



Pacifica Partners

Mission Statement

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

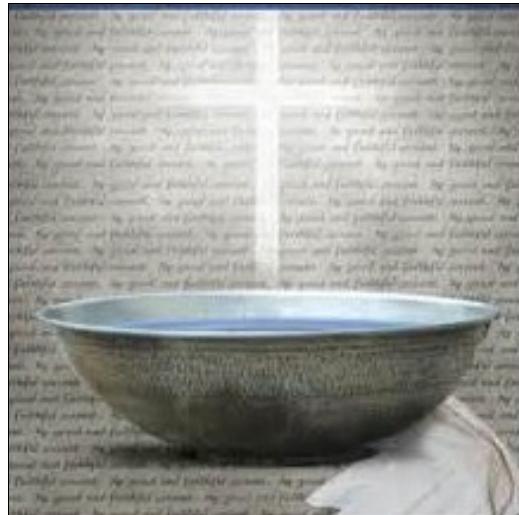
Karen Ronchetti, Editor

January 2015

Volume 25 Issue 1

PACIFICA WELCA PRESENTS:

*Thanking God
for
Your Servant
Heart*



Matthew 25:23

“Well done, good and faithful servant”.

SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH, 2015

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH (INSIDE LEISURE WORLD)

13560 ST. ANDREWS DRIVE, SEAL BEACH, CA 90740

9AM TO 2:30PM

Calendar of Events, Purpose Statement ...

January 2015

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January 24, 2015 Rejoice, Saddleback and Son & Surf Cluster Planning



January 30, 2015 SWO Board Meeting
Location: St. Peter Lutheran, Santa Ana

March 7, 2015 Pacifica W-ELCA Synodical Event "Thanking God for your Servant Heart"
Location: Redeemer Lutheran, Seal Beach
Time: 9am to 2pm

May 28-30, 2015 Pacifica Synod Assembly
Riverside Convention Center

Café stirring the spirit within
www.boldcafe.org

July 15-19, 2015 National Youth Gathering
Location: Detroit, MI

November 6-8, 2015 Pacifica Women of the ELCA Annual Convention
Location: Inland Empire

July 2017 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering
Location: Minnesota



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 (except August, November & December). 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.

Address changes and corrections should be sent to the Secretary:

Tina Gates
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President's Corner

January 2015

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Greetings!

Where does time go? Are you ready to come to the Spring/March Event?

Thanking God for the Servants Heart

Matthew 25:23 "Well done, good and faithful servant"

We all know that there is someone or someone's that these words bring to mind. They will be found within our church, our family and/or our community. Persons have different areas of giving and serving. They may help by keeping shelves stocked at their local food banks, both sponsored by Lutheran Social Services or other local charities. Women get together to quilt the much needed quilts for Lutheran World Relief. They may quilt for a local unit of Prayers and Squares, an interfaith outreach organization that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand tied quilt. The organization now consists of many individual chapters around the world. One may volunteer to visit with Hospice patients or at their local library. Many a Sunday morning we are blessed to hear our choir's voices, a lay reader, or be served communion by a fellow lay member. What about your Church Council? This is a ministry in itself. I could go on and on, as we each have our own niche. Remember that it needn't be only through one's church that makes you a "good and faithful servant".

Come with us to Redeemer Lutheran Church in Seal Beach on Saturday, March 7, 2015 to celebrate and hear a Bible Study led by Pr. Lynda Elmer, a retired pastor living in Leisure World and an inspirational speaker, Karen Merkel, an active missionary from the Orange County area. We will be gathering at 9:00 am for registration and a Continental style breakfast with the program beginning at 9:30 am. We will conclude the day by 2:30 pm, so all can return home at a reasonable hour. We are aiming to have a day filled with inspiration, fellowship and worship.

Please remember your Love Gifts for Sheepfold. See separate flyer.

God's Blessings and see you on March 7th,

Sue Connors

President, Pacifica SWO

This and That

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A plea from your President

As 2015 begins, please put Triennial Offering for 2017 into your unit's budget for this year, as well as the following years. This will ease the burden of coming up with the total amount of offering just prior to the Triennial Gathering. You can send a check to Harriet Morris at 1951 47th Street, Space #3, San Diego, CA 92102. In the memo space please put TG17. I look forward to sharing more details of this gathering, after returning from the Conference of Presidents this coming February. You may also want to put some dollars away monthly for your trip back to Minneapolis. It will be an awesome time of fellowship, learning and worship.

Thank you for the support of the many ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

Sue Connors

Baptism begins real new year

Resolutions will always come up short in our attempts to remake ourselves



A new year. Time to start over. A fresh set of possibilities. Out with the old, in with the new. New Year's resolutions are made — usually along the lines of self-improvement. And so, with a combination of optimism and grim determination, we set out into the New Year.

But how long does our resolve last? Days? Weeks? It's a good bet that the gym will be a lot less crowded at the end of January than it was at the beginning.

New Year's resolutions are symptoms of our underlying disease. We sense that our lives are not entirely the way they should be. We have an obscured image of the beauty and wholeness of God's good creation. There is a gap between who we are and who we have been created to be. So we try to fill that gap ourselves. We are going to eat right, work out, fix our relationships, floss regularly, lose weight, corral our calendars, clean the garage, learn another language, etc., etc., etc.

These are all worthy goals and might actually be beneficial, but they can't fill the gap. Maybe we can sustain this aggressive schedule for self-improvement past January, but probably not. Discouraged and dispirited we make it to the beginning of Lent only to do the spiritual version of New Year's resolutions. And we wonder, like Martin Luther, is it enough?

All of our efforts to achieve self-justification and self-righteousness are futile and may, in fact, be harmful. They twist and distort our relationship with God, with each other, even with creation. They become a means to an end; food, instead of something to enjoy, becomes a dietary supplement; our bodies, instead of being a gift from the Creator, become our enemies in our quest for physical perfection; other people, instead of being a loving community, become competitors. Exhausted and frustrated in our attempts to save our lives resentment sets in.

And that's really it, isn't it? We are trying to save our own lives, to stave off death. We cannot and we do not have to.

"Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. 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" ([Romans 6:3-5](#)).

There it is. In baptism we have already died the only death that really matters. The death of Christ Jesus into which we are buried is the end of death. It is the breaking of the power of sin. It is the beginning of our new life. To borrow a pop culture image, we are now the undead.

The early church understood this and enacted it in its baptismal practice. Candidates for baptism were stripped and, naked as the day they were born, went into the water. When they came out they were anointed with oil and clothed in new garments. This practice will probably not be renewed in most of our congregations — the strain on the altar guild alone would prohibit it — but it made it physically and visually clear that the baptized had left their old life and entered Christ's new life by death and resurrection.

Theologian Robert W. Jenson wrote in *Christian Dogmatics*: "My baptism broke the bond of the past on the future." In baptism freedom from the past and new possibility come together. In baptism we are now in Christ. "So if anyone is in Christ there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new" ([2 Corinthians 5:17](#)). It's been done. We are justified. We have been made righteous. We have been set free.

So make New Year's resolutions if you want, but understand that in baptism God has given us a new life, a new year, a new day. Freed from all of the emotional and spiritual energy that had been invested in the impossible task of freeing ourselves we are now free to love God and serve the neighbor.

Happy New Year!

Registration—March Gathering

January 2015

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March 7, 2015

Redeemer Lutheran Church

13560 St. Andrews Drive, Seal Beach, CA 90740

(562) 598-8697



This event is from 9am to 2:30pm.

Registration / continental breakfast begin at 8:30am, program starting at 9am to include lunch.

Early Bird - "postmark by 2/28" \$25.00

Postmark after 2/28 \$30.00

Make checks payable to:

Pacifica Women of the ELCA

Mail to: Jo Ann Longerbone

4678 Coconino Way, San Diego, Ca 92117

(858) 274-0483

Please Print Clearly: (or affix an address label)

Name: _____

Address & City: _____

Telephone: () _____ Email: _____

Church: _____ Church City: _____

Do you need childcare: Y N How many children? _____

Tentative Schedule - March Event

January 2015

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Saturday:

9am-9:30am	Breakfast Continental (Provided by Redeemer Lutheran, Seal Beach)
9:30am	Bible Study
	<i>BREAK</i>
10:30am	Guest Speaker
11:30am	Lunch
12:30pm	Workshop
	<i>BREAK</i>
1:30pm	Worship

Love Gifts for:

the
Sheepfold



Baby Wipes

Canned Tuna or Chicken

Shampoo / Conditioner / Body Wash

Peanut Butter

Paper Towels

Jelly

Toilet Paper

Canned Fruit

Antibacterial Soap

Oatmeal

All Purpose Cleaner

Presidents Report 2014 (From Convention)



2014 has been a year with a few trials and many blessings. Beginning with the affirmation of Sue Connors as President and Karen Ronchetti as Vice President. Violet Quist stepped in to fill the open Board Member position.

The year began with its first Board meeting on January 18th with Karen Ronchetti, Jo Ann Longerbone, Tina Gates, Viola Angebrandt and Vanessa Andrade being chosen for the 2014 Convention Planning Team. Karen Ronchetti would serve as its Chair. The theme “Being Made New” was selected with 2 Corinthians 5:17 as its theme verse.

Went to the chilly city of Chicago in February for the Conference of Presidents. What a warm and hospitable group of women. Only one word can describe “AWESOME”.

Saturday, March 8th was the day for our Spring Event. Eden Lutheran Church in Riverside graciously hosted this event. We had a day of fellowship, food and a focus on “Welcoming the Stranger” a hospitality workshop. A resource from the Women of the ELCA was used and presented by Vanessa Andrade and Dona Jenkins.

Saturday, June 28th was the date of our second Board meeting. This meeting focused on receiving our Nebraska Prayer Partners, an update on the financials from our new Treasurer Harriet Morris and a detailed report on the 2014 Convention.

In July, approximately 25 women from the Pacifica Women’s Organization headed to Charlotte, North Carolina for the Ninth Triennial Convention and Gathering. Of Many Generations was referred to throughout the days we spent there. Your delegates/ voting members (Sue Connors, Tina Gates, Karen Ronchetti and Verlette Brummell) spent numerous hours on the business of the greater women’s organization. Your delegates/ voting members were 4 of the 360 who worked to elect leadership and set priorities for the churchwide women’s organization.

Women of the ELCA elected Patti Austin, of Southeastern Synod, as the new President of the churchwide women’s organization.

Women of the ELCA elected your own Becky Shurson as the new Secretary of the churchwide women’s organization.

Women of the ELCA committed to pray for guidance and direction in the humanitarian crisis of unaccompanied children entering the United States, and encouraged congregations to be places of hospitality.

Women of the ELCA approved a memorial calling for financial support of the efforts to provide solar energy for Phebe Hospital in Liberia.

The triennial convention offering exceeded \$58,000, which will support Women of the ELCA ministries, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service and On Eagle’s Wings Ministries, an anti-trafficking organization in North Carolina.

New and renewed friendships; lunch with women from our sister synod, Nebraska; fabulous speakers; etc. were all part of this wonderful experience.

Returned home, after a little side trip, for more planning and many conversations. Thank you all for the encouragement and support this past year. God has truly blessed me with you.

***Sue Connors
President***

2014 Convention Memories

January 2015

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PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELC A - 2012-2013 Synodical Board Members

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www.pacificasynod.org

Pacifica Synod

www.elca.org

This will access the national church wide office

www.womenoftheelca.org

Churchwide website of the Women of the ELCA;

www.boldcafe.org/

Café', free website for women 18-35 is part of Women of the ELCA website.

www.gathermagazine.org

This website will access Gather (formerly Lutheran Women Today) magazine directly.

www.lwr.org

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)?

www.preciouslifeshelter.org

A organization that helps abused women and children in OC. Newsletter of events, thrift shop and other activities that help the community of women.

www.lutheranborderconcernsministry.org

Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry is Threefold: **HELP** people who live south of the border, including both spiritual and material needs. **INFORM** people who live north of the border about the spiritual and physical needs of their sisters and brothers to the south. **ENCOURAGE** Christian congregations in the USA to meet their mission opportunities to share the Gospel with Hispanic people in their own neighborhoods.

www.LSS.org

Lutheran Social Services. Check your local area/church for a representative near you.

Christina Watson

Lutheran Maritime Ministries. Provides "special" Christmas gift to seamen.
(562) 431-1112

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

February 5, 2015

*Please send email to:
welca@verizon.net*



Pacifica Synodical Women's Organization of the
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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Huntington Beach, CA 92646

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you.

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