

# TAPESTRY

August 2012

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## Lines from Linda



Many of us, along with our family and friends across the nation, have been welcomed into spring by Tropical Storm Debby, frightening storms, extreme heat, and even a weather formation called a

derecho! Now we find ourselves caught in a summer sizzle. Matthew 7:25 tells us that "*The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock.*" We know that we will always suffer through some storms, but if we've built our life on a strong foundation, we have nothing to fear. God will be there with us. As Women of the ELCA, we can appreciate the additional support we find from one another as sisters in Christ as we experience joy or trying times. Keep strong in the faith and cherish this special sisterhood!

How do we keep our organization strong and growing? As the summer flows by, some congregational units meet throughout the summer and some take a break. This year my congregational unit is trying something different - an afternoon at the movies in August. We've invited all women to munch on popcorn while we watch and discuss the documentary "*Pray the Devil Back to Hell*" describing Leymah Gbowee's struggle for peace in Liberia. Before August ends though, our CU board will meet to plan for this coming year. Yes, now is the time to start the plans and activities for the coming year in your congregational units. Set a date and time. Publicize. Invite new faces.

Include an icebreaker as a warm up activity. Gather resources (*Interchange, Gather, Café, www.womenoftheelca.org, and www.flwelca.com*). Brainstorm. Try something new. Reorganize if necessary. Consider one another's gifts and envision activities that highlight those gifts. Plan for success. Continue to build our Women of the ELCA sisterhood on a strong foundation! Action of your executive board includes continued planning for our Fall Gathering themed "In God's Hands." The Gathering Planning Committee met in March and will convene once again at our August 18<sup>th</sup> Board meeting. We are pleased to share that we have received quite a few applications to consider for both the 2013-2015 Love Offering recipient and the 2013 ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship. Recipients for both will be decided at our August meeting. Help us to make these important decisions by keeping us in your prayers. Finally, as you plan and as you pray, sincerely consider the gifts that our Lord has shared with you. Women like you are the ones who keep our organization strong and growing. Think about taking the next step...stepping outside of your comfort zone and placing your name in nomination for one of the board positions. It's a wonderful opportunity to lead an amazing group of Christian women! And we are always in God's hands as we lead and grow. Remember, I encourage you to contact me and the board with your thoughts and concerns. You may reach me at

[lindag65@verizon.net](mailto:lindag65@verizon.net) or at 727-595-9623.

*Always in God's Hands,  
Linda Greilick*

## FL-BA SWO Summer Board & Fall Gathering Planning Committee Meeting Saturday, August 18

The summer Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Largo from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. The Fall Gathering Planning Committee will meet at the same time. Please contact me if I can be of assistance arranging lodging accommodations.

Linda Greilick  
FL-BA SWO President



### Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

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## FBSWO EXECUTIVE BOARD

### President:

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## MEET OUR FALL GATHERING CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

### Sydney (Syd) Brinkman

Executive Board Member, 2011-2014

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Syd Brinkman was elected to serve the Women of the ELCA as an Executive Board member for the current triennium of 2011-2014. She serves on the Constitution Review Committee.

She has previously served the churchwide organization as an appointed board member, and the Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women Organization as a synodical president and board member.

Syd has also served on the Northeastern Iowa Synod (NEIA) council as a voting member representing the Women of the ELCA organization of her synod.

She has attended numerous synod functions including being a voting member of the synod assembly and a voting member of the churchwide assembly in 2007. She currently serves on the candidacy committee of the NEIA Synod.

As a member of St James Lutheran Church in Allison, Iowa, Syd has served as the congregation council president, spearheaded a capitol fund drive, participated in retreats for women, and has been a leader for Women of the ELCA in Bible study and programming.

Syd has been married to Randy for 30 years and they have adult

twin daughters and sons-in-law. They are the lucky grandparents of two granddaughters, Alexandria and Payton. Syd has worked as a self-employed hairdresser for over 32 years and Randy is an architectural technician (draftsman). Randy and Syd have lived their entire lives in Allison and their married life in the home of Randy's grandparents.

Syd enjoys the opportunity to exercise, relax on her front porch, dance, and ride the motorcycle with Randy. She spends a great deal of time supporting the economy--looking for the "perfect something" that will make someone's day a bit brighter.



Sydney (Syd) Brinkman

Syd is very excited to serve on the churchwide executive board and sees it as an opportunity to observe a changing organization and an evolving church. We have all been called to mission here at home and around the globe. She says, "Come with us and watch with amazement at what God will do in your life!"



### FIRST COAST BUZZ <http://welcabuzz.blogspot.com>

Avent | Crossroad | Faith | Hope | Lord of Life | Mandarin | Memorial | Prince of Peace  
Spirit of Life | St Andrews | St John's | St Marks | St Matthews | Trinity

Check out what the 'Buzz' is all about! The First Coast Conference has initiated a Blog!!! Their Vice President, Carolyn Whitfield has led the way and is teaching Barbara Henry (President) and Karen Brown (Secretary) all the ins

and outs of blogging. They have created a very professional and easily navigated blog. Visit the site ... and see how fun and easy it is to communicate and keep in touch with our WELCA sisters.

## Take a new look at Women of the ELCA

Our churchwide website has a new look and a new design. Be sure to explore the new website at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org). Women of the ELCA welcomes your questions and comments. If you have suggestions or need assistance in locating specific information, their door is open. Contact the staff at churchwide in the way that suits you: by mail, email, or telephone. To do this, on the website, click on ABOUT US followed by CONTACT US and choose your option. For a particular staff member or to see the work each does, [visit the staff page](#) on the ABOUT US page. Stay in touch!

Women of the  
**ELCA** 

**CELEBRATING  
25 YEARS**

[www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)



## KATIE'S FUND

Katharina von Bora Luther was a woman we can all aspire to be like. She was bold, had strong faith in God, worked diligently for the beliefs of her husband, Martin Luther and enjoyed life to the fullest. Katie loved people, enjoying making others happy through her service to them. Katie's Fund is a way we, the Women of the ELCA, can also be bold, be strong in our faith, work diligently for our beliefs and love others. By contributing to this fund we help other women who have a calling to serve God to become the women God made them to be. What is contributed to this fund goes to leadership development, living theology and also to global sharing. The dollars have gone to build our youth into strong leaders in the Lutheran faith. This year young women from around the world met in New York for six days of advocacy training, leadership development and ecumenical connection. They attended the 56<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. You can make a donation to the Katie's Fund endowment or to the annual portion of the fund, which goes to immediate needs. Go on line to [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) or call 1-800-638-3622, ext. 2580 to obtain more information. Emma Crossen is Women of the ELCA director for stewardship and development.

Emma Crossen is  
Women of the ELCA  
Director for  
Stewardship  
and Development.

Submitted by Judy Clark, FL-BA SWO Board Member

## SHARE YOUR TRIENNIAL EXPERIENCES

I hope you have all placed July 24-27, 2014 on your calendar- we need you to be a part of the Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina! Do you have fond

memories of travel in Charlotte, North Carolina or of attending a Triennial Gathering? As the Triennial promoter, I would love for you to share them with me! Drop me a

line by email at [raeannpurcell@hotmail.com](mailto:raeannpurcell@hotmail.com), or 4002 S. Atlantic Ave. #2, Wilbur by the Sea, FL 32127-6662.

Share the excitement!!!

Raeann Purcell  
Triennial Promoter

Share Your  
"M & Ms"

Magical Memory  
Making Moments

## 1,000 DAY MOVEMENT

Rev. Nancy Beal (**Bread for the World**) is looking for opportunities to present her 1,000 Days Movement and is considering time in August or September. She hopes to add some Lutheran women to her itinerary. If you as conferences or any of your congregations and/or units would like to contact her for information or future scheduling to find out more about this movement, you are encouraged to do so. She is highly recommended by churchwide and would a wonderful resource. HAVE FAITH. END HUNGER.

Thanks for your consideration and blessings to all of you.  
Linda Greilick  
FL-BA SWO President



Rev. Nancy Beal  
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Women's Organization Relations  
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Mobile 202.527.8979

<http://www.bread.org/>

The 1,000 days from pregnancy through a child's second birthday are the most crucial for a child's development. But many women around the world don't have access to proper nutrition for themselves or their children. Without adequate nutrition during this critical period, children suffer permanent cognitive and physical delays. Women of faith have pledged to engage in 1,000 conversations about maternal and child nutrition in 1,000 days. Go to [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) or call the Rev Nancy Beal to learn how you can make a difference.

## 2012 WOMEN OF THE ELCA GRANTS

According to our purpose statement, we pledge to promote healing and wholeness in our church, society, and the world. Women of the ELCA grants honor this pledge. Our grants program focuses funding toward projects and agencies dedicated to education and advocacy that strive to empower women and girls in leading healthier lives.

Each year from December 15<sup>th</sup> through February 15<sup>th</sup>, Women of the ELCA seeks proposals from not-for-profit organizations, both domestic and international, that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages. A grant proposal must:

- \* meet a demonstrated health need of women in the community;
- \* request funding for one year for objectives achievable within that year;
- \* demonstrate the involvement of women in decision-making and evaluation; and
- \* be consistent with the Women of the ELCA purpose statement.

In May, grant recipients are chosen and in June, the funding is awarded. For this year, 141 non-profit organizations across the country submitted applications including eight from Florida. This spring the churchwide committee met and grant awards for 2012 totaling \$57,525 have been decided. Six International organizations were awarded \$10,000 while twenty-one Domestic organizations were granted \$47,525. Countries that received grants amounting to either \$1,500 or \$2,500 were Burundi, Cameroon, Ghana, India, Senegal, and South Sudan. Projects included training women in bee keeping, in nutrition based on poultry and vegetables, and in building environmentally friendly cooking stoves, educating women in several preventive health areas, and instructing women on their human rights. The nine regions were awarded one to four Domestic grants each. In Region 9, three organizations were chosen: one in 9A (Virginia), one in 9B (North Carolina), and one in our Region 9E (Florida). Ruth's Promise Adult Day Program at Prince of Peace Lutheran in Largo, Florida will be granted \$2,500 this year as it offers therapeutic activities and fellowship for older adults and respite for their caregivers. Thanks be to God for allowing us to promote health and wellness in women and girls across the world.

## LUCINDA PINS

### Get Your Hands on Lucinda Pins

At the Fall Gathering, Lucinda pins will be available for purchase at \$15 each, and a limited number of Women of the ELCA tags, designed by Lucinda, may be bought for \$10 each. All proceeds will benefit the Share the Spirit fund. Each cross, angel, or butterfly pin is uniquely crafted and compliments every wardrobe. The cross and butterfly pins can also be worn as a necklace. Just add your own chain. A special table will be set up so you can get your hands on these beautiful designer pins that make lovely gifts for the special women in your life.

**Benefiting the Share the Spirit Fund!**

## Timeline

### December 15

Women of the ELCA begins accepting completed proposals.

### February 15

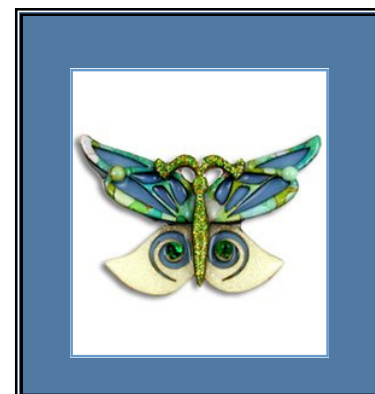
All proposals must be submitted on or before this date.

### May

Grant recipients are chosen.

### June

Funding is awarded.



## Created, called and empowered: celebrating 25 years of ministry

by Linda Post Bushkofsky

service and study since 1837 when the first women's missionary society was formed in New York. The first national Lutheran women's organization, the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the General Synod, was founded 42 years later in 1879. That's quite a legacy!

The women who founded Women of the ELCA had incredible vision, creating governing documents that are both inspirational and flexible. Our churchwide constitution calls us to commit ourselves to full discipleship and oneness in Christ. We are to affirm the worth of each woman in the life and work of the organization while proclaiming and practicing inclusive unity. All entities within the ELCA and all expressions of Women of the ELCA are to function interdependently and share responsibility for fulfilling the common purpose. Leaders are to provide a form of leadership that supports and empowers others within the community. Our community of women is to work toward wholeness of the church. We have claimed and are practicing an anti-racist identity. These incredible images of our community are set forth in Article III of the churchwide organization's constitution.

Individually and collectively we have lived into many of these images and yet have fallen short of some of these aspirations. So it goes with those who are both saints and sinners. We thank God for God's grace that gives us new opportunities each day to live into the loving community the women who founded this organization imagined.

We'll be celebrating the past 25 years of mission and ministry in the coming months while looking forward to the next 25 years. Each congregational unit is encouraged to find one or more ways to celebrate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, including making a gift to our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Offering. Find more details at [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org).



*Linda Post Bushkofsky is executive director of the Women of the ELCA.*



## 25th Anniversary Appeal

**Celebrating 25 years of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ**

- Creating a just world
- Supporting global sisters
- Bringing about health and wholeness

Continue our mission today by making a gift to the **25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY APPEAL**. Every dollar goes to support **Women of the ELCA (50%)** and the **ELCA Malaria Campaign (50%)**.



DONATE TODAY!

Visit [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org) to make an online gift. Or, send your check to Women of the ELCA, PO Box 71256, Chicago, IL 60694-1256 and write "25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Appeal" on the memo line.

## Social media tip

# Starting your own blog

by Terri Lackey

Pets. Diets. Politics. Health. Family. Religion. These are some of the subjects people blog about today, and you could, too, if you are so inclined.

Wikipedia defines blogs (or web logs) as: “a personal journal published on the World Wide Web consisting of discrete entries (“posts”) typically displayed in reverse chronological order so the most recent post appears first. Blogs are usually the work of a single individual, occasionally of a small group, and often are themed on a single subject. Blog can also be used as a verb, meaning to maintain or add content to a blog.”

As you (hopefully) know, Women of the ELCA has a blog (follow the link from [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org)) where staff and board share their thoughts on a wide range of current happenings. From the way America’s criminal justice system is devastating black communities to a mother’s best advice, the Women of the ELCA blog speaks to you on a variety of subjects.

I have people who speak to me through real estate blogs, daily life blogs, state of religion blogs, TV blogs and photos of beautiful children and how they do grow blogs. I still post occasionally on my personal blog—Cowgirl Attitude—that I created to keep my family up to date on my health. Now that I’m cured, I rarely post on it anymore, but I still receive comments from people going through a similar illness, so I leave it up in the blog-o-sphere.

Truth is, blogs are not quite as popular as Facebook and Twitter and have been slightly pushed aside by these instant mediums, especially among younger audiences, according to a February 2011 *New York Times* (NYT) article reporting on Pew Research Center data.

“Blogs went largely unchallenged until Facebook reshaped consumer behavior with its all-purpose hub for posting everything social. Twitter, which allows messages of no longer than 140 characters, also contributed to the upheaval,” the NYT said.

Still, as of February 2011, there were more than 156 million public blogs in existence, according to Wikipedia. If you think you have something meaningful to say, a blog is a great place to do it. And rest assured, you can be as opinionated as you like on your personal blog. This is not journalism, where your words are



required to be “objective.” This is a forum for you to speak your mind, talk about your hobbies or show off your family.

If you are ready to get started, try out one of these free blog sites: Blogger ([blogger.com](http://blogger.com)), WordPress

([wordpress.org](http://wordpress.org) or [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com)) and LiveJournal ([livejournal.com](http://livejournal.com)). For a list of top 10 blogging sites, visit [topsites-blog.com/blog-websites](http://topsites-blog.com/blog-websites).

Choose which site best fits your needs, then sign up and jump in. You might be asked to download a program to your computer, or you might not. That could help you decide whether you want to go with that particular blogging site.

Regardless, consider these top 10 blogging tips from BlogHer ([blogher.com/my-top-10-blogging-tips-beginners](http://blogher.com/my-top-10-blogging-tips-beginners)). Read the blog to learn more about each subject.

Write about what you love. Stay true to your blog.

Be different.

Write the same way that you talk.

Good content is key.

Improve your photography skills.

Nice formatting is more inviting.

Do your research. Study other blogs, and stop when you start to feel lame.

Fake it till you make it.

Be a force for good.

Make friends. Be kind, be personable, be humble.

And my addition, with a hat tip to Nike, Just Do It.

*Terri Lackey is managing editor of Gather magazine.*

Next  
Month's  
Media Tip...

Pinterest

## A stewardship devotion Start with what you have

by Emma Crossen



**Scripture:** [John 6:1–16](#) (Gospel text for Sunday, July 29, 2012)

### Reflection:

In this famous Gospel story, Jesus tests his disciples with a question: How can we get enough food to feed all the people?

Philip answers with pessimism and exaggeration. Can't you just see his eyes rolling when he says, "we could work for six months and still not have enough to feed them all?" Andrew offers a more productive response. He considers Jesus's question seriously, looks around and takes inventory of what food they *do* have. It turns out that a boy in the crowd brought five loaves and two fish. Even though Andrew questions whether it will be enough, he gives the ingredients to Jesus. From here, we know how the story ends. Jesus takes the loaves and fish and makes a meal that feeds everyone.

Both Andrew and Philip are trying to be good stewards of the community by caring for the people who follow Jesus. Can you relate? As stewards, we face moments when the problems are obvious and the solutions are not. Maybe we need more food, more volunteers, more

women to serve in leadership positions, more money to pay for our ministries. We can follow Philip's lead, focus on what we don't have, and bring pessimism to our communities. Or, we can follow Andrew, acknowledge the people and gifts that are already here and offer them to God as something to work with.

Jesus seems to prefer the latter. On the hill with the five thousand, Jesus showed the disciples, and us, how to participate in God's vision: start with what you have.

**Closing Prayer:** God, turn our attention to the gifts among us—to our brothers and sisters and what they bring. May we offer these gifts to you so that what we have can become the very thing we need. Amen.

**Offering focus:** Women of the ELCA is a community called to affirm each other's gifts. We do this, for example, through Bible studies, retreats, phone calls to friends, nominations for officers and by trying out new ways of serving God. Your offerings provide for tools to support this work, including program resources like *Finding Your Bold*, *Gifts for You: Opening your spiritual gifts*, *Shared Wisdom*, *Grace-Full Living* and *I Am She*.

*Emma Crossen is director for stewardship and development.*

## How is your practice?

by Valora K Starr

Many vocations carry an expectation of continued study. We are programmed to look for the "best" doctor, lawyer or hairstylist based on the reputation of their practice. It is their commitment to life-long learning that draws us to professionals who "practice" their craft. What's your faith practice like?

The 12 original disciples were commercial fishermen, doctors and tax agents. Jesus demonstrated how disciples are to carry out the great commission (Matthew 28:19–20) and the great command (Acts 1:8) and the examples were the same for all of them. Whether Jesus and the disciples were healing the sick or hauling in fish, their actions included the practices of discipleship: praying, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving and giving. Jesus didn't expect the disciples to lock themselves in a room to engage in these faith practices. Rather, they were to do them as part of their daily routines.

For an in-depth look at faith practices, turn to *Lessons for Today's Disciples*, a free resource available at [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org).

Here are a few ways to make these practices a part of your daily routine.

**Praying** - Pray while making your bed or while you shower. Saying grace before and after a meal can also help you improve your eating practices. Some pray whenever they hear a siren.

**Studying** - Join an on-going Bible study group. *Gather* carries an excellent monthly study. Jesus taught the disciples over meals and while walking, so it's not the time but the frequency. Sign up for a daily word or devotion by e-mail. Check out *Daily Grace* for that.

**Worshiping** - Of course, communal worship is important, but worship can happen individually too. Complimenting God on a beautiful sunset or an awesome thunderstorm is worship. Keeping a journal can be daily worship. Listening to contemporary Christian music while driving or exercising can be worshipful.

**Inviting and encouraging** - Both inviting and encouraging can be a bit intimidating for modern disciples. We often neglect these two practices more than any other because they involve an encounter with others. The invitation is more about showing God's love. If you're not yet ready for strangers, practice on family and friends. An encouraging message through social media to all your friends at once is possible today and goes a long way for those receiving it.

**Serving** - We often think about the daunting task of the feeding of the five thousand or expensive mission projects but serving can be as simple as checking in on a neighbor or assisting a fellow shopper to his or her car before heading on your way. The practice of serving is often the tangible way others identify our "practice."

**Giving** - "Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time and our possessions." These familiar words give us an image of how and what we give.

**Remember, practice does not make perfect in this case but practice does makes permanent these life-time practices.**

*Valora K Starr is director for discipleship.*

# FLORIDA-BAHAMAS SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

## Executive Board

President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
<b>Linda Greilick</b> lindag65@verizon.net Planning Committee Suncoast   Prince of Peace	<b>Elaine Heine</b> affton@bellsouth.net Webmaster Web Advisor Space Coast   Peace	<b>Donna Person</b> dperson@broward.org Plus One Broward-Bahamas   Christ	<b>Marilyn Martin</b> marmar913@comcast.net Caloosa   Emmanuel

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## FL-BA SWO Conference Officers

Updated 06/26/12

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## FL-BA SWO Conference Officers

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# TAPESTRY

**Please send newsletter  
comments or questions to  
Maureen Grodzinski at**

**[fbswo.tapestry@gmail.com](mailto:fbswo.tapestry@gmail.com)**

**Newsletter  
submission deadline  
is September 15.**

Once again I have enjoyed working on this newsletter for my FB SWO sisters. I am still on a steep learning curve so any comments, ideas, submissions, or critiques are welcomed. Please let me know how to best serve you!

Yours in Celebration of Christ's Love and Service, Maureen