

JULY 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.

Cover photo is  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
in Marysville, WA  
(See page 4 for details)

NW WA SWO Retreat  
Saturday, October 1, 2022  
Registration on page 12



## NW WA SWO Board Co-President

Greetings Sisters in Christ of the NW WA Synod~

As I was getting ready to be inspired about writing this greeting, I was drawn to two song titles from the 2005-2008 Triennium book “Worship Boldly”. Those titles were: “For All the Faithful Women” and “God of the Women”. Several phrases in the songs’ verses appealed to me: “women who answered your [God’s] call; “trusting [God’s] promise; “giving their resources”; “learning to pray”; “they served with strength and gladness”; and “giving their all”.

We, the women of the NW WA Synod and ELCA, do exactly those things! **We trust, We pray, We serve, We answered a call and We give all we are able.** The rewards are sometimes imminent, but then there are times when we do not see or feel it for a long time. God gave the women of the Bible patience. Their faith carried them through to follow God’s wisdom and path. We as members of this synod are trying to do the same thing by believing in God’s wisdom to continue to see us through this two-year pandemic and keep us on the journey that we started years before...to Keep The FAITH!!

Our upcoming fall retreat on October 1<sup>st</sup> is entitled “Woven Together with Love”. The Rev, Cara Tanis and Gaye Rodriguez will be our leaders. It will be a time of gathering as women of the church in fellowship and revitalizing our faithful spirits. Please put it on your calendar as a must-go-to and fill out the enclosed registration form and send it in!

Please continue to read the ECHO’s latest articles about some of our local congregations’ happenings and remember that we want to hear about your church happenings as well. Let us all be inspired by each other!

May peace continue to be with each of you.

~Twyla Lucas, Co-chair

### SAVE THE DATE! NW WA SWO RETREAT Saturday, October 1, 2022

Join your sisters in Christ for the one day retreat at Bethlehem Lutheran Church In Marysville. The theme is “Woven Together In Love” referencing Romans 8: 28a and Colossians 2:2.

We will explore how God’s love weaves us together in the daily struggles and challenges, hope and healing in our families, our communities, our country and our world.

As we look forward to this time together, you are encouraged to read one or both of these books – God Speaks Your Love Language by Gary Chapman and My Grandmother’s Hands by Resmaa Menakem.

### PRESENTER BIOS:

**Rev. Cara Tanis** serves as pastor for the small, organic, welcoming worshipping community of Emmaus Table and also as mission developer along with the collective of partners that are a part 7400 Woodlawn – A Center for Community, Arts, and Spirituality. Cara is a Spiritual Director and Coach, recently appointed as the Coach Coordinator for the NW Washington Synod of the ELCA. Cara’s desire is to join others seeking authentic lives of hospitality, grace, and service in compassion-filled community. Cara and her family are grateful to live and serve in the Green Lake neighborhood.

**Gaye Rodriguez** attends Oak Harbor Lutheran Church on Whidbey Island. Pre-pandemic Gaye and Pastor Cara together lead overnight retreats at Quaker Cove in Anacortes. Gaye is looking forward to once again teaming up with Pastor Cara in leading a retreat. Gaye is a preschool teacher, women’s Bible Study Leader, Stephen Leader and Minister as well as a joy-filled grandma.

REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE 12

## OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN, EVERETT

### FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS Spirit Fed, Spirit Led

Almost 400 women from ELCA congregations across the nation participated in this leadership conference on February 17-19 via ZOOM. We had great technical throughout the 3 days. Several from our synodical board participated.

On Thursday evening we participated in a meeting that included only women from our Region 1 Synod. We discussed what type of women's gatherings have been successful during these past 2 pandemic years and what have been our challenges. We discussed events that may be happening in our synods. We were encouraged to read the book of Esther before tomorrow's Bible Study and to fill out a Spiritual Gifts Assessment.

The next 2 days each had 4-hour sessions. We were led in a Bible Study on the book of Esther from which our theme verse came (Esther 4:14) We listened to a guest speaker who gave us strategies and steps to reset and reboot our women's groups. It might be a Quilting Group, a Bible Study Group or a Book Club. We closed on Saturday afternoon with a Worship Service. We left the event refreshed by the Word and challenged by the message.

During these sessions, we were randomly put into discussion rooms. It was so interesting to see and talk to women from all over the United States. The sessions only lasted 15-20 minutes and we had several questions to discuss. But we found ourselves asking about the kind group they normally participated in, the weather they were having, was their church meeting virtual or in person. All the socializing that we have been denied because of COVID-19 and it's ever-changing variants. Each time we were divided into discussion groups it was a different bunch of women. Maybe we'll meet again.

Videos of both days are available at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)  
Phyllis Hewson, SWO Board Member  
Our Savior's Lutheran – Everett

## FAITH LUTHERAN, EVERETT

Faith Lutheran in South Everett continues its ministry to those facing food scarcity and homelessness. This is possible primarily through partnerships with the congregation, local businesses, other local congregations and programs, our city and county governments, and synod and national ELCA grants.

We will be receiving a grant of \$75,000 from ELCA to help provide the infrastructure for the expected "Pallet Village" with eight houses for women with children experiencing homelessness. During their 90 day stay, they will be able to access resources to attain a permanent solution to the issues that left them without secure housing.

We have also been blessed with many private donors to our food bank and community dinner program. Most recently, people both in and out of the congregation, plus a ELCA match, contributed for the purchase of a new stove for our Tuesday night dinners so we no longer need to shut the breaker off between usages!  
~Andrea Hookey

## BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN, MARYSVILLE

### The following was printed in the 2022-2023 LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Marysville, Washington, has been active in quilt making and assembling School and Baby Care kits, but when the Christian Service Group was doing a little spring cleaning in their a storeroom, a new project was born: Fabric Kits.

The group is fortunate to have a designated storeroom at the church for their supplies. While cleaning out the room, group members discovered large rolls of fabric that had not been used to quilting or other projects. They realized there was enough fabric to make several fabric Kits.

Twyla Lucas, a group member who is also a retired consumer science teacher, also contributed fabric from her personal collection. “We had wild prints and more subdued prints, in all different types of fabrics,” Twyla says. Twyla has been a member of the Christian Service Group, which meets monthly, for 15 years.

To Complete the Fabric Kits, the group purchased spools of coordinating thread and assembled about 20 kits. The Fabric Kits, along with the church’s quilts and other kits, are delivered to an LWR Ingathering collections about 25 miles away at First Lutheran Church in Bothell, Wash. It’s a simple project,” Twyla says, noting that anyone can get involved. “People can donate money or go buy the fabric themselves.”

LWR Fabric Kits provide tools to aspiring tailors to learn and practice sewing skills. Families in Burkina Faso use the fabric and thread to mend their clothing and extend the life of their limited wardrobes. In El Salvador, women are trained in making clothing for themselves and children, giving them the personal satisfaction of caring for their families in this way, as is traditional in rural communities. And in Mali, vocational training centers teach young women and girls to sew as a means of earning an income, building a brighter future for themselves and their families.



### Women of the ELCA’s community of women provide services in their churches, communities, and even the world.

**We engage in ministry;** we take action through advocacy; we promote healing and wholeness, and we support one another in our callings.

**We offer anti-racism training;** address domestic violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and human trafficking; and support families with special needs.

**We assist participants** in their desire to discern God’s call in their lives and to discover their spiritual gifts through workshops, retreats, resources, scholarships, and global education.

**We offer grants** to not-for-profit organizations, both domestic and international, that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women’s emotional, physical, and spiritual health.

Join us as we make a difference in the world.

# JUSTICE

## JUNETEENTH

Juneteenth is a holiday that commemorates the end of slavery in the United States. It recalls how the states of Louisiana and Texas heard the news that President Abraham Lincoln had signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Slavery continued

In those two states for more than two years after the proclamation was signed because the word had yet to travel there. Texas and Louisiana finally got the news on June 19, 1865. Former slaves broke out in spontaneous celebration. These were dangerous times. Even in the face of resistance and threat, the formerly enslaved Africans found ways to give voice to the wide range of thoughts and emotions at the announcement of the end of legalized slavery in the United States.

One way to celebrate this momentous occasion is with food (always my first thought when there's an occasion to celebrate!). The "Sweet Home Cafe Cookbook; A Celebration of African American Cooking," suggests the following Juneteenth menu:

Texas Caviar  
Barbecued Beef Brisket Sandwich  
Potato Salad  
Stewed Tomatoes & Okra  
High Mesa Peach & Blackberry Cobbler  
Sweet Cherry Lemonade

If you are interested in preparing any of these dishes, please contact me at [gaye@tobysuds.com](mailto:gaye@tobysuds.com) and I will be more than happy to share the recipe with you.

Be encouraged by these words, taking ahold of our history in such way that it becomes nourishment and guidance for journeying into our future:

"Always remember, you have strength within you, the strength, the patience, and the passion to reach for the stars to change the world. Now I've been free, I know what a dreadful condition slavery is. I have seen hundreds of escaped slaves, but I never saw one who was willing to go back and be a slave." ~~ Harriet Tubman

"Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one's thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist. That, of all the rights, is the dread of tyrants. It is the right which they first of all strike down. They know its power. Thrones, dominions, principalities, and powers, founded in injustice and wrong are sure to tremble, if men are allowed to reason..."

Equally clear is the right to hear. To suppress free speech is a double wrong. It violates the rights of the hearer as well as those of the speaker." ~~ Frederick Douglas

Holy and righteous God, you created us in your image. Grant us grace to contend fearlessly against evil and to make no peace with oppression. Help us, like those of generations before who resisted the evil of slavery and human bondage in any form and any manner of oppression. Help us to use our freedom to bring justice among people and nations everywhere, to the glory of your Holy name through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Shalom, Gaye

\*\*Adapted from ELCA 2019 Juneteenth Worship Resource

## REGION 1 WELCA GATHERING 2022

The 2022 gathering was hosted by, the Montana Synod Women at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp, located just south of Lakeside, Montana, June 17-19. Upon arrival after my drive from Mount Vernon, Washington, camp counselors met us and transported our luggage to our assigned lodging after a stop at the dining hall where we signed in, received our folders and lodging assignments. I was assigned to the camps' new accessible Lakeview Lodging, complex which also includes a small conference room. All bunk beds in camp lodging are covered with beautiful quilts used as mattress pads on the plastic mattress coverings over which I placed my sleeping bag.

Our workshop leader for the weekend was Prairie Rose Seminole who is an Indigenous Fellowship grant recipient with the National Parks Conservation Association through 2024. She spoke to us eloquently and passionately about the importance of community, learning and sharing our stories. One question she left us with, 'Why am I a Lutheran', which gave many of us pause to reflect. In fact, some of the Montana women thought this would be a good topic for a future retreat.

Rekindling friendships, making new friends and being in this beautiful part of God's creation was a weekend filled with love, hugs, laughter and singing including a campfire down by the lake Saturday evening and a meaningful Sunday morning worship. An evening pontoon boat ride was a highlight with Pastor Grant Applehans shared the history of the camp and pointed out various sites where camping happens, including a cherry orchard to which campers can canoe, pick cherries and return to camp with them.

Offerings collected from the Silent Auction and Sunday Worship were sent to Katies Endowment Fund at Women of the ELCA where a new \$1 Million campaign has begun to expand Katie's fund with more opportunities to impact the world for the sake of the Gospel, all in honor of Katharina Van Bora, a bold and practical woman of faith.

True confession and apologies, I have gone to the Montana Synod Women's retreats for some 20 years thus I received this information and truly didn't connect that it clearly said: Region I Gathering so I have to apologize for not sending it to NW Washington SWO leadership which, come to find out hadn't received the information. At this time I do not know who will host the 2025 Region I Gathering.

~With God's love, Janice Stepp

Salem Lutheran Church, Mount Vernon, Washington

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### The Impact of Actions and Non-Actions

Before Jesus revealed himself to Paul, Paul persecuted Christians because he thought they practiced a false religion, one different from Judaism. Through his experience on the road to Damascus (Acts 9), Paul comes to recognize Jesus as the Messiah, the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel.

Martin Luther frequently draws a connection between Jesus' question to Paul, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 9:4) and Jesus' words in the parable of the last judgment, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

Remember that Jesus is speaking of acts like feeding the hungry, visiting the sick and imprisoned, and welcoming the stranger. When Luther interprets Matthew 25:40 in light of Acts 9:4, he challenges us to look beyond clear examples of violent persecution and to recognize the serious impact of our actions and non-actions on others.

*This message is excerpted from the Bible study "We are called" by Kathryn A. Kleinhans in the January/February 2020 Gather magazine.*

## OH, THE MANY HATS WE WEAR

Taken from the WELCA Blog  
by Linda Post Bushkofsky

**Reading:** Philippians 4:6-7. Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. (The Message)

Several years ago, when Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles were married, much was written about the hats worn by guests...on what was the biggest millinery event of that social season... the showstopper was the hat worn by the new Duchess of Cornwall – a gold-ostrich feather hat tipped with Swarovski diamond crystals.



The biggest millinery event here on this side of the pond might be the Kentucky Derby... One reviewer described the race as including "collection of wild, wonderful hats that were both imaginative and beautiful." I have a few hats in my closet – but certainly, nothing to rival Camilla's or any of those seen at the Kentucky Derby. These amazing hats got me thinking: as disciples of Jesus, we wear many hats. As an ode to our faith-inspired millinery, if you will, I offer up the following litany that I wrote a few years ago for my congregational unit.

### A Litany for the Many Hats We Women Wear

We give you thanks, gracious God, for all the beauty in our lives – the toothy grin of a child, the striking song of a cardinal, the delicate flowers of lilacs, the wrinkles of an aging hand.

**Ever adorn us, O God, with skimmers and bonnets that we can wear for no other reason than their sheer beauty.**

We confess our failure to care for all of creation that you have entrusted to us, and our willingness to look away from hunger and need and brokenness.

**Forgive our sins, O God, and keep us from hiding under hoods and veils that mask reality and prevent us from confronting injustice.**

We may not all be educators, gracious God, but many turn to us looking for answers, seeking advice, and asking for help.

**Keep our mortarboards on straight, O God, that we might offer wisdom and understanding to our families, friends, and co-workers.**

Healing God, many we know and love are suffering today, from abuse, addiction, or illness. We pause now to remember those in our lives in need of care....

**When we are called to put on the nurse's cap, aid us, O God, to assist in bringing about the healing of body, mind, and spirit.**

The challenges and trials we face, gracious God, are sometimes overwhelming. We pause now to remember the matters that weigh heavily on our hearts and minds this day....

**Gird us, O God, with hard hats and helmets to protect us when everything is falling in around us.**

We give you thanks, gracious God, for all the roles to which we as women are called: baptized child of God, daughter, sister, mother, aunt, wife, partner, friend, teacher, nurturer.

**Sustain, strengthen, and support us, O God, all the days of our lives. Amen.**

## TREASURER'S REPORT

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

\$400 contributed anonymously  
 Cross of Christ Lutheran, Bellevue  
 Oak Harbor Lutheran  
 Peace Lutheran, Seattle  
 Prince of Peace, SeaTac  
 Queen Anne Lutheran, Seattle

Remember to use Form A and send your offerings to:

Gaye Rodriguez  
 PO Box 219  
 Coupeville, WA 98239-0219

Shalom, Gaye Rodriguez  
 NW WA SWO Treasurer



### 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.



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.

CONGREGATION	CONGREGATION NUMBER
CONGREGATION CITY/STATE	CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER NAME
UNIT TREASURER NAME	PHONE NUMBER
ADDRESS	EMAIL
CITY/STATE	ZIP
DESCRIPTION	
<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.

ELCAWO1021  
 Form updated 5/2017

## 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 [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> \$	
DESIGNATED GIFTS & SPECIAL OFFERINGS (PLEASE SPECIFY)		
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
	\$	
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$	

## 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)



### 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.

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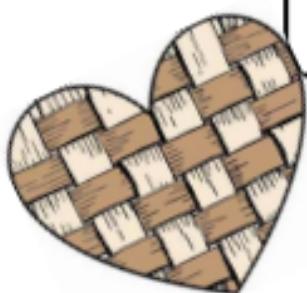
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Our Savior's, Everett



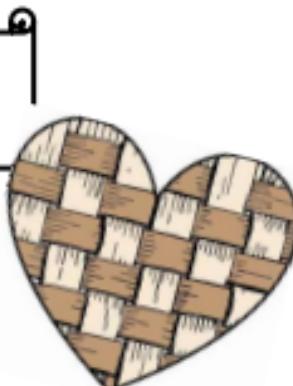
The **synodical women's organizations** (SWOs) establish a partnership with units in their geographic areas and with the churchwide women's organization. SWOs exist to support women of the ELCA. Each SWO has a board whose members are elected at an annual or biennial convention by voting members from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

Registration form  
**2022 NW WA Synodical Women's Retreat**  
**Saturday, October 1, 2022**  
**9:00 AM – 3:30 PM**



## Woven Together in Love

*So we are convinced that every detail of our lives  
is continually woven together for good.  
Romans 8:28a*



*I want you woven into a tapestry of love,  
in touch with everything there is to know of God.  
Colossians 2:2*

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**7215 51<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE, Marysville, Washington**

**Retreat leaders: the Rev. Cara Tanis & Gaye Rodriguey**

**Registration cost:** \$30 (*includes lunch*), due by Sept. 1, 2022 (*After Sept. 1, \$40, due by Sept. 16.*)

**Make your check payable to:**

Northwest Washington Synodical Women's Organization [NW WA SWO]

**Memo line notation:** 2022 Women's Retreat

→ **Mail check & registration form to** Jackie Bacus, 6720 E Greenlake Way N, #625, Seattle, WA 98103

**More information** will be provided after your registration is received.

**Questions?** Phone Sandra Albertson, 425-330-6308, or Twyla Lucas, 425-299-2287



*For clarity, please **print** the following registration information:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP Code: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Home congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

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: Gaye Rodriguez, PO Box 219, Coupeville, WA 98239

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



NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization