



## **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**

In this issue of Witness I have put in our report to the Metro NY Synod Assembly (pg. 5.) As you can see we, as women of WELCA, do much locally and nationally to grow our faith and serve others.

Our WELCA Gathering on September 16, 2017 is one to look forward to. We will have a special service in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lutheran Church, Thelma Thomas will lead us in a program "Who Am I" and Judy Benke will speak to us about who is a Refugee and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

At our WELCA Gathering on September 16 at the Wartburg we will be having a short business meeting. We will be electing people to the board as well as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. We hope that people from all Conferences of our Synod will step up and run for these positions. If we want to continue having a Synod Board, we need you. This year we will be meeting as a board for 5 times. Our last few meetings have been at United Lutheran on the Wartburg in Mt. Vernon. We are grateful to Pastor Fryer and her congregation for this.

The main job of the board is to act as a support between Churchwide WELCA and our local units and to plan for our yearly Gathering.

I will be looking forward to seeing many of you at the Triennial Gathering July 13-16 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Evie Buhner is planning a meal at a restaurant for our Metro NY group. Please let Evie know if you are going to the Gathering by e-mail to [eviline@optonline.net](mailto:eviline@optonline.net) so we can let you know the plans for this event.

God's blessing upon you and enjoy your summer.

*Irene Germain*

[Irene6174@comcast.net](mailto:Irene6174@comcast.net)

845-225-4698

### **Treasurer's Report**

Your Synodical New York WELCA Board is hard at work preparing for our Annual Gathering in September and we hope to see all of you there.

I am happy to report that 31% of our congregational units have sent in a contribution. As a result, contribution income is up 11% over the same period last year. For those of you who have sent in a contribution, thank you. You are supporting the many ministries of the Women of the ELCA and making a difference.

**If your unit has, as yet, not sent in a gift, please send it along as soon as possible to Susan Tedesco, 61 Summit St., White Plains, NY 10607.**

Be sure to check out the Women of the ECLA website, <http://www.womenoftheelca.org>. There are many resources that are available to you free of charge.

I am looking forward to the upcoming Triennial in Minneapolis this July. I hope to see many of you there.

Susan Tedesco

Treasurer

#### **2017 WELCA TRIENNIAL**

**Please e-mail Evelyn Buhner**

**[eviline@optonline.net](mailto:eviline@optonline.net) if you are going to the Triennial Gathering in July to get the details on our Metro NY WELCA group meal**

**Coming next April, Region 7  
Retreat**

**Holy Name Retreat Center  
West Hartford, CT**

**See flyer on page 6.**



PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS - 1 PETER 2:9

## **Metro-NY Women of the ELCA 2017 Annual Gathering**

**Saturday, September 16, 2017 8:30 AM- 4 PM**

**At The Wartburg, Mt. Vernon, NY**

Opening worship service with **Pastor Carol Fryer** presiding and **Pastor Dinah Dutta** from churchwide WELCA preaching and special music by members of the **Charis Chamber Voices**.

**Thelma Ruffin Thomas** - Who **Am I** – Thelma is a renowned story teller and will help us discover new insights.

**Lutheran Immigration and Refuge Services – Judy Benke** - Hear what a refugee is and how LIRS has been working with refugees since the 1940's.

**Continental lunch and breakfast included**

Business meeting. Greeting from our WELCA Churchwide rep.

**Registration due by September 1, 2017**

**Cost is \$45 per person (Program is free for girls 10 – 18 years old)**

**For information e-mail Irene Germain at [Irene6174@comcast.net](mailto:Irene6174@comcast.net)**

**MNYS Women of the ELCA  
2017 Annual Gathering Registration Form**

WHEN: Saturday, September 16, 2017 – Registration begins at 8:30 am

WHERE: The Wartburg, Mount Vernon, New York

**Cost is \$45 per participant.** (Free for girls 10 – 18 yrs old.) Registration fee includes: Continental breakfast, lunch, Gathering booklet and workshops. Please make checks payable to “Metro-NY Synod WELCA.” **Registration deadline is September 1, 2017.** Registrations are strongly encouraged to help ensure adequate materials and refreshments.

Send completed registration forms to:

Susan Tedesco  
61 Summit St.  
White Plains, NY 10607

If you have any questions, please contact Irene Germain (845-225-4698) or by email at Irene6174@comcast.net

MNYS Women of the ELCA may be taking pictures at the gathering. By registering for this event, you give Women of the ELCA permission to use your image and comments in educational, informational and promotional material in a variety of media.

Name of Registrant \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

Church name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Note: Each congregational WELCA unit is entitled to one delegate.

I am registering as: Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Board member \_\_\_\_\_

Participant \_\_\_\_\_ Clergy \_\_\_\_\_

For congregational WELCA unit Delegate- Please have Pastor's or unit president's signature confirming you as delegate:

\_\_\_\_\_

**MNYS Women of the ELCA  
2017 Nomination Form**

Check below the position in which the nominee is willing to serve.

**Be sure to obtain the nominee's CONSENT before completing this form!**

Email completed forms by September 7, Irene Germain at Irene6174@comcast.net

Or by mail to: Irene Germain 135 Kent Shore Drive, Carmel, NY 10512

Nominee for:

President \_\_\_\_\_ Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_ Board Member \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Home: \_\_\_\_\_ Work/Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation and Conference \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Church Experience (Please state offices held, responsibilities, years of service):

ELCA (Include activities at congregational, conference or synodical levels):

Women of the ELCA (Congregational, Conference and synodical activities):

Interdenominational Activities (Local, state and national organizations):

Nominee Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(May write additional information on back of this form or on separate sheet)

# Women of the ELCA

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ and as part of our purpose grow in faith, and engage in ministry and action.

Irene Germain  
President  
135 Kent Shore Drive  
Carmel, NY 10512

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[facebook.com/  
MetroNYWomenoftheELCA/](https://www.facebook.com/MetroNYWomenoftheELCA/)

We grew in faith by having our synod Gathering with the theme "Who is our neighbor". Many of our congregational units have Bible Studies and retreats.

In ministry and action, LWR kits are made throughout our synod, local units support food pantries, homeless shelters, school supplies and other community programs. Synod wide we supported Susan's Place, Food for the Poor and School Supplies. Churchwide we supported solar power for Phoebe Hospital in Liberia. Churchwide and locally work is done to help stop human trafficking, support women's issues and womens education, and children's issues.

## How does your organization reflect the goals and enablers of our synod's Strategic Plan?

Women of the ELCA have always tried to have people grow in their faith, affirm their gifts and engage in ministry and action to promote peace and healing. These tie into all the goals of the synods strategic plan.

Trinity, Brewster WELCA Packing LWR Layette Kits

Women of the ELCA in their congregation's have raised money to match the synod grants that were granted to their congregation.



## What does the mission of your organization contribute to who we are as Lutherans in the 21st Century?

Metro NY WELCA encourages people in the synod to look at their faith and move on to help their community and world. At our Gatherings in congregations, on the synod and churchwide level we have been discussing and working on domestic violence, sex trafficking, Seafarers International, Phoebe solar project, women's issue and racism.

Delegates Sharon Lee and Barbara Tormondsen to Triennial Churchwide WELCA Convention



## How can this organization speak to themes around the 500th Anniversary, especially our assembly theme, "Faith Not Fear."?

At our Gathering on September 16, 2017 at the Wartburg in Mt. Vernon NY we will be using the 500th anniversary as our focus.

This summer the Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA on July 13-16, 2017 will happen. The theme is All Anew. The theme is one of transformation. In our local congregational units women have been using this theme through the All Anew 5 renewal devotions on creation, hope, life, sight and spirit.

## How can individuals and congregations engage in the work of this organization?

Learn how to establish a WELCA unit by contacting Irene Germain at [Irene6174@comcast.net](mailto:Irene6174@comcast.net) or by going to [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org).

Attend our Gathering on September 16, 2017, the churchwide WELCA Triennial in July 2017 or the Region 7 WELCA Retreat in April 2018.



Region 7 WELCA Retreat Metro NY Group



Metro NY WELCA Gathering 2016

Metro NY WELCA Gathering, September 16, 2017 at the Wartburg, Mt. Vernon, NY. Registration information will be sent to every congregation in Metro NY Synod the beginning of June.

WELCA Triennial Gathering, July 13-16, 2017, Minneapolis, Minnesota. For information and registration go to [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org).

Region 7 Women of the ELCA Retreat April 27-28, 2018 at Holy Family Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT. Registration is not open yet. For information contact Irene Germain, [Irene6174@comcast.net](mailto:Irene6174@comcast.net), 845-225-4698.





# SAVE THE DATE

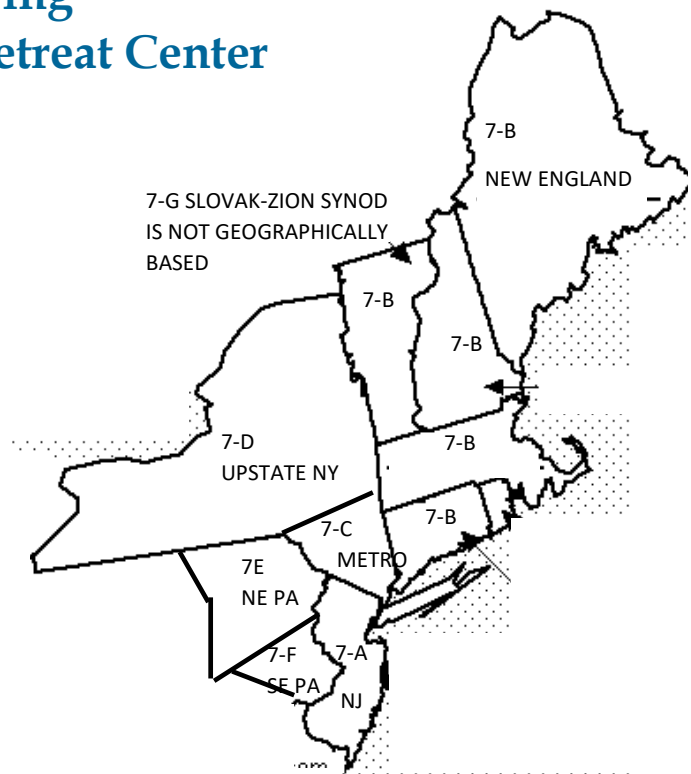
April 27-29, 2018

## “WE ARE AN OFFERING”

*All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be we give to you, O Lord.*

### Region 7 Spiritual Gathering Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center West Hartford, CT

- Focus on Our Creative Gifts
- Fellowship with Your Sisters in Faith
- Unique Worship
- Engaging Bible Study
- Moving Speakers
- Spiritual Renewal
- Hands On Workshops
- NO BUSINESS



**A Beautiful Weekend in a  
Beautiful Setting**