



October 2019  
Volume 32, Issue 5



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**"Come to the Table"**

\*Come here...and take your place at the table! Luke 17:7

**Tidbits from Tracy**

ALL women are invited to "Come to the Table" November 8-10 at the Lake Yale Baptist Assembly. We will enjoy worship, Bible Study, workshops, and even do a bit of business. Grab your friends and family and bring them along - there is plenty of room at our table!

I love the theme for this year's Fall Gathering - it conjures up all kinds old memories of being around a table with family and friends and fellow Christians. As a young child we all gathered at the *dinner table* every night to share a meal together. My "job" as the only girl was to *set the table* and then *clear the table*. As an adult my husband and I still share dinner together but it is now usually at our *coffee table* watching TV. Our kids - the cats Kiley and Killian sit close by hoping there might be a plate for them to lick. I'd like to say they are so well trained they stay off of *tables*, but that would be a lie.

As a young adult, on occasion, I joined friends as we tried to drinks ourselves *under the table*. That may have been fun but the resulting hangover left us all feeling like we should be *laid out on the table*. In college I loved to play backgammon where the leaves of the board were referred to as *tables*. It was always good when you *ran the table*!

After college, I learned about all kinds of new tables working for JCPenney: *impact tables, feature tables, nesting tables, promo tables, tiered tables, dump tables*, and many I have since forgotten. As a buyer of jewelry for many years I learned about the *table* of gemstones and, when I oversaw the furniture department, I learned about all kinds of other tables - *end tables, sofa tables, coffee tables, bistro tables*, and more.

In the business world we meet around a *conference table* or *boardroom table* or even a *bargaining table*. When ideas needed to be dealt with later, we simply *table* them. Today most of my work is done on yet another table - as defined by Webster: a systematic arrangement of data in rows and columns for ready reference - a *data table* or spreadsheet. These are my kind of *tables* - neatly organized, nice rows and columns, and all sorts of way to make even more *tables*. I also often write reports complete with a *table of contents*.

*Tidbits from Tracy continued from page 1*

But the most important table is the one we all come to share communion - our *Lord's Table*. At the Last Supper Jesus and his disciples gathered around the *table* as he shared communion with them for the first time. Today we gather around the altar which serves as a *communion table* and share that same meal. This simple act of *coming to the table* nourishes us, binds us together, and sends us forth to do God's work in the world. For me, a Sunday without communion always leaves me with an *empty table* feeling.

This is the table we celebrate at our Fall Gathering this year - our Lord's Table - which binds us all together as sisters in Christ. Come be refreshed, renewed, and equipped as we gather November 8 - 10 at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg.

For registration and more info visit the website: [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com)

See you at the TABLE!

Your Sister in Christ,  
**Tracy Moffatt**

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## **Calling all Seminarians...**



***Our Florida Bahamas Synodical Fund for Leaders in Scholarship wants to help with your seminary expenses!!!***

The Fund for Leaders Scholarship Application for the 2021-2021 academic year is available on our website, [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com). The deadline is midnight, January 1, 2020. Applications should be submitted to **Tracy Moffatt, SWO President**, 1944 Crestview Way, Naples, FL 34119 or electronically to [tracymoffatt@aol.com](mailto:tracymoffatt@aol.com).

The scholarship will be awarded by the decision of the FL-BA SWO board at their February Board Meeting each year using the following criteria:

- The applicant must be 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.

Thank you, Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA, for your generous support of our Fund for Leaders Scholarship! It is your financial support that allows us to make scholarships available which, in turn, reduce the amount of debt our recipients will have after leaving seminary. If you would like to donate to the Fund for Leadership Scholarship, please send your donation to our Treasurer, **Laurie Nelson** at [22223 Buffalo Ave, Port Charlotte, FL 33952](https://www.flwelca.com/donate). Be sure to indicate that it is for the Fund for Leaders Scholarship.

"Come to the Table"



"Come here... and take your place at the table" Luke 17:7



# FALL GATHERING 2019

## NOVEMBER 8-10

We are busy finalizing our plans for this year's Fall Gathering, "Come to the Table", which will be held November 8-10 at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg. If you haven't registered, please do so. Registration forms and workshop information have been mailed to each congregation and are available online at [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com). Don't forget you can also register online. The registration deadline is October 15<sup>th</sup> (October 1<sup>st</sup> for Voting Members).

**Pastor Jennifer (Jenn) Kopacz** from Grace Lutheran in Tallahassee will be leading our worship services; **Pastor Joanie Holden** from St. Timothy Lutheran in Crystal River will be our Bible Study Leader; and **Valerie Monrose** from St. John Lutheran in Hollywood will be our Music Director. Florida-Bahamas Synod Bishop Suarez has a conflict the weekend of our Fall Gathering and won't be able to attend, but **Pastor Rob Carlson, Assistant to the Bishop/Director of Evangelical Mission-North Region** will be joining us.

As always there will be worship, Bible Study, workshops, fellowship, time for making new friends and reconnecting with old friends, and elections and other business. This year we will be electing a President by ecclesiastical ballot, a Secretary and 3 Board Members, approving the budget, and taking care of other business items that may be brought before the Voting Members.



Your Synodical Board is inviting you to join them for some fun table games Saturday evening. Try your skill at a pasta relay, chopstick race, a table setting race, etc. We'll even give you a prize and a chance to win a basket of goodies! Bring your creativity because we are going to ask each conference to pick three ladies to represent their conference in a creativity contest using two common items. Creations will be judged and the team members of the top 3 will each receive a prize.

Don't forget! We need you to RSVP (register) by October 15<sup>th</sup> so we reserve your place at our table!

**We hope to see you there!**

**Ann English &  
Phyllis Wade**  
Fall Gathering Co-Chairs



**Register NOW. It's the Perfect time! Use the method that works for you!**

Register on-line at [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com). Or you can download the appropriate Registration Form (General, Commuter, Workshop Leader, or Youth) from the same spot and mail or email to Registrar Diane Cummings. Her address is on the form and her email is [sworegistrar1@gmail.com](mailto:sworegistrar1@gmail.com). Voting Members should be registered by October 1 and all the rest of us by October 15th. Make your plans now to join your sisters in the fall! NOW is the Perfect time!

# Words from our Treasurer

## FALL GATHERING OFFERINGS



At this year's Fall Gathering, you will have the opportunity for three offerings:

1. Our Gathering Offering. This offering will be received during our Eucharist service Saturday evening; 50% will stay in our SWO and 50% will be forwarded to the Churchwide Women's Organization.
2. C.A.L.M. House – our current Love Offering recipient. This offering will be received on Saturday afternoon. You may also bring in-kind donations and suggestions are listed on the SWO webpage and page 5 of this issue.
3. Disaster Response – On Friday evening, we will get an update on recovery and the Florida-Bahamas Synod's ongoing response to Hurricane Michael and Hurricane Dorian. You will have the opportunity to make a donation to help.



**Faithful stewardship of God's creation and gifts** – As church together, faithful stewardship is about holding to God's purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by this church.

*"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good thing therefore that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now. Let me not defer it or neglect it, for I shall not pass this place again."* ~Henry Drummond

I look forward to seeing you all at our Gathering. So far there have been very little glitches in my transition to treasurer. Thank you for all your dedication and faithful work to our mission.

Peace to you!

**Laurie Nelson**

**FL-BA SWO Treasurer**



**From the Editor**

**From the Editor's Desk** — Linda Greilick

## Counting Down

By the time you read this issue, it will be October 1st or later. In countdown mode, that means only 39 or less days until we gather at the table at our annual Fall Gathering at Lake Yale. I am excited! Yes! And I'm also concerned! Do I have my workshop ready? Have I even begun to update my *Tapestry* display board? Have I rounded up Suncoast Conference ladies to help with our conference assignment? Have I prepared for the conference meeting that we will have? Where am I in the tasks that have been assigned to me? Hmmm! Seems as if I have

a few tasks to complete. If my Mom were here today, she'd flat out tell me to "get my ducks in a row!" And, yes, I would pay attention. If you're in the same situation as I am, then it's time for you to line up those "ducks" too! I plan to have fun, to catch up with friends at the various tables, to worship together, and to relax a might. It's a fun time and I always look forward to Fall Gathering! I hope to see you there!  
Register today!







C.A.L.M. is our Love Offering focus from 2019-2021. Grace Nuffer and other members of C.A.L.M. plan to present a new video about their house and C.A.L.M.'s activities at our Fall Gathering.

### What is C.A.L.M. all about?

"A Christ-centered group of volunteers united in the service of mentorship and giving to assist women and children in crisis." We are devoted to breaking the chains of generational poverty one mom, one kid, one family at a time.

C.A.L.M. offers single mothers and their children the opportunity to find stability and consistency along with life skills to break the cycle of generational poverty and homelessness one mom and child at a time. The organization saw a need to teach women basic life skills that used to be taught in home economics classes. Some of these skills are meal planning, budgeting, paying bills to keep the lights on and have a place to come home to, writing resumes, sewing on a button, learning how to keep a job, and basic home repair. This ministry provides a nine month residential program for the women. During this time the women are taught how to maintain a home for their children. Volunteers renovated the house and provide supplies and classes on the life skills for the moms.

### Mission Statement

We are C.A.L.M. Organization, Inc., a 501c3 non-profit organization. Our goal is to break the generational bonds of poverty for single moms and their children in Northwest Florida. Our vision is to rehab a home in Niceville for single moms and their children living in crisis. We will teach them how to live independently and transition into their new life. The moms and kids will live with us while participating in our nine month program. We welcome you to come along side us, and learn more about our local nonprofit organization.

### In-Kind Gift Suggestions

#### Gift cards would be great!

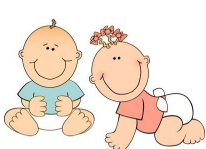
- Walmart
- Publix
- Lowe's
- Home Depot
- CVS
- Walgreens
- Visa (for multiple needs)

#### Other needs are:

- Baby body wash (lavender and chamomile scent for sleeping)
- Adult laundry detergent
- Children's laundry detergent (such as Purex Green for sensitive babies)

If you have questions, please contact FL-BA SWO Board Member **Debra Lantz** at:

[dlantz13@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:dlantz13@tampabay.rr.com) or 727-536-9852



LAST PRINT ISSUE

LEADERSHIP NEWS FROM Women of the ELCA 

# interchange

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 4 FALL 2019

Do you receive **interchange**, the leadership publication of the Women of the ELCA? If so, you may have noticed a special message at the top of the Fall 2019 issue: It is the last **print** publication. Beginning in 2020, **interchange** will only be available online. This decision was not made lightly, and was made to reduce the costs of printing and mailing.

What is **interchange**? It is a leadership resource for WELCA leaders. It includes news from around the Women of the ELCA, ideas for circles, and relevant current events.

How can **you** help others access this resource? Begin by going online to [welca.org/publications](http://welca.org/publications). There you can download, read, and print the latest edition as well as older editions. Consider printing copies to hang on your WELCA board or distribute at meetings for those who are not tech-savvy. Or teach others how to download it themselves. Help us keep this resource accessible to all of our women!

## Interchange is going all digital in 2020

In January 2020, *Interchange* is going digital. The cost of printing and mailing requires the change. As always, you can download *Interchange* and *Intercambio* (the Spanish edition) online at [welca.org/publications](http://welca.org/publications). To sign up to receive a copy by email, complete the Stay in Touch form on the website. For more up-to-date news, please sign up for *Bold Connections*.

### Try our Advent resources

Download for free Women of the ELCA's Advent resources in English and Spanish. Visit [welca.org/resources](http://welca.org/resources) and search for Advent.

## Little Miracles



by Anne Storan

Each year many of the church units collect school supplies to make sure that the children in their schools will have what they need to succeed. Prepared with the list of recommended supplies, the members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Hernando went out to purchase pens, pencils, crayons, glue, paper, and all the other items on the list. The coordinator of school supply ministry, **Cindy Gaertner**, is also a substitute teacher in the Citrus County School system, so she was able to fulfill some special teacher wishes like sneakers in specific sizes. At the last minute, one teacher told Cindy that she had gotten a grant to buy digital tablets for all the students in her classroom, but they had no earbuds. She wanted to know if there was any way for Cindy to get nineteen sets of earbuds. That same day, an elderly couple dropped off twenty dollars for the school supply drive, saying it was too hard for them to get out to make purchases themselves. Cindy took the money to the Dollar Store to see what she could do. Dollar Store was liquidating their earbuds at a price of \$0.99. Not every miracle is "Water into Wine" magnitude. Sometimes the miracle is magnifying our faithful giving to minister to our communities in unexpected ways.



# Welcome to our friends from Guyana



by Gayle Backiel

This year we are privileged to have joining us at our Fall Gathering two women from Guyana. Guyana, because of its history, is multi-racial. Though there are challenges, generally, the people worship, work and play together amicably in all of its three counties of Essequibo, Demerara and Berbice.

One of the women from Guyana is **Stephanie Felicia Bowry** (nee Thomas). Her husband's name is Kenrick Bowry. They have six boys. Stephanie was born on the 6th of September 1946 and shall be seventy three years old when we meet her in November. Stephanie lives in Berbice where she was born. She worked with the Municipality in the town of New Amsterdam and retired in 2001. She also did some school teaching and social work (HIV) and associates with the library and prison in story-telling, literacy and counselling. She writes poetry and short stories and did some lay-preaching. Stephanie also participates in her Church's annual Theological Intensive Program. We are looking forward to her visit at our Fall Gathering.

The second guest we are hoping to see is **Elocia Smith**. At this writing, she is still trying to get her Visa to come to the USA for our gathering. We certainly hope that Elocia is successful and will be able to join us in November.

Thank you to **Marilyn Kreitzinger** who will be handling the airport pickup and the trip to the Gathering.



## CHURCH WOMEN UNITED 2019 World Community Day

**THE  
TIME IS  
NOW!**  
"Resolve to Love"

### CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

CWU celebrates "World Community Day" on the first weekend in November. Traditionally it is held on the first Friday in November. The 2019 theme is "THE TIME IS NOW! Resolve to Love." World Community Day emphasizes that although we come from different cultures, family traditions, religious practices, and are of different ages, those differences provide gifts that we can all share with one another.

Check the website:

[churchwomenunitedinflorida.com](http://churchwomenunitedinflorida.com) for locations of this upcoming event or the WELCA website: [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org) to plan a celebration in your home church.



*Elizabeth Becton*, a member of the FL-BA SWO Human Trafficking Committee, recently attended a seminar about trafficking and this is her report:

The *Human Trafficking Seminar, MORE THAN A NU#BER*, was held at the Florida State University in Panama City.



*Children's Home Society* and *Open Doors Outreach Network* say 50% of the children trafficked are less than 16 years old averaging between the ages

of 11 to 14. The Johns average around 30 years old. The Basic Stages of Grooming starts at any age gradually ensnaring children to enter a world of sexual abuse as a willing participant. Missing, runaway, homeless, abused, and at-risk children are approached by pimps and drug dealers within 48 hours of landing on the street, and/or via social media and their gaming systems at home and in school.

*Lavished Ministries* is a resource that helps adult females transition from the commercial sex industry through outreach, collaboration and restoration initiatives. They informed the participants that the Human Traffickers get out of jail sooner than drug traffickers luring more criminals to human trafficking. In 2016 Human Trafficking made a \$100 billion in profits. There is a huge need for homes to keep Human Trafficking victims safe before and after court hearings and to find transitional housing afterwards.

The state of Florida ranks 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation in the modern day slavery known as Human Trafficking. Be aware of the ways to identify a victim; does she keep her head down avoiding eye contact, who is answering questions, do they have control of their I.D. or wallet, and do they have interesting tattoos or a brand tattooed on

## Human Trafficking What is happening in Florida?

them. Know that after disasters such as Hurricane Michael and Dorian, there are many male relief workers coming to help which increases the demand for strippers and who are offering the survivors money or drugs who are desperate for help and may want to escape the reality of their despair.

A few speakers were from the Florida Panhandle and spoke of their victimization. They all experienced trauma and believe that Trauma Informed Care is vitally important. *The Secret Place* is a 7 - 9 month Residential Safe House Program that is Faith Based for children ages 12 - 19. This is a Level III Trauma facility. They recognize that every 5 minutes a child is triggered to fall into a Freeze, Fight or Flight mode. These children require a specialized means of care provided by this Safe House Program.

Youth Trafficking Prevention presented by Freedom 180, Positive Youth Development Program of the Florida Department of Health, Bay County encouraged us to be an Asset Builder for one young person, creating a positive environment helping them find opportunities to contribute to their community. Listening and asking how our children feel will decrease the likelihood of suicide and helps make a difference in stopping the Cycle of Abuse.

The NU#BER 1 way the trafficked children are identified is by someone calling in about suspicions of human trafficking activity at 1-866-347-2423; or by submitting a tip online at [www.ice.gov/tips](http://www.ice.gov/tips). Visit the *Blue Campaign* website by going to: [www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign](http://www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign). Locate a Human Trafficking Task Force in your area by visiting [www.bja.gov](http://www.bja.gov) and learn how you can help when you join the fight to end Human Trafficking.





# Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Directory

## Executive Board 2019

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
<b>Tracy Moffatt</b> tracymoffatt@aol.com Planning Committee	<b>Lisa Klima</b> lisamarie274@yahoo.com Planning Committee	<b>Donna Person</b> dperson7@aol.com J-Historian	<b>Laurie Nelson</b> nlsnlaur@yahoo.com

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Denise Beumer dbeumer1000@gmail.com J-Anti-Racism, Justice Advocacy	Marilyn Kreitzinger manyjoys2u@gmail.com S-Katie's Fund, Disaster, Scholarship	Cheryl Semmel clsemmsel@gmail.com D-Social Media	Karen Weinrich weinrik@hotmail.com D-Publications

## Non-Board Members

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<b><u>Webmaster/Web Advisor</u></b> <b>Elaine Heine</b> dheine3@cfl.rr.com	<b>Phyllis Wade</b> secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com
<b><u>Human Trafficking Committee</u></b> <b>Phyllis Wade</b> secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com	<b><u>Facebook Coordinator</u></b> <b>Raeann Purcell</b> raeannpurcell@hotmail.com



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](http://www.flwelca.com).

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

**Please submit *Tapestry* articles  
by November 23rd for the December issue.**