



# A OK Women of the ELCA

## *Spring 2023 Newsletter*

### Arkansas-Oklahoma Synodical Women's Organization

Susan Humphrey, President

The Women of A-OK have continued to meet in units for Bible Study and service throughout this past year. The A-OK SWO Fall Convention was held October 14-16, 2022 with a theme of "Pieces of Limitless Peace", "Let the Peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." Colossians 3:15

Pastor Becca Middeke-Conlin led a fabulous Bible Study and we worked on creating a quilt to be raffled as a benefit for Oaks Indian Mission. It was a delightful day filled with learning, business and reconnecting.

Elections to the A-OK Board were:

Co-Presidents Susan Humphrey and Carol Rowe

Vice-President Penny Budzien

Secretary Michelle Staedeli

Treasurer Jackie Wilson

Newsletter Judy Nybeck

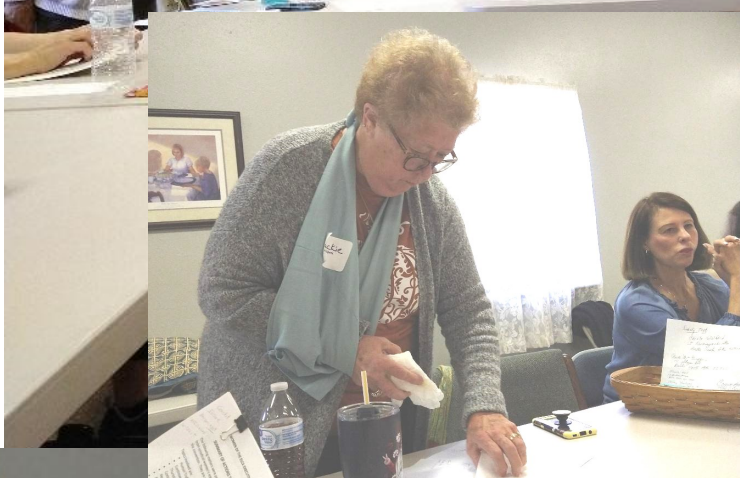
We may be meeting at the Non-Labor Day Family Camp Intergenerational Gathering, June 2-4 for a short time to plan our fall convention.

The Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering will be held September 21-24 in Phoenix Arizona. Our Theme is "Just Love" and we would love for all women to join us regardless of whether or not you have an active WELCA Unit in your congregation.

The Women of the ELCA's fundraising campaign, **Katie's Fund 2122** seeks to grow our current Katie's Fund Endowment by 1 million dollars in order to significantly increase grants throughout the organization in the areas of Leadership Development, Global Connections and Living Theology. Currently we have raised close to \$ 400,000 of our goal. As a special incentive to jumpstart the participation, every Synodical Organization has been gifted with \$1000 to use as they see fit to further these areas of ministry. Our check has arrived and we will be discussing how our A-OK SWO can best use our gift to grow, connect and serve our community. One idea that we are exploring is how we can support our Female pastors and better connect them with our Women of the ELCA organization.

Please contact me at Susan Humphrey [Dabblers54@gmail.com](mailto:Dabblers54@gmail.com) if you have any questions about A-OK SWO events or ministries.





Fall 2022  
AR-OK  
WELCA  
Convention



## FROM YOUR AR/OK TREASURER

It was suggested that I refresh your memories on how and where to send you offerings to the AR/OK SWO Treasurer. How and where to send your offerings: use the attached form with your offerings and send to me **Jackie Wilson, 6 Aguila Way, Hot Springs Village, Arkansas 71909.**

Your **UNIT** offerings (and they should be made quarterly in order to give your board some idea as to the monies coming in) are divided as such: 50% is retained by AR/OK SWO (Synodical Women's Organization) and 50% is sent to CWO (Churchwide). You should record them on Form A and send to me. I will then send 50% to CWO. If you bring them to the convention or Cluster meetings, please insure that you have indicated on the check that this is a "UNIT" offering and use Form A.

**For Cluster Spring Gathering offerings, 50% goes to the charity or mission that your cluster has chosen and 25% is sent to CWO and 25% is kept in the AR/OK SWO. Use Form A for this offering. This is why it is important that you indicate on your check whether your unit is making a unit contribution or a Spring Gathering offering.**

**Convention Offerings are different. 50% is sent to the mission or charity(s) chosen by the SWO and 50% is sent to CWO. AR/OK SWO does not keep any of these offerings. However, if this is a UNIT regular offering, Use Form A and 50% of this is sent to CWO and 50% is kept in AR/OK SWO.**

**All other offerings** such as Thankofferings, Designated and Special Offerings should be mailed directly to SWO with **Form B.**

If you have **ANY** questions, feel free to email me at [jac47kie@gmail.com](mailto:jac47kie@gmail.com) or call me (501)580-7002.

Don't forget to mail **ALL** monies to me, do not mail directly to CWO.

Jackie Wilson  
6 Aguila Way  
Hot Springs Villafe AR 71909

Blessings to You  
Jackie Wilson, Treasurer  
AR/OK SWO

***BE BLESSED, BE A BLESSING.***

***When you feel like you're drowning in life.  
Don't worry -- your lifeguard walks on water.***





### Offering Form A

For use by CONGREGATIONAL UNITS for offerings to SYNODICAL TREASURER

Use Form A to submit Regular Offerings and SWO Convention Offerings to your Synodical Women's Organization. Make check payable to "Women of the ELCA." Mail form with check to your synodical treasurer. For more information, please call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730.

Form A header section with fields for DATE, CONGREGATION, CONGREGATION NUMBER, CONGREGATION CITY/STATE, CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER NAME, UNIT TREASURER NAME, PHONE NUMBER, ADDRESS, EMAIL, CITY/STATE, and ZIP.

Table with 2 columns: DESCRIPTION and AMOUNT. Rows include REGULAR OFFERING, SWO CONVENTION OFFERING, CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER OFFERING\*, and a TOTAL row.

\* It is recommended that at least 50% of any cluster or conference offering be sent to the synodical treasurer to be passed on in full to the churchwide women's organization. Use this line if you are handling the offering from a cluster or conference event.

ELCAW01021 Form updated 5/2017



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ELCAW01021 Form updated 5/2017



### Offering Form B

For use by CONGREGATIONAL UNITS for offerings to CHURCHWIDE

Use Form B for Thankofferings, Where Needed Most, Katie's Fund, Special Offerings, and Designated Gifts to WELCA and ELCA ministries. Make check payable to "Women of the ELCA." For more information, please call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730 or go online to womenoftheelca.org.

Mail form with check to: Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

Form B header section with fields for DATE, CONGREGATION, CONGREGATION NUMBER, CONGREGATION CITY/STATE, ZIP, REGION/SYNOD, UNIT TREASURER NAME, PHONE NUMBER, ADDRESS, EMAIL, CITY/STATE, and ZIP.

Table with 2 columns: DESCRIPTION and AMOUNT. Rows include THANKOFFERING (WCG0420), WELCA WHERE NEEDED MOST (WCG0466), and a TOTAL row.

ELCAW01022

Form updated 5/2017



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ELCAW01022

Form updated 5/2017

Meet up with women from across the United States and the Bahamas as we gather for the Triennial Gathering to be held in Phoenix, AZ.

Women from the Grand Canyon Synod will be the host Synod and Bishop Deborah Hutterer will serve as Worship Leader.

Head to [WELCATG.ORG](http://WELCATG.ORG) to register and find out more information. Early bird, from March 1 until June 15 is \$375.00. After June 15, it will be \$425.00. Hotel accommodations are located on the web site. (If you had already registered for the 2020 Pandemic Scheduled Triennial, you can update your information on the website.)



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING  
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX  
WELCATG.ORG

### **2023 CONVENTION**

The Triennial Convention (for elected voting members) is scheduled for September 19-21, 2023, Phoenix, Ariz. The convention, the highest legislative authority in Women of the ELCA, will be held at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown. Voting members, elected in the 64 synodical women's organizations, will conduct the business of the organization. They will elect leaders for the 2023-2026 triennium, act on memorials from synodical organizations and resolutions from the floor, approve a budget and much more.

### **2023 TRIENNIAL GATHERING**

The 2023 Gathering is currently scheduled for September 21-24, 2023.

Click on the link below to navigate to the Registration page:

<https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=258822&>

There is a \$50.00 discount on the price of registration if you register by June 15.

*I've been asked, "Why should I go to the Triennial Gathering?" I don't know if I can adequately explain why every one of you should go at least once. I have been to Triennials in San Antonio, Spokane, Salt Lake City and Minneapolis. There is absolutely nothing that compares to the opportunity to worship and spend time with 2000-3000 Lutheran women.*

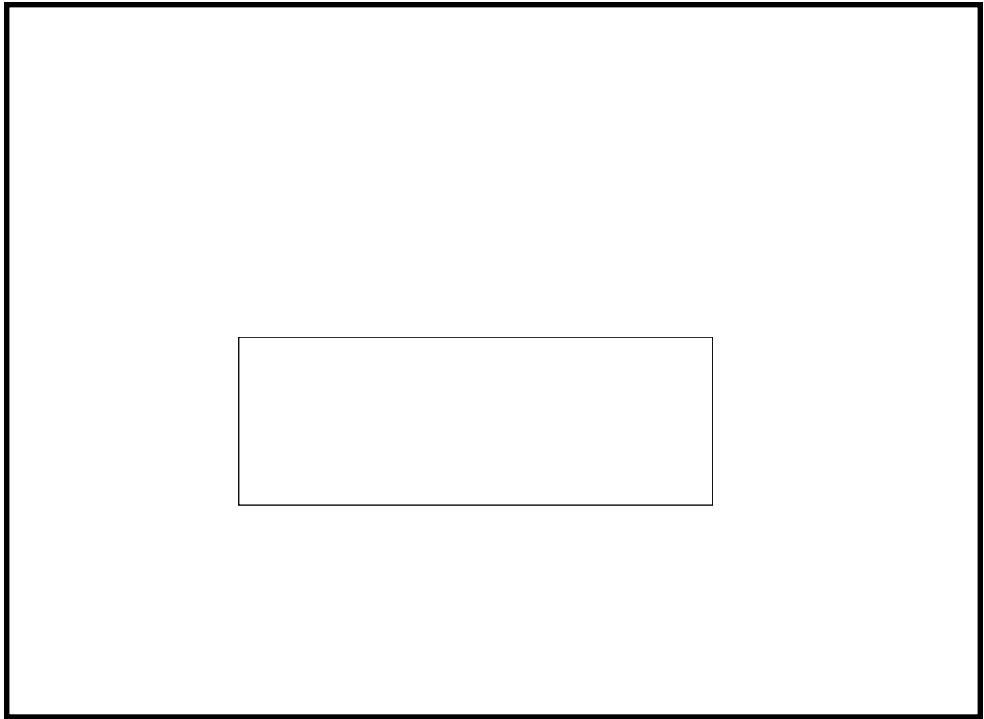
- *You will be inspired.*
- *Your faith will be enhanced.*
- *You will meet women from all over the United States and the Bahamas.*
- *There will be lots of vendors to visit with, workshops to attend and learn from.*

*You may, as I did, meet a future Nobel Prize winner. We were privileged to have Leymah Gbowee at a Triennial in July and later that same year, she was awarded a Nobel Peace Prize for her work ending a civil war in Liberia. When she addressed a full session with all the women there, you could have heard a pin drop. She led us to believe in the power women can command even when everything seems stacked against them. Where else could you possibly shake hands with a Nobel Prize winner?*

*Susan Holverson, President, Grand Canyon SWO*

*THIS ARTICLE ADAPTED FROM "CANYON ECHOES"  
THE GRAND CANYON SWO WELCA NEWSLETTER*

**A-OK WELCA  
NEWSLETTER!**



**WELCA 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.

**AR/OK Women of the ELCA**

Something missing that  
you would you like to see  
In the next newsletter ?  
...email your articles,  
ideas and comments to:  
Judy Nybeck  
pjnybeck@aol.com

This newsletter is  
distributed by email  
If you would like to receive an email copy please send  
your request to pjnybeck@aol.com.



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information, ideas, news  
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[www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)