



## Greater Milwaukee 2014 Synod Assembly

The Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization is part of the Churchwide Organization of women who gather together in over 7,000 locations throughout the U.S. and the Caribbean. Within each of the 64 Synods (the Slovak Zion Synod in Region 7 does not have a women's organization) congregations participating in the Women of the ELCA are called UNITS. At the present time we have 79 UNITS within our Synod. We also have a UNIT at Marquette University and we are working on establishing UNITS at UW-M and Carthage College.

Most of the congregations within the Greater Milwaukee Synod have women's ministries but to be a UNIT the congregation must follow these guidelines:

1. Come together for study, support, and action.
2. Participate in the ministry of Women of the ELCA beyond the congregation.
3. Support financially the total program of Women of the ELCA.
4. Designate leadership that shall be in communication with the Synodical and Churchwide Women's Organization.

There is no prescribed way to come together for study, support and action. UNITS make decisions on how often, and what materials, they want to use for study. Two very good resources are the *Gather* Magazine which comes into subscribers' homes 10 months out of each year and has a Bible Study included. The other resource is the on-line e-zine *Café* which is very popular with younger women.

Action projects are many, food pantries, writing letter to elected officials and probably the most popular one is "quilt making". In 2013 Lutheran World Relief challenge the Women of the ELCA to make 500,000 quilts. As of the end of March 2014 we're just a little below that challenge having the LWR warehouse staff counting 436,584 quilts.

Financially each UNIT receives an offering at monthly or bi-monthly meetings. They are to send part of that offering to the Synodical treasurer who in turn sends one-half (50%) of all monies received to Churchwide. Many congregation have an annual Thankoffering Service and that entire offering is sent directly to Churchwide. In 2013 nineteen congregation in our Synod participated in Thankoffering Services and a total of \$7,932.13 was received. These monies are used for grants, scholarships and many other projects that the women are involved in.

The Women of the ELCA had a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal and as of January 31, 2014, \$147,865 had been received. One half of those monies (\$73,932.50) were given to the ELCA Malaria Campaign helping to reach its goal. The other half went to support the ongoing ministries of Women of the ELCA.

In the early part of 2014 the Greater Milwaukee SWO launched its own website with Sandy Allen being the webmaster. We encourage you to visit the site at [www.greatermilwaukeeswo.org](http://www.greatermilwaukeeswo.org).

We are excited to announce our 2014 Annual SWO Convention which will be held on Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church located at 8633 W. Becher Street, West Allis, WI. A highlight of this one-day event will be our keynote speaker, Tasha Schuh, who is an inspirational speaker whose life changed dramatically when, as a High School Junior had an accident during play practice which left her paralyzed from the chest down. Tasha has extensive education and experience with motivational speaking. She graduated in 2003 from Winona State University with a bachelor's degree in

communication studies and then in 2007 finished her second bachelor's degree in theology at Maranatha College. We encourage all women from the Synod to come for a day of inspiration, fun and fellowship. In addition to being inspired by Tasha Schuh there will be workshop opportunities, greetings from the Churchwide Board and learning opportunities as we conduct the business of the SWO. A home-made lunch will be prepared, and serve, by the women and men from Mt. Hope. We will also enjoy entertainment by Cream City Crooners, a Barbershop Quartet. There will also be some time to shop ... Faith and Giggles Bookstore (from Hartland), Fair Trade and some things made from the Ageless Fellowship Group at Mt. Hope.

There is an early-bird registration fee of \$50 which must be postmarked by Saturday, August 30, 2014. A copy of this registration form may be found on our SWO web-site. After the August 30<sup>th</sup> date, registration will be \$60.

If there are questions about the Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization please contact me at 262-886-8918 or via e-mail at [betty@warber.net](mailto:betty@warber.net).

Betty Warber, President  
Greater Milwaukee Synodical Women's Organization