



February 2019
Volume 32, Issue 1

LATE EDITION! CATCH UP NOW!!!



Tidbits from Tracy



In case you didn't hear, Punxsutawney Phil didn't see his shadow on February 2nd so we should have an early Spring! While the eyes of the nation were on a groundhog in Pennsylvania, the SWO Board and Conference Presidents were gathered at Luther Springs to do the business of our SWO and discover more than we ever needed to know about "Grace and Groundhogs". The weekend was filled with business, reflections from our own shadows and lots of laughter.

Friday evening was spent in Worship with a service of Candlemas and an exploration of light - Jesus as the "light of the world", a candles flame representing Grace, and the sunlight or shadows of Groundhog Day. Did you know the date of Groundhog Day comes from the book of Leviticus? After worship we all enjoyed watching the movie "Groundhog Day" and having a great discussion on the film from our Christian perspective as a story about grace. At your Spring Gathering, be sure to ask your Conference President or Board Representative to share more! Our offering of \$450 was donated to Luther Springs much to Miss Sarah's delight - she plans to use it for some "girly" thing that there never seems to be money in the budget for.



Twenty-eight ladies were in attendance including a representative from 11 of our Conferences! We had reports on our new Love-offering C.A.L.M in Niceville, Florida, Human Trafficking, Justice Advocacy, and the upcoming 2020 Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, AZ. The Board selected recipients of our 2019-2020 Fund for Leaders Scholarships who will be announced in the coming months. We also continue to review and closely monitor the financial health of our SWO. Our Conference Presidents spent time planning Spring Gathering and chose a theme of "Welcome One Another" based on Romans 15:7.

We spent several hours in conversation centered on questions from the Women of the ELCA Exploratory Task Force which is looking at changes needed to sustain our Organization for the next 30+ years. **Raeann Purcell** is serving on the task force and will be taking our thoughts, suggestions, and questions back to the task force. Much more to come on this.

Phyllis Wade and **Ann English**, Fall Gathering Co-chairs, reviewed the evaluations from last year and shared plans for November 8-10, 2019. We are all invited to "Come to the Table" and enjoy Worship lead by **Pastor Jenn Kopacz**, workshops, and fellowship. Who knows, you might even get to play a table game. Much more information on Fall Gathering can be found later in this newsletter.

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Laurie Nelson

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Finally, I must say thanks to all the ladies who attended and allowed me to go a bit crazy with the groundhogs!!! It was a weekend filled with joy and laughter and growing together as a body of women serving our Lord.

Tracy Moffatt
FL-BA SWO President



All women are invited to:
"Come to the Table"



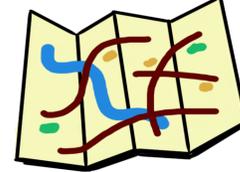
"Come here....and take your place at the table" Luke 17:7

Fall Gathering
 Hosted by Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization

November 8-10, 2019
 Lake Yale Baptist Retreat Center, Leesburg, FL

At the Fall Gathering tables you will find
 Bible Study, Worship, Workshops, Fellowship, and more!

Plan Now



**FALL GATHERING
2019**

The theme for this year's Fall Gathering is **"Come to the Table"**. Who or what brought you to the "WELCA Table" the first time? Bible Study, quilting, fellowship, service projects? These are just some of the reasons we have for gathering around our "WELCA Tables". At this year's Fall Gathering, November 8-10, at Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center near Leesburg, Florida, we will experience these and other reasons why we come to the table.

Plans are underway for us to welcome you at the table! **Pastor Jennifer Kopacz** from Grace Lutheran in Tallahassee will preside as we gather around the Lord's Table. **Valerie Monroe** from St. John Lutheran in Hollywood will be our Music Director. Saturday night's event will be **"Table Games"** hosted by the SWO Board. For those who love to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, we will have tables in the back of Maguire Hall for you.

We hope to see you at our tables!

Ann English & Phyllis Wade
Fall Gathering Co-Chairs



Bold Women's Day - observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February - celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

Are you bold?

We as Lutheran Women Respond to Disaster Relief!

We engage in ministry and action!

When devastating Hurricane Michael hit the Gulf coast on October 10, 2018, the state of Florida came to help. The *Messiah Lutheran Church in Panama City* was hit by the hurricane; fortunately they received minimum damages to their campus.

Money came through to help the area; \$100,000 was raised from around the country through the ELCA. Your WELCA synodical group collected \$987 at the Fall gathering to send to the victims of Hurricane Michael. *Atonement Lutheran church in Sebring, Florida* sent \$2,000 to help; their campus had been damaged by Hurricane Irma, and they knew that help that would be needed.

Unfortunately, according to an article in the *Tampa Bay Times*, the funding needed to help now is not coming as

it has previously come from corporations around the country. For an example, the Salvation Army received \$2.8 million in donations for Michael but in 2017 they received combined \$125 million after Harvey, Irma and Maria. The area affected by Hurricane Michael is not a metropolitan area and therefore doesn't seem to get the same type of attention that the other areas received.

We need to continue to pray for our neighbors in Panama City area for their continued healing from this disaster and help as we can.

Marilyn Kreitzinger
FL-BA SWO Board Member

We took action!

Those who attended our 2018 Fall Gathering at Lake Yale know that one of our offerings was donated to the Florida-Bahamas Synod Disaster Response Fund to be dedicated to the areas affected by Hurricane Michael. Ann English, our outgoing Treasurer, shares this thank you from the Synod office for our offering.



Florida-Bahamas Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.
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December 3, 2018

FL-BA Synodical Women's Organization
Ann English
315 S 57th Ave
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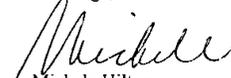
Dear fellow workers in ministry,

Thank you for your most generous gift of \$978 to be used by our Synod Disaster Response team. This will be hugely helpful as we minister to hurricane and other disaster victims in various stages of response and recovery.

This gift will really help to make possible a focused and meaningful response to hardship and loss – to really be the face of Christ to those we encounter on their journey to rebuild.

Thank you for the witness you share for being Church Together for the Sake of the World.

Blessings,


Michele Hilton
Assistant to the Bishop
For Administration

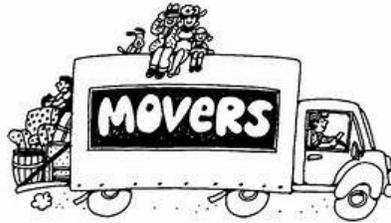


Endings and Beginnings

One Task is Finished!



As of January 31st, 2019, Ann English has finished her term as Treasurer of the FL-BA SWO. (See page 8 for Treasurer's Report). You will be sending your donations to a new treasurer, **Laurie Nelson**.



Ann English is MOVING to a new task!

Did you notice on page 2 that Ann English is now one of our Co-chairs for the 2019 Fall Gathering! Thanks to Ann for continuing to share her gifts and talents with us. She is a great example of “engaging in ministry and action.”



Our New Treasurer Begins

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you and our mission as treasurer for FB/WELCA. I look forward to getting to know you all better. I am always available if needed. Texting and email would be the best means of contact as sometimes we just have to turn that ringer off on the phone.

A little about myself.... I became involved with WELCA in 1998 serving Upstate NY for 14 years before moving to Port Charlotte, FL. My church family is Holy Trinity in PC. I am married 39 years with 3 children and 6 grandchildren (and one on the way). I am passionate when I believe in a cause and feel my passion for volunteering is a gift from God and my boldness is guided by the Holy Spirit. I enjoy travel, family, friends, beach and riding my motorcycle.

Your Sister in Christ
Laurie Nelson
FL-BA SWO Treasurer

Contact Information
Laurie Nelson
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716-499-7166



More Endings and Beginnings

Debra Lantz, Love Offering Coordinator

Our time with Golden Rainbow Ranch Ends



Serving as the Love Offering Coordinator, I have enjoyed working with **Ali and David Baylor** representatives of **Golden Rainbow Ranch** in Brooksville. Some of you have been there and have seen the ranch. I have received nice thank you notes addressed to all of us thanking us for the offerings and in-kind gifts we have given. At Fall Gathering, the love offering collected was \$2,474 and \$478 in gift cards. I received a thank you email from Ali after the in-kind gifts were delivered. If you are interested in keeping up with them in the future, see their website:

www.goldenrainbowranch.org

Please be in prayer with us as we seek to fulfill the mission and vision God has given us and be the hands and feet of Jesus!

Website: www.nicevillecalm.com



Wanda Siefke of C.A.L.M. suggests the following in-kind gifts:

- ◆ Gift cards (Walmart, Publix, Lowe's, Home Depot, CVS, Walgreen's, and VISA)

Other needs are:

- ◆ Baby body wash lavender and chamomile scent for sleeping
- ◆ Adult laundry detergent
- ◆ Children's laundry detergent (Purex Green for sensitive babies)

We Begin our support for C.A.L.M.



C.A.L.M. (Crisis Aid for Littles and Moms) in Niceville, Florida is our Love Offering focus from 2019-2021 and was chosen at the August Board Meeting. At our fall gathering, **Grace Nuffer** and **Janet Steadman** told us about their organization. They showed a video of the house where the single parents are housed and told us they had a new baby in the house and another expected soon. Brochures were handed out to all at the fall gathering.

Mission Statement

C.A.L.M. offers single mothers and their children the opportunity to find stability and consistency along with life skills to break the cycle of generational poverty and homelessness one mom and child at a time. The organization saw a need to teach women basic life skills that used to be taught in home economics classes. Some of these skills are meal planning, budgeting, paying bills to keep the lights on and have a place to come home to, writing resumes, sewing on a button, how to keep a job, and basic home repair. This ministry provides a 9 month residential program for the women. During this time, the women are taught how to maintain a home for their children. Volunteers renovated the house and provide supplies and classes on the life skills for the moms.

Love Offering Coordinator:

Debra Lantz

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SPRING GATHERINGS 2019

“Welcome One Another”

Romans 15:7 tells us: *“Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”*

Join your sisters all across Florida as we discover what it means to welcome one another. Each conference will be exploring this in their own unique way - watch for information coming from yours.



CONFERENCE	DATE	LOCATION	BOARD REP
Broward-Bahamas	4 - 27	Christ Lutheran, Ft. Lauderdale	Tracy Moffatt
Miami Dade/Monroe	W/ BB		
Caloosa	3-16	Christ Lutheran, Cape Coral	Gayle Backiel
First Coast	4 - 6	St. Andrew's by the Sea	Karen Weinrich
Flagler/Volusia	3 -16	Trinity, New Smyrna	Marilyn Kreitzinger
Gulf Coast	3 -16	St. Timothy, Tarpon Springs	Anne Storan
Heart of Florida	3 - 9	St. Stephen, Longwood	Denise Beumer
Lake	W/H of FL		
Mid-Gulf	3 - 23	Living Waters	Debra Lantz
Panhandle	4 - 26-28	Laguna Beach Retreat	Laurie Nelson
Pinelands	3 - 23	Good Shepherd, Hernando	Mae Haines
Space Coast	3 - 9	St. Timothy, Melbourne	Donna Person
Suncoast	3 - 23	St. Mark, Dunedin	Lisa Klima
Tampa	W/ Suncoast		
Tradewinds	W/ SC		



2019 World Day of Prayer

The next World Day of Prayer is March 1, 2019.

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, the World Day of Prayer will focus on the parable of the great banquet (Luke 14:15-24). At the core of the theme for WDP 2019, is an invitation – “Come - Everything is Ready!” Church Women United invites us to celebrate with them this year WDP 2019. There are meetings and Celebrations spread throughout Florida in 67 counties with 35 active units from Miami to Jacksonville to Pensacola.

Check the website: churchwomenunitedinflorida.com for locations of their upcoming event or the WELCA website: womenoftheelca.org to plan a celebration in your home church.

Mae Haines

FL-BA SWO Board Member



From the Editor

Taking Action

From the Editor's Desk — Linda Greilick

The Disaster Relief article on page 3 struck me! Four months have passed since Hurricane Michael devastated the lives of many in the Panhandle. If you've read the coverage in the *Tampa Bay Times* or listened to updates on your local television stations, you know that many are still suffering and will be for a very long time. Homes, jobs, schools, businesses, health providers, and many lives have been adversely affected by Michael. As you read, funding from corporations across the country is not streaming in since the Panhandle area affected is not a huge metropolitan area like Houston or New Orleans. What can we do? Each of us can take action. Even if our help is small, it is help to those who are lacking. Help gives hope.

To find out what we can do, I called **Marcee Strickland**, a Panama City resident and member of Messiah Lutheran Church. Luckily, Messiah's insurance is covering all the damage they sustained. Their council and congregation have created a task force that is working to help those in the community that have little assistance. Many are not covered by insurance or do not have the funds to finance necessary repairs and replacements.

What can each of us do? Encourage our families, our congregational units, our congregations, and others to donate funds to this cause. Where should we designate our funds to help the most? Here are Marcee's suggestions:

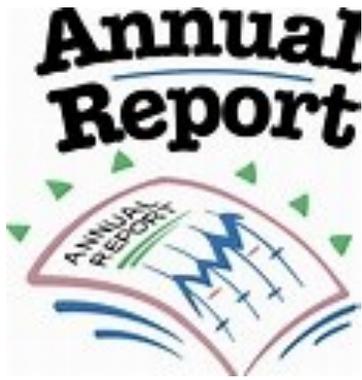
Funds can be sent to **Laurie Nelson**, FL-BA SWO Treasurer (her address is on page 2) designated as follows:

1. FL-BA Synod office directed to Messiah Lutheran Church, Panama City, FL— earmarked “*people in need in the community*”
2. Lutheran Disaster Response—earmarked “*for Hurricane relief in the Panhandle only*”
3. United Way—earmarked “*for Hurricane relief in the Panhandle only*”

Laurie will direct the funds as you have designated.

Choose what is comfortable for you, but I do hope that you follow our Purpose statement and TAKE ACTION.

“But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves.” ~James 1:22



FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SWO
TREASURER'S REPORT

The fiscal year for the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) ended January 31, 2019. In addition, Ann English completed her term as Treasurer on that date. Presented here is the report showing the financial statement for our organization for the period beginning 02/01/18 and ending 01/31/19. A comparison of the Budget and Actual for Income and Expenditures is presented.

Note that Income at \$58,371 is well below the projected budget of \$80,900. Luckily, expenses at \$53,025 also were below the planned budget of \$80,250 thus equating to an increase in income of \$5,345 compared to an expected \$650.

As you can see, attendance at our Fall Gathering decreased resulting in both less income and expense. The Board kept travel and lodging costs for Board Meetings and Spring Gatherings to a minimum this year. In the Designated Funds section, you can see that only \$274 of the Share the Spirit funds were used with \$2,000 available and none of the \$2,000 Let Your Lite Shine funds were utilized.

Thanks for your support in Offerings—especially Regular & Spring Gathering. You surpassed the Budget by \$155 and \$543, respectively. Keep up the good work!

And a special thanks to Ann English for keeping us on track!



	BUDGET 02/01/18 TO 01/31/19	ACTUAL as of 1/31/19
INCOME		
Offerings—Regular	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,155
Spring Gathering	3,500	4,043
Fall Gathering	49,000	35,252
Misc. Income	300	1,125
Love Offering	10,000	4,607
Fund for Leaders	2,000	532
LWR	2,000	932
Let Your Light Shine	2,000	65
Share the Spirit	2,000	680
Hurricane Relief	-	978
Interest From Investments	100	3
TOTAL INCOME	80,900	58,371
EXPENSES		
Bank Fees	-	-
Accountant	400	400
Church Women United	300	300
Donations	500	1,388
Computer	75	694
Fall Gathering	46,000	33,222
Insurance	125	129
Office Supplies & Postage	500	511
Board Meeting Expense	7,000	2,368
Spring Gathering Expense	1,100	183
Synod Travel/CWU Travel	1,400	729
Miscellaneous	50	589
Offering Sent to CWO	5,500	5,649
Conference Offerings to CWO	1,000	1,042
Other Designated Global	300	-
Triennial/Luncheon	-	-
TOTAL EXPENSES	64,250	47,202
DESIGNATED GIFTS		
Fund for Leaders	-	256
Love Offerings	10,000	4,607
LWR Shipping Fund	2,000	685
Share the Spirit	2,000	274
Let Your Lite Shine	2,000	-
FLIM Scholarship Distribution	-	-
TOTAL DESIGNATED GIFTS	16,000	5,823
TOTAL EXPENSE	80,250	53,025
NET INCOME	\$ 650	\$ 5,345

Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Directory

Executive Board 2019

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Denise Beumer dbeumer1000@gmail.com J-Anti-Racism, Justice Advocacy	Marilyn Kreitzinger manyjoys2u@gmail.com S-Katie's Fund, Disaster, Scholarship	Cheryl Semmel clsemmsel@gmail.com D-Social Media	Karen Weinrich weinrik@hotmail.com D-Publications

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<u>Human Trafficking Committee</u>	
<u>Facebook Coordinator</u>	
Raeann Purcell 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.

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

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