

## Virginia Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA



### One organization: three interconnected groups

### Our Purpose Statement

- ◆ Women of the ELCA is the women's ministry organization and a churchwide program unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. An estimated 500,000 women of all ages in more than 7,500 congregations and special units participate in Women of the ELCA's local, churchwide, and global ministries of faith development, service, advocacy, and leadership in church and society.
- ◆ The VSWO works to assist all units in Virginia to fulfill the purpose of the Women of the ELCA as defined in our purpose statement. This is accomplished by providing programs at our yearly convention and also retreats, publishing quarterly newsletters, and nurturing leadership development.
- ◆ The unit is the "member" of Women of the ELCA; individual women are participants.. Each congregation of the ELCA may have one unit; however, there may be as many groups within the unit as desired. For example, there may be study groups, Bible study circles, fellowship groups, activity groups, and so forth.

The symbol — with the cross, water and a white lily — identifies the women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

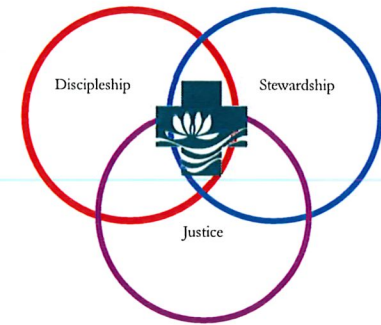
As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society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

*For more information about  
the Women of the ELCA go to  
[www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) and  
follow us on Facebook and  
Twitter.*

*For more information go to  
[www.vswowebly.com](http://www.vswowebly.com)  
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Virginia Synodical  
Women's Organization of  
Women of the **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA** 



One Mission:  
three interconnected mission  
areas

You may ask yourself, “Who are the Women of the ELCA and why should I care much less get involved?”. We are an organization built on the strong history of women’s missionary movements, Bible study, and service in which our foremothers engaged. We are a women's group looking toward the future to help all women grow in faith and affirm their God given gifts in today’s world.

The participants in the Virginia Synodical Women’s Organization of the Women of the ELCA can be proud that we are involved in ministries and service beyond what our foremothers envisioned before them. We are a diverse group of mothers, grandmothers, sisters and daughters that have found a common purpose in serving within and beyond our church walls.

All women of the Virginia Synod are encouraged to join us in becoming more involved in the fellowship of the Women of the ELCA. We sponsor an uplifting and renewing yearly convention and semi annual retreats, we gather together at conference events, and we delight in sharing ministry as well as ourselves. If you are wondering where to begin, please contact us for more information, [vasynodwomen@gmail.com](mailto:vasynodwomen@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook at Virginia Synodical Women’s  
Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

- ◆ **Discipleship** - To provide a variety of learning experiences which strengthen each woman as a whole person, develop her potential and equip her for ministry.
- ◆ **Stewardship** - To enable each woman to value herself and others as created in God’s image and redeemed through Christ; and to build up and celebrate relationships which are global, diverse and interdependent.
- ◆ **Justice** - To enable women to articulate and act upon their faith as disciples of Christ in all arenas of life.