

The Trumpeter

South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Volume 29, Number 1 January 2017 Published Quarterly



Dear Sisters in Christ,

I hope you had a blessed Christmas with family and friends. As we say goodbye to 2016 please take time to reflect on what your women's group has accomplished. As we welcome 2017, the board turns to planning our 2017 Biennial Convention which will be Saturday, Sept 23, 2017, at Good Shepherd Verona Campus. The business meeting for voting members will be Friday, Sept 22, 6pm. Please consider attending and be a voting member from your congregational. Full information about the convention will be in the April Trumpeter.

For our Synodical Women's Organization to function to its fullest and carry out the mission of the Women of the ELCA, **YOU ARE NEEDED** to volunteer your services or be prepared to say "YES" when contacted to serve on the Board. At the business meeting, we will elect a new Treasurer (Donna is not eligible to be reelected) and board members. The specific skills needed for Treasurer are online banking & Quick Books, previous bookkeeping or accounting experience is helpful. The Treasurer officially starts Feb. 1, 2018 so there is opportunity to learn from Donna before assuming full responsibility. The treasurer uses a laptop and printer provided by the SWO. *Prayerfully search your soul, think of your gifts and be prepared to say "YES" when contacted to serve our God and the women of the South-Central Wisconsin Synod.*

In July many of you will go to Minneapolis for the Tenth Triennial Gathering. It is not too late to join and travel by bus to attend the Gathering. See the article on page 4 for more details.

The conference Spring Gatherings will be in March and April. They are close to home, with old and new friends and information on programs that make a difference in our communities. Please take time to see when yours is and attend. Thank you to all the conference officers that make these gatherings possible.

Blessings in the New Year,
Helen Sheahan, SWO president



"New" Year -- Trumpeter Emailing -- 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

As we enter 2017, many things will be new – a new year, a new way to deliver the Trumpeter to churches with email starting in April, an opportunity to attend the Tenth Triennial Gathering with the theme "all anew". 500 years ago, Martin Luther came to a new understanding of the righteousness of God. Luther understood that righteousness, holiness in the sight of God through forgiveness of sins, is a gift from God, received through faith in Jesus. Through Luther's teachings and preaching the Lutheran Church was born. As is written in Isaiah 43:19 "I am about to do a new thing...."

Writing the 2017 new year's date may be easy. Your church receiving the April Trumpeter via email may not be easy. Please talk with your church staff who receive the church's emails. When the Trumpeter email arrives, what should be done with it? Forward it to the women's group leaders, forward it to Circle and small group leaders, print it and put it on the bulletin board or in a mail slot? All the above? Something else? Something different?

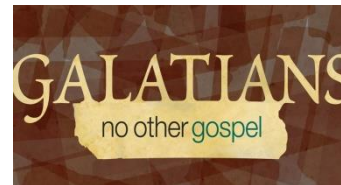
Each church and women's group will need to try what they think will work best for their church. After April please check back with church staff to make sure the plans worked. If not, try something different with the next issue. Paper copies will continue to be mailed to paid subscribers and churches without email addresses. The Reformation was not easy. Luther became an outlaw of the empire and went into hiding. He translated the Bible into German so people could read it. He wrote Luther's *Small Catechism* to provide home.

This issue's question for our readers is:

- What are your women's groups planning to do to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation?
- Please let us know by sending an email to welcatrumpeter@gmail.com or a note via the postal service to Helen Sheahan, 1106 Valley Stream Drive, Madison, WI 53711

Discipleship: Justification by GRACE

January through April 2017 will bring us the study of Galatians, a four session Reformation Bible study in the Gather magazine. Kit Kleinhans, our author, is a professor at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. She writes, "Biblical scholars describe Paul's letter to the Galatians as the Magna Carta of Christian freedom."



In January, we will study Galatians 1:1- 2:21 titled 'No other Gospel.' February will study verses 2:19 – 3:29 'Children of God through faith.' Kit explains that "Martin Luther called Galatians 'my Katie von Bora.'" Like his marriage to Katie, Luther's relationship with Galatians was a rich and lasting one: over a period of twenty years, he published six commentaries on the epistle.

In March, we will study verses 3:24 – 4:31 'Heirs of the promise.' And in April, verses 5:1- 6:18 will focus on 'For freedom Christ has set us free,'. Kleinhans goes on to explain, "Luther's reformation was centered in the doctrine of *justification by grace through faith for Christ's sake*. Luther saw this as the heart of Paul's letter to the Christians in Galatia. It is also the heart of Paul's and Luther's message for us today." Quotes taken from www.womenoftheelca.org Submitted by Sandy Potter



SERVICE: Do as the TEACHER does "Whoever wishes to become great among you must be your Servant . . ." Mark 10:43-54

"SERVICE is at the heart of our Teacher's ministry. A disciple's goal is to do as the Teacher does, Women of the ELCA is a servant leader organization. You, as a servant leader, are an example for your synodical organization and your unit.

Here are ways you can help the organization help women grow in faith, affirm their gifts, support them in their callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

1. Pray for the organization and its participants.
2. Walk alongside others and build deep relationships.
3. Give of your resources to financially support the organization's work and to assure its future....

Are we SERVING as our Teacher does?"

Written by Valora K. Starr, director of discipleship for Women of the ELCA. Reprinted with permission from *Interchange*, the churchwide newsletter of Women of the ELCA, Copyright © 2016 Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

As a new year begins, we need to reflect on what was accomplished last year. Ask yourself -

1. Did we pray for guidance, communicate with and listen to our membership, only then they will want to participate
2. Pre-plan together and then ask 'what could we do to make it better?' when the event is over, so everything you do is positive and for the glory of God. It will bring you closer together as a unit
3. Set goals based on what has been obtained in the past, you will be surprised at what God has planned for your unit for the future

Learn to SERVE from the heart and do as the Teacher does! Submitted by Sandy Potter



Support for Youth at Risk Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan has started specialized services for victims of human trafficking. They will be opening a two unit, female specific treatment center program for girls impacted by trafficking. Our help is needed by providing art supplies for the treatment program. Suggested items are: beads and thread, paints of all kinds, clay, knitting supplies, adult coloring books and pens, art journals and storage boxes. You can contact Pastor James Holmberg at LSS and he can come to your congregation to pick up items or they may be dropped off at the Madison LSS office at 6314 Odana Rd. Call or email Pastor Holmberg at 414-399-5695 or james.holmberg@lsswis.org

Our Facebook page will post daily Human Trafficking prayers Jan 11 through the Super Bowl.

The prayers are attached to this email for your own use or to share.

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Synodical Board
July 2016**

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608.391.0503
froiland.norske@yahoo.com

Beaver Dam Conference

Inactive in 2015

East/West Conference

Polly Carter
2818 Prairie Road
Madison, WI 53719
608.271.7912
cutey@chorus.net

Southlake Conference

Inactive in 2015

Conference Happenings!



[Register now!](#) When registering please give permission to send your name to the SWO Board
[Download a registration book here](#)

At the Tenth Triennial Gathering, July 13–16, 2017, women will gather in Minneapolis, Minnesota under the theme “All Anew”

Registration is \$350 and available online. If you have roommates, please make sure only one person makes the room reservation. For those looking for roommates please contact Sue Buetzer buetzerhillfarm@wekz.net (608)966-3362.

The South-Central Synodical Women’s Organization will be renting a bus to take ladies to the Gathering. There will be several pick-up sites to be determined closer to departure. The cost of the bus is \$80.00 per person which includes a tip for the bus driver. This is based on 50 people riding the bus. The bus fee is nonrefundable unless someone takes your place. Fee must be paid by May 31. Make your check to South-Central Synodical Women’s Organization and send to Sue Buetzer, W8891 Smock Valley Road, Browntown, WI 53522.

There will be a luncheon with our sister synod from Puerto Rico. Check out the website for the list of speakers and workshops www.welcatg.org plus we will hear a special greeting from our churchwide Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

Triennial Scholarship: Congratulations to Julie Peterson, recipient of the Triennial Scholarship from the South-Central Wisconsin Synodical Women’s Organization. Thank you to Polly Carter, past SWO Board President and Ann Baumgartner, past SWO board member for reviewing applications. Thank you to the other nine women who applied. We are sorry that we could not give everyone a scholarship.

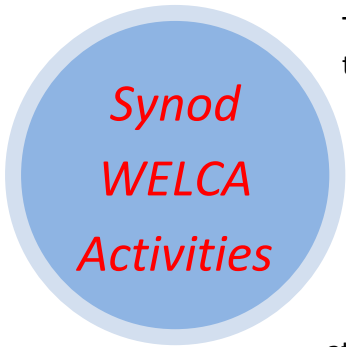
Baraboo Conference spring gathering was at The Kid’s Ranch in rural Rock Springs. Leaders shared their mission and showed us how they work with hurting children in after school tutoring and summer day camp programs. Their goals are to help children unlock the love of reading and learning and to help them enjoy healthy outdoor living. The ladies of St. Peter’s of Loganville served a lovely lunch and SWO President Helen Sheahan joined us. Our theme was “Planting the Seeds” and each attendee received flower seed packets.

Our fall gathering was held in WI Dells at Bethany Lutheran. Carissa Peterson from Easter Seals Camp Wawbeek spoke about the camp’s activities with disabled campers, children and adults, and also the camp’s respite care. She showed us slides of the camp facilities which include a swimming pool that is accessible for all campers, no matter what their disability and explained how their counsellors are trained to enable every camper to try everything the camp has to offer. Helen Sheahan joined us again. Before the wonderful lunch served by Bethany’s ladies, we enjoyed a fun skit put on by Bethany’s Ruth Circle on “God’s Beauty Plan for Our Lives” reminding us that real beauty comes from inside us. Submitted by Jan Dorow, Baraboo Conference Recorder.

Southwest Conference ****Save the Date**** Spring Gathering will be held Saturday, April 22 at First English Lutheran, Platteville. Registration will begin at 8:30, brunch at 9:00 followed by the business meeting, an international program emphasis with attendees attending the Fair Trade Bazaar sponsored by First English. This will include SERRV, UPAVIM, and Bead for Life. Units will be notified of details in February. Submitted by Suzanne Bartels.

Barneveld Conference * SPRING GATHERING April 22, 2017 * Grace Lutheran Church, Dodgeville
Registration & coffee will begin at 8:30 am. The day will close with lunch served by the ladies of Grace Lutheran Church. To pre-register, please contact Chris Wick 608-482-2861 (leave a message), or wick.chris.78@gmail.com

For our Earth Day Theme the Care for Creation Team has agreed to celebrate with us. Pastors Nick Utphall (Advent) and Mae Jean Zelle (Spring Green) will be presenting. Opening devotions will be based on the “Renewal of Creation” devotion prepared for the Triennial Gathering. Please bring a food pantry donation. Blankets for Global Health Ministries can be brought or sent to the Synod Assembly on April 29. The days offering will be divided 50% to World Hunger and 50% to the Women of the ELCA. We look forward to reports and updates from the Synodical Organization liaison and the Triennial Gathering planners



The ladies at **St. Peter's, Loganville**, were busy last year. 175 quilts were given away during the Touched Twice event. This Reedsburg community event happens before school starts. Anyone is welcome to receive free haircuts, backpacks with school supplies, clothing, massages, and our quilts. Quilts were given to Camp American Legion, Sauk County Human Services, the boxcar in Madison, along with 7 fabric kits, 50 school kits and 70 baby care kits.

The speaker at our Thankoffering Service in November was Pastor Phil Harris who is involved in People Helping People. This organization serves homeless men in Sauk, Adams, Juneau and Columbia counties. They were the recipients of 50 quilts, along with hats and scarves. Five of our women will be attending the Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, two of them have never attended a gathering before. The Farm Art DTour occurred in October in Sauk County going through Loganville. We operated the Shepherd's Café and Market in the church fellowship hall during the 9 day event. Over 1,000 people were served at the Café, proceeds went towards our youth programs and crisis fund and other area non-profit organizations. Submitted by Carolyn Meyer

UPAVIM's Community Library needs your support! Please consider donating to help provide the children in La Esperanza, Guatemala with a safe place to read and explore in 2017. The UPAVIM library is a valuable and enriching resource for the community. In the month of September 395 people visited the library. [Read the full story here](#) The library continues to serve as a vital resource for the children, parents, and teachers of La Esperanza and neighboring communities and is the only library of its kind that we know of in Guatemala City! Despite the constant undercurrent of poverty and gang activity, the UPAVIM library continues to operate, offering a healthy escape, information and resources.



UPAVIM opened the larger library just in time for the vacation reading program. One of the highlights of the program for the 5th and 6th graders was travelling to the University of San Carlos to meet students one-on-one and learn about different educational paths and careers. This may seem commonplace, but for these kids it was their first time visiting the university and, for many, their first time thinking of themselves as future university students! It was truly an exciting day and a great example of how the library is serving to expand the horizons of children. We are thankful for those of you that have partnered with us to make the library a reality. Without the support you've provided, the library would not exist! With every dollar you donate, you are bringing precious books and a safe nurturing space to children. Thank you, thank you, thank you! UCDF is a 501(c)3 organization, so your contribution is tax-deductible. Thank you for your support of UPAVIM and the children of La Esperanza. Submitted by Jane Harrison

Heart-warming Numbers from LWR In-gathering 2016 Lutheran World Relief donations: 7,894 quilts, 4,256 school kits, 1,965 personal care kits, 138 fabric kits, 1,627 baby kits and 600.4 pounds of soap. Eighty-five churches showed up. One church, St. John's in Prairie du Sac, delivered 474 quilts! Nine churches topped 200 quilts each. Thirty-one churches topped 100 kits each. One church brought 192 pounds of soap! Statistics like this demonstrate this outpouring of generosity and love from hundreds of talented, dedicated, hard-working men and women in churches throughout our synod. This inspires us to do even more in 2017. If anyone would like to receive a report of donations gathered this October from all 85 churches, email me at hildymcgown1860@att.net Submitted by Hildy McGown

Perry Lutheran WELCA Daleyville had a very busy year, With the help of the congregation we put together a total of 182 quilts, 37 layettes, 115 school bags, 35 health kits. We also serve funerals, coffee hours and other special events. Our annual Memorial Day Dinner and the annual Church Bazaar held in November was very successful. The proceeds go back into the support of youth Bible Camps, Summer Bible School and help support our Church and local food pantries and clothes closets along with support meals for the holidays. We are a small Rural Church with a World Wide Mission. Submitted by Janis Hiltbrand

Bethlehem, Edmund presented a "Hope" bear to Christ Lutheran, Spring Green showing we shared in the loss of their pastor due to illness along with caring in their future with a new interim. It was presented to their Sunday School teacher and class.



Giving Opportunities

A Note from the South Central Synodical Women of the ELCA Treasurer

Thank you to all the units that have sent in offerings quarterly or semi-annually this year. It is greatly appreciated. It also helps to keep our offering intake on a more even system. The suggestion from churchwide is that 50% of all offering should be forward onto the Synod Women's Board. The Board has designated that 50% of all Conference and Unit Regular Offering will be sent on to Churchwide to further our work and mission.

Pennies for Poverty and UPAVIM monies should be sent on Form A. If you have questions on where to send your monies please contact Donna Peterson, your Synodical Women of the ELCA Treasurer @ 608-935-9023. Leave a message if you are calling during the day. Please try to have all your offerings to the Treasurer by **January 13, 2017**. Shalom, Donna Peterson, South Central Synod of Wisconsin Women's Treasurer

Triennial Convention & Gathering: Churchwide Women of the ECLA would like every congregational unit to consider giving \$50 to help pay for the 2017 Triennial Convention. The Triennial Convention is the highest legislative authority within the Women of the ELCA. Women at the convention will decide the priorities and focus of the WELCA. Convention expenses are about \$900,000 including hotel & food for voting members (delegates). Our synod is sending 5 delegates. Please use Offering Form B, designate your gift to the 2017 Triennial Convention and mail it to Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA, 22116-8009. In July, you should also send a Gathering offering with women going to the Gathering.

Take the PHEBE \$100 Challenge! Your SWO board took the challenge and gave \$1000 in November. The board also gave a gift of \$2000 in 2015. It's super easy to contribute online now at [https://my.rreal.org/Phebe100!](https://my.rreal.org/Phebe100) 450,000 Liberians rely on life saving medical care provided by Phebe Hospital in Liberia, West Africa. It is powered solely by expensive and polluting diesel generators and faces the day-to-day challenge of blackouts due to equipment failure and/or fuel disruption. Generating needed power at Phebe Hospital is a life-or-death scenario. There is a God-given solution to Phebe's problems: SOLAR. This project to bring solar power to Phebe Hospital. In bringing solar power to Phebe Hospital we address a multitude of goals in our Purpose Statement - creation care, health care, and poverty. "Without energy, there is no economic growth, there is no dynamism, and there is no opportunity" a quote by World Bank President Rachel Kyte.

Readers' answers to the Question in Oct 2016 Trumpeter

What does your church or women's group do as an annual event? why do you do it?

Thank you for your service and generosity.

Trinity Women of the ELCA in Fort Atkinson is small, but we reach out to help our church show God's love. This year our "Quarters Can Make a Difference" container collected \$1,363 for the UPAVIM scholarship fund. This provides 25 scholarships to the school in Guatemala, with a little left over for the co-op's most urgent needs. We get a few big checks and lots of quarters and dollars, but they certainly add up. We understand the importance of education to impoverished people, so we have collected money for this effort for several years. We also encourage our church to contribute to Lutheran World Relief through items for school kits and soap.

Wiota Lutheran Church in South Wayne holds an annual bazaar and auction to raise money to support our church, the synod & churchwide; we give support to Lutheran Campus Ministry at UW-Platteville; LUAD/Lutheran Disaster Response Fund; Katie's Fund endowment; Sugar Creek Bible Camp; Lutheran Social Services; three local Food pantries; our Sunday School; the Santa's Elves project; Family Advocates; "Pennies for Poverty"; the synodical convention and churchwide mission work. Along with Thankofferings & whatever requests come our way. We host a Spring Salad Luncheon just for fun! We work monthly on LWR gifts to give to people less fortunate. Its' fun, its' fulfilling, and we're doing God's work.

Bethlehem in Edmund presented a " Hope " Bear to Christ Lutheran in Spring Green showing we shared in their loss of their Pastor due to illness, along with caring in their future with a new interim.

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www.womenoftheelca.org

What is WELCA? It's an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Quite a mouthful, we know. Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in over 7,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA.

Gather, a magazine for the Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions, a bible study and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. Gather is published 10 times a year for \$15; Digital access (computer, iPad, Android) is free to print subscribers. Visit Gather Magazine to subscribe online or call (800) 328-4648

Café is a free monthly online magazine for women whether or not they identify as Lutheran. It explores topics that are relevant to women and how faith relates to these issues. Many use it to learn more about what the Lutheran Church has to say about issues and to start discussions with friends or classmates. *Café*, the monthly publication and podcast, are made possible through offerings donated by women from over 7,000 active WELCA units in congregations of the ELCA. See more at: www.boldcafe.org

Like the South Central Wisconsin Women of the ELCA [Facebook](#) page.

Stay Connected to Your Synod! Join over 1800 readers of the synod's weekly free digital e-news **What Matters** and quarterly magazine **Walking Together**. Stay connected to leaders in your synod and don't miss out on invitations to educational forums, concerts, fun congregational events, ministries, partner news and more! What Matters is a great way to get the word out to the 13 counties in our synod! Email vickih@scsw-elca.org to get signed up today!

The Trumpeter is the newsletter for the Women of the South-Central Synod of WI and is emailed four times a year to churches in the synod. (This is the last printed copy to be mailed)

January, April, July, October

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THE TRUMPETER

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Time Dated Material: January 17, 2017

Please share this Newsletter with the women of your congregation

Please Note: All articles submitted for publishing in the newsletter must include the author's name. All submissions are subject to editing. We reserve the right to not publish any submission for any reason. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication – welcatrumpeter@gmail.com Submitted articles may be posted on our Facebook page.



Purpose of the Women of the ELCA

As a community of women

Created in the image of God

Called to discipleship in Jesus Christ

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

Promote healing and wholeness in the Church, the society and the world.

www.womenoftheelca.org