



Tapestry

October 2021
Volume 34, Issue 5



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Phyllis' Ponderings

Dear Sisters,
 Women of the ELCA held our 11th Triennial Convention August 3-5 virtually. The Convention had originally been scheduled for July 2020 in Phoenix to be followed by our Triennial Gathering. COVID caused plans to change. The Convention was postponed until this year, and the Gathering was cancelled. The next Triennial Convention and Gathering will be in Phoenix the week of September 18, 2023. We hope to have more information at our Fall Gathering. At the very least, Diane Spicer will be meeting with those who registered for the 2020 Gathering and anyone else who is interested in attending the 2023 Gathering.

For those who have served as Voting Members at past Conventions, this was definitely different, so I want to thank our Voting Members to this Convention: **Denise Beumer, Gayle Backiel, and Debra Lantz. Lisa Klima and Diane Spicer** were also elected as Voting Members but were unable to serve, but it was past the deadline to have alternates serve in their places when that was known. Denise also served on the Minutes Approval Committee for the Convention.

Having been a voting member before, it became apparent very quickly how challenging this Convention was. In the past Conventions, our Voting Members sat together so if someone didn't hear or understand something, you just had to ask the person next to you. One of the things I realized that I truly missed was not hearing the others speaking the responses to our opening and closing worship. We also were not able to see the five candidates for President as they addressed the Convention.

In spite of the challenges with tech issues and learning how to participate digitally, business was conducted. We elected a new Board who will serve until 2023. We also adopted numerous changes to the CWO and Synodical constitutions and passed several memorials. Changes to the SWO model constitution will allow a SWO to elect a leader who is called "president, convener(s), coordinator(s), or co-chairs. Other changes will allow SWO to have more flexibility in the number of Board Members without amending the constitution. Memorials were approved about trafficking, the METOO movement, school violence, reusable bags, and donating diapers and feminine hygiene products.

**Congratulations to
 Raeann Purcell, our new
 Churchwide Treasurer!**

FB-SWO Board

President:
 Phyllis Wade
 secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com

Vice President:
 Lisa Klima
 lisamarie274@yahoo.com

Secretary:
 Donna Person
 dperson7@aol.com

Treasurer:
 Laurie Nelson
 nlsnlaur@yahoo.com

Lisa Plorin did an outstanding job with her 3 computers— one for her script, one for keeping an eye on the speaker queue, and one for conducting business. She also had her cell phone so she could stay in touch with the Parliamentarian and **Linda Post Bushkofsky**, Executive Director of Women of the ELCA.



Once again, the women of this church moved some mountains by overcoming obstacles, learning a new way of doing something, and conducting the business that needed to be done. Thank you, Florida-Bahamas SWO Voting Members, the 2017-2020 Churchwide Board, and the staff of Women of the ELCA!

You sister in Christ,
Phyllis Wade, President

ACT
NOW!

ELCA Fund for Leaders

for this church and for our future

The Fund for Leaders Scholarship Application for the 2022-2023 academic year is available on our website, www.flwelca.com. **The deadline is midnight, December 15, 2021.** Applications should be submitted to **Donna Person**, SWO Secretary, 7418 Corkwood Circle, Tamarac, FL 33321 or dperson7@aol.com.

The scholarship will be awarded by the decision of the FL-BA SWO board at their January 2022 board meeting using the following criteria:

- ◆ A student in the candidacy process attending one of the eight ELCA seminaries in either the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts program; or a student in an approved extension program of one of the ELCA seminaries and be enrolled in an approved program, such as the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program;
- ◆ Preference will be given to residents of the Florida-Bahamas Synod
- ◆ Preference will be given to female applicants
- ◆ Preference will be given to an active member of a congregational unit of the Women of the ELCA
- ◆ Applicant should exhibit faith qualities that empower others
- ◆ Applicant should demonstrate leadership qualities in church and the community

Historian and Plus One

by Donna Person

Historian - Please help the SWO preserve its history. Do you have any photos, documents, or memorabilia from a Fall Gathering, your Spring Gathering, circle, unit, or Conference that you would like the SWO to keep? Please provide it to the Historian.



Plus One - At the November Fall Gathering, new circles are recognized that have formed in the past year. Do you know of any new circles in your Conference or area that were created in 2020 or 2021? **Denise Beumer**, SWO Board member, reported that a new circle, **Women of Grace**, has been formed at her church, **St. John's Lutheran Church in Winter Park**.

Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's
Organization (WELCA) Fall Gathering
November 12-14, 2021
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center



I may have all the faith needed to move mountains but if I have no love, I am nothing. Corinthians 13:2b Good News Translation

Your Fall Gathering Planning Committee has been working hard to provide you with an exciting weekend. We have heard so many times when changes are made that people will say we did not do it that way. Well, ladies, we can guarantee you there will be a lot of changes on this weekend. Time to move those mountains.

It's been a long time since we physically have seen each other. Your planning committee has worked hard to make this an exceptional weekend where you can participate in worship services, attend exceptional workshops, and have free time to just relax and enjoy spending time with friends.

There are some changes because of COVID but we want you all to know that we will be taking precautions to ensure the health and welfare of everyone.

We are looking forward to sharing with you God's assurance that *Faith Can Move Mountains*.

See you November 12-14, 2021!

Blessings from your Co-chairs,

ANN ENGLISH & LORAIN VAN HAECKE



Helpful Tips

Treasurer's Tips for the Fall Gathering

Hello Sisters,

I am so looking forward to seeing you all at our Fall Gathering. To help our gathering to flow smoothly, I do have a bit of business to address:

To those responsible for handling financial matters for your Unit, if you are attending and submitting checks for the offerings, please be sure to submit two (2) separate checks for the two offerings that will be collected. You will have two color coated envelopes in your packet:

- one for Love offering and
- one for Fall Gathering offering

If you are representing as a Voting Member, make sure your Unit has fulfilled your financial obligations for your ability to vote. Please feel free to call, email or text me if you have any questions. You can reach me at nlsnlaur@yahoo.com or 716-499-7166.

Thank you to all who have continued to support our missions financially through these very trying times. By the grace of God, faith and hope, we have been able to endure the past two years with a positive attitude and trust in the Holy Spirit to guide us moving forward.

Your Sister in Christ,
Laurie Nelson—Treasurer

Our 2021
Churchwide Representative



to our 2021 Fall Gathering
Joy, we can't wait to meet you!



Joy Michalicek
Executive Board Member
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Joy Michalicek was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She serves on the board's programs and communication committee and the executive committee.

She also works with the "Current for Curran" solar campaign and, prior to that, the "PV for Phebe" campaign.

Before being elected to the executive board, she served as a triennial gathering promoter for the Tenth Triennial Gathering (2017). Previously, she served one term as the synodical women's organization (SWO) president for Northeastern Minnesota (3E) and two terms as a SWO board member. Joy served two years as a synodical scholarship advisor working with younger women.

"This gave me a passion for getting younger women involved in Women of the ELCA," she said.

In addition to her duties on the churchwide executive board, Joy serves as the council president for Kenwood Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota. She also sings with the praise team, rings hand bells and serves on the personnel and fellowship boards.

Joy works at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, as a project specialist in facilities management. She and her husband, **Kevin**, have two sons, two large lazy dogs and an independent cat. Joy likes to walk trails, swim, walk along Lake Superior, bargain shop and watch murder mysteries.

Prayer Partners



What is a prayer partner? A prayer partner is someone who regularly prays for someone else. In many congregations, prayer partners meet in person on a regular basis. Because our women are spread so far apart, we pray for each other from our own homes throughout the next year. Many prayer partners enjoy emailing each other and sending cards or letters, but that is optional.

This year we will be doing prayer partners again at Fall Gathering. Be on the lookout for the prayer partner form to fill out and put in the prayer lounge by noon on Saturday. Then stop by anytime between noon on Saturday and Sunday at 10 to pick up your new prayer partner for the year.



At the Fall Gathering

I'm looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Fall Gathering. It's been so long since I've been blessed by time enjoying and being inspired by our community of women in person.



During registration, you'll find me at my own table near the registration desk. Look for the pink flamingo! If you are a Conference officer or a Church Unit officer, you can help me update my contact information. I'll have a little gift for you. Anytime during the Gathering, I'd love to talk with any of you about how you and your WELCA units have been doing. Share your frustrations and success stories with me. Look for the pink flamingo on my head!

Anne Storan
Conference Coordinator

Love Offering at the 2021 Fall Gathering



C.A.L.M. House (Crisis Aid for Littles and Moms), our current Love Offering focus, is hoping for the following items to be donated at this year's Fall Gathering:

- ◆ Gift Cards from:
 - * Fast food restaurants
 - * Walmart
 - * Target
 - * Publix
 - * CVS
- ◆ Hand sanitizing wipes
- ◆ Antibacterial cleaning wipes

And, as usual, all donations of cash or checks (payable to FL-BA SWO) will be very much appreciated.

We look forward to continue working with this organization to bring aid to single mothers. C.A.L.M. House assists women with young children to get back on their feet, giving them a place to stay, helping them find work, and helping them develop life skills so that they may be able to provide a safe, stable environment for their children as well as themselves. The organization just celebrated their 3rd anniversary October 1st. What began as an idea has become a reality to so many women and their young children. C.A.L.M. House will receive our donations and support until January 31, 2022.

Our new Love Offering recipient will be announced at the Fall Gathering.

Jackie Haynick
Love Offering Coordinator

A Bracelet with this year's theme!

by Karen Weinrich



This year we are pleased to announce that we will be selling custom bracelets made just for the Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA. These bracelets are made by a local artist from the *Flagler-Volusia area* and will reflect our theme of "Faith can move mountains." Bracelets will be only \$10. They also make nice gifts for women who are unable to attend the convention this year.



Lutheran World Relief News



The truck schedule for February 2022 has not been sent to the trucking coordinator to be finalized as yet. In the past, it has always been scheduled for the 2nd week of February. Trying to keep the schedule as close to normal as possible would mean the truck might be arriving at our six pick up sites beginning Monday, February 8, 2022.

This year we have added a new pick up site. "**Shepherd of the Hills**" in Clermont will be our newest site. **Chris Morse** is the contact person for Shepherd of the Hills. You can reach her on her cell at 262.617.6633 or email Chris at cbmorse47@gmail.com. Many thanks to the congregation at Shepherd of the Hills for volunteering to be a pick-up site.

We now have 6 different locations for you to drop - off your LWR quilts and kits: **Clermont, Fort Lauderdale, Venice, Tampa, Jacksonville and Fort Walton Beach**. Thank you to each congregation for helping to make our annual LWR quilt and kit drive so successful.

All of the forms will be available on our website for your convenience.



From the Editor

From the Editor's Desk — Linda Greilick

Fall Gathering Plus!

If you've reached this article, you've probably read this month's entire newsletter! What did you find? Yes, the Fall Gathering was covered from cover to cover. Hopefully, all your questions and concerns have been addressed so that you have some expectations of what to expect at the Gathering. If not, do not hesitate to contact any of Board Members or the Planning Committee Co-chairs, Ann English and Loraine Van Haecke. Check page 7 for all their email addresses.

The Planning Committee and the FL-BA SWO Board members want you to be informed and comfortable attending and participating in the upcoming Fall Gathering and Convention. With that being said, we expect you to present us with your thoughts before you arrive so issues can be addressed in advance.

"Preparation, I have often said, is rightly two-thirds of any venture." Amelia Earhart

Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Directory

Executive Board 2020-2021

<p><u>President</u> Phyllis Wade secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com Planning Committee</p>	<p><u>Vice President</u> Lisa Klima lisamarie274@yahoo.com Planning Committee</p>	<p><u>Secretary</u> Donna Person dperson7@aol.com J-Historian</p>	<p><u>Treasurer</u> Laurie Nelson nlsnlaur@yahoo.com</p>
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Board Members and Missions**

<p>Gayle Backiel rbackiel@verizon.net J-Global Missions</p>	<p>Mae Haines stevemae@verizon.net J-LWR, CWU, Rachel's Day</p>	<p>Marilyn Kreitzinger manyjoys2u@gmail.com S-Katie's Fund, Disaster, Scholarship</p>	<p>Karen Weinrich weinrik@hotmail.com D-Publications</p>
<p>Denise Beumer dbeumer1000@gmail.com J-Anti-Racism, Justice Advocacy</p>	<p>Jackie Haynick jackiehaynick@yahoo.com Love Offering</p>	<p>Anne Storan astoran46@gmail.com D-Conference Coordinator, Plus One</p>	

Non-Board Members

<p><u>Registrar</u> Diane Cummings sworegistrar1@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Triennial Promoter</u> Diane Spicer dlsic@juno.com</p>
<p><u>Tapestry Editor</u> Linda Greilick lindag65@verizon.net</p>	<p><u>Planning Committee Co-Chairs</u> Ann English aenglish228@yahoo.com</p>
<p><u>Webmaster/Web Advisor</u> Cheryl Semmel clsemmel@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Lorraine Van Haecke</u> lorraine.vanhaecke@gmail.com</p>
<p><u>Human Trafficking Committee</u> Phyllis Wade secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com</p>	<p><u>Churchwide Board</u> Raeann Purcell raeannpurcell@hotmail.com</p>



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).

**Missions

D Discipleship
 J Justice
 S Stewardship



Tapestry

The *Tapestry* is published six times per year. It is available online under the *Tapestry* link of the FL-Bahamas Women of the ELCA website located at www.flwelca.com.

To submit material for publication, contact **Linda Greilick, *Tapestry* Editor**
 lindag65@verizon.net

**Please submit *Tapestry* articles
 by November 21st for the December issue.**