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LENT

Soon we will all be on the Lenten journey for 2019. Pause for a moment and think what this Lenten Season is all about.

First of all Lent is a period of forty days (not counting Sundays) before Easter. This year Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6th.

On Ash Wednesday most of us attend a mid-week Worship Service and during that service our foreheads are marked with a cross and we hear the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return”. The ashes that the Pastor uses for this are the burnt “palms” from last Palm Sunday … remember the words we heard then from Luke’s Gospel, chapter 19 beginning with verse 37, “As he was now drawing near, at the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to rejoice and praise God with a loud voice for all the mighty works that they had seen, saying, “blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!” And, we know the rest of that story … people strewed the way with garments and cut branches from trees to line the pathway for Jesus as he rode into Jerusalem where several days later He would be crucified.

So, here we are about to continue our journey toward another Palm/Passion Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter to worship our Risen Lord and Savior. What will you doing on this journey? Are you making it a priority to attend Mid-week Lenten Services? Are you spending more time in prayer? Is there someone in your life that needs your forgiveness? This list just goes on and on, but please, take this season to heart, prepare yourself to sing the Alleluias on Easter Morning.

The glory of these forty days, we celebrate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed.

Then grant, O God, that we may, too, return in fast and prayer to you. Our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Hymn #320 from Evangelical Lutheran Worship
PLANS FOR THE 2019 SWO CONVENTION
ARE OFF TO A GREAT START!

Saturday, October 12, 2019

Holy Cross Lutheran Church
W156 N8131 Pilgrim Road
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

Theme: **Choose to Make a Difference**

*Isaiah 6:8* ... “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

Convention Chair, Lona Eubanks and Convention Intern, Donna Hallada are beginning to plan for our thirty-second Annual SWO Convention. So far we can share ….

Our Churchwide Representative is for this year’s convention is Barbara Tormondsen. She was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She serves on the budget and finance committee.

Previously, Barbara served as president and treasurer of the Metropolitan New York Synodical Women’s Organization (7C).

Barbara is also an active member at St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Rye Brook, N.Y. She is the treasurer for St. Paul’s and serves on the church council. Additionally, Barbara is president of the altar guild and St. Paul’s Women of the ELCA.

Barbara graduated from Dartmouth College, Hanover, N.H., with a major in engineering sciences and has her master’s of business administration from Dartmouth’s Tuck School of Business.

Barbara lives in Greenwich, Connecticut, with her husband, John. They have two children and one grandchild. Barbara enjoys spending time with family and competitive ballroom dancing.

Ladies, remember this is your Convention and we want to offer you what you want/what you would be interested in. So, if you have ideas for Workshops, please contact Convention Chair, Lona Eubanks by phone … 414-368-3363 or e-mail at l.eubanks@sbcglobal.net.

Of course, one reason for an Annual Convention is to take care of the business of the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization and to elect/re-elect Board Members. This year we’ll elect a President for a two (2) year term; a treasurer for a two-year (2) term, a secretary for a one-year (1) term, and five Board Members, one to serve as Convention Intern and on the others on the Mission Team. We will also need to elect a voting member to the 2020 triennial convention in Phoenix.

Is there action you want our SWO to be involved with? Is there a project you want to see our SWO take on? Are there any changes you want to see made to our SWO? If the answer is “yes” the way to accomplish this is to submit a Resolution which can be acted on at the October Convention. On page 9, of this Gleanings, you will find the way to submit a resolution so please take advantage of this process and get your ideas/dreams/wishes out there to be acted on.

Our June Gleanings will have all of the Convention Information along with registration forms. However, now is the time to mark Saturday, October 12th on your calendar and plan to attend the SWO Convention. Hopefully every UNIT will send a “voting member”.


Winged Wonder

Creation, Faith, and the Amazing Monarch Butterfly

Program and Bible Study Leaders … Pastor Lynn and Bishop Paul Erickson

Pastor Lynn Erickson graciously accepted the invitation to take part in the spring cluster event. She and her husband, Bishop Paul Erickson will provide the Bible study, litany, and program with the wonderful theme, “Winged Wonder: Creation, Faith, and the Amazing Monarch Butterfly.

8:00 - 8:30 AM Registration
8:30 AM - Welcome and Breakfast

Cost: $12.00 which includes registration and breakfast … $3.00 is registration only

Registration Deadline is Thursday, March 21, 2019

Make checks payable and send to:
Jan Fox … 4130 S. Carnaby Lane … New Berlin, WI 53151
Phone: 262-782-5680 … e-mail jcnfx@aol.com

It’s with a grieving heart that I tell all of you of the death of our secretary and past president, Betty Warber. Betty served two terms as president of our SWO and also at least two terms as our secretary. She has been the editor of our newsletter, Gleanings, for many years. She fought a courageous battle with cancer, yet still managed to be faithful to her duties as secretary and editor, only resigning when it became impossible for her to do so. Betty was a strong supporter of our SWO and Women of the ELCA. Our SWO board has voted to send a memorial of $75.00 to Women of the ELCA for Katie’s Fund. Betty would often quote, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant”. I can do no less for her, so, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant”, you will be greatly missed my wonderful friend and mentor. Rest now in the loving arms of your Savior, Jesus Christ.  Sue Seidemann

HYMN OF ST. PATRICK

Christ, as a light, illumine and guide me!
Christ, as a shield, o’ershadow and cover me!
Christ, be under me! Christ be over me!
Christ, be beside me, on my left hand and right!

Christ, this day be within and without me!
Christ, the lowly and meek,
    Christ, the all powerful,
Be in the heart of each to whom I speak,
In the mouth of each who speaks to me,
In all who draw near me, or see me, or hear me!
As I’m writing this, we’re dealing with the coldest temperatures and wind chills that we have had since the late 1990’s. Just a few days ago, we could see grass on our lawns. Then winter came full force. Here in Sheboygan after Monday’s storm we now have snow banks just a few inches from our mail boxes and about four-foot piles on the street corners. Wow! What a change! Over the years many things have changed in our lives, though most of the changes haven’t been quite as sudden as our weather, but our organization has changed very little. Yes, our members are getting older; our offerings are declining; but our structure hasn’t changed. One of the things we’ve been asking is how can we grow our membership and “how do we fulfill our mission and purpose in our changing world?” Our churchwide board has also asked this same question, so our CWO (churchwide organization) has commissioned a group of women to consider this question. The group met in St. Louis on January 4-6 to discuss the way we currently do our business. In the coming months it will be interesting to hear about their work on this issue.

Coming up in February I will be attending the annual Conference of Presidents at the CWO offices in Chicago. The theme of the conference is “Child of God” taken from Matthew 18:1-5:

> At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”
> He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, “Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”

We will begin on Friday at 4:00 and end on Sunday after lunch. It will be a time packed with Bible study, worship, workshops, and meetings with other presidents in our regions. We’ll also hear some information about the triennial gathering next year. Ladies, it’s time to start saving not only for our synodical convention in October, but also for the 2020 triennial in Phoenix. At our convention we will be electing a voting member to attend the 2020 triennial convention as well as new board members and officers. I hope to see all of you at both of these conventions.

In the meantime, stay warm and safe.

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*Inspired by our history, we build a promising future.*

**Katharina von Bora Luther was a practical and bold woman of faith.**

Inspired by our history, we build a promising future. Women of the ELCA established the Katie’s Fund Endowment in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, raise up bold leaders for the women’s organization and support bold and creative ministry for generations to come. Katie’s Fund supports ministry in three areas of global connections, leadership development, and living theology.

Learn more at welca.org/katiesfund
Help!!!!

Your synodical organization urgently needs one or two women who are willing to volunteer for two important positions which are empty at this time. The first is the SWO secretary position. This woman would need to write the minutes of our SWO board meetings for the next three meetings until a new secretary would be elected at our next convention on October 12th at Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

The second and most urgent position is that of the editor of our newsletter, the *Gleanings*. This newsletter is published four times a year and sent out in March, June, September, and December. Currently, the newsletter is done with Microsoft Publisher, so knowledge of that program would be beneficial.

If you feel God’s calling to help in either or both of these two ways, please contact Sue Seidemann at (920) 452-1634 or seidesue@charter.net.

RESOURCES

Lutheran women have a long history of Bible study, discipleship, and desire to deepen their spiritual life and learn about issues.

Women of the ELCA offers free, downloadable program resources—all in English and many in Spanish—to help you grow in faith and engage in ministry and action.

Go to:  www.womenoftheelca.org

The following is just one of the many resources available

I AM SHE

Our mission statement calls us to act boldly.

What does this mean?

It means a variety of things,

for boldness has a range of voices.

Some is bright and loud.

Some is firm and quiet.

*Do you know what is your “best bold”?*

This program will help you discover it and put it into action! I Am She can be used in a congregational setting, as a conference event, or as part of a synodical convention. It could be conducted over five to six weeks or as a weekend retreat. So boldly claim your boldness today, declaring, “I am she!”

These resources are free … nothing to purchase … just material the Women of the ELCA have provided for us to use in our UNITS or as individuals. The resources are available on line and can be printed out on a pdf file.
“How Do We Best Fulfill Our Organization’s Mission and Purpose?”

Recently, a group of women met in St. Louis as an exploratory committee to examine Women of the ELCA’s current business model. This committee was organized by the churchwide executive board’s budget and finance committee. Three questions came out of the committee’s work. They are as follows:

1. “If you could make changes to our constitutions to encourage more participation in the organization, what would they be?
2. The triennial convention costs approximately $2,400 per voting member. Annual revenue from offerings has been insufficient to pay for the convention over the past two triennium. How could your SWO assist with the costs?
3. Why is this organization important to you? If this organization went away tomorrow, would you miss it? Would it matter? Why?”

As your SWO President, I met with other SWO presidents in February to consider these questions. Our SWO board was asked to give its input which I took with me to the conference. The committee will give a report to the churchwide executive board at its April meeting and again at its October meeting.

Sue Seidemann

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**How Do You Do?**

Are you an active member, the kind that would be missed? Or are you just contented to have your name on the list?

Do you attend the meetings and mingle with the flock or do you stay at home and criticize and knock?

Do you ever go to visit a member that is sick or leave the work to just a few and then talk about a clique?

Do you come to meetings often and help with hand and heart? Don’t be just a member, dig in and do your part.

Think this over sisters, you know right from wrong. Are you an active member, or do you just “belong”?

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**SOCIAL MEDIA IS THE NAME OF TODAY’S GAME**

Please follow the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com)

go to your facebook page and search for GREATER MILWAUKEE SYNOD … then a person “likes” the page.

Thanks to Caitlin Vang for keeping us updated on the activities within our Synodical Women’s Organization

We also have a web-site: www.greatermilwaukeeswo.org

Web-master is Sandy Allen … **allen.sjwerner@gmail.com**
Our fiscal year ended on Wednesday, January 31st. As of February 1, 2018 “Tori” Mallak’s term as our SWO Treasurer officially began. Please, send all UNIT offerings to Tori at the below address using Form A.

Victoria Mallak  
132 S. 92nd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53214

you may also contact Victoria with your questions:  
Phone# 414-257-3315  
Cell# 414-530-6884  
e-mail: Vmallak@wi.rr.com

---

### Be a Honeycomb Giver

There is an old division of givers into three types:
- The **flint**
- The **sponge**
- The **honeycomb**

The first two givers suffer from an acute malady known as “cirrhosis of the giver”. **Flint givers** do not yield up anything without much hammering, and even then you get more chips and sparks than anything else.

In contrast, **sponge givers** need to be squeezed, and sometimes squeezed hard. The more you squeeze and massage a sponge, the more you get.

**Honeycomb givers**, in contrast, overflow with goodness and sweetness. God gives to us lavishly, and this is how we ought to give in return.

As individuals, and UNITS, let us find the joy of sharing our dollars with the God who has blessed us with so much. Our offerings help us here in the Greater Milwaukee Synod as well as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

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### Treasurer’s Report … January 31, 2019

**Receipts** | **Actual YTD** | **2018 Budget**
--- | --- | ---
Board Offerings | $199.00 | 
Cluster Funds | $993.07 | $0.00  
Unit Offerings | $4,633.13 | $5,000.00

---

**Assets** | 
--- | ---
SWO Checking | $9,453.79 | 
SWO Savings | $6,197.91 | 
Mission Investment Fund | $3,190.03 | 
**Total Assets** | **$18,841.73** | 

---

**Designated Funds** | 
--- | ---
1/2 Unit Offering | $0.00 | 
Board Offering | $0.00 | 
Convention Offering | $0.00 | 
Scholarship-Synod Convention | **$200.00** | 
**-Triennial Conv.** | **$1,640.00** | 
**-Other** | **$200.00** | 
Triennial Promoter | $0.00 | 
Convention | $2,009.36 | 
Mission Investment Fund | $3,190.03 | 
Unexpected Expense | $0.00 | 
**Total Designated Funds** | **$7,239.39** | 

**Funds Available in Checking and savings** | **$8,412.31** | 

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*Victoria Mallak  
132 S. 92nd Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53214

you may also contact Victoria with your questions:  
Phone# 414-257-3315  
Cell# 414-530-6884  
e-mail: Vmallak@wi.rr.com*
News Regarding Human Trafficking and How We Can Be Advocates

The following is a copy of an e-mail sent to Sue Seidemann prior to the Conference of Presidents which was held February 22-24 in Chicago. This is with regard to an important issue for Women of the ELCA. It is hoped that the presidents of the Wisconsin synods will be able to pass on news regarding how we as women can advocate for this bill. It’s an extremely important issue here in Wisconsin. This is printed here with the full consent of Shirley Paulson, President of the East Central Synodical Organization.

“Hi Ladies -

I hope you are all well and surviving our Wisconsin winter!

As you know, ending human trafficking (HT) is a priority for Women of the ELCA. You may also know that 16 other states have passed safe harbor laws and such legislation has been proposed for each of the last three sessions here in Wisconsin without success. Rep. Jill Billings is sponsoring this legislation again this session, and I believe we have a very good chance of finally passing it IF Women of the ELCA work together to do so.

I am proposing that we (the presidents of the WI SWOs) meet at the conference of presidents (COP) in Chicago and come up with plans to act to get safe harbor legislation passed this session.

The reasons I believe we have a good chance this session include…

1 - Rep. Billings's bill (see attached) is straight forward: it simply proposes that young women and men under 18 not be prosecuted for prostitution but instead get help as victims, not be treated as criminals. If we can get this passed, hopefully it will open the door to more legislation that will help end trafficking.

2 - Last session, Attorney General Brad Schimel had a change of heart and announced that he supported the bill. Although he is no longer in office, I think his change sent a message to other Republicans. Also, changes in previous versions of the bill were made to address concerns of statewide law enforcement organizations.

3 - On January 29, about 24 brave souls traveled to Madison to take part in an advocacy day for HT organized by the Lutheran Office of Public Policy (Pastor Cindy Crane). The goal was to visit our representatives and senators and ask them to sign on to co sponsor Billings' safe harbor bill. Nancy Nagan from Appleton talked with her rep - Jim Steineke - and he said he would co sponsor the bill. This was especially important because he is the Assembly Majority Leader. My state senator (Shae Shotwell) was non committal while I visited his office but later signed on as a co sponsor. Those are just two examples of what our influence can do. Imagine if it was 200 of us instead of two dozen? Some of you know Patti Austin (past churchwide president of WELCA). Patti says that Georgia finally passed a safe harbor bill after WELCA women took part in large numbers in advocacy days.

When we meet in Chicago I’d like to talk about how we can work together to get this safe harbor bill passed this session. Cindy Crane has agreed to plan another advocacy day at the capitol when the time is right and has asked us to be listed as co sponsors.

Let me know if you want more info or reply to all if you have ideas you'd like to share before Chicago.

May God continue to bless you and your work.

Shirley Paulson

East Central Synod WI”
WHY WE WRITE RESOLUTIONS

Among the benefits of participating in our Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization is the opportunity to have a voice in determining the activities and direction of our organization. Where we go and what we do is very much up to our UNITS and individuals. That is why we meet in conventions, and at those conventions, we conduct business via resolutions.

Think of a resolution this way:

- A way to participate in a democratic process and have your/our voices heard;
- A means to educate women in the Greater Milwaukee Synod about particular needs and concerns;
- A resolution is a vehicle for inspiring others to take action.

Resolutions are really just a way to plan and think ahead, a way to hold ourselves accountable for decisions that we make. When a resolution is passed it is no longer an idea but a commitment.

The goal of a resolution is to inform and educate the readers so that they are inspired to take action. There, a resolution should:

- Have a clear and concise title.
- Address any one issue and call for attention to a need for action on something in particular.
- Address concerns relevant to the women in our Greater Milwaukee Synod (keep in mind our mission, purpose and ongoing activities.
- Propose an action or a solution to a problem.
- Have sufficient background to give someone with little knowledge of the subject sufficient information to make an intelligent and informed decision.

The first portion of a resolution is sort of a preamble. It consists of declarations of fact that you can support and back up. Opinions are not expressed in this portion of a resolution. Each fact should be listed as a separate sentence or paragraph that begins with WHEREAS, followed by a semi-colon. The final WHEREAS ends with a semi-colon followed by “therefore be it.”

The second portion of the resolution states the action that you propose in order to address what you identified in the WHEREAS portion. When writing the RESOLVED section, a guide to keep in mind is that his section ought to be able to stand on its own … you shouldn’t have to refer back to the WHEREAS section to understand what is being asked for.

Then there is the narrative portion of the resolution. It doesn’t have to be very long, but it should provide the rationale for bringing the resolution forward and include a brief summary of the facts supporting the resolution. It provides answers to the question, “where did this idea come from?” that go beyond simply the facts provided in the WHEREAS section. This is where you provide some context for your enthusiasm to bring forth the resolution.

Okay Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization … what do you want this organization to do?

WHEREAS
________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

WHEREAS
________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

therefore, be it

RESOLVED
________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________

and be it further

RESOLVED
________________________________________________________

Any Resolutions to be acted on at this year’s SWO Convention (October 12th) must be signed by the person(s) and congregational UNIT and sent to the SWO President no later than Monday, August 26th.
**AUGUST 16, 17 & 18, 2019**

**AUGUST WOMENS’ BIBLE RETREAT**

**Theme: “Lead Us Not Into Temptation”**

1 Corinthians 10:13

No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

---

**“Lead Us Not Into Temptation”**

$125 per person; $135 (late registration)

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Early Registration, postmarked by July 27, 2019; late registration, postmarked after July 28, 2019

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Bible Studies

Book Club

Taize Service

---

Guided Meditation

Hiking, Swimming, Sistership, Massages & Fair Trade Shopping

**IMAGO DEI VILLAGE**

W8160 Cloverleaf Lake Rd

Clintonville, WI 54929
# Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President:</td>
<td>Sue Seidemann (2019)</td>
<td>President: Sue Seidemann 3729 N. 12th Street, Sheboygan, WI 53083 Cell: 920-946-1857 <a href="mailto:seidesue@charter.net">seidesue@charter.net</a> St. Peter LC - Sheboygan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary: Historian</td>
<td>Due to the resignation of Betty Warber there is no secretary at this time. Anyone interested in helping out, please contact Sue Seidemann.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer: Finance Chair</td>
<td>Victoria Mallak (2019)</td>
<td>Treasurer: Victoria Mallak 132 S. 92nd Street, Milwaukee, WI 53214 Cell: 414-530-6884 <a href="mailto:vmallak@wi.rr.com">vmallak@wi.rr.com</a> Martin Luther LC - Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## BOARD MEMBERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Chair</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mission Team</td>
<td>Laura Ruiz (2020)</td>
<td>Mission Team: Laura Ruiz 171 N. 71st Street, Milwaukee, WI 53213 Cell: 414-704-7849 <a href="mailto:ruizlm60@yahoo.com">ruizlm60@yahoo.com</a> Ascension LC - Milwaukee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Convention Chair</td>
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