



# THE ECHO

NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization

SEPTEMBER 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 Northwest Washington SWO Sisters in Christ!*

The summer season is ending faster than my younger self remembers and too fast for my older self to accomplish all my commitments and even some of my desires/wants! As I write these greetings to each of you on the evening of their due date, I wonder what I need to change to feel less distraught and more “on top of things”. I will give excuses for myself by saying that I am a procrastinator, but still manage to get things done on time...but it doesn't always make the “inside me” feel better.

When reading a devotional from “Christ in the Home” last week at our synod board meeting, the message referred to beginnings and endings, days and nights. Every day has a beginning and an end. Some days might be repetitive, some might be disruptive, some might be filled with joy. Each beginning and ending gives us the opportunities to start and end with God. To discover our patterns, to work through our rough times and to remember and believe that we are blessed, loved, and given grace because we are children of God! I need to remember this daily!

The next seven weeks are going to be busy for some members of this synod. More than 35 of us are going to the **2023 JUST LOVE Triennial** in Phoenix, AZ in September! Upon our return, there will be sharing in our home congregations, at our October convention, and in our next Echo newsletter about the happenings at this three-day gathering.

Then on October 21st, our convention happens at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Everett. Three of you have registered already, but the board is looking for more registrations to arrive by the beginning of October! Fill out the form and send in your check, and yes, we're still old school for payment! We will be electing new members at large and some officer positions then, so fill that form out too!! Dare I say, a new beginning for some board members and an end for some of our current board members!

We always want to hear how you and your congregation are spreading God's message to others. Share those good things with us by sending us an article to be published in our Echo newsletter! May this summer season continue to give you daily comfort and blessings in all that you do for yourself, for others and for God!

*~Twyla Lucas, president of the NW WA Synod #1B*

### **2023 Triennial Attendees Meet and Greet Gathering**

Where: at the home of Janice Stepp  
When: Wednesday September 6, 2023  
Time: 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Zoom offering is in the works...contact Janice for more information.

This is your opportunity to learn what Triennial Gathering is all about especially if this is your first time, what to expect when you arrive at the Sheraton while becoming acquainted with other women who you will be on this journey with you. Once in Phoenix we will set a time for a group picture and an opportunity to gather in a hospitality space just for NW Washington Women.

Please call me or send an e-mail if you will be attending. At the meet and greet we will have an opportunity to share information.

Janice Stepp, 425-210-2733  
[wmpjms@gmail.com](mailto:wmpjms@gmail.com)  
220 S. 48th Place  
Mount Vernon, WA 98274

## Looking Ahead

### **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 7

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### **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



NW WASHINGTON SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION  
**NOMINATION FORM**  
**FOR OFFICER\BOARD MEMBER**

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

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

Jackie Bacus  
6720 E Greenlake Way N #625  
Seattle, WA 98103

e-mail: [wnjbacus@hotmail.com](mailto:wnjbacus@hotmail.com)  
phone (h) 206-774-5169  
phone (c) 206-799-3363

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Nominee is a person with a disability \_\_\_\_\_ If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**The above person is being nominated for:**

\_\_\_\_President \_\_\_\_Vice-President \_\_\_\_Secretary \_\_\_\_Treasurer \_\_\_\_Member at Large

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

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

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

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

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



*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)

**Registration at the door** will be \$40 but will *not* include lunch.

**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 Rodriguez, 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 Rodriguez, 360-632-1579



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

➔ **I will be attending:** ☐ as a voting representative of my church and as a participant  
☐ only as a participant



## SPEAKER AT WOMEN'S CONVENTION IN OCTOBER

### 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](http://www.linkedin.com/in/bethalewis)  
[www.facebook.com/beth.lewis](http://www.facebook.com/beth.lewis)  
[www.getting2transformation.com](http://www.getting2transformation.com)  
[bethlewis@getting2transformation.com](mailto:bethlewis@getting2transformation.com)

## For Your Information

### Reflection on the Kingdom of God By Tina Georgeson

*People were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them; and when the disciples saw it, they sternly ordered them not to do it. But Jesus called for them and said, Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.*  
(Luke 18: 15-17)

“Do not stop them” a phrase that has meaning for all of us. We all are welcome at the table; there is a seat waiting for all of us. However, just as the disciples tried to stop the children from seeing Jesus, we might sternly say, you are not welcome here; either in words or actions. How many people feel unwelcome or invisible in our congregations? With conscious effort, we are tasked to bring all to Jesus; the homeless, the different, the LBTGQ community, the disabled, children, youth and adults, all ethnicities, men and women — everyone. Each person in our congregations have a unique set of gifts, gifts of the Holy Spirit, which should be valued and savored so that we all can be like the children in Luke’s passage and come to Jesus with an innocence and childlike sense of wonder and awe.

### 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. Nomination form on page 5.

**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 back cover) 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.



## AROUND THE SYNOD



### Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Bellevue to sell to Habitat for Humanity



When I learned of their decision to sell their property valued at about \$5 million for only \$1 million to Habitat for Humanity, I decided that I wanted to learn more about this congregation.

**This description of Holy Cross Lutheran is taken from their website:**

*"We are a church that rolls up its sleeves and gets to work, seeking justice, peace and change in the world while working in partnership with others who share a common vision of serving and loving the world. From our early days meeting in the old farmhouse (1960?) to our recent reclamation of the orchard and partnership with Habitat with Humanity, understanding and maintaining this amazing resource has been a gift."*

I interviewed Ingrid Turner to learn more about her church and its tentative plans. She has been a member since about 2003 when they had 2 services. She was baptized Episcopalian and then joined the Lutheran church. Ingrid has been a member of the women's book group and a leader in the congregation. They did not have an active WELCA unit.

The church was established on February 5, 1961 when they purchased 4 acres of an original farm. Over time parcels from the original farm has been sold. St Margaret's Episcopal purchased what was the green house. Newport High School purchased a parcel that had been wheat fields. It is located near Factoria and Newport High School on a large piece of property (1.5 acres?) which includes an orchard of heirloom apples and a pea patch. The organic pea patch was started in 2010. Much of the produce grown is donated to a food bank. The orchard has been used for cider pressing and a partnership with "city fruit". Part of their property is being used for worship by a Korean (Lutheran?) congregation as well as a preschool and an apartment rental.

As it became apparent with their decreasing membership (currently about 12 members) that they would not be able to continue to maintain their property, they began to seek proposals from the community that would be a good fit with their mission and ministry. Some of these included teen transitional housing, Homestead, Bellevue Fire Department, and Habitat for Humanity.

The congregation voted on the proposal from Habitat for Humanity that would include 15 single family units (focusing on families at or below 80% average median income). This would include building a 3,000 sq. ft. worship/community space or remodeling the existing sanctuary. The current orchard, gardens and any landscaping would be maintained by the homeowner's association.

The purchase and sale will not be completed until the needed permits are obtained. I was inspired by their continued focus.

*Prepared by Jaqueline Bacus*



NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization



## CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN SNOHMISH WORKS WELL WITH OTHER CHURCHES

Snohomish held its first ever sanctioned PRIDE PARADE on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. It was a day of smiles, laughs and beautiful blue sky with more than a few hugs shared. After the parade, which was well represented by churches from both Snohomish and Everett there were games for children and popups that provided a wide variety of items for sale, and food trucks to feed bodies. At the same time four churches offered to feed souls with prayer and communion.

In their booth you see from left to right, Father Nigel, Pastor at St John Episcopal Church, Rev. Addie, Associate Pastor, at Snohomish 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church and Pastor Craig, Christ the King Lutheran Church. I am not certain where pastors Charlie and Ann who are co-pastors at 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian, Pastor Charlie walked with us and spent several hours in the booth as well. I'm looking forward to more of the same participation next year!



### Christmas in July VBS!



Fun times while  
we learned  
Jesus is always  
with us!



We didn't wait a year, Christ the King and the United Methodist Church joined for the second year, to put on the best Vacation Bible School in town in the last week of July.

Beginning in January, we worked together to create a program. Our theme was "Christmas in July!" We had everything you think of when you think of VBS: snacks, crafts, songs and stories about Jesus...including a live donkey for part of the day. Then we invited parents and grandparents to a pageant on Friday.

By the Monday of VBS we had over a hundred little angels registered - several more angels than our two churches had as members. We were ministering to the neighborhood. We were ecstatic.

They made pictures, quilts and wooden boats with the men from our Bible Study Group assisting. A professional actor directed the pageant and so many more taught and made the work easy.



*Information from Anita Huntley, Faith Community Nurse at Christ the King Lutheran Snohomish*

## 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



## 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.

ELCAWO1021

## 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. 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

# NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization Board 2022–2023

## **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  
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wnjbacus@hotmail.com

Phinney Ridge Lutheran, Seattle

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Our Savior's Lutheran, Everett

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Phinney Lutheran, Seattle

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Oak Harbor Lutheran

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## **MEMBER at LARGE**

Anita Huntley

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(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

**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 Misi.

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



NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization