

# THE BREEZE

Southern Ohio Women of the ELCA Newsletter

Spring 2021

## *From the President*

### Greetings Women of the ELCA of the Southern Ohio Synod!



I pray that you are doing well, staying healthy, staying safe and getting the vaccine. I've had my first round with my second vaccine coming on April 6<sup>th</sup>. It has been a different, difficult and troubling year for many. Praying that soon we can put this nightmare behind us. We have missed our families, holidays and celebrations, being in the company of women and have wandered lost in the wilderness. I know I certainly have. I often felt lost, not knowing and not able to become motivated to follow thru on things that I **could** do, becoming bogged down in the thoughts of all the things I **couldn't** do. I was impressed with those who dove into handiwork, crafting, reading, making masks, cooking, baking, trying a new hobby, etc. Hopefully, we will soon be able to meet in-person, sharing with one another again!

Elsewhere in this issue you will find information about a letter-writing campaign- yes, good old-fashioned actual letter-writing! No wonder the post office was so backlogged! This project was initiated by the churchwide WELCA called "Dear Friend in Christ". Did any of you participate or do something similar in your unit or church?

Recently, several women of the Southern Ohio Synod participated in the Pivot, Don't Panic Leadership Convention via zoom. In this we participated with over 200 other Lutheran women in leadership through Bible Study, sharing leadership frustrations and discussing goals for the future. You can see the event by going to [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org) and click on the Pivot, Don't Panic tab. There are videos of the event included on the site.

The Leadership Event encouraged us to "Pivot". Just like in a basketball game, the player pivots on one foot, while making a change or shift to a new movement. In pivoting, we keep our stability while adjusting, adapting, shifting, looking for plan B as we change to a new format. I hear from women that many units or church groups have pivoted very well, adjusting to relating to one another in new formats, shifting into unknown territory. ((see pivot tool on next page ))

## THE PIVOT TOOL KIT

**PURPOSE** – know your purpose, your call

**PRAYER** - remain in prayer for guidance

**PRAISE** - continue in praise to God

**PLAN** - staying focused and rooted in your faith

**“Ponder Anew, What the Almighty Can Do”**

### Treasurer News

New information – at least it was for me!

Churchwide Executive Director Linda Post-Bushkovsky informed the synod presidents that Thankofferings should **NOT be sent to Chicago**. Also, we were told that units are still using old forms... like from the 1980's. So please update or help your local treasurer to update.

Thankofferings should be sent with **Form B** to:

**Women of the ELCA ELCA Gift Processing Center**

**P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009**

I was unaware of this, so I venture to say that many of you or unit treasurers are unaware of this also. Please share this info with your unit treasurers. Conference Reps, please share this with your conference leaders and ask them to forward this on to unit treasurers.

Go to [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) Click on the Tools for Leaders tab at the top of the page. Scroll down to find Congregational Unit Treasurers and below that title you will see the Guide and also Form A & Form B that can be printed out.

## *UPDATE ON OUR SCHOLARSHIP*

Bishop Dillahunt recently shared this information with me:

The East of Lake Victoria Fund for Girls - formerly Red Eye Fund - received \$1194.28 from Southern Ohio WELCA. This is the endowment that was created from the Red Eye in Bishop Callon Holloway's honor upon his retirement. Several women in Southern Ohio Synod were instrumental in getting this endowment in place and it is good to hear that the initiative is being carried out these many years later and hopefully for many years to come. Being an endowment means that these funds self-generate.

Thank you to the women of Southern Ohio who  
made this endowment dream into reality.



The other night, I couldn't sleep. It was 3 AM. This is typical for me. So I went out to my favorite chair and there, next to it, was the recent Gather Magazine that had just arrived in the mail the previous day. I had not taken the time to look at it until that moment at 3 AM during a sleepless night. By the light of my flashlight, I read and was so touched by the wonderful articles.

I encourage you, if you are not receiving GATHER, that you seriously consider it. It is full of wonderful stories written by women. Bible studies are also included. Perhaps consider sending a subscription to a friend or to a local college campus ministries.

Your sleepless friend, Susan

The Eleventh Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA, originally scheduled for July 14-16, 2020, has been postponed and rescheduled for August 3-5, 2021, due to the global coronavirus pandemic. The rescheduled convention will be held digitally, with details to be provided in the coming months.



It is my hope that women other than the elected voting members may be able to virtually join in on observing the 2021 Triennial Convention. As I've said many times, this is where the business of the Women of the ELCA is carried out. Churchwide board members are elected, initiatives brought forth and the mission of the upcoming triennium is formed thus driving the work of the Women of the ELCA nationally. This is the "bigger connection" of Women of Southern Ohio Synod to Women of the ELCA.

Watch for more information about the Convention

*I wish you a blessed Easter season and a beautiful spring. Continue in your prayers for one another, for our church, our community and our world.*

*Be Blessed*

*Susan Wyckoff*

*President Southern Ohio WELCA*

## WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH MY TRIENNIAL REGISTRATION MONEY ?

For those of you who had pre-registered at the 2017 Triennial or had registered to attend the Triennial Gathering 2020 or 2021, you probably received an email from churchwide recently with options regarding your registration money. I would like to add to that and ask that you prayerfully consider “paying it forward”.

You have several options:

- 1) Of course, you can retain your registration for 2023. To do this, you need do nothing. The registration will automatically be held until the Gathering in 2023.
- 2) You can transfer your registration to a friend.
- 3) You can donate your registration fee to the Churchwide WELCA.
- 4) Or, you can request a refund.

To choose options 2, 3 or 4, you must make your decision by April 30<sup>th</sup> by going to the email noted in that email from churchwide:  
info@frameworkmeetings.com  
or leave a detailed voicemail message at 208-502-1150 and the registration provider will assist you. Please note, the \$5.00 registration fee is non-refundable.

If you plan to ask for a refund, it is the hope of Southern Ohio WELCA that you consider “paying it forward” by donating the amount to a WELCA supported entity or global effort.

Suggestions being:

- your local unit for a project
- Lutheran World Relief or Lutheran Disaster Response
- The Hunger Network, this is a Southern Ohio Synod entity
  - Current for Curran, Human Trafficking, etc
  - a charity or global effort of your choosing

Thank you for your consideration!

# CELEBRATION GATHERING IN CINCINNATI

SATURDAY JUNE 12TH 2021 11AM –1 PM  
BECHTOL PARK in KENWOOD AREA

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

Bring your mask, favorite lawn chair, and lunch. Bottled water will be available. We will celebrate the chance to commune together after the past year. Share our stories and begin to plan for the future.

We will be sending an email out to the Cincinnati Conference around the first of May. **Save the Date** and be on the look out for the email.

Need answers sooner? Email [rbk013@gmail.com](mailto:rbk013@gmail.com) or call 513-284-5176  
I will help you get you question answered best I can.

Can't Wait to See Everyone!

Southern Ohio Women Changing the World, one day at a time.

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