



Friends, Inc. *(in Christ)*

Newsletter of the Southwestern PA Synodical Women's Organization  
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
[www.swpasynod.org](http://www.swpasynod.org)

Volume XXXI No. 2

Spring 2019

### **President's Report**

Even though we are still in the midst of the Lenten season, our Easter Alleluias are not too far away. We are beginning to see signs of spring – green grass, daffodils popping through the ground and blossoms on the trees. Yes, God's world is ready to celebrate a new Spring.

Spring for the W/ELCA brings thoughts of our annual convention to start the year. The Women of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod will be meeting on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at Christ Our Shepherd Center (formerly Bishop Connare Center) in Greensburg. Our convention committee of MaryLou Millward, Robin VanDyke and Jeanne Christensen are planning a great weekend of business, Bible study, workshops and worship based on the theme "Chosen by God". Bishop Kusserow will be presiding at our Friday afternoon workshop and Rev. Ann Schmid will be presenting the Bible Study. Elections for a president, vice president, treasurer, board members, triennial voting members and a new designated outreach program will be part of the business agenda.

I love the theme of "Chosen by God". Doesn't thinking you were chosen by God make you feel special but what are you chosen? – to be a good follower, helper, leader, voice, advocate? As I mentioned in the last issue, God wants us to serve. We just have to figure out where He wants us to use those gifts He gave us. And sometimes the answer to where takes us to places and opportunities we would never have done on our own. Sometimes we go to those places reluctantly, dragging our feet or resisting the whole way. (It seems to be human nature to resist God's request as seen in the Bible.) We try and control our life instead of remembering God is still in charge. Take time to discern and pray about your answer and be ready to go where the Holy Spirit is leading you.

Opportunities abound for you in your church, your community, our synodical unit and even in our churchwide organization. All the elections mentioned above are opportunities for you to serve. Just submit your nomination and see what happens. That could be where you are being chosen by God to serve. We need NEW women to bring fresh energy and ideas to work with the women presently doing a great job serving for W/ELCA.

Last year we celebrated some very special women chosen by God to serve. I'm sure they wondered who would take over serving when they could no longer continue. I'm sure they thought the next generation was busy going back to work fulltime, being supermoms and sandwich generation women with no time to do ministry for Christ. But guess what – God chose the present women that are serving in our congregational units, places in the synodical unit and even churchwide. They answered God's call. They are doing great job. Some are getting ready to step aside to retire and reflect back on what they have done but now they are worried who will pick up the ministry they are doing. Don't worry, I believe as long as women continue to pray and listen to that little whisper and nudge from the Holy Spirit, W/ELCA will continue its ministry. God will continue to chose and the next group of women will continue to answer – Here I am, use me where you want!

So, come to circle meetings, service events, a cluster meeting, the convention or be part of the Fall Retreat at Lutherlyn September 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. Come to these events and you will be an active part of a very special group of women Chosen by God to do His ministry wherever we can.

Hope to see you at the convention. It doesn't matter whether you come as a delegate, alternate delegate, participant or guest. We invite and welcome all of you.

God Bless You in your Boldness,

*Betty Albright, President*

### **Cluster Information**

The Spring Cluster Meetings are all planned and ready for you to attend.

Cluster 1&6: April 27<sup>th</sup> at Rehoboth Lutheran Church in Baden, Theme: I Will Follow Him. Start time: 8:30am with Breakfast for \$6.00

Cluster 2: April 13<sup>th</sup> at Nativity Lutheran Church in Allison Park, Theme: The Symbols of Lent and Easter. Start time: 8:30am with Breakfast for \$5.00

Cluster 3: April 27 at First Lutheran Church in Apollo, Theme: Spring up With God. Start time: 9:00am with light breakfast and Lunch for \$6.00

Cluster 4: May 25<sup>th</sup> at Zion Lutheran Church in Greensburg, Theme: Women's Health. Start time: 9:00am with Lunch for \$5.00

Cluster 5&6: April 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Uniontown, Theme: Women, praying, cooking, serving God. Start time: 9:30am with Lunch for \$6.00

### **We Continue to Pray**

We continue to pray each week for the ministries of the Women of the ELCA and those who lead them.

Apr. 28-May 4: Women's Congregational Unit at St. John Lutheran Church in Connoquenessing

May 5-11: Peg Schweinsberg, Cluster Planner for Cluster 2

May 12-18: Synodical Women's Organization of Western Iowa

May 19-25: Rosemarie Henrickson, Synodical Board Secretary

May 26-June 1: Lois Bylund, Churchwide Board Member

June 2-8: Terri Lackey, Churchwide Director for Communication

June 9-15: SWPA Synod as it meets in Assembly

June 16-22: Women's Congregational Unit at St. John's Lutheran Church in Ford City

June 23-29: Norma Baker, Cluster Planner for Cluster 1

June 30-July 6: Synodical Women's Organization of Southern Ohio

July 7-13: Robin Van Dyke, Synodical Board Member

July 14-20: Joy Michalicek, Churchwide Board Member

July 21-27: Audrey Novak Riley, Churchwide Coordinator of Stewardship and Development

### **Action Committee**

Spring is here! Soon we will be celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord! I pray that all who are reading this find peace and hope in the Resurrection. May we follow the example of the women who went out to spread the Good News of that first Easter morning.

As we look ahead let's take a minute to wrap up our Designated Outreach for 2018. Through your very generous donations the total collected for Ready Yourself Youth Ranch was \$5,892.78. In addition many needed items were also collected. Thank-you, thank-you. Your donations will enable Ready Yourself Youth Ranch to continue to mentor to children in need.

Hopefully by now you have seen the flier for our 2019 Designated Outreach HEARTH. HEARTH is "a transitional housing program for homeless women and children who are survivors of domestic abuse or other trauma." They are located in Glenshaw. The flier lists items needed for them to continue their ministry. These items, as well as monetary donations, can be brought to Spring Cluster meetings as well as the Annual Convention in May.

Looking ahead, at the Convention we will be selecting our 2020 Designated Outreach recipient. Let me know if you have any suggestions for possible nominations.

The Action Committee  
Linda Reed & Helen Williams

### **The Growth Committee Report**

We hope that you are enjoying the current Bible Study in the Gather Magazine, "The Gospel of John: meetings with Jesus" by the Rev. Julie A. Kanarr. If you don't subscribe to the Gather Magazine, you can download the study online at [www.gathermagazine.org/biblestudy](http://www.gathermagazine.org/biblestudy).

This committee will make visits to any congregations who would like help or support in starting a congregational unit or working on ideas to improve their current unit. Anyone who is interested in having a visit should contact Donna Earnest at 724-834-5849.

The Growth Committee,  
Donna Earnest & Helen Williams

### **Stewardship and Finance Committee**

Spring means the preparation of the new budget and all units are encouraged to continue to prayerfully consider their offerings to the Synodical Women Organization. The Churchwide organization has seen a significant decrease in monies received this past year and have asked that you prayerfully consider increasing your offerings or if it is possible for you to make an extra donation to churchwide "to be used as needed."

The Women of the ELCA of our Synod have always been great in responding to a need and this year is no exception. This past year our Designated Outreach was Ready Yourself Youth Ranch. To date of this writing, we have contributed \$5,892.78 in monetary donations as well as numerous bags and boxes of supplies needed to keep their organization strong. Thank you all for your generosity in helping to continue their outreach. Now it is time to turn our support to HEARTH for the current year. HEARTH is the only transitional housing option in Allegheny County for women with children.

At the President's Conference in February, it was brought to their attention the need for funding to help defray the cost of Voting Members to the Triennial Convention. Our synodical unit will have 4 Voting Members as well as our President attending the Triennial. This is a total of 5 at an approximate cost of \$2,400.00 each! Our Board has made a goal to try to defray the cost of at least one Voting Member (for example, our President). We have established a separate account for this purpose. The Board has kicked this account off with a donation of \$500. If you or your unit would like to contribute to this fund, please mark your donation "Triennial Voting Member" and send to the Interim Treasurer, Janet Fishovitz, 227 Brewer Rd., Freedom, PA 15042; along with Form A.

We are looking forward to seeing many of you at the Convention in May at Christ Our Shepherd Center. If you have never attended, consider attending this year and observing our organization at work. There is guaranteed friendship, fellowship and spiritual enrichment, don't miss out on it!

Blessings,  
Janet Fishovitz, Interim Treasurer

### **Community Committee**

The churchwide board-The All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund-has challenged the Women of the ELCA to triple the endowment for Katie's Fund by 2020 Triennial Convention and Gathering. The goals of Katie's Funds are to:

- 1: Develop leadership by providing opportunities for current and future leaders to further the mission of the Women of the ELCA.
- 2: Global connections by building partnerships that increase multicultural awareness and promote service.
- 3: Living Theology by nurturing faith through Bible studies, worship experiences and educational theological forums.

These three areas represent ministries that prepare, nurture and sustain participants as they further the mission of the Women of the ELCA. We have one more year before Triennial Convention and Gathering;

therefore, we ask you to continue to make donations for Katie's Fund to: Janet Fishovitz at 227 Brewer Rd; Freedom, PA 15042.

February 25 was Bold Women's Day but as Bold Women, we can celebrate Bold Women's Day every day. Women are Bold in different ways. Different ways include prayer, service and advocacy. Prayer is much more than words. It is an expression of the heart toward God. It is an experience, a relationship, not an activity. Give service to those in need in the community. In the community, we can show sense of kindness, one who cares, and conscious of needs of others. Advocacy is loving one another, doing good deeds, helping and working for the good of others. February 25 was Bold Women's Day, but we as the Women of the ELCA can celebrate Bold Women's Day every day.

Dates to remember:

May 5: Rachel's Day  
 May 12: Mother's Day  
 May 14: Primary Election Day (Fly your flag)  
 May 18: Armed Forces Day (Fly your flag)  
 May 27: Memorial Day (Fly your flag)  
 June 14: Flag Day (Fly your flag)  
 June 16: Father's Day  
 June 21: Summer begins

God Bless,  
 Community Committee  
 Eldora Crist & Donna Earnest

## 2019 SWPA Women of the ELCA Convention

### May 3-4, Christ Our Shepherd Center

Our SWO Convention will be here very soon. Be sure you have sent your registration to Lori Ashton.

**The registration form did not include the Friday evening dinner. If you plan to eat at the Christ Our Shepherd Center, please let Lori know when you send your reservation that was included in the Winter Friend's Inc. The cost will be \$18.50 (no tax or tip is needed) and should be paid separately. You would make the check payable the same as your reservation.**

There are a few changes in our agenda due to the Center overbooking the weekend. (They booked two other events for Friday and Saturday through the lunch hour.) It is our intention to keep the schedule as uninterrupted as possible but some things are out of our hands.

Due to a conflict in the use of the chapel, we need to have our worship service Friday evening instead of Saturday. The Bishop will preside at the service which will be held at 8:30pm. He will be present Friday afternoon as scheduled. We will have the Vesper service Saturday that will include the installation of officers and Board members and recognizing the outgoing officers and Board members. If necessary, it will be held in the Westmoreland Room.

Saturday breakfast will still begin at 8:00am. Business Session II will begin at 8:45am but will be extended an hour to 11:15am. Bible Study will be from 11:15am-12:00pm and then Workshops will be from noon-12:45pm. Lunch will be 1:00pm-1:45pm and will be served in the Plaza. Business Session III will begin promptly at 2:00pm. Snacks will be available as usual during the business sessions. You are invited to bring snacks to offset our costs or to make a donation. Coffee, tea and soft drinks will be available.

The Ingathering for HEARTH will be on the window side of the Plaza. Fair Trade shopping will be available in the Fayette Room which is near the Westmoreland Room where our business meeting is held.

It is said that change is a good thing. We hope you agree! We look forward to a successful convention and will be excited to see everyone. And as a side note, we hope you will prayerfully consider being nominated for an office, a board member and any other position that is so important to the Women of the ELCA.

Convention Committee  
 MaryLou Millward, Robin VanDyke & Jeanne Christensen

## Important Times

### Friday May 3, 2019

- 3:00-5:30 pm Registration at the Dorms
- 3:30-4:30pm Pre-Convention Workshop led by Bishop Kusserow
- 4:30-5:00pm Conversation with Bishop Kusserow
- 5:00pm Dinner
- 6:45-7:00pm Orientation for Delegates
- 7:00pm Business Session I
- 8:30pm Worship Service

### Saturday May 4, 2019

- 7:30am Registration in Plaza (next to Dining Hall)
- 8:00am Breakfast
- 8:45am Business Session II
- 11:15-Noon Bible Study
- Noon-12:45pm Work Shops
- 1:00-1:45pm Lunch
- 2:00pm Business Session III and then Vesper Service with the Installation of Officers, Board Members, & 2020 Triennial Voting Members

## General Convention Information

### Nominating Ballot

Each year at convention we have some women unfamiliar with the nominating ballot process. We use this means of selecting our president and vice-president. This eliminates “unintentional politics” and gives us a clear way for God to help us choose our next leader.

This is the way it works-on the first ballot you may write the name of anyone you feel is ready for the task of president or vice-president. Every name on the first ballot is nominated for that office. The second ballot is cast using only the names from the first ballot. Voting continues until someone emerges as the choice. No names can be added to the ballot after the first ballot.

### Resolutions

Any business to be brought before the convention may be made by a motion or presented as a Resolution. A Resolution would require the signature of three delegates and must be presented to the Resolutions committee before 8:30am on Saturday May 4, 2019.

### Convention Offerings

Regular Offerings received at the convention are designated as follows:

- ½ to Churchwide Organization

- ½ to Synodical Women’s Organization

The “Love Offering” will go to the Designated Outreach program

- “HEARTH” of Glenshaw

### Convention Snacks

Anyone who would like to share some snacks during the Convention are asked to bring packaged snacks only. Please respect Christ our Shepherd Center’s policy and bring only small packaged snacks.

A donation basket will be available to help defray the costs of drinks.



## NOTIFICATION OF CHANGE IN CONTACT PERSON

Please complete this form when there is a change in your contact person.

Cluster # \_\_\_\_\_ *Effective Date of Change* \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address of Church \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Present Contact Person* \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**New Contact Person** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: *Best* \_\_\_\_\_ *Alternate* \_\_\_\_\_

*Please return this form to:* Rosemarie Henrickson, Secretary  
5133 Lougean Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15207

**A copy of this form should also be sent to:**

- 1.) Your Cluster Planning Committee Coordinator (CPC) **-and -**
- 2.) Newsletter Editor: Jennifer Schaefer, 1210 Beech Drive, Latrobe, PA 15650

*Please copy on colored paper (other than white) if possible*

PA Synodical Women's Organization  
2018-2019 Officers and Board Members

**Officers:**

President: Betty Albright, 216 Roxbury Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-834-2677 bettyleealbright@gmail.com

V. President: Debra Wright, 543 Church Rd., Harmony, PA 16037  
724-368-9449 deb-wright@live.com

Secretary: Rosemarie Henrickson, 5133 Lougean Ave., Pgh, PA 15207  
412-461-8619 rosietheriverter2@verizon.net

Treasurer: Susan Brown, 341 Godfrey Rd., Leechburg, PA 15656  
724-845-8258 sueellenb@hotmail.com

Interim Treasurer:

Janet Fishovitz, 227 Brewer Rd, Freedom, PA 15042  
724-494-5472 jfishovitz@gmail.com

**Board Members:**

Eldora Crist, 903 Redmont Place, Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-837-1032 redhead134@gmail.com

Donna Earnest, 945 Old Rt. 66, Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-834-5849 jearnest945@comcast.net

Jeanne Christensen, 3007 Glengary Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601  
724-832-8588 jgorby14@aol.com

Elvira Harencame, 2074 Saxonburg Blvd., Gibsonia, PA 15044  
412-999-3540 elharen1994@msn.com

Mary Lou Millward, 115 True Ln., New Stanton, PA 15672  
724-635-0218 millward115@comcast.net

Linda Reed, 193 Pittsburgh St., Derry, PA 15627  
724-433-2034 decamom@live.com

Robin Van Dyke, 1530 Mars-Evans City Rd., Evans City, PA 16033  
724-538-4813 robin.vandyke@intalere.com

Helen Williams, 30 Boulder Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15239  
724-393-2395

Calendar of Events

**2019**

April 6: Cluster 5& 6 Meeting at St. Peter's  
Lutheran Church in  
Uniontown

April 13: Cluster 2 Meeting at Nativity  
Lutheran Church in  
Allison Park

April 27: Cluster 1&6 Meeting at Rehoboth  
Lutheran Church in Baden  
Cluster 3 Meeting at First Evang.  
Lutheran Church in  
Apollo

May 3-4: Synodical Convention at Christ Our  
Shepherd Center in  
Greensburg

May 25: Cluster 4 Meeting at Zion Lutheran  
Church in Greensburg

June 6: Executive Meeting

June 8: Reorganization Board Meeting at  
Trinity Lutheran Church in  
Latrobe

Sept. 13-15: Retreat at Lutherlyn

**2020**

July 14-16: Triennial Convention in  
Phoenix, AZ

July 16-19: Triennial Gathering in  
Phoenix, AZ

**Newsletter Information**

The SWPA Synodical Women's Organization Newsletter is published four times a year following Board Meetings. Each Board Member, Officer, Cluster Planning Committee Member, and Congregational Unit receives a complimentary issue.

We welcome submissions to the Newsletter of activities or news items which you would like to share. We reserve the right to reject any material deemed unsuitable as submitted and we will edit as necessary. Due to space limitations some items may not be included.

Deadline for sending articles for the next issue is June 15, 2019.

Subscription Rate: \$5.00 per year – All subscriptions begin September 1 each year. Checks for subscriptions and/or donations for the newsletter are to be made payable to: SWPA Synod Women of the ELCA and are mailed to: Jennifer Armstrong-Schaefer; 1210 Beech Dr.; Latrobe, PA 15650

Please use this form to sign up for a subscription or renew your subscription. Form may be duplicated.

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Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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**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.

**Mission Statement**

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in  
Jesus Christ.