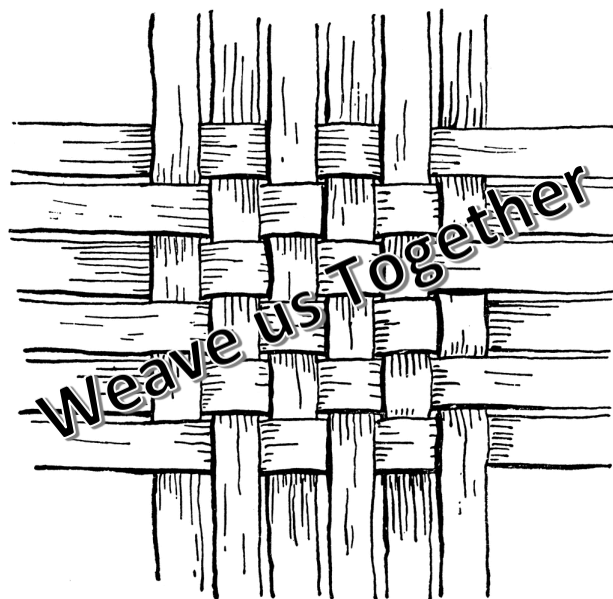


The Thirty-Fifth Annual Convention  
of the  
Virginia Synodical Women's Organization  
of the Women of the ELCA



July 21-22, 2023  
Roanoke College  
Salem, Virginia



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## VSWO Convention Schedule

*(All times are approximate. Schedule changes will be announced.)*

### Friday, July 21

10:00am – 12:30 pm	Registration
12:00 pm	Lunch on your own
12:30 pm	Orientation for voting members and first-time attendees (20 minutes)
1:00pm	Opening worship with Communion Blessing of in-kind gifts (bears)
	Opening of convention/Mission and Purpose Statements (p.4&5) Welcome, Introductions, and Greetings from VA Synod
2:00pm	<b>Awareness Session #1- Meghann Cotter-Micah Ministries (2024 Love offering)</b>

***Participants may leave to work on service projects after session***

2:30pm	<b>Business Session #1 for Voting Members</b> Report of Credentials Committee Appointment of Parliamentarian and Convention Committees: Adoption of Rules of Procedure and Convention Schedule Report of Nominations Committee for Officers and Board Members; Nominations from the floor Resolutions to the Secretary
3:00pm	Break-15 minutes

***Participants return and may bring service projects to their tables to continue to work***

3:15pm	<b>Business Session #2 for All</b> Greetings from Churchwide Representative Treasurer's Report for Proposed Budget and Audit Roanoke College Scholarship Report Introductions of Nominees Promotion of All Lutheran Women's Retreat
4:00pm	Election of Officers/Board Members Report of the Officers Adoption of the proposed budget Report on the Elections Committee
4:30pm	Break
5:30pm-6:30pm	Dinner
7:00pm	Entertainment
8:00pm	Evening Devotions and Prayer

## Saturday, July 22

7:00am	Breakfast
8:15am	Registration for one-day participants
8:30am	Gathering Music Opening Prayer

*Participants invited to work on service projects, either in conference room or at their tables*

8:45am	<b>Business Session #3 for Voting Members</b> Report on the Committee on Minutes Report of the Committee on Claims Report of Reference and Counsel/reading of Resolutions Adoption of Resolutions Report of Offerings Thrivent Report Communications Report: Visions: Going Digital Any unfinished business from Friday session
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### *Participants return*

9:15am	<b>Awareness Session #2-Bible Study</b>
9:45am	Stretch break
9:55am	Board Skit 2023 Service Project Report Presentation of Love Offering to Project Horizon Announcement of 2024 Service Project
10:15	<b>Awareness Session #3 Pastor Colleen-Reconciling in Christ</b>
10:45	Report of Convention Planning Report of Long-Range Planning Team
11:00am	Closing devotion (Holden Evening Prayer) with Installation of Officers and Board members
12:00pm	Closing of Convention

## OPENING OF CONVENTION

Leader: As we gather as Women of the ELCA Virginia Synod,  
may we unite to carry out God’s call in our lives.  
We recite our Purpose Statement.

**All:** 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.

Leader: I now declare the Virginia Synod of the Women of the ELCA  
convention open.

### Who's Who

Convention Chaplain.....	Rev. Laura Swanson
CWO Representative .....	Elizabeth (Liz) Burgess
Convention Site Coordinator .....	Jody Smiley
Convention Registrar .....	Edith Blake
Convention Planning.....	Jody Smiley, Kathy Thompson, Diane Priestley, Edith Blake
Parliamentarian.....	Judy Castelee
VISIONS Circulation .....	Jody Smiley
VISIONS Editor/ Convention Registrar....	Edith Blake
Worship Planning.....	Linda Hawks , Lavelva Stevens, Rev. Laura Swanson, and Jody Smiley
Song Leader.....	Alli Beck

**Convention Theme:** “Weave Us Together”

**Convention Scripture:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-14

**Convention Hymn:** “Weave” by Rosemary Crow

(used at WELCA constituting convention in 1987)

### Purpose of the Convention

- To conduct the business of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization;
- To interpret and provide suggestions for congregational/intercongregational or special units, through their voting member, for the achievement of the purposes of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA);
- To provide a variety of learning experiences to strengthen each woman to value herself, to build up and celebrate relationships, and to articulate and act upon her faith; and
- To provide fellowship, and worship as we celebrate 36 years of rejoicing with bold women.

**Women of the ELCA  
Mission Statement**

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

**Purpose Statement**

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

**Worship & Offerings**

Project Horizon is the recipient of the 2023 Love Offering. The worship offering will be split between Women of the ELCA and ELCA World Hunger.

**Voting Member Travel Expenses**

- Voting members' attendance at all business sessions is a prerequisite to payment of travel expenses.
- Voting members shall submit vouchers to the Committee on Claims by end of Business Session 2.
- Travel vouchers shall be paid by the Committee on Claims and distributed by close of convention or by mail.
- If public transportation is used, the least expensive shall be employed. If private transportation is used, reimbursement shall be at a rate of 15 cents per mile per vehicle. Tolls for turnpikes or tunnels are not allowable.
- Each unit, whether represented or not, shall be asked to contribute \$35 to the Fair Share Travel Fund.
- Only voting members whose units have paid the 2023 contribution to the Fair Share Travel Fund prior to July 21 are eligible to receive travel expense checks.

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

### **Representation**

Article VI, Section 2: Item 1: Voting members of a convention shall be the elected officers or Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) leaders and board members of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO) and one voting member from each unit on the roll of the VSWO.

### **Seat and Voice**

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

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

### **Voting Members**

- Shall attend voting member orientation.
- Shall be promptly seated on Friday July 21 by 1:00 p.m. and 3:15 pm and Saturday July 22 by 8:45 am.
- Shall be registered before being seated in the area reserved for the voting body.
- Shall wear badges at all business meetings.
- Shall be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with the Fair Share Travel Fund.
- Shall not absent themselves from the convention without permission of the President.
- Shall report to the Registrar should an emergency require departure from the meeting and relinquish badge. The alternate, if present, shall be re-registered as a voting member.

### **Speeches**

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

### **Elections:**

President (2-year term), Treasurer (2-year term), four (4) Board Members (3 for (2-year terms; 1 for a 1-year term)

### **Motions and Resolutions**

- Any voting member may make a motion which is germane to any pending question.
- Resolutions of a general nature shall be written on the form provided, signed by two voting members and submitted to the VSWO Secretary by Friday, July 21 by end of Business Session #1. Resolutions will be received by the Secretary and referred to the Committee on Reference and Counsel.
- Each voting member who offers a resolution shall be given an opportunity to explain it to the Committee on Reference and Counsel.



### **Parliamentary Procedures**

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

### **Addressing the Assembly**

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

### **Limitations on Debate**

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

Spring 2023



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

Shalom!

Thank you for all you do for the Women of the ELCA! Your time, talents and treasures are needed now more than ever not only to the Women of the ELCA, but also to the World. You also make a huge difference in our churches and communities. Thank you again for all that you do and continue to do!

So here is what is currently going on:

1. The Triennial Convention is September 19-21. Committee members are needed. If you are a voting member (delegate) and would like to serve on a committee, please email me at [jmichali@d.umn.edu](mailto:jmichali@d.umn.edu).
2. The Triennial Gathering is September 21-24. To register for the Gathering or for information please visit the website at [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org). The Triennial Gathering is held every three years and is our national women's gathering much like the ELCA Youth Gathering. What makes Triennial extra special is there is not a minimum or maximum age. Come one come all!
3. Thank you for all your support and prayers during this triennium. There is no way that the Executive Board and officers could function without your continued support and prayers. In September, we will elect a new Executive Board and officers. Please keep these women in prayer.

God's Special Blessings on your time together! I am praying for you and your time together. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at [jmichali@d.umn.edu](mailto:jmichali@d.umn.edu).

Blessings,

Joy Michalicek,  
President, 2020-2023 Triennium  
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## 2022-2023 Virginia Synodical Women's Organization

### Executive Board

Officers--term expiring 2023	Officers –term expiring 2024
<p>President: Lavelva Stevens                      1369 Beth Scott Dr.                      Pulaski, VA 24301                      Phone: 540-320-3369                      Email: <a href="mailto:lstevens01@verizon.net">lstevens01@verizon.net</a>                      Church: Trinity/Wytheville                      Conference: Highlands</p>	<p>Vice President: Sylvia Eley                      417 Meadow Creek Drive                      Chesapeake, VA 23323                      Email: <a href="mailto:seley2005@msn.com">seley2005@msn.com</a>                      Phone: 757-582-0966                      Church: St. Andrew/Chesapeake                      Conference: Tidewater                      Justice Discipleship/VA Synod Tapestry Team</p>
<p>Treasurer: Judy Castelee                      726 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street                      Buena Vista, VA 24416                      Email: <a href="mailto:jlcastelee@comcast.net">jlcastelee@comcast.net</a>                      Phone: 540-460-7376                      Church: Good Shepherd/Lexington                      Conference: Southern Valley</p>	<p>Secretary: JoAnn Fawley                      6409 W. Old Mountain Rd.                      Louisa, VA 23093                      Email: <a href="mailto:fawley6409@gmail.com">fawley6409@gmail.com</a>                      Phone: 703-727-7957                      Church: All Places Together/on-line                      Conference: Germanna                      Social Media/Long Range Planning Team</p>
Board Members – Term expiring 2023	Board Members – Term expiring 2024
<p>Theresa Thomas                      247 Mount Pisgah Rd                      Mount Sidney, VA 24467                      Phone: 540-476-0578                      Email: <a href="mailto:prof_tsquared@yahoo.com">prof_tsquared@yahoo.com</a>                      Church: Salem/Mt. Sidney                      Conference: Southern Valley                      Stewardship</p>	<p>Diane Priestley                      116 Norman Davis Dr.                      Toano, VA 23168                      Phone: 757-561-5491                      Email: <a href="mailto:dmp625@aol.com">dmp625@aol.com</a>                      Church: Our Saviour's Lutheran-Norge                      Conference: Peninsula                      Discipleship/Convention Planning</p>
<p>Carol Bailey                      12706 Cavalryman Ct.                      Fredericksburg, VA 22407                      Phone: 571-438-0273                      Email: <a href="mailto:tcmtnest@comcast.net">tcmtnest@comcast.net</a>                      Church: Resurrection/Frederickurg                      Conference: Germanna                      Conference Coordinator/Long Range Planning Team</p>	<p>Patricia Seelenbinder                      1605 Pennywhistle Arch                      Virginia Beach, VA 23464                      Email: <a href="mailto:pmseelen@cox.net">pmseelen@cox.net</a>                      Phone: 757-479-2544                      Church: Emmanuel/Virginia Beach                      Conference: Tidewater                      Mission Discipleship</p>
<p>Kathy Thompson                      205 Monument Ave.                      Harrisonburg, VA 22801                      Phone: 540-578-4830                      Email: <a href="mailto:thompskb@jmu.edu">thompskb@jmu.edu</a>                      Church: Muhlenberg/Harrisonburg                      Conference: Southern Valley                      Stewardship/Convention Planning</p>	<p>Board Member (vacant)</p>

## SPECIAL GUESTS



### **Elizabeth (Liz) Burgess Churchwide Representative**

Elizabeth Burgess was re-elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in August 2022. She was appointed in July 2016 to fill a vacancy. By the end of this triennium, Liz will have served on the executive board for a full eight years due to the pandemic. She presently serves on the programs and communications committee.

Liz has served the New England Synodical Women's Organization (7B) in many capacities: as president, treasurer, board member, synodical convention co-chair, conference convener, and voting member at three triennial conventions. As a member of the churchwide executive board, Liz also serves informally as an advisor to the New England Synodical Women's Organization.

Liz was baptized as an adult, with her then-young children, at Prince of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church in Augusta, Maine. Prince of Peace Lutheran joined St. Mark's Episcopal Church and is now known as Emmanuel Lutheran Episcopal Church.

Elizabeth now serves her congregational unit as small group leader of Anna's Circle, a weekly prayer group meeting both in-person and via Zoom meetings. We pray for each other, and anyone else in need. The group also prays for ministries and justice issues locally, nationally, and globally. She has also served her congregation in many capacities. Presently she is vice president of the leadership team (church council).

Liz, a native of Maine, is Mother to three adult children and Nana of four grandchildren, ages 14 to 4. Elizabeth is a recent widow, just now fully re-entering a faithful life serving her congregation as "all things communications" and joyfully serving weekly at her congregation's ministry—Bridging the Gap for resources, essentials pantry, and clothing bank.

Liz is deeply honored and continues to be excited about the many opportunities to share the good news of Christ and to serve Women of the ELCA. She is looking forward to meeting (in-person & digitally) women across the country. Liz is an avid daily walker. She loves listening and learning. She is especially happy to share her passion for justice and her ability to utilize social media to promote Women of the ELCA and God's love.



**Rev. Laura Swanson**  
**St. Philip Lutheran Church**  
**Roanoke, Virginia**  
**Convention Chaplain**

My passion for ministry centers around stories, how we can better understand one another's stories and together learn about and experience God's story of love and grace for us all. It's a story that comforts us, connects us, and inspires us to share that love with the community! I am thrilled to have been called to serve at St. Philip in August of 2019. In my free time, I love to try new recipes and restaurants, spend time outdoors, and cheer on the South Carolina Gamecocks! It's my joy and honor to share both my life and my vocation with my spouse, Luke, who serves as Pastor at Trinity Lutheran in Roanoke, our daughter Anna Kate and our Goldendoodle, Stella.



**Meghann Cotter**  
**Executive Servant-Leader**  
**Micah Ecumenical Ministries**

Meghann Cotter, a native of Fredericksburg, has been with Micah since 2007. She graduated from Emory & Henry College in 2004 with a degree in Mass Communications and Public Policy & Community Services. She also holds a Master's Degree in Urban Studies from Eastern University in Philadelphia, and is currently working through coursework towards a Doctorate of Ministry. In her spare time, she enjoys time with her husband and two sons.



## **Rev. Colleen Montgomery All Places Together**

The Rev. Colleen Montgomery currently serves as the Director for Digital Ministries of the Virginia Synod and Mission Developer for All Places Together. All Places Together is an online new start of the Virginia Synod and is a Reconciling in Christ Community. She graduated from Roanoke College and the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia. She has served congregations in Virginia and Indiana and was a missionary teacher with the ELCA in Poland. Pastor Colleen is married to Nick, identifies as bisexual, and is a dog mom. She loves to watch, listen to, and read stories and listen to Taylor Swift.

## Report of the President

*Lavelva Stevens*

The VSWO of the Women of the ELCA is a “community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.” We are women of holy purpose as 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 is to “mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.” **Any woman who is a member of an ELCA church is automatically a member of Women of the ELCA.**

Our board was very pleased that we had a successful convention August 12-13, 2022, as we returned to our in-person gathering after a year off in 2020 and a virtual meeting in 2021, courtesy of Jody Smiley, President, and the Rev. Colleen Montgomery, Technical Advisor. We had wonderful presenters who led awareness sessions: Susan Richardson, Executive Director of the Valley Mission, a private, non-profit homeless shelter located in Staunton; Sabrina Dorman-Andrew, co-founder of New Creation, a non-profit that creatively counteracts human trafficking, locally and globally; and Judy Castelee, Executive Director of Project Horizon, a non-profit human service organization dedicated to reducing domestic, dating and sexual violence in Lexington. Project Horizon receives our Love Offering this year.

This year the board met in person in September of 2022 at Epiphany in Richmond to get acquainted and to decide what our focus/foci would be for the coming year. As a result of our conversation, we voted to send out money for our Companion Synod: the Island District of Papua, New Guinea; Lutheran Disaster Relief; and Lutheran World Relief. This was your Board at work to make a difference in these organizations.

Our other focus was to learn how to become allies to those on the fringes of our society. After consulting Pastor Colleen Montgomery, we decided as a board to read and discuss the book, [Love Without Limits](#). This led us to explore how to make a bigger impact by sharing the book with VSWO members. We decided to use our Katie’s Fund money to buy books to distribute to members at our convention and to encourage participation in an online book study to be conducted beginning this Fall.

We have also met by Zoom for meetings in January, March, April and May! My goodness, online meetings are convenient, productive, time-efficient and money-saving! We also met online for a book study to compare notes on [Love Without Limits](#).

Our delegates are looking forward to attending the Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention, September 19-20, in Phoenix, AR. They are: Sylvia Eley, Pat Seelenbinder, and Jody Smiley, and I will be attending as president. The Women of the ELCA Gathering, with a theme of “Just Love”, will happen following the Convention on September 21-24.

I want to thank those board members who are finishing their work on the board this year: Theresa Thomas, Kathy Thompson, and Judy Castelee, who will finish her Treasurer position in February, 2024. We all thank them and appreciate the time and energy they have contributed to our state organization! **And, I give thanks to the many dedicated women who serve the VSWO, both in time and in resources to make this organization vital in our Virginia Synod!**

**The board recommends:**

1. That the convention Rules of Procedure be adopted as printed in the Bulletin of Reports with any necessary corrections.
2. That the Program of the Thirty-fifth Annual Convention of the VSWO be adopted as printed in the Bulletin of Reports, with any necessary changes.
3. That the Auditor's Report be accepted as printed.
4. That the VSWO Budget for 2023- 2024 be adopted as presented by the Board



## **Report of the Vice President and Report of Mission: Justice**

*Sylvia Eley*

“The Lord loves righteousness and justice.  
The earth is full of his unfailing love.”  
Psalm 33:5 (NIV)

In December 2023, I did a presentation on Sex Trafficking for Tapestry which can be viewed on this link, <https://vimeo.com/772199865>. January is Human Trafficking Prevention Month, a presidentially designated observance designed to educate the public about human trafficking and the role they can play in preventing and responding to human trafficking. In observance of this terrible plight, I shared my presentation from the fourth quarter of the Tapestry Ministry with my family via zoom. So many of them were unaware of the plight, my younger female cousins were shocked and shared stories of situations they may have been in and did not realize until our discussion. They are more aware now.

Little did I know how close to home trafficking could be. In mid-January, I spoke to a friend whose granddaughter and her friend were almost abducted at a mall in Roanoke. There were three men in masks. The police had one in custody. The police told the parents that sex trafficking is prevalent in the area and is getting worse. I shared the sex trafficking information with my friend and told her to talk to her daughter and granddaughter. This is just awful. The girls are pretty shaken up and scared.

As we prepare for Triennial in 2023, I ask units to consider our theme, *Just Love*. How can our units reach out to those affected by trafficking? To continue to focus on awareness, units can review the ELCA's efforts to assist victims by reviewing the ELCA's "Social Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation" to learn more about how we as a church address commercial sexual exploitation from a Lutheran faith perspective and participate in activities provided.

For many years, The ELCA has been involved in ending human trafficking as well as tending to survivors. There are many resources available on the ELCA website that provide valuable information on the subject.

<https://elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Justice-for-Women/Social-Issues/Human-Trafficking>  
<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/justice/human-trafficking>  
<https://www.elca.org/Resources/Justice-for-Women#Humantrafficking>

## **Report of the Secretary and Social Media Manager**

*JoAnn Fawley, Faithfully and Joyfully Serving*

As Secretary, I record the minutes at board meetings, assemble the Call to Convention, the Bulletin of Reports/Supplement, and organize the Convention Committee information. As Social Media Manager, I keep the VSWO Facebook and Instagram accounts current. Social media is a valuable communication tool which helps to keep individuals and units informed of VSWO and churchwide Women of the ELCA news. Our social media accounts also reach those individuals who may not be aware of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA.

### **Treasurer's Report** ---February 2023-January 2024

The term of the VSWO Treasurer is based on the church fiscal year. It has been my pleasure to serve the VSWO as treasurer since February 2023. My service will continue through January 2024.

I agreed to serve (after having been secretary, president and vice president throughout the years) because this "community of women created in the image of God" is very important to me. I know many of you have served in various capacities in the women's organization for the same reason.

Like many organizations within the church, Women of the ELCA suffered financially during the global pandemic. Those effects were felt at the Synodical level as well. For the past 2 years (and projected into next year), we have dipped into our Thrivent account to fund convention. While we are fortunate to have those reserves, they will not last forever. If we continue this downward trend, it will impact our ability "to engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world."

My challenge to each of you is simple. Prayerfully consider the impact Women of the ELCA has made on your life of faith. Then, as you are able, consider making a one-time donation to our investment account. (Simply put "Thrivent" or "investments" on your check memo.) You can do this at convention or send it to me any time at the address below.

Judy Castele  
VSWO Treasurer  
726 W 4th St  
Buena Vista, VA 24416

God has richly blessed us. We stand on the shoulders of the women who came before us. May we, in return, commit to leaving a legacy of a vibrant organization for the generations to follow.

In grateful service, Judy Castele

# **Audit Report**

**February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023**

**May 15, 2023**

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA  
c/o Judy Castele  
726 W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
Buena Vista, VA 24416**

To Whom it May Concern:

Jody Smiley met with Judy Castele, current treasurer of the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization (VSWO), on May 13, 2023 to review the financial records for the VSWO during the period February 1, 2022 to January 31, 2023.

I reviewed the documentation provided by Lavelva Stevens, VSWO treasurer during the review period. This documentation included bank statements, Quick Book financial reports, deposit slips, and expense voucher forms. After a thorough review no irregularities were found.

Sincerely,

*Jody Smiley*

Jody Smiley  
St. Michael Lutheran Church  
Blacksburg, VA

# Virginia Synodical Women's Organization

## Profit and Loss

February 2022-January 2023

### Income

#### Offerings

Conference Gathering	679.50
Congregational Units	<u>4,603.00</u>
<b>Total regular offerings</b>	<b>5,282.50</b>

#### Convention Offerings

Designated (Love offering)	1,306.00
VSWO Convention offerings (other)	<u>1,329.50</u>
<b>Total convention offerings</b>	<b>2,635.50</b>

#### Other income

Betty Wilson (Triennial Scholarship)	195.00
Katie's Fund	150.00
Roanoke College Scholarship	100.00
Transfer from Thrivent	7,851.30
Sophie Wilson Grant	<u>310.00</u>
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>8,606.30</b>

#### VSWO Convention

Fair Share Travel Fund	460.00
Housing, Meals, Registration, BOR	<u>2,635.00</u>
<b>Total VSWO Convention</b>	<b>3,095.00</b>

**Total Income** 19,619.30

### Expenses

#### Churchwide Programs

Conference Gatherings (55%)	374.00
Katie's Fund	150.00
Offering - Conference of Presidents	0.00
Regular/Convention Offering	<u>1,961.08</u>
<b>Total Churchwide Programs</b>	<b>2,485.08</b>

#### Communications

Bulk Mailing Permit & Postage	265.00
Visions (Printing & Supplies)	<u>379.96</u>
<b>Total Communications</b>	<b>644.96</b>

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Profit and Loss**  
**February 2022-January 2023**

**Convention**

Call to Convention	297.97
Chaplain	500.00
Fair Share Travel	213.15
Housing and Meals	7,486.60
Sophie Wilson Grants	<u>290.00</u>
<b>Total Convention</b>	<b>8,787.72</b>

**Executive Board**

Mileage & Lodging	616.05
Miscellaneous	199.99
President's Discretionary Fund	<u>70.00</u>
<b>Total Executive Board</b>	<b>886.04</b>

**Other Expenses**

Love Offering	1,794.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	1,000.00
Lutheran World Relief	500.00
Virginia Synod	500.00
VSWO Scholarship	<u>100.00</u>
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>3,894.00</b>

**Total Expenses** 16,697.80

**Net Income** 2,921.50

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Virginia Synodical Women's Organization  
Income by Customer Detail  
February 1, 2022 through January 27, 2023

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Cir	Split	Amount	Balance
<b>Ann Davison</b>								
Deposit	07/05/2022	6330	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Deposit	07/05/2022	6330	Deposit	Betty Wilson Schola...		BB&T	10.00	70.00
Deposit	07/05/2022	6330	Deposit	Sophie Wilson Grant		BB&T	10.00	80.00
Total Ann Davison							80.00	80.00
<b>Anne Putnam</b>								
Deposit	08/02/2022	2158	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	25.00	25.00
Deposit	08/19/2022	2164	Deposit	Friday Night Banquet		BB&T	35.00	60.00
Total Anne Putnem							60.00	60.00
<b>BeccIPage</b>								
Deposit	08/19/2022		Deposit	Love Offering - 2023		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Total Beed Page							60.00	60.00
<b>Beverly Fowler</b>								
Deposit	07/05/2022	4243	Deposit	BOR		BB&T	5.00	5.00
Total Beverly Fowler							5.00	5.00
<b>Catherine Thompson</b>								
Deposit	08/02/2022	2854	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	25.00	25.00
Total Catherine Thompson							25.00	25.00
<b>Charlaine SChmidt</b>								
Check	08/02/2022	1288	Sophie Wilso...	Sophie Wilson Grants		BB&T	-145.00	-145.00
Check	08/13/2022	1293	Fair Share	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	-61.50	-206.50
Total Ch811alne Schmidt							-206.50	-206.50
<b>Chmt LutflenIn Church</b>								
Deposit	07/11/2022	5535	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	50.00	50.00
Deposit	07/11/2022	5535	Deposit	Love Offering		BB&T	50.00	100.00
Deposit	07/11/2022	5535	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	35.00	135.00
Total Christ Lutheran Church							135.00	135.00
<b>Convention Offering</b>								
Deposit	08/17/2022		Deposit	Love Offering		BB&T	196.00	196.00
Deposit	08/19/2022		Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	237.00	433.00
Total Convention Offering							433.00	433.00
<b>CV-Emanuel-Woodstock</b>								
Deposit	01/27/2023	65082	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	360.00	360.00
Deposit	01/27/2023	65082	Deposit	Thankoffering		BB&T	108.00	468.00
Total CV-Emanuel-Woodstock							468.00	468.00
<b>CV-Prince of PNCe-()rt(ney-Basye</b>								
Deposit	01/03/2023	317	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	100.00	100.00
Total CV-Prince of Peace-Orkney-Basye							100.00	100.00
<b>CV-st Stephen-Strasburg</b>								
Deposit	02/22/2022	1014	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	150.00	150.00
Total CV-St Stephen-Strasburg							150.00	150.00
<b>Diane Wlicox</b>								
Deposit	07/05/2022	2731	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	80.00	60.00
Total Diane Wcox							60.00	60.00
<b>Ellen McDonald</b>								
Deposit	08/19/2022	1812	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Total Ellen McDonald							60.00	60.00
<b>Ellen Pabst</b>								
Deposit	07/05/2022	2581	Deposit	Convention Reglstra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Deposit	07/05/2022	2581	Deposit	BOR		BB&T	5.00	65.00
Total Ellen Pabst							65.00	65.00
<b>Frances Shepherd</b>								
Deposit	07/05/2022	6542	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Total Frances Shepherd							60.00	60.00

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization  
Income by Customer Detail  
February 1, 2022 through January 27, 2023

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Cir	Split	Amount	Balance
<b>GE-Resurrection.Frederickburg</b>								
Deposit	09/28/2022	111	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	50.00	50.00
Total GE-Resurrection-Fredericksburg							50.00	50.00
<b>Helen Leach</b>								
Deposit	10/29/2022	1598	Deposit	Conference Gatheri...		BB&T	25.00	25.00
Total Helen Leach							25.00	25.00
<b>HI-Grace/St Paul-Rural Retreat Parish</b>								
Deposit	05/03/2022	623	Deposit	Congregational Units		BB&T	55.00	55.00
Deposit	06/28/2022	625	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	64.00	119.00
Total HI-Grace/St Paul-Rural Retreat Parish							119.00	119.00
<b>HI-Moly Trfnity-Wytheville</b>								
Deposit	06/09/2022		Deposit	Congregational Units		BB&T	36.00	35.00
Deposit	09/28/2022	6241	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	25.00	60.00
Deposit	09/26/2022		Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	43.00	103.00
Deposit	10/29/2022		Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	41.00	144.00
Deposit	12/06/2022		Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	52.00	196.00
Total HI-Holy Trinity-Wytheville							196.00	196.00
<b>Jane Swing</b>								
Check	08/02/2022	1287	Sophie Wilso...	Sophie Wilson Grants		BB&T	-145.00	-145.00
Total Jane Swing							-145.00	-145.00
<b>Jean Shore</b>								
Deposit	06/14/2022	1177	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	60.00	80.00
Deposit	06/14/2022	1177	Deposit	Betty Wilson Tri- Sc...		BB&T	10.00	70.00
Deposit	06/14/2022	1177	Deposit	Sophie Wilson Grant		BB&T	10.00	80.00
Total Jean Shore							80.00	80.00
<b>Jody Smiley1Jlven as donation to VSWO</b>								
Check	06/20/2022	1286	Convention wi...	VISIONS (printing a...		BB&T	-8.52	-8.52
Check	06/20/2022	1286	Convention wi...	Supplies		BB&T	-56.81	-85.33
Total Jody Smiley-given as donation to VSWO							-85.33	-85.33
<b>Judith Franz:</b>								
Deposit	07/05/2022	4221	One-Day	Convention Reglstra...		BB&T	25.00	25.00
Deposit	07/05/2022	4221	Deposit	Betty Wilson Schola...		BB&T	10.00	35.00
Deposit	07/05/2022	4221	Deposit	Sophie Wilson Grant		BB&T	10.00	45.00
Total Judith Franz							45.00	45.00
<b>Julia Non1s</b>								
Deposit	07/05/2022	10186	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Deposit	07/05/2022	10186	Deposit	Betty Wilson Schola...		BB&T	20.00	80.00
Deposit	07/05/2022	10186	Deposit	Sophie Wilson Grant		BB&T	20.00	100.00
Total Julia Norris							100.00	100.00
<b>JuneNabera</b>								
Deposit	06/14/2022	2127	Deposit	BOR		BB&T	5.00	5.00
Deposit	08/17/2022	2137	Deposit	Love Offering		BB&T	25.00	30.00
Check	08/24/2022	1305		Mileage & Lodging		BB&T	-348.00	-318.00
Deposit	10/29/2022	2146	Deposit	Conference Gatheri...		BB&T	10.00	-308.00
Total June Nabers							-308.00	-308.00
<b>Kathryn Robinson</b>								
Deposit	06114/2022	804	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Total Kathryn Robinson							60.00	60.00
<b>Lola Heffner</b>								
Deposit	08/02/2022	2376	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Deposit	0811912022	2379	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeti...		BB&T	25.00	85.00
Total Lola Heffner							85.00	85.00
<b>Lutheran Disaster Response</b>								
Check	11116/2022	1308		Loss On Investments		BB&T	-500.00	-500.00
Check	11116/2022	1308		Donation - Lutheran ...		BB&T		-500.00
Check	11/16/2022	1309		Donation - Lutheran ...		BB&T	-500.00	-1,000.00
Total Lutheran Disaster Response							-1,000.00	-1,000.00

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization  
**Income by Customer Detail**  
 February 1, 2022 through January 27, 2023

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Cir	Split	Amount	Balance
M Kaartna Modlri Deposit	08119/2022	1651	Deposit	Regular/Cony Offeri...		BB&T	25.00	25.00
Total M Kaarina Modiri							25.00	25.00
Melissa Hower Deposit	07/05/2022	1712	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Deposit	07/05/2022	1712	Deposit	BOR		BB&T	5.00	65.00
Total Melissa Hower							65.00	65.00
<b>Meredith Boggs</b> Deposit	08119/2022	1473	Deposit	ConventiOn Registra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Total Meredith Boggs							60.00	60.00
<b>New RiverConfenmce</b> Deposit	11/08/2022		Deposit	Conference Gatheri...		BB&T	225.50	225.50
Total New River Conference							225.50	225.50
<b>Nicole Ocheltree</b> Deposit	07/05/2022.	2710	Deposit	Convention Registra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Total NicoJe Ocheltree							60.00	60.00
<b>NR-st Michael-Blacksburg</b> Deposit	04/11/2022	296	Regular Offeri...	Congregational Units		BB&T	75.00	75.00
Deposit	05/03/2022	297	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	25.00	100.00
Deposit	01/03/2023	298	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	107.05	207.05
Total NR-StMichael-Blacksburg							207.05	207.05
<b>NR-Trinlty ulaski</b> Deposit	02122/2022.	1262	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	460.00	460.00
Deposit	02/22/2022	1262	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	35.00	495.00
Deposit	07/27/2022	1266	Deposit	Designated (Love Of...		BB&T	100.00	595.00
Total NR-Trinity-Pulaski							595.00	595.00
<b>Our Saviours-Norge</b> Deposit	01/03/2023	1101	Deposit	Regular/Cony Offeri...		BB&T	96.50	96.50
Total Our Saviours-Norge							96.50	96.50
<b>PA-Morning Star-Luray</b> Deposit	07/27/2022	1341	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	250.00	250.00
Deposit	07/27/2022	1341	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	35.00	285.00
Total PA-Morning Star-Luray							285.00	285.00
<b>Pam Estes</b> Deposit	12/06/2022.	1478	Deposit	Sophie Wdson Grant		BB&T	100.00	100.00
Total Pam Estes							100.00	100.00
<b>PE-Our Saviour's-Norge</b> Deposit	06/02/2022	1094	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	35.00	35.00
Total PE-Our Seviour's-Norge							35.00	35.00
<b>Pleasant View Lutheran Church</b> Deposit	08/17/2022	170	Sue Cook	Love Offering		BB&T	280.00	260.00
Deposit	01/03/2023	1n	Deposit	Regular/C01w Offeri...		BB&T	96.00	356.00
Total Pleasant View Lutheran Church							356.00	356.00
<b>Rebecca Page</b> Deposit	07/05/2022	5884	One-Day	Convention Registra...		BB&T	25.00	25.00
Total Rebecca Page							25.00	25.00
Rev. Phyllis <b>Diamond</b> Check	08/13/2022	1295	Convention C...	Chaplain		BB&T	-500.00	-500.00
Total Rev. Phyllis Diamond							-500.00	-500.00
<b>RI-Epiphany-Richmond</b> Deposit	04/22/2022	663	Deposit	Congregational Units		BB&T	180.80	180.80
Deposit	06/02/2022	669	Deposit	Congregational Units		BB&T	50.80	231.60
Deposit	06/02/2022	669	Deposit	Convention Offering/...		BB&T	50.00	281.60
Deposit	06/02/2022	669	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	25.00	306.60
Deposit	01/03/2023	en	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	147.60	454.20



Virginia Synodical Women's Organization

Income by Customer Detail

February 1, 2022 through January 27, 2023

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Account	Cir	Split	Amount	Balance
Total RI-Epiphany-Richmond							454.20	454.20
<b>RI-Lakeside-Lake Gaston</b>								
Deposit	07/27/2022	931	Deposit	Designated (Love Of...		BB&T	100.00	100.00
Deposit	07/27/2022	930	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	35.00	135.00
Total RI-Lakeside-Lake G8\$ton							135.00	135.00
<b>Rural Retreat Lutheran Parish</b>								
Deposit	08/17/2022	629	Linda Vaught	Love Offering		BB&T	25.00	25.00
Deposit	08/19/2022	630	UndaVaught	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	25.00	50.00
Deposit	09/06/2022	626	Linda Vaught	Regular/Conv Offert...		BB&T	56.00	106.00
Deposit	10/29/2022	631	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	29.00	135.00
Total Rural Retreat Lutheran Parish							135.00	135.00
<b>Salem Lutheran Church</b>								
Deposit	07/15/2022	1797	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	175.00	175.00
Deposit	08/17/2022	1804	Sharon Ochel...	Love Offering		BB&T	100.00	275.00
Deposit	10/29/2022	1810	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	175.00	450.00
Deposit	01/27/2023	1819	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	175.00	625.00
Total Salem Lutheran Church							625.00	625.00
<b>Southern Valley Conference</b>								
Deposit	10/29/2022	2721	Deposit	Conference Gatheri...		BB&T	134.00	134.00
Total Southern Valley Conference							134.00	134.00
<b>st Jacobs Lutheran</b>								
Deposit	08/17/2022	789	Carolyn Rand...	Love Offering		BB&T	35.00	35.00
Total St. Jacobs Lutheran							35.00	35.00
<b>St James-Rahersville</b>								
Deposit	01/03/2023	1222	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	128.00	128.00
Total St Jamea-Fishersville							128.00	128.00
<b>St James, Waynesboro</b>								
Deposit	08/19/2022	1215	Anne Putnam	- Fair Share Travel		BB&T	35.00	35.00
Total St. James, Waynesboro							35.00	35.00
<b>St John Lutheran Church</b>								
Deposit	07/05/2022	1013	Susan Bove	Convention Reglstra...		BB&T	60.00	60.00
Total St. John Lutheran Church							60.00	60.00
<b>St Michael, BlackabU'll</b>								
Check	08/19/2022	1298		Fair Share Travel		BB&T	-16.05	-16.05
Total St. Michael, Blacksburg							-16.05	-16.05
<b>St Stephens Lutheran Ch_urch</b>								
Deposit	07/05/2022	1019	Imogene Rym...	Convention Reglstra...		BB&i	60.00	60.00
Deposit	12/06/2022	1021	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		aB&T	150.00	210.00
Total St. Stephens Lutheran Church							210.00	210.00
<b>SV-Good Shephenl-I.exIngton</b>								
Deposit	06/14/2022	3744	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	35.00	35.00
Total SV-Good Shepherd-Lexington							35.00	35.00
<b>SV-Salem-Mt. Sidney</b>								
Deposit	04/11/2022	1782	Regular Offeri...	Congregational Units		BB&T	175.00	175.00
Deposit	04/11/2022	1782	Fair Share	Congregational Units		BB&T	25.00	200.00
Deposit	06/02/2022	1790	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	10.00	210.00
Total SV-Salem-Mt. Sidney							210.00	210.00
<b>SV-St Jacobs/Spade"-Mt Crawford</b>								
Deposit	06/02/2022	786	Deposit	Convention Offering/...		BB&T	150.00	150.00
Deposit	06/02/2022	786	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	35.00	185.00
Total SV-St Jacobs/Spaders-Mt Crawford							185.00	185.00
<b>SV-St Jam&amp;H'ishersville</b>								
Deposit	04/22/2022	1201	Deposit	Congregational Units		BB&T	218.55	218.55
Deposit	06/28/2022	1211	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	108.00	324.55
Total SV-St. James-Fishersville							324.55	324.55

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01/27/23

Ac;rcual Basis

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Income by Customer Detail**  
**February 1, 2022 through January 27, 2023**

Type	Date	Num	Memo	Ant	Cir	Splt	Amount	Balance
<b>TW-Emmanuel-Virginia Beach</b>								
Deposit	06/09/2022	1832	Deposit	Thankoll'ering		BB&T	25.00	25.00
Deposit	06/09/2022	1835	Deposit	Sophie Wilson Grant		BB&T	25.00	50.00
Deposit	06/09/2022	1830	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	35.00	85.00
Deposit	06/14/2022	1831	Deposit	Convention Reglstra...		BB&T	60.00	145.00
Total IW-Emmanuel-Virginia Beach							145.00	145.00
<b>TW-St John-Norfolk</b>								
Deposit	06/28/2022	1015	Deposit	Regular/Conv Offeri...		BB&T	210.00	210.00
Deposit	06/28/2022	1014	Deposit	Fair Share Travel		BB&T	35.00	245.00
Total IW-SI John-Norfolk							245.00	245.00
<b>Valley Mission</b>								
Check	08/13/2022	1290	Love Offering	Love Offering		BB&T	-1,526.00	-1,526.00
Total Valley Mission							-1,528.00	-1,526.00
<b>Women of Emmanuel Lutheran</b>								
Deposit	09/08/2022	1837	Patricia Mitchell	Designated (Love Of...		BB&T	155.00	155.00
Total Women of Emmanuel Lutheran							155.00	155.00
<b>YmaMulero</b>								
Check	08/13/2022	1296	Churchwide R...	Convention-Church...		BB&T	-240.00	-240.00
Total Yma Mulero							-240.00	-240.00
<b>TOTAL</b>							<b>3,899.92</b>	<b>3,899.92</b>

Virginia Synodical Women's Organization

## Balance Sheet

*As of January 31, 2023*

### Assets

Checking (Truist)	\$8,230.95
Thrivent Investment Management	<u>\$12,264.26</u>

**Total Assets** **\$20,495.21**

## Balance Sheet

*As of May 15, 2023*

### Assets

Checking (Truist)	\$5,170.58
Thrivent Investment Management	<u>\$6,264.26</u>

**Total Assets** **\$11,434.84**

**Virginia Synodical Women's Organization**  
**Proposed Budget**  
**February 2024-January 2025**

**Income**

**Offerings**

Conference Gatherings	1,000.00
Congregational Units	<u>5,000.00</u>
<b>Total regular offerings</b>	<b>6,000.00</b>

**Convention Offerings**

Designated (Love offering)	1,500.00
VSWO Convention offering	<u>1,500.00</u>
<b>Total convention offerings</b>	<b>3,000.00</b>

**Other income**

Betty Wilson ( <i>Triennial Scholarship</i> )	150.00
Katie's Fund	100.00
Roanoke College Scholarship	100.00
Transfer from Thrivent	1,000.00
Sophie Wilson Grant ( <i>Convention Scholarship</i> )	<u>200.00</u>
<b>Total other income</b>	<b>1,550.00</b>

**VSWO Convention**

Fair Share Travel Fund	400.00
Housing, Meals, Registration, BOR	<u>2,500.00</u>
<b>Total VSWO Convention</b>	<b>2,900.00</b>

**Total Income** **13,450.00**

**Expenses**

**Churchwide Programs**

Conference Gatherings (55%)	550.00
Katie's Fund	100.00
Offering - Conference of Presidents	100.00
Regular/Convention Offering	<u>3,575.00</u>
<b>Total Churchwide Programs</b>	<b>4,325.00</b>

**Convention**

Chaplain	250.00
Fair Share Travel	400.00
Housing and Meals	5,000.00
Miscellaneous	100.00

Sophie Wilson Grants	200.00
Workshop Honorarium	250.00
Supplies	<u>150.00</u>
<b>Total Convention</b>	<b>6,350.00</b>

**Executive Board**

Mileage	575.00
Miscellaneous	100.00
President's Discretionary Fund	100.00
Stationary & Supplies	<u>50.00</u>
<b>Total Executive Board</b>	<b>825.00</b>

**Other Expenses**

Love Offering	1,500.00
Mission Areas	200.00
Betty Wilson Scholarship/Triennial	150.00
VSWO Roanoke College Scholarship	100.00
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<b>1,950.00</b>

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u><u>13,450.00</u></u></b>
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<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u><u>0.00</u></u></b>
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February 2023

Dear Mrs. Smiley,

I am from Waynesboro, VA and I am in my senior year at Roanoke College. I was truly honored to have been selected as the recipient for the Virginia Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA Scholarship.

I want to thank this scholarship for assisting me, a young woman in the ELCA, with my education. As a child of the Virginia Synod, it means so much to receive this award from a group that I identify with and look up to. It was because of my experiences within the Synod as a youth member that led me to pursue my education at Roanoke and eventually choose my courses of study, Sociology and Religious Studies. Coming into college, my family was under some financial constraints. This has increased over the past two years because of my sister's decision to pursue higher education as well. This scholarship, therefore, means a great deal to my family and myself, because it decreases their financial burden, as well as mine. Roanoke College has given me so many opportunities. I've had the opportunity to conduct my own research, which is actually a study done on the Virginia Synod and its interest in racial justice. I also have two amazing jobs, one as a Writing Center Tutor, and one as a Wellness Peer Educator.

Finally, I have helped to continue the Lutheran legacy at Roanoke by becoming President of RC Lutherans. All of these opportunities have been so fulfilling for me and have helped me discover how I want to serve others once my time here is finished. I just graduated in December, and I am currently trying to figure out how I want to start the next chapter of my life. I am applying to graduate school programs, both MPPs and MSWs, and I am also applying for jobs within the non-profit sector. I have an interest in advocacy and grassroots work that I would like to fulfill, and there are many avenues in which I can do this, so I'm keeping my options open. It's a very scary but exciting time in my life.

Thank you again for helping me during my time at Roanoke College. I assure you that your money has not been wasted; I've been extremely fulfilled by all of my experiences at Roanoke, and I will graduate knowing I've made my mark. Your financial help means the world to my family and myself, and I have not taken it for granted.

Warmly,

*Lily*

Lillian Pingel

## REPORT OF MISSION: STEWARDSHIP

*Kathy Thompson and Theresa Thomas*

Women of the ELCA encourages and equips women to consider their responsibility and capacity for stewardship. This year the VSWO has focused primarily on encouraging giving to Katie's Fund, which honors the life of Katharina von Bora Luther by supporting global connections, leadership development and living theology (living out our faith by putting our faith into action). We are also making bears and purchasing items for Project Horizon for the 2023 Convention.

In 2022-2023 your offerings to Women of the ELCA allowed your board to distribute the following funds:

2022 Sophie Wilson Grant	2 scholarships were given to the 2022 convention
2022 Love Offering	\$ 1,794.00 Valley Mission/Staunton
Lutheran Disaster Response	\$ 1,000.00 Hurricane Ian and General Funds
Lutheran World Relief /Ukraine	\$ 500.00 doubled by matching funds
Virginia Synod	\$ 500.00 Papua New Guinea Companion Synod
VSWO Scholarship	\$ 100.00

## REPORT OF MISSION: DISCIPLESHIP

*Pat Seelenbinder and Diane Priestley*

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

In response to children hurting, we show our love with the 2022-2023 service projects, which will greatly benefit Project Horizon in Lexington, VA. We support them with a WISH LIST and a sewing option. The organization is dedicated to eradicating domestic, sexual and dating violence through education, advocacy, and empowerment of survivors and by being a sanctuary for victims.

**Christ Lutheran** in Fredericksburg –had a community get together to make Warren charity bears.

**Emmanuel Lutheran** in Virginia Beach – is collecting sewing and non-sewing items for Project Horizon. We, also, had a Ladies Spring Tea with Lutheran Ladies in Tidewater from which the free will offering will go to Project Horizon.

**Our Saviour's Lutheran** in Norge (Williamsburg) – are making charity bears for the convention. We also had a workshop/training on 'Awareness on Human Trafficking' and featured a local shelter for recovering sex-trafficked women (Latisha's House) as our Rachel's Day recipient. We collected cleaning supplies for the home and toiletries for the residents, as well as a freewill offering collection that went to them.

Praying you are all working on some project for improving our world and communities through Love. Let us know what they are.

Contact Diane Priestly [dmp635@aol.com](mailto:dmp635@aol.com) or Pat Seelenbinder at [pmseelen@cox.net](mailto:pmseelen@cox.net)

## **THRIVENT ENDOWMENT FUND Report 2023**

*Jody Smiley, Head Trustee, Judy Castele, and Helen Weaver*

The trustees for our Thrivent Investment Fund are Jody Smiley (Head Trustee), Judy Castele, and Helen Weaver. Trustees are appointed to hold legal title to the invested funds of the VSWO. They shall have the knowledge of and the discipline to implement prudent investments and make recommendation to the Board regarding the management and preservation of such funds made available to them. The VSWO Board will vote on their recommendations. They are appointed for 3-year terms. The current trustees' terms expire in December of 2024.

The Thrivent Endowment Fund was first created from funds that came with the merger that created Women of the ELCA/VSWO. Over the years these funds have grown through donations and gains in the stock market. Over the years funds have been used to support the expenses for a keynote speaker, one voting member to the Triennial Convention, the gathering of our synod's female rostered ministers, and a donation to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

One of the visions for this fund was to help offset costs that maybe incurred for conventions and retreats. In 2022, funds were withdrawn to assist with the VSWO convention. This allowed the board to keep the costs to attendees at a minimum. In 2023, funds are again assisting with the convention that is being held at Roanoke College.

An up-to-date balance of funds will be given during the convention. All contributions made by individuals and congregational units should be sent to the VSWO treasurer. Please note in the check memo line "For Thrivent Endowment Fund".

## **REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL CONFERENCE COORDINATOR**

*Carol Bailey*

From all parts of Virginia, the VSWO participants have been busy with Bible studies, fellowship, and service projects. What we have learned is that while every group may not have traditional circles (although several do!), Lutheran women across our synod are very involved in the church and outreach to their communities.



## **Germanna Conference**

*Submitted by Carol Bailey*

Germanna Conference met on April 15 at Christ Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg. After a bountiful breakfast, Pastor Anne Jones led a worship entitled Comfort and Healing. Pastor Jones' homily centered on our brokenness. After the brief service, the participants made over 30 Charity Bears. Our hard work was rewarded by a potluck lunch.

## **Resurrection Lutheran -- Fredericksburg**

*Submitted by Carol Bailey*

Resurrection WELCA was busy this year. We had our monthly meetings via Zoom and in-person using the Gather magazine for our Bible study. We provided homemade cookies on a monthly basis for the firefighters at the station close to the church. Our big project was providing well-stuffed Christmas stockings for 250 needy children in the Spotsylvania School System. We also hosted a luncheon for the confirmands and their families and presented each confirmand with a glass standing cross as a memento of the occasion.

## **Christ Lutheran--Fredericksbrug**

*Submitted by: Kathy Robinson*

In September of 2022, Women in the Spirit (WITS) returned to the lake (Lake Anna) for our annual retreat. It was the first gathering at the lake since Covid hit in 2020.

In October, several members of WITS visited Ferry Farm and met later for lunch. In November, we did a service project with crafts for Woodmont Center. December was a fireside chat along with decorating the Chrismon Trees. A nativity scene was also placed in the Welcome Hall for all to enjoy.

February of 2023, several WITS members, along with guests, enjoyed the play "Men on boats" at the University of Mary Washington, Klein Theater. Lunch was served beforehand at Christ. There was a book read in March. "The Gift of Asher Lev" by Chaim Potok was discussed along with collecting toiletries to give away at the next Community Meal at CLC.

The Germanna Conference, Spring Gathering, was held in April with the theme of "Comfort & Healing" at CLC with several members of RLC (Resurrection Lutheran Church) attending. Along with creating 33 (thirty-three) Charity Bears, great fellowship and lunch was enjoyed.

In May 2023, the group held a picnic at Duff McDuff Park. The theme was Cinco de Mayo. All women of the church were invited. We are looking forward to assisting with SDD (School Dressing Days) in July which assists families in need in our area. We will continue making toiletries available at our Community Meal on a quarterly basis, the next being in July 2023.

## **New River Conference**

*Submitted by: Jody Smiley*

We were excited to be able to gather together again in person for our 2022 Fall Gathering. It was held at St. Michael in Blacksburg. We had twenty women attend from several churches in our area. Our theme was "The Light Shines in the Darkness.." Devotions were led by Pastor Michelle Stramiello and wonderful music was provided by Linda Hawks and Lavelva Stevens. We shared Communion together. Our guest speaker was Judy Castele, Executive Director of Project Horizon in Lexington. She spoke on Human Trafficking.

The New River Conference is led by a planning team instead of one conference coordinator. Our team consists of Linda Hawks, Trinity in Pulaski, Sandy Birch and Jody Smiley from St. Michael in Blacksburg. Many thanks to our team for coordinating this year's Fall Gathering. We are in the process of planning our 2023 Fall Gathering.

Our women continue to work very hard in their congregations and community. They assisted with feeding programs such as facilitating the collection and delivery of food to food banks in the New River area. Many of them have quilters that create wonderful quilts and other items that brighten the lives of many in our community. All are very involved with ministries within their congregations and the wider communities. Here is some of the amazing work being done in the New River Conference:

At **Trinity** in Pulaski their quilting group (the Piece Makers') makes quilts for Lutheran World Relief, and the Roanoke Rescue Mission. That group also makes Lap quilts and hats/caps for the Cancer Center at the Pulaski hospital. Another amazing project the quilting group does is every resident at Fairview Home has been gifted with a quilt on their birthday. As new residents arrive at the home, they are given a "Welcome quilt." These quilts have been well received and are so much appreciated! The women make wheelchair/walker caddies for Pulaski Rehab. They have begun making and distributing "comfort bears" for abused or neglected children locally and throughout the state. They have given some bears already to a local Forensic Nurse and will continue to supply her with these bears as she works with and counsels children. This is part of our 2023 VSWO project. They supported the local Christmas Store with donations of clothes and toys. They provided personal care items and Christmas decoration to Fairview Home. They meet monthly for food, fun, fellowship, and devotional programs.

**Our Saviour** in Christiansburg has a Crafters Group that meets each Monday to craft for a couple hours. They have craft shows during the year and all of the money made is given to different charities in the New River Valley.

The women of **Luther Memorial** support the Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry through food donations and providing volunteers who deliver food and serve on the Board. Their quilting group makes quilts for the temporary residents of the Katrina Von Bora Haus who are placed through NRC Community Action. The "Our Knit-Wit" knitters make prayer shawls for ill and homebound persons. The co-chairs of Luther Memorial's Reconciling in Christ committee are women, and they facilitate the monthly Rainbow Connection social group, a safe space for LGBTQIA+ persons to gather and network.

*(New River Conference continued)*

**New Mt. Zion** in Blacksburg also supports the Interfaith Food Pantry. The women, in partnership with Shiloh Lutheran, collect items for Thanksgiving boxes that are given to those in need. They coordinate the collection of school supplies each fall for Price's Fork Elementary School. The women make apple butter each fall and use the money collected from sales for a variety of outreach efforts.

**Shiloh Lutheran** in Blacksburg also supports the Interfaith Food Pantry. In addition to collecting food, they assist in the collection of pet food and pet items that go to the food pantry for those with pets. They provide meals after funeral services. On Christmas Eve they gathered food and delivered food baskets for those that were shut ins.

The women of **St. Michael** in Blacksburg help gather and deliver donations of food for the Montgomery County Food Bank/Interfaith Food Pantry and supplies for the Radford's Women's Resource Center. They coordinated putting together 40 Easter baskets for children/teens and baskets for mothers at the Center. They also collected and delivered school supplies for children at Price's Fork Elementary School (PFES). At Christmas they partnered with PFES to support their Empty Stocking program. They meet monthly for fellowship, lunch and a Gather Bible Study.

## **Page Conference --- Morning Star Lutheran Church, Luray**

*Submitted by: Sue Fox*

We do not have an active Page Conference at present. Morning Star is the only church in the conference that has an active women's organization. Therefore, we have not carried out any activities as a conference. Our group at Morning Star is still very active. We met every month with programs that include Bible studies, other Women of the ELCA resources or a special presentation from community groups and for a business meeting.

For the church at large, our unit gives donations to World Hunger, Lutheran World Relief, ELCA Disaster Relief, Katie's Fund, and in November we celebrate with a Thankoffering Service. We also observe Bold Women's Day and Rachael's Day with litanies during the church's two worship services.

We support the following special charities with monetary donations: American Cancer Society, Alzheimer's Association, Shriners Children's Hospital and St. Jude Children's Hospital.

*(Morning Star continued)*

Within our congregation, we are very active in our service. Several times during the year we sponsor Share Sunday meals after the 11:00 am worship. We collect a special offering for these meals and this is given to community based charitable groups. We also sponsor an Easter Breakfast and an annual Homemade Ice Cream Social. Again, the special offerings from these activities are given to community based charitable groups. See list below:

- Shenandoah Area Agency on Aging
- Life Center (a faith based crisis pregnancy center)
- Page One (an organization that gives food to the needy, fuel assistance to needy families, help with travel to cancer treatments etc.)
- Luray Fire Department and Luray Rescue Squad
- Arise (homeless outreach center)
- Choices (helps women and children with Domestic Abuse)
- Weekday Religious Education, Children's Bible Mission in Elementary schools, "Loaves and Fishes" weekend food program for school children. (All are related to young children)
- Page Free Medical Clinic.

Our unit visits nursing homes, helps to provide Christmas gift bags to sick and shut-ins of our congregation and serves funeral meals when requested.

Morning Star is celebrating a 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The women produced a new church cookbook in recognition of this special milestone. The women are also actively involved in planning and carrying out three different special worship and fellowship gatherings in our congregation in June, September and November to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We are a very active group committed to growing in faith, affirming our gifts, supporting one another in our callings and engaging in ministry and actions in our home, church, the VSWO, the church at large and the world.

## Richmond Conference

*Reports submitted by individual units*

### Epiphany Evangelical Lutheran Church - Richmond

*Submitted by: Eileen Johnson*

Our Christmas Tea was held on December 6, 2022, in Price Hall (our first one since 2019). We had about 25 women attend as well as Pastor Joseph leading us in Christmas songs. He told the story of St. Nicholas (since our tea was on St. Nicholas Day). Several members brought their fancy teacups and saucers and served a variety of teas. We enjoyed appetizers and desserts made by our Circle members. Our donation recipient was **Reach Out and Read**; we collected 52 books and \$27 in cash. Reach Out and Read encourages healthy growth and early literacy for millions of children.

The Virginia Synodical Women's Organization's (VSWO) special project for the year was for each church to collect 200 pairs of socks to be donated to those in need. Epiphany surpassed their goal and donated 596 pairs!! We delivered them to enCircle to be distributed through their refugee program.

The Sleepy Hollow Garden Club created a Natural Habitat Garden using only native plants and no fertilizers or pesticides. The three Circles contributed funds to purchase a Trinity symbol over the trellis and a plaque in memory of our Circle Sisters.

Our Spring Luncheon was held on May 10, 2023, in Price Hall. We had about 30 women participate as well as our pastors. We enjoyed boxed lunches from *Homemades by Suzanne*. After a brief business meeting, we enjoyed a music program provided by the four-and five-year-olds from the *Epiphany Lutheran Nursery School!* Our donation recipient was ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation and we collected 57 various toys and \$100 cash donation.

Our Circles continue to support Gracelnside with 397 greeting cards and 22 calendars, Safe Harbor with laundry detergent, gift cards, microwavable meals, 25 Winter Blessing bags containing chap stick, lotion, gloves, puzzle books, devotional and a few other items were put together and distributed to the senior ladies at Moments of Hope (homeless outreach and food pantry) and 76 birthday cards to all our members 80+ years young were mailed. Also, Clara Sullivan Circle celebrated Sophie Wilson's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday with cake and festivities at our monthly meeting and Margaret Miller Circle celebrated our charter member Betsy Williamson's 95<sup>th</sup> birthday at their monthly meeting.

Our congregation participated in an emergency clothing drive for the Minnick School in Wytheville and collected 397 pieces of clothing.

About 25 of us gathered in April, along with some of our pastors, to take a tour of the Richmond Mormon Temple during their open house invitation. It was an interesting tour and we followed up with lunch at Angelo's. What a great field trip and time of fellowship it was!

## Southern Valley Conference

*Submitted by: Rosemary Spell, Conference Chair*

Southern Valley Conference women enjoyed a number of opportunities to study, worship and fellowship together during 2022.

On Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at 10 a.m., we gathered at Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mount Sidney for our annual Bible Study. The “Shining God’s Light in the Darkness” study was led by Pastor Phyllis Diamond, Pleasant View Evangelical Lutheran Church, Staunton. The study was based on the VSWO scripture reference of John 1:5 “...*the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*” Lunch was ordered from Valley Pike Farm Market, Weyers Cave. The event was attended by 22 women and 1 guest speaker.

On Saturday, July 16, 2022, at 10 a.m. the Southern Valley women and their guests gathered at the Sipe Center (theater) in Bridgewater to enjoy a private showing of Sight and Sound’s (Lancaster, PA) filmed Biblical production of “Ruth.” Afterward, the attendees enjoyed lunch at nearby restaurants. The rental cost for the Sipe Center was donated by the women of Trinity Lutheran Church, Harrisonburg, in memory of Eula Armentrout. Approximately 80 WELCA members and church friends attended.

On August 12 and 13, 2022, the Southern Valley Conference women attended the Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization Annual Convention held at Hotel 24 in Staunton.

The Fall Gathering was held on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at St. Jacob’s (Spaders) Lutheran Church in Mt. Crawford. Deaconess Phyllis Cox, Virginia Synod, presented a program on “What Can I Do About Climate Change?” JoAnn Fawley, VSWO, attended the meeting and installed our new conference planning team for 2023: Rosemary Spell (Conference Coordinator), June Nabers and Anne Putnam. The group thanked outgoing planning team members: Doris Grant (Conference Coordinator) and Lola Heffner. The event was attended by 27 women. An offering of \$369 was collected and remitted to the Treasurer of the VSWO.

The Southern Valley Conference Planning Team met on February 5, 2023, to discuss potential programs for 2023. The planned events are centered on “Weave Us Together,” the VSWO theme. Representatives from Southern Valley WELCA units met with the Southern Valley Conference Planning Team on March 25, 2023. Everyone enjoyed breakfast at Rowe’s Family Restaurant, Staunton; attended by 10 WELCA members and 1 guest. Plans were made for these events:

- Spring Gathering, Bible Study: Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at Salem ELC, Mount Sidney. Leader was Pastor Gordon Putnam from St. James Lutheran Church, Fishersville. Lunch to be ordered from Valley Pike Farm Market, Weyers Cave.
- Summer Event: Saturday, August 12, 2023, at Sipe Center, Bridgewater. Private showing of Sight and Sound’s filmed Biblical production of “Noah.” Lunches will be planned by individual churches at local Bridgewater area restaurants.

- Fall Gathering: Sunday, October 8, 2023, at 2 p.m.: Muhlenberg Lutheran, Harrisonburg. Alicia Thomas, Director, Virginia Quilt Museum, Harrisonburg, will present a program on the history of quilting and quilts and their current collection of quilts, especially those representing the Shenandoah Valley. A social and fellowship hour will follow with each church providing appropriate finger foods.
- Two service projects were adopted for the Spring Gathering/Bible Study:
  - Central Valley Habitat for Humanity, Bridgewater – collect housewarming gifts for families. Coordination by St. Jacobs (Spaders).
  - Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), “Fresh Change” backpack initiative; Coordination with Deacon Phyllis Cox.

## **Tidewater Conference**

*Submitted by Edith Blake*

The Tidewater area ladies are finally getting back together for a Fall Gathering on September 23, 2023 at St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Norfolk. We will be gathering for a pot luck brunch and program.

Various units in the area have been doing things like making homeless blessing bags and hosting a Spring Tea.

We hope to become more active in the coming year.

## **Closing of Convention**

Leader: Thank you, Lord, for your guidance during this time together. As we depart from this gathering, may we carry your Word to the world around us. Let us recite together verse two of the hymn "We Are Called".

**All:** Come, open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear! We are called to be hope for the hopeless so hatred and blindness will be no more. We are called to act with justice, we are called to love tenderly; we are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God. Amen

Leader: I hereby declare the 35th annual Virginia Synodical Women's Convention closed. Go in Peace.

**All:** Thanks be to God!



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

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

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

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

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

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

**L:** Let us pray.

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

**C:** **Amen.**

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

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

## Installation of a Synodical Board

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

*Addressing the assembly:*

L: A reading from 1 Corinthians:

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

*Addressing those being installed:*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Addressing the assembly:*

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

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

*Addressing those being installed:*

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

***Amen.***

*Continuing with prayer*

Let us pray.

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

***Amen.***

*Addressing the assembly:*

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

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

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## Biographical Data of VSWO Board Nominees Officers (2-year terms)

### President

Name: Lavelva Stevens  
Address: 1369 Beth Scott Drive  
Pulaski, VA 24301  
Phone: 540-320-3369  
Email: [lstevens01@verizon.net](mailto:lstevens01@verizon.net)  
Age Range: 65+  
Church: Holy Trinity/Wytheville/Highlands  
Occupation: Church Musician

### Women of the ELCA Experience

Local Unit: Participant, Officer  
Conference/Synodical: VSWO President 2022-2023, past VSWO  
Treasurer and board member, Conference  
coordinator, conference team and  
participant, convention attendee and voting member  
Churchwide: Triennial voting member & participant  
Hobbies: Reading, puzzles  
Volunteer work: Thrivent projects, Church Women United

### Treasurer

Name: Jody Smiley  
Address: 901 Brattle Lane  
Blacksburg, VA 24060  
Phone: 540-250-6149  
Email: [jdsmiley29@comcast.net](mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net)  
Age Range: 65+  
Church: St. Michael/Blacksburg/New River

### Women of the ELCA Experience

Local Unit: Current participant  
Conference/Synodical: Conference participant, convention attendee & voting  
member, served as VSWO officer and board member  
Churchwide: Triennial voting member & participant; served as Churchwide  
Officer and board member  
Hobbies: Walking, golf, enjoy jigsaw puzzles, supporting women's  
sports at VA Tech  
Volunteer work: Various ministries in my church, support for AARP tax  
prep, Visions Circulation Manager, judge for Blue Ridge  
Science Fairs, serving on Katie's Fund leadership team

## Board Member (2-year term)

Name: Ashley Saunders  
Address: 420 Acme Company St.  
Broadway, VA 22815  
Phone: 540-746-8102  
Email: saunders@muhlenberglutheran.org  
Age Range: 35-49  
Church: Muhlenberg/Harrisonburg/Southern Valley  
Occupation: Children's minister  
Women of the ELCA Experience  
Conference/Synodical: Participant  
Hobbies: "" Watching movies, Lego building  
Volunteer work: Trans rights advocate for students

## Board Member (2-year term)

Name: Carol Bailey  
Address: 12706 Cavalryman Ct.  
Fredericksburg, VA 22407  
Phone: 571-438-0273  
Email: [cobailey42@gmail.com](mailto:cobailey42@gmail.com)  
Age Range: 65+  
Church: Resurrection/Fredericksburg/Germanna  
Occupation: Retired  
Women of the ELCA Experience  
Local Unit: Coordinator and Participant  
Conference/Synodical: Board member 2021-2023, past board member and officer,  
Synodical conference leader, Germanna conference leader,  
convention participant and voting member, and Long Range  
Planning Committee  
Churchwide: Triennial convention voting member and participant  
Hobbies: Reading, cooking and baking  
Volunteer work: Brisben Shelter and Micah Ministry

## **Board Member (2-year term)**

Name: Teresa Bowers  
Address: 11 Caroway Drive  
Fredericksburg, VA 22405  
Phone: (H)540-373-4769 (W) 540-373-4769  
Email: [ctbowers@cox.net](mailto:ctbowers@cox.net)  
Age Range: 50-64  
Church: Christ/Fredericksburg/Germannanna  
Occupation: 1 – Healthcare Coordinator at Micah Ecumenical Ministries  
2 - Behavioral Health Specialist/Occupational Therapist at  
Mary Washington Home Health

### Women of the ELCA Experience

Local Unit: Participant  
Conference/Synodical:  
Churchwide:  
Hobbies: Handmade cards, scrapbooking, reading, church choir, hiking and canoeing  
Volunteer work: Help at Micah Community meals, help at Thurman Brisban Shelter meals, pastoral support committee, church choir, church women's group projects

## **Weave Us Together**

By Edith Blake

**W**orking together  
**E**ncouraging others  
**A**ccepting all people  
**V**enturing into new areas  
**E**xploring your relationships

**U**sing our talents  
**S**haring God's word

**T**reating everyone equally  
**O**pening ourselves for service  
**G**iving of ourselves  
**E**xpecting assurance of God's love  
**T**rusting God  
**H**earing God's call for us  
**E**mbodying God's call  
**R**eaching those in need

WEAVE  
(Rosemary Crow)

Weave, weave, weave us together,  
Weave us together in unity and love.  
Weave, weave, weave us together,  
Weave us together, together in love.

We are many textures, we are many colors,  
Each one different from the other.  
But we are entwined with one another in one great tapestry -

Weave, weave, weave us together,  
Weave us together in unity and love.  
Weave, weave, weave us together,  
Weave us together, together in love.

We are different instruments playing our own melodies,  
Each one tuning to a different key,  
But we are all playing in harmony in one great symphony.

Weave, weave, weave us together,  
Weave us together in unity and love.  
Weave, weave, weave us together,  
Weave us together, together in love.

A moment ago still we did not know  
Our unity, only diversity.  
Now the Spirit in me greets the Spirit in thee in one great family.

Weave, weave, weave us together,  
Weave us together in unity and love.  
Weave, weave, weave us together,  
Weave us together, together in love

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Rosemary Crow has written a memoir "*Weave Us Together*" available on Amazon. The book contains stories about Rosemary Crow singing for Lutheran Women's gatherings.



## Ways to stay connected with Women of the ELCA and Virginia Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA

Women of the ELCA Website (Churchwide)	Virginia Synod Women's Organization (VSWO)
<p>Website: <a href="https://www.womenoftheelca.org/">https://www.womenoftheelca.org/</a></p> <p>Tool for Leaders: <a href="https://www.womenoftheelca.org/tools-for-leaders">https://www.womenoftheelca.org/tools-for-leaders</a> i.e. Treasurer forms, etc.</p>	<p>Website: <a href="http://vswowebly.com/">http://vswowebly.com/</a></p> 
<p><b>Publications Women of the ELCA website:</b> <a href="https://www.womenoftheelca.org/publications">https://www.womenoftheelca.org/publications</a> Gather Magazine Café (boldcafe.org) Bold Connections Daily Grace <a href="https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace">https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace</a></p>	<p><b>Visions</b> is the Virginia Synod Women of the ELCA newsletter.</p> <p>To receive the newsletter submit your email to: Jody Smiley, Visions Circulation Manager <a href="mailto:jdsmiley29@comcast.net">jdsmiley29@comcast.net</a></p> <p>Visions is now <u>digital only</u>, so please print off and share with others.</p>
 <p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA">https://www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA</a></p>	<p><a href="https://www.facebook.com/VSWO.WomenoftheELCA">https://www.facebook.com/VSWO.WomenoftheELCA</a></p> <p>Please email pictures and events to be posted to: <a href="mailto:vswovirginiasyndicalwomen@gmail.com">vswovirginiasyndicalwomen@gmail.com</a></p>
 <p>Instagram.com/WomenoftheELCA</p>	<p><a href="https://www.instagram.com/vswovirginiasynod/">https://www.instagram.com/vswovirginiasynod/</a> (underline between vswovirginiasynod)</p>
 <p>Twitter.com/WomenoftheELCA</p>	<p><b>Treasurer until January 31, 2024</b> <b>Judy Castele</b> <b>726 W 4<sup>th</sup> Street</b> <b>Buena Vista, VA 24416</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:jlcastele@comcast.net">jlcastele@comcast.net</a></b></p>
 <p>Pinterest.com/WomenoftheELCA</p>	