



GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Women of Grace



What is WELCA? It's an easy way to say
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America.

Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in more than 7,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! WELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA.

OUR MISSION

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

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

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.”

HOW DOES WELCA WORK?

There are three expressions of Women of the ELCA, each with its own constitution:

****Congregational, inter-congregational and special units (about 7,000)**

***Synodical Women's Organization (in 64 of the ELCA's 65 synods)**

Churchwide Women's Organization

The congregational, inter-congregational and special units are the largest expression of the organization and are the heart of the organization. This is where we grow the organization, inviting women to experience the reconciling and transforming love of God through Jesus Christ, encouraging women to act on their baptismal covenant.

The synodical women's organizations (SWOs) establish a partnership with units in their geographic areas and with the churchwide women's organization. SWOs exist to support women in congregations. Each SWO has a board whose members are elected at an annual or biennial convention by voting members from units. Each SWO establishes clusters or conferences of units within its geographic area.

Conferences and clusters are groupings of congregations within a synodical organization. While they have no legislative responsibilities, conferences and clusters provide learning opportunities through leadership development, community building, stewardship education, networks for communication and opportunities for joint ministry and action with the guidance of the SWO.

We are in the Nittany Conference.

The churchwide women's organization (CWO) is the entire organization. Within the churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA, the triennial convention is the highest legislative authority; voting members to the convention are elected by synodical organizations. Between conventions, the churchwide executive board (volunteers elected by the triennial convention) conducts the business of the organization.

The churchwide executive board hires an executive director to oversee the operations of the CWO; the executive director, in turn, hires staff to assist in that endeavor. The only paid staff is located within the CWO. In all other expressions of the organization, volunteers carry out the organization's mission and purpose.

WELCA is the women's ministry organization of the ELCA. It is separately incorporated and is not an auxiliary of the church. It is financially independent and responsible for its own financial affairs. Financial support comes from individual and group offerings and gifts.

RESOURCES

Lutheran women have a long history of Bible study, discipleship, and desire to deepen their spiritual life and learn about issues.

Women of the ELCA offers free, downloadable program resources—all in English and many in Spanish—to help you grow in faith and engage in ministry and action.

CATEGORIES

PERSONAL

EN ESPAÑOL

RETREAT

ALSO IN SPANISH

SHORT SESSIONS

LITURGICAL YEAR

MULTI SESSION

RACIAL JUSTICE ADVOCACY

STEWARDSHIP

ELCA PUBLICATIONS

All women are welcome to subscribe to the official journal of Women of the ELCA, Gather Magazine. Each issue contains a monthly Bible Study, thought-provoking articles and ideas for fellowship and service projects.

Subscription Cost is \$16 a year for 10 issues. If interested go to the web site.

The ELCA is also offering Café, a magazine for young adult women who want to build community, participate in advocacy, and strengthen their faith.

To receive this magazine to the web site,
www.bodlcafe.org/

MINISTRY & ACTION

We engage in ministry; we take action through advocacy; we promote healing and wholeness, and we support one another in our callings.

We offer anti-racism training; address domestic violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and human trafficking; and support families with special needs.

We assist participants in their desire to discern God's call in their lives and to discover their spiritual gifts through workshops, retreats, resources, scholarships, and global education.

We offer grants to not-for-profit organizations, both domestic and international, that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women's emotional, physical, and spiritual health.

WEB SITE

www.womenoftheelca.org

WOMEN OF GRACE

The Women of Grace is a unit of the Women of the Allegheny Synodical Women's Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church.

As participants of the Women of the ELCA, we adhere to the purpose of that organization.

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.

To fulfill this purpose, the Women of Grace include programs that will help women grow spiritually, to enhance relationships and give opportunities for service in our congregation and throughout the world.

Board Members

President: Susan Ferro

1st Vice President: Lois Lynn

2nd Vice President: Sally Keiser-Bankert

Secretary: Leslie Wagner

Treasurer: Helen Brenneman

Comfort Makers

Yvonne Koths

Knit Wits

Cindy Tibbott

Garden of Readin

Lois Lynn

Naomi Circle

Carolyn Fishburn

Sisters of Grace (formerly Daughters of Eve)

Bonnie Burris

Lois Lynn

BUDGET

Women of Grace is self supporting and is not a part of the church budget.

Each group member donates, as able, for the WOG budget.

Our offering of \$800 to the Women of the ELCA supports:

All publications of the WELCA

The ELCA Web Site: womenoftheelca.org

All resources & programming produced by WELCA

Annual training of Synodical treasurers

Two church wide board meeting per year

The annual conference of Synodical presidents

Our budget:

Sponsors the annual Strawberry Festival

Yearly Women's Retreat & sponsorship as needed

Specific supplies that are needed to support WOG projects.

GROUPS OF THE WOMEN OF GRACE

COMFORT MAKERS

Leader: Yvonne Koths

Program Theme: “Comfort, O Comfort My People Says Your God.” Isaiah: 4:1

Service Opportunities:

Assemble, sew and finish quilts (Lutheran World Relief)

Sew and provide lap robes and comfort quilts for Grace Members facing health issues.

Sew Christmas bags for groups to fill for residents of Centre Crest

Offer backpack kits to be sewn and filled by congregational members. (Lutheran World Relief)

Collaborate with Middle School and High School Sunday School classes for a Fill-A-Backpack event.

Meet: 2nd Tuesday 9:00am in Library
4th Tuesday 9:00am in Library

NAOMI CIRCLE

Leader: Carolyn Fishburn

**Program Theme: Selections from the Upper Room
Spiritual Growth, Prayer, Fellowship and Service.**

Service Opportunities:

Assist with church receptions

Collect & deliver blankets (Lutheran World Relief)

Fill Christmas Stockings for Centre Crest

Sponsor Baby Shower in May

Sponsor birthday party for residents at The Oaks in June.

Deliver poinsettias and Easter Flowers to shut-ins.

Cover Cans for altar flowers

Meet: 1st Tuesday at 1:pm in Library

KNIT WITS

Leader: Cindy Tibbott

Program Theme: Knit Wits provides service to others in the church, Centre County and the world for distribution of our handmade knitting and crocheting projects. All beginners and experienced knitters and crocheters are welcome.

Service Opportunities:

Prayer shawls distributed by pastors as needed

Infant garments for the May baby shower

Set up the children's mittens, caps and scarves tree during November and December for distribution to the Centre County Youth Service Bureau.

Hats and booties to greet newborn congregation members.

**Pocket Prayer Shawls for Pastors to distribute
Hats for Out of the Cold Guests
Animal creations for Grace Lutheran preschool.**

Meet: 2nd Thursday at 10am in Library

SISTERS OF GRACE

Leaders: Bonnie Burris and Lois Lynn

Program Theme: Discussions focusing on devotion of the evening.

Service Opportunities:

Assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief

Help members in Need

Help with church receptions as needed

Assemble fruit baskets for shut-ins at Thanksgiving

Fill Christmas stockings for Centre Crest

Sponsor birthday party for the residents at The Oaks in August.

Meet: 2nd Monday at 7pm in Fireside

GARDEN OF READIN

Leader: Lois Lynn

Program Theme: A discussion on a variety of faith-based and other books.

Service Opportunities:

Fill Christmas Stockings for Centre Crest

Assist the work of Midstate Literacy Council (donations and books)

Meet: 3rd Tuesday at either 10:30am or 6pm in Fireside

Over the past 3 years, Grace Church has donated the following to Lutheran World Relief:

Quilts	84
Personal Care Kits	34
Fabric Kits	5
Baby Kits	3
School Kits	390

Locally to Centre Crest 93 Christmas Stockings

I would like to thank all the Women of Grace board members who over the years have supported this organization with their time and talent.

I would also like to thank the members of the Women of Grace groups who work to enrich the lives of people in our congregation, our local community and world communities. Also, for their monetary donations.

Thank you to the women and men of this congregation who support our projects. The Women of Grace groups may set up each project but it is the congregation, here at Grace, who makes them a success.

Thank you!!!

Susan Ferro

MISSIONARY BENEDICTION

God be merciful unto us, and bless us;
and cause His face to shine upon us;
that His way may be known upon earth,
His saving health among all nations.

Psalm 67:1-2