



Purpose Statement

As a community of women **created** in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and **empowered** by the Holy Spirit,
we commit ourselves to

Grow in faith

Affirm our gifts

Support one another in our callings,

Engage in ministry and action, and

Promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Mission Statement

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

COMING UP

Our next SWO convention
will be in October 2025

The **next Triennial** is in
Des Moines, IA in 2026.





~ Save The Date ~

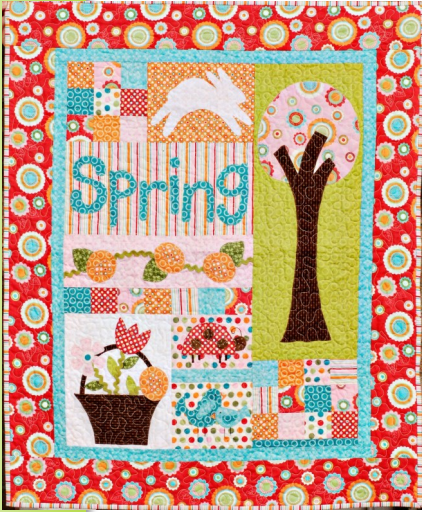
*NW WA Synodical Women's Fall Retreat
September 20-21, 2024
Huston Camp & Conference Center
14725 Ley Rd, Gold Bar 98251*

*This retreat will focus on caring for our mental,
physical and emotional health with
Food, Fellowship, Prayer & Guest Speaker
More information coming soon ~ watch your email*

Greetings to my Northwest Washington SWO Sisters in Christ!

Christ is Risen!

Christ is Risen indeed!



We have just celebrated another church blessing event. Our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ, has fulfilled the prophecy of the Old Testament and obeyed His Father's command for OUR benefit! Our Father sacrificed His Son so that we might be saved, and our sins forgiven! We are that special to Him and deeply loved by Him!

We now have the privilege and responsibility to uphold that sacrifice by living our life each day to glorify our Father in heaven. We may make mistakes along the way but let us remember that God loves us for who we are and forgives us when we prayerfully ask Him.

As our "spring" season is now in full bloom, may your walk with our Lord bring you joy in many "colors".

Please enjoy reading this newsletter and the articles within. Let us know of happenings in your church and community that can be shared in future newsletters. Look for our save the date retreat this fall.

Continued blessings~

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

ECHO NEWSLETTER CHANGES AHEAD!

We are making a major change in delivery to churches receiving our newsletter.

Starting with the next newsletter edition, our synod churches will be receiving **an email copy only**...no "snail" mail. The cost of mailing individual newsletters is about \$1.50 each. By not mailing them to the churches, we will save about \$150.00 per edition. Individuals receiving mailed newsletters should be paying \$5.00 per year to our treasurer, Linda Rudy. (see page 8 for details)

We are hoping that each church will make a copy from the email sent to them and post it for church members and any women's group in the church to read and/or add the newsletter link to the church's email correspondence to their members.

If anyone has questions, or comments, please contact me at 425.299.2287 or email me at: twylatom94@gmail.com.
Thank you.



WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN



Time & Location

2nd Saturday of each month: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Trinity Lutheran Church

6215 196th St SW, Lynnwood, WA 98036

Have you been recently widowed or have been for some time? The Re-Imagine group meets once a month, typically on the second Saturday, to talk and share experiences of living alone. As women, we depended on our spouse for many things, and now navigating single life can be a challenge.

We meet for an hour and provide some life experiences that are useful as well as fellowship. Join us for one time or many months-as we Re-Imagine our single life. Sue Carlson leads this group if you have questions (cars98@frontier.com).



Grief, Widowhood, and Learning Acceptance During Lent

By Tina Georgeson

Remember, you are dust, and to dust you shall return, the words of Ash Wednesday that I have heard and comprehended for many years. However, it was not until this Ash Wednesday (02/14/24), that I really *felt* the words deep down in my soul.

My husband died at the end of September (2023) and this was the first season of Lent without him. This year, Lent means something different, it means being alone in my sorrow. My church's theme for Lent was Renewal — how appropriate for this time of my life. The theme was reinforced as I read the daily devotions written by congregational members. I know that renewal will be slow, all the “firsts” set me back, but eventually renewal will begin again.

He turned 70, in March, during Lent. I sat in silence reminiscing about our life together as I did on Valentine's Day thinking of the love we shared. I did have a gathering of my and my husband's friends so that we could celebrate his life. After a morning of sadness, in the gathering, renewal was again ignited. The stories were wonderful, some were funny, others intriguing, and others touched my heart. After everyone left and I was cleaning up, tears welled up in my eyes, my heart was hurting. I miss him so much and feel so alone that for the rest of the evening I was quiet; sorrow is hard work.

Lent has always been a time for reflection, mediation, and prayer; especially during Holy Week. This year (2024) was no exception, but the reflection was different. As I reflected on my love for my husband, I was filled with both sorrow and joy. I still feel the loss very deeply and shed tears most evenings; he was a good man who died too soon. He still had things to do, people to help, and bouts of laughter to express. Holy Week has put these memories in the forefront of my reflections. The somberness of the great three days before Easter are felt with a quiet reflection.

Good Friday was especially poignant this year. I went back to my Catholic roots and attended a Stations of the Cross service; the station that made me gasp was when Jesus was lowered into his mother's arms after he had died. I remembered how I found my husband, in his recliner, having died during the night. His flesh was so cold, and his body was pale. When I drove home, his loss was present in my thinking — Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

The Easter Vigil, one of my favorite services because it fills all my senses with joy, lacked sparkle this year because my husband had always been a huge presence during this service. His leadership in *The Way* allowed him to support and welcome those that were Baptized or Affirmed their Baptism to join our congregation.

Easter has come, a time of renewal.

The joys of loving and knowing him are so much more apparent. Our sons are kind men because of him, people are better off because of him, his brother's heart problem was caught early because of him. I miss him more each day.

I am still grieving but I can see the sunshine of Easter in my future.

COLD WEATHER SHELTER—YEAR TWO

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Marysville contracted for the second year to house north Snohomish county's "Cold Weather Shelter". It opened (early) in late October because of our extreme weather conditions, instead of waiting till November first.

- ◆ It was open **57 nights** total through the end of March this year.
- ◆ It averaged about **18 clients** per night for a total of **1,024 beds**.
- ◆ **Seven** community groups provided meals with each group committing to the same day each week that the shelter was open.

Our church and preschool volunteered for two of those days. Numerous volunteers worked four different shifts each opening that included preparing and serving food, welcoming clients, spending time talking with and listening to clients, providing security throughout the night, laundry detail cleaning all bedding each morning and general clean-up each morning.

This opportunity continues to unite our church with the community, the homeless and the ability to be of service to others. We hope to be a blessing to others as much as we are blessed doing it.

Twyla Lucas, BLC member

CARE BAG PROJECT

Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, Seattle



Several months ago at our Spirited Women book group (Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church) a member shared about a project at another church. They were giving away care bags to unhoused people in their community. About the same time, five women at Phinney had decided to become a congregational unit of the NW Washington Women's Synodical organization. These members are Mary Lydic, Tina Georgeson, Roberta Diesner, Linda Ramsdell and Jackie Bacus.

These women met and decided that our first project would be to obtain funds to purchase items to be in the care bags. We decided that we would include a pair of men's socks, a small water bottle, a granola bar, a \$5 gift card and a resource list which would include our food bank information. We considered a McDonald's gift card, or a Starbucks' gift card. Eventually we decided on a Safeway gift card thinking it would be a more welcoming place. As we talked about our plans we received a few financial donations from church members as well as items for the care bags. We were then able to obtain a

\$250 Thrivent Action Grant and a \$500 grant from our Endowment Committee. We were able to purchase enough supplies to assemble 100 bags.

We chose to assemble the bags on Palm Sunday during the Education Hour and had 19 people assist in this process. Volunteers ranged in age from 10-80. All but 10 of the bags were taken by church members to distribute to individuals in their communities or people they saw at intersections asking for help. We await feedback from members about their experiences. It is hoped that this might be an ongoing project as funds are donated.



FAITH FAMILY VILLAGE AND FAITH FOODBANK

Faith Foodbank opened its doors in 2017 but when Covid hit our Food Bank expanded quickly. We went from a walk-in pantry helping 25 families a week to a drive-thru system where over 200 cars or approximately 1,000 people receive food each week.

There was a lot of conversation between the City of Everett, our State Representatives, Faith Lutheran Church, and the Foodbank about who the people coming to the Food Bank were. After many surveys we found that approximately half were either homeless or near homeless families. The food we provided helped them to continue to pay rent and utilities while getting 80% of their food from us and other sources. There is a strong link between hunger and housing. Faith Lutheran and Faith Food Bank looked at many solutions. We applied for grants and donations.

In 2021, we began our efforts to build **Faith Family Village**. It is 8 small pallet homes for families with kids only, a first in the United States.

In January 2024 our first families started moving in. We now have eight families in our homes that include 18 adults and 19 children (from babies to age 17). We have been able to help five parents find full-time employment. Soon we expect a few families will move into permanent housing. Then they will be replaced by other people on our waiting list.

Faith Family Village and Faith Food Bank need your support. Donations can be made on Amazon Wish List, Faith Family Village, where you can purchase many needed items. Financial donations can be mailed to Faith Family Village, 6708 Cady Rd, Everett, WA 98203.

Contact Roxana Boroujerdi at 425-971-0402 for more information.

Treasurer's Report



Happy Spring to all.

As of February 1st, I became the new treasurer and would like to remind you that there is now a new contact and mailing address. **Please send all donations, invoices, and financial inquiries to:**

**Linda Rudy
17211 Chinook Ct.
Mount Vernon, WA 98274**

I can be reached at 360-854-8945 and my email is Lindarae5803@gmail.com. I look forward to meeting you as we work together this year and on.

As of March 31st, we have received donations totaling \$1,491.30 to general offering and \$10.00 to Echo for hard copies of the newsletter. Giving forms A and B are included in this newsletter for your use.

A big thank you goes to our year-to-date donors including:

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, Bellevue;
Oak Harbor Lutheran Church, Oak Harbor;
Peace Lutheran Church, Silvana;
Phinney Ridge Lutheran Church, Seattle.

Many blessings, Linda

ECHO NEWSLETTER



The ECHO is a quarterly newsletter of the Northwest Washington Synod Women, E.L.C.A., providing information and news about Women of the E.L.C.A. Subscriptions are available by e-mail for no charge by sending your email contact information to Misi French, the editor/publisher, at the email noted below.

If you wish to receive your ECHO by regular mail, please submit \$5 annually along with your current mailing address to our treasurer to cover 1st class postage costs. Printing costs are covered by individual and unit offerings.

ECHO Editor and Publisher: Misi French at elca.swo@gmail.com

News articles about your women's groups can be emailed to Misi (see email above) or to our current SWO President, Twyla Lucas at twvlatom94@gmail.com

Subscription Checks should be sent to our current Treasurer:

Linda Rudy 17211 Chinook Court Mount Vernon WA 98274
Currently, a check is the only way to submit payments.

If you enjoy The Echo newsletter, let others know how they may receive it also!

~ Janice Stepp, Board Member

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

This is a new program for regular supporters and women who would like to give regularly by automatic withdrawal from their checking account or charge to their credit card. These gifts support the Women of ELCA General Fund and allow quick action and flexibility to respond where needed. Send a voided check with a note saying: *“I want to join FAITHFUL FRIENDS of the Women of the ELCA, please deduct my recurring gift of \$ _____ (\$10 or above) from my checking account on the 15th of the month. My voided check is enclosed.”*

OR: Rather than sending a voided check, state on paper the type of credit card (Visa/MC etc), credit card number, Exp. date, print name as it appears on the card, address, city, state and zip and your signature.

Mail to: Women of the ELCA Faithful Friends
 ELCA Gift Processing Center
 PO Box 1809
 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

OR: join online at welca.org/faithfulfriendsonline



Offering Form A

For use by CONGREGATIONAL UNITS
 for offerings to SYNODICAL TREASURER

Use Form A to submit **Regular Offerings** and **SWO Convention Offerings** to your Synodical Women’s Organization. Make check payable to “Women of the ELCA.” **Mail form with check to your synodical treasurer.** For more information, please call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730.

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------|
| | | DATE |
| CONGREGATION | CONGREGATION NUMBER | |
| CONGREGATION CITY/STATE | CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER NAME | |
| UNIT TREASURER NAME | PHONE NUMBER | |
| ADDRESS | EMAIL | |
| CITY/STATE | ZIP | |

| DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT |
|--|--------|
| REGULAR OFFERING | \$ |
| SWO CONVENTION OFFERING | \$ |
| CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER OFFERING* | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| TOTAL | \$ |

* It is recommended that at least 50% of any cluster or conference offering be sent to the synodical treasurer to be passed on in full to the churchwide women’s organization. Use this line if you are handling the offering from a cluster or conference event.

ELCAWO1021



Offering Form B

For use by CONGREGATIONAL UNITS
 for offerings to CHURCHWIDE

Use Form B for **Thankofferings**, **Where Needed Most**, **Katie’s Fund**, **Special Offerings**, and other **Designated Gifts**, including gifts to other ELCA ministries. Make check payable to “Women of the ELCA.” For more information, please call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730 or go online to womenoftheelca.org.

Mail form with check to: Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

| | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------|
| | | DATE |
| CONGREGATION | CONGREGATION NUMBER | |
| CONGREGATION CITY/STATE | ZIPCODE | REG/SYNOD |
| UNIT TREASURER NAME | PHONE NUMBER | |
| ADDRESS | EMAIL | |
| CITY/STATE | ZIP | |

| DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT |
|---|--------|
| WOG0420 | |
| THANKOFFERING | \$ |
| DESIGNATED GIFTS & SPECIAL OFFERINGS (PLEASE SPECIFY) | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| | \$ |
| TOTAL | \$ |

NW WA #1B SWO 2023-2025 Board



SWO Board L to R: Millie Fosberg, Roxana Boroujerdi, Kelly Apling, Janice Stepp, Linda Rudy, Jackie Bacus, Twyla Lucas. Not pictured are Tina Georgeson, and Gaye Rodriguey.

NEW BOARD MEMBER:

My name is **Roxana Boroujerdi**, born and raised in Central California. About 25 years ago Orange County California declared bankruptcy. I was working as a social worker for DSHS and was able to move to the Seattle area to gain employment with DSHS. I worked there until 2005 when I retired. After a few months of boredom sitting home, I convinced Faith Lutheran Church Everett to allow me to begin Faith Food Bank and in 2020 Faith Lutheran Everett gave me permission to pursue Faith Family Village. I am now the executive Director with its own 501c3. Faith Lutheran and I work closely together to make a difference in our community.

There are three expressions of Women of the ELCA, each with its own constitution:

- Congregational, inter-congregational and special units (about 4,500)
- Synodical Women's Organization - SWO (in 64 of the ELCA's 65 synods)
- Churchwide Women's Organization

The **synodical women's organizations** (SWOs) establish a partnership with units in their geographic areas and with the churchwide women's organization. SWO's exist to support women in congregations.

Each SWO has a board whose members are elected at an annual or biennial convention by voting members from units. Each SWO establishes clusters or conferences of units within its geographic area.

Conferences and clusters are groupings of congregations within a synodical organization. While they have no legislative responsibilities, conferences and clusters provide learning opportunities through leadership development, community building, stewardship education, networks for communication and opportunities for joint ministry and action with the guidance of the SWO.

NW Washington Synodical
 Women's Organization Board 2023–2024

PRESIDENT

Twyla Lucas

1012 Grand Ave.
 Everett, WA 98201
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twylatom94@gmail.com

Bethlehem Lutheran, Marysville

SECRETARY

Jackie Bacus

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Phinney Ridge Lutheran, Seattle

MEMBER at LARGE

Kelly Apling

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Trinity Lutheran Church, Lynnwood

MEMBER at LARGE

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Burlington Lutheran Church

TREASURER

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Burlington Lutheran Church

MEMBER at LARGE

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Salem Lutheran, Mt Vernon

MEMBER at LARGE

Roxana Boroujerdi

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Faith Lutheran Church, Everett

MEMBER at LARGE

Tina Georgeson

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Phinney Lutheran, Seattle

The **synodical women's organizations** (SWOs) establish a partnership with units in their geographic areas and with the churchwide women's organization. SWOs exist to support women of the ELCA. Each SWO has a board whose members are elected at an annual or biennial convention by voting members from units.

NW Washington
Synodical Women's Organization
c/o 8208 18th Ave NE
Seattle, WA 98115



NW Washington Synodical Women's Organization