



April 2020
Volume 33, Issue 2



Phyllis' Ponderings

Dear Sisters,

Due to tremendous unexpected and unprecedented changes to our daily lives over the last week, we are definitely having to adjust our routines. Even though most of us have experienced getting prepared for hurricanes and then dealing with the aftermath, dealing with Covid-19 is different; there's a feeling of not knowing what tomorrow may bring. On top of that, many of our congregations have cancelled worship and other meetings at least through the end of March. This is also the time of year, when our Conferences hold their Spring Gatherings and many of those have been cancelled or postponed. Your Circles that meet in a church are probably also cancelled through the end of the month—depending upon what decision about meetings your congregation has made. Our lives are definitely different than we ever expected them to be. With hurricanes, we might have had to cancel worship for a Sunday or two, maybe held worship outside, or hold your Circle meeting in someone's home, but now we are being encouraged to be socially distant. For many of us, the church and our WELCA Circle are important parts of our lives, not just as ways to worship but also for fellowship. Now we may feel like we're all alone in this strange, new world that sometimes feels more like living in the middle of a fictitious novel or movie than our new reality for a while.

This is a time for us to be creative about how we as Women of the ELCA do ministry, so I'm challenging you to think outside the box. Just because we may not be able to have our regular Circle meeting at church (or in a restaurant or a member's home), is there a way we can still come together? Could you encourage your ladies to commit to taking time in their home to open their "Gather" magazine and do the Bible Study at the same time? Could you share your insights and/or questions in a group email or text? Could you commit to pray together at a specific time? For those who aren't so technically challenged as some of us, could you meet via conference call or Skype? Set up a group Facebook account? Be creative in how you keep that connection with your Circle members and with your church family. That is especially important now.

We all know that this will have an economic impact on our churches and our congregational units. There are bills every church has to pay: salaries, utilities, insurance, mortgages, etc. So I also challenge you to continue making your offering to your church. If you aren't comfortable doing that electronically, then put a check in the mail. The same with your Circle. If you can't meet for a while, then get a blank envelope, write your Circle's name on it, and each time your Circle would usually meet, put your offering in it. Take it to the next "in person" meeting you attend.

In This Issue
ELCA Fund for Leaders.....2
Fall Gathering 2020.....3
Meet our Churchwide Rep....4
Gather in summer.....4
Spring Gatherings 2020.....5-6
Triennial 2020.....6
Publications.....7-8
May Friendship Day.....8
Rachel's Day.....8
Justice Trivia.....9
From the Editor's Desk.....9
Tidbits from the Treasurer..10
Board Listing.....11

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

I know the decision for some of our Conferences to cancel or postpone their Spring Gathering was not made without a lot of thought and discernment. I expect more are going to make the same decision in the next few days. When this is over, and it will be at some point, then I would encourage you to schedule a Gathering for your Conference. It's been our tradition to hold our Gatherings in the spring, but we could have summer or early fall gathering—again thinking outside the box. I think it is important that we gather with our sisters, if for no other reason than to celebrate that we can.

I've been thinking about the theme verse for our Spring Gatherings: Isaiah 54:10 says *"For the mountains may depart and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed, says the LORD, who has compassion on you."* That gives me a sense of peace just knowing that God loves me (and you), that I am (and each one of you are) His beloved child. It doesn't fill the shelves; it doesn't suddenly end the anxiety; and it doesn't suddenly declare the crisis is over. But it reminds me (us) that nothing, not even a virus, can separate us from God's love. That gives me peace and comfort.

Please stay healthy and blessed!

Your sister in Christ,

Phyllis Wade
SWO President

FUND FOR LEADERS SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY



Do you remember when then **SWO President Jennifer Michael** and then **SWO Treasurer Raeann Purcell** began talking about a scholarship fund to assist those enrolled in one of our ELCA seminaries? A lot has happened since then. First, it is now Rev. Jennifer Michael who serves St. Peter Lutheran Church in Battle Creek, Michigan. Raeann is now serving on our Churchwide Women of the ELCA Executive Board. What an inspiration these two women continue to be!

Originally, the fund was known as *Leaders in Mission*. We needed a minimum balance of \$25,000 for our organization to be able to award an annual scholarship to a seminary student, and in 2011, we awarded our first scholarship.

Through 2019, we have awarded a total of \$20,100 in scholarships. Past recipients are:

- 2011: Michelle Walka
- 2012: Joan Holden and Marissa Gardner Tweed
- 2013: Marissa Gardner Tweed and Marilyn Beyer
- 2014: Joan Holden and Jenny Michael
- 2015: Marissa Gardner Tweed
- 2016: Jenny Michael and Nicole Eastwood
- 2017: Nicole Eastwood and Diana Fajardo
- 2018: Lois Sorenson and Trixie Richter
- 2019: Lois Sorenson, Trixie Richter, and Ruth Ann Hoy

Thank you, ladies of the Florida-Bahamas, for your support in the future of our church through Fund for Leaders Scholarship Fund!

We will announce this year's recipients in the June issue of "Tapestry".

Faith can move mountains

I may have all the faith needed to move mountains-but if I have no love, I am nothing. I Corinthians 23:2b GNT

Fall Gathering

Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center

Leesburg, Florida

NOVEMBER 13TH – NOVEMBER 15TH, 2020

FAITH CAN MOVE MOUNTAINS based on 1 Corinthians 13: b2 GNT; *"I may have all the faith needed to move mountains – but if I have no love, I am nothing."*

Plan to join us for this weekend for a time of spiritual growth with our sisters in Christ as we reconnect with old friends and make new friends. There will be worship, Bible Study, workshops, and an opportunity to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Lots of time for fellowship, relaxing by the beautiful lake, good food and more. Come and Enjoy!! Watch for more details...

Looking forward to seeing all of you!

Peace and Blessing from your Co-Chairs



Loraine Van Haecke

and

Ann English

INTRODUCING

OUR CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE !
MEET LISA FLORIN AT OUR
NOVEMBER 2020 FALL GATHERING



Lisa Plorin

Executive Board President

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Lisa Plorin was elected president of the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She is chair of the executive committee and serves as ex-officio member of the budget committee. She served on the churchwide executive board from 2014-2017.

Previously, Lisa served in many capacities on both the unit and synodical level in Western North Dakota (3A) including president and vice president of the Western North Dakota Synodical Women's organization.

She was on the planning team that established the W.I.S.E. (Women In Seminary Education) scholarship fund that recognizes women who are entering ordained ministry in Western N.D.

A lifetime member of New Hope Lutheran Church, Upham, Lisa is also a part of the gifts program and preaches supply for Prairie Hope

Ministries, a three-point parish in her area.

Lisa and her husband, Steve, have two daughters, Kortni and Brooke. Kortni, a graduate of Minot State University, is an elementary school teacher with the Minot Public School District. Brooke is at Minot State University studying special education. Both spend summers working for Metigoshe Ministries.

The family owns and operates a small construction business, Dirty Dog Digging and Trucking.

Lisa works part time for Weight Watchers as a leader and fills in as a retreat hostess at Metigoshe Ministries when she can. She enjoys spending time with her family and cheering on their local high school sports teams. Each summer Lisa spends the first week in August Cycling Around North Dakota In Sacajawea Country, a seven-day bicycle trip that covers more than 400 miles.



Gather's summer Bible study on 'Just Love'

The **Revs. Gladys Moore** and **Christa Compton** are authors of Gather's 2020 summer Bible study, "*Just Love*." This three-session Bible study invites readers to consider how justice and love intersect. What does "just love" look like? How is this kind of love more than a sentimental or sanitized emotion, but is instead a love-in-action that seeks to dismantle the various systems of sin that damage God's creation and harm God's

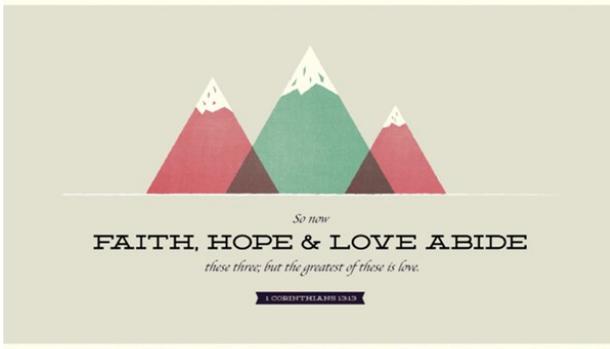
people? **The Rev. Dr. Christa M. Compton** is pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Chatham, N.J.; and **The Rev. Gladys Moore** is pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Summit, N.J. Pastor Moore is leading Gather's summer Bible study, *Just Love*, at the Gathering 2020 in Phoenix, July 16–19. Visit welcatg.org for more information.

SPRING GATHERINGS 2020



On ounce of prevention...

To help control the spread of the COVID-19 virus, our FL-BA SWO President Phyllis Wade has encouraged each of your conferences to consider what is happening within each community and make the decision about whether to cancel or reschedule your Spring Gathering. See the changes marked below that were received by March 27, 2020.



Cancelleds & Postponements

WHERE AND WHEN

CONFERENCE	DATE	LOCATION	BOARD REP
Broward-Bahamas	May 2	Christ Lutheran, Fort Lauderdale	Jackie Haynick
Caloosa	Cancelled	Christus Victor, Naples	Laurie Nelson
First Coast	Cancelled	Hope, Satsuma	Lisa Klima
Flagler/Volusia	Cancelled	Faith, Ormond Beach	Karen Weinrich
Gulf Coast	Postponed, New date TBD	Spirit of Grace, Hudson	Anne Storan
Heart of Florida	Cancelled	St. John's, Winter Park	Denise Beumer
Lake	Cancelled		
Miami-Dade/Monroe	With Broward-Bahamas		
Mid-Gulf	Postponed, New date TBD	Holy Trinity, Port Charlotte	Mae Haines
Panhandle	Cancelled	Holy Trinity, Fort Walton Beach	Phyllis Wade
Pinelands	March 7	Rock of Ages, Wildwood	Marilyn Kreitzinger
Space Coast	April 25	Our Savior, Vero Beach	Donna Person
Suncoast	Postponed, New date TBD	Prince of Peace, Largo	Gayle Backiel
Tampa	Postponed, New date TBD		
Tradewinds	With Space Coast		

An Early Spring Gathering

Pinelands Conference

Rock of Ages

Wildwood

On a beautiful sunny Saturday, March 7, I drove to Rock of Ages Lutheran Church in Wildwood to be a part of the Pineland conference. Sixty-seven ladies from all but one of the churches in the conference were in attendance. We had ladies who were attending their first conference and it is always exciting to see new faces.

The day started with a lovely breakfast and a welcome from **Doris Binner** of Rock of Ages church. She explained some details of the new sanctuary and gathering area where we were meeting. I shared greetings from the SWO board and shared several upcoming events including the Triennial in Phoenix AZ, July 16 - 19, 2020.

A wonderful Bible Study was given by **Shelly Forin** sharing how we keep Faith alive in our hearts and prayer as our daily fuel. The ladies then shared the lovely rocks they brought with each other. Many had stories to share as they handed over this special gift. It was fun to watch and hear the sharing in that room.

President Sarah Haley then opened the business meeting inviting everyone to Fall Gathering at Lake Yale and next year's Spring gathering. Election of officers was next the agenda. Officers for Pineland Conference are: **President Sarah Haley; Vice President Shelly Forin;** and **Secretary Jeannine Robertson.** Installation of the officers was held.

Many of the units brought samples of what they were doing in the community. There were numerous groups that are being helped by these wonderful ladies. We enjoyed a delicious lunch served by the ladies. We then made our way into the beautiful new sanctuary for our service with Holy Communion conducted by **Pastor Joan Holden** from St. Timothy Lutheran, Crystal River. We all went our way knowing we shared a beautiful day with sisters in Christ.

Marilyn Kreitzinger
FL-BA SWO Board Member



2020 Triennial Gathering July 16-19, 2020 Phoenix, Arizona

At this time, the Women of the ELCA are still planning on holding the triennial convention and gathering.

As I'm writing this, we're living with the uncertainty that Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) has caused and we have more questions than answers. What I want for you dear sisters in Christ is, "To trust an unknown future to an all knowing God."

If you plan on attending and have not registered, please remember that the deadline for registering is Tuesday, June 9, 2020.

Diane Spicer, Triennial Gathering Promoter



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

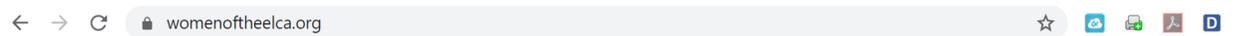
Break away from the Television news!

Join your sisters and brothers in community!

Be inspired!

by Karen Weinrich

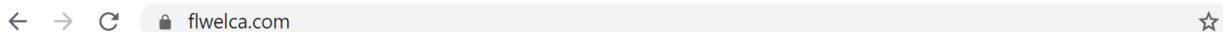
In times such as this, it seems like there is so much uncertainty. Staying inside and away from others can create a sense of isolation and detachment. With the extra time on our hands, now is a good time to explore the digital resources and publications of the Women of the ELCA. I'm going to use this article to share the updated links where you can find hope, inspiration, and news.



Shop Tools For Leaders Publications Gathering 2020 Contact 

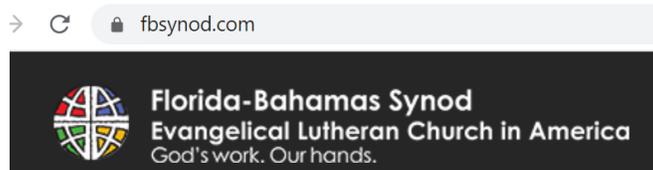
To begin, the main website is www.womenoftheelca.org. From here, you can navigate to all of the resources available.

All of our publications are found at www.womenoftheelca.org/publications. Here you will find clickable links to Gather, Bold Café, Bold Connections, and Interchange.



Home 2020 Triennial Fall Gathering Local Units: Resources Publications Upcoming Events Who We Are

Our Synodical Women's website is www.flwelca.com. Here you can find information about the Triennial Gathering, Fall Gathering, and many resources for your unit.



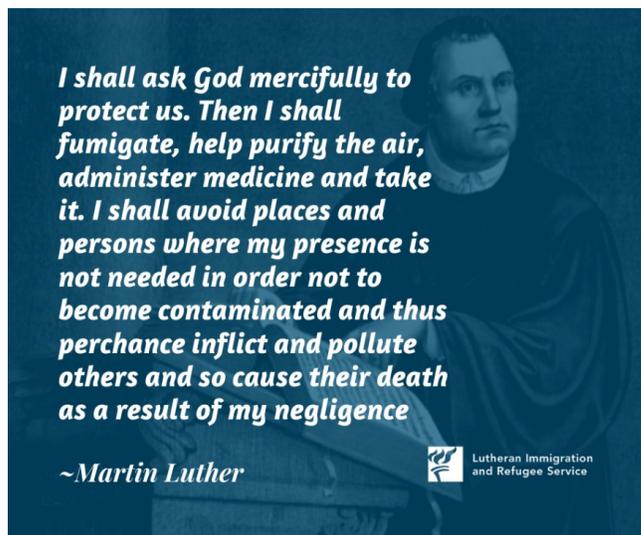
Have you been to the Florida-Bahamas website? Go to www.fbsynod.com and you can find the latest news from our synod. There are many resources available, including streamed services, which can come in handy if your church is not able to live stream weekly services.

If you aren't receiving the Bishop's weekly newsletter (E-Spirit), scroll to the very bottom of the page and click on Newsletter sign up now. This will keep you informed of all the good things happening here in the Florida-Bahamas Synod.



continued on page 8

E-Spirit this week led off with this graphic, which Martin Luther wrote in a letter called “*Whether One May Flee from a Deadly Plague.*” It provides comfort when we realize we are not the first, nor the last to deal with a pandemic.



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

To meet or not to meet?

by Mae Haines

On May Friendship Day 2020, the theme is Vision for the Future “*Agree to Differ*”. With the uncertainty surrounding the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and the remarkable circumstances we find ourselves in this year, it is best for you to check with your local unit to see if the celebration has been canceled. Church Women United states it best “*Instead of simply enduring this time of isolation we can make this a time of spiritual growth, greater unity, and deeper connection for our members*”.



Rachel's Day

by Mae Haines



Rachel's Day is observed annually on the first Sunday in May. Its original focus was and still is shining a light on gun violence against children. The day took its name from Jeremiah 31:15-17 verses in which Rachel grieves for her children. Observance can include wearing blue ribbons, presenting speakers on violence against children, or community programs that support youth. Your congregation can take action to help children and their families through prayer, education, hands-on service activities and advocacy. Be sure to have your youth and Sunday school children involved in your Rachel's Day celebration.

CALL ME BY YOUR NAME

Justice Trivia: Did You Know How Mike Became Martin?

By Denise Beumer, Justice Advocacy

This past January we celebrated the long fought for National Holiday celebrating the birthday of **Martin Luther King Jr.**--he would have 90 years old this year. However, a review of his birth certificate would have shown the name, **Mike King**. The story of how it was changed is one of profound circumstances that **Rev. Michael King Sr.** went through after attending a Baptist World Alliance meeting in Berlin in 1934. He was confronted by the racism of Hitler and supporting a resolution deploring *“all racial animosity, and every oppression or unfair discrimination towards Jews, toward coloured people or toward subject races in any part of the world.”*

The senior King toured Germany and saw the birthplace of Martin Luther and the Wittenberg castle church. When he returned to the United States he was, according to **Clayborne Carson**, Director of the King Institute, a different man. *“It was a big deal for him to go there, to the birthplace of Protestantism”*, said Carson. Soon after, he changed his name to Martin Luther King and changed his son’s name to Martin Luther King Jr. This change was reflected in Martin Luther King Jr.’s final sermon on April 3, 1968. In a steady cadence he talked about *“standing at the beginning of time, with the possibility of taking a kind of general and panoramic view of the whole of human history up to now, and the Almighty said to me, ‘Martin Luther King which age would you like to live in?’ I would take my mental flight by Egypt”*... then to Greece and Mount Olympus and added he would see the heyday of the Roman Empire. King then added that *“I would even go by the way that the man for whom I’m named had his habit, and I would watch Martin Luther as he tacks his 95 Thesis on the door at the church of Wittenberg.”*

The next evening, as Martin Luther King Jr. prepared to leave his room at the Lorraine Motel for dinner, a shot rang out, killing him on the balcony of the motel.

Did you know that this connection existed?

Let us celebrate our Saints.



By the ounce

From the Editor’s Desk — Linda Greilick

The Benjamin Franklin axiom that **“an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure”** is as true today as it was when Franklin made the quote. Although many use the quote when referring to health, Franklin actually was addressing fire safety. We should all relate to Franklin. Regardless of the endeavor, our tendency is to be a bit careless at times. For the unfortunate few for whom the hands of chance all line up, disaster is the outcome. In these pandemic times, let’s not take anything for granted. Some might feel that *“it won’t happen to me.”* How do we know? As this April issue goes to press, in the days to come, changes continue to happen all around us. Events highlighted in this April Issue may be postponed or cancelled in the future though we will be sad. We need to be safe and follow the guidelines presented to us. Our nature is to follow our hearts but let’s also wisely follow the rules right now. We miss connecting. We **can** find ways to connect virtually, by phone, by email, and by snail mail. We **can** serve and **love** one another in those ways to keep ourselves healthy. We are in this together. Let’s all stay safe...by the ounce!

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Remember our scholarships funds need replenishing. Would you consider helping out?



Any youth (Grade 6 through College) is eligible to apply for financial assistance (*Let Your Light Shine*) to attend the Fall Gathering of the Florida-Bahamas Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering. An applicant is encouraged to seek support from her congregational unit and sponsors as well as providing her own contribution to further the success of this grant program. Applications are available on the website: www.flwelca.com. For more information on the Youth Program please contact **Tracy Moffatt** at tracymoffatt@aol.com

Share the Spirit is a grant program of the Florida Bahamas Women's Organization which supplements funds for ladies who have financial needs and wish to attend our Fall Gathering. In turn, we encourage the participants' units and other sponsors to help cover the cost of these individuals attending the gathering. You can apply for this grant by submitting the *Share the Spirit* Form any time after the SWO event's registration information is available.



ELCA Fund for Leaders support

All units are encouraged to donate at least \$10/year to grow this fund to support future seminarians. The recipient(s) are decided each year at the January Board Meeting. Let's work on increasing our fund for 2021 recipients.

Faithful Friends make a difference!

Have you heard about the Faithful Friends of Women of the ELCA? These especially dedicated women make a difference in the life of our community of women created in the image of God by giving regularly, every month—automatically! In fiscal year 2019, 132 Faithful Friends gave a total of \$28,234 to our churchwide organization by automatic withdrawal from either a checking account or a credit card. This is by far the easiest, most effective way to give generously to Women of the ELCA.

Will you join these Faithful Friends? It's easy to do. Sign up with a credit card online at welca.org/fairfulfriend-online, or download the form at welca.org/

[faithfulfriends](http://faithfulfriends.org). You can choose to give any monthly amount from \$10 on up. Thank you!



Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Directory

Executive Board 2020

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

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

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



What does our logo mean?

Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).



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 15th for the June issue.**

**Missions

D Discipleship
 J Justice
 S Stewardship