



## Purpose Statement

As a community of women **created** in the image of God,  
**called** to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and **empowered** by the Holy Spirit,  
we commit ourselves to

**Grow** in faith

**Affirm** our gifts

**Support** one another in our callings,

**Engage** in ministry and action, and

**Promote** healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

## Mission Statement

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

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## NW WA SWO Board President

Greetings sisters of the NW WA Synod.

This ECHO newsletter is once again published to gather us into communication. It brings awareness of our women's churches and communities, ministries and activities. It informs us of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA)'s ministries and resources to help us be engaged.

Our BIENNIAL CONVENTION is October 2 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Everett. The church has a large room for us to be safely spaced, as well as masked. We're certain you will enjoy the speakers who will highlight our theme "You Are My Sister.....Do You Know Me?" The very short business session, including elections of the Board begins at 8:30. The Convention Registration form is on page 6. The cost is \$35.00. After September 20<sup>th</sup>--\$40.00.

**NOMINATIONS:** Your churchwomen's Unit needs to elect a Voting Member for the business portion. If your women don't have a structured group, then one of your attendees to the Convention will be appointed as such. She must be a voting member of an ELCA congregation, not necessarily a member of a Unit. Please send her name to the Registrar before Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. It can also be marked on the form. Being that we will elect officers and members at large to the Board, nominations are being accepted by our Nominations Chairperson, Gaye Rodriguey. Nominees must be a voting member of an ELCA congregation but not necessarily a member of a Unit. The form for nominations is on page 6, with Gaye's contact information.



The 12<sup>th</sup> TRIENNIAL GATHERING is September 18-24, 2023 in Phoenix, AZ. Our synod will send two Voting Members to the convention (business-18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>). We need to elect those two this year. Churchwide WELCA pays for travel to and from Phoenix, as well as room and board for the business portion. The gathering portion begins the 22<sup>nd</sup> and ends Sunday, the 24<sup>th</sup>. It is festive and about 3,000 strong. Since these women will already be there, we will pay their gathering registration cost. The Triennial Voting Member must be a voting member of an ELCA congregation but not necessarily a member of a Unit. Churchwide WELCA encourages us to send a woman of color and/or a person whose primary language is other than English. Women who have attended Triennials before clamor for this opportunity. Your Unit or group can nominate ONE woman. The nominee form (found on page 8) with her name and contact information needs to be sent to me, Maureen Mitchell, no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Start planning to attend the gathering!**

**---"JUST LOVE"---**

**Sept. 22-24, 2023.**

**Lots of information will be coming out this next year.**

I am definitely looking forward to greeting you at our Convention October 2<sup>nd</sup>. God's blessings to you as Autumn is on the horizon and we prepare to serve our women of the NW WA Synod.

Your sister in Christ,

*Maureen Mitchell*  
SWO Board President

## LOOKING AHEAD

### BIENNIAL CONVENTION

October 2, 2021

Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Everett

The cost is \$35.00. After September 20<sup>th</sup>--\$40.00

(Registration Form page 4)

### 12th TRIENNIAL GATHERING

September 18-24, 2023

in Phoenix, AZ

(Nomination Form page 8)



### IMPORTANT regarding Forms in this newsletter:

*I have a hard copy of this newsletter:*

Simply cut out the page with the form; fill it out and mail it in!!

*I have an electronic version of this newsletter:*

Print the specific page; fill it out and mail it in or scan and email.

### SWO BOARD/OFFICER NOMINATIONS (Nomination Form page 6)

As you know in October our NW WA SWO will be electing members to serve on the Board. Please prayerfully consider serving as the President, Vice-President (or two people can serve as co-chairs) Secretary or Treasurer or Member-at-Large. As God calls you to serve, please email Gaye Rodriguey, Vice-President of NW WA SWO, at [gaye@tobysuds.com](mailto:gaye@tobysuds.com)

Also put on your thinking caps—whom do you know who can work with bank accounts, checks and budgets (Treasurer)? Whom do you know that can listen and record our 3-4 a year meetings, getting them typed and emailed to the Board(Secretary)?

Whether you feel God calling you to serve or you know someone is willing to serve—This is of Great Importance: To pass on the legacy of the Women of the ELCA and the NW WA Synodical Women's Organization.”

Shalom, Gaye Rodriguey

### FAITHFUL FRIENDS

This is a new program for regular supporters and women who would like to give regularly by automatic withdrawal from their checking account or charge to their credit card. These gifts support the Women of ELCA General Fund and allow quick action and flexibility to respond where needed. Send a voided check with a note saying: “*I want to join FAITHFUL FRIENDS of the Women of the ELCA, please deduct my recurring gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$10 or above) from my checking account on the 15th of the month. My voided check is enclosed.*”

OR: Rather than sending a voided check, state on paper the type of credit card (Visa/MC etc), credit card number, Exp. date, print name as it appears on the card, address, city, state and zip and your signature.

Mail to: Women of the ELCA Faithful Friends

ELCA Gift Processing Center

PO Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

OR: join online at [welca.org/faithfulfriendsonline](http://welca.org/faithfulfriendsonline)



NORTHWEST WASHINGTON SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION  
**CONVENTION REGISTRATION**

***YOU ARE MY SISTER  
DO YOU KNOW ME?***

October 2, 2021 8:30 – 3:00  
Our Savior's Lutheran Church  
Everett, Washington

*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.  
Matthew 22:39b*

**Keynote Speakers: Three women of color tell their stories**

COVID PROTOCOLS: Seating will be spaced and all will be asked to wear masks.  
Bring your own coffee cup and water container.

IN KIND DONATIONS: We will be collecting items for Lutheran Community Services Northwest (LCSNW) as they settle Afghan Refugees into homes. Bring NEW items only: bedding, kitchen, bathroom and personal hygiene items. Also, one half of monetary offerings will go to LCSNW.

**REGISTRATION --- Cut and mail the section below**

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CONGREGATION \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION FEE: \$35 until Sept. 20; \$40 after Sept 20  
Make check payable to NW WA SWO

Registration fee includes a box lunch  
**Diet Restrictions:** Vegetarian, Gluten Free

**Mail Completed Form with Check to:**

**Jan Hunter, Registrar**  
3802 James St., # 57  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
synodnorthwestwa@gmail.com  
360-592-2860

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*KEEP READING!*

NW WASHINGTON SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

# NOMINATION FORM

## FOR OFFICER\BOARD MEMBER

Nominee must be a voting member of ELCA Congregation.  
As many may be nominated as are interested.  
Term of office is two years. (2021 – 2023)  
Diversity is important (ethnicity, age, geographical location).

**Nominations should be postmarked by September 20, 2021 or sent by e-mail to:**

Gaye Rodriguey  
PO Box 219  
Coupeville, WA 98239

e-mail: [gaye@tobysuds.com](mailto:gaye@tobysuds.com)  
phone (h) 360-678-3561  
phone (c) 360-632-1579

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Language (other than English) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee is a person with a disability \_\_\_\_\_

If yes please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee has participated in congregation activities \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Nominee has had a leadership role in our congregation \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

The above person is being nominated for

\_\_\_\_President \_\_\_\_\_Secretary \_\_\_\_\_Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_Member at Large

Please list any significant experiences the nominee has had that would qualify her to be a NW WA SWO board member or officer (such as offices held, congregational leadership, community activities and/or leadership).

Reason (s) for submitting this person's name in nomination.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_

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*KEEP READING!*

NW WASHINGTON SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION  
**NOMINATION FORM FOR TRIENNIAL DELEGATE**  
**12<sup>TH</sup> TRIENNIAL**  
**September 18-24, 2023**  
**PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

Nominee must be a voting member of ELCA Congregation.  
ONE delegate will be selected.  
Diversity is important (ethnicity, age, geographical location).

**Nominations should be postmarked by September 20, 2021 or sent by e-mail to:**

Maureen Mitchell  
2616 A River Vista Lane  
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273

Email: momo829@comcast.net  
Phone 425-359-1697

Nominee Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Language (other than English) \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee is a person with a disability \_\_\_\_\_

If yes please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee has participated in congregation activities \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Nominee has had a leadership role in our congregation \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Please list any significant experiences the nominee has had that would qualify her to be a delegate to the Triennial Convention (such as offices held, congregational leadership, community activities and/or leadership).

Reason (s) for submitting this person's name in nomination.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Location \_\_\_\_\_



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*KEEP READING!*



She smiled, she sang, she skipped, she laughed. She waved her hand eagerly in hopes of being one of the chosen children to hold letters J, O, Y for a song at preschool bible school. Even when she was not chosen her smile did not fade. She just joined in loudly and sang with the other children, "Joy, joy this is what it means, Jesus first, yourself last and others in between". At four years old Sally was experiencing her first week of bible school. She was enthusiastically in school.

Once, I thought I could have matched her enthusiasm. When had my joy lost its fizz? As I sat there like a wilting houseplant listening to the cheerful singers, I suddenly knew what the problem was...it was the others!

My family's minor problems seemed to add spice to our lives occasionally and always seemed to heal themselves when payday came. I wanted to help others but was afraid they might not welcome my interference, or was I afraid that their problems might be contagious if I got too close? I was becoming adept at turning community problems off at the city limits. Where once I had been interested and informed, I was becoming coolly uninvolved.

It was not until the closing program of the bible school that the children's voices of joy broke through to complete my spring heart cleaning. As I watched the confused shuffle of little people trying to get their letters into the proper order to begin the song, I knew in my heart I had allowed my joy to become scrambled YOJ. It was as if those children were going through the production, waving their J, O, Y and sang, just for me.

How wonderful it has been to discover that God is still there to help, and that recycled joy is as good as new. Almost as a reminder, little Sally bubbles forth often with her song of "Joy". What peace it has brought to know that if I am busy following Jesus, I need not be anxious about what is ahead. He has shown me that if I want to follow him, others are going to be in between. Those others are naturally going to have problems too. We cannot always solve them, but we can lend support through friendships. The real miracle of it all is that with Jesus first, all those others in between...the you does not even realize that it comes last!

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## **PRAY WITH LUTHERAN WOMEN ACROSS THE CHURCH EVERY TUESDAY AT NOON**

You are invited to join Lutheran women across the church every Tuesday at noon (in your time zone) in prayer. We will pray in community through this pandemic, resting sure in the knowledge that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:38-39).

Please reflect on God's word, offering prayers and reflecting on your self-care and the care of others.

## HOLDEN VILLAGE THOUGHTS

I love Holden Village, because it is a peaceful place where I am able to spend time talking and walking with God without the cacophony of life, a place where I feel close to God and take time to remind myself that I am His beloved child. I am renewed and nourished in my faith, given sustenance for my soul by people who challenge me in my faith, worship that meets me where I am and/or at the very least need to be. The meals shared with others nourish my body.

I love Holden Village because walking outside on a clear night looking at the stars, praying through the labyrinth by candlelight, walking through the village listening to sounds of the woods and mountains, talking with others and listening to them, are all experiences that feed my soul. There is a rhythm at Holden which slows me down giving me renewed energy when I return to my life down the mountain. I enjoy the slow, relaxed pace of life, meeting friends, just being a part of this community makes me happy knowing that God brings us together to worship, pray, learn and listen.

I have been blest to attend Holden's Women's Retreat each February for the past 5 years (not 2020 or 2021) with my friend Candy. We share a love of God and a friendship that has become very precious to me. Holden is a Holy place which should be experienced by everyone who is able to get to the village.

Janice Stepp [wmpjms@gmail.com](mailto:wmpjms@gmail.com) 425-210-2733

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## FOR A MEANINGFUL FUTURE Women of the ELCA to Focus on Anti-Racism

WOMEN OF THE ELCA executive board established strategic objectives for the remainder of the 2020-2023 triennium focusing on anti-racism. Both the objectives and campaign came from a task force appointed by churchwide president Lisa Plorin at the board's April 24th meeting. "Racism is a tough subject for many, but with the state our nation is in at this time, we feel it's right to channel the energy of our ministry to address this topic," says Lisa.

The three strategic objectives are anti-racism awareness-raising, accompaniment, and advocacy. With awareness-raising, women will educate themselves to see everything through an anti-racism lens. For accompaniment, European decent women will walk in solidarity with BIPOC (black, indigenous, people of color) women in the struggle for racial equity by developing authentic relationships. With the advocacy focus, women will live out our Lutheran belief that government can help advance the common good, focusing specifically on ant-racism issues.

"As the executive board of the Women of the ELCA looked to the future, we acknowledge our roots in ant-racism," said Rev. Vivian Thomas-Breitfeld, chair of the strategic planning task force. Thomas-Breitfeld said returning to the "hard work of authentic anti-racism felt Spirit-led. We are bold women heeding the call to lead our church into authentic anti-racism, that welcomes all people enabling us to become the beloved community that God calls us to be."

Vice-president Becky Shurson echoed the hope expressed by Thomas-Breitfeld. "Because of each executive board member's commitment to ant-racist training, we are on the journey now," she said. "That training has been one of the greatest gifts this organization has given me, and I am grateful."

Adapted from the Women of the ELCA website  
Submitted by Gaye Rodriguey, NW WA SWO Board Vice-president

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Thank you to **Oak Harbor, St. Luke's, Queen Anne, and Grace, Cross of Christ Lutheran** Churches for your offering donations to the Northwest Synodical Women's Organization. Your donations make it possible for us to keep in touch through the ECHO, Retreats, and Convention gatherings. One half of your offering donations have been sent to Women of the ELCA (churchwide). These offerings provide you with resources such as Gather magazine, CAFÉ, daily meditations. To date \$829.00 have been sent to churchwide.

Many units no longer have structurally organized women's groups. We know they are still active doing God's Work – Through Their Hands. Units are conducting Bible studies, book discussions, serving homeless populations, planting, harvesting, and collecting food for food banks, making quilts and kits for local populations and Lutheran World Relief. Units also may have other projects that demonstrate their good works.



If SWO retreats and/or conventions have education and/or inspirational value for you, consider collecting an occasional offering or selling a quilt and donating the proceeds to SWO as a gift. One half of any gift is sent to churchwide.

Though units no longer have structures to select representatives, it is important for women to talk together and choose how they would like to be represented in groups such as SWO, churchwide, and Triennial. SWO conventions are one of the ways you as women are represented in the Women of the ELCA.

*Jan Hunter,*  
NWWA SWO Treasurer  
360-592-2860

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### WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (WELCA)

This is reported from year 2020

Anticipated offerings, \$300,000--actually received 88%

Anticipated Thankofferings \$650,000--actually received 78%

Anticipated Synod Women's Convention offerings \$35,000--actually received 28%. (most conventions were not held)

~Some~ of the ministries WELCA supports:

Lutheran Disaster Response	\$2547.50
AMMPARO: accompanying migrant minors	\$5003.50
Missionaries Stephen & Jodi Swanson	\$11,039.35
LWR through ELCA World Hunger	\$4429.74
Freight for quilts-LWR	\$9035.95
ELCA World Hunger	\$11,273.32



**Lutheran Community Services Northwest partners with individuals, families and communities for health, justice and hope.**

To donate:  
Lutheran Community Services Northwest  
4040 S 188th St, Suite 300  
SeaTac, WA 98188  
206-901-1685  
[www.lcsnw.org](http://www.lcsnw.org)

## KATIE'S FUND

*Raising up Bold Women of Faith*

Katie's Fund is an endowment that supports ministry in three areas:

Leadership Development,  
Global Connections,  
Living Theology.

Katie's Fund is now more than \$1 million. Women of the ELCA established Katie's Fund in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, raise up bold leaders for the churchwide women's organization, and support bold and creative ministry for generations to come.

Your gifts to "Katie's Fund" go to the endowment, generating income each year to support ministry. You can also give to "Katie's Fund Current," to support current ministry projects. Your generosity makes a real difference in women's lives. Thank you!

Make your check out to  
Women of the ELCA.

Write "Katie's Fund" or "Katie's Fund Current" in the memo line.

Mail to:  
Women of the ELCA  
ELCA Gift Processing Center  
PO Box 1809  
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Send unit donations with Form B.



## Offering Form B

For use by CONGREGATIONAL UNITS  
for offerings to CHURCHWIDE

Use Form B for **Thankofferings**, **Where Needed Most**, **Katie's Fund**, **Special Offerings**, and other **Designated Gifts**, including gifts to other ELCA ministries. Make check payable to "Women of the ELCA." For more information, please call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730 or go online to [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org).

Mail form with check to: **Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.**

		DATE	
CONGREGATION		CONGREGATION NUMBER	
CONGREGATION CITY/STATE		ZIPCODE	REG/SYNOD
UNIT TREASURER NAME		PHONE NUMBER	
ADDRESS		EMAIL	
CITY/STATE		ZIP	

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
WOG0420 <b>THANKOFFERING</b>	\$
<b>DESIGNATED GIFTS &amp; SPECIAL OFFERINGS (PLEASE SPECIFY)</b>	
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$

ELCAWO1022



## For Your Information

### RESOURCES



BOLD CAFÉ, an on-line magazine, shares stories written by bold young women who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more. Readers and writers of *Café* include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use *Café* as a Bible study resource individually or with a group. Go to [www.BoldCafe.org](http://www.BoldCafe.org) for more information.

INTERCHANGE & INTERCAMBIO contain stories by and for women of the ELCA and are published four times a year: spring, summer, fall, and winter.

Click on the links below to read the Winter 2020 publication.



### SIGN UP FOR DAILY GRACE

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by [signing up for a daily email message](#). You can also download the newly updated app for your [IOS](#) and [Android](#) devices.



*GATHER MAGAZINE* offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions 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. A print subscription is \$19.95 a year with free digital access.

Subscribe or renew here:

<https://www.gathermagazine.org/subscribe/>

# NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization Board 2020–2022

## **PRESIDENT**

Maureen Mitchell

2616 A River Vista Ln.,  
Mt. Vernon, WA 98273  
425-359-1697  
momo829@comcast.net

First Lutheran, Mt Vernon

## **SECRETARY**

Karen Wenzel (appointed)  
425-359-3489  
K.wenzel2@gmail.com

Central Lutheran Everett

## **MEMBER at LARGE**

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karynkostyk@hotmail.com

ST. Luke's, Bellevue

## **MEMBER at LARGE**

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wnjbacus@hotmail.com

Our Savior's, Everett

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ahookey@aol.com

Faith Lutheran, Everett

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Oak Harbor Lutheran, Oak Harbor

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360-592-2680  
jhunterdude@aol.com

Immanuel, Everson

## **MEMBER at LARGE**

Sandra Albertson

10510 38th Dr. NE  
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thealbertsons5@gmail.com

Bethlehem Lutheran, Marysville

## **MEMBER at LARGE**

Carol Barden

1038 Riley Dr. E  
Enumclaw, WA 98022  
(h) 253-285-4998 (c) 360-631-3305  
bardenca@yahoo.com

The **synodical women's organizations** (SWOs) establish a partnership with units in their geographic areas and with the churchwide women's organization. SWOs exist to support women of the ELCA. Each SWO has a board whose members are elected at an annual or biennial convention by voting members from units.



NW Washington  
Synodical Women's Organization  
c/o 8208 18th Ave NE  
Seattle, WA 98115

### **ECHO: This is your newsletter!**

The ECHO provides information and news about Women of the ELCA to the Congregational Units of the NW Washington Synod of the ELCA. News about upcoming events, celebrations, activities, meetings and unit officers (and photographs) may be submitted for consideration for use in the ECHO by sending to the editor's address listed below.

#### **NOTICE:**

**Please let us know if you would like to continue receiving a hard copy in the mail.**

*In order to be able to continue mailing hard copies,  
we are asking for a yearly donation of \$5  
to cover the cost of printing and postage.*

Please send subscription renewal checks payable to NW WA SWO to: Jan Hunter  
3802 James St. #57, Bellingham, WA 98226

ECHO Editor: Misi French  
Submit articles and photos at [elca.swo@gmail.com](mailto:elca.swo@gmail.com)

