



# Tapestry

December 2022  
Volume 35, Issue 6



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## Anne's Annals

Linda Greilick and I have tried various titles for the article I write for each issue of the Tapestry. We like to use alliteration in the title, and that limits our choices. Because it has now been one year since you chose me to serve in the office of President of the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization, I thought "annals" would be appropriate.

The theme of our Fall Gathering certainly was well suited to summarize the past year for me. Step by Step: *"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps."* Beginning in January, my plans for our annual executive board and conference leaders' meeting at Luther Springs had to be switched to Zoom format at the last minute because of a surge in the Omicron variant of Covid. So instead of the time to worship together, conduct our business meetings, plan Spring Gatherings, and get acquainted in casual hours on the porch at Luther Springs, we saw each other in the tiny squares on our screens and did the necessary work. The quick pivot to Zoom for the leadership meeting did not allow time for Conference Leaders to plan their Spring Gatherings, but the Lord provided each conference with a theme suitable for them. Their meetings were individually crafted to suit them and were held as local conditions shifted to allow safe meetings.

Our Churchwide Organization also had to adjust to conditions shaped by shifting levels of viral infection around the nation. The staff of Churchwide learned how to meet the needs of church units efficiently using new technology skills. Interactive programs and workshops were available live on Zoom, and replays are still available on [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org). The staff is available by phone or email to handle individual questions or requests for service. As new leaders of church units, conferences, and our synod take office, I urge you to go to the website and watch the one hour workshops for the office you have been elected to. While you're there, check out some of the other resources available free for us to download.

As the year came closer to the end, it was hard for me not to think of all the things I would do if I weren't elected SWO President at Fall Gathering. But my steps were again determined by God to have the privilege of serving again.

## FB-SWO Board

### President:

Anne Storan

astoran46@gmail.com

### Vice President:

Denise Beumer

dbeumer1000@gmail.com

### Secretary:

Laurie Nelson

nlsnlaur@yahoo.com

### Treasurer:

Tracy Moffatt

tracymoffatt@aol.com

The Executive Board was beginning to plan our Fall Gathering in 2023 when we were told by the Director of Lake Yale that the core values of the Florida/Bahamas Synod are incompatible with the core values of the Southern Baptist Church. We would not be able to meet at Lake Yale in the future. Once again, God showed us the path for our steps. We will hold Fall Gathering 2023 at the Warren Willis United Methodist Conference Center, November 10-12, 2023.

Unanticipated circumstances may seem to create a barrier, but God is faithful. I will trust Him to guide my steps to the destination He has planned for me in the year ahead.

As always, your sister in Christ,  
**Anne Storan, FL-BA SWO President**



**Forms, Funds, and Finances...**

by Tracy Moffatt, Treasurer

Greetings SWO Sisters,

What a joyous and reflective weekend the Fall Gathering was. We gathered with joy and we reflected with joy on the grace God has shown us and ALL our sisters and brothers in Christ. It is indeed good to be a woman of the ELCA!

Your generosity shown through in a HUGE way at the Fall Gathering. We collected our regular Communion Offering, a Love Offering, and special offerings for Hurricane Relief and Cuba Daycare Supplies. Jewelry was also sold with all proceeds being split between the Share the Spirit and Let Your Light Shine Scholarship Funds and donations were made to our Fund for Leaders Endowment Scholarship Program.

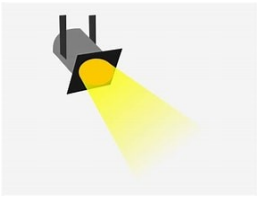
Here are the totals:

- Communion Offering: \$2,015.00  
(50% has been sent to Churchwide)
- Love Offering at the Fall Gathering: \$4,668.00  
    composed of Cash and Checks: \$3,948.00  
    composed of Gift Cards: \$ 720.00
- Total gifts to SoZo Kids this year are: \$5,858.25**
- Hurricane Relief: \$ 721.00  
    Total received this year and sent to Florida-Bahamas Synod Disaster Response: \$1,321.00
- Cuba Daycare Supplies sent to Florida-Bahamas Synod Global Missions: \$ 331.00
- Share the Spirit: \$ 212.50
- Let Your Light Shine: \$ 215.50
- Fund for Leaders Scholarship Endowment: \$ 370.00

Thanks to ALL who contributed! Also, many thanks to **Julie Hunter** and **Deb Lovelock** for their expert help in counting the offerings over the weekend. Please reach out to me with any questions about offerings and all things treasurer: [fbswotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:fbswotreasurer@gmail.com) or 239-848-7274

Donations are always graciously accepted to any of the funds above - make checks payable to FL-BA SWO and mail to: **SWO Treasurer, Tracy Moffatt, 1944 Crestview Way, Naples, FL 34119**

## Fall Gathering Highlights



Our theme for the weekend was *“Step by Step”*. Thank you all that took your Step by Step to be with us at Lake Yale. We had opportunities to reconnect with some of our old friends and to make new ones. It was an awesome weekend!!

The worship services were led by **Pastor Lois Sorensen** of Reformation in Lakeland. Beginning with the Opening Worship on Friday Evening, Worship with Holy Communion on Saturday Evening and the Closing Worship with installation on Sunday morning, all were beautiful. Music Leader for the week end was **Charlene Cranmer** (Cantor at Gloria Dei, Leesburg). The music was awesome and enjoyed by all attending. Charlene was a first-time attendee.

We were Blessed to have our pastor, **Rev. Lois Ann Sorensen** with three other pastors at last month’s FL/BA Synod SWO Fall gathering. The other three are **Rev. Jen Moore** (associate pastor at Gateway Trinity Lutheran Church, Ft. Myers), **Rev. Joanie Holden** (pastor of St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Crystal River) and **Rev. Trixie Richter** (St. Philip Lutheran Church, Mt. Dora). All four of them are past Fund for Leaders scholarship recipients.



Many thanks to Pastor Joanie for presenting the Bible study based on our theme verse; *“The human mind plans the way, but the Lord directs the steps.”* (Proverbs 16:9 NRSV) It is always a joy to have Pastor Joanie with us. And thanks to **Raeann Purcell** as she brought us greetings from Churchwide Board and did the installation of our new Board at the Closing Worship on Sunday Morning. Thanks to **Judith Olsen** for bringing us news about Global Missions and thanks to **Tabitha Richter** for being our Youth Shepherd for the weekend.



**Assistant to the Bishop, Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson**, brought us greetings from the bishop’s office. He works alongside congregations as they look to envision who it is that God is calling them to be, asking *“what does God Hope for us now?”* As Palms Deaf Church is in the north region, he has been working with **Pastor Lori Fuller** to build the infrastructure for the new congregation. Pastor Lori was born deaf, growing up without the understanding of the Love of God. She gives thanks to a multi-denominational church in Wisconsin, where she fell in love with God and felt the call to bring God’s love to others in the Deaf Community. Pastor Lori is the founding pastor of Palms Deaf Church in Palm Coast, Florida. She, with the help of an interpreter, gave a wonderful and inspirational presentation.

The Saturday night event was entitled *“Step by Step Walking with your Sister”*. The sisters walked through the game tables playing, creating and getting to know each other. Fun was had by all!

The week end was AWESOME but none of this could have happened without the help of the Executive Board, the Advisory Board, Conference Leaders, the Workshop Leaders and all of you participants. Thanks again to everyone and we hope to see you next year. Save the Date ----November 10 – 12, 2023. The theme is *“HOLY GROUND”* and will be at the Warren Willis Conference Center, 4990 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park, Florida 34731.

Merry Christmas to All

Blessings,

**Loraine Van Haecke & Lisa Klima**

Co-Chairs for 2022 Planning Committee



# Summary



## FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

### 2022 Fall Gathering Business Summary

Friday, November 11, 2022 - Sunday, November 13, 2022

#### Election Results:

- **President:** Anne Storan was re-elected.
- **Secretary:** Laurie Nelson was elected.
- **Board Members:** Stacia Carter, Debra Lantz, and Donna Person were elected.
- **Triennial Voting Members** - Gayle Backiel, Denise Beumer, Ann English, Debra Lantz, and Diane Spicer were elected. The SWO President Anne Storan will also attend as a voting member.

**Resolution Approved and Adopted:** The Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization ("SWO") affirms its support for our LGBTQ+ siblings and pledges to actively work against discrimination, while advocating for justice for all, and encourages the Churchwide organization to provide resources to help the SWO walk alongside those in the LGBTQ+ community (see resolution on page 7).

Submitted by **Donna Person, SWO Outgoing Secretary**

### *Thank you to all the Helpers!*

I am grateful for all the women who faithfully shared their time and talent to be leaders by serving as Committee Chairs during the business sessions at our Fall Gathering:

Parliamentarian: **Tracy Moffat**, Caloosa  
 Timekeeper: **Karen Weinrich**, Volusia  
 Claims and Offerings: **Tracy Moffat**, SWO Treasurer, Caloosa  
 Conduct of Elections: **Linda Greilick**, Suncoast  
 Credentials: **Tina McCloud**, Suncoast  
 Nominating Committee: **Denise Beumer**, Heart of Florida  
 Committee on Minutes: **Donna Person**, Broward -Bahamas  
 Committee on the Report of the President: **Marilyn Kreitzinger**, Heart of Florida  
 Reference and Counsel/Resolution Committee: **Sallie Haley**, Pinelands

We also want to thank the women of our Conferences for helping to make the Fall Gathering a wonderful, inspiring and hospitable event:

Communion **Denise Coller**, Broward-Bahamas

Morning Devotions **Gisela Khail**, Space Coast  
 Prayer/Meditation **Mary Bollingberg**, First Coast  
 Hospitality **Marilyn Kreitzinger**, Heart of Florida  
 Hospitality **Kris Dines**, Mid-Gulf  
 Ushers **Shelly Fortin**, Pinelands  
 Ushers **Ladies of the Panhandle Conference**  
 In-kind gifts **Judy Welton**, Caloosa  
 Elections **Linda Greilick, Phyllis Berlage**, Suncoast & Tampa  
 Registration **Judy Thomas**, Gulf Coast

**Tabitha Richter** handled the youth program this year while **Kris Dines** was the Audio-Visual Coordinator.

A very special thank you to all of you for what you did to make the Fall Gathering a faith-filled, fun-filled experience for each of us.

**Anne Storan**  
 FL-BA SWO President





# Stepping through the Fall Gathering weekend in November



Greetings from  
Assistant to the Bishop  
Rev. Dr. Rob Carlson  
and an Introduction to  
Palms Deaf Pastor  
Lori Fuller



Saturday Bible Study by  
Pastor Joanie Holden  
and Sallie Haley



Churchwide Representative  
Raeann Purcell  
provides an update



Judith Olson shares  
Global Mission news



Lutheran World Relief  
Quilt tying



Saturday Communion Service



One of the workshops



Saturday night Fun activities



Donna Person—Photographer



## Reflections from Justice and Advocacy

Throughout my last two years on the board, I have been assigned “justice and advocacy” as my area of focus. Throughout those two years, I have written many articles relating to justice and advocacy, including Black Lives Matter and LGBTQ+ issues.

How fitting, then, that it was my simple act of wearing a t-shirt that has brought LGBTQ+ issues to the forefront of the Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA and created an opportunity for our organization to find a new meeting place for future fall gatherings. Here is how it transpired.

I arrived on Thursday to help prepare for the gathering and to attend our board meeting.

On Friday morning, I was busily moving around Lake Yale Retreat Center, which is managed by the Southern Baptist Convention, doing errands and interacting with



office staff numerous times. I also happened to be wearing a pride shirt (*pictured here*). The shirt was actually very subtle, with a rainbow flag that had the outline of Florida and the message “Pride Lives Here.” When getting dressed that morning, I didn’t think twice about it. The office staff apparently did, and a few hours later they called **Anne Storan** and **Tracy Moffat** to the office. They were told that my shirt had prompted them to look at our website (<https://www.flwelca.com>), as well as the Florida-Bahama Synod’s website (<https://fbsynod.com>). From these websites, they realized that we are part of *Reconciling Works* (<https://www.reconcilingworks.org/>) and include and support the LGBTQ+ community in our organizations and churches. We were then informed that any group from the Florida-Bahamas Synod would not be welcome at Lake Yale in the future, as supporting LGBTQ+ people and rights violated their “core values.” We would be allowed to stay for the weekend, but I needed to change my shirt.

Now, I’m going to be honest - I REALLY didn’t want to change my shirt. I wanted to wear it loud and proud as a way to fight for justice. In fact, I also wanted to go out and get rainbow ribbons for everyone to wear. However, I also realized that Lake Yale would send all of us home on Friday, and it wouldn’t change any minds, nor would it provide justice to our LGBTQ+ members. So I went back to my room, changed my shirt (but kept my rainbow earrings on), and began to write a resolution to bring to the voting members. This resolution passed unanimously (*see page 7*). We also booked the same weekend next year at the Methodist retreat center 20 minutes away from Lake Yale.

Thinking back on the weekend, I am glad I wore the shirt. While our support of *Reconciling Works* is contrary to the Southern Baptists Convention’s core values, their discrimination and marginalization of LGBTQ+ people is against OUR core values, and it is time to move to a different place that has similar values. I appreciate all of the years and wonderful memories we have had at Lake Yale, but I look forward to creating new memories next year at the **Warren Willis Camp**.

*continued on Page 7*



I am so proud to be a member of our organization and the ELCA, and this just shows how much work there is to be done. Here is the text of the resolution that passed unanimously:

**Title: Affirmation of God’s love for all people**

Whereas Christ’s greatest commandment is to love thy neighbor;

Whereas Christ lifted up the marginalized and ate with the outcasts;

Whereas the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has affirmed their support of Reconciling Works;

Whereas the Florida-Bahamas synod is a Reconciling Works synod;

Whereas LGBTQ+ community members have often been mistreated;

Whereas Florida state law 1557 has limited the rights of LGBTQ+ students and teachers in Florida;

Therefore be it resolved that we affirm our support for our LGBTQ+ siblings and pledge to actively work against discrimination, while advocating for justice for all;

Therefore be it further resolved that we encourage our Churchwide organization to provide resources to help us in our walk alongside the LGBTQ+ community.

Submitted by **Karen Weinrich**

Outgoing board member



Plan to join us at next year’s fall gathering as we celebrate “*Holy Ground.*” The gathering will be held from **November 10-12, 2023.**

We will meet at the **Warren Willis Camp** in Leesburg. This retreat center is close to Leesburg and is similar to Lake Yale. It has hotel-style rooms with 2 beds per

room, meeting areas for workshops, and a beautiful main worship area. It is also located next to a large lake. Check it out at their website <https://wwumccc.org/>. We can’t wait to see all of you next year!

Warren Willis Camp  
4990 Picciola Road  
Fruitland Park, FL 34731



**Lisa Klima and Karen Weinrich**

2023 Fall Gathering Co-chairs



## FL-BA SWO Executive and Advisory Board Members and Conference Leaders Meeting

January 27-29, 2023

On January 27-29, 2023, the Executive and Advisory Board Members of the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization will meet with the Leaders of the Conferences at **Warren Willis United Methodist Camp & Conference Center at 4990 Picciola Rd., Fruitland Park, FL 34731**. We will begin at 4:00 pm on Friday and dismiss before Noon on Sunday. This is an opportunity to get to know each other better, worship together, share ideas, and plan for Spring Gatherings and Fall Gathering.

The President (co-chair or leader) of each conference should plan to attend this important meeting. If the president is unable to attend, she should arrange for one of the other officers of her conference to attend in her place.

The meeting is being held at Warren Willis United Methodist Camp & Conference Center instead of Luther Springs this year to give all a chance to preview the location of our Fall Gathering 2023, "Holy Ground." More information will be coming in future communications, but you should save the date and be ready for a blessed time.

**Anne Storan**—President, FL-BA SWO

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Lutheran World Relief

Just a quick reminder that the information for Pick up for Lutheran World Relief quilts and kits is on the website at [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com). Please take all your quilts and kits to your pick up site sometime during the first full week of February 6. Please check the schedule at the pick up site you will be utilizing. The trucking company is working with us to ensure all donations are collected. If they have a full truck, another will be sent to pick up the rest of the donations. Thank you all for that you have done this year.

Questions: Contact me at [leonegoding@centurylink.net](mailto:leonegoding@centurylink.net) or by phone 352-223-1925.

**Leone Goding**, LWR Coordinator SWO

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# Leadership Changes



## Thank You

### Outgoing Board Members

Because of term limits, three of our Board Members are ineligible to continue to serve in that role. Thank you to **Gayle Backiel**, **Jackie Haynick**, and **Karen Weinrich** for serving faithfully through two full terms, plus an extra year because no elections were held in 2020 due to the pandemic. It has been a blessing to know you and do ministry together within the Synodical Women’s Organization. May God bless you!

**Donna Person** was not eligible to serve another term as Secretary of the SWO Executive Board, but she was elected to be a Board Member, so we don’t have to say goodbye to Donna.

**Anne Storan**—President, FL-BA SWO



*to our new Board*

*Churchwide Board Member of the Women of the ELCA Raeann Purcell installed our new Board at our Installation and Sending Service on Sunday, November 13, 2022.*

*Board includes President Anne Storan, Vice President Denise Beumer, Treasurer Tracy Moffatt, Secretary Laurie Nelson, returning Board members Leone Goding, Sallie Haley, and Nina Jageler and new Board members Stacia Carter, Debra Lantz, and Donna Person.*



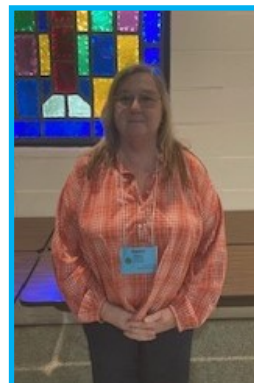
**Continuing Officers**

Anne Storan	President (left)
Denise Beumer	Vice President (upper right)
Tracy Moffatt	Treasurer (lower right)



**Continuing Board Members**

Leone Goding (left)
Sallie Haley (upper right)
Nina Jageler (lower right)



Congratulations NICE GOING!  
GREAT! Way to Go!  
Yea! FELICITATIONS  
CHEERS Take A BEST  
BOW! WISHES!

## *Additions*



*Laurie Nelson—elected Secretary*

Lori has settled in her new home in Dunnellon with her husband Bruce of 42 years and her dog Frida. She is active at Timothy's Church in Crystal River. She serves as secretary for the Pinelands conference as well as for her church unit. She cherishes time spent with her three children and seven grandchildren and enjoys traveling, kayaking and riding her motorcycle.



*Stacia Carter—elected Board Member*

I am honored to have been elected to serve on the Board of Directors. Thank you for your confidence.

I am a lifelong Lutheran. I grew up in Milwaukee WI in the former LCA which eventually became ELCA. I attended University of WI where I met my husband and we have been together ever since. I've lived in five Synods, three states and have been active in all. My husband Edward and I raised our two children at Advent Lutheran in Olathe KS where they were both confirmed. We live in Apopka where I am currently a member of St Stephen, Longwood FL. I am the owner of an equipment distribution company.

I have been an active member in my congregations as well as at the Synod level and recently completed my term as Secretary for Heart of Florida Conference. I am an active member of Orlando Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, University of WI Alumni Association and serve on the Board of Directors of my Homeowners Association.

I look forward to working with the WELCA Board and members on a state-wide level.

Stacia

## *Additions continued*

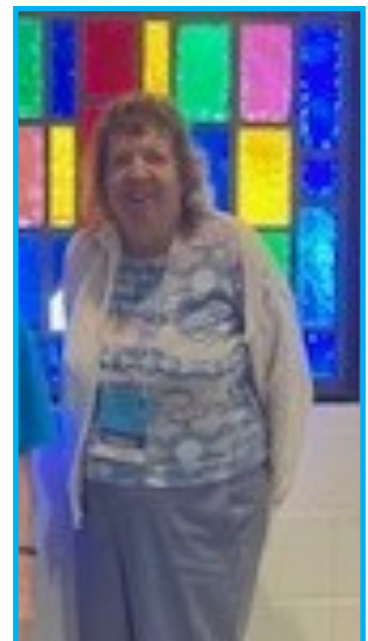
*Debra Lantz—elected Board Member*

Hi, I'm Debra Lantz. I'm not sure where to say I'm from. My father was Air Force and I went with him to Japan and the Philippines. We lived in Charleston, SC the longest. I followed him and spent 21 years in the AF. I've been a member of Prince of Peace since 2005. I was married to James Galvin for 35 years. He went on in 2020. I have a daughter Diana who lives in Orlando. I have been in WELCA since 2006 at Prince of Peace. At Prince of Peace, I've been Treasurer, President, and am currently Vice President of WELCA. I appreciate being elected to the board again.

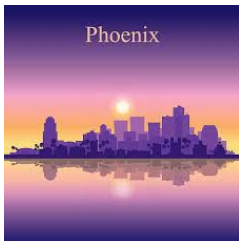


*Donna Person—elected Board Member*

Member of Christ Lutheran Church, Fort Lauderdale;  
serves as Church Council Secretary  
Current SWO Board Member and former SWO Secretary;  
Florida-Bahamas Synod Council Member  
Works as a paralegal at the Broward County Attorney's Office  
Volunteers as an usher at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts







# TRIENNIAL CONVENTION OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA

## FL-BA SWO Voting Members

The convention precedes the gathering and conducts the business of the organization. The Triennial Voting Members from the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women’s Organization (FL-BA SWO) were elected at the Fall Gathering. They will be attending the convention in **Phoenix, Arizona, September 19-21, 2023**.

In addition to the **SWO President, Anne Storan**, the following individuals were selected as voting members:



**Denise Beumer** - Denise is currently serving as Vice President of our Synodical Women. She’s also a facilitator and trainer on the Synodical Just Love Anti-racism Team as well as Council President of her church and President of the Chamber of Commerce. She was elected as a Voting Member in 2020 and subsequently attended it on Zoom in 2021.

Member for 4 years. She was elected as a Voting Member in 2020 and subsequently attended it on Zoom in 2021.



**Gayle Backiel** - In addition to serving as President of her Unit and President of the Mid Gulf Conference, Gayle was a SWO Board



**Debra Lantz** - Debra was elected to serve on the SWO Board this year and has previously served on the Board. In addition, she has held different positions for her Unit including President, Vice-President and Treasurer. She was elected as a Voting Member in 2020 and subsequently attended it on Zoom in 2021.

Member for 4 years. She was elected as a Voting Member in 2020 and subsequently attended it on Zoom in 2021.



**Ann English** - Ann has served in several different positions for the SWO including Treasurer and Co-Chair of the Fall Gathering as well as President of her Unit, and President and Vice President of the Florida-Bahamas Conference.



**Diane Spicer** - Diane was a Board Member of the SWO for 6 years and FG Co-Chair for 3 years. She also served as President and Treasurer of her Unit. She is currently VP of the Space Coast Conference.

### **Gather magazine Winter/Spring 2023 Bible study “The Ten Commandments”**

*by The Rev. Christa von Zychlin*

Join *Gather* magazine and revive your soul in 2023 with a four-session study of the 10 commandments. ELCA pastor and **Bible study author Christa von Zychlin** will help us see how these commandments are more than they may appear at first glance. For example, Martin Luther taught that the commandment, “*Do not kill,*” means not only refraining from murder, but actively promoting the health and life of others. Get ready to explore old and new interpretations of God’s laws, using Luther’s Small and Large Catechism and more!

## So more can receive God's Word—a ministry for the deaf



**Lori Fuller** is the newly ordained pastor of **Palms Deaf Church**, a new ministry in Palm Coast, Fla., for people who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Lori is the third person who is Deaf to be ordained in the Lutheran church worldwide.

Lori grew up not knowing who God was, due to a lack of access to church. She communicates through American Sign Language (ASL), and never had an interpreter or anyone who could sign at church services. It was not until she met a man, **Curtis**, who later became her husband, that she finally was able to have access. He is hearing and signs fluently. He was involved in a Deaf ministry in Wisconsin called, "*Hands of Christ Deaf Ministry*" which was led by **Pastor Gisele Berninghaus**. Once she became involved in the Deaf ministry, she finally understood that she was a beloved child of God, and it has transformed her life.

Lori and her family moved from Wisconsin to Florida in 2005. She tried to find a Deaf ministry here, but there were none. After many years of working in the State of Florida as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, she realized the Deaf community was seeking more in their lives. In addition, they have three adopted children (two are Deaf) and wanted them to have the same experience that she did in Wisconsin with, "*Hands of Christ Deaf*

*Ministry.*" She felt the gentle nudges of God calling her to ministry, and started seminary at Luther Seminary in 2019.

A dedicated ministry for Deaf people is desperately needed as 95% of Deaf people are unchurched, mostly because of a lack of access to an ASL church or spiritual care. Unlike hearing people, who can walk into any neighborhood church and get what they needed, it was not so for the Deaf community. It is almost unheard of to find a pastor who is Deaf, so most people look for churches who have a sign language interpreter. Church who offer such a service are often difficult to find. And even when an interpreter is available, it is not exactly full access. Typically an interpreter is only available for a single Sunday service. If the person wants to participate in the day-to-day life of the church, small group or even fellowship, interpreters are usually not available for these activities.

Palms Deaf Church wants to change this and to be a tool to help Deaf people feel God's presence and love. Palms Deaf Church will be inclusive of the Deaf in the full life of the congregation so they can participate in the full experience of what coming together as a community focused on Christ can mean. For more information, please check out their website: [PalmsDeaf.org](http://PalmsDeaf.org).



From the Editor

### Do Not Be Anxious

From the Editor's Desk — Linda Greilick

I was blessed in a recent chat with my daughter who shared some words of wisdom that I sorely needed. With all that has recently transpired, I was feeling not up to par and very "behind" in the scheme of things. Added to my already busy life is Advent and Christmas with all the trimmings, preparations, and activities. My words to her was that I just didn't see how I would catch up on all that was on my list. She calmed me with "take it day by day, Mama" and followed with a text containing these words from Philippians 4:6-7. My daughter is such a blessing!

DO NOT BE ANXIOUS  
ABOUT ANYTHING. BUT IN EVERY  
SITUATION. BY PRAYER AND PETITION.  
WITH THANKSGIVING. PRESENT YOUR  
REQUESTS TO GOD. AND THE

*Peace of God,*

WHICH TRANSCENDS ALL  
UNDERSTANDING. WILL GUARD YOUR  
HEARTS AND YOUR MINDS IN  
CHRIST JESUS.

PHILIPPIANS 4:6-7

## STEP BY STEP Morning Devotions—Space Coast Conference

Saturday, November 12, 2022

Sunday, November 13, 2022

by Janet Jodoin & Sharon Snider

by Gisela Khail

The first step of your journey might be scary, but it is also full of so much possibility and wonder. It is full of excitement at all that could happen and faith that whatever is meant to happen will happen. Don't let fear keep you from feeling the excitement and wonder at everything in front of you, because I promise that once you take that first step, and continue, step by step, you will not look back.

Our entire life is made up of choices. What we decide, the action we take, the attitude we display, all represent the steps of life. Sometimes we take two steps forward and one step back. (Some call that the Cha Cha.) Some of us take baby steps. Some of us take giant steps. But the secret is not to let that one step back turn into a failure. Learn from backward steps. And keep on stepping forward, step by step, in this dance called life.

We are not alone in our stepping. Jesus walks with us. As the old hymn says, *"He walks with me and He talks with me and He tells me I am His own."*

**Don Sicklesteel**, a poet, says it this way...

He does not lead me year by year,  
Nor even day by day.  
But step by step my path unfolds,  
As my Lord directs my way.

Tomorrow's plans I do not know,  
I only know the minute.  
But He will say, "This is the way,  
Just have faith, as you walk in it."

And, I'm glad that it is so,  
For today's enough to bear,  
And I know when tomorrow comes,  
His grace shall far exceed His care.

Why should I worry then, or fret,  
For the God who gave His only Son,  
Holds all my moments in His hand,  
And gives them to me, one by one.

We know God walks with us. Take His hand. Hold on tight and move forward, step by step!

And now let us have prayer before we adjourn to breakfast. This prayer was written by **Rebecca J. Weston**. Let us pray..

*Father, we thank Thee for the night,  
And for the pleasant morning light.  
For rest and food and loving care,  
And all that makes the day so fair.  
Help us to do the things we should,  
To be to others kind and good,  
In all we do, in all we say,  
To grow more loving every day. Amen.*

Proverb 16:9

Let the Lord direct your steps, for your ability to make decisions, however good it may be, is not always aligned to the Will of God.

Let us not lose our strength, trust in the Lord, and He will know how to lead us on the way.

For many, man is the only one who defines his future and his path. We think there are several paths and we have a variety of options, and that each of them is good for what we desire. We live in a society that demands you to decide your way and take the reins of your life. It is not all bad; we were created in the image and likeness of God. This means that we can think and plan our way. We own our decisions, for each of them was conceived as a desire in our hearts from which our lives go. Some are obsessed with planning their lives down to the last detail, while others do not give it as much importance and leave it to luck.

We become angry when our plans go wrong and rejoice when unforeseen events benefit us.

The bad thing is that because our hearts are deceptive, if we do not think well of what we desire, we can turn to sin and follow terrible ways.

The heart always justifies what we desire and we think in such a way that our desires, however bad, may be right. And so the mind becomes the factory that assimilates the bad desire of the heart.

We don't want to ignore the Authority of God, who has the last word. As much as we plan or strive to change something, in the end God's Will will prevail. It is God who maintains our souls and weighs our hearts. We can plan, but it is God who leads our steps.

If the plan does not match God's Will, let us not expect it to be fulfilled.

No one can escape God's power and go a different path than God has prepared for us.

Loving Father,

I know it is You and only You who possesses the power to direct my steps.

I pray that my plans would align with Your plans for my life.

I know and trust that the plans You have for me are good. I pray that you will direct each and every one of my steps, allowing me to be influenced by the Spirit and your grace. May all my steps glorify You, and may I never doubt the plans You have for me.

In Jesus Name, AMEN



# Florida Bahamas Synodical Women' Organization Directory

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<p>Leone Goding                  leonegoding@centurylink.net                  J-LWR, CWU</p>	<p>Nina Jageler                  njageler@gmail.com                  D-Conference Coordinator</p>	<p>Donna Person                  dperson7@aol.com                  D-Publications, Fund for Leaders</p>

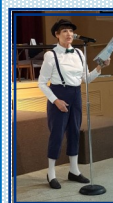
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What does our logo mean?

Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies 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).



### ***Tapestry***

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To submit material for publication, contact **Linda Greilick, *Tapestry* Editor**  
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**Please submit *Tapestry* articles by Jan 15 for the February issue.**

\*\*Missions

D Discipleship  
 J Justice  
 S Stewardship