

THE ECHO

NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization

FEBRUARY 2023



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.

Triennial
Gathering
Scholarships
Available
See pages 4 - 5



Looking Ahead

TWO UPCOMING SYNOD MEETINGS:

May 13 at Salem Lutheran in Mt. Vernon May 20 at St Andrew's Lutheran in Bellevue

12TH TRIENNIAL GATHERING OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA September 21-24, 2023

Phoenix, Arizona. Theme: "Just Love"

Plan to join me as we gather with women from across our nation and beyond to hear stories of faith, be energized with worship, music, bible studies and fellowship. Lodging and registration details should be on the WELCAtg.org website soon. Keep in mind you are responsible for your own flight and lodging arrangements.

I will be happy to add your name and contact information to our list of NW Washington attendees and answer any questions you may have. Janice Stepp 425-210-2733/wmpjms@gmail.com



Greetings to all our NW WA SWO sisters in Christ~

Our church Lenten Season starts this week with an Ash Wednesday reminder of our Lord's mission during his last weeks on earth. His love for us, his final teachings and his sacrifice for each of us... gives us hope and reminds us of His gift of salvation each year!

Whatever you're doing and going through right now in your life, remember that Jesus Christ has given each of us the strength to see it through.

May you continue to find hope and peace in what the Lord has blessed you with! I pray that you each have time to pause to see the good and blessings in each day! ~Twyla Lucas, your president

WE ARE 110 STRONG

We are all members of the Northwest Washington Synod. The synod is divided into 11 clusters, representing the regions our congregations are: Whatcom, Skagit-Isle, Stillaguamish, Sno-Isle, Sno-King, N Seattle, Central, East King, Seatac, South King and Cascadia. Each cluster contains congregations and ministries. Some have as few as 6 while others have as many as 16.

Altogether WE ARE 110 Strong.

At the October Women's Retreat held at Bethlehem Lutheran, 57 women attended representing only 15 of the 110 congregations. Let us make it our 2023 goal to reach out to the congregations in our cluster and encourage participation in the Synodical Women's events.

The following is a listing of each cluster and their congregations.

WE ARE 110 STRONG

NW Washington Synodical Women

NORTHWEST WASHINGTON SYNOD Clusters & Deans

Congregations & Ministries Updated 12/19/22

Whatcom, Cluster #01

Dean: Rebecca Langholz Central, Bellingham Christ, Ferndale Christ The Servant, Bellingham Clearbrook, Nooksack Echoes, Bellingham Faith, Bellingham Hope, Lynden Immanuel, Everson Luth Campus Ministry-WWU Our Saviour's, Bellingham Trinity Community, Pt. Roberts Zion, Ferndale

Skagit-Isle, Cluster #02 Deans: Beth Eden & John Guthridge

Anacortes, Anacortes Bethlehem, Sedro Woolley Burlington, Burlington Celebration, Anacortes Edison, Bow El Camino De Emaus, Burlington Fir-Conway, Mount Vernon First Evangelical, Mount Vernon Lutheran Church of the San Juans Oak Harbor, Oak Harbor Salem, Mount Vernon Shepherd Of The Hills, Concrete

Stillaguamish, Cluster #03 Dean: Annette Andrews-Lux Bethlehem, Marysville

Camano, Camano Island Faith, North Lakewood Freeborn, Stanwood Our Saviour's, Arlington Peace, Silvana

Sno-Isle, Cluster #04

Deans: Deb Squires & Pam Miles Advent, Mill Creek Central, Everett Christ The King, Snohomish Ebenezer, Lake Stevens Faith, Everett Family & Friends, Everett Good Shepherd, Snohomish Holy Cross, Everett Our Savior's, Everett Pointe of Grace, Mukliteo St. Peter, Clinton Trinity, Freeland Trinity, Everett

Zion, Everett

Sno-King, Cluster #05

Dean: Jenna Bergeson Bethel, Shoreline Bethel Ethiopian, Shoreline Bethesda, Mountlake Terrace Edmonds, Edmonds First of Richmond Beach, Shoreline Gloria Dei, Lynnwood Luther Memorial, Seattle Prince Of Peace, Shoreline Trinity, Lynnwood

N Seattle, Cluster #06-07

Dean: Chelsea Globe Ballard First, Seattle Bethel Chinese, Seattle Church of the Apostles, Seattle Emmaus Table @7400 Woodlawn Faith, Seattle Gift Of Grace, Seattle Grace Chinese, Seattle Lutheran Campus Ministry-UW Magnolia, Seattle Maple Leaf, Seattle Ministry to International Students & Scholars Our Redeemer's, Seattle Phinney Ridge, Seattle Queen Anne, Seattle St. John United. Seattle University, Seattle

Central Seattle, Cluster #08

Deans: Darla DeFrance Bethany, Bainbridge Island Central, Seattle Church of Steadfast Love, Seattle Columbia City Church of Hope, Seattle Gethsemane, Seattle Holy Trinity, Mercer Island Immanuel, Seattle

East King, Cluster #09

Dean: Krista Johnson Cross Of Christ, Bellevue Grace Chinese of Sammamish Holy Cross, Bellevue Mount Si, North Bend Our Savior, Issaguah Sammamish Hills, Sammamish Seattle Taiwanese Lutheran, Bellevue Saint Andrew's, Bellevue St. Luke's, Bellevue

Seatac, Cluster #10

Dean: Sam Sseba First of West Seattle, Seattle Glendale, Burien Grace, Des Moines Peace, Seattle Prince Of Peace, Seatac Vashon, Vashon

South King, Cluster #11 Dean: Andy Arnold

Cross and Crown, Renton Grace Chinese of So. King County Kent, Kent Lakeridge, Seattle Lord Of Life, Renton Nativity, Renton Roots of the Table, Renton Seattle Comm. Cov. Fellowship. Renton Shepherd of the Valley, Maple Valley St. Matthew, Renton

Cascadia, Cluster #12

Dean: Debbie Boyce Faith, Redmond First, Bothell Holy Spirit, Kirkland Living Stones Prison Ministry, Monroe Morning Star, Monroe Northlake, Kenmore Salt House, Kirkland Shepherd Of The Valley, Startup Wooden Cross, Woodinville

TRIENNIAL NEWS:

The 2023 Triennial, a gathering for ELCA Lutheran women (and a few men), is happening September 21-24 in Phoenix, AZ.

Our NW WA SWO has three scholarships available for this gathering. Two of the three scholarships are available to women of any age, and one is designated for a women 40 years or younger.

Please check out the application form on page 5 in this newsletter for the criteria needed. Once completed, please send to me, Twyla Lucas, by March 24th.

Even if you don't receive a scholarship, we'd love for you to join us in Phoenix this year! Registration opens on March 1st. Please check the <u>welcatg.org</u> website for updates as they become available.

Lutheran women who gather in more than 4,500 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.



TRIENNIAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

To all Lutheran women of the Northwest Washington Synodical Women's Organization A scholarship opportunity waits for three of you to attend the 2023 WELCA Gathering in Phoenix, AZ from September 21-24, 2023. The scholarship will include the registration fee and a \$500 stipend which can be used for transportation, lodging and/or meals.

Each applicant must meet the following criteria:

Be a member of an ELCA congregation
Reside in the Northwest Washington Synod
Never have attended a previous Triennial gathering and
Complete the following application before **March 24, 2023**, and return to:
Twyla Lucas
1012 Grand Avenue
Everett, WA 98201

2023 WELCA Triennial Scholarship Application

Name	
Address	
ELCA Church	
Phone	
Reason for wanting a triennial scholarship:	
Where/how would you share your experience and information gleaned from this Gatherin	ng?

I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD

Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church (PRLC) has a profound yet simple ministry; people are hungry so we give them food. PRLC's Food Bank has been in operation for 50+ years and serves families in the area and beyond. "The year-end numbers show we served 35,020 pounds of food to 1052 households reaching 3,020 people" (PRLC's Annual Report)! These statistics are wonderful but do not tell the whole story of the people served and volunteers in service to the mission of the church.

I am a volunteer working with other volunteers at PRLC's food bank. On Friday, we shelve items from Food Lifeline and other sources for food. We greet our clients on Tuesdays afternoons and Wednesdays evenings and fill their boxes with food. The best part of my job, though, is talking with our clients, asking them about their children, their job searches, the lives in general. We make a personal connection so that the clients feel that this place is a safe and caring refuge in the neighborhood.

During the holidays, we provide a full dinner for both Thanksgiving and Christmas; we see clients that have stopped needing the food bank during the year but need a little help during the holidays. We get to catch up during our conversations.

I am a single parent with two little boys. I lost my job during the pandemic, however I did get a low paying part-time job but it did not cover all our needs. I was desperate for a way to feed my children. A friend told me about PRLC's food bank; my first visit was filled with anxiety. I had never needed a food bank before and was ashamed that I had to visit one now.

When it was my turn, I walked in the door and was greeted with such warmth that my anxiety and shame fell away. The people treated me like a person not someone with their hand out begging for food. I was asked what I would like to put in my box; such variety was on the shelf. I asked for a variety of can goods, oatmeal and peanut butter for my boys. The food bank workers also put fresh produce and a chosen frozen meat item in my box.

Now, after the pandemic is over, I am still looking for a higher paying job however, I know where to go when things get rough and my family is hungry; we will be given food.

It warms my heart to see their grateful smiles and a lightness in their step as they leave with their boxes with life saving food. As one volunteer said, when I work in the food bank, I respond "to God's call to care for the less fortunate in a tangible way. It's hard for me to see people in need and not know what to do. This gives my the opportunity to act".

PRLC's food bank serves persons in need, both their bodies and their hearts. We, as a faith community heed the mission of God to feed the hungry with food and more importantly with warmth. Clients come back to our doors because they have a place to not only get food for their families but also a place that protects their dignity.

Tina Georgeson; Phinney Ridge Lutheran, Seattle

GET TO KNOW OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBER:

My name is Tina Georgeson and I am an active member of Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church in North Seattle. My service for the mission of the church lie in the education arena and assisting in worship. Recently retired from a university teaching position (associate professor), I have found that I now have time to pursue long awaiting interests; thus WELCA came to mind. My other interests are reading, writing, and walking, to name a few.

FAITH FAMILY VILLAGE, EVERETT

Did you know that there are over 1,500 homeless children living in Snohomish County? Perhaps, we should say surviving and hiding in our county. There are very few true family shelters. Rules work against children. If you are a man, you often can not live in a shelter with your woman and girls. Or if you are a boy over 13, you cant live with your female family members. Or if you are a large family of 5 or more, its hopeless. Finally the waiting list is to get in a family shelter is often six months long. This means kids must sleep in a car, a tent, or on a friends floor. Parents worry constantly that they will be reported to CPS for not having a place for their kids to live. This is a horrible situation for families in our country.

Faith Family Village is working to change all these rules and provide temporary pallet homes for parents with kids. Faith Lutheran Church in Everett has joined with Faith Food Bank, Interfaith Shelter, the City of Everett, and Representative Rick Larsen's office to bring about an innovative way to house families. For the last year discussions have taken place, applications for financial assistance completed, and community meetings held.

In March 2023, construction for Faith Family Village is expected to begin. Electrical and water lines will be laid in empty yard at Faith Lutheran Church. Gravel will be laid out then eight small Pallet homes will be built. Each Pallet home will have 4 beds, shelving, lighting, heating, and space to call their own. There will be 2 portable bathroom buildings with 4 showers, sinks, and toilets. An older childcare building is turned into a kitchen/community center. The Village will have experienced social workers and security. There is also a playground and garden next to the pallet homes where families can enjoy their time.

This is temporary shelter. A time for parents to get paperwork together and start to rebuild their lives. A place for kids to be kids and not worry and be happy. They will stay 90 days and then be able to move into permanent housing that they can afford. 32 people every 90 days will go from homeless to housed in their own place.

We need help. Faith Lutheran quilters have made the first round of warm blankets which families will take with them when they move to their own homes. Monetary donations will help to pay expenses not covered by grants. The ELCA Big Dream Grant gave \$75,000 toward this project to pay for the kitchen/community room and garden/playground.

We need plastic dishes like cups and plates for our kitchen. We have lots of bedding but still need towels, washcloths, shower curtains, and bathmats for the bathrooms. To walk from their home to the bathroom building, kids need housecoats and plastic bath shoes. Supplies like laundry soap, dish soap, toilet paper, paper towels, and cleaning supplies will be needed year round. If you would like to help, please contact Roxana at funtimesicecream@yahoo.com or call 425-971-0402. You can also contact Faith Lutheran Church Everett.

Our goal is to bring change and make it easier to have Pallet homes for families with children all over our country. Faith Family Village is the first of its kind. Please help us if you are able and also pray for a new way to end child homelessness.

Roxana Boroujerdi

Click Here for YouTube video on the project.

WHAT IS YOUR CHURCH DOING? HELP WANTED!!

This newsletter needs your help! We would love to hear what each of your churches is doing. Please share your ideas with us. Maybe something you are doing will spark another church to also want to try it. Please send in your articles to be shared with all of us. We would LOVE to hear from you! This newsletter is for everyone.

Treasurer's Report

Thank you to the following churches for their offerings to our Synodical Women's Organization:

Immanuel Lutheran, Everson Oak Harbor Lutheran Peace Lutheran, Silvana

Shalom, Gaye



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



COLD WEATHER SHELTER UPDATE

The shelter, serving North Snohomish County, has been open for four months and will continue until March 31, 2023. Bethlehem Lutheran church has had the opportunity to house this needed community service. We have sheltered as many as 30 guests during the coldest winter nights! The many church volunteers, community volunteers from Lake Stevens, Everett and Marysville, and the LINC NW staff have kept the shelter running smoothly throughout the fall and winter. God always finds a path for us, His servants, to serve others!

Twyla Lucas, Bethlehem member and volunteer

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.

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	PCODE REG/SYNOD
UNIT TREASURER NAME	PHONE NUMBER
ADDRESS	EMAIL
CITY/STATE	ZIP

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	
THANKOFFERING	\$	
DESIGNATED GIFTS & SPECIAL OFFERINGS (PLEASE SPECIFY)		
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
TOTAL	\$	

ELCAWO1022

ECHO: This is your newsletter.

Share the news so others can rejoice with you. 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.

Copies are sent to each NW WA congregation by email. A PDF copy is also sent to every woman who has given us an email address. For those who receive a hard copy by posted mail, we request a yearly subscription fee of \$5 to cover the cost of printing and postage. Please send subscription renewal checks payable to NW WA SWO to: Gaye Rodriguey, PO Box 219, Coupeville, WA 98239

If you received a printed copy and would prefer to receive one by email, send your request to Missy.

ECHO Editor: Misi French Submit articles and photos at elca.swo@gmail.com

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 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



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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.

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Women's Organization Board 2022 NW Washington Synodical

PRESIDENT

Twyla Lucas

1012 Grand Ave. Everett, WA 98201 (c)425-299-2287 twylatom1@frontier.com

Bethlehem Lutheran, Marysville

SECRETARY

Jackie Bacus

6720 E Greenlake Way N. #625 Seattle, WA 98103 (h) 206-774-5169 (c) 206-799-3363 wnjbacus@hotmail.com

Phinney Ridge Lutheran, Seattle

MEMBER at LARGE

Phyllis Hewson

8308 Upper Ridge Road Everett, WA 98203 (h) 425-353-8270 (c)425-422-1232 jp.hewson@frontier.com

Our Savior's Lutheran, Everett

MEMBER at LARGE

Tina Georgeson

831 NW 56th St. Seattle, WA 98107 (206) 271-8078 tlrgeorgeson@gmail.com

Phinney Lutheran, Seattle

TREASURER

Gaye Rodriguey

PO Box 219, Coupeville, WA 98239 (h) 360-678-3561 (c) 360-632-1579 gaye@tobysuds.com

Oak Harbor Lutheran

MEMBER at LARGE

Andrea Hookey

10805 5th Ave SE Everett, WA 98208 h) 425-787-2414 (c) 425-231-7656 ahookey@aol.com

Faith Lutheran, Everett

MEMBER at LARGE

Sandra Albertson

3712 167th St NW Stanwood, WA 98292 (c) 425-330-6308 thealbertsons5@gmail.com

Bethlehem Lutheran, Marysville

MEMBER at LARGE

Anita Huntley

432 Cedar Ave. Snohomish, WA 98290 (c)206-931-7976 huntley.anita@gmail.com

Christ the King, Snohomish

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



