



Tapestry

June 2021
Volume 34, Issue 3



Phyllis' Ponderings



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Dear Sisters in Christ,

Merriam Webster defines normal as conforming to a type, standard, or regular pattern: *characterized by that which is considered usual, typical, or routine.*

Last year our "normal" was turned upside down by COVID-19. When it first happened and we were suddenly living in a world of sheltering in place along with masks and social distancing, I doubt that many, if any, of us thought that it would continue as long as it did. In last year's June *Tapestry*, I suggested that maybe this was a time of being in the wilderness, a time we could draw closer to our Lord. I don't know about all of you, but I really did not expect or want to be in the wilderness so long!

This June, many of us hope this wilderness experience will soon be over. The CDC just announced new guidelines saying those who are fully vaccinated no longer need to wear masks with some exceptions. But a word of caution. There is a little publicized disclaimer with the new CDC guidelines that we all need to be aware of as we think about returning to that pre-pandemic normal: *If you have a condition or are taking medications that weaken your immune system, you may NOT be fully protected even if you are fully vaccinated. Talk to your healthcare provider. Even after vaccination, you may need to continue taking all precautions.* As we rush to leave the wilderness and return to that "normal" we have all been yearning for, we need to remember that for any number of reasons, some of our ladies may not be as comfortable without those familiar precautions and may not be as eager as some to return to that long ago "normal" way of holding Circle Meetings. Please continue to respect everyone. We can adapt our meetings to accommodate everyone.

While many of us have wondered if we would or even could ever return to the "normal" we remember from before COVID, my question is *do we really need or want to go back?*

We really have the opportunity to define a new normal, a new way of doing things. Just some thoughts:

- ◆ What if we have a hybrid Circle Meeting so those young women with families could attend via Zoom without having to find a babysitter?
- ◆ What if we encourage groups of ladies to continue meeting by Zoom so they can make the meeting times flexible to work with their already busy schedules?
- ◆ What if we are willing to continue to make those phone calls to check on ladies who aren't attending?
- ◆ What if.....



As the Fall Gathering Planning Committee continues to hold Zoom meetings, we realize that we can define a new normal. As of right now, I don't know what those changes may be, but come join us this fall and find out. I suspect that this year's Fall Gathering will just be the beginning.

It is my prayer that this wilderness time has given each one of us the opportunity to reevaluate our lives, to strengthen our faith, to value the truly important things, and to embrace the opportunities that have been given us.

I feel so blessed and honored to be a part of this *community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.* Thank you for living out our Purpose Statement in beautiful ways!

With love, your sister in Christ,
Phyllis Wade—SWO President



REMINDER FOR SWO BOARD/PLANNING COMMITTEE

The SWO Board and Fall Gathering Planning Committee will have an in-person Board Meeting on **Saturday, July 31, at St. John in Winter Park (1600 Orlando Avenue)**. Please watch your email for more details, including directions, specific times, the agenda, and your specific assignments for this meeting. If you have any questions, please contact SWO President Phyllis Wade at wade.phyllis73@gmail.com or 850-621-3267.



Ladies, I know everyone is always interested in who our newest "Love Offering" may be. Now is your chance to submit a Non-Profit organization that you deem in need of our help! Go to our WELCA website, click on the Local Unit Resources and print the Love Offering application form. Fill out the "nominated by" portion and give to your local non-profit. **All entries must be received by me no later than July 15, 2021.** I look forward to this year's nominations. Thank you for getting the word out regarding this beneficial program.



Jackie Haynick
jackiehaynick@gmail.com
Love Offering Coordinator



Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's
Organization (WELCA) Fall Gathering
November 12-14, 2021
Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center



*I may have all the faith needed to move mountains but if I have no love,
I am nothing. Corinthians 13:2b Good News Translation*

Your Fall Gathering Planning Committee has been working hard to provide you with an exciting weekend. We have heard so many times when changes are made that people will say "we did not do it that way." Well ladies, we can guarantee you that there will be a lot of changes on this weekend. Time to move those mountains!

We will be taking precautions to ensure the health and welfare of everyone.

Time to register for the Fall Gathering is early in June. It will be on our website and you can register online as you were able to do last year. You must register by August 31st.

We will have limited *Share the Spirit* and *Let your Light Shine* scholarships available.

If you would like to donate to these scholarship funds, please send your checks to our **Treasurer Laurie Nelson** and designate which scholarship you want your donation applied. You will be able to find the applications for these scholarships at www.flwelca.com.

We are looking forward to sharing with you God's assurance that *Faith Can Move Mountains*. See you November 12-14, 2021.

Blessings from your Co-chairs,

ANN ENGLISH & LORAIN VAN HAECKE

A graphic of a white computer key with the words "Online Registration" in a colorful, 3D-style font. The letters are blue, red, and yellow with a drop shadow effect.

Registration for this year's Fall Gathering will officially kick off on June 1. You will once again have several options for registering and paying.

On June 1, PDF registration forms that you can mail, fax or email to the registrar, Diane Cummings, will be available online at www.flwelca.com and on our Facebook page. Remember: you can also print these forms or share the online link with women in your congregation and conference.

We are also excited to announce that online registration will again be available this year. Each year, more women have taken advantage of this option. When you register online, you can select your workshops, choose your housing preference, and pay via credit card. When you register online, you will receive an email confirmation with your registration and payment information.

Please watch your email and Facebook for updated information about this year's Fall Gathering.

Cheryl L. Semmel

Cell 785.224.1377 | clsemmel@gmail.com

A cartoon illustration of a teal bird with a large white eye and a beak, holding a white sign with the words 'Early Bird' in a stylized font. The bird is standing on two thin black legs. The sign is tilted and has a slight shadow.

Don't be late!

Our Fall Gathering registration deadline for this year is August 31. Why earlier than in past years? Our contract with Lake Yale requires us to guarantee 80% of the number of attendees. In simple terms, if we tell them we expect to have 250 attendees, unless we change the number on our contract by September 11, we will be required to pay for a minimum of 200 attendees whether we have that many registered or not. Because we forfeited our deposit for last year's Fall Gathering due to COVID, we simply cannot afford to pay for more attendees than we have registered. Please register early!



SHARE THE SPIRIT AND LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE GRANTS

The Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization has two grant (scholarship) programs to assist in the costs to attend our Fall Gathering, one for adult ladies and one for youth grade 6 through college. We know this year has been difficult in so many ways, including for some financially. We encourage individuals and Congregational Units to assist ladies in their Units with the costs and/or to make a donation to one or both of these grants. Donations should be mailed to ***SWO Treasurer Laurie Nelson, 8598 N Calcutta Ave, Dunnellon, FL 34433.***

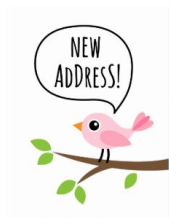
Share the Spirit: For our adult ladies, this grant program supplements funds to attend the Fall Gathering and encourages the participant, units, and other sponsors to help cover the costs of individuals attending the Fall Gathering. Who can apply? Any woman who would benefit from a spiritual weekend with sisters in Christ like women of all ages, first timers, women needing a bit of financial assistance, or women who are in your congregation or community but not yet participants in your Unit—just to name a few.

Let Your Light Shine: For youth (Grade 6 through college), this grant program offers financial assistance to attend the Fall Gathering. Grants are awarded to supplement the cost of accommodations, meals, and registration fees. Previous grant recipients are eligible to apply.

Both applications will be available in June at: www.flwelca.com on the Fall Gathering page. Include this form with your registration. If you have questions, contact the **Registrar Diane Cummings** at sworegistrar1@gmail.com. Again, a reminder that for both grants, applicants are encouraged to also seek support from their congregation, sponsors, and self to share the costs.

Hello All,

This is to inform you of a change of address for your Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women of the ELCA Treasurer. Please send any financial correspondence, donations and Congregational Unit or Conference financial forms to:



Laurie Nelson
8598 N Calcutta Ave,
Dunnellon, FL 34433

Thank you all for your support and patience as we transitioned from south Florida into a rental and now, into our forever home.

God's Peace,

Your Sister in Christ,

Laurie Nelson
FL-BA SWO Treasurer
nlsnlaur@yahoo.com
716-499-7166



News from our Treasurer



YOUR CONFERENCE COORDINATOR ASKS FOR YOUR HELP!

I appreciate all the conference leaders who responded to my earlier request for this information. You have made it possible to begin building an updated data base of leaders around the synod.

We are seeing “*Help Wanted*” signs all around Florida as businesses are reopening and expanding service now that the greatest danger from COVID is behind us. Your Synodical Women’s Organization needs your help. As your Conference Coordinator, I need conference presidents to send me names and contact information for the officers of your conference. I also need you to gather current names and contact information for the officers of the church units in your conference. For your effort in successful completion of this job, you will be compensated by receiving all the current news and information from your SWO. You won’t miss out on opportunities for fellowship, fun, and faith at events like the Fall Gathering at Lake Yale.

I asked in the previous edition of “*Tapestry*” what Church Units have been doing since March 2020. Several women contacted me to let me know the activities that have sustained them during our time of isolation. In communities all around Florida, meals have been served and food distributed to people impacted by food insecurity. Quilts have been made. Clothing has been distributed. Circle meetings have been held remotely as well as outdoors. We have been able to continue to live our mission and pursue our purpose by adapting and being flexible.

Anne Storan
Conference Coordinator

Once again, we ask “Is Your Constitution Updated?”

by Lisa Klima, Vice President, FL-BA SWO

According to the www.womenoftheelca.org, the definition of Constitution is: A legal document that outlines the name, purpose, authority, relationship and financial structure of an organization (churchwide organization, synodical women's organization, congregational or intercongregational unit, special unit). Our constitutions describe how Women of the ELCA operates as an organization. The constitutions are living documents that explain how we will live our lives together as a community of women created in the image of God. From time to time additions and deletions are made to the constitutions (through the process for change that is laid out in the constitutions themselves), as our circumstances change. Download the latest versions of the constitutions that reflect changes voted on at the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017 – *This is the latest update*).

Changes in the constitutions voted into effect at the Tenth Triennial Convention (2017) are reflected below. All changes are effective immediately, as provided for in our constitutions. Congregational and special units and synodical organizations need take no further action on these changes; they need only update their constitutions to reflect these changes.

Model constitution and bylaws for a congregational/intercongregational unit

In English [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

Constitución modelo y estatutos aprobados unidad congregacional o intercongregacional

En Español [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

Model constitution and bylaws for a special unit

In English [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

Constitución modelo y estatutos aprobados unidad especial

En Español [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

Model constitution and bylaws for a synodical organization

In English [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

Constitución y estatutos aprobados organización sinodal de mujeres

En Español [PDF](#) | [Word](#)

Email your updated constitution to **Lisa Klima** at lisamarie274@yahoo.com.

Emergencies can happen! Be prepared!

by Marilyn Kreitzinger, Board Member

When you have emergency, the first thing you think of is to call 911. But when should you call 911?

- Only **call 911** if a **person** or property is in immediate danger. A serious medical emergency warrants a **911 call**, so don't hesitate if you witness a heart attack, stroke, anaphylaxis, broken limbs, choking, drug overdose, drowning, a psychotic episode, or uncontrolled bleeding.

Your iPhone and Android phones have special features that will allow you to call 911 easily. Also in your cell phone, you can set up emergency contacts and the authorities can get to these numbers without getting into other contact information. **Now** is the time to learn how to do it!

What other emergency or important numbers do we need?

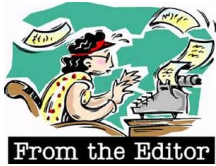
- **Emergency numbers:** police, fire, poison control
- **Important numbers:** water, power, doctor, insurance, locksmith, animal control
- **People:** Family, neighbor, friend, boss/work

Remember to include these numbers in your phone AND written (the old fashioned way) just in case your phone is not available or loses charge.

One of the emergencies that we need to be prepare for each year are hurricanes. June 1 is the beginning of the season. Do you have your supplies ready? Do you have important information in a notebook or 3 ring binder to put in your car in a waterproof bag if you must evacuate?

Join us at the Fall Gathering where more information will be supplied.





What if we share one of our Resources?

Many of us have subscribed to *Gather*—the magazine of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for as long as we can remember while being a member of this wonderful sisterhood. If you recall, this magazine probably graced our mailboxes years ago as “*Lutheran Women Today*.” Now as *Gather*, we can enjoy a hard copy or we can download each issue on our phone or tablet if we’re a subscriber.

If you are like me, some of you have probably already gifted daughters, granddaughters, sisters, nieces, and friends with a subscription to *Gather*. You’ve enjoyed the Bible study, the faith stories, and devotions and have wanted to share this experience with those that you care about. Right now is the perfect time to share a subscription. *Gather* is being offered to new subscribers for only \$9.95 for the whole year of the magazine. How can you resist such an offer? How can you not share this well written magazine with others! See the details below and share. It’s the perfect time as we come out of the wilderness.



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* (10 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 10 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.

Gather | PO Box 336 | Congers, NY 10920-0336
Customer Service Department: 844-409-0576
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www.gathermagazine.org

Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Directory

Executive Board 2020-2021

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Denise Beumer dbeumer1000@gmail.com J-Anti-Racism, Justice Advocacy	Jackie Haynick jackiehaynick@yahoo.com Love Offering	Anne Storan astoran46@gmail.com D-Conference Coordinator, Plus One	

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<u>Human Trafficking Committee</u> Phyllis Wade secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com	<u>Churchwide Board</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 July 15th for the August issue.**