

The Courier

Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization

2020 – Fall Issue

This is the 2020 Allegheny SWO Fall issue of *The Courier*. This issue contains LWR shipping information. Please read all the articles and forms carefully and share the information with your congregational unit and with all women in your church.

Greetings from the President....

This has been the most challenging year for the Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization and the Women of the ELCA. It is the Board's hope that as you begin meeting again that you would remember that we are a "community of women" and encourage you to be in prayer for each other and our organization. We will all be meeting in a different way and will have some restriction in what we do, but we can be confident that God will lead and direct us. Since units have not been able to meet these past few months, we are encouraging you to continue sending in your offerings. Please contact me or any of the Board if you have any questions or concerns about the organization.

When the Board postponed the 2020 ASWO convention, we decided to extend the current Board's terms for one year. We have not met as a Board since March, so

will have a full agenda for our next meeting in the near future. The priority will be to seek nominees for President, Vice President and Board members and to plan the date of the 2021 convention (tentatively in April). The Convention Committee's priority will be discussing whether to keep the same theme and the same workshops and presenters and other activities for that day. There will be a Call to Convention newsletter sent out in February with all the pertinent information.

I'm sure you have been wondering about the LWR collection. We will be doing the same as in past years. The Collection information is included in this mailing, so please read it carefully as there are a couple changes and additions. The LWR/Church World Service Warehouse is asking that we tally the number of boxes that will be transported, so they will have adequate help for unloading the shipment. Bring that tally with you to your collection site and give it to the driver (Somerset and Johnstown) and to Elaine (East Freedom). That way they can notify the Warehouse ahead of time.

Please take a moment to read the greeting from Linda Plorin, Women of the ELCA President.

May God continue to bless each of you,
Carol McClure

Greetings from Lisa Plorin President, Women of the ELCA

2020 has certainly been a trying year. Isolation and uncertainty, two words that describe what everyone is feeling due to COVID 19. This summer was to be the 11th Triennial Convention and Gathering of the Women of the ELCA in sunny Phoenix, AZ, but due to the circumstances this event was postponed until August of 2021. Many other events were also cancelled or postponed, events that we, as women of the ELCA look forward to. Retreats, conventions, bible studies, regular worship just to name a few. We are all in the same boat!

Over the past several weeks, myself and Executive Director Linda Post Bushkofsky have been meeting with the regional Synodical presidents over ZOOM. We use this time to connect and brainstorm ideas on how to thrive as a community of women. Yes, there is some lamenting, but the common denominator is shared through the words of our 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."

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that this amazing organization is there for YOU! Yes, we still need to practice social distancing and conduct much of our business virtually – but it can be done. Whether you need ideas to revitalize your group or simply inspiration on how to live out our ministry as individuals, we're here for YOU!

Please take some time today to remember your calling. Go to womenoftheelca.org and re-familiarize yourself with the many resources available. Take advantage of simple things like Tuesday prayers at noon. This is an opportunity to pray with Lutheran women across the church every Tuesday at noon (in your time zone) in prayer. Design a Thankoffering container and make a conscious decision to look for things to be grateful for each and every day. Drop a few coins in the container and forward these Thankofferings on to churchwide.

Reach out to the Region 8 liaison Jennifer DeLeon (800-638-3522, ext. 2455) for support. These small gestures will help you feel connected to your siblings in Christ across the entire churchwide expression.

Hang in there, my Friends, for soon we will be celebrating together in fellowship and praise in Phoenix in August of 2021!

OFFERINGS INTERPRETATION

The Women of the ELCA has four avenues for giving:

REGULAR OFFERINGS -are usually collected by units at circle meetings, Bible study sessions and general meetings);

THANKOFFERINGS - are collected during a Thankoffering service or Thankoffering devotion;

DESIGNATED GIFTS — is an opportunity to support a specific ministry and are passed in total to that chosen ministry.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS - are given in observance of a special occasion, memorial or anniversary, to Katie's Fund, or one of the Women of the ELCA scholarship endowment funds.

Your offerings are gratefully appreciated. Your offerings join with those of other synodical organizations and congregational units throughout the ELCA to make Christ known worldwide. Together they do what you alone cannot do and go where you may not be able to go.

We give because it is essential to our partnership with God in accomplishing God's mission for the world around us. We give in order to make a difference and it exciting to watch that change happen. Our common values guide us as we work together with the shared vision of acting boldly on our faith and trust in God which is ultimately revealed through our giving. We give through offering God thanks and praise. Our gifts connect us to one another and are needed to achieve unity in the body of Christ.

BLANKET SUNDAY AND LWR COLLECTION 2020

GENERAL INFORMATION

Blanket Sunday is a ministry that is traditionally held on the first Sunday in October. Persons in every congregation of the Allegheny Synod are invited to give a special offering for the purchase of blankets for Lutheran World Relief. Your contributions buy sturdy blankets which provide shelter, warmth, and security for those in the world facing disaster. Blanket Sunday envelopes are available from the Synod Office. **ALL BLANKET SUNDAY MONEY COLLECTED IN THE SPECIAL ENVELOPES SHOULD GO THROUGH YOUR CHURCH TREASURER TO THE SYNOD.**



PARISH PROJECTS, QUILTS, ETC.

Blanket Sunday is also the time when many congregations collect quilts, blankets, kits, and soap to be shipped to Lutheran World Relief in New Windsor, Maryland. Once again this year, the Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization has organized this collection. Details for the pick-ups in the various parts of the Synod are included in this mailing. Anything you can do to help promote this project will be greatly appreciated. PLEASE label the outside of your box to indicate the contents. Detailed directions for making and assembling the parish projects are available on the LWR website.

PACKING

Items should be sorted and packed with like items together in a box. Label contents in **LARGE BLOCK LETTERS** on the outside of the box. Use strong cartons secured with packing tape. Please do not allow boxes to exceed 40 pounds. Please do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations. **Write the name and address of your congregation on each box and label contents. (You may use the labels provided and make as many copies as needed.)**

TRACKING OPTION

You may register your congregation on the LWR website and print out bar codes to put on your boxes. That way you can track where your items go.

MONETARY CONTRIBUTIONS

LWR asks that you consider making a monetary donation to their Quilt and Kit shipping Fund to help cover the costs for getting the parish projects, quilts, etc. to those in need. **If you would like to make a monetary donation** you may send your checks (**made payable to ASWO with "LWR Shipping" on the memo**) to the ASWO treasurer *Donna Wilt, 4701 Lynndale Rd., Altoona PA 16602*. Donna will then send one check to New Windsor. This way our SWO gets credit for the donation. However, you may also send your checks directly to New Windsor at *Lutheran World Relief Warehouse, 601 Main Street, PO Box 188C, New Windsor, MD 21776*. Make checks payable to Lutheran World Relief and designate "Quilt and Kit Shipping". **PLEASE NOTE: YOU DO NOT NEED TO SEND ANY MONEY. You may send just quilts/kits, etc. You may send just money. You may send quilts/kits and money. Do what works for your organization.**

TRANSPORTATION INFORMATION

We will have four different collections points in the Synod for the items bound for Lutheran World Relief in New Windsor, Maryland again this year. (You may take your items to any of the locations regardless of your conference). Only blankets, quilts, kits will be accepted. **NO CLOTHING and NO SOAP!** This service is open to **ALL CONGREGATIONS IN THE ALLEGHENY SYNOD***. Please adhere to the labeling and packaging instructions enclosed. Finally, **PLEASE** complete the "Help Us Report" form that is included.

(YOU WILL NOT RECEIVE A SECOND MAILING SO MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR AND MAKE SURE THE INFORMATION GETS TO THE APPROPRIATE PERSON IN YOUR CONGREGATION!!!)**

**** SOMERSET AREA - OCTOBER 7 THROUGH OCTOBER 28, 2020**

Items will be collected at **Trinity Lutheran Church**, 918 Tayman Avenue, Somerset, between the hours of 9AM and 4PM. The phone number for the church is 445-5446. Mark Hemminger has once again generously agreed to transport our items directly to New Windsor. (SOMERSET ONLY -donation to help cover the costs of transportation – make check payable to Mark Hemminger and bring with your items). **KEEP A RECORD OF HOW MANY BOXES YOU HAVE AND GIVE TO THE DRIVER SO THE WAREHOUSE HAS ENOUGH HELP TO UNLOAD.**

****JOHNSTOWN AREA - THURSDAY & FRIDAY OCTOBER 29 & October30, 2020**

Items will be collected at **McQuaide Trucking Terminal**, 153 Macridge Avenue, Johnstown from 9AM to 4 PM. Directions to the terminal: Enter through gate off Vo-Tech Drive. Terminal building is the first building on the right after passing through the gate. Mr. McQuaide has once again generously agreed to collect the items and then transport them to the truck in East Freedom the following Monday for transportation to New Windsor. **KEEP A RECORD OF HOW MANY BOXES YOU HAVE AND GIVE TO THE DRIVER SO THE WAREHOUSE HAS ENOUGH HELP TO UNLOAD.**

****STATE COLLEGE/CLEARFIELD AREAS - SUNDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2020**

Items will be collected from 12PM – 4PM in the parking lot of **Grace Lutheran Church**, State College. The truck will be loaded at that time and the items will be delivered to East Freedom the next day. This year we do not have the benefit of a donated truck. Each church sending items is asked to contribute \$25 toward the cost of the Penske rental truck and the fuel for the trip. Checks should be made payable to Grace Lutheran Church (with **Blanket Truck** in the memo line) and can be brought to the church with your items. If you have any questions, please notify Ellen Campbell (814)237-0676 or elncamp@gmail.com. **KEEP A RECORD OF HOW MANY BOXES YOU HAVE AND GIVE TO THE DRIVER SO THE WAREHOUSE HAS ENOUGH HELP TO UNLOAD.**

****EAST FREEDOM (ALTOONA/BEDFORD/UPPER JUNIATA AREAS) -MON., NOVEMBER 2, 2020**

Items will be collected at the **Miller Funeral Home Parking Lot** (15257 Dunning Highway, East Freedom) just off Exit 23 of I-99 from 9 AM to 4 PM. Look for the Ward's trailer in front of the building. John and Elaine Smith will be there. (Elaine's cell phone number is 814-937-3397. Please feel free to call her with any questions or problems). **Ward Trucking** will provide the truck and driver to get our items to New Windsor. **Directions to the funeral home** – Take I-99 Exit 23 (Roaring Spring, Portage, East Freedom). At the end of the exit ramp, turn right onto Dunning Highway (South). Drive about ½ mile to the funeral home parking lot on your right. ***PLEASE NOTE:** We have a lot of extra room on the truck in East Freedom, so if neighboring churches have items to send to New Windsor, bring them along. We can make this an ecumenical collection. **KEEP A RECORD OF HOW MANY BOXES YOU HAVE AND GIVE TO THE DRIVER SO THE WAREHOUSE HAS ENOUGH HELP TO UNLOAD.**

ALLEGHENY SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

HELP US REPORT!!!

For 2020 send us the following information:

BY MAIL: Carol McClure, 201 Washington Ave., Hollidaysburg, PA 16648
BY EMAIL: cm.mcclure@hotmail.com

CONGREGATION _____ Cong # _____

CONGREGATION'S ADDRESS _____

CONFERENCE (Circle one) Bedford Blair/Huntingdon Clearfield Johnstown Laurel Highlands Nittany

CONTACT PERSON _____

CONTACT PERSON'S ADDRESS _____

PHONE # _____ EMAIL _____

On the line, please write the number of items in each category you sent to LWR this year.

BLANKETS _____

QUILTS _____

SCHOOL KITS _____

PERSONAL CARE KITS _____

FABRIC KITS _____

OTHER _____

NOTE: NO CLOTHING OR SOAP!!

REMEMBER, the contributions you make through your Blanket Sunday envelopes are NOT included in this report. They are tallied at the Synod Office.

On the back of this sheet, please list a few of the projects your women's group/church does throughout the year!

Please make as many copies of the following labels as you need. Fill in all the requested information and securely tape one label to each box you are shipping. THANK YOU!

CONGREGATION: _____	CONG. NUMBER: _____
CONGREGATION'S ADDRESS: _____	

CONTENTS OF BOX: _____	
APPROXIMATE SHIPPING WEIGHT: _____	

CONGREGATION: _____	CONG. NUMBER: _____
CONGREGATION'S ADDRESS: _____	

CONTENTS OF BOX: _____	
APPROXIMATE SHIPPING WEIGHT: _____	

CONGREGATION: _____	CONG. NUMBER: _____
CONGREGATION'S ADDRESS: _____	

CONTENTS OF BOX: _____	
APPROXIMATE SHIPPING WEIGHT: _____	

CONGREGATION: _____	CONG. NUMBER: _____
CONGREGATION'S ADDRESS: _____	

CONTENTS OF BOX: _____	
APPROXIMATE SHIPPING WEIGHT: _____	

STAY CONNECTED - ASWO

The Courier, the newsletter of the ASWO, is published at least two times a year. This publication is distributed to ALL congregations, affiliated as well as non-affiliated. It is a great way to share information with other congregational units. Communication is very important in any organization, and we ask your help in making this publication worthwhile. Information about LWR collection and the ASWO Convention is distributed through this publication. Please send any articles about your projects, stories, devotionals, recipes, or other items of interest to the Editor: Fay Dellinger, 858 Hog Farm Rd., Osterburg, PA 16667 or via email fdellinger@embarqmail.com or by via phone (814)276-3192.

STAY CONNECTED - CHURCHWIDE RESOURCES

(1-800-638-3522 ext-2730 or womenoftheelca.org or
women@ELCA@elca.org)

GATHER — the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions, and stories of comfort and challenge that help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. Gather is published 10 times a year with combined issues in January/February and July/August. Many women (and enlightened men) in Lutheran and in full-communion partner congregations read the magazine.

CAFÉ - is an award winning web-based magazine for young adult women who want to build community, participate in advocacy, and strengthen their faith. It incorporates a Lutheran perspective but is a great read for any woman who is interested in how faith can relate to every-day life.

BOLD CONNECTIONS - is a free monthly e-newsletter of Women of the ELCA. Whether you participate a lot or a little in Women of the ELCA, you'll find helpful news and information on our programs and activities, and stories of how together we live out our purpose and mission.

INTERCHANGE - is our leading leadership newsletter sent by regular mail to Women of the ELCA leaders in congregational units, synodical organizations, and clusters and conferences. It contains organizational news, new resources information, programmatic updates, and more. Leaders are encouraged to share the contents with all the women in their group. It can also be downloaded in PDF format from our website.

**ALLEGHENY SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
OFFICERS AND BOARD
2019-2020**

PRESIDENT

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FORM FOR SUBMITTING ARTICLES TO *The Courier*

You can help us have an interesting, informative newsletter. You can either write your article and submit to me, or provide the basic information using the form below and I'll write it. You may also include recipes, poems, cute stories, or anything else you would like to share or think someone would enjoy reading.

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

Name of person submitting article_____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Topic or Title of Event _____

Name of place where event was held _____

Date event was held _____

Information to include in *The Courier* article:

[illegible]

Send to: FAY DELLINGER, 858 HOG FARM ROAD, OSTERBURG PA 16667

E-MAIL fldellinger@embarqmail.com

OFFICER CHANGES

Please notify the board whenever changes are made in the leadership of your congregational unit or the contact person changes. Send to: Fay Dellinger, 858 Hog Farm Road, Osterburg, PA 16667. Email fldellinger@embarqmail.com

Please include the following:

CHURCH NAME_____

CHURCH NUMBER_____CONFERENCE_____

Include name, address, phone number and email address (if known) for the following:

PRESIDENT_____

TREASURER_____

If you do not have officers please send the name of a contact person for your congregation unit or church!