

Gleanings

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\$50.00

**Early Bird Registration
has been extended**

**NEW DEADLINE
Wednesday, September 10th**

Complete registration details
page 3

27th Annual SWO Convention

Saturday, October 11, 2014

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church
8633 W. Becher Street
West Allis, WI 53227

THEME: *BOLD WOMEN LAUGH*

Verses: Proverbs 31:25-26

*Strength and dignity are her clothing,
and she laughs at the time to come.
She opens her mouth with wisdom,
and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*

Registration opens at 7:30 AM ... Delegate Orientation is at 8:15 AM
Convention begins at 8:30 AM

This day will be filled with seeing long-time friends ... meeting new friends ... participating in exciting workshops (see workshop descriptions on page 2) ... being inspired by our **Keynote Speaker, Tasha Schuh** (see page 3) ... and yes, we will take care of SWO business.

Convention Offering will be divided in the following way

1/2 will be sent to Churchwide ... 1/4 to GMS Campus Ministries
1/4 will stay in our SWO Treasury

In-Kind Gifts will be given to the Good Samaritan Outreach Center in West Allis ... See page 10 for details

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.

CONVENTION WORKSHOPS

(Non-delegates will have the opportunity to attend two workshop ... delegates will be able to attend the afternoon session)

1. **FACE TO FACE WITH BISHOP JEFF:** This is the opportunity for our Bishop to bring us up-to-date with what is going on in the Greater Milwaukee Synod. This also gives the women the chance to ask the Bishop questions. We are so grateful that Bishop Jeff takes time from his busy schedule to be with us.
2. **LAUGH YOUR WAY TO GRACE:** Have you been lulled into believing that humor is inappropriate or disrespectful in spiritual realms-maybe even blasphemous? If so, ask yourself this ... inappropriate according to whom? Laughter was honored by the ancients as a spiritual healing tool and celebrated by the world's great religions. So why aren't we laughing along the spiritual path today? What would happen if we did? (from the book, "Laugh Your Way to Grace" written by The Rev. Susan Sparks who was a featured speaker at the Triennial Gathering). In our discussion, we will explore these questions and see how laughter can and should be part of our faith journey. If you haven't read the book that is OK, our discussion will still have something for you. Who doesn't want to "Laugh Your Way to Grace"? **PRESENTER: Jody Smiley** who serves on the Churchwide Executive Board and will be with us as the Churchwide Representative. Coming from Blacksburg, Virginia where she is very active in her local congregation and serves on the Virginia Tech Lutheran Campus Ministry Committee. Jody is a fan of most sports and plays softball on her church's team.
3. **BOLD WOMEN LAUGH:** God endowed us with the gifts of laughter and joy and is pleased when we share them. The spiritual work of InterPlay is to laugh, have fun, and be joyful. In the practices of InterPlay, we connect with our whole self: body, mind and spirit. Together we create a new community. InterPlay is interactive, experiential - and for people of all ages and abilities. Workshop participants will be wise women who dare with each other to **laugh boldly**. **PRESENTER: The Rev. Susan Bowen** who is a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains (APC) and an ordained Lutheran minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America since 1996. She served three congregations in the Greater Milwaukee Synod and currently serves a call to Specialized Ministries at Froedtert Hospital in Milwaukee. She enjoys designing floral art pieces, entering floral competitions, photography, and trying healthy recipes. Susan was first introduced to InterPlay at an APC Conference and is completing her leadership curriculum. Susan and husband Thom enjoy cooking and gardening together, live in Racine and have two cats, Phantom and Hazelnut.
4. **DO WE HAVE TO TALK ABOUT IT AGAIN?** Why do we need to still talk about racism? I am tired of trying to be non-racist and having to listen again to Sue Ruehle and Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld go on about it. Is it possible to change things anyway? What are your thoughts and questions? Let's talk! **PRESENTERS: Pastor Susan Ruehle** a retired Pastor currently working on creating a center for science education in Tanzania. With her husband, Chuck, has founded Telescopes to Tanzania. Her passion includes working on anti-racism issues, justice concerns & beings grandma to 5. **Pastor Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld** currently is doing Interim ministry at Grace in Kenosha. She is married to Pastor Fred Thomas-Breitfeld who serves Jackson Park Lutheran Church, the mother of two grown children and a doting grandmother. Pastor Viviane is Co-Chair of the committee preparing the Social Statement on WOMEN & Justice. Pastor Viviane is involved with the Synod's Anti-Racism Committee.
5. **BEING A FOOL FOR CHRIST..A TOUGH JOB BUT SOMEONE HAS TO DO IT:** I'm willing to make a fool of myself but I'm not foolish. I know that before you can convince people of something, you have to get their attention. **Presenter: Kathy Schultz** is very active in her home congregation, Mt. Hope and she says that on most weekends of the year she can be found in the Church hallway holding a sign that reads "I NEED HELP". Kathy has been married for 44 years, she is a mother and grandmother and has done many things in her life. She graduated from UW- Oshkosh, taught in the New Berlin School System, has been a Tupperware Lady, sellers of crafts, receptionist at Family Health Plan and the list goes on.

In the afternoon, we'll be treated to the music of the *Cream City Crooners*, say farewell to some out-going Synodical Board Members ... install the 2014-15 Synodical Board and bring our day to its end with a devotional including sharing the Bread and Wine of Holy Communion.

The Convention Committee has been diligent in their work preparing this exciting day for us. We encourage every single congregation to send at least one person to this Convention. We are confident that everyone will leave this event feeling the day had been well spent.

See page 10 for a list of IN-KIND GIFTS



Our Convention Key-note Speaker

TASHA SCHUH

Tasha will keynote the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization's Convention on Saturday, October 11, 2014.

Tasha, inspirational Speaker and Author from Ellsworth, Wisconsin, will share her message of "Little is Huge".

After showcasing her talent as the lead in her high school's production of Grease, Tasha began to dream of a career in theater. No one knew that the stage itself would steal her dream - and almost her life - during a rehearsal for the next big show.

Just days before her opening night performance in The Wizard of Oz, sixteen year-old Tasha took one step backward and fell sixteen feet through a trap door. On that day, November 11, 1997, she landed on the concrete floor of the historic Sheldon Theater, breaking her neck, crushing her spinal cord, and fracturing her skull. She would never walk again.

For the next three days, Tasha prepared for a surgery that would at best leave her a C-5 quadriplegic. Post-op complications turned Tasha's struggle and ultimate triumph into an unbelievable journey. From loss and grief to self-discovery and achievement, Tasha's faith, resilience, and honesty have allowed her to leave the old Tasha behind while she confronts the new Tasha's life from a "state of the art" wheelchair.

Survivor, believer, fighter, Tasha is an inspiration and hope for all who face life's greatest challenges. She was the recipient of the 2012 National Rehabilitation Champion Award and was Ms. Wheelchair USA 2012-13. Tasha travels and shares her story of resilience and triumph over tragedy.

Tasha lives in Ellsworth with her husband Doug Michaels, former Eau Claire TV meteorologist. She has extensive education and experience with motivational speaking. She graduated in 2003 from Winona State University with a bachelor's degree in communication studies and then in 2007 finished her second bachelor's degree in theology at Maranatha College. She has had the opportunity to speak at various high schools, women's luncheons, youth groups, churches, conferences, corporate organizations and other special events.

Tasha is the author of "My Last Step Backward", a printed version of her story. There will be copies of this book available to purchase and Tasha will sign a copy for you.

Tasha will inspire, motivate, and encourage you
to find life in your story by embracing the little things.

Registration Form

Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization 27th Annual Convention

“BOLD WOMEN LAUGH”

Saturday, October 11, 2014

Mt. Hope Lutheran Church
8633 W. Becher Street
West Allis, Wisconsin 53227

<p>Early Bird Registration (has been extended to Wednesday, September 10th) \$50.00 Beginning Thursday, September 11th the registration fee 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? _____ _____</p>
--

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 Delegate** **I am not a Delegate**
(Registration deadline is September 30, 2014)

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.

If overnight lodging is needed: 10 rooms have been reserved at the Days Inn West at 1673 S. 108th St. (Hwy 100) in West Allis for Friday, October 10th at a cost of \$56. You must make your own reservation - call 1-414-778-2200.

Four Convention Scholarships are available ... see form on next page 4

\$50.00 Convention Scholarships will be awarded to four (4) women

To attend the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization 27th Annual Convention

Saturday, October 11, 2014

**Mt. Hope Lutheran Church
8633 W. Becher Street
West Allis, WI**

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 Wednesday, September 10, 2014.**
- ◆ Those who indicate a financial need will be given a higher priority and delegates will be given preference over non-delegates.
- ◆ 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 Saturday, September 20th.
- ◆ 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**

The following is a report from our Resolutions Committee
Delegates to our 2014 Convention will be voting on the following resolutions

Resolution #1 ... submitted by Bev Etzelmueller

Resolution on Continuing the Pine Ridge Reservation Project Ministry

Whereas, LaVerne Mueller has served as the main coordinator to keep the needs of Lakota Sioux living on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota in our hearts and minds; and

Whereas, the quilt and blanket ministry is needed and needs to continue; and

Whereas, the cost of shipping quilts, blankets, mittens, hats and some clothing to Batesland Elementary School is expensive; and

Whereas, correspondence is needed to maintain support for distribution of donations and awareness of current needs on the Pine Ridge Reservation; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization:

1. continue the Pine Ridge Reservation Project started and faithfully maintained by LaVerne Mueller;
2. establish a designated fund for the Pine Ridge quilt ministry to cover costs of shipping blankets and quilts to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota;
3. create a sub-committee to assist LaVerne Mueller, gather information necessary for the Pine Ridge Reservation distribution contacts, gather names of people in the Greater Milwaukee Synod area willing to deliver donations, educate the membership about needs and solutions, and maintain needed communication within the Synod to carry on this project.

The Resolutions Committee recommends adoption of this resolution

Resolution #2 ... Submitted by the SWO Board

Resolution on Providing Backpacks for Homeless Children in Greater Milwaukee Synod

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, 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 of 2015 and, be it

Further Resolved,

that women gather early August, 2015 to assemble items into backpacks for distribution to homeless children.

The Resolutions Committee recommends adoption of this resolution.

**NEEDED: WOMEN TO SERVE
ON THE SWO BOARD 2014-21015**

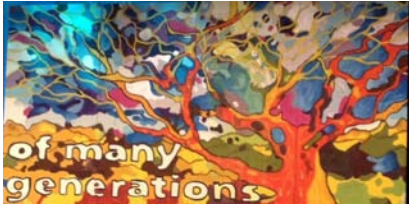
For an organization to function to its fullest, leadership is needed. The Nomination Committee is in the process of preparing a slate of nominees, to serve in leadership roles of the Women of the ELCA within our Greater Milwaukee Synod. These leaders will be elected during the Annual SWO Convention October 11, 2014. We will elect a Vice-President, Secretary and three (3) Board people.

Please talk with a woman you feel is gifted & talented and, with her permission, send her name to one of the people on our nomination committee:

- **Marilyn Day** ... mday17@wi.rr.com or call her at 414-388-4535
- **Char Guiliani** ... minizmom@yahoo.com or call her at 414-801-7349
- **Donna Hallada** ... dhallada@frontier.com or call her at 262-353-9605

If anyone feels that she is being called into the ministry of Women of the ELCA they may also submit their own name to one of the above three people.

Prayerfully consider this plea as a personal challenge to serve. As always, God is looking for leaders who will be people "after his own heart" (I Samuel 13:14) to lead His people ... in this request, it's to lead the women of the ELCA especially in the Greater Milwaukee Synod. We have much to accomplish in the areas of "Discipleship", "Stewardship" and "Justice".



The 9th Triennial Convention and Gathering are now memories for some 2400 ELCA Women. The Convention delegates, from the Greater Milwaukee Synod, share their thoughts:

Caitlin Vang writes: I would like to thank the SWO for giving me an opportunity to become a delegate for the first time in any conference or convention (local and national). It's truly a blessing to have this experience of voting and meeting new sisters in Christ during the event.

I have the wonderful opportunity to get to know my fellow delegates closer (Carole too) and also being silly with them when taking pictures. The best part of it is to be ourselves and representing what's best for our local synod back home. I'm sure my sisters in Christ will still remember my bamboo sticky rice that I made and broke off in a unique and fast way for them to eat it.

Voting has been so much easier and faster than the traditional way. I wish we would have these voting machines at every big event. There are many memorials that have passed, so it means we have a lot of work to get started, but it will be worth it. Although we may face challenges along the way or beginning, anything is possible through God.

When I hear stories of girls being sold as slaves or even killed, it broke my heart. I wish there was something I could do about it. The donations that is collected during convention, I am happy to know that 25% is going towards an organization that deals with human trafficking.

Again, I would like to say thank you for this opportunity, and I'm looking forward for the next opportunity again in the near future. May God bless you all.



Marilyn Day writes: The Ninth Triennial Convention of the ELCA took place in Charlotte, N.C. July 21-24, 2014. Elizabeth Eaton, our Presiding Bishop of the ELCA spoke both during the convention and again at the Gathering. She talked about being the church for the sake of the world, that we're all in this together, and we're stronger together than apart. We're bigger than the Salvation Army. One in 50 is served by Lutheran Services, be it Lutheran Disaster Relief, Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran Immigration or Lutheran World Federation.

We viewed some videos: "*On Eagles Wings*" dealing with rescuing girls and women, and one on Lutheran Immigration, bringing hope to displaced families. Very touching stories.

We used individual voting machines to elect new Officers and Board. This was new for some of us. The new Officers are President, Patti Austin from Georgia; Vice-President, Jody Smiley from Virginia; Secretary, Becky Shurson from California and Treasurer, Ely Smith from Washington.

As your delegates from the Greater Milwaukee Synod, we thank you for electing us and giving us the opportunity to serve.

Char Guilliani writes: Having the opportunity to attend the 9th Triennial Convention was definitely an awesome experience. Being taken out of my comfort zone (I usually "hang with the youth" from our congregation) was something, in my opinion, everyone needs to do at different points in their life. It causes you to learn new and insight-

ful things, appreciate all of the time and hard work which occurs "behind the scenes" in an organization as large as the Women of the ELCA. Elected as a delegate to represent the Greater Milwaukee Synod Women's Organization and being your "voice", I had the opportunity to vote on constitutional changes, resolutions and elect the new Board of the Women of the ELCA. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for believing I would be the "voice" you wanted heard at the Convention. God's Blessings and Peace.

Mary Ellen Kiesner writes: A body of 363 delegates met at the Churchwide Convention to carry out the business of Women of the ELCA in Charlotte, NC, July 22-24, 2014. The Greater Milwaukee (5J) Synodical Women's Organization was represented by: SWO President Betty Warber, Mary Ellen Kiesner, Char Guilliani, Marilyn Day and Caitlin Vang.

The delegates elected a new Churchwide Board consisting of 4-officers and 17-Churchwide Board Members including president, Patti Austin and Vice-President, Jody Smiley (our Churchwide Representative at our fall SWO Convention 2014).

The delegation carried out and acted on the business of the convention set before them including proposed changes to the Constitution:

- Proposal to reduce the number of Churchwide Board members (defeated)
- Language clarification for eligibility of elected Office (first time vote)

Voted on several memorials"

- Awareness and Prevention of Human Trafficking (passed)
- Bullying, Harassment, and Related Violence (passed)
- Creating Safe Churches for children (passed)
- Using past officers and Churchwide Executive Board Members for future Triennial Gatherings (defeated)
- Supporting the cause of Solar Energy for Phebe Hospital in Liberia (passed)
- Unit Representation on Synodical Boards (referred to Executive Board for study)
- Compassionate action for the Immigration of children in crisis (passed)

Our Triennial Scholarship Recipients say "THANK YOU"!

Dear WELCA Ladies,

Thank you very much for the scholarship and sending me to the Triennial Gathering. I love it.

My favorite things were workshops, Bible Study about Mary Magdaline, worship services and being with my mom and all the other ladies that I know.

My most favorite thing was the music, especially when we sang, "I have Seen the Lord" and seeing the painting of Jesus on the stage. It was so good.

I learned to be a "bold woman" and I marked the sign of the cross on many peoples' foreheads and told them that they were a child of God. I had so much fun.

God bless you.

Your friend, Amy Kiesner

Thank you so much for the scholarship that allowed me to attend the Gathering which was held in North Carolina. You rock Women of the ELCA; without your help I could not make it. I am grateful for your considerate kindness and pray that each of you will be blessed as I have to meet each of you.

My goal has always been to help others when I can and make a difference in someone's life! I pray and ask God to direct me in the right area.

Vivian Johnson

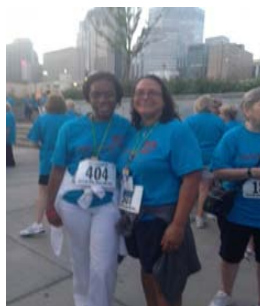


I wanted to attend the Gathering to find my voice as a woman of the ELCA and I received strength and healing. Words can't express how thankful I am to the women of the ELCA organization for the opportunity to be at the Triennial Gathering. I know that whatever happened to me in the past is forgiven and I can move on knowing I have support. I know what I have learned has changed me forever and because of the workshops I will be a more productive member of my church.

I am truly blessed and will be a blessing to others because of what I learned.

Christ's Blessings, Debbie Burns

Pictures from the 9th Annual Triennial Gathering



Pastor Viviane and Char Guiliani were a couple of women from the Greater Milwaukee SWO who participated in the fourth Triennial Run, Walk and Roll event. A course designed especially for this event was in Charlotte's brand-new ADA accessible downtown park, The Romare Beardon Park.

Speaker & author, Rev. Susan Sparks, a featured speaker at the "Gathering" and author of her first book "Laugh Your Way to Grace" noticed the delegates from GMS with their "Packer" bags and announced to the entire audience that she was indeed a Packer fan.



A highlight of the Gathering was having our Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton with us. She addressed the assembly and then she stood for hours in a "meet-'n-greet" reception while many pictures were snapped

Another highlight was the Worship Services with Holy Communion. Lay women served as Communion Assistants for both the opening and closing Services.





It is hard to believe that the 9th Triennial Convention and Gathering of the Women of the ELCA is now behind us. After years and many months of planning and organization the event is over. For the 47 of you, delegates and visitors, who were able to attend the Triennial from our Greater Milwaukee Synod, I know you came home renewed and filled with the Holy Spirit. It is always a great place to make new friends and greet friends from past Triennials.

Many were able to take tours that were offered. I heard very positive reports from those who attended the tour to the Billy Graham Library, NASCAR and the City Tour of Charlotte. I know some of you took other tours that were offered. Charlotte is a lovely city with much to offer to visitors. And yes, it was hot and humid, but in the convention center we were glad to have a light jacket or sweater – inside it was very cool. Some would say “Cold”. The keynote speakers, Susan Sparks and Becca Stevens were outstanding, as were the worship and Bible study leaders. Our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton was warm and friendly, also an outstanding speaker. She stood for hours in a receiving line that allowed us to have our picture taken with her.

With great memories to keep with us from our time in Charlotte, we now begin to look forward to the 10th Triennial Gathering to be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 13 – 16, 2017. The convention portion will, as usual, be held a few days prior. Our Executive Director, Linda Post-Bushkofsky, has informed Triennial Promoters that over 500 individuals already pre-registered in Charlotte for Minneapolis. You can pre-register on-line at <http://www.welca.org/> through December 31, 2014 at the pre-registration price of \$255. Registration is not refundable, but it is fully transferable.

It has been my pleasure to serve you as your 2014 Triennial Promoter. Thank you for the opportunity.

Carole Ropel



We say a big, big “**THANK YOU**” to “Queen” Carole for her dedicated work as our Triennial Promoter. Her efforts were appreciated by the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization ... there were a few bumps along the way ... especially with the Tee-Shirt order but all turned out well with the “Queen’s” quick

thinking and diligent searching for a supplier on very short notice.

The women from the Greater Milwaukee Synod were easy to identify in their bright yellow tee-shirts and they received many compliments.

Below is a picture of our women - unfortunately not everyone made this photo op.



Treasurer's Report ... July 31, 2014

Receipts	Actual YTD	2014 Budget
Board Offerings	\$136.00	
Cluster Funds	\$1075.61	\$0.00
Unit Offerings	\$2,433.93	\$6,000.00
Convention Offering	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Convention Registration (Synod)	\$0.00	\$4,500.00
Special Event/Retreat Offering	\$0.00	\$200.00
Special Event/Retreat Registrations	\$0.00	\$400.00
Designated Income	\$1,155.00	\$1,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$0.00	\$250.00
Total Receipts	\$4,800.54	\$14,850.00
Disbursements		
Board Offering Disbursements	\$0.00	
Unit Offerings to CWO	\$1,368.80	\$3,000.00
Convention Offering Disbursement	\$0.00	\$2,500.00
Retreat Offering Disbursement	\$0.00	
Designated Expense	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
Program I Mission Growth	\$0.00	\$25.00
Program II Mission Community	\$0.00	\$25.00
Program III Mission Action	\$0.00	\$25.00
Program IV & V Executive Com & Brd	\$410.68	\$750.00
Program VI Convention Committee	\$935.18	\$4,500.00
Program VII Clusters	\$109.73	\$25.00
Program VIII Financial Matters	\$0.00	\$150.00
Program IX Newsletter	\$704.20	\$1,200.00
Program X Special Events	\$0.0	\$200.00
Program XI Scholarships -Synod Conv.	\$0.00	\$200.00
-Triennial	\$0.00	\$600.00
-Retreat	\$0.00	\$200.00
Program XII Anti-Racism	\$0.00	\$50.00
Program XIII Miscellaneous	\$84.44	\$250.00
Triennial Promoter	\$166.77	\$150.00
Total Disbursements	\$3,779.80	\$14,850.00

Assets	
SWO Checking	\$11,780.95
SWO Savings	\$1,680.88
Certificate of Deposit (moved to MIF)	\$0.00
Mission Investment Fund	\$2,863.08
Total Assets	\$16,324.91

Designated Funds	
1/2 Unit Offering	\$0.00
Board Offering	\$201.00
Campus Ministries	\$74.00
Convention Offering	\$0.00
Scholarship-Synod Convention	\$200.00
-Triennial Conv.	\$1,210.00
-Retreat	\$200.00
Triennial Promoter	\$136.62
CD	\$0.00
Mission Investment Fund	\$2,863.08
Unexpected Expense	\$325.00
Total Designated Funds	\$5,209.70
Funds Available in Checking and savings	\$8,252.13
Total Funds Available	\$8,252.13

THANKOFFERINGS

As we approach the "fall season" it's time to prepare for your annual Thankoffering Service.

The 2014-2015 Thankoffering Service is available online. Go to www.womenoftheelca.org You will also find some of the history of this in-gathering as you continue a tradition that stretches back more than 100 years.

Remember that 100% of all thankoffering monies goes directly to Churchwide.

Convention In-Kind Gifts

Good Samaritan Outreach Center

The GSOC, located at 5924 W. Burnham in West Allis, was started in the early 80's. It provides food, clothes, small household items (odds & ends of pots, pans and dishes), books, magazines, shoes, linens, toys for children.

In order to be served clients must present a picture ID for each member of a family; they must also provide a valid piece of mail dated within 30 days with their name and address. Clients may return every 30 days.

Canned Meals (such as spaghetti o's, beef stew etc.); Non-perishable foods (peanut butter, jelly, canned fruits and vegetables. kid-friendly cereal); personal hygiene items (tooth paste and brushes, soap, lotion, toilet paper); Baby items such as formula and diapers; cleaning supplies; mittens, scarves, hats. Gentle used coats and winter jackets. and boots.

A Message from the Synodical Women's Organization President

“And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in”. Isaiah 58:12

Sisters in Christ,

Just a few days ago I received a letter from Patti Austin, our newly elected Churchwide President who included the above verse and thus the reason that I'm using the same verse. Patti says, *“I firmly believe that God has set our course for this Triennium with the verse, Isaiah 58:12. I know that God is out in front of us preparing the way and providing everything we need to accomplish God's purpose. As you gather in community at your synodical convention, I ask that you consider what it means to raise up the foundations of Women of the ELCA. How might we live into God's plan through our faith, our stories and our organization? Then consider what it means to be “repairers of the breach”. Our world is constantly changing, and as Christian women we have an opportunity to be a part of those changes. Remember, God calls women because we are strong, resourceful and persistent”.*

There is a challenge in Patti's words and I pass that challenge to each woman in our Synod. We are Women of the ELCA - not just an individual - not just our own congregation but everyone together and every congregation working together in the Lord's kingdom here on earth. As I talk with women in our Greater Milwaukee Synod I hear wonderful stories about women's ministries but I'm saddened when they say they are not interested in becoming a part of the organization that we call Women of the ELCA. It is my prayer that every congregation in our Synod will eventually be a part of the organization - if there is anything I can do to help, please call me.

It was my privilege to serve, along with Caitlin Vang, Char Guiliani, Mary Ellen Kiesner and Marilyn Day, as a delegate to the 9th Triennial Convention. The number of delegates each Synod has depends on how many congregations have a Unit - so if more congregations, in our Synod, would have a Unit we would have more than four delegates plus the SWO President. Being a delegate is hard work but it is also fun as you become acquainted with other women, listen to their stories and hear what ministries their Synod is involved with.

Caitlin Vang had a Green Bay Packer bag which identified her with Wisconsin and people came up to her to chat ... we mentioned that was a good idea and Caitlin immediately called her husband (who was coming to North Carolina that night) and told him to bring four more Green Bay Packer bags for our delegates. Even though Green Bay is not in our Synod, everyone know about the Packers. We thank Caitlin and her husband for this gracious gesture.

In addition to electing a new Churchwide Board (four officers and seventeen board members) justice issues were addressed:

- ◆ We committed the organization to pray for guidance and direction in the current humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied minors crossing the US Borders.
- ◆ We committed to raise awareness and prevention of human trafficking (and this is happening right here in the Milwaukee area - as we read on Friday, August 22nd in the Journal Sentinel's front page story).
- ◆ To support efforts to provide solar energy to Phebe Hospital in Liberia.
- ◆ We passed a budget of nearly \$3 million for the year 2015.

Women of the ELCA have kept a long-standing tradition of providing support to people in need in a host city of their Triennial Gatherings. That tradition was not broken in Charlotte when nearly 2400 women brought “in-kind” gifts to support local organizations striving to meet the needs of families experiencing poverty. The women contributed \$14,785 in gift cards ... 15,877 minutes in phone cards ... 6,635 toilette items ... 3, 717 pair of socks and underwear ... 188 quilt kits ... 116 quilts ... and 1,508 prayer shawls. In addition, \$38,978 was received at the opening Thankoffering Service, \$36,188 was received at the closing worship service which will be divided three ways: 50% to the Women of the ELCA; 25% to Katie's Fund and 25% to ELCA Scholarships. Women of the ELCA are indeed very generous.

I came home from the 9th Triennial Convention and Gathering energized and excited about the Women of the ELCA and I hope some of that rubs off on others.

Betty Warber



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2014 Vivian Johnson (one of our SWO Board's Mission Team) is planning a **BLOOD DRIVE** and is asking the ELCA Women (men are also welcome) to participate and give the life of life. The Blood Drive will take place at All Peoples Church located at 2600 N. Second Street, Milwaukee. The hours - 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM.

JOINT CLUSTER TO MEET ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2015

(all women are welcome to attend ... share this invitation)

Luther Manor
4535 N. 95th Street
Milwaukee, WI

North Entrance Building ... S-T-U
North Dining Room - 2nd Floor

8:00 AM ... Registration

8:30 AM ... Welcome

8:30 AM ... Breakfast Prayer

8:35 AM ... Breakfast

Program and Bible Study led by Pastor Press Hoffman

“LOVE IN ACTION” ... “HONORING OUR VETERANS”



Cost: \$11.00 which includes breakfast ... registration only is \$3.00

Registration Deadline is Wednesday, November 5, 2014

Make checks payable to and mail registrations to:

Jan Fox, Treasurer
4130 S. Carnaby Lane
New Berlin, WI 53151
262-782-5680

Our joint Cluster consists of Clusters I, II, III & IV and they meet twice each year under the leadership of Nancy Sack, Jan Fox and their committee> In the spring they gather at some church and in the fall they meet at Luther Manor.

If there are women in other clusters who are longing for this kind of fellowship, give President Betty Warber a call, or send an e-mail and let's see if we can set-up an event in your area. You could meet anytime of day or evening - you could have a meal or just share a snack - what's important is that as women of th ELCA we get-together.

For a year now, our ladies with the nimble fingers has been diligent making those beautiful quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The time has now come to pack those quilts into boxes and fill the box-cars that will take them to the LWR warehouses and from there sent to many who are in need.



Saturday, October 11, 2014 - Lutheran World Relief Box car loading

- ◆ **Milwaukee** ... 8:00 - 11:00 AM ... 12th Street & Mt. Vernon
- ◆ **Racine/Kenosha** ... 9:00 - 11:00 AM ,, Highway H & Railroad Siding

Saturday, October 18, 2014 - Lutheran World Relief Boxcar loading

- **Sheboygan** ... Morning hours ... First United Lutheran Church ... 2401 Kohler Memorial Dr ... Sheboygan

Again, we want to lift up this very important ministry, so when you have a final count of how many quilts your congregation sent, please send that information to Betty Warber at betty@warber.net. This information will be in the December 2014 issue of *GLEANINGS*.

“well done, thou good and faithful servants”

If you want to know more about this non-profit organization go to ... www.lwr.org

While you are putting dates on your calendar ... jump ahead to 2017

**10th Triennial Gathering ... Minneapolis, Minnesota
July 13-16, 2017**

Minnesota is our neighbor but what do you know about them? Ya, Ya, all you football fans know that they're the home of the Vikings. But there is much more to this neighbor of ours. To get you thinking here's a quiz for you No prizes but the answers will be in the December Gleanings.

1. **The Minneapolis' name means?**
 - A. Mill City
 - B. Water City
 - C. Lake City
 - D. City of Lakes
2. **What famous cartoon character was born in Minnesota?**
 - A. Snoopy
 - B. Pluto
 - C. Clifford the Big Red Dog
 - D. Scooby Dog
3. **Name the professional wrestler turned governor of Minnesota from 1999 to 2003.**
 - A. "Stone Cold" Steve Austin
 - B. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson
 - C. Hulk Hogan
 - D. Jesse "The Body" Ventura
4. **What fruit is on the "spoonbridge" sculpture in Minneapolis?**
 - A. Strawberry
 - B. Cherry
 - C. Banana
 - D. Apple
5. **Tonka Trucks were created and manufactured in Minnetonka?** True False
6. **What Minnesota company produces Spam?**
 - A. Land O'Lakes
 - B. Supervalu
 - C. Hormel
 - D. General Mills
7. **What is Minnesota's Nickname?**
 - A. North Star State
 - B. Gopher State
 - C. Land of 10,000 Lakes
 - D. All of the above
8. **What is the State Bird of Minnesota?**
 - A. Crane
 - B. Loon
 - C. Snow Goose
 - D. Trumpeter Swan

LaVerne Mueller & Pine Ridge Reservation

On page 6 you read a Resolution, which will be submitted to our delegates, regarding the work for the Lakota Sioux living on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. This resolution begins by lifting up LaVerne Mueller who has kept this need in front of us for some time. LaVerne was asked how she became involved with this project and the following is her answer:

"I became involved with the Lakota after attending the Indian Summer Festival on the Milwaukee Lakefront in 2000. I read a pamphlet that stated a significant cause of death for the Lakota Sioux on Pine Ridge Reservation in North Dakota was freezing. I was astounded this could happen in our modern world! I remembered how many times I had been cold in drafty farmhouses during my life, but no one froze to death in their sleep. I thought about how I could help; I couldn't send them money but I am a quilter at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee and I knew I could send them something to keep warm.

I began sending quilts and asking other church groups to send them as well. I made a contact at the school, Jo Two Lance, and we became friends. In 2005 I was able to take a U-Haul full of quilts to Pine Ridge/Batesland to meet Jo Two Lance. She has since passed away but seeing the poverty first hand made me realize I couldn't back away.

I don't know how many quilts I have sent, and other churches send them without my knowledge. When I made the trip I counted over 1000 quilts sent to North Dakota-some went to nearby schools when Batesland families had enough.

Shipping cost are high. My boxes typically contain 2 or 3 quilts with mittens or clothing tucked around. The cost is between 13 & 19 dollars. I have had relatives, other churches hunters and friends take quilts out for me.

I am the one who is blessed by this mission, but the work is not done. As I get older it's hard for me to keep up. My hope is that the women of the synod will work together and organize to keep this project going".

HOLY HUMOR

Live
every moment
Love
beyond words
Laugh
every day

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "what do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?" The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy" the young replied excitedly, "it stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth".

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the minister paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need \$4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge \$100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played "The Star Spangled Banner." And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

Give me a sense of humor, Lord .. Give me the grace to see a joke .. to get some humor out of life .. and pass it on.

Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Worship Resource Books	Betty Warber (2015) 6517 Williamsburg Way Mount Pleasant, WI 53406 262-886-8918 Cell: 262-308-2676 betty@warber.net Hephatha LC - Milwaukee	Secretary: Historian	Marilyn Smithyman (2014) 7075 North 97th Street Milwaukee, WI 53224 Cell: 414-331-4309 msmithyman@aol.com Abiding Savior LC - Milwaukee
Vice-President: Registrar Constitution Chair	Jan Fox (2014) 4130 South Carnaby Lane New Berlin, WI 53151 262-782-5680 Cell: jcnfx@aol.com Ascension LC - Milwaukee	Treasurer: Finance Chair Offerings	Sue Seidemann (2015) 3729 N. 12th Street Sheboygan, WI 53083 920-452-1634 Cell: 920-946-1857 seidesue@charter.net St. Peter LC - Sheboygan

BOARD MEMBERS

Mission Team	Vivian Johnson (2015) 8569 N. Granville Rd Apt. 210 Milwaukee, WI 53224 Cell: 414-736-0368 VivianHouston10@yahoo.com All Peoples LC - Milwaukee	Conv. Chair	Ginny Oistad (2014) 3906 S. Woodhill Court New Berlin, WI 53151 Cell: 414-507-1483 ginnyo518@aol.com Mt. Hope LC - West Allis
Mission Team	Arnita Spade (2015) 3508 N. 15th Street Milwaukee, WI 53206 414-372-3591 Cell: 414-840-1980 Incarnation LC - Milwaukee	Conv. Intern	Donna Yourell (2015) S70 W14846 Dartmouth Circle Muskego, WI 53150 414-422-1837 Cell: 414-531-9641 dyourell@wi.rr.com St. John LC - Brookfield
Anti-Racism Co-Chair	Gayle Cameron (2015) 8828 West Waterford Square South Greenfield, WI 53228 Cell: 262-914-9083 gcameron23@yahoo.com Whitnall Park LC - Hales Corners	Cluster Liaison	
Anti-Racism Co-Chair	Pastor Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld (2014) 18330 Honey Creek Drive Brookfield, WI 53045 262-781-0672 Cell: 262-366-2672 prviviane28@gmail.com Grace Lutheran Church - Kenosha		

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mkewelca@gmail.com

Joint Cluster I, II, III, IV	Nancy Sack 414-545-5434 nsack@att.net	Communications Chair:	Julie Starks 414-483-0122 jastarks@earthlink.net
Webmaster: Sandy Allen	the5allens@wi.rr.com	Communication Committee Members:	Nancy Sack 414-545-5434 nsack@att.net LaVerne Mueller 414-541-2103 billlavernem@gmail.com Ruth Hoppe 414-281-5896 hpruth@sbcglobal.net

WOMEN OF THE ELCA
Greater Milwaukee Synodical Organization
3259 S. Swain Court
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53207-3107

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