



Swatch

Newsletter of Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization—Region 1-C
Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

June/July 2023



From my big blue chair...Pentecost

I remember discussing the Holy Spirit in Confirmation Class. My confirmands and I were so lucky.....we had completed one year of confirmation with our then current pastor, only to have him accept a call to another church. The new pastor wanted to be sure we were well grounded in Luther's Catechism so we did two years of class with him...yes, a total of three years under two different pastors/teachers. The reason I am retelling this bit is because I don't think the discussions of the Holy Spirit under either pastor made me understand or grasp who/what/where/why/how of the Holy Spirit. I'm not sure I can really tell you today about the Holy Spirit. But, what I can tell you are some instances where something or someone showed up when there was indeed a need. And what happened could have only been explained through the work of the Holy Spirit. After all, God is no longer the creator and Jesus is no longer man among us. Yet we have God and Jesus doing their work through the Holy Spirit....

My first experience occurred when I was in eighth grade. I was the organist for my church and the pastor would call me the week before or early in the week to let me know the hymns we would be singing that Sunday and any other pertinent information. I can vividly remember this call.....my pastor seemed very distracted and out of sorts. I remarked as such and asked if everything was okay (not usual for a goofy eighth grader). He told me it had been a very busy and challenging week. When we hung up, I asked God to give peace to my pastor and make things go better for him. Once I had said amen, the prayer was off my heart and gone. The next day, my pastor told me how he had had this great sense of peace and reassurance after our phone call. He felt a quiet calm come over him. I about jumped out of my skin. My little ol' prayer for my pastor had been answered in a big way! I could only say....the Holy Spirit did it.

A second experience was at a high school church camp. My sister and two more friends from church had gone, also. It was a high-altitude backpack camp. Once the sun went down, everything got black very quickly. The stars were bright and huge and filled the black heavenly background. My sister and the two friends took off on an after dinner hike around the lake a bit late....before they could return, the curtain of night had fallen and they could not see the path to return. What was eerie though was how our voices could carry across the midnight blue water of the lake. I could hear my sister and two friends talking and laughing, even though they were really far away. Luckily, two of the leaders had flashlights and took off around the lake to bring my sister and friends back to camp. In the meantime, I kept telling my sister the leaders were coming for them and to stay still until they got there. We would call out our names and I would tell her I loved her and everything was going to be okay. I told her she was brave and to keep thinking about coming back to camp and having hot chocolate. Eventually the leaders reached them and soon had everyone back to camp, safe and sound. Even when she was gone, I kept praying for her safety and to keep her from feeling afraid. She affirmed this by telling me she didn't feel afraid because she could hear my voice and knew I would have hot chocolate for her. Again, this had to be the Holy Spirit comforting her....

Continued on next page.

Mission Statement of
Women of the ELCA

TO MOBILIZE
WOMEN TO ACT
BOLDLY ON THEIR
FAITH IN JESUS
CHRIST!

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.

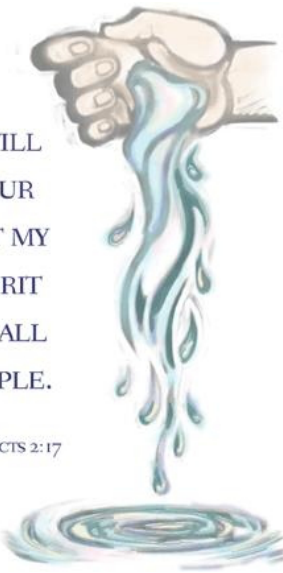


Purpose Statement
of the Southwestern
Washington Synodical
Women's Organization

The purpose of this synodical women's organization shall be to assist congregational and inter-congregational units within its territory to fulfill the purpose of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

I WILL
POUR
OUT MY
SPIRIT
ON ALL
PEOPLE.

ACTS 2:17



A final experience relates to watching my father die. Here was this gentle man preparing for his final days (in hospice) and asked daily for communion, to say the Lord's Prayer, and to sing Jesus Loves Me. He would invite the nurses and his doctors to join in....one evening, his doctor brought in his two young daughters, about 5 and 7 years of age. My dad held out his hand to them to shake their hands and it wasn't long until they began singing Jesus Love Me with all of us. We probably sang the song three times each time we would sing. These girls were a bit hesitant at first but eventually their singing was heard above the rest. The doctor asked if he could pray over my dad (which really choked me up) and the girls added their "Amen!" loud and clear at the end. None other than the Holy Spirit at work!!

As Jesus said to go out and do His work and the Holy Spirit will guide and keep you, this scene with my dad, his doctor and his family sticks with me. So back to Pentecost...the paraments are green, green is associated with spring/summer and the growing season...what are you doing to grow your faith, the faith of other believers, or the faith of those who are yet to believe? God's Love is bounteous, Jesus showed us how to spread the Love and the Holy Spirit is around to assist us in sharing that Love.

Spring Retreat Recap

A great time was had by all 22 women who attended the WELCA retreat last month. The weather was beautiful and allowed us to walk to the dining hall, enjoy walks around the camp, and have a really fun bonfire with S'mores and lots of singing one evening. Pastor Chavaleh brought us inspiring messages, music and worship services throughout the weekend. We had time to visit and catch up with friends we haven't seen in person for several years....definitely one of the highlights. We enjoyed yoga and massages by Kristi, laughter with Barb, crafts and a table full of yummy snacks. Special thanks for all the items brought for the in-kind donation for the Elizabeth Gregory House and the generous financial offering, which will be split between Churchwide WELCA, the Elizabeth Gregory House and our SWO. The facility at Black Diamond Camps is very nice: single or double occupancy rooms with full bath, linens and towels provided, 24 hour coffee, good food, and a big meeting room with huge windows. We have tentatively reserved a date for next spring. Plan on joining us now!



Fall Convention is coming! Fall Convention is coming!

Fall Convention is coming! And we would love to see you there.

Your synodical board members with a planning team at Bethany Lutheran of Longview, WA, are excited to share our progress with you! **Saturday, October 14, 2023**, is the day for a one-day convention centered upon the theme, "Through the Looking Glass: *Visioning and Hope for the Future*." Join us as keynote speaker, Pr. Susan Dollinger, leads us on a path of discovery, venturing into "what is possible" especially with post-COVID reality. Following an opening "set the stage" presentation, breakout study groups will peer into the "looking glass" of their future! Oh the possibilities!!! We have a tentative check-in/coffee and treat time of 9:30 am with a general opening time of 10am.

Your registration will include lunch, snacks and other surprises! Invite a friend to attend with you – let's fill up Bethany with the women of the Southwestern Washington Synod! Let us be like Alice – going down the rabbit hole, where can our guided imagining take us?

Date: July 5, 2023

To: All women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southwestern Washington Synod

From: MaryAnn Nelson, Secretary, Southwestern Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)

Re: Official Notice of the 33rd Annual Convention of the Southwestern Washington Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church

“In accordance with Article VI, Section 3, Item 1 of the Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization Constitution, notice is given that the 33rd Convention of the Southwestern Washington Synodical Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church will be in session Saturday, October 14th, 2023 at . Voting members of this convention shall be elected officers and board members of the Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization and one voting member from each unit on the roll of this synodical women's organization. Those congregations not represented by a unit shall be invited to send one representative who shall have seat and voice.”

Treasurer's Chest

Please send any unit offerings to Kathy Ifft, SWO Treasurer, PO Box 73754, Puyallup, WA 98373 Email: kathyiff@msn.com Phone: 253-307-5761

May 13, 2023, SWA SWO Board Meeting Highlights!

*The **2023 Spring Retreat** was a great success for many reasons!

-22 women attended the three-day retreat

-Keynote speaker, Pr. Chavaleh Forgey, lead us in study and prayer to better understand we are truly claimed and loved by our Lord and Savior

-**April 19-21, 2024, SAVE the DATE**, for Spring Retreat 2024@Black Diamond Camp in Auburn, WA

***SAVE THE DATE!! August 19, 2023,@ 1pm, Trinity Lutheran Church, Parkland, WA**

Summer SWO Gathering – Ice Cream Social – Triennial Meetup

Synodical women are invited to Trinity for a fun summer get together.

Meet those going to Phoenix for Convention & Gathering in September.

Eat ice cream and receive scrubbies and bookmarks.

***SAVE THE DATE!! October 14, 2023 – Fall Convention**

Bethany Lutheran in Longview, WA, with keynote speaker Pr Susan

Dollinger. More details in this SWATCH. See “Call to Convention” in this

SWATCH issue.

SOUTHWESTERN WASHINGTON
SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
WOMEN OF THE ELCA

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS



**Visioning & Hope
for the Future**

33RD CONVENTION - SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023
BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH, LONGVIEW, WA

The Swatch Newsletter

The Swatch provides news and information about Women of the ELCA. Copies are distributed by electronic mail whenever possible to SW WA congregations and to hundreds of women individually. To subscribe by postal mail, send \$6 to the newsletter editor with the check made to SW WA SWO. Subscriptions are due in January of each year. The Swatch newsletter is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Articles may be submitted for consideration for use in the Swatch. Send articles to the editor:

Elaine Twogood, 2539 56th Ave. NE, Tacoma, WA 98422 or (preferably) via email to:
A.Twogood@att.net

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Open Board Positions, Elections for October 2023 Convention

The fall convention will be here in approximately 4 ½ months. Besides gathering for hearing greetings from Bishop Jaech and a churchwide WELCA representative, a business meeting is held. This includes voting for women to fill our board positions. Currently, we have three open at-large board positions. These could be filled by appointment now or voted upon at the October convention.

At-large positions have duties of carrying out committee work, as well as retreat and convention responsibilities. Being in one of these positions brings opportunities for learning the general obligations of the overall synodical women's organization.

Officer positions include president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer. As with most organizations who have these positions, the executive board members carry out those duties associated with these leadership positions.

At the coming October election, the positions of treasurer (to take office on February 1, 2024), vice-president, and three at-large members will be voted upon. At the 2021 churchwide convention, the voting members approved allowing two women from the same congregation (unit) to serve on the synodical board with the stipulation, one could be an executive board member and the other, an at-large member. Currently, our board meetings are on ZOOM (a practice we started during COVID) which is convenient as we are spread out from the north to the south of our synod. We plan to continue using ZOOM for board, retreat and convention planning meetings.

If you are interested in or have questions about any of these positions, we would LOVE to have you join us. We encourage you to contact any of the current board members with your interest or questions. See the contact page near the end of SWATCH for emails and phone numbers. Also, see the nomination form in this SWATCH for the open board positions for the coming 2023-2024 year.

Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization (SW WA SWO) Women of the ELCA Officer/Board Member Nomination Form

For the election at the convention of Southwestern Washington Synodical Women of the ELCA, October 14, 2023, elections will be for, Vice President, Treasurer, and three board members.

Please check one:

vice president treasurer board member

_____ Name Daytime
phone number

_____ Address Evening
phone number

_____ City/zip code
Church/city

E-mail address Age: Ethnicity:

Cell phone number: Age: 35 and under 36-50 51-69 70 and over

African American

Arab/Middle Eastern Black Asian Caucasian

Hispanic Other (specify) _____

Alaskan native American Indian

To be nominated for a Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization (SW WA SWO) position, you must be currently participating in your congregation's women's organization.

Are you active in your cluster? Yes No Your synod? Yes No

Please list any significant experiences you have had in the last five years that would qualify you to be a SW WA SWO board member or officer, such as offices held, congregational leadership, cluster or synod activities or any other community or work leadership roles.

Nomination submitted by: Name: _____
(Someone other than the nominee) Address: _____
Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____
Congregation: _____
City: _____

Signature of person making the nomination: _____

Please complete and send this form by October 1, 2023 to Nominations Chair: Kathy Newton,
email - newton7936@comcast.net
Mail - 2640 Garfield Street Longview, WA 98632-2037



We invite you to experience a life-changing event with other bold women of faith in September 2023. Learn more and register now!

For more information go to <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

**FINALLY The Phoenix Triennial Convention and Gathering in happening ...
IN PERSON!!**

After being postponed twice, the Women of the ELCA Gathering, in Phoenix, Arizona is happening, September 21 – 24, 2023, and we are so excited! Registration and information is available online at welcatg.org.

Sign up today and prepare yourself for a fantastic weekend. There will be wonderful speakers, inspirational music, shopping, so many great breakout sessions it will be hard to choose, and exciting worship services in a huge ballroom filled with 2,000 beautiful, bold women! One of my favorite things about the Gathering is that most women will bring a little exchange gift, usually something fun about their state or region of the county, to exchange with other women there. We will provide you with these little gifts, a nylon scrubby (to remind our friends to remember us in Washington as they WASH their dishes.) We will have only a limited number of these this year, so we are also planning on a bookmark with a glass raindrop on it...for obvious reasons; we're from Washington after all!!

If you have ANY questions about the Gathering, please feel free to call Beth Lindell at 253-347-5083 and I will be happy to help you out!

Cafe dinner at the triennial gathering

Hello! Readers and writers of Cafe are invited to dinner, Saturday, July 15th during the triennial gathering at 6:00 pm at the [Lakes & Legends Brewery](https://www.lakesandlegendsbrewery.com).

Log in to RSVP at <http://boldcafe.org>

TWELFTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

The Twelfth Triennial Convention is currently scheduled for September 19-21, 2023, Phoenix, Ariz.

The convention, the highest legislative authority in Women of the ELCA, will be held at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown. Voting members, elected in the 64 synodical women's organizations, will conduct the business of the organization. They will elect leaders for the 2023-2026 triennium, act on memorials from synodical organizations and resolutions from the floor, approve a budget and much more.

Enjoy VBS for adults this Summer



Do you remember all the fun you had at Vacation Bible School? With the theme, "Jesus loves you"—Women of the ELCA's digital VBS experience, complete with music, a craft and snack recipes, is available at www.womenoftheelca.org/digital-vbs-for-adults. You can experience this solo or invite your friends to participate as well.

This is our second year of offering this event. Feel free to share your experience by following and tagging Women of the ELCA on Facebook. Use the hashtag #VBSWELCA.



Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your spiritual journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless, and often surprising grace by [signing up for a daily email message](#). Learn more at welca.org/dailygrace. The Daily Grace app will soon be retired. To avoid interruption, those who read Daily Grace in the app are encouraged to [subscribe to receive Daily Grace via email](#).

Southwestern Washington Synod Churches listed by Conferences Women of the ELCA

Coastal Conference

Aberdeen	Amazing Grace
Chinook	Chinook
Grayland	Twin Harbors
Hoquiam	Saron
Naselle	Naselle
Ocean Park	Ocean Park
Ocean Shores	Galilean Chapel
South Bend	First

Evergreen Conference

Auburn	All Saints
Auburn	Family of Grace
Auburn	Messiah
Enumclaw	Hope
Enumclaw	Trinity
Federal Way	Calvary
Federal Way	Christ
Federal Way	Federal Way Chinese Fellowship
Federal Way	Light of Grace Korean
Tacoma	Resurrection

Ft. Vancouver Conference

Brush Prairie	Bethel
Camas	Zion
LaCenter	Highland
Stevenson	Shepherd of the Hills
Vancouver	Beautiful Savior
Vancouver	Family of Christ
Vancouver	Immanuel
Vancouver	Jubilee Collective
Vancouver	Messiah
Vancouver	St. Andrew
Vancouver	St. Paul
Vancouver	Trinity

Lower Columbia Conf.

Castle Rock	St. Paul
Kelso	Gloria Dei
Longview	Bethany
Longview	Stella Chapel
Longview	Trinity
Winlock	St. Paul

Mt. Rainier Conference

Bonney Lake	Creator
Edgewood	Mountain View
Puyallup	Celebration
Puyallup	Peace
Puyallup	Pilgrim
Spanaway	Bethany
Spanaway	Spanaway
Sumner	Christ the King
Tacoma	LC of Christ the King
Tacoma (Parkland)	Trinity
Tacoma	University Congregation-PLU

Olympic Conference

Forks	Prince of Peace
Port Angeles	Holy Trinity
Port Ludlow	Peace Lutheran Fellowship
Port Townsend	Grace
Poulsbo	First
Poulsbo	Vinland
Sequim	Dungeness Valley

Peninsula Conference

Belfair	Christ
Bremerton	Our Saviour's
Port Orchard	Elim
Port Orchard	First
Port Orchard	Spirit of Life
Silverdale	Silverdale

South Sound Conference

Centralia	Immanuel
Chehalis	St. John's
Elbe	Historic Elbe
Elma	Faith
Lacey	St. Mark
Olympia	Gloria Dei
Olympia	Good Shepherd
Olympia	Gull Harbor
Olympia	St. Christopher's
Shelton	Faith
Shelton	Living Stones Prison Congr
Yelm	Emanuel

Tacoma Narrows Conference

Gig Harbor	Agnus Dei
Gig Harbor	Peninsula
Lakebay	Key Peninsula
Tacoma	First
Tacoma	Gloria Dei
Tacoma	Peace
Tacoma	St. Mark's by Narrows

Tacoma Southwest Conf.

Fircrest	Redeemer
Lakewood	Christ
Lakewood	St. John's
Tacoma	Bethlehem
Tacoma	United
University Place	Mount Cross



**Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization
(1-C) Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**



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Empowering Life...

Beyond Incarceration!

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[Position open]

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Narrows Cluster

[Position open]

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Three Rivers Cluster

**Churchwide Board Member
From SW WA Synod Women
Elected at Triennial 2021**

Jean Pishaw
Forest Grove, OR
Oregon SWO (1E)



Southwestern Washington Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization Women of the ELCA
Elaine Twogood, **Swatch** Editor
2539 56th Avenue NE, Tacoma, WA 98422

In this issue:

Triennial Gathering

Upcoming Events

August 19th - *Summer SWO Gathering –*

Ice Cream Social – Triennial Meetup

Sept. 19-21st – *Twelfth Triennial Convention*

Sept. 21–24th *Triennial Gathering*

Oct. 14th – *SWO Convention*