



February 2022  
Volume 35, Issue 1



Florida-Bahamas  
Synodical Women's  
Organization



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### *Anne's Announcements*

I am honored that you have chosen me to serve you as president in the year ahead. The responsibility is humbling, but the WELCA Purpose and Mission and the dedication shown by all of you inspire me to pray each morning for God's guidance in showing me how to lead this community of women.

We kicked off the year by holding our annual Synodical Leadership meeting with our Board Members and Conference Leaders. I was disappointed that the rapid spread of the omicron variant of Covid resulted in a decision to meet on Zoom rather than in person at Luther Springs. Our theme was "*Stepping Ahead Boldly*". We have learned during this long pandemic to continue to rely on the Spirit to empower us to boldly use our unique gifts to share our faith. We have adapted to using technology to meet and to share information. We have increased our flexibility to nimbly adjust our plans as circumstances shift. We always prioritize safety to protect the health of others as well as ourselves.



At the leadership meeting on January 29, **Donna Person** shared the completed SWO Constitution which was adopted at our Fall Gathering. We reviewed the five applications received for the Fund for Leaders Scholarships. We decided that the Board would meet again on February 20 to review additional information and make a decision about awarding the scholarships. We finalized the assignments for each Board member so all of you will know who to contact with questions that may come up throughout the year, as well as share information and ideas. Our Fall Gathering coordinators, **Loraine Von Haecke** and **Lisa Klima** shared information about "*Step by Step*," a theme based on Psalm 16:9. We will meet at Lake Yale in Leesburg, November 11-13, 2022. Most Conferences intend to have a Spring Gathering this year, but plans are incomplete. The leaders did not select a unified theme, so each will have a chance to develop their own themes. Leaders should contact **Nina Jageler**, ([njageler@gmail.com](mailto:njageler@gmail.com)), as soon as they have established a date and location to meet. That information will be shared on our website as it is given to Nina. We

### FB-SWO Board

#### President:

Anne Storan

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

#### Vice President:

Denise Beumer

[dbeumer1000@gmail.com](mailto:dbeumer1000@gmail.com)

#### Secretary:

Donna Person

[dperson7@aol.com](mailto:dperson7@aol.com)

#### Treasurer:

Tracy Moffatt

[tracymoffatt@aol.com](mailto:tracymoffatt@aol.com)

talked about the importance of frequently checking all the resources we have for sharing information. I follow our Facebook page (Florida/Bahamas Women of the ELCA) and our website ([flwelca.com](http://flwelca.com)). I read the Tapestry and share it by email with the women who are active in our WELCA church unit. I begin each day with *Daily Grace* emailed to me by Women of the ELCA. I also follow Café, a digital magazine from our Churchwide. All of these resources help to strengthen our community of women as we prepare ourselves to *Step Ahead Boldly*.

As always, your sister in Christ,  
**Anne Storan, FL-BA SWO President**



Forms, Funds, and Finances...

Greetings SWO Sisters,

I'm excited to be serving as your Treasurer for the next two years! Thanks to Laurie Nelson for her hard work the last three years. In my business life, I spend much of my time "number crunching" so I look forward to doing the same for our SWO.

Many of you know me in my favorite role - as a workshop leader but I have also served the SWO as an Officer, Board Member, Fall Gathering Planner, Parliamentarian, and even Worship Leader. I have been involved in WELCA for over 30 years first in the Metro Chicago Synod and now in Florida for the last 20+ years. I live in Naples with my husband Mark and our two cats Kiley and Killian. We worship at Christ Lutheran Church in Cape Coral. In my free time I love to travel - my mom and I have seen the world together and Mark and I plan and lead golf trips to our favorite destination of Ireland and more.

As we head into the season of Spring Gathering (in-person finally?), please remember to use **Event Data Collection Form** to report about your gathering and remit offerings to me. For regular offerings of any kind to the SWO, you use **Form A** and send directly to me. These would be offerings such as unit offerings, conference offerings, Love Offerings, Scholarship Fund Contributions. For offerings such as Katies Fund and Thankofferings, the preference is to send those directly to Churchwide using **Form B**.

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

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

[tracymoffatt@aol.com](mailto:tracymoffatt@aol.com)

239-848-7274



This year Bold Women's Day is **Sunday, February 27**. 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 is 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.

We are seeing the theme, *"For Such a Time as This,"* in many settings as an encouragement for renewal and new bold action. We reflect on Esther and her bold response to peril for the people of God. Her faith guided and empowered her. As we see the examples of bold women of the Bible, we can be inspired to recognize and celebrate the bold women of today. There are women who serve faithfully in our church, in the community, and in the world.

**November 11th - 13th, 2022**

Annual FL-BA Synodical Women's Organization

**FALL GATHERING**

at Lake Yale Baptist Center

Leesburg, FL

Our theme for the weekend is **"STEP BY STEP"** based on the Bible verse *"We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps."* from Proverbs 16:9 (NLT).

All women are invited to join us for a time of spiritual growth, as we reconnect with old friends and make new friends. There will be Worship, Workshops, Bible Study, an opportunity to make quilts and other fun things. Enjoy the beautiful lake and surroundings, good food, and more.

Plan to join us and bring a friend! Watch for further information.

Peace and Blessings,

**Loraine Van Haecke & Lisa Klima**  
Co-Chairs Planning Committee

## BOLD WOMEN'S DAY

With other women or on your own, celebrate Bold Women's Day in any of the following ways:

- Reflect on the question, "Who have been the bold women in my life?"
- Make a gift to Katie's Fund ([welca.org/katiesfund](http://welca.org/katiesfund)) in honor of a bold woman who inspired you. If you can, let her know what a difference she made in your life.
- 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.

*God of tender care, like a mother, you never forget your children, and you know already what we need. In all our anxiety give us trusting and grateful hearts, that in confidence and boldness we may embody the peace and justice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.*

**Amen**

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## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2022



This very special day is celebrated on the first Friday in March each year. This is a worldwide movement of Christian women that began in the U.S. and Canada in the 19th century and became worldwide in 1927. This year it focuses on God's plan for the Israelites in captivity in Babylon, which can also apply to us today. Jeremiah 29:11 states "*I know the Plans I have for you*".

Church Women United invites all of you to join them for this day from Jacksonville to Pensacola to Miami. There are 32 active units in the state of Florida with meetings and celebrations. Check the website: [churchwomenunitedinflorida.com](http://churchwomenunitedinflorida.com) for locations for this event or call directly at 904-477-0909.

**Leone Goding**

**FL-BA SWO Board Member**



**For such a time as this might be a great time to focus on Health and Wellness!**

Make a difference in your congregation and community by applying for a Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls Seed Grant. Seed grants enable groups in active Women of the ELCA units to add a project that is focused on health and wellness for women and girls. Award amounts are up to \$2,000.

Application materials for the 2021-2022 Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls seed grants must be post-marked or emailed **by April 5, 2022**. All applications must be submitted by active units of Women of the ELCA who are familiar with the Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls initiative and the criteria of this program.

The application can be located at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) by searching on Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls. [Download and send completed application](#) to: [Valora.Starr@elca.org](mailto:Valora.Starr@elca.org)

or

Mail to:

Women of the ELCA RUHWG Seed Grants Program  
8765 W. Higgins Road  
Chicago IL 60631

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### New WELCA Circles at Gateway Trinity Lutheran

by **Kathy Olesuk**, Secretary  
GTLC WELCA unit



On January 15, just over 20 women gathered at **Gateway Trinity Lutheran Church** to launch a new WELCA unit.

The WELCA kickoff was a busy and fun-filled morning for all. Many thanks to everyone who attended and made the kickoff a success! We met our goals

and formed three new circles, two for ladies and one for couples. As the WELCA program and interest grows, we plan to launch additional circles as needed. Circles will hold their first meetings in February. Each circle will be discussing Session 1 of the 3-session Bible study, "*When God Blesses the Underserved*," at the meeting.

## Our Love Offering has Changed

### Find out about Sozo Kids

Beginning on February 1st, 2022, we are now supporting **Sozo Kids** as our Love Offering for the next two years. This organization headed by **Pastor David Houck** helps struggling families within the Ocala National Forest. The organization provides food, tutoring, school supplies, clothing, haircuts, teen pregnancy prevention, and an endless list of other services to help break the cycle of poverty.

In the next issues of *Tapestry*, you will be provided with information on how you, your congregational unit, and your Conference can help these families in need. To read their story, check out their website at [www.sozokids.org](http://www.sozokids.org).

In Peace,  
**Jackie Haynick, Love Offering Coordinator**

### Try *Gather* for just \$9.95

*Gather* — the magazine of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — guides you as you live and experience your faith every day. With this special offer for **new subscribers**, you can **get a whole year of *Gather* (6 issues) for just \$9.95** — that's \$10 or half off the regular subscription rate!

In addition to a regular Bible study, the magazine offers a mix of faith-in-life articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories that speak to the hearts and souls of progressive Christian women. *Gather* connects Christian women of all ages with like-minded others who are committed to growing in faith and building the kingdom of God—next door and across the globe.

*Gather* is published 6 times a year with combined issues in January/February and July/August. Digital access is free to print subscribers.



*This offer is good for U.S. mailing addresses only.* Customer Service Department: 844-409-0576



**From the Editor**

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

### Faith, Hope, & Love Abide for all of us

Sharing in some planning meetings, discussions, and future meetings recently, I've noticed that the themes that we, as women, are focusing upon for future activities have a common refrain....looking at the time we are in now and planning ahead. We began our January Board/Conference Leader meeting with "*Stepping Ahead Boldly.*" You will see that most of the Scripture is based upon our Old Testament foundations. Women of the ELCA is hosting a leadership event this month entitled "*for such a time as this,*" the words of Mordecai to Esther. For World Day of Prayer in March, Church Women United introduces us to Jeremiah's "*I know the Plans I have for you.*" This coming November, our Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Fall Gathering theme, *Step by Step*, will have us concentrate on Proverbs 16:9: "*We can make our plans; but the Lord determines our steps.*" I feel like we're concentrating on our groundwork, looking to those whose stories we know so we can move forward in spite of all we face—step by step, day by day, keeping the faith. We can then move to New Testament words from 1 Corinthians 13:13: "*And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love,*" and continue being who we are, a community of women called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, and moving forward.

# Florida Bahamas Synodical Women' Organization Directory

## Executive Board 2022

| <u>President</u>  | <u>Vice President</u>   | <u>Secretary</u>                                       | <u>Treasurer</u>                             |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Anne Storan</b><br>astoran46@gmail.com<br>Planning Committee | <b>Denise Beumer</b><br>dbeumer1000@gmail.com<br>Planning Committee | <b>Donna Person</b><br>dperson7@aol.com<br>J-Historian | <b>Tracy Moffatt</b><br>tracymoffatt@aol.com |

## Board Members and Missions\*\*

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| Gayle Backiel<br>rbackiel@verizon.net<br>J-Global Missions       | Sallie Haley<br>misssallie56@gmail.com<br>D-Publications     | Nina Jageler<br>njageler@gmail.com<br>D-Conference Coordinator           |
| Leone Goding<br>stevemae@verizon.net<br>J-LWR, CWU, Rachel's Day | Jackie Haynick<br>jackiehaynick@yahoo.com<br>S-Love Offering | Karen Weinrich<br>weinrik@hotmail.com<br>J-Anti-racism, Justice Advocacy |

## Non-Board Members

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



### What does our logo mean?

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

\*\*Missions

D Discipleship  
J Justice  
S Stewardship



### ***Tapestry***

The *Tapestry* is published six times per year. It is available online under the *Tapestry* link of the FL-Bahamas Women of the ELCA website located at [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com).

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

**Please submit *Tapestry* articles  
by March 15 for the April issue.**