



JAN 2010 WWW.FBSYNOD.COM/MINISTRIES/WELCA VOL.23, #1

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE SYNODICAL WOMEN'S BOARD TO ALL OF YOU.

Wow, can you believe it is already 2010? Time has just flown by and before we know it, Spring Gatherings will be occurring all around our synod.

One of the benefits of being on the Board is the experience of visiting different conference gatherings. I had the privilege of attending four separate gatherings last spring, Gulf Coast, Caloosa, Panhandle and my own conference, Flagler/Volusia.

The Bible study written by Robin Johnson from scripture that was chosen with the Board and conference presidents was interpreted differently at each gathering. Gulf Coast acted out the scripture with audience involvement and props. Caloosa held an interactive discussion with sharing. Flagler/Volusia broke out into small groups and the Panhandle conference had a skit complete with costumes.

Each gathering had unique aspects but provided spiritual and relational opportunities. The Panhandle makes the best of the great distance between their churches by holding a weekend long event with some members attending on Saturday only. Caloosa included a speaker from Habitat for Humanity in Jordan and the Gulf Coast conference had a speaker from our Love Offering focus, Carver Heights Ministries in Leesburg.

Think of someone that you know who would enjoy and benefit from attending your next spring gathering, and make the effort to invite them to experience the opportunity!

Raeann Purcell, President

Greetings from your Vice President.

I got home last night (Sunday, November 15, 2009) after spending the weekend with 260 of my sisters in Christ. **In my opinion, it was the best Florida-Bahamas**

Synodical Women's Fall Gathering ever! There were smiles and hugs everywhere you looked! Even the weather cooperated – sunny skies and balmy breezes, although the mornings and evenings were cool. We worshipped, we sang, we talked, we met new friends, found a prayer partner, attended a “plethora” of workshops (40 choices in all), enjoyed a performance by David Ludwig on Friday night, got dressed up as “tacky tourists” on Saturday night for our “See Florida Like a Tourist” event and generally had a ball!

The Board, officers and planning committee arrived on Thursday, November 12, to get organized and set up everything for the coming gathering. Our time together was spent running around making sure everything would be perfect for our sisters when they came on Friday. We also had some time to re-connect, talk and have some laughs.

Friday afternoon brought our sisters to register and settle in for a weekend of spirituality and fun. Our delegates were “all in their places with bright shiny faces” for the delegate orientation on Friday afternoon. The business sessions went off without a hitch thanks to our President, Raeann Purcell. The executive board brought forth a recommendation to **change our business meetings from biennial to annual**. The motion was passed. The reason for the recommendation was to streamline and shorten the business meetings. To assure that all the officers and board members wouldn't have to be replaced in any one year, we will be electing ½ the officers and ½ the board every year. An amendment to the constitution was also presented. The amendment spelled out how to appoint an officer or board member in the event of a vacancy on the board. It was approved by the Churchwide Board and we will vote on it at the next year's business meeting.

Saturday was a day of business sessions, workshops, our evening of the “See Florida Like a Tourist” event and for some of us, a quiet walk by the lake or on the Prayer Walk. Sunday morning brought more sunny, balmy weather and the conclusion of our weekend. We all enjoyed 2 more workshops, installation of officers and a closing service. After lunch, we were off to our respective homes, tired but renewed after a wonderful uplifting weekend!

Judy Daniels, Vice President

ANOTHER VIEW OF THE SWO FALL GATHERING

The opening service of this Fall Gathing began with lighting candle to remind us tht Christ is the light of the world. “Take courage; it is I. Do not be afraid,” (Mark 6:50b) was the theme verse.

Bishop Benoway greeted the assembly, reminding us to walk together in ministry.

The delegates approved the change to an annual business meeting with the president and secretary and four board members being elected in odd numbered years and the vice-president and treasurer and four board members being elected in even numbered years. As a result, the vice-president and treasurer and four board members were elected for a one year term while the others were elected for two.

The election of officers: Raeann Purcell, SWO president; Judy Daniels, Vice-president; Donna Person, secretary; and Marilyn Martin, treasurer.

The election of board members for 2 year terms: Sheila Cooper, Marilyn Dial, Linda Greilick, Diane Spicer.

For 1 year terms: Brenda Doggett, Elaine Heine, Norma Karpiscak, Catherine Schaus.

The election of delegates to the Triennial in Spokane in 2011: Sheila Cooper, Pamela Raspberry, Donna Person, Diane Spicer, Karen Weinrich, Sharon Koelsch. Donna Person attended the churchwide Triennial information meeting in November 2009. Marilyn Dial and Linda Greilick are the SWO promoters.

Board reports were printed in the program book.

David Ludwig, Jr. Entertained and inspired in *Funny Thing about Church Music* with Super Music Man. The women laughed, cried and sang during this performance.

The Rev. Diana Moore facilitated the Bible study on the passage Mark 6:47-51. She presented contextual materials, photos of the Sea of Galilee, and provided discussion questions on the text and relating the text to women's lives.

The Rev. Jeannine Sweet led the Communion Service. She preached on Matthew 14: 22-33 where Peter also walks on water. She stressed our trust in Jesus.

Robin Johnson and the Tampa Conference led morning and evening devotions.

A prayer walk meandered around the pond where women could read the Bible and meditate at any of ten stations. A prayer lounge was also available in the main building.

Miss Alice from Carver Heights spoke on the needs and difficulties they have experienced as well as the blessing of helping *One Child at a time*. The Love Offering was \$7,214.52 and the in-kind gifts filled the entry.

The offering for Synodical Women was \$2,046.30. Half of that will be forwarded to churchwide.

JoAnn Fuchs, a churchwide board members, spoke about the resources available from the churchwide website.

Participants attended four of the 40 workshops and delegates were able to attend three. In addition, four discussion forums were held for participants.

Lucinda pins were available for purchase. The profits went to the Share the Spirit Scholarships. Extra coffee mugs were also available for sale. Each attendee received her own mug with the Women of the ELCA cross and lily logo.

On Saturday evening the women dressed as tacky tourists, sunbathers, golfers, pirates, bird watchers etc. Each conference set up a booth. The booths featured Florida tourist attractions including Daytona Raceway, golf, pirates, beaches, the Space Center and birds. The youth awarded the prizes.

Amy Santoriello shepherded the youth for the entire gathering.

Some women knitted or crocheted prayer shawls or other items during sessions throughout the weekend. Experienced knitters helped less experienced women.

The closing service included the Meditation on the Purpose Statement, recognition of out-going board members and officers, installation of the new board and officers and commissioning of the triennial delegates.

Elaine Heine, Board Member



GOOD NEWS - Tapestry will be on the Synod Website every other month for the rest

of this year. Keep up with what is going on with your Women's organization. Editor - Norma Karpiscak. If you have any interesting article or picture that you think we could use, please send it to normali@gate.net I will acknowledge receipt and if it is appropriate, will put it into the TAPESTRY. Check the website for the deadline dates.

Is Your Church in our Scrapbook?

More than 50 churches are included. If your congregation did not send in pictures or if you have a new building or if you have rebuilt a hurricane damaged church, please send me your updated pictures and story.

If you are a new entry, please include a one page history, photo of the church buildings inside and out, perhaps a brochure your church uses for visitors or prospective members. A page of photos and information about the women would also be nice.

If you are a new congregation, the history and photos may fit on one page. Please make sure the church location city and conference are clearly indicated, as well as the name of the congregation.

For those who are updating our files, please have a photo and when and why the building was added along with the name and location of the church. We have several churches in Florida with the same name. You may send actual photos, or, for the techies, you may scan them into the computer, add captions, and print them in color.

If you are unsure whether your unit is represented in the scrapbooks, please e-mail affton@bellsouth.net to check. Be sure to include the congregation name and city.

You may also mail your information to Elaine Heine, 916 Nevada Dr. N.E., Palm Bay, Florida 32907.

Elaine Heine, Board Member

Some Conference Information

GulfCoast Conference - The Pontifax Day of Prayer service will be held Wednesday, January 20, 2010 at Holy Family Catholic Church, 200-78th Ave. NE, St. Petersburg 33702. This is a wonderful opportunity for our sisters and brothers in the Roman Catholic, Lutheran and Episcopal churches to worship and enjoy fellowship together. The theme for this ecumenical service will be "You Are Witnesses of These Things" (Luke 24:48). The homilist for this day will be Bishop Edward Benoway, Lutheran Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the ELCA. Registration and Refreshments 9:30am - Worship 10:30am. Phone 727-526-5783. Pastor, the Rev. John Trapp.

Mae Haines - GulfCoast President

Tampa Conference

Apostles Lutheran, Brandon, Florida - The quilters have had a fabulous year with a few different projects you all may consider in your areas. They hosted a "Quilt-In" and invite other churches to attend. The first one had over 36 ladies in attendance. It was a potluck lunch – by Church. Worked out GREAT! The best part of this day was that everyone was NOT a sewer.

We needed people to iron, to pin, to cut and help in the kitchen. There was something for everyone. This first session, the whole group used the disappearing 9 patch pattern for youth size quilts. We sent out the invitations plus the pattern in advance.

The Apostles Lutheran Church W/ELCA turned in 19 quilts to "The Kids Place." The goal of this organization is for every kid to leave with a quilt. They have a variety of different organizations sewing for them.

In addition, the Apostles W/ELCA continues to sew for Lutheran World Relief. We hope to have over 25 quilts this year.

The Tampa Conference has hosted 4 quilt-ins in the past 18 months to sew different projects. Find one that your group is passionate about and make it happen.

Brenda Doggett, Board Member

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

In February the Florida Lutheran World Relief pickup sites will again be accepting your contributions. Below is a synopsis of the locations and dates; more information is available on the website and was included in all the bags that attendees of the Fall Gathering received. Please pass the information to all of your women's groups; postage has become so expensive that your Board felt it was only good stewardship to replace the mailing of information you are accustomed to receiving with other communication media.

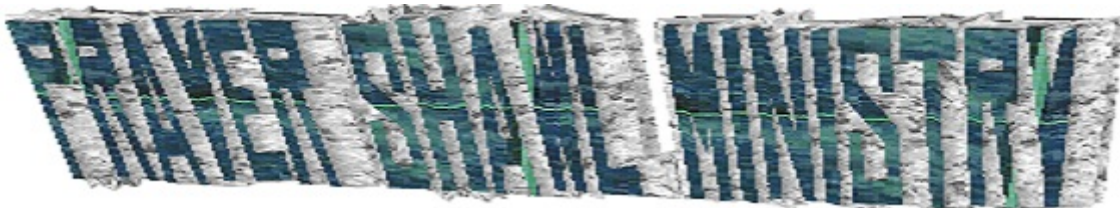
Christ Lutheran, Fort Lauderdale	–Feb. 15	9:00am
Redeemer Lutheran, Bradenton	– Feb. 16	8:00am
Good Shepherd Lutheran, Tampa	–Feb. 16	11:00am
Redeemer Lutheran, Winter Park	–Feb. 16	3:00pm
St. Mark's Lutheran, Jacksonville	–Feb. 17	9:00am

Give More with Thrivent!

Through **GivingPlus®**), Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and its two subsidiaries will match \$1 for every \$2 donated to LWR by Thrivent benefits members and Thrivent Mutual Funds and Life Insurance Company customers. Go to www.lwr.org/giving to find out more.

Marilyn Dial, Board Member

Many prayer shawls are created daily by members of W/ELCA. This year some attendees at our Fall Gathering knitted or crocheted prayer shawls.



When giving these lovely shawls to those in need, please say this prayer–put in

your own words where there is a line.

May God's grace be upon this shawl. Warming, comforting and enfolding your child _____, who receives this sacred garment. May this mantle be a safe haven.....a sacred piece of security and well-being, sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May _____ who receives this shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace and wrapped in love. Blessed be! In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Cathie Schaus, Board Member

This short prayer could and should be used as you complete your quilts and before you send them off to help those in need. Please make this a part of your experience helping those less fortunate to feel the love of Christ. (Editor)



The sixth season of the Association of Lutheran Older Adults (ALOA), the FB Synod, FL-GA District, Lutheran Services of Florida, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Village on the Isle and others **PRESENTS**

February 8, 9, 12 and 13, 2010

**“More Than Just Watching: How to Get Off the Sidelines
and into the Game”**

The Rev. Dr. Charles Mueller, Roselle, III, former President of the Southeastern District, LCMS, writer for Wheat Ridge Ministries. A popular pastor and speaker.

- ★ **Worship and Music, by David Ludwig, Jr.**
- ★ **Humorist, Jan Struck**
- ★ **Workshops on Many Topics**
- ★ **Fellowship, Food, and Relaxation**

**Dates: Mon, February 8, - Life Enrichment Center, Leesburg
Tues. February 9 - Christian Retreat Center, k Bradenton
Fri. February 12 - FFA Training Center, Haines City
Sat. February 13 - Advent Lutheran Church, Boca Raton**

For Further Information:

The Rev. Richard Hafer - 813-293-3286 or 813-984-8821

Doris Hanson - 727-461-5135

Ruth Chancellow - 813-695-0694

ALOA florida SeniorFest, P.O. Box 1260, Lutz, FL 33548, 813-695-0694

www.aloafloridaseniorfest.com (For registration form)

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED STATE ASSEMBLY 2010 MARCH 16-18, 2010

Theme "Blessed to Be a Blessing"

For further information and a registration form Jeanne Huntley at
jeanne.huntley@gmail.com

Registration deadline is March 1 - Pre-registration is mandatory so that the proper number of rooms can be reserved.

Assembly to be held at Life Enrichment Center, 4991 Picciola Road, Fruitland Park, FL.

Café is available online You can sub scribe to this through
www.womenoftheelca.org.

Through a gift to women of the ELCA, you help sustain important ministries and programs including Café. Your gift supports the writing, design and production of this e-zine that you love! Your gift also supports:

- ★ Lutheran Woman Today magazine, Bold Connections, and Interchange newsletters.
- ★ Anti-racism and cross-cultural programming.
- ★ Free program resources for individuals and groups
- ★ Cooperative efforts with other units of the ELCA and ecumenical partners here and around the globe.

Without you, women of the ELCA could not carry out its important mission. We are partners with you in ministry.

Excellent stories and studies are available on Café and you can also listen to the month's podcast.

Café is a web-based monthly magazine that explores contemporary issues of interest to young women. It is a resource for women who want to build and deepen their sense of Community, Advocacy, Faith, and Enlightenment. It is grounded in a Lutheran faith perspective.

Subscribe to this really great publication.

Here are the deadlines for the next issues of TAPESTRY

February 21 for the March Issue

April 25 for the May Issue

June 27 for the July issue

August 22 for the September issue

A Special issue if needed prior to the next Fall Gathering

October 22 for the November/December issue

Remember that this is your TAPESTRY. Contributions are expected and may be sent to normali@gate.net. Remember to title your contribution and give us your name.

LAP TOP

Mrs. Reverend George Martin wanted to surprise her husband with a computer for his birthday. When the salesman suggested a laptop, Mrs. Martin burst into laughter. "What's so funny about that?" the salesman asked.

"Sir, my husband hasn't had a lap for twenty years."

