



# Tapestry

February 2021  
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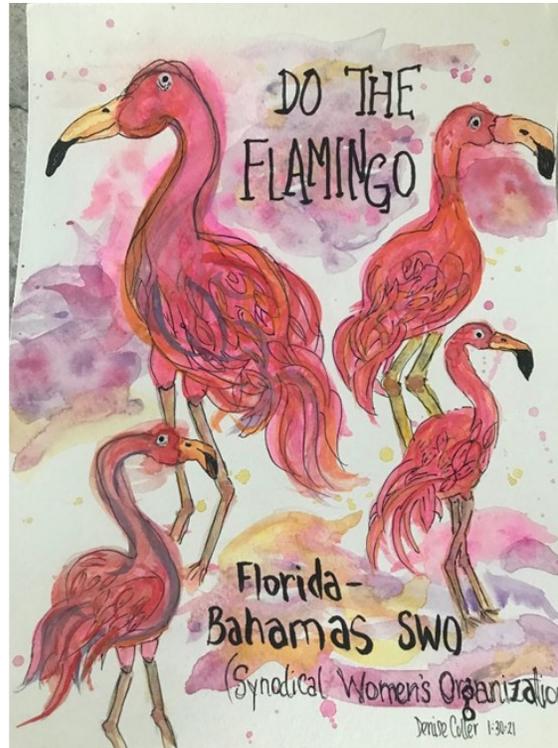
Ash Wednesday  
— Lent Begins

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## Phyllis' Ponderings



Just like families, we have traditions in WELCA. The past year has forced us to reevaluate how we do some things, to think of new ways of meeting, to find ways to include those of us who don't have a computer, a smart phone, or a tablet, etc.

One of our traditions in the Florida-Bahamas has been our January Synodical Women's Organization Board Meeting with our Conference Presidents. This year, we didn't think it was safe to meet in person so we met via Zoom. We did keep one tradition from that meeting—we had a theme. The theme was "Do the Flamingo" which included a devotion about what we can learn from those

beautiful, majestic birds. The ladies were also encouraged to wear clothing or accessories with flamingos.

During the meeting, we discussed many things including Spring Gatherings, how to better communicate with all our sisters, online giving, an online prayer board, selecting a new Love Offering at our August meeting, and Fall Gathering. You will find more information about those topics in this issue of *Tapestry*. The Board awarded two Fund for Leaders Scholarships. We also discussed information from Churchwide, including that this year's Triennial Convention will be virtual and there will not be a Triennial Gathering until 2023. As we get more information, we will share it with you. Instead of SWO Presidents going to Chicago this year for the traditional Conference of Presidents Meeting, each SWO President plus 5 Board Members have the opportunity to attend a virtual event: "Pivot, Don't Panic" which is a leadership event. We will share information with you in the April *Tapestry*.

## 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

What did we learn from our flamingo friends? We learned that they stand tall and firm. If we want to stand tall and firm, we have to work at being fed by the Word of God. The monthly Bible study in *Gather* magazine is a good place to start. Flamingos stay pretty and pink depending on what is in their diet. As Christians, we are to be in the world, but not "of" the world. We need a diet rich in God's Word, prayer, and faith to keep us "in the pink". Flamingos preen to stay beautiful and protected. These beautiful birds preen to keep their feathers from matting and to distribute oil to help waterproof their feathers. We need to preen by moving the oil of the Holy Spirit around. When we are aware of the Holy Spirit leading and guiding us, that helps protect us from sin. Flamingos flock together. We may not have been flocking together in the traditional sense, but our Conference Presidents and Board Members shared how their Congregational Units are staying in touch and encouraging one another in new ways. Flamingos also find safety in numbers and again, many of you have found new ways of being together. Flamingos stay near the water. We, too, need to stay near the water, the Living Water, Jesus Christ. Are you ready to "Do the Flamingo"?

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Romans 15:13.*

Your sister in Christ,  
**Phyllis Wade—SWO President**

*(Thanks to Denise Collier, President of Broward Bahamas Conference, for the Flamingo drawing on page one.)*

**Be bold—celebrate Bold Women's Day in your Congregational Unit!**

This year Bold Women's Day is **Sunday, February 28**. 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 still in Jesus. Being bold means supporting one another in our callings and discovering specific gifts that make each woman unique. Bold Women's Day celebration ideas, litanies, flyers, and certificates are available through the Women of the ELCA website at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/resources/celebrating-bold-womens-day>.

Since this year, many of us are not having in person meetings, you might want to consider some ways to celebrate Bold Women's Day on your own. Here are some suggestions:

- Reflect on the question, "Who have been the bold women in my life?"
- Use Journaling: Create Your Own Sacred Writing as a guide in putting your reflections in written form.

- Make a gift to Katie's Fund ([welca.org/katiesfund](http://welca.org/katiesfund)) in honor of a bold woman who has inspired you. If you can, let her know what a difference she made in your life. Or invite her out to lunch when you are both comfortable dining out and tell her why you think she's bold.
- Capture your own life story.
- Reflect on the question, "How have I acted boldly on my faith in Jesus Christ?" Record this in some way—in a journal, a blog post, a video, a letter to your future children or grandchildren.
- Use your favorite search engine and learn more about some bold women. Start with Elizabeth Fedde (1850-1921), a Lutheran deaconess who established the Norwegian Deaconess Home and Hospital in New York, and Dr. Anna Sarah Kugler (1856-1930), who was the first of several female doctors sent as Lutheran medical missionaries to India.

*For the witness of all bold women, yesterday, today, and tomorrow, Lord our God, we thank you and we praise you. Lord our God, let their boldness flourish in our own hearts as we live out our baptismal call to serve you and our neighbor, with all our heart, with all our mind, with all our strength. Thank you, Lord! Alleluia, Amen!*

(from "A Litany of Thanks for Bold Women")

## Synod Racial Justice Team

by Denise Beumer



The call for racial justice grows louder every day as more evidence of racial disparity and the effects of racism become clearer. Various areas of our society are responding to the calls for racial justice. Our Synod had made earlier attempts to develop a clear and well-defined program against racism in our society. WELCA had been in the forefront of efforts to develop a response to racism in society which included the program titled *"Todays Dreams, Tomorrows Reality"* that had been used here in our Synod. This program opened the door to start conversations on racism through Bible Study, workshops and just general conversation in congregations.

As last year saw a dramatic increase in demands for racial justice, **Bishop Pedro Suarez** called for the formation of a Racial Justice Think Tank to evaluate and decide how our Synod would respond. The Think Tank helped crystalize the need for a Biblical response to the issue of racism.

Recently Bishop Suarez assembled another team to further our efforts to address the issue of racism. A variety of Pastoral and lay leaders were called to form this team. I was asked to serve on this team and willingly accepted. I am happy to be representing the Synodical Women's Organization.

I look forward to providing updates as we take on this work and provide a Biblical basis on one of the most critical issues of our time.

Blessings,

Your Sister In Christ, **Denise Beumer**



**Greetings from your Fall Gathering Co-Chairs!**



We are pleased to announce that we will be holding our Fall Gathering at Lake Yale this year on November 12-14, 2021. We will be taking precautions to ensure the health and welfare of everyone.

We hope you were able to join us to attend our Virtual Gathering. If you have not, you are still able to access

the Gathering at [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com) by clicking on Virtual Gathering. Just click on each presentation. We suggest you do not try to view all of them at one time. Take your time and enjoy.

You will find a taste of our presenters for this year's Fall Gathering when you check out the participants in our Virtual Gathering for 2020.

We are looking forward to sharing a continuation of *Faith Can Move Mountains* with you all in November. Blessings from your Co-chairs

**ANN ENGLISH & LORAIN VAN HAECKE**

## Women Launch New Online Giving System

The Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization has partnered with **Vanco** to offer women and congregational units a new way to support our ministry and outreach programs. On February 1, we launched a new online giving platform at [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com) to allow one-time or recurring online contributions via ACH (electronic check) or credit card. We hope that you will consider supporting the Women of the ELCA and programs like C.A.L.M. (our love offering recipient), Lutheran World Relief and our scholarship program. Although we've been unable to meet in person, our programs need your support now more than ever.

We encourage you to visit the website and look for the "Give Online Today" button to make an online donation. If you have questions about how to use the new online system, please contact:

**Laurie Nelson** (SWO Treasurer)  
at [nlsnlaur@yahoo.com](mailto:nlsnlaur@yahoo.com)

or

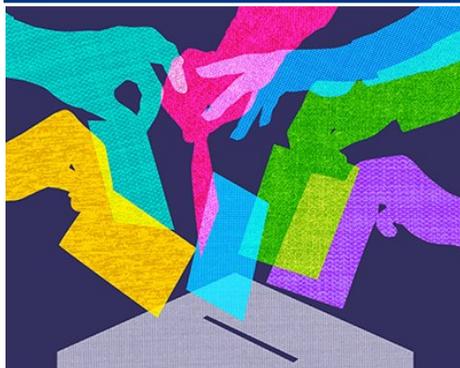
**Cheryl Semmel** at [clsemmel@gmail.com](mailto:clsemmel@gmail.com).



by Cheryl Semmel

## New Community Prayer and Message Board

We have launched a new online community prayer and message board at <https://www.flwelca.com/forum>. Whether you have a global prayer request or a more specific need, we invite you to submit them online *and* take time to take up others' prayer requests. Thanks to *Phyllis Wade* (SWO President) for posting our first prayer request.



## The ELCA needs your help

The ELCA's new Task Force on Government and Civic Engagement just finished its second meeting. As we move forward in this process, we

will need individuals willing to serve as **process builders**. Process Builders are individuals who volunteer time to help develop an ELCA social statement. They work under the guidance of members of the Theological Discernment Team (Office of the Presiding Bishop) and help build participation, conversation and engagement throughout the ELCA social statement process. Bottom line: you help build relationships and foster communication...mostly in small group settings.

ELCA staff will host virtual training events during 2021. These will equip volunteers with tips and tricks for leading listening events in 2021-2022 and how to initiate these events. More specifically, how to spread the word about the development of the social statement.

**Cheryl Semmel** is a member of the Task Force and would be happy to talk with anyone interested in learning more

about the work of the task force and answer any questions you may have about how to volunteer as a process builder. You can reach her at (7895) 224-1377 or [clsemmel@gmail.com](mailto:clsemmel@gmail.com).

### **About the Task Force**

The 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly authorized "*the development of an ELCA social statement on government, civic engagement and the relationship of church and state that will allow thorough attention to scriptural, historical, theological, and social issues as a means to probe for shared convictions and establish this church's comprehensive teaching.*" Social statements are the ELCA's primary documents to address significant social issues. They are intended to aid reflection and shape conscience and to set forth the ELCA's teaching and policy on the major social institutions and questions of contemporary life. An ELCA task force provides primary leadership for the statement's development, using an established process of widespread participation in theological and moral deliberation. To view a list of task force members, go to: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Government-and-Civic-Engagement>.

## Spring Gatherings - A Time for Connecting



The groundhog has predicted six more weeks of sunny days and cool nights for Florida. It's the time of year when WELCA conferences typically plan and hold Spring Gatherings. This year it's also the time when we mark one year of life being anything but typical. In 2020, only the Pinelands Conference was able to hold their Spring Gathering. That absence of an event has resulted in some lapses in communication among our church units and between conferences and the FL-BA Synodical Women's Organization (SWO). We need communication with each other more than ever in this time of isolation and rapidly changing circumstances.

As vaccines are being delivered around the state, some conferences are looking forward to planning gatherings again. As your Conference Coordinator, I ask you to let me know what plans your conference is making. Will people meet in person or online? Will there be a way for people to attend virtually? Perhaps your conference is taking a wait and see approach and has decided to wait to try to hold a gathering later in the year. Please let me know plans as you make them so the SWO can provide information and support.

Spring Conference time is also when conferences and church units submit names and contact information for their current officers. Several church units and conferences replied to my last request for this information and I appreciate that response. I'm asking again. Please send me names and contact information for your officers. You can email or text to:

**Anne Storan**, Conference Coordinator

[astoran46@gmail.com](mailto:astoran46@gmail.com)

740-507-7504

## Triennial **Convention**/Gathering of Women of the ELCA



Was 2020 Confusing?? Has 2021 been any better?? So many questions but not many answers.

During the October 2020 meeting, the Churchwide executive board made the following recommendation:

- *"The **Just Love Gathering**, currently scheduled for August 5-8, 2021, be postponed and registration refunds be offered."*
- *The Twelfth Triennial **Convention** and a **Gathering** be held in Phoenix, Arizona, during the week of September 18, 2023."*

There were additional recommendations made regarding the Eleventh Triennial **Convention**. One of the recommendations was *"That the Eleventh Triennial **Convention**, currently scheduled for August 3-5, 2021, be held virtually (or digitally) on those same dates."* Before the organization can hold a virtual **convention**, voting members of the Tenth Triennial **Convention** (2017) must approve proposed changes to the constitution that would allow a virtual **convention**.

Those who have registered for what was to be the 2021 **gathering** will be contacted via email, which will spell out the various options available to you.

Remember that the Triennial **Convention** and Triennial **Gathering** are two distinct events. The **convention** will precede the **gathering** and conducts the business of the organization. The Synodical Women's Organizations elect Triennial Voting Members to attend the **convention**. The **gathering** is an event that consists of worship, Bible studies, workshops and so much more.

Stay tuned - If additional information becomes available, I will include those in future Tapestry editions. Also check the website [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) periodically.

**Diane Spicer**, Triennial **Gathering** Promoter

[dlsic@juno.com](mailto:dlsic@juno.com)

## A Treasure Trove of Tips from our Treasurer

by Laurie Nelson, FL-BA SWO Treasurer



**FB WELCA Offerings** - Thank you to all our Sisters in Christ and congregational units who have been able to support the work of FB WELCA during this pandemic year. As of December 31, 2020, we have received under 50% of the budget for Regular Offerings and even less to our other mission offerings. Online offering is now available on our website. Perhaps you could share thanks for your blessings and consider a small offering? Remember we serve a God who fed thousands with just a few fish and a few loaves of bread...so even if you can only make a small offering, He will be able to do amazing things with your gift. Financial statements for the 2020-2021 fiscal year will be available in February.

### Guide for your Offerings

OFFERING TYPE	AMT TO SEND OF TOTAL COLLECTED	CONGREGATIONAL UNIT SENDS TO	WHEN TO SEND PREFERABLY	FORM TO USE	SWO TREASURER SENDS TO
Regular	50% at least suggested	SWO Treasurer	Monthly or Quarterly	A	55% to CWO
Thank Offerings	100%	Churchwide	At least once per year	B	CWO
Designated Gifts Specific Ministries and Special Gifts Supported by ELCA and/or Women of the ELCA	100%	Churchwide	As Collected	B	CWO
SWO Convention Offering	100%	SWO Treasurer	As Collected	A	50% to CWO
Conference Offering (one per year required)	100% as designated	SWO Treasurer	As Collected	Event Date Collection Form	50% to CWO
Love Offering	100% as designated	SWO Treasurer	As Collected	A	Love Offering
Share the Spirit Let Your Light Shine	At least \$10 per scholarship	SWO Treasurer	Once a year	A	Scholarships for Fall Gathering
Fund for Leaders	At least \$10 per year	SWO Treasurer	As Collected	A	Seminarians
LWR Shipping Fund	100% as designated	SWO Treasurer	As Collected	A	CWO



### **SWO TREASURER NEW ADDRESS until May**

Laurie Nelson, FL/BA WELCA Treasurer  
1071 E. Woodpecker Lane  
Hernando, FL 34442

If you have questions or concerns,  
please contact Laurie Nelson at:

716-499-7166

e-mail: [nlsnlaur@yahoo.com](mailto:nlsnlaur@yahoo.com)

**HELPFUL HINTS:** Forms "A" and "B" are available for download on the web at: <http://flwelca.com>. Click on Local Unit Resources to locate the forms to download. Please do not submit the old three-part forms as they are no longer being used. Form A is sent to SWO Treasurer Laurie Nelson at the address above. Form B is sent directly to Churchwide using this new address: Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

PLEASE ENSURE FORMS INCLUDE CONGREGATION NUMBER, YOUR ADDRESS, YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER AND E-MAIL ADDRESS. Multiple forms are not necessary as multiple offerings can be listed on one form. You will receive a receipt from the SWO Treasurer or from Churchwide once your donation has been processed.

*continued on page 7*

**Additional Resources:** You may find additional resources plus Forms A & B on the Women of the ELCA website at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org). Click on “Tools for Leaders” at the top of the page and scroll down. Under the topics “Congregational Unit Treasurers” and “Offering Envelopes,” you’ll find the forms, a guide for CU Treasurers, and Offering Envelopes you might want to use in your congregation for special events.

### Congregational Unit Treasurers

- [Guide for Congregational Unit Treasurers](#)
- Form A ([English](#) and [Espanol](#))
- Form B ([English](#) and [Espanol](#))

### Offering envelopes

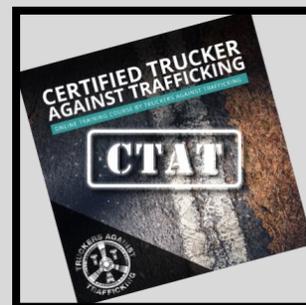
These may be used whenever a Women of the ELCA offering is taken up in your congregation or synod. They are especially useful for Thankoffering services. There is no charge for these envelopes (except for shipping), which come in packages of 100. Order from [ELCA Resource Catalog](#) (800-638-3522, ext. 2580).

## HOW TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING! SOME BECOME A HIGHWAY HERO!



While human trafficking takes place in many forms and places, our roadways and related infrastructure serve as a prime breeding ground for trafficking to invade our society. Florida’s nearly half a million Commercial Driver License (CDL) holders play a pivotal role in our fight against this horrendous crime, serving as the eyes and ears of our highways.

The Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FLHSMV) has teamed up with **Florida Attorney General Ashley Moody** to enlist Florida’s CDL holders in our fight to end human trafficking in Florida by becoming a **Highway Hero**. To do this, they have partnered with Truckers Against Trafficking (TAT) to share resources on how to spot and report a potential trafficking victim, and provide an opportunity for every commercial driver in Florida to become a certified TAT-trained driver.



As part of the Highway Heroes initiative, more than 500,000 letters were sent to CDL holders across Florida with information on how to become certified in spotting and reporting trafficking.

Those holding a CDL license are in a unique position to make a difference and close loopholes to traffickers who seek to exploit our transportation system for their personal gain. They have the opportunity to be an everyday hero on the frontlines of this issue. If you know someone who has a CDL license encourage them to become a certified TAT driver. There is no cost for them to complete the online course, print a certificate, and become a TAT-trained driver to receive the training. TAT also has resources specifically for school bus and transit bus drivers.

Thanks to **Jeff Spicer** for sharing this information after he completed his training.



It is February, which is also Black History Month. Why do we have a designated month for black history? Traditionally our history books overlook the contributions of African Americans. Often stories of Black History focus on the trauma of the black experience. Many movies and books I have recommended in past articles also focus on issues of racism, slavery, and civil rights. While these are important educational tools, this month I would like to share some movie recommendations that instead are comedies, romances, and dramas that have African American central characters. Movies featuring non-white characters often are marketed in different ways and to specific segments of the population. I hope you have a chance to enjoy one of these movies.



**Barbershop** (2002) is about a day in the life of a barbershop on the south side of Chicago.

**Beauty Shop** (2005) takes place in a women's beauty shop in Atlanta.



You may also enjoy the 1997 version of **Cinderella**, which features Brandy, Whitney Houston, and Whoopi Goldberg.



Another music option is 2002's **Drumline**, a coming of age story that takes place at a (fictional) Historically Black College (HBCU).



**Girl's Trip** from 2017 is a comedy with four women who reunite for a fun weekend. 2012's **Joyful Noise** follows a church choir, where Queen Latifa and Dolly Parton have to learn how to work together.

In 2012, Disney released **The Princess and the Frog**, which is their first animated movie with a black princess. My students were thrilled to see someone who looks like them as a princess. Disney's latest animated movie, **Soul**, has Pixar's first black protagonist, and is a movie made as much for adults as it is for children.



This is just a start - there are plenty more movies out there if you look for them. Enjoy your viewing!

# Love Offering — C.A.L.M. Update



Our current Love Offering recipient *Crisis Aid for Littles and Moms*, or C.A.L.M. as we know them, has experienced a few changes in the past months. They passed their second operational anniversary in October of 2020, providing shelter and guidance for approximately 25 moms and 35 littles during their time of need. With updated teaching and learning, graduation from the program has been expedited from nine months to five months. During that time, they achieve housing, daycare, employment, transportation, routine, and structure in their daily lives. Overall, supporting the new mothers in becoming successfully independent is working.

Beloved founder, **Grace Nuffer**, director of C.A.L.M., moved out of state to be closer to her family and help with their needs. The new President is **Chanie Erb**, who has been involved with the organization since 2017 as a Board Secretary, Treasurer, and House Manager. Chanie's leadership skills, as well as her energy, enthusiasm, and intricate knowledge of the wants and needs of C.A.L.M House make her the best fit for this role. While Grace Nuffer has moved out of state, her involvement in this organization is ongoing.

The new director position for C.A.L.M. House was also filled by a volunteer that has been with them for a couple of years. **Kristina Matthiesen** earned her Master's in Public Health and is currently striving for certification as a health and wellness coach. Because of their past history with the program, the women are fully invested in both the continuation and success of C.A.L.M House. Together these two women will carry on Grace Nuffer's vision.

We are so thankful to the women of St. Paul Lutheran and Holy Trinity Lutheran for helping the new families safely transition to their own homes with baskets, boxes, and bags of needed supplies; as well as keeping the moms and littles supplied with lovingly made hand-sewn quilts.

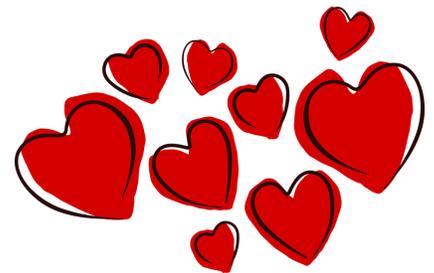
*"Our community, spiritual, and financial partners continue to amaze us with their outpourings of love and support. We love what we do, but truly cannot do what we do without these remarkable and valuable people."*

- C.A.L.M. Secretary, Wanda S.

**Jackie Haynick**, Love Offering Coordinator

A hand holding a blue marker is shown writing the word "REQUEST" in large, blue, capital letters on a whiteboard. The word is underlined with a blue line.

**LOVE OFFERING  
APPLICATIONS**



Greetings sisters,

I am very excited to announce that we are **taking applications for our new Love Offering for 2022-2024**. Due to Covid, our Fall Gathering had to be cancelled and with that our current Love Offering was denied the full extent of our generosity. Our SWO board decided to extent our support an additional year so a new Love Offering was not chosen last August. The new Love Offering recipient will start February 1, 2022. Ladies, if you know of an organization that is truly worthy of our support, please nominate them by submitting an application **no later than July 15, 2021**. The application can be found on our website under the Love Offering page or contact myself ([jackiehaynick@yahoo.com](mailto:jackiehaynick@yahoo.com)). If you were not aware, our Love Offering focus benefits from both "in-kind" gifts as well as monetary donations and gift cards for two years. The organization will give a presentation at our Fall Gathering this year (November 12-14,2021). Again, if you think that an organization that helps others less fortunate than ourselves could use our support, please share an application with them and urge them to apply for our support!

**Jackie Haynick**, Love Offering Coordinator

# Church Women United World Day of Prayer

by Mae Haines

**World Day of Prayer** is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year.

On the first Friday each March (this year **March 5, 2021**), the World Day of Prayer movement comes together united in prayer in many local communities across the world. **This year is no different!**

During the pandemic we have learned that we can be physically separated, but still connected. Many WDP committees hold their board meetings and workshops online.

You can check their contact information by visiting the WDPIC website at [info@wdp-usa.org](mailto:info@wdp-usa.org) or by emailing the World Day of Prayer International Committee office in New York City.



## Global Mission Report

by Gayle Backiel

Global Mission Table (GMT) is a group of men, women and pastors who have a love and concern for God's people in other countries. The Florida/Bahama Synod has five companion churches in the area of the Caribbean. These five are Cuba, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, and Suriname.

Because of Covid, we have had very little interaction with our companions this year. As we are, our companion churches are mostly shut down except by internet. Unfortunately, many people in these countries do not have internet.

Access to Cuba is very limited. The Cuban government has changed the currency so that only Pesos can be used. Inflation is high and grocery stores shelves are empty. It is likely the worst things have been in Cuba since the fall of the Soviet Union. Covid is being managed well but some people have it. U.S. is on a special screening list, especially for Cubans visiting family members and returning (some with Covid)

The good news is that the Jamaica school, United Theological College, received the monies requested for the classroom upgrades. Renovations have been completed, including desks, chairs, computers, and other teaching

materials.

The GMT and Jamaica team have offered \$300.00 each as a scholarship to United Theological College for a student from Guyana and/or Suriname.

Hope Lutheran Church in the Villages has sent money for goats in Haiti which the people eat rather than milk. Hope also plans to raise money during Lent for goats, chickens, and seeds.

We partnered with our companions for the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence." The 16 days ran November 25 through December 10. Included in the program were Song, prayer, reflection, another prayer, and a blessing. For more information and to view excerpts, view the following website: [www.fbsyd.com/mission-ministry/global-mission-information](http://www.fbsyd.com/mission-ministry/global-mission-information)



## Quilting in Pandemic times— A Response

**Leone Goding**, one of our dedicated quilters at Gloria Dei in the Pinelands Conference, wondered how quilters across the state in our many congregations were dealing with quilting in this trying time. The questions were these:

1. **Is your quilting group still creating Lutheran World Relief quilts in spite of the complications (no access to church buildings, social distancing, masks, etc.) of COVID-19? Answer with a Yes or No identifying your church and conference (and you may write a brief explanation if you choose).**
2. **If you are creating quilts, please share how you've accomplished that in your congregation.**



*Ready to pack at Prince of Peace*

At Prince of Peace in Largo, our quilting team worked in their homes from March 2020 until January 29th, 2021. On this day, masked and socially distanced, we packed 154 quilts for transport to Tampa and then to the Lutheran World Relief Distribution Center in Baltimore. Yes, 154! We believe that is a record for Pop!

Our women stitched tops at home and tied quilts at home. A few of our women chose to transport tops, fabric, and batting between our quilt closet in the Parish Hall to the homes of team members. Drop-offs and pickups became one of our "essential" trips as we vowed to keep our ministry alive and to continue to serve in a way that we loved. On January 24th, a half dozen of our quilts were displayed before the altar during our YouTube worship service rather than our entire collection being spread over the pews as in past years. A different year it was! And we continue this new way in 2021 until we can meet again.



*The packing begins!*

**Linda Greilick**

Several women at **St. Timothy Melbourne** faithfully made quilt tops during the spring and summer months. In October a small number of women started meeting at church to finish the quilts with the batting and backings. We are spread out as much as possible and wear masks. Before the Pandemic, our Dorcas Group had met the first and third Wednesday mornings of each month. Now we meet each Wednesday but only for 90 minutes. We also have a former member who moved to another state who sends in completed quilts. Along with LWR, we also give quilts to each family member in completed Habitat houses in our area. We have had several in the last few months. Over a hundred school bags were made with a large number created by one of our men.

**Sandy Penrod**



**From the Editor**

### Pope Francis' Unusual Fasting Ideas

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

Lent will soon be upon us and many will choose spiritual disciplines to practice during these forty days. The practice of fasting from food, a discipline long practiced by our Catholic friends, might be one of your choices. Some years back, Pope Francis introduced a different way to practice Fasting:

- **Fast from hurtful words...and say kind words**
- **Fast from sadness...and be filled with gratitude**
- **Fast from anger...and be filled with patience**
- **Fast from worries...and have trust in God**
- **Fast from bitterness...and fill your heart with joy**
- **Fast from pressures...and be prayerful**
- **Fast from pessimism...and be filled with hope**
- **Fast from grudges...and be reconciled**
- **Fast from selfishness...and be compassionate to others**
- **Fast from words...and be silent so you can listen**

As you proceed through these weeks of Lent, maybe you might ponder over these fasting ideas. Maybe you will write your thoughts in a journal, discuss those that touch you with a relative or friend, discover scripture that reminds you of these ideas, and, most definitely, you will prayer of those fasting actions that speak to your heart. As always, we ask God to help and guide us as we fast in this most different way.

# Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Directory

## Executive Board 2020-2021

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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</p>	<p>Anne Storan                  astoran46@gmail.com                  D-Conference Coordinator,                  Plus One</p>	

## Non-Board Members

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<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>Ann English</b>                  aenglish228@yahoo.com</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).

\*\*Missions

D Discipleship  
 J Justice  
 S Stewardship



### ***Tapestry***

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 lindag65@verizon.net

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