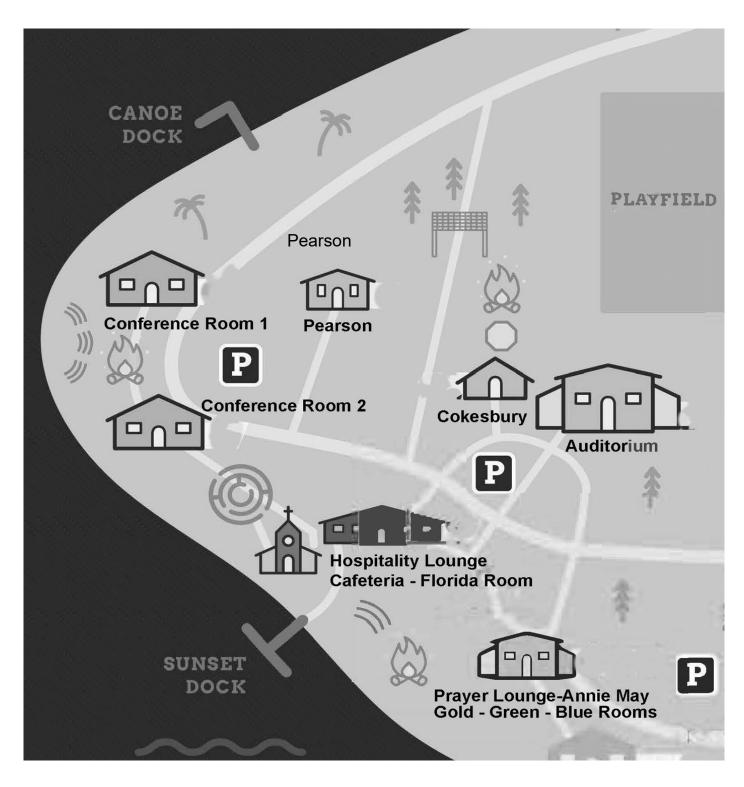


# For all who are led by the spirit of God are children of God. Romans 8:14

# FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION (SWO) FALL GATHERING NOVEMBER 7-9, 2025

# Bill Hull will be your golf cart driver this weekend. Please contact him at 407-421-3210 for help getting around the facility



Problems with your room? Don't Delay... Call 352-409-7871 to have our weekend onsite host address them NOW!!!

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Map of Warren Willis Conference Center	Inside Front Cover
Welcome from Gathering Co-Chairs	2
Greetings from Churchwide President	3
SWO Officers and Board Members	4
Conference Assignments	6
FL Bahamas Conference Map	7
Workshop Leaders	8
Workshop Rooms and Sessions	9
Special Fellowship Opportunities & Special Thanks	10
Special Guests' Biographies	11
Bible Study Notes	13
SWO Officers' Reports	14
SWO 2026-2027 Budget	15
Board Members' Reports	18
Friday Opening Worship	22
Saturday Communion Worship	29
Sunday Closing Worship	45
Before You Leave for Home	56
Credentials Report	Inside Back Cover
Schedule	Back Cover

#### WELCOME, All GODS' CHILDREN!

As your Fall Gathering 2025 Co-Chairs, we, along with the Florida Bahamas SWO Board of Directors, welcome you to our gathering. We are all God's children, and we want you to feel like family this weekend. This will be your



For all who are led by the spirit of God are children of God. Romans 8:14

home away from home for the next two days. Home is where you gather in comfort, in love, in peace. Home is where you are free to explore, learn, ask questions, worship, relax and be yourself all without judgement. Those are all the things we want you to do this weekend.

We have a packed schedule. You are welcome to attend as much or as little as you want. Voting members are required to be seated during our business sessions but otherwise feel free to enjoy the Hospitality Room, walk the prayer labyrinth, sit and reflect, walk the paths, gather with old and meet new friends. We've tried to mix business with fun, worship and workshops and time to relax.

Please, take time to visit the displays that have been set up around our meeting areas. If you haven't already, take a look at the available workshops and choose a few that pique your interest. We've tried to make sure there is a workshop for everyone. If you like morning meditation, we offer morning devotions with quiet reflection each morning at 7:15. We also have planned Bible study with Pastor Margarita Romo. And of course, we have more than one worship service planned for the weekend. Come and hear Pastor Kari Niedermaier and others deliver the Word. If you want to hear the latest happenings in our synod or Churchwide, we have representatives FL Bahamas Synod and Churchwide WELCA, bringing greetings and answering questions. Do you like to sing? Join the choir. Practice will take place during workshop session 1 or 2.

We know that you have a choice of how to spend your time. We are grateful that you've chosen to spend time with us exploring our relationships with Christ, the church and one another. We are blessed to have you here. We sincerely hope that your expectations for this conference are met. We also know that sometimes, things don't go as planned. If you experience any issues, please let us or any of the Board members know.

We thank you for the confidence you had in choosing us to co-chair this gathering. We thank each and every attendee and everyone who has worked to make this weekend a success.

We are truly All God's Children.

*Tina McLoud*, Fall Gathering Co-Chair

Stacia Carter, Fall Gathering Co-Chair



## GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCHWIDE PRESIDENT

2025 Synodical Women's Convention President's Message

Blessings to each of you, my siblings in Christ!



I bring you greetings from your churchwide Executive Board. As you convene in your annual or biennial synodical women's conventions, know that you are being lifted up in prayer by the leadership of your Executive Board. We represent you as, together, we implement our strategic plan for the remainder of this triennium under the catetories of Connect, Create, Complement, Continue and Celebrate! You have a part in this plan, and I give thanks for each of you, and for your congregational units, your conferences and clusters, and your synodical women's organizations. I invite you to become familiar with the components of this plan as we move forward together. Find the full plan from this link:

https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Final-Strategic-Plan-2025.pdf

Your conventions are more than transacting necessary business. Your time together is an opportunity to be inspired by the messages of clergy and gifted speakers. You have reason to be challenged by issues facing our neighbors and our communities, issues including immigration, human trafficking, anti-racism, gender identity, and truth-in-healing. You also celebrate accomplishments, make new friends and reconnect with old. You eat together, pray together, laugh together, grow in faith together. And you leave re-energized to continue our mission and ministry. You are touched by the Spirit! You are bold Women of the ELCA!

Thank you for being the face of Christ as we continue to dismantle actions that exclude our siblings from feeling welcomed, included, and heard. Each of you are ambassadors of God's Love. Together, we are the women's ministry arm of our ELCA. God has called us into this work. I pray you will feel the call, and the power of the Holy Spirit, as you gather together in this year's convention.

Grateful to share this journey with you,

Myrna Wells-Ulland

President, 2023-2026 Triennium

Myrna Wells-Ulland

## **SWO BOARD**

## **SWO Board Assignments**

Last	First	Conference	Church	Board Duties & Mission Area
Beumer	Denise	Heart of Florida	St. John	Vice President
Carter	Stacia	Heart of Florida	Salem	Justice & Reconciliation
Driesbaugh	Judy	Flagler-Volusia	Trinity	Scholarships
Goding	Leone	Heart of Florida	Gloria Dei	Lutheran World Relief
Haley	Sallie	Pinelands	St. Timothy	Global Missions
Jageler	Nina	Heart of Florida	St. Stephen	Conference & Fall Gathering Workshop Coordinator
Moffatt	Tracy	Caloosa	Christus Victor	Treasurer
Purcell	Raeann	Flagler-Volusia	a Emmaus President	
Shively	Wilma	Panhandle	Holy Trinity	Secretary

## **SWO Board Advisory Members**

Cummings	Diane	Heart of Florida	St. Stephen	Registrar
McCloud	Tina	Suncoast	St. Andrews	Fall Gathering Co-Chair
Olson	Gina	First Coast	St. Mark	Tapestry Editor
Spicer	Diane	Space Coast	St. Andrew	Love Offering

Interested in serving??? Nominations will be taken from the floor for Board Members - see Denise Beumer for more information

# We are excited to be sharing the Worship Space with the Methodist Youth again!!



Have your checkered flags ready to wave them on as they exit the Auditorium Saturday & Sunday Morning!!!

## Visit the Prayer Lounge in the Annie May Room

In front of Gold Room - walk thru Cafeteria Lobby and turn left - follow sidewalk right to the entrance!

Leave your Prayers to be lifted up during our Worship



Problems with your room? Don't Delay... Call 352-409-7871 to have our weekend onsite host address them NOW!!!

## **CONFERENCE ASSIGNMENTS**

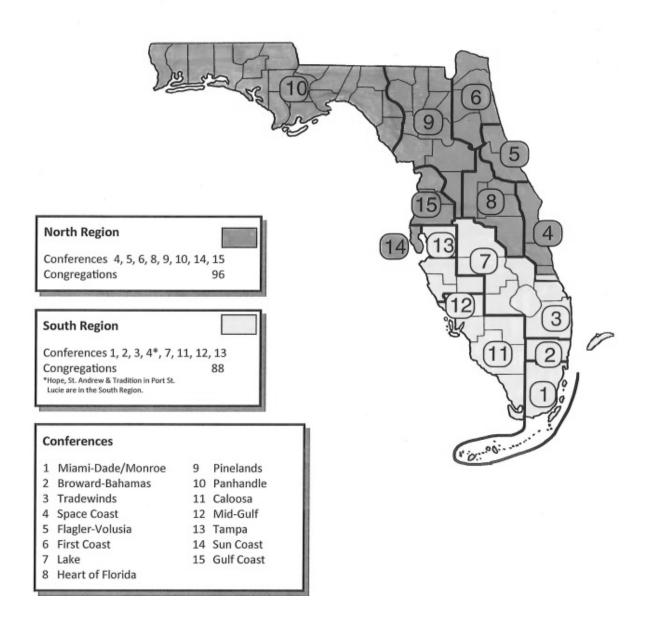
CONFERENCE	ASSIGNMENT	CONFERENCE LEADER	BOARD CONTACT	ROOM
Miami- Dade/Monroe	I labora	Denise Coller	Loone Coding	Green
Broward- Bahamas	Ushers	Denise Coller	Leone Goding	Room
Tradewinds	Ushers	Shonda Staudt	Leone Goding	Florida
Space Coast	Sunday Devotions	Giesla Khail	Lisa Klima	Room
Flagler-Volusia	Credentials	TBD	Denise Beumer	Gold Room 1
First Coast	Saturday Devotions	Rachael Mumford	Lisa Klima	Cokesbury
Heart of Florida & Lake	Communion	Marilyn Kreitzinger	Leone Goding	Pearson Building
Pinelands	Registration	Bev Conklin	Tracy Moffatt	Dive Decree
Panhandle	In-kind Gifts	Wilma Shively	Wilma Shively	Blue Room
Caloosa	In-Kind Gifts	Julie Hunter	Wilma Shively	Library
Mid-Gulf	Conduct of Elections	Gayle Backiel	Denise Beumer	Cafeteria
Suncoast	Hospitality	Dh. Ilia Daviana	Tina McCloud	Building 1
Tampa		Phyllis Berlage	Stacia Carter	Conference
Gulf Coast	Prayer Lounge	Kay Droz Ellen Lipinski	Sallie Haley	Annie May
Youth	Rachel Ulrich		Raeann Purcell	Building 2 Conference

Please note: Any expense incurred is the responsibility of your Conference.

Room assignments may change - announcements will be made if that happens.

Thank you to the Conference leaders and participants for your contributions to the Fall Gathering.

## Florida-Bahamas Synod Regions & Conferences



Thank you for traveling from your home to the Fall Gathering this weekend.

We are happy to see you! We are ready to assist you!

## **WORKSHOP LEADERS**

Thank You for sharing your gifts!

Deb Beck Just Love Team

Denise Beumer Lisa Klima

Steve Beumer Tracy Moffatt

Diane Brown Raeann Purcell

Christine Carlson Wilma Shively

Bella Crowe Piper Spencer

Julia Hood Loraine VanHaecke

Jennifer Johnson Karen Weinrich



## **WORKSHOP ROOMS AND SESSIONS**

#	Workshop Name	Session	Room #
1	President / Vice-President	1	Auditorium #1
2	Secretary / Treasurer	2	Building #2 Conference
3	Choir	1 & 2	Blue
4	Ukulele Worship	1	Florida Room
5	All God's Children	1 & 3	Cokesbury
6	Stories with Grandma	2	Gold #1
7	Angel Ornament	3	Cafeteria
8	Prayer Jars	1	Gold #1
9	Beads, Beads, and more Beads	3	Gold #1
10	Nativity Ornament	1	Cafeteria
11	Candy Tin Box	2	Cafeteria
12	Praise Report Journals	3	Blue
13	The Generosity Story	1	Green
14	Caregiving	2	Green
15	Transferring Property Across Generations	3	Green
16	Women's Jail Ministry	2	Cokesbury
17	Gun Violence	2	Florida Room
18	Immigration or Migration	3	Florida Room
19	Hospitality in the Bible	1	Auditorium #2
20	Cultivating Spaces for grace	1	Pearson
21	Beloved Community	2	Pearson

### SPECIAL FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Prayer Lounge - Cokesbury Building

Fellowship and Snacks - Cafeteria Lobby Coffee & Tea provided all day Saturday!!!

**Ministry Display Boards - Back of Auditorium** 

#### **Workshop Leaders' Dinner:**

Workshop leaders will meet for dinner, training, and fellowship Friday at 5:30 pm in the dining room. If you are leading a workshop, please plan to join your counterparts for a scrumptious meal and important information about the weekend.

#### SPECIAL THANKS FOR CONTRIBUTIONS:





For the folders, pads, and pens.



All of you who contributed to Share the Spirit and Let Your Light Shine so our sisters and youth could join us this weekend.



#### **SPECIAL GUESTS**

#### Chaplain and Worship Leader, Pastor Kari Niedermaier

Rev. Kari Niedermaier is a coach, consultant and pastor who serves All Saints Lutheran Church in Port Orange, FL. Kari has a passion for co-creating sustainable, inclusive, just communities where people can taste and see the kin-dom of God. She serves as the co-chair of the Florida-Bahamas Just Love team and teaches Boundaries workshops and trainings across the synod. When she is not helping to develop healthy leaders and faith communities, you can find her traveling, in the yoga studio, playing in the water or enjoying her large family and homestead (she has six kids, three dogs, two cats, five goats, and an ever-changing number of chickens).

#### Bible Study Leader, Pastor Margarita Romo

Margarita Romo is the founder and Executive Director of Farmworkers Self-Help, Inc., a grassroots organization organized in 1982 in Dade City, Pasco County, Florida, which facilitates the self-development of farmworkers and other poor, through its programs of education, advocacy, organizing, justice and empowerment and health. She is the only woman directing a farmworker organization in Florida. She organized AWING (Agricultural Women Involved in New Goals), the first farmworker women's organized initiative in Florida, and developed the Norma Godinez Learning Center as well as Mi Otra Casa (My Other House), our community teen center, designed to address the education needs of farmworkers and other poor and provide an alternative to the gang activities in the northeast section of Pasco County.

Through Margarita's vision and efforts, La Casa de Esperanza y Salud (House of Hope and Health), a free clinic for farmworkers, has been in operation at FSH in Dade City since 1994. She was also instrumental in the creation of a farmworker clinic in Gretna, Florida. She has traveled extensively throughout North America and other countries in furtherance of her mission to help improve the quality of life of farmworkers. She is a recipient of the Robert Bannerman Award given to distinguished activists of color, the Clairol Award given in recognition of accomplishment by women over age 35, and the Cramer-Fisher Award given by MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, recognizing accomplishments toward alleviating hunger and poverty.

2024- She was ordained in the Evangelical Lutheran Church to continue working in the church community, Resurrection House Mission was founded in 1984 as a children's church.

In 2010, Margarita was honored as Hispanic Woman of the Year by the Tampa Hispanic Heritage Foundation. In 2013, she was selected by Florida Governor Rick Scott to be inducted into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame. As always, she continues to travel to the state capitol in Tallahassee and to Congress and other venues to speak on behalf of Florida's farmworkers and other poor.

#### Youth Shepherd, Rachel Ullrich

I have worked with youth and children over the past few decades. My home church is St Stephen in Longwood, and I have worked at St. Stephen since 2018. I also have a 12-year-old child. I love our weekly gatherings and church services where we build a firm faith foundation, and nothing is better than our summer camp time together.

#### Music Leader, Julia Hood

Julia joins us for All Saints Lutheran Church in Port Orange

#### Assistant to the Bishop, Carlos Ham

Carlos Emilio Ham, President Emeritus of the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC), has served as a pastor of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba for over forty years. He worked with the World Council of Churches (WCC) from 2001 to 2013 as Program Executive for Evangelism, Coordinator of the Mission and Ecumenical Formation Team, and Program Executive for Diakonia and Latin America-Caribbean.

From 2015 to 2024, he served as Rector and Professor of Mission and Diakonia at the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas, Cuba. On July 1, 2024, he joined the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) as Assistant to the Bishop and Director for Evangelical Mission in the South Region of the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

He holds degrees in theology from the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas, a Doctor of Ministry from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (USA), and a Ph.D. in Theology from the Free University of Amsterdam. His dissertation, Empowering Diakonia, explores models of service and transformation in the ecumenical movement. He is married and has three children and six grandchildren.

#### **Churchwide Board Representative, Lorie Garcia**

Vice President, Executive Board

Lorie Garcia was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in August 2021 and elected Vice President in 2023. She chairs the Racial Justice Task Force and serves on the executive committee. In 2023, she began a term on the Church Women United Common Council as the ELCA Denomination Representative.

Lorie served on the board of the Southwestern Texas Women of the ELCA (4E), first as a board member, then a term each as vice-president and president. She has also served on the synod council and as the director for faith formation at Galilean Lutheran Church in Corpus Christi, Texas. As an extension of her work with the Racial Justice Advocacy Network of Women of the ELCA in the Southwestern Texas Synod, Lorie is on the task force guiding Project Radical Hospitality (PRH). PRH seeks to put Jesus' call to love our neighbor into action with tangible acts through example, education, and by sponsoring a disabled asylum seeker and her son.

After years in marketing and media sales, most recently as a general manager of a radio station cluster, she and her spouse are embarking on their own outdoor company venture. She is married and has one child, enjoys travel, reading, and collecting yarn that will one day be knit into fabulous projects.

SAVE THE DATE!!

SWO Fall Gathering
Tentative Dates: November 6-8, 2026

Stay tuned for more information!

## **BIBLE STUDY NOTES**

#### **SWO OFFICERS' REPORTS**

#### **PRESIDENT: Raeann Purcell**

As your president I have had many opportunities to serve. I sit as an advisory member on the synod council and attended my first meeting in November, shortly after the Fall Gathering. I joined the Synod Finance team as a subgroup of the council. Council meets in September, November, February and again before and after Synod Assembly in June. Meetings are usually held at the Synod house in Tampa or at Luther Springs. It is amazing to hear first-hand what is happening in our Synod. Make sure to subscribe to E-Spirit to keep up with synod happenings

In January we met as the board and conference leaders at Luther Springs. We met under the theme "Take a Stand "with Micah 6:8 as our scripture; "...oh mortal, what is good and what does the Lord require of you but to Justice and love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." We used a flamingo theme as I am very fond of these birds, and they go well with take a stand. We talked about advocacy and had an opportunity to hear Pastors Margarita Roma and Bruce Edwards regarding the farm workers community and Resurrection House. If you have not previously attended this weekend meeting and are interested in learning more about the Florida Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) and leadership opportunities, reach out to me or your conference leaders and we will see what we can do.

In February, I attended the Conference for Leaders, a meeting via Zoom to provide leadership training to SWO presidents. I attended Spring Gatherings at my home conference, Flagler/Volusia and Space Coast Conference. Board members were assigned to attend Spring Gatherings. I hope you found yours to be informative and helpful.

We had a table at Synod Assembly, manned by Marilyn Kreitzinger with some help by Donna Person. Marilyn is a huge help and a welcoming ambassador for our organization. I served on the election team as I have done in the past with Tracy Moffatt who is the treasurer for the synod as well as our outgoing treasurer. I was unfortunate to trip and fall and broke 2 ribs at synod assembly but pushed on, thinking it was a backache. Clumsy and old age are rough.

I was honored to serve with 4 other women from around the country to award the first round of grants from Katie's Fund. It was exciting to read about all the projects in the Women of the ELCA in various SWOs. Even though we could not award grants to all the applicants, we helped fund some wonderful initiatives.

I have been blessed by many women during my time with WELCA. The benefits of friendships, learning and leadership training as well as spiritual guidance have been such a gift to me. My goal is to encourage and educate the women I meet to be bold in their faith in Jesus Christ, affirming their gifts and helping them to grow in faith. Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns or resource needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Raeann Purcell

#### **VICE PRESIDENT: Denise Beumer**

Women of the ELCA play a vital role in the heart of our church. Our involvement in so many ministries bring the Gospel to life. All of us have personal gifts to share. I am asking the Conference leaders and guests to submit their nomination to run for a board position. I am also asking current Board Members to step up and run for a position on the Executive Board.

This year at the 2025 Fall Gathering we will be voting for the following positions: Vice President and Treasurer along with (3) three SWO Board Members for a two-year term and (1) one for a one-year term.

Prayerfully, consider submitting a Nomination Form placing your name on the ballot. Step up and take a stand as a leader, use your God given gifts and talent.

#### **TREASURER: Tracy Moffatt**

It has been a great pleasure to serve as your Treasurer for the past four years. As my term ends on January 31, 2026 you will then be sending your unit offerings and other donations to our new Treasurer to be elected this weekend.

I'm happy to continue to report our financial position remains stable. Our Fund for Leaders Scholarship continues to grow and we are thus able to offer more scholarship funds to our Scholarship Recipients. Our budget also reflects the continued increase in earnings in that account. Other account balances shown do not reflect the final payment to Warren Willis for our Fall Gathering or distribution of any Pass Thru Account Funds which occur again in January.

Our Budget for next year reflects expectations for income and expenses to remain similar to the previous year. Our Fall Gathering attendance this year is slightly less than anticipated so the 2026-2027 budget reflects that trend.

A huge thank you to all for your continued support of the work of the Florida Bahamas SWO. Your offerings not only support our work here in Florida, but also the work of the Women of the ELCA nationally.

Please remember Love Offering donations received until January 31 2026 will be given to GraceWay Village. Beginning February 1, 2026 all Love Offering donations will be given to our new Love Offering to be announced on Sunday.

As a reminder - Until February 1, 2026:
Offering and donation checks should be made payable to:
Florida Bahamas SWO and sent to:
Tracy Moffatt, 1944 Crestview Way
Naples, FL 34119

Florida Bahamas SWO Budget - 2026			
	BUDGET ACTUAL AS OF BUDGET		
	2.1.25 -	10.15.25	2.1.26 - 1.31.27
	1.31.26		
INCOME			
Offerings	\$8,000.00	\$3,343.55	\$7,000.00
Fall Gathering	\$30,000.00	\$14,007.00	\$25,000.00
Spring Gathering	\$3,600.00	\$4,116.00	\$4,000.00
Other Income (FFL Change in market Value)	\$2,000.00	\$10,559.87	\$5,000.00
Total Income	\$43,600.00	\$32,026.42	\$41,000.00
PASS THRU ACCOUNTS			
Florida Bahamas Synod	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
FFL Scholarship Donations	\$1,000.00	\$1,798.00	\$1,000.00
Katie's Fund	\$200.00	\$250.00	\$200.00
Love Offering	\$5,000.00	\$5,864.00	\$5,000.00
LWR Shipping Fund	\$350.00	\$1,814.00	\$1,000.00
Misc. Pass Thru Funds	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00
Total Pass Thru Income	\$6,750.00	\$9,726.00	\$7,400.00
DESIGNATED FUNDS			
Let Your Light Shine Scholarship	\$300.00	\$157.36	\$300.00
Share the Spirit Scholarship	\$500.00	\$212.30	
Triennial Convention	\$800.00	\$0.00	1881
Total Designated Fund Income	\$1,800.00	\$369.66	\$1,600.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$52,150.00	\$42,122.08	\$50,000.00
EXPENSES	-	<u> </u>	
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES			
Accounting /Audit	\$250.00	\$225.00	\$250.00
Bank Service Charges	\$100.00	\$15.69	\$50.00
Computer / Software	\$800.00	\$762.00	\$800.00
Credit Card Processing Fees	\$300.00	\$198.99	\$225.00
Office Supplies / Postage	\$100.00	\$37.04	\$75.00
OTHER EXPENSES			
Board Meeting Expense	\$6,000.00	\$359.75	\$6,000.00
Contributions (FFL Distributions)	\$3,000.00	\$300.00	
Fall Gathering Expense	\$25,000.00	\$12,306.93	2 9
Spring Gathering Expense	\$100.00	\$109.25	to Alberta an expension with annual con-
Travel and Meetings	\$450.00	\$400.00	
Women of the ELCA	\$7,000.00	\$2,447.63	
Miscellaneous Administrative Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	3 100 mm - 1
Total Expenses	\$43,100.00	\$17,162.28	\$40,450.00

Florida Bahamas SWO Budget - 2026				
	BUDGET	BUDGET ACTUAL AS OF BUDGET		
	2.1.25 -	10.15.25	2.1.26 - 1.31.27	
	1.31.26			
PASS THRU ACCOUNTS				
Florida Bahamas Synod	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
FFL Scholarship Donations	\$1,000.00	\$1,798.00	\$1,000.00	
Katie's Fund	\$200.00	\$250.00	t	
Love Offering	\$5,000.00	\$5,864.00	\$5,000.00	
LWR Shipping Fund	\$350.00	\$1,814.00	\$1,000.00	
Misc. Pass Thru Funds	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$100.00	
Total Pass Thru Expenses	\$6,750.00	\$9,726.00	\$7,400.00	
DESIGNATED FUNDS				
Let Your Light Shine Scholarship	\$300.00	\$157.36	\$300.00	
Share the Spirit Scholarship	\$700.00	\$212.30	<del></del>	
Triennial Gathering	\$800.00	\$0.00	\$800.00	
Total Designated Fund Expenses	\$1,800.00	\$369.66	ļ	
TOTAL ALL EXPENSES	\$51,650.00	\$21,570.84	\$49,450.00	
NET INCOME	\$500.00	\$14,637.70	\$550.00	
ACCOUNT BALANCES:		LY Balance	1	
Checking Account - Regions	\$28,732.81	\$40,847.24	1	
ELCA FFL Endowment	\$123,749.11	\$87,106.57	1	
ELCA FFL Distribution	\$3,279.24	1.000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000	1	
Petty Cash	\$401.00	\$124.01		
			1	
PASS THRU ACCOUNTS		YTD Gifts	-	
Florida Bahamas Synod	\$0.00	t <del>-</del> nnaun-earna)		
FFL Scholarship Donations	\$1,798.00			
Katie's Fund	\$0.00	*		
Love Offering	\$0.00			
LWR Shipping Fund	\$0.00	\$1,814.00		
Misc. Pass Thru Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00		
DESIGNATED FUNDS			Using in 2025	
Let Your Light Shine Scholarship	\$1,665.12	\$157.36	1	
Share the Spirit Scholarship	\$2,039.46	\$212.30	- VS25	
Triennial Convention*	\$2,582.22	\$0.00	<b>1</b>	

<sup>\* \$800.00</sup> will be transferred each year to the Triennial Convention Designated Fund and paid out every three years prior to the Convention

#### **BOARD REPORTS**

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE, ADVOCACY, AND RECONCILIATION: Stacia Carter

When I wrote my first Board report, I stated "Florida has been a hotbed of activity". That was true then and even truer now. While some may look at what's going on in FL and the rest of the US as political, it's affecting all our lives even if we don't feel the direct effect. Prices are rising, people are losing jobs, the cost of labor has increased, farmers are going bankrupt, cities are being taken over by the federal law enforcement and many people who have melanin in their skin or speak a foreign language, are fearful of being targeted or judged for what they look like, not who they are. One of the tasks I have in my position, is to write a quarterly article in the Tapestry. I pray and hope everyone is reading them and that the articles at least make you think about what I've written. I've written on human trafficking and how FL is a huge factor in sexual exploitation and labor trafficking. I wrote an article asking if we as Lutherans are called to be political and not just stand idly by as our sisters and brothers in Christ are harmed. I've written about this state removing African American AP History courses because supposedly African American History courses have "no educational value". I wrote about Project 2025 and Diversity Equity and Inclusion and how it affects ALL women. Other articles were on the Stand Your Ground Law and its disparities depending on what the shooter looks like as well as why we have special days, weeks or months that are devoted to special causes. Some of those special days include Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Women's History Month, Pride Month, International Day of Girl Child, Indigenous Peoples Day, Juneteenth Day and Black History Month, etc. If you don't know what each of these celebrations are for, please hit Google on your phone and do five minutes of research.

I also have worked with groups to protect voting rights, registering people to vote, worked as a poll monitor in elections and participated in voter forums. I am part of a group that sponsors community events promoting education, protecting our children, protecting our family and community members who are lgbtquia+, community safety and international awareness especially when it comes to girls and young women.

This is my last year on the Synodical Women's Board and I hope I've made a difference. I, like everyone else has no idea what the year will bring but I have hope. Hope that we as Christians start listening to one another despite the rhetoric, hope that we all develop empathy to the plight of our neighbor, hope that we are all judged on who we are, not on our anatomy or the color of our skin. And for me, I'll naively carry that hope as we gather together.

#### **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF: Leone Goding**

The Churches that again have stepped up to the plate for drop off for Quilts & Kits of 20 Christ Lutheran in Ft. Lauderdale, Shepherd of the Hills in Clermont, Trinity in Jacksonville, Emmanuel in Venice, Good Shepherd in Tampa and Holy Trinity in Fort Walton Beach. These wonderful Churches with their strong ladies, such as Donna Person, Chris Morse, Karen Brown, Kathy Wittersheim, Pat Zwick and Shirley Bow make up the greatest gift of giving their time to make sure your gifts are accepted and passed on to Lutheran World Relief.

The week of February 2nd is set up for drop offs to these Churches. The following week Lutheran World Relief will send two trucks to pick up all the work you have done this year. It is a huge undertaking and without these Churches and Ladies stepping forward, it could not be done. The actual times and days are listed on flwelca.com under Lutheran World Relief or if you want

to go online to www.<u>lwr.org</u> look under "ingatherings" Florida and they are also listed there. Lutheran World Relief is such a wonderful program, I'm so happy I could be a small part of it these last 4 years.

#### **LOVE OFFERING: Diane Spicer**

Our current Love Offering is GraceWay Village in Fort Pierce. It began in 2009 as a program to provide clothing for children (infancy to 18 years) from low-income families. A feeding program was then added to address the needs of those individuals who face food insecurity.

GraceWay Village has plans to expand its commitment to those in need by building a Family Restorative Living Facility for families threatened with homelessness. This facility will provide temporary housing for families as well as conduct essential life-skill training leading to self-sufficient healthy families. They are currently beginning Phase I in building the Family Restorative Living Facility.

GraceWay Village has been very appreciative of the assistance that we have provided. For more information go to <a href="www.gracewayvillage.com">www.gracewayvillage.com</a> Chrissie Hoeffner from GWV will be joining us again this year.

#### FUND FOR LEADERS' SCHOLARSHIP: Judy Dreisbaugh

Each year, the Board of the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization ("SWO") awards a scholarship(s) to seminary student(s) who meet the following criteria:

- 1. Applicants must be in the candidacy process and have been verified with the Florida-Bahamas Synod Candidacy chair.
- 2. Seminary students must be attending one of the eight ELCA seminaries and are either in the Master of Divinity (M.DIV), Master of Arts (MA), or Theological Education for Emerging Ministries (TEEM) programs.
- 3. Preference will be given to residents of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, female applicants, and active members of congregational units.
- 4. Applicants will be accepted each year beginning on November 1 with a deadline of December 15 for submission.
- 5. The selected candidate(s) will be invited to attend the SWO's Fall Gathering to participate in the weekend's activities and to present a brief greeting.

#### KATIE'S FUND: Judy Dreisbaugh

Katie's Fund was established in 1997 to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Women of the ELCA and is now celebrated annually in May. During that month, many congregations will hold fund drives to help generate income for the Women of the ELCA ministries that develop leaders, bridge cultures, and nurture faith.

Following is a list of some program ideas to accompany your fundraising:

- At an event or regular meeting this month (May), talk about Katharina von Bora Luther and explain how Katie's Fund supports Women of the ELCA ministries. Take a special offering for Katie's Fund.
- 2. Invite your women's group or congregation to give to Katie's Fund in honor of someone on Mother's Day or in honor of someone's graduation this spring.

- 3. Ask your women's group to give to Katiie's Fund in honor of each of the young women who are being confirmed in your congregation this spring.
- 4. Instead of taking up an offering, designate a gift in your annual budget for Katie's Fund. If your financial calendar ends soon, consider giving any leftover funds to Katie's Fund.
- 5. Plan to hold a Saturday retreat in the summer using the three-part summer Bible study in Gather magazine. During the lunch hour, take up a special offering for Katie's Fund.
- 6. Although the annual appeal for Katie's Fund takes place each May, a gift to Katie's Fund can be made at any time throughout the year!

If you need special envelopes for a special offering, contact the ELCA Resource catalog online or call 800-638-3522, Ext. 2580. If you have any questions about Katie's Fund, contact the director for stewardship at 800-638-3522, Ext. 2736.

#### **DISASTER RELIEF: Judy Dreisbaugh**

Congregations proclaim the gospel in many ways in the community in which they live: worship, vision planning, social ministry, youth programs, and much more. When a disaster or crisis arises and God's people are hurting and scared, God gives us the gift to share the hope and promise of new life in the midst of devastation. The call of God motivates the church to reach into the World, to be full participants in the community, and to care for the earth and all of its creatures. When something happens in our community, our neighbors will be knocking on our doors, whether or not we are prepared to step up to their needs. It also makes sense to be prepared to care for the people, buildings, information, programs, networks, and other resources that are important to us and our community and the rest of the World.

#### How to donate:

To the Florida-Bahamas Synod Disaster Response fund, specifically designating "Disaster Response" by mail: Florida-Bahamas Synod, 3838 West Cypress Street, Tampa, Florida 33607.

Or through secure online contributions via their website fbsynod.com.

Or to Lutheran Disaster Response by mail: Lutheran Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, Virginia 22116-800 (If you want to designate funds for a specific disaster, please specify it on the memo line.

Or through secure contributions at the ELCA's website.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA: Raeann Purcell**

Five Hundred Sixty-five (572) people follow the Florida-Bahamas SWO Facebook page named Florida/Bahamas Women of the ELCA. Are you following our Facebook page? Do you have information, events, encouragement, or photos you would like to share? Please feel to message me, email me (<a href="mailto:raeannpurcell@hotmail.com">raeannpurcell@hotmail.com</a>), or call me (386.212.7933), and we will happily post your information. Coming soon to Instagram.

#### **CONFERENCE COORDINATOR: Nina Jageler**

The Conference Coordinator responsibilities include gathering information in regards to the Conferences and Congregational units. With gathering this information, I have been able to make sure we are able to distribute information correctly and with ease. While this information can be everchanging, I appreciate everyone's attention and promptness with helping me gather this information so we are able to have an effective line of communication. As always flexibility and grace are appreciated as we continue into the future.

## **Have You Visited the Prayer Lounge Yet?**



It is in the Annie May Room in front of Gold Building

Please leave your prayer requests there to be included in our Sunday Worship

## Have You visited the Hospitality Room yet??



Snacks and treats abound...
Coffee & Tea available all-day Saturday

**Located in Lobby of the Cafeteria** 

## OPENING DEVOTION FRIDAY 4:00

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

God created the earth and all that is within it and called it good. God created humanity to tend this good and abundant creation. The Florida Bahamas Women of the ELCA wish to acknowledge and honor all those who have tended God's good and abundant creation in this place over time, especially the Seminole, Timucua, Miccosukee, and Mascogo tribal nations who called these lands their homelands until they were forcibly removed. We give thanks for them and all our Indigenous siblings who have continued to care for this place – this land- that together we call home and are called to steward.

We understand the importance and necessity of our acknowledging the land and the original, Indigenous peoples whose creation stories are rooted in these places and who have lived on these lands throughout Turtle Island since time immemorial.

#### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Praise be to God!

The Spirit of God transforms our minds and hearts.

She stretches our imagination and expands our notions of possibility.

With hope, She urges us toward futures yet perceived.

Creation groans, awaiting collective freedom.

Redemption is coming. God will birth new worlds among us.

Through faith, we labor with all of God's children, for renewal and restoration.

Come, Holy Spirit, and ready us for the Kin-dom to come. Holy Pause

### God's Children by Piper Spencer

Chorus: We're all God's children We are family. Repeat 4x You are my sibling, I will see you. You are my sister, I will not look away. You are my brother, I will learn your name. Led by the Spirit I will listen to your story, and discover

All God's children, I will see you. All God's children,
I will not look away.
All God's children,
I will learn your name.
All God's children,
Led by the Spirit, Let us listen
and discover

## Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi sion, till your love's re veal-ing light
- 4 Called by wor ship to your ser vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed: still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead. in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight, to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a - lone, but heart; As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul, mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear, hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



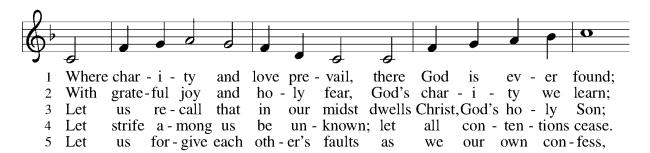
con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part. by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole. stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share. that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

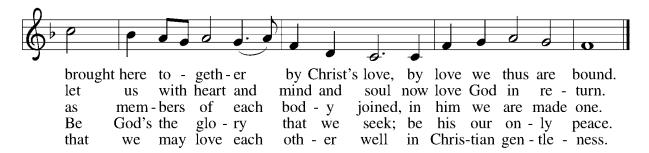
Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

## Where Charity and Love Prevail





Text: Latin hymn, 9th cent.; tr. Omer Westendorf, 1916-1997, alt.

Music: TWENTY-FOURTH, attr. Lucius Chapin, 1760–1842

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#### PRAYER<sup>1</sup>

Let us pray. Creative One, by your Spirit, free us from the constraints that evil has placed upon our dreams. We struggle to hope outside of what we have known. We find it difficult to practice imagination that is not bound by our fears or tainted with cynicism. Open our minds. Fill us with grand visions of life abundant and love that frees, that we might not be a stumbling block to your transformation among us. **Amen.** 

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>18</sup> Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner." <sup>19</sup> So out of the ground the Lord God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air and brought them to the man to see what he would call them, and whatever the man called every living creature, that

Genesis 2: 15-25

was its name. <sup>20</sup> The man gave names to all cattle and to the birds of the air and to every animal of the field, but for the man<sup>[a]</sup>there was not found a helper as his partner. <sup>21</sup> So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. <sup>23</sup> Then the man said,

"This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be called Woman, for out of Man this one was taken."

#### **SCRIPTURAL REFLECTION**

#### Beautiful Things, ACS 925

Verse 1
All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change
At all

Verse 2
All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this
ground
At all

Chorus
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

Verse 3
All around
Hope is springing up from this old
ground
Out of chaos life is being found
In You

Bridge You make me new You are making me new You make me new You are making me new (REPEAT)

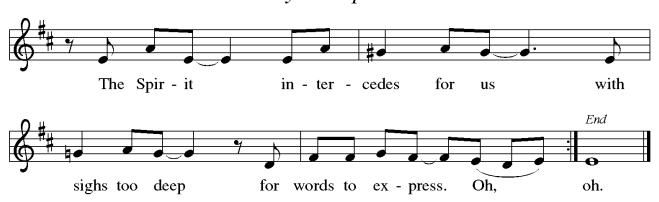
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. <sup>25</sup> And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.** 

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

We bring our joys, our sorrows and our laments to the One who created us and desires to walk with us day in and day out.

We lift up.... Reform us/Transform us. Sung Response

## The Spirit Intercedes for Us Prayer Response



Text and music: Romans 8:26, adapt. Larry Olson Text and music © 1989 Dakota Road Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

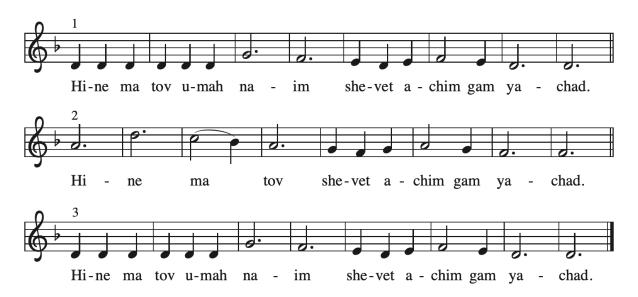
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We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us with the prayer Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



#### Hine ma tov



Text: Psalm 133:1; Israeli traditional Music: HINE MA TOV, Israeli traditional

#### **BLESSING & DISMISSAL**

As we sing our sending hymn, go forth this evening, sharing a sign of God's peace and love with one another.

May the peace of God that surpasses all understanding, the love of Jesus that risks everything and the unity of the Spirit inspire and guide you, now and always.

#### Amen.

Go forth sharing, being and witnessing to the peace, love and unity of the triune God.

Thanks be to God.



For all who are led by the spirit of God are children of God.

Romans 8:14

## **LOVING**



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## WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION Saturday 6:45

#### WELCOME LITANY<sup>1</sup>

Come, you who are forgotten, for today your Lord has remembered you! God bids you come today; your name is on the lips of the Almighty!

Come, you who labor, you who are breathless, come and be refreshed! Come and find rest from your labors!

Come, you who are frightened, there is peace enough. Come, for God has grafted you into the tree of life!

Come, you who are oppressed, depressed, homeless, or hungry. Come, you who feel no one understands you.

Come, whatever your sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Come to the God who sees you!

Come, for you are loved! Come, for you are valued! Come and be cared for!

Come and be community! Here we reject racism, misogyny, homophobia, and transphobia. Come and be community! Here we actively work to dismantle them!

Come and be community! Here we acknowledge and reject the strains of white supremacy embedded in governments, institutions, individuals, and public and private speech.

Come and be community! Here we reject using the Bible to abuse and wound and we confess our complicity.

Come and be community! Here we commit to lives of repentance and reconciliation, of justice and mercy.

Come and be community! Here we commit to love God by loving our neighbor in both word and deed. AMEN!

#### God's Children by Piper Spencer

We are family.

Chorus: We're all God's children

We're all God's children We are family.

We are family. We're all God's children

We're all God's children We are family.

You are my sibling,
I will see you.
You are my sister,
I will not look away.
You are my brother,
I will learn your name.
Led by the Spirit
I will listen to your story,
and discover

All God's children,
I will see you.
All God's children,
I will not look away.
All God's children,
I will learn your name.
All God's children,
Led by the Spirit, Let us listen
and discover

#### **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.** 

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

#### Faithful God,

you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you,  $\pm$  in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free. **Amen.** 

#### **SHARING PEACE**

United with God and one another, as siblings, by Spirit and the waters of baptism, share a sign of God's peace and love with one another. Peace be with you.

And also with you.

## Deep Peace



Text: Celtic traditional; adapt. Ray Makeever, b. 1943

Music: DEEP PEACE, Ray Makeever

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#### **PRAYER**

Let us pray. O God, our eternal redeemer, by the presence of your Spirit you renew our hearts and reunite us with you and one another, knitting us into one body. Help us to celebrate our different gifts and roles, reminding us that we need one another and that together we witness more fully to your life-giving, reconciling ways. Lead us to your throne where we dance and sing with all of your children, giving blessing, honor and praise to you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** 

<sup>12</sup>Human beings have one body made up of many parts that all work together. It is the same for the body of the Chosen One. <sup>13</sup>For through the one Spirit we all participated in the purification ceremony34 that joined us together into one body. That body is made up of Tribal Members, Wisdom Seekers (Greeks), slaves and free. But none of that matters because we all drink living water from the same Spirit. <sup>14</sup>Now, the body is not made up of one part but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I am not part of the body," would that make the foot any less a part of the body? <sup>16</sup>If the ear should say, "Because I am not an eye, I am not a part of the body," would that make the ear any less a part of the body? <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, how could it hear? If the whole body were an ear, how could it smell? <sup>18</sup>But in his wisdom the Great Spirit has given each body part its own place, so it can fulfill the purpose it was created for and make Creator's heart glad. <sup>19</sup>If all the parts were the same, how could there be a body? <sup>20</sup>Even though there is only one body, it was made to have many parts. <sup>21</sup>So the eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you." Neither can the head say to the feet, "I have no need of you." <sup>22</sup>But the parts of the body that are thought to be of little use are needed just as much as the other parts. <sup>23</sup>The parts we see as lowly we honor by wrapping them in beauty. We respectfully cover those parts of the body that should not be seen. <sup>24</sup>But the more publicly respectable parts of the body do not need this kind of treatment. So the Great Spirit has put the body together in a way that gives more honor to the parts that need it the most. <sup>25</sup>This makes it clear that Creator's purpose is to keep the body of the Chosen One from division. It shows each of us how much we need each other. <sup>26</sup>If one part of the body hurts, the whole body hurts. If one part of the body is honored, the whole body celebrates. <sup>27</sup>So then, together you all form the body of the Chosen One, and each one of you has a place in that body. <sup>28</sup>The Great Spirit has set in place those members of his body that he has gifted to care for his sacred family. <sup>29</sup> He set in place first message bearers, second prophets, and third wisdom keepers who teach. After that comes some with miraculous powers, some with healing gifts, some who help and serve, some who bring guidance, languages. Can you see that not all are message bearers, or prophets, or wisdom keepers? That not all have miraculous powers, <sup>30</sup>or healing gifts, or the gift of speaking in other languages, or interpreting those languages? <sup>31</sup>I want you to set your hearts on the chief gifts, the ones that will bring the greatest blessing to the sacred family. Now I will show you the most beautiful path of all.

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God.

#### Psalm 150 (Praise the Lord)

Verse 1 To tell Your mighty deeds

You made the starry hosts

To join the everlasting chorus

You traced the mountain peaks
You paint the evening skies with Verse 3

wonders Let symphonies resound

The earth it is Your throne Let drums and choirs ring out

From desert to the sea All heaven hear the sound of worship

All nature testifies Your splendor Let every nation bring
Its honors to the King

Chorus 1 A roar of harmonies eternal

Praise the Lord Chorus 2

Sing His greatness Praise the Lord
All creation Praise the Lord
Praise the Lord Sing His greatness

Raise your voice

Your heights and all your depths

All creation

Praise the Lord

From furthest east to west

Raise your voice

Let everything that has breath Your heights and all your depths
Praise the Lord From furthest east to west

You distant burning stars

Verse 2
All creatures near and far

You reached into the dust
In love Your Spirit breathed
From sky to sea to shore
Sing out forevermore

You formed us in Your very likeness Let everything that has breath

To know Your wondrous works Praise the Lord

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#### SECOND READING Revelation 7:9-17

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around

the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

<sup>12</sup> singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" <sup>14</sup> I said to him, "Sir, you are the one who knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

- <sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
- <sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat,
- <sup>17</sup> for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

  Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

## Halle, Hallelujah



Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL John 6:48-58

<sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' <sup>53</sup> So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. <sup>54</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; <sup>55</sup> for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. <sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.' The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** 

#### **SERMON**

#### For Everyone Born

#### Chorus

And God will delight when we are creators

Of justice and joy compassion and peace

Yes God will delight when we are creators

Of justice justice and joy

#### Verse 1

For everyone born a place at the table For everyone born clean water and bread

A shelter a space a safe place for growing

For everyone born a star overhead

#### Verse 2

For woman and man a place at the

table

Revising the roles deciding the share With wisdom and grace dividing the power

For woman and man a system that's fair

#### Verse 3

For young and for old a place at the table

A voice to be heard a part in the song The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled

For young and for old the right to belong

#### Verse 4

For just and unjust a place at the table Abuser abused with need to forgive

In anger in hurt a mindset of mercy For just and unjust a new way to live

#### Verse 5

For everyone born a place at the table To live without fear and simply to be To work to speak out to witness and worship

For everyone born the right to be free

#### Verse 6

For immigrants here, a place at the table.

Wanting a home without hunger and fear

Living a life that's free from oppression

Acceptance and love, we have it all here.

#### Verse 7

For bodies diverse, a place at the table.

All manner of speech and movements and minds.

Enabled to lead and teach us new language.

For bodies diverse, a church redesigned.

#### Verse 8

For children who need, a place at the table

All wanting to learn, with courage and hope

By sharing our gifts, we now feel the spirit

To reach out and be, the joy of All Saints

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#### **HISPANIC CREED**<sup>3</sup>

Let us affirm our faith with the saints in all times and in all places.

We believe in God, the Father Almighty Creator of the heavens and the earth; Creator of all peoples and all cultures; Creator of all tongues and races.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord, God made flesh in a person for all humanity, God made flesh in an age for all the ages, God made flesh in one culture for all cultures, God made flesh in love and grace for all creation.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, through whom God incarnate in Jesus Christ makes his presence known in our peoples and our cultures; Through whom, God Creator of all that exists, gives us power to become new creatures; Whose infinite gifts make us one people: the body of Christ.

We believe in the Church universal because it is a sign of God's Reign, whose faithfulness is shown in its many hues where all the colors paint a single landscape, where all tongues sing the same praise.

We believe in the Reign of God – the day of the Great Fiesta when all the colors of creation will form a harmonious rainbow, when all peoples will join in joyful banquet, when all tongues of the universe will sing the same song.

And because we believe, we commit ourselves: To believe for those who do not believe, to love for those who do not love, to dream for those who do not dream, until the day when hope becomes reality. Amen.

#### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We bring our joys, our sorrows and our laments to the One who created us and desires to walk with us day in and day out.

We lift up.... Reform us/Transform us. Sung Response



Text and music: Romans 8:26, adapt. Larry Olson Text and music © 1989 Dakota Road Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us with the prayer Jesus taught us:

#### LORD'S PRAYER 4

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

#### **OFFERING**

The offering taken today is split between the *WELCA Churchwide Women's Organization (CWO)* and the *WELCA Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)*. The CWO provides resources, educates on social justice issues, publishes the Gather Magazine, produces Bold Connections (email newsletter), produces the e-zine Cafe', holds online trainings in leadership and encourages women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. The SWO interacts with the synod, awards scholarships thru the Fund for Leaders, choses Love Offering to support ministries in the Florida/Bahamas Synod, works with conferences and congregational units to build leadership and education on available resources and encourages women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.



## One Bread, One Body



Text: John Foley, sJ, b. 1939

Music: ONE BREAD, ONE BODY, John Foley, sJ

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#### **OFFERING PRAYER** 5

Spirit of Solidarity, wherever there is ache, you are there. You groan with those who suffer. You cry out through prophets calling for justice. You stir the spirits of the complacent and trouble the hearts of the indifferent. With thanks for your presence that transforms and your hope that endures, we bring our offerings and pray that we may be faithful companions to one another and every neighbor in struggle. **Amen.** 

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.** 

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath. **We praise you, O God.** 

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future. **We bless you, O God.** 

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now. **We thank you, O God.** 

We give thanks and remember and celebrate what God did through Jesus so long ago and what God continues to do through us:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

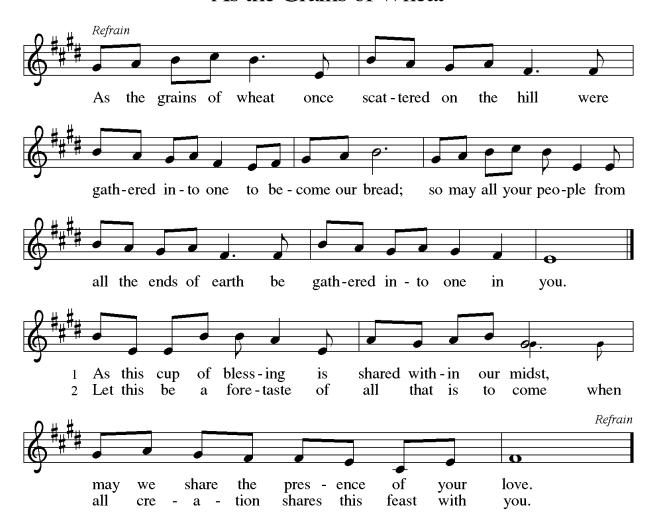
We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; Throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.** 

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

## As the Grains of Wheat



Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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## God, We Gather As Your People



Text: David Lohman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman

Text and music © 2007 Welcome Song Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

#### **PRAYER**

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in the unity of the Spirit with all of your children.

#### Amen.

#### **BLESSING**

The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you  $\oplus$  and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever. **Amen.** 

#### **CLOSING HYMN next page**



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Trinity Lutheran Church, Pembroke Pines, Welcome Statement and Litany

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> First Nations Version

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Alabadle: Hispanic Christian Worship by Justo Gonzalez

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> New Zealand Anglican Prayer Book

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>© 2020 enfleshed; https://enfleshed.com

# **LOVING**



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#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Sharing the bread of life.

Thanks be to God.

# CLOSING WORSHIP AND INSTALLATION Sunday 11:15am

#### LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

God created the earth and all that is within it and called it good. God created humanity to tend this good and abundant creation. The Florida Bahamas Women of the ELCA wish to acknowledge and honor all those who have tended God's good and abundant creation in this place over time, especially the Seminole, Timucua, Miccosukee, and Mascogo tribal nations who called these lands their homelands until they were forcibly removed. We give thanks for them and all our Indigenous siblings who have continued to care for this place – this land- that together we call home and are called to steward.

We understand the importance and necessity of our acknowledging the land and the original, Indigenous peoples whose creation stories are rooted in these places and who have lived on these lands throughout Turtle Island since time immemorial.

#### CALL TO WORSHIP<sup>1</sup>

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

Praise be to God!

The Spirit of God transforms our minds and hearts.

She stretches our imagination and expands our notions of possibility.

With hope, She urges us toward futures yet perceived.

Creation groans, awaiting collective freedom.

Redemption is coming. God will birth new worlds among us.

Through faith, we labor with all of God's children, for renewal and restoration.

Come, Holy Spirit, and ready us for the Kin-dom to come.

Holy Pause

#### God's Children by Piper Spencer

You are my brother,
Chorus: I will learn your name.

We're all God's children Led by the Spirit

We are family. I will listen to your story,

We're all God's children and discover

We are family.

We're all God's children

We are family.

We're all God's children

We're all God's children

We are family.

All God's children,

All God's children,

I will not look away.

All God's children,

You are my sibling, I will learn your name. I will see you. All God's children,

You are my sister, Led by the Spirit, Let us listen

I will not look away. and discover

#### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

God of glory and peace, though the many rulers of earth shall fade like grass, your shelter is unfailing and your name a righteous robe of beauty eternal.

Here, O God, is your gift of water, flowing for life, flowing for mercy, flowing for us and for all.

With voices of sorrow and joy we cry: Water, flow!

To bless creation, the woods and every fragrant tree, the mountains and hills shaped by your hand, the fields offering fruit and grain, the deserts crying out for refreshment.

Flow for the life of the world.

We cry: Water, flow!

through the stories of our faith:

the stones our ancestry placed in trust,

the songs we sang in the wilderness when hope was dry, the prophet's call to repentance.

Flow for the life of the world

We cry: Water, flow!

from this font and into our gathering:

washing us in mercy, dressing us in splendor, sending us to the needy and afflicted.

#### Flow for the life of the world

With this water, place your diadem of Spirit Fire upon our brows, that we might stand on the heights, shining for justice and peace, rejoicing in your mercy outpoured

For the life of the world: Water flow! Amen.



Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950 Music: SPIRIT LIFE, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1991 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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#### **PRAYER**

Let us pray. Free and flowing, Holy God, is your powerful mercy, raising up the lowly and bringing down the proud.

With the breath of your Holy Spirit, set us free to be people of justice, peace and radical hope, and keep us forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.** 

Isaiah 58: 6-12

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

<sup>7</sup> Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house;

when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

<sup>8</sup>Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly;

your vindicator shall go before you;

the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

<sup>9</sup>Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

<sup>10</sup> if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,

then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

<sup>11</sup> The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong,

and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water

whose waters never fail.

<sup>12</sup> Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach,

the restorer of streets to live in.

Word of God, Word of Life, Thanks Be to God.

#### **SCRIPTURE READING**

2 Corinthians 5:16-20

<sup>16</sup> From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; <sup>[b]</sup> even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, <sup>[c]</sup> we no longer know him in that way. <sup>17</sup> So if anyone is in Christ, there <sup>[d]</sup> is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! <sup>[e]</sup> <sup>18</sup> All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup> that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, <sup>[f]</sup> not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God.

#### INVITATION AND REFLECTION

#### The Greatest Commandment

#### Chorus

Love the Lord your God With all your heart and soul and mind And love your neighbor as yourself

#### Verse

Let us be known let us be known By the way we love

#### Bridge

Love love love the greatest commandment is Love love love the greatest commandment is Love love love the greatest commandment is love

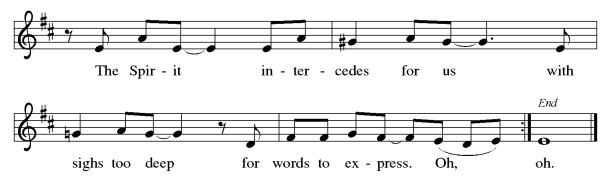
#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

We bring our joys, our sorrows and our laments to the One who created us and desires to walk with us day in and day out.

We lift up.... Reform us/Transform us. Sung Response

# The Spirit Intercedes for Us

Prayer Response



Text and music: Romans 8:26, adapt. Larry Olson Text and music © 1989 Dakota Road Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us with the prayer Jesus taught us:

#### LORD'S PRAYER 4

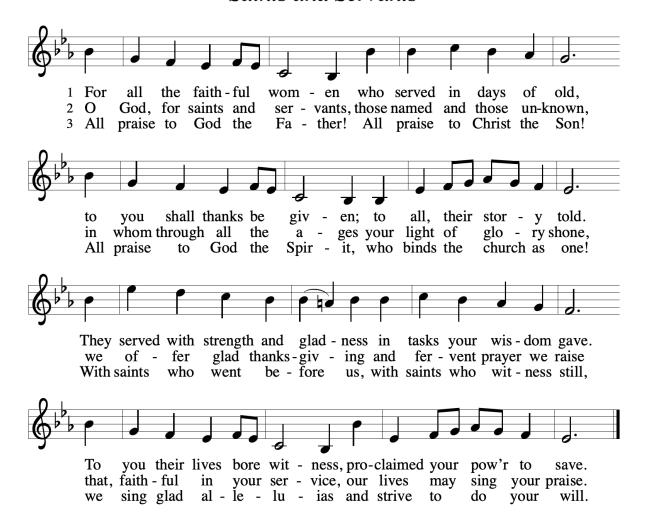
Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.

# For All the Faithful Women Saints and Servants



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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#### THANKSGIVING & INSTALLATION

Invite the following leaders who are completing their time of service to come forward and face the assembly. Names and offices may be read.

Denise Beumer-Vice President Tracy Moffatt-Treasurer Leone Goding-Board Member Sallie Haley-Board Member Nina Jaegler-Board Member Lisa Klima-Board Member Siblings in Christ, through your baptism you were called to lives of service as part of the priesthood we all share in Jesus Christ. You have served faithfully and well as leaders in the Florida/Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization. You have served thoughtfully, graciously and with diligence, offering strategic leadership to this synodical women's organization and to the entire organization. We offer to you our gratitude for the wisdom and compassion that you have given so generously in service for Women of the ELCA. Recognizing that change must be an ongoing process and that diversity and flexibility are essential, will you continue to share your wisdom and your experience with this synodical women's organization? Will you support and encourage the future leaders of this organization, pray for and with them? If so, answer: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Response: I will, and I ask God to help me.

Let us pray. Loving God, we thank you for these faithful children of God. Your Holy Spirit equipped them with many gifts that have been used to support the mission and purpose of this organization. Inspire them now to new avenues of service, encouraging them to be risk-takers and making them confident in their faith. May their pathways be filled with peace. We ask this in the name of Jesus. **Amen.** 

#### Address the assembly.

Let us stand to recognize and appreciate these former leaders, acknowledging their gifts to God and to Women of the ELCA. *Pause for thankful response*. Those whose current service is ending are invited to return to their seats. And you my friends (*to the assembly*) are invited to sit.

Invite The new officers and board come forward and face the assembly. The person doing the installation may read the offices and names of those who are to be installed.

#### A reading from 1 Corinthians:

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in every one. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

To those being installed

Siblings in Christ, you have been chosen for leadership responsibilities in Women of the ELCA. We rejoice in the gifts God has given you and, in your willingness, to offer them for this service.

Will you continue to seek to grow in faith, attending daily to God's holy Word, and listening to God in prayer? If so, respond, yes, and I ask God to help me.

Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Will you earnestly seek to affirm the gifts of others, to share the responsibilities of your office in partnership with your sisters and to encourage others to offer their talents and skills in the ministry of the gospel? If so, respond, yes, and I ask God to help me.

Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Will you seek to lead the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization in ministry and action, extending God's loving promise of hope to those beyond this community? If so, respond, yes, and I ask God to help me.

Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Do you accept the specific responsibilities for which you have been elected and will you seek to serve faithfully? If so, respond, yes, and I ask God to help me.

Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Do you accept responsibility for the financial and constitutional order of the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization? If so, respond, yes, and I ask God to help me.

Response: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

Through Holy Baptism, you were gathered into the family of God and called to minister to others, and through your election, you have been chosen to serve as leaders of Women of the ELCA. May God work through you to share hope and healing with the world in which you live. God is faithful and will graciously enable you to fulfill your task. May God's blessing give you peace.

To the assembly:

Together with these elected leaders, you are called through Holy Baptism to a life of discipleship. Will you receive these leaders and work with them, pray for them, and

support them for the sake of the gospel? If so, answer: We will, and we ask God to help us.

We will, and we ask God to help us.

(To those being installed) I now declare you installed as officers and board members of the [name of synodical women's organization] of Women of the ELCA, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** 

Let us pray. Loving God, surround these siblings with your life-giving Spirit, inspiring them to love and serve all creation. Make them bold and courageous, Holy God, that they may help this organization fulfill our mission and purpose. We ask this in the name of Jesus. **Amen.** 

Let us stand in recognition and appreciation of these women for their gifts to God and to Women of the ELCA.

#### **CLOSING & DISMISSAL**

The Holy Trinity bless you  $\oplus$  and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever. **Amen.** 

Go in peace, working with God and all of God's children to heal and reconcile all that God has created. **Amen.** 



# **LOVING**



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# Before you leave for home...

# In the lobby:

**Keys:** Place in designated area (\$10.00 charge for lost keys)

## Name Tag Holders:

Tuck strings inside and place in box

**Evaluations:** Place in designated box.

Please remember your displays and snacks.

# Safe travels home!



#### **CREDENTIALS REPORT**

	Business	Business	Business	Business	Business	Business
	Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
Voting						
Members						
Officers &						
Board						
Total						
Voting						

Voting Members Officers & Board Total Voting  Parliamentarian: Tracy Moffatt Timekeeper: Credentials Committee Chair: Conduct of Election Committee Chair: Resolutions Committee Chair: Committee on Report of the President Chair: Nominating Committee Chair: Denise Beumer Committee on Minutes Chair: Wilma Shively Committee on Claims and Offerings Chair: Tracy Moffatt Election Results:  Vice President: Treasurer: Treasurer: Board Members - Two-year term  1. 2. 3. Board Member - One-year term  1.		Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Sess							
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Love O Communion Service Offering \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### **SCHEDULE**

**FRIDAY** 

3:00pm Voting Member Orientation Registration

4:00pm-4:30pm Welcome - Announcements - Opening Devotions

4:30pm-5:30pm Business Session #1

5:30pm-6:30pm Dinner

5:30pm-6:30pm Workshop Leader's Dinner and Training 6:30pm Bldq 2, Conf Rm YOUTH Meet and Greet with Rachel

6:30pm-7:15p Business Session #2

7:15pm-8:15pm Global Missions, Scholarship Recipients presentation

8:30pm Conference Meetings

9:30pm Methodist Youth Event Opening Worship

**SATURDAY** 

7:15am-7:30am Cokesbury Morning Devotions

7:30am-8:30am Breakfast

8:45am-10:30am Pearson Announcements & Guest Introductions

Building Workshop Leaders and Youth Introductions

Scholarship Recipients' Videos Bible Study, Pastor Margarita Romo

9:30am-10:30am Methodist Youth Event Worship Service

10:45am-11:30am Business Session #3 11:30am-12:00Pm Churchwide Report

12:00pm-1:00pm Lunch

1:00pm-1:45pm Business Session #4

1:45 pm-2:45 pm Greetings from Synod Office, School of Lay Ministry,

Graceways Village (Love Offering)

3:00pm-4:00pm Workshop #1 -Choir 4:15pm-5:15pm Workshop #2 -Choir

5:30pm-6:30pm Dinner

6:30pm Communion set-up

6:45pm-7:45pm Worship with Holy Communion 8:00pm Cafeteria Evening Fun – WELCA Bingo Night

8:30pm - 9:30pm Methodist Youth Event Evening Worship

**SUNDAY** 

7:10am-7:25am Cokesbury Morning Devotions

7:30am-8:30am Breakfast

8:30am-10:30am Methodist Youth Event Communion Service

9:30am-10:15am Workshop #3

10:45am-11:15am Announcements; Reports on Love and Worship Offerings

New Love Offering Introduction

11:15am-12:00pm Closing Worship with Installation

12:00pm Lunch