



# Tapestry

February 2025  
Volume 38, Issue 1

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## Raeann Reveals



You are called to take a stand. Micah 6:8 tells us *"..what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."* The conference leaders and board met at Luther Springs on January 24-26. We used this scripture to talk about our passion and how we live it. We shared resources that the ELCA and the Women of the ELCA provide to help us learn and share our passion.

We used the Diversity Bingo from the resource *"Called to Love like God Loves-unconditionally."* In this exercise, you are required to ask individuals a question to see if they fit in a particular situation such as do you know a good joke and will you tell it or have you ever received welfare? It shows us things about our group that we may not be aware of. We also planned for Spring Gathering attendance and the theme, *"Hope, Joy & Endurance"* using scripture from Isaiah 40:31 and James 1:2-4. We ended with outdoor worship with the members of St Timothy in Tarpon Springs in 45 degree weather.

Please remember in these days of ever-changing political climate what Jesus calls us to do. If you are concerned about an action or if you like an action, let your legislators know. **Senators Rick Scott** and **Ashley Moody** can be reached at (202)224-5274 and (202)224-3041, respectively. You can look up your congressman at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) or call (202)224-3121. **Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton** and **Florida/Bahamas Synod Bishop Pedro Suarez** have both released statements that can be accessed on YouTube or ELCA.org and FBSynod.com. **Remember- you are called as a child of God!**

**FB-SWO Board**

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**FL-BA SWO President**

Editor: Linda Greilick  
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## Forms, Funds and Finances...

Greetings SWO Sisters,

Once again it is the time of year when many new Conference and Unit Leaders are being elected so, I thought I would take a minute to review the Offerings Forms and such for all the new “money-handlers” out there!

For Spring Gathering, use **Event Data Collection Form** to remit offerings to me. You will also report Conference Leaders on this form. Please send the Conference Officers Update even if no changes are made - we want to always be sure we have correct contact information for everyone.

For regular offerings to the SWO, use **Form A** and send directly to me. These would be offerings such as unit offerings, conference offerings, Love Offerings, and Scholarship Fund Contributions. **These also include donations to the Lutheran World Relief Shipping Fund.** Your offerings may be sent at any time depending on what fits your unit’s schedule best. Feel free to combine several months to save checks and postage. Please remember, each unit is required to make a donation to the SWO annually if you would like to have a voting member attend the Fall Gathering.

For offerings going to Churchwide, Use **Form B** and send directly to Churchwide. These would include offerings such as Katies Fund and Thankofferings. The Florida Bahamas SWO forwards 55% of all regular offerings we receive from the Units to the Churchwide Organization to support the ministries of WELCA.

All these forms can be found on the website: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/tools-for-leaders>

My Address is:

Tracy Moffatt  
1944 Crestview Way  
Naples, FL 34119

In an effort to be friendly to our environment, I email donation receipts to the senders. Please be sure to include your email, or a Church email, on your **Form A** and that is where your receipt will be sent. These emails will come from [fbswotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:fbswotreasurer@gmail.com) so all future Treasurers can use the same email. You may also use this email for questions or to follow up on donations.

For questions and more Information please contact me via email, text or an old-fashioned phone call!

[fbswotreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:fbswotreasurer@gmail.com) or [tracymoffatt@aol.com](mailto:tracymoffatt@aol.com) or 239-848-7274

## *Step up and take a stand as a leader*

by Denise Beumer—FL-BA SWO Vice President

The Women of the ELCA play a vital role in the heart of our church. We are involved in so many ministries that bring the Gospel to life. Each of us have personal talents and gifts to share in ministry. I am asking if you will step up and share your gift as a leader. Will you consider submitting your nomination to run for a board position this Fall?

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. We will also be voting for Voting Members for the Triennial Convention held on July 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>.

Prayerfully, consider completing a Nomination Form to place your name on the ballot for any of the above listed positions. See [www.flwelca.com](http://www.flwelca.com), Resources & Publications, Nomination Forms for the appropriate forms or contact Denise Beumer at [dbeumer1000@gmail.com](mailto:dbeumer1000@gmail.com).



**Step up and take a stand as a leader; use your God given gifts and talent.**

# Upcoming Events:



**BOLD  
WOMEN'S  
DAY 2025**

welca.org/bwd

**Bold Women's Day** is celebrated *the first Sunday in March*. How will you celebrate this year? We all know women who have inspired us, nurtured us, quietly led by example or loudly spoke out about injustice. Check out the many ways that you can celebrate in corporate worship or individually at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/bold-womens-day>

**The Rev. Babette Chatman** and the students of Augsburg University, Minneapolis, Minn., will lead a special Bold Women's Day worship service (*Available via streaming womenoftheelca.org*) on **Friday, February 28, 2025, 10:40 -11:00 am (CST)** with a 15-minute Question and Answer session led by students.

## World Day of Prayer Celebration Friday, March 7, 2025



The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen's initiative. It is run under the motto "*Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action*" and is celebrated annually in over 170 countries on the first Friday in March.

The theme for the day is "*I made you wonderful.*" The message is that we, as women and girls, are "*fearfully and wonderfully*" made in the image of God and this reinforces our movement's support of women in expressing their faith and speaking about their lives in prayer and worship before God and in community.

**Please call me 352-223 1925 to find your nearest World Day of Prayer event.**

**Leone Goding**, FL-BA SWO Board and Coordinator— Church Women United

## Apply for Churchwide Grants & Scholarships



Did you know that Women of the ELCA awards scholarships for a variety of educational tracts for laywomen and clergy? Could you or someone you know benefit from educational financial assistance? Check out <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/scholarships> for information, applications and requirements.

Deadline for submission is April 5, 2025.

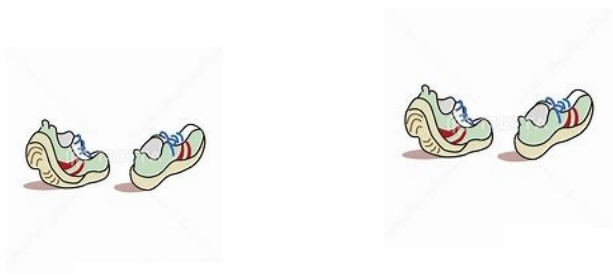
# 2025 Fall Gathering

**November 7-9, 2025**

at

**Warren Willis Conference Center**

**Fruitland Park, Florida.**



Ladies, get your traveling shoes ready. The planning for the 2025 Fall Conference has begun. We will be meeting at Warren Willis United Methodist Camp and Conference Center in Fruitland Park, November 7-9, 2025. You will experience a weekend of uplifting preaching, teaching, workshops and fellowship.

***Our 2025 theme is "All God's Children"***

based upon Romans 8:14: *"For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God."*

So that our regional conferences can plan, here is the list of individual assignments that each regional conference will be responsible for at the Fall Gathering.

### **Conference Assignments**

Broward-Bahamas & Tradewinds	Ushers
Miami-Dade/Monroe	Ushers
Caloosa & Panhandle	In-Kind gifts
First Coast	Saturday morning devotions
Flagler-Volusia	Credentials
Gulf Coast	Prayer Lounge
Heart of Florida & Lake	Communion
Mid-Gulf	Conduct of Elections
Pinelands	Registration
Space Coast & Tradewinds	Sunday morning devotions
Suncoast & Tampa	Hospitality

***Stacia Carter***  
2025 Fall Gathering Chair

Please check back for more updates. See you in November!



**From the Editor's Desk** — Linda Greilick

## **A New Year**

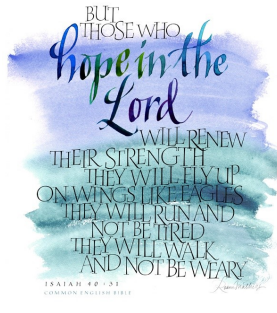
### **From the Editor**

**Planning, planning, planning!** A new year has begun and we, as Women of the ELCA, are meeting, planning, and coordinating. Ahead we have Bible studies, personal care and school kits to complete, quilts to tie, book reviews to ponder, Spring and Fall Gatherings to create, and an assortment of projects in our congregations and community to organize and support. As Women of the ELCA, we continue in our efforts to follow our Purpose Statement—*being called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and being empowered by the Holy Spirit.*

**At the January conference leaders/board members meeting at Luther Springs on the last weekend in January, we shared our passions and how we live them. A multitude of dedication and creativity was definitely evident as we told our stories. We shared how much this organization, Women of the ELCA, means to each of us and how we will work to keep it in each of our lives and yours. As you begin this new year, think about your passions, how YOU live them, and how Women of the ELCA is a part of your life.**

*"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."*

~Jeremiah 29:11



At the Synod Leadership Meeting, January 24-26, the Conference Presidents, led by *Diane Spicer*, met separately from the Board for a while. We discussed ideas for themes and Bible verses to be used at the Conference Spring Gatherings. We settled on two Bible verses. The conferences may use either or both since they have a similar message which gives us the theme:

*Hope, Joy, Endurance, and Faith.*

The first is James 1:2-4 NIV:

*<sup>2</sup> Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, <sup>(a)</sup> whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.*

The second verse suggested is Isaiah 40:31 NIV:

*but those who hope in the LORD  
will renew their strength.  
They will soar on wings like eagles;  
they will run and not grow weary,  
they will walk and not be faint.*

Or you may choose your own theme. These are just suggestions to help you in the planning process. Remember to contact the Board Member attending your gathering to assure that your plans and hers are met and that she has directions to your host site. Happy Planning!

## SPRING GATHERING 2025 CONFERENCE ASSIGNMENTS

CONFERENCE	DATE	LOCATION	BOARD MEMBER ATTENDING
Broward-Bahamas/ Miami-Dade/Monroe	03/01/25	Christ Lutheran Fort Lauderdale	
Caloosa	03/01/25	Faith Lehigh Acres	Tracy Moffatt
First Coast	05/17/25	Crossroads Lutheran Fleming Island	Wilma Shively
Flagler/Volusia	03/01/25	St. Mark's Palm Coast	Judy Driesbaugh
Gulf Coast	03/15/25	Lutheran Church of the Palms Palm Harbor	Leone Goding
Heart of Florida/Lake	03/29/25	Gloria Dey Leesburg	Denise Beumer
Mid-Gulf	04/12/25	Faith Sarasota	Tracy Moffatt
Panhandle	03/28/25-03/29/25	Holy Trinity Fort Walton Beach	Wilma Shively Raeann Purcell
Pinelands	03/15/25	Rock of Ages Wildwood	Sallie Haley
Space Coast/ Tradewinds	03/22/25	St. Timothy Melbourne	Raeann Purcell
Suncoast/Tampa	03/01/25	St. Paul's @ St. John's Episcopal Clearwater	Nina Jageler





# WELCA PUBLICATIONS

Need help choosing a devotion or discussion topic for your WELCA group or Spring Gathering? There is a wealth of information and resources available on the WELCA website, [www.womenofthelca.org](http://www.womenofthelca.org).

Below is a description of a few publications offered through Women of the ELCA. The Women of the ELCA connects with participants through magazines, e-zines, e-newsletters, both monthly and quarterly, and tells others how the organization (and that means all of us) is acting boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ.

**Gather:** Gather, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers a mix of articles, theological reflections, devotions and stories of comfort and challenge that helps readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. Gather is published six times a year. A print subscription is \$19.95 a year. Digital access (computer, iPad, Android) is free to print subscribers. For information or to subscribe by phone, call 1-844-409-0576.

**Boldcafe:** ([boldcafe.org](http://boldcafe.org)) **Café** (<http://boldcafe.org>), an on-line magazine, shares stories written by bold young adult women + friends who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more. Readers and writers of *Café* include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use *Café* as a Bible study resource individually or with a group.

**YOU CAN PARTICIPATE IN DINNER VIA ZOOM MONTHLY:** Join Boldcafe writers and friends for conversation and dinner the first Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. (CDT)!

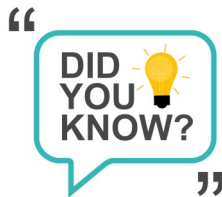
**Bold Connections:** The monthly e-newsletter that features the latest news and information about our programs and activities. *Bold Connections* is delivered via e-mail on the first of every month. You can also read past Bold Connections on [welca.org](http://welca.org)

Looking forward to hearing from you about all the resources and knowledge that you discover.

**Denise Beumer**-Vice President  
Publications



by Leone Goding— Coordinator Lutheran World



As I have read over the Leaders manual for our FL-BA Women’s Organization, I had missed part of what I have to do as a Co-ordinator for Lutheran World Relief. It reads as thus: *LWR Quilt and Shipping Fund (Formerly Known as Project Comfort): Units are requested to send a donation yearly to cover the LWR cost of distributing quilts and kits. These are transmitted to the Florida-Bahamas SWO (Synodical Women's Organization) Treasurer with Remittance Form A and should be listed as LWR Quilt and Shipping Fund under Other offerings.*

Please take this into consideration this year so we will know how wonderful our state of Florida gives.

# Florida Bahamas Synodical Women' Organization Directory

## Executive Board 2025

<u>President</u>	<u>Vice President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
<b>Raeann Storan</b> raeannpurcell@hotmail.com Planning Committee D-Social Media	<b>Denise Beumer</b> dbeumer1000@gmail.com Planning Committee D-Publications	<b>Wilma Shively</b> wjshively@aol.com J-Historian	<b>Tracy Moffatt</b> tracymoffatt@aol.com

## Board Members and Missions\*\*

Stacia Carter staciamlc@gmail.com J-Social Advocacy, Justice & Reconciliation	Leone Goding leonegoding@centurylink.net J-LWR, CWU. Rachel's Day	Nina Jageler conferencecoordwelcafl@gmail.com workshopfgwelca@gmail.com D-Conference Coordinator, Plus One Fall Gathering Workshops
Judy Driesbaugh rjjj2115@aol.com S-Katie's Fund, Disaster Relief, Scholarships	Sallie Haley misssallie56@gmail.com J-Global Missions	Lisa Klima lisamarie274@yahoo.com S-Love Offerings

## Non-Board Members

<b><u>Registrar</u></b> <b>Diane Cummings</b> sworegistrar1@gmail.com	<b><u>Love Offering Coordinator</u></b> Diane Spicer spicerdiane3@gmail.com
<b><u>Tapestry Editor</u></b> <b>Linda Greilick</b> lindag65@verizon.net	<b><u>Planning Committee Co-Chairs</u></b> Stacia Carter staciamlc@gmail.com
<b><u>Webmaster/Web Advisor</u></b> <b>Raeann Purcell</b> raeannpurcell@hotmail.com	Additional Co-Chair to be announced
<b><u>AV Tech</u></b> To be announced	



### 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).



### **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 March 15 for the April issue.**

\*\*Missions

D Discipleship  
J Justice  
S Stewardship