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### Anne's Advice

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I'm usually reluctant to offer advice. I remember my wise mother saying, "I don't give advice. I have enough trouble living with the consequences of my decisions in my own life. Why would I want to risk the consequences of my decisions on my friends?"

But I feel safe giving all of you this advice. Use all the resources available to stay in touch with WELCA in all its expressions.

WELCA Churchwide has many digital platforms to communicate, enrich, and educate us as Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Begin with the website: [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org). There you will find the Purpose Statement and information about the major topics of interest like Katie's Fund, human trafficking, Bold Women's Day, and Rachel's Day. There are links to "Daily Grace" and monthly devotions. All these resources and more are on the homepage when I look at the small screen of my little iPhone. Click on the Menu tab, and you can discover even more resources and information. Check the events tab on the menu to find announcements of upcoming events and to watch recordings of earlier events. Check often because the information is frequently updated. Look for opportunities to subscribe or follow whenever you can, so new content will come into your inbox automatically.



Your Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization also has a website: [flwelca.com](http://flwelca.com). This website is currently being updated to reflect changes that occurred as a result of our annual meeting at our Fall Gathering on November 11-13, 2022.

You should also follow Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA on Facebook. Here you'll find timely announcements, inspiration, pictures of WELCA events around the Synod, and news of interest from all over the globe. Always read every word on your "Tapestry." There's plenty of important information past the first page.

#### FB-SWO Board

**President:**

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**Treasurer:**

Tracy Moffatt

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Always remember, we are a **community** of women. We must communicate. The digital world has made it possible to stay in touch with each other no matter where we are.

More advice: pray, breathe, drink plenty of water and get a good night's sleep.



**Anne Storan, FL-BA SWO President**



## FL-BA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION BOARD and CONFERENCE LEADERS MEETING

by FL-BA SWO President Anne Storan

The officers and board members of the FL-BA Synodical Women's Organization, along with the leaders of the conferences met January 27-29 at Warren Willis Conference Center. The theme of "Unity" was drawn from a Women of the ELCA resource, "The Story of Peter and Cornelius," an Anti-Racism Bible Study on Unity. Together we discovered in the book of Acts that God called two men from very different backgrounds to come together in very unexpected circumstances to establish that the Gospel message of forgiveness and grace is for everyone, no matter their race, nationality, or any other diversity.

Our Planning Co-Chairs, **Lisa Klima** and **Karen Weinrich**, shared details about Fall Gathering to be held at Warren Willis Conference Center, Friday, November 10 through Sunday, November 12, 2023. The theme is "Holy Ground—God Still Speaks." The logo is a campfire, and we will even have an opportunity to sing around the campfire one evening. Lisa and Karen took us on a tour of the facility so we could see our spaces for the meeting, worship, and workshops. The conference leaders chose their Fall Gathering responsibilities, and they were given board member contacts.

Saturday morning conference leaders met in a separate space to plan their Spring Gatherings. They

chose the theme, "Let your Light Shine." Each conference will select their Bible theme to coincide with that verse.

The Board will meet August 5th for our summer meeting. We will meet at St. John Lutheran Church in Winter Park. We will choose the Love Offering recipient for 2024-2025 at that meeting. Information will be included in the Spring Gathering emails to both board members and conference presidents to alert them to this important opportunity.

During the business session we chose **Courtney Noya** as recipient of the Fund for Leaders Scholarship. Courtney is entering her fourth year as a Master of Divinity student at Lutheran Southern Theological Seminary. Her home congregation is All Saints Lutheran Church in Lutz, FL.

**Anne Storan** led the Worship with the theme of Diversity and Racial Justice. **Karen Weinrich** provided the piano accompaniment to our hymns. We closed with a prayer from "The Story of Peter and Cornelius" that included these words:

*"Grant us both the strength and the vision to be faithful to your word, which you speak in love to all people."*



## for the 2023 Fall Gathering

*November 10-12, 2023*

*Holy Ground - God Still Speaks*

Did you spend time at church camp when you were young? Do you remember camp songs and crafts? Join the Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA at our 2023 Fall Gathering where we will celebrate Holy Ground and discover how God still speaks to us.

Our gathering will be in a **NEW LOCATION** - The Warren Willis United Methodist Conference Center located at 4991 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park. Check it out at <https://wwumccc.org/>. You'll see that this retreat center has beautiful grounds and great spaces for us.



*Rev. Trixie Richter*

Worship will be led by **Trixie Richter** and Bible Study will be led by **Michelle Collins**! It's going to be a wonderful time of fellowship, worship, learning, singing, and even eating s'mores! Mark your calendars now and plan to join us.



*Warren Willis Auditorium*



*Sister Michelle Collins*



*Holy Ground—God Still Speaks*

**Lisa Klima & Karen Weinrich**  
Co-Chairs - 2023 Planning Committee



## The Problem Solvers! Who do you contact?

The FL-BA Synodical Women’s Organization Officers and Board Members have already begun their work serving you. You will find their email addresses on the last page of every issue of Tapestry.

I’m happy to introduce the Board Members to you and give you a brief description of their mission:

- ◆ **Stacia Carter**, from the Heart of Florida Conference, is your Justice & Reconciliation contact. She would like to hear about activities, projects, or concerns that your church unit is involved in. Contact her if you have questions or need her guidance to find resources.
- ◆ **Leone Goding**, from Pinelands Conference, is your source for information about Lutheran World Relief. She also coordinates information on Church Women United.
- ◆ **Sallie Haley**, from Pinelands Conference, is the representative to Global Missions. She is our representative to Synod Global Missions. She will have the latest information on current activity in our companion churches in Cuba, Haiti, Guyana, Surinam, and the seminary in Jamaica.
- ◆ **Nina Jageler**, from Heart of Florida, is Conference Coordinator. Nina has the very important job of keeping contact information for the leaders of all our conferences and church units. Please send your information to her as soon as you have your Spring Gathering and annual elections.
- ◆ **Debra Lantz**, from Suncoast Conference, is your Love Offering coordinator. Contact her if you have questions about the in-kind donation needs of our love offering recipient. When the SWO Board selects the Love Offering Recipient for 2024-2025 at their summer meeting, Debra will coordinate with them to come to the Fall Gathering to be introduced.
- ◆ **Donna Person**, from Broward/Bahamas Conference, is both our Historian and our ELCA Fund for Leaders Scholarship Coordinator.

When you have questions, you can contact our board members, or any of our officers. We will always do our best to respond and get the information you need.



## What is World Day of Prayer?

World Day of Prayer falls on the first Friday of March every year. The movement has been active for nearly 100 years. Each year a different country writes the service materials. This year the writing country is Taiwan. The theme "I have heard about your faith" is based on Ephesians 1:15-19. Please check with your local Church Women United unit and attend. It is a wonderful program to participate in.

*Leone Goding*, Coordinator – Church Women United



At the annual winter SWO Board/Conference Leaders meeting this year, a suggested theme and Bible study focus was chosen for Conference Spring Gatherings. Many agreed upon “*Let your light shine*” based upon Matthew 5:16: “*In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven*” or Psalm 18:28: “*It is you who light my lamp; the LORD, my God, lights up my darkness.*”

Another theme that a couple of conferences chose to follow is “*Dancing in Grace*” based upon Micah 6:8: “*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*”

Read the reports and view the pictures from board members about these gatherings in future issues.



## SPRING GATHERINGS 2023

### WHERE AND WHEN

CONFERENCE	DATE	LOCATION	BOARD MEMBER ATTENDING
Broward-Bahamas/ Miami-Dade/Monroe	After Easter	Pembroke Pines	Donna Person
Caloosa	To be determined		Tracy Moffatt
First Coast	May 13	St. Mark Jacksonville	Sallie Haley
Flagler/Volusia	March 25	Hope Lutheran Daytona	Ann Storan
Gulf Coast	March 25	Nativity Weeki Wachee	Leone Goding
Heart of Florida/Lake	March 25	St. Phillips Mt. Dora	Nina Jageler
Mid-Gulf	April 1	Emmanuel Venice	Laurie Nelson
Panhandle	To be determined		
Pinelands	March 18	St. Matthew Ocala	Laurie Nelson
Space Coast/ Tradewinds	April 22	Joy Palm Bay	Denise Beumer Stacia Carter
Suncoast/Tampa	March 18	Hope St. Petersburg	Debra Lantz

## Women of the ELCA Publications



## At your fingertips!

If you are looking for an idea for a Bible study or resources to use at your next circle, unit, or Conference meeting, go to [wom-enoftheelca.org](http://wom-enoftheelca.org). You can sign up for *Bold Connections*, a monthly e-newsletter, which includes information about Women of the ELCA news and events, and *Café* (<http://boldcafe.org>), an online magazine for young women which shares stories about faith, relationships, and advocacy.



With a subscription to *Gather*, published 10 times a year, this magazine contains an array of articles, devotions, reflections, and stories of comfort and challenge that helps the reader grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. Along with your print subscription, you will receive digital access so you can view on your computer, iPad, or phone.

Women of the ELCA also offers free program resources in English, and many in Spanish, which can be printed out. Categories and topics include: Page Turners: *Building a Book Club that Suits Your Style*, *Knitting as a Spiritual Practice*, *Stitches & Scripture*, *Lent*, *Racial Justice Advocacy*, *The Faces of Grief*, and *Stewardship*. There are dozens of materials that can be downloaded that can be used individually or in a group setting.

## Honor A Bold Woman this year!

### Here's how!

This year Bold Women's Day will be observed on **Sunday, March 5**. You and the women in your church are encouraged to observe this day by honoring and recognizing bold women in your congregation and community. Martin Luther once said to be bold means to take risks on account of the Gospel, but believe more boldly in Christ. Being bold means supporting one another in our callings and discovering specific gifts that make each woman unique. Bold Woman's Day celebration ideas, litanies, flyers, and certificates are available for download through the Women of the ELCA website at [wom-enoftheelca.org/resources](http://wom-enoftheelca.org/resources).

A great way to recognize and honor bold women who have made a difference in your life is to make a donation to Katie's Fund in their honor. Tell them about the donation and let them know how they touched your life.



# 2022: Growing Katie's Fund for the Next 100 Years



To increase awareness of the purpose of Katie's Fund and to inspire exciting new ways to change lives, each WELCA synod has been awarded a grant of \$1,000. The money is to be used to support programs, resources, and opportunities in one or more of three key areas:

- Global Sharing - to enhance global partnerships, increase multicultural awareness, and to promote service initiatives;
- Leadership Development - to enhance organizational participation, provide for personal growth and enrichment;
- Living Theology - to nurture growth in faith.

Because the grant money must be spent prior to December 31, 2023, the SWO Board must decide on a project at the Summer Board Meeting in July. At Spring Gatherings, there will be time to brainstorm so that ideas can be shared with the board for their consideration. To start you off, here are a few ideas

that were shared at a July 30, 2022 Zoom conversation.

- ◇ Bring someone to the 2023 Gathering from your companion synod
- ◇ Donate the money to the women's organization of your companion synod for a resource or program consistent with Katie's Fund (connect it somehow with the women in your Synodical organization so their lives are impacted too)
- ◇ Training session(s) for Synodical board members or congregational unit officer (whether on-line, in-person, or via video)
- ◇ Underwrite costs for a retreat for younger women, an inter generational retreat, or a retreat for women on the roster.
- ◇ Purchase *Gather* magazine subscriptions to be donated to women's shelters or women's correctional facilities or in college settings.

I look forward to seeing how the women of the Florida-Bahamas Synod will use this grant to create new opportunities to boldly share our faith in Christ.



## Following a New Path

From the Editor's Desk — Linda Greilick

We all find times in our lives when we must follow a new path. Sometimes the path is one that we chose, and very often, it is not. We chose new friends or we lose our friends for reasons beyond our control. We seek a new job or we might lose one we love. We choose another career path or we cannot seem to find our way. Health issues may surface that cause us to live life a bit differently. Changes in our family situations cause us to make adjustments in our ways of living. Sometimes the path is just a little different; sometimes the path we follow is substantially different than we could have ever imagined. With our Lord's help, we learn to find our way.

This year, our organization will be following a new path as we move our 2023 Fall Gathering to Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center in Fruitland Park, FL. As we follow this new path celebrating this year's theme, *"Holy Ground—God Still Speaks,"* we can remember these words from Psalm 32:8: *"I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you."* We all know that God will be with us as we step along this new path. His eye is upon us.

# Florida Bahamas Synodical Women' Organization Directory

## Executive Board 2023

<p><b><u>President</u></b>  <b>Anne Storan</b>                  astoran46@gmail.com                  Planning Committee</p>	<p><b><u>Vice President</u></b>  <b>Denise Beumer</b>                  dbeumer1000@gmail.com                  Planning Committee</p>	<p><b><u>Secretary</u></b>  <b>Donna Person</b>                  dperson7@aol.com</p>	<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b>  <b>Tracy Moffatt</b>                  tracymoffatt@aol.com</p>
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## Board Members and Missions\*\*

<p>Stacia Carter                  staciamlc@gmail.com                  J-Justice &amp; Reconciliation</p>	<p>Sallie Haley                  missallie56@gmail.com                  J-Global Missions</p>	<p>Debra Lantz                  ladebra3@gmail.com                  S-Love Offering</p>
<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>

## Non-Board Members

<p><b><u>Registrar</u></b>  <b>Diane Cummings</b>                  sworegistrar1@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Triennial Promoter</u></b>  <b>Diane Spicer</b>                  dlsic@juno.com</p>
<p><b><u>Tapestry Editor</u></b>  <b>Linda Greilick</b>                  lindag65@verizon.net</p>	<p><b><u>Planning Committee Co-Chairs</u></b>  <b>Lisa Klima</b>                  lisamarie274@yahoo.com</p>
<p><b><u>Webmaster/Web Advisor</u></b>  <b>Cheryl Semmel</b>                  clsemmel@gmail.com</p>	<p><b><u>Churchwide Board</u></b>  <b>Raeann Purcell</b>                  raeannpurcell@hotmail.com</p>
<p><b><u>AV Tech</u></b>  <b>Kris Dines</b>                  kdines1@comcast.net</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).



### ***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 March 15 for the April issue.**

\*\*Missions

D Discipleship  
 J Justice  
 S Stewardship