



November 2011 Vol. 24 # 6

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Notes from Raeann

Thank you all! As my term as president comes to an end I want to express my gratitude to you all!

My years serving on the board have been a true blessing to me. I have made life-long friends, I have grown spiritually and have been blessed immensely. You have supported me, taught me and prayed for me. You have shown me the love of Christ in my sisters. I have been blessed with many opportunities due to my position. I have traveled to Chicago and visited the headquarters of our church. I had the opportunity to build relationships with the board and staff of the Women of the ELCA. I had the opportunity to travel to Haiti and meet wonderful, spiritual Haitian sisters and see our church in action in Haiti. I have visited many of you at your spring gatherings and have learned about our synod as an advisory member of the synod council. I even got to attend the Triennial Convention in Spokane and see the election of our own Jenny Michael as president of the churchwide board.

Are you using your gifts to God's glory? Are you open to where He is calling you? Is God calling you to a leadership role? What will your answer be? Many congregational units and conferences are in need of leadership. The busyness of today's world pulls us in all different directions. We must remember what is important. Consider the blessings that will come to you by accepting your call to leadership! God Bless you all!

Raeann Purcell

Pop Tabs are still needed. This year we gathered enough pop tabs to donate \$103.71 to the Ronald McDonald House. Please keep up this very valuable work - it costs you nothing but a little effort in removing the tabs from the cans. Get your neighbors involved. This is a wonderful way of getting to help our neighbors who have family staying at the Ronald McDonald Houses all over the United States. Bring them to the Fall Gathering. You will find a table in the back of Maguire Hall that will hold your pop tabs. Thank you, Norma Karpiscak



First Award of the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization Scholarship.

Your board had a daunting but exciting task at our August meeting. We reviewed and selected the first winner of our organization's scholarship. We prayerfully considered the applicants and reviewed their many contributions. It is exciting to know we have so many gifted women answering God's call. Michelle Walka, who is seeking her Master of Divinity at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, was selected to receive our scholarship of \$1,000 to be awarded directly to her school in two increments, \$500 in the fall and \$500 in the spring. Michelle considers both St. Timothy in Tarpon Springs and Resurrection in Palm Harbor to be her home congregations. Michelle served in many leadership roles prior to entering seminary including serving as a voting member at both Synod and Churchwide Assemblies, serving as the Youth Director at Resurrection, Youth and Family Ministries Director at St. Timothy and volunteer young adult coordinator for the Florida-Bahamas Synod. Below is a quote from Michelle's application.

The journey of faith is not easy. I will be the first one to admit this, and in fact I will also confess to you that I do not have the life of faith all figured out with neat little answers and tidy explanations for everything. However, what I do know is this: faith is not about perfection, answers, or even doing the right thing. Faith is about trusting the God who continues to love, claim, and call us in spite of our brokenness and imperfections. God comes to me and says so deeply and intimately, "Michelle, you are a beloved child of mine...now go I am with you!" This journey of faith is truly a sacred calling, for which we are all a part of.

In recognizing this sacred calling, I believe we come to understand our faith best

through the beautiful expression of story; our story within God's story of faithfulness and saving grace. Being able to proclaim, to teach, and to invite others into this story are the most powerful faith qualities I can express. I love to tell a good story, but what I love even more is being invited into the stories of others as they discover their own identity in Christ. I want to encourage others in their faith journeys by walking with them and accompanying them in times of joy, times of sorrows, and even in just the day to day "normalcies" of life. I do this through praying as well as allowing others to pray, confessing as well as allowing others to confess, serving as well as allowing others to serve, teaching as well as allowing others to teach, encouraging as well as allowing others to encourage, and loving as well as allowing others to love as God has first loved us. The Holy Spirit is the true advocate and the one who empowers us within this journey of faith and life. I simply pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide me in using my God given gifts to help others share their own gifts and their own story of faith as well.

Congratulations Michelle! Donations to the scholarship fund may be made by sending checks directly to our treasurer at:

Marilyn Martin
 913 Carrick Bend Cr #201
 Naples, FL 34110-3628

If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.



**FALL GATHERING at Lake Yale
 NOVEMBER 11 - 13, 2011**

The time is near! We hope to see you soon! Our theme this year is "**Who Is Our Neighbor?**" We'll explore just who our neighbor is as we study and devote our worshipping around Matthew 22: 39, "*You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*"

Who are our special guests?

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Liturgist | Pastor Vicki Hamilton (St. John Lutheran, Jacksonville) |
| Bible Study Leader | Mary Delasin (ELCA World Hunger/Advocacy Coordinator, Palm Harbor) |
| Youth Shepherd | Trixie Richter (Redeemer, Winter Park) |
| Music Minister & Choir Dir. | Marilyn Franz (Prince of Peace, Largo) |

Churchwide Representative	Diane Brauer (Executive Board Member, Scottsbluff, Nebraska)
Friday night speaker	Bishop Edward Benoway (FL-BA Synod, Tampa)
Friday night guest	David Weiss (Writer and poet, St. Paul, Minnesota)
Love Offering Speaker	Sandra George (Daughters of Naomi, Fort Pierce)
One of our own	Jennifer Michael (Churchwide President, Pensacola)
All of you	Women of the ELCA and Guests (Florida plus a few other states)

Don't forget!

- 1. Musical Instruments:** Directions are on the website (www.flwelca.com) on how to make your own percussion instrument. Rhythm sticks, tambourines, and shakers are a few. We will celebrate our joy in music and song to the glory of God with lots of rhythm. The more instruments you bring, the merrier we will be!
- 2. Holidays Around the World:** By now each conference has planned their activity. All of us will be on the edge of our seats waiting to see the presentations (song, dance, story, etc.) that share how our neighbors around the world celebrate special days. And, our tummies will enjoy the snacks from various countries that each conference will share. It will be a fun evening!
- 3. National and Cultural Costumes:** You might choose to dress as your conference does in a national or cultural costume for your part in our Holidays Around the World. Or you may choose to dress in a costume that is related to your heritage. It's up to you! We can't wait to see you in your special outfit

How should you spend your time? Worship services, business meetings, meditation stations, Bible study, workshops, movie showing, greeting old friends and chatting with new ones, spending time with your prayer partner, visiting the prayer room, walking the beautiful grounds, praying, and reflecting! So many activities and so little time! You probably can't do all the activities offered so choose those that fit you best. Decide what you need to refresh and renew yourself. We rejoice that you will be able to join us at Lake Yale! Contact us if you have questions or concerns.

Linda Greilick
Phyllis Wade
Planning Committee Co Chairs

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11/11/11 Remember this date. This is our Fall Gathering at Lake Yale. How could any of us forget. Our project this year will be to create Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief with financial support from Thrivent for Lutherans. Meet in the back of McGuire Hall Saturday after lunch to help put together 100 Health Kits. We will be waiting for you to come and help. See you there. Judy Clark and Barbara Christ will be co-chairing this endeavor along with the help of other St. Matthias women from Clearwater.

Judy Clark, Board Member

A chicken crossing the road; poultry in motion.

10 Things To Make Besides Money

1. Time
2. Merry
3. Do
4. Up
5. Sense
6. Peace
7. Room
8. Waves
9. Amends
10. Believe



**MEET OUR FALL GATHERING CHURCHWIDE
REPRESENTATIVE**

Diane L. Brauer

Executive Board Member, 2005-2011
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Diane Brauer was re-elected to the executive board of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in July 2008. She serves on the executive committee, the program and communication committee, and as the synodical convention coordinator.

As a participant in the global education and advocacy seminars, Diane has grown from sharing faith with our Lutheran sisters in West Africa and South America. She has traveled to Argentina with the Nebraska Synod. Diane has also served on a county domestic abuse center board and volunteered at a free clinic.

Today she is a member of Calvary Lutheran Church in Scottsbluff, Nebraska. Diane has lived in four synods over the past 20 years serving on the synodical board in Montana and as president of the Western North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization. She was involved in World Hunger, Vacation Bible School, and as an advisor for the Lutheran Youth Organization for many years.

Diane is married to Brad, an ELCA pastor. He enjoys being a youth baseball umpire in his free time. They have two adult daughters. Erinn is in retail management in Omaha while Meghan is a dietician, married to Kevin, and living in Memphis.

Prior to moving to Scottsbluff in 2010, Diane was employed with Lincoln Public Schools as the office manager in the district's purchasing department. When she has free time, she enjoys reading, cross-stitching, sewing, and crossword puzzles. She loves to travel and especially enjoys visiting the mountains or the ocean.

Diane is excited about supporting and encouraging women in their leadership roles and rejoices in God's global community and our work in it. The gift of serving on the churchwide executive board is an amazing blessing for her. She believes it is a response to the call to act boldly on her faith with her sisters in Christ in our church, our community, and our world.

A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.

A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France resulting in
Linoleum Blown apart.

Local Area Network in Australia; The LAN down under.

He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

The Dead Sea Scroll's Influence on our Bible

There was a regular attack on the accuracy of Scripture which was a typical critique in Grandfather's time stated as follows: "How could anyone trust the reliability of the Bible since it had been translated so many times from one language to another, and finally English?" The question may *sound* as though it has merit. However, all reliable translations of Scripture in whatever language were translated from the original language texts of Hebrew or Aramaic and Greek. In fact, the assembled scholars of King James of England 1611, Luther of Germany 1525 and certainly Bruce M. Metzger of Princeton (RSV) 1946 were better equipped to provide a reliable text in their day than Jerome in Bethlehem in the 5th Century when he translated the Bible into Latin known as the *Vulgate*.

That's right. Surprisingly, the more recent translations of the Bible are better than the earlier translations because of a richer and older background of texts available to the later scholars. Here we would become acquainted with names such as the *Chester Beatty Papyrus*, discovered some eighty (80) years ago, the *Codex Vaticanus* now in the Vatican Library, and the fabled discovery of Prof. Constantin Tischendorf of Leipzig, the *Codex Sinaiticus* which he discovered in two visits to the musty old library of St. Catherine's monastery on Mt. Sinai a hundred and fifty years ago. The document had been waiting there for discovery for some 400 years with its several loose leaves. (Here there is enough intriguing and valid material to supply several Dan Brown novels without exaggeration of the information.)

These represent pages and portions of old priceless copies of Scripture which provide valuable insight toward a more pristine and accurate rendition of our Bible even though a fabled *textus receptus* or pure original text is hardly possible because we are always dealing with copies of copies. Surprisingly, few know how our present Bible is such an amazingly reliable document.

Nothing, however, compares with the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, so called because they were discovered on the northwest shore of the Dead Sea in the Judean desert by a Bedouin shepherd boy known as Muhammad ed-Dhib, the Wolf, in early 1947 or possibly late 1946. These scrolls have captured the imagination of most literate people and are easily the *find of the millennium* in Biblical archaeology.

(The only discovery that even comes close in value is the Nag Hammadi Codexes—fifty some in number, found a year or so later 1948 in Egypt. The major find here is a primitive Gospel of Thomas in Greek which may trace back to the early second century copy in Aramaic. Unlike the Dead Sea Scrolls, however, none of the Canonical Scriptures are involved with these Codexes from Egypt. They are products of a much later tradition known as Gnosticism and despite what some scholars would have you believe they are interesting perhaps, but not at all reliable.)

Now that I have your interest in how the Bibles we read today came to be, I will continue this in the first issue of TAPESTRY 2012. It is fascinating and makes really good reading. (Editor - Norma Karpiscak)

Next Issue of Tapestry

Look for:

More on the Bibles we read today.

A Knitting Lesson from Alice Hart, All Saints Lutheran in Port Orange

So you think you know the English language?

Reports from our newly elected board members

A note from your new president

Don't forget to keep collecting your pop tabs. A worthwhile project and costs you nothing.

Keep our servicemen and women in your prayers. Send them greetings and they can always use a box of goodies from you for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Remember they are at work every day even during the holidays when we are celebrating. Let them know we are always thinking of them and miss them very much. We look forward to having them home with us soon.

Enjoy your Thanksgiving and Christmas celebrations at church and home.