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.

Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization Convention

Saturday, October 13, 2018
St. John Lutheran Church
20275 Davidson Road
Brookfield, WI 53045

Theme: WOMEN CREATE CHANGE

“When anyone is joined to Christ, she is a new being: the old is gone the new has come.”
Theme Verse from 2 Corinthians 5:17 TEV

Women of the ELCA: What does that statement mean to you? Just who are these women? You might be surprised to realize that “these women” are you and me and every other woman reading this page.

We are all women who worship our Heavenly Father within the walls of congregations belonging to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We are the Body of our Risen Lord and Savior. We serve at soups kitchens … we package food to be shipped across the seas. We meet in Bible Study and many of us have prayer partners who pray for others in need.

We come in all kinds of packages … some of us are tall and slender … some of us are short and a bit stocky. Some of us are senior citizens with gray hair and some of us are young and have just begun participating in the Women of the ELCA.

We are all individuals who can do so many, many things. However, if we join our prayers and talents together we can do so much more in the Name of our Lord.

You are needed within the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization. Begin by registering to attend this year’s Convention on October 13th.

SPEACIAL OFFER FOR 1st TIME CONVENTION ATTENDEES
$35.00 due by Monday, September 24th
See Registration Form on Page 4
31st ANNUAL SWO CONVENTION BEGINS WITH EXCITING WORSHIP

As with most of our Conventions we set the tone for the day with Worship. This year it is our privilege to have Pastor Angela T. Khabeb preaching. For those who attended the 10th Triennial Gathering you will remember Pastor Angela’s exciting closing sermon. She is one gifted lady who shares God’s word in an exciting way.

Until recently, Pastor Angela served at Ascension Lutheran Church in Waukesha. She now is serving at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Minneapolis.

In addition to being an exciting preacher, Pastor Angela does some writing. If you are a subscriber to THE LIVING LUTHERAN you may have read her article “Bread Again” in the 2018 August issue of this magazine.

Pastor Angela is married to her husband Beni (whom she met in Africa where she served as a Missionary from 2000-2002) for sixteen years and has three wonderful children, Konami, Khenna, and Khonni.

Convention Keynote Speaker and Workshop Leader

PASTOR KATHY JACOBSON

Kathy serves a two-point Parish
Peace Bethlehem in Cobb and Crystal Rock in Fennimore, WI

Kathy has worked in various forms of ministry over the past 20-years, from youth and Christian education coordinator to Campus Ministry, rural Parish Ministry to Hospice Chaplain. However, her true passion is writing and she is the author of four (4) published books … Noted which is a “Faithful Fiction” series. She is now working on book number 5—Footnotes. If you want more information about these books talk with our SWO President, Sue Seidemann.

Kathy’s books will be on display so you’ll be able to purchase any that you want.

Our Churchwide Representative, Keala Simoes was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She serves on the constitutional review committee.

Born and raised in Hawaii, she is of Hawaiian, Filipino and English heritage. Keala and her husband, Gerard, became Lutherans 20 years ago when they were looking for a church in which to raise their son, Geramiah, who has since graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy and is a Marine officer stationed at Pendleton, California.

Keala has served on the Pacifica SWO (2C) board as board member and vice president. She served as chair of the Women of the ELCA convention in Hawaii.

She has bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communication from the University of Hawaii. Since 1988, Keala and her husband have owned Motor Werkes Inc., an auto repair shop specializing in Porsches, BMWs and Mercedes.

Keala remains involved in areas of social concerns and has organized “Parties with a Purpose” with women in her church and community.

“These parties are made up of Lutheran women and women outside of the church,” she said. “They are fun social get togethers that also accomplish living the love of Christ by collecting canned goods, gowns for high school girls, and toys for tots.”

Keala looks forward to encouraging us, her Lutheran sisters, to "have fun" while they do God's work.
“IRIS (Include, Respect, I Self-Direct” … Presenter: Carla Schultz, IRIS Consultant with the IRIS Agency which is part of Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.
Carla began her career in social services over 29 years ago. She has a desire to help people maintain their quality of living in the most independent setting possible. Empowering people to not just survive, but to live their life to the fullest. She is eager to assist participants in creating a plan that helps them succeed in their career, health and personal life. She has a son who has grown because of services available through IRIS and is excited to offer the services to participants. Navigating all the resources available can be overwhelming and challenging. Carla is excited to be part of helping you.

“Styles that Flatter your Figure” … Presenter: Cheryl Groth.
After receiving a degree in Marketing and Fashion Merchandising, Cheryl has continued in the Fashion Industry for 30+ years. She enjoys seeing women of all shapes and sizes feel good about themselves as they experiment with new fashion looks for their body type. Teaming up with Women’s organizations throughout the past 15 years has been exciting and rewarding for Cheryl.

“Street Angels” … Presenter: Shelly Sarasin
Shelly is a co-founder with Eva Welch, of Street Angels. These ladies were volunteering at a warming station in Milwaukee and they got to know a few of the guests and worried about them when the station closed. So, they started loading food and other supplies into Shelley’s car and driving around looking for them. Eventually they got to know the bridges under which the homeless slept. They visited camps hidden in the woods etc. They formed an all-volunteer group called Street Angels.

**CONVENTION OFFERINGS**

1/2 of all offerings received will be sent to Churchwide
1/4 of all offerings will be sent to The Street Angels Project
1/4 of all offerings will stay in the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organizations’ Treasury

If you are bringing an offering from your congregational UNIT, be sure to mark it as such so the UNIT is credited.

**IN-KIND-GIFTS**

**QUESTION:** What are the “In-Kind-Gifts” that we bring to our Conventions?

**ANSWER:** Those are the “material type of gifts” that we bring for a specific cause/charity.

This year our In-Kind-Gifts will be for Hephatha Lutheran Church’s **STRONG BABY SANCTUARY.** It is through this ministry that we join other faith communities at setting babies, mothers, fathers and families as a **TOP PRIORITY.**

Hephatha Strong Baby Sanctuary serves through … monthly Women/Moms Gatherings. Those attending monthly gatherings receive diapers and wipes. They have an Infant Pantry which provides emergency infant supplies to families in need. They also provide Strong Baby Boxes which are filled with infant supplies and reference manuals to each expectant/new mom who completes Milwaukee educational syllabus through Baby Box University.

The **In-Kind-Gifts requested are…**

1. Diapers (sizes newborn, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6)
2. Onesies (sizes newborn through 12 months)
3. Digital Thermometers with covers
4. Baby head-to-toe wash
5. Baby hooded bath towels
6. Baby wash cloths
7. Baby blankets

If you want more information about this project, please contact Nurse Louise at 414-331-1794 or e-mail her at strongbabyh@gmail.com
Registration Form
Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization 31st Annual Convention

“WOMEN CREATE CHANGE”
Theme Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17
Saturday, October 13, 2018
Registration begins at 7:30 AM … Opening Worship begins at 8:30 AM

St. John Lutheran Church
20275 Davidson Road
Brookfield, WI 53045

**Early Bird Registration (must be postmarked by Wednesday August 15, 2018… $50.00)**
Beginning Thursday, August 16th Registration will be $60.00

**SPECIAL OFFER TO FIRST TIME ATTENDEES: REGISTRATION FEE IS $35.00**

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
e-mail: jcnfx@aol.com

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 Monday, September 24, 2018)

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.**

A block of rooms have been reserved at the Quality Inn for those who want overnight lodging on Friday, October 12th.
Please contact Lona Eubanks at 414-368-3363 for more details.
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
(This form may be copied as needed)

Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization … 31st Annual Convention

Theme: Women Create Change
“When anyone is joined to Christ, she is a new being, The old is gone the new have come...” II Corinthians 5:17 TEV

DATE: SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2018
Registration 7:30-8:30 AM

Place: St. John Lutheran Church
20275 Davidson Road
Brookfield, WI 53045

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO:

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

Recipients will be acknowledged by e-mail, if address is provided.
Check one: “ I am a Voting Member “ I am a Non-Voting Member

(Scholarship request deadline is Friday, September 21st)

Please Print:
Name___________________________________________________________________________________________
Address_________________________________________________________________________________________

City State Zip
Phone__________________________________E-Mail Address___________________________________________

Congregation_______________________________________City__________________________________________

I am applying for this scholarship because____________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________

Please sign your Name____________________________________________________Date_____________________

Please note:
1. Four $50 Scholarship awards are available (includes noon meal)
2. Scholarship recipients will be notified by e-mail or telephone within seven (7) days after the deadline. If
   you do not receive a scholarship, you may register for the Convention at the “EARLY BIRD” fee of
   $50
A MESSAGE FROM THE SWO PRESIDENT

Sisters in Christ,

I hope everyone has enjoyed their summer. I’m looking forward to fall with its lower temperatures and lower humidity. I’m also looking forward to our convention in October and I hope you are too. I’m excited to hear from our keynote speaker, Pastor Kathy Jacobson. I’ve read all four of her books (Christian fiction) and enjoyed each of them. If you were at the last triennial you had the privilege of hearing Pastor Angela preach. She will be our preacher for our worship. We have several workshops to choose from.

We have several positions on the board that need filling. Please prayerfully consider nominating yourself or someone you know. Our organization can’t function without women who are willing to help lead us.

I think one of the best things about the convention is that I get to see friends from other congregations and other areas of the synod. I look forward to seeing those friendly faces that I only get to see each year at convention.

Sue Seidemann, President

Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles
Isaiah 40:31

Nancy Hofer was a nurse, a wife, mother and grandmother and a friend to many but above all else she was a child of God.

Nancy is a former Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization’s president and in thankfulness for her service, a $50 memorial has been sent to Katies Fund.

Our heartfelt sympathy to Nancy’s family and her many friends.

THANK YOU

There are simply no words to express our heartfelt thanks for the sympathy and support you have extended toward our family during this time of loss. We are deeply grateful to you and we thank you for your support and the memorial to the Women of the ELCA.

Sincerely,
The family of Nancy Hofer

Saturday, September 8th
the 2018 Outreach for Hope Family Bike Ride will be held in two locations...Dousman (Waukesha County) and Grafton (Ozaukee County),

The annual Family Bike Ride is Outreach for Hope’s largest single fund raiser. In ten years, it has raised almost $750,000 for ministries among people living in low income urban neighborhoods.

Last year 260 riders and 100 volunteers from 55 churches participated and the goal, this year, is to grow in order to broaden the life-changing impact of Outreach for Hope.

The 2018 Fundraising Goal
$120,000
## Treasurer’s Report … July 31, 2018

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<th>Receipts</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
<th>2018 Budget</th>
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<td>Board Offerings</td>
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<td>Cluster Funds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unit Offerings</td>
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<td>Convention Offering</td>
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<td>Convention Registration (Synod)</td>
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<td>Special Event/Retreat Offering</td>
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<td>Special Event/Retreat Registrations</td>
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<td>Miscellaneous</td>
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<th>Disbursements</th>
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<td>Unit Offerings to CWO</td>
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<td>Retreat Offering Disbursement</td>
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<td>Program II Mission Community</td>
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<td>Program III Mission Action</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program IV &amp; V Executive Com &amp; Brd</td>
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<td>Program VI Convention Committee</td>
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<td>Program VII Clusters</td>
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<td>Program VIII Financial Matters</td>
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<td>Program IX Newsletter</td>
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<td>Program X Special Events</td>
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<td>Program XI Scholarships</td>
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<td>- Synod Conv.</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Triennial</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Other</td>
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<td>Program XII Anti-Racism</td>
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<td>Program XIII Miscellaneous</td>
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## Assets

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<td>SWO Savings</td>
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## Designated Funds

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<td>1/2 Unit Offering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Board Offering</td>
<td>$40.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Convention Offering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarship-Synod Convention</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Triennial Conv.</td>
<td>$1,640.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Other</td>
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<td>Triennial Promoter</td>
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<td>Convention</td>
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<td>Unexpected Expense</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Designated Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,243.23</strong></td>
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## Funds Available in Checking and Savings

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds Available</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,233.82</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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## Joint Cluster Gathering

**Saturday, November 10th**
Registration begins at 8:00 AM … Breakfast at 8:30 AM
Registration $3 … Registration with Breakfast $12

Redemption Lutheran Church
4057 W. Mayfair Road
Wauwatosa, WI

Theme: **IN OUR OWN VOICE**
Bible Study Leader: Vicar David Rebey
Speakers: From **NAMI National Alliance on Mental illness**

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## Thankofering

Our Thankofering history dates back to the 1800’s when women used “mite boxes”. Some women today still use some type of container that is marked “thankofering” and they daily drop coins into that container as they say “thank you” for the many gifts God has given them.

Thankofferings help support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women’s organization, including our triennial conventions, the work of your elected churchwide board and the annual conference of synodical presidents.

Be watching for your September “Interchange” which will include the 2018 Thankofering service.

If you have questions about Thankofering resources, please contact Audrey Novak Riley, director of stewardship, at 800-638-3522, ext 2736 or Audrey.Riley@elca.org.

In all things … Give God the Thanks
NOMINATION FORM FOR SWO BOARD POSITIONS

For our SWO to function to its fullest potential, and carry out our Mission Statement, YOU ARE NEEDED to step forward and volunteer your services or be prepared to say “YES” when contacted to serve on the Board. During the business session of our 2018 Convention we will elect a new Vice-President, a Secretary and Executive Board Members to fill the slots the Mission Team; Anti-Racism Team and someone to serve as the Convention Intern. Prayerfully search your soul, think of your gifts and be prepared to say “YES” when contacted to serve our God and the women in the Greater Milwaukee Synod and beyond.

Positions needed to be filled in 2016

_____Vice-President (2 year term)  _____Secretary (2 year term)  _____Executive Board Members (2 year terms)

Name of Nominee ________________________________________________________________

Address of Nominee ______________________________________________________________

Street  City  Zip Code

Home Phone (  )  Work Phone (  )

Age Range 34 or under 35-49 50-64 65 or older

___ Native American  ___ Asian  ___ Black  ___ Caucasian  ___ Hispanic  ___ other

Ethnic Racial Heritage

Primary Language besides English ___________________________________________________

Name of Congregation ___________________________________________________________

Address of Congregation _________________________________________________________

Street  City  Zip Code

Experience Beginning with the most recent, please list significant experience in each area:

Occupational History _____________________________________________________________

Local Congregation Women’s Unit/Cluster/Synodical or Churchwide Women’s Organization or local ELCA Congregation/ELCA Cluster, Synod/Churchwide ____________________________________________________________

Other organizations _____________________________________________________________

Special Gifts and Talents _______________________________________________________

Form Submitted by: _____________________________________________________________

Name  Address  Phone Number

Name/Address of Congregation ____________________________________________________

Note: Only one name may be submitted per congregation, Please obtain permission before submitting nominee’s name.

Please return this form by Wednesday, August 15, 2018 to SWO Secretary
Betty Warber … 6517 Williamsburg Way … Mt. Pleasant, WI 53406
Turning once again to “Our Purpose” Statement we read these words: “…and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.” In the 2018 Summer issue of the INTERCHANGE, Valora K. Starr (Director for discipleship for Women of the ELCA) writes the following …

*Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.*

My first memory of hearing this untrue statement came after my classmates saw I had lost my two front teeth. I watched my teacher’s mouth move as she delivered this jingle, gave me a hug and wiped my tears. I believed my teacher, but my classmates’ words were painful: “You are a Snagglepuss?”

I wondered why my teacher would tell me something so untrue. Her face didn’t look like she believed it, even as words of encouragement. And, though I enjoyed the Snagglepuss cartoon character … a pink mountain lion with a lisp … my classmates meant to hurt my feelings with their words.

Words are the best invention since the napkin when they are used in a good way. Words can encourage, lift up and offer confidence. The right words spoken at the right time can give the listener just what is needed to move forward.

God used words to create everything, including us. We are created in God’s image, and we have the ability to create using words.

As disciples, we are called to follow and practice the teacher. Do your words encourage, lift up or give confidence for ourselves and others?

**Words are Life-Changing**

Examine your words by looking at God’s words.

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged swords, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Hebrews 4:12)

So shall my word that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it will accomplish that purpose and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. (Isaiah 55:11)

Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light to my path. (Psalm 119:105)

The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple (Psalm 119:130)

*Reprinted with permission from Interchange, the churchwide newsletter of Women of the ELCA., Copyright © 2018 Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

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Attention to all of those with the nimble fingers who’ve been working so hard these past months making those beautiful quilts for LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF.

The Boxcars will be loaded at 12th Street and Mt. Vernon on Saturday, October 13th. At the time of this Gleanings we’ve not heard of the other dates and locations of loading boxcars.

What we do know is the NEED IS GREAT and quilts are appreciated. Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a comforter or wear a piece of clothing made or worn by a loved one. That’s the feeling you share through an LWR Quilt. In a simple combination of fabric and thread, you reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope … the message is “you are not alone”.

Recipients use their LWR quilts to shield against the cold and rain, for warm bedding. Because of the quilts versatility they are also useful as a simple tent, floor coverings and to make a “sling” for a mother to carry her baby on her back.

Many congregations, in addition to the 100’s of quilts they have sewed, make School kits; Health kits; sewing kits; Baby Care Kits … what a wonderful thing to do. Some of these kits stay right here in our Greater Milwaukee Synod because we have children who are in need of the everyday items that most of us take for granted.

Many “Personal Kits” are shared with people who have lost everything from a natural disaster such as a hurricane or the deadly fires that have swept through California.

Please do not use (or give any item) with religious symbols, US flag, patriotic or military symbols, references to the armed forces, including camouflage material.

When putting “Kits” together always use new items … a used bar of soap isn’t very appealing and a used towel doesn’t say much about our being supportive to those who are truly in need.

God loves a cheerful giver.
A Recap of “Women’s Retreat” at Pine Lake Bible Camp  
August 17-19, 2018  
Submitted by Marilyn Day

Pastor Alexis Twito, former pastor of Capitol Drive Lutheran Church and now chaplain of 65 chaplains with The Salvation Army, was our Bible Study leader at the retreat. Under the theme of "Forgiveness" we looked at many Bible stories and verses.

Forgiveness is defined as the conscience and deliberate decision to release vengeance. It is a process. It is hard work. It is head and heart work. It is letting go. We forgive because God commands us to. It is great for the soul. It creates a better community. It increases our own well-being and a key to receiving God's forgiveness. We talked about repentance and owning the hurt and working through it and forgiving ourselves as well as others. It doesn't mean condoning the wrong.

"The Power of Forgiveness" a documentary by Martin Doblmeier was shown and discussed. It was rated the best documentary at the Sun Valley Spiritual Film Festival in 2007. It was very moving and powerful.

There was a Guided Meditation time and a book review on "You Will Not Have My Hate" by Antoine Leives of France. Also a Sunset Sing and Meditation time.

Saturday afternoon was free time to swim, shop, read, or relax. The weather was exceptional and the food and fellowship great!

Vivian Johnson, who has served on the SWO Board for the past three years with the Anti-Racism Team, tendered her resignation effective immediately. President Sue Seidemann accepted the resignation with regrets but wished Vivian well as she moved to Minnesota to be closer to her daughter. Sue also presented Vivian with one of the SWO crosses with sincere thanks for her years of service.

With Vivian’s resignation there will be one more spot to be filled on our SWO Board. During our SWO Convention we will need to elect people to fill the following positions:
- Vice-President (a 2-year term)
- Secretary (a 2-year term)
- Mission Team (2 people each for a 1-year term)
- Mission Team (a 2-year term)
- Convention Intern (a 2-year term)

You will find a “Nomination Form” on page 8 … please look at that Form and prayerfully consider serving God, and His women, within the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization.

Is serving a commitment? YES! But the joys of gathering with women in prayer, fellowship and service far out-weigh any commitment!

Prayerfully consider this challenge and with the hymn writer of “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” pray, and sing,

“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.”

FIFTH GRADE ASSIGNMENT

A fifth grade teacher in a Christian school asked her class to look at TV commercials and see if they could use them in ways to communicate ideas about God. The following are what the students came up with:

- **God is like:** **BAYER ASPIRIN**  
  He works miracles
- **God is like:** **A FORD**  
  He’s got a better idea.
- **God is like:** **COKE**  
  He’s the real thing.
- **God is like:** **HALMARK CARDS**  
  He cares enough to send His very best.
- **God is like:** **TIDE**  
  He gets the stains out others leave behind.
- **God is like:** **ALLSTATE**  
  You’re in good hands with Him.
- **God is like:** **THE U.S. POST OFFICE**  
  Neither rain, nor snow, nor sleet nor ice  
  Will keep Him from His appointed destination.
- **God is like:** **THE ENERGIZER BUNNY**  
  He keep going, going, and going.
## Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Sue Seidemann (2019)</td>
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<td>Co. Vice Pres.</td>
<td>Karen Hoffman (2018)</td>
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### BOARD MEMBERS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission Team</th>
<th>Cluster/Cong. Liaison</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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**Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women’s Organization Website:** www.greatermilwaukeeawo.org

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Address________________________________________________________________________________

Congregational Unit________________________________________________________________________

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