



Swatch

 Newsletter of Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization—Region 1-C
 Women of Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 Published six times a year March 2015



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.

Women of the ELCA

Mission Statement of Women of the ELCA

TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST!

Purpose Statement of the **Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization**

The purpose of this synodical women's organization shall be to assist congregational and inter-congregational units within its territory to fulfill the purpose of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Dear Readers,

SWO Presidents receive a wonderful opportunity to attend the Conference of Presidents. I attended February 20th through February 22nd. The presidents met at the Lutheran Center in Chicago for training, to share and for fellowship. The theme this year was "**The Dance Is On**" and all trainings had dance titles such as Beginning Dancing (introduction of those of us who were new presidents), Dance Class (trainings on leadership, communication and human trafficking), Square Dancing (learning about rank order process and active unit assessments), Two Step (Bible Study), etc. The whole weekend also included information on conventions, the state of our Women of the ELCA, Synod spotlights, stewardship and Thankofferings, information on the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation and regional caucus time. How nice it was to meet with the presidents in our Region 1. We have so many ways we can support each other.

\$4,240.00 in gifts cards were brought for the Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation. Many of these gift cards came from the synodical women's organizations. Each president also brought 2 lengths of fleece for blankets for Lutheran World Relief and over 50 fleece blankets were tied. An offering was also gathered at our closing worship with 50% going to the churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA and 50% going to RREAL Project (Rural Renewable Energy Alliance in Liberia.) This project is working on solar energy for Phebe Hospital in Liberia. The amount raised was not available as we left. Jodi Slattery, Assistant to the Presiding Bishop brought us greetings from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. At worship Friday night we worshiped with **Scales of Dance**, a liturgical dance group.

I was privileged to meet Rebecca (Becky) Shurson, secretary of the Executive Board. She will be joining us at our fall convention in Gig Harbor in October. She is from Yucalpa, California.

This was a high energy time making friends with presidents from all over the country as well as meeting Women of ELCA staff and board members. Many of us have enjoyed Terri Lackey's talent as managing editor of **Gather** magazine. She was our staff contact for Region 1 and as of February 23rd, she is the Communications Director for Women of the ELCA. They are now looking for a managing editor for **Gather**.

What an amazing experience the Conference of Presidents was! Want to know more? Email me and we can find a time to talk!

Blessings to you,
 Mary Ann Nelson, SW WA SWO President

SWO Board Meeting Highlights

From Secretary Linnea Glover

The 2014-2015 Women of the ELCA Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization (SW WA SWO) Board met on January 10, 2015 at Peninsula Lutheran Church in Gig Harbor, WA.

Treasurer Shirley Hines reported that she had sent a check in the amount of \$2,472.37 to Churchwide Women of the ELCA. This amount included a third quarter offering of \$1,109.37, \$363.00 from the convention silent auction, and \$1000 for Racial Justice Advocacy

Carol Fossum, our former SWO President, gave a tutorial on the SWO Constitution. She also gave a report on the SWATCH newsletter. President Mary Ann Nelson re-appointed Carol as the current SWATCH newsletter editor. (The editor is appointed yearly.)

President Mary Ann Nelson will be attending the Conference of Presidents in Chicago in February, 2015. In kind gifts will consist of gift cards. It was moved and seconded that SW WA SWO send \$500 for the free will offering and \$500 for gift cards.

The board discussed the new format that **Gather** will be using for their monthly Bible study throughout the coming year. Vice President Tina Bigelow will contact the two authors of the upcoming summer and fall Bible studies and inquire if they are open for a combined presentation for the Bible Study Event on one of the following dates: May 30, June 20, June 27, August 15, or August 22.

The board went over ideas that would allow the annual convention to run as smoothly as possible. The dates for the convention are October 10 and 11, 2015. The location is Peninsula Lutheran Church, Gig Harbor, WA. Mary Ann appointed Ann Meacham Convention Chairman and Carol Fossum Convention Administrator.

Vice President Tina Bigelow gave a brief overview of the resolutions adopted at the 2014 Triennial Convention. Articles on each of these resolutions will be written by board members for the SWATCH newsletter so that participants in units can be informed about the resolutions and begin dialoguing.

The Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization will have a display table at the SW WA Synod Assembly May 15-16, 2015 at the Hilton Hotel in Vancouver, WA. Several board members volunteered to help with registration and making welcome bags for the assembly attendees.

Tina Bigelow volunteered to coordinate the active unit assessment process and will send a form out to each board member to use when they contact churches for the congregational unit update. Board members will contact churches in their cluster.

After a very busy and productive day, Mary Ann Nelson adjourned the meeting and closed with an Epiphany prayer.

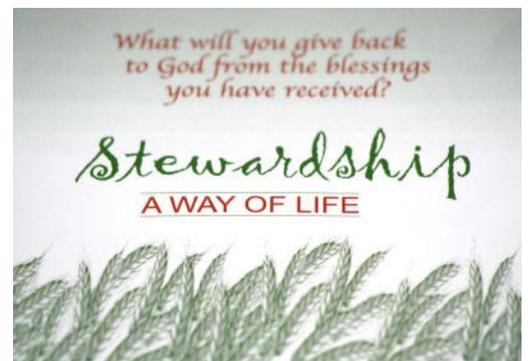
Bits and Pieces

A small, but mighty, group of women met at Peninsula Lutheran in Gigi Harbor, WA on February 26th for a convention committee planning meeting. More volunteers are needed. Call Ann Meacham if you would be willing to help. Her phone number is on the contact information page.

The spring retreat at Dumas Bay in Federal Way is coming up on the weekend of April 17-19. There may be one or two more spots available. No registration form is in this newsletter because the retreat is almost full. Call Cheryl Wilpone, the retreat registrar, if you want to be considered for a "spot". There could be cancellations, etc., so Cheryl will start a "waiting list". But she needs to hear from you!! 253-584-4891

gather
FOR FAITH AND ACTION

Remember that this year the **Gather** Bible study is authored by several different women, so look for some exciting news about a possible visit from Emma Crossen, the former Stewardship Director of Women of the ELCA who now resides in California. Emma is writing the **Gather** magazine summer Bible studies on stewardship. Once again, we will invite Northwest Washington Synod Women to participate with us. The tentative date is August 22nd.



The Swatch Newsletter's Name

Do you know how or why the newsletter got its name? The word "swatch" means "a sample piece" as of fabric or a collection of samples. Whoever decided to name the newsletter must have also been a quilter, I think. The swatch of fabrics would be many pieces of fabric all put together in a lovely quilt. It was told to me that a swatch of women would be a collection of women, the collection of samples would be the collection of articles. So think of a beautiful collection of women when all together are like a gorgeous quilt when you are reading the newsletter!

Last month the SWO board gave permission to the editor of the SWATCH to send out a first class postal mail special edition of the newsletter to women who had previously been on the newsletter bulk mailing list. This list had names of women who had not chosen to pay a subscription for the newsletter nor responded to have the newsletter sent to them by email attachment. The response was: two women requested email sending and six women sent their paid subscriptions for the first class postal mailing list.

We send the newsletter by first class mailing to those who pay an annual subscription cost of \$6.00. This mailing also resulted in six newsletters being returned to the editor for either "not known" or "forwarding mailing has expired".



We encourage subscribers to share their newsletter with other women in the congregation. Registration forms for events are in the

newsletter and you will always find the contact information for the SW WA SWO board as well as other synod leaders. Subscriptions to the postal mailed newsletter are due in January of each year. See the article in the "box" just to the right of this article for more information.

Did you know that Churchwide Women of the ELCA requests updated information about congregation units and their leaders each year? Phone calls will be made to your unit leader soon. One of the things they will ask is "Do you have a constitution of Women of the ELCA"? Do you know where to find the approved constitution? (On the website of Women of the ELCA... First page, scroll down to the bottom, click on "tools for leaders" and find the approved unit constitution. Copy it and "fill in the blanks".)

From Shirley Hines, SWO Treasurer

Thank you to all of the congregation units for their faithful giving. Beginning with the next issue of the SWATCH, I will begin to list each Unit that sends in an offering during the two month period prior to that publication.



For ALL future offerings. the checks MUST be made out to SW WA SWO, as the banking industry is becoming a bit more stringent with their regulations and if the entity that is listed on the check is not listed on that account they will not accept the check.

Since we are starting to plan for the convention, I would like someone to start thinking about becoming your SWO treasurer in the future. I want to be able to mentor whomever will be the treasurer following my tenure for at least a year. The position is not difficult but is very detail orientated. Blessings to all!

Keep sending your WELCA offerings to:

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The *Swatch* newsletter

The *Swatch* provides news and information about Women of the ELCA. **Copies are distributed by electronic mail whenever possible to SW WA congregations and to hundreds of women individually. To subscribe by postal mail, send \$6 to the newsletter editor with the check made to SW WA SWO. Subscriptions are due in January of each year.** The *Swatch* newsletter is published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September, and November.

Articles may be submitted for consideration for use in *Swatch*. Send articles to the editor:

Carol Fossum
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Women from all areas of the synod are welcome to attend any of the cluster events. You'll enjoy the fellowship!!

Olympic Cluster Spring Celebration will be March 14, 2015 from 9:00 am to 2:15 pm at Christ Lutheran in Belfair, WA. The Theme title is "Bear One Another's Burdens". Registration is \$13.00 Starting at 9 am, the program will include speakers, workshops, worship and lunch. One of the In Kind offerings requested is jars of peanut butter for a "Hungry Children Ministry" providing weekend food for families in need. Call Merry Quy to register: 360-275-5067

Fort Vancouver Cluster Breakfast Brunch is Saturday, April 25, 2015 at 9:30 am, Trinity Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA. Check in at 9:00 am. The theme is "Missionaries Are Still Active Today". Pastor Ruth Larson, who was a missionary for eight years will share "Stories from Bangladesh". If you wish to participate in the "In Kind" offering, bring personal items, such as lotion, shampoo, etc. for women at the "Safe Choice" YWCA shelter. Half of the financial offering will be sent to a Lutheran Missionary school in Bangladesh.

Mt Rainier Cluster has an ice cream social every year on the 4th Wednesday evening in July. This year it is on July 29, 2015 at Peace Lutheran Church in Puyallup.

In memory of Kathy Jacobson, the 4th president of SW WA SWO, who died in December 2014, we show this picture taken in 2012. Kathy is the 5th woman from the left, standing between Sue and Elaine. The presidents are pictured from right to left according to their years of SW WA SWO presidency. Blessed be Kathy's memory!



FLASH.... NEWS! Always being made new!



The convention of Women of the ELCA in Southwestern Washington will be October 9 and 10, 2015 at Peninsula Lutheran Church in Gig Harbor, WA.

The GREAT news is about our keynote speaker! Do you remember last year at the Bible Study Event when the speaker told us that the **Gather** study for 2015-2016 was going to be authored by several people? **Reverend Liv Larson Andrews** from Salem Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA has agreed to be our convention speaker and will be speaking on "Slow Faith" which is the topic of her three Bible studies in the **Gather** magazine for September (*Sabbath Keeping*), October (*Make Haste, O Lord*) and November (*Tempo Giusto*). Yes, she is one of those **Gather** magazine Bible study authors!!

Pastor Andrews says, "Two books that have shaped my work on the study have been **Slow Church**, by John Pattison and Chris Smith, and **In Praise of Slowness**, by Carl Honore." She says that both books are very good.

Since Pastor Andrews is one of those **Gather** study authors, we hope to hear from many of you who may not have attended a convention in the past. Although the purpose of a synodical convention is to take care of the business of the organization, the planning committee always provides other opportunities that should be of interest. Having Pastor Andrews with us at the convention will be an added bonus.

Convention registration information will be coming to you soon. **Pre-registration is expected.** There will be no registration the day of the convention. In addition, congregation units must designate and register their voting members at least a month in advance.

More details about the convention will be in the May newsletter. Put the date of October 9-10, 2015 on your calendar book of events. Save the date!!

The Women of the ELCA website says we are "always being made new". This will be a new way to "do conventions". Who knows what will follow??!

We are trying to schedule a visit from Emma Crossen this summer. The date is tentative.

Fighting Human Trafficking: A Look at Shared Hope International

Article by Linnea Glover

At the Ninth Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA in 2014, five resolutions were passed by the voting members who attended the convention. The first resolution addressed Awareness and Prevention of Human Trafficking. Shared Hope International is a non-profit corporation whose goal is to raise awareness of the local and global scope of human trafficking, to rescue victims of sexual exploitation, and to prevent further human trafficking and re-victimization.

Shared Hope International was founded in 1998 by U.S. Congresswoman Linda Smith following an investigative trip she made to Mumbai, India. There, she witnessed the appalling conditions that faced women and children who were enslaved in the commercial sex trade and she was drawn to fight against sexual exploitation and to restore the lives of exploited women and children. In its 16 years of operation, Shared Hope International has established restoration and permanent homes for victims of human trafficking in Nepal, Fiji, India, and South Africa. These homes provide rescued women and children a safe place to recover and be restored. Permanent homes meet basic needs for shelter, nutrition, medical care, education, and, above all, hope.

In addition to working with women and children directly, Shared Hope International has formed other coalitions that intervene against sex trafficking, provide educational resources, work for an increase in laws of prosecution and services for victims, and help to prevent re-victimization. These include the War Against Trafficking Alliance (WATA), Women's Investment Network (WIN), the Predator Project, and Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking (DMST). Training seminars, Next Step Conferences, and a World Summit have been held in the U.S. and other countries over the last sixteen years.

To promote public awareness of sex trafficking, Shared Hope International has launched varied campaigns such as a community awareness campaign titled Kids Are NOT For Sale, a billboard ad in Times Square, New York reminding viewers that sex trafficking can occur anywhere to anyone, and a live "Children are Not Playthings" dollbox exhibit installed on the streets of Washington, DC and in Phoenix, AZ at the Super Bowl.

Article continued on next column

(Article continues)

Shared Hope International offers a range of resources including films, books, research material and training programs. Information regarding resources can be found at SharedHope.org/Resources.

In November of 2014, Treasurer Shirley Hines sent a donation of \$300 to Shared Hope International from the Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization.

Recently, I was privileged to attend a fundraising luncheon at Calvary Chapel in Olympia to hear the personal rescue stories of four Nepalese youth who have lived most of their lives at a Shared Hope International home and are now pursuing college careers. In the book *Renting Lacy: A Story of America's Prostituted Children*, author Linda Smith states in her introduction that "If the journey you're about to take with me can inspire you to help us help even one of them, it will have been worth the risk, worth any effort, any sacrifice."

March is Women's History Month

In March we celebrate Women's History Month, a time to highlight women today and also in history.... Women who have contributed to society. For us Lutheran women, we have Katie Luther. Did you know that Women of the ELCA has a free downloadable resource to honor her? Find it on the WELCA website www.womenoftheelca.org under resources.

We all must know women who have been meaningful to us, who have helped us in our growth in faith and service..... When you think of someone, why not let her know and thank her for her inspiration?

Thank you, Janean, Helene, Sue and Denise for your leadership in racial justice training for SW WA Synod Women!



**Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization (1-C)
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
October 2014— October 2015 or 2016**



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Bible Study Event????

The SW WA SWO board is diligently working on plans to have Emma Crossen come to the Tacoma area to give a presentation about her Bible study in the *Gather* magazine. At the time of this newsletter, the date of August 22, 2015 is tentative and the format is in the planning process. It will most likely not be a whole day, but if you know Emma, you will know that she is personable and a delightful speaker, and you will want to come to meet her and listen to her. Emma has experience in fund raising, endowment, gift planning and much more. In her work as Stewardship Director of Women of the ELCA she was known to say, "The best advocates for giving are the women who give and speak from experience."

Emma's Bible study in the summer issues of *Gather* (June, July and August) will be based on stewardship. I know you'll be encouraged and uplifted. Please plan to attend. This will be "new and different", not the usual summer Bible Study Event, but a place you will want to come. And by the way, please do give personal invitations to all of your friends!

More information about this event will be in the May *SWATCH* newsletter.
Blessings from Carol Fossum

Calendar of Upcoming Events

March 6, 2015—World Day of Prayer

March 14, 2015—Olympic Cluster Spring Celebration, Christ Lutheran, Belfair, WA

March 14, 2015—SW WA SWO board meets at Christ Lutheran, Belfair, WA

April 17-19, 2015— WELCA Retreat, April 17-19, 2015, Dumas Bay Centre, Federal Way, WA
"A Joyful Heart—A Dancing Spirit", Pastor Mary Lindberg, Speaker

April 25, 2015—Fort Vancouver Cluster Spring Brunch, Trinity Lutheran, Vancouver, WA
"Missionaries Are Still in Action Today"

April 25 is World Malaria Day!

July 29, 2015 - Mt Rainier Cluster Annual Evening Ice Cream Social,
Peace Lutheran Church, Puyallup, WA

August 22, 2015 - *Gather* Bible Study author visit Place TBD

October 9-10, 2015—SW WA Synod Women of the ELCA Convention,
Peninsula Lutheran, Gig Harbor, WA

Café stirring the spirit within
www.boldcafe.org

Please don't throw me away or stick me in a file! Instead, take me apart, copy me! Share me with your friends. Your Editor and I thank you.