

# The Trumpeter

South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization  
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Volume 32, Number 3 July 2020 Published Quarterly



## From the President

Pastor Angela Khabeb gave our SC-WI Synodical Women's Organization an inkling of what it was like for a woman of color coming into an overwhelmingly white community when she gave her keynote address at our Biennial last fall in Verona. She is currently serving at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, just around the corner from the 3rd Precinct Police Station on Lake St., which was torched with many other businesses on May 28, 2020. This is a community that desperately needs our prayers. Pastor Khabeb was recently interviewed by ABC News and talked about writing an email. She was going to sign it like she usually did, "In Peace," but felt she had to sign it, "In Pieces."

Condoleezza Rice, a former Secretary of State and a woman of color, said this about racism, "It's a very deep and abiding wound in an America that was born with a birth defect of slavery."

When I was a school librarian, I encouraged students to read the novel, "The Watsons Go to Birmingham – 1963." We even used this Newbery Honor book as an 'all school' read. Synopsis: When his 13-year-old brother, Byron, gets to be too much trouble, the Watson family heads from Flint, Michigan, to Birmingham, Alabama, to visit Grandma Sands, the one

person who can shape Byron up. But the events that shake Birmingham in the summer of 1963 will change Kenny's life forever.



The African-American author, Christopher Paul Curtis, makes you laugh out loud in the first few chapters but then the book takes a serious turn with the bombing of the Sunday School at the 16th Street Baptist Church. Four little girls lost their lives.

Although this book is fiction, it is based on a true event. Condoleezza (Condi) Rice grew up in Birmingham. Her father was a Presbyterian Church pastor, just a few blocks away. Condi was only 8 years old when this happened and had played dolls with one of the little girls who died.

The book, first published in 1995, was named as one of the New York Public Library's 100 Great Children's Books of the Last 100 Years. In 2013, it was adapted into a movie, which aired on the Hallmark Channel. Each January, my church circle takes a break from the Gather Bible Study and reads a book. I am going to suggest this 224-page book this year.

Janna Smith

### Food For Thought:

Has the advent of technology enhanced your life? In what ways has it been detrimental? Has the advent of technology been a blessing or a curse for you personally?

# MISSION - STEWARDSHIP

## FACE MASK CHALLENGE

by Diane Ehrke Luginbuhl

I pray this finds you safe and healthy, especially during this time of COVID-19 concerns. When COVID-19 lockdown first happened and the need for face masks arose, I too got my sewing machine out and started making masks. There are many patterns available. With trial and error, I found a pattern I liked and could do quickly. My mother, Bonnie Ehrke, helped me by cutting and ironing material. We made about 75 masks for family and friends.

In Proverbs 31 we read: "she selects wool and flax and works with eager hands" v.13, and "she opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy" v. 20. Women of the ELCA have been working for generations to help others. Years ago, my 96-year-old grandmother, Irene Hensel, helped women in our church in making quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). In this time of COVID-19 we are once again extending helping hands to others.

Lutheran World Relief put out a challenge for 75,000 face masks to send with health care kits, and to be collected by October 1, 2020. That challenge has been met and LWR has put out another 75,000 challenge. We are asking for your help.

We have included the pattern and directions. It is recommended to use a tightly woven cotton fabric or quilting cotton for the mask, and bias tape or elastic for the ties.

In three easy steps we can meet this second challenge.

1. Make a Pledge, work either with a group of sewing friends or alone and register pledge on line.
2. Make the face masks.
3. Bundle masks in groups of 25, mark the box "MASKS", and ship directly to one of the LWR warehouses in Maryland or Minnesota.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF  
601 Main Street/P.O. Box 188  
New Windsor, MD 21776

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF  
398 East Richmond Street  
South St. Paul, MN 55075

Thank you for your help as we use our time and talents to reach out to those in need right here at home and halfway around the world.

## HOW TO MAKE A FACE MASK WITH TIES

### SUPPLIES FOR 1 MASK:

- One (1) 8" x 14" piece of cotton fabric
  - Two (2) 2" x 34" strips
- Thread & sewing machine

### PREPARE THE MASK:

- On 8" x 14" piece, right sides together, sew 1/4" seam, creating tube.
- Turn right sides out, press seam and fabric.
- Make 3 pleats, approx. 1" each in size, using steam or pins to hold. Mask will be approx. 3" - 3.5" width.
- Sew 1/4" seam on each side of mask, securing pleats.
- Trim seam allowance.

### PREPARE THE TIES:

- Fold in half and press (1"). Open tie back up.
- Fold each edge in to meet middle (1/2") and press.
- Fold in half again, securing raw edges inside and press. Each tie will be approx. 1/2" width.

### ASSEMBLY:

- Align center of tie with side of mask, open tie so edge of mask fits snugly inside. Pin.
- Sew tie to mask. Seam will be very short, get as close as able while still catching all fabric. You are just attaching the mask to the tie at this point, not sewing the whole tie yet.
- Repeat for other tie and other side of mask.
- Sew down edges of tie, securing raw edges inside. Seam is very short. You will stitch over where mask is already attached. This is good because it helps reinforce.
- Repeat for other tie and other side of mask.
- Clip any stray fabric.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

## Women of the ELCA Synodical Board

### President

#### Janna Smith

919 W. Charles St.  
Whitewater, WI 53190  
[smithjanna55@gmail.com](mailto:smithjanna55@gmail.com)  
(262) 215-6892 cell  
First English Lutheran Church  
Whitewater, Elkhorn Conference  
(Liaison to Beaver Dam Conference)  
(Liaison to Barneveld Conference)

### Vice President

#### Sandy Seffrood

8329 County Road D  
South Wayne, WI 53587  
[sefffarm@gmail.com](mailto:sefffarm@gmail.com)  
(608) 558-5057 cell  
Wiota Lutheran Church  
South Wayne, Monroe Conference  
(Liaison to Beloit Conference)

### Secretary

#### Lynn Mehringer

N5602 Switzke Road  
Johnson Creek, WI 53038  
[hvacres@tds.net](mailto:hvacres@tds.net)  
(920) 699-2174  
St. Johns Lutheran Church  
Johnson Creek, Elkhorn Conference

### Treasurer

#### Bonnie Gilbertson

5498 Windridge Road  
Oregon, WI 53575  
[Bc\\_gilbertson@charter.net](mailto:Bc_gilbertson@charter.net)  
[scswtreas@gmail.com](mailto:scswtreas@gmail.com)  
(608) 835-7387  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
Oregon, Southlake Conference

### Board Members

#### Linda Freitag

218 Overview Circle  
Verona, WI 53593  
[freitagl@tds.net](mailto:freitagl@tds.net)  
(608) 845-6540  
St. James Lutheran Church  
Verona, East/West Conference  
(Liaison to Baraboo Conference)

### Eugenie Hildebrandt

W1330 State Road 33  
Mayville, WI 53050  
[hbrandt@uwm.edu](mailto:hbrandt@uwm.edu)  
(920) 387-4082  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Mayville, Beaver Dam Conference  
(Liaison to Baraboo Conference)

### Diane Luginbuhl

W9161 Waldman Road  
Cambridge, WI 53523  
[Dianeehrkeluginbuhl@gmail.com](mailto:Dianeehrkeluginbuhl@gmail.com)  
(608) 235-9874  
East Koshkonong Lutheran Church  
Cambridge, Southlake Conference  
(Liaison to Monroe Conference)

### Lawanna Schieldt

505 Stoughton Road, #7  
Edgerton, WI 53534  
[lawannasch@gmail.com](mailto:lawannasch@gmail.com)  
(608) 728-4730  
Central Lutheran Church  
Edgerton, Beloit Conference  
(Liaison to East/West Conference)

### Eleanor Siebert

1930 Hillside Drive  
Richland Center, WI 53581  
[ejsp@mwt.net](mailto:ejsp@mwt.net)  
(608) 649-3806  
Five Points Lutheran Church  
Blue River, Barneveld Conference  
(Liaison to Southwest Conference)

### Vacant position – interested??

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### Conference Coordinators

#### Baraboo Conference

**Carolyn Meyer**  
135 Main Street, P.O. Box 5  
Loganville, WI 53943-9672  
608-727-3511  
[ckmeyer@wicw.net](mailto:ckmeyer@wicw.net)  
St. Peter's LC, Loganville

#### Barneveld Conference

Donna Peterson  
4966 State Road 23  
Dodgeville, WI 53533  
608-935-9023  
[dpeter8182@gmail.com](mailto:dpeter8182@gmail.com)  
Grace LC, Dodgeville

### Beloit Conference

Jeannine Bown  
1413 North Pontiac Drive  
Janesville, WI 53534  
608-754-2071  
[geraldjeannine@charter.net](mailto:geraldjeannine@charter.net)

### Beloit Conference Hostess

#### Betty Johnson

950 Winfield Drive  
Beloit, WI 53511  
608-365-2657  
[eelizathej75@gmail.com](mailto:eelizathej75@gmail.com)  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church

### East/West Conference

#### Polly Carter

2818 Prairie Road  
Madison, WI 53719  
608-271-7912  
[pfcart48@gmail.com](mailto:pfcart48@gmail.com)  
Good Shepherd LC, Madison

### Elkhorn Conference

#### Julie Peterson

W9509 State Road 67  
Sharon, WI 53585  
262-206-2705  
[trctrfmly@sharontelephone.com](mailto:trctrfmly@sharontelephone.com)  
Jefferson Prairie LC near  
Poplar Grove, IL

### Monroe Conference

#### Sandy Potter

8765 Highway 78N  
Gratiot, WI 53541  
608-922-6240  
[allankp@centurytel.net](mailto:allankp@centurytel.net)  
Wiota LC in South Wayne

### Southwest Conference

#### Ingeborg Froiland

157 Roosevelt St.  
Fennimore, WI 53809  
608-391-0503  
[inge1420@gmail.com](mailto:inge1420@gmail.com)  
St. Peter Lutheran Church, Fennimore

### Beaver Dam Conference

– no current board

### Southlake Conference

– no current board

# TREASURER

## Bringing our mission and purpose to life -- together

Women of the ELCA brings our missions and purposes to life through our congregational units, our synodical women's units and the churchwide organization. Together we mobilize women to act boldly in faith in Jesus Christ -- 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.

During the past couple of months, with the pandemic, we as a WELCA group need to keep our faith and trust in the Lord that he will provide. He will never leave us.

Many units and congregations have not been together and feel the loneliness without our gatherings. Because of this, many are facing trying financial as well as emotional times. The churchwide organization has noticed a drastic drop in our offerings. I ask you to consider giving as you can. Put your faith in the Lord and he will provide. 50% of your regular offerings goes to churchwide with the remaining 50% stays with our synodical chapter to carry out our programs.



Besides our regular offerings there is a program called FAITHFUL FRIENDS. This is the easiest way to give regularly, by automatic deductions from your checking account or your credit card. Most faithful friends are individuals but units can sign up also. Regular giving supports the ongoing ministries of the ELCA. All you need to do is: fill out the Faithful Friends form. You can either email me at [SCSWtreas@gmail.com](mailto:SCSWtreas@gmail.com) and I will mail you the form or go to [www.womenoftheELCA.org](http://www.womenoftheELCA.org) under donate scroll down to other ways to give and find give automatically.

A third way to support the Women of the ELCA is by Amazon Smile. This cost you nothing. Many have been shopping on Amazon with the quarantine already. Simply go to [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and choose Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (our full name) as their charity. Every quarter, the Amazon foundation forwards to the churchwide organization half a cent for every dollar our supporters spend. Shopper's Amazon Prime benefits still apply.

I pray for a vaccine to be found soon and we can again get back to socializing with family and friends. May God keep us all in his tender loving hands.

Bonnie Gilbertson, SCSW treasurer

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## Southwest Conference announcement:

The Southwest Conference of the South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization does not plan to reconvene for the sharing of Christian fellowship, faith, and formal instruction until the Spring of 2021.

# MISSION - DISCIPLESHIP

Words have been a part of my life for a long, long while. My best Christmas ever as a young girl was the year my parents gifted me with my aunt's old Remington typewriter. I could barely carry it, but oh the wonderful words that came out of that ancient machine. My vocation calls for putting the right words on paper in estate plans. I think we all have favorite words. From the moment I heard it, the word "munificent" has become a favorite of mine. MUNIFICENT (adj.): liberal in giving; generous. It is a grand word that seems to just roll off the tongue. It occurs just once in the Bible, in the WNT (Weymouth New Testament) version of Ephesians 4:7: "Yet to each of us individually grace was given, measured out with the munificence of Christ."

The message I'm writing to you today isn't a stewardship article necessarily, although isn't it fun to be munificent with our donations and weekly church offerings! It occurs to me that it is a wonderful thing to live our whole lives in a munificent way. Maintaining balance is always wise,



but listen to your heart. Are you being called? Were you given time and/or talent to serve your church or your community in some way? Do you have a love for people that will allow you (once we get past

Covid-19) to be generous with that time and/or talent, to minister to folks who need our time and attention in nursing homes, or visits with little kids to give their parents a break? What about now, in the middle of this pandemic? Can you, will you, pick up the telephone and be munificent with your calls to lonely folks who may not be tech savvy, not part of an online community? Can you write letters, knit, crochet, handcraft greeting cards or provide food that may make a profound difference in someone's

life? We can all be munificent with our smiles and good cheer to cashiers and other service providers each day. Christ was munificent with us. How can we be munificent for Christ?

By Lynn Mehringer,  
SWO Secretary

## SAVE THE DATE & DEADLINES

### September 18-19, 2020

Fall Retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp  
(**POSTPONED until 2021**)

### September 26, 2020

Railroad pickup in Madison of Lutheran  
World Relief kits & quilts

### October 17, 2020

Monroe Conference Fall Gathering at Wiota  
Lutheran Church (**CANCELLED**)

### August 3-5, 2021

The Triennial Convention, originally scheduled  
for July 14-16, 2020, has been postponed  
until Aug. 3-5, 2021

### August 5-8, 2021

The Triennial Gathering, originally scheduled for  
July 16-19, 2020, has been postponed until  
Aug. 5-8, 2021, in Phoenix Arizona.

### September 18, 2021

Railroad pickup in Madison of Lutheran  
World Relief kits & quilts

### September 24-25, 2021

Fall Retreat & Biennial Convention at  
Lutherdale Bible Camp

# WHAT WOMAN ARE DOING

**St. Peter's, Loganville**, women have a calling tree. When we were self quarantining in March, a group of 16 Christian Sisters began visiting by phone with 21 other Sisters. Each caller visited with two ladies on Tuesdays and another two ladies on Thursdays. The response has been heart warming, especially for those who are in Care Centers. Many of those who receive calls live alone. We may continue doing this going forward.

We have one Circle who meets for the Gather Bible Study via Zoom. It has been a time of not only study but catching up with each other and talking about how were are handling this stay at home routine.

One of our W/ELCA women felt called upon to check with the local Care Centers where four of our members are living to see if they could Zoom the Sunday morning worship services and also the Wednesday morning Bible Studies. They are enjoying the online fellowship even though they are in their 80's and 90's!

Submitted by St. Peter's, Loganville, W/ELCA

## CHURCH SIGNS during COVID-19



# MISSION - JUSTICE

## The Pandemic and Living on the Edges of Safety Eleanor Siebert, SWO Board member

On June 3rd, 2020, a Zoom panel discussion was presented, sponsored by Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW). Jennifer DeLeon, the churchwide Women of the ELCA Director for Justice, was introduced by Pastor Cindy Crane. In her position Jennifer trains women in the areas of domestic violence, human trafficking, immigration, and other problems that are occurring at this time.



Sue Sippel (Wisconsin Rapids Executive Director of The Family Center) shared some interesting facts related to the subject of domestic violence since the start of the pandemic. In China, calls related to domestic violence increased by three times, in France the increase was 30%. A US study showed that all police calls decreased but with domestic violence decreasing less than others. The reported cases were more violent but were also more difficult to track because of classification in another area. Domestic homicide increased in Wisconsin since the beginning of the pandemic. Some factors that increased the lethality of violence were related to isolation and unemployment. Alcohol sales increased 243% during these times. There were 2 million new gun sales in March. Access to guns increased the risk of being killed by a partner by 400%. With the 24/7 exposure to a violent partner, it not only increased the risk for violence but made it more difficult for the victim to call for help. Victims feared that shelters and other forms of assistance were not available during these times. All of the usual fears were magnified during the pandemic and of course, leaving is always a very dangerous time.

The second speaker, Jan Miyasaki, (Project Respect in Madison) works with victims of sexual abuse and human trafficking (Youth Services of Southern Wisconsin/Briarpatch). She noted many of the same facts related to control, isolation, especially from family and friends, poverty, 'how will I manage alone', etc. Many of us were surprised by the fact that the demand for sexual services did not decrease during these "stay at home" times. This speaker framed the issue in an economic framework: supply and demand, seller, consumer, product with the vulnerable person the product. Abuse increased since more people found it difficult to stay afloat, making the entire system worse.

The third panelist, Sharyl Kato (Rainbow Project in Madison), works with families, children and adults. She reported seeing two or three generations of trauma, poly victims of sexual abuse and child abuse. (Polyvictimization refers to the experience of multiple victimizations of different kinds, such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, bullying and exposure to family violence, not just multiple episodes of the same kind of victimization.) There are immigrant families who fear coming forward for multiple reasons. Now with schools and early childhood programs on hold, these problems were not being noticed and reported. The increases in all of these stressors increased the incidence of problems occurring. One bright spot that Sharyl brought forward was that using Telehealth had decreased cancellation of appointments. Some of the reasons for this were probably that the transportation and childcare issues were eliminated. Each family had an individualized plan of care and they were now able to work on child/parent relationships via Telehealth. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, an increase in suicides has been reported due to depression and violence. We need formal methods of checking in even more during this crisis!

# COMMUNICATION

I am sick of staying home but now I have an idea of what it means to be a shut-in. I am tired of us all staying in our homes. Even our religious language encourages us to come together: 'gathering,' 'convening,' 'communing.' We just need to learn how to gather, convene, and commune in a different way.

It is still possible to listen to radio church services. The Lutheran Hour began in Milwaukee during a Missouri Synod convention. In 1930, a commitment was made to fund a weekly national radio program. It is still going strong today. When we lived in Germany, we could listen to The Lutheran Hour on AFN (Armed Forces Network). Today, in southern Wisconsin, you need to rise early on Sunday mornings to listen (WXRO Beaver Dam, 95.3 FM, 5:30 am; WTMJ Milwaukee, 620 AM, 6:30 am; WGN Chicago, 720 AM, 6:00 am).

Many congregations are using this old-fashioned technology (radio frequencies) for drive-in church in their parking lots (i.e. St. John's in Johnson Creek, Sugar Creek Lutheran near Elkhorn, First Lutheran in Janesville, etc.). My son is a pastor in the UP. When 'passing the peace' during their drive-in service, all cars make a 'joyful noise' with their horns.

You may have heard of Zoom. Our Synodical Board conducts Zoom meetings (thank the Lord for savvy grandchildren). It requires the Zoom app on your desktop, laptop, tablet, or smartphone, along with a working camera and microphone. A host needs to register for this free service. The host schedules a meeting and emails out an invitation link (with phone number) to share with guests. Free Zoom allows you to have a 40-minute meeting before cutting you off. It also allows for guests (without email) to call into a Zoom meeting from a landline telephone, so they can at least communicate audibly. Note that the assigned phone number could be a long distance number. Robyn, at the Synod office, has become a Zoom expert for church groups.

Our Synodical Board has been using a service called [Freeconferencecall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com) even before COVID. A group is on the same phone call (no video). It is a free service and requires the host to register. The host is given a phone number and an access code. The host shares this info with the group and they all call in. Again, it is possible for those with no email

or computer to call in using a landline phone. Note that the assigned phone number could be long distance. Check your landline phone plan to see if long distance calls are charged.

The quilting group at my church used [Freeconferencecall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com) to brainstorm ways in figuring out how to get fabric from church to set up shop at home, assembling quilts. Please feel free to contact me for help in setting up [Freeconferencecall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com) or Zoom. <https://www.freeconferencecall.com/> or <https://www.zoom.us/>



My church circle (WELCA) used [Freeconferencecall.com](https://www.freeconferencecall.com) for our last two monthly meetings. Instead of the Gather Bible Study, we assigned one woman to lead devotions. Then, we went around the circle, answering a question that was given to the group ahead of time. We collected our offerings (mailing them directly to the WELCA treasurer). We even shared communion with each woman bringing her own bread and wine.

Someone the other day suggested Christmas Caroling. Years ago, church youth groups would drive around town to the homes of various shut-ins, singing carols outside their front door. Maybe, we could have Christmas in July. Maybe we could sing behind masks. Maybe, we could stand, socially distanced, outside the home of someone who is still shut in and just talk.

Most of the women in the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin now get The Trumpeter by email. Please think of those in your church who do not subscribe (paper copy). Print the newsletter and share it with them.

Church WELCA units, please try to continue meeting in some format. Stay connected with your circle of women. Keep collecting and sending in your offerings. Think of all those who are alone in your congregation. Reach out. If you are on Facebook, find and follow our page (South Central Wisconsin Women of the ELCA). Check out our Women of the ELCA webpage on the synod website: [https://scsw-elca.org/welca/ Stay strong](https://scsw-elca.org/welca/Stay_strong).

by Janna Smith, SWO President,  
[smithjanna55@gmail.com](mailto:smithjanna55@gmail.com), 262-215-6892

# QUILTING GROUPS

## Quilting Groups

With our church buildings shut down these last couple of months, many church quilting groups are having difficulty in getting their quilts made. Some groups are still cutting out blocks and assembling them at home.

### Quilting tip:

First English Lutheran Church (Whitewater) – “We had someone in the congregation make wooden blocks with holes carved out on top. The table legs slipped into the holes to stay in place. The height of the blocks made the table surface high enough so we didn’t get backaches. We put two rectangular tables together to make a table surface large enough to lay out a quilt.”



## How to raise tables with PVC pipe

### Step 1

Turn the table on its side and measure the diameter of the table legs. Now measure the length of the legs from the bottom up to the point where the legs bend, widen or meet the table platform or another leg strut.

### Step 2

Decide how many inches you want to raise the table. Add this number to the length measurement in Step 1. The total is the length of one of the table leg extenders.

### Step 3

Purchase PVC pipe that is slightly larger in diameter than the table legs. Multiply the length in Step 2 by four and buy that much PVC pipe.

### Step 4

Mark off four lengths on the PVC pipe with a permanent marker. Cut the PVC pipe at each mark into four equal lengths with a hacksaw. Make the cuts so that the bottoms and tops of each piece are completely level. Hardware and home improvement centers can cut PVC pipe to length for you if you do not want to do it yourself.

### Step 5

Set the table upright in the location where you will use it. Lift each corner in turn and slide one piece of PVC pipe onto the bottom of the each table leg. The point where the table legs bend, widen or meet the table itself should prevent the PVC pipe from sliding any farther up the leg. Each extender will extend past the bottom of each table leg. When you set the corner of the table back onto the floor, the table will be raised.

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## 2020

Sept. 26, 2020 Railroad pickup in Madison of Lutheran World Relief kits & quilts

## 2021

Sept. 18, 2021 Railroad pickup in Madison of Lutheran World Relief kits & quilts

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## A message from Lutheran World Relief:

“We’ll need quilts more than ever. Though we asked that quilting groups stop meeting for a few months, that doesn’t mean quilting should stop too. Not at all! We’re thrilled to see that many of you are continuing the work at home. Please keep it up! Not only is making a quilt a beautiful way to love a neighbor when you can’t leave the house, but quilting can be a relaxing and therapeutic way to spend your time during social distancing.”

# TECHNOLOGY

## **Technology in 2020: Blessing or a Curse?** by Linda Freitag, SWO board member

It is 2020 and we have come to rely upon technology. We use technology for our jobs. We use technology to learn. We use technology to communicate. All of these uses for technology have become very evident in these past three months as families found themselves quarantined together working from home, completing school work from home and finding ways to converse with friends and family members in other locations from their home. We found ways of worshiping with one another via YouTube and Zoom. We connected with what others were doing using Facebook posts and texting. We found out that technology can enhance our lives and allow us to accomplish many things while being confined to one place for a long period of time. The use of technology during this time has brought us together in ways that were not possible ten or twenty years ago.

It is 2020 and we also found out that technology can sometimes bring us so much information that we can go into "information overload". By turning on a radio, a television, a computer or even a phone a person is immediately bombarded with the latest Covid statistics, the latest address given by a political figure or expert in any given field or the latest national or international crisis. No matter what the topic might be you are bombarded with other people's opinions. By using apps such as Zoom we have been able to be a part of meetings of ten, twenty or more people while physically sitting in a room by ourselves. The use of technology during this time has divided us and separated us in ways that were not possible ten or twenty years ago.

Is the use of technology in 2020 a blessing or a curse? Personally, I think it is a little of both depending upon how you use it. I appreciate being able to stay connected with friends from high school and college on Facebook that I would never see in person. I am grateful for being able to keep in contact with relatives via emails that I might only see once a year in person if that. I love the fact that my kids are able to use Snapchat and Facetime to stay connected with their cousins, who live in other states (and even their grandmothers, who have learned to text!) who otherwise they would see maybe at Christmas time. I enjoy scrolling through Pinterest to find new recipes to try. I keep up to date on local and national news by pushing a button on my TV, computer, or smart phone. However, those very same technology sources can easily become addictive and overwhelming with negativity causing me to want to take a break from technology. While I cannot imagine what it would have been like these past three months without having access to technology there are days that I long for a simpler way of life before the advent of computers. As with most things in life we must find a happy medium that feels right to each of us individually.

# SUBSCRIPTIONS

## **NOTICE TO INDIVIDUAL TRUMPETER SUBSCRIBERS**

Please look closely at your address sticker and take note of the numbers following your address. Those numbers are the date that your Trumpeter subscription will expire.

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**WELCA [WWW.WOMENOFTHEELCA.ORG](http://WWW.WOMENOFTHEELCA.ORG)**

What is **WELCA**? It's an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. 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**, magazine for 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 \$19.95; Digital access (computer, iPad, Android) is free to print subscribers. Visit [GatherMagazine.org](http://GatherMagazine.org) to subscribe online or call 844-409-0576.

**Cafe** 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](http://www.boldcafe.org)

News from around the synod is in **"What Matters"**, the weekly synod e-newsletter. The newsletter is full of important news from Bishops Eaton and the synod, upcoming events, resources, mission trip invitations, fun fellowship events such as concerts and church bazaars, job openings, youth gatherings, wonderful stories of our shared work in Jesus' name, and much more! To sign up for synod news, please email Deacon Vicki Hanrahan, Assistant to the Bishop for Synodical Life at [vickih@scsw-elca.org](mailto:vickih@scsw-elca.org).

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.

**January, April, July, October**

The Trumpeter is available FREE of charge by email; send your request to: [welcatrumpeter@gmail.com](mailto:welcatrumpeter@gmail.com)

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## THE TRUMPETER

Carrie Kruzan, Editor  
5529 Marsh Road  
McFarland, WI 53558

### 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 not to publish any submission for any reason. Submission deadline is the 15th of the month prior to publication - [welcatrumpeter@gmail.com](mailto:welcatrumpeter@gmail.com). Submitted articles and photos 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 disciples 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](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)