



THE DAWN

JUNE, 2015

THE BIENNIAL CONVENTION INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE!!!!

Letters and articles of interest to the members of NEOSWO should be submitted to the editor no later than the following:

February 20

May 20

August 20

November 20

Next deadline - August 20

The Dawn Editor

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Published four (4) times annually in these months:

March

June

September

December

Publication of *The Dawn* will occur around the 1st of the month following the deadline (or at the whim of the editor) and will appear on the synod's website as stated below.

Please pass along the website address and/or print a copy of *The Dawn* to share with someone - that will give more people than ever the opportunity to read *The Dawn*. If you know someone who doesn't have computer access, please print one and give it to them.

Individual Email Notifications Available at:

www.neos-elca.org/NEOSWO.htm

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- entering your personal information
 - clicking 'submit' to finalize

OR

You can send your email address to cathy@gracewadsworth.org - include your name, email address, cluster - and *The Dawn* along with any cluster information will be emailed to you personally.

The Dawn is also available on our Facebook page . . .
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/520482614724203/>

**A Publication of the Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

As a community of women, created in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts,
support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action,
and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

THE NEOSWO BOARD 2013-2015

The roster is included in this issue—includes all contact information.

Executive Board

President	Kim Carr
Vice President	Barbara White
Secretary	Mary Amick
Treasurer	Martha Bishop

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE —

- **President's Article**
- **Treasurer's Article**
- **Cluster Information**
- **Biennial Convention Information**
- **Information from Churchwide**

Emailing *The Dawn*. A database has been created with all the churches that have email addresses and it is the intent that *The Dawn* be emailed to each church. Each church will be asked to please, please print a few copies (black and white is fine) to share with the women. By emailing it **to individuals, too, we're hoping that** those who receive it personally will make a few copies and share them with others. We can get the word out that way if people share with each other. Thanks!!

**The Biennial Convention Information is included on the synod website and
our WOMENoftheELCA Facebook page -
NEOSWO-Womenof the ELCA**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Dear sisters of the Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization.

I send you the peace of the risen Lord! This is a busy time in our lives with family, traveling and gardening - just to mention a few things. In our business, I would like to take a moment to share a few things with you!

Barb White and I attended the Cleveland East Cluster Spring Event this past Saturday (June 6) and what a joyful experience. Besides gathering with friends both old and new, we enjoyed a Bible study led by Deaconess Judy Hoshek based on Joy. The topper for me was to see the Holy Spirit raise up two women to be leaders of that cluster!

We give much thankfulness to Mildred Foster and Linda Lee for their years of faithful leadership to the Cleveland East Cluster. And we ask that God be with Betty Schuette and Jerrica Sharkey as they take up their new leadership roles.

I am at this moment relating to all these ladies as I will be finishing my time as President of the Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA with so many awesome memories and looking forward to where God might be calling me on my journey with Him.

This brings me back to Jeremiah 29:11 NIV "For I know the plans I have for you" declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This was the passage used at my first Conference of Presidents and has since become the passage for my life.

We will be meeting at Grace Lutheran Church, Wadsworth, on Saturday, October 10, 2015 for our Biennial Convention. This will be a one day event for the first time and babysitting will be available. We as a board encourage you to attend and bring someone with you! I encourage you to attend as it is a time to see how the Holy Spirit works through the Women of the ELCA to show God's love to the world in which we live.

Thank you for taking a moment to read this. May God grant each of you a blessed summer and we will see you on October 10, 2015.

Kim Carr,
President of
NEOSWO



(It's hard to believe that the darling granddaughter that Kim is holding in the picture above will be a year old. She was born on Kim's birthday last year while she was at the Triennial Convention. Guess we need a current picture!)



OUR MISSION & PURPOSE

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.

We extend our sympathy to NEOSWO Secretary, Mary Amick, on the death of her husband, Lowell . . .



Lowell Leonard Amick, age 80, of Hartville, died late Sunday, May 31, 2015 at Mercy Medical Center in Canton. Lowell was born May 9, 1935 in Hartville, Ohio, the son of the late Ernest and Edith (Grubb) Amick. He was a 1953 graduate of Hartville High School and, following his service in the United States Army, graduated in 1961 with a B.S. from John Carroll University in Math Education. While in the Army, Lowell served with the U.S. Army Security Agency in Berlin, Germany. He also attended Army Language School studying Russian. Lowell began his career as a math teacher at John Adams High School in Cleveland. Following teaching he worked at Republic Steel in Cleveland, Tappan Stove Company in Mansfield, and Geauga Plastics in Crestline which later became Carlisle Engineering from which he retired. Lowell was a member of Advent Lutheran Church in Uniontown and was formerly a long-time member of Clay Memorial Lutheran Church in Mansfield where he served at the church treasurer for 40 years and spent many years as a youth/adult Sunday school teacher. In addition to being a member of Amoy Seniors, Lowell enjoyed gardening, the outdoors, and camping.

Lowell is survived by his wife: Mary M. (Brinson) Amick, whom he wed on April 16, 1966; a daughter: Jennifer (Curtis) Clevinger of Hartville; three grandsons: Alexander, Nathaniel, and Ian Clevinger; a sister: Ann Moor of Hartville; a sister-in-law: Myra Miller of Van Wert; two nieces and a nephew: Danielle Miller, Michelle (Josh) Lyons and their son, Estin, and Michael Moor. In addition to his parents, Lowell was preceded in death by an infant daughter: Kathleen Amick; and two brothers-in-law: Charles Moor and Dr. Thomas Miller.

Visiting hours were held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 at Advent Lutheran Church, 1516 Edison Street NW, Uniontown, Ohio, 44685 and on Thursday, June 4, 2015, at Clay Memorial Lutheran Church, 1061 Amoy East Road, Mansfield, Ohio, 44903 where funeral services were conducted at 11 AM. Pastor

Carol Kilgore and Pastor Bob Cheyney, Jr. officiated and burial followed in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Shiloh.

Care for Lowell and his family was provided by Bob, Catherine, and Jake at the Turner Funeral Home in Shelby.

Memorial Contributions may be made to:
Clay Memorial Lutheran Church
1061 Amoy East Rd
Mansfield OH 44903-8809

or

Advent Lutheran Church Building Fund
1516 Edison St NW
Uniontown OH 44685-7343

Family Condolences:
Mary Amick
1150 Cosmos St NW
Hartville OH 44632

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
a time to seek, and a time to lose;
a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
a time to tear, and a time to sew;
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
a time to love, and a time to hate;
a time for war, and a time for peace.
What gain have the workers from their toil? I have seen the business that God has given to everyone to be busy with. He has made everything suitable for its time; moreover he has put a sense of past and future into their minds.*

THOUGHTS FROM THE TREASURER . . .

There seems to be an early start to the lazy days of summer. I do encourage all units to continue to send regular offerings, even though the amount may be less during the summer. Now is also a great time to begin planning (and to schedule, if not already on your calendar) a Thankoffering service.

Please Note: There is a new address for mailing Thankofferings and gifts to Women of the ELCA. When remitting funds to Churchwide, send to:

**Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-1809**

Yes, you continue to send your **regular unit offering to the synodical treasurer**, Martha Bishop, 890 Waugh Dr., Hubbard, OH 44425. Updated Forms A, B, C for remitting monies are available on the website (www.womenoftheelca.org) or by letting me know you need them.

Yes, it is important to send an offering. Women of the ELCA (that's us, ladies) is funded solely by Women of the ELCA (again that's us, ladies). All the great things we do - in our churches, in NE Ohio, and globally, all the resources available to us, all the wonderful women we meet connect us. Together we do God's work and make our world a better place. Let's keep growing this awesome organization!!

Yes, it is important to send an offering. This is one of the important criteria for sending a unit delegate to the NEOWSO Biennial Convention. These delegates will conduct the business, adopt the budget and make decisions for the synodical organization. Don't be left out. Send a delegate. If you have questions, please ask. You may call (330-534-3608) or email me (bishopma124@gmail.com) anytime.

In other news, the synodical board and cluster leadership gathered May 19th to exchange information, discuss upcoming projects, get to know each other better, and build stronger lines of communication. It was unanimously agreed that this

become an annual tradition. In addition to discussing cluster financial procedures and the 2016-2017 budget, we learned that the Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization has been submitted to the list of Thrivent Choice Dollar recipients.

Your clusters need you . . . consider serving a term on your cluster planning board. It is a rewarding way to meet more sisters in Christ and grow in faith and action. See you at convention!

Martha Bishop
NEOSWO Treasurer
890 Waugh Drive
Hubbard, OH 44425

bishopma124@gmail.com

330-534-3608 (h)

330-559-4930 ©

Offering Form A is a document for recording offerings. It includes fields for church name, offering type (Regular, Synodical, Conference or Cluster), amount, and date. It also has a section for the treasurer's name and signature.

Offering Form B is a document for recording thankofferings. It includes fields for church name, offering type (Thankoffering), amount, date, and the name of the person or organization being thanked. It also has a section for the treasurer's name and signature.



Letter from NEOSWO Vice President
Barbara White

DETOUR AHEAD!!!!



Yes spring is here. We are seeing lots of orange barrels and detour signs out there. But wait. Are we really taking **detours**? I was driving home the other day from visitation for our secretary, Mary Amick's husband, I ran into a large flashing sign.**DETOUR AHEAD**. Now I had told Kim Carr, "Oh!! I am going the back way home!" As it turned out, the back way was closed. There was road construction on the way. So I start talking to myself. I do this quite often in the car while traveling. But this time the conversation turned in another direction. Just as my car had at the detour, I found myself thinking my mother would always say "I really like to travel with you. We always have plenty of fuel. We never get lost. Oh, sometimes we don't know where we are...but the car always finds a way to circle up! And sometimes we don't get home at the time we thought we would. Yes we always arrive safely." Now my mother had her own way with words. Her idea of "Circle Up" means turn around. She never had me do a U-turn in the middle of the road. She always helped me find a nice place to achieve our "Circle Up!" Most of the time is was in a McDonald's drive thru that required buying a fresh soda or sweet tea. But then there were the infamous Dairy Queen Circle Ups. Do I dare say this involved Hot Fudge sundaes? Well, all in all, these were simply the **Detours** of our trip.

I realized at that moment my life is full of detours and circle ups! I stay positive that things will get going in the right direction. It may not seem that way to me at the time. Eventually, I get there. This is in part due to my faith in God. As long as I can remember, I have always had a strong faith.

After high school, I was asked to give a history of the women in our church. It all started with the Ladies Aide Society. Bet you haven't heard that in a while. I found out that my great-grandmother (my dad's grandmother) along with her four

daughters started this women's group in my church. Then the group changed their name to Luther Church Women. Yes, we were Lutheran Church of America (LCA). In the 1950's, my mother and her mother became active members of this LCW (Lutheran Church Women). Oh my!!! **Is this a detour?**

So at the age of 19, I too became a LCW member. I had been asked by a lady in my church (Evelyn Decker) to be a "Young Woman Guest" at a convention to be held at Ashland College. After attending this convention, I was asked to speak about myself at an LCW district meeting. This was the beginning of my membership in this organization. Was I nervous that day? YES!!! **Was this a detour?**

It came time for the LCA, ALC, and AELC churches to merge. We became the Women of the ELCA. Once again, as a YOUNG woman, I was asked to be on the task force to help congregational units transition to the new organization. Was I nervous??? YES!!!! Did I know what to expect??? NO!!!! **Was this another Detour???** Perhaps.

So I have been nervous for a very long time. This organization called Women of the ELCA - what has it really done for me? Has it created a lot of **DETOURS** in my life? Yes it has. I have enjoyed every minute of it. Meeting so many women from Alaska to Florida, New York to California, but most of all seeing Northeastern Ohio women I haven't seen for a very long time at cluster gatherings and meeting new faces. I was able to attend 5 of the 7 Spring Cluster Meetings this year, as well as several Fall Cluster Gatherings. We had a Cluster Leadership Gathering that was well attended. **DETOURS!!!**

(Continued on next page)

This October 10th, NEOSWO will have their 16th Biennial Convention at Grace Lutheran Church, Wadsworth. The NEOSWO Board decided that we would try having a one day event to help women that have to work get to the convention. In the past, it had required several days. The women that are employed would have to take vacation time to attend. This made a hardship for those with families. We will be providing a nursery for mothers with little ones. Please consider attending this one day event. Take a **DETOUR** to Wadsworth, Ohio on October 10.

If you know of or are a woman between the ages of 18 – 40 years old, please encourage her to apply for the “New Foundation Guest.” This is for a woman that has never attended a NEOSWO Convention. It helps them financially to be able to attend and learn more about our organization.

All the convention information and forms are included in this edition of *The Dawn*. Please take a

DETOUR to your church office. Make copies of this information and pass it on to the women of your congregational units.

**SEE YOU ON OCTOBER 10
AT GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH,
WADSWORTH!!**



(Editor’s Note: There **will be** detours in October as ODOT widens Route 94. Be prepared to take a detour when exiting I-76 eastbound or westbound. Grace is not hard to find and there are several ‘easy’ ways to get here!)

May 19, 2015 Cluster Leadership Gathering Synod Office Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

Front: Pastor Karl Biermann

First row: Kathy Lanzer, Ruth Reinoehl, Ellen Rogers, Martha Bishop, Ronda Leitch, Debbie Kaufman

Second row: Susan Lux, Susie Stake, Doris Berdanier, Diane Molyet, Eleanor Barnes, Kathy Smith, Mollie Broadnax, Ruth Patrick, Kim Carr, Mildred Foster, Linda Thomas-Lee, Barbara Isom, Barbara White

Eight NEOSWO board members, eleven cluster leaders and the Assistant to the Bishop came together for an informational gathering. We began our day with communion, song and prayer. Information was provided as to who the Women of the ELCA are. Then we challenged ourselves to surf the internet. We found the vast information available to us on the Women of the ELCA website (womenoftheelca.org). We learned of the Facebook page for the Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women’s Organization (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/520482614724203/>). Information was distributed about the responsibilities of

the cluster leadership and their role in the Women of the ELCA.

A salad buffet lunch was provided by board members Susie Stake of Loudonville and Kathy Lanzer of Dover. The synod staff was invited to join us for lunch. The ladies were given wonderful opportunities to meet new women in our synod and to enjoy fellowship with each other.



If you look at our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/520482614724203>), you will see much information. There are activities going on in other synods and at church-wide. Please find the spot where *The Dawn* is attached. You can download it and then print it. Remember, you don't have to print it in color. Please share it with the women in your church. Thank you!

We are seeking nominations for election at the Biennial Convention in October -
President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Akron-Wooster
Canton-Massillon
Cleveland East
Cleveland West
Eastern
Richland-Ashland
Southern
Triennial Delegates

Please consider serving on the board. We need you and your ideas!!
Wouldn't it be great to have 2 nominees for each position?
That hasn't happened in a very long time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 10, 2015 - NEOSWO Biennial Convention, Grace Lutheran Church, Wadsworth
July, 2017 - Triennial Convention/Gathering, Minneapolis, MN

Did you know . . . That, if you are a Thrivent Financial Services member, you can allocate your Thrivent Choice Dollars every year in part or full to be given to NEOSWO-WELCA? That's a wonderful way for you to support the organization. Remember, 70% of every dollar given to NEOSWO is then sent to church-wide to help continue and create the programs that are available to us. Thank you for considering this worthwhile way of donating.

If you are interested in contributing in this way, please contact
Martha Bishop, NEOSWO Treasurer.

**GO LIGHT YOUR CANDLE!
GO LIGHT THE WORLD!**

OCTOBER 10, 2015

**Northeast Ohio Synodical
Women's Organization**

16th BIENNIAL CONVENTION

Grace Lutheran Church, Wadsworth, Ohio



Northeast Ohio Synodical Women are calling all women to attend the Biennial Convention. This is a one day convention. Registration will begin at 8 am. Continental breakfast will be served. Other scheduled events include a business meeting, Bible Study, Informational Break—out sessions, and lunch. The day will conclude with a worship service that will include communion. Homilist will be The Rev. Abraham Allende

Registration is \$40 for the entire day. Registration includes lunch.

Watch for offering details in the following Dawn.

Baby sitting will be provided upon request.

We are excited about this event. We hope to see a large turnout.



Jackie Wilson
Churchwide
Representative

Registration Deadline:

Friday, October 2, 2015

Registration Fee, including meals ~ \$40.00

Make checks payable to NEOSWO:

Martha Bishop, NEOSWO Treasurer

890 Waugh Drive

Hubbard, OH 44425

330-534-3608



Delegate Registration Deadline; September 21, 2015

BIENNIAL CONVENTION CHURCH WIDE REPRESENTATIVE -

Jackie Wilson
Executive Board Member, 2014-2017
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Jackie Wilson was elected to the churchwide executive board in July 2014, after a term as secretary of the churchwide executive board. She serves on the constitutional review committee.

She has been active with Women of the ELCA in two synods: Virginia and Arkansas/Oklahoma and was elected secretary in both synodical women's organizations.

A member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Hot Springs, Ark., Jackie is treasurer of the altar guild, secretary of the congregational council, and part-time secretary at the church.

Jackie is married to Bob, who recently retired from the United States Air Force. They have two children and four grandchildren.

Bob's military career made it possible for the family to live in several states as well as overseas. During that time, Jackie worked as a civilian executive secretary for the Air Force. And no matter where the family lived, Jackie was part of her local congregation's women's organization.

At Prince of Peace, Jackie makes and distributes bags of food for her church's food pantry. She is also involved in a feeding ministry. She prepares the church's "angel trees," inviting support of a local children's home and a nursing/rehab center.

Jackie enjoys crocheting, reading, cooking, and playing with the family dog, a Chorkie named Abbey (Yorkie in appearance, Chihuahua in attitude).

Jackie sees her service with Women of the ELCA as another opportunity to witness and share her faith. Her challenge is to see Christ in everyone she meets and to encourage them in leadership roles, strengthen women's ministries, and learn more about working for justice and ecumenical and cross-cultural understanding. She looks forward to meeting more women as they celebrate their unity in Christ!

Creating ripples that change lives

When Kandy Pflaster, president of the Nebraska Synod SWO (4A), asked women to respond to a request to buy subscriptions to *Gather*, it was like throwing a pebble into a pond. The ripple effect was fascinating, she said.

The Rev. Bob Bryan, director of Prison Ministry for the Nebraska Synod, asked Kandy if she could find women or units to give 12 subscriptions of *Gather* to women at the Nebraska Correctional Center for Women, York, NE. The Nebraska SWO had partnered with Rev. Bob on men's prison ministries and so he felt comfortable asking.

"I told him that I didn't think it would be a problem (to get subscriptions to *Gather*), Kandy said. "I didn't get it done right away, so when a couple of weeks later I remembered (his request), I frantically put out an e-blast asking if units would be willing to buy subscriptions, and that I needed 12 of them."

Over the next few weeks, Kandy said, the response was overwhelming.

"I was past 30 subscriptions, so I started telling the women when they would contact me that we had received what we wanted."

But after a conference call with presidents in Region 4, Kandy found other ways to use *Gather* subscriptions.

"I thought, 'Let's send any more responses with subscriptions to our eight campus ministries in Nebraska. So I directed calls from units to the campuses that needed more subscriptions.'"

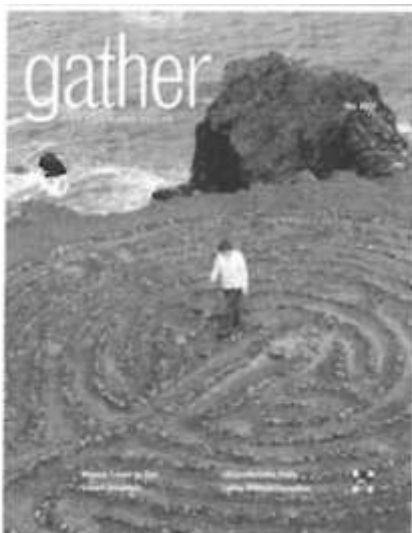
Kandy said her desire is that *Gather* magazine will reach women in both ministries: campus and prison. "Our hope is that women can pick up a *Gather* and that the articles and Bible study will make a difference in their lives."

Kandy said when she shared the subscription story at the 2015 Conference of Presidents, she thought about how Women of the ELCA has a ripple effect on the lives of other women.

Last Christmas, one of her board members gave her a note that said:

As we go through our day, we are sending out ripples that make a difference in the world. Even by doing simple things as smiling, calling a friend or visiting someone who is in need, we have no idea how far the things we do will go. You have touched me with a ripple of strength and encouragement through your words and actions this year.

"I just felt as I was sharing this story about subscriptions that the ripple was evident," Kandy said. "Think about how you can share *Gather*."



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Cluster News

Akron-Wooster (Beth Haas, NEOSWO Representative)

The Akron-Wooster Spring Gathering was held on Saturday, April 18, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Norton. The theme was *Patchwork of Love* and the speaker was an administrator of one of the prisons in OH and was actually a substitute for the scheduled speaker. He spoke of the quilting ministry in the prison where he serves. The quilting group is called *Women of Worth*. The Bible study leader was Pastor Sue Rodgers, Israel, Paris. In-kind gifts were given to *God's Closet* at the church. A salad buffet was enjoyed by all.

Canton-Massillon, (Ruth Reinoehl, NEOSWO Representative)

The theme was *Grow Where You're Planted* with 55-60 in attendance representing 12 churches including 1 Baptist) - Rhonda Gallagher was the speaker.

Cleveland East (rep position is vacant)

The Cleveland East Cluster met Saturday, June 6, at Advent Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cleveland. The theme for the meeting was "Jesus, the Center of my Joy." There were 37 attendees, representing 10 churches. The guest speaker was retired Deaconess Judy Hoshek. Toiletries were collected as in-kind gifts for the City Mission. A portion of the offering will be donated to the Lee Miles Hunger Center. Elections were held. Betty Schuette from Church of the Master is the new president and Jerrica Sharkey from New Covenant is the new financial coordinator. Barbara Isom from Euclid volunteered to be the Cleveland East NEOSWO board representative. Good Shepherd volunteered to host the next gathering.

Cleveland West (Brenda Hoovler, NEOSWO Representative) info provided by Barbara White

The Cleveland West Spring Gathering was held at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Hinckley, on April 25. The theme was *Praising the Lord Through Music* and featured a handbell duo who played *Dueling Handbells*. The in-kind gifts were items for the pantry at the church.

Eastern (Ronda Leitch, NEOSWO Representative)

The Eastern Cluster Spring Gathering was held on Saturday, April 25, at Zion Lutheran Church, Austintown. There were 22 in attendance from 6 congregations. Pastor Duane Jesse, pastor of Zion, welcomed the group and led the table blessing. After a continental breakfast, Debbie Kaufmann led opening worship. The theme was *Cross the Creek* and Camp Frederick was the focus of the presentation by Justin Landry. In-kind offerings of groceries were collected for the Food Pantry at Zion. Worship offering of \$153.25 was given to the Camp Frederick Campership Fund.

Richland-Ashland (Susie Stake, NEOSWO Representative)

The Richland-Ashland Spring Gathering was held on Sunday, May 3, at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Mansfield. There were 38 in attendance along with 3 guests. A salad buffet was served. Devotions were given by Pastor Bonnie Peltomaa and centered on *Love One Another* based on 1 John 4:7-11. Anastasia Peltomaa was the featured speaker. She is a member of Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) and recently visited Hungary where she worked with children in a children's home. In-kind gifts were collected for St. Timothy's Food Pantry. Kim Carr and Barb White were both in attendance and brought greetings from the board and info on the Biennial Convention.

Southern (Kathy Lanzer, NEOSWO Representative)

The Southern Cluster Spring Gathering was held on April 22 at First Lutheran, Strasburg, with Bishop Abraham Allende as the keynote speaker speaking of his experience of being elected bishop. The cluster has 15 youth and 5 adults attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. Barb White was in attendance. There were 40 members, 4 visitors and 7 pastors for a total of 51 in attendance. Soup, salads and breads were served by the women of First for lunch. The offering was divided 50-50 between NEOSWO and the Southern Cluster and the 'special' offering of \$247 was given to the Youth Gathering.



Women from more than 7,000 ELCA congregations in the U.S. and the Caribbean are committed to raising awareness and preventing human trafficking.

Join us as we inform, educate and mobilize women in their congregations and communities, through prayer, ministry and political action.

Tell the youth and adult leaders in your congregation to find Women of the ELCA at the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. Learn how you can get involved and help us by visiting our website womenoftheelca.org.

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 



Women of the ELCA photos by Jim Venensan. Detroit skyline photo by Pat (Cleich) Williams. Background photo by Ed Jones. Used with permission. <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>

2015 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

Youth asking women to “rise up” to diaper challenge

by Heidi Hagstrom

ELCA Youth Gathering participants will collect diapers as a part of their in-kind gifts when they meet in Detroit, July 15–19. The youth are asking Women of the ELCA to partner with them in the diaper collection.

IN JULY, THOUSANDS OF ELCA YOUTH AND ADULTS will visit Detroit for the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering. Key messages from Mark’s gospel are designed to inspire them to “Rise Up Together” and return to their home communities to “build bridges, bear burdens, break chains, and bring hope,” the mission statement of the gathering’s host synod, Southeastern Michigan.

ELCA Youth Gathering participants have historically left an in-kind donation in each of the host cities. When the youth gathering planning team charged with identifying the 2015 in-kind offering began its research in Detroit, diapers consistently emerged as a need. Non-profits that work with families and individuals living in poverty list diapers as a top concern.

The youth gathering team learned that a healthy change of diapers can cost up to \$100/month—for all ages. A family in Michigan must be more than 44 percent below the poverty line to receive any kind of cash assistance.

Then, a family of three only receives \$492 a month.

Rose Coletti works with Starfish Family Services in Inkster, Mich., a nonprofit that has agreed to store and distribute the diapers brought to Detroit as in-kind gift offerings by youth gathering attendees.

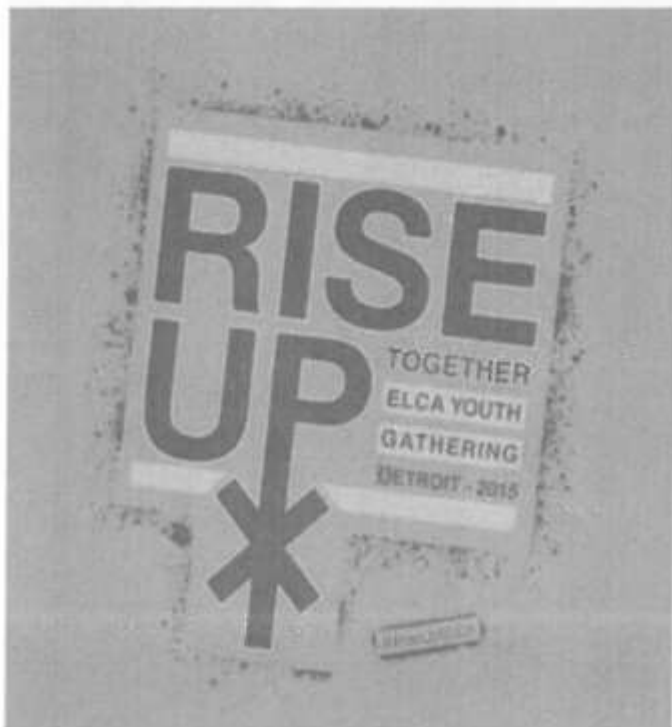
Rose said that some of her clients try to potty train their children too young to avoid needing diapers.

The greatest need of diapers is for children’s size 4, 5, and 6, but all sizes will be appreciated, including incontinence supplies for adults. Wipes are also needed.

You are invited

Women of the ELCA groups are invited to join ELCA youth in collecting diapers for their in-kind gifts to Detroit. Connect with young people in your congregation who are going to the 2015 ELCA Youth Gathering to find out how you can help. Perhaps a gift of money would be easiest for the youth to carry. If so, they could buy diapers in Detroit and help its economy.

If your congregation is not sending youth to the gathering, you might connect with a gathering synod coordinator (www.elca.org/gathering) to find a congregation near you that is. At the request of youth in your congregation, you can send a check made out to Women of the ELCA with “Youth Gathering—Diapers” in the memo line to Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. You also can ship the diapers directly to Immanuel Lutheran Church, 13031 Chandler Park Drive, Detroit, Mich., 48213.



Heidi Hagstrom is director for ELCA Youth Gathering.

Nominations are open for 2017 TG promoters

WOMEN OF THE ELCA IS SEEKING A FEW WOMEN who are passionate about the work of our organization to become triennial gathering promoters (TGPs) for our 2017 event. Work would begin in 2016 for the Tenth Triennial Gathering, July 13–16, 2017, in Minneapolis, Minn.

Requirements include having attended at least one gathering (preferably in 2014) and being an active participant in a unit. Candidates should also be comfortable speaking in public, enthusiastic about travel, have hands-on knowledge of social media, and be able to tell a story about why they love Women of the ELCA. Experience with marketing is a bonus.

Candidates must also be computer literate and reachable by email on a daily basis. Any woman considered will be asked to submit a two-minute video

about why she would like the opportunity to promote the next triennial gathering.

This volunteer job comes with no pay, but plenty of perks.

And while the name “triennial gathering promoter” is the same as used in the past, the plan is different. A small group of TGPs—perhaps 9 to 15—will serve the whole organization. Individual synodical women’s organizations will not have their own appointed TGP.

Submit your own name or someone you know to women.elca@elca.org with TGP in the subject line. Include name, address, email address, phone number, and church membership of the candidate.

The deadline for receiving nominations is July 31.

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Take “A Place for You” on the road with PowerPoint

By Eva James Yeo

YOU LOVE OUR “A PLACE FOR YOU” BROCHURE, and now you can take it on the road. Some of you have requested that we make it into a PowerPoint presentation, and *voilà*, we have!

You can now share the mission, purpose, and ministries of Women of the ELCA using the PowerPoint, which comes with notes in the outline that we suggest you use as a script.

You can access the free PowerPoint presentation on our website (www.womenoftheelca.org). Currently, you can find it on the home page’s featured section. We suggest you download it and use it as a presentation at your next event to welcome newcomers or potential new members to our community. Use it in your congregation, at a retreat, or at other creative venues where women gather to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

For more information, contact Eva at 800-638-3522, ext. 2450, or email Eva.Yeo@elca.org.



Eva James Yeo is director for membership for Women of the ELCA.

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Sixteenth Biennial Convention Registration Form
Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization
Grace Lutheran Church, Wadsworth, OH 44281
October 10, 2015

You are the light of the world. Matt. 5:14-16

PRINT all information. ALL attendees must **register by Friday, October 2, 2015**. Make copies of the form to **share with others**. Delegates must also submit a registration form.

NAME: _____ EMAIL: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE (h): _____ CELL: _____

CONGREGATION: _____ CLUSTER: _____

I will be attending as (check one):

Board Member Delegate Alternate Delegate
 Participant New Foundations Guest
 Awareness Session Leader Bible Study Leader Other

Is this your first NEOSWO Biennial Convention? Yes No

I have the following special needs (Diet, wheelchair, other): _____

Registration Fee, including meals: \$40.00.

Make checks payable to **NEOSWO** and send with this form to:

Martha Bishop, NEOSWO Treasurer
890 Waugh Drive
Hubbard, OH 44425
330-534-3608

Remember to invite a friend!!

DUTIES OF THE NEOSWO BOARD

Duties of the President

1. Preside at all conventions of the Synodical Women's Organization and at meetings of the Board and Executive Committee.
2. Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the Synodical Women's Organization are duly observed and appoint all committees not otherwise provided for.
3. Be an ex-officio member of all committees of the Synodical Women's Organization except the Nominating Committee.
4. Submit a report to each regular convention of the Synodical Women's Organization concerning her work, with observations and recommendations affecting the organization.
5. Serve as liaison with the churchwide women's organization and attend the meetings of Conference of Synodical Presidents.
6. Represent the Synodical Women's Organization at or appoint a representative to inter-Lutheran and ecumenical associations and councils in which the organization participates.
7. Serve as representative to the Synod Council or appoint a representative.

Duties of the Vice President

1. Act in the absence, disability or resignation of the president. She shall assume the duties of the president until the vacancy is filled by the board of the Synodical Women's Organization at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
2. Perform such other duties as requested by the president or the board.

Duties of the Secretary

1. Be the secretary of the board and the executive committee of the Synodical Women's Organization.
2. Record and distribute minutes of the Synodical convention, the board meetings and meetings of the executive committee.
3. Notify units of regular conventions and special conventions.
4. Keep a current register of the roll of the member units and their officers.
5. Secure from the units such reports as from time to time may be required.
6. Perform such other duties as the board may direct.
7. Provide for the gathering and preserving of historical records and documents.

Duties of the Treasurer

1. Provide for the keeping of financial records and be accountable for all funds.
2. Be responsible for disbursing funds.
3. Provide a complete report to each convention and meetings of the board and Executive Committee.
4. Facilitate the development of the annual budget of the organization.
5. Provide for an annual review of the organizations' financial activity.

Duties of Board Members

1. Transact necessary business and make programmatic decisions between conventions.
2. Set policies for effective and efficient functioning.
3. Supervise and coordinate the work of all committees.
4. Determine the time and place of each convention.
5. Prepare for each convention the proposed agenda, rules of procedure, and program.
6. Report its actions to each regular convention.
7. Recommend the proposed budget to each regular convention.
8. Fill vacancies on the board as needed.
9. Act as Constitution and Bylaws Committee.
10. Perform such other duties as may be delegated to the board by the convention of the Synodical Women's Organization.
11. Attend at least two regular board meetings a year.

Note: Special Meetings may be called by the president. Committee meetings may be scheduled at times other than in conjunction with regular meetings of the board.

March, 2015

2015 NEOSWO BOARD NOMINEE

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SHEET

Candidate for (check one):

Officer:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Treasurer

- Or -

Cluster Representative Board Member

- Akron-Wooster
- Canton-Massillon
- Cleveland East
- Cleveland West
- Eastern
- Richland-Ashland
- Southern
- At-Large

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

_____ E-Mail _____

Congregation _____ Cluster _____

Age 18-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60+

Person of color? _____ Person Differently Abled? _____

Person whose primary language is other than English? _____

Please list activities in the following areas within the last three (3) years:

Women's Organization (local unit) _____

Within Your Congregation _____

Cluster/Synod ELCA _____

Community _____

Signature of Nominator _____

**Return to: Cathy Byers
Grace Lutheran Church
PO Box 406
Wadsworth OH 44281**

Deadline: August 20, 2015

DELEGATE DESIGNATION FORM
Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization
Sixteenth Biennial Convention
Grace Lutheran Church, Wadsworth, OH 44281
October 10, 2015

Please use this form to **designate your congregational unit's voting delegate** to the 16th Biennial Convention of the NE Ohio Synodical Women's Organization. The voting membership of the convention includes the elected officers and board members of the organization and one delegate from each active congregational or inter-congregational unit on the rolls of the Synodical Women's Organization. This form is **NOT** the delegate's registration form. **In addition to this Delegate Designation Form, the delegate is required to submit a convention registration form.** Note that it is permissible for the unit to pay the delegate's expenses. It is also advisable to name an alternate delegate.

Congregation _____ Cluster _____

Delegate Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Alternate Delegate _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Signature of Pastor or Unit President _____

It is expected that the delegate will be in attendance at all meetings of the convention from beginning to end, and that the alternate will serve in the event of illness or other reason preventing the delegate from serving. The alternate should be in attendance in the visitor's section until such time as needed in order to be knowledgeable about convention business that has been completed or is in process.

Return this completed form as soon as possible, **but no later than September 21, 2015**, to insure the delegate receives detailed materials before the convention. Be sure to submit the registration form and check for registration fees by the October 2, 2015 deadline. All forms and fees sent to:

Martha Bishop, NEOSWO Treasurer
890 Waugh Drive
Hubbard, OH 44425
330-534-3608

Remember to invite a friend!!

2017 NEOSWO Triennial Convention Delegates

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION SHEET - TRIENNIAL DELEGATE
Triennial Convention, July 13-17, 2017, Minneapolis, MN

Candidate for:
NEOSWO Delegate to the 10th Triennial Convention
Women of the ELCA
Minneapolis, MN

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

_____ E-Mail _____

Congregation _____ Cluster _____

Age ___ 18-29 ___ 30-39 ___ 40-49 ___ 50-59 ___ 60+

Person of color? _____ Person Differently-Abled? _____

Person whose primary language is other than English? _____

Please list activities in the following areas within the last three (3) years:

Women's Organization (local unit) _____

Within Your Congregation _____

Cluster/Synod ELCA _____

Community _____

Signature of Nominator _____

Signature of Pastor or Council Officer _____

Return to: Cathy Byers
Grace Lutheran Church
PO Box 406
Wadsworth OH 44281

Deadline is September 1, 2015

March, 2015



Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization

NEW FOUNDATIONS GUESTS

Dear Women of the Northeastern Ohio Synod:

The Northeastern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization Board is looking for young women in your unit who may be interested in learning more about the Women of the ELCA.

Each active congregational, special congregational or inter-congregational unit may nominate young women ages 18-40 who would like to attend the Biennial Synodical Convention being held October 10, 2015 at Grace Lutheran Church, Wadsworth, OH.

One young woman will be chosen as a guest from each of the seven clusters. The synodical organization will provide registration, meals and lodging expenses for each of these young women guests. Please inform these women who are applying that, if they are chosen, they will be required to room with another young woman guest for the convention.

Please encourage the women of your unit to consider applying for this opportunity to learn more about the Synodical Women's Organization and the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

The deadline for all completed applications is September 1, 2015. Please send them to:

Cathy Byers
128 Grandview Ave
Wadsworth OH 44281 (NOT in charge, but will accept the applications)

If you, or an interested applicant, have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call me at 330-335-6501 or send mail to the address above. All applicants will be notified by September 8, 2015 if they have been chosen to attend the Biennial Convention as a *New Foundations Guest*.

In Christ's Service,

Cathy Byers

(Application follows and may be duplicated as needed).

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

New Foundation Guest Application
Sixteenth Biennial Convention
Grace Ev Lutheran Church
Wadsworth OH - October 10, 2015

Name _____ Age _____ (18-40)

Address _____ City _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Congregation _____ City _____ Cluster _____

Congregational Involvement (Sunday School teacher, etc.) _____

Community Service _____

Educational Background _____

Leadership Experience _____

In a short paragraph, please tell us why you wish to attend the Convention . . . _____

Signature of Pastor or President of Unit _____

One *New Foundations Guest* will be selected from each cluster.
NEOSWO will pay registration, meals and lodging expenses for the women chosen.
New Foundations Guests will be required to room together for the Convention.

Please return by September 1, 2015 to:

Cathy Byers
128 Grandview Ave
Wadsworth OH 44281

Thank you for your interest in becoming a *New Foundations Guest* to the
NEOSWO Biennial Convention!

**NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
2013-2015**

President
Kimberly Carr
567 Cedar St
Canal Fulton OH 44614
330-854-4586 (H) 330-806-8070 (C)
kim.carr.71@gmail.com
St. John Lutheran Church, Canal Fulton

Vice President
Barbara White
2701 Wyandot Dr
Dover OH 44622
330-364-2304 (H) 330-447-8213 (C)
bawhite2012@roadrunner.com
St. Paul Lutheran, Newcomerstown

Secretary
Mary Amick
1150 Cosmos St NW
Hartville OH 44632
330-587-4293 (H) 419-544-0284 (C)
lowellamick@gmail.com
Advent Lutheran, Uniontown

Treasurer (2-2014)
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890 Waugh Dr
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330-534-3608 (H) 330-559-4930 (C)
bishopma124@gmail.com
Grace Lutheran, Hubbard

At-Large
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PO Box 4
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330-625-3803 (H)
molliebroadnax@yahoo.com
New Horizons Lutheran, Homerville

Akron-Wooster
Beth Haas
3546 Birdland Ave
Akron OH 44310
330-644-5262
bhaas62@att.net
St. John/St. Paul Lutheran, Akron

Canton-Massillon
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407 9th St NW
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Faith Lutheran, Massillon

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216-681-1448
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Euclid Lutheran Church, Euclid, OH

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Medina OH 44256
330-591-5210
bpearson280@gmail.com
Zion Lutheran, Valley City

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2192 Celestial Dr NE
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rleitch2192@gmail.com
Living Lord, Warren

Richland-Ashland
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Loudonville OH 44842
419-994-3281
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6802 Columbia Rd NW
Dover OH 44622
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The Dawn Editor
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cbyers746@yahoo.com
Grace Lutheran, Wadsworth
cathy@gracewadsworth.org (preferred)

**NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
CONFERENCE/CLUSTER EVENT REPORTING FORM**

Conference/Cluster Coordinator and/or Secretary

The week of your event, mail or email a copy of this to *The Dawn* editor, Cathy Byers, and to your cluster representative on the synodical board listed on the board roster page. Please print legibly. *Thank you!!*

Today's date _____ Conference/Cluster _____

Date, time, place and cost per person of this event _____

Theme/Scripture _____

Speaker's name/title _____

Speaker's topic _____

In-kind gifts _____

Recipient of in-kind gifts _____

Love (Special) Offering given to _____

(If possible, attach a copy of the event program/bulletin.)

Was there a change in cluster/conference leadership? Yes _____ No _____

Please use the UNIT ROSTER FORM to show all leaders and their information—
even if there was no leadership change.

Date, time, place of next planning meeting

Date, time, place and cost per person of next event

Theme, speaker/topic of next event _____

Reported by name/position/address/phone/email _____

Cathy Byers, Editor
128 Grandview Ave
Wadsworth OH 44281
cbyers746@yahoo.com
cathy@gracewadsworth.org

NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

UNIT ROSTER FORM

Whenever leadership changes, send a copy to the NEOSWO secretary and to your conference/cluster secretary. Adjust the titles to fit your unit model. Even if you do not have an organized unit, please indicate contact person(s). Please print legibly. *Thank you!!*

Today's Date _____ Conference/Cluster _____

Congregation _____

Street Address/PO Box _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Pastor(s) _____

Name of immediate past president _____

President/Contact Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Vice President Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Secretary Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Financial Coordinator Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

THE SYNODICAL SECRETARY NEEDS THIS INFORMATION SO WE CAN CONTACT UNIT AND/OR CONGREGATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES.

What is your congregational unit doing differently to get women involved?

What are some of the activities that your groups do to interest people—or are there events that you plan that get more people involved?

We'd really like to know what you're doing. After all, if it works for you, it could work for someone else.

Please share your ideas and plans for the future with us. We'll devote time in *The Dawn* for your items.

Thank you.



As mentioned previously, we have a database of all the church and personal emails that I've been able to get. If your church is having a function that you'd like to share with the churches in your cluster, send the information to me and I can email it to the churches. If your church's email address changes, please let me know so the database can be as current as possible.

Together, we can do a lot!!!!

We can share significantly more information with *The Dawn* than we ever could before. Technology, while not always welcome, makes it possible to share so much more with pictures and items directly from church-wide. It is our hope that, with each issue of *The Dawn*, we're reaching out to more and more women.

I am enjoying the opportunity to be the editor and hope that you are enjoying the information we're sharing.

Keep up the good work as Women of the ELCA—**Bold Women of the ELCA!!**