

The Trumpeter

South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Volume 33, Number 2 April 2021 Published Quarterly



From the President



"These in-between times are a real part of our lives. Scholars have named this *liminal space*: a place of transition, waiting, and uncertainty. Occupying liminal space can be unpleasant, marked by confusion and struggle. We recognize that we aren't where we were before, but we also aren't where we are going."

Pastor Ehrlich, Café—March issue.

This describes life in the South-Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization. We have a Biennial Convention/Fall Retreat scheduled at Lutherdale on Sept. 24-25, 2021 and are planning to make it an in person event. The business meeting will take place on Fri. evening and the Retreat/Worship service on Sat. We are also hoping to make the business meeting available via Zoom. At present, this isn't allowed because of WELCA's constitution. There will be a vote this summer on amending the constitution.

So we are in a "Catch-22" situation. We cannot create a virtual registration form until we hear back from Churchwide. We hope to have an in person registration form available later this spring.

We ask that each church WELCA unit select a voting member to attend the business meeting in person on Fri. evening. That voting member might have the option in attending this meeting on Zoom, if WELCA's amendments are approved.

I personally cannot wait for the liturgical season of Ordinary time....you know, when the paraments are green and we are again worshipping inside church.

Heed the call...or email...or Zoom invite...or newsletter !!

Planning for the 15th Biennial Convention/Fall Retreat is underway. It will be held on Sept. 24-25, 2021 at Lutherdale (N7891 US-12, Elkhorn, WI 53121). We hope many of you join us in person in their new Hope Conference Center, and even choose to stay at this ELCA camp overnight.

The Biennial business meeting will take place Fri. evening.

Each WELCA church unit should send a voting member to our Biennial Convention. Nominations are open for voting members/alternates for the 12th Triennial Convention in Phoenix (2023). A new synodical women's board (SWO) will be elected. If you know of any ELCA seminarians, male or female, within the synod, please let them know about our two \$500 scholarships.

I miss singing the hymn, *I, the Lord of Sea and Sky. Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.*

The hymn was written by Dan Schutte, from Elm Grove, Wisconsin, and published in 1981. It was based on the Biblical story of little Samuel but Schutte was also influenced by the prophet Isaiah's commission (Isaiah 6:8).

Helen Sheahan wrote it well before our last convention, "The SWO is looking for those whom God is calling to attend our Biennial Convention as your women's group's voting member, those whom God is calling to be a voting member at the Triennial Convention (in 2023), and those whom God is calling to be a member or an officer of your synod's women's board."

Prayerfully consider and encourage others to serve WELCA in our synod.

Biennial Convention/Fall Retreat forms can be found on the WELCA webpage on the Synod website. <https://scsw-elca.org/welca/>

- Biennial Convention/Fall Retreat Registration
- Biennial Convention/Fall Retreat schedule
- Triennial Voting Member Nomination
- SWO Board Nomination
- Resolution
- Seminary & Lutheran College Student Scholarship

Food For Thought:

The Uncertainty of In-Between Time.
How does our faith help us when living in liminal space, a place of transition, waiting, and uncertainty?

MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship Report

As we begin another fiscal year in the lives of the Women of the ELCA, may we take time to sit back and thank God for all he has so richly blessed us, for we are stewards of the Lord.

As we think about all the fears we faced with the pandemic, we know God has given us time to reflect on what is important to us, our church, our families and our health. As the Bible tells us, we will never be given anything more than we can handle. We now are receiving the vaccine and can slowly begin to get back with family and friends. We can thank God for so richly blessing us with his love.

Now we can begin to think about getting together at summer gatherings and attending our fall retreat in September at Lutherdale Bible Camp. We can get together, raise our voices and praise God for all he has given us.

The following article written by David McCord tells us the power of women's fellowship, what we as a synodical group of Christian women can do.

"The roll call of women faithful in the work of the Lord is both long and impressive. Just to name a few -- Miriam, Esther, Ruth, Deborah, Mary, Elizabeth, Lydia, and Phoebe. The quiet simple hard-working faith of women has often gone unheralded. Sir James Barrie said it well "Every man who is high up likes to think that he has done it all himself and the wife smiles and lets it go at that.

Women get things done. A rural church in North Carolina was badly in need of a new building. The men argued and debated about the need and the cost and the work was delayed. One day the women of the church met at the building site with their wheelbarrows and shovels and began digging a foundation. The building was soon under construction.

God takes notice. "And he {Jesus} sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the multitude putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came, and put in two copper coins, which made a penny. And he called his disciples to him, and said to them, "Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who contributed to the treasury. For they all contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, her whole living." {Mark 12: 41-44}

What we do as women through this organization may seem insignificant to some, but God takes notice. That is why in this offering, as in everything that we do, we must give Him our very best.

May God continue to bless each of us as we continue our service to Him.

Bonnie Gilbertson, SWO treasurer
St. John's Lutheran Church, Oregon (Southlake Conference)

Treasurer's Report

On February 1, 2021, we began a new fiscal year. Now that spring is here and many of us have received a COVID vaccine, we can hopefully start meeting again soon. We have so much to be grateful for. Thank God he has given us time to sit back and reflect on what is important to us, our church, our families, our health and our friends.

The SWO board voted recently on our Pennies for Poverty offerings. We decided to support UPAVIM this year for all monies sent to the SWO treasurer. Each WELCA church unit still has the option of donating their Pennies for Poverty offering to a local shelter. Please send your UPAVIM offerings on Form A along with your check to me. If you decide on giving to a local shelter, please send the monies directly to them. Also send (on Form A), a report to me so we can give your church credit for your offering.

Churchwide has definitely felt the fiscal crunch this past year. They have cut several positions to part time. Hopefully the financial situation will improve in 2021. Remember that our Thankofferings are an important source of their income. They should be sent directly to churchwide on Form B.

May God bless the cheerful giver.

By Bonnie Gilbertson, SWO treasurer
5498 Windridge Road, Oregon, WI 53575

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Vacant position – interested??

Vacant position – interested??

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– no current board

Southlake Conference

– no current board

MISSION JUSTICE

The Undoing of Injustice

God spoke to Amos, a prophet of the Old Testament, and His words have been passed down to us.

To quote God:

Do you know what I want?
I want justice---oceans of it.
I want fairness—rivers of it.
That's what I want.
That's *all* I want.

Amos 6:21-24 (*The Messenger Bible Translation*)

Why are we doing anything else but pursuing justice for those who desperately need it? God is pretty clear that this is what He would have us do.

Jesus was pretty clear on this – **Love God, Love Others**.

If we look at love as an action, we see the need for justice. If we look at justice as an action, we see the need for love. Justice is one way of acting out or showing love; love is one way of acting out or showing justice.

Sometimes it seems too hard to figure out how to move on this because the problems are complex and there are ambiguities and tensions in the world around us. But Christians are especially equipped for the task. We have the advantage of coming at these problems from the foundation of Jesus' love. That love is boundless, so we can never give away too much of it.

In our daily actions as citizens it is urgent that we bring God's love and God's justice to bear on racial injustice, poverty, child trafficking, and domestic abuse. We all have traditions, old messages, and past hurts about other people and experiences that we need to give up so that we can step forward. Using the lens of justice and love makes it easier for us to see the **common good**.

As members of our ELCA churches, we have the advantage of leaders and lay people who thoughtfully and prayerfully address our faith and our call to boldly serve and love our neighbor. At this time, as a nation, we have had a year of changes, so it is especially important to know it is God's desire that we seek lasting, positive change that upholds human dignity. We believe it is God's desire that we seek the **common good** for society. This moral vision informs our public witness for justice.

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church>

We easily see change as threatening and stressful, and as easily fall into knee jerk responses instead of thoughtful consideration. Yet few problems have single solutions, and most problems have more than one solution and one point of view. In this second year of the Corvid pandemic we see examples of this:

To wear a mask, or not wear a mask. Does it make a difference for the **common good**?

To stay away from gathering with other people, or show concern for people who are distressed with isolation. What is the **common good**?

To open churches with customary worship services, or worship virtually without singing or the same sense of community. What is the **common good**? Can we come up with a decision that meets both needs?

These aren't one size fits all decisions, and certainly worthy of more than knee jerk decisions. We have traditions and old messages and ideas about other people and experiences that we need to re-examine as we move forward.

"There is no aspect of life in which God is not active, no place where God is not present. And this is exactly where we are called to participate in God's work, in the thick of life, embracing individuals, families and communities that are hungry for hope and healing, justice and peace, advocates and partners."

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church>

Eugenie Hildebrandt, SWO board member
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mayville (Beaver Dam Conference)

PIVOT DON'T PANIC

It is always rewarding when you attend a workshop and not only learn a great deal but also experience the excitement of taking the ideas back to your home synod or church. That is what the WELCA workshop, *Pivot Don't Panic*, did for me and many of the over 200 women who attended this event Feb. 18-20 via Zoom.

Goals for *Pivot Don't Panic* were to provide WELCA leaders with support, resources, current organizational information, and ideas to implement during this time of challenge and uncertainty stemming from the pandemic and its related stressors.

The Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop, led a Bible study on the weekend's theme. She explained, for example, that the "pivot" is a basketball move where one foot remains planted while the other is free to change direction. What a wonderful example of how leaders, during these uncertain times, need to keep one foot grounded in the Lord, while at the same time, being creative and exploring new directions.

At several points during Rev. Bullock's presentation, breakout sessions of about 5-6 attendees virtually met to discuss what leadership meant to them, share insights related to the Bible study's focus on Shiphrah and Puah, and have some good conversation on what was happening in our own churches/synods. Finally, Rev. Bullock provided us a "virtual" Pivot Tool Box which encouraged us to consider our: 1) Purpose, 2) Prayer, 3) Praise, and 4) Plan as alternatives to "panicking!"

In addition to the Bible Study and break-out sessions, attendees were treated to a short presentation by Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, who made a plea to emphasize justice and love as we invite new voices to participate in our congregations.

Other sessions of the event included Linda Post Bushkofsky (the WELCA Executive Director), her church-wide staff, Lisa Plorin (church-wide WELCA board president), Anna Sarver (WELCA board treasurer)-- all of whom gave us information regarding the current state of our WELCA organization. Financially, for example, it has been a difficult year and staff hours have been cut. Even given this situation, staff members continue to "pivot" and not panic as they do important work to uphold WELCA'S mission and purpose. The event concluded with a Thank Offering worship service lead by Deacon Pat Cauley.

In sum, *Pivot Don't Panic* was fun, spiritually-uplifting, informative, and helpful. Thank you to Linda, Lisa and the other planners who "pivoted" rather than "panicked" to organize and implement this successful event to replace the traditional Conference of Presidents gathering. Hopefully attendees left with a stronger confidence in themselves as church leaders AND in the leadership God provides in all our difficult situations.

Submitted by:

Barbara Penington, WELCA member
First English Lutheran Church, Whitewater (Elkhorn Conference)



BIENNIAL CONVENTION/FALL RETREAT

Just in time for sweater season

.....a Biennial Convention/Fall Retreat!!

.....In person!!

.....in the Neighborhood!!



Last year's retreat plans have changed into a Biennial Convention/Fall Retreat

Will be a wonderful way for women to **regather** together in a camp setting

- Fri. evening, Sept. 24th – the 15th Biennial Convention business meeting
- Sat., Sept. 25th – Fall Retreat with Worship Service
- Lutherdale Bible Camp (N7891 US Highway 12, Elkhorn) in new Hope Conference Center!!
- Sept. 24-25, 2021 (evening, overnight & day options, with a possible virtual option)

Theme is based on the virtual 2020 Triennial Convention...but with a “Mr. Rogers” twist

John 13:34-35 (NRSV) *“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

Sponsored by South-Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization (SWO – 5K)

Evening Biennial Convention business meeting option: *details still being determined (Fri., Sept. 24).*

Overnight Retreat option: *can arrive at Lutherdale any time after 2:00 pm (Fri., Sept. 24) and stay until end of Day Retreat at 3:30 pm (Sat., Sept. 25).*

Day Retreat option: *8:30 am – 3:30 pm (Sat. Sept. 25) – Babysitting for children available, ages 3 (potty - trained) to 12 years – must purchase a camp lunch - \$12 per child (MUST register for babysitting BEFORE Sept. 1, 2021).*

Flyer & reg. form will be available on WELCA webpage on the synod website by June 1st

Flyer & reg. form will be included in the July Trumpeter

For more info, contact

Janna Smith, SWO President (5K)

262-215-6892 smithjanna55@gmail.com

COMMUNICATION



Yvonne (Bonnie) Jean Henry, 85, passed away on March 16, 2021. Bonnie was active in WELCA for many years at First English Lutheran Church in Whitewater. She also served multiple terms on the Elkhorn Conference board. Her daughter, Lezlie Oldenburg, is currently serving on this board.

SPRING GATHERING

The Southwest Conference Spring Gathering will be rescheduled for the Fall. Details will follow in the summer edition of the Trumpeter. Thanks, Suzanne Bartels, Recorder

PINE LAKE ZOOM RETREAT

I would like to offer that the Pine Lake planning committee is going to provide a zoom retreat the weekend of August 20 and 21. We are in the planning stage of this. If you have further questions regarding this please feel free to contact me. I am Barb Zimmerman, 608-535-0264 and leave a message or email me at barb_zimmerman@sbcglobal.net

SAVE THE DATE

- Aug. 3-5, 2021 - 11th Virtual Triennial Convention (still scheduled)
- Aug. 5-8, 2021 – Triennial Gathering in Phoenix (CANCELLED)
- Sept. 24-25 – 15th Biennial Convention/Fall Retreat at Lutherdale
- Oct. 9, 2021 – Monroe Conference Fall Gathering
- Summer of 2023 – Triennial Gathering in Phoenix

MONROE CONFERENCE

The Monroe Conference will not meet in April; however, we are set to meet October 9th at the Wiota Lutheran Church in Wiota. More information coming as the officers have a chance to meet this summer. Sandy Potter

BARNEVELD CONFERENCE

The Barneveld Conference Spring Gathering was held on March 20, 2021 via Zoom. Dr. Sherri Hansen gave a talk on ‘Overcoming Acedia.’ The word was coined in the 5th century by a monk named John Cassian. It is defined as spiritual or mental sloth; apathy. “Acedia gives a name to a feeling that many of us are experiencing with continued quarantines, social distancing and isolation. It is not exactly boredom and not the same as depression. It is that feeling when faced with a To-Do list one finds themselves doom-scrolling, checking social media, or doing anything to avoid the task at hand.” Dr. Hansen suggested four keys to coping with a pandemic:

Be **physically** active—MOVE your body every day

Stay **mentally** engaged—Stimulate your brain daily

Stay **socially** connected—Contact a friend/loved one daily

Maintain **spiritual** practices—Prayer, worship, church connections



Sloth (Desidia), from the series *The Seven Deadly Sins*, 1558 Pieter vander Heyden after drawings by Pieter Bruegel the Elder.

SPRING GATHERING THANKOFFERING



The South-Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)

**welcomes you to a virtual
Spring Gathering Thankoffering Service**

**Women of the ELCA
April 15, 2021, 7 pm on Zoom**

Short synodical update followed by a worship service
Social time following worship service

Please contact Janna Smith to register for the Zoom invitation
smithjanna55@gmail.com or 262-215-6892

A Spring Gathering Thankoffering Service on Zoom!!

As we come out of COVID, church WELCA units are slowly beginning to meet in person for the first time. Conference spring gatherings have been postponed until summer or fall. Our Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) has planned a Spring Gathering that includes a Thankoffering Service via Zoom.

Feel free to join us from your home. Some WELCA units are 'zooming' in from their churches, inviting women who may not have access to Zoom at home, to join them in person, socially distanced.

The Women of the ELCA (Churchwide) is struggling financially. Staff has been reduced. To help address this need, our SWO is hosting a Spring Gathering Thankoffering Service. If you are able, please make out your Thankoffering check to Women of the ELCA and write "WOG0420 Thankoffering" on the memo line. Then please mail it to: Women of the ELCA c/o ELCA Gift Processing Center P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. You also have the option as a church WELCA unit to combine your Thankofferings and mail in through your unit treasurer using [Offering Form B](#).

Hope to see you there!!

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

ATTENTION Seminarians!

Lutheran/Divinity Educational Student Scholarships

On September 24-25, 2021, the South-Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) will hold its 15th Biennial Convention/Fall Retreat at Lutherdale Bible Camp. Two (\$500) scholarships will be awarded to students who are pursuing education in Called Ministry (such as Pastor, Diaconal Minister) or Youth Ministry in an ELCA congregation or ELCA Bible Camp Ministry. The scholarships are awarded for the current or upcoming academic year. The student must be enrolled as a full time student to be eligible. It is the goal of the SWO to extend financial assistance to a range of recipients across all churches in the South Central Synod of Wisconsin. Even though the scholarships are awarded by this synod's Women of the ELCA, both male and female students are eligible.

A link to an application form can be found on the Women of the ELCA webpage on the synod website.

<https://scsw-elca.org/welca/>

These scholarships will also be publicized in *What Matters*. **If you know of any seminarians within the synod, encourage them to apply. Deadline: August 16, 2021.**



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.

THE WATSONS GO TO BIRMINGHAM

Follow-up to the January Book Discussion - *The Watsons Go to Birmingham* – 1963

When discussing this children's book, the subject of The Great Migration was raised. Unfamiliar to many of us, it defined an era in US history (1916 – 1970), when more than 6 million African Americans from the rural South relocated to the urban North. Jacob Lawrence was one of these migrants. In 1930, at the age of 13, he moved with his mother and sister to New York City. An artist, his first solo exhibition was at the Harlem YMCA. In 1940, at the age of 23, he received a grant to create 60 panels, initially titled, "The Migration of the Negro (now known as The Migration Series)."



These panels tell a picture story of The Great Migration. We decided to post a panel each day for 60 days on our South-Central WI SWO Facebook page to learn about this era.

<https://www.facebook.com/South-Central-Wisconsin-Women-of-the-ELCA-327816168436>



Norman Rockwell's 1964 portrayal of Ruby Bridges in "The Problem We All Live With," was also studied, as was this very similar 2015 photograph from Charleston, South Carolina. The unposed Norman Rockwell scene was taken at the door of Mother Emanuel AME church, where 9 people were killed while attending Bible study. The photo was taken prior to one of the funerals. SWO board member Lawanna Schieldt was one of the 30 women who participated in the Watson book discussion. The photo prompted Lawanna to share that soon after the tragedy, she, her husband, and cousin were driving from Florida to Virginia when they made a stop in Charleston and saw the church. "Outside was a sign that said 'Pray for these People.' So we did."

By Janna Smith, SWO president
First English Lutheran Church, Whitewater (Elkhorn Conference)

MISSION DISCIPLESHIP

In the beginning,
God created the heavens and the earth.
From then until now.
All have been asked to be His disciples.
Those who believe, try.
But, we all have roadblocks.
God stands with us.
Some fall back.
Get discouraged.
Satan steps in.
We are to reach out and go around Satan.
We must work for God.

We are tested every day, but
the world is filled with work to be done.
Food Pantries.
Churches open up to collect food.
Some work at food kitchens.
Some buy food.
Some donate one or two cans, as they are able.
With God's help, this food will help those in need.
Every day we hear of people starving.
Don't ignore.
Join your churches or community in helping.
We cannot judge others,

Lawanna Schieldt, SWO board member
Central Lutheran Church, Edgerton (Beloit Conference)

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

WELCA 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 to subscribe online or call 844-409-0576.

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

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.

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

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THE TRUMPETER

Tammy Hedrick, Editor
401 W. Main St.
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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. Submitted articles and photos may be posted on our Facebook page.



Purpose of the
Women of the ELCA

WWW.WOMENOFTHEELCA.ORG

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.