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Anne's Advice

As women of the ELCA in the Florida-Bahamas Synod, we are currently in the midst of our Spring Gatherings around the state. The Bible verses that have been selected reflect our desire for peace and security in a time of uncertainty. We cannot deny that Covid unsettled life for all of us. We keep looking for a "new normal."

In all times throughout history, people have had to adjust to change. Even changes that we see as favorable require adjustment. A new job, a baby, or a new house all require adjusting our time or our assets. Sometimes changes are not in our control and seem catastrophic. The death of a loved one, the destruction caused by a natural disaster, or the betrayal of a friend may shatter our sense of security.

Prepare for your Spring Gathering and the Fall Gathering by focusing on the theme verses:

Philippians 4:6-7: *"Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."*

2 Chronicles 7:14: *"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land."*

We will always have to deal with change, but our God knows what we are going through. Our God is with us. Best of all, our God is unchanging. God's love is ours to claim with faith and prayer.



Anne Storan, FL-BA SWO President

FB-SWO Board

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Treasurer:

Tracy Moffatt

tracymoffatt@aol.com



Forms, Funds and Finances...

Greetings SWO Sisters,

It is time for my annual reminder of what offering goes where and on what form for all the “money handlers” out there...

For regular offerings to the SWO, use **Form A** and send directly to me. These would be offerings such as unit offerings, conference offerings, Love Offerings, and Scholarship Fund Contributions. Your Offerings may be sent as often as you collect them or whatever fits your unit’s schedule best. Please remember, each unit is required to make a donation to the SWO annually if you would like to have a voting member attend the Fall Gathering.

For offerings going to Churchwide, Use **Form B** and send directly to Churchwide at the address on the form. These would include offerings such as Katies Fund and Thankofferings. Your SWO forwards 55% of all regular offerings we receive from the Units to the Churchwide Organization to support the ministries of WELCA.

For Spring Gathering, use **Event Data Collection Form** to remit offerings to me. You will also report Conference Leaders on this form. Please send the Conference Officers Update form even if no changes are made. We want to always be sure we have correct contact information for everyone.

All these forms can be found on the website: <https://www.flwelca.com/programs-1>

My Address is: **Tracy Moffatt**
1944 Crestview Way
Naples, FL 34119

Please be sure to include your email, or a Church email, on your **Form A** so I can save a tree and email your receipt. These emails will come from fbswotreasurer@gmail.com so all future Treasurers can use the same email. You may also use this email for questions or to follow up on donations.

For questions and more Information please contact me via email, text or an old-fashioned phone call!

fbswotreasurer@gmail.com or tracymoffatt@aol.com or 239-848-7274

Tracy Moffatt, FL-BA SWO Treasurer



Churchwide WELCA Event

You are invited to
Servant Leader: Present, Equipped, Here
— this year’s Churchwide-sponsored leadership

event. It’s open to all, whether involved in the ELCA or not and includes worship, Bible study, speakers and breakout sessions. This year’s leadership event will reintroduce the servant leader concept and its connection to relationships and community while acknowledging the many challenges facing organizations like ours in our current context. Participants will explore the leaderful community that is Women of the ELCA.

Servant Leader: Present, Equipped, Here will occur Saturday, May 4 from 2:00-6:30 EDT.

[Register Now. Womenoftheelca.org/events](https://www.womenoftheelca.org/events). And spread the word.

LEADERS ANNOUNCED!

2024 Women of the ELCA
Fall Gathering
Warren Willis Conference Center
November 8-10, 2024

Be Humble, Seek God, Repent, Pray - He Will Forgive & Heal



HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD IN HIS HANDS

Please make plans to attend the Fall Gathering set for November 8 through 10, 2024, at the Warren Willis Conference Center, Fruitland Park. This year's theme is *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*, based on 2 Chronicles 7:14. Those scheduled to take part in this event include: **Pastor Anne Harman**, Worship Leader; **Pastor Lois Nehmer-Schiff**, Bible Study Leader; **Pastor Rob Rose**, Florida-Bahamas Synod Representative; **Lynn Steger**, Music Leader/Choir Director; and **Tabitha Richter**, Youth Shepherd. Online registration and a list of the workshops being offered will be available in late May.



Meet them all in Scott Auditorium

Donna Person & Gayle Backiel
2024 Fall Gathering Co-Chairs



Or maybe on a walk
down to the lake



Award of ELCA Fund for Leaders Scholarships

The Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Board met in January at Luther Springs and awarded ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarships to the following recipients to pursue their education:

Beatrice D'Angelo, Emmanuel, Naples; Master of Divinity

Heather Hedman-DeVaughn, All Saints, Tamarac; Master of Divinity

Boris Camille, St. John's, Miami Shores; Theological Education for Emerging Ministries

Marching into Spring Gatherings



At the annual winter SWO Board/Conference Leaders' meeting, discussions included choosing a theme for 2024 Conference Spring Gatherings.

This year's theme is **"Peace, be not anxious"** from the Bible verse Philippians 4:6-7: *Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Another theme that at least one conference has chosen is:

- **"You are a new creation."** The scripture chosen to provide the theme was 2 Corinthians 5:17. *"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"*

All three of the March Spring Gathering reports are included on pages 5-7. Let's hear about those in April and beyond in our June issue as you "March" past March!

2024 Conference Spring Gatherings

Where and When

CONFERENCE	DATE	LOCATION	BOARD MEMBER ATTENDING
Caloosa	In April To be determined	Gateway Trinity Ft. Myers	Tracy Moffatt
First Coast	June 1	St. Andrew's Jacksonville Beach	Raeann Purcell
Flagler/Volusia	April 6	Trinity New Smyrna Beach	Raeann Purcell
Heart of Florida/Lake	April 20	St. Stephen Longwood	Denise Beumer
Mid-Gulf	April 6	Living Waters Port Charlotte	Sallie Haley
Panhandle	To be determined		
Pinelands	May 4	St. Timothy Crystal River	Leone Goding
Space Coast/ Tradewinds	April 13	St. Andrew Port St. Lucie	Anne Storan



March into Spring Gatherings

GULF COAST
CONFERENCE

AT ST. TIMOTHY LUTHERAN IN TARPON SPRINGS

The Gulf Coast Conference of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of WELCA met at **St. Timothy Lutheran Church** in Tarpon Springs on March 9, 2024. The theme of the Gathering was “*God is Our Peace,*” based on Philippians 4:6-7. Thirty five women enjoyed coffee and breakfast goodies provided by the Church of the Nativity.



Daniel Reichert
Young Adult in
Global Ministry

Following our registration and continental breakfast we moved into the sanctuary. Conference President **Mary Macaulay** welcomed us and introduced **Pastor Curt Snare**. He gave the invocation, then led us in singing “*Here I Am, Lord.*” **Daniel Reichert**, Young Adult in Global Ministry (YAGM), shared his experiences with the Lutheran Church in the Holy Lands and Jordan. His year was cut short by the September 6th Hamas attack on Israel. With pictures on a PowerPoint presentation to illustrate the people and places he experienced, Daniel gave us history and perspective on this terrible conflict and the Lutheran work for peace.



Margarita Roma
Farm Workers
Self-Help &
Resurrection
House

Margarita Romo, from *Farm Workers Self-Help and Resurrection House in Dade City*, talked to us about the importance of staying informed about legislation that will impact the issues we care about. Don’t complain; call or write your legislators.

Mary introduced me and I invited everyone to the Fall Gathering at Warren Willis Camp and Conference Center. Gulf Coast is responsible for Saturday morning devotions at Fall Gathering. I encouraged everyone to prayerfully consider using their gifts by filling out a nomination form to serve on the SWO Board. I explained the importance of our Webmaster and the need for someone to volunteer to serve in that volunteer position.

After the offering was collected, Mary called the business meeting to order. The nominating committee moved the election of **Kathy Drach** and **Ellen Warner Lipinski** as Co-Leaders and **Karen Gray** as Secretary/Treasurer. They were elected. Mary Macaulay requested that women who would like to be on the nominating committee contact her.

We closed by singing “*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth.*” **Judy Thomas** gave the table blessing, and we all returned to the Fellowship Hall for a delicious lunch prepared by the ladies of St. Timothy.

Anne Storan—FL-BA SWO President



FL-BA SWO President Anne Storan with Co-leader Kathy Drach, past President Mary Mccaulay, and Co-leader Ellen Warner Lipinski. Secretary/Treasurer Karen Gray not pictured.



SUNCOAST CONFERENCE

AT TRINITY LUTHERAN IN ST. PETERSBURG



Women of the Suncoast Conference gathered at **Trinity Lutheran Church** in St. Petersburg on Saturday, March 16. Beautiful banners throughout the event space reminded us of the theme for the Gathering, *“You are a new creation.”* The scripture chosen to provide the theme was 2 Corinthians 5:17. *“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!”* Following registration and a continental breakfast provided by **Trinity’s Band of Angels**, we sang *“Our God.”*

Suncoast Conference Co-Chair **Linda Greilick** began the activities and introduced **Lisa Johnson**, Vice President of the Trinity Unit. She welcomed the 22 women attending from 4 of the churches of the Suncoast Conference. She introduced the Co-Chairs of the Suncoast Conference, **Linda Greilick** and **Phyllis Berlage**. I was called on to present a recognition gift to the three first-time attendees.

Kathy Bartelt led us in a responsive reading of the Litany for Women’s Day. **Lisa Johnson** led a Bible Study on the theme, *“You are a New Creation.”* She shared reflections on her own experiences and challenges in living as a “new creation.” She engaged us in table discussions and challenged us to rewrite Psalm 32. The Bible Study concluded with two hymns led by **Pastor Paul Gibson**, accompanied by organist, **Brenden Hall**.



Lisa Johnson presents Bible study

I invited everyone to the Fall Gathering, and encouraged them to submit their nominations for the SWO Board vacancies. I talked about the importance of communications and asked them to consider the volunteer position of Webmaster.

Tina Villanueva from **Lutheran Services Florida** spoke about the many ways they bring healing, hope and help to people in need. The services they provide touch more than 450,000 people in need each year. They are involved in early childhood, behavioral health, immigration and refugee services, as well as other community services.



Pr. Paul Gibson leads hymns accompanied by Brenden Hall



Anne Storan leads affirmation for Co-Chairs Linda Greilick & Phyllis Berlage and Secretary Kathy Bartelt

The business meeting followed. Minutes of the 2023 meeting were approved. No election was necessary because all three officers agree to continue to serve in the second year of their 2-year terms. Co-Chair Phyllis Berlage led the discussion as each Unit shared news of the highlights of the previous year. I administered an affirmation of service to **Linda Greilick** and **Phyllis Berlage**, Co-Chairs, and **Kathy Bartelt**, Secretary/Treasurer.

The communion service was conducted by **Pastor Paul Gibson**. The service concluded with *“We’ve Come This Far by Faith,”* accompanied by Brenden Hall. Following grace given by Phyllis Berlage, we enjoyed the delicious lunch prepared by Trinity’s Band of Angels. After lunch, we all participated in assembling hygiene kits for Lutheran Services Florida. The necessary items were prepared by **Gretchen Frederick**. This was a wonderful day of learning, worshipping, serving, and having fun.



Attendees assemble hygiene kits for Lutheran Services Florida

Anne Storan—FL-BA SWO President



BROWARD-BAHAMAS CONFERENCE

AT CHRIST LUTHERAN IN FORT LAUDERDALE

On March 9, women from four churches (All Saints, Tamarac; Christ Lutheran, Coral Springs; St. John's, Hollywood; and Trinity, Pembroke Pines) attended the Broward-Bahamas Conference's Spring Gathering hosted by the ladies of **Christ Lutheran**, Fort Lauderdale.



Piper Spencer of Trinity, Pembroke Pines discussed

Bold Justice advocacy and urged members of local congregations to attend the upcoming *Nehemiah Action*. This initiative puts pressure on community leaders and elected officials to focus on affordable housing, to mandate civil

citations for adults charged with traffic infractions, and to increase Broward County's tree canopy.

Bible study was led by **Lena Putzer** of Christ Lutheran, Fort Lauderdale. Ladies had the opportunity to participate in making note cards, painting kindness rocks with positive messages to share with the community, and to do a plastic canvas cross project. **Robin Costa** of Christ Lutheran, Fort Lauderdale was elected Vice President and **Piper Spencer** was elected as Secretary.

Donna Person—FL-BA SWO Board Member

We'll be hearing from more Board Members on upcoming Spring Gatherings in our next issues. Can't wait!

RACHEL'S DAY

Women boldly standing up for children! Did you know that every 30 minutes a child or teen dies or is injured from a gun? Take a look at our Rachel's Day resource that offers information on how you can work within your community and congregation to combat gun violence.

Rachel's Day is observed by Women of the ELCA annually on the first Sunday in May, though it can be observed any time of the year. It is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear. Have a special offering for your nearest Haven House or Children's Advocacy on May 5th to help those children in need.

Leone Goding - FL-BA SWO Board

This past year the Churches in Florida made a total of 5,739 Quilts; 303 Baby Care Kits; 82 Fabric Kits; 1,382 Personal Care Kits; and 2,361 School Kits. Martha and Mary at the LWR warehouse are very pleased with what Florida has done. Thank you all for the work, time and effort that was put into this. To God be the Glory. I tried to send everyone a copy of what was done. However, if anyone did not receive a copy of all the Churches, please email me at leonegoding@centurylink.net.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Leone Goding - FL-BA SWO LWR Coordinator



Sign up for Daily Grace

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your spiritual journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless, and often surprising grace by **signing up for a daily email message.**

Learn more at welca.org/dailygrace.

Church Women United May Friendship Day



May Friendship Day dates back to May 1933, when two independent groups planned luncheons to focus on "Child Health" and "Children of Migrant Families." The first event was sponsored by the Women's Council for Home Missions in New York City and the second one, called "Dedication Day," was sponsored by the National Council of Federated Church Women in order to bring the group's dream of unity into full expression in each local community. Under a variety of names, this event continued and expanded until 1939, when they merged under the National Council of Church Women, which called for an annual observance "to strengthen a growing sense of unity, the joy of Christian fellowship, and the power of Christianity in the day of need." In May 1945, a few years after the founding of Church Women United, the celebration was formalized as May Fellowship Day. In 1999, the movement of Church Women United changed the name of the celebration to May Friendship Day, as we continue to celebrate unity in our journey toward wholeness in all communities. Most of our Churches celebrate it on the first Friday of May. Find a Unit near you and enjoy the celebration.

Leone Goding, FL-BA SWO - CWU representative

Contact at 352-223 1925 or leonegoding@centurylink.net

by Diane Hockett

HAPPY NATIONAL QUILTING DAY March 16, 2024

The LOG Quilters would like to thank everyone who helped to make Quilt Sunday a beautiful success. From helping display the quilts throughout the sanctuary on Friday to packing up the 116 quilts (that was 460 pounds!) on Monday, 02/05/24! A special thank you to **Frank & Janette** who not only supplied the twenty-three boxes but also delivered them to the In Gathering point for LWR at Shepherd of the Hills in Clermont, FL. We were able to make 130 quilts this past year. Also, thank you to those that purchased our quilts during our Annual Quilt Sale. Come join us as we put our faith into action to make quilts for people in need around the world.



Blessing of the quilts at
Lamb of God Lutheran Church
Haines City



If you can Tie a Knot, you can Quilt.

Florida Bahamas Synodical Women' Organization Directory

Executive Board 2024

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
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Leone Goding leonegoding@centurylink.net J-LWR, CWU	Nina Jageler njageler@gmail.com D-Conference Coordinator Fall Gathering Workshops	Raeann Purcell raeannpurcell@hotmail.com D-Publications

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<u>AV Tech</u> Kris Dines kdines1@comcast.net	



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 May 15 for the June issue.**