

# UPDATES FROM YOUR SOUTHEASTERN SYNOD WELCA BOARD

Dear Sisters across the SES,

We continue to have some problems getting our newsletter, "The Weaver", published on a timely basis. We will continue to work on resolving the problems, but until then look for period updates from your Board. Thank you for your understanding and patience.

*Phyllis Wade*, SES WELCA President

## SYNOD ASSEMBLY PROJECT

WELCA has been asked to provide a "Discipleship Opportunity" (service project) at this year's Synod Assembly by having the supplies needed to assemble personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). We are asking you to send lightweight bath towels with your voting members. We will have the other supplies including boxes.

Some important guidelines from LWR to remember:

- Be sure to shop for **dark colored light- or medium-weight towels**, which are easier for Kit recipients to hand wash and air dry, take up less storage space and are considerably less expensive than the fluffier towels we may prefer to use. Bath towels vary in size. The 52" X 27" size listed in the guidelines is the maximum size. 20" x 40" is a good guideline for a minimum size. Walmart and Target usually have lower cost towels that meet these guidelines.

If your congregation is an Ingathering location this year, it would help us tremendously if they could bring some of the packed boxes home with them.

## CONVENTION NEWS

You should have received an email recently with the Call to Convention information. We encourage you to register by May 15, 2024, to take advantage of the early registration rate of \$200.00. Please encourage the ladies in your congregation to join us. If you haven't received the Call to Convention email, please contact Phyllis Wade at [wade.phyllis73@gmail.com](mailto:wade.phyllis73@gmail.com). (The Call to Convention letter is on page 5.)

## KATIE'S TABLE AT CONVENTION

At this year's Convention, Katie's Table will be selling grab bags. It harkens back to yesteryear when a 25 or 50 cent grab bag held so much promise of unimaginable joy – candy and other goodies. For \$5 you can relive the anticipation, the expectant hope of good things to be had. We are asking for units to donate 10 -15 bags. You can fill them with baubles, lotions and potions snacks and candy, don't forget candy. If you have some spare cash, put that in a bag or two – ones, fives even a ten. If one person gets a bag with \$10 everyone will be wanting to buy bags hoping to get some cash. If you have an item that won't fit in a bag, a book for example, we will have a display table for those items. You will need to put a slip of paper in the bag to let them know that they have won a book (or whatever oversized item you chose). All bags should be brown lunch bags. We don't want one group of bags being chosen over another group. We don't want any, "Oh those brown bags don't have anything good in them." We are excited about this Katie's Table. We think it will be fun and profitable.





# LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

## Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit News By Janice Hawkins

This year's LWR Quilt & Kit Ingathering dates in the Southeastern Synod are August 23 & 24, 2024. Plan to have your items packed, weighed, and labeled in time to drop them at one of our 7 sites in August. The tracking system has *not* been updated and LWR will send out a notice when it is in place and ready to go. This might be another year or two in the future.

The LWR website has a "Find an Ingathering" webpage and our 7 Ingathering locations have been updated with dates and times. Printed versions of the 2024 collection schedule and 2024 Church Reporting Form are attached under each location's information on the LWR webpage and will also be included as pdfs in the next Weaver.

The LWR website is a great resource to find the latest changes to instructions for Mission Quilts and Kits. There are videos, downloadable assembly instructions, and signs to print. There is also a link to an important new 4-minute video to watch – "Understanding the new Quilt & Ministry Guide". [Understanding the new Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide | Lutheran World Relief Understanding the new Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide \(lwr.org\)](https://www.lwr.org/understanding-the-new-quilt-kit-ministry-guide)

The printed version of the [Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide 2024](#) is now available. They are free and found under congregational resources. Be sure to order some (up to 25) to distribute to groups and individuals who assemble quilts and kits. These are great to have available at our Spring Cluster meetings!

There is one major change to be aware of---LWR will not except quilts or any kits that contain fleece. Fleece is a concern for drinking water quality, especially in areas where there are no water treatment systems. Please keep this in mind.

Happy Quilt & Kit making!

### UPCOMING 2024 SPRING CLUSTER MEETINGS

CLUSTER	DATE	HOST CONGREGATION	BOARD LIAISON
1 - Ebenezer	April 20, 2024	Jerusalem, Rincon, GA	Pastor Patti Axel
2 - Good News	April 24, 2024	St. John, Griffin, GA	Diana Palma
3 - Trinity	April 27, 2024	Interfaith Lutheran Church, Atlanta	Christeen Yerby
4 - Magi	April 20, 2024	Trinity, Lilburn, GA	Melodee Davis
5 - Mission	Tentative April 13	TBD	Alice Schunemann
6 - Agape	April 20, 2024	Gloria Dei, Knoxville*	Bridget Radford
8 - The King	April 27, 2024	Faith, Lebanon, TN	Arlette Stansbury

\*Meeting will be at Gloria Dei, Ascension will Co-Host

**COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHT**  
**MISSION: DISCIPLESHIP COMMITTEE**



**Bible Verse**

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**

Melodee Davis (Chair)—[tldavis@bellsouth.net](mailto:tldavis@bellsouth.net)  
Arlette Stansbury – [astans@msn.com](mailto:astans@msn.com)  
Bridget Radford – [pbjfiend@gmail.com](mailto:pbjfiend@gmail.com)

WELCA practices the seven marks of discipleship by praying, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving, and giving. The purpose of the Discipleship Committee is to help individuals grow in their faith and to help congregations grow their women ministries. To fulfill these goals, the Women of the ELCA at the churchwide and synodical levels have created many printed and electronic resources to mentor us in our spiritual growth journey.

Churchwide provide many resources at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org):

- Bold Connections,
- Café: Stirring the Spirit Within,
- Gather
- Daily Grace
- A Place for You
- Spiritual Gift Assessment
- Young Women (Bible Studies)
- Women of the ELCA Academic Scholarships
- Women of the ELCA Project Grants

In addition to these churchwide resources, the Southeastern Synod of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran provides many resources. Check these out at [www.seswelca.com](http://www.seswelca.com).

- The Weaver - To receive the newsletter by email (which is free) contact the editors at [louise@iconis.com](mailto:louise@iconis.com) or [fewbaby@bellsouth.net](mailto:fewbaby@bellsouth.net)
- Facebook - search for Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA
- Scholarships - for attending the SESWELCA annual convention
- Speakers Bureau – list of contacts who can address a variety of topics

Be sure to stop by the Discipleship table at the 2024 SESWELCA Convention.

## Phyllis' Ponderings

As I think about the theme for this year's Convention, "Created to Shine Like Stars", I always think about how it fits with our 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."*

As we look at the rest of our Purpose Statement: "created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit..."—how is your Congregational Unit living out our Purpose? How are you shining stars to your community? As you gather around your tables as a community of women, are there new ways you can share the Good News to help others grow in faith? How can we support a sister in her calling as a disciple of Jesus Christ? Are there new ways we can engage in ministry? How can we promote healing in this often-chaotic world? Maybe you can share some of your examples of being shining stars at your Spring Cluster Meeting and at Convention.

I hope to see each one of you at this year's Convention, "Created to Shine Like Stars" based on Daniel 12:3: *Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever.* (NRSV).

Mark your calendars now to join us September 20-21, 2024, at the Embassy Suites in Huntsville, Alabama.

Continue shining like stars where you are!

In love, your sister in Christ,

*Phyllis Wade*

President, SES WELCA President





Dear Sisters in Christ,

Your Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA (WELCA) Board and our Host Cluster, 7-Diaspora, are excited to invite you to our 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention to be held at the Embassy Suites in Huntsville, Alabama, Friday, September 20, 2024, through Sunday, September 22, 2024. This year's theme is "Created to Shine Like Stars" based on Daniel 12:3.

The ladies in our Host Cluster have been very busy planning a fun and exciting even for you. So please encourage the women in your unit to attend the convention and extend a personal invitation to the young women (ages 14-35). We want everyone to have the opportunity to "shine" as we worship together, study God's Word, attend workshops, have time for fellowship, and conduct the business of this star-filled community of women.

This year's business will include electing a vice-president, secretary, and board members this year. We will also approve the budget for fiscal year February 1, 2025, through January 31, 2026. If you have any other business to bring before the organization, please consider submitting a resolution. Please contact Phyllis Wade at [wade.phyllis73@gmail.com](mailto:wade.phyllis73@gmail.com) for information on how to write a resolution.

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 because only voting members can vote on any business brought before the convention.

Please prayerfully consider shining like a star and serving this community of women, note that changes to the bylaws allows 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.

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 is July 1, 2024. Please contact Phyllis Wade at [wade.phyllis73@gmail.com](mailto:wade.phyllis73@gmail.com) for an application. *Names and information submitted for scholarships are kept strictly confidential.*

***Please note that you will need to make your hotel reservations directly with the Embassy Suites by calling 1-256-539-7373, or can be made online by holding your ctrl key and click the link below:***

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=HSVES&groupCode=92C&arrivaldate=2024-09-19&departuredate=2024-09-22&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

***Hotel reservations must be made no later than August 19, 2024, for the group rate which starts at \$169.00 per night. Rates are based on the number of persons and can accommodate up to 4 people. Room rates include breakfast and 2 complimentary glasses of wine in the evening.***

#### Event Summary

Rate Start Date: Now

End Date: Monday, August 19, 2024

**Embassy Suites by Hilton Huntsville Hotel and Spa**

800 Monroe Street, Huntsville, AL 35801

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the board members.

Come join us and help us create a constellation of WELCA stars! Blessing on behalf of your SES WELCA Board and the ladies from our Host Cluster,

*Phyllis Wade*, President, Southeastern Synod WELCA

Stewardship

Discipleship

Justice

# CREATED TO SHINE LIKE STARS

36th Annual Convention of the Southeastern Synod



September 20-22, 2024  
Huntsville, Alabama

## 2023-2024 Executive Board Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA

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