.S. National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 800-273-TALK (8255) any time day or night

SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION

www.seswelca.com

OTHER PROGRAMS OF THE SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION

Katie's Fund/Katie's Table



Celebrate the bold life of Katharina von Bora Luther and help to raise up bold women of faith for many generations to come. All gifts to Katie's Fund support ministry in three areas: leadership development, global connections, and living theology. See more on Katie's Fund at www.womenoftheelca.org.

Katie's Fund was established as an endowment in 1997. The interest income is used each year, helping to grow and generate more support for ministry, year after year.

Here are some projects supported by Katie's Fund in recent years:

- A workshop about bullying and outreach to youth leaders at the ELCA Youth Gathering 25th Anniversary Liberia Tour
- Tanzania journey to promote fair trade coffee challenge
- Young Women's Leadership Event at United Nations Commission on the Status of Women
- Words Matter language project, program resources of Women of the ELCA
- ***I Believe You*** an Emmy-nominated documentary about domestic violence and how faith communities respond.

You can promote Katie's Fund in your community. Go to www.womenoftheelca.org to download "*Katie's Fund: the Skit*." or learn more about Katie Luther in *A Bold Life of Faith: Katharina von Bora Luther*.

The Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA support Katie's Fund at our annual convention by selling items at Katie's Table. Watch *The Southeastern Weaver* and our website at www.seswelca.com for more information about Katie's Table at this year's convention.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Quilt and Kit Ministry

School Kits, Personal Care Kits, Fabric Kits, Baby Care Kits, and Quilts are small gestures with a Spirit-inspired impact. Women of the ELCA's annual contributions make us part of Lutheran World Relief's broad focus: a world where all people live in justice, dignity, and peace....working to end poverty, in justice and human suffering. Through participating in LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry, we put our faith into action, stretching hearts and hands across the ocean to people in need.

Information (printable guides and videos) about contents and packing for all kits may be found on the Lutheran World Relief website (www.lwr.org). Printed copies of the 2022-2023 Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide can be ordered for free from the resource library or by calling 800-597-5972. The website also has a page summarizing where our various contributions were distributed last year. You can also order a poster for display.

Do you want to know where your Quilts and Kits go? Go onto the LWR website www.lwr.org/tracker and learn how to barcode your boxes! Follow the journey of your gifts of love as they make their way around the world.

Be creative! Challenge circles and Sunday School classes to compete to donate the most items, schedule "assembly days" for fun and fellowship to put kits together, share quilt & kit shopping lists with friends, civic clubs, and other organizations, ask about the possibility of merchant discounts for bulk supplies.

Reminders about details

- Quilts, Personal Care Kits, and School Kits are the most needed

Each type of kit or quilt must be boxed separately and clearly labeled

****Bulk** soap and fleece-tied blankets are no longer accepted by Lutheran World Relief – soap is only included as an item in Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits**

- Maximum weight per box is 40 pounds.....less is better for spinal health!
- Absolutely no plastic or paper bags
- Your church's donations (delivered to an Ingathering site) must include a copy of the 2023 Reporting Form
- Quilt & Kit Ingatherings will be held on August 26 & 27, 2023 at 7 locations throughout the SE Synod.

*Watch for more details in The Southeastern Weaver, on the LWR Ingathering webpage, and on our website at www.seswelca.com.

Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund

Contributing toward shipping may be a simpler way for some women to participate. Estimated costs of shipping a single kit range from \$1.00 (fabric kit) to \$2.65 (personal care kit).

Checks should be made payable to SES WELCA and mailed to our synodical treasurer, Diana Palma (see p. 5), with a notation in the memo line LWR-Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.

Additional ways to support LWR Goals

Other options are to purchase and share information about LWR Fair Trade coffee and chocolate or items available through the handicraft project. Details about each of these opportunities are on the website www.lwr.org.

2023 LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF INGATHERING SITES
Ingathering dates: Friday, August 25 and Saturday, August 26

2023 LWR Key Leader: *Janice Hawkins* Email: jchawkin@bellsouth.net Ph 770-712-6090

ALABAMA—Coast

Friday and Saturday: 9 am – 12 noon

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

8271 Whispering Pines, Daphne 36526

Site Coordinators: *Tommie Morgan*

Eileen Becker

Church Phone: 251-621-2968 (call coordinator))

Phone: 251-591-1019

Phone: (cell) 251-454-5912 or (home) 251-666-1896

ALABAMA --Central—Call coordinator to drop off at church Aug 21-24 for truck loading on Friday (25th)

Shades Valley Lutheran Church

720 Shades Creek Parkway, Birmingham 35209

Site Coordinators: *Anne Scholl*

Roberta Stamp

Church Phone: 205-871-3512 (call coordinator)

Phone: 770-403-0023

Phone: 205-410-4721

ALABAMA—Northeast

Saturday: 9 am – 12 noon *NO FRIDAY DROP-OFF*

Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison 35758

Site Coordinator: *Rhonda Gaede*

Church Phone: 256-721-0041 (call coordinator)

Phone: 256-679-2931

GEORGIA—Atlanta Area

Friday: 8:30am – 1 pm and Saturday: 8:30am-noon

Trinity Lutheran Church

1826 Killian Hill Road, Lilburn 30047

Site Coordinator: *Janice Hawkins*

Church Phone: 770-972-4418 (call coordinator)

Phone: 770-712-6090

GEORGIA—Coast

Friday: 1 pm-5 pm

Saturday: **Drop-off by appointment-call Sandy Gibson at 912-658-0868**

St. Johns Lutheran Church

Highway 21 & 7th Street, Rincon 31326 - Address for GPS is: 301 N. Columbia Ave

Site Coordinators: *Sandy Gibson*

Marty Hendrix

Church Phone: 912-826-5411 (call coordinator)

Phone: (cell) 912-658-0868

Phone: (cell) 912-661-4122 or (home) 912-754-4860

TENNESSEE-Nashville Area

Friday: 9 am–1 pm

Saturday: **Drop-off by appointment-call Joni at 615-584-9309**

Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

908 Murfreesboro Rd, Franklin 37064

Site Coordinator: *Joni Donegan*

Church Phone: 615-794-1624-call church administrator
to arrange time & place for truck

Phone: 615-584-9309

TENNESSEE—East/Central

Friday: 4-8 pm Saturday: 8:30 am – 11

Reformation Lutheran Church

400 West Main St., Greeneville 37743

Site Coordinators: *Mary Jane Gray*

Barbara Richards

Church Phone: 423-638-4627 (call coordinator)

Phone: (cell) 423-525-2177 or 423-972-1769

Phone: 423-525-3254

**ALL SITES WILL BE FOLLOWING CDC & STATE COVID-19 GUIDELINES.
IF POSSIBLE PLEASE BRING SOMEONE WHO IS ABLE TO UNLOAD
YOUR ITEMS FROM YOUR VEHICLE.**

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF 2023 CHURCH REPORTING FORM

(Give this completed form to the person checking you in at the LWR truck collection site.)

Church name: _____

City/State _____

Contact name, phone number & email: _____
(In case we need to contact you)

<u>ITEM</u>	<u># OF BOXES</u>	<u># OF KITS/QUILTS</u>	<u>WEIGHT (lbs)</u>
<i>Quilts</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>Personal Care Kits</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>School Kits</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>Baby Care Kits</i>	_____	_____	_____
<i>Fabric Kits</i>	_____	_____	_____
TOTALS	_____	_____	_____

REMEMBER: NO Plastic or paper bags inside box.
EACH BOX'S MAXIMUM WEIGHT IS 40 LBS!
Only one type of kit or quilts in each box.

LABEL each box in **LARGE BLOCK LETTERS** using a heavy black marker or affix a label with following information:

--Church name, city, state
--Weight in lbs (after sealing)

--Name of type of kit/quilts in the box
--Quantity of quilts or kits in the box

You can now log on to the [LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker](http://www.lwr.org/tracker) at www.lwr.org/tracker and print out a special barcode to put on your shipment of Quilts & Kits so you can see where your gifts go!

NOTE: Donations to the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund are essential to project success! Make checks payable to Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA with a memo notation "LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund" and mail them to our Synodical Treasurer-Diana Palma, 312 Honey Locust Ct., Peachtree City, GA 30269

Your gifts of time and resources toward making LWR Quilts & Kits are beautiful expressions of God's love and grace to those in greatest need. Thank you for your partnership in putting them together.

Collection Site Coordinators – please have copies of this reporting form available on collection day!

***** Please Note that as of May 1, 2020 Lutheran World Relief is not accepting donations of bulk (boxed) soap or Fleece-tied blankets. These items will not be loaded onto the truck! *****

CLUSTERS



Clusters are the link between the local congregational units and the board of the Synodical Women's Organization. Please see the website at www.seswelca.com under About Us Clusters to see a list of cluster and the congregations in each cluster around the synod.

Spring Cluster Meetings are held annually-usually in March or April. Cluster business and elections are conducted along with worship services, crafts, Bible studies, and reports from the synodical board. Some clusters include a special speaker. Clusters are also encouraged to host additional cluster events such as retreats or service projects.

Registration fees cannot exceed \$20 (\$4 per person going to the synodical organization). After direct expenses of the day are reimbursed, remaining monies are submitted to the synodical treasurer, which are divided between the synodical and churchwide organizations. Additional offerings may be designated for the synodical Love Offering, churchwide initiatives such as Katie's Fund, or special recipients such as the Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund.

Each cluster has a Coordinator (or Co-Coordinators), a Recorder, and a Member-at-Large each elected for a three (3) year term on a rotating basis. Each leader may be reelected once and all must be from different congregational units. This year (2023) each cluster will be electing a Cluster Coordinator. Any unexpired terms will also need to be filled (Recorder for 1 year and/or Coordinator for 2 years).

Each cluster has a designated board member as a resource. Capturing the inner workings of each cluster event is key to accurate annual synodical reporting. The board liaison helps cluster leaders gather and prepare information for reporting:

- Annual Cluster Meeting Report with election results
- Roll Call
- Minutes
- Agenda
- Evaluation and any Congregational Unit Update forms

Regular communication is vital for sharing ideas and concerns. Always feel free to contact either your board liaison (see page 31) or the Cluster Liaison, Barb Miller Barb0066@gmail.com

2022-2023 CLUSTER LEADERS

Cluster 1 - Ebenezer			
C	Sandy Gibson	Sandra_gibson@windstream.net	912-658-0868
R	Miriam Long	Long8018@bellsouth.net	706-667-8018
M	Meredith McPherson	meredithlmcperson@gmail.com	912-655-9997
Cluster 2 – Good N.E.W.S.			
C	Kathy Seraphine	Kms146qs@bellsouth.net	770-971-7654
R	Debbie Lundell	debrallundell@comcast.net	770-815-8918
M	Annelle Colevins	Acolevin@westga.edu	770-834-7056
Cluster 3 – Trinity			
C	Linda Few	fewbaby@bellsouth.net	404-556-5858
R	Louise Iconis	louise@iconis.com	404-769-8253
M	Hollis Williams	willholl@bellsouth.net	770-845-2017
Cluster 4 – Magi			
C	Janice Hawkins	jchawkin@bellsouth.net	770-712-6090
R			
M	Margery Kellar	Margery.kellar@gmail.com	404-803-9404
Cluster 5 – Mission			
Cluster 6 – Agape			
C	Donna Hoglelund	donna.hoglelund40@gmail.com	931-248-5101
R	Debbie Hampstead	dhampste@utk.edu	865-963-2840
M	Patty Harmon	harmon.patty@gmail.com	865-300-9850

Cluster 7 – Diaspora			
C	Roberta Stamp	roberta.stamp@gmail.com	205-410-4721
R	Wanda Quinn	wq1450@yahoo.com	205-467-3344
M	Kathy Sieja	dksieja@comcast.net	256-508-2212
Cluster 8 – The King			
C	Dian Luffman	dianluff@gmail.com	615-712-3244
R	Bridget Radford	PBJFiend@gmail.com	615-752-0861
M	Meredith Frantz	meredith.franz@gmail.com	615-974-0457
Cluster 9 – Gulf Coast			
C	Ingrid Miscavage	dragonslair51@aol.com	228-380-2918
R	Chris Jarrell	chrisjarrell1951@gmail.com	228-342-1179
M	Mary Baker	larrybkr19@gmail.com	563-357-5700

LEGEND

C – Coordinator

R – Recorder

M – Member at Large



2023 SPRING CLUSTER MEETINGS

CLUSTER	DATE	LOCATION	BOARD LIAISON
1-Ebenezer	April 22	Resurrection Augusta, GA	Kat Julius gramkat@comcast.net
2-Good N.E.W.S.	March 19	Grace Lutheran Carrollton, GA	Diana Palma palmadbmax@gmail.com
3-Trinity	May 5-7	Lutheranch Tallapoosa, GA	Christeen Yerby cyerby@bellsouth.net
4-Magi	March 11	Community of Grace Grayson, GA	Melodee Davis tldavis@bellsouth.net
5-Mission			Alice Schunemann
6-Agape	April 22	Grace Lutheran Oakridge, TN	Beth Drane tenneliz2000@yahoo.com
7-Diaspora	March 4	St. Marks Huntsville, TN	Phyllis Wade wade.phyllis73@gmail.com
8-The King	April 22	St. Timothy Hendersonville, TN	Barb Miller barbs0066@gmail.com
9-Gulf Coast	April 22	Holy Trinity Mobile, AL	Sissy Gifford ggiff819@aol.com

ANNUAL CLUSTER MEETING REPORT

Cluster _____ Date of Meeting _____

Host Congregation _____

Attendance _____ No. of CU/ICU's _____

CURRENT AND NEWLY ELECTED CLUSTER LEADERS (Please print clearly)

Coordinator _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Term Expires _____

Recorder _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Term Expires _____

Member-at-Large _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ Term Expires _____

Registration Fee: Not to exceed \$20 per person	\$	
Subtract \$4 per person for Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)	\$	
BALANCE		\$
Disbursements:		
Meal	\$	
Program (Honorariums, gifts, etc.)	\$	
Communications (Postage, etc.)	\$	
Supplies/Copies	\$	
Other	\$	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS Please reimburse Host Church before sending to SWO		\$
BALANCE REMAINING - (subtract Total Disbursements from Balance listed above)		\$
Regular Offerings -from Worship Service (to be sent to SWO) One half offering will be sent to Churchwide by the Synod Treasurer		\$
Other Offerings (Love or Special)-Please Designate		\$
TOTAL REMITTED TO SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION (Add Balance Remaining, Regular Offerings and Other Offerings)		\$

Please make check payable to **SESWELCA** and send with form to the **TREASURER**, Diana Palma at 312 Honey Locust Ct, Peachtree City, GA 30269.
Copies of the report should also be sent to the **Cluster Liaison**, Barb Miller at 2207 Calderwood Hwy, Maryville, TN 37081. Rev Jan 25, 2023

CONGREGATIONAL UNIT UPDATE 2023

Church _____ **Date** _____

Address _____

Phone _____ **Cluster** _____ **Email** _____

President _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ **Term Expires** _____

Vice President _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ **Term Expires** _____

Secretary _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ **Term Expires** _____

Treasurer _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____

Email Address _____ **Term Expires** _____

*Please mail the completed form to your cluster recorder and a copy to the Synodical Cluster Liaison
Barbara Miller at 2207 Calderwood Hwy, Maryville, TN 37081 and the Synodical Secretary
Kat Julius at 412 Gwaltney Drive, Dothan, AL 36303*

Rev. Jan 2023

ROLL CALL

Name	CU/ICU	Home Address	Phone No.	Email Address

EVALUATION OF CLUSTER EVENT

Event Name _____

Date _____

Please rate and comment on the following statements:

Totally Disagree/Totally Agree

1. The theme was well carried out throughout the event.

2. The agenda for the event gave sufficient time.

3. The information given was helpful.

4. The facility for the event was pleasant and convenient.

Please complete the following:

The best part of the event was _____

The part of the event that could be improved or changed is _____

I would like for the next event to _____

LITANY



My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices
My God forever he will be, bless his holy name.

Be uplifted, it's good for the soul.

We sing a song of praise to You, Oh Lord,
the Mighty One has done great things for me,
as we call to mind the emergence of Your faithfulness and unexpected provision,
the valleys where You did not forsake us.

Be uplifted, it's good for the soul.

May we seek first Your Kingdom and enjoy goodness to its fullest measure.
May we ask, seek, and knock without hesitation and run to You with
thanksgiving when You answer. May our souls be happy in You,
for we have done nothing to deserve the bounty that we have received.

Be uplifted, it's good for the soul.

We offer a song of praise for the things that make us glad:
Thank you for every moment You walked alongside us.
Thank you for the moments we felt safe.
Thank you for the memories that make us laugh.
Thank you for meeting our needs and fulfilling our desires.

Be uplifted, it's good for the soul.

We thank You for these gifts, God,
But more importantly, we pause to remember the Giver:
the One who withholds no good thing from those who love him
the One who knows how to give good gifts to His children,
the One who gives simply because He is generous,
the One who lavishes us with love,
the One who has purpose behind what He gives and takes away.

Be uplifted, it's good for the soul. Amen.

*Acknowledgment: excerpts from Liturgies for Hope
Audrey Elledge and Elizabeth Moore*

CONGREGATIONAL UNITS

Participation in a congregational unit is be open to all women in the congregation and other women who subscribe to the purpose of the Women of the ELCA; commit themselves to come together for study, support, and action; participate in the ministry of Women of the ELCA beyond the congregation; support financially the total program of the Women of the ELCA; and designate leadership to communicate with synodical and churchwide women's organizations.

Congregational units participate in the convention of the Synodical Women's Organization by electing a delegate and an alternate to represent the unit; cooperating in the process for nomination of officers and board members of the synodical women's organization; and participate in the process for nomination of delegates to the Triennial Convention.

The leadership of a congregational unit typically consists of a President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer elected at a general meeting of the congregational/intercongregational/special unit. However, congregational units are not required to have officers . If you look at the model constitution of the Women of the ELCA, the wording used is leaders. Most congregational units change leaders on an annual basis. The minimum functions that are needed at any business meeting are that of a presider and recorder. Co-leaders share the same duties.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS FOR CONGREGATIONAL UNITS

Whether your Women of the ELCA unit is large with a full contingent of officers or rather small and loosely structured, a constitution provides a common understanding of why you exist and how you organize. You will find a sample copy of a unit constitution in the Leadership Manual on our website at www.seswelca.com or on the churchwide website www.womenoftheelca.org.

Notes:

- *Articles I-IV as outlined in the model Constitution are mandatory*
- *You may delete or combine Article V-VIII (and XI)*
- *Your unit's constitution must use the exact language (word-for-word) for the articles concerning the "Finance" and "Dissolution Clause" (whatever article number they are in your modification)*

In most units, only a few minor word changes are needed to tailor the constitution to the local structure. This is definitely not a time-consuming task. While a complete constitution is best to spell out mutual and future expectations, churchwide allows considerable flexibility in your end product.

For help with your constitution please contact our churchwide resource, Eva Yeo, at 800-638-3522, ext. 2450 or Eva.Yeo@elca.org.

When you have a draft completed mail or email it to the synodical secretary:

Kat Julius
412 Gwaltney Drive
Dothan, AL 36303
gramkat@comcast.net

Once it is verified and approved by the board representative she will return an approved copy to you and file your constitution with the churchwide organization.

TREASURER’S INFORMATION

As new treasurers are being elected at the unit level, a reminder that the fiscal year for the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA runs from February 1 until January 31. For example, offerings sent to the synodical treasurer after February 1, 2023 will be credited to the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Donations are reported in the Bulletin of Reports each year.

Please be sure to send a completed Form A with your checks to the synodical treasurer. You can download Forms A and B from the Women of the ELCA website at www.womenoftheelca.org/stewardship-resources.

Just a recap of offerings at the unit level:

Regular Offerings	These Offerings are collected at your regular monthly or quarterly meetings.	Churchwide recommends that 50% stays at your local unit and 50% to the Synod Organization	Synod Treasurer: Diana Palma 312 Honey Locust Ct Peachtree City GA 30269	Form A
Thankofferings	These offerings are received one or more times per year as your unit determines.	Mail the total amount of these offerings as soon as possible.	Women of the ELCA ELCA Gift Processing Center PO Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009	Form B
Convention Offering	These offerings are received before the synodical convention.	Mail the total amount to the Treasurer or bring to the convention	Synod Treasurer: Diana Palma 312 Honey Locust Ct Peachtree City GA 30269	Form A
Love Offering	These offerings are received before the synodical convention.	Mail the total amount to the Treasurer or bring to the convention	Synod Treasurer: Diana Palma 312 Honey Locust Ct Peachtree City GA 30269	Form A

After offerings are received at the synodical level, here’s how the funds are distributed:

Regular Offerings – ½ goes to churchwide in Chicago, and ½ remains with the synodical organization

Convention Offering – (worship services) ½ designated for churchwide, and ½ to the synod

2023-2024 Love Offering – 100% will be designated to SES WELCA

Another gift that several units support is the Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund. This effort helps to defray the costs for Lutheran World Relief to ship the quilts, kits, soap, etc. that we donate each year. Designated gifts go to churchwide at 100%.

Please remember that for a church unit to get credit for their offerings, gifts must be sent to the synodical treasurer with a Form A and the check made payable to SES WELCA. If a check is made payable directly to the end recipient (such as Lutheran World Relief) it will be forwarded to that organization without any credit given to the unit.

Make all checks payable to SESWELCA

Please send a completed Form A with all checks (sample below) to the synodical treasurer:

**Synod Treasurer:
Diana Palma
312 Honey Locust Ct
Peachtree City GA 30269
palmadbmax@gmail.com**

**2022-2023 Executive Board
Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA**

Shirley Connelly, President Leadership Training	4746 Riverroad Trail Snellville, GA 30039	slconnelly@gmail.com 770-891-5513
Beth Drane, Vice President Mission: Growth Cluster 6 Agape Board Rep	4312 Lorena Lane Maryville, TN 37804	Tenneliz2000@yahoo.com 865-681-5987
Kat Julius, Secretary Mission: Action Cluster 1 Ebenezer Board Rep	412 Gwaltney Drive Dothan, AL 36303	gramkat@comcast.net 954-494-8806
Diana Palma, Treasurer Mission: Community Cluster 2 Good N.E.W.S Board Rep	312 Honey Locust Ct Peachtree City, GA 30269	palmadbmax@gmail.com 404-667-6290
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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Assembly - ELCA's term for the gathering of voting members for decision-making or legislative functions.

ARG - Annual Resource Guide - Informational program guide developed by the synodical board

BOR - Bulletin of Reports - The program booklet for convention which has the agenda, information on the workshops and a list of those participating in the program.

CWO - Churchwide Women's Organization – Designated term for the entire Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; sometimes used as a reference to the organizational offices in Chicago.

Conferences, Clusters, or Coalitions - Term given to grouping established by the ELCA for the purpose of fostering interdependent relationships among congregations, institutions, synodical and churchwide units for mission purposes. Women of the ELCA clusters will normally follow the same boundaries.

CU - Congregational Unit - The women's organization within a congregation.

Circle – A group of women within a CU who come together regularly in any of the activities such as Bible study, fellowship, personal growth, projects, and/or programs.

Convention - Term for the gathering of delegates for decision-making or legislative functions within the Women of the ELCA.

ICU – Inter-congregational Unit - The women's organization where women from several congregations have formed a unit.

Membership - Refers to the congregational, inter-congregational, and special units who are affiliated with Women of the ELCA; it does not refer to individual women.

Participant - Individual women who choose to participate in a variety of activities which fulfill the purpose of the Women of the ELCA.

Region - A geographic territory which includes several synods.

Special Units - Units comprised of women in settings authorized by the CWO Executive Board such as college campuses, seminary campuses, or retirement communities.

Synod - One of 65 territories of the ELCA (one non-geographic: Slovak Zion)

SWO - Synodical Women's Organization which consists of all the congregational, inter-congregational and special units that are located within the territories of the geographic synods of the ELCA.

Voting Members – Delegates, board members, and others defined by the SWO constitution who may vote on legislative matters at a convention.

Women of the ELCA - The preferred shortened form of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

THIS RESOURCE MAY BE COPIED AS NEEDED