

# The Joyful News

The Women of the ELCA  
Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization

March 2011



## IN THIS ISSUE:

2011 Spring Convention— “RENEW, RESPOND, REJOICE!” .....	page 1-3
Triennial Convention .....	page 4
Banner Project Entry Form.....	page 5
A Memo from your President .....	page 6
Around the Synod .....	page 7
Bulletin Board .....	page 8
Program Ideas/Resources .....	page 9
2011 Spring Convention Registration Form .....	page 10
SWO Nomination Form.....	page 11-12
Lutheran Outdoor Ministries— SWO 2010/11 Fundraiser .....	page 13

Contact Newsletter Editor:  
Cheryl Dwyer, [DWYERCL2@VERIZON.NET](mailto:DWYERCL2@VERIZON.NET)

## 2011 SPRING CONVENTION— RENEW, RESPOND, REJOICE!

The Metro DC SWO convention will be held on

**Saturday, May 7, 2011**

at

**Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence**

**6304 Lee Chapel Road**

**Burke, VA 22015**

Our keynote speaker for the day is Debbie Streicher, Consultant for Children & Family Ministries. We are looking forward to seeing many of you there for a day of Renewing, Responding, and Rejoicing together. For registration information, please see pages 3 and 10.

Your convention offering will be shared equally with the Churchwide Women's Organization and Lutheran World Relief's Malaria Initiative. \$10.00 is the cost of a bed net that protects sleeping children and adults from mosquitoes that carry the disease.

Our In-Kind gifts for the day will be items to be used by the Lutheran outdoor ministries. Below is a summary of what types of gifts they are requesting:

- For Caroline Furnace—Sports balls (any and all appreciated—including ping pong balls, kick balls, soccer balls, beach balls, basketballs, tennis balls)
- For Mar-Lu-Ridge—Craft supplies (coloring books, crayons, scissors, glue, paints, construction paper), board games (for all ages), new underwear and shorts (small sizes), toothbrushes.

We are in need of a Parliamentarian on the day of convention, so if you know of anyone who can be of help, or would like to take part in the convention planning process, please contact Marcia Ihnen ([mcihnen@aol.com](mailto:mcihnen@aol.com)) or Linda Heffern ([lindaheffern@aol.com](mailto:lindaheffern@aol.com)).

The nominating committee is making calls to prepare a slate of nominees to present at the Metro DC SWO convention. If you have a candidate to recommend, please contact one of the following committee members.

Shirley Gibbs, Chair  
571-333-9454  
([don.gibbs@his.com](mailto:don.gibbs@his.com))

Jessie Roderick  
202-342-3747  
([jroderic@umd.edu](mailto:jroderic@umd.edu))

Kathy Russell  
703-494-3507  
([kathysinfo.russell@gmail.com](mailto:kathysinfo.russell@gmail.com))

# “RENEW, RESPOND, REJOICE!”

*Keep on doing the things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me,  
and the God of peace will be with you. (Philippians 4:9)*

**METRO DC SYNODICAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION  
SPRING CONVENTION  
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ABIDING PRESENCE • BURKE, VIRGINIA**

**MAY 7, 2011  
8:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00 per person** *(includes light breakfast and lunch)*  
**\*\* Registration fee waived for women under the age of 40 \*\***



## • CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS •

### • OPENING EUCHARISTIC WORSHIP SERVICE •

Rev. Ivan Ives Presiding

### • KEYNOTE SPEAKER •

Debbie Streicher

Consultant for Children & Family Ministries

### • WORKSHOPS AND PRESENTERS •

Sandra Lange, Churchwide Representative

“Changing an Organization” – Laura McDowell and Sheri Swackhamer, Anti-Racism Education Team of the Metro D.C. Synod’s Women of the ELCA

“Lutheran Malaria Initiative” – Rachel Steele, Outreach Manager for the Lutheran Malaria Initiative for Lutheran World Relief

“Peace Not Walls” – Carolyn Thomas, participant in the Women of the ELCA’s Women Building Global Community trip to the Holy Land (Fall 2010)

“*Siyajabulani, Siyakhala*: Lutheran Women in South Africa” – Heather LeMunyon, ELCA Young Adult in Global Mission in South Africa (2009-2010)

### • A SAMPLING OF THE EXHIBITORS •

Thrivent, Fair Trade Winds,

LACE/Congregation Life, Mar-Lu-Ridge

### • OFFERINGS •

Eucharistic service offering will be split between the Women of the ELCA and the Lutheran World Relief’s Malaria Initiative

### • IN-KIND OFFERINGS •

Sports balls, craft supplies, games, and children’s underwear and shorts for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries

### • BUSINESS •

General Business Meeting of the Metro DC Synodical Women’s Organization  
Elections for Executive Board Positions

**REGISTRATION:** A registration form can be found on page 10 or you can register online at [www.metrodcelca.org](http://www.metrodcelca.org); directions for registering online are on the following page.

A long-lasting insecticide-treated bed or mosquito net can protect four people from malaria-carrying mosquitoes for up to five years. These nets can be purchased for only \$10.00. During our spring convention to be held on May 7, 2011, half of the offering will go to **Lutheran World Relief's Malaria Initiative**. Please keep this in mind when preparing your convention offering.

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To register online, do the following:

1. In your browser, go to [www.metrodcelca.org](http://www.metrodcelca.org).
2. Mouse-over the **Events** tab and...
3. Click the **Synodical Women's Organization Annual Conference** link.
4. Click the **Register Now** button or the **Register here** link.
5. Select your **TICKET TYPE** and the **QUANTITY**—you can register/pay for more than one **Visitor** of the same ticket type at the same time.
6. Click the **Order Now** link; or, if no payment is required, click the **Register** link.
7. Fill in the blanks, following the instructions on the form.
8. Pay online with a credit card or send a check to the Synod office at the address noted on the form.

Questions? Contact Fran Eck at 703-569-0814 or [franalaneck@msn.com](mailto:franalaneck@msn.com).



## Mark Your Calendar!

- |            |   |
|------------|---|
| March 15   | Nomination forms due [or as soon as possible]<br>(page 11-12)   |
| April 1    | Delegate registration forms due for SWO Spring Convention<br>(page 10)                                    |
| April 15   | Donation deadline for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries project<br>(page 13)                                    |
| April 22   | Registration forms due for SWO Spring Convention<br>(page 10)   |
| May 7      | <b>Metro DC SWO Spring Convention</b><br>Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence,<br>Burke, VA (page 1-3) |
| June 1     | Submission of photos for Triennial Banner Project<br>(page 5)   |
| July 14-17 | <b>Triennial Gathering</b><br>Spokane, WA (page 4)  |
| October 1  | <b>Fall Gathering</b><br>Christ Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA (page 7).                                    |



***Triennial Convention and Gathering  
July 12-17, 2011***

A \$600 scholarship is still available for a woman from our Metro D.C. Synod. The form is available from Bonnie Priebe at [BonnieLass\\_us@yahoo.com](mailto:BonnieLass_us@yahoo.com) or 301-341-2788. If you have any thoughts about attending the Gathering, please contact her ASAP.



**Renew, Respond, Rejoice!**

Registration continues online at [www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial). The cost of registration is \$325. There's also a Facebook page of updated information at [www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA](http://www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA). If you are going, or are thinking of going, we recommend staying at the Travel Lodge, which is right across the street from the convention center and provides a free breakfast, or at the Red Lion Hotel, which is a brief, scenic walk across the river. Any of the hotels listed are nearby and handy for the Gathering. Call Bonnie at 301-341-2788 if you have any questions. Speakers include Leymah Gbowee, Nora Gallagher, the Rev. Susan Briehl, and the Rev. Dr. Wyvetta Bullock, among many others.

For those of you attending or not attending who would like to participate in other ways, there are many opportunities. Digital Photos reflecting the theme from Philippians may be sent in to be made into banners. In-Kind Gifts of Health Kits, School Kits, Support Kits, Quilt Kits, Gift Cards, Phone Cards, or White Socks would all be welcomed by the Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod. They may either come with participants or be mailed in. See further information at *The Joyful News* section of the Metro DC Synod Web site, the previously mentioned Web sites, or refer to the back pages of the December issue of *The Joyful News*.

~ Bonnie Priebe

Won't be attending the Triennial? You can still participate. You are invited to submit photographs that respond to the 2011 Triennial Gathering theme—Renew, Respond, Rejoice!—and Philippians 4:4. Photographs can be of your church community celebrating baptisms or confirmations, participating in service projects or taking part in any event that embodies the call to *Renew, Respond, Rejoice!*

Mary Button, the artist in residence, will document this project on the Women of the ELCA blog, <http://blogs.elca.org/women>. Follow along in the coming months and see the project progress. Learn more about artist and seminarian Mary Button at <http://www.marybutton.com>.

How to submit your photo:

1. Submit a digital photograph that responds to the triennial gathering theme by emailing it to [marybethbutton@gmail.com](mailto:marybethbutton@gmail.com) with your name. You may submit more than one photograph, but the artist can only guarantee that one photograph from each person will be used.
2. The photographs must be at least 150 dpi (medium resolution) to ensure that they can be turned into negatives and printed as cyanotypes.
3. If you have any questions about submitting a photo, feel free to contact the artist at [marybethbutton@gmail.com](mailto:marybethbutton@gmail.com).
4. Complete the entry form and return it to the churchwide office. The artist will use only those photos for which a completed form has been sent to the churchwide office.
5. Photos will be accepted through June 1.

The **Banner Project entry form** is found on the following page.

# BANNER PROJECT ENTRY FORM

Brief description of photograph (please include names of those photographed, location and date):

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Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your church: \_\_\_\_\_

Church address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZP: \_\_\_\_\_

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

I have read and agree to the rules of the *Renew, Respond, Rejoice!* I understand that by entering this photograph, my name, picture, likeness and city and state of residence may be used by Women of the ELCA in educational, informational and promotional materials in a variety of media, including electronic media.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature and Date

Photos will be accepted through June 1. Mail this completed form to:

TG11 Photo Project  
Women of the ELCA  
8765 W Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631

**Email the actual photos to: [marybethbutton@gmail.com](mailto:marybethbutton@gmail.com)**

There must be a completed form on file for each person who enters a photo.

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## A Memo from Your President

Dear Sisters in Faith,

I had the pleasure of attending the Conference of Presidents in Chicago on February 17-20 and found it to be rewarding in so many ways. The information provided by the churchwide board's workshops was very helpful. These four days were inspirational, enlightening, and provided many opportunities for fellowship, support, and sharing uniting sisters-in-faith from all over the country. Our churchwide board works diligently to nurture our growth at all levels.

I hope to see you at our spring convention on Saturday, May 7, 2011, at the Lutheran Church of the Abiding Presence in Burke, VA, and hope you will bring a friend along with you to experience a day of Renewal, Responding, and Rejoicing together in fellowship.

God is with you today and always, and may He bless you as you continue to serve Him.

Your sister-in-Christ,

Linda Heffern



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.

# Around the Synod...

## 2011 Triennial Convention Offering

**ALL UNITS** are welcomed and encouraged to contribute to the 2011 Triennial Convention offering. It will be designated as follows:

- 50% to Women of the ELCA for ongoing ministries
- 25% to the Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia (ELCMA)
- 25% to ELCA Outdoor Ministries

Your checks may be made payable to Metro DC SWO and sent to our treasurer, Pat Nau, 9703 Water Oak Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031. Be sure to write "Triennial Convention Offering" in the memo line of your checks... OR... send your unit's check directly to:

Women of the ELCA  
8765 W. Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631-4101

Your unit's gift can then be publicly recognized during the convention in Spokane. You can also ask someone who will be attending the convention to carry it to Spokane on your behalf. There is no better way for your support of the organization to be witnessed by others!



## 2011 Fall Gathering

SAVE THE DATE! The Fall Gathering will be held at Christ Lutheran Church, Fairfax, VA, on Saturday, October 1<sup>st</sup>. Information will be posted in the August newsletter.



## Thanks from LSS

From Lutheran Social Services (LSS): "Thank you for supporting LSS/NCA's mission to walk with those in need. Your gifts make an immediate difference in the lives of all the 3,000 neighbors we serve each year."

This contribution was our designated gift offering to LSS/NCA's Refugee and Immigrant Service and totaled \$2,020.50.



## Leadership Positions Available

Our Synodical Women's Organization is in need of the following positions to fill on the Board:

- The current board members **eligible for re-election** are the **Vice President, Treasurer**, and **two Board Members**.
- We also need a **Secretary** and **three of you for the Nominating Committee**.

These are opportunities to boldly step forward; please either complete the nomination form included in this newsletter or contact one of the members of this year's Nominating Committee found on page 1. Nominations can also be taken from the floor during the SWO Spring Convention.



## "Bold Women" Celebrations

St. Mark's in Springfield, VA, celebrated **Bold Women's Day** on February 27<sup>th</sup> by honoring our three Charter Members.

Each was interviewed about their feelings as they "boldly" signed the Charter for St. Mark's over 50 years ago, about how they see the future for our church, and about the differences between then and now. We wrote up their biographies and photographed these wonderful ladies, providing their information in a bulletin insert and on a bulletin board in the narthex, and we honored them during the Church Service. It was interesting that not one of the women considered themselves "bold" for signing the Charter. They have remained active, as health and family has permitted, and still take great pride in St. Mark's. They are an inspiration to us all!

~ Fran Eck

**[Editor's note: How about the rest of you? Will you share your stories of how your group celebrated Bold Women's Day 2011? We'll print them in the next issue of The Joyful News... send them to Cheryl Dwyer at [DWYERCL2@VERIZON.NET](mailto:DWYERCL2@VERIZON.NET).]**





**Read the Women of the ELCA's blog, find them on Facebook, and follow them on Twitter.**

Link to the blog from their home page or go directly to <http://blogs.elca.org/women>. They talk about all kinds of subjects, from racism to domestic violence to how they show welcome to gardening.

Talk to your sisters in faith from all over the country about anything and everything Women of the ELCA on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA](http://www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA).

On Twitter, you will find short messages about churchwide organization activities and links to interesting items online that relate to our purpose and mission: [www.twitter.com/WomenoftheELCA](http://www.twitter.com/WomenoftheELCA).

**Did you know** that you can access *The Joyful News* online? It is now available at [www.metrodcelca.org](http://www.metrodcelca.org).

- Click **Synod News** on the left side of the home page.
- Then, once on the Synod News page, you can click the down arrow of the *Joyful News* drop-down menu box and the date of the latest edition will appear.
- Click that date selection and enjoy the current news from the Metro DC Synodical Women's Organization.

**The SWO Executive Board** approved a budget of \$12,850 for the 2011- 2012 fiscal year at our February 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. This is only a \$50 increase from last year's actual budget. Thank you for your continuing financial support of the Metro DC SWO and the Women of the ELCA.

# Bulletin Board



# PROGRAM IDEAS AND RESOURCES

## **GRANT PROGRAM:** Women of the ELCA's Commitment to Women's Health

We are committed by our purpose statement to promoting healing and wholeness in our church, society, and world. Making a real difference begins at the "heart" of the matter: being physically, emotionally, and spiritually healthy and balanced women.

Women of the ELCA seeks proposals from not-for-profit organizations, both domestic and international, that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women's emotional, physical, and spiritual health.

The grants for 2012 will be announced in July. So, be thinking of the non-profits in your community that could benefit in the support of raising healthy women and girls.

The deadline to submit these grant applications will be December 15, 2011. For details, visit <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/Engage-in-action-and-support-one-another-in-our-callings/Grants.aspx>.



**WOMEN OF THE ELCA Web site,** [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org), is the place to go for program ideas and resources for everything from creating a personal meditation space to a weekend retreat. Check out the latest list of programs. These resources are all downloadable or can be ordered by calling the Women of the ELCA at 1-800-638-3522.



**A SERVICE PROJECT WORKSHOP** will be offered at the Synodical Women's Organization's Spring Convention on May 7<sup>th</sup> as an alternative to the business meeting for convention participants who are not delegates. You will be preparing the In-Kind offerings for delivery to our Outdoor Ministries.



**BOLD CONNECTIONS** is the free Women of the ELCA e-newsletter. Go to the home page at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) and sign up in the *Bold Connections* box on the right to receive regular, timely news and information from the churchwide organization.



**BECOME AN INDIVIDUAL PARTNER** to connect important women in your life with the Women of the ELCA and to give them the opportunity to experience the fellowship, friendship, and support that mean so much to you. For \$20.00 you can give them a one-year subscription to *Lutheran Women Today* and *Café*. They will have access to Bible studies, global networks, advocacy efforts, and other resources. To make someone an individual partner, visit [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) and download the Individual Partner flyer, complete the form, and send it to the designated address. You can order copies of the full color brochure, which also includes a reply envelope, by calling 1-800-638-3522 or emailing your request to [Women.ELCA@elca.org](mailto:Women.ELCA@elca.org).



**THE METRO D.C. SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION  
2011 SPRING CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM**

***RENEW, RESPOND, REJOICE!***

**MAY 7, 2011**

**8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ABIDING PRESENCE  
6304 LEE CHAPEL ROAD, BURKE, VIRGINIA**

**REGISTRATION FEE: \$25.00 per person**

**\*\* INCLUDES LIGHT BREAKFAST AND LUNCH \*\***

**\*\* Registration fee *waived* for women under the age of 40 \*\***

**\*\*\*\*\***

**DELEGATE REGISTRATION FORMS ARE DUE APRIL 1, 2011**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**Church** \_\_\_\_\_

**Delegate=s (Voting Member=s) Name, E-Mail Address, and Phone Number:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**PARTICIPANTS OTHER THAN DELEGATE AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate if you need exhibit space** \_\_\_\_\_

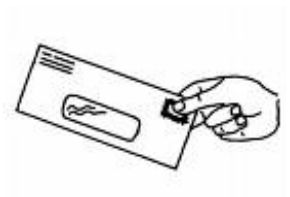
**Please indicate if you need child care** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE return your REGISTRATION FORM with a CHECK payable to:**

**“METRO D.C. SYNODICAL WOMEN”**



**SEND TO:  
Fran Eck  
6215 Hibbling Avenue  
Springfield, Virginia 22150  
Phone: 703-569-0814**



**NOMINATION FORM FOR  
METRO DC SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION'S EXECUTIVE BOARD**

**Biographical Information Form**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Last

First

Initial

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EVENING PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E\_MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

AGE RANGE \_\_\_\_\_ 35 and under \_\_\_\_\_ 51-69

\_\_\_\_\_ 36-50 \_\_\_\_\_ 70 and over

ETHNIC/RACIAL HERITAGE \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF CONGREGATIONAL UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPERIENCE** (Please list significant experiences in each area over the last ten years, beginning with the most recent experiences.)

**OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY** \_\_\_\_\_

**WOMEN OF THE ELCA PARTICIPATION**

CONGREGATIONAL UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

SYNOD, CLUSTER \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCHWIDE \_\_\_\_\_

**ELCA PARTICIPATION**

CONGREGATION \_\_\_\_\_

SYNOD/CONFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCHWIDE \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY SERVICE** \_\_\_\_\_

**OTHER QUALIFICATIONS** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE RETURN NOMINATION FORM BY MARCH 15, 2011, TO:**

Shirley Gibbs  
42986 Park Creek Drive  
Broadlands, VA 20148  
[don.gibbs@his.com](mailto:don.gibbs@his.com)  
571-333-9454

**THE METRO DC SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION  
2010-2011 FUNDRAISER**

**FOR LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES**

**OUR GOAL**



*Caroline Furnace*

Our SWO goal is to raise **\$5,000** in support of the Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Caroline Furnace and Mar-Lu-Ridge.

Our financial support will provide funds to help with the operational costs and make much needed improvements on the facilities of these two outdoor ministries. By giving, we can help preserve these retreats that offer a quiet, natural environment that have so often made a difference in a person's faith journey.

Together we can make a difference in the spiritual development of our youth campers who will become future leaders and carry on our mission in Christ.

**WHAT CAN YOUR UNIT DO?**

WELCA units and all congregations are invited to share their blessings and donate **\$250** to this project so we can reach our goal of **\$5,000**.



*Mar-Lu-Ridge*

**WHERE DO YOU SEND YOUR COLLECTED MONEY?**

By **April 15, 2011**, please send your contribution in the form of a check to

Patricia Nau  
9703 Water Oak Drive  
Fairfax, VA 22031-1020

Active congregational units are also asked to complete and enclose Offering Form A, which can be downloaded from [www.womenoftheelca.org/resources/forms.html](http://www.womenoftheelca.org/resources/forms.html).