



Tapestry

April 2022
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Anne's Announcements

Now that Spring has come to Florida, new ideas are blossoming and hope for building our new normal is growing. We are more comfortable with meeting in person again and Spring Gatherings are being scheduled around the Synod. That doesn't mean that we should set aside all that we learned about the convenience and efficiency of digital communications and meetings, particularly when we want to expand our mission over a larger distance and create opportunities to include more people.

On Thursday, February 17, 2022, through Saturday, February 19, 2022, the Women of the ELCA (Churchwide) held a Leadership Event. Hundreds of women from around the country came together on Zoom to share prayer, worship, and planning around the theme, *For Such a Time as This: Spirit Fed, Spirit Led*. The theme was drawn from the story of Esther. Using materials in a workbook available online, we learned the qualities of a servant leader. We explored creating a plan to prepare "for such a time as this." We learned specific strategies to reboot and rebuild. Like Esther, we should pray and fast to help us discern God's intention. With the help of others, we should follow the nudging of the Holy Spirit. Then we should plan and act. With the process developed following the pattern of Esther, we can rise to the challenges of "such a time as this."



Some of you know that my adult daughter and her family live in Canada. It was interesting to me that in the last several years, all the public ceremonies that I have attended have begun with a statement of recognition and reconciliation with the First Nations who occupied the land before European colonization. Our **Women of the ELCA President, Linda Bushkofsky**, urged the participants at the "For Such a Time as This, Spirit Fed, Spirit Led" Conference to download this website: Native-Land.ca. A map is displayed showing the territories and languages of precolonial North America. We were and are asked to reflect on our history and current attitudes and behavior in light of the demands of justice and mercy.

Churchwide is scheduling more remote opportunities for us to be effective servant leaders in our roles with WELCA. There are training sessions throughout April and May. You can sign up for a position you already occupy, or you may want to look at other positions where you'd like to serve. The training sessions currently scheduled can be found at WomenoftheELCA.org/events. Scroll down until you come to Training. The sessions are each one hour long and begin at 1:00 pm (CDT), 2:00 pm (EDT).

FB-SWO Board

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I look forward to reading the articles from each of the Spring Gatherings in the Tapestry. I hope you'll forward pictures to Linda Greilick, lindag65@verizon.net, as you hold your own gathering. I want to see all those smiling faces.

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



Forms, Funds, and Finances...

Greetings SWO Sisters,

Your help is needed to get a wee bit greener!!! In an effort to cut down on paper and postage, I will be emailing donation receipts to the senders. Please be sure to include your email, or a Church email, on your **Form A** and that is where your receipt will be sent. These emails will come from fbswotreasurer@gmail.com so all future Treasurers can use the same email. You may also use this email for questions or to follow up on donations.

As a reminder:

- ◆ For Spring Gathering, use **Event Data Collection Form** to remit offerings to me. You will also report Conference Leaders on this form.
- ◆ For regular offerings to the SWO, use **Form A** and send directly to me. These would be offering such as unit offerings, conference offerings, Love Offerings, Scholarship Fund Contributions.
- ◆ For offerings going to Churchwide, use **Form B** and send directly to Churchwide. These would include offerings such as Katies Fund and Thankofferings.

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!

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



Sign up for Daily Grace

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your spiritual journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless, and often surprising grace by signing up for a daily email message. You can also download the app for your IOS and Android devices. Learn more at welca.org/dailygrace.



November 11th - 13th, 2022
 Annual FL-BA Synodical Women's Organization
FALL GATHERING
 at Lake Yale Baptist Center
 Leesburg, FL

The Fall Gathering is to be held at The Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center in Leesburg. Our theme is "STEP BY STEP" based on Proverbs 16:9 (NLT) "We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps." Please go on our Website www.flwelca.com to watch for further information. **ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED.**

There is a lot of useful information you can find on our website. The *Tapestry* will keep you up to date with everything that is happening. Registration Forms will be on our site to make it easier for everyone to register. Share the Spirit and Let Your Light Shine forms (for the youth) will also be available for some that think they cannot come because of finances. Do not miss this wonderful weekend filled with Worship, Workshops, Bible Study, meeting new friends and seeing old friends, good food and all of these in a beautiful setting on the lake.

WATCH AND LISTEN FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

AND

PLEASE REGISTER EARLY!!!!

Peace and Blessings,
Loraine Van Haecke & Lisa Klima
 Co-Chairs Planning Committee



EXCITING NEWS

2022 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS ARE ANNOUNCED!

The women of the Florida-Bahamas Synod developed a fund through the ELCA Fund for Leaders so we could help women from our Synod who have received a special call in their lives to serve our Lord. This year scholarships have been awarded to **Kristen Berkeley-Abbott, Johanna Figueroa, and Macy Kennedy**. Kristen is a first year student seeking her M. Div. at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. Johanna is a second year student seeking her M.Div. at Emmanuel Academy. Macy is a second year student at Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary.

You can help more women in our Synod answering the call to serve the Lord by making a donation to Florida-Bahamas SWO designated for Fund for Leaders. Send the donation to:

Tracy Moffatt
 Treasurer
 1944 Crestview Way
 Naples, FL 34119



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.



SPRING GATHERINGS 2022

seem to be falling later

WHERE AND WHEN

Spring Gatherings are happening in 2022! Though our dates might be a little later than we historically have scheduled, many conferences have set a date. We are blessed to be able to once again join with our sisters in a time for Bible study, prayer, service projects, delicious food, and definitely sharing time with one another. Note that some conferences are combining with another conference. What a time to make new friends!

Normally, a suggested theme and Bible Study focus is chosen at our annual winter SWO Board/SWO Leaders Meeting. This year, not. Each conference will decide their own. Some might return to the theme that never happened due to COVID related cancellations. Other conferences will come up with a new idea. Be sure to read the Spring Gathering reports in the next few *Tapestry* issues. Remember, **Board Members**, that you are to provide a report of the Spring Gathering you attend to the *Tapestry Editor* following the event. Pictures are an added bonus! We hope to hear about all the Spring Gatherings scheduled below. So fun to know our sisters are together once more!

CONFERENCE	DATE	LOCATION	BOARD MEMBER ATTENDING
Broward-Bahamas	April 30	Christ Lutheran, Fort Lauderdale	Donna Person/ Jackie Haynick
Caloosa	March 26 (9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.)	Christ Lutheran, Cape Coral	Tracy Moffatt
First Coast	May __	Trinity Lutheran, Jacksonville	Karen Weinrich
Flagler/Volusia			Karen Weinrich
Gulf Coast	April 9	Nativity, Weeki Wachee	Anne Storan
Heart of Florida	2/26 Planning Meeting 3/26 Spring Gathering	St. John's, Winter Park	Nina Jageler/ Denise Beumer
Lake	With Heart of Florida		
Miami-Dade/Monroe	With Broward- Bahamas		Donna Person/ Jackie Haynick
Mid-Gulf	April 9	Holy Trinity, Port Charlotte	Gayle Backiel
Panhandle			Gathering may be held in the summer or fall
Pinelands	2/19 Planning Meeting 3/19 Spring Gathering	Hope Lutheran in The Villages	Leone Goding/ Sallie Haley
Space Coast	April 23	Our Savior, Vero Beach	Sallie Halley
Suncoast	May 14	Prince of Peace, Largo	Gayle Backiel/ Tracy Moffatt
Tampa	With Suncoast		Gayle Backiel/ Tracy Moffatt
Tradewinds	With Space Coast		

Welcome Spring

The First Spring Gathering of 2022

In Pinelands Conference

At Hope in the Villages

Shelly Fortin, President of Pinelands Conference welcomed the women attending the Spring Gathering 2022, at *Hope in the Villages*. After a prayer and devotion, they began eating the delicious breakfast prepared by the women of Rock of Ages. Shelly opened the meeting at 8:45am, welcoming 81 ladies that were in attendance. The first order of business was the election and installation of officers. The officers are **Shelly Fortin, President; Irene Brissel, Vice-President;** and **Laurie Nelson, Secretary/Treasurer**. FL-BA SWO Board member **Leone Goding** installed them.

The program was presented by **Pastor David Houck**. He gave a dynamic presentation about the mission and work of the *SoZo Kids*, the new Love Offering recipient. When asked how we can help as individuals, he suggested sponsoring a child. Their website, www.sozokids.org, will give you an insight into how you can support their work to change the lives of the children in the Ocala National Forest.

Shelly requested that the mike be passed around the room for everyone to introduce themselves and tell what they do. There were 24 first-time attendees. Leone gave each a gift to welcome them.

Anne Storan, President of the FL-BA SWO, advised of the Fall Gathering and urged registering as soon as registration is announced on the website, www.flwelca.com. All were urged to prayerfully consider filling out a nomination form to be available to fill a position as an officer or board member on the Synodical Board. Voting members will also be elected for the Triennial in Phoenix in

2023. Please mark on your calendars November 11-13 for Fall Gathering.

Doris Binner from Rock of Ages led us in the Bible Study from Proverbs 3:5-6. *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths."*

Our host church, Hope in the Villages, provided Coloring Scripture Verses and colored pencils for us to enjoy as we shared conversation before eating our scrumptious lunch served by Hope in the Villages.

Pastor Joannie Holden from St. Timothy in Crystal River led us in the worship service. Thank you, Pastor Joannie.

Respectfully submitted,
Leone Goding
SWO Board Member and LWR Coordinator



L to R, Vice-President Irene Brissel, President Shelly Fortin, & Secretary Laurie Nelson



Spring Conference time is also when conferences and church units submit names and contact information for their current officers. Conference officers will complete the reverse side of the Event Data Collection form while Congregational units will complete the Congregational Unit Officer Update Form. Locate the forms at www.flwelca.com by clicking on Local Unit Resources and scanning right until reaching Unit Leadership Forms. Follow the directions on each form ensuring that a copy is sent to the SWO Conference Coordinator: **Nina Jageler** at njageler@gmail.com



May Friendship Day

May Friendship Day dates back to May 1933, when two independent groups planned luncheons to focus on “*Child Health*” and “*Children of Migrant Families*.” The first event was sponsored by the Women’s Council for Home Missions in New York City and the second one, called “Dedication Day,” was sponsored by the National Council of Federated Church Women in order to bring the group’s dream of unity into full expression in each local community. Under a variety of names, this event continued and expanded until 1939, when they

merged under the National Council of Church Women, which called for an annual observance “to strengthen a growing sense of unity, the joy of Christian fellowship, and the power of Christianity in the day of need.” In May 1945, a few years after the founding of Church Women United, the celebration was formalized as May Fellowship Day. In 1999, the movement of Church Women United changed the name of the celebration to May Friendship Day, as we continue to celebrate unity in our journey toward wholeness in all communities.

Leone Goding, FL-BA SWO Board Member

Lutheran World Relief Totals for 2022

To see all the detail, the Lutheran World Relief info is on our website. I am so proud of the work the ladies did during this abnormal time and I am including the totals here.

Quilts - 6,697; Baby Care kits - 309; Fabric kits - 115; Personal Care Kits - 2,217; and School Kits - 1,204. Please see the individual totals at www.flwelca.com under Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you all for what you do.

Leone Goding, FL-BA SWO LWR Coordinator
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Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

From the Editor’s Desk — Linda Greilick



“Getting Back in the Groove”

Maybe it’s just me! Is anyone else having trouble putting loose ends together? With the lessening of COVID cases in our area, more events are being planned and more meetings have been changed to in person. All of sudden, I’ve found that my “to do” list is growing and that the need for better organization and increased communication is a reality. I believe that I’ve been existing in this pandemic life with lesser items “on my plate” and without contacting lots of people! I’m having to crawl out of my nook! “Getting back in the Groove” is taking some serious effort. Records and notes from projects that were cancelled have to be located. Contact information has changed and has to be updated. Response from others seems to be taking more time so maybe I’m not the only one. I searched for a scripture verse to help me find my way. Philippians 2:4 speaks to me: “Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interest of others.” I will use Paul’s words as a guide as I go grooving along! I hope they help each of you as you resume many activities.

KEEPING A



by Karen Weinrich, FL-BA SWO Board Member
Anti-Racism/Justice Advocacy

In 2016, an article called “A Dad’s Concern” by **David Daubert** was published in Living Lutheran. It is an account of a father’s worries about his gay son and how he will be treated in our society. He ends with “*As a dad, I can tell you that my son is a wonderful and gifted child of God.*”

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2016/06/a-dads-concern/>



This article was written 6 years ago, but it really hits home for me today, in the wake of the passage of the “Don’t Say Gay” bill in the Florida legislature. The official title of the bill is “*Parental Rights in Education.*”

So let’s look at the what “Don’t Say Gay” bill does. In Kindergarten through third grade, it prohibits instruction on sexual identity. Older grades may only teach about sexual identity if it is “age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate.” Teachers and other staff members are not allowed to withhold information about gender issues from parents. It also allows parents to sue school districts if they believe this law has been violated.

There has been quite a lot of protesting over this law. Students all over the state have held walk-outs to protest the bill. The LGBTQ community feels threatened and marginalized. As David Daubert noted, ALL people are gifts of God, and this bill creates division and stigma.

As a second grade teacher, I can assure you that sexual identity is NOT part of elementary school curriculum. However, what happens when I have a student with same-sex parents? Or a parent who is transitioning from male to female? Am I allowed to answer questions about that child’s two moms?

Middle and high school effects are even worse. Often a teacher is the one safe space an LGBTQ student has. If a student on their own brings up any type of sexual orientation questions or comments, the teacher has to question if this discussion is even allowed. The relationships between teachers and students are key to learning and developing as a person. Any LGBTQ student will now have to see teachers as an adversary rather than an advocate.

This bill could be disastrous for LGBTQ students and we need to pressure lawmakers to repeal this bill and act instead in ways that are caring and treat everyone with respect and dignity.

*Plan now for
Rachel’s Day*

Rachel’s Day is observed by Women of the ELCA annually on the **first Sunday in May** though it can be observed any time of the year. It is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear. The 2015 Rachel’s Day resource found at www.womenoftheelca.org/resources includes a litany for use in a special Rachel’s Day service. Questions? Contact FL-BA SWO Board member **Leone Goding** at leonegoding@centurylink.net.



A Candid Conversation About Immigrants

by FL-BA SWO Vice President Denise
Beumer and Deacon Steven L. Beumer

The following conversation took place between three Americans discussing the growing crisis of undocumented and illegal immigration into the United States:

1st American: They just keep coming and coming—on whatever floats, rolls and even walking!

2nd American: And when they get here, they have no job or a plan on what comes next. They just want to get here and then figure it out.

3rd American: I'm glad you can even understand them; they won't learn our language. I guess they want us to learn their language—hey, they moved here after all; they should learn our language.

2nd American: And the way they do things. It's so strange. Why can't they just adopt to our customs and holidays—they worked fine for us for a long time. After all, our customs and heritage are what make us great! They should learn to appreciate that a little more if they are going to live here.

1st American: But you now what really bothers me?

2nd American: What!

1st American: They are so violent. They seem to fight and argue all the time. They pack together in those little communities and I just don't want to go near them.

3rd American: You better not—I heard so many people that have gotten hurt when they tried to be friends. Leave those people alone is my motto. If they start acting friendly, they probably just want something for nothing. They have the nerve to call us names. They want to move here after all.

2nd American: So let me get this straight. They move here, uninvited, don't ask permission to live in our country and just start moving around with no regard for our rights.

3rd American: It just irks me that they want to push their way of life on us. Maybe I actually like the way we do things here. If they don't like it here, they should have stayed where they were. We have a way of life that we love. Our parents worked hard to give us this heritage and now they just show up and think they can ram their way of doing things down our throat. They have absolutely no respect for us. We have rights too!

1st American: Now, don't get all worked up because you know it won't do any good. They all complain how bad it was back in their homeland, no work, not enough to eat, political repression; so they want to come here—land of opportunity. Yea right, opportunity to steal my way of life, push me around and take over like they own the place. I am just sick and tired of them. I would just like to round'em all up and ship them right back where they came from. I know you're supposed to be all nice and everything but I am sick and tired of trying to share, trying to give a little here and there.

3rd American: I think we need to get together and just walk right up to a bunch of them and tell them in no uncertain terms that our welcome has worn thin. We know they have problems back where they came from but this just isn't working out and they need to pack up their stuff, take those screaming kids, their weird customs and get out—go back where they came from. And if they can't understand, we'll speak loudly in hopes that they can understand since they never had the decency to learn our language. That's right! Just get out!!

2nd American: Oh no! Here comes another boat load!

While this conversation is somewhat paraphrased, it certainly must have taken place on a cliff overlooking a Virginia bay some 500 years ago between three American Indians as they lamented the loss of their way of life as the Europeans came, uninvited, to change the way of life for the Native Americans that already lived here. This was their home!

How do we now look back and refuse to see that the “land of opportunity” is still just that. How could Europeans not see the parallel in the current migration from those seeking a better life. What are Christians to do? How did Abraham respond to the strangers? Did he not offer them hospitality? How did the Samaritan react—with hospitality or legislation to make the stranger go away? Didn't Jesus always seek to welcome the stranger, give comfort to the foreigner? Absolutely!

As Christians in 2022, are we not called to live out our faith, welcome the stranger and just recognize that for many of us was the welcome that we received?

Florida Bahamas Synodical Women' Organization Directory

Executive Board 2022

<p><u>President</u> Anne Storan astoran46@gmail.com Planning Committee</p>	<p><u>Vice President</u> Denise Beumer dbeumer1000@gmail.com Planning Committee</p>	<p><u>Secretary</u> Donna Person dperson7@aol.com J-Historian</p>	<p><u>Treasurer</u> Tracy Moffatt tracymoffatt@aol.com</p>
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Board Members and Missions**

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<p>Leone Goding leonegoding@centurylink.net J-LWR, CWU, Rachel's Day</p>	<p>Jackie Haynick jackiehaynick@yahoo.com S-Love Offering</p>	<p>Karen Weinrich weinrik@hotmail.com J-Anti-racism, Justice Advocacy</p>

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

**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 May15 for the June issue.**