

April 2020 -- Volume 30, Issue 3

From the President's Desk



Our March or Spring Gathering on March 7 at Hope Lutheran in Palm Desert was well received and quite well attended! The weather was great! We had between fifty and sixty women attending. Palm Desert is at one of our far corners and we had three come from another far corner – Chula Vista. Over twenty attended from Hope and there were several from Faith in Mennifee. All three areas were represented which was great.

Pastor Karen Stephenson gave a very interesting and engaging Bible study on Mary of Magdala. She has been to the city and had quite a few pictures and much historical information. She also led us in worship.

We heard speakers from Mama's House and Shelter from the Storm. Of course there were many Love Gifts for each agency to take with them. Thank you to all for contributing and bringing them. The response is always generous!

Hopefully, our Triennial Convention and Gathering will not be affected by the current pandemic over the coronavirus. Remember there is scholarship money available – the application forms are on our website. Phoenix is close to us, however, registration, hotel, and food can add up and make it difficult for some. Attending a Triennial Gathering is still the best way to really understand what our organization does and why it exists. So mark those calendars for July 16-19, 2020. The music and worship is always the best!

We will have three voting members at the Triennial Convention being held July 13-15. Laura Ortiz and Rosemarie Peterson along with myself as president will be your voting members. We will be considering several constitutional changes that have come as a result of the exploratory team that has been working on making this organization better able to serve in our present world. Laura was appointed to the nominating team and has already been at work.

Our Pacifica SWO board would like to remind any unit or woman to send us information about what your unit does and to send a flyer or notice about any events you have on the calendar. You can use the "contact us" on the website to send them or email them to pacificapartnerswelca@gmail.com.

Work has begun in planning our November Convention and Gathering. Hopefully by then restrictions for gathering in large numbers will be lifted and we can meet without fear! "Weave Us Together" has been selected as our theme. A flyer that is suitable for a bulletin board is in this newsletter as well as one that can be cut into a smaller size for distribution is on our [website](#). Your individual church newsletters are another good place to publish it. Hope Lutheran in Temecula will be the site. Temecula is just inside Riverside County, they are in Harvest Conference/Cluster part of the San Diego area, which is the area in rotation for our convention.

This is an open invitation for any and all female pastors in Pacifica Synod to attend and participate

in our Gathering portion. I know we have been celebrating fifty years of ordination at many venues and in many ways, we want to continue that celebration! Women – invite and encourage your female pastor to attend! Pastor Patrice Nordstrand, a member of our synodical board, is spearheading our programming. She already has Pastor Jean Bozeman, our first female professor at a seminary as a participant. She will be coming to us from Virginia. Pastor Patrice can be reached at 626-354-5714 or emailed at patrice1978@me.com.

Changes are likely coming. This year we will have a member of the 2017-2020 Churchwide Executive Board attend our convention as a representative of our newly elected, in July, Churchwide President. Tina Bigelow will come to us from Washington state. You can read more about her and see her picture in a separate article in this issue.

Anew in Christ!

President Eunice Hanson

Lutherans and Lent

Lent is the forty-six days before Easter when Christian believers prepare for Easter through prayer, doing penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and self-restraint and abstention. While in excess of a billion Christians observe Lent, not all Christians do. It is observed by Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodox, Lutherans, and Methodists. The scriptural impetus for Lent is the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness after his baptism.

Not eating meat during Lent is an obligatory Sacred Tradition for Catholics. For Lutherans, who do not hold anything holy outside of Scripture, the season of Lent is observed, but fasting and penance are not viewed as compulsory. Catholics often refrain from eating meat on Friday during Lent, but this is not common among Lutherans.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. On this day, Christians receive repentance ashes on their foreheads to either the words “Repent, and believe in the Gospel” or the dictum, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” Ash Wednesday derives its name from this practice.

Holy Week is the week leading up to the important Christian festival of Easter. Holy week begins on Palm Sunday, and includes Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and ends on Holy Saturday.

Maundy Thursday, also known as Holy Thursday, is a Christian observance in the United States. It commemorates the Last Supper, when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples and established the ceremony known as the Eucharist. The night of Maundy Thursday is the night Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane. The word “Maundy” comes to us as an Anglo-French word derived from the Latin “mandatum,” which means “commandment.”

Good Friday is observed as the day when Jesus was put to death by crucifixion at Calvary. Christians believe Jesus died for their sins, and Lutherans observe Good Friday as a day of self-examination. As part of the liturgy of the Three Days, many Christian denominations, including the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, Lutheran, Anglican, Methodist, Oriental Orthodox, and Reformed traditions, observe Good Friday with fasting and church services. However, if a Lutheran chooses to fast on Good Friday, it is a personal choice and not a mandate of the church.



SAVE THE DATE

PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELCA

33rd Annual Convention & Gathering

"WEAVE US TOGETHER"



November 6 & 7, 2020

Hope Lutheran Church – Temecula, CA

Churchwide Representative to attend Pacifica's Convention



Tina Bigelow was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She serves as chair of the programs and communication committee.

Tina was president of the Southwestern Washington Synodical Women's Organization (1C) when she was elected to serve on the executive board. Previously, she was vice president of the Southwestern Washington SWO. She was a voting member at the 2014 and 2017 triennial conventions, serving on the resolutions committee in 2014.

Tina served on the organizing committee for the 2016 Region One Gathering and she chaired the planning committee for the 2017 Conference of Presidents.

A resident of Poulsbo, Wash., Tina is active with Women of Vinland at Vinland Lutheran Church, Poulsbo. She has served Vinland Lutheran as youth mission trip chaperone and on the preschool board, altar guild and communion team. She represented Vinland as a voting member for the 2015 synod assembly.

A U.S. Navy veteran, she retired in 2005, serving as a defense contractor until 2007. She holds a bachelor's degree in engineering and a master's degree in IT management.

During her Navy career, she volunteered with grade school support programs in the United States and orphanage work overseas. Since, she is a regular volunteer with schools, serving as an in-class tutor and offering staff support.

Tina advocates for homeless youth in her area. As a disabled veteran and cancer survivor, she also volunteers with organizations such as Susan G. Komen, American Cancer Society, Disabled Veterans of America, and Wounded Warriors that support those groups.

Tina and her husband, Dave, have two daughters, Sara and Erica.

Gathering 2020 | Phoenix, Arizona
July 16-19, 2020

Renew your spirit with thousands of faithful women just like you who are eager to grow, learn, pray, and party—together! Join us in Phoenix, and live your faith in love that leads to justice.

Register online: welcatg.org
Opens Sept. 30, 2019

Women of the ELCA

JUST LOVE

Early bird discount through Jan. 6, 2020!

Registration materials are online only.

WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

Impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the functioning of WELCA

Below is an excerpt from a memo received from Linda Post Bushkofsy, executive director
26 March 2020

Greetings in the name of the one who creates, redeems and sustains us all.

I send this to you in the midst of these challenging and disruptive times. Winston Churchill is quoted as saying, "Sometimes it is not enough to do our best; we must do what is required." Much will be required of us in the coming months as leaders of this organization, and with the

information in this memo, I seek to equip you for that work.

CHURCHWIDE EXECUTIVE BOARD TO MEET VIRTUALLY

The April meeting of the churchwide executive board will not occur in-person. Instead, the board will be meeting on Saturday, April 25, via a Zoom meeting.

TRIENNIAL CONVENTION AND GATHERING

You are likely fielding questions about the triennial convention and gathering, scheduled for July in Phoenix.

Allow me to offer some background information before describing the current thinking.

* As you know, our life together is controlled in a significant part by our constitutions. **There is no constitutional authority for a virtual convention.**

* The executive board has the constitutional authority to set the date and time of the convention and therefore has the presumed authority to postpone or reschedule a convention.

* The board, which also sets the date and time of the gathering, would have the authority to postpone the gathering.

FINANCIAL REALITIES

If women are not meeting in congregational units, at conference or cluster events or at synodical conventions, **in-person offerings are not being collected, and Regular Offerings and Thankofferings are not flowing to the churchwide organization.** Without those offerings, little revenue supports the budget of the churchwide organization, and **the churchwide organization has few reserves upon which to draw.** It is as simple as that.

DAY-TO-DAY MANAGEMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION

Staff is continuing their work at home. The transition from working in the Lutheran Center and working at home has gone well. We have all the equipment we need to function fully. The governor of Illinois issued a stay-at-home order that became effective this past Saturday. **Only essential personnel are now permitted into the Lutheran Center.** For Women of the ELCA, that is Elizabeth Hunter and me. One of us will go to the Lutheran Center once each week to handle mail and any other matters requiring in-person attention. At this point (and this is always subject to change), staff at the Lutheran Center will be **working remotely through April 20.** Rest assured that the day-to-day work of the churchwide women's organization is functioning smoothly. Programmatic work continues, with a new emphasis on sustaining community, which is at our core, in this time of physical distancing.

IN CONCLUSION

I invite you to pray regarding all these matters as we live into this new reality.

May the peace of God, that surpasses all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Happenings in Pacifica...

Faith Lutheran Church of Yucaipa, CA has a small yet active WELCA unit. The women of Faith had a very good year. We continued to meeting January through May on the first Saturday of the

month for Bible study and fellowship. We meet in August for a "mini-retreat" for Bible study and lunch. We host the coffee hour the first Sunday of the month. Our quilters made about forty-eight quilts and in 2019 sent them to the victims of the Sandalwood fire which were much appreciated. Our Thankoffering service went well enabling us to send \$285.00 to Churchwide Women's Organization. We also donated \$50.00 to Youth Hope to purchased shoes; \$110.00 to ELCA Good Gifts for one goat and twelve chickens; and in December filled twelve Christmas baskets with goodies for our church members who can not attend in person and the church staff. It was a good year.

--submitted by Karen Hall, Faith W/ELCA Treasurer

Messages from your Synodical Board

Praying that everybody is taking all safeguards available so we can get through this pandemic sooner than expected.

It has been recommended that ALL synodical conventions be cancelled through the end of 2020. Ours does not happen until November and we do not have hotel contracts or other vendor contracts in place. So we will continue to plan that it will happen but of course will be monitoring circumstances and will make a decision later. We pray that the current pandemic will have run its course and we can celebrate!

Editorial

I would like to thank President Eunice Hansen for the extension in the newsletter distribution. Usually it is our goal to get it distributed on the first of the month. A few extra days were appreciated and needed.

I know many of us have been watching the news and seeing which states are doing what in regards to mandates and Directed Health Measures.

On March 27, Nebraska Bishop Brian Mass sent a message to the Saints of Nebraska. It included the following section which I would like to share (with permission) with you:

Care for self: *the radical shift in daily life is draining on all of us, and this new reality is going to stretch on for some time. Please, pace yourself. Limit your exposure to news, to social media, to anything that compounds uncertainty or distress. Breathe deeply. Take the time to pray. Be patient with yourself (and with those who live with you). Remember that you are God's beloved creation. Care for yourself as such.*

Sisters in Christ, please remember to take care of yourself. This past week even I decided I needed to limit my exposure to the national news media. My prayers and thoughts are with you.

-Gwen Edwards, *Pacifica Partners* Editor



Mark Your Calendar

April, Share *Pacifica Partners* with members

April, Register for the *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Gathering*

May, Register for the *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Gathering*

May 3, CANCELED ~ Bethlehem Los Alamitos Lutheran May Ladies' Day Salad Luncheon

May 20, *Pacifica Partners* Deadline

July 14-16, *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Convention*, Phoenix, AZ

July 16-19, *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Gathering*, Phoenix, AZ

November 6-7, *Pacifica Annual Convention & Gathering*

Do you have events within your Congregational Unit that you want to invite other ladies to attend? That you want listed in this "Mark Your Calendar" section? If so, please e-mail them to pacficiapartnerswelca@gmail.com.

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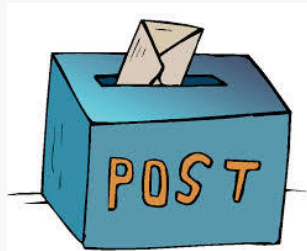
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Submit a letter to the Editor

We want to hear from you! Send us an email to pacificapartnerswelca@gmail.com with suggestions, ideas for events, Bible studies, and events you would like to share with all Pacifica Women of the ELCA participants.

Thank you for subscribing to *Pacifica Partners* or giving us permission to add your email address to receive communication from the Pacifica Synodical Women's Organization. If you know other ladies who are not receiving our emails, please share this with them and encourage them to sign up.

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De la Mesa de Nuestra Presidente



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