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.

Purpose Statement

28th Annual SWO Convention
Saturday, October 3, 2015
Norway Lutheran Church
6321 Heg Park Road
Wind Lake, WI 53185

Registration opens at 7:30 AM
Opening Worship begins at 8:30AM

Our Theme, Bold Women Hope comes from Romans 15:13
“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope”

Our keynote speaker will be Tracey Stadler who lives in Jackson, WI with her husband Dann and who endured a devastating accident caused by a drunk driver. These are the stories we hear on the 10 o’clock news or read in the daily newspaper but Tracey will tell us the rest of this story.

You will be able to attend challenging and thought-provoking workshops:
• Outreach for Hope … Presenter: Pastor Jim Bickel
• Living Hope … Presenter: Pastor Sandra Chrostowski
• Hope in Action … Presenter: Cindy Arnett

There will be opportunities to shop from the Faith and Giggles Book/Gift Shoppe and the opportunity to visit with long-time friends and to make new ones.

Voting members will be busy electing a new SWO President, Treasurer and several Board Members. If the Holy Spirit is giving you a nudge and you would like to serve with Women of the ELCA please contact Betty Warber.

The $50 Early Bird Registration must be postmarked by midnight on Monday, August 17th so register today. A registration form is on page 2 and on page 3 you will find a “scholarship” form request.
Registration Form
Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization 28th Annual Convention

“BOLD WOMEN HOPE”

Saturday, October 3, 2015
Registration begins at 7:30 AM … Opening Worship begins at 8:30 AM

Norway Lutheran Church
6321 Heg Park Road
Wind Lake, Wisconsin 53185

Send this form (which may be duplicated as necessary) and a check made payable to the Women of the ELCA to:

Jan Fox, Registrar
4130 South Carnaby Lane
New Berlin, WI 53151
262-782-5680

All registrations will be acknowledged by e-mail, if e-mail address is provided.
Check one:  [  ] I am a Voting Member  [  ] I am not a Voting Member
(Registration deadline is September 15, 2015)

Do you have any special needs or dietary requests?

_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Early Bird Registration (must be postmarked by Monday, August 17, 2015 …$50.00
Beginning Tuesday, August 18th Registration will be $60.00
There are no registration refunds… you can, however, transfer your registration to another person

Is Child Care Needed  _____yes  _____no
If answer is yes … what is the age of the child/children________________________________________

By registering for this event, you give Women of the ELCA permission to use your image (picture) & comments in educational, informational and promotional materials in a variety of media, including electronic media.
$50.00 Convention Scholarships will be awarded to four (4) women
to attend the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization 28th Annual Convention

Saturday, October 3, 2015

Norway Lutheran Church
6321 Heg Park Road
Wind Lake, Wisconsin 53185

Please print Name________________________________________________________________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________________________________
(street)                                                                        (city)                                                                                   ( Zip)
E-Mail_________________________________________________ Phone___________________________________________________________________________________________
Church_________________________________________________ City__________________________________________

I am applying for this scholarship because financially I could not attend the Convention without it.
  This is the first time I’ve attended the SWO Convention ____yes  ____no

Please sign your name__________________________________________________________ Date________________
Reason for requesting a scholarship___________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

♦ Scholarship requests must be postmarked no later than Monday, August 17, 2015
♦ Those who indicate a financial need will be given a higher priority and voting members will be given preference
  over non-voting members.
♦ Applicants must be a member of a congregational UNIT (have Bible Studies, devotions and contribute to the SWO
  regular offerings).
♦ Scholarship requests will be reviewed by the SWO Executive Committee and recipients will be notified by
  Monday, August 31st.
♦ Those who apply for a scholarship, and are not awarded one, may still register for the early bird $50 fee.

Please complete this form and mail to Convention Registrar

Jan Fox
4130 South Carnaby Lane
New Berlin, WI 53151
DEVOTION:  
“EASY FOR HER”

Our own Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton recently told a story about something that happened when she was a pastor serving a congregation and I’m delighted to retell it.

One Sunday, the ushers were solemnly taking up the collection as usual, and people were glumly doing their duty and putting their offering in the plate as usual.

A little girl in the assembly, seeing what was going on nudged her dad and pleaded and pleaded and pleaded until he gave in and dug into his wallet and handed her a bill so she could make an offering too.

The little girl ran up the aisle after the ushers waving the bill in the air, calling, “wait for me, wait for me! Here’s mine! I want to put some in!” And as she dropped the money in the plate, she beamed with joy and then danced her way back to her dad’s side.

Later, at coffee hour, Bishop Eaton...I mean Pastor Easton...was chatting with a parishioner and said, “wasn’t that little girl beautiful? It would be so wonderful if everyone could give as joyfully.”

And the parishioner said, “Well, it’s easy for her… it’s not her money!”

And Pastor Eaton replied: “No.” And she paused...a pregnant pause...and then went on. “It’s her father’s.”

If you’ve ever met Bishop Eaton, you can envision the twinkle in her eye as she tells that story. Cute as the story is, it carries a real theological message about giving.

In the parish where I grew up, we sang a little acclamation as the ushers carried our offerings up the aisle every Sunday: “All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.”

That’s the same message as Bishop Eaton story.

Everything we have comes to us from our loving and generous God, just as that little girl’s offering came from her loving and generous dad. Everything. When we give to Women of the ELCA, when we make a contribution to Katie’s Fund, when we make a designated gift through Women of the ELCA to Lutheran Disaster Response: Nepal, we are simply using what God has already given us to support God’s work.

The little girl asked eagerly and gave joyfully. Can you imagine how she felt as she ran to support God’s work with all she had? Can you imagine how she thanked her dad for making it possible?

Can you imagine doing the same?

Excerpted with permission from Bold Connections, the e-newsletter of Women of the ELCA. Subscribe for free at www.womenoftheelca.org. where this story and many other free resources are available for your use.

Women of the ELCA in the Greater Milwaukee Synod … because of your generous offerings your SWO Board was able to send $1000 to Stephanie Luedtke (an AIM working with Youth & Family Ministries in our Synod) and youth from our Synod attending this summer’s Youth Gathering in Detroit. This money will be used toward their In-Kind Gifts of diapers. Your first thoughts might be “diapers”? However there is a great need. If you haven’t already read the article, “Diapering Detroit” in the March issue of Gather, please do so now. Also, remember our youth in your daily prayers as they plan for, and attend, the 2015 Youth Gathering.

Women of the ELCA, we do make a difference! All of those hours spent cutting squares, sewing squares together and tying a quilt, packing those quilts up for shipping and finally getting them to the boxcars for loading let someone else know they are loved and cared for. Women of the ELCA we are indeed the hands, feet and voice of our Lord. THANK YOU!

Lutheran World Relief  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, LASTING PROMISE.

It’s not only our dollars that go where we can’t/don’t go. It’s all of those lovely quilts you make all year long … it’s those personal care kits you put together or have the children in you Sunday School put together … those things make a difference!

The last part of April we sat in front of our television sets and watched the devastation of the worst quake to hit the Himalayan region in nearly a century One week after the quake, Lutheran World Relief reported more than 5,500 people had died and some 11,000 were injured … they also reported they had sent 9,240 Quilts, 1,000 Personal Care Kits and 100 Water Filtration Units. Women of the ELCA, we do make a difference! All of those hours spent cutting squares, sewing squares together and tying a quilt, packing those quilts up for shipping and finally getting them to the boxcars for loading let someone else know they are loved and cared for. Women of the ELCA we are indeed the hands, feet and voice of our Lord. THANK YOU!
**Treasurer’s Report … April 30, 2015**

<table>
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<tr>
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| Total Funds Available                 | $8,032.15   |            |

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**UNIT TREASURERS**

Women of the ELCA has a new address to send your Thankofferings, Katie’s Fund, Special Offerings and Designated Gifts. Beginning immediately, please send them on Form B to:

Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gift Processing Center
PO Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 2216-8009

The forms A & B have also been changed slightly and can be found on the Women of the ELCA website. Continue to send Form A with your Unit offerings to Treasurer, Sue Seidemann … 3729 N. 12th Street … Sheboygan, WI 53083

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**GATHER MAGAZINE**

**Summer Bible Study**

The summer study has been written by Emma Crossen. Emma is the development director at the Courage Campaign. She studied ministry at Harvard Divinity School and previously served Women of the ELCA as director for stewardship and development.

The June, July and August study will be on “giving” no catchy slogans just Biblical directives.

- Session 1 … Give in secret
- Session 2 … Be like the widow
- Session 3 … God loves a cheerful giver

The June issue of **GATHER** is filled with many excellent articles … Live Generously … Good for the Soul … The Least of These … Because We Love and many more. Be sure you read the magazine cover to cover and then share it with a friend.

Remember, the next issue is combined July/August
A Message from the Synodical Women’s Organization President

Be gentle with one another, sensitive,
Forgive one another as quickly and thoroughly as God in Christ forgave you.
Ephesians 4:32 … the Message

Sisters in Christ,

To me the past couple of months have been filled with violence … on the nightly news we hear of another person shot … we watch the distrust between people and our police departments … a fatal accident where alcohol was involved and the list goes on and on and on. Then, in the midst of this I received the following e-mail and it gives hope … there is goodness, kindness and caring in our world.

At a fundraising dinner for a school that serves children with learning disabilities, the father of one of the students delivered a speech that would never be forgotten by all who attended. After extolling the school and its dedicated staff, he offered a question:

“When not interfered with by outside influences, everything nature does, is done with perfection. Yet my son, Shay, cannot learn things as other children do. He cannot understand things as other children do. Where is the natural order of things in my son?” The audience was stilled by the query.

The father continued. “I believe that when a child like Shay, who was mentally and physically disabled comes into the world, an opportunity to realize true human nature presents itself, and it comes in the way other people treat that child”. Then he told the following story.

“Shay and I had walked past a park where some boys Shay knew were playing baseball. Shay asked, ‘do you think they’ll let me play?’ I knew that most of the boys would not want someone like Shay on their team, but as a father I also understood that if my son were allowed to play, it would give him a much needed sense of belonging and some confidence to be accepted by others in spite of his handicaps.

I approached one of the boys on the field and asked (not expecting much) if Shay could play. The boy looked around for guidance and said, ‘we’re losing by six runs and the game is in the eighth inning. I guess he can be on our team and we’ll try to put him in to bat in the ninth inning.’

Shay struggled over to the team’s bench and, with a broad smile, put on a team shirt. I watched with a small tear in my eye and warmth in my heart. The boys saw my joy at my son being accepted. In the bottom of the eighth inning, Shay’s team scored a few runs but was still behind by three. In the top of the ninth inning, Shay put on a glove and played in the right field. Even though no hits came his way, he was obviously ecstatic just to be in the game and on the field, grinning from ear to ear as I waved to him from the stands. In the bottom of the ninth inning, Shay’s team scored again. Now, with two outs and the bases loaded, the potential winning run was on base and Shay was scheduled to be next at bat.

At this juncture, do they let Shay bat and give away their chance to win the game?

Surprisingly, Shay was given the bat. Everyone knew that a hit was all but impossible because Shay didn’t even know how to hold the bat properly, much less connect with the ball. However, Shay stepped up to the plate, the pitcher, recognizing that the other team was putting winning aside for this moment in Shay’s life, moved in a few steps to lob the ball in softly so Shay could at least make contact. The first pitch came and Shay swung clumsily and missed. The pitcher again took a few steps forward to toss the ball softly towards Shay. As the pitch came in, Shay swung at the ball and hit a slow ground ball right back to the pitcher. The game would now be over.

The pitcher picked up the soft grounder and could have easily thrown the ball to the first baseman. Shay would have been out and that would have been the end of the game. Instead, the pitcher threw the ball right over the first baseman’s head, out of reach of all team mates. Everyone from the stands and both teams started yelling, ‘Shay, run to first! Run to first!’

Never in his life had Shay ever run that far, but he made it to first base. He scampered down the baseline, wideeyed and startled. Everyone yelled, ‘Run to second, run to second!’ Catching his breath, Shay awkwardly ran toward second, gleaming and struggling to make it to the base. By the time Shay rounded towards second base, the right fielder had the ball. The smallest guy on their team who now had his first chance to be the hero for his team. He could have thrown the ball to the second baseman for the tag, but he understood the pitcher’s intentions so he, too, intentionally threw the ball high and far over the third baseman’s

continued on page 9
ATONEMENT WELCA WOMEN
(from Atonement in Muskego0

Their theme for this year is “I Love to Tell the Story” and they recently had a musical program with violinist Jaime Dringenber and flautist, Rachel Herb. Sarah Milton and Lyndee Rynders on voice and piano.

The Mary Martha Circle had lovely spring tables and served yummy homemade pies.

Atonement Ladies … thank you for sharing … you are an inspiration to the rest of us.

TENTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION
July 11-13, 2017
Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Triennial Convention is the highest legislative authority of Women of the ELCA. The primary responsibility of the voting members is to carry out the business of our organization. A variety of matters come before this convention including elections, the budget, memorials from Synodical Organization and resolutions from the floor.

Each Synodical Women’s Organization is allowed to elect one voting member for every twenty-five (25) congregational, inter-congregational, or special UNITS.

We recently had to do an assessment of the UNITS in our Greater Milwaukee Synod. We found that we have fifty-nine (59) active UNITS so we will elect three (3) delegates plus our SWO President to represent us at the 10th Annual Triennial Convention. Our Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization will have the election (to elect these three voting members) at their 2016 Annual SWO Convention.

Almost every congregation in our Synod has a women’s ministry but we cannot count them as a Unit unless they commit to affirm to:

- The purpose statement of Women of the ELCA
- Come together to fulfill the purpose
- Participate in program activities of Women of the ELCA beyond their own individual UNIT
- Support financially the total program of Women of the ELCA (this means giving an offering of record … remember that one-half of every offering sent to our Synodical Organization goes directly to Churchwide)
- Designate leadership to be in communication with the Synodical Women’s Organization and the Churchwide Organization
- Have a Contact Person

TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING
July 13-16, 2017 … Minneapolis, Minnesota

Following the Triennial Convention women from all 65 Synods will GATHER together for inspirational speakers, workshops, a 5-k run and much, much more. Now is the time to begin planning to attend this event … if you haven’t already registered, do so soon. Your SWO Board has already purchased three (3) pre-registrations to be given out as scholarships and one (1) pre-registration for our first time voting member.
Whereas, homeless children miss the security that a home symbolizes and many people take for granted; and
Whereas, homeless children give up personal items when forced to move from place to place; and
Whereas, children deserve good health, good food, school support and play time; and
Whereas, the ELCA Churchwide asks church groups to participate in a hands-on service project in September; now, therefore, be it
Resolved, that Women of the ELCA Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization:
1. encourages women in the Greater Milwaukee Synod to collect **backpacks of various sizes** throughout the year;
2. encourages women to collect necessary **school supplies** throughout the year;
3. encourages women to collect **toiletries** throughout the year;
4. encourages women to collect small personal **security items (stuffed toys “Beanie Baby” size), books, Matchbox cars, Nerf balls, or small, long-lasting flashlights**.
5. encourages women to collect **healthy, non-perishable snacks in July, 2015, and be it**

Further Resolved, that women gather in early August, 2015 to assemble items into backpacks for distribution to home-less children.

Because homeless children live in all areas of our Greater Milwaukee Synod, these “BACKPACKS” will be distributed to four locations within the Synod. **SHALOM HOUSE** in Kenosha … somewhere in the **53206 zip code** in Milwaukee … **Bridgeway & Beyond** (transitional Living Program for single mothers and children) in Sheboygan. We are still looking for a place in the Lake Country Cluster, if you have a suggestion please contact Betty Warber at 262-886-8918 or betty@warber.net.

In addition to the supplies, we’ll need lots of hands to help fill the backpacks sometime in August. We’ll try to get this information out to all the congregations in the Synod and hopefully, Pastors, Church Administrators and Secretaries will get the message to the women.

**Thank you for your support of this project**

---

### BEV ETZELMUELLER

For nearly 33 years Bev has donated her time, and her love of books, to St. Matthew’s (Wauwatose) as a volunteer librarian.

In addition to this ministry Bev is also the leader of St. Matthew’s “quilting ministry” and has been instrumental in helping LaVerne Mueller with her quilt ministry to the Lakota Indians in South Dakota.

To Bev we say “well-done thou good and faithful servant”. We are proud to call you as a sister in the Women of the ELCA.

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**Message of the Robin**

I have one preacher that I love better than any other on earth. It is my little tame robin which preaches to me daily. I put his crumbs on the window sill. He hops on the sill and takes as much as he needs. From there he always flies to a little tree close by, lifts up his voice to God, sings his song of praise and gratitude, tucks his head under his wing and goes to sleep, leaving tomorrow to look after itself. He is the best preacher I have on earth.

-Martin Luther
TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING
July 13-16, 2017 … Minneapolis, Minnesota

Women of the ELCA is seeking a few women who are passionate about the work of our organization to become Triennial Gathering Promoters (TGPs) for our 2017 event. Work would begin in 2016 for the Tenth Triennial Gathering, July 13-16, 2017, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Requirements include having attended at least one gathering (preferably in 2014) and being an active participant in a unit. Candidates should also be comfortable speaking in public, enthusiastic about travel, have hands-on knowledge of social media, and be able to tell a story about why they love Women of the ELCA. Experience with marketing is a bonus.

Candidates must also be computer literate and reachable by e-mail on a daily basis. Any woman considered will be asked to submit a two-minute video about why she would like the opportunity to promote the next triennial gathering.

This volunteer job comes with no pay, but plenty of perks.

And while the name “triennial gathering promoter” is the same as used in the past, the plan is different. A small group of TGPs … perhaps 9 to 15… will serve the whole organization. Individual synodical women’s organizations will not have their own appointed TGP.

The deadline for receiving nominations is July 31, 2015

“Reprinted with permission from Interchange, the Churchwide newsletter of Women of the ELCA. Copyright © 2015 Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

♦ LaVerne Miller has requested that when you send her an e-mail (regarding the Lakota Indians/quilt project) you put the word “quilts” in the subject line. This way if LaVerne doesn’t recognize a name, she’ll still open the e-mail because she will know the message is indeed for her. Her e-mail address is: billlavernem@gmail.com. This address is a little difficult to read - there are three (3) letter “l”s).

♦ We would like to know what is going on in your Unit … please send us information and pictures to share with the women in our Synod. Send information via e-mail to betty@warber.net

Shay … continued from page 6

head. Shay ran toward third base deliriously as the runners ahead of him circled the bases toward home. All were screaming, ‘Shay, Shay, Shay, all the way Shay.’ Shay reached third base because the opposing shortstop ran to help him by turning him in the direction of third base, and shouted, “run to third! Shay, run to third!” As Shay rounded third, the boys from both teams, and the spectators, were on their feet screaming, ‘Shay, run home! Run home!’ Shay ran to home, stepped on the plate, and was cheered as the hero who hit the grand slam and won the game for his team.

‘That day’, said the father softly with tears now rolling down his face, ‘the boys from both teams helped bring a piece of true love and humanity into this world’.

Shay didn’t make it to another summer. He died that winter, having never forgotten being the hero and making me so happy, and coming home and seeing his mother tearfully embrace her little hero of the day!

We all have thousands of opportunities every single day to help realize the ‘natural order of things.’ So many seemingly trivial interactions between two people present us with a choice: Do we pass along a little spark of love and humanity or do we pass up those opportunities and leave the world a little bit colder in the process?

May each of you have a SHAY DAY,

Betty Warber, President
Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization
WOMEN’S RETREAT WEEKEND … Turning Gratitude Into Grateful Living
Pine Lake Camp Weekend … Waupaca, WI
August 14th (Friday PM) - August 16th (Sunday Noon)

Share this weekend with your friends as Pastor Alexiz Twito leads us in Worship and Bible Study under the theme “Grateful Living” based on Colossians 3:12-17. Shop at the Fair Trade Boutique … enjoy a Massage … join the Book Club, Enjoy God’s beautiful creation while you are canoeing, hiking, swimming or sitting around the evening campfire. You’ll be inspired by the candlelit Taize Service and the guided Meditations. REGISTER TODAY:

Complete this form, make check payable to: WI Christian Women’s Retreat Group
Mail with payment in full to KATHY HOLAT … 625 N 104th St … Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Name___________________________________________________________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________________________________________
House number & Street                                                               City
State                            Zip code
Phone Number_________________________________E-Mail_____________________________________________
Medical/Disabilities or Food Concerns_________________________________________________________________
Church Affiliation_________________________________________________________________________________

Please circle registration payment enclosed

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<th>Early Registration</th>
<th>Late Registration</th>
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<tr>
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<td>(before Thursday, July 23rd)</td>
<td>(after Friday, July 24th)</td>
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<td>Evergreen Lodge includes bedding and towels in a semi-private room. Air-controlled, Limited number available.</td>
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<td>Send me information about the book club selection</td>
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<td>Evergreen Lodge: $150</td>
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WOMEN’S WEEKEND RETREAT … FOUR (4) $50.00 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Name___________________________________________________________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________________________________________
Phone____________________________________________________e-mail__________________________________
Name of Congregation_______________________________________City___________________________________
I would like to attend because:_______________________________________________________________________

Mail Scholarship Request to: Nancy Sack … 2013 S. 97th Street … West Allis, WI 53227 no later than Saturday, July 25th. Scholarship awards will be applied directly to cost of registration. Recipients will be notified by mail.
Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

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<td>Joint Cluster I, II, III, IV</td>
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<td>414-545-5434 <a href="mailto:nsack@att.net">nsack@att.net</a></td>
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<td>Congregational Liaison</td>
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“Gleanings” is published four times each year March, June, September and December

Articles for each publication should be submitted by the first of February, May, August and November

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