

**The Thirty-first Annual Convention of the  
Virginia Synodical Women's Organization  
of the Women of the ELCA**



August 3-4, 2018  
Bethel Lutheran Church  
Winchester, VA

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# 2018 VSWO CONVENTION SCHEDULE

August 3-4, Bethel, Winchester

## Friday, August 3, 2018

11:00am	Registration
12:00pm	Lunch for Voting Members
12:30pm	Voting Member Orientation/Committee Briefings
1:00pm	Opening of Convention and Business Session I Introductions of special guests  Greetings from Bethel Lutheran Devotions Report of Credentials Committee Adoption of the Rules of Procedure and Convention Agenda Greetings from the Churchwide Representative Vote on proposed Constitutional Change Report of the Nominating Committee Report on the Social Statement on Women and Justice Overview of 2019-2020 proposed Budget
2:30pm	Break
3:00pm	<b>Business Session II</b> Prayer prior to voting Elections of Officers and Board Officer's Reports Treasurer's Report and adoption of proposed budget Mission area reports Report of Elections Committee Report of Committee on Minutes Report of Committee on Claims Report of Reference and Council/reading of resolutions Adoption of Resolutions Report of the President Report of Convention Planning Report of the Long-range Planning Team
4:30pm	Closing of Convention
4:30-5:00pm	Conferences meet for preliminary planning of conference gatherings
5:00-6:30pm	Hotel Check-in (dinner on your own)
6:30-7:00pm	Registration/Fellowship
7:00pm	Large Group Assembly in Sanctuary of Bethel  Welcome by President Jody Smiley Introduction of theme Judy Wilfong Singing led by Sarah Melendy & Linda Hawks Lydia Dávila and Gabriela Contrera bring greetings from WELCA Skit
7:30-8:15pm	Awareness Session 1: Small Group Icebreaker Activity
8:15-8:30pm	Closing Worship using Holden Evening Prayer

## **Saturday, August 4, 2018**

Breakfast is available at the hotel. Please check out of hotel before departing for Convention.

8:15am	Registration
8:45am	Gathering Music
9:00-9:30am	Devotions led by Pastor Cheryl Griffith
	Greetings from Bishop Humphrey
	Skit
9:45-10:45am	Awareness Session 2
10:45-11:00am	Break
11:00am-12:00pm	Awareness Session 3
12:15-1:00pm	Lunch
1:15-2:15pm	Awareness Session 4
2:30-3:30pm	Closing skit
	Installations of Officers and Board Members
	Closing Worship led by Pastor Karen Van Stee

## **OPENING OF CONVENTION**

(Responsive reading based on Hebrews 10:23-25; written by Ellen Greene)

**Leader:** "Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful" (Hebrews 10:23).

**Leader:** O God, we thank you for the many people throughout the ages who have followed your way of life joyfully.

**ALL: For your love and faithfulness, we praise you.**

**Leader:** For the many saints and martyrs, men and women, who have offered up their very lives, so that your life abundant may become manifest.

**ALL: For your love and faithfulness, we praise you.**

**Leader:** O God, we thank you for those who chose the way of Christ.

**ALL: For your love and faithfulness, we praise you.**

**Leader:** In the midst of trial, they held out hope; in the midst of hatred, they kindled love; in the midst of persecutions, they witnessed to your power; in the midst of despair, they clung to your promise.

**ALL: For your love and faithfulness, we praise you.**

**Leader:** O God, we thank you for the truth they passed on to us: that it is by giving that we shall receive.

**ALL: For your love and faithfulness, we praise you.**

**Leader:** It is by becoming weak that we shall be strong; it is by loving others that we shall be loved; it is by offering ourselves that the kingdom will unfold; it is by dying that we shall inherit life everlasting.

**ALL: For your love and faithfulness, we praise you.**

**Leader:** O God, give us courage to follow our way of life.

**ALL: For your love and faithfulness, we praise you. Amen.**

**Leader:** Let us pray

We gather together to worship, knowing that God is already here among us; knowing that there is nothing that separates us from the presence of our Lord. Wherever we are, wherever we go, God is near.

So let us enter into this service of worship with confidence and hope, knowing that God is already with us, and that He stands eager to meet us and bless us with His love.

**Amen**

**Leader:** I now declare the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention of the Virginia Synod Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA open.

## **AwarenessSessions**

### **Bible Study – Pastor Heidi Young**

Hebrews: An Encouraging Bible Study. How do you remain faithful in the face of disappointment? To whom do you turn in times of doubt? How do you open yourself to God's presence? Come grapple with these questions and more in a Bible study of Hebrews. Come find encouragement and sustenance for your faith journey.

### **Empowering the mind, body and spirit to encourage others through rhythm – Becky Watson**

This interactive workshop will invite you to experience the power of rhythm to build community, enhance connection and strengthen confidence to encourage others to serve God and community. You will leave this workshop feeling invigorated, inspired, energized and excited to share your love of God and humankind through fruitful good works. It takes Courage to Encourage ... be inspired to learn how through rhythm!

### **Steps for Encouraging One Another – Judy Wilfong**

How to effectively encourage one another through the lens of Jesus's command to love and through the gift of "presence."

## Who's Who

**Participating Chaplains** – Heidi Young (Bethel), Karen Van Stee (St. Mary Pine, Mt. Jackson), Cheryl Griffith (St. Stephen, Williamsburg)

**Convention Planning** - Renée Ballentine, Judy Wilfong, Jody Smiley, Theresa Thomas & Terri Hollinsworth

**Convention Registrar** – Genie Brown

**CWO Representative** – Lydia Dávila

**WELCA Staff** – Gabriela Contrera, Director of Events

**Special Guest** – Bishop Robert Humphrey

**Musicians** – Sarah Melendy & Linda Hawks

**Parliamentarian** -- Judy Castele

**VISIONS Circulation Manager** -- Genie Brown

**VISIONS Editor** - Carol Johnson

**Convention Theme:** "Let Us Encourage."

**Convention Scripture:** Hebrews 10: 23-25: Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up on meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

**Convention Hymn:** "When Peace Like a River"

## Purpose of the Convention

- To conduct the business of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization;
- To interpret and provide suggestions for congregational/intercongregational or special units, through their voting member, for the achievement of the purposes of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA);
- To provide a variety of learning experiences to strengthen each woman to value herself, to build up and celebrate relationships, and to articulate and act upon her faith; and
- To provide fellowship, and worship as we Celebrate 31 years of Rejoicing with Bold women.

## Women of the ELCA Mission Statement

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

## Women of the ELCA 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.

**Worship & Offerings** -- The Love Offering will be taken at the door prior to the Worship Service and the VSWO Offering will be received as offering during the service.

**The Love Offering will be divided between two organizations that our host church supports: WATTS and CCAP.** WATTS provides temporary shelter and other services to the homeless. CCAP offers a food pantry and clothing distribution.

**Name Tags** -- Participants at the convention have been supplied with identifying name tags. The number on your name tag will signify your awareness session group assignment.

### **Convention Responsibilities for Conferences**

Central Valley	Service Project Coordinators
Germanna	Lectors
Highland	Ushers
New River	Registration Assistance/Hotel & Convention Greeters
Northern Valley	Communion Assistants/Elements/Hotel & Convention Greeters
Page	Service Project Coordinators
Peninsula/Tidewater	Pages
Richmond	Table Decorations
Southern	Registration Assistance
Southern Valley	Ushers

### **Voting Member Travel Expenses**

- Voting members' attendance at all sessions is a prerequisite to payment of travel expenses.
- Voting members shall submit vouchers to the Committee on Claims by end of Friday's Business Session.
- Travel vouchers shall be paid by the Committee on Claims at lunch Saturday.
- If public transportation is used, the least expensive shall be employed. If private transportation is used, reimbursement shall be at a rate of 15 cents per mile per vehicle. Tolls for turnpikes or tunnels are not allowable.
- Each unit, whether represented or not, shall be asked to contribute \$25 to the Fair Share Travel Fund.
- Only voting members whose units have paid the 2018 contribution to the Fair Share Travel Fund prior to August 3rd are eligible to receive travel expense checks.



## **Rules of Procedure for the Convention**

### **Representation**

Voting members of a convention shall be the elected officers and board members of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) and one voting member from each unit on the roll of the VSWO.

### **Seat and Voice**

The following shall have seat and voice (no voting privileges) in the convention:

- Those congregations not represented by a unit shall be invited to send one representative to the convention;
- Bishop of the Synod or his representative;
- Churchwide Women's Organization (CWO) Representative; and
- Others to whom the voting body shall give this privilege.

### **Voting Members**

- Shall attend voting member orientation with Jody Smiley.
- Shall be registered before being seated in the area reserved for the voting body.
- Shall not absent themselves from the convention without permission of the President;
- Shall wear badges at all business meetings;
- Shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with the Fair Share Travel Fund.
- Shall report to the Registrar should an emergency require departure and relinquish badge. The alternate, if present, shall be re-registered and issued a delegate's badge;
- Shall be seated by 1:00pm, Friday, August 3, 2018

### **Speeches**

Speeches shall be limited to two (2) minutes unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds vote of the convention.

### **Elections:**

Vice-President, Secretary, and two Board members (2-year term).

### **Motions and Resolutions**

- Any voting member may make a motion which is germane to any pending question. Motion shall then be written on the form provided to voting members and submitted to the VSWO Secretary.
- Resolutions of a general nature shall be written on the form provided, signed by two voting members and submitted to the VSWO Secretary prior to start of business Friday August 3rd. Resolutions will be received by the Secretary and referred to the Committee on Reference and Counsel.
- Each voting member who offers a resolution shall be given an opportunity to explain it to the Committee on Reference and Counsel.

### **Parliamentary Procedures**

Robert Rules of Order (R.R.), latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of the convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the VSWO.

### **Addressing the Assembly**

- Each voting member should stand, address the chair ("Madame President"), state her name and congregation, and receive "recognition from the chair." (R.R.)
- All Comments should be directed to the "chair." (R.R.)

### **Limitations on Debate**

- Each voting member may speak twice on the same question on the same day, but should not make a second speech on the same question so long as any voting member who has not spoken on that question desires the floor. (R.R.)
- Any voting member, feeling that debate should be stopped, may request the convention to do so by obtaining the floor and moving the "previous question." If this is seconded and convention decides by a two-thirds vote in favor, then debate is stopped and the vote is taken on the pending question. (R.R.)
- Calls for "questions" by members from their seats are not motions for the Previous. They are simply informal expressions of individual members' desires to proceed to a vote. These calls are disorderly if made while another member is speaking or seeking recognition. (R.R.)

January 2018

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I'm sending many prayers of thanksgiving for your faithful service and ministry to this wonderful organization known as Women of the ELCA.

While you are gathered together during your synodical convention I would like you to reflect on the next generation of Women of the ELCA. Think back to when you became involved and embrace that excitement. God has a great future for this organization. He is calling us to build on this legacy for our daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters to enjoy and love. A verse from Isaiah 6 reminds us that when God calls we should be ready to say, "Here am I; send me!"

You will share this weekend with a representative from the Churchwide Executive Board. Please share with her your vision for the future. Engage her with conversations about your joys and concerns for the time ahead. She is here to serve as your advocate and your partner and to take part in everything you have planned. Be sure to introduce yourself to her and invite her to share a few moments with you in fellowship and sisterhood.

Enjoy the time you will spend together. My prayer is that you will leave inspired and excited. Share your experiences with those who could not attend in your congregational unit and invite them to come to your next event.

May God bless you richly during this event and always.

Peace!



Lisa Plorin  
President, 2017-2020 Triennium  
Women of the ELCA



Women  
of the  
**EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA**

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[www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

## WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Southwestern



Minnesota Synod

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Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the Southwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization, Women of the ELCA. We pray you have a wonderful and inspiring convention, "Let Us Encourage." I like calling it a "youthful event." Trying new things is a must to keep things fresh.

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." Hebrews 10:23-25 is a wonderful theme verse. Staying connected and meeting with one another to ENCOURAGE! Sound like Women of the ELCA events to me!

Our Convention was held June 29 & 30, 2018, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, MN. Our theme was "Outlaw Christian." Our keynote speaker, Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, wrote the book, "Outlaw Christian." Our women highly recommend it to you. We had fun with our theme. One workshop was on Christian Clown Ministry and a musical ventriloquist with Johnny Cash, Elvis, and Martin Luther on hand, was our evening entertainment. Being an "outlaw" means following God's commands, not what society thinks. Easier said than done!

I have so enjoyed becoming friends with your presidents-Risse Snelgrove, Lisa Taglauer, and Jody Smiley. My time as president has come to an end with the election of Joan Iverson as our new president for Southwestern Minnesota. Joan was our president in the past and returns for a new term. She and Jody Smiley have that in common! Most of you know Joan. She served on the Churchwide Executive Board with Jody. Both are faithful women and wonderful leaders. We are very fortunate to have them.

It has been wonderful to get to know so many of you. My time as president may be over, but I am not going away. See you in Phoenix in 2020!

Enjoy your Convention & Blessings from Southwestern Minnesota,

Kristy Henriksen, President  
Southwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization  
Women of the ELCA

## Virginia Synodical Women's Organization Executive Board

Officers--term expiring 2018	Officers –term expiring 2019
<p>Vice President: Renée Ballentine            10723 Timberun Rd            Chesterfield, VA 23832            804-564-5887            Email: reneedove515@gmail.com            Church: Christ the King, Richmond            Conference: Richmond</p>	<p>President: Jody Smiley            901 Brattle Lane            Blacksburg, VA 24060            540-250-6149            Email: jcsmiley29@comcast.net            Church: St Michael, Blacksburg            Conference: New River</p>
<p>Secretary: Helen Weaver            14705 Ridge Point Drive            Midlothian, VA 23112            804-639-4554            Email: hkweaver@comcast.net            Church: Lutheran Church of Our Savior , Chesterfield            Conference: Richmond</p>	<p>Treasurer: Edith Blake            3377 Brandywine Dr            Chesapeake, VA 23321            757-484-5959            Email: ejbwwb@aol.com            Church: Holy Communion, Portsmouth            Conference: Tidewater</p>
Board Members – Term expiring 2018	Board Members – Term expiring 2019
<p>Bonnie Mantta            1026 Baugher Ave            Chesapeake, VA 23323            757-512-4360            Email: bonniemantta@gmail.com            Church: St. Timothy Norfolk            Conference: Tidewater</p>	<p>Sylvia Eley            417 Meadow Creek Dr            Chesapeake, VA 23323            757-582-0966            Email: seley2005@msn.com            Church: First, Portsmouth            Conference: Tidewater</p>
<p>Zelda Whetzel            PO Box 10            Bergton, VA 222811            540-852-3533            Email: zvrw38@gmail.com            Church: Martin Luther/Bergton            Conference: Central Valley</p>	<p>Ellen Greene            1533 Leigh View Ave, #2            Norfolk, VA 23503            757-717-9524            Email: clemgreene1979@gmail.com            Church: St. John, Norfolk            Conference: Tidewater</p>
<p>Judy Wilfong            PO Box 10            Bayse, VA 22810            540-856-2880            Email: <a href="mailto:jwilfong@shentel.net">jwilfong@shentel.net</a>            Church: Muhlenberg/Harrisonburg            Conference: Southern Valley</p>	<p>Linda Lowry            920 Waterside Dr            Stanley, VA 22851            540-652-1172            Email: llowry5@embarqmail.com            Church: Morning Star, Luray            Conference: Page</p>
	<p>Michelle Poore            907 Prospect Ave            Pulaski, VA 24301            540-272-9216            Email: Michelle.l.poore@gmail.com            Church: Trinity/Pulaski            Conference: New River</p>

## ***Special Guests***

### ***Churchwide Women's Representative***

#### **Lydia Dávila**

Executive Board Member

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Lydia was elected to the executive board for Women of the ELCA for a second term in July 2017. She serves on the programs and communication committee.

Previously, she served as president of the Caribbean Synodical Women's Organization (9F). She has been a voting member several times at Women of the ELCA triennial conventions.

"I loved what I do, especially when I represent [Women of the ELCA] at different conventions," she said. "I enjoyed visiting other synods very much and participating in their activities."

A longtime member of Sión Lutheran Church in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, Lydia served her local unit in many roles, including treasurer, vice-president and president. With her unit, she enjoys helping with retreats, special ministries and summer camps for the youth of the community. She also serves on the altar guild.

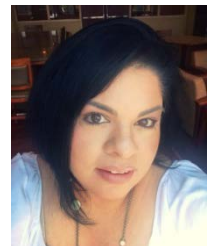
Lydia and her husband, Felix, have three children and three grandchildren. Now that she is retired from the Puerto Rico telephone company, she enjoys cooking, baking, reading, and spending time with her grandchildren. She reports, "There is always something to learn from them."

### ***Churchwide Staff Member***

#### **Gabriela Contreras**

Director for Meeting Planning, Women of the ELCA

Gabriela Contreras is the Director for Meeting Planning of Women of the ELCA, a position she has held since November 2009. She currently serves as the staff liaison to the synodical women's organizations in Region 9.



Gabriela has been with Women of the ELCA since December 1999, working first as administrative assistant to the scholarship, grants and global education programs. In March 2003 she was named Assistant to the Executive Director, a role she filled until taking on her current position in 2009. She has spent her career working for the church and remembers fondly her beginnings as a volunteer in the ELCA at age 18. She worked with the ELCA in the Information Technology Department as Helpdesk Coordinator from 1992 to 1996.

In 2012, Gabriela was recognized as an industry leader in Rejuvenate magazine's "40 Under 40" feature in

the August/September 2012 issue. Contreras was nominated by her peers in the faith-based meetings world. Numerous nominations were reviewed and evaluated by the Rejuvenate editorial staff based on references, industry involvement and other industry resources. The annual “40 Under 40” feature is not advertising-driven and not connected with any promotional contest, making this truly an honor for those selected.

Born and raised in the Southside of Chicago, Gaby is married to Abelardo Contreras and they have two daughters, Victoria and Valentina.



**Becky J. Watson, MBA, MT-BC**

Becky Watson, MBA, Board Certified Music Therapist is the Founder and Owner, Music for Wellness from Norfolk, VA. She is one of the rare women and former Navy Captain who served our country for over 25 years in operational logistics.

After her Navy retirement, she completed multiple training programs in facilitation of drumming, rhythm, keyboard, and a degree in Music Therapy plus a 6 month music therapy internship at Eastern State Hospital in Williamsburg, VA. Music for Wellness, LLC provides evidenced based music therapy services to enhance the quality of life in supporting the health and well-being of older adults living with dementia, care partners and health care professionals in the Geriatric Industry.

Becky also creates rhythm based programs and music wellness experiences to enhance the mind, body and spirit and foster faith based community. She is a dynamic interactive presenter and speaker during national and local conferences and guest lecturer at Eastern Virginia Medical School of Gerontology and Old Dominion University. Becky lives in Norfolk, VA with her husband Rod (retired Navy Officer) and two children.



## **VSWO Board Report**

### **Mission Statement of the Women of the ELCA**

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

***WE, the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization, Women of the ELCA, are entering the 32nd year of service and ministry together, and we are gathering this year to refresh our spirits and enrich our ministry together.***

### **Virginia Synodical Women's Organizational Convention 2017**

The 30th annual convention of Virginia Synodical Women's Organization was held at St Philip Lutheran Church, Roanoke, August 18-19, 2017. The theme was "Renewal of Spirit: All Anew". The convention scripture was Romans 12: 1-2. We had convention voting strength of 33 (4 officers, 5 board members, and 24 voting members) and 38 participants, and 8 guests for a convention total of 79. The Women of the ELCA Churchwide Representative was Gwen Edwards from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. She brought greetings from the Women of the ELCA staff and board. The Rev. Kelly Derrick presided over a spirit-filled worship service and provided a wonderful, engaging bible study.

The 2017 convention had many highlights. Our love offering of \$1625.00 was split between Elijah's Backpack and Katie's Fund. Conferences also gave \$1457.00 to be divided equally between the VSWO & WELCA. The response to the service projects continues to be overwhelming. Sole Hope project: 941 shoe cutouts and \$10493.79 in monetary donations. Grace Inside: 18,449 cards plus 670 stamps, notepads, and \$590 cash donation.

Outgoing Bishop Jim Mauney served as Keynote Speaker. We were honored that he chose our event as his last official stop. As a thank you for his service, \$528 in donations was collected towards the Forwarding Faith campaign.

The 2018-19 VSWO budget was presented and approved.

Jody Smiley was elected as President. Edith Blake was re-elected as Treasurer. Nominees elected for two-year Board terms were: Sylvia Ely from First, Portsmouth; Ellen Greene from St John, Norfolk; Michelle Poore from Trinity, Pulaski; and Linda Lowry from Morning Star, Luray. Bonnie Mantta was elected to fill a one-year term.

Powerful; Inspiring; Educational; Spirit-led/spirit-filled – all words that describe our Awareness Session offerings. They included:

- Bible Study led by Rev. Kelly Derrick
- The VA Tech April 16th Tragedy: How a campus moves from sadness and disbelief to a renewal of spirit led by Jody Smiley
- Meditation with instructor Colleen Carrell
- C.A.R.E. led by Ellen Greene and Edith Blake



- Healthy Congregations led by Mindy Reynolds

A resolution titled “Ending Racial Injustice” was adopted by the voting members. It directed units to have at least one activity utilizing the Women of the ELCA resource, “How to have helpful conversations about race in the church.”

Lisa Taglauer, Outgoing President of the VSWO, gave an emotional, heart-felt message entitled, "Renewing Your Spirit." She motivated the attendees to continue their active involvement in the VSWO and WELCA and to encourage others to join in our efforts.

### **Board Meetings**

The VSWO board met in November, March and June. We also held a conference call in May. All board meetings were held at St Marks in Charlottesville. Thank you to the St Marks community for welcoming us into your space. During these meetings, our board conducts the necessary business, planning, goal setting, and visioning that is needed for the work of our organization.

### **Young Women Guest Program**

Noting the declining participation in the Young Women Guest Program, the Board agreed to focus on increasing awareness and participation among rostered women leaders in the Synod. To that end, we sent invitations to all and committed to covering their registration.

### **Communication**

We offer our newsletter "Visions" for free when received by e-mail or accessed from our website. We have a website: <http://vswoweebly.com>. You can also follow the VSWO and Women of the ELCA on Facebook and Pinterest.

### **Resources**

Women of the ELCA offer free downloadable resources that can be used for Bible Studies, Retreats, Conference Gathering, and even individual use. The VSWO invites you to contact board members for program ideas and speakers for your units, events and retreats.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen Weaver  
Secretary  
Virginia Synodical Women's  
Organization Women of the ELCA

### **The board recommends:**

1. That the convention Rules of Procedure be adopted as printed in the Bulletin of Reports with any necessary corrections.
2. That the Program of the Thirty-first Annual Convention of the VSWO be adopted as printed in the Bulletin of Reports, with any necessary changes.
3. That the Auditor's Report be accepted as printed.
4. That the VSWO Budget for 2019- 2020 be adopted as presented by the Board.



## Report of the VSWO President

They say you can't come home again but I disagree. I feel like the family member that moved away for a while, kept in touch, but now has come back. As I complete my first year as your president I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve the Virginia Women of the ELCA again in this capacity. You all are truly a group of amazing and inspiring women. It has been a real blessing to reconnect with all of you.

As I have said in the past, the best part of my job is attending your gatherings during the fall and spring. I get the opportunity to see how you live out your Baptism by reaching out into your communities and by sharing your faith stories in word and deed. By doing these things, and so much more, you are examples of our convention theme, "Let Us Encourage".

During the past year, I have written articles for "Visions" and written reports for Synod Council. I am also a member of Synod Council so I attended council meetings. I lead three VSWO board meetings during the year.

I attended the conference of presidents meeting in Chicago in February. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet and talk with presidents from all the synods. Our theme this year was "Here I Am Lord" which was amazing for me since that is my favorite hymn. We shared ideas and discussed problems that we face in our synodical organizations. We received an update on the ministry of Women of the ELCA and we were introduced to the "All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund". This meeting always reminds me that we are connected to so many wonderful, faithful women across all the synods of WELCA.

I would like to thank the board for all their hard work and support over the last year. It has been an honor to serve with them and call them my friends. A special thanks to Helen Weaver as her term of service as our secretary (and previously a board member) comes to an end. I am personally grateful to her because she has made my transition very smooth (at least I think it was smooth, the board may have a different story to tell). Also thank you to Zelda Whetzel and Renée Ballentine for your service. They are completing their terms on the board. Zelda has served on our Discipleship Mission Team and Renee served as our Vice President and on Convention Planning.

As we go forward the board will looking at ways we can involve more women throughout the VA synod in our ministry together. We will need your help and continued prayers as we work to grow our community of faithful women.

Again many thanks to all of you for your continued support of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization, the Women of the ELCA, and me personally. Together we are doing God's work with our hands.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jody Smiley  
President, VSWO

## **Report of the Vice President, Co-Chair of the Convention Planning**

*Renée Ballentine*

### **Convention Planning Committee**

I am so excited about this year's convention theme of encouragement. I could not choose a better word for how this group of women influences my faith life. I pray that this weekend is an encouragement to all of you.

I have been blessed to co-chair this committee, along with Judy Wilfong, this year. Judy has been instrumental in coordinating things on-site, while I have been working on some of the details from home. Theresa Thomas and Jody Smiley have also been integral in the planning of this year's convention.

The format of the convention is slightly different this year, as we desired to become more efficient and purposeful in our time together. We also agreed that a youthful approach would be fun and modeled our large and small group gatherings after the Virginia Synod Youth events. We hope you enjoy!

We welcome all of our rostered leader guests this year and thank you sincerely for joining us. As a board, we decided that we would be remiss if we did not invite all of the women leaders in our synod to come be a part of this group. Let us encourage each other!

Thank you to the people of Bethel Lutheran Church for hosting us, and to all the pastors serving this weekend, especially Cheryl Griffin, Karen Van Stee, and Heidi Young.

### **Other business**

This year I complete my term as Vice President of the VSWO. I am not seeking re-election for numerous personal reasons. This was a difficult decision for me, but the right one for me, my family, and for the VSWO. I will be returning to work as a full-time elementary school teacher this year and I would not be able to serve the board as it deserves. While I am very excited about this change in my life, I will miss working with the amazing ladies in this organization.

I am grateful for the women who introduced me to the VSWO, to the women who embraced me within it, and to the women who have supported me these last few years. I have been encouraged by many women individually, but I am also encouraged in faith by the meeting of all of the women of the VSWO. Thank you.

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up on meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” Hebrews 10: 23-25

## **Report of the Secretary**

*Helen Weaver*

As Secretary, I record meeting minutes and I assemble the Call to Convention, the Bulletin of Reports (BOR) and Supplement for the convention. As my term ends, I wanted to express my gratitude to the rest of the Board and this community of women for their faith in my abilities. It has been an honor to serve.

## **Report of the Treasurer**

*Edith Blake*

I want to take this time to thank all the unit treasurers for a job well done this past year. Your dedication to the job makes mine easy. Thank you to all the units who gave to the VSWO last year, we ended the year with more income than expenses. So well done ladies keep up the good work.

My term as treasurer will end next year. It is time to start thinking about stepping up to become the new treasurer. Churchwide Women of the ELCA does a great job in training new treasurers. You get an all-expense paid trip to Chicago for training and the opportunity to meet other treasurers from across the country.

If you are in need of forms to submit your offerings, please go to the Churchwide Women of the ELCA website. You can download for free a PDF file of the form, just type Form A in the search box and it will take you to the form.

Thank you all again for the privilege to serve the VSWO in this manner.

**THE VIRGINIA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION  
OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
SALEM, VIRGINIA**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2018**

Prepared By

E. Clark and Company  
3001 High Street  
Portsmouth, Virginia 23707



E.CLARK & COMPANY  
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT

May 15, 2018

Board of Directors


The Virginia Synodical Women's Organization of Women of The ECLA  
2167 Brook Creek Road  
Toms Brook, Virginia 22660

Ladies:

The accompanying balance sheet of The Virginia Synodical Women's Organization of Women of The ECLA as of January 31, 2018 and the other related Financial Statements for the period were prepared from the books and records of the organization and the information received from officers thereof. These statements are the representation of the management.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely Yours,  
E. Clark & Company

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Elizabeth M. Clark, CPA

Enclosure(s)

THE VIRGINIA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION  
 OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
 SALEM, VIRGINIA  
 BALANCE SHEET  
 JANUARY 31, 2018

Exhibit "A"

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS:

Cash on Hand and in Banks	\$	8,768
Thrivent Investment Management Account		20,422
Total Current Assets	\$	29,190
<u>Total Assets</u>	\$	29,190

LIABILITIES AND CAPITAL

LIABILITIES:

NONE \$ -

CAPITAL:

Capital Account Balance February 1, 2017	\$	28,618		
Net Income (Loss) for Period (See Exhibit "B")		572	\$	29,190
<u>Total Liabilities and Capital</u>		572	\$	29,190

**THE VIRGINIA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION**  
**OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA**  
**SALEM, VIRGINIA**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES**  
**FOR THE PERIOD FEBRUARY 01, 2017 TO JANUARY 31, 2018**

Exhibit "B"

**INCOME:**

Donations and Offerings	\$	22,019
VSWO convention Income		7,058
Other Income		69
Income Earned from Investments		2,987
Total Income	\$	32,133

**GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES**

Triennial Convention Expenses	\$	1,273
Mission Areas Expenses		9,217
Executive Boards Expenses		2,101
Communication Expenses		860
Convention Expenses		10,279
Designated Love and Other Offerings		2,327
Church Wide Program Expenses		5,504
Total Expenses		31,561
<b>Net Income (Loss) for Period (Exhibit "A")</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>572</b>



**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Profit & Loss**  
 February 2017 through January 2018

	Feb '17 - Jan 18
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Offerings</b>	
Conference Gatherings	1,688.00
Congregational Units	6,437.70
<b>VSWO Convention Offerings</b>	
Convention Offering/Undesignate	1,282.00
Designated (Love Offerings)	1,585.00
Postage Stamps Grace Inside	100.00
Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	9,049.79
<b>Total VSWO Convention Offerings</b>	12,016.79
<b>Total Offerings</b>	20,142.49
<b>Other Income</b>	
<b>Designated Offerings</b>	
Betty Wilson Tri- Scholarship	130.00
Bishop Mauney gift	1,200.00
Bold Women Challenge	314.47
Katie's Fund	25.00
Thankoffering	207.00
<b>Total Designated Offerings</b>	1,876.47
Unrealized Gain on Investments	2,986.95
Visions Subscriptions	69.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	4,932.42
<b>VSWO Convention</b>	
Fair Share Travel	658.00
Housing, Meals, Registration	6,000.15
Young Women Gathering	400.00
<b>Total VSWO Convention</b>	7,058.15
<b>Total Income</b>	32,133.06
<b>Gross Profit</b>	32,133.06
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>ChurchWide Programs</b>	
Conference Gatherings (50%)	844.00
Insurance-Travel/Accident	7.70
Katie's Fund	772.40
Regular/Conv Offering (50%)	3,572.96
Servant Event Supplies	100.00
Thankoffering	207.00
<b>Total ChurchWide Programs</b>	5,504.06
<b>Communications</b>	
Bulk Mailing Permit & Postage	444.40
VISIONS (printing and supplies)	415.75
<b>Total Communications</b>	860.15
<b>Convention</b>	
BOR Printing/Postage	672.00
Call to Convention	172.81
Chaplain	500.00
Convention Honorium - Using Chu	500.00
Fair Share Travel	923.65
Housing and Meals	6,968.70
Miscellaneous	397.16
Program Speakers/Entertainment	100.00
Supplies	45.00
	12,016.79

2:52 PM

06/26/18

Cash Basis

# Virginia Synodical Women's Organization

## Profit & Loss

February 2017 through January 2018

	Feb '17 - Jan 18
Total Convention	10,279.32
Designated Off(Love & Other)	
Bold Women Challenge	314.47
Elijah's Backpack	812.50
Forwarding Faith - Bishop Maune	1,200.00
Total Designated Off(Love & Other)	2,326.97
Executive Board	
Audit	225.00
Copying I	172.81
Mileage & Lodging	1,436.45
Miscellaneous	179.43
President's Discretionary Fund	60.00
Stationary and Supplies	27.36
Total Executive Board	2,101.05
Grace Inside	100.00
Mission Areas	
Mission Stewardship	67.09
Total Mission Areas	67.09
Sole Hope	9,049.79
Triennial Convention/Expense	
2017 Triennial Conv..Promotion	67.73
Betty Wilson Scholarship/Trienn	1,205.00
Total Triennial Convention/Expense	1,272.73
Total Expense	31,561.16
Net Ordinary Income	571.90
Net Income	571.90

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Donations by Congregational Unit**  
February 2017 through January 2018

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount	Balance
<b>CV-Emanuel-Woodstock</b>						
Deposit	02/10/2017	1360	Deposit	Congregational Units	34.00	34.00
Deposit	03/09/2017	1361	Deposit	Congregational Units	44.00	78.00
Deposit	03/30/2017	1363	Deposit	Congregational Units	45.00	123.00
Deposit	04/13/2017	1364	Deposit	Congregational Units	49.00	172.00
Deposit	05/25/2017	1365	Deposit	Congregational Units	42.00	214.00
Deposit	06/15/2017	1366	Deposit	Congregational Units	41.00	255.00
Deposit	08/15/2017	1369	Deposit	Congregational Units	33.00	288.00
Deposit	09/26/2017	1370	Deposit	Congregational Units	32.00	320.00
Deposit	10/12/2017	1371	Deposit	Congregational Units	51.00	371.00
Deposit	12/07/2017	1372	Deposit	Congregational Units	47.90	418.90
Deposit	12/29/2017	1373	Deposit	Congregational Units	45.00	463.90
<b>Total CV-Emanuel-Woodstock</b>					<b>463.90</b>	<b>463.90</b>
<b>CV-Martin Luther-Bergton</b>						
Deposit	05/25/2017	581	Spring gathe...	Conference Gatherings	100.00	100.00
Deposit	05/25/2017	582	Spring gathe...	Conference Gatherings	107.00	207.00
Deposit	07/27/2017	587	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	50.00	257.00
Deposit	07/27/2017	590	Deposit	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	342.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	604	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	100.00	442.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	603	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	100.00	542.00
<b>Total CV-Martin Luther-Bergton</b>					<b>542.00</b>	<b>542.00</b>
<b>CV-Prince of Peace-Orkney-Basye</b>						
Deposit	12/07/2017	280	Deposit	Congregational Units	103.05	103.05
<b>Total CV-Prince of Peace-Orkney-Basye</b>					<b>103.05</b>	<b>103.05</b>
<b>CV-St Jacobs-Edinburg</b>						
Deposit	03/09/2017	1298	Deposit	Congregational Units	282.25	282.25
Deposit	05/25/2017	1307	Spring gathe...	Conference Gatherings	50.00	332.25
<b>Total CV-St Jacobs-Edinburg</b>					<b>332.25</b>	<b>332.25</b>
<b>CV-St Paul-Jerome</b>						
Deposit	05/25/2017	535	Spring gathe...	Conference Gatherings	50.00	50.00
<b>Total CV-St Paul-Jerome</b>					<b>50.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>
<b>CV-St Stephen-Strasburg</b>						
Deposit	03/30/2017	938	Deposit	Congregational Units	90.00	90.00
Deposit	03/30/2017	938	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	115.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	949	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	50.00	165.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	948	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	100.00	265.00
Deposit	09/26/2017	953	Deposit	Bishop Mauney gift	250.00	515.00
Deposit	12/29/2017	956	Deposit	Congregational Units	90.00	605.00
<b>Total CV-St Stephen-Strasburg</b>					<b>605.00</b>	<b>605.00</b>

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Donations by Congregational Unit**  
February 2017 through January 2018

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount	Balance
<b>Flora Williams</b>						
Deposit	07/27/2017	1433	Deposit	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	85.00
Deposit	07/27/2017	1433	Deposit	Young Women Gathering	10.00	95.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1449	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	20.00	115.00
Total Flora Williams					115.00	115.00
<b>GE-Christ Lutheran Church</b>						
Deposit	07/27/2017	4476	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	25.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	4493	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	50.00	75.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	4491	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	500.00	575.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	4492	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	50.00	625.00
Deposit	12/29/2017	1074	Deposit	Congregational Units	70.00	695.00
Deposit	12/29/2017	4591	Deposit	Congregational Units	100.00	795.00
Total GE-Christ Lutheran Church					795.00	795.00
<b>GE-Grace &amp; Glory-Palmyra</b>						
Deposit	07/27/2017	2460...	Deposit	Congregational Units	25.00	25.00
Deposit	07/27/2017	2460...	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	50.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	7678	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	50.00	100.00
Total GE-Grace & Glory-Palmyra					100.00	100.00
<b>GE-Hebron-Madison</b>						
Deposit	02/10/2017	1269	Deposit	Congregational Units	120.00	120.00
Deposit	07/27/2017	1270	Deposit	Congregational Units	180.00	300.00
Deposit	07/27/2017	1271	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	325.00
Total GE-Hebron-Madison					325.00	325.00
<b>GE-Mt Nebo-Rochelle</b>						
Deposit	04/13/2017	1103	Deposit	Congregational Units	30.00	30.00
Deposit	12/07/2017	9709	Deposit	Congregational Units	40.00	70.00
Total GE-Mt Nebo-Rochelle					70.00	70.00
<b>GE-Resurrection-Fredericksburg</b>						
Deposit	02/10/2017	1002	Deposit	Congregational Units	100.00	100.00
Deposit	02/10/2017	1002	Deposit	Fair Share Travel	25.00	125.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1003	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	40.00	165.00
Total GE-Resurrection-Fredericksburg					165.00	165.00
<b>Germanna Conference</b>						
Deposit	08/03/2017	5652	Diane Heckel	Conference Gatherings	30.00	30.00
Deposit	08/03/2017	1053	Katy Wessel	Conference Gatherings	115.00	145.00
Deposit	08/03/2017	8549	Judy Fray	Conference Gatherings	25.00	170.00
Deposit	08/03/2017	3592	Carol Bailey	Conference Gatherings	50.00	220.00

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Donations by Congregational Unit**  
February 2017 through January 2018

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount	Balance
<b>Total Germanna Conference</b>					220.00	220.00
<b>HI-Grace/St Paul-Rural Retreat Parish</b>						
Deposit	03/09/2017	548	Deposit	Congregational Units	19.66	19.66
Deposit	03/30/2017	550	Deposit	Congregational Units	20.00	39.66
Deposit	03/30/2017	549	Deposit	Bold Women Challenge	75.88	115.54
Deposit	04/27/2017	553	Deposit	Congregational Units	26.66	142.20
Deposit	04/27/2017	552	Deposit	Bold Women Challenge	63.59	205.79
Deposit	06/15/2017	554	Deposit	Congregational Units	21.00	226.79
Deposit	06/29/2017	556	Deposit	Congregational Units	23.33	250.12
Deposit	07/27/2017	5675	Deposit	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	335.12
Deposit	08/03/2017	560	Deposit	Congregational Units	33.33	368.45
Deposit	08/21/2017	559	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	25.00	393.45
Deposit	08/21/2017	558	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	1,136.40	1,529.85
Deposit	08/21/2017	3083	Carol Johns...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	1,554.85
Deposit	09/07/2017	561	Deposit	Congregational Units	28.33	1,583.18
Deposit	10/12/2017	564	Deposit	Congregational Units	33.33	1,616.51
Deposit	11/08/2017	566	Deposit	Congregational Units	26.00	1,642.51
Deposit	12/07/2017	568	Deposit	Thankoffering	207.00	1,849.51
Deposit	12/29/2017	570	Deposit	Congregational Units	15.00	1,864.51
<b>Total HI-Grace/St Paul-Rural Retreat Parish</b>					1,864.51	1,864.51
<b>HI-Redeemer-Bristol</b>						
Deposit	05/25/2017	1279	Deposit	Congregational Units	55.80	55.80
Deposit	08/24/2017	1285	Deposit	Congregational Units	56.70	112.50
Deposit	10/12/2017	1286	Deposit	Congregational Units	36.00	148.50
Deposit	01/24/2018	1288		Congregational Units	38.10	186.60
<b>Total HI-Redeemer-Bristol</b>					186.60	186.60
<b>June Nabers</b>						
Deposit	05/25/2017	1665	Spring gathe...	Conference Gatherings	10.00	10.00
Deposit	07/06/2017	1685	Deposit	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	95.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1699	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	10.00	105.00
Deposit	10/12/2017	1718	Southern ga...	Conference Gatherings	10.00	115.00
<b>Total June Nabers</b>					115.00	115.00
<b>M Kaarina Modiri</b>						
Deposit	07/19/2017	1258	Deposit	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	85.00
Deposit	07/19/2017	1258	Deposit	Young Women Gathering	25.00	110.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1262	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	10.00	120.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1263	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	20.00	140.00
<b>Total M Kaarina Modiri</b>					140.00	140.00
<b>New River Conference</b>						
Deposit	12/07/2017	304	Deposit	Conference Gatherings	388.00	388.00

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Donations by Congregational Unit**  
February 2017 through January 2018

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount	Balance
Total New River Conference					388.00	388.00
<b>NR-St Michael-Blacksburg</b>						
Deposit	02/10/2017	290	Deposit	Congregational Units	81.40	81.40
Deposit	05/25/2017	295	Deposit	Congregational Units	59.00	140.40
Deposit	05/25/2017	295	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	165.40
Deposit	08/15/2017	297	Deposit	Congregational Units	39.00	204.40
Deposit	08/21/2017	296	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	545.39	749.79
Deposit	08/21/2017	298	Deposit	Bishop Mauney gift	25.00	774.79
Deposit	12/07/2017	303	Deposit	Congregational Units	98.00	872.79
Total NR-St Michael-Blacksburg					872.79	872.79
<b>NR-Trinity-Pulaski</b>						
Deposit	03/09/2017	1122	Deposit	Congregational Units	460.00	460.00
Deposit	03/09/2017	1122	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	485.00
Deposit	03/09/2017	1122	Deposit	Bold Women Challenge	25.00	510.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1132	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	700.00	1,210.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1131	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	100.00	1,310.00
Deposit	08/24/2017	1130	Deposit	Bishop Mauney gift	100.00	1,410.00
Total NR-Trinity-Pulaski					1,410.00	1,410.00
<b>NV-Trinity-Stephens City</b>						
Deposit	10/12/2017	462	Deposit	Congregational Units	90.00	90.00
Deposit	10/12/2017	462	Deposit	Fair Share Travel	25.00	115.00
Deposit	11/08/2017	465	Deposit	Congregational Units	90.00	205.00
Total NV-Trinity-Stephens City					205.00	205.00
<b>PA-Beth Eden/Grace-(StonyMan)-Luray</b>						
Deposit	08/21/2017	1185	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	50.00	50.00
Total PA-Beth Eden/Grace-(StonyMan)-Luray					50.00	50.00
<b>PA-Morning Star-Luray</b>						
Deposit	04/27/2017	1175	Deposit	Bold Women Challenge	25.00	25.00
Deposit	06/29/2017	1181	Deposit	Congregational Units	125.00	150.00
Deposit	06/29/2017	1181	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	175.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1186	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	50.00	225.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1187	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	250.00	475.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1184	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	50.00	525.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1188	Deposit	Bishop Mauney gift	25.00	550.00
Deposit	01/24/2018	1206		Congregational Units	125.00	675.00
Total PA-Morning Star-Luray					675.00	675.00
<b>PE-Our Saviour's-Norge</b>						
Deposit	07/19/2017	1053	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	25.00
Deposit	12/29/2017	1057	Deposit	Congregational Units	133.50	158.50

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Donations by Congregational Unit**  
February 2017 through January 2018

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount	Balance
<b>Total PE-Our Saviour's-Norge</b>					158.50	158.50
<b>RI-Christ the King-Richmond</b>						
Deposit	04/20/2017	657	Deposit	Congregational Units	300.00	300.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	662	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	125.00	425.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	663	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	125.00	550.00
<b>Total RI-Christ the King-Richmond</b>					550.00	550.00
<b>RI-Epiphany-Richmond</b>						
Deposit	03/30/2017	508	Deposit	Congregational Units	184.80	184.80
Deposit	06/29/2017	515	Deposit	Congregational Units	222.00	406.80
Deposit	06/29/2017	516	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	50.00	456.80
Deposit	06/29/2017	516	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	481.80
Deposit	07/06/2017	513	Registration...	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	566.80
Deposit	08/15/2017	517	Deposit	Bishop Mauney gift	25.00	591.80
Deposit	08/21/2017	518	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	1,800.00	2,391.80
Deposit	11/08/2017	522	Deposit	Congregational Units	154.10	2,545.90
<b>Total RI-Epiphany-Richmond</b>					2,545.90	2,545.90
<b>RI-First English-Richmond</b>						
Deposit	03/30/2017	136	Deposit	Congregational Units	15.50	15.50
Deposit	04/13/2017	137	Deposit	Congregational Units	26.58	42.08
Deposit	04/27/2017	139	Deposit	Congregational Units	18.00	60.08
Deposit	06/29/2017	141	Deposit	Congregational Units	26.50	86.58
Deposit	06/29/2017	142	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	111.58
Deposit	07/06/2017	140	Registration...	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	196.58
Deposit	09/26/2017	144	Deposit	Congregational Units	20.00	216.58
Deposit	11/08/2017	145	Deposit	Congregational Units	23.50	240.08
Deposit	01/24/2018	146		Congregational Units	34.00	274.08
<b>Total RI-First English-Richmond</b>					274.08	274.08
<b>RI-Lakeside-Lake Gaston</b>						
Deposit	05/25/2017	869	Deposit	Congregational Units	97.50	97.50
Deposit	07/27/2017	871	Deposit	Congregational Units	161.50	259.00
Deposit	07/27/2017	872	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	284.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	573	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	60.00	344.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	874	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	110.00	454.00
Deposit	10/12/2017	878	Deposit	Congregational Units	32.50	486.50
<b>Total RI-Lakeside-Lake Gaston</b>					486.50	486.50
<b>RI-Our Saviour-Richmond</b>						
Deposit	05/25/2017	1640	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	25.00
Deposit	06/15/2017	2902	Helen Weaver	Conference Gatherings	25.00	50.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1642	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	50.00	100.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1641	Deposit	Convention Offering/Undesig...	100.00	200.00

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Donations by Congregational Unit**  
February 2017 through January 2018

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount	Balance
Total RI-Our Saviour-Richmond					200.00	200.00
<b>SO-Glade Creek-Blue Ridge</b>						
Deposit	04/13/2017	357	Deposit	Congregational Units	125.00	125.00
Total SO-Glade Creek-Blue Ridge					125.00	125.00
<b>SO-St Philip-Roanoke</b>						
Deposit	03/09/2017	7949	Deposit	Bold Women Challenge	25.00	25.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	7992	Genie Brow...	Designated (Love Offerings)	25.00	50.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1297	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	100.00	150.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	7993	Genie Brow...	Convention Offering/Undesig...	25.00	175.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	7994	Genie Brow...	Bishop Mauney gift	25.00	200.00
Total SO-St Philip-Roanoke					200.00	200.00
<b>SO-St Timothy-Vinton</b>						
Deposit	03/30/2017	1127	Deposit	Congregational Units	150.00	150.00
Deposit	03/30/2017	1127	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	175.00
Total SO-St Timothy-Vinton					175.00	175.00
<b>SO-Wheatland-Buchanan</b>						
Deposit	04/27/2017	189	Deposit	Congregational Units	72.00	72.00
Deposit	10/12/2017	178	Deposit	Congregational Units	72.00	144.00
Deposit	10/12/2017	180	Deposit	Katie's Fund	25.00	169.00
Total SO-Wheatland-Buchanan					169.00	169.00
<b>SV-Bethany-Lexington</b>						
Deposit	05/25/2017	783	Deposit	Congregational Units	50.00	50.00
Deposit	11/08/2017	788	Deposit	Congregational Units	42.00	92.00
Deposit	01/24/2018	791		Congregational Units	35.00	127.00
Total SV-Bethany-Lexington					127.00	127.00
<b>SV-Good Shepherd-Lexington</b>						
Deposit	08/21/2017	462	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	360.00	360.00
Total SV-Good Shepherd-Lexington					360.00	360.00
<b>SV-Muhlenberg-Harrisonburg</b>						
Deposit	08/21/2017	4467	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	75.00	75.00
Total SV-Muhlenberg-Harrisonburg					75.00	75.00
<b>SV-Pleasant View-Staunton</b>						
Deposit	08/21/2017	121	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	300.00	300.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	123	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	100.00	400.00
Deposit	12/07/2017	126	Deposit	Congregational Units	66.00	466.00



**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Donations by Congregational Unit**  
February 2017 through January 2018

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount	Balance
<b>Total SV-Pleasant View-Staunton</b>					466.00	466.00
<b>SV-Salem-Mt. Sidney</b>						
Deposit	04/13/2017	1527	Deposit	Congregational Units	175.00	175.00
Deposit	04/13/2017	1527	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	200.00
Deposit	04/20/2017	1530	Deposit	Bold Women Challenge	25.00	225.00
Deposit	07/19/2017	1547	Deposit	Congregational Units	175.00	400.00
Deposit	07/27/2017	1549	Delegate	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	485.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	4832	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	1,952.00	2,437.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1551	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	100.00	2,537.00
Deposit	10/12/2017	1563	Deposit	Congregational Units	175.00	2,712.00
Deposit	01/24/2018	1576		Congregational Units	175.00	2,887.00
<b>Total SV-Salem-Mt. Sidney</b>					2,887.00	2,887.00
<b>SV-St Jacobs/Spaders-Mt Crawford</b>						
Deposit	06/15/2017	701	Deposit	Congregational Units	150.00	150.00
Deposit	06/15/2017	701	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	175.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	705	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	35.00	210.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	704	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	200.00	410.00
<b>Total SV-St Jacobs/Spaders-Mt Crawford</b>					410.00	410.00
<b>SV-St. James-Fishersville</b>						
Deposit	06/29/2017	1116	Deposit	Congregational Units	70.88	70.88
Deposit	07/27/2017	1118	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	95.88
Deposit	08/21/2017	1120	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	40.00	135.88
Deposit	08/21/2017	1121	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	50.00	185.88
<b>Total SV-St. James-Fishersville</b>					185.88	185.88
<b>Tidewater Conference</b>						
Deposit	11/08/2017		cash from g...	Conference Gatherings	116.00	116.00
<b>Total Tidewater Conference</b>					116.00	116.00
<b>TW-Emmanuel-Virginia Beach</b>						
Deposit	08/15/2017	1790	Deposit	Designated (Love Offerings)	100.00	100.00
Deposit	08/15/2017	1788	Deposit	Fair Share Travel	25.00	125.00
Deposit	08/15/2017	1787	For Lucy Sh...	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	210.00
Deposit	11/08/2017	1792	Deposit	Bishop Mauney gift	104.00	314.00
<b>Total TW-Emmanuel-Virginia Beach</b>					314.00	314.00
<b>TW-First-Portsmouth</b>						
Deposit	08/15/2017	5053	Registration ...	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	85.00
Deposit	08/15/2017	2493	pd by Sylvia ...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	110.00
<b>Total TW-First-Portsmouth</b>					110.00	110.00
<b>TW-Holy Communion-Portsmouth</b>						

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Donations by Congregational Unit**  
February 2017 through January 2018

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Amount	Balance
Deposit	03/30/2017	703	Deposit	Bold Women Challenge	25.00	25.00
Deposit	07/06/2017	707	Deposit	Sole Hope Shoes Mailing	50.00	75.00
Deposit	07/06/2017	708	Deposit	Postage Stamps Grace Inside	50.00	125.00
Deposit	01/24/2018	718		Congregational Units	50.00	175.00
Total TW-Holy Communion-Portsmouth					175.00	175.00
<b>TW-St Timothy-Norfolk</b>						
Deposit	06/15/2017	1170	Deposit	Congregational Units	60.00	60.00
Deposit	06/15/2017	1170	2017 conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	85.00
Deposit	07/27/2017	1376	Bonnie Mantta	Young Women Gathering	35.00	120.00
Deposit	08/21/2017	1385	Bonnie Mant...	Designated (Love Offerings)	25.00	145.00
Total TW-St Timothy-Norfolk					145.00	145.00
<b>TW-St. John-Norfolk</b>						
Deposit	05/25/2017	101	Deposit	Congregational Units	50.00	50.00
Deposit	05/25/2017	102	2017 Conve...	Fair Share Travel	25.00	75.00
Deposit	07/27/2017	104	Registration ...	Housing, Meals, Registration	85.00	160.00
Total TW-St. John-Norfolk					-160.00	160.00
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>20,207.96</b>	<b>20,207.96</b>

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Profit & Loss Budget Overview**  
 February 2019 through January 2020

	Feb '19 - Jan 20
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>	
<b>Income</b>	
<b>Offerings</b>	
Conference Gatherings	1,588.00
Congregational Units	5,894.89
VSWO Convention Offerings	
Convention Offering/Undesignate	1,282.00
Designated (Love Offerings)	1,585.00
<b>Total VSWO Convention Offerings</b>	2,867.00
<b>Total Offerings</b>	10,349.89
<b>Other Income</b>	
Designated Offerings	
Betty Wilson Tri- Scholarship	300.00
Katie's Fund	0.00
Thankoffering	0.00
<b>Total Designated Offerings</b>	300.00
Unrealized Gain on Investments	2,986.95
Visions Subscriptions	69.00
<b>Total Other Income</b>	3,355.95
<b>VSWO Convention</b>	
Fair Share Travel	658.00
Housing, Meals, Registration	6,000.15
Young Women Gathering	400.00
<b>Total VSWO Convention</b>	7,058.15
<b>Total Income</b>	20,763.99
<b>Gross Profit</b>	20,763.99
<b>Expense</b>	
<b>ChurchWide Programs</b>	
Conference Gatherings (50%)	844.00
Insurance-Travel/Accident	7.70
Katie's Fund	772.40
Regular/Conv Offering (50%)	5,685.18
Servant Event Supplies	100.00
Thankoffering	207.00
<b>Total ChurchWide Programs</b>	7,616.28
<b>Communications</b>	
Bulk Mailing Permit & Postage	444.40
VISIONS (printing and supplies)	415.75
<b>Total Communications</b>	860.15
<b>Convention</b>	
BOR Printing/Postage	0.00
Call to Convention	172.81
Chaplain	500.00
Convention Honorium - Using Chu	500.00
Fair Share Travel	950.00
Housing and Meals	6,968.70
Miscellaneous	500.00
Program Speakers/Entertainment	100.00
Supplies	45.00
<b>Total Convention</b>	9,736.51
<b>Executive Board</b>	
Audit	225.00
Copying I	172.81

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization  
**Profit & Loss Budget Overview**  
February 2019 through January 2020

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	<u>Feb '19 - Jan 20</u>
Mileage & Lodging	1,436.45
Miscellaneous	179.43
President's Discretionary Fund	60.00
Stationary and Supplies	27.36
<b>Total Executive Board</b>	<b>2,101.05</b>
<b>Mission Areas</b>	
Mission Justice	150.00
Mission Spiritual Growth	150.00
Mission Stewardship	150.00
<b>Total Mission Areas</b>	<b>450.00</b>
<b>Triennial Convention/Expense</b>	
Betty Wilson Scholarship/Trienn	0.00
<b>Total Triennial Convention/Expense</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>20,763.99</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>

## Report of Mission: Justice

*“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me but the one who sent me.” Mark 9:37*

Hearing this call, Sylvia, along with board members, assisted a child with supplies for summer camp. He escaped, along with his family, from a civil war in Sudan and spent over a decade in a refugee camp before settling in the Tidewater

Area. [https://pilotonline.com/news/local/article\\_35b66501-1128-5219-a922-9829870fe41e.html](https://pilotonline.com/news/local/article_35b66501-1128-5219-a922-9829870fe41e.html)

The Justice Committee encourages units to review the ELCA’s efforts to assist immigrant children and families through organizations such as Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) and Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (Amparo). LIRS has provided care to 148 of the over 2300 children that have been separated from their families at the border. Materials will be provided at convention to support this effort.

<https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Immigration-and-Refugee-Services>

<http://www.elca.org/ammparo>

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Eley and Michelle Poore

## Report of Mission: Stewardship

YOU GIVE IN MANY WAYS.....

FROM BIBLICAL TIMES TO TODAY: WOMEN ARE GENEROUS GIVERS!

“To us, Stewardship means to use the gifts that God has generously given us to care for the gifts that God has graciously entrusted to us so that those that come after us can rejoice in them in their turn. Our loving God has given us so much....everything we have, everything we are, *everything*.” (reprint from Interchange, Fall 2015)

The women in our Synod are no different than the Women of the Biblical Times. Each and every one of you are a blessing! We give thanks for all of you and what you have done to make this year a great success. Your support of VSWO is so tremendous, and this year we ask you to remember Churchwide as well.

**Where needed most:** Undesignated gifts make it possible for the churchwide organization to act quickly in response to current needs.

**Thankoffering:** Gifts made in gratitude for blessings received are a longstanding custom of Women of the ELCA. Your generous thankofferings go to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA.

**Katie's Fund and Katie's Fund Current:** Named for Katharina von Bora Luther, the wife of Martin Luther, our endowment and its corresponding current fund support leadership development, living theology, and global connections.

**Women of the ELCA General Scholarship Fund:** Our scholarships for women seeking education for rostered leadership or other fields are another longstanding custom of Women of the ELCA.

**Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls:** This innovative program supports seed grants to congregational units in order to promote better health -- physical, mental, or spiritual.

**Café** is the free online magazine for young adult women published by Women of the ELCA.

For more information, please contact us at 800-638-3522, ext. 2730, or email us at [women.elca@elca.org](mailto:women.elca@elca.org) if you have any questions.

With thanks and continued prayers with all the blessings you share as **Bold Women!**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Edith Blake and Ellen Greene

## **Report of Mission: Discipleship**

*Jesus said, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13: 34b, 35.*

This year we have extended Christ's love for others by collecting items for Lutheran World Relief Health Kits. These health kits are distributed to people who have lost everything. In the wake of a natural disaster where homes are destroyed, or having fled from violence as their homes are overtaken, they can clasp a towel from a faraway place with a bar of soap, a toothbrush, ect. and as they are washing up, know they have not been forsaken by the world.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Lowry and Zelda Whetzel

## **Report of the Communications Team**

Hopefully the website will become more robust and informative in the coming years. We encourage women to share their activities and events with us and to "friend" us on Facebook. Thanks to Carol Johnson for volunteering as editor of the *Visions* newsletter. You will find links to our Facebook and Pinterest pages on our website: <http://vswo.weebly.com>. If you have the time and skill to make these social media applications a vibrant, up-to-date community for our units please let Jody Smiley know.

## **Report of the Long-Range Planning Team**

2019 VSWO Site Selection

We considered, contacted, or visited the following churches in Tidewater Conference in Virginia Beach: Emmanuel, Our Saviour, St. Michael, Good Shepherd ;and Gloria Dei, Trinity, and St.Paul in Peninsula Conference. These churches either did not want to host us or their facility or equipment was not adequate for our needs.

First Lutheran, Norfolk will most completely fill our needs. They have plenty of parking, plenty of meeting rooms that are handicap accessible and a beautiful sanctuary with organ and piano. The

main meeting room will be on the third floor which is reachable by two elevators. The kitchen is on that floor and we could order box lunches from Panera. We would eat in the meeting room where there is capability for Power Point Presentations and a mic. There are plenty of restrooms and a copier on that floor. There is no piano on that floor so music other than during worship would have to be A capella.

The church will be available on Thursday night and their very large parlor on the first floor will have plenty of space for the board. The room is close to the copier that we could use.

Lisa Geiger ([LGEIGER@FLCNORFOLK.COM](mailto:LGEIGER@FLCNORFOLK.COM)) is the Church Operations Manager and was very willing to help in any way. Sylvia Eley, part-time administrator, will be of great assistance. Pastor Kathy Mims is the assistant.

Norfolk has many hotels within ten minutes, but the Springhill Suites, 4500 Hampton Blvd (at Old Dominion) would be the easiest to reach. It is a five-minute drive to the church. Ashley Myers ([ashley.myers@marriott.com](mailto:ashley.myers@marriott.com)) is Director of Sales. Parking is \$8. They have 60 rooms with two beds and 6 handicap accessible rooms. The tentative price is \$160.46 including taxes, fees, and full breakfast. She will hold the three-day block(Thursday, Friday, Saturday) until June 30. There are many restaurants in the neighborhood of the motel and the church. A restaurant/bar is attached to the hotel. Ashley said she could make the small conference room next to the restaurant available, and women could get food and drinks from restaurant and take them to conference room which could be used as a gathering room. She also could reserve a section of the restaurant for the convention. Ashley will expect to hear from the VSWO by September.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Bailey and Joann Fawley

## **Report of the Synodical Conference Coordinator**

I have enjoyed being back on VSWO board and having the opportunity to work with the board and coordinators again. We were able to update and revise the Coordinator and Co leader responsibilities so that we are all on the same page. This makes things so much easier for the person taking on the new responsibility. As liaison it is my responsibility to update coordinators as to their responsibility as far as their conference is concerned for convention. This is done by email updates and VISION articles. I try to keep a list of when and where the conference gatherings are so that we can make sure and have a board member available to attend. A lot of our information will appear in VISIONS. I'd like to encourage you all to write articles to appear in VISIONS so that we can hear what your ladies are doing and give us new ideas for outreach and workshops. As of today we have had two Spring gatherings with four to come in the Fall.

Look forward to seeing you at convention.

Bonnie Mantta  
VSWO Conference Coordinator

## **Germanna Conference**

*Submitted by Sue Skinner, Coordinator*

To continue the historic Reformation Celebration of 2017, the Germanna Women's Spring Gathering, "Why This Church Here? Our Virginia Heritage" was held at Hebron Lutheran Church in Madison, VA on a beautiful spring Saturday, April 28, 2018. Twenty-one women from six congregations worshipped in the beautiful building and then listened to Judy Ann Fray, member of Hebron, speak on the history of Hebron, the oldest Lutheran Church in the United States in over 300 years of continuous use. The beautiful church building of Hebron is on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and on the Virginia Landmarks Register. A member of each church represented had the opportunity to share a very brief history of their congregation beginning with the youngest and concluding with Judy Ann's presentation. A luncheon and business meeting concluded the morning with the three members of the planning committee installed by Jody Smiley, president of VSWO.

## **New River Valley Conference**

*Submitted by Alice Schneider, Coordinator*

New River District Fall Gathering was hosted by Our Saviour, Christiansburg with new Pastor, Rev. Wanda Childs leading worship with the "An Ever Present Help in Trouble Liturgy" written in fall hurricane season. Our offering of \$388.00 to VSWO to help support women's programs. The special offering of \$1,305.00 sent to Faith Lutheran Church, Dickinson, TX, heavily damaged by hurricane Harvey. We decided to help them replace craft materials and a sewing machine, they use to make crafts, which help support their Ark Book Pantry and community outreach projects. We each made prayer beads which were sent along with our donation to show our support and love to their members. NRV once again collected Christmas shoeboxes at the Gathering for Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. There were 276 shoeboxes from the NRV churches, Christ the King in Richmond and St. John Lutheran in Lexington SC. St. Michael's Party with a Purpose prepared all the shoeboxes for shipping. This was the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the program begun by Christ Episcopal Church, Blacksburg. They held an anniversary supper, with some history and stories about earlier years, followed by stuffing 304 backpacks, all accompanied by drummers playing a huge Indian drum. The combined backpacks and shoeboxes were a record 2,100 lbs when shipped. Additional items were shipped to the homeless shelter program at the Reservation.

Projects our Units have been busy with:

- Clothing, money and time donated to many community organizations
- Visited and brought gifts, entertainment, personal care products, snacks for several nursing homes
- Collected food, cleaning supplies etc. for food banks, Women's Resource Center, and community groups
  - Provided Christmas baskets, stockings and care packages for local and school families
  - Collected school supplies for elementary schools
  - Made Easter baskets for Women's Resource Center
  - Attended VSWO convention, supported its programs and provided leadership from our members
  - Distributes church flowers, poinsettias, lilies to various groups
  - Prepared meals for To Our House, L-Cubed, new graduates and other local programs
- Sent care packages to college students, made denim shoe tops for Sole Hope in Uganda, hosting



missionary groups

- Supported local feeding ministries such as SMILES, Micah's Backpack, and Soup for Seniors
- Honored all women with Mother's day luncheon, conducted Bold Women's services
- Sewed walker/wheelchair caddies, and quilting projects.

## **Page County Conference**

*Submitted by Linda Lowry*

In Page County, Morning Star is the only church with an active women's unit. Organizations that we have made donations to, things we have participated in, or those we collected items for this year were:

### **Donations:**

Weekday Religious Ed.  
Bible Mission in Schools  
Loaves & Fishes- Backpack  
Choices – Domestic Violence  
Lutheran Family Services  
Katie's Fund  
Habitat for Humanity  
Page Free Medical Clinic  
Page Memorial Hospital Aux.  
St. Jude Children's Hospital  
Page One Fuel Assistance  
Caroline Furnace  
Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging  
Life Center – Pregnancy/ Family  
Page One Cancer Fund  
American Cancer Society (Relay for Life)  
World Hunger  
Lutheran World Relief  
Beetles' Box of Blessings  
Local Fire & Rescue Depts.  
Shriners Children Hospital  
VSWO  
ELCA Disaster Relief Fund  
Fund raising for several families experiencing hard times.

### **Participated In:**

Monthly unit meetings  
Visiting sick & shut ins  
Providing meals at church for:  
Funerals  
Share Sundays  
Ice Cream Social  
Harvest/Musical Event  
3 session Bible Study  
Thank Offering Service  
Program on Racial Justice Advocacy

### **Collected Items for:**

Choices  
Life Center  
Health Kits  
Made Walker Caddies  
20 Fruit baskets for sick & shut ins

## **Southern Valley Conference**

*Submitted by Betty Diehl, Coordinator*

Southern Valley Conference has had a busy year. On May 9, 2017, we gathered at Pleasant View Lutheran Church with 21 women; Pastor Derrick Boggs of Salem Lutheran Church; and Pastor Mark Briehl of Pleasant View present.

Pastor Boggs enlightened the group about "Spiritual Sightings" which was followed with open discussion. A lunch of salads and desserts was provided by the group. Pleasant View furnished the beverages.

On Saturday, September 30th, 54 men and women car-pooled to Hebron Lutheran Church in Madison Co., VA. Judy Ann Fray, the docent at Hebron, gave us a historical tour of the church which celebrated its 300th birthday in 2017 as the oldest Lutheran Church in VA. The tour ended with Dr. Don Rierson, JMU professor as well as organist at St. James Lutheran, giving us a verbal as well as a musical introduction to the old/dated organ at Hebron. Lunch was enjoyed by all at Graves Mountain Lodge.

On the same weekend Sunday, October 1st, Southern Valley Conference's Fall Gathering was held at Salem Lutheran Church with 3 men and 47 women present. Our speaker for the afternoon was the Reverend Lynn Litchfield, Director of Development of GracelInside, Virginia's Prison Chaplain Services, who had spoken to us at the 2016 VSWO Convention. Pastor Litchfield delivered her presentation in the same dynamic fashion as she did at convention. She shared the work she has done with these imprisoned women prior to assuming the position she is in now. "Well received by all" is a very adequate praise for her presentation.

The VSWO Offering totaled \$414.00; the Love Offering for GracelInside totaled \$670.00.

Judy Wilfong, a VSWO Board member shared news from the VSWO as well as installed our newest Planning Team member, Lola Heffner.

The Salem Lutheran WELCA served delicious refreshments.

## **Tidewater Conference**

***Submitted by Sheila Sanchez, Coordinator***

The 2017 Fall Gathering as held on November 4, 2017 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Norfolk, VA. We were led in worship by Pastor Suzanne Stierwalt. During the business meeting, we elected Sheila Sanchez as conference coordinator for a two-year term and Cheryl Farrah and Brenda Conway as co-leaders each for a one-year term. Our workshops were a bible study led by Ellen Greene and a music therapy workshop led by Becky Watson. Participants were asked to bring non-perishable food items to donate to St. Timothy's food pantry. VSWO President Jody Smiley joined us to bring greetings from the Board and install our leaders. Becky Watson led the attendees in playing bells. Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

## **CLOSING OF CONVENTION** (written by Ellen Greene)

**ALL: We Go Out to Serve**

(The Reading of Psalm 46 - Our Testimony of Confidence)

**All: God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.**

**Leader:** There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; he lifts his voice, the earth melts.

**ALL: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

**Leader:** Come and see the works of the Lord, the desolation he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the ends of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear, he burns the shields with fire. "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

**ALL: The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.**

Let Us Encourage  
© Edith Blake

**ALL: Let us encourage one another to enliven our faith and share that faith with boldness.**

**Let us encourage one another to serve those in need as we share our time and talents.**

**Let us encourage one another to foster compassion and empathy for those around us who are different.**

**Let us encourage one another to inspire us to go beyond our comfort zone and try something new and not be close minded to change.**

**Let us encourage one another to grow in trust to let go and let God move in our lives and not be afraid to follow his lead.**

**Let us encourage one another to reach out to others and encourage others to use their gifts and talents.**

**Let us encourage one another to rise about petty differences and see each other as God sees us.**

**So, as we are enlivened, inspired, and fostered, to grow, reach out, and rise above, we are filled with God's joy, peace and love.**

**Leader:** As we take our worship, praise and prayer from this place and into our daily lives, may our lives be sustained through the love of our Heavenly Father. May we feel the presence of our Savior walking beside us, and know the power of the Spirit in both our actions and our words.

**ALL: May the Father's hand keep you from stumbling,  
the footprints of Jesus give you confidence to follow,  
and the fire of the Spirit keep you warm and safe in your walk with God this day.**

**May the love of Jesus Christ bring us wholeness,  
the grace of God the Father grant us peace,  
the breath of Holy Spirit instill passion  
and the unity between them give us strength for this and every day. Amen**

**Leader:** I now declare the 31<sup>st</sup> Annual VSWO Convention closed. Go forth Bodily as Women of Christ, carrying forth his Gospel light of love and service. You are empowered to go forth and serve our Loving Lord!

**All: Thanks be to God!**

### **Ritual of Transition (L=Leader; C=Community)**

**L:** Sisters in Christ, through your baptism you were called to lives of service as part of the priesthood we all share in Jesus Christ. You have served faithfully and well as leaders in the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization. You have served thoughtfully, graciously and with diligence, offering strategic leadership to this synodical women's organization and to the entire women's organization. We offer to you our gratitude for the wisdom and compassion that you have given so generously in service for Women of the ELCA.

**C: We thank God for you.**

**L:** Recognizing that change must be an ongoing process and that diversity and flexibility are essential, will you continue to share your wisdom and your experience with this synodical women's organization? Will you support and encourage the future leaders of this synodical women's organization, praying for and with them?

If so, answer, "I will, and I ask God to help me."

**Retiring Leaders:** I will, and I ask God to help me.

**L:** Let us pray.

Loving God, we thank you for these women. Your Holy Spirit equipped them with many gifts that have been used to support the mission and purpose of this organization. Inspire them now to new avenues of service, encouraging them to be risk-takers and making them confident in their faith. May their pathways be filled with peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

L: Let us stand to recognize and appreciate these women, acknowledging their gifts to God and to Women of the ELCA.

*Those whose current service is ending return to their seats. The assembly is seated.*

## **Installation of a Synodical Board**

*The new officers and board come forward and face the assembly. The leader may read the offices and names of those who are to be installed.*

*Addressing the assembly:*

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians:

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

*Addressing those being installed:*

Sisters in Christ, you have been chosen for leadership responsibilities in Women of the ELCA. We rejoice in the gifts God has given you and in your willingness to offer them for this service.

Will you continue to seek to grow in faith, attending to God's holy Word, and listening to God in prayer? If so, respond, Yes, and I ask God to help me.

***Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.***

Will you earnestly seek to affirm the gifts of others, to share the responsibilities of your office in partnership with your sisters, and to encourage others to offer their talents and skills in faithful service?

***Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.***

Will you seek to lead the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization in ministry and action, extending God's loving promise of hope to those beyond this community?

***Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.***

Will you seek to promote healing and wholeness within the church, the society and the whole world?

***Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.***

Do you accept the specific responsibilities for which you have been elected and will you seek to serve faithfully?

***Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.***

Will you accept the responsibility for the financial and constitutional order of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA?

**Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.**

Through Holy Baptism, you were gathered into the family of God and called to minister to others, and through your election, you have been chosen to serve as leaders of Women of the ELCA. May God work through you to share hope and healing with the world in which you live. God is faithful and will graciously enable you to fulfill your task. May God's blessing give you peace.

*Addressing the assembly:*

Together with these elected leaders, you are called through Holy Baptism to a life of discipleship. Will you receive these leaders and work with them, pray for them, and support them for the sake of the gospel? If so, answer: We will, and we ask God to help us.

**C: We will, and we ask God to help us.**

*Addressing those being installed:*

I now declare you installed as officers and board members of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Continuing with prayer.*

Let us pray.

Loving God, surround these women with your life-giving Spirit, inspiring them to love and serve all creation. Make them bold and courageous, Holy God, that they may help the women of this organization fulfill our mission and purpose. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

**Amen.**

*Addressing the assembly:*

Let us stand in recognition and appreciation of these women for their gifts to God and to Women of the ELCA.

*The officers and board members return to their seats.*

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