



The Southeastern Weaver

July 2022 - Vol. 3

Newsletter of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA

A Tribute and Inspiration to Women of the ELCA as We Move Forward

By Kat Julius

A round of applause and a thank you too.
To these dedicated women who keep us true
Despite the turmoil, confusion, and fear,
Through COVID, they steered our clusters, both far and near
With masks, Lysol wipes and gloved hands,
They managed the pandemic and kept us to our plans.
Some of our women continued to meet.
Others still needed to rise to their feet.
There was some Zoom with meetings online,
But too many were lost with remote and fell behind.
Seeing our women really made our day!
The values in life did not come easy,
And sometimes, the pandemic made women queasy.
But now, our thanks and appreciation are due
To our Lord and Savior who will always remain true.
We must keep Him in our hearts and beside us every day
And remember our faith to follow Him in every way.

It's time.

Let's gather.

Let's worship together.
The convention is the place.
The WELCA Board is ready.
Join with us and stay steady,
In God's word and on His path.



Inspiration for this verse comes from Suzanne Geiger of Temple Emanu-El in Dothan, AL

Reflections of the President



By
Shirley
Connelly

We are getting closer to the convention and the board is working hard to get all the details in order. The good news is that we have an outstanding Keynote Speaker and a Chaplain who is just as excited to be here as we are. We have wonderful workshops that tie back to our theme for the convention and most importantly we have you coming to join us here in Marietta to gather *"Together at the Table."* Oh, and the hotel is beautiful!

It is funny how a lot of the things that we are planning to do are falling into place and that the theme we chose *"Together at the Table: Tasting Grace"* keeps popping up in many ways.

I must admit that I was afraid of hosting a convention as a first-year president after a two-year pandemic. After all, two years of not hosting a face-to-face event makes it a wee bit of a challenge at times, especially since half of us are the lead on this project for the first time. Times have changed since our last big event, and hotel vendors have changed their policies. They have not been so easy, peasy to work with now as they have in the past. But so many things just keep on falling into place; every time we think there is a barrier, boom, it all falls back into place.

The banquet is going to be something special you will all really enjoy, and the entertainment is certainly going to be a lot of fun. We will start planning the worship programs very soon, and I'm excited about some of the ideas that have been presented. I cannot wait to see you all in September. Please do not delay your registration. I want to know that everyone is going to be here in Marietta *"Together at the Table."* †

Peace, Love, Tasting Grace,
Shirley

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To mobilize women to act boldly
on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Keynote Speaker:

Rev.

***Tiffany
Chaney***



The Rev. Tiffany Chaney is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. She lives in Montgomery, Alabama, where she serves as Pastor Developer for Gathered by Grace, a mission community with intentional outreach among young adults ages 18 to 40ish, and as Chief Diversity Officer for Baptist Health, a three-hospital health system.

Pastor Tiffany is also active in the wider church, serving on the national African Descent Strategy Team and as Communications Chairperson for the national African Descent Lutheran Association, of which she is a Lifetime Member. Within the Southeastern Synod, Tiffany serves as Chairperson for Umoyo, the synod's vitality initiative for congregations of African descent.

A native of Mobile, Alabama, Tiffany is a graduate of the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where she received the Bachelor of Science in finance, the Master of Business Administration, and the Master of Science in Health Administration degrees. She is also a graduate of the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, where she received the Master of Divinity degree. Tiffany has a Certificate in Diversity and Inclusion from Cornell University and a Certificate in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the Workplace from University of South Florida. She is a graduate of Leadership Montgomery's Class XXXVIII and is currently participating in Princeton Theological Seminary's *Iron Sharpening Iron* Executive Leadership Program for women clergy. She is also a certified coach, trained to work with individuals, congregations, and organizations to achieve goals.

Tiffany has been invited to preach, teach, and write about a variety of topics including cultural sensitivity, racial justice, equity, strategic planning, evangelism, post-modern ministry,

economic justice, asset mapping, young adult ministry, communications, funding mission, and shifting culture.

Committed to serving the community, Tiffany is a member of Faith in Action Alabama and Interfaith Montgomery. She serves as a board member for the Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama and Inspiritus. She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., where she was voted the 2020 Humanitarian of the Year by the Beta Nu Omega Chapter. She also serves as the Women's Healthcare and Wellness Chairperson for the Beta Nu Omega Chapter. Tiffany is a Fellow in the American College of Healthcare Executives, a member of the National Association of Health Services Executives, and serves on the University of Alabama at Birmingham Women in Healthcare Leadership Executive Board.

Pastor Tiffany's centering life scripture is Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge God, and God will make straight your paths." †

Convention Chaplain

**Rev.
Dawn
Bennett**



Rev. Dawn Bennett is the Pastor Developer at The Table in Nashville, TN. The Table centers the voices of vulnerable people groups, primarily LGBTQ+ and those impacted by incarceration. She is the author of *Loving Pearl: A Mother's Call to Unconditional Love*. Pastor Dawn works in the area of restorative justice and pastoral care. While her primary work lies at the intersection of faith and LGBTQ+ family advocacy, she considers herself to be a bridge builder: journeying with all people as they navigate turbulent areas of conflict and faith relationships.

Dawn holds a MDiv, Vanderbilt Divinity School; Certificate in Religion, Gender & Sexuality, VDS; BS Psychology, Liberty University. She calls herself an introvert so when the weather permits, you'll likely find her reconnecting through hiking or gardening.

Ministry aside, her favorite role is Mom to her three 'grownns' and Gigi to her three 'grands.' Pastor Dawn currently resides in Nashville, TN with her three fish Mo, Larry & Curly. †

OUR PURPOSE

"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."

SOAR LIKE AN EAGLE

(a story of inspiration)

Did you know that an eagle can foresee when a storm is approaching long before it breaks? Instead of hiding, the eagle will fly to some highpoint and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind can pick it up and lift it above the storm. While the storm rages below, the eagle soars above it. The eagle does not escape or hide from the storm; instead, it uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the stormy winds which others dread.

When the storms of life or challenges hit us, we can rise above them and soar like the eagle which rides the winds of the storm. Don't be afraid of the storms or the challenges in your life. Use them to lift you higher in your life.



By
Janice
Hawkins

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief Ingathering News

By Janice Hawkins

Are you ready?

August 26 & 27, 2022 are this year's dates for the Southeastern Synod Ingatherings. Check the attached list for details on dates and times because not every site is open both days and times vary. If you have any questions please call or email the site coordinator listed for your area.

Some important things to remember are:

- Label each box with type of item in the box, Church name with city & state, and box weight in lbs. (be sure your box weighs LESS than 40 lbs!)
- Are you tracking your donations? Be sure to follow the instructions for tracking and print out a label from the LWR website. 1/2 of the label is applied to the outside of the box so the barcode can be scanned. 1/2 of the label gets tucked inside the box. DO NOT make any marks on the barcode or change numbers on this label. Your information is embedded in the barcode for LWR to capture when they scan your label.
- LWR is no longer accepting boxes of loose bars of soap. Soap is still to be included in Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits.
- DO NOT include toothpaste in Personal Care kits-this is due to international shipping restrictions. Don't worry-LWR gives a tube of toothpaste to everyone receiving a Personal Care Kit.
- LWR is no longer accepting fleece-tied blankets. Fleece has been determined to be harmful to the environment.
- Please have the 2022 Church Reporting form filled out and give this to the person checking you in at the Ingathering location. You might want to make a copy to keep too. Please include the best person and their contact information on your reporting form in case we need to contact you for some reason.

Site coordinators should have the 2022-2023 Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide on hand at each

site. If they do not, then you can go to the Resource tab on the LWR website and order some for your congregation and groups. They are free and you can order up to 25 copies. A few things have been updated so please refer to this when making your kits for next year.

Our Ingathering information is also listed on the Lutheran World Relief website and has links to print out the Reporting Form and Collections Site Information. See www.lwr.org They are also found on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

Let's see how many Quilts & Kits we can load onto the trucks this year!!†

LWR CHALLENGE

by Louise Iconis



I am challenging the women of the Southeastern Synod to make donations to the Lutheran World Relief Shipping Fund at our convention in September. Sure, we donate lots of quilts and kits, but we also need to make sure the items get to where they are needed most. The estimated cost of shipping a single kit ranges from \$1.00 (fabric kit) to \$2.65 (personal care kit). Imagine how much it costs for boxes of kits or quilts that weigh up to 40 pounds!

The first 25 ladies that donate \$25.00 or more to the LWR Shipping Fund at the convention will receive a handmade tote bag with a ribbon handle and a WELCA logo. My parents were very active in making school kits and quilts for LWR. My dad would cut out the items on what used to be our dining room table, and my mother would put them together on her sewing machine she had set up in the living room. Every available space in those two rooms was filled with fabric and items for the kits. As soon as I married, my old bedroom was also filled to the

brim with supplies.

Recently I was going through a box from my parents' house that contained pre-cut bags that were used for the school kits before the ready-made backpacks that are used now. So, I dusted off my sewing machine and put them together. I added ribbon for the handles and used my Cricut machine to cut out our WELCA logo which Kevin then ironed on the bags. These totes were lovingly made by two generations, and I really wanted to find a way to use them to benefit the organization for which they were intended, and also to honor my parents who gave so much of their time and talents to LWR. So ladies, are you up to the challenge? †

In-Kind Gathering



By
Sissy
Gifford

Before discussing our In-Kind-Gifts recipient, I would like to take a moment and ask everyone reading this to **prayerfully please consider** attending the upcoming convention. The board has been working hard to come up with some new and interesting things to make the convention a great experience. So I really hope to see you there. It is time we come back Together at the Table—Tasting Grace.

Now let's turn our attention to MUST Ministries, our In-Kind-Gifts recipient. Their mission statement is: *"Serving our neighbors in need ... transforming lives and communities in response to Christ's call."* They have been "Serving Neighbors in Need" since 1971. Their goal is to address the needs in communities by providing much-needed food, housing, employment assistance, and more to residents in Cobb and Cherokee counties in Georgia. These are their primary needs, but they do so much more. They, along with most other nonprofit organizations, have experienced a significant rise in needs of individuals in their service area since 2020 when COVID hit. They have been able to step up and take care of this need because of, as they put it, "the miracles God has provided." It would be impossible for me to share all that they do, so please go to their website (mustministries.org) to see everything they are doing in these communities and read stories of

how they have helped people change their circumstance. Once you check them out, you will agree that they are a very worthy cause doing God's work in these communities. I know you will want to help this worthy organization.

So, when you come to convention this year, bring several new packs of underwear of all sizes (for men, women and children). These are some of their most needed items. When I first contacted them in 2020, they also asked for socks and still would welcome them also. Let's show MUST Ministries the extremely generous hearts of the Women of the ELCA and that this pandemic has not in any way diminished our love for organizations that help God's Children. **GO WELCA!†**

SAVE THE DATES (I MEAN CALENDARS!)

By Louise Iconis

We are collecting old calendars with pretty pictures for a project at the convention in September. Annette Rhadans will lead a workshop about *The Table on Delk*, a local ministry for women who are currently, or at risk of, being sexually exploited. It is a safe place to have a meal and get connected to resources available to them. By showing these women God's love through genuine interactions, like having a meal at the table, telling them that their lives matter and that God has a plan for them, some of those served will take steps toward healing and restoration. The calendars will be used in the workshop to make placemats for the women to show love and support. †



Remember to join Lutheran Women in

TUESDAY PRAYER AT NOON

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03prayer2020fi.pdf>

2022 LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF INGATHERING SITES**Ingathering dates: Friday, August 26 and Saturday, August 27**2022 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 or 251-342-9337

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

ALABAMA --Central—Call coordinator to drop off at church Aug 22-25 for truck loading on Friday (26th)

Shades Valley Lutheran Church

720 Shades Creek Parkway, Birmingham 35209

Site Coordinators: *Anne Scholl**Kathryn Waters*

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

Phone: 770-403-0023

Phone: 205-967-8101 or 205-243-8038

ALABAMA—Northeast

Saturday: 9 am – 12 noon

Messiah Lutheran Church

7740 Hwy 72 West, Madison 35758

Site Coordinator: *Rhonda Gaede***NO FRIDAY DROP-OFF**

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

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

Highway 21 & 7th Street, Rincon 31326 - Address for GPS is: 301 N. Columbia AveSite Coordinators: *Sandy Gibson*

Phone: (cell) 912-658-0868

Marty Hendrix

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

Church Phone: 615-794-1624-call church administrator

908 Murfreesboro Rd, Franklin 37064

to arrange time & place for

truck

Site Coordinator: *Joni Donegan*

Phone: 615-584-9309

TENNESSEE—East/Central

Friday: 4-8 pm Saturday: 8:30 am – 11

Reformation Lutheran Church

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

400 West Main St., Greeneville 37743

Site Coordinators: *Mary Jane Gray*

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

Barbara Richards

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 2022 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

--Name of type of kit/quilts in the box

--Weight in lbs (after sealing)

--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! *****

CU in the PEWS



By
Marty
Hendrix

The Jerusalem/St John's WELCA sent our Personal Care Kits, enhanced with toothpaste and deodorant, plus additional necessities to the Pembroke, Bryon County disaster relief following the terrible tornado on Tuesday, April 5, 2022. At our regularly scheduled meeting on Friday, April 8, we decided to add to the LWR kits we had planned to gather, and a member who was planning to collect more from area scouts and make her second delivery took our donations with her that day. It was felt immediate local needs could be met now, and LWR aid could be collected later. †



Good Job ladies!!

"CU in the Pews" is an occasional column as space permits highlighting events at churches in our synod. Email your articles to the newsletter editor and they will be used as received and space is available.



Nominations for the church-wide executive board will open August 1 and continue through November 30, 2022. Complete information will be available August 1. Begin your prayerful consideration now. †

Calling all Youth and Young Adult Women!!!

Please join us



TOGETHER AT THE TABLE
2022 Convention Southeastern Synod
of the **Women of the ELCA**

We are interested in your thoughts and ideas. Please share your opinions, suggestions to improve WELCA, and if you plan to attend **Convention September 16-18, 2022, at the Atlanta Hilton, Marietta, GA.** Post your responses to the WELCA website, seswelca.com or to bernice.bland@gmail.com

You are WELCA!! †

Did you know???



Gather and **Café** were recognized in the 2021 Best of the Church Press Awards of the Associated Church Press during May 12, 2022. Check out the WELCA Blog for 5.18.2022 and read about the many accolades these publications received. [Women of the ELCA publications honored with awards - Women of the ELCA](#) †

CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIPS

By Louise Iconis



It is not too late to make a donation to our general scholarship fund for women that would like to attend the convention in September. The deadline for scholarship applications was July 1, but the board will have to cover these scholarships and as we all know things have been a little tight for all of us the last couple of years. Please prayerfully consider this: if just 10 women gave \$10.00 it would cover the cost of one scholarship. If 50 of us contributed \$10.00 we could help five attend the convention. Any amount you can contribute would help! †



**RONALD MCDONALD
HOUSE CHARITIES**

Please remember to bring your aluminum pop tabs to convention so we can distribute them to Ronald McDonald Houses around our synod. Be sure to check them with a magnet. They should repel the magnet if they are aluminum. †



Executive Assistant to the Bishop Retiring July 31, 2022



SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Carolyn Davis, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, and our SE Synod Liaison, will be retiring July 31, 2022. Carolyn has served on the synod staff since October of 2013. For the two years prior, she was the "regular Monday volunteer" in the synod office. We congratulate Carolyn and wish her well in her retirement. Effective July 1, 2022, Sue Tyler steps into the role of Executive Assistant to the Bishop. We welcome Sue as our new SE Synod Liaison. †



Community (Justice) Committee

By Sissy Gifford



As Chair of the Community (Justice) Committee, I would like to invite you all to our upcoming convention and to our exhibit. Our committee promotes community action and recognizes the strength and power of women of God to make it through good and bad times and to step up to help other women. We are working on plans to make our exhibit more fun to Showcase the Bold Women of the ELCA.

As women of God, we rejoice together in good times, and we weep together in bad. We lift each other up in prayer, and we work together on community projects to better the lives of others less fortunate. Please bring us a list of the outreach projects your WELCA group does (on a 3x5 index card) and be sure your church name and location are on the top.

Recently I have been told by several churches that they do not have a WELCA group, but after speaking with them, I realize that is not true. Ladies, if you meet together for women's Bible studies, work on a project such as: sewing, knitting, quilting etc. – you are a WELCA group. So come and join the rest of us in celebrating WELCA. As our purpose statement says, "We are a Community of Women." So come and learn more about our community.

Be sure to come by the Community Exhibit table and see what we have come up with. Looking forward to seeing those who have attended past conventions and welcoming those of you who are coming for the first time. See you at our table. †

Churchwide Updates Current SWO Training

By Shirley Connelly

The following videos were recently recorded by Churchwide and are now available for on YouTube.

[Tools for Leaders, Synodical Women's Org, Women of the ELCA logo](#)

- For Cluster/Conference Leaders
- Training for the Roles and Responsibilities of Synodical Boards
- Training for the Roles and Responsibilities of Synodical Treasurers
- Training for the Roles and Responsibilities of Synodical Secretaries
- Training for the Roles and Responsibilities of Synodical Presidents and Vice Presidents

These training sessions were just completed in May 2022, so they are most current, and I hope that our current Cluster Leaders will take time to review them. Anyone interested in learning more about our leadership is welcome to review these sessions. †

NEED ZOOM TO CONDUCT YOUR MEETINGS OR EVENTS?

By Christeen Yerby



Zoom has been the go to communication app to keep work colleagues, family, friends and others connected amid the coronavirus pandemic. If you are not familiar with how to host a meeting, the Zoom website has tutorials that are very helpful. Some of the topics covered are how to download the Zoom application to your laptop, tablet or phone, starting or joining a meeting as the host or participant, how to invite others to a meeting and how to schedule a meeting in advance plus many other topics. You can go to support.zoom.us to find the tutorials. There are also videos at ["Show Me" Videos - Zoom Learning Center \(learn-zoom.us\)](https://www.zoom.us/learn). For example, some of the video topics are "Initial Zoom Phone Setup" and "Zoom Room Features". Al-

so, you can chat, email or call for support on the Zoom site. The first thing to do if you are new to hosting on Zoom is to download the application to your device. There is also information on the support page on how to do a test call before your scheduled call. Another helpful resource is YouTube. There are numerous YouTube videos on hosting zoom meetings. The link is [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Use the search bar to find a topic.

If your group is in need of Zoom to conduct your meetings, no problem. Please download and complete the Zoom meeting request form at [seswelca.com](https://www.seswelca.com) and email to Christeen Yerby at cyerby@bellsouth.net. Christeen will set up the meeting for you and send you the link to invite others to your event. †



Tidbits from the Treasurer

By
Diana
Palma

How quickly these early summer days are going by! Please take a moment to mark your calendar and register today for our WELCA convention Sept. 16-18 if you have not done this already. The board is very anxious to share the speakers, inspirational worship leaders and workshops that will fill our hearts with that unique Lutheran fellowship that we have all longed to recapture. In addition to the uplifting time we'll spend together, there will be many stories shared of how we have found new ways to serve God during our isolation.

I have been encouraged by the giving of our clusters this spring. Even with some still meeting via Zoom, it was still wonderful to see how many new requests came to support the expanding needs around the world which have included our SE Synod WELCA's direct support of:

- Our Churchwide Women of the ELCA's work to support all the synods. ******also this year's Love Offering recipient******
- Lutheran World Relief
- LWR Shipping (Previously Project Comfort)
- Lutheran Disaster Relief
- LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services)
- Katie's Fund
- Scholarships for Convention attendees

As you prepare for your participation in "Together at the Table" September 16-18 in Marietta, please prayerfully consider supporting these wonderful ways to extend our Christian hearts in love. Shared in Love and Hope. †

Katie's Table Update



By
Beth
Drane

Once again, this year we will feature gently used jewelry for Katie's Table. In the past jewelry has been one of the most popular items to be featured on Katie's Table. I know that you ladies have good taste. I have received more compliments on the jewelry I purchased for one dollar than I have had on my more expensive pieces. Along with jewelry, we will also be featuring scarves for \$1.00. These items will add a splash of color to the table. So bring your old scarves that you no longer wear.

Each item of jewelry needs to be put in a zipper lock bag. If you are donating a set, for example, earrings and a bracelet, use two bags and staple them together. They will then sell for \$1.00 **each**. Lysol wipes will also be provided. Bring items to the display tables before the first session on Friday afternoon.



Silent Auction

Items for the silent auction: Please have handmade items or themed gift baskets on the tables before the first session on Friday afternoon. Fill out the paperwork including an opening bid. The auction will end before the banquet on Saturday night. You will need to pick up your items before leaving on Sunday morning. †

Thirty-Fourth Annual Convention
Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA
September 16-18, 2022

Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel and Conference Center, Marietta, GA



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 all meals and convention expenses (Please circle the amount submitted)

Received by Registrar	Before 7/15/2022	No later than 8/15/2022
Voting Member/ Participant	\$195	\$215
Young Woman (35 or younger)	165	185
Exhibitor for _____	100	120
Spouse (please submit a separate registration form)	150	170
Saturday ONLY (includes lunch and banquet)	120	140
Banquet ONLY	65	75

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations prior to August 15 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 15.

Please note you will need to make your hotel reservations directly with Hilton Hotels by calling 1-800-445-8667 and you must mention the code SOUSCI to receive the posted rate of \$129.00 per night. Rooms will be released starting August 1 and cannot be guaranteed after August 15. If you prefer to book your room online just hold the Ctrl button on your computer and click on this link. www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink

_____ I am a first time attendee

_____ I plan to sing in the convention choir

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

_____ Please specify any food allergies and health restrictions _____

Please make checks payable to SES WELCA. If you would like to pay by credit card you can go to the store on our website at www.seswelca.com. The \$15 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. The cutoff date for registration is August 15, 2022.

If you have any problems or questions, contact Barbara at 770-427-7808 or Barbara.schwanebeck@gmail.com



2022 – 2023 CLUSTER LEADERS		
Thank you, ladies for your willingness to serve our organization as cluster leaders!		
LEGEND: C - Coordinator R - Recorder M - Member At Large		
CLUSTER 1 – Ebenezer		
C		
R		
M		
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
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CLUSTER 5 – Mission		
C		
CLUSTER 6 – Agape		
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R	Chris Jarrell	chrisjarrell1951@gmail.com 228-342-1179
M	Mary Baker	larrybkr19@gmail.com 563-357-5700

SPRING CLUSTER MEETINGS

“TOGETHER AT THE TABLE” GOOD N.E.W.S. CLUSTER

By Gloria Martin

I was rejuvenated when the women in Cluster 2 gathered around the table at Holy Trinity in Marietta, Georgia. Gathering at the table most often centers on food, and yes, the event began with morning beverages and delicious pastries; however, that was just part one. We were treated with blessings from Pastor Mark Beatty, scripture meditation entwined with hymns, as well as Bible study and crafts.

I was nourished with the Word as Annelle Colevins guided us through scriptures reminding us of how God always provides. God rained down manna for the Israelites in the desert. We were reminded of the Widow at Zarephath who thought she had only enough flour and oil to make bread for her son and herself. She believed she could not share with Elijah; however, her faith activated a life-saving miracle: the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry. God provided. We all know the story of how Jesus turned the water to wine, and the story of how Jesus fed the five thousand with five barley loaves and two fish. These stories perfectly illustrate gathering around the table and being fed by God's grace and abundance.

The song/hymn that impacted me most during this meditation was 'Let Us Break Bread Together'. This song, which I have enjoyed since childhood, now reveals to me God's love for us and how He provides for us. Lastly, during this time of Lent, we contemplated Jesus "Together at the table" with His disciples for the Last Supper. We were reminded and encouraged, in our Bible Study led by Louise Iconis, that we are meant to stay connected.

Our group ended our gathering as we made felt bowls and paper placemats. Our placemats were given to a local organization to use as they encourage and help others, "Together at the Table." †

Cluster 2 Board Rep Gloria Martin installs cluster leaders: Member-at-large Annelle Colvens, Coordinator Kathy Seraphine and Recorder Debbie Lundell.



"Together at the Table" making placemats.



"Together at the Table" making felt bowls.



"Together at the Table" sharing a meal.



“TOGETHER AT THE TABLE” TRINITY CLUSTER

By Claretta Wena Light

The Trinity Cluster 3 meeting for WELCA was held at St. Mark Lutheran Church on April 2, 2022, and was hosted by Reverend Mardy Ringer and his congregation. Our hostess, Linda Few, greeted participants and led us into praise and worship by singing, “Lord I Lift Your Name on High” and “Thank You Lord.” In between time, Reverend Shaw, of The Lutheran Church of the Atonement, led our meeting with prayer. A very spiritual moment occurred with the lighting of candles on the altar for those who had passed away and had been affiliated with our organization.

At our business meeting, we elected Louise Iconis to another term in her position as recorder. Hollis Williams, member at large, and Louise were both installed during our business meeting.

Louise spoke to the cluster meeting concerning WELCA and its workings, and stated, “There is real value in coming together as Christian women.” Louise went on further to state, “in the church we are not independent, but interdependent.” Louise added that “you do accordingly with your gift as God has told you to serve.” Louise concluded, “healthy families live together, laugh together, eat together, we are indeed a family. When you sit down at a table with someone, you let a person know that they are valued.”

After a lunch of spaghetti and sauces, salad and salad toppings, there was a successful auction for jewelry and a throw. All proceeds for the auction were given to the SES WELCA Treasury. †



“Together at the Table” with the Cluster 3 ladies.

“TOGETHER AT THE TABLE” DIASPORA CLUSTER

By Diana Palma

The Spring Cluster meeting of Diaspora Cluster 7 was held April 9, 2022, by Zoom from Faith Lutheran Church. Members from Shades Valley and St. Marks also attended the meeting. Paula McMillan welcomed everyone after which Linda Nelson led us in an opening prayer and Bible Study using the book *Wanda's Roses*. Mary Yarbrough led the craft of making a decoupage grace trivet. Since materials had been delivered to St. Marks, they were able to make the craft as well. Guest speaker, Diana Palma, led a discussion on “Buds of Grace...Blooming Futures.” Diana also brought news from the board and gave an update on the convention in September, encouraging everyone to attend. Wanda Quinn of Faith was elected and installed as the recorder for three years. After a two year hiatus, the ladies were excited to have a cluster meeting again, even by ZOOM. †

Cluster Muster

Ladies, the Annual Convention will soon be here, and our Annual Cluster Muster is an especially fun event to attend and begin planning your Spring Gathering. This will be a very special gathering as for some of your units it may be the first time you are gathering together in over two years!

During this meeting you will need to take a roll call of the attendees and make tentative plans for your 2023 Spring Gathering. Start thinking about the program, host church, Bible Study, pastor, etc., and don't forget to start thinking about the upcoming 2023 election for Coordinator and pulling your nominating committee together. †

EXTENDED

Early Bird Registration for the 2022 Convention has been extended to July 15. You still have time to register before the price increases. Final deadline to register is August 15, 2022. See page 12 for the registration form.

HELP WANTED

By Louise Iconis



Have you ever thought about taking 2 or 3 weekend trips a year around the Southeast? Or having a job where no experience is required? Or having a prayer partner that prays for you *every* day, and in many cases forever?

These are just a few of the things you will experience when you are elected to the board of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA. I have served on the board several times and in different capacities. Have you ever wondered why?

The pay is great! No, there is not a salary but the rewards you will get from planning an awesome convention for our organization, the experience of hanging out with other Lutheran women, and the lifetime friendships you will make are worth more than money. I could go on, but Kathy is a strict editor. Ha ha!

Please carefully consider running for our synodical board at the convention in September. You can download a nomination form on the Home Page of our website at seswelca.com, fill it out, have someone from your congregation sign it, and send it to our nominating chair, Janice Hawkins. Then just sit back and enjoy the ride! †

OUR LOVE OFFERING AND FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Our Love Offering recipient this year is Churchwide Women of the ELCA. If you are wondering about how valuable your love offering is this year consider this... “If every woman gave 33 cents a day or about \$120 a year to the organization, Women of the ELCA could more than meet its budget for conventions, regular ministries and resources that women love.” This statement was made in 2017 by the then Churchwide Executive Board treasurer, Ely Smith.

If you are interested in doing more than just giving to the love offering this year, then consider “Faithful Friends.”

Faithful Friends are a sturdy shelter;
 whoever finds one has found a treasure.
 Faithful Friends are beyond price;
 no amount can balance their worth.
 Faithful Friends are life-saving medicine;
 and those who fear the Lord will find them.
 (Sirach 6:14-16)

Faithful Friends is an easy way for you (or your congregational unit or our synodical organization) to give monthly to Women of the ELCA by automatic withdrawal from your checking account or by automatic charge to your credit card.

The Faithful Friends program supports the Women of the ELCA general fund, which makes it possible for your churchwide organization to act quickly and flexibly in response to any need that may arise.

The prophet Isaiah tells us that God says, “I am about to do a new thing” (43:19a.) And Faithful Friends is one way you can help Women of the ELCA be ready for whatever new thing God has in store.

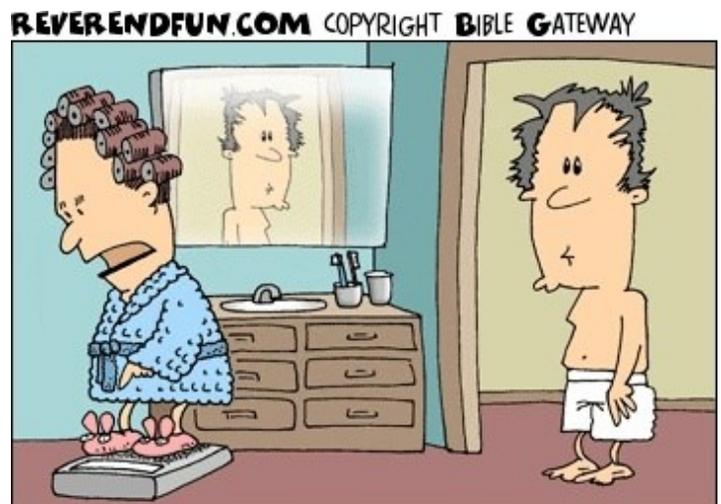
All you need to do is visit wom-enoftheelca.org/FaithfulFriends, download the form that's linked on that page, print it out,

and mail it to:

ELCA Gift Processing Supervisor
 8765 W. Higgins Road, 5th floor
 Chicago IL 60631

You can start your automatic monthly gift right away, and you can stop any time with just a phone call to Women of the ELCA, 773-380-2730, or by email at women.elca@elca.org. †

Not on the email list? Someone forwarded this newsletter to you? If you are enjoying this edition of *The Southeastern Weaver* and would like to receive future copies in your inbox send an email to the editor with “subscribe to weaver” in the subject line.



Thanks to Dad Hengeveld

03-11-2004

THE DEVIL MAY BE THE FATHER OF ALL LIES,
 BUT THIS SCALE IS THE UNCLE

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UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

Pre-convention
September 15 & 16, 2022
Post-convention
September 18, 2022

Hilton Atlanta/Marietta Hotel,
Marietta, GA

November 4-6, 2022
Holy Trinity House, Lutheranch



Offering Form B

For use by CONGREGATIONAL UNITS for offerings to CHURCHWIDE

Use Form B for Thankofferings, Where Needed Most, Katie's Fund, Special Offerings, and other Designated Gifts, including gifts to other ELCA ministries. Make check payable to "Women of the ELCA." For more information, please call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730 or go online to womenoftheelca.org.

Mail form with check to: Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

CONGREGATION		DATE	
CONGREGATION CITY/STATE		CONGREGATION NUMBER	REG/SYNOD
UNIT TREASURER NAME		ZIP CODE	PHONE NUMBER
ADDRESS		EMAIL	
CITY/STATE		ZIP	

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
THANKOFFERING	\$
DESIGNATED GIFTS & SPECIAL OFFERINGS (PLEASE SPECIFY)	
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
TOTAL	\$

ELCAWO1022



Offering Form A

For use by CONGREGATIONAL UNITS for offerings to SYNODICAL TREASURER

Use Form A to submit Regular Offerings and SWO Convention Offerings to your Synodical Women's Organization. Make check payable to "Women of the ELCA." Mail form with check to your synodical treasurer.

For more information, please call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730.

CONGREGATION		DATE	
CONGREGATION CITY/STATE		CONGREGATION NUMBER	CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER NAME
UNIT TREASURER NAME		PHONE NUMBER	
ADDRESS		EMAIL	
CITY/STATE		ZIP	

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
REGULAR OFFERING	\$
SWO CONVENTION OFFERING	\$
CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER OFFERING*	\$
	\$
	\$
TOTAL	\$

* It is recommended that at least 50% of any cluster or conference offering be sent to the synodical treasurer to be passed on in full to the churchwide women's organization. Use this line if you are handling the offering from a cluster or conference event.

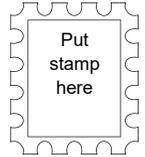
ELCAWO1021
Form updated 5/2017

2021-2022 Executive Board Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA

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Thank you for your continued support!