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www.flwelca.com

GREETINGS FROM RAEANN

CALLING ALL I-PHONE USERS!

Daily Grace, the much-awaited Iphone app from Women of the ELCA, is now available!

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. In these brief writings you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. You will be comforted, challenged, inspired, consoled and confronted. In an easy-to-see approach, the daily reflection stirs you to live out your baptismal calling.

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Go to <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/wo-dailygrace/id425207945> for more information and to download this free app.

**BE BOLD
BE THANKFUL
BE QUIET
BE SPONTANEOUS
BE PUNCTUAL
BE A STAR
BE YOUNG
BE LOVING
BE UNIQUE
BE YOURSELF**

GLOBAL MISSIONS

Connect to the global church through www.elca.org/disaster your church at work during disasters.

See and read about *Japan Earthquake and Pacific Tsunami*. *Ivory Coast Refugees*. *Libyan Uprising and Refugees*. *New Zealand Earthquake*.

Learn more about disaster response in **Japan, Egypt, Haiti, Libya, New Zealand, Indonesia, Cambodia and Thailand** at <http://blogs.elca.org/disasterresponse/>

The Global Mission Annual Report is now available. Learn about the ELCA and global engagement through this fold-out world map brochure, which includes short companion relationship stories. Contact 800-638-3533, ext. 2580 or order online at www.elca.org/resources. Shipping and handling are free for orders under 50.

Over 1 in 6 people are hungry across the globe. Learn how ELCA World Hunger is meeting this challenge. "We start by listening to people." See the promotional video at www.elca.org/hunger/video

Many articles that are very interesting are available online, so make use of them for your church, your conference, your unit.

Learn what is happening in our Companion Synods. You can subscribe to Global Links through elca.org.

Norma Karpiscak, Board Member, Global Missions

Delegates Approve Resolution to Save Water

Delegates to the 2010 FL-BA SWO Fall Gathering-Convention approved a resolution on water usage brought by the representative from Paradise Lutheran Church, Treasure Island. The resolution states: **Therefore, be it resolved that:** The women of the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization commit themselves to serve a minimum of one meatless meal per week during the coming year.

Read the complete resolution online www.flwelca.com and search the link on the left side that says Fall Gathering - 2010 Resolutions.

Sharon Koelsch, unit president, reminded the delegates that the Women of the Florida-Bahamas synod have taken concrete actions in the past in supporting certain causes. You may remember boycotting lettuce, boycotting tomatoes, and refraining from using Styrofoam plates and cups at home and church. This will be another way the women of the synod can show their support for a good cause, reducing water usage.

You probably already serve meatless meals such as cheese pizza with a salad, macaroni and cheese with a side of sliced peaches, or spaghetti smothered in tomato sauce with garlic bread on the side. Sharon offers a few of her favorite meatless meals to add to your menu choices. Most of these could be served with a side salad and a piece of fruit or with garlic toast and a hot vegetable.

Pasta with either vegetables sautéed in olive oil or vegetables roasted in the oven.

Cheese and vegetable omelet.

Vegetarian chili.

Cheese blintzes.

Baked potato stuffed with cheese or salsa or sour cream or cooked broccoli, or all four.

Grilled cheese sandwich embellished with sliced tomato or Vidalia onion or sliced almonds, or all three.

Vegetarian shepherd's pie.

Pancakes or waffles with or without a host of toppings.

Mushroom Stroganoff.

French toast.

Look through your cook books and recipe cards. Chances are, there are many good ideas there for meatless meals. A search of the internet could easily provide you with 52 and you'd be set for the year. Good luck and have fun experimenting!

Sharon Koelsch

Unit President

Paradise Lutheran Church Unit of the Women of the ELCA

[2011 - 2012 Love Offering Focus: DAUGHTERS OF NAOMI](#)

This organization is located in Fort Pierce, FL and is dedicated to providing shelter, encouragement, counseling, and guidance to dysfunctional single women and mothers. Started by Stuart and Sandra George in 2002 for women

needing a break from habitual and destructive life styles. This is a Christian based discipleship program for Residential and Non-Residential women.

Linda Greilick
Web Advisor, FL-BA SWO

Following is a letter from Sandra George, Founder and Director:

On behalf of the staff and women that are a part of Daughters of Naomi, I would like to thank the FBSWO for choosing our ministry to be the recipient of their Love Offerings for 2011–2012 .

Over the past 9 years, many women have walked through our doors in St. Lucie county looking to God for a chance to change their lives. Often, we were their last hope. It isn't easy to make the decision to lay down your life (even when it is not productive) and your choices for 9 months and trust someone else to guide and direct you, especially when you have spent years blaming authority figures for your problems. But when you come to a place where the future is bleaker than the past you are willing to do anything to change. So they come...

For nine months they study God's Word and how it applies to their everyday life. They complete courses in Anger Management, Overcoming Codependency, Debt Reduction and Budgeting, Parenting, Relapse Prevention, Healing the Wounded Child, Creative and Critical Thinking and many others. Most importantly is the relationship training they get as they interact with one another in the residency...many opportunities arise for them to "deny themselves and take up their cross daily."

Even with a primarily volunteer staff it still requires a minimum of \$1,100 a month per resident to provide housing, food, transportation, records and curriculum. Often there are health and legal issues also contributing to the equation. With your help, we can move beyond the pressure of daily operations and embrace expansion. First, we are in great need of replenishing our curriculum and classroom materials as well as office equipment. Next, since we provide all transportation to appointments and work, a safe and reliable vehicle is necessary. Replacing our current van with a newer 8 passenger would not only provide seating for the household but reduce the current cost of maintenance.

Ultimately, as a ministry, we would like to be able to provide our services for any woman demonstrating the desire to change and the willingness to do what it takes to change regardless of her economic status without it becoming a hardship on the program. That would require scholarship funds to supplement

the first few months a woman is in the residency or until she can acquire gainful employment.

In the future, it is our desire to provide additional housing for graduates that would allow a community of believers to disciple women as productive single months leaning on each other through God and not the governmental system to maneuver their way through life.

I am so looking forward to the next year as God gives us the opportunity to nurture the relationships we have started with the FBSWO as well as opening the doors to new and lasting Christ-centered friendships.

For His Glory,
Sandra George

WHO ARE OUR NEWLY ELECTED BOARD REPS?

Loraine Van Haecke

As a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Winter Park, I participated in various activities and projects.

I have served as President of the Heart of Florida Conference for two terms and as Vice President for one term.

Previously at St. John in Winter Park, I served as Church Unit President, Vice President, Treasurer.

Thanks to all of you for the opportunity to serve as a FL-BA SWO Board Member. My position on the board is Unit Organizer and Conference Co-Coordinator. As a Unit Organizer I am available to help you with any questions you may have in organizing new groups within your church units and as Conference Co-Coordinator, I am working with Marilyn Dial. Feel free to contact me at lorarhodus@aol.com

I also have a new address: 4527 Southmore Drive, Orlando 32812
Phone Home: 407-601-2525
Cell Phone: 407-252-4692

Blessings to all of you,
Loraine Van Haecke

Judy F. Clark

I am a member of the synodical Women's Organization Bolard, elected at the Fall Gathering in Lake Yale 2010. How did I get here?

Well, starting from the beginning, I retired. Was a member of the evening Lydia Circle at St. Matthias in Clearwater and when I retired I decided to become a member of the larger Dorcas Circle that met during the day. I was very happy to attend and enjoyed the lunch and the programs. Then they needed a secretary. I was asked if I would be the secretary and was unanimously elected. (You all know how that works.) Took the minutes and read them at the meetings. So now I was helping a little and enjoying the lunch and the programs, not too involved in all the busy stuff that goes on. For some unknown reason, I was appointed Vice President by the President. Oh well, thought maybe my minutes were not all that good. So now I sat and did less enjoying all that went on.

About six months later, the President announced that she would be leaving the church. It dawned on me that this meant I was President when she handed me all the **"stuff."** Now I had to plan the agenda and line up the programs and Bible studies. This is work, real hard work. No more just sitting and enjoying the meetings, I had to make it all happen. At first the feeling that there was no way I wanted to do this came to my heart. I prayed to have the ability to do it all. The feeling that there was a power greater than me at work started to move me, the Holy Spirit was now the director of my life.

Maybe there was a plan from a higher place that made me now move in different directions. Inspiration moved me to create programs. It was not all that difficult, yes, lots of work but not hard work. There was enjoyment involved in creating. Yes, God I can do this President of the Unit thing. Thank you for directing me.

There was the Fall Gathering that was a highlight of my year for many Fall Gatherings. As soon as the one was over I looked forward to next year. Watching all the wonderful ladies up there doing all the work stirred admiration in me. Not that I ever wanted to be up there, it was just this admiration. But the Holy Spirit had a plan. I was elected. Now I was going to be one of those ladies that worked to make things at the Spring and the Fall Gatherings Happen.

Went to a weekend meeting in January that was filled with information, filled with a group of great spirit-filled women and I knew it was the right place for me. I wanted to help them make the Gatherings happen and I wanted to work for all the ladies that attend to make these events a wonderful time for all so each

lady who attends will ask another lady to attend next year. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for being more involved in my life.

Judy F. Clark

Eleanor von Taborsky

Eleanor married Malcolm von Taborsky in August 1961. This year they would have celebrated 50 years of marriage, but God called Malcolm home on January 21, 2009. They were blessed with two sons, William and Peter. William is married to Tammy and they have a daughter, Paul Janell age 15 and a son, Carson age 10. Peter is married to Dedra and at present they do not have any children. Both Eleanor's sons served as acolytes, members of Luther League, State Representatives on the Luther League Board, Members of the Boy Scouts of American, and are both Eagle Scouts.

God is an important part of Eleanor's life. Eleanor was a member of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Port St. Lucie, Florida for over 30 years. Eleanor and Malcolm served on church council and were leaders in both Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts. Eleanor and Malcolm also served as Luther League Advisors for over 10 years. They both were delegates to many State Synod Conventions and Eleanor was a delegate at the 1999 ELCA National Convention in Denver, Colorado. Eleanor served as President of both the W/ELCA and President of St. Andrew Church Council.

The von Taborskys became members of St. John Lutheran Church in Summerfield when they moved to Fruitland Park, Florida. They became part of the first group of people from St. John Lutheran Church to take part in the Rock of Ages Lutheran Church Mission start up five years ago. Eleanor is a member and Secretary of Rock of Ages Leadership Team and Vice President of the FL-BA Synod at Rock of Ages Lutheran Church.

Malcolm went home to be with God, but Eleanor will continue to hold God's hand and try to stay involved by doing God's will with the Rock of Ages Lutheran Family and as a member of FL-BA Synodical Women's Organization Board.

Some chuckles: Don't let your worries get the best of you;
Remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Thank you so much

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Carver Heights Ministries in Leesburg, Florida, I want to thank the Florida Women of the ELCA very much for your generous contributions over the past years to our ministry.

Our two programs ASK (After School Kids), and Mother's Love (pre-school learning center) are going strong and ministering to children in this area. Our directors, family members and volunteers teach the children many life skills, such as etiquette and hygiene, along with Bible studies, physical activities and tutoring. The children are also offered fun activities such as music, summer camp and an annual Book Buddy summer reading program. Your donations make all of these activities possible and we're very grateful for your generosity.

May God bless you all,
Gail Burgess, Board Member

FALL GATHERING, NOVEMBER 11-13, 2011



Who Is Our Neighbor?

"Who is Our Neighbor?" is this year's theme for the Florida-Bahamas synodical women's Organization annual Fall Gathering. Our theme is based on Matthew 22:39. "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"

Start planning now to join your sisters from across the Synod as we gather at Lake Yale Baptist Assembly near Leesburg. There will be opportunities for worship, Bible study, workshops, fellowship and fun as we celebrate "Around the World" on Saturday evening.

To liven things up, we are also asking that you bring a percussion instrument (tambourine, rhythm sticks, etc.) with you to use during our worship services. If you don't have one, we'll have directions on how to make your own coming soon on our website!

The Planning Committee will have forms and other information posted on the website (www.flwelca.com) the first of August.

We hope to see you at Lake Yale!
Linda Greilick and Phyllis Wade
Planning Committee Co-Chairs

A FINAL TRIBUTE TO AN EXCEPTIONAL SERVANT OF OUR LORD (*Mary Blake*)



Qualities and accomplishments you may have never known or heard of as Mary seldom or ever referred to them...Whatever she took on, it would be carefully explored, thoroughly analyzed and often a new direction would be forged and expedited.

She almost never referred to her academic achievements...but they were considerable.

After she designed an early NASA research project...she then needed to go to Washington and present and defend it in competition with two known and respected college profs. She won the debate, and the contract for the Ford Hospital Research Program in Detroit. She then administered it for NASA.

While on the early National W/ELCA Board...there was a lively debate with the ELCA Presiding Bishop regarding a critical question on the relation of the new organization to the national church. When the Presiding Bishop gave his unwanted proposal, none of the other 20 some members said anything. She alone said NO to him and supported her argument. His proposal did become the Policy of the ELCA...BUT a few months later...he quietly reversed his decision

She was an intrepid and effective manager. Truly a Transformational Leader! Most recently it was shown in her determined revising of the Church Women United state by-laws...spending 2 and ½ days around the clock with former President Betty Roundtree...accomplishing that demanding but urgently needed document.

But of the highest priority...always...was being an exceptional parent. She in effect devoted her life to our two sons, Douglas and Harvey. For a while the boys often studied next to her after supper at the kitchen table...as she pursued her extensive paper or creative work. The results were that Harvey is a vice-president at Prudential and Douglas is a research engineer at Pratt with the highest security rating while helping design the engines for all of our country's military planes.

Finally as many of you know...she also loved music. At her high school...she practiced very hard and became "first" chair with her cello. With a double

major at St. Olaf she also sang in the Chapel Choir every Sunday. She also played piano and organ and was a trained choir director. Yet she also wrote poems, painted some, and found great delight in writing every week a new (what she called) "skit" for the Sunday School children...based on the Sunday's lessons in church.

I consider her one of our Lord's most JOYFUL and DEDICATED servants...who will be profoundly missed by us all...till we meet her again...in heaven. Don Blake

Another remembrance was sent to the Tapestry.

Women in the Suncoast Conference remember Mary Blake as the woman who stepped forward to be the synodical women's organization's official skit writer when Marj Axum returned to Minnesota.

For a number of years, the Mary Blake Players entertained attendees at the SWO's fall gatherings. I don't have any recollection of my first meeting with Mary, but, having impressed me as someone who not only knew everything about the Women of the ELCA and almost every woman in Florida. I picked her to head the nominating committee one year when I was SWO president. She did a terrific job lining up qualified women to serve.

I was amazed to run into her one spring when I was representing the SWO at the 2003 Miami-Dade/Monroe Spring Gathering. Mary had been asked to give a presentation. She talked about various people in the Old and New Testaments, what they did, and what we may be called on to do in following their example. It was so mind-boggling that I requested a copy and kept it in my "program ideas" file.

I also had the opportunity to attend a summer retreat in the Caloosa Conference a few years ago. It may even have been at Mary's house, I don't remember now. Day-long summer retreats were a staple in that conference and I'm positive that Mary played a big part in ensuring they happened and were meaningful to all attendees.

Her skills--and her laugh--will be missed by the FL-BA SWO.

Sharon Koelsch



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

Eighth Triennial Gathering
July 14–17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash.

We hope that you are still considering attending the Eighth Triennial Gathering in Spokane, WA July 14-17, 2011. Registration is still open. However, if you are not able to attend, there are still ways you can participate in some of the events.

You can participate in the Banner Project:

All the information on how to submit is available through www.womenoftheelca.org.

Deadline for submission is June 1, 2011.

You can submit a prayer shawl:

If you need a pattern, check out www.shawlministry.com or any of the many books on the topic available at your local library.

Print out the label found at the Women of the ELCA website under the Triennial information and add in the information. Laminate the completed label, punch a hole in it, and attach it to the completed shawl with a piece of ribbon or yarn.

TG11 Prayer Shawls
Eastern Washington-Idaho synod
314 S. Spruce Street, Suite A
Spokane, WA 99201-5823

You can submit a quilt: - but time to send to the churchwide office ends May 1, 2011. Download and print the entry form found on the W/ELCA website under the Triennial information. The quilt should interpret the theme, Renew, Respond, Rejoice.

All kinds of in-kind gifts will also be collected and distributed to the various servant opportunities hosted in Camp Dianoigo (the exhibit hall) at the gathering.

So, even if you are unable to be physically with the W/ELCA sisters in Spokane, there are many ways you can be with them in spirit through your participation.

AND REMEMBER, the next Triennial is in North Carolina, so start planning to attend in 2014.

For more information on the 2011 Triennial and/or on any of the projects listed please contact Linda Greilick or Marilyn Dial.

Marilyn Dial

mr.dial@cox.net

Linda Greilick

lindag65@verizon.net

Registration is open at www.womenofheelca.org

Next Issue be sure to look for:

Your Spring Gathering comments

Little Things Make Big Differences

Happy Birthday to the King James Bible

Deadline June 27th with articles double-spaced.

Lutheran Woman Today

Bible study in *Lutheran Woman Today* invites you into the Triennial Theme. The first session is to get us “unstuck.” RENEW. The June issue.

The second session reminds us that we are “gifted.” RESPOND. The July/August issue.

The third session also in the July/August issue exhorts us to “Rejoice in the Lord.” REJOICE.

Be sure to read and act on these summer issues.
Norma Karpiscak - Editor.