



PACIFICA PARTNERS

Pacifica Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Helen Riggs, Editor

OCTOBER 2009

Volume 19 Number 8

Bible Study in the OC – 2009

170 ladies from 30 ELCA Congregations and one Episcopal and Catholic parish gathered Saturday, September 19th at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in San Clemente for the third annual Bible Study in the OC! Rev. Dr. Sarah Henrich, New Testament professor at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota presented the Lutheran Woman Today magazine's Bible study: To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans'. The women took an offering for the day as well. Their generosity and \$500 matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has blessed \$753.67 to Lutheran Retreats, Camps & Conferences and \$753.67 to the Women of the ELCA.



Peach Ginger Tea

Steep 5 bags of Peach Tea in pitcher leaving about 1/2 cup space for liquid to be added.
Best if steeped for about 5 or more hours.

Wash and cut up a ginger root in ~1" chunks. boil in sauce pan. 1/2 cup of water for about 15 minutes. The longer you boil the ginger the stronger the flavor. After ginger has cooled a bit, remove ginger root and pour honey about 3 tablespoons in sauce pan and stir to dilute.

Once cooled a bit more, add to Pitcher of tea with bags removed. stir and pour over ice. Delicious.
This is a common tea in Hawaii and is usually served with a straw made from the center of a pineapple.

Roasted corn and black bean salad.

I don't have exact amounts but this will make a large serving as a side dish.

Roast corn either on stove top or grill and cut off cob. ~ 3 oz. (roasting brings out a natural sugar)
black beans - rinse and strain well ~ 2oz Jicama - diced small ~ 1oz Red onion - diced small 1 oz Cilantro - stripped off stem - about 1/6 of a bunch
Chili powder -add a pinch to taste
Cumin grinded seed - add a pinch to taste.

Dressing -
about 4 limes - juiced garlic
salt and pepper
chipotle pepper - Use sparingly, these are hot
cilantro

Once blended in blender, slowly add canola oil to emulsify. Careful not to drown out Lime taste

this salad is best if you make it the day before, mix salad and store dressing in container in fridge.

the next day add freshly diced mango (2 oz.) and fresh cilantro leaves (1/6 of a bunch). Fold in dressing to taste.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 7th Fall Gathering, see registration form on page 7.

November 14th Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Anaheim will host a retreat *"In Her Word's Women's Retreat"* from 9:00 am to 2 pm. Cost is \$10. For more information call 714-772-2772.

(Note this is a correction from last month where I had the date wrong .It's November 14th not the 15th.)

Just another reminder on these dates, which may be past by the time you receive the newsletter...

October 10th—Sun & Surf, Saddleback & Rejoice clusters gathering at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Santa Ana

October 17th—Sonshine/West Cluster event at St. Marks, Chula Vista

Refer to last months issue.

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* **Monday Prayer at Noon** is a weekly opportunity to join in prayer with women throughout the United States, the Caribbean, and Canada. Check www.womenoftheelca.org for specific weekly prayer concerns.

PACIFICA PARTNERS provides news and information to congregational units of the Pacifica Synod. *Pacifica Partners* is published monthly except for July/August and November/December, which are combined issues. 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:

Becky Shurson
13848 Meadow View Lane
Yucaipa, CA 92399

Deadline for news is the **first** of the month prior to the month of publication.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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.



Our Savior's Lutheran in San Clemente again did an outstanding job of hosting 170-180 women to hear the author of our Romans Bible study introduce the study and explain more fully the background for the study and

just what the next nine months have in store for us. If you missed it, read Helen's write up in this issue and the front page article submitted by Kelly Frohner.

If you've never attended, plan to come next year. This is the third year they've had this program and they plan to keep on doing it. We've never before had such a wonderful opportunity to meet and listen to the author of our Bible Study in this part of the world. It really is a great experience.

Our November event, "Hearts, Hands and Hope" is just about upon us. At the San Clemente event, I was chatting during lunch with some women who said they looked and read and reread and could not find a deadline. We had some complaints for the March events that we shouldn't need to insist on a deadline. No, they were not the majority, but I thought I'd give it a try not to have one for this event. It likely was a mistake so I need your help to get those registrations coming! So far I have less than a dozen registrations. While I have faith that we will have a lot more than that in the end, it is a bit nerve wracking to be making all our plans and not know who is coming!! Especially, with the type of banquet we are having this year – which is why I probably should not have tried the no deadline yet this time.

The registration form is again in this issue but the last two issues were packed with details, so you can find them on line if you don't have a hard copy handy. Just go to www.pacificawomen.org and click on news and events and then choose either a Word doc or a PDF format. You can either scroll through and read them or print them first. Choose archives for any of several past issues. Again, the day is shaping up to be a really wonderful day full of worthwhile activities and full of inspiration and full of fellowship. Don't miss it!!

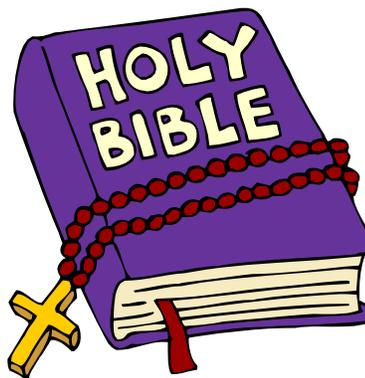
And again, speaking of the internet, have you visited our churchwide website recently? Go to www.womenoftheelca.org. There are more and more resources for programs or you can even use them on an individual basis. I know, some of you say you don't have a computer and just don't want to learn to use it. But I'm sure you have a friend or a family member with one who would be happy to show you the above web sites and give you a lesson in getting around at least a little bit. There is so much information to be gained so easily that it really is worth the effort!

Also on our churchwide web site are resources for the Romans Bible study that are very helpful. You can even watch a video about each session that will give you further insights. Try it, you'll like it!!

This month there are four cluster events scheduled. Oct 3rd, 10th, and 17th. I do plan to attend three so if you have questions or want to turn in your registrations to me then, I will welcome that. Unfortunately, there are two scheduled for the 17th so I can only attend one and have committed to a task for my "home" cluster so will not be able to attend the one in the south part of San Diego County. And any of you are welcome to attend more than one as each program is different and worth attending.

Which reminds me to remind you that as you are looking at and planning your unit calendars for the coming year, be sure to keep the first Saturday in March open and the first weekend in November open for our synod events. Those dates are not changing so it should be easy not to have a unit retreat or craft event or anything else on those days. Conflicts with Cluster events are a bit harder to avoid, but watch the newsletter and call or email me and I'll be happy to give you as much information as I can. I normally receive a copy of the minutes of the planning meetings so have a fairly good idea of dates before they even hit a newsletter.

Acting Boldly in Christ!
Eunice



I would like to take this time to say farewell as the editor of Pacifica Partners. It has been quite a journey and now it is time to make changes. I extend a warm welcome to Karen Ronchetti who will be coming on board as the new editor. Thank you Karen for taking on this task.

You can find Karen's email address back on page 9 in the directory of Board Members. So be sure to address all your comments, concerns and articles to her as of November 1, 2009.

I will continue working within the Pacifica Synod but maybe at a slower pace for awhile as I will be having another back surgery on November 16th. So I felt it was time to step down and give my body a chance to heal.

Thanks to those who have taken the time to contribute something to the newsletter. And remember, if you move, please let someone know. Thank you.

May God bless each and everyone of you and your ministry within the Pacifica Synod. I know that our paths will continue to cross from time to time. I would have liked to be with you at the Fall Event but I will have just returned from a cruise the night before and know full well I won't be up to attending. I know great things have been planned for you and I hope that you are making plans on attending!

Your sister in Christ,

Helen Riggs

Here are some cute Christian one liners that Margaret Volkman sent to share....

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisors.

It is easier to preach ten sermons than it is to live one.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

Forbidden fruits create many jams.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

People are funny, they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.

Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on the front door forever.

Quit griping about your church, if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.

If a church wants a better pastor, it only needs to pray for the one it has.

God himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

Some minds are like concrete, thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Peace starts with a smile.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

A lot of church members singing 'Standing on the Promises' are just sitting on the premises.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch 'em, He'll clean 'em.

Stop, Drop and Roll won't work in Hell.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

God doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called.

God grades on the cross, not the curve.

If God is your co-pilot, swap seats!

The will of God never takes you to where the grace of God will not protect you.

We don't change the message, the message changes us.

The best mathematical equation ... 1 cross + 3 nails = 4 given!!

ORANGE COUNTY EVENT

For those of you who couldn't make the Bible Study introduction at Our Savior's Lutheran in San Clemente on September 19th missed a wonderful opportunity and the chance to meet Dr. Sarah Henrich, this year's Bible Study writer.

What a delightful professor she is. One can only imagine what her students think of her as she is so down to earth and really helps you understand scripture. She brought Paul's letters to the Romans to life and gave many insights into what her purpose was in writing this Bible Study.

She mentioned that when we are teaching we are to

- Take time
- Read the whole
- Be choosy
- Be imaginative
- Ask for help

Paul's stop in Rome was when he was headed for Spain. Paul didn't want to tread where others had already been as he wanted to bring the news himself. Paul went everywhere he could before Jesus' return.

Paul uses scripture more in the book of Romans than anywhere else. The book of Romans is the longest while Philemon is the shortest. (I didn't know that.)

The ancient letters make up a great deal of the New Testament and why do you suppose they come in letter form? They had to cover great distances, it was another way of net-working, and they traveled among the not-so-rich. Letters were designed to be read in a group since most people during Paul's time were uneducated and couldn't read.

The ancient letters contained 4 parts.

1. Greetings (writer(s) to recipients greetings)
2. Thanksgiving/Blessing "I will give thanks...often find the theme of the letter here.
3. Body
4. Closing

Paul says we are called to be empowered to live differently. There is no condemnation if we are in Christ Jesus. Nothing is going to separate us from the love of God.

This is just a brief summary. One didn't want to be writing all the time and lose hearing her words. Thanks go out to Kelly Frohner and the people from Our Savior's for the wonderful hospitality and providing such a wonderful lunch.

I for one can't wait for next year to see who will be coming.

Helen Riggs

"To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans," the 2009-2010 *Lutheran Woman Today* Bible study begins in September. You can download the first session from our Web site (www.lutheranwomantoday.org). Online video overviews of the sessions are also available on the Web site, as is a ritual for beginning a Bible study

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Henrich, professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn., wrote the study on Romans, an epistle considered one of the foundations of Christian theology. According to Henrich, Martin Luther called it the most important piece in the New Testament. He even said it would be worth memorizing!

Today the Internet makes access to documents immediate, but in Apostle Paul's world, letters were the only way to communicate with people at a distance. It was a world with no telephones. Travel was slow and most people could not be away from their work for any extended period of time. Hand-written letters were essential to maintain friendships, express sympathy, to carry on business, even to introduce family members to one another, Henrich writes in the Bible study's leader guide. Paul's letters are the oldest documents we have from the beginning of the church. The only Scripture available then was the Jewish Scripture, what Christians now call the Old Testament. Most Jews, who knew and loved their Scripture, did not believe that Jesus was God's promised and long-awaited Messiah. People who did believe that Jesus was God's Messiah were very much a minority within a minority.

These first Christians--most of whom (including Paul) were themselves Jews-- worked very hard to understand how Jesus fit into God's plan as revealed in Scripture.

As you read the letter to the Romans, perhaps you will picture Paul trying to understand and then explain how the faithful and gracious God of Israel sent Jesus to offer salvation not just to the Jews, but to all people.

Visit Augsburg Fortress Store online (www.augsburgfortress.org) or call 800-328-4648 to order the leader guide, companion Bible, and promotional bookmarks. If you haven't already, you can also subscribe to the magazine through Augsburg's online store (10 issues for only \$12).

Follow *Lutheran Woman Today* on Facebook and Twitter to learn up-to-date news about the magazine. Visit www.lutheranwomantoday.org to learn how.

“What’s a blog? What does Women of the ELCA do on its blog?”

A blog is an online journal. Lots of individuals maintain blogs, but so do a lot of companies and organizations. On ours, the churchwide staff comment on all the ways our mission and purpose relate to and shape our responses to issues, events and trends in our church, society and world. We also blog from events, like the ELCA Youth Gathering, and share stories of Lutheran women acting boldly on their faith.

We invite you to read our blog and comment on our posts. You can find it from a link on our home page at www.womenoftheelca.org, or go directly to <http://blogs.elca.org/women>.

“You’re on Facebook? That’s for young people—I’m too old for that.”

Not so: [For the first six months of 2009, the fastest growing group on Facebook was adults over 55.](#) And, there are more women than men on Facebook. Setting up a Facebook account is quick, free, and easy, and before you know it, you’ll be using it to keep in touch with, and reconnect with, lots of people.

We’re on Facebook as another way to connect and have conversations with women from all across the church, and to provide a way for you to be in conversation with us and with each other.

Not only is the churchwide organization on Facebook, so are some of you—the Western North Dakota SWO recently started a page, as did the Laurentian Conference of Northeastern Minnesota. We’ve also found a few congregational unit pages. Our Facebook page is: www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA.

There are many benefits to your SWO or unit having a Facebook page. If you would like advice or assistance, feel free to contact Deb Bogaert, director for communication (800-638-3522, ext. 2729; deb.bogaert@elca.org).

“You ‘tweet’ on Twitter? What does this mean?”

Twitter is another free service that enables users to send and read short text messages, known as “tweets.” The tweets/posts of whoever you choose to follow are displayed on your Twitter page, and your tweets are delivered to the Twitter pages of people following you. Think of it as text messaging, but online and to everyone on your list at once. Find us on Twitter at: www.twitter.com/WomenoftheELCA



GOD’S ACCURACY

How lovely to think about the way our Creator God planned everything so carefully and perfectly, everything with a plan. As His highest creation, we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

God’s accuracy may be observed in the hatching of eggs. For example...

The eggs of the potato bug hatch in 7 days;

Those of the canary in 14 days;

Those of the barnyard hen in 21 days;

The eggs of ducks and geese hatch in 28 days;

Those of the mallard in 35 days.

The eggs of the parrot and ostrich hatch in 42 days. (Notice they are all divisible by seven.)

God’s wisdom is seen in the making of an elephant. The four legs of this great beast all bend forward in the same direction...

No other quadruped is so made. God planned that this animal would have a huge body, too large to live on two legs. For this reason He gave it four fulcrums so that it can rise from the ground easily.

The horse rises from the ground on its two front legs first. A cow rises from the ground with its two hind legs first.

How wise the Lord is in all His works of creation. God’s wisdom

is revealed in His arrangement of sections and segments, as well as in the number of grains.

Each watermelon has an even number of stripes on the rind.

Each orange has an even number of segments.

Each ear of corn has an even number of rows.

Each stalk of wheat has an even number of grains.

Every bunch of bananas has on its lowest row an even number of bananas, and each row decreased by one, so that one row has an even number and the next row an odd number.

The waves of the sea roll in on shore twenty-six to the minute in all kinds of weather.

The Lord specified thirty fold, sixty fold, and a hundredfold—all even numbers.

God has caused the flowers to blossom at certain specified times during the day, so that Linnaeus, the great botanist, once said that if he had a conservatory containing the right kind of soil, moisture and temperature, he could tell the time of day or night by the flowers that were open and those that were closed.

Thus the Lord in His wonderful grace can arrange the life that is entrusted to His care in such a way that it will carry out His purposes and plans, and will be fragrant with His presence. Only the God-planned life is successful. Only the life given over to the care of the Lord is safe.

Author Unknown

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Q: What happens to a Women of the ELCA congregational unit of the congregation in which it is based leaves the ELCA?

A: The unit itself will cease. Any assets of the unit, after the payment of its debts, will be transferred to the churchwide organization of Women of the ELCA. See Article X of the approved constitutions for congregational, inter-congregational and special units. Women can join a congregational unit in a nearby ELCA congregation. One need not be a member of an ELCA congregation to participate in Women of the ELCA. See Article V, Section 1 of the Churchwide Constitution of Women of the ELCA which provides that “participation in [Women of the ELCA] shall be open to all women in the ELCA and other women who subscribe to the purpose of this organization.”

While these women can participate in a unit of Women of the ELCA, they cannot hold office in the organization nor serve as a delegate to a synodical or triennial convention. Officers, board members and delegates must be members of an ELCA congregation. See Article VII, Sections 4 & 6 of the Synodical Women’s Organization constitution and Article III of the approved constitutions for congregational, inter-congregational and special units.

Women can also become an “individual partners” of Women of the ELCA. For an annual fee of \$20, the individual partner receives a subscription to Lutheran Woman Today, Café and Threads, along with the opportunity to stay connected with the organization through resources, events and the like.

Q: What happens if a women is serving on a synodical board and her congregation leaves the ELCA?

A: The woman is no longer qualified to serve on the synodical board since she is no longer a member of an ELCA congregation. She must step down. Officers, board members and delegates must be members of an ELCA congregation. See Article VII, Sections 4 & 6 of the Synodical Women’s Organization constitution.

The board then must fill the vacancy consistent with Article VII, Section 4, item 5 and Section 7, Item 9 of the Synodical Women’s Organization constitution and other related provisions. If she were to join another ELCA congregation, her service could continue.

**Prepared by Linda Post Bushkfosky
Executive Director, Women of the ELCA
2 September 2009**



Women ^{of the} ELCA 
Pacifica Synod

REGISTRATION FORM
FALL GATHERING

November 7, 2009
8:00am ~ 7:00pm

FIRST LUTHERAN, REDLANDS
Worship & Home Base

RONALD McDONALD HOUSE
Servant Event

EDWARDS MANSION
Banquet

Please make check payable to:
PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELCA
Mail to:
EUNICE HANSON
3627 Cerro Ave.
Oceanside, CA 92056
Contact:
eunicehanson@cox.net
(760) 945-9716 home
(760) 717-2646 cell

Adults (<i>over 10</i>)	\$60	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bring a Guest (<i>two for</i>)	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/>
3-10 Year Olds	\$25	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Includes: Continental Breakfast, Lunch, & Banquet</i>		

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Church: _____ Located in: _____

Names: *3-10 Year Olds* _____

Names: *Pre-teens/Teens* _____

Names: *Adult Guest* _____

Websites to Check Out

'www.pacificasynod.org' (Pacifica Synod)

'www.elca.org' (This will access the national churchwide office)



'www.womenoftheelca.org' (NOTE: new domain name for churchwide website of the Women of the ELCA; *Café*, for free website for women 20-35 is part of this website.)

'www.lutheranwomantoday.org' (This website will access the LWT magazine directly.)

'www.lwr.org' (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 Lutheran World Relief?)

'www.hisrosesandthorns.com' (a Christian website of Wanda Scott Bledsor and Janet Sannipoli)

'www.thebreastcancersite.com' (Click on this site once a day to provide free mammograms for those who otherwise would not be able to have them.)

'www.creative-memories.com/suzanne_kusik' (Your Memory Album and Business Coach—Suzanne Kusik—Creative Memories Consultant, 714-968-4808)

'www.giveaminute.org' (Click on this site once a day and the sponsors will contribute funds for a minute of care for the needy Indian children of the Tarahumara Children's Hospital in Creel, Mexico. The site has a mission information link and photo gallery which shows pictures of the area as well as some of the children. This site also links to the Hunger Site where the sponsors will give a cup of grain for a daily click.)

'www.bread.org' (Bread for the World for information.)

'www.cherishchildren.org' (information on Cherish the Children)

The Deadline is.....

November 1, 2009 *Pacifica Partners*

PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2009 Synodical Board Members

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Pacifica Synodical Women's Organization of the
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
5446 Trevino Way
Banning, CA 92220-6459