

# Pacifica Partners



## Mission Statement

*To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.*

Karen Ronchetti, Editor

March/April 2016

Volume 26 Issue 3



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.



Easter is early this year, and in many places across this church trees will still be bare and fields barren. It might even snow. But on Easter morning we will gather to greet the risen Son and give thanks to God for the new life we have in Jesus Christ.

Two things come to mind this Easter when there is still only the hint of spring: Jesus' words to his disciples just before his crucifixion and a hymn.

Jesus said, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." Jesus was talking about his death, but he was also assuring his disciples and us that death is not the end, that, though it might seem impossible and even terrifying to step into the void, God brings life out of death.

The hymn is ELW 379.

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
love is come again like wheat arising green.*

The tune is actually a French Christmas carol. How perfect that, in the bleak midwinter, the promise of spring was planted.

St. Paul wrote, "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?" We have already fallen into the earth and died. "For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his." We will not remain alone. We will bear fruit.

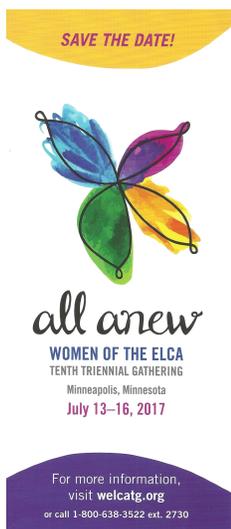
The seed has been planted in all the barren places in the world and in our lives. That gives us the power and the hope – especially in the face of our brokenness – to see life where the world only sees death ... in refugee camps and hospice units, in parched earth and in floods, in oppression and denied justice we are bold to confess. Now the green blade rises. Now love lives again. Now love comes again like wheat arising green.

Christ is risen.

*Elizabeth A. Eaton*

Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

- April 15, 2016 Girl's Night Out, featuring Vivian Mabuni "Warrior in Pink"  
Location: Good Shepherd Lutheran, Irvine at 7:15pm
- May 5-7, 2016 Pacifica Synod Assembly  
Location: Marriot Hotel, Orange County
- November 4-5 Pacifica WELCA Convention  
Location: Bethlehem Lutheran , Los Alamitos
- July 13 - 16, 2017 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering  
Location: Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Information inside this issue and watch for updates



Café stirring the spirit within  
[www.boldcafe.org](http://www.boldcafe.org)



### Purpose Statement

*As a community of women  
 created in the image of God,  
 called to discipleship in Jesus  
 Christ, and  
 empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
 We commit ourselves to  
 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.*



*PACIFICA PARTNERS* provides news and information to congregational units of the Pacifica Synod. *Pacifica Partners* is published monthly. Copies are distributed as a courtesy to each congregational unit (CU) in the Pacifica Synod. It is also sent to Women of the ELCA churchwide office, other SWO presidents, Synodical Bishop, current and former board members. IF YOU MOVE OR ON VACATION, please let us know ASAP so we can update our records.

**Address changes and corrections should be sent to the PP Editor:**

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## Shelter from the Storm Ministry Project ~ 2016

### Hope Lutheran Church, Palm Desert

What inspired us? Executive Director of Shelter from the Storm Angelina Coe's "Our Voice" article in the Desert Sun regarding their loss of funding and tight budget.

Why we did it? Our desire to help families in crisis here in our valley in Christian service.

How could we help? Provide in kind items to comfort clients in emergency situations and assisting with establishing their new homes.

How we did it..... "Create in me a Clean Heart" (and Closets and Cupboards) Women's Gathering

On Saturday, February 13, 2016, we gathered to "Create a Clean Heart". We began with a craft activity led by fiber artist Martha Lumia who taught us how to felt soap. What's that? Hint: It is a colorful and easy way to create a work of art with handmade soaps fashioned by Victoria Radtke. Suzanne Ballard shared her passion of making creative shams for gift travel pillows for children and tucking in a stuffed animal, toy or book.

To clean out our own cupboards and closets, we chose to share usable goods to Shelter from the Storm. Monika Hoover as Action Team leader applied and received a "Community Impact" cash card from Thrivent Financial to supplement our project. Monika and Sandy McGinnis spearheaded the collection of items for families affected by domestic abuse. A wish list of suggested items was provided to our members in advance of the event. Donations were brought in before and on the event day. On the following Monday a group met to organize the gently used women's, men's, children's and baby clothing. 20 laundry baskets were loaded with household essentials from paper goods, laundry and cleaning products to bath and kitchen towels. Additional handmade soaps were also included. Seven cases of diapers were purchased with cash donations. Gifts filling three trucks and a car arrived at the Shelter from the Storm offices to the delight and



*Pacifica Women Present - Convention 2016:*

**“A Family of Faith”**

**November 4-5, 2016 at Bethlehem Lutheran, Los**



Love Gift:



Precious Life Shelter

Diapers, Wipes, Receiving Blankets, Women's Socks, Hygiene items,



phone card

# CHANGE of OFFICERS

March/April 2016

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## Congregational Units:

*Please complete this form as soon as possible after your elections or change of contact women. Please type or print neatly so that the form will copy well. **Mail or email to:***

### **SWO Secretary:**

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### Your Cluster Coordinator

(Insert Cluster Coordinator's Name Here)

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_ Pastor \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Cluster \_\_\_\_\_

City & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (include area code) \_\_\_\_\_

Name of your immediate past contact \_\_\_\_\_

### **President/Contact Person**

### **Secretary/Second Contact**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

These names will be submitted in a secure and confidential area of our churchwide Women of the ELCA website so that mailings from Chicago come to an interested person. This information will be use to send out emails regarding synodical events, the Pacifica Partners and special news updates, and to officially notify each unit of the convention each year. Your cluster coordinator will use it to let you know when there is a planning meeting for a cluster event.

SAVE THE DATE!



all anew

WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 13–16, 2017

For more information,  
visit [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org)

or call 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2730

## PENNY SAVING CHALLENGE

{Save over \$670 this year picking up pennies!}

Day 1 = 1¢      Day 5 = 5¢

Day 100 = \$1

Day 365 = \$3.65



Join us for this inspiring faith-filled weekend where you can experience enriching workshops, stirring worship, engaging Bible study and challenging cinema with hundreds of sisters in faith.

We are real women—mothers, daughters, sisters, best friends and new friends—talking about our faith, our doubts and challenges, our joys and what inspires us.

### **About our logo**

The joyful, organic shape of a butterfly—or is it a flower?—represents transformation and growth. Splashes of color honoring the four elements (earth, water, fire, air) spill outside the lines to create an uplifting symbol that is bright, bold and vibrant.



*Do you like crafts? Volunteering of your time?  
Many opportunities await you at the 2017 Triennial  
Gathering in Minneapolis, MN!*

### **DID YOU START SAVING YET?**

Just one way to start saving. Go back and start with January 1st. Add to your jar 1 cent for each day of the year. Each day the money you add to your jar, coincides with the day of the year. (example: January 6th, add 6 cents to your jar, on February 1st, the 32nd day of the year, add 32 cents to your jar, and so on. Day 100 of the year (which is April 8th) you would add 1.00 to your jar and May 5th, the 126th day of the year, you add \$1.26 to your jar, and etc..) Simple.

At the end of 365 days (December 31st) you will have saved \$667.95. That's just saving pennies!! (and it will almost cover your registration hotel and airfare). What a great idea and easy to do. AND you can keep it going until June 30th of 2017 (just for a few extra dollars)!

I've started my jar, have you? Did you pre-register in Charlotte? Please let me know. Would love to have 50 women from Pacifica attend!!

As something fun, we will also be having a meal with our "sister synod, Nebraska", so we need to know how many women are going, Can we have more women at this triennial, the Nebraska? Let's give it a try!!

Questions, you can call Karen Ronchetti anytime (714) 654-8919 or send email to: [welca@verizon.net](mailto:welca@verizon.net)



Recently I attended a convention with the Women of the ELCA in the Southwestern Texas Synod. When I walked into the building, someone directed me to the registration area. Everything I needed to know—worship times, meal locations, where in-kind gifts were being collected—was available. No one said things like, “Are you new?” or did anything that made me feel like an outsider. I simply showed up, and my participation was valued.

There was work to be done. Church women at this convention were making decisions about governance, how money would be spent and what they wanted to accomplish in the next years. There was a 20-year-old woman who was appointed to lead the hospitality committee. Women (and some men) came as they were—with belief in Jesus probably the only prerequisite. (There was also an Elvis impersonator—but I’m not sure where that fits in.)

## **We already have a savior**

Many congregations and women’s groups are inclusive, spanning many generations. Yet sometimes when I hear people say, “We need /want younger women in our church/women’s group,” it seems to come from a place of fear, rather than a place of mutual relationship-building. Sometimes there is a belief that (perhaps out of fiscal necessity) individuals born in the '70s and '80s are going to somehow magically save the budget, help us meet membership goals and ensure that our church or women’s group is somehow more relevant. But relevant to whom? Nike? The folks in Silicon Valley?

Following Jesus already makes believers relevant. When we ignore our own identity as followers of Christ and think that we need to add a sound machine for worship or that young women must not like studying the Bible in our circles because they aren’t showing up at 2 p.m. on a Tuesday—that is a problem.

Jesus’ disciples had no splashy marketing campaigns (although the miracle of turning water into wine at a wedding might have seemed like it to some) or age-specific ministry. Jesus simply said: “Come follow me.”

## **Living in community**

We live this out in many ways. We participate in our faith communities—some of which are women’s groups in our congregations. We strengthen our own faith and serve our neighbor through our involvement in a Bible study circle, a Café group and conventions. Our congregations help create opportunities for us to serve our communities as Christ did. We share the gospel in our women’s groups by creating in-kind gifts to donate to local nonprofit organizations, or lifting up the work of a local organization that supports survivors of human trafficking.

In these groups, we elect leaders who help us with the important work of fiscal responsibility and governance, to ensure that we make our church, our community and world a better place. There is a lot of work to do, and we need other people to help us carry out this mission.

However, when we focus on how someone looks— young or old—we miss out on building authentic relationships. When we spend too much time trying to “invite them” into our group, we’ve already positioned ourselves as the insiders and them as the “other.” On the other hand, when we focus on meeting women of any age where they are—where their unique gifts can be added to the collective—we evolve as a faith community based on mutual belief and respect.

After all, Jesus already did the heavy lifting for us. All we have to do to be relevant for younger generations is to be in authentic relationship with one another.

***Elizabeth McBride is the director for intergenerational programs and editor of Café.***

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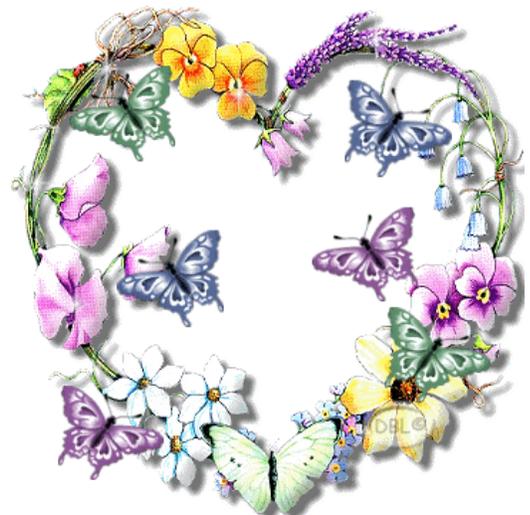
<a href="http://www.pacificasynod.org">www.pacificasynod.org</a>	Pacifica Synod
<a href="http://www.elca.org">www.elca.org</a>	This will access the national church wide office
<a href="http://www.womenoftheelca.org">www.womenoftheelca.org</a>	Churchwide website of the Women of the ELCA;
<a href="http://www.boldcafe.org/">www.boldcafe.org/</a>	<i>Café'</i> , free website for women 18-35 is part of Women of the ELCA website.
<a href="http://www.gathermagazine.org">www.gathermagazine.org</a>	This website will access Gather (formerly Lutheran Women Today) magazine directly.
<a href="http://www.lwr.org">www.lwr.org</a>	Lutheran World Relief (Ever wanted to know where the quilts go that your units have made or the school and health kits that you assembled and sent to LWR)?
<a href="http://www.preciousliveshelter.org">www.preciousliveshelter.org</a>	A organization that helps abused women and children in OC. Newsletter of events, thrift shop and other activities that help the community of women.
<a href="http://www.lutheranborderconcernsministry.org">www.lutheranborderconcernsministry.org</a>	Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry is Threefold: <b>HELP</b> people who live south of the border, including both spiritual and material needs. <b>INFORM</b> people who live north of the border about the spiritual and physical needs of their sisters and brothers to the south. <b>ENCOURAGE</b> Christian congregations in the USA to meet their mission opportunities to share the Gospel with Hispanic people in their own neighborhoods.
<a href="http://www.LSS.org">www.LSS.org</a>	Lutheran Social Services. Check your local area/church for a representative near you.
<a href="http://www.pacificawomen.org">www.pacificawomen.org</a>	Our Pacifica Women website

*The deadline submit articles for  
the Pacifica Partners is..*

***May 9, 2016***

*Please send email to:*

***welca@verizon.net***



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you.

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