



## 2023 Annual Convention of Southeastern Synod

Women of the ELCA 

# Be Uplifted!

# It's Good For the Soul

A quick look of what we have prepared for  
35th Annual Convention

- Augusta, Georgia at the Augusta Marriott—September 15-17, 2023
- We have planned to have a grand time seeing each other again!



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### Special points of interest

- Hotel is located on the Augusta Riverwalk
- Indoor and Outdoor Pools
- Special Rooms rates are available before and after the convention for extended stays
- A representative from the visitors bureau will be at the convention on Saturday



Tara and Anne Spray invite you to Augusta



## Augusta Marriott Room Registration Information

*Please note that you will need to make your hotel reservations directly with the Augusta Marriott by calling **1-800-228-9290**. You must register no later than September 1 to receive the posted rate of \$145.00 per night. Rooms will be released after September 1. If you prefer to book your room online just hold the Ctrl key on your keyboard and click on this link: [Book your group rate for the 35th Southeastern SYNOD Women of the ELCA Convention Sep2023](#) .*

*Please be aware that the parking facilities are owned by the City of Augusta and guests staying will be charged \$7.00 per day/night to their room portfolio.*

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*"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*

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### Scholarships are available

We have several general scholarships of **\$100** that may be used toward your registration fee. There is also the Whitney Hill Memorial Fund which provides \$100 for a young woman 35 or under, and the Caroline P. Gammell Memorial Fund for a woman over the age of 65. Scholarships are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline to apply for a scholarship has been extended to August 1, 2023.

Please contact **Shirley Connelly** at [slconnelly@gmail.com](mailto:slconnelly@gmail.com) for an application.

*Names and information submitted for scholarships are kept strictly confidential.*

## Send your convention registration form

Please make checks payable to SES WELCA.

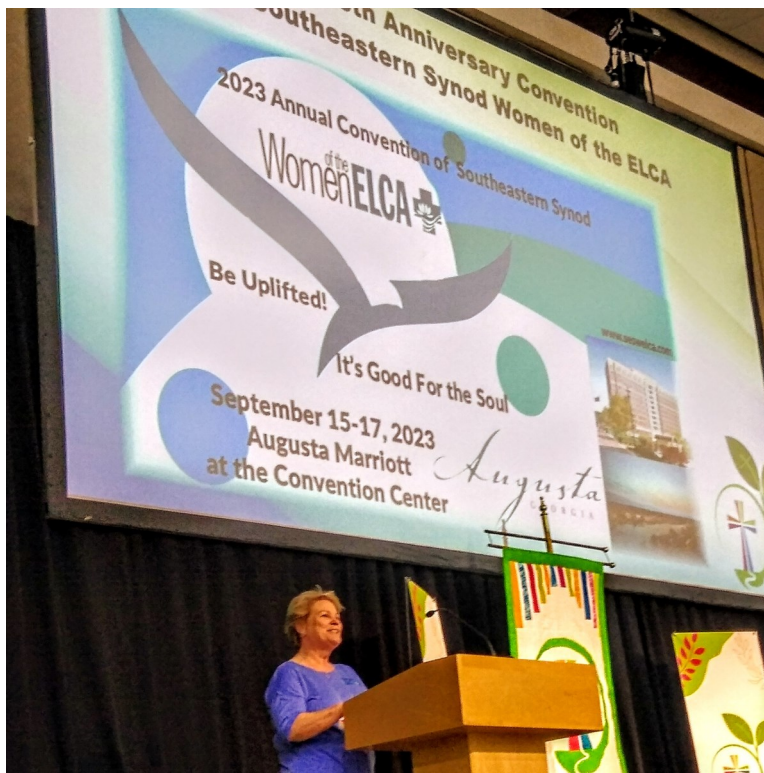
*If you would like to pay by credit card go to the store on our website at [www.seswelca.com](http://www.seswelca.com). The \$12 service charge is already included in the posted fees.*

Please send your completed registration form and a check for the correct amount or a copy of your credit card receipt to our registrar **Barbara Schwanebeck, 277 Mossy Way NW, Kennesaw, GA 30152**. Registration must be postmarked by **September 1, 2023**.

If you have any problems or questions, contact Barbara at 770-427-7808 or [Barbara.schwanebeck@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.schwanebeck@gmail.com)

*The Registration form is included in this newsletter.*





*Please join us at the 35th Annual Convention in Augusta, Georgia.*

## Voting Members for the Convention

Each congregational or special unit of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA is entitled to one voting member. It is very important that all congregations be represented as we conduct the business of our organization.

Since the primary purpose of the convention is to conduct the business of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA, the synodical board and voting members are expected to be in attendance at all plenary sessions.

Voting members are to be seated a few minutes before each plenary session as printed in the agenda so that the required business may be conducted promptly.

All **voting members** should attend the orientation at 1:30 pm on Friday. No substitutions will be allowed after September 1.

## Board Nominations

We are looking for nominees for the following positions:

- President,
- Treasurer, and
- 3 Board members

A form is attached to submit nominations for these positions.

Please prayerfully consider serving our organization in this capacity, note that changes to the bylaws will allow up to two people from a congregation to serve on the board if one serves as an officer, and one serves as a board member.

If you have any questions about serving on the board don't hesitate to contact anyone currently serving on the board.

Submit your nomination form to:

Melodee Davis at  
tldavis@bellsouth.net  
Or

3930 Ashley Trace Ct SW  
Lilburn, GA 30047





## Workshops

Centering Prayer—  
Vicar Jared Fischer  
Praying with Mandala—  
Sue Tyler  
Prayer Journals—  
Debbie Ringer  
Thrivent—  
Kelly Goldsmith  
Inspiratus—  
Janet Arning  
Novus Way -  
Clare Marie Hannon

## Saturday Morning

**7:30 am** Stretch & Pray  
with Melodee Davis

## Exhibitors

Child Enrich of Augusta  
SES ELCA  
Inspiratus  
Lutheran World Relief  
Novus Way  
Thrivent  
Augusta & Company

Don't forget to bring the  
Ronald McDonald House  
Pop tabs you've been  
collecting all year.



## Worship Service Schedule Friday Afternoon and Sunday Morning

### Friday Afternoon Worship

2:30—3:30 pm Bishop Kevin Strickland will be present and providing the sermon and presiding at communion.

### Sunday Morning Worship

10:30—11:30 am Pastor Beverly Shaw will be present and providing the sermon and presiding at communion.

Pastor Shaw is our Chaplain during the convention and will be available for private counseling if requested.



*This graphic represents a half a century of ordaining Lutheran women for more information follow this link <https://pages.stolaf.edu/lutheranwomensordination/davenport-and-thomas-breitfeld/> (1st and 2nd African American women ordained as Bishop in the ELCA)*

## Angela Bell—Churchwide Representative and Bible Study Leader

Angela Bell was re-elected to the executive board for Women of the ELCA, this time as secretary, in August 2021. She serves on the board's constitution review committee.

Angela will present the Churchwide update and lead the Bible study on Saturday at the convention.

Angela's full bio is in the [Bulletin of Reports](#).

## Keynote Speaker Dr. Kelly Glow

If you usually don't listen to rap music that may change once you hear Dr. Kelly Glow. Her unique style is fun and full of energy, her lyrics are clear and easy to follow, and her universal style appeals to all ages. In 2017, she released a Hip Hop version of Martin Luther's A Mighty Fortress is Our God and appeared on the cover of Living Lutheran to commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Kelly is the *Artist in Residence* at the Women of the ELCA Gathering "**JUST LOVE**", September 21-24, 2023, in Phoenix, AZ.

Dr. Kelly Glow is a resident of Atlanta, GA and a faculty member at a local elementary school. [Kelly's full bio is in the Bulletin of Reports](#).

## Convention Banquet

The banquet will be held in the Oglethorpe Ballroom on Saturday from 7:00-10:00 pm.

A cash bar will be provided prior to the banquet from 6:00—7:00 pm.



*Our theme will be Classic 70's with a touch of James Brown.*

*Dress will be cocktail with a 70's flare for fun.*

*Students will provide song & dance routines and a DJ after.*



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*Saturday Night entertainment provided by "Davidson's Fine Arts School"*

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## Katie's Table

Please bring your gently used purses, handbags and wallets to the convention for sale at Katie's Table. The money raised will be donated to the Katie's Fund Endowment.

Katie's Fund is an endowment that supports ministry in three areas: leadership development, global connections and living theology. It was established in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, raise up bold leaders for the women's organization and support bold and creative ministry for generations to come.

If you can help support Katie's Table by volunteering for an hour or two please be sure to sign up at the volunteer table at the convention.

You can send an email to me for more information about volunteering: [slconnelly@gmail.com](mailto:slconnelly@gmail.com).

***Our newest Welca Unit at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Savannah GA is busy collecting items to raise funds for the Katie's Endowment.***

***Thanks for sending the photo and supporting our women in ministry!***



Southeastern Synod Women of  
the ELCA



## Silent Auction

Always a big hit at the convention, our annual Silent Auction is a fundraiser and a great place to shop for the upcoming holidays.

Please contribute an item to make this event a success (handmade crafts or store brought treasures are always a crowd pleaser and its always fun to create a clever gift basket someone will LOVE!) funds raised help to offset the expenses of the convention.

We always need volunteers for an hour or two during the weekend, please consider signing up. All bid winners will be announced during the banquet on Saturday night!

Sign up to volunteer at the Volunteer station next to Registration or email [slconnelly@gmail.com](mailto:slconnelly@gmail.com).

## Welca Remembrance Service

Our thoughts are with our dear friends that have passed away these past years and we wish to remember those who have passed away since the pandemic;

please send information to our Welca Board member:

**Melodee Davis** at  
[tldavis@bellsouth.net](mailto:tldavis@bellsouth.net)

Please include the following information:

**Name:**

**Congregation:**

**Date of death (if known):**



## In Kind - Gathering Child Enrichment of Augusta

Child Enrichment of Augusta provides help, hope and healing to local children (ages birth to 18) and families that have experienced abuse, neglect and or trafficking. This non-profit service is free of charge to these families and children some of whom are in foster care. This service is provided by highly trained and dedicated volunteers and staff with a children first approach.

The Women of the ELCA will have a collection center at the convention to collect these In-Kind gifts to present during the convention to the representative for Child Enrichment of Augusta . Please remember these children in your prayers.

Items needed on a regular basis: socks and underwear, pampers, sippy cups, small travel size hygiene items, toothpaste, toothbrush, personal products for girls and individually wrapped snack food items.

Since services provided are free of charge, they rely on the support of donors and the community to make sure that no child goes without help. Donations are tax-deductible. *Your blessings are felt by these children.*

**35th Annual Convention**  
**Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA**  
**September 15-16-17, 2023**  
**Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center**  
**1 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Augusta, GA 30901**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name for badge \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cluster # \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE CHECK THE APPROPRIATE CATEGORY (Submit ONE FORM for each person registering)**

Voting Member \_\_\_\_\_ Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Young Woman \_\_\_\_\_ Exhibitor \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Board \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION FEES – Includes 5 meals and convention expenses (Please circle the amount enclosed)**

<b><u>Registration Fees</u></b>	<b><u>Early Reg Disc 8/1/2023</u></b>	<b><u>9/1/2023</u></b>
Voting Member/ Participant /Guest /Board	\$200	\$225
Young Woman (35 or younger)	\$110	\$125
Exhibitor (Saturday) _____	\$110 (includes lunch)	\$125
Spouse (please submit a separate registration form)	\$175	\$200
Banquet ONLY	\$50	\$60

***CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations prior to August 16 will receive a full refund minus a 25% processing fee. There will be no refund of registration fees for cancellations received on or after August 16.***

***Reservations for Augusta Marriott at the Convention Center by calling **1-800-228-9290*****  
***or can be made online, hold your ctrl key and click the link below:***

***Book your group rate for 35th Southeastern SYNOD Women of the ELCA Convention Sep2023***

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a first-time attendee.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have special needs and would like to have assistance during the convention hours.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please indicate the type of assistance and times: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to sing in the convention choir.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will help with Registration - Thur. evening \_\_\_\_\_ Fri. am \_\_\_\_\_ Fri. afternoon \_\_\_\_\_ Sat. am \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Please specify food allergies and health restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

***Please make checks payable to SES WELCA. If you would like to pay by credit card, go to the store on our website at [www.seswelca.com](http://www.seswelca.com). The \$12 service charge is already included in the posted fees. Please send your completed registration form and a check for the correct amount or a copy of your credit card receipt to our registrar Barbara Schwanebeck, 277 Mossy Way NW, Kennesaw, GA 30152. Registration must be postmarked by September 1, 2023. If you have any problems or questions, contact Barbara at 770-427-7808 or [Barbara.schwanebeck@gmail.com](mailto:Barbara.schwanebeck@gmail.com).***

**SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
2023 BOARD NOMINATION FORM**

***Check the position below in which the nominee is willing to serve. The individual nominated must consent to serve if elected. All board positions are for a two-year term.***

\_\_\_\_\_ **President**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Treasurer**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Board Member**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone home (     )** \_\_\_\_\_ **cell/other (     )** \_\_\_\_\_

**email** \_\_\_\_\_

***Please list any positions held and most significant experience or service in each area over the last five years. (For example, president of your congregational unit, volunteer at homeless shelter, etc.)***

**Congregational Level** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cluster Level** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Synodical Level** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Churchwide Level** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Community Service** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



**Age Range** (\*Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_ **35 years or under**

\_\_\_\_\_ **50-64**

\_\_\_\_\_ **36-49**

\_\_\_\_\_ **65 or over**

**Ethnic/Racial Heritage** (\*Optional)

\_\_\_\_\_ **Hispanic**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Caucasian**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Native American**

\_\_\_\_\_ **African American**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Asian American**

**Primary language if other than English** (\*Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and number of cluster** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and address of congregation** \_\_\_\_\_

***In your own words, explain why you have allowed your name to be placed in nomination for this position.***

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\*Information from these categories insures that we are in line with churchwide policies concerning inclusivity and in no way is intended to offend.

***Please send this completed form along with a photo of the nominee to***

.....

***(This section is to be completed by the participant nominating this person)***

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name and address of congregation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_