



Our mission:

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

Declaración de misión:

Movilizar a las mujeres para actuar con valentía en base a su fe en Jesucrist.

Metropolitan New York Synod Women of the ELCA

President's Message

We welcome you to Witness the publication of the Metro-NY Women of the ELCA. I am your newly elected president. I hope to get to know many of you over the next year.

This September we had our annual Synod WELCA Convention at the Wartburg in Mount Vernon. It began with a service lead by Rev. Dolores McKay with our preacher Bishop Robert Rimbo giving us an inspiring sermon. At the last WELCA National Convention a resolution was passed to have all Synod WELCA groups do something to provide for people to be informed on the issue of human trafficking. We were pleased to have Kimberly McNair from My Sister's Place in White Plains talk to us on what human trafficking is, how to recognize it, how it exists in all our communities and how we can help.

In the afternoon we got to hear Deborah Banks Williams give us greetings from Churchwide WELCA letting us know what resources churchwide provides and what is going on nationally. We also got to hear Thelma Ruffin Thomas, renowned storyteller, speak to us and inspire us to listen to each other's stories.

This year I (Irene Germain) was elected president of Metro-NY WELCA Synodical Board. We also elected Susan Tedesco as Treasurer and Barbara Hatchett as board member. We are thankful to those going off the board who have faithfully served us Barbara Tormondsen as president, Karen Smith as Treasurer and Nancy Eichorn as board member.

In the year ahead we will begin to get people interested in going to the 2017 Churchwide Women of the ELCA Gathering in Minneapolis Minnesota, July 13-16, 2017. We will be electing delegates this fall at our convention for the business Convention which takes place a few days prior to the Gathering. We will be looking for nominations for these positions. We also will provide two scholarships to help people get to the Gathering. I went to the Churchwide WELCA Convention in Charlotte, NC in 2014 as a delegate and then stayed for the Gathering. I learned a lot about the workings of WELCA and of all the projects we, as part of churchwide WELCA, are working on. See the save the date flyer in this newsletter.

We thank all the WELCA units who have made a contribution to MNYS of the Women of the ELCA in 2015. Please see our Treasurers Report in this issue. For us to do our work in this area and Churchwide we need your contributions. Half of your unit contributions go to Churchwide WELCA and half stays in our MNYS WELCA. A portion of our budget each year supports ministries in our area such as Susan's Place.

If you have an event that is in your church or area that you think would be of interest to our WELCA women please get it to me and I will try to pass it out. Also, if your group does something interesting that you would like to share with others, please let me know.

Peace be with you.

Irene Germain

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Treasurer's Report

Time is flying by and soon it will be Christmas, the end of the year and all that those two events entail. Your Metro New York Women of the ELCA treasury is still “missing” a few congregations who have not made a contribution of record for 2015. Is your congregation one of them? Please consider sending your offering for the work of our organization. Half of every dollar you send to the Synodical Women’s Organization gets sent on to Churchwide (National) Women of the ELCA for the work of women worldwide.

Did you know that this past year, our Metro New York Women of the ELCA supported two worthy causes with our “synodical project” budget line?

\$625 was sent to **Seafarer’s International** to support the ministry of port chaplains visiting ship crews in the ports of New York and New Jersey. This worthy group meets an urgent need to counsel and comfort crews of the ships that deliver all the goods we enjoy from around the world, a dangerous and lonely profession.

Another \$625 was sent to support the **Phebe Hospital Solar Project** being spearheaded by the Northeastern Minnesota Synod of Women of the ELCA. This national effort will allow Phebe Hospital, a Lutheran facility in Liberia, West Africa, install solar collectors there so that gasoline generators currently used to produce electricity for the hospital can be phased out and saving \$380,000 fuel costs which can be used for medicines and medical equipment. This “no-brainer” project is still struggling to raise \$600,000 for the installation (can you or your congregation help with this also? Contact me, I’ll tell you how).

The money sent to Churchwide Women ELCA (national), is used, among other things, to write free materials available for download at www.WomenoftheELCA.org Congregational units are often searching for program ideas for meetings and celebrations. Go to the website and click on “resources”, you will find a wealth of program materials – all FREE for you to download and use.

The women in your ELCA congregation are automatically members of Women of the ELCA. However, in order to be considered an “active unit”, you need to send a contribution of record once a year. This can be a small amount if your group is small, so don’t worry that the amount is not significant. Also, many congregations no longer have a women’s group with officers and monthly meetings – that’s a sign of the times. However, whenever your women meet, whether it’s for Bible study, making Prayer Shawls, LWR quilt making, crafts for your fair, Altar guild, a book club, an

“out to lunch” group, a group that serves lunch at funerals, a group that make’s meals for a soup kitchen, there is no end to the type of group. Just once a year collect a free-will offering, recite the “Purpose Statement” of Women of the ELCA, send the offering on to the Synodical Treasurer of Women ELCA and you have become an “active Unit”! How simple! How important!

Listed below are the congregations in Metro New York who have given an offering of record to Women of the ELCA in 2015 (reminder: it’s an offering, not dues!). Note: the listing distributed at the September 2015 convention listed congregations giving during 2014 and 2015. If your church was on that list, but not listed below, it means you haven’t sent me an offering during 2015:

St. Peter’s, Baldwin
Incarnation, Bridghampton
St Peter’s 219 Street, Bronx
Holy Cross, Commack
Ascension, Deer Park
Dobb’s Ferry LC, Dobb’s Ferry
Christ, Ellenville
Abiding Presence, Fort Salonga
Epiphany, Hempstead
New Hope, Jamaica
Redeemer, Kingston
Trinity, Kingston
Trinity, Long Island City
St. John’s, Lynbrook
Our Savior, Manhasset
St. David’s, Massapequa Park
United, Mount Vernon
St. Luke’s, New Rochelle
King of Kings, New Windsor
Grace, North Bellmore
Our Savior, Patchogue
Good Shepherd, Pearl River
Good Shepherd, Plainview
Emanuel, Pleasantville,
St. Paul’s, Port Jefferson Station
Our Savior, Port Washington
Trinity, Rocky Point
Good Shepherd, Roosevelt
St. Paul’s, Rye Brook
Messiah, Staten Island
Faith, Syosset
Community, Uniondale
Christ, Wantagh
St. Matthew’s, White Plains
Grace, Yorktown Heights

Your Congregation not listed above? Please send me a contribution for 2015.

Karen Smith, Treasurer Metro NY
81 Stillwater Ave., Massapequa, NY 11758

I will continue to be your treasurer until the end of this fiscal year, 1/31/16. Beginning 2/1/16 Susan Tedesco will take charge of the books. She will contact each congregation after that date with her address information.

Karen Smith
SWO Treasurer

Your Metro-New York Synodical Board

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Susan's Place

Metro New York Women of the ELCA supports **Susan's Place**, a Bronx shelter for medically frail and mentally ill homeless women. This 200-bed transitional residence has a medical and dental clinic on site. **Susan's Place** provides a safe and supportive environment until residents are placed in permanent housing. Learn more about Susan's Place by visiting www.careforthehomeless.org
We support this mission through monetary grants and through the sale of Lucinda pins and our new Women of the ELCA charm bracelets.

Chico Charm Bracelets

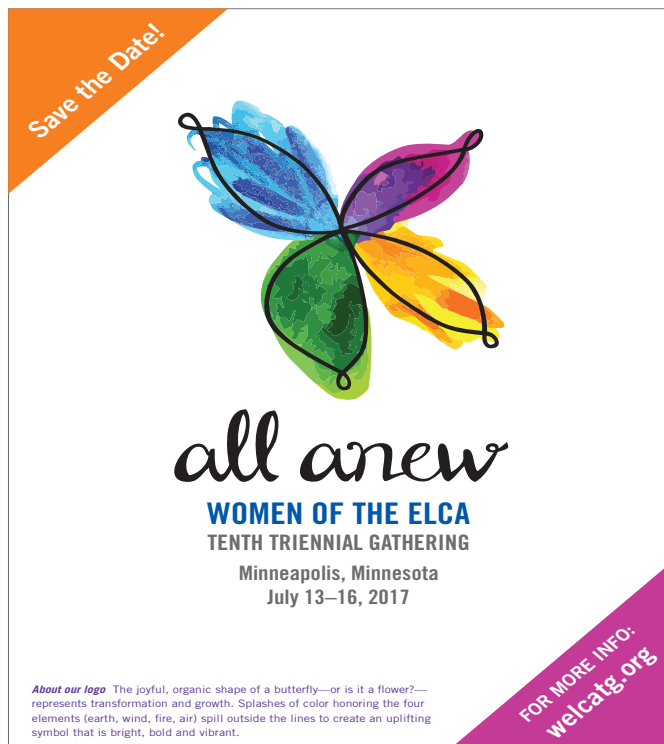
We now have a pretty new item we are selling. It is the ChicoCharm Bracelet with the WELCA logo on it. We are selling these for \$15. Metro NY Women of the ELCA donates the proceeds to Susan's Place. If you would like to sell these at your next unit event please contact Irene Germain at irene6174@comcast.net



LUCINDA'S PINS

Metro-NY Women of the ELCA donates the proceeds from the sale of **Lucinda Pins** to Susan's Place to assist in providing important services for women in need. CEO Lucinda Yates of Designs by Lucinda, was once homeless and in need of help. She designs and produces unique wearable art to bring financial help and awareness to non-profit causes worldwide. This year we are introducing a new pin designed to bring awareness to domestic/partner abuse. Our board member, Patricia Rose, is coordinating this fundraising effort. **If you would like to sell pins at your next unit event, please contact Patricia at browncoolie@yahoo.com.**





**Like us on facebook at
 MetroNY Women of the ELCA**

Eastern Naussau Conference does a WELCA Bible Study each year. Perhaps your area might pick up on this idea and do something similar in your conference. We all gain from each other by doing some activities with other churches in our area.

**EASTERN NASSAU CONFERENCE
 WOMEN OF THE ELCA BIBLE STUDY
 2015-2016
SLOW FAITH/ CHRISTIAN CITIZENSHIP 101**

DATE	TOPIC, THEME VERSE	HOST CHURCH	PASTOR LEADER	Gather MAGAZINE ISSUE
Sept 25, 2015	Sabbath Keeping,	Christ, Wantagh	Pr. Martin Nale	Sept 2015 Session 1
Oct.30, 2015	Make Haste O Lord	Our Redeemer, Seaford	Pr. Ron Klose	Oct 2015 Session 2
Dec. 4, 2015	Tempo Giusto	St.John's, Bellmore	Pr. Laurie Cline	Nov 2015 Session 3
Jan. 29, 2016	Confidence in God's Beg & End	St. Stephen's, Hicksville	Pr. Trubey-Weller	Jan/Feb 2016 Session 1
Feb. 26, 2016	Servant-Shaped Soldiers	Grace, No.Bellmore	Pr. J. Krauser	Jan/Feb 2016 Session 2
Mar. 18, 2016	Being of One Mind	St.David's,Mass.Park	Pr. A Strasser	March 2016 Session 3
Apr 29, 2016	Keep On Keeping On	Faith, Syosset	TBA	April 2016, Session 4
May 27, 2016	An Intergenerational lesson	Good Shepherd,Plainview	Pr. N. Sollom	May 2016, Session 1

Bible Studies are held on the fourth or last Friday of each month (except for November/December) at 10 am. Pastors volunteer to lead the study (Approx 10:30 to 11:30). Women from the host church provide coffee and cake (10:00 to 10:30). The participant's study is published in **Gather** magazine. Subscriptions are \$12 per year (10 issues). Order Center, Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8930 or 1-800-628-4648 or www.womenoftheelca.org go to Publications; Gather, subscribe.