

## THE ECHO

NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization

**JUNE 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.

#### **COMING UP**

SYNODICAL WOMEN'S CONVENTION AND GATHERING October 21 Registration form Page 5



Greetings to my sisters in Christ!

Spring has definitely been showing its colors! It's been wonderful to see and smell God's wonderful creations that His people have planted creatively. God is blessing us!

I had the opportunity to attend both synod gatherings in Mt Vernon and Bellevue in May. Being with several hundred like-minded people was indeed a blessing for me. Worshipping together, learning about different church-related issues and community-related non-profits, seeing people that I knew as well as meeting new people, and sharing information about WELCA with other congregations was uplifting. I hope that you might take an opportunity (like I just had) to attend the next year that the synod gathers in one place. God is blessing us through others!

As you read this newsletter, consider attending our convention on October 21<sup>st</sup> at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Everett. You will continue to learn more about our local WELCA and hear our guest speaker, Beth Lewis, share her insight about living a faith-filled life. More information and a registration form can be found in this newsletter. God will bless us in the fall!

Some of us will be attending the 2023 Triennial in Phoenix in September. We plan to gather one night to see who we are and share our experiences thus far (and of course, how and what we can bring back to our congregations!) I know that we will have much to be thankful for when we are surrounded by thousands of women listening to and sharing how God has worked and is working through them in their communities, our nation, and even globally! God will indeed bless us in the fall!

I hope that you are looking forward to the upcoming event(s) like I am. Let's continue to keep our congregations, our synod, our families, our friends, and ourselves in prayer! Let's share the blessings that God has given us and will continue to give us with each other!

In Christ's abundant love and grace,
Twyla Lucas, president of the NW WA Synod #1B

#### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have an influence on the NW women's synod board? We have openings to be filled at the local convention on October 21<sup>st</sup>. We are looking for a Vice President, Treasurer, and at-large positions. You can help make a difference. Please consider sharing your talents with this group. We are a great bunch of ladies and would love to include you.

Also, this newsletter belongs to everyone, and we would like to know what your church is doing. Please send a quick email to the editor (listed on the back) with any activities that the woman of your church are taking part in. We would LOVE to hear from you!

Our NW WA SWO Constitution states:

Article VI—Conventions

Section 2. Representation

Item 1. Voting members of a convention shall be the elected officers or SWO leaders and board members of the synodical women's organization and one voting member from each unit on the roll of this synodical women's organization.

Item 2. Those congregations not represented by a unit shall be invited to send to the regular convention one representative who shall have seat and voice.

#### NW WASHINGTON SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

#### NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICER\BOARD MEMBER

e-mail: wnjbacus@hotmail.com

phone (h) 206-774-5169

Nominee must be a voting member of ELCA Congregation. As many may be nominated as are interested. Term of office is two years. (2023 – 2025) Diversity is important (ethnicity, age, geographical location).

6720 E Greenlake Way N #625

Jackie Bacus

Congregation

#### Nominations should be postmarked by September 20, 2023, or sent by e-mail to:

.03	phone (c) 20	6-799-3363		
Cell	E	mail		
er than English)				
th a disability	_ If yes, please spe	cify		
ed in congregational ac	tivities	_yes _	no	
ership role in our cong	regation	_yes _	no	
ing nominated for:				
Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer	Member at Large	
nt experiences the nor	ninee has had that	would qualify her	to be a NW WA SWO bo	ard
as offices held, congr	egational leadership	p, community activ	vities and/or leadership.)	
ng this person's name i	n nomination.			
	Cell er than English) th a disability ed in congregational accership role in our cong eing nominated for:Vice-President nt experiences the nor as offices held, congr			CellEmail  than English)  that disability If yes, please specify  that disability no  that disability no

Location

#### Looking Ahead

### Triennial Gathering 2023 Experience the theme "Just Love" September 21-24, 2023 at the Phoenix, Arizona Convention Center

Why Attend?

- 1. Recreate your faith
- 2. Rekindle friendships and make new ones
- 3. Walk, Run and Roll to support the WELCA Initiative to raise healthy women and girls. (We get up early one morning to do this then grab a quick shower to get ready for the day)
- 4. Appreciate the quilts made by quilters accepting the Gathering Quilt Challenge.
- 5. Participate in service projects.
- 6. Relax, laugh, sing, learn, be inspired by God in new ways.
- 7. Give and receive hugs
- 8. Enjoy fellowship with women of all ages.
- 9. Bask in the joy of God.
- 10. Have fun!

Northwest Washington Synod will have a hospitality room where you can come to relax and enjoy time with friends! We will arrange to have a Synod Women's group photo; most likely on Friday the 22nd.

You will want to bring comfortable shoes and clothes, a sweater or shawl as the air conditioning can make for a cold experience in the meeting room, a bag or backpack for carrying a notebook and pen and other necessities. Meals are on your own.

WELCAtg.org is the website to go to for all the current information about our speakers, worship and bible study leaders. Questions? Call me, Janice Stepp 425-210-2733

#### NWWA Synodical Women's Convention October 21, 2023, Everett WA Circle this date on your calendar.

For WHAT you say? It's the date for the NWWA Synodical Women's Convention.

WHERE: Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Everett, WA

WHAT TIME: 9:00 am - 3:30 pm

We know this seems like a long way off, but the ladies of the NWWA Board have already been making plans.

Our Theme: GOT FAITH?

Our Speaker: Beth Lewis. (Bio on page 6) She will lead us in three sessions: Your Faith Journey, Called to

Serve and Share it!

Coffee, tea and water will be provided. Along with a special treat for morning coffee and a box lunch. Did I say all this for \$30? There will be a short business meeting at the beginning and the end of the convention. Then we will close with a communion service led by Pastor Deb Squires.

More information will be shared as it gets closer to the convention. Have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing you on October 21. Submitted by Phyllis Hewson, Member at Large

Registration on page 5



Registration form

2023 NW WA Synodical Women's Convention & Gathering

Saturday, October 21 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM

#### Guest Speaker: Beth Lewis

Beth is a popular keynote speaker and teacher in faith-based and corporate gatherings on a wide variety of topics. She will be speaking to us about our faith journey — living it and sharing it.

#### Our Savior's Lutheran Church 215 Mukilteo Boulevard, Everett, Washington

Registration cost: \$30 (includes lunch), due by Oct. 1, 2023 (After Oct.1, \$40, due by Oct. 11)

The registration fee is nonrefundable but may be transferred to another attendee.

#### Make your check payable to:

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

Memo line notation: 2023 Convention & Gathering

Mail check & registration form to Gaye Rodriguey, 228 Rhodena Dr., Coupeville, WA 98239

More information will be provided after your registration is received

Questions? Phone Twyla Lucas, 425-299-2287, or Gaye Rodriguey, 360-632-1579



	,
For clarity, please <b>print</b> the following registration information:	
Name:	
Address:	
City/State/ZIP Code:	
E-mail address:	
Phone number:	
Home congregation:	



Biographical Sketch: Beth A. Lewis

Beth is the Principal for Getting2Transformation, through which she serves as an independent director for several boards, as keynote speaker and workshop leader, and she provides consulting for both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations on financial and cultural transformation, strategy and governance.

She is also Executive Director for the PCPA (Protestant Church-Owned Publishers Association). In addition, she is President & CEO Emeritus of 1517 Media, the ministry of publishing of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), having served as CEO 2002-2018. In 2015 the organization was named one of the Top Workplaces in Minnesota by the Minneapolis Star Tribune and she was also recognized with the Women in Business Award by the Minneapolis/St. Paul Business Journal.

Prior to working for 1517 Media, Beth was an entrepreneur/owner of Computer Coach, Inc. in Boca Raton, Florida. Before that she worked in a wide variety of roles including CMO and general management for Time Warner, McGraw-Hill and Times Mirror.

Originally from Lexington, KY, Beth is a lifelong Lutheran. She attended the University of Kentucky and completed her undergraduate degree at Maryville University in St. Louis. She is also a graduate of the Advanced Management Program of the Harvard Business School. In May 2008, she received the Doctor of Divinity honorary degree from the Wartburg Theological Seminary.

Beth is a popular keynote speaker and teacher in faith-based and corporate gatherings on a wide variety of topics to assist organizational leaders: from turnaround strategies to strategic thinking to best practices in governance for boards of directors.

Since 2017, Beth has served as Chair of the Board of Directors for the Thrivent Credit Union. In addition, she served as Secretary and on the Executive Committee for the Luther Seminary Board of Directors. She also served on the Synod Council for the Northwest Washington Synod of the ELCA.

Beth is married to the Rev. Dr. Richard (Rick) Rouse, author of several books related to congregational life and mission. Beth & Rick are often invited together as speakers for church leaders. They are active at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Everett, WA. Beth and Rick have three adult children and four grandchildren.

www.linkedin.com/in/bethalewis www.facebook.com/beth.lewis www.getting2transformation.com bethlewis@getting2transformation.com

#### KATIE'S FUND GRANT

Every WELCA Synod in the United States received a \$1000 grant from Katie's Fund this year. The grant was required to be used in one of three areas: Living Theology, Leadership Development or Global Partnership.

Our board of directors chose to concentrate on "Living Theology". Our October convention this year will be about Faith—Your journey, living it and sharing it. Our guest speaker will be Beth Lewis. See above.

The grant will pay for our speaker, the facility, personnel usage, and other expenses that we incur. A big thank you to our nationwide organization!

#### AROUND THE SYNOD

#### REFLECTIONS ON THE NORTHWEST WASHINGTON SYNOD GATHERING

by Tina Georgeson

Many Lutheran brothers and sisters gathered on two Saturdays in May to talk, to learn, and to see and greet old friends. The atmosphere was full of energy and enthusiasm.

The day started with a Worship Service led by Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee; she called us to be of service in our congregations, in our communities, and in the world. The music was uplifting, the sermon was inspiring, the chance to worship in person with so many was invigorating. We broke bread together and shared the peace with our neighbors, so joyful.

The three break-out sessions scheduled throughout the day featured a variety of topics:

- Sacred Spaces Wild Church to Sacred Spaces - Creative Church
- Ways to Engage GenZ congregants in worship and service to Mediation to offset Burn-Out
- One Prisoner One Church to Church Financial Practices
- Prompting Conversations with Indigenous Peoples
- Participating in a service with another church community

And so many more; they were all well organized and the session leaders were engaging.

During lunch, many established service organizations were presented as we ate our lunch. Women of the ELCA (WELCA) had a presence during this time. The number of women that stopped by was inspiring; they signed up to receive the Echo by email and to perhaps serve on the WELCA board.

The gathering ended in prayer and communal singing; filled with the Holy Spirit we went on our way to spread the Good News. What a wonderful way to spend a Saturday.

#### FAITH FAMILY VILLAGE UPDATE

Faith Family Village in Everett, WA, is finally becoming a reality. Contractor bidding takes place in June and in July construction will finally begin. Before school starts, families with kids will be moving into their own safe, secure pallet homes. There will be 8 pallet homes with 2 bathroom buildings which can house a total of 32 people.

Faith Lutheran quilters have been busy making quilts for each person. They have made over 50 beautiful quilts already. That sounds like a lot, doesn't it? Well, every 90 days these 32 people will move into their own permanent housing. Then the next 32 family members will move in. When families move out, they will take their quilts and other donated items to their new homes. The new families will all need quilts and things next. For one year of operation, we will need almost 100 quilts.

Faith Family Village is asking for other generous Lutheran women and men to help us. Can your church quilters help us with these and also pillow covers? These items sewn especially for them will remind them that someone and God loves them.

We are also looking for a church that might want to help us build a playground. Want to get your hands dirty? We need to take out 10 year old beauty bark and put down foam cushion for the children to land on when playing. We have a playhouse and a 20 year old merry go round but we could use swings and something to climb on. Its a big ask but when you see kids who are right now sleeping in a car or in a tent, I think laughter and joy and security for these kids will make your heart burst with joy also.

If you are interested in learning more about Faith Family Village, please contact the Director Roxana Boroujerdi at <a href="mailto:funtimesicecream@yahoo.com">funtimesicecream@yahoo.com</a> or call her at 425-971-0402. You may also contact Pastor Pam at Faith Lutheran Everett.



#### Treasurer's Report



Thank you to the following churches for their offerings to our Synodical Women's Organization: Cross of Christ Lutheran, Bellevue

Oak Harbor Lutheran
Peace Lutheran, Seattle
Queen Anne Lutheran, Seattle

Shalom, Gaye

#### 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.



#### 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	ZIPCODE REG/SYNO
UNIT TREASURER NAME	PHONE NUMBER
ADDRESS	EMAIL
CITY/STATE	ZIP

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

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. And write "Katie's Fund" 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. (See above)

#### **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





#### TRIENNIAL SCHOLARSHIPS GIVEN

Our group gave scholarships to three women who will be attending the WELCA Triennial (in Phoenix) as first timers! Karen Fuentes and Joy Jones, both from Peace Lutheran in Silvana, and Tina Georgeson from Phinney Ridge Lutheran in Seattle were the recipients. Each scholarship pays the registration fee for the gathering and includes a \$500 stipend to use for other expenses. Congratulations to each!

Enjoy, learn, and share your experiences with your family and friends, your congregation, and of course, our WELCA group in a future newsletter!

**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 everywoman 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 <a href="https://www.BoldCafe.org">www.BoldCafe.org</a> 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



#### TO LOVE AND NOT JUDGE

In the final chapter of Jonah, the prophet is huffing and puffing because God had stayed the hand of judgment on a people (the Ninevites) that he thought should have been punished.

Let us learn from this stubborn prophet that God's love is for the entire world. Our prayer each day should be for those who are lost. Instead of huffing and puffing about how we think God should be running the universe, let us submit our wills to God's and ask to be used to bring others to a saving knowledge of

Jesus. God calls us not to judge others but to love them. When we personally experience God's great mercy and compassion as the Ninevites did, we can share that grace with others. May God use these lessons from Jonah to help us hear and obey the call as we go out into the world.

Prayer: Lord, you are calling me to paths I'm unsure of. Help me to put behind me any prejudice I may have toward others. Empower me with your love to see all people as your children. In Christ's name I pray. Amen.

This message is excerpted from "Called to obey God," a 2002 Women of the ELCA resource, written by Cynthia E. Cowen.

Note: I encourage you to subscribe to Daily Grace by signing up on the Women of ELCA website. Shalom, Gaye



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.



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—2023 NW Washington Synodica

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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



