



The Southeastern Weaver

July 2020 - Vol. 3

Newsletter of the Southeastern Synod Women of the ELCA

Memo

To: Voting Members-Elect of the Eleventh Triennial Convention (2020)
From: Lisa Plorin, president, and Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director
Date: 5 May 2020
Re: Postponement of the triennial convention
CC: Advisors and staff

Greetings in the name of the one who creates, redeems and sustains us all.

CHURCHWIDE EXECUTIVE BOARD POSTPONES CONVENTION, GATHERING

The April 25, 2020, meeting of the churchwide executive board occurred virtually. During that meeting the board voted to postpone both the Eleventh Triennial Convention (2020) and the 2020 Gathering. Both are being rescheduled to August 2021, again in Phoenix, Arizona. The convention will be held August 3-5, 2021, and the 2020 Gathering will be held August 5-8, 2021.

The postponement will likely raise some questions, including what to do if you, as a voting member-elect are not available during those dates in 2021. The churchwide executive board has also raised questions about the nomination process. We will be consulting with legal counsel as this is uncharted territory for us. We will be back in touch when we have more information to share.

The news story about the board meeting is posted at [https://](https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/news/executive-board-postpones-triennial-convention-gathering-until-august-2021)

www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/news/executive-board-postpones-triennial-convention-gathering-until-august-2021

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SUPPORTING THE ORGANIZATION

Your continued and strengthened partnership with the churchwide organization through financial support is critical. What can you do?

- Become a **Faithful Friend** and encourage other women to become Faithful Friends by joining our monthly giving program.
- Encourage congregational units to take up offerings even when meeting virtually.
- Transmit Regular Offerings to your synodical treasurer in a timely manner, perhaps monthly or quarterly.

May the peace of God, that surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. †



Women
of the
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LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

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Reflections of the President



By
Patti
Austin

Hello Ladies,

If you are like me you have been cleaning, baking, and praying during this “stay at home or shelter in place.” Having a sweet dog named Zeus gets me out walking three or four times a day which helps to keep my mind clear. Living in the city gives me a chance to read all the signs that people hang out their windows. I especially loved the one from a grandmother that said, “I need more beer.” Things like this help us keep our sense of humor and realize we are all in this together.

This Covid-19 has brought a lot of changes to all our lives, I miss my family, my grandchildren, and my friends. We have definitely adjusted our routines, wearing a mask and rubber gloves just to buy food. I guess I miss church the most, communion, fellowship and seeing so many of you at our Cluster Meetings.

Two questions that come to mind during this pandemic are:

- * How do we keep our organization alive?
- * How can we fellowship?

I believe we must become creative in our ministry, and it is time for us to think outside the box.

Your WELCA board held our meeting on Zoom May 9, and everyone was able to join, and it was very productive. This may be the new normal for a while. I would love to see our Clusters and Units use Zoom for meetings. How about the Bible Study in Gather Magazine on Zoom, or one you used to get together for? We would love to help and be involved.

Since we are not meeting in person let us remember to keep sending in our offerings. We support a lot of charities through our Synod and Church Wide. So, I challenge each of you to continue making your offerings. You can mail your checks to our treasurer, Karen Andrews and she will make sure your offering goes where you intend it to, and we will have a record of our generosity as a synod. Her address is 950 Eagles Landing Pkwy, Suite 617, Stockbridge, GA. 30281

One of my goals as president was to increase communication between units, clusters, and our board members. We have come along rather slowly but I believe this is a great time to get started. Share some of your projects with your clusters, units, or share a story in the Weaver, our web page, or SES Synod Facebook Page. Let us support each other, get to know each other, and travel this journey together.

I look forward to hearing from each of you, maybe I can join you on one of your Zoom Meetings.

Peace and Blessings,
Patti

“I will lift up my eyes to the hills, from whence comes my help. My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2†

Let's Celebrate

By Patti Austin

This year, 2020, we are celebrating several anniversaries recognizing the ordination of women in our Lutheran churches in the United States. 50 years for the first Lutheran woman ordained (Elizabeth Platz, 1970) and Barbara Andrews, the first differently-abled woman ordained (1970); 40 years for the first woman of color, Lydia Rivera Kalb, being ordained, and 10 years for LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve. Today, 23 women serve as bishops in our ELCA, including Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. We continue to celebrate our women pastors even as our church doors are closed during this pandemic time. Thank you for responding to God's call to you!†



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11th Triennial



By
Margery
Kellar

Good News! The Triennial Convention and Gathering has been rescheduled to 2021 due to the Coronavirus pandemic. That means you have another year to save your money and make arrangements to attend.

If you made reservations and registered for the 2020 event, you have probably received an email from Lisa Plorin with steps to take. If you are planning to attend in 2021, you do not need to do anything about the registration. If you are not able to attend, you may request a refund or donate the money to WELCA. You will need to change your hotel and flight reservations.

I am looking forward to a major celebration in Phoenix in 2021! Hope to see you there! †



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
AUGUST 5-8, 2021 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

The “Just Love” Gathering, initially scheduled for this July, has been postponed to **August 5-8, 2021**, due to the global coronavirus pandemic.

Here we offer tips for those who had already registered for the gathering.

What do you need to do about your event registration?

If you plan to join your Lutheran sisters at the “Just Love” Gathering on its rescheduled

dates, August 5-8, 2021, you are not required to take any action. All tours and options will also be automatically transferred to the 2021 dates.

Action to take

To make one of the following actions, email info@frameworkmeetings.com or leave a detailed message at 208-502-1150, and our registration provider will assist you.

- If you can't make the 2021 event, you can transfer your registration to a friend.
- If you can't make the 2021 event, you can donate your registration fee and any purchases you made, providing a gift to Women of the ELCA.
- You can request a refund, less a \$20 processing for fixed costs. The deadline to ask for this refund is **June 30, 2020**.

What do you need to do about your hotel reservations?

Our two gathering hotels, the Sheraton and Hyatt Regency, have canceled all 2020 room reservations and will be refunding deposits. The hotels will provide new online reservation links for the August 2021 dates before the end of May. We will send an email with the new links and the reservation phone numbers to registrants, as everyone **will need to make new hotel reservations**. We'll add these new links and contact numbers to our Gathering 2021 website.

What do you do about your airline reservation?

Because of the coronavirus, most airlines are offering travel credits for future flights. If needed, contact your airline directly for assistance with flight changes or refunds. While we've postponed the Gathering, our ministry continues. We're still mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. At welca.org, you'll find suggestions on how you can sustain community. Visit welcatg.org for gathering updates. Stay tune for a virtual gathering experience this July; more details to follow. †

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To mobilize women to act boldly
on their faith in Jesus Christ.



By
Janice
Hawkins

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief has a new logo! Copied from the LWR website: “The new symbol for Lutheran World Relief is three interlocking rings. The colorful, bright design is inspired by our promise to you that, together, we put our belief in God into action to create lasting, life-saving impact.” Please use this logo when you are sending out news about Lutheran World Relief.

Lutheran World Relief has added a new challenge to their Quilt & Kits ministry. Lutheran World Relief is seeking volunteers to sew 75,000 (now MORE) cloth face masks that will be sent to the areas in which it works — from slums to remote rural villages — for those who don’t have the option of social distancing or frequent hand washing, putting them at risk of serious illness. Health officials recommend cloth face masks for reducing transmission. The cloth face masks will be distributed with upcoming international shipments of personal care kits already scheduled for summer and fall. Face masks will be distributed in communities at risk for COVID-19 transmission and are not intended to be a replacement for medical grade personal protective equipment.

The 75,000-cloth face mask goal reflects the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Lutheran World Relief, which was founded in 1945 to help communities suffering during World War II. The goal of 75,000 was quickly reached and the challenge has been renamed 75,000 MORE Face Mask Challenge.

Volunteers are invited to register their pledge for the number of masks they will sew at <https://lwr.org/masks>. The website also has instructions on how make the face masks and how to send them to Lutheran World Relief. **Masks will need to be shipped and not included in your items collected at an Ingathering.†**



2020 Lutheran World Relief Ingatherings Cancelled

By Janice Hawkins

Today and every day, Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits are a reminder to families that even in the midst of crisis, they are not alone. Though the Covid-19 outbreak is forcing all of us to adapt and change our routines for a time, the mission of the LWR Quilt and Kit Ministry remains as strong as ever.

After much thought and consideration, the Ingatherings scheduled for August 28-29, 2020 at 7 locations throughout the Southeastern Synod, have been cancelled. The dates had not been posted yet to the LWR Ingathering webpage.

Most of the churches in the Southeastern Synod are dealing with how to open for worship again. They are also coming up with guidelines for small and large group meetings. No one is sure when WELCA circles, quilting groups, and other women’s gatherings will be able to meet again. Please store any quilts and kits you have made so far and we will have even more to donate and load onto the trucks next year. I am going to go ahead and post the 2021 Ingathering dates for our Synod on the LWR Ingathering webpage. The dates will be August 27-28, 2021. Please put these dates on your calendars.

Keep making masks, quilts, and those kits! Personal Care Kits are the most needed kit right now with School Kits a close second.

Stay safe, wash your hands, and wear those masks when out in public areas!†

Hot Chicken Salad

by Patti Austin

This is a great dish for a lady’s luncheon or easy dinner. Goes great with a veggie or salad.

- 3 cups cooked, and chopped chicken (I used the roasted from Kroger)
- ¾ cup chopped celery
- ¾ cup chopped onion
- 1 cup Hellman’s Mayo (use Hellman’s!)
- 2 tablespoons fresh squeezed lemon juice

Mix all together and pour into a casserole dish

Add a topping of ¾ cup shredded cheese mixed with ¾ cup crushed potato chips.

Bake at 375° for 20 minutes or until hot and crunchy! Serves 6†

DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST



Want to sustain the community that is a hallmark of Women of the ELCA? Then join Dear Friend in Christ, a unique letter-exchange project to which all participants are invited.

How does it work?

1. Write a letter. Use the “Dear Friend in Christ” salutation. Fill a page or two, however you are inspired. Among other things, please share your thoughts on these questions: How is your faith in Jesus Christ sustaining you during the global pandemic? What words of encouragement can you offer the person who receives your letter?
2. You can handwrite or type the letter.
3. You could include a drawing, a photo, or a recipe, anything that fits into an envelope.
4. Offer up a prayer for the recipient.
5. You may include your mailing address in the letter if you do not wish to remain anonymous.
6. Print and sign the Dear Friend in Christ release form. If you don’t have access to a printer, please use our online form. We cannot exchange letters without a release.
7. Mail your letter and signed release form to Dear Friend in Christ, Women of the ELCA, 8765 W Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631. **Deadline for mailing letters to the churchwide organization is October 15, 2020.**

What else do I need to know?

1. When you write to Dear Friend in Christ, your letter will be swapped with a letter from another writer. They will get your letter; you will get their letter. The exchange is anonymous (unless you provide your contact information), so you can share as little or as much information about yourself as you like.
2. Dear Friend in Christ is open to all participants, although **writers under 18 must have parental consent**. Download the release form.
3. Letters are paired at random, and we will try

to match participants with someone in a different geographical part of the ELCA. Women of the ELCA staff read all letters before the exchange happens.

4. Letters will be mailed to participants on a rolling basis, beginning in June 2020. We will continue exchanging letters received through All Saints Day, November 1, 2020.

Go to <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/DFICpermfill.pdf> to download the release form. Go to <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/special-initiatives/dear-friend-christ/dear-friend-in-christ-release-form> for the online release form. †

OUR PURPOSE

“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.”

Pages 6 and 7 have the 2019/2020 giving amounts for the churches and clusters from our Treasurer, Karen Andrews. †

Cluster # / Unit #	Church/ Donor	City	State	General Offering	Love Offering - SES Advocacy	Cluster Offering	Cluster Registratr	Convention Offering	Lutheran World Relief	Katie's Table/Fund	Project Comfort - now called LWR Shipping	Triennial Offering	TOTALS
1	Jersalem	Savannah	GA			\$ 176.68	\$ 201.68						\$ 378.36
2	Good News		GA		\$ 30.00	\$ 369.00	\$ 132.00						\$ 531.00
3	Trinity	Atlanta	GA			\$ 203.00	\$ 96.00						\$ 299.00
4	Magi		GA	\$ 264.00	\$ 259.00			\$ 96.00					\$ 619.00
6	Messiah	Knoxville	TN			\$ 267.90	\$ 176.57						\$ 444.47
7	Faith Lutheran	Clay	AL			\$ 180.00	\$ 387.60						\$ 577.60
8	Christ	Nashville	TN			\$ 100.00	\$ 69.00						\$ 169.00
9	Grace Lutheran Church	Long Beach	MS			\$ 426.00	\$ 395.13						\$ 821.13
1759	Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd	Seminole	FL	\$ 200.00									\$ 200.00
2754	Jersalem - Ebenezer	Rincon	GA	\$ 259.25	\$ 338.00								\$ 595.25
5748	Lutheran Church of the Resurrection	Augusta	GA	\$ 150.00							\$ 100.00		\$ 250.00
5749	St. James Lutheran	Brunswick	GA	\$ 193.20									\$ 193.20
5753	Zion Lutheran	Guyton	GA	\$ 600.00	\$ 175.00			\$ 75.00					\$ 850.00
5756	Ev. Luth. Church of the Ascension	Savannah	GA	\$ 650.00	\$ 100.00					\$ 250.00			\$ 1,000.00
5760	St. Paul	Savannah	GA	\$ 600.00				\$ 50.00					\$ 650.00
5769	Emmanuel	Atlanta	GA		\$ 437.25								\$ 437.25
5771	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	Atlanta	GA	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00								\$ 1,000.00
5772	St. John Lutheran	Atlanta	GA	\$ 200.00									\$ 200.00
5773	Living Grace - Magi #4	Tucker	GA	\$ 350.00	\$ 100.00						\$ 128.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 586.00
5777	St. Paul Lutheran Church	Decatur	GA	\$ 15.80									\$ 15.80
5784	Holy Trinity	Marietta	GA	\$ 563.16	\$ 718.00							\$ 10.00	\$ 1,291.16
5793	Faith Lutheran	Clay	AL		\$ 50.00								\$ 50.00
5794	Shades Valley	Birmingham	AL		\$ 100.00								\$ 100.00
5798	St. Paul	Savannah	GA								\$ 500.00		\$ 500.00
5804	St. Paul's Lutheran Church	Mobile	AL	\$ 420.00	\$ 157.20								\$ 577.20
5813	Christus Victor Lutheran Church	Ocean Springs	MS	\$ 200.00							\$ 300.00		\$ 500.00
5816	St. Mark's Lutheran	Huntsville	AL	\$ 500.00	\$ 84.00			\$ 100.00			\$ 180.00		\$ 864.00

5832	Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church	Tullahoma	TN	\$ 124.00	\$ 25.00	\$ 321.00													\$ 445.00
5845	Reformation	Greeneville	TN						\$ 25.00										\$ 150.00
5848	St. James Lutheran	Greeneville	TN	\$ 50.00															\$ 50.00
5848	Our Saviour Lutheran Church	Johnson City	TN	\$ 93.60	\$ 17.48	\$ 25.00													\$ 136.08
5849	Holy Trinity	Kingsport	TN	\$ 300.00															\$ 300.00
5850	Gloria Dei	Knoxville	TN						\$ 100.00										\$ 100.00
5851	Messiah	Knoxville	TN	\$ 300.00	\$ 50.00				\$ 20.00										\$ 445.00
5859	Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church	Oak Ridge	TN	\$ 50.00															\$ 88.25
5881	Salem Lutheran Church	Parrottsville	TN	\$ 108.90															\$ 108.90
7404	Christ Our Shepherd	Peachtree City	GA	\$ 50.00															\$ 50.00
7428	St. Andrew Lutheran	Franklin	TN	\$ 172.50	\$ 50.00														\$ 222.50
7554	Grace	Carrollton	GA	\$ 170.00	\$ 25.00				\$ 20.00										\$ 215.00
7637	Trinity Lutheran	Liburn	GA	\$ 1,109.49	\$ 283.75				\$ 50.00										\$ 1,686.04
7774	Christ Lutheran Church	Oakwood	GA	\$ 120.00	\$ 200.00														\$ 915.00
10518	Rock of Ages	Decatur	GA	\$ 152.50															\$ 152.50
12070	Bethel Lutheran	Biloxi	MS	\$ 451.50									136.00						\$ 587.50
13074	Bethel Lutheran	Biloxi	MS	\$ 346.50	\$ 50.00				\$ 50.00				123.00						\$ 844.50
13261	Christ Lutheran	Nashville	TN		\$ 50.00				\$ 50.00										\$ 100.00
16236	Triumphant Cross Lutheran Church	Dothan	AL	\$ 120.00	\$ 100.00														\$ 220.00
16285	Grace Lutheran Church of the Atonement	Long Beach	MS		\$ 420.00														\$ 420.00
20039	Christ the King	Atlanta	GA		\$ 200.00														\$ 200.00
30025	Lord of Life Lutheran	Cumming	GA						\$ 200.00										\$ 200.00
30067	Christ Lutheran	Alpharetta	GA																\$ 369.35
30082	Christ Lutheran	Fairfield	TN	\$ 150.00	\$ 50.00														\$ 200.00
30448	Holy Trinity	Glade	AL	\$ 100.00															\$ 100.00
30747	Nativity	Daphne	GA	\$ 93.00															\$ 93.00
	First United Lutheran	Bethlehem	GA																\$ 302.00
	St. Timothy Special Unit	Kennesaw	GA																\$ 100.00
	St. John Lutheran	Forest Park	GA		\$ 50.00				\$ 50.00										\$ 150.00
		Abingdon	VA																\$ 20.00
				\$ 9,727.40	\$ 4,617.68	\$ 2,078.58	\$ 1,457.98	\$ 886.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 269.00	\$ 3,353.40	\$ 20.00	\$ 22,650.04						\$ 22,650.04

Welcome to the Virtual Church Service

By Terry Chongulia

Most of you are practicing social distancing and belong to church homes that have currently suspended services on the physical grounds of the church due to the current pandemic of COVID-19. One of the results of this has been the emergence of video chat rooms using applications like Zoom, Google meetings, or the recently launched Facebook rooms to hold church services often at the same time as when we all met together in person. Some churches are extending this to holding Wednesday night groups and adult forum Sunday school as well. There has certainly been a learning curve for folks and continued faux pas committed with forgetting to mute during service. I think we have all done it at least once.

The feel of a virtual church service is certainly different. It is awkward with the varying internet speeds of each participant and the fact that two people really can't talk simultaneously. It is strange and wondrous to see everyone on one screen. Some of us are dressed just like we would go to church, others are still in pajamas, and some just don't share their video feed. Some sit as a couple at the table with the computer, others hold up their smart phones and multitask during service. There is no right way, just what makes you feel comfortable to share fellowship and receive encouragement and inspiration. The hope is to still be fed. It's kind of like little kids who doodle pictures during a service and surprise you later on when you are in the car with a profound question because that doodling allowed part of their brain to focus on the service. So, if you see folks (like me) wandering around the house doing various things, but otherwise muted, cut them some slack. I promise we are engaged.

The excitement to see members of your congregation is great. I enjoy being able to see folks that I may not have ordinarily interacted with regularly at church in this format. Remember that as human beings, we experience church through all our senses, so I challenge you to find things that enhance your experience. It could be incense, or a scented candle, being in a room of your home that gives you a sense of church or being outdoors. Or for me, throwing a blanket around my shoulders because I am perpetually

cold in the sanctuary whereas my best friend is usually burning up ☺.

Even though you are being considerate and muted, sing along during hymns. This is your opportunity! You should not feel inhibited because you are usually embarrassed by your lack of singing skills during a physical church service. Belt it out!

Some of you will feel it is important to have a physical communion even though you are at home. If that makes the experience have more meaning, by all means, do so. I will also bring up another aspect of all of this which is that we are accustomed to passing the plate at offertory which obviously can't be done, so I would remind you just as all these other things bring meaning to you during a church service, so should your offering.

Church is just as much about tapping us inside as it is to reach outside of ourselves in our communities. In addition to the utilities, mortgage and music director, our contributions also go towards benevolence to the synod office which helps our fellow churches that may be having a more difficult time with the challenges brought on by COVID-19.

All of us look forward to being together again in the church for services and that experience WILL be different going forward as COVID-19 will continue to affect daily life and threaten the physical well-being of many parishioners. Until we can be together as the body of Christ, remember to be considerate of those around you by continuing to be cautious in public places and that God isn't just in our physical churches. Exercise opening your eyes a little more to the miracle of creation in nature, your fellow human being, and the world. I truly believe the Holy Spirit is more active than ever because of all that has happened. We just have to be open to when it manifests itself.

I hope this encourages you that church can still be a wonderful fulfilling experience. Peace be with you. †

Our New Normal

by Billie Goepfert

We are all wondering just what the new normal will look like in our lives after this Pandemic. Some scenarios might be increased biometric surveillance, one-way sidewalks, medical-grade face shields at the theatre, and virus proof steri-

lizable body suits to permit “socializing without distancing”. We may have robot cleaners and servers, immunity booster consultants, cashless societies, nose swabs and temperature readings at every travel gate. As a women’s organization we want to know for ourselves and our families, what will our new normal be like?

How optimistic or pessimistic shall we be? There is a spectrum of possible post-coronavirus futures, and no straight line from here to there. Our new “normal” depends on several unknowns. While the pandemic curve is flattening in parts of the country, we still don’t know if we’re at the front end of the wave, the early days of a wave that will pass over us or the beginning of a multitude wave pandemic, where each crest, each roller grows smaller, like the trajectory of a bouncing ball.

One thing is for sure, we will not emerge from a lockdown suddenly immune. The vast majority of us remain susceptible. “But behind it comes a new world, the formation of which we can at least imagine”. Through prayers and caring for one another we will overcome this.

Hopefully, the summer and months ahead will bring new antivirals and drugs to keep Covid-19 from changing our lives and the lives of those we love. So, ladies, let us keep cleaning with Lysol, making masks for our loved ones and LWR. Let us keep washing our hands, wearing our masks, saying our prayers and staying as safe as possible.

Our new “normal” will come and we will be stronger than we can imagine. †

In-Kind Gathering



MUST FOOD
Rapid Response

By
Sissy
Gifford

I hope all of you have stayed safe and well during this COVID 19 pandemic. It was with a heavy heart that we decided to cancel the convention but I would still like you all to keep in mind Must Ministries which will still be our Gifts in Kind recipient at next year’s convention. And do not forget about similar organizations in your area as well. These organizations are needed now more than ever. There are more people

struggling to take care of their families and they need the help these agencies offer. Which means they need our help and support to keep these agencies going. James 1:17a says “Every generous act of giving and every perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father.”

MUST Ministries is a volunteer organization dedicated to helping homeless and struggling individuals and families. They do not say ‘we can’ or ‘we will’ but that ‘we MUST’ help those less fortunate. They help with food, clothing, housing, employment, and other services. These services are available in 8 Georgia counties. As you can see, they are helping a large amount of people with all basic needs. Along with their regular programs, they are currently working on their Summer Lunch Program to feed hungry children throughout the summer.

In this Weaver I have decided to emphasize some of the different housing programs they have. First is their homeless shelter for those that only need a temporary stay. They have Permanent Supportive Housing for chronically homeless people with physical and/or mental disabilities. One of these homes is strictly for veterans. They have a program that helps people apply for and receive rental assistance through HUD and other programs that aid people. All their aid is to help people pull themselves out of homelessness.

A reminder that they have asked for donations of new socks and underwear. All sizes for men, women, and children. Since we are not having our convention this year, please start (if you have not already done so) collecting so that they feel our love for their ministry through our generosity and kindness. May God bless you and continue to keep you all safe. Looking forward to seeing you next convention in 2021.

If you would like further information on the programs of Must Ministries or would be interested in volunteering, visit their website at <https://www.mustministries.org/> .†

Essential Workers

By Shirley Connelly

During this time of the Covid-19 pandemic we all counted on special people classified as 'essential workers' to help us through our day to keep us safe or to guide us with essential information. These essential workers are critical to maintain our infrastructure, are involved with our public health and safety and our community well-being. But others have been determined to be 'essential workers' and are employed in jobs that have now become critical to our community: like working at a grocery store; or at a factory; or as a delivery driver; and some may even be volunteers who continue to feed the unemployed or homeless with boxes of food or bagged meals. Many of these people may be your family or friends or You!

While main street businesses were closed and people were asked to stay home to help stem the spread of this invisible and aggressive virus, our essential workers were asked to come to work every day and risk exposure to the virus to themselves and possibly to their family. Thankfully because of these good people and by following good social distance practices we have managed to slow down the spread of the virus, but we still must remain vigilant.

Our essential workers are truly heroes and while much of the world practices privileged social distancing, these employees at times are putting their health on the line to ensure the world keeps running. Oh, and please don't forget about our postal folks that keep delivering the mail that keeps us connected.

So, how can we help? How can we be 'lifeblood' to these much-needed essential workers? What can we offer while we're housebound? Here are a few ideas I found, and I know that you may have already come up with many more.....

- * Pray for essential workers and their families, and pray for a vaccine to bring an end to this pandemic.
- * Send a note card to a local business and let them know you appreciate the extra effort their employees are making for your safety.
- * Create a Sign – to express thanks to essential workers safely, consider making a sign for your yard or window that local workers will see when they go past your home.
- * Donate PPE - many frontline workers still don't have adequate access to PPE such as

masks and gloves. Many organizations are collecting donations like the LWR – 75,000 Mask Challenge.

- * Send food to Hospitals – some groups are raising funds to donate meal deliveries to hospital staffers who are working around the clock. Check for local fundraisers in your area.
- * Reach out to Friends/Family who are essential workers – send a text to friends and family who are still required to work during this time. Let them know you appreciate the work they do. If you can - consider offering to safely drop off or deliver food for them, so they don't have to worry about cooking.
- * Show Kindness –During these stressful times, a little kindness can go a long way. Even something as simple as sharing a smile from behind your protective mask can brighten someone's day.

Simply put we could just say "Thank you," as those two words are so meaningful and so heartfelt.

Blessings - Shirley†

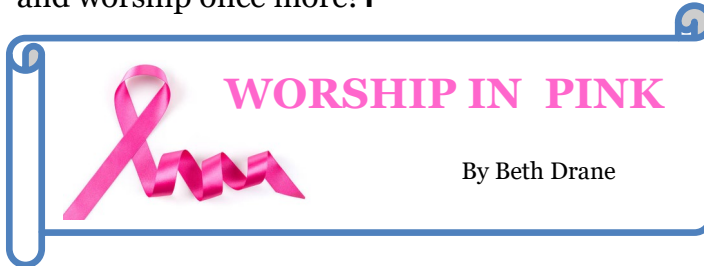
Gardening Can Heal our Hearts

By Diana Palma

During the last three months of isolation we have each been led to find our distinctive ways to remain close to our faith. How have you managed to bridge the gap of separation from our loved ones? For many of us that first answer may be PRAYER! Then what is your second answer? You may be an essential worker whose days have been the most challenging. May God's blessings be heaped upon you! You may have been fortunate to work at home. And then your answers may also include caring for your family 24/7! You may find God's peace in reading, sleeping, quilting, knitting, crocheting, cross-stitching, working out, cooking, baking, eating, writing, learning a new technology skill or participating in outreach projects remotely. The activity I have found to increase my peace and maintain my prayer life is gardening!

Being outdoors has allowed me to focus on God's message as I miss my time for worship and fellowship. I discovered that working in the garden opened my ability to pray and reduce the stress and fear this unique time had brought. In early spring I realized it was time to share my prayers, and I began with a Devotional for Holy

Week 2020. Throughout April I continued to create a series of video lessons and worksheets for kids on gardening. Somehow thinking about helping kids get through isolation brought even more comfort. Since then I have continued to look for ways to see the healing garden through the eyes of children each day. My prayer today is that you might find solace in some of the sites below until we may join in prayer, fellowship and worship once more!†



What is it?

WORSHIP IN PINK is a grassroots initiative that provides the opportunity for congregations of all faiths to spread the life-saving message about breast health and early detection in their respective congregations. The main goal of the program is to provide free breast cancer awareness and education, and increase the number of women receiving mammograms, and honor breast cancer survivors and those living with Metastatic Breast Cancer. Worship in Pink is a program held in various cities across the country.

When are they held?

Many times, these worship services are held in May around Mother's Day. Some are held on the third Sunday in Advent. In some churches the third Sunday in Advent is represented by a pink candle. It is called the "Shepard's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy. The third Sunday of Advent is Gaudete Sunday and is meant to remind us of the joy that the world experienced at the birth of Jesus, as well as the joy that the faithful have reached the midpoint of Advent. It is a time of honoring breast cancer survivors and remember those who succumbed to the disease. Most of the time it is held in October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Where can you get more information?

Susan G. Komen fight for the cure has foundations in all states and is the heartbeat of this campaign. You can download information and resources along with creative ideas to make your service special. Churches can also participate by using the Worship in Pink toolkit to develop

their own breast health events. The program has provided more than 100,000 women and men with breast health education and resources. By empowering women and men to take charge of their health, they continue to work toward the bold goal to reduce the current number of breast cancer deaths by 50% in the US by 2026. If you are not already doing so, I would encourage you to check out the web sites and consider celebrating Worship in Pink at your church.†

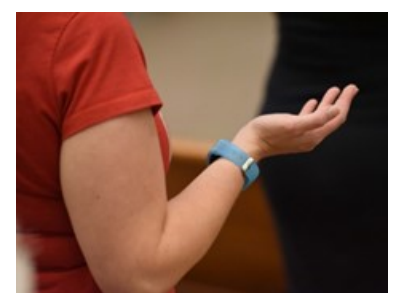
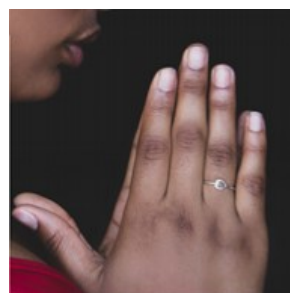


JOIN LUTHERAN WOMEN IN TUESDAY PRAYER AT NOON

(From the Blog- a call to prayer in the time of a pandemic.)

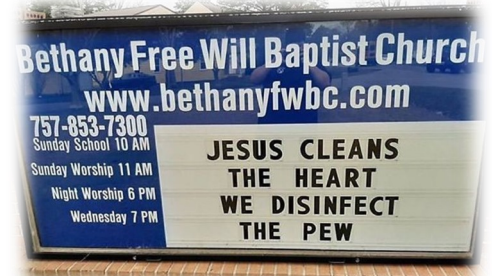
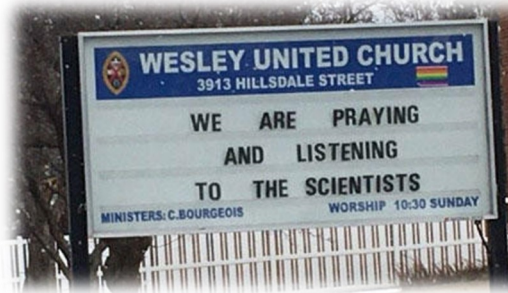
We have revitalized a discipline carried out in our organization in the past: gathering in prayer on Tuesdays at noon. We've created a simple form to follow: reflect on God's word, offer prayers, and reflect on your self-care and the care of others. We have a one-page downloadable prayer sheet available at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/prayer2020fi.pdf>. I encourage you to download and share it among the women in your congregation. Whether you are able to come together physically, on a ZOOM meeting or other online format, or just individually, let us all take the time to pray for our country, our leaders, and all our citizens.

Come together every Tuesday at noon to pray together, resting sure in the knowledge that "neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39 NRSV)†



Church Signs of Covid-19 Times

We need a little levity, so enjoy these church signs seen around the country.



What I Did on my COVID Vacation

By Louise Iconis

When our “Shelter in Place” order started in March due to the Coronavirus pandemic, I thought, “No big deal! We are retired. How different could this be?”

Well, the very first day we had to miss my oldest granddaughters birthday dinner. So sad for Izzy! Then Kevin started doing all the errands because of my asthma so I was not going out at all. Feeling useless, I made up several COVID kits for him with a disposable mask and gloves, and a couple of Purell wipes in Zip-loc bags, one for each errand. When I saw that we didn’t have enough supplies left I was able to order some vinyl gloves from Amazon.Smile but they were not selling masks because of the need for the medical workers.

So I found an easy pattern on Google, some scrap fabric and elastic to make him a couple of masks to wear when he goes out, then he washes them as soon as he gets home. His favorite by far is the happy face mask. (*see picture*) You may recognize the fabric as the one I used to make my bikini at our convention at St. Simon’s in 2015!

We have continued to keep our youngest granddaughter every Friday during the pandemic since both parents are still working. So I made CV masks for Aria and her parents. We did not see my other son and his girls for over a month. Then we had a “socially distant” visit in their driveway where I presented each of them with Georgia Tech masks. (*see picture*)

When the restrictions were finally eased and we were able to have the girls spend the night, we made Sophie a new “cow mask” since the others were too big for her. (*see picture*) Izzy, who missed her elementary school graduation in May, wanted to make a mask to commemorate the occasion. She did all the sewing on it and then we decorated the pleats with iron-on vinyl from my Cricut machine. (*see picture*) She was very proud of herself (and Nana too) and it was so much fun working on the mask together! I only wish I had enough fabric and elastic to make more masks for our local first responders and help with the Lutheran World Relief Challenge. Might have to find more on Amazon. Smile.

What are you doing on your COVID Vacation?†





SES Women of the ELCA

Name: _____ Date: _____



Find and circle each of the words from the list below. Words may appear forwards or backwards, horizontally, vertically or diagonally in the grid.



EBENEZER THE KING DIASPORA CLUSTER GOOD NEWS
 SILENT AUCTION WOMEN LOVE OFFERING RONALD MCDONALD
 TRINITY WEAVER MISSION GATHER SYNOD GIVING GRACE
 GULF COAST JARS OF CLAY KATIES TABLE CONVENTION
 MAGI AGAPE CAFE ELCA BOLD

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Can you figure these out?

1. 60 = M in an H
 (Minutes in an Hour)

2. 26 = L of the A

3. 12 = S of the Z

4. 9 = P in the S S

5. 88 = P K

6. 50 = S on the A F

7. 24 = H in a D

8. 8 = S on a S S
 (Sides on a Stop Sign)

9. 12 = M in a Y

10. 13 = S on the A F

11. 7 = D in a W

12. 4 = Q in a G

Answers will appear in the October issue.†

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

September 19, 2020
 ZOOM

November 6-8, 2020

Holy Trinity House, Lutheranch

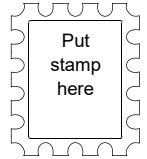


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