



# THE ECHO

NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization

FEBRUARY 2022



## 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.

Quilts in the picture above are from Mt Vernon.

—  
Meet your board members pages 3-5



## NW WA SWO Board Co-President

Greetings to each of you in 2022! I hope that your holiday season was filled with meaningful activities with family and friends!

As we have started the new church year within our home congregations, may we also begin our new activities with our NW WA Synod. We will be planning a fall retreat (with more details to come) and will continue to contact all local congregations to hear what's been happening there and how each is faring.

Please feel free to contact any one of us on the board with any news that would be of interest to us and our synod. Help be our "eyes and ears" to let our whole NW WA Synod know and be excited with you!

As one of your co-chairs, I am looking forward to what our synod can do to help support the national WELCA organization and each of our local church communities. We are large in member congregations, so let's put our collective resources, our knowledge, and our "Christian service Heart" together to set and accomplish goals that are meaningful and fulfilling for all of us.

Peace be with each of you.  
~Twyla Lucas

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### TREASURER REPORT

Thank you to the following churches for their offerings to the NW WA SWO.  
It is greatly appreciated.

Anacortes Lutheran  
Cross of Christ Lutheran, Bellevue  
Hope Lutheran, Lynden  
Oak Harbor Lutheran Church  
Prince of Peace, SeaTac  
Peace Lutheran, Silvana  
Queen Anne Lutheran, Seattle  
St Luke's Lutheran, Bellevue

Remember use Form A (page 5)  
and send your offerings to:  
Gaye Rodriguey, NW WA SWO Treasurer  
PO Box 219  
Coupeville, WA 98239-0219

Thank you!  
Shalom, Gaye Rodriguey  
NW WA SWO Treasurer



## MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

### Get Acquainted with the new and continuing 2021-23 NW WA Synod Board:

Co-chairs: Sandra Albertson and Twyla Lucas

Secretary: Jackie Bacus

Treasurer: Gaye Rodriguey

Members at Large: Phyllis Hewson, Andrea Hookey, Anita Huntley

Please read their bios below:

#### **Twyla Lucas**

My name is Twyla Lucas, and I was elected as one of your Co-chairs (along with Sandra Albertson) for the 2021-23 Board. I am a member (over 40 years) at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Marysville. I currently serve as their financial secretary and am active in the Christian Service group as well as the women's group. I was a high school educator, teaching Family and Consumer Education and Health Education in both Lake Stevens and Everett school districts. I retired 15 years ago with a smile on my face! My husband, Tom, and I share his two sons, six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren, most of which live in Snohomish County! We enjoy family and friends' activities and gatherings; live theatre; community service and volunteer boards; traveling whenever we are able (all 50 states and over 50 countries so far); and now living in and enjoying north Everett.

#### **Sandra Albertson**

I have been a Lutheran my entire life. Growing up, I was baptized and confirmed at Phinney Ridge Lutheran church in Seattle. I have many fond memories and lifelong friends from there. I was a member of a very active youth group, and I spent many nights at that church (sleepovers and even playing hide & seek in the sanctuary). My mother is still a member there and attends a bible study once a month (she has been with some of the same ladies for over 60 years).

I have been married to my husband Kerry for almost 33 years (next month). We have three adult children; Kyle 30 (married to Allyssa), Kelsey 28 and Karly 25. I have been a member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Marysville since 1998. We moved to Marysville from Everett where we were previously members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church.

Personally, I graduated from the University of Washington (Go DAWGS!) in 1984. I now work for the City of Everett in the police department. I am the Records manager. My department handles entering warrants, stolen vehicles, missing persons, and the processing of many reports in addition to multiple other tasks. I have worked there for 15 years, and I love what I do.

In my "spare time", I love to scrapbook. I am fairly new to the women's synod organization. I previously served as a "member at large". I agreed to be a co-president because Twyla and I are friends and I think we can work well together. These past two years have been a bit of a challenge due to COVID. We had to be a little creative by doing our spring retreat by Zoom. It was still a chance for women to connect. I am looking forward to the next two years as the co-president.

#### **Jackie Bacus**

I served the last 2 years as a "member at large" and was recently elected as secretary of our NW Synod's Women's Organization. I was a "Navy brat" for the first 18 years of my life landing in Oak Harbor where I graduated from high school. We attended LCMS churches when they were available. I met my husband at Concordia Jr College in Portland and we will celebrate our 50th anniversary next year. My husband is a graduate of Seminex and a retired ELCA pastor. I became involved in our synodical organization thanks to the faithful women of Queen Anne Lutheran church where my husband served for 21 years. I'm a retired medical social worker. We have a married daughter who lives with her husband and 2 young children in Renton, WA. We lived on Whidbey Is. for 7 years and just moved this month to the Hearthstone retirement community on Green Lake in Seattle. We look forward to finding a new church home in Seattle, but are still officially members of Our Savior's Lutheran in Everett.

### **Gaye Rodriguey**

My name is Gaye Rodriguey and I have served on the NW WA SWO Board as a member-at-large and as the Vice President. Now in my seventh year on the Board, I am serving the organization as your treasurer. I am a wife, mother, grandmother, preschool teacher and a Bible study leader and student who enjoys reading, baking, laundry, Husky football games, wearing the color purple and walks among the evergreens and on the beach. I live in Coupeville, Whidbey Island and attend Oak Harbor Lutheran Church.

### **Anita Huntley**

Hi to all! It is hard to introduce yourself but here is my attempt. I was born in Crosby, ND, left there when I was eight years old and lived in the Denver, CO area until I graduated from Mapleton H. S. (don't look for my Mapleton they tore it down.) I left Colorado and came to Tacoma to study nursing at PLU. It was there that I met Neal my husband of fifty-three years come January. Together we raised four children to adulthood. We have two grandsons aged twenty-one and seventeen.

After graduating with my BSN I worked in a variety nursing specialties from ICU/CCU to Chemical Dependence and School Nursing retiring from the latest after twenty-two years of commuting from Snohomish, to and from Seattle. As I got closer to retirement, I realized that my financial situation when I did retire would be much better if I had my Masters. After three years of commuting as much as two hours a day and studying till one or two in the morning I received my MPH from Benedictine U. outside of Chicago, when I was sixty years old.

My true love was my spiritual calling to become a Faith Community Nurse (Parish Nurse). For many years I would check BP's for the church and teach a class now and then. After retirement I dove into the work until I am an unpaid staff member working closely with others to provide a growing place for Christians. I have an office, a supply line in the budget and do minor counseling, home visits and grief groups as well as soon caregiver support groups. Lately my emphasis has been on the transition from hospital to home. I also serve as region one director for the Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association (ELPNA), I would love to have someone help me in this position, so if you are an FCN or Parish Nurse, let me know if you are interested. I would love to talk to other FCN's or PN's just to know who you are and share ideas.

As an at large member of the NW WA WOS Board, I hope to do three things, for the synod and wider church I want to see the involvement of lay women in the everyday workings at every level. For my own church, Christ the King Lutheran in Snohomish develop a strong attachment to other women of the synod and simply be more aware of the joy we provide to each of us when we share our own concerns and help with the concerns of our sisters. Finally, for myself I long to feel the satisfaction of doing the job I was sent here to do. Feel free to contact me with comments and questions at the email and number found on page .

Now may the God of our mothers guide us as we look to expanding the lives and joy of women in the church ,and striving to love all people without exception.

### **Phyllis Hewson**

Hi, my name is Phyllis Hewson. I was elected to be Member At Large at the October 2021 Convention. I have been a Lutheran for 40 plus years, starting at Ebenezer in Lake Stevens WA, then what was Harbor Pointe in Mukilteo WA and now at Our Saviors in Everett.

I have been living with the ups and downs of Multiple Sclerosis a little longer than I have been a Lutheran. My faith has been a big help when I am confronted with a new MS challenge. I have been active in the Ladies Bible Study at each church and am currently managing Zoom so our Leah Circle can be together during the pandemic. I am also a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry. I was volunteering once a week in the church office. I am married, have 3 daughters and 5 grandchildren. I live in Everett WA and worship at Our Saviors in Everett, WA.

My hobbies are many, but to name a few: reading, sewing, quilting, crocheting and gardening. I am praying that the COVID and it's variants can be resolved so we can once again see the whole face of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

## Andrea Hookey

After years of moving as a navy brat, my family settled in Alderwood Manor (now part of Lynnwood) and a high school friend introduced me to Trinity in Lynnwood through Luther League. At age 15 I joined the church, taking the adult instruction classes. I have been active since then with Sunday school, women's circles, councils and presidencies, and most important—worship.

In 1990, after my divorce, I joined Holden Village for four years driving bus, loading and unloading luggage and goods for the village and spending two years maintaining Fields' Point landing. In 1995, I spent three months at the Christian community of Iona, Scotland where I met my second husband. A man who had spent two years volunteering in Tanzania after his wife of 40+ years had passed.

We spent 16 years traveling whenever possible to visit our total of eleven children scattered across Europe, Australia, Canada and the USA. After his passing, I did a solo drive of 11,000 miles around the US perimeter in my old Honda CRV and met many delightful people who were slightly jealous of a grey haired old lady who got to drive and tent camp and discover the wonders of this country.

## THANK YOU!

The in-kind items along with a sewing machine I came across and had serviced, for the Afghan Refugees who are resettling in the Everett area, which you brought to the Women's Convention at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in October have now been delivered to Teddy Newhouse who works with Lutheran Community Services Afghan Resettlement. Thank you Jackie Bacus for connecting me with Teddy.

May you all have a Christ filled New Year.  
Janice Stepp



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

## CELEBRATE BOLD WOMEN'S DAY

Sunday, February 27

Bold Women's Day—observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February—celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. How will you plan to celebrate Bold Women's Day with others in 2022?

[Access Bold Women's Day resources here.](#)



## Offering Form A

For use by CONGREGATIONAL UNITS  
for offerings to SYNODICAL TREASURER

Use Form A to submit **Regular Offerings** and **SWO Convention Offerings** to your Synodical Women's Organization. Make check payable to "Women of the ELCA." **Mail form with check to your synodical treasurer.**

For more information, please call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730.

DATE	
CONGREGATION	CONGREGATION NUMBER
CONGREGATION CITY/STATE	CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER NAME
UNIT TREASURER NAME	PHONE NUMBER
ADDRESS	EMAIL
CITY/STATE	ZIP

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
<b>REGULAR OFFERING</b>	\$
<b>SWO CONVENTION OFFERING</b>	\$
<b>CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER OFFERING*</b>	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$

\* It is recommended that at least 50% of any cluster or conference offering be sent to the synodical treasurer to be passed on in full to the churchwide women's organization. Use this line if you are handling the offering from a cluster or conference event.

ELCAW01021

Form updated 5/2017

## JUSTICE

What does the Bible say about justice? Here are some verses to meditate on:

“God upholds the cause of the oppressed and gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets prisoners free, the Lord gives sight to the blind, the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down, the Lord loves the righteous. The Lord watches over the foreigner and sustains the fatherless and the widow, but he frustrates the ways of the wicked.”

Psalm 146: 7-9

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Proverbs 31:8-9

“This is what the LORD says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.”

Jeremiah 22: 3



“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah 6: 8

“Teacher, which is the greatest command in the Law?” Jesus replied: ““Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.” This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’”

Matthew 22: 36-39

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

Martin Luther King, Jr

“All humans are equal before God and have a right to be treated with dignity and fairness, no matter who you are”

The Bible Project video “Justice”, 2017.

“God’s work. Our hands.” “...an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.”

Shalom, Gaye Rodriguey,  
NW WA SWO Board Treasurer

## THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

I am certain that all of us have learned lessons during the last twenty-one months good, not so good, and downright horrible. The most horrible for me was I had to sing with just my husband during our You Tube service. I finely gave up and just hummed along with Michael our music director. Oh how I missed our congregation singing with gusto to our praise team or listening to the choir singing a traditional hymn in harmony.

It was not all bad, well there were some points of light, one that helped me was the use of zoom for our Bible study. Eight to ten of the ladies at Christ the King Lutheran in Snohomish have had a weekly Bible study for years. Meeting in homes from 9:30am till around 11:00am every Thursday morning. With the beginning of the pandemic, it seemed as if we would no longer have that chance to enjoy the company, learning, and support. What became even more important was to simply draw close to God, a need that became ever greater as the pandemic continued.

Zoom was not a new concept to at least a couple of us and if we could help some of the members who were reluctant at first to watch services on TV we should be able to help them with zoom. We spent a very little amount of time before everyone was even touching up the way they looked on screen with the help of zoom. During these many months one of our members moved to Anacortes to care for her mother and a second moved on a temporary basis to California for her husband's work. Both have continued to be very active members, a joy that would not have been possible if we didn't use zoom.



As for myself my son, 48 years old, came home to have mom care for him with the help of hospice, after he was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer. His last wish was a trip to Hawaii, and with much computer work and specific COVID testing we made that wish come true. While sitting on a balcony overlooking the ocean, I attended my Bible study and felt those arms tightly around me from 2686 miles away. Then and later I needed all my sisters to support me as I stood on the rock of Christ and held my son as he took his last breath.

As Christ the King has been opening, and other groups have started to meet face to face, we briefly discussed the possibility of meeting again face to face. I bet you can guess our choice; we will meet on zoom for the foreseeable future.

I will remember this pandemic as a frustrating, demanding, and hurtful time but I will also remember it as the time when I came so much closer to my church family and especially those sisters of the Thursday Morning Bible Study.

Thank you, Lord, for the growth of family through the technologies of the internet and growth of relationship with my sisters in faith. Amen.

Anita Huntley

## RECAP OF FALL RETREAT 2021

### YOU ARE MY SISTER...DO YOU KNOW ME?

On October 2, 2021, despite COVID-19 and its emerging variants, approximately 40 women were able to attend the NWWA Synodical Convention at Our Saviors Lutheran in Everett, Washington. We carefully adhered to the Covid restrictions by being masked, using hand sanitizer and social distanced, seated 6 to a table in a large fellowship hall. A short business meeting of the current and soon to be elected board members was held. New officers for 2021-2023 term were elected along with the Triennial delegates.

We heard from:

DAWN WICKLUND, our Churchwide WELCA Representative, via ZOOM. She greeted us from Wisconsin.  
PASTOR ANDREW YEE, Assistant to Bishop Shelly Wee.

WE HEARD from women of color and diverse ethnic backgrounds:

RUTH SKEETE, who grew up on the Caribbean Island of Barbados and now lives and works in Birch Bay, WA.

KAY EDGERTON, born in Ketchikan, Alaska to a Filipino/Japanese/Tinglit father and a Canadian mother.

RACHEL GOONERATNE, a first generation immigrant from India, she lives and worships in Kirkland.

MARY FUENTES born in Silvana, WA was raised in a family with 5 mixed-race children by a single mom.

WE HEARD Special music from Kelsey Mordecai.

WE HAD several opportunities to raise our voices, muffled though they were, in songs of praise and thankfulness to God our Savior.

WE INSTALLED the newly elected officers.

WE ENDED the convention with a communion service led by Pastor Pam Miles from Pointe of Grace in Mukilteo, Washington.

WE WERE sent on our way, thankful for this opportunity to fellowship and worship with our diverse WELCA sisters in Christ.

### AGAIN, YOU ARE MY SISTER...DO YOU KNOW ME?

## REPORT: FAITH LUTHERAN - EVERETT

Faith Lutheran Church in south Everett is a small congregation making a big difference in the lives of people in stressed circumstances. A few years ago our once-a-month potluck luncheon morphed into a weekly dinner serving 75 to 120 hot meals every Tuesday night. Until COVID, we were able to welcome our guests to come in, sit and socialize with us and their friends. Sadly, now we must pass out their hot meals to be eaten off premises.

Faith has also maintained a food bank for many years. Since COVID, it has had to expand dramatically. We now function with drive-thru, serving boxes and bags of food to around 250 cars each week. At the peak of the epidemic, as many as 500 cars passed through each week. We are blessed with many volunteers from the community who welcome the opportunity to help us serve their neighbors.

We are currently exploring the establishment of a small pallet house community on our property. A member of our congregation has a passion for social issues and skill at working with others to find grant money to fund these programs which are beyond our financial resources.

Our weekly quilters group is making quilts in anticipation of the pallet house, so we will be able to provide extra warmth the families can take with them as they transition into permanent housing.

God is alive and well, even in small congregations.

Andrea Hookey

# 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)

## 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 [womeneoftheelca.org](http://womeneoftheelca.org).

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

## For Your Information



**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.



**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)



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Women's Organization Board 2021–2023

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Our Savior's, Everett



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)



NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization