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*Anne's Announcements*

I had some "back to school fun" in September. The Women of the ELCA had another one hour training session on Zoom to share information and ideas using a back to school theme to structure our time together. Our Churchwide organization is responsive to concerns they've heard from our church units and circles. We've always looked for ways to draw more women to living and sharing their faith through participation in WELCA. Engaging new and old members has become more complicated in this post pandemic world. The purpose of this Zoom meeting was to make us aware of all the tools and resources available to us through our national organization.

Our Back to School day began with our orientation in the imaginary auditorium. Executive Director **Linda Post Bushkofsky** introduced the staff, including a description of their roles. Meeting the people who will help us when we call the office with questions or requests will make us much more comfortable finding what we need.

From there, we moved to the imaginary library. We learned about the many programs that are available to us at no cost. There are programs suitable for devotions, meetings, retreats, and individual study. These are found online at [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org), on the Resources tab. Additionally, a subscription to "Gather" will bring this wonderful magazine to you six times a year. At no cost, you can sign up for a daily devotion, "Daily Grace" to be delivered to your email address each morning. "Bold Cafe" and "Bold Connections" are more free digital resources that you can sign up for online.

WELCA knows that our faith lives also need extra curricular activities. "Raising up Healthy Women and Girls" is a very relevant program with resources available at WELCA. Call **Eva Yeo** for more information about this or other programs that could energize and engage the women of your church.

We even got homework. The WELCA Purpose is our game plan. We must practice each day to grow in faith. Spend time with the women of your church and your community. Learn about their concerns and their interests. Then use the resources available through the Churchwide Organization to create activities and programs to serve the needs that are greatest in your community.

A recording of this one hour session, as well as earlier Zoom trainings, are available on line under the Events tab at the WELCA website.

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

FB-SWO Board

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## Forms, Funds, and Finances...

by Tracy Moffatt, Treasurer

Greetings SWO Sisters,

I hope by now you have all registered for the Fall Gathering!!! Now as you prepare for the weekend, here are a few *Step by Step* things to do:

- If you are sending a voting member to the Fall Gathering, be sure you have made at least one regular offering to the SWO this year. This means sending an offering from your unit to the SWO Treasurer using a Form A. It is different than a Love Offering or an offering collected at a Spring Gathering.
  - ◇ If you would like me to check on your unit's status, please email me at: [fbswotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:fbswotreasurer@gmail.com) or call 239-848-7274.
- We will be collecting two offerings at Lake Yale - one Saturday during the Love Offering presentation and the other during our Worship Service on Saturday Evening. If you plan on writing a check for either or both of these offerings, please plan to write two separate checks.
  - ◇ For the Love Offering (Sozo Kids), make the check payable to the FL-BA SWO and indicate Love Offering in the memo line or on the envelope. Please do not make the check payable to Sozo Kids.
  - ◇ For the regular worship offering, make the check payable to the FL-BA SWO and indicate regular offering in the memo line or on the envelope. If it is an offering from your unit, please also include what church the offering is from.

Thanks for your continued support of the works of our SWO - I look forward to seeing you all at Lake Yale in November.

## *Katie's Fund*

### *Growing Katie's Fund for the Next 100 Years*

Katie's Fund, an endowment created in 1997, honors the legacy of **Katherine Von Bora Luther**, seeking to raise up bold leaders and enable bold and creative ministry for generations to come. The annual budget of Women of the ELCA supports a no-frills operation and leaves little funding for special initiatives or unexpected ministry opportunities. That's where Katie's Fund steps in. It supports opportunities beyond the annual operating budget, offering funding for ministries and activities in leadership development, global connections and living theology.

By increasing Katie's Fund through 2022, Katie's Fund will grow for the next 100 years. The organization will be able to support special initiatives and unexpected ministry op-

portunities into the next century. Women of the ELCA can expand the footprint, reach, and impact of women's leadership and ministry in the church for the sake of the world.

Women of all ages and abilities can support the vision of a future where women continue to lead the church in new and innovative ways. We all have the opportunity and the joy of leaving a legacy to equip future leaders. To learn more about **2022: Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 Years**, visit the Katie's Fund page where you'll also find information about contributing to the campaign.





November 11th - 13th, 2022

Annual FL-BA Synodical Women's Organization  
**FALL GATHERING**  
at  
Lake Yale Baptist Center  
Leesburg, FL

Have you made your reservation for our Fall Gathering? Our theme for the weekend is "STEP BY STEP" based on Proverbs 16:9 NLT; *We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps.* Your Fall Gathering Planning Committee has been working hard to provide you with an exciting and spirit filled weekend. For those of you commuting, you will have the opportunity to enjoy the same exciting and spirit filled days.

There will lots to do and also time for relaxation. We will have Worship, Bible study, Workshops, Fellowship, Elections and other business, LWR quilt tying, Saturday night games, making new friends and reconnecting with old friends.

We will have a Prayer Room and on the dock at the lake is a beautiful place to have your own personal devotion or to visit with old and new friends.

Check our website at [flwelca.com](http://flwelca.com) for more information. See you all at the Gathering!!

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

Meet our  
Churchwide Representative  
at the Fall Gathering!



Raeann Purcell  
Executive Board Member  
Women of the Evangelical  
Lutheran Church in America

**Raeann Purcell** was appointed to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in March 2019 to fill a vacancy. She was elected treasurer at the 2021 digital convention. A member of Trinity Lutheran Church, New Smyrna Beach, Fla., she lives in DeLand, Fla. She retired from the Florida Department of Revenue in 2021.

At Trinity, Raeann is on the church council and serves on the outreach and hospitality teams. She is a circle leader of one of Trinity's three Women of the ELCA circles. Raeann is a cradle Lutheran whose mother nurtured her in Women of the ELCA.

Raeann has served the Florida/Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) as a board member, treasurer, and president. As SWO president, Raeann visited Haiti in September 2010 and met with Haitian women about their faith journeys. She has served as an advisory board member for the Florida/Bahamas SWO and provided education and resources on human trafficking. Raeann was a voting member at three triennial conventions and served as the triennial promoter for two gatherings.

At the last five Florida/Bahamas Synod assemblies, Raeann has served on the elections committee. She has also worked the assemblies in communications, updating social media, and as a photographer. As an ELCA Mission Interpreter, Raeann enjoys sharing the stories of the church and how we live Christ's love. She has also held listening sessions and studies for the ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice. Raeann was a voting member at the 2013 Churchwide Assembly in Pittsburgh.

She worked as a recruitment specialist for the Florida Department of Revenue where she was employed for 38 years. She previously worked in purchasing, child support, and public assistance. She started her career working with juvenile delinquents. Raeann has two adult children: a son in Denver, Pa., and a daughter and son-in-law whom she lives with. She is also ecstatic to live with and help care for her grandson who was born December 23, 2021. He is completely adorable!

## Fall Gathering is the time to help SOZO KIDS!



As usual, when we meet at the Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering in November, we will be collecting your in-kind gifts for our Love Offering. **Sozo Kids** has provided a list of their current needs as follows:

- Wireless Headphones
- Sports Balls
- Body Sprays (for teen boys or girls)
- Hair Accessories
- Hair Tools: Curling Irons, Blow Dryers, Straighteners
- Hoodies aka Sweatshirt w/Hood
- Hygiene Kits - Boy and Girls
- Gift Cards - Walmart, Amazon, Visa, Sam's Club, and Office Depot

*Thank you all for helping to support this worthwhile organization throughout the year!*

**Jackie Haynick**, Love Offering Coordinator & SWO Board Member



From the Editor's Desk — Linda Greilick

### A First—Ian!

I have to say that this is a first for me—the first time that I've ever prepared the *Tapestry* as a hurricane attacks our state. This morning, Wednesday, Hurricane Ian is only miles away from the Fort Myers area. As I type, I can hear one of my neighbors still drilling and hammering up the last of the plywood to cover his windows amid the rain showers and slightly increased wind. Being at a higher elevation, most of our neighbors have prepped their houses and plan to remain hunkered down during the onset of Ian.

My thoughts are random this morning! I call it a “potpourri” type of actions. Have we completed all our preparations? Does all my family know our plan? Have we made the right decision? Where is Hurricane Ian now? And maybe, my most random thought - what does the name of this devastation, Ian, that is hitting our state mean? Yes, of course, I had to research it! *Origin: Ian is a Scottish name of Hebrew origin meaning "God is gracious." Gender: Typically, Ian is used as a boy name. Ian confers a sense of intelligence, kindness, honor, and grace.* This struck me as an unbelievable name to attach to a disaster that we know will be so very destructive as I hear the winds increase outside my walls! As I continue to reflect on this, maybe I can only foresee that the graciousness of God will surface as those of us that can will share our love, our goods, our services, and our help to those that become the victims of this humongous storm. And that our Lord will be with each and every one of us who are in the path of this storm and are feeling fear and danger as Hurricane Ian marches across the state. May God be with all as we pray: Isaiah 30:18: *Therefore the LORD waits to be gracious to you; therefore he will rise up to show mercy to you.*

*Our ELCA  
Fund for Leaders  
Scholarship  
dollars at work!*



Dear Sisters in Christ!

WE DID IT! Because of your financial support and encouragement, you all helped me get through seminary to graduation and ordination! I am so thankful to all the women who have journeyed with me, especially the board members and executive leaders for including me every year as a scholarship recipient. One of my highlights during seminary was looking forward to being with you all at the Fall Gathering. (I loved laughing with all the Laughter Yoga participants - you are AWESOME!) I graduated on May 15th from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa, was ordained at Redeemer in Winter Park on July 17th, and called to serve as pastor at St. Philip in Mount Dora. We do not always get to see the fruit from the seeds that are planted and so I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the fruit that has been harvested on your behalf. Please continue to be the spiritual seed planters in the lives of our sisters. You never know what fruit may come from it.

I look forward to seeing you this fall as  
**Pastor Trixie Richter!**

Peace,  
**Pr. Trixie**



**ELCA Fund for Leaders**  
**For the church and for our future**

*Apply now!*

*It's your turn!*

The Fund for Leaders Scholarship Application for the 2023-2024 academic year is available on our website, [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com). **The deadline is midnight, December 15, 2022.** Applications should be sent to **Donna Person**, SWO Secretary, 7418 Corkwood Circle, Tamarac, FL 33321, or [dperson7@aol.com](mailto:dperson7@aol.com).

The scholarship will be awarded by the decision of the Florida/Bahamas SWO board at their January 2023 board meeting using the following criteria:

- ◆ A student in the candidacy process attending one of the eight ELCA seminaries in either the Master of Divinity or Master of Arts program; or a student in an approved extension program of one of the ELCA seminaries and enrolled in an approved program, such as the Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) program.
- ◆ Preference will be given to Residents of the Florida/Bahamas Synod
- ◆ Preference will be given to female applicants
- ◆ Preference will be given to an active member of a congregational unit of the Women of the ELCA
- ◆ Applicant should exhibit faith qualities that empower others
- ◆ Applicant should demonstrate leadership qualities in church and in the community.





World Community Day



## Lutheran World Relief News

The Drop Off/Pick Up schedules have been set up with Lutheran World Relief for February 2023. The process will happen during the first full two weeks in February. The churches of **Shepherd of the Hills in Clermont, Christ Lutheran in Ft. Lauderdale, Emmanuel Lutheran in Venice, Good Shepherd in Tampa, Trinity in Jacksonville and Holy Trinity in Fort Walton Beach** are going to be the drop offs again in 2023. Thank you to these congregations who have given their time for this huge endeavor.



*Cheryl Semmel*, Webmaster, has all the forms you need on the website. If you are unable to download them, please feel free to contact me and I will either email them or snail mail if you would like.

*Leone Goding*  
SWO LWR Coordinator  
[leonegoding@centurylink.net](mailto:leonegoding@centurylink.net)

World Community Day began in 1943 from discussions at a meeting of denominational presidents and executive secretaries asking that a day be set aside in the fall for the study of peace by church women. Although many denominations were printing their own studies on the new world order, it was determined at this meeting that their unity would be strengthened on one day of united study.

World Community Day continues to emphasize peace but has been broadened to include justice, a vital partner of peace. The once clear categories of "domestic" and "foreign" were consciously blurred so the global scope of the wide range of problems could be emphasized on World Community Day.

Many Units celebrate this day on the first Friday in November. Please contact your local unit and support them.

*Leone Goding*, FL-BA SWO Board

### Summer Bible Study Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Hernando

An audience of between 12 - 18 ladies attended over a period of three months. Using the scriptures as our guide we reviewed the book *Bad Girls of the Bible* by *Liz Higgins Clark*. The book is a study of ten women noted in the Bible including such notables as Eve and Jezebel. A user guide to the book permitted us to have a focused and provocative discussion regarding the history of these characters (historical figures) and their impact on the development of scripture. While the impacts were varied, a central theme is that each of their unique stories is grounded in their relationship to their interpretation of God and the meaning of God's love.

of Good Shepherd, but attendance over the years has declined because of health concerns and lack of ease using technology. Trying something different for the summer was a way to draw new women to our time together. This book drew younger women who brought a fresh perspective to our discussions and began new relationships for all of us.



Our monthly Bible studies using "Gather" magazine have been enjoyed and appreciated by the women

*Cindy Gaertner*—Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

# 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> astoran46@gmail.com Planning Committee	<b>Denise Beumer</b> dbeumer1000@gmail.com Planning Committee	<b>Donna Person</b> dperson7@aol.com J-Historian	<b>Tracy Moffatt</b> tracymoffatt@aol.com

## Board Members and Missions\*\*

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

## Non-Board Members

<u>Registrar</u> <b>Diane Cummings</b> sworegistrar1@gmail.com	<u>Triennial Promoter</u> <b>Diane Spicer</b> dlsic@juno.com
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<u>AV Tech</u> <b>Kris Dines</b> kdines1@comcast.net	<u>Churchwide Board</u> <b>Raeann Purcell</b> 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 Nov 15 for the December issue.**