



Bits & Pieces

Eastern Washington – Idaho Synodical Women’s Organization
Women of the ELCA

Volume 24, Issue 1
April 2011

Two Conventions at the Triennial Gathering

Women will gather at the Triennial in July to renew...respond and rejoice! Before that Gathering, from July 12th through the morning of the 14th, the Women of the ELCA will take care of business in Convention. This is the highest legislative body of our national organization. But the business of our Synodical Women’s Organization will also be done at the Triennial. Read on. See map from the Triennial site to the Synodical Convention site.

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Our Synodical Convention

That afternoon of July 14th our Eastern Washington - Idaho Synodical Women's Organization will hold our 2011 Convention at 2:00 pm at All Saints Lutheran Church. The church is a short drive from the Triennial Convention Center at 314 S. Spruce Street. This is also the location of our Synod offices. Everyone is welcome to attend, whether or not you are attending the Triennial Gathering. At our convention, our delegates and Board members will elect new officers and board members and conduct the business of the Synodical organization, including resolutions that might be brought before the board. See past “Bits & Pieces” for the Resolution Form.

Delegate Election and Registration

The delegates to our Synodical Convention are elected by the churches. Each active congregational women's organization is allowed one voting delegate to our SWO convention. We have not yet received many delegate registration forms. Those need to be sent in soon; May 15th isn't that far off. Please see your previous *Bits and Pieces* for the forms.

Sherry Burgess, Delegate Registrations

You Can Be a Synodical Board Member

According to our constitution, our Women's Synodical Board is to be composed of ten members. This year we have seven. Our synod has 12 clusters. Ideally almost every cluster would have someone elected to the Synodical board. That board member would report back to the cluster, attend meetings and keep the cluster churches informed of Synodical and Churchwide happenings, and report cluster events to the board. But this year since we have only seven on the board, we are averaging two clusters per board member, and some of those clusters are hours away from the board member's home, making face to face meetings only a matter of divine providence since it is difficult on our budget and schedules. You could help by sending mailings from your church or cluster to your synod rep. And you can help by nominating (with their permission) someone from your cluster to run for the Synodical board.

Phyllis Bradburn



Purpose Statement of the
Eastern Washington-Idaho
Synodical Women of the ELCA

Being one in Christ

*We strive with the help of the
Holy Spirit to empower each
Other through prayer, personal
Contact, and physical action.*

WE'RE ON THE WEB
EWAIDSYNOD.ORG

Dear sisters in Christ,

I am the chair for nominations for our Synodical board and have received a form from one fellow sister but she has taken on something else now and will not have the time. Do you have the time?? I prayerfully hope so. Serving on the board is a wonderful experience. I have been on almost seven years and have enjoyed every minute and above all I have treasured the friendships I have made. It has also has been a "growing" time for me and I feel very blessed to have grown in my faith with serving on the board.

It does not really take up that much time when you get down to it and it is such time well spent. Please pray about it. Then look over the nomination form which is in past newsletters and consider running for any of the positions open.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. E-mail address is tjevers52@webband.com or you can call any evening at (509) 489-3177.

Your sister in Christ,
Tamie Evers, Vice President

You say you can't run for a SWO office because:

I'm too new in the SWO—Speaking for myself, I had attended one Triennial meeting and one SWO planning meeting and then at the Gathering I was elected as Secretary- I had never even attended a SWO meeting per se.

I wouldn't know what to do and would make a mistake—believe me; I made tons of mistakes and was unsure about many procedures and protocol. Guess what happened when I made those mistakes. Everyone on the Board would laugh and say “we've all been there” and then help me correct my error. I never heard a negative word or a word of criticism.


Why you should run for a SWO office is because:

You will be working with a wonderful group of ladies—I have been on lots of committees and boards and have never had the feeling of welcome and kinship that I have these with ladies. It was instant friendship bound with warmth and love. Through working with them I have grown as a person and as a Christian.

You will be participating in projects that are so worthwhile—At the Gatherings and Triennial meetings you will really feel a sense of pride when you gather together with Christian women from many places. They will greet you with a hug and a smile and you will think “I am so proud and happy to be a part of this group of caring, devoted women”.

We need you to join us. Come and share our experiences. You won't be sorry.

Luella Wetherbee, Secretary



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.



Mission Statement

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



You Can Make a Difference with Resolutions

Resolutions are often thought of as dull and dragging out the business meeting. However, let us think about them a bit differently. Resolutions are the way we can conduct business and put issues on the table for everyone to consider and be thinking about how they can help us witness to women in all facets of our lives. Take a few moments and consider what you would like to bring to the table and then write it out in the form of a resolution. It just might be the way you can make a difference in the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

LaVonne Johnson, Resolutions Committee

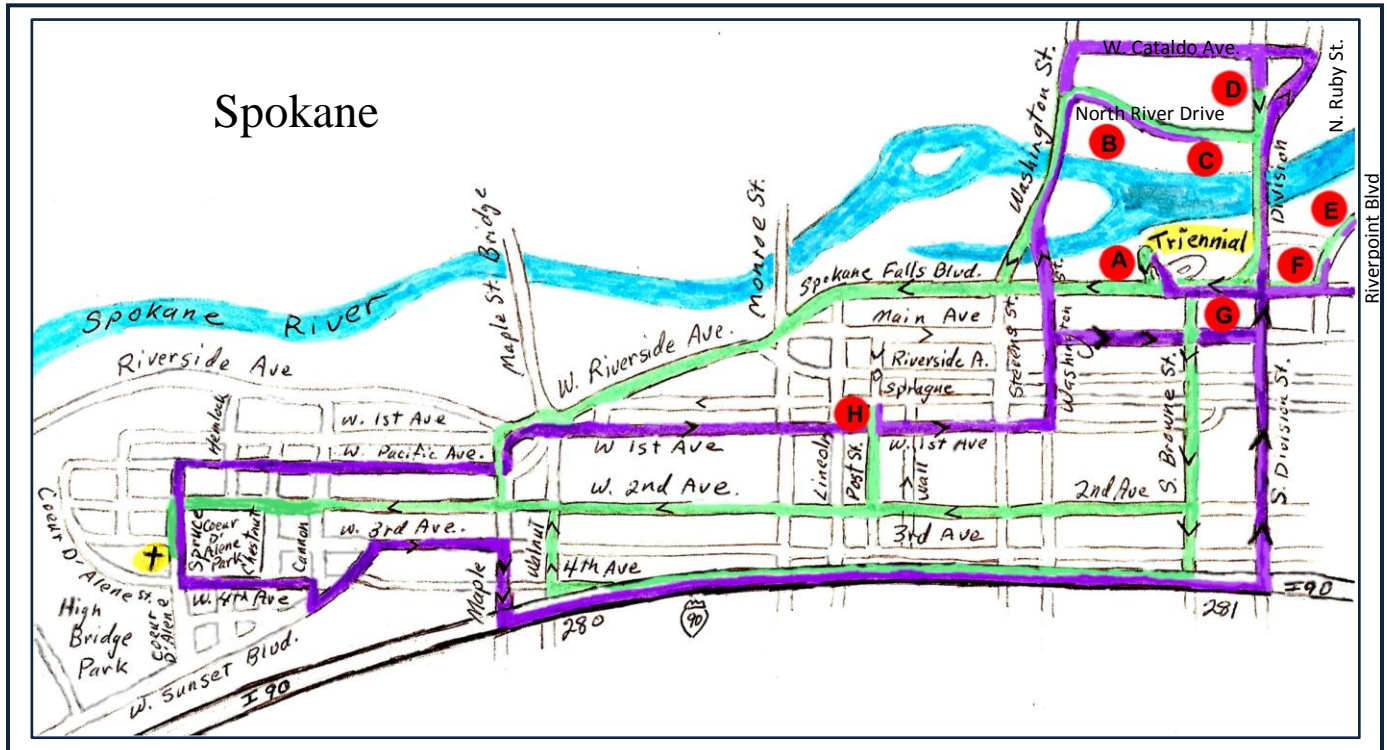
Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality You Can Make a Difference for Others

One of the principles on which the Women of the ELCA were founded was an anti-racist identity, a goal we don't feel we have achieved. This is today's dream, but the Women of the ELCA are working toward making it tomorrow's reality. To this end, they train Anti-racist teams with a goal of every Synodical Women's Organization having a team, to present anti-racism workshops within their SWO. Most Synodical Organizations have a team—but not ours. This year Synodical Women's Organizations in regions One, Two, and Three are asked to send a team of two women to be trained. We will not have the opportunity for training again, for at least three years for this program called "Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality" or TDTR.

The training is to be at the Seabeck Conference Center on the Kitsap Peninsula in Washington the weekend before Thanksgiving, November 17th – 20th. All expenses are to be paid by churchwide and the Synodical organization. There is no expense to the trainees. Each woman nominated should be familiar with the Women of the ELCA organization and have attended a Synodical or churchwide event. Each woman nominated should have a desire (if not also some form of experience) to serve in this capacity and a sensitivity and interest in racial reconciliation and racial justice. Each woman makes a commitment to serve as one of our SWO's TDTR team members for the next three years (through the end of 2014). TDTR team members are to lead Anti-racist workshops at each SWO convention (biennial or annual) and annually with your SWO board. Additional presentations for clusters and congregational or multi-congregational events are also encouraged! The ideal team has at least one woman of color although there are instances on record of two White women doing one heck of a great job! So, do not hesitate to send two women of European descent. Nominations must be turned in by the end of September. If this is your dream too, we need you to make a difference! Contact Phyllis Bradburn. Appointing a TDTR team will be an item on the agenda at our Synodical Convention in Spokane.

Map to Our Synodical Convention from the Triennial Site

Due to the large number of one way streets in downtown Spokane, you will not be able to return to your hotel or the convention center on the same route you take to All Saints Lutheran Church. The green or lighter streets (one way west and south) are ways to go to All Saints. The purple or darker routes (one way east and north) are the return routes to the Triennial site or your hotel.



Triennial, Spokane Convention Center, North Spokane Falls Court
 All Saints Lutheran Church, 314 S. Spruce Street (Marked with a cross.)

- A. Doubletree City Center, 322 N. Spokane Falls Court
- B. Red Lion at the Park, 303 W. North River Drive
- C. Oxford Suites, 115 W. North River Drive
- D. Holiday Inn Express Downtown, 801 N. Division Street
- E. Courtyard by Marriott, 401 North Riverpoint Blvd.
- F. Fairfield Inn by Marriott, 311 N. Riverpoint Boulevard
- G. Travelodge at the Convention Center, 33 W. Spokane Falls Blvd.
- H. The davenport Hotel and Tower, 10 s. Post Street

Our Convention Business Will Include

- A. Election of president, vice president, secretary, and 4 general board members.
- B. State of the Women of the ELCA, presented by JoAnn Fuchs, our churchwide representative.
- C. Should conventions be held every year or every other year? If every other year, how do we handle election of officers, which are now staggered? If every other year, what events might be held during the off year. An idea is 2 or 3 SWO sponsored Cluster events and training.
- D. Budget, Offerings & Scholarships
- E. Anti-racism training
- F. Resolutions

Your church may bring offerings to our Synodical Convention, marked either "Tumaini Scholarship," or "Women in Ministry Scholarship." Unmarked offerings will be split between our Synodical programs, and churchwide.

Fun Gifts and Memories

At the Triennial in San Antonio in 2005, a great many of the people I met were from Minnesota, Wisconsin, or Texas. And they gave me things. Among other memorabilia I received a pin that is a straw hat. St. Paul SWO was printed on the ribbon. My cheese eraser, and my cow eraser, I'm sure were from Wisconsin. I think there was a quarter from one of the states. When I returned, I wore all the jewelry to my cluster meeting to relate my experience.

Among the jewelry was a large necklace which I received from our synod, identifying me as an Eastern Washington – Idahoan, because after all we want to recognize and meet our local sisters. We also want to be good hostesses, and meet and welcome the women who are visiting from all over the world.

So we only need about 2000 giveaways, and 200 identifying whatever's. (I am projecting here that we will have a sudden influx of registrants from Eastern Washington and Idaho. It could happen, and it should!!!) This means we need volunteers to help make them, and we need ideas. I am partial to something that "says" Eastern Washington – Idaho, for both items, using words if necessary to say it. Contact the board, with both your ideas and your willingness to help.

Phyllis Bradburn



Connect at Breakfast

A highlight of attending the Triennial Convention will be being among some thousand women. There is power and love evident everywhere. There is also another event that highlights this gathering and that will be coming together with all the women in attendance at the Triennial Convention from our Synod for Breakfast. It is a great time to visit and to witness as we gather together and have time to get to know our sisters from the Synod better and more fully.

So we invite all from Eastern Washington – Idaho, and your friends to breakfast with us on Friday, July 15th from 7:00 to 8:30 at the food court. Just buy your breakfast and look for our signs. We'll be looking for you!

LaVonne Johnson, Mission Community

HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET???

There is still time to register for the Triennial Gathering coming here in Spokane, July 14 through the 17th. The cost is \$325.00, and remember, you ladies in Spokane and nearby towns, don't have to pay for a hotel, or much for transportation so the overall cost for you will be minimal. You can register until June 10th. So there is still plenty of time.

Wonderful speakers are scheduled. Our own Bishop's wife, the Rev. Susan Briehl will be the presiding minister at the opening Thankoffering service. And she and her daughter, Mary Emily, will conduct one of the workshops. To read more about it, or to even go ahead and register, just go into the Women of the ELCA's website: www.womenoftheelca.org and just click where it says Triennial and go from there. Or contact me at tjeverson52@webband.com or evening by phone at (509) 489-3177.

It is exciting that our synod gets to host, and I would really hate to see any of you miss this chance. Hope to see you in July,

Tamie Evers

Triennial Group Promoter for the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synodical Organization



Renew

- Your faith
- Your commitments
- Your dedication
- Your promises
- Your friendships

Respond

- ✎ With your ears to hear
- ✎ With your eyes to see
- ✎ With your mind to learn
- ✎ With your lips to sing
- ✎ With your heart to love

Rejoice!

- In familiar words that comfort
- In new lessons learned
- In the fellowship of believers
- In the communion of saints
- In the promises of our Lord & Savior

Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

Eighth Triennial Gathering
July 14–17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash.

Revitalize Yourself in One
Transformational Weekend

Register Online

www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial

or call

1-800-638-3522

~ Lou Wetherbee



Now That Is Bold!

Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

Eighth Triennial Gathering
July 14-17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash.

Leymah Gbowee assembled a network of women from a variety of churches throughout war-torn Liberia to campaign for peace. This mother of five stood up for her rights and brought peace to the country which had been fighting for a decade. Now that is bold! But, she did have God with her!

See her tell the story in the documentary, **“Pray the Devil Back to Hell.”** And hear her call us to action on Saturday morning, as she called her Liberian sisters to action for peace.

Now Is the Present!

Nora Gallagher learned a powerful lesson about living in the present the year she almost lost her eyesight. Learn what is real now from the author, speaker, preacher, and colorful storyteller. Her faith and outlook inspire us with a new perspective on life’s challenges.

The Time Is Now to Join the Choir

Imagine singing in a large choir lead by the accomplished musician, **Dr. Thomas Wade Jefferson.** The music will be mailed the middle of May, so sign up now.

See the Women of the ELCA
See the Women of the ELCA
website for more details!

Less Than a
Month Left in
the Quilt
Challenge!

You need not
attend the
Triennial to
send a prayer
shawl.

Submit a photo of your congregation living Philipians 4:4. Artist Mary Button will use the process called cyanotype printing to print the photo on fabric, which you may embroider before she adds it to her tapestry.



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

Eighth Triennial Gathering
July 14–17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Philippians 4:4-9

Aren't the words of Philippians four beautiful! In June of 2004, after prayer, God pointed me to these words as my "to do list" for the day. They have been at the top of my list ever since. When I feel overwhelmed, I stop to rejoice...in the Lord. And then I pray instead of stressing. I really don't like to stress or worry. Neither feeling is fun. I am so glad that God gives us permission not to worry, that He'd rather we asked Him for help. And then He says "Trust Me!" Have you heard your husband, parents or children tell you to trust them? They really wanted you to, didn't they? How much more we can trust the Lord! I am so glad God speaks to us through the scriptures. And like our family, He wants us to listen to him, as He listens to us! What blessings we receive when we read His words...and trust Him! Think on these verses Paul wrote to the Philippians as you prepare for the Triennial. We will study them in Bible study, workshops, worship, through speakers and in servant opportunities. Come to the Triennial and take home God's peace.

Phyllis Bradburn

Triennial Workshops

Meet the authors of the 2011 summer LWT Bible study based on Philippians 4:4-9.

Meet the author of the 2011 fall Bible study on the Gospel of Mark.

Meet our bishop's wife, Pastor Susan Briehl and her daughter, Mary Emily Briehl Duba, as they discuss faithful living for future generations.

Learn to Detoxify your home.

Speaker Dr. Jane Redmont will talk of many ways of praying.

Hear Martin Luther's teachings on sexuality, marriage and family.

Charitable gift planning

Learn to build relationships across cultural lines.

Learn the power of language.

Raise your awareness of the health and exploitation of your global sisters.

How does an anti-racism identity connect you to the power of Christ's resurrection?

Explore how God's sacred intentions for us shape our sacred places.

Women of the ELCA Leadership

And more.

Pick four!
No registration
First come.

Chocolate

We hope you didn't miss the Chocolate Lounge!

Young Lutheran's women from around Spokane enjoyed fellowship, hot food, cheeses & crackers, veggie & fruit platters. And oooh! a choice between 3 fantastic chocolate desserts. The white chocolate huckleberry cheesecake was heavenly! It was wonderful!

If you missed it there will be another, for women under 35 at the Triennial!

Sign up now.

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/Newsletters/Interchange.aspx>

Gathering Offerings

The 2011 Triennial Convention offering will be designated as follows: 50% to Women of the ELCA ongoing ministries, 25% to ELCA Outdoor Ministries and 25% to the Evangelical Lutheran Coalition for Mission in Appalachia.

The offerings given at the Friday Morning Thankoffering service & the Saturday evening worship services have their own ministry designees.

In-kind Gifts

Health kits, school kits, support kits, quilt kits and gift cards.

See "Interchange" link above for more details.

Volunteer Opportunities

Translator
Bilingual greeter
Gathering volunteer
Convention volunteer
Gathering choir

Check the appropriate box on your registration. If you are all ready registered contact your synodical board for more details.

More Hotel Rooms

More rooms have been added to the Triennial block at the Fairfield Inn. Also a block of rooms has been arranged for at the Red Lion River Inn, 700 N. Division Street. That is on the north bank of the river, east of Division St. See map on page five of this newsletter. Call (800) 662- 0084 for details.



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!
Eighth Triennial Gathering
July 14-17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash.

If you can't attend the Triennial, there is another wonderful opportunity the same weekend!

Luther Heights 2011 Women's Retreat

July 15-17, 2011, Friday 4:00 pm to Sunday after worship

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Jeremiah 29:11

The guest speaker for the weekend will be The Rev. Helga Jansons, Eastern Washington – Idaho Synod Director for Evangelical Missions. She is a pastor you really should meet. These Luther Heights weekends are always filled with new friends and God's love.

Registration is \$75 before July 1 and \$80 after. Mail registrations to Joyce Miller, P.O. Box 40, Ola, ID. Her phone is (208) 584-9043, email jandimiller@speedyquick.net.

Eastern Washington/Idaho Synodical Board 2010-2011



President

Phyllis Bradburn

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Church: Cameron Emmanuel, Kendrick ~
Tsceminicum

Cluster Assignment: Tsceminicum & Palouse



Vice-President - Women in Ministry Chair

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**Cluster Assignment: Spokane Westward &
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Cluster Assignment: Mt. Spokane & Big Bend



Secretary

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River Valley

Cluster Assignment: Upper Snake River Valley



Treasurer

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Spokane Westward

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Valley Cluster



Mission Community

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Church: Lord of Life, Kennewick ~ Lower Columbia
Basin

**Cluster Assignment: Lower Columbia Basin &
South Central Washington**



Help Wanted

Board Member for Synodical Women’s Organization—Responsible for strengthening relationships with ELCA women specifically within one or two clusters of the Eastern Washington – Idaho Synod. Will use social media of internet, phone calls, and cluster visits. Involves travelling to two or three board meetings a year, possibility anywhere in Eastern Washington or Idaho, and helping with planning and attending two Synodical conventions, with your expenses paid. Internet and communication skills are useful, or will be developed, during the two year term. Remember, the positions God calls us to are ones we are not equipped to do without His help... So that we will see His provision and give Him Glory!

Positions being elected at the 2011 Synodical Convention in Spokane, July 14th:

President Secretary
Vice President 4 General Board

Nomination forms may be found at the Synod website, “EWAID.” In our past “Bits & Pieces.” They are due to Tamie Evers, May 15, 2011.

Delegates to the 2011 Convention of the Synodical Women’s Organization of Eastern Washington – Idaho—Must be a member of the ELCA congregation which you are representing. Each ELCA congregation is to send one delegate. Delegates will have voice and vote. They will elect officers and board members for the next two years. They will also vote on Resolutions and policies. The congregation is to turn in a “Delegate Registration” form found in the September and November 2010 issues of the “Bits & Pieces.” Forms are due May 15, 2011.

Newsletter Editor of this “Bits & Pieces to publish four newsletters a year. Needs computer, internet and desktop publishing personal experience. Writing and editing skills are important. Creative writing skills are a bonus. It is an opportunity to spread God’s messages to large numbers of women. Contact our board.

Today’s Dream: Tomorrow’s Reality Team Member—Opportunities for righting injustice, by educating your sisters in Christ. Needs to be familiar with the structure of the Women of the ELCA by participation in an event beyond your church. Needs a sensitivity to, and interest in racial reconciliation and racial justice. It is a three year commitment to lead workshops at our Synodical Conventions, and a yearly board meeting. With opportunities to lead them at Cluster and Church events. Free training and expenses covered to Synodical events. Contact Phyllis Bradburn.

