



Friends, Inc. (in Christ)

Newsletter of the Southwestern PA Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
www.swpasynod.org

Volume XXXVI No. 1

Winter 2024

President's Report

A new year!! New beginnings! I personally do not make a list of New Year's Resolutions. I guess I know my limits of what I can change – weight loss (that's an ongoing issue), eating healthier (a work in progress), becoming better organized (well...). One thing that has become a stumbling block to me this past year has been to **complete** projects, like creative ones. I get excited about starting something new, then life gets in the way and the project gets put aside. I won't bore you with the number of UFO's (unfinished objects) I have – not to mention the projects I would like to start.

Is our faith life like that as well? Do we become excited about a new year – "I'll read the Bible from cover to cover", "attend worship more often", "attend a W/ELCA cluster event" – and then life gets in the way and we're back to our "old" habits? This is where we can challenge ourselves and each other. Each issue of Friends, Inc. has a list of women to lift up in prayer. Put that list where you can see it daily and offer a short prayer of gratitude for her. This is one resolution I can hang onto for 2024 and I challenge you to do the same!

The Spirit can do wonders – and maybe even get a UFO done!!

Blessings,

Barb Guenther
President

Nominating Ballot

Each year at convention, we have some women unfamiliar with the nominating ballot process. We use this means of selection for 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 President or Vice-President. 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/nominating ballot. This year, we will be electing a Vice-President.

We Continue to Pray

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

Feb. 25-Mar. 2: Women Members at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Pittsburgh (Brookline)

Mar. 3-9: Synodical Women's Organization of Northwest Washington

Mar. 10-16: Linda Reed, Synodical Board Vice President

Mar. 17-23: Lorie Garcia, Churchwide Board Vice President

Mar. 24-30: Cindy Novak, Managing Editor of *Gather* Magazine

Mar. 31-Apr. 6: Women Members at St. John's Lutheran Church in New Castle

Apr. 7-13: Synodical Women's Organization of Southwest California

Apr. 14-20: Angeline Schaefer, Synodical Board Member

Apr. 21-27: Joyce Brooks, Churchwide Board Member

Apr. 28-May 4: Eva Yeo, Churchwide Director for Membership

May 5-11: Women Members at St John's Lutheran Church in Mars

May 12-18: Synodical Women's Organization of Eastern North Dakota

Vice President's Report

Happy New Year!!! I pray we all stay healthy in this New Year.

Our next virtual (Zoom) cluster event is scheduled for Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 9am. Watch for more information soon in a separate mailing.

In person cluster events are being planned for this spring for most clusters. Dates, locations, and all needed information will be sent out as it becomes available. If you could help to plan an event, call me at 724-433-2034 or email me at decamom@live.com. More help would be appreciated.

In this newsletter is all the information you need for our upcoming convention on May 18, 2024, in Greensburg. Pay attention to the deadlines for the registration and all forms so the final plans can be made for a successful convention. Hope to see you all there.

In God's Service,
Linda Reed
Vice President

Stewardship and Finance Committee

Happy New Year to all of you! As of this writing just a few days into the new year of 2024, I am happy to report that \$3,899.50 was donated to our 2023 designated outreach, TryLife Center, in addition to many material items. Our women's organization also donated through the SWO board offerings to: East Palestine, Ohio (\$470) to help those effected by the train accident in that area, Katie's fund (\$50) and Lutherlyn (\$160). An additional \$250 in board offerings was donated to ELCA Good Gifts to: feed a refugee family for one month (\$200), school fees and uniforms for a girl (\$40), and chicks for God's Global Barnyard (\$10). SWPA Women of the ELCA you are amazing and it shows through the love and joy that you continue to share with others.

My 2nd term as treasurer on the SWPA SWO board ends on January 31st. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for allowing me to serve the Women of the SWPA. It has truly been a learning experience, especially when everything shut down at the beginning of my 1st term due to the pandemic and working with the board to figure out how to adjust for us to continue God's work smoothly and efficiently to the benefit of all the ladies. This continued into my 2nd term as things were returning to a new normal and we slowly returned to in-person meetings while still maintaining to reach those ladies that were served best by virtual meetings. Although challenging, I again thank you for the opportunity to serve!

As you gather for Bible study, social events, and friendship in this new year, remember to support your congregational units and your synodical women's organization with your offerings so that we may together continue to do the work God wants us to do! Please note that beginning February 1st your offerings should be sent along with "Form A" to Janet Fishovitz, Treasurer-elect, when she begins her term as SWO treasurer. Janet's address is:

136 Clearwater Dr.
Ellwood City, PA 16117

And, as always, should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at:
724-457-9662
swpaswotreas@gmail.com

The arrival of the new year has us turning our attention to a new designated outreach organization for 2024: St. Peter's Lutheran Church After School Program, Evans City, PA. More information on this organization and their needs will be forthcoming from the Action/Outreach Committee.

I am looking forward to a less challenging and less stressful 2024 and wish the same for everyone! May God continue to watch over all of us and guide us on this exciting journey through life! See you real soon!

Your Sister In Christ,
Donna Petrell
SWPA SWO Treasurer

Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years!

2122

The Women of the ELCA has kicked off a campaign to add \$1 million dollars to Katie's Fund over the next 3 years. Katie's Fund honors the life of Katharina von Bora Luther by supporting global connections, leadership development and living theology. The 2122 campaign for Katie's Fund is designed to support the organization into the next 100 years of mission and ministry. If you would like to make a pledge to the campaign, please go to www.womenoftheelca.org/katiesfund to download a pledge sheet. You can also give to the campaign through an estate planning gift. See the website and pledge sheet for more information on this option.

Prayer Pals

If you have attended any of our retreats in the last few years, you may have received a prayer pal. Please remember to reach out to your prayer pal(s) throughout the year. Praying for our Sisters in Christ is a special bond we share with each other and God.

Social and Racial Justice

The Gathering at the 12th Triennial Convention in Phoenix Arizona offered a wonderful presentation by individuals from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. One thing we learned, is they wish to obtain back the land which the US took from the Native Americans. The Black Hills were promised to the Lakota people until gold was discovered. They told us that not one treaty made with the Native Americans was broken by the Native Americans. They were all broken by the United States Government. A lot of promises made to them were not fulfilled. All the speakers were enlightening.

Janet Fishovitz's husband Tony, two more members of their congregation plus Pastor Dennis Orsen visited the Pine Ridge reservation this past summer. One person they met was a Lakota woman who makes jewelry from porcupine quills. She dyes the quills herself. While talking to the group, she held quills in her

mouth and made jewelry. The quills did not puncture her mouth. She makes bracelets, earrings, necklaces and more. Very delicate and pretty.

There is a wonderful program on PBS about the history of the buffalo. The Dakota only hunted the buffalo for food and used their skins for clothing and other necessary items, check your PBS programming to see this very informative program.

Pat Bellingham, from NWP, gave an exceptional presentation on both sexual and labor trafficking. We need to remember the indigenous people and victims of sexual and labor trafficking in our prayers.

The Welcoming Immigrants Housing Project at Emmanuel Eastmont continues to accompany and help asylum seekers from many countries. They receive many requests for rental and medical assistance. They have a close relationship with five families. In addition, they granted one-time financial help. An Ethel Verney grant from our synod and contributions from individuals and congregations fund this work. The need is great. There is also good news. One couple was granted asylum in February by their immigration judge after he heard how her mother and brother were killed by the rebels in her country and how the rest of the family continues to be threatened. To learn more or to request a presentation for your congregation, call Rev. Linda Theophilus at 412-401-5742 or email: revtheophilus@live.com.

We have received New Years greetings from **Sisters Celebrating Diversity**. The 2022-23 year was the seventh year of this group that fosters racial understanding and unity among Christian women. The leadership team took the seventh year as a time of Sabbath rest and discernment. In January they offered a discussion on Embracing Our Neighbors. On February 29, there will be a presentation at the Bethel AME Church in the Hill District of Pittsburgh. The host congregation lost their land and a significant church building when the Civic arena was built. Last year they received the land back and are building much needed new housing. To learn more and to RSVP, you may call 412-983-6637 or 412-077-4891.

God Bless,
Jeanne Christensen
Helen Williams
Bonnie Altman
Fran Mazur

Action/Outreach Committee

Our 2023 Designated Outreach, TryLife Center and their board would like to thank everyone for their support. At the retreat this fall, we collected \$454.00, and large boxes of clothes and shoes, 20+ packs of diapers, wipes, a diaper pail with liners, and homemade quilted covers for car seats for infants so they will not get cold this winter. The total amount given this year was \$3,899.50 along with Pedialyte, baby food, crocheted blankets, and MORE diapers and wipes.

At convention last May, a new 2024 Designated Outreach recipient was voted on. St. Peter's Lutheran Church After School Program in Evans City provides a safe place for children after school. They receive snacks, tutoring, play games, make crafts, and have free play time too at NO COST to those who qualify. All are welcome to attend their program. Material assistance needed are:

*snack supplies	*washable tempera paint	*paper plates	*card stock paper
*paper cups	*index cards	*paper towels	*board games
*Kleenex	*glue and glue sticks	*disinfecting wipes	*command hooks/strips
*toilet paper	*outdoor games		

Please publish in your church's newsletter to support St. Peter's After School Program with a collection of items from the needed items listed.

In God's Ministry,
Linda Reed
Patty Newton
Angeline Schaefer

Mass Email Announcement

If you would like to receive announcements by email of any upcoming events, please send your email address to: swpawelca@yahoo.com. Once signed up, add the address to your email account so the emails do not end up in your spam email box.

Hope you are being safe, taking care & staying informed!

Your Mass Email Dispatcher

Karen Coates Gesalman

Save the Date!

2024 SWPA Women of the ELCA Convention

May 18, 2024 (one day)

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Greensburg, PA

All Creation Praises and Sings

Looking forward to seeing you at the convention on May 18th this year. Please return your registration form by April 30, 2024, to Roberta Herrington. Also, the delegate form should be returned to Barb Guenther by May 1, 2024, along with the board member nomination form. We are accepting nominations for a designated outreach recipient for 2025. Please see the nomination form in this newsletter. Our worship service will start Saturday morning with Bishop Kusserow (with Q&A after), our business meeting, Lunch and Fellowship will follow with shopping at Fair Trade. You are asked to pre-order Equal Exchange items that you want. Please look at their website at www.equalexchange.org and then email Pastor Linda Theophilus at revtheophilus@live.com your order. She will then place the orders and bring the pre-orders to the convention. Please have pre-orders to her by April 1, 2024. We will have a Bible Study presented by Joan Orr following lunch.

God Bless,

Patty Newton

Vera Harencame

Patricia Pluck

Linda Cunningham

Roberta Herrington, Registrar

Archives Committee

At the last Archives meeting, we decided that we update "In Your Light I Grew" which we composed with articles from you for the 25th Anniversary of the SWPA SWO. This was done in May 2013, and we thought 2024 would be a good year for "In Your Light I Grew II".

This booklet will be honoring the special women who have touched our lives. Women who have mothered, supported, guided, mentored, listened, advised and/or inspired us. If you have such a woman inspiration or if you have inspirational women that is fine – tell us about her in just two paragraphs – one paragraph about her (sort of a bio) and the second paragraph of why she is important to you and others. Submit to Rosie Henrickson, rosietheriveter2@verizon.net, or send to 5133 Lougean Avenue; Pittsburgh, PA 15207 by April 1, 2024 (deadline extended).

God Bless,

Barb Frey

Rosie Henrickson

Donna Davis

Joan Orr

Linda Reed

Karen Gesalman

SAVE THE DATE!
2024 Joint Retreat
September 20-22, 2024

Watch the next issue of Friends, Inc. for more information on the 2024 joint retreat!

SAVE THE DATE!
2026 Triennial Gathering
July 16-19, 2026
Des Moines, IA

The next triennial gathering will be held July 16-19, 2026, in Des Moines, IA. Advance registration is open. Watch the Women of the ELCA website for discounted registration information. Registrations are transferable to other people if you decide not to go. If you have any questions, please contact Barb Guenther or Jennifer Armstrong-Schaefer. We hope that you will consider attending the triennial gathering as they are a life changing event.

Deadlines for the Convention Forms – Please Note!

This Convention Newsletter contains numerous forms for participating in the 2024 SWO Convention. Please duplicate forms, if necessary, as some forms are printed on the back of another form to save paper.

Delegate Form: To Barb Guenther by May 1, 2024

Board Members & Treasurer Nomination Form: To Linda Reed by May 1, 2024

Designated Outreach Nomination Form: To Patty Newton by April 15, 2024

SWO Convention Grant Form: To Helen Williams by April 1, 2024

Registration Form: To Roberta Herrington by April 30, 2024

Resolution Form: To Barb Guenther no later than 8:30am Saturday May 18, 2024

Convention Information

Delegates – Each Congregational Unit and Intercongregational Unit should send a delegate to the convention. Please also name an alternate delegate and complete the necessary information on the form in the newsletter and return it to Barb Guenther by May 1, 2024. Delegates must be present at all sessions and be seated for the beginning of the first business session. Any delegates not seated at the first business session will not be able to serve as a delegate at the other sessions. Inform the Registrar, Roberta Herrington, of any delegate or alternate delegate changes prior to the start of the convention.

Convention Offerings – taken during opening worship service

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, St. Peter's Lutheran Church After School Program – taken after their presentation on Saturday during the convention

Housing – Since the convention is again at a church this year, housing is at nearby hotels if you chose to stay over. You will need to contact the hotel yourself to book your room. If you need a roommate, please contact the registrar, Roberta Herrington, and she will be able to help you find someone to share a room with. Hotel contact information for two nearby hotels is listed on the registration form. You are welcome to look into other hotels in the Greensburg area too.

SWPA WOMEN of the ELCA CONVENTION



May 18, 2024

Good Shepherd

Lutheran Church

501 Fairfield Drive

Greensburg, PA 15601



ALL CREATION PRAISES and SINGS

*³Praise him, sun and moon: praise him, all you
shining stars! ⁴Praise him you highest
heavens, and you waters above the heavens!
⁵Let them praise the name of the Lord, for he
commanded and they were created.*

Psalms 148:3-5

Tentative 2024 Convention Schedule

Saturday, May 18, 2024

8:00 AM Registration
8:30 AM Opening worship – offering taken during service
9:30 – 10 AM Q&A with Bishop Kusserow
10 – 10:15 AM Break

10:15 AM Business Session I

Call to Order
Report of Credentials Committee
Adoption of Rules and Procedures & Agenda
Announcement of Convention Committee
Introduction of Synodical Board & Guests
Report of Conduct of Elections Committee for Nominating Ballot for Vice President & Nominating Ballot
Report of President
Fair Trade – Rev. Linda Theophilus
Report of Vice President
Designated Outreach Representative – St. Peter's Afterschool Program
Report of Conduct of Elections Committee on Nominating Vice President Ballot & 2nd Ballot
Report of Proposed Budget for 2025
Report & Recommendations of the Board
Report of Conduct of Elections Committee on 2nd Ballot & 3rd Ballot
Report of Racial Justice Committee
Report of SW & NW Retreat Committee
Report of Conduct of Elections Committee for 3rd Ballot
Report of Nominating Committee on Ballot for Secretary & Ballot

12:30 PM Lunch & Fellowship

1 – 1:30 PM Bible study

1:30 – 1:45 PM Break

1:45 PM Business Session II

Opening Prayer & Call to Order
Report of Credentials Committee
Report of Conduct of Elections Committee for Secretary Ballot & 2nd Ballot(if needed)
Designated Outreach Presentations
Report of Archives Committee
Report of Conduct of Elections Committee on

2nd Ballot for Secretary

Report of Secretary
Report of Nominating Committee on Ballot for Board Members & Ballot
Report of Resolutions Committee
Report of Conduct of Elections Committee for Board Members
Report of Treasurer
Report of Churchwide Rep
Report of Nominating Committee for 2025 Designated Outreach Ballot & Ballot
Report of Personal & Participation Growth Committee
Report of Action/Outreach Committee
Adoption of Budget for 2025
Report of Conduct of Elections for 2025 Designated Outreach on 1st Ballot & 2nd Ballot
Report of Finance Committee
Report of Communications/Mass Media Committee
Report of Conduct of Elections Committee for 2025 Designated Outreach on 2nd Ballot & 3rd Ballot(if needed)
Unfinished Business
Report of Conduct of Elections Committee for 2025 Designated Outreach on 3rd Ballot(if needed)
Final Reports of Convention Committees
Closing worship – Installation of Officers & Board Members
Closing of Convention

REGISTRATION FORM
WOMEN OF THE ELCA – SWPA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
2024 CONVENTION – MAY 18, 2024
Good Shephard Lutheran Church, 501 Fairfield Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601

Name: _____ **Phone No.** _____

Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Congregation: _____

Location: _____ **Cluster No:** _____

First Time Participant? _____

Delegate _____ **Alternate Delegate** _____ **Participant** _____ **Guest** _____ **Board Member** _____
(Each Affirmed CU/ICU is EXPECTED to have a delegate. It is strongly urged that each unit pay for the expenses of the delegate.)

REGISTRATION EXPENSES

(Check appropriate expenses – EVERYONE MUST PAY A REGISTRATION FEE)

Registration Fee: \$40.00 _____
(includes Saturday lunch)

Round-Up Donation to SWPA SWO _____

(If you would like to make a donation, please add it to your registration and mark the amount of donation on the line above.)

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE _____

Payment MUST accompany registration. Make checks payable to: Women of the ELCA of SWPA. Each attendee must complete a registration form – duplicate as needed.

Lodging – if you need to spend the night, there are two hotels that are close to the church. You will need to call and make your own reservations. If you would like to share a room but do not have a roommate, please contact the registrar.

- Hotel Options: 1. The Inn at Mountain View(3.5 miles from church), 300 Scenery Ln, Greensburg, PA 724-691-0570;
website: innatmtview.com
2. Hampton Inn(2 miles from church), 1000 Towne Square Dr, Greensburg, PA 724-838-8800; website: Hilton.com

CUT HERE AND RETURN TOP PORTION TO REGISTRAR NO LATER THAN May 1, 2024

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Delegate-One(1) person from each congregational/Inter-congregational unit with voice and vote.

Alternate Delegate-Substitute for delegate

Participant-All registrants who are not delegates or guests

Guest-Person with specific duties such as Bible study leader, Worship leader, Bishop, CWO Rep, Nurse, etc.

Board Member-Elected member of the SWPA SWO board who is not serving as a delegate from their CU/ICU

Refunds shall be made in total to all persons canceling reservations before the deadline. Refunds shall be made of all pre-payments except the Registration fee to all persons canceling their reservation after the deadline, but before the final count is given to the caterer (one week prior). NO REFUNDS SHALL BE made to persons canceling their reservations after the final count is given to the institution.* (*Note: Exceptions may be made to this rule by written request to the SWO Administrative Board.) Onsite registration will take place Saturday in the church's social hall.

Please return above portion no later than May 1, 2024

To: Roberta Herrington
578 Allendale Rd.
New Brighton, PA 15066
724-775-1717

DELEGATE FORM
SWPA SWO – WOMEN OF THE ELCA
(To be mailed back before May 1, 2024)

DELEGATE:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____ Email Address: _____

ALTERNATE DELEGATE:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No: _____ Email Address: _____

Name of Church: _____

Location: _____ **Cluster No:** _____

DELEGATE TO A CONVENTION

- Be well prepared for the convention by becoming familiar with pre-convention materials, including information on nominees for election.
- Attend all convention sessions on time and be seated in the area specified for delegates.
- Speak clearly for or against issues from the convention floor.
- Take notes that will assist in reporting the convention to your Unit.
- Orally share insights, facts, and ideas gained at the convention with members of your Unit.
- Provide a copy of your oral report to the secretary/recorder of your Unit.

Please mail form to:

Barb Guenther
375 Glenda Dr.
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
By May 1, 2024

Women of the ELCA
Southwestern Pennsylvania Synodical Women's Organization
2024 Biographical Information
Nomination Form for Secretary, or Board Member

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Name of Congregation: _____

Address of Congregation: _____

Cluster #: _____

I am being nominated for: Secretary _____ Board Member _____

EXPERIENCE-Beginning with the most recent, list significant experiences in each area over the last five years.

OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY: _____

COMMUNITY SERVICE: _____

WOMAN'S ORGANIZATION

CONGREGATIONAL UNIT: _____

SYNOD & CLUSTER: _____

CHURCHWIDE: _____

ELCA INVOLVEMENT

CONGREGATION: _____

SYNOD & CONFERENCE: _____

CHURCHWIDE: _____

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS: _____

PLEASE RETURN NOMINATION FORM WITH A PICTURE OR SNAPSHOT OF NOMINEE BY MAY 1, 2024,
TO:

Linda Reed
193 Pittsburgh St.
Derry, PA 15627
decamom@live.com

RESOLUTION FORM

To be presented at the Synodical Convention in May. Can be submitted now by mail to SWO President, Barbara Guenther or email to: swpaswopres@gmail.com

A resolution is an expression of a view and/or proposal by a delegate and/or congregational unit and includes the reasons for the proposal and a suggested action to be implemented. The Resolution must be presented in writing and signed by the congregational unit delegate. A Resolution submitted now needs only the signature of the delegate. A Resolution presented at the convention requires the signature of three delegates and must be submitted by 8:30am on Saturday May 18, 2024.

Convention Resolution – 2024 Southwestern PA Synodical Women of the ELCA

Please type your resolution using the proper form in the space below. Keep a copy of the resolution for your files. Send your resolution by mail to Barbara Guenther; 375 Glenda Dr; Beaver Falls, PA 15010 or email to: swpaswopres@gmail.com or present to the Resolution Committee at the Convention.

WHEREAS:

WHEREAS:

WHEREAS:

WHEREAS:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SWO PA WOMEN OF THE ELCA

2024 CONVENTION GRANT

Grant Amount – up to one-half of the fulltime registration fee

Grant Application to be returned by April 1, 2024

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

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Name of Congregation: _____

Cluster/Conference No.: _____ First time Participant: Y N

Why would you like to receive this grant? (Chose all that apply)

1. Financial reasons
2. Would like to become more active in Synodical Activities
3. Would like to become more aware of concerns important to women

GUIDELINES

1. Total number of Grants to be issued will depend on the availability of funds and may not be awarded to the same person more than twice in a three-year period.
2. The monetary amount of each Grant is up to one-half of the fulltime cost per event to one member from each Cluster.
3. Qualifications will be based on:
 - a) Written response on application
 - b) Consideration for first time participants
4. After the deadline, award decisions will be made by the Personal & Participation Growth Committee based on the guidelines.
5. Grant applicants will be notified of award of Grant within two weeks of the application deadline.
6. Grant recipients must mail their registration, along with the reduced fee, to event Registrar.
7. Grant recipient names will not be published.

NOMINATION FORM
(Please type or print clearly)

Return form by April 15, 2024 to: Patty Newton
180 Newton Ln.
Leechburg, PA 15656

MISSION: POSSIBLE

At the 1995 SWPA SWO Convention, the following resolution was passed:

Whereas: Women of the SWPA Synodical Organization would gain insight and understanding of various outreach programs going on in the Synod; and

Whereas: Women of the SWPA SWO would be encouraged to think of ways for outreach and evangelism in their own neighborhoods, therefore be it

Resolved: that the SWPA SWO focus on, highlight, and promote awareness of one outreach program in their prayers, in-kind gifts, volunteer time, and special designated offering.

Our 2023 Designated Outreach recipient was TryLife Center in Lower Burrell, and our 2024 Designated Outreach recipient is St. Peter's Lutheran Church After School Program in Evan's City. In order to vote for the Designated Outreach Program for 2025, we need nominations for organizations/projects which will help us as a Synodical Women's Organization to fulfill our mission as Women of the ELCA.

If you would like to nominate a local worthy organization/project, please complete the nomination form on the reverse of this page in its entirety and mail to Patty Newton before April 15, 2024, at 180 Newton Ln., Leechburg, PA 15656.

Also, please provide up to a 5-minute video about your organization that can be shown to our organization on May 18, 2024. This video should be emailed to Patty Newton at bob_steelers@hotmail.com and should not have to require an internet connection to play. Patty will contact you the week of May 20, 2024, to let you know of the outcome of our vote on May 18, 2024.

If you have any questions about the nominating process, please call Patty Newton at 724-845-2191.

Designated Outreach Expectations

If chosen as our Designated Outreach Recipient for your year, you are expected to attend the following Women of the ELCA events which are usually held on Saturdays:

- Spring and Fall Cluster Events

- Fall Retreat (usually held in September)

- The Annual Convention (usually held in May)

You will be contacted by a Women of the ELCA representative about the time, place, etc. of upcoming events. You are responsible to have a representative of your organization attend these events and share briefly more about who you are and what you do. You will also pick up the items that have been collected for your organization at these events.

Action /Outreach Committee of the Women of the ELCA of SWPA

A blank canvas

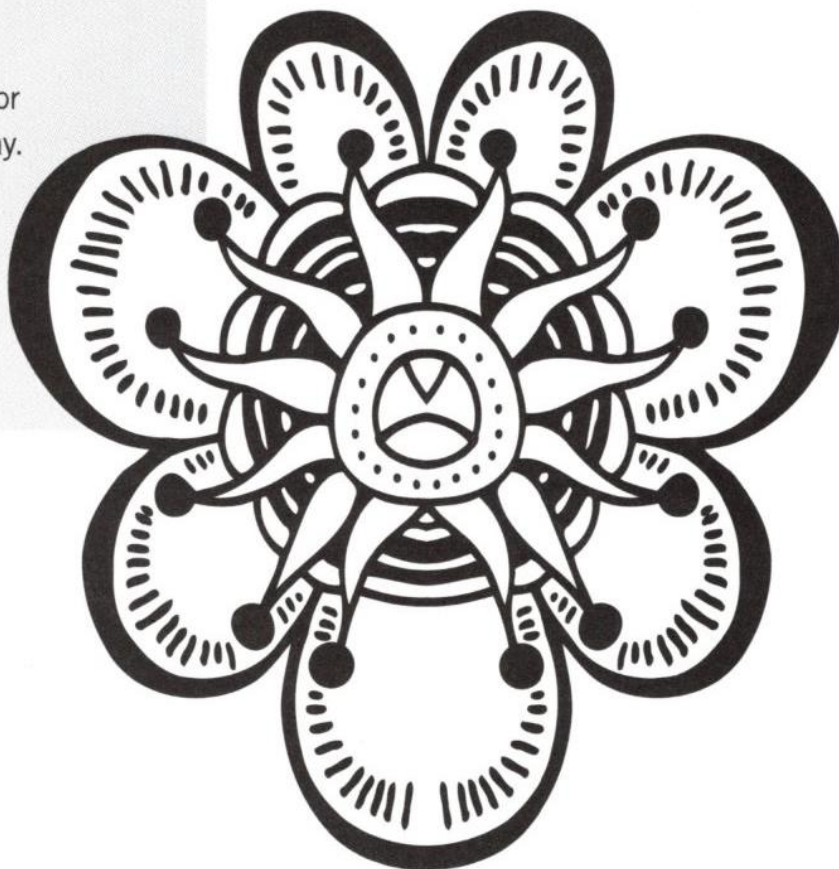
I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. —Philippians 6:1

Each day waits for us to make our mark. There are those who use a bold purple marker with a wide point and have a hovering audience waiting breathlessly for their every word and movement. Most of us write quietly, with a fine line in a muted color. But make no mistake, our marks are there. Some of us have drawn kindness. Others have sketched daily friendship, and others, presence when most needed. For someone else, you may be the word and the touch that reminds a faltering memory of the faith of a clearer time. The days are not empty squares when you see yourself moving across the spaces, but mostly you will be too taken up with your day to trace your path.

God not only traces our pathway, but lays it out for us. It is God who creates the days and arranges the order. God created you to walk in those days.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the gift of each new day. Remind me to make my mark on each, just as you have made your mark on me.





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
2023-2024 Officers and Board Members**

Officers:

President: Barbara Guenther

375 Glenda Dr., Beaver Falls, PA 15010

412-671-9456 swpaswopres@gmail.com

V. President: Linda Reed

193 Pittsburgh St., Derry, PA 15627

724-433-2034

Secretary: Rosemarie Henrickson,

5133 Lougean Ave., Pgh, PA 15207

412-461-8619

Treasurer: Donna Petrell

110 Bashford Dr., Moon Twp, PA 15108

724-457-9662 swpaswotreas@gmail.com

Treasurer Elect: Janet Fishovitz

136 Clearwater Dr., Ellwood City, PA 16117

724-494-5472

Board Members:

Jeanne Christensen, 3007 Glengary Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601

724-832-8588

Patricia Newton, 180 Newton Ln., Leechburg, PA 15656

724-845-2191

Joan Orr, 201 South 5th St., Youngwood, PA 15697

724-420-7864

Patricia Pluck, 15 Overview Dr., Greensburg, PA 15601

724-493-1431

Angeline Schaefer, 1210 Beech Dr., Latrobe, PA 15650

724-787-5235

Helen Williams, 30 Boulder Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15239

724-393-2395

Calendar of Events

2024

Feb. 17	Virtual Cluster Meeting
March 7	Executive Board Meeting via Zoom
March 9	Board Meeting via Zoom
May 18	2024 SWPA Annual Convention
June 6	Executive Board Meeting via Zoom
June 8	Re-Organizational Board Meeting at Zion's Luth Church in Greensburg
Sept. 5	Executive Board Meeting via Zoom
Sept. 7	Board Meeting
Sept. 20-22	NW/SW Joint Retreat at Camp Lutherlyn
Nov. 2	Executive Board Meeting via Zoom
Nov. 4	Board Meeting

2026

July 14-16	Triennial Convention in Des Moines, Iowa
July 16-19	Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa

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 March 15, 2024.

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.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone No. _____

New _____

Renewal _____

Amount Enclosed _____

SWPA Synodical Women's Organization
c/o Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
1325 Mission Rd.
Latrobe, PA 15650

Non-Profit Organization
US Postage PAID
Latrobe, PA 15650
Permit #173

Return Service Requested

Convention Issue



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.