

TAPESTRY

NEWSLETTER OF THE FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

APRIL 2012, VOL. 25 # 2

www.flwelca.com

Lines from Linda

What an amazing time I am having! Who was to know how many women I would meet, chat with and form deepening friendships with? This enlivening way to serve has only just begun! I'll share a couple of my activities with you.

In February, I flew to Chicago for my first annual Conference of Presidents training and the carpet was rolled out for me in the form of a blanket of snow Thursday night. Brrr for this Florida girl! While the weather was cold, the hearts were not. Our Women of the ELCA organization has an awe-inspiring, creative, and hard-working group of women at churchwide and in synods across the country. Our weekend theme was based on a Jeremiah 29 verse 11: *"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."* What plans were shared with all of us! Highlights included addresses by Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, Executive Director Linda Post Bushkofsky, Treasurer Barbara Martz, and President Jenny Michael. Jenny prompted us to think about who we are called to become as Women of the ELCA. Are we awake to God's plan as described to Jeremiah? What can we do in our synodical women's organization to steer for the curve ahead? Jenny shared that we are a spiritually powerful group of women and we have many gifts to share. Let's follow God's plan to use these gifts.

March and April bring the Spring Gatherings out of the pencil box and into the assembly room as our conferences meet to explore the Bible study, "God's Eraser Never Wears Out," written by Board member Phyllis Wade. I was pleased to attend the Caloosa Conference Gathering. Check our website, www.flwelca.com, to find when and where your conference's Spring Gathering is scheduled and go. It's the plan to make!

I encourage you to contact me and the board with your thoughts and concerns. You may reach me at lindag65verizon.net or 727-595-9623.

Always in God's Hands,

Linda Greilick

FL-BA SWO President

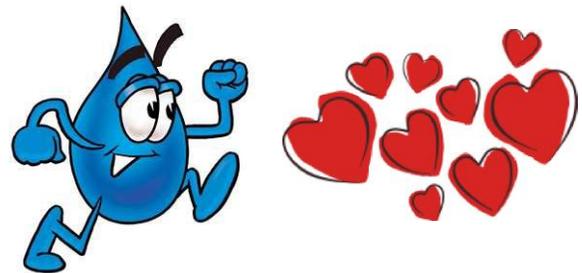
What's the Scoop on our new President?

Born in the state of Washington, **Linda Greilick** moved to Ohio when she was six. After spending over forty years in Ohio, she moved to Florida in 1994 after her husband retired. Her Ohio pastor suggested Prince of Peace in Largo for a new church home. Feeling God's call to become active in her new congregation and needing to find purpose since she was quite homesick, Linda joined the Women of the ELCA as a member of Miriam Circle. She served as Secretary/Treasurer and currently is Miriam Circle's leader. She has served on the PoP Board as both Vice President and President for four consecutive terms. Linda also volunteers as a Worship Assistant/Reader, an Adult Sunday school and VBS facilitator, a member of the Bell's Angels hand bell choir, an Altar Guild leader, and is on the Adult Education Planning Committee. Previous congregational commitments include serving on Church Council, the Stewardship Task Group, and as church treasurer. At Women of the ELCA Conference level, Linda served as Suncoast Conference Secretary until she was elected to the FL-BA SWO Executive Board in 2007. She served two terms on the Board member as the Web advisor and, this past November, was elected as President.

On a personal level, Linda has worked in accounting management positions for several companies for over thirty years and is now happily retired. She is married and resides in Seminole. As the mom/grandma of a blended family, Linda has five children and 13 grandchildren, all living out of state. She enjoys visiting them and keeping up with her grandchildren on Facebook or by Skype. One of the highlights of her life was to run the 2005 Disney Half-Marathon with her daughter to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society since her daughter Kelly is in remission (now 19 years) from Hodgkin's lymphoma. When she can squeeze it in, Linda loves aerobics, Pilates, reading, following some sports with her husband, and is learning to weave baskets.

FOLLOWING OUR HEARTS

Our world is very different due to the work of the Women of the ELCA. We recognize that our world and our neighborhoods have an overabundance of ministries that need our attention. At the end of 2011, after reducing staff and cutting expenses, churchwide effectively reduced expenses but, sadly, revenues decreased also. The net effect of decreased revenues resulted



in a \$580,000 shortage—one third of the budget on a churchwide level. Some of this revenue shortfall is comprised of reduced regular offerings, delivered through our synod treasurers, from us as congregational members. Directing our support to local specific ministries rather than to the wider organization can feel much more rewarding. However, when we work collectively on a wider scale, our offerings tend to have an exponential growth that is not achieved when giving to a small ministry. We ask all of you, as members of congregational units, to review your unit's

stewardship and to search your hearts. Reread the article “Everything She Had” in the March *Gather* magazine. And think of these words from our Lord according to Matthew 6:21: “*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*” Jesus doesn’t tell us that our treasure follows the path of our hearts. He, instead, tells us that our hearts normally follow the path of our treasure. Consider that as each of you plan your giving in the future. If you have questions about this message, please feel free to contact me at lindag65@verizon.net or 727-595-9623.

FUND FOR LEADERS - A scholarship available for seminarians. Do you know a seminarian at one of the eight (8) ELCA seminaries? Does your church have a member at seminary? Remember the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women’s Organization is ready to accept applications for our scholarship. This will be the second year that our Fund for Leaders endowment will provide funds. Last year we awarded \$1,000 to Michelle Walka.



Due to your generosity and the stock market rebound, our available funds have increased. The SWO board is considering whether to increase the scholarship and/or offer more than one. But we need applicants. The 2012 application is available on our website www.flwelca.com. It is due to Linda Greilick, lindag65@verizon.net, by July 15. (Her address is on the application.) Let seminarians know.

We can grow the fund even more with your help. Remember each CU is asked to contribute \$10 (or more) each year. Send your gift marked Fund for Leaders Scholarship to our treasurer Marilyn Martin at 913 Carrick Bend Circle #201, Naples, FL 34110.

AFFIRMATIONS & CONSTITUTIONS

Most of our congregational units have a constitution. Several units, especially if newly formed or small groups, have affirmations. Sometimes a group with a constitution can no longer find women to take the leadership roles, especially president. They do not need to disband. They can switch to an affirmation. You don’t have to have officers but you need a contact person, preferably one with an e-mail address. Sometimes new groups don’t want to have a constitution – too formal. Affirmations allow a group of women to subscribe to the purpose of the Women of the ELCA. That means to meet, grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. So if you have a group that meets for a particular ministry or Bible Study, you are probably fulfilling the purpose. Now you just need to participate in Women of the ELCA programs. It might include one or more of the following: Lutheran World Relief, Spring Gathering, SWO Fall Gatherings at Lake Yale, e-Magazine *Café*, print magazine *Gather*, *Daily Grace*, etc. This is not a complete list. It also means to contribute to the support of Synodical Women’s Organization through remitting a portion of regular offerings to the SWO treasurer. The SWO treasurer will then forward 55% to churchwide Women of the ELCA. That’s what covers the cost for *Café*, *Daily Grace*, subsidizes subscriptions to *Gather*, and provides free-downloadable materials (over 50 and more coming all the time) from the churchwide website. It’s easy to be a congregational unit of the Women of the ELCA.

If you sent a delegate in either of the last two years to SWO Fall Gathering at Lake Yale, we have your unit on file. If you are not sure if your group has a constitution or affirmation on file with SWO, just e-mail webmaster@flwelca.com. I'll check it out.

Elaine Heine affton@bellsouth.net

PLUS ONE

Is there a new circle in your Unit or Conference? The Unit President should contact Donna Person, Plus One Coordinator, at dperson@broward.org with the new Unit's name, church and address. At the upcoming Fall Gathering, the new Unit will be recognized with a cross-stitched Plus One patch which can be attached to the Unit's banner.

HOPE "Of all the forces that make for a better world, none is so powerful as hope. With hope, one can think, one can work, one can dream. If you have hope, you have everything."
Anonymous

SAVE THE DATES: November 9, 10, & 11

WHAT: Florida-Bahamas SWO Fall Gathering

WHERE: Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center, Leesburg, Florida

WHO: Women of all ages (5th grade and above)*

*There will be a Youth Shepherd for girls in grades 5 through 8 and a Youth Shepherd for young ladies grades 9 through college.

This year's theme is "In God's Hands" based on Isaiah 41:10: "do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand." Our Saturday night conference activity, "Hands on Fun," will give each conference the opportunity to have a booth based upon a Hands-on phrase. The 25th Anniversary of Women of the ELCA will be celebrated beginning in June 2012, and to honor our 25 years together, we will have a 25 Silver Anniversary W/ELCA Party following the Saturday night activity. We will be holding our first Planning Meeting late March so watch for more details in the next issue of Tapestry. We hope to see you at Lake Yale!

Diane Spicer dlsic@juno.com and Phyllis Wade secretary@htlc.gccoxmail.com
Fall Planning Co-Chairs



DAUGHTERS OF NAOMI

Words cannot express what the FL-BA Synodical Women’s Organization has meant to Daughters of Naomi over the last year. Thanks to your generous donation we have been able to give this ministry a long needed facelift. As you know, we focus on teaching and training women to become everything that God intended for them to be. That involves a very in depth curriculum that over time had started looking like a well-worn book.

With the cash funds you contributed in November 2011, we have been able to replenish our books and tapes. In addition, we have purchased MP3 players to download the audio curriculum with hopes of extending the life of our curriculum and reducing future replacement costs. We have added long awaited materials for a group on Anxiety and Depression. Gift cards have enabled us to purchase a food slicer (ability to purchase larger quantities of food and minimize cost), rice cooker (a big contributor to weekly meals), and a commercial-grade blender for daily smoothies (healthy eating is a must in changing our chemical make-up). And, it goes without saying, that the non-perishable supplies have been a god-send.

Our office has also been blessed with your generosity. We invested in a software upgrade for all our computers, purchased ink and copy paper for our printers, and replenished stationary supplies (journals, notebooks, hi-liters, file folders and dividers) for residents.

The residents and the staff are looking forward to our continued relationship in 2012. Thank you for all that you are doing to advance the Kingdom of God.

Sandra George - Founder/CEO

DAUGHTERS OF NAOMI 2012 WISH LIST

Household Items

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Toilet Paper | Paper Towels | Paper Napkins |
| Kleenex Tissues | Plastic Wrap | Ziploc Bags (all sizes) |
| Trash Bags (all sizes) | Coffee Filters (large) | Dishwasher Detergent |
| Liquid Dish Soap | Laundry Det. (liquid) | Liquid Hand Soap |
| All Purpose Cleaner | Toilet Bowl Cleaner | Salt (water soft, Iron out) |
| Bleach | Fabric Softener (sheets) | Light Bulbs (efficient) |
| White Sheets (twin fitted and flat) | | Food Dehydrator |

Office Items

- | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Copy Paper | Ruled Notebook Paper | Composition Books |
| Ear Phones (Bugs) | 3 Ring Binders (3.0") | HP 6500 A Ink Cartridges |
| | 3 Ring Binders (1.5") | |

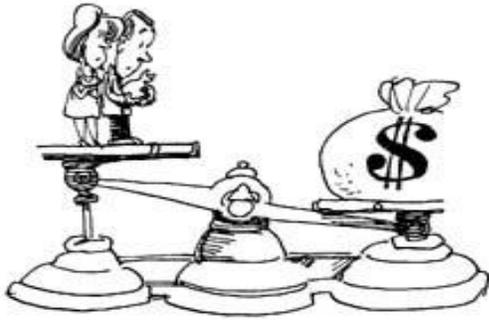
Gift Cards

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------------|
| Christian Book Distributors | | Amazon |
| Gasoline | Lowes | Home Depot |
| Walmart | Publix | Winn Dixie |
| Staples | | |

If you are interested in helping with any of the above items, please contact us at: (772) 672-4174

Daughters of Naomi, Inc. is a 501 c (3) not-for-profit organization.

All donated items qualify as tax deductible.



Greetings from the Treasurer

Every day I see examples of God’s Love in the generosity of the women of the FL-BA Synod and your faithfulness to God’s command to love one another and care for the less fortunate. Several months ago, I received a check from a church for over \$1,000 for Daughters of Naomi. Recently, I received a check for offerings from a group of ladies that meet for Bible study but are not part of an active W/ELCA organization in their church. What wonderful signs of giving in these times of political derision, economic strife, and attacks on organized religion!

Contributions to the state-wide organization as well as churchwide are down which makes continuing our mission of caring for the less fortunate and spreading the Gospel message much more difficult. I ask each of you, as part of your congregational unit, to search for ways to continue your giving and to increase it where you can. Remember “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

Marilyn Martin

Treasurer marmar913@comcast.net



The Secret is Out! Announcing the 2014 Triennial Promoter!

Who is leading us to the 2014 Triennial in Charlotte, North Carolina, the City of Trees? Who is attending the Triennial Gathering Promoter Training in August 2012? Who will be sharing all the Triennial news with us? Will we travel by bus, plane, or car? Will we once again be covered in pink flamingo boas like we were in Spokane? What tchotchkes or chotskies (cool giveaways representing Florida) will

(The Charlotte Convention Center)

we be trading with our Women of the ELCA sisters from all over the nation and the world? Someone has to lead the group, attend the training, share the news, make the decisions, and design the chotskies! If you guessed Raeann Purcell, then you are correct! We can count on her enthusiasm to get us there!

LET’S HEAR WHAT RAEANN SAYS ABOUT THIS TRIENNIAL!

Who knows where they will be the beginning of July, 2014? I DO! I will be in Charlotte, North Carolina, celebrating the Women of the ELCA with my friend and our President, Jenny Michael. The Ninth Triennial Gathering will be held in July 2014 in Charlotte. The Women of the ELCA always do an excellent job arranging tours of points of interest pre and post gathering. What do you think of when you think of Charlotte? The first thing that comes to my mind (next to the Queen’s City) is NASCAR Racing. The Richard Petty Driving Experience and The Dirt Track Racing School have locations in Charlotte. OK, probably not the first choice for Women of the ELCA but what about the U.S. National Whitewater Center which includes an Olympic-caliber man-made river with class III-IV rapids, Mega Zip line, and rock climbing center. Not for you? How about Swan Creek Wine Trail, a collection of conveniently located wineries in the Yadkin Valley region with 90+ vineyards or the Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden, a 110-acre park with formal gardens, fountains and an 8,000 square foot glass Orchid Conservatory? There is the Billy Graham Library, the Levine Center for the Arts, the Bechtler Museum Modern Art, mini Museum Uptown, and the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts and Culture. There is Concord Mills, the Spa at Ballantyne, Carowinds Amusement Park, Carolina Raptor Center, Lazy 5 Ranch and Much, Much more.

Start planning now to be part of this exciting adventure with over 2,000 of your sisters in Christ. I’m hoping to have at least 100 from our synod there to cheer Jenny on and to experience this event. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

Raeann Purcell
Your 2014 Triennial Promoter
raeannpurcell@hotmail.com

Lutheran World Relief - Tampa Pickup was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church the week of February 6th to the 10th. A total of 27 churches came and delivered 6,746 pounds. This included the 100 personal care kits that were put together at the Fall Gathering. A total of 89 baby care kits, 12 blankets, 61 fabric kits, 769 personal care kits, 1, 234 quilts, 259 school kits, and 310 pounds of soap were collected.

Pictures were taken and are on the church website www.goodshepherd Tampa.org.

Pat Zwick, LWR Tampa Contact

HURRICANE SEASON APPROACHES!

Soon it will be hurricane season and we will be preparing. In Florida we not only have the threat of hurricanes, but the threat of tornados, not only born by hurricanes but occurring from fronts that come through. Now is the time to start preparing though it seems too far away. Everyone should have these items to prepare for an emergency tucked away no matter what time of year it is. A list below is provided.



Additionally, we, the FL-BA Synodical Women's Organization, in other words your W/ELCA family, is requesting that each congregation prepare at least one disaster relief kit for your church or more dependent upon the number in your congregation. It (they) can be used in the event of your own personal, local, or statewide emergency. Then our group, W/ELCA Disaster Relief, could collect those kits to give to others who have been affected in your area or in your own state. Your personal kit should meet the needs of the size of your family and the church's extra kits should be prepared for a family of four.

KIT: 3 gallons water per person/per day or 9 gallons each
Gallon of bleach (plain not scented)
Canned food for meals for three days: i.e. canned meats, vegetables, fruit, cereals, boxed milk and juices. Also snacks.
Can opener - batteries: 20D, 8AA, pkg of C's, AAA and E (Smoke Detector)
Grill, propane, or charcoal w/self light or lighter fluid to match. Matches, lighter (put in waterproof bag or container.) First Aid Kit: band-Aid, antibiotic cream, needle, thread, alcohol wipes, ace bandage, tweezers, Ibuprofen, sunblock, prescription medications (for known family.) Blankets and change of clothes.
Cooler (ice chest), rags for cleaning, bucket for brackish water to flush toilets
(Use to store above items, or fill at last minute with water.)

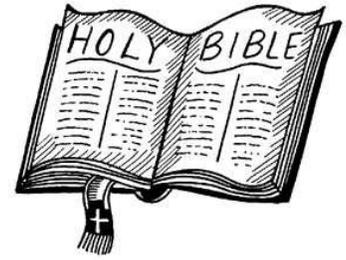
Extras: Generator, gasoline (stored in Type II containers), extension cords, weather radio, board games, books, battery operated fan. Chain saw with proper fuel and bar oil, (extra chain), fire extinguisher, tent, blow up mattress w/sheets, tarps.

If each church prepared the basics for a family of four, you would have your own church prepared for the one who didn't prepare, or if there is another disaster in the synod, your contributions would save a family or two. Additionally, if there are people with pickup trucks or vans in your congregation who would be willing to deliver that kit, their number should be on file with your synod coordinator, **Marie Clark Funk at 305 697-3236**. Churches who have built these emergency kits should also contact Marie to let her know they will help the helpless. Items can be picked up in an emergency and delivered.

Marie Clark Funk – marieclarkfunk@gmail.com

Words from Our Mission Action Chair

Through action, each woman articulates and acts upon her faith as a disciple. Women of the ELCA action can include: Lutheran World Relief, Anti-Racism, Rachel's Day, and the Love Offering. Participating in one or all of these is acting upon your faith.



Lutheran World Relief is an ongoing ministry that includes gathering materials for quilts, making quilts, and packing and shipping them. The kits are assembled and, with the quilts, are packed and sent on to the LWR warehouse for distribution each February.

Anti-Racism is always the base of action and ongoing. Contact Board member Thelma Isaksen at encktf@gmail.com for further information.

Rachel's Day is celebrated on the 1st Sunday in May. Plan a celebration. Contact Board member Judy Clark at jlark4993@aol.com for further information.

The Love Offering is extra special. We look for an organized group during the summer and it is presented at the fall gathering. Our offering is for 2 years. Contact Board member Marie Clark Funk at marieclarkfunk@gmail.com for details or read her article in this issue.

We would enjoy hearing about your Mission Action stories at the Unit level. Please contact Thelma Isaksen at encktf@gmail.com. Bless you for following your faith. Thelma

Forming Units? Contact Our Unit Organizer

We are seeking women who attend both affiliated and non-affiliated churches, mission churches or Spanish speaking churches to offer support, guidance and help to form units. Special units may include college campus groups, retirement community groups, or congregations that left the ELCA but still have active women's groups that would like to remain as part of the Women of the ELCA. Your assistance is needed to identify these Christian women who may be interested in help. Our aim is to make Women of the ELCA a responsive group of sisters in Christ. Give me something special to report next time. Contact Thelma Isaksen at encktf@gmail.com. Your help will be appreciated. Thelma



What can we give God? "We cannot give God anything; for everything is already His, and all we have comes from Him. We can only give Him praise, thanks and honor."

Martin Luther



Let's find how our Conferences did at Spring Gathering

Pinelands Conference at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Judy Heikkinen welcomed 89 attendees including 29 first-timers at the March 10th meeting. Display boards were shared by each unit. Business was conducted by Carol Gentalen, President. Announcements, updates and the results of the elections were announced. Eight units shared in the preparation of the conference. A very welcome and well-organized atmosphere was experienced.

The Bible study was presented by Leone Goding. Using the text from Matthew 18: 21-35, the theme was "Forgiveness...God's Eraser Never Wears Out." Judith Mattison's book Facing Up was used as a very good resource. Two feelings were noted: 1. Prayer projections and 2. Difficult to forgive.

Carol presented the Lucinda Pins and noted that profit went to "Share the Spirit". Carol also explained the "Love Offering" and the "Mission Grant." All were encouraged to attend the Fall Gathering with the theme "In God's Hands." Pinelands Conference will be responsible for the Conduction of Elections. Eleanor von Taborsky shared a picture album of history for the Conference.

Thelma Isaksen, Board Member, talked about the Women of the ELCA structure and other resources available to the units, reviewed forms available on the website, and mentioned Mission Action, Unit Organizer, and Lutheran World Relief as her assignments.

A great lunch was offered at noon. Sandwiches, salad, chips and pickles were served with cake and beverage. Very cute favors of wrapped erasers and a table prize were given during a game. President Leone Goding, VP Marcia Meier, and Secretary Barbara Neiman were installed by Thelma. A worship service with communion was presented by Pastor Bill Barrett of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. It was my pleasure to be part of this conference Gathering.

May all be Blessed, Thelma Isaksen

Caloosa Conference Spring Gathering

At the March 3rd Caloosa Conference Spring Gathering at Faith Lutheran in Lehigh Acres, all received cross shaped pastel erasers stating that "He Lives" to take home to aid our stubby, eraser less pencils.

After a welcome, the host of Faith, President Joan Sozzi, was recognized and Marilyn Martin (Emmanuel) led devotions on Psalm 86 accompanied by a banner procession. Caloosa Conference Women Deacons, Karen Coleman (Peace), Dori Dunham (Redeemer), and Tammie Vough (Gateway Trinity) guided us in group discussion reminding us that our Lord continues to wipe away all our sins if we have faith and that we can start over and over again.

Dr. Jim Kreger provided musical accompaniment to our morning devotions helping all of us to "Create in me a clean heart." After offering was collected, Shirley Hyssong (St. Peter's) offered a luncheon grace and we gathered at eraser decorated tables based upon our birthday month.

Conference President Lynn Reese led a short business meeting that included elections. Lynn Reese was elected as President and Marilyn Thomack was elected as Vice President. Secretary Shirley Eggleston called roll stating that fifty-five attended representing 10 congregations. Joining us for the day was Mary Jo Mettler, an Executive Board member from the Northeastern Minnesota SWO 3E who winters in Florida. Linda Greilick, FL-BA SWO Board President, offered updates from churchwide and the synodical women's organization, presented 13 first-timers with gifts, and installed officers. Joyce Rauschenberger (Hope) provided our closing prayer referencing a Max Lucado poem. We headed home reminded that God's powerful eraser is truly a cleansing and continuous gift.

Linda Greilick, Board Representative and SWO President

Gulf Coast Spring Gathering

Gulf Coast Conference met at Spirit of Grace on Saturday, March 10th. We were led in a Bible study using a video entitled "The Lump" that depicts a father's forgiveness for his son. We also had a guest speaker, Diana Soto, from World Relief Tampa to talk to us about the world wide problem of human trafficking, providing examples and warning signs for each of us to be aware of. Miriam Walka was reelected as Vice President. Eight first timers attended the Gathering.

Marilyn Martin, Board Representative and SWO Treasurer

Heart of Florida Spring Gathering

The Heart of Florida Conference held their annual Spring Gathering on March 3rd at Shepherd of the Hills in Clermont (near Orlando) with 41 ladies attending. It was a joy for me to serve as their Board Representative because when I served on the SWO Board previously, the Heart of Florida Spring Gathering was the first one I attended as a Board Rep. For me, this was a wonderful "reunion" with some old friends! It was also nice to see that the ladies are continuing their tradition of using real plants as part of their table decorations with every attendee being invited to take one home.

Pastor Terry Krier (retired) led the opening devotion to get us started. She invited everyone to share how their congregation is extending a helping hand into their community. The Heart of Florida Conference is very busy in many different and unique ways making a difference in the lives of their neighbors. The ladies gathered for our Bible study, "God's Eraser Never Wears Out", led by Harriet Frey; a luncheon prepared by Michelle Candage and her mother and served by the ladies of Zion, Groveland; and a hilarious skit which was a fashion show entitled "Paris (South Dakota) Festival of Fashion". (The copyrighted skit is available from Contemporary Drama Service). The Conference has some very talented and creative ladies! Barbara Cilik and Harriet Frey will continue to serve as Conference President and Vice President; and Charlotte Klima was elected Conference Secretary. I was very honored to install these officers. Pastor Terry also led the closing Communion service. First Time attendees were recognized and given a "forgiven" eraser and "1 cross + 3 nails + 4given" button pin.

A very special thanks to Barb Cilik and her husband Paul for hosting me Friday night and treating me to a wonderful concert Friday evening and to Michelle Candage who prepared a "to go" sandwich box for me to take with me on my trip north into some very stormy weather!

Phyllis Wade, Board Member and SWO Representative

Tampa Conference Spring Gathering—met at St. Paul Lutheran in Tampa, March 3rd. What a glorious day temperature perfect, but a little windy. The Tampa Conference had a lovely brochure that emphasized Psalm 51:10 – “Create in me a clean heart, o God; and renew a right spirit within me.” Pastor Raymond E. Strawn, Jr. spoke well about what the women’s organization does for all churches. We sang, we prayed and then broke into Bible study groups led by VP Pat Zambito. It was great; everyone had the opportunity to talk about things that they have forgiven or needed to forgive. 31 people attended the Gathering. 5 new attendees received nail crosses.

SWO Board Member Norma Karpiscak gave her talk on all the things our SWO has been involved in since the Fall Gathering in Leesburg. She encouraged all to attend our next Fall Gathering in November and to keep a watchful eye for things on the Internet regarding our Triennial in Charlotte, North Carolina in 2014. She handed out a paper with lots of good Internet websites that can help them with all their projects. If they were not familiar with our own website, she introduced them to it.

A new secretary was elected after much praying and deliberating, but she accepted joyfully and now the Tampa Conference has a complete team.

The Gathering closed with a delightful lunch. This Conference is really on the ball. Their brochure contained statements about “God’s Eraser Never Wears Out, Leaders in Mission, the Love Offering and Share the Spirit” along with the Mission Statement and Purpose Statement. WOW! If all Conferences gave all that information, it would make the SWO life easier. Thanks to Pat Zwick for organizing this great day.

Norma Karpiscak, SWO Representative and Tapestry Editor

Mid-Gulf Conference Spring Gathering— met at Emmanuel Lutheran in Venice on March 10th. Opening Devotions were led by Mary Ann Kraft. A hymn and then a short business meeting led by outgoing Co-President Janet Petersen followed.

The Bible Study, Restore and Rejoice, was shared by Sheri Moehling and Gayle Backiel. About 60 women attended this Gathering.

After lunch the group returned to the sanctuary for updates by the SWO Board Member Norma Karpiscak. She handed out sheets with good websites that they can use to help them plan their work this year. Installation of officers was held and elected were Sheri Moehling and Gayle Backiel, co-Presidents, Chris Dines, Vice-President, and Pat Keller Secretary. New attendees received nail crosses.

A special guest speaker, Ann Ridings from Lutheran Services of Florida, presented a talk. This was followed by a service of Holy Communion and a closing litany.

Norma Karpiscak, SWO Board Representative and Tapestry Editor

Broward-Bahama’s Spring Gathering with invitation to Dade-Monroe

There were 25 participants. The Bible study was done by Earline LaCroix. Speaker Ms. Marilu Coffman spoke on abusive relationships-domestic violence. Guitarist Jacob Smitter from Trinity Lutheran and Pastor Danger conducted the Communion Service.

SWO Board Representative from the SWO was Marie Clark Funk (Lord of the Seas) who presented all points requested by Linda Greilick, SWO President. A new setting (in Spanish) was introduced. The FL-BA W/ELCA website was on display next to show the ease of negotiating the website.

New Conference Officers were installed with Ann English elected as President and Earlene LaCroix elected as Vice-President. Lucinda Pins were sold. Activities were offered and each attendee was given a heart candy holder.

Two persons received gifts as first time attendees as well as some birthday attendees who received a small token gift.

Marie Clark Funk, SWO Board Representative

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Bring on the Love Offering Applications!



The deadline approaches! Selection of an organization as the Love Offering Focus for the period beginning February 1, 2013 and ending January 31, 2015 will be decided at the August meeting of the FL-BA Synodical Women’s Organization (SWO) Executive Board. Applicants can be nominated by any member of an active congregational unit within the FL-BA SWO. The organization chosen receives monetary offerings and supplies to grow their ministry that are collected by many congregational units. A key consideration in choosing the biennial Love Offering focus is the question on the application that asks “What is unique about your organization and why should we choose you as our Love Offering Focus?” Be sure this question is emphasized and addressed.

For an application to provide to an organization that you or your unit support, go to www.flwelca.com and refer to the Love Offering topic or contact Board Member Marie Clark Funk at marieclarkfunk@gmail.com or 305-797-3236. **The deadline for receiving application is July 15.** Applications with references and supporting documentation should be sent to SWO Secretary Donna Person as instructed on the application. This is your chance to increase the support to an organization in your community that you truly love! Bring on the Love Offering Applications!

Church Women United



May Friendship Day is celebrated the first Friday in May. Some of our units hold their celebrations on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. This year the theme for May Friendship Day is “*Listening to Your Sisters.*” I am so excited about the content of the program and don’t want to give any of it away so come join us at one of our units. For a CWU unit near you, please call Pat Zangmeister at 954-731-3351. Watch for information on other Church Women United Celebrations coming up.

Our sympathy is expressed to Board Member Pat Zangmeister

Carl (Fred) Zangmeister, Pat’s husband, passed away on February 24, 2012. Pat and Fred would have celebrated their 25th anniversary on May 29th. Fred was a retired ALC pastor serving mostly in Ohio and Indiana. Following his retirement, move to Florida, and marrying Pat, he began volunteering at his church, All Saints Lutheran in Tamarac. He taught confirmation class, adult Sunday school, Bible class, and took total care of the memorial garden. He was in full support of all of Pat’s activities and did all the housework, including vacuuming, washing the floors on his hands and knees, laundry and ironing, and grocery shopping. His statement was: “I had my time to work for the Lord; now it’s your turn.”

A Thank You from Pat

I want to thank all of you wonderful Sisters in Christ for the cards, e-mails, and phone calls during the recent passing of my husband, Fred. It is realizing that you have so many friends that care that makes it easier to accept this great loss. Thanks also to the Board for the donation in his memory to my church.

We Need You! The Florida – Bahamas SWO Needs You!

We are looking for women who will share their gifts with the Women of the ELCA. We are looking for women dedicated to serving their Lord through this organization.

In November at the Fall Gathering/Convention, we will be electing a new vice-president, a treasurer, and 4 executive board members. The vice-president will be elected by Ecclesiastical ballot. The other positions will be elected by written ballot. Additional information and a description of the duties of each of these positions are now available on our website at www.flwelca.com. Check under the **Fall Gathering Elections** topic on the left hand side of the page.

You are encouraged to pray and see if you would like to place your name in nomination. Additionally, you are also encouraged to look around at other women in your unit. Do you see in them gifts they could share? For many women that have or are serving on the board it is because they were encouraged by someone to share their gifts and to place their name in nomination. **Be that someone!** Encourage your sisters in Christ to share their gifts.

To be considered for these positions, the FL-BA SWO Executive Board Nomination form may be found on our web under forms on the leadership resources page and on the Election page. Send your completed form to:

Joan Fisher
410 S Brooks Ave
Deland, FL 32720

Nomination forms should be sent to Joan no later than October 15, 2012.

Any questions may be directed to any member of the Nominating Committee:

Joan Fisher joanfisher2011@gmail.com
Marilyn Thomack mjtwdt@aol.com
Raeann Purcell raeannpurcell@hotmail.com

Of course, you may also contact our President Linda Greilick or any member of the SWO Board. All will be happy to share their experiences with you or answer any questions you may have.