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.

Do you know?

Women of the ELCA have wonderful resources on-line and they are available free to individuals, small groups and congregations. These resources cover a variety of topics bringing Lutheran perspectives and new voices to issues that matter.

One of these resources entitled LENT: PENITENCE, PILGRIMAGE, PREPARATION is an imaginative exploration of three aspects of the season of Lent. It is not a history lesson (although it draws on the experiences and writings of people of faith throughout history), Bible Study (although it draws on Scripture) or other intellectual exploration of Lent. It is an exercise of the imagination, and as such, depends on the willingness of the participants to put themselves into the scenes and incidents described.

Since very ancient times, Christians of all ages and places have observed the season of Lent. Throughout that long history, it has always been a time for spiritual renewal in anticipation of the great feast of Easter, the center of the church’s year. How do you keep Lent?

These resources are made available to us, free of charge, because of the generosity of your offerings to Women of the ELCA. Fifty percent of every offering you send to our SWO Treasurer goes to our Churchwide Women of the ELCA thus allowing the staff to write and produce the resources.

Go to www.womenoftheelca.org and look at all of the excellent resources available … however, don’t just look … take advantage of them and use them … you will be blessed and you will grow in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This Lenten Resource was written by Audrey Novak Riley

Some of the above material was copied from the on-line resource...
A Message from the Synodical Women’s Organization President

BOLD WOMEN HOPE, when I chose the theme last year for our convention. I did not realize my hope bracelet would be a calming and strengthening tool for me.

As we experience sadness over a loss or change, whether the loss we have suffered is that of a loved one, a job, our health or our home, the physical, emotional and spiritual suffering is deeply rooted. Psalm 46 speaks to our need in times of trouble.

1. God is our place of safety. He gives us strength. He is always there to help us in times of trouble.
2. The earth may fall apart. The mountains may fall into the middle of the sea. But we will not be afraid.
3. The waters of the sea may roar and foam. The mountains may shake when the waters rise. But we will not be afraid.

4. God’s blessings are like a river. They fill the city of God with joy. Amen

As we start planning for the 10th Triennial Gathering that will be held in Minneapolis, July 13-16, 2017 we look forward to celebrate with our ELCA Sisters. The Triennial falls during the observance of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The theme All Anew resonates with the reformation and transformation images. At the gathering, participants will explore ways in which the Holy Spirit changes us, acknowledging that reformation and transformation have happened and continues to happen with the community of the Women of the ELCA. The theme verse, Psalm 104:30, “Lord, send forth your spirit…and renew the face of the earth” calls to God to send the Holy Spirit to renew not just God’s people, not just God’s church but to all God’s earth, the creation that God called good.

In this issue of the Gleanings, we have put in the Nomination form for a Triennial Delegate. We have three voting members plus the President who leads the delegation. We lost one voting member due to the loss of Women of the ELCA congregational units.

We have started our planning of Synodical Convention “Bold Women Love”. A registration form for the Convention on Saturday, October 15th 2016 is also included in this issue. There is an early bird registration if postmarked by August 17, 2016. We will be electing a Vice President, Secretary, one for our Mission Team, one for our Anti-Racism Team and Convention Intern. Please, when the Nominations Chair calls, prayerfully consider the opportunity to serve with the Women of the ELCA.

I am excited to represent Greater Milwaukee to the Conference of Presidents in February. It is always a renewing and refreshing experience. The sharing of ideas is uplifting.

Are you looking for more news from the Women of the ELCA? Check out the Website, womenoftheelca.org. Looking for an award winning Bible Study series? Check out the Gather Magazine. Looking for an online free magazine? Check out Cafe’, boldcafe.org. How about signing up for a free monthly e-newsletter? Try Bold Connections and have it sent right to your email.

Please keep your Synodical Board in your prayers as we continue to do the work of the church that you elected us to do.

I will keep working on letting God’s Blessing’s fill me with joy.

Donna Yourell

Ladies! We now have a new Facebook page. Check us out and LIKE us on Facebook.
For more information go to https://www.facebook.com/greatermkswom
ALL ROADS LEAD TO
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
140 N. 7th Avenue
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095

Site for our 29th Annual SWO Convention
Saturday, October 15, 2016

Convention Theme: Bold Women Love
Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins.
I Peter 4:4

Early-bird registration is now open. Registration form is found on page 4 - you may copy as many forms as you need.

Introducing our Churchwide Representative who will be with us at our 2016 SWO Convention.

Sandra Lee Grier

Sandy was elected to the executive board in July 2014. She serves on the budget and finance committee.

Previously, Sandy served as vice president and then president of the Upper Susquehanna Synodical Women’s Organization in Pennsylvania. She has also served as publicity coordinator and president of her congregational unit.

A resident of Williamsport, Penn., Sandy is a new member of Messiah Lutheran Church in South Williamsport. At Church of the Savior, which closed late in 2014, she had served as Sunday School and confirmation teacher, adult Bible study leader, VBS coordinator, church council member and then president, and lector. She also made music with the handbell choir and the adult choir.

Sandy is also involved in community programs including the Loyalsock Garden Club and the United Churches of Lycoming County’s Daily Telephone Devotion Line. She often leads worship at a local nursing home.

Sandy is an Associate in Ministry within the ELCA and an authorized lay worship leader in the Upper Susquehanna Synod. She owns and manages a Christian bookstore named "Along The Way".

Sandy and her husband Ed recently spent a very enjoyable summer working at an amusement park. They like to travel the country in their RV.

In her free time, Sandy enjoys spending time with her mother in a local nursing home, reading, photography, painting, listening to music, and riding bikes – whether motorized and not.

ELECTIONS

In addition to electing three (3) delegates to attend the Tenth Annual Women of the ELCA Convention in July 2017, one of the big items on our SWO Convention agenda is to elect new SWO Board Members.

This October we will be electing a Vice-President, Secretary and Board Members to serve on the Mission Team, Anti-Racism team and a Convention Intern.

All women are asked, and encouraged, to think about serving on this SWO Board where you can make a difference in the work of Women of the ELCA. Yes, it does take some time and yes, you do have to attend Board Meetings (usually about six time each year). The plus side is that you meet wonderful women who become your sisters in Christ and you can make a difference in so many different ways.

Keep these words in your mind, … “Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart”. Be ready to serve when you are asked.
Registration Form
Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization 29th Annual Convention

“BOLD WOMEN LOVE”
Theme Verse: 1 Peter 4:8

Saturday, October 15, 2016
Registration begins at 7:30 AM … Opening Worship begins at 8:30 AM
Trinity Lutheran Church
140 N. 7th Avenue
West Bend, Wisconsin 53095

Early Bird Registration (must be postmarked by Wednesday, August 17, 2016 … $50.00)
Beginning Thursday, August 18th Registration will be $60.00
There are no registration refunds … you can, however, transfer your registration to another person
Do you have any special needs or dietary requests?
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

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 Saturday, September 10, 2016)

Name______________________________________________________Phone________________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________________________________
City______________________________________State____________________Zip___________________________
E-Mail Address___________________________________________________________________________________

Your Church___________________________________________________City______________________________

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.
Receipts

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**Total Receipts**

$11,931.76  $14,580.00

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**Total Disbursements**

$11,002.83  $14,580.00

Assets

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**Total Assets**

$20,039.79

Designated Funds

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**Total Designated Funds**

$8,383.41

Funds Available in Checking and savings

$8,676.86

**Total Funds Available**

$8,676.85

UNIT TREASURERS

Our newly elected SWO Treasurer took office on February 1st. So please send your UNIT offerings to:

Nancy Sack
2013 S. 97th Street
West Allis, WI 53227

If you have questions you can contact Nancy at 414-544-5434 or e-mail her at gmswotreasurer@gmail.com

If you need Form A to submit with your offering, you will find one on the front page of our website … www.greatermilwaukeeswo.org

The Executive Board for Churchwide Women of the ELCA recently approved a 2016 budget of $3,154,073. Of that, nearly $300,000 is budgeted for the Triennial Convention. That sum is built into the budget each year for convention expenses. So that expenses do not exceed expenditures in 2016, the board is “going to have to find additional revenue,” said Deborah Banks-Williams, chair of the budget and finance committee. In her report to the board, Executive Directory, Linda Post-Bushkofsky, said “a significant amount of time must be devoted to looking at our finances and how we are going to move forward”.

Over the past 18 years, annual offerings have dropped by more than 50 percent - from $3.6 million in 1997 to $1.7 million in 2014, she said. “The greatest challenge before the board and staff is how to sustain and grow financial support for the critical ministry of the Churchwide organization, the ministry that creates resources to support women as they support each other on their spiritual journeys”.

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PRAYER PARTNER OPPORTUNITIES
Submitted by Carole Ropel, Congregational Liaison

At the last Triennial in Charlotte, North Carolina, the theme centered around intergenerational efforts between you and younger women. Knowing that younger women and girls are the future of The Women of the ELCA, one of the ideas coming out of Triennial was the possibility of encouraging those of us who are current members of our organization to become Prayer Partners with younger women and girls from our congregations.

So, what is a Prayer Partner and what does it involve? Here is an explanation:
A Prayer Partner is someone you are willing to pray for on a regular basis, and they would include you in their prayers. You could remember that person on their birthday and other special holidays if you so desire. It can be that simple. Of course, you could take it to a higher level and become a mentor, if you so choose.

Think about the younger women in your congregation, those who are working outside the home, mothers with young children, college age young women or perhaps even pre-teen and teen age young women and decide which one you would like to set-up a relationship with. Then contact that individual and talk to them about the possibility of becoming Prayer Partners. In your conversation you would want to mention this is a Women of the ELCA initiative – they need to know where this idea came from. If you choose a pre-teen or teenager, it would be a good idea to contact the parents first and get their approval.

As time goes on, you could invite your Prayer Partner to Women of the ELCA activities at your church or at the Synod level. You could keep having occasional conversations with that individual to keep the relationship fresh. You will be so blessed knowing someone is praying for you as you are praying for them. Your Greater Milwaukee Women of the ELCA Board encourages you to seriously consider becoming a Prayer Partner with a woman from a generation younger than your own.

If you have any questions, please call Carole Ropel, at 414-719-2468 or e-mail her at caroleropel@wi.rr.com

THANK YOU WOMEN OF ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH

for inviting all of the women within the Greater Milwaukee Synod to take part in your “Women’s Wellness Morning on January 30th”.

A delicious breakfast was served before we entered the Sanctuary for a delightful, and informative devotion by Pastor Marilyn Miller. Following the theme from Isaiah 52:7 we then heard from the keynote speaker, Elizabeth Murphy.

Three breakout sessions were offered attend. Pictured here is the one entitled “Reflexology”. We learned a lot about our feet and it was fun.

The morning concluded with a delicious soup luncheon.

Think summer… Think lazy days and time by the lake … Think delightful fellowship

THINK WOMEN’S RETREAT WEEKEND AT PINE LAKE BIBLE CAMP - WAUPACA, WI
August 19-21, 2016

The Theme is Compassion - Bible verses 1st Peter 3:8-9. Bible Study Leader is Pastor Liz Rossing.
Cost: $120 for Juniper Lodge & Sequoia and $170 for the Evergreen Lodge
THE TENTH TRIENNAL CONVENTION for Women of the ELCA will be held July 11-13, 2017 in Minneapolis Minnesota. Our Synod will send three (3) delegates plus our SWO President. The three delegates will be elected at our October SWO Convention - please see page 10 for the nomination form.

THE TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING for Women of the ELCA will follow the Convention from July 13 - 16. Many already have pre-registered during the last Gathering in 2014 and it would be fun to know who you are … please send your name to Betty Warber (betty@warber.net) and I’ll put those names in our June Gleanings. Regular registration for the Gathering will begin in September 2016.

 JOINT CLUSTER MEETING
(all women in the Greater Milwaukee Synod are welcome)

Date: Saturday, April 16, 2016

Theme for the event: “We are His Hands and Feet”

Registration 8:30 AM … Breakfast 9:00 AM … Worship & Program 9:45 AM
$11.00 registration for breakfast & program …. Registration only $3.00

Place: Atonement Lutheran Church
S70 W16244 Martin Drive
Muskego, WI 53150 (just north of Janesville Road)

The women of Atonement have an active ministry with their Sister Congregation in Tepeaqua, El Salvador. Their current project is to bring water to the people there. Talking about this mission and their involvement with the people of Tepeaqua will be Renee Stadtler and Nancy Hanks.

Marcia Marquardt will lead the Bible Study. The text is Matthew 25:35
For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me”.

A registration form and details of the breakfast will be sent to each congregation. Please ask your church secretary/administrator to watch for the letter with this information and to publicize it for benefit of all women in your congregation. You may also send an e-mail requesting this information from our registrar, Jan Fox (jcnfx@aol.com).

“Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ’s compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and you are the hands with which He is to bless us now”.

-Saint Teresa Avila

We remember Virginia (Ginny) Oistad who passed away on November 30, 2015 at Froedtert Hospital.

Ginny served on our SWO Board as a Convention Intern and in 2014 chaired our Convention in her home congregation, Mt. Hope Lutheran in West Allis.

Ginny was a kidney recipient from her dear friend, Cathy Hinricks, and she spent many weeks in-and-out-of-the-hospital due to complications.

Then let us follow Christ, our Lord, and take the cross appointed, and, firmly clinging to his Word, In suffering be undaunted. For those who bear the battle’s stain, the crown of heavenly life obtain.
LaVerne Mueller, a long-time champion of the Lakota Sioux living on the Pine Ridge Reservation, brought to our attention an article which appeared in the February 2016 *LUTHERAN*. It is about American Indian Ministries and it’s titled *IMMERSION PROGRAMS BUILD BRIDGES*. Below is one paragraph copied from this article from pages 30 and 31.

*When people visit the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, home to the Lakota, conversations focus on breaking down generalizations. Karen Ressel, pastor and director of the Pine Ridge Center, said alcoholism, domestic violence, suicide and unemployment are often what people think of when they first participate in the center’s immersion program. She helps people “unravel that one-dimensional view” to understand in a broader context what life is like on the reservation.*

During our 2014 SWO Convention we passed a resolution to continue the ministry LaVerne Mueller had begun keeping the needs of the Lakota Sioux living on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in our hearts and minds and to continue sending quilts and warm clothing. In the December 2015 Gleanings we noted that a couple of churches have continued to send quilts and blankets to Pine Ridge. More recently, I received an e-mail from Bev Etzelmueller (a member at St. Matthew Lutheran Church) saying that in January their Quilt Ministry completed and shipped seven boxes of blankets to Pine Ridge. The funds for the shipment were supplied by the Thrivent Action Project. Well done, thou good and faithful servants.

---

**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTS**

In our December Gleanings we announced that 27 congregations reported 4,203 quilts had been sent to LWR. In this issue we add two more congregation, **St. Andrew in Sheboygan** who added 62 more quilts to that number. In addition, they sent 59 Personal Care Kits; 88 School Kits and 72 bars of soap. Secondly, we add **Christ the King in Port Washington** who sent 78 quilts & over 60 baby kits.

The following words are copied from the LWR website:

> When you make and send a quilt, you are not only comforting someone you have never met, but providing an object that is useful in ways you probably never imagined.

The ultimate purpose of a quilt is to provide warmth, an essential need for people in every climate, and LWR tries to ensure top standards in fabrics and filler accordingly.

In addition to being a cozy, clean new bed cover, it can be:

- A baby carrier, tied around a mother’s back
- A market display, spread on the ground and piled with vegetables
- A sack for transporting those goods to market
- A sunshade
- A shawl, and most importantly
- A constant reminder that someone, far away, cares a lot.

Thank you to those quilters who work so diligently to provide beautiful quilts for those with little or nothing.

If someone in your group has a Thrivent product, have them check out the possibility of getting the $250 Action Dollars to be used for your quilting project.

---

**“THANK YOU, GOD, for friends and for every opportunity to be a friend.”**

My life would not seem complete without friends. I cherish the love and companionship of my friends, and I am grateful for the support and encouragement they give me whenever I need a lift.

And this is the kind of friend I want to be too. I want to be loving and kind, so I ask God to guide my words and actions. I open my mind and my life to God so that God can work through me to bring the blessing of friendship to others.

**“Thank you, God, for friends and for every opportunity to be a friend.”**

Source unknown
Project RETURN started out of the Social Concerns Committee of Cross Lutheran Church. In 1980, Cross Church with 14 other local churches and 13 organizations set up a pilot program called Project RETURN in an attempt to assist those returning from the four minimum security prisons that were within a 2 mile radius of Cross Church. In 1981 Project RETURN became an autonomous 501(c)3 organization and has been pursuing the mission of assisting men and women with their post-incarceration re-entry needs. The mission statement is:

Project RETURN (Returning Ex-offenders To Urban Realities and Neighborhoods) exists to help men and women who have experienced incarceration make a positive, permanent return to community, family and friends.

Through 35 years of existence the mission has remained the same. Through the years the scope has changed. Project RETURN originally was designed to help men and women returning from the four minimum security prisons in Milwaukee. Today we work with anybody needing our assistance, regardless of what institution they are returning from, the time they have been out from prison, the type of offense they have, or any other demographic that restricts them from using other community based organizations for assistance. Our focus is to assist the man or woman to get from where they are to where they want to be. This includes helping the individual returning from prison to take an active role in changing the system to better accommodate the needs of the next person released from incarceration. The services offered by Project RETURN are designed to help men and women manage the re-entry process while also meeting the obligations placed on them by family, probation or parole officers, and the community. These services include but are not limited to: employment development and assistance, alcohol and other drug abuse treatment and support, individual and group counseling, parenting programming, housing referrals, and other supportive services as needed by the individual. Project RETURN works with all people that are in need of services at no charge.

This article was submitted by Judy Lee Tarbox, (a SWO Board Mission Team member) and she is asking that everyone attending the Joint Cluster Meeting on Saturday, April 16th to bring clothing for men and women to be delivered to the Project Return Offices.

GATHER SUBSCRIBERS

Please take note of this new information as to where you will send your subscription order for your Gather magazine.

Those who use the Bible Study in the Gather magazine will have the opportunity to meet at Wartburg Seminary (Dubuque Iowa) on Wednesday and Thursday, May 18th & 19th with an author of one of the upcoming studies,

A full brochure will be available at the end of February. If anyone is interested in attending such a session, please contact Carole Ropel at 414-719-2468 or Betty Warber at 262-886-8918. Both of these ladies have attended this program for the past several years and are planning to attend this event on May 18th and 19th.
NOMINATION FORM FOR TRIENNIAL CONVENTION DELEGATE
JULY 11-13, 2017
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Name of Nominee________________________________________________________________________________

Address of Nominee______________________________________________________________________________
Street                                                        City                                                Zip

Telephone Number_________________                           E-Mail________________________________________________________

Name and City of Congregational Unit submitting this Nomination:_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Check all that applies to the Nominee:

Age of Nominee ( ) Under 40 ( ) Over 40
( ) First time delegate to the Triennial
( ) Woman of Color or primary language other than English
( ) Active in a Women of the ELCA Congregational Unit
( ) Active as a Cluster Leader
( ) Active as a Synodical Women’s Organization Leader

Experience: Beginning with the most recent, list the nominee’s experience for the last 5 years.

Local Congregational Women’s Unit_________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Cluster Leader___________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Synodical Leader_________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Form submitted by:_______________________________________________________________________________
Name
Telephone____________________________         e-mail_________________________________________________

Note: Our constitution states that each Unit may submit only one nomination and that a nominee is limited to serve as a delegate for two consecutive Triennial Conventions.

During the business meeting of the annual SWO Convention on October 15, 2016, three Synod delegates will be elected for the 2017 Triennial Convention. Our SWO president is a delegate by virtue of the office. The Triennial Convention is held just before the Triennial Gathering. Delegates will have their round trip travel cost paid by Churchwide, as well as their lodging and meals during the Convention. If the delegate chooses to stay for the Triennial Gathering, Thursday, July 13 through Sunday July 16, 2017, the registration, lodging and meals will be at the individual’s own expense. Please submit a nominee from your congregational unit by Friday, August 26, 2016 sent to one of the co-nomination Chairs:

Carole Ropel (262-523-4130)                               Betty Warber (262-886-8918)
N22 W24233 A Range Line Road                              6517 Williamsburg Way
Pewaukee, WI 53072                                        Mt. Pleasant, WI 53406
caroleropel@wi.rr.com                                      betty@warber.net
# Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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<th>Position</th>
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<td>President</td>
<td>Donna Yourell (2017)</td>
<td>S80 W14846 Dartmouth Circle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vice-President</td>
<td>Jan Fox (2016)</td>
<td>4130 South Carnaby Lane</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Karen Hoffman (2016)</td>
<td>5302 Mansfield Drive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Nancy Sack (2017)</td>
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<td>Vice-President</td>
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<tr>
<td>Registrar</td>
<td>Jan Fox (2016)</td>
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Submit Gleanings articles to Betty Warber
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