

The *RIPPLE*



Expanding the Circle of SC Women of the ELCA

Check out our **website** for up-to-date information and pictures.
Go to <http://www.scwelca.com>.

Published by SC Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)

Fall 2020

*"Let all that you do be done in love."
1 Corinthians 16:14*



OUR 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."



President's Report



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Autumn has finally arrived, in all its majesty. God delights us with the beauty of the landscape with leaves of all shades of red, orange, and yellow. It's the season for football, pumpkins, Halloween and Thanksgiving. This time of year brings a renewed sense of hope and gratitude.

**"How rich and glorious are the blessings God has promised his holy people."
Ephesians 1:18 (from AnExtraordinaryDay.com)**

I believe we can all agree that the world is in a rough spot right now. Between the pandemic and the MANY hurricanes, fires, floods, and civil unrest, we find it hard to make sense of it all. COVID-19 has caused havoc in our lives. It has caused many of us to examine our priorities and slow our pace. As we spend our down time in daily reading of scripture, prayer, and meditation, we search for answers from God. God assures us that He will not desert us, and we find comfort in Him. *"And I'll praise you in this storm; and I will lift my hands. For you are who you are, no matter where I am."* Songwriters: Mark Hall, Bernie Herms

In the Winter 2020 issue of the Ripple I posed the question, "What new thing is the Holy Spirit calling you to do this year?" Shortly after that, COVID-19 shook our world and the Churchwide Executive Committee recommended that the people in positions scheduled for election remain until elections could be held in June 2021. I assure you that was NOT what I thought the Holy Spirit would call me to do. But I answered His call, and it is a privilege to be the SC WELCA President again this year.

Since we were unable to have convention or elections, at the September 20th Board meeting, the Board approved an election plan that we feel best suits our synodical organization. This process is outlined on page 13.

Under "normal" circumstances, we would be gearing up for fall conference meetings. We are all disappointed these meetings had to be cancelled. We will miss the opportunity to come together as a community of women to spend time in fellowship, worship and service.

During this uncertain and stressful time it seems weird to talk about being thankful. It may seem that God has social distanced himself from us, but the Bible assures us that is not the case. We've had to change our routines and adjust to a new normal. There is still much for which to be thankful. We are thankful for the medical experts who encourage us to wear masks (even though we hate them) and to practice social distancing. We praise God for the frontline heroes, for the soup kitchen workers who understand that hunger does not take a vacation, and for the ladies who make masks. We praise God from whom all blessings flow, and we are grateful for His grace and mercy. God is Good!

As a community of women called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, we must trust that God will use us in ways we could never imagine. Please continue to be cautious and use proper sanitary practices, but do not stop loving and caring for your neighbor.

The Board holds each of you in their hearts and lifts you up in prayer. We look forward to the time when we can safely gather in His name.

Peace, Love, and Grace,
Becky





Vice President's Report



As we are entering into the fall season, let us remember that this is the time of year for change. We will see the leaves changing colors and falling off trees. Our children will be entering a new year of school and change in teachers. This reminds us all that we have a chance for change in ourselves. I love to say every day God is still working on me. This is wonderful because we all can change to be more Christ like daily. God reminds us of this as the wind blows the leaves around this time of year. The change may be silent or invisible, but we feel God's love and know God is always with us. That reminds us we can change daily for the better.

The convention committee and I have been busy planning our convention for 2021. The theme is "Just Love". The convention Bible verse is 1 Corinthians 16:14 "Let all that you do be done in love." Our convention Hymn is "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling". We hope to have all the other major details in our Winter *RIPPLE*.

Please remember we are hoping that all conferences will have spring conference meetings. We hope to see you at a conference meeting in the Spring. I enjoy spending time with each of SC WELCA ladies.

I hope you and your families are staying safe during this pandemic. My thoughts and prayers are with each of SC WELCA ladies and families. I know I have been busy making bags for the elderly in my community. I've been helping the community businesses get supplies they need to help fight and prevent the illness from spreading. So, during this pandemic, I hope you find different ways for you to show God's love to one another.

Your sister in Christ,
Amanda Boatwright



SC WELCA CONVENTION

June 11-12, 2021 at Lutheran Church
of the Redeemer in Newberry





Report of the Secretary



Though COVID has kept us from our usual gatherings, the Board has still managed to keep in contact via Zoom and emails and updating information online. So, our newest approved minutes have all been placed on the website for you to access and read. Because we tried to keep our Zoom meetings short, our February Minutes did not get approved until our most recent September meeting. But at that time, we approved three sets of minutes. If you read them all, you will see the progression of our attempts to hold our usual convention in June. Obviously, it is now old news that it never happened. You know the old saying about the best laid plans of mice and men...

It seems like eons ago when we held our February meeting before the Camp Kinard Retreat. But those minutes explain why we decided to remove home addresses from the next Bulletin of Reports so that unwanted individuals will not be able to find our homes. At that time, we were still planning the convention and a lovely special reception in honor of the 50th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women.

Our April Zoom meeting was mainly about changing the convention to one day instead of the usual two. I hope you are all as happy as I was to see that despite fluctuating plans, we never wavered from continuing with our benevolence projects. Thanks to all of you who continued to support SCNCAC and LDR. See the Action Team Report for details about that.

By May, those minutes reflect how difficult it was for us to give up on holding the convention. But most of our convention attendees are in the high-risk category, so we voted on the side of caution. Even now, we cannot say for sure how COVID will affect our plans for next year. These minutes also review our financial status. We thank everyone who has remembered sending their financial support to our synodical organization.

Please stay safe as we venture out into the “new normal” for getting together and for attempting to continue our work for Jesus through WELCA.

- Linda Roland

REMINDER! Please send your congregational unit leader/officer updates to either my email or home address which is provided at the bottom of the form.

Treasurer's Report



Thank you to all who have been able to continue to send offerings to the SC WELCA during these unusual times. As of August 31, 2020, we have received \$8,615 in Regular Offerings (65% is sent to Churchwide), \$1,667 in Joy Offerings for ELCA Good Gifts and \$2,471 for the convention projects – SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers and Lutheran Disaster Response.

Although offerings are significantly below amounts budgeted for this year, most of our expenses are also below budget.

Since our 2020 convention was canceled, in accordance with our Constitution, at the September 20, 2020 Board meeting, the Board adopted the budget for February 2021 – January 2022 fiscal year and the audit report for the February 2019 – January 2020 fiscal year. These reports are included in this issue of the *RIPPLE*.

If you have any questions regarding your offerings or about the SC WELCA finances, please let me know.

May we continue to be able to be a blessing to others, even as we navigate during these unusual times.
Rachel Quesada, Treasurer

Women of the ELCA – Faithful Friends

Enrolling in Faithful Friends monthly giving program is one way to pay forward your love for Women of the ELCA. Faithful Friends provides ongoing and sustaining support for the churchwide ministries of WELCA. It's easy, safe and a powerful way to give to the next generation. Are you ready to sign up? Visit <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/faithfulfriends> for the details. Or call 800-638-3522, ext. 2730.



*South Carolina
Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America*

2020 Audit Review Committee

February 28, 2020

To: The Officers of the South Carolina Women of the ELCA

This audit review is in accordance with the Women of the ELCA constitution, amended at the 10th Triennial Convention, July 11-13, 2017. The annual accounting compilation or review may be conducted by an independent outside accountant or a review may be conducted by a committee appointed by the SWO board at the end of each fiscal year. The SC Synodical Board of the Women of the ELCA has appointed the undersigned as the Audit Review Committee for the fiscal year ending January 31, 2020.

This letter is to advise that we have reviewed the financial records for the South Carolina Women of the ELCA for the fiscal year 2019-2020. All of the financial policies set forth in the Standing Rules of the South Carolina Women of the ELCA have been followed. Each expense was approved by a member of the Synodical Board and co-signed by the President.

Our review indicated that the books and records of the organization were maintained in a very professional detailed manner. Funds were invested in institutions to achieve maximum earnings and security. Bank Accounts were reconciled monthly and reviewed by the SWO President. Complete detailed financial statements were submitted to the Synodical Board at each meeting.

Sincerely,

Virginia Herlong

Virginia Herlong,
Audit Committee Chair

Carolyn L. Torrence

Carolyn Torrence,
Committee Member

Karen S. Lucas

Karen Lucas,
Committee Member



South Carolina Women of the ELCA

Current and Proposed Budgets

	Current Budget 2/2020 to 1/2021		Proposed Budget 2/2021 to 1/2022	
Income/Receipts				
Regular Offerings	\$	30,000.00	\$	28,000.00
Joy Offering	\$	10,000.00	\$	10,000.00
CWO Designated Gifts	\$	1,000.00	\$	700.00
Convention Offering	\$	5,000.00	\$	5,000.00
Convention Income	\$	12,000.00	\$	12,000.00
Convention Project	\$	6,000.00	\$	6,000.00
Ripple Subscriptions	\$	600.00	\$	500.00
Interest Income	\$	200.00	\$	300.00
Total Income/Receipts	\$	64,800.00	\$	62,500.00
Expense/Disbursements				
Churchwide Programs				
CWO Regular Offering	\$	19,500.00	65%	\$ 18,200.00
Joy Offering	\$	10,000.00	100%	\$ 10,000.00
CWO Designated Gifts	\$	1,000.00	100%	\$ 700.00
Synodical Programs				
Convention Expense	\$	14,500.00		\$ 14,500.00
Convention Project	\$	8,500.00		\$ 8,500.00
Ripple Publication	\$	3,000.00		\$ 2,800.00
Triennial Incentive/Travel	\$	1,000.00		\$ 1,000.00
Benevolence	\$	3,000.00		\$ 3,000.00
Conference of Presidents	\$	500.00		\$ 500.00
Mission Action	\$	600.00		\$ 600.00
Mission Community	\$	600.00		\$ 600.00
Mission Growth	\$	600.00		\$ 600.00
Board Expense	\$	1,000.00		\$ 800.00
Finance and Stewardship	\$	1,000.00		\$ 700.00
Total Expense/Disbursements	\$	64,800.00		\$ 62,500.00

Proposed Budget for 2/2021 to 1/2022 was adopted by Board at 9/20/2020 meeting since 2020 convention was cancelled.

COMMUNITY

Community Committee Goals 2020-2021:

- Provide up to date information to the members of SC WELCA via the SC WELCA Facebook page and website.
- Promote the use of WELCA and ELCA provided Bible Studies.
- Promote the local and global projects of SC WELCA.
- Encourage the participation of young women in WELCA sponsored events.
- Continue promoting the use of the Congregational Corner to bring the women of SC WELCA closer together.

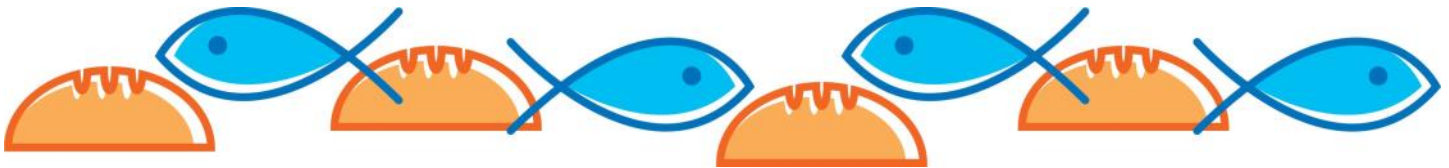
We were disappointed that we could not hold fall conference meetings. The Churchwide board is developing tools for holding virtual gatherings that we look forward to sharing with you as we learn more. Your Sisters in Christ,

Kristin Snelgrove (Chair)

Amanda Sease-Baker

Sherry Fowler (*The RIPPLE* editor)

Karen Freeman (Facebook editor)



CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

WELCA members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Greenwood work with a small group of dedicated volunteers to prepare and serve between 100-175 meals every week

at their Soup Kitchen on Sundays. During the pandemic, they prepare meals which they serve in to-go boxes to clients who go through an outside line.

At St. Paul's in Aiken officers have been calling circle members to check in and share their faith. They also published an article in their congregational newsletter encouraging women to connect with one another by pausing for a moment of prayer at the time they would usually meet. For those few minutes they could all feel connected through prayer. They also helped with making children's face masks for the SC WELCA project and have donated a total of 145 masks.



ACTION

As previously communicated in June 2020, the projects for the SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (SCNCAC) and Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) will carry over to our next convention. We are delighted to report below our interim contributions that have been delivered in person to the SCNCAC and by mail to LDR.



SCNCAC \$1538.10 Check Donation
SCNCAC \$305 Gift Cards Donation
LDR \$1483.65 Check Donation

Executive Director Tom Knapp, Program Director Liz Szawarski, and CAC-MDT Development Coordinator Nikki Williams were all grins and so appreciative of your gifts and this labor of love.

The Executive Director of SCNCAC said:

"South Carolina Network of Children's Advocacy Centers is grateful for the outpouring of generosity and support the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America have shown in supporting Children's Advocacy Centers in our state. Your gracious monetary donations and donations of gift cards and hand-sewn masks have been integral during these uncertain times. Thank you for helping us meet our continued mission of ensuring the wellbeing of children impacted by abuse and neglect."

The Reverend and Director, ELCA World Hunger and Disaster Appeal, Daniel Rift said in a letter to SC WELCA:

"Your spirit-filled generosity is helping families and communities reeling from disasters here in the United States and around the world. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future."

Any additional monetary or gift card contributions received will count toward the 2021 cycle of contributions for the projects. Monetary donations and gift cards should be sent to the SC WELCA treasurer. Post-August, the Action team will continue to reevaluate the Lutheran Disaster Response actions regarding the pandemic and other disasters and may amend or supplement the global project recommendation based on the evolving situation and prioritized needs, including but not limited to the needs of the SC Synod, our region, the church wide organization, and our neighbors around the globe.

Many thanks to the ladies of SC WELCA across the state who so lovingly responded to the Call for Action regarding our face mask project for the SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (SCNCAC). As of August 26, we had delivered 509 masks, and our gifts were timely indeed as the centers were slowly reopening to provide in-person services. By mid-October, we have received another 285 masks for an updated total of 794 masks so far! We encourage those who wish to do so to continue in this loving act of service as the need appears to be ongoing for the foreseeable future.

The centers prefer adult size and child size masks for 4-12 year-olds, The centers do not need masks for children under the age of 4 due to the risk of suffocation. The links to patterns we had shared previously are <https://thestitchingscientist.com/2020/04/child-size-face-mask.html> and on the CDC site <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>. Finally, if you find it in your heart to do so, please continue your prayers for these children and their caregivers, who may face scary circumstances already, that they are kept safe during this ongoing global crisis.

Please contact Rae Davis at 803.569.1568 or rdvs297@gmail.com with questions.



GROWTH

The Mission Growth Committee for 2020-2021 is committed to continue to grow in our faith and in our sisterhood with activities to support the following goals:

- Encourage women to attend retreats at Camp Kinard, the Isle of Palms, and the Wild Women weekend at Lutheridge by providing information and publicizing activities.
- Provide information that encourages the building of relationships among generations through mentoring.
- Support and promote ELCA church-wide efforts to address natural disasters, and support the SC Network of Children's Advocacy Centers which is the SCWELCA Convention project.

The Camp Kinard retreat has tentatively been scheduled for the first weekend in February. With the current COVID restrictions, and not knowing the status in February, it is unclear as to whether or not we will have the retreat in 2021. The committee will be prepared if the situation seems favorable for an in-person retreat. We will also be exploring some options other than an in-person retreat. Look for more information in upcoming *RIPPLE* publications or via email.

Your Sisters in Christ, Merri Lewis, Sarah Cheesman, Denise Warren, Agnes Folk and Sallie Folk



50th Anniversary Committee

The 50th Anniversary Committee for Ordained female pastors in South Carolina is busy planning a wonderful blessed celebration for the pastors. We are planning to invite all the female pastors that were ordained in South Carolina to our worship service after our convention. We will have them help with the different parts of the worship service. We will honor them and show our gracious appreciation for their service. Then we will invite the female pastors to a reception to mingle with fellow pastors and ladies across the state for fellowship. We will be serving light refreshments and be presenting gifts of appreciation from SC WELCA for all their service to their churches and SC Synod. We can't wait to see all these wonderful blessed ladies at convention. We are truly blessed to have so many beautiful female pastors in our wonderful state of South Carolina.

Amanda Boatwright, Chair
Sarah Cheesman
Amanda Cruse
Merri Lewis
Amanda Sease Baker





SC WELCA LADIES SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES DURING THE PANDEMIC

What this Pandemic and Quarantine Has Been Like for Me

I have definitely had my ups and downs this year. In some respects, I wish I could just erase 2020 from my mind but then I stop and think of the good I have experienced during this time of uncertainty in our lives.

In February my beautiful, smart, and loving niece passed away from a brain tumor. Leigh was diagnosed in early January. Even though her battle was short it was not without severe pain, surgeries and seizures. For our family, especially her parents and older sister, this has been the most difficult thing that we have ever had to endure. We continue to grieve and keep asking God why Leigh? She was only 31 years old, the same age as our own daughter. Leigh was a brilliant high school science teacher and she gave her all for her students and those that she loved. Her students also loved her very much in return.

Being in quarantine for us has meant that we have had to face the grief of losing a loved one and not really being able to be there for Leigh's parents and her amazing sister. But it has given us time to reflect on our loss by reading books on grief that have helped us realize that maybe God took Leigh quickly before all of this pandemic illness hit the world. Leigh's mother and I discussed that if Leigh had been alive during all of this craziness, she would possibly have been alone in the hospital while getting her treatments and suffering alone. Just the thought of her in a hospital and no one able to be with her was a horrible thought. That makes us think that it was God's way of saving Leigh and her family from the torture of being separated from her during those hard times.

As time has gotten a little better, we now know what measures are necessary to protect ourselves and those we love from Covid-19. Our home has been a safe haven for my sister-in-law, brother-in-law and our niece. We have enjoyed weekends together, good food and wine. We have had a chance to lean on one another and have great conversations. For that we are so grateful. We have seen firsthand people reaching out and caring for all of us. We have felt the prayers being lifted up to us and we see Leigh in the beauty of the sky, trees, mountains which give us some comfort that she is resting in her heavenly Father's arms.

I have had time to make memory quilts from Leigh's favorite t-shirts for a few loved ones. I have started sessions with a spiritual director. I have started my own personal Bible Study and spending time with God. I'm trying to rebuild a relationship with him and getting over my anger with him for taking Leigh at such an early age. She had a lifetime to live and I am facing my grief but at the same time trying to get over the guilt I have that it wasn't me instead of her. Why did God spare me and not her? After all I am a cancer survivor.

I have been participating in a few Zoom Bible Studies with friends from our old church in Virginia. Friday mornings they host Coffee and Conversation. It's a simple devotion and discussion on the morning topic.

I grew a vegetable garden in pots and now have planted a few veggies for the fall and winter in raised beds. Never before have I grown a vegetable, but I am enjoying learning everything I can to give them a good chance at life.

I took a chalk painting class, and I am enjoying turning thrift store buys around giving them new life.

As words in the **Peace Prayer of Saint Francis**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:

Where there is hatred, let me sow love; Where there is injury, pardon

Where there is doubt, faith Where there is despair, hope

Where there is darkness, light Where there is sadness, joy.

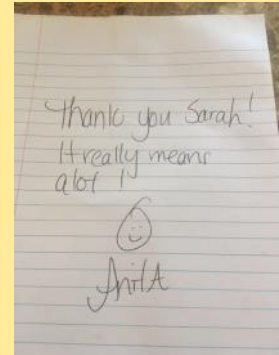
O divine Master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen. - Risse Snelgrove



Dear S.C. WELCA members!

I hope and pray that you and your loved ones are safe and have not been ill from this terrible COVID-19! One thing that has been a comfort to me while being at home so much is having “Storytime “ with my grandkids in Ohio. I’ve been reading them books that I kept from my boy’s favorite books and playing the piano for them! We’ve had great fun! One song that I played last night just for me was “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me”. I believe we all could make a difference each day with Gods help!

Peace and love to each of you,
Your sister in Christ, Sarah Cheesman



Sarah Cheesman recognizing her mail carrier during Covid.

I have been struggling to find my sense of community. As a nurse I have seen my patients alone when no one should be; I have talked to a countless number of their friends and family on the phone to provide them as much comfort as I can because their community couldn’t be there. I have had dear friends fall ill and consoled those whose friends weren’t as lucky, reminding me of why I’ve been turning from community. Then we sent out a call for you to show us community in action during Covid. I had my doubts. I didn’t think it was possible to do that now. I should have known better... Greenville’s St. Michael’s was able to hold their circle meetings covering the book “The Parables” by gathering outside with masks and practicing social distancing.

In Walhalla, St. John’s is distributing meals to seniors and homebound congregational members, they raised \$5,500 for St. Luke Methodist Food Bank with their Holy Smoke BBQ, they came together virtually to help with music during worship and they made and donated masks. All during Covid. It doesn’t stop there though...

Faith Lutheran Chapel found a safe way to continue having small group by disinfecting, masking and spreading out. They even had a “Ladies Night Out” at a member’s home where they were able to share stories on how to cope through Covid, catch up church as well as local news, and even have some fun with “Bible Bingo.” And they donated. Oh boy did they donate. They donated to Pickens County Detention Center, to the Greenville Area Parkinson Society, to Lutheran World Relief, to Mary’s House, to Pickens County Humane Society with prayer books and raising money and quilts and supplies and masks.

Covid didn’t stop any of them from safely reaching out to their... community.

Not long ago I saw a proud new father holding his baby in the hospital window to show a cheering crowd down below who couldn’t go inside. Now, instead of seeing a family alone, I saw the community standing right outside.

The wonderful, ever adapting women of WELCA have given me my sense of community back.

Your Sister in Christ, Kristin Snelgrove



*But now thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.*

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.*

*For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. Isaiah 43: 1 – 3a*

I am sure I heard and read these words of the prophet, Isaiah, many times over the years. But you know how you can hear something and then at another time, you can *really hear it* as if for the first time. Well the time I *really heard* these words were in my first year of ministry as an ordained pastor. I attended our InterFaith meeting which I always enjoyed. The meeting began in the usual way with a devotional. That evening a fellow female pastor read these stirring words from Isaiah. And I heard them, *really heard them*.

I knew this pastor had recently gone through three months of tough life tragedies ranging from health issues to spousal health issues and loss of employment. This woman shared how there were so many times when they didn't know as a family if they were going to lose their home or be able to pay their bills and buy groceries. They didn't know if they would recover their health again. And they had children to support.

This brave pastor shared that many days she felt like giving up – that life was just too much. And then she said, "I opened my *Bible* and found my way to this Isaiah passage. And as I read these words, I heard them, *really heard them* in a way I never before had."

She continued, "The words jumped out at me as if God was there at that dining room table saying them aloud were '**Do not fear**, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, **you are mine**.'"

She shared the promises of a loving Father assuring her became her life jacket as she swam through the deep waters with a strong undertow of fear, anxiety, restless, sleepless nights. Often, she would wake gasping for breath. The phrase, '**Do not fear** because **you are mine**' became her mantra.

I sat there that night spellbound by her story and the depth of emotion and TRUST she exhibited as she said, '**Do not fear** because **you are mine**.'

I have thought of that evening so many times since mid-March when Covid hit us – shutting down everything and most of life as we know it.

I have thought about that evening and the pastor's passionate reading of Isaiah reminding us not to be afraid because we **are** God's children. And we know that God is a God of healing; we know that God brings new life even in the face of apparent death and dying. We know that God is with us even when the waters threaten to overwhelm us.

I think we have all had days since Covid started when we sort of *hit a brick wall* either from fear of it or from fatiguing of it. So many have lost their lives or lost their livelihoods to it. It has invaded our lives leaving us shaken and wondering when it will end.

The people to which Isaiah is writing too felt the same way. They had been in exiled captivity so long they had given up believing they would ever return to their homeland. And it is into this context that God inspires Isaiah to write these beautiful words of hope: '**Do not fear** because **you are mine**.'

My prayer is that just as this became the mantra for my pastor friend and for the Israelites, this will become your mantra too during this time of Covid. And on your most down days as you repeat this mantra, may you hear it, *really hear it* and may it give you comfort and peace as you feel God's love filling you, easing away every one of your fears. Amen! Let it Be!!

Rev. Kathy Harris – 2020 WELCA Chaplain



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Now is your chance to “JUST LOVE” your community of women created in the image of God. The Nominating Committee is seeking “bold women” to step forward and allow their names to be placed into nomination for positions of Treasurer and Board Members. We need a Treasurer who will use her gifts of finance and accuracy to keep up with the money flow and perform other duties required of the office. We need at least 2 nominees for this position. If you are seeking a means to use your gifts, have fun, and build closer relationships with your fellow SC WELCA sisters, you might prefer to run for the state board. We need at least 8 candidates to fill 4 positions. The President will be elected by Ecclesiastical ballot.

Look around your congregation and conferences and encourage ladies that you think would be willing to submit their names for nomination. We need your help! This has been a “strange, not normal” year with the pandemic, but with God’s help, we will make it through. Because we have not had much contact with each other, we need to pray for each other and for the SC WELCA. We were not able to have the 2020 Convention, churches have been closed (and some still are), no conference meetings, and no circle meetings in our congregations. All this is more reason for each of us to pray, consider, and encourage “bold” women to place their name on the nomination ballot.

Feel free to contact me with any questions and also to let me know if you would like your name placed in the nomination of either of these positions.

Sharing God’s Love,

Betty Jo Amick, chair abjamick72@att.net 803 345-5060 or 803 315-5174 (cell)

Gail Kane, gkane590@aol.com 843 902-7652

Margaret Shirer, margaretshirer@aol.com 803 826-6187 or 803 308-1044 (cell)

Ruth Morgan, morganruth@charter.net 864-859-2996

*** Also, any other ladies that would like to join this Nominating Committee.**

Election Process

The SC WELCA Board made the difficult decision to cancel our 2020 annual convention because of the risks involved with COVID-19. This decision meant that we were not able to elect a President, a Treasurer, and four board members. The Churchwide Executive Board recommended that the ladies holding these positions remain in their positions until the next election in 2021. In 2021, the positions of Vice President, secretary, and four board members would normally be elected as well.

At the September 20, 2020 Board meeting, the Board voted to approve a plan they felt best suited our synodical organization. Under this plan, in 2021 we will have elections for those positions whose terms were up in 2020; that is, the President, the Treasurer, and four board members. They will be elected for two year terms (2021-2023). The positions which would normally have been elected in 2021 will be asked to remain in place for an additional year and elections for these positions will be held in 2022; that is, the Vice President, the secretary, and four board members.

Approving this plan will prevent having elections for every position on the Board in 2021.

Simply put, at the 2021 convention, we will be electing a President, a Treasurer, and four Board members.



Did you know that registration is still open to attend the 11th Triennial Gathering to be held August 5-8, 2021 in Phoenix Arizona? Registration fee is \$375.00 and you can register online at www.welca.org. The registration can be located under the Gathering 2021 tab at the top of the page.

There you can not only register for the event you can download the In Kind Gifts list, rules for the Quilt Challenge, and hotel accommodation options.

I know this will be a life changing experience and you don't want to miss it. There will be amazing Key Note Speakers, Music and Worship that you have never experienced before, Workshops that will amaze you and so many opportunities to serve and shop the vendors.

If you haven't had the chance to view the Just Love virtual preview hosted by Rev. Jennifer Michael it's not too late. If you are interested in viewing this event please email me at snelgroverisse@gmail.com.

Risse Snelgrove

2021 Triennial Gathering Promoter



A MESSAGE FROM LISA PLORIN, CWO EXECUTIVE BOARD PRESIDENT

2020 has certainly been a trying year. Isolation and uncertainty, two words that describe what everyone is feeling due to COVID 19. This summer was to be the 11th Triennial Convention and Gathering of the Women of the ELCA in sunny Phoenix, AZ, but due to the circumstances this event was postponed until August of 2021. Many other events were also cancelled or postponed, events that we, as women of the ELCA look forward to. Retreats, conventions, bible studies, regular worship just to name a few. We are all in the same boat!



Over the past several weeks, myself and Executive Director Linda Post Bushkofsky have been meeting with the regional Synodical presidents over ZOOM. We use this time to connect and brainstorm ideas on how to thrive as a community of women. Yes, there is some lamenting, but the common denominator is shared through the words of our 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."

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that this amazing organization is there for YOU! Yes, we still need to practice social distancing and conduct much of our business virtually – but it can be done. Whether you need ideas to revitalize your group or simply inspiration on how to live out our ministry as individuals, we're here for YOU!

Please take some time today to remember your calling. Go to womenoftheelca.org and re-familiarize yourself with the many resources available. Take advantage of simple things like Tuesday prayers at noon. This is an opportunity to pray with Lutheran women across the church every Tuesday at noon (in your time zone) in prayer. Design a Thankoffering container and make a conscious decision to look for things to be grateful for each and every day. Drop a few coins in the container and forward these Thankofferings on to churchwide. Reach out to the Region 9 liaison Linda Post Bushkofsky (800-638-3522, ext 2740) for support. These small gestures will help you feel connected to your siblings in Christ across the entire churchwide expression.

Hang in there, my Friends, for soon we will be celebrating together in fellowship and praise in Phoenix in August of 2021!



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Check out the WELCA.ORG Website for Devotional Resources

Lutheran women have a long history of Bible study, discipleship, and desire to deepen their spiritual life and learn about issues. Women of the ELCA (WELCA.ORG) offers free, downloadable program resources—all in English and many in Spanish—to help you grow in faith and engage in ministry and action.

STAY CONNECTED

There are so many ways that Women of the ELCA can stay connected;

Daily Grace, Gather magazine, Interchange,

Café, Bold Connections

The RIPPLE

All of these publications may be accessed from our SC WELCA website—www.scwelca.com.

Join us on our Facebook group - *SC Women of the ELCA*