



PACIFICA PARTNERS

Pacifica Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Helen Riggs, Editor

APRIL

Volume 19, Number 4

Directions to access our Pacifica Women Bulletin Board

To Register:

- Click on the link "Bulletin Board" on our home page www.pacificawomen.org
- Click on Register
- Read and click on "I agree to these terms"
- Type in the username you would like to use
- Type in your email address
- Confirm your email address
- Type in the password you would like to use
- Confirm your password
- Below - type in the confirmation code
- Click on Submit
- You will receive a welcome message in your email
- You will receive a message in your email when your account is activated

To Login:

- Click on the link "Bulletin Board" on our home page www.pacificawomen.org
- Click on Login
- Login
- Click on "View active topics"
- Click on the topic "Welcome to the Pacifica Women SWO Forum!"
- Click Post Reply
- Write your reply
- Scroll down to look at the body of the forum
- You can also attach documents
- Smilies on the right are fun!
- Click Submit

Have fun, look around. If you have any questions, just let me know.

Also, eventually the Bulletin Board link will reside on the "News and Events" page. For now, the link is on the home page.

Dona Jenkins
dona.jenkins@pacificawomen.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 18, 2009— Son & Surf, Saddleback, Rejoice Cluster Event, St. Paul's, 111 W. Las Palmas, Fullerton

"The Church Universal"

guest speaker -Merle Bailey, Doctor of Divinity
Registration \$6.00 paid at door beginning at 8:30 am with
brunch at 9:00 am. Childcare provided upon request—
RSVP Charlyn Travers 714-527-2114 or email at:
gtravers@socal.rr.com

May 2, 2009—Bethlehem Lutheran, 3352 Katella Ave., Los Alamitos

"The Spirit of Loveliness"

Guest speaker—Emillie Barnes

Continental breakfast—registration \$10 before 4/17 or
\$15 postmarked after 4/17. Send to church at above ad-
dress made out to Bethlehem WELCA. Contact: Dianna
Reynolds 562-430-7892.

**KEEP NOVEMBER 7TH OPEN FOR THE NO-
VEMBER EVENT IN THE INLAND EMPIRE.
MORE INFORMATION WILL BE FORTH COM-
ING IN THE MONTHS AHEAD, BUT SAVE THE
DATE!!!**



***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.



During our March 7th event I asked for units to share what is happening in their unit – what type of ministry is happening? how are they organized? what events do they hold? There were forms so that more could share by writing the answers to those questions. Either that day or mailed to me soon

after, I received forms from fourteen units. In a few cases two forms were filled out by different women for the same unit. So I promised to find a way to share those with all of you – and hoping that in the sharing, more of you will have a chance to share even more ideas. After thinking about it and consulting with Dona Jenkins, our web master and fellow board member, she suggested a Bulletin Board on the web site. She has set it up and by the time this edition is available to all, I should have downloaded the responses I have from the fourteen units.

Now I know this sharing will require some computer skills – but Dona has written the instructions of how to register and then login to read and even post your own responses. It is in this issue on the front page. This really can be a lot of fun and I hope many of you will try it. What I see happening is you will see others with simply a contact person, for instance, as the answer to how they are organized – and you will realize you are not alone. And I see you seeing a ministry or an event on someone's list and wonder what is that really all about? Or you will see something on your own list and think of how you could provide further details.

And I hope more units will respond – remember we have 125 or so churches in our synod and have active units in over 75. There are two or three different ways you can do that. I have created a Word document for each of the fourteen responses I received. The original forms were handwritten so I typed them and tried to have them all in very similar format. Then I've downloaded them as attachments on the Bulletin Board on the web site. I will download a blank form as well. You may open the one that will be labeled as a blank one, then save it to your computer, type in your response and then go back to the web site and click on the post response and download your response form as an attachment. Or you can simply click on post response and without using a form, simply type in information free style – if you wish you can still create it similar to the form. Or you can print out the blank form and handwrite a response and mail it to me and I will type it and download it for you.

One other tip – when I first followed Dona's instructions to login and then click on "View active topics", I was blind and didn't see that phrase! It is in fairly small type just above the box you will see at about the center of the screen. And since this requires registration and login – this is not open to the general public and so will be a safe communication method.

I know this may take some time for experimentation on your part but I hope you will give it a chance. If you don't feel

computer savvy enough, I'm sure you can find someone who is, who will be happy to help! Maybe in time we can compile these in a "hard copy" booklet that then would be available for distribution to any who wish one. If any one has any other ideas about sharing these ideas, feel free to write or email or post a response!

For the March event I prepared a power point presentation regarding your unit constitution, what elements are necessary for an active unit, and the ways in which you can be organized. Because of time constraints, I felt I rushed through it and could have spent more time. If any of you saw or heard anything that caught your attention and you would like to get more details or discuss it further – I would be happy to come to your unit and give that presentation. We could focus on just the parts that interested you the most and skip those that don't seem relevant. And we could spend more time discussing the topics that you feel need to be discussed in your particular circumstances. I've had a few emails and notes and phone calls about some of these topics. So I know the questions are out there and this may be a way they can be more fully answered.

During my power point presentation I also directed you to our churchwide web site. The information on all the topics in my power point can be found there – in more detail. And I'd also like to now direct your attention to the new resources they are bringing to you monthly. Some will be for small groups and others will be designed more for individuals. There are suggestions to use them in various ways for various time frames. They are featured on the home page and they can be downloaded or you can call 800-638-3522 ext 2730 and request a copy. The first ones are titled, "Looking into the Mirror: A Lenten Reflection" and "Sacred Spaces". Check them out and look for more to follow in the coming year. At the same time follow along on Linda's blog where she is sharing unit ideas from around the country as she travels to collect these stories and ideas.

Don't forget to put November 7th on your calendar. Have heard very positive responses to our March event and we plan that the November one will be just as worthwhile! Just as soon as we have some plans that are definite and not just ideas, we will start letting you in on the where and what. As I wrote last month, the very rough outline of the day will include beginning the day with worship in a church sanctuary, then going out in the community for servant event/s, and ending the day with a banquet including entertainment of course and perhaps at a location that may be unique.

AS ALWAYS, I CHALLENGE YOU TO KEEP ON ACTING BOLDLY IN CHRIST!

Eunice

LUTHERAN OFFICE OF PUBLIC POLICY

Funding for health and human services, especially safety net programs for people living in poverty, will continue to be a top priority for the Lutheran Office of Public Policy (LOPP) California in 2009. On January 13th I attended the "California Working Families Policy Summit" in Sacramento, CA.

The policy briefings were outstanding on these items; the state budget and its toll on food and food stamps, housing, health care, child care, pre-school and after school programs, and work place issues such as standards that provide all employees with sick leave, family and medical leave, and part time work with parity in wages, benefits, etc.

Due to partisan disagreements and the 2/3 vote required for a state budget, not even special legislative sessions have reached any solutions, other than the round of spending cuts last year. Line item vetoes by the Governor include cuts to education, Medi-Cal for the poor, and cost of living allowances for the elderly, blind, disabled, and CalWorks (for poor families and children.)

Senate President Pro-Tem Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), spoke to us and promptly returned to the budget session. He has been quoted as saying, *"This is not a time for finger pointing, for arguing who is to blame. We want to assure Californians that we are going to solve this problem."* How they will stitch it together is your guess and mine.

Now the good news. The next day on January 14th, the bill to reauthorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) passed in the U.S. House of Representatives (289-139).

On January 29th it passed in the U.S. Senate (66-32). You had all received notice from ELCA-E Advocacy Network to call Senators Boxer and Feinstein on 1/16/09. Apparently you did——Great Work.

Please write, call or e-mail your state assembly member, senator and the governor urging them to remember the poor when they make budget decisions. Urge them to support tax and fee options which spread the sacrifice while avoiding the harshest consequences for those who depend on a public safety net for the necessities of living.

Blessings,
Violet Quist

[editor's note; excuse the delay in getting this article out in the Pacifica Partners].

CELL PHONE VS. BIBLE



Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of an emergency?

This is something to make you go...hmm...where is my BIBLE?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think where are my priorities? And no dropped calls!

CONCENTRATE ON THIS SENTENCE.....

'To get something you never had, you have to do something you never did.' When God takes something from your grasp, He's not punishing you, but merely opening your hands to receive something better.

'The will of God will never take you where the grace of God will not protect you.'

Something good will happen to you today, something that you have been waiting to hear.

New program resources

Over the next year, Women of the ELCA will be rolling out many new resources to help you grow in faith and serve others. Some will be best for small groups, and others will be more individual in nature. All will be found on our Web site, www.womenoftheelca.org.

Look for something new every month! (If you are not able to go online and download our resources, give us a call at 800-638-3522, ext. 2730, and we'll be happy to print up a copy and drop it in the mail.)

Looking into the Mirror: A Lenten Reflection

Lent is about looking into the mirror. Not the compact in your purse or the mirror above the bathroom sink but a metaphorical mirror, the kind that we hold up to our souls. Lent is a time to lay open and bear before God our very lives, including all the things we hide from others and even try to hide from ourselves.

Looking into the mirror: a Lenten reflection invites you to use the Lenten season to refocus your faith life and realign your relationship with God. It is designed to take about 60 minutes but could be expanded by incorporating scripture readings or allowing more time for reflection and discussion. The discussion questions will work best in small groups, though the resource can also be used independently.

Sacred Spaces

Just as good nutrition and exercise are part of how you care for your body, a personal sacred space for prayer, meditation, and spiritual thought can be a part of your spiritual self-care that enriches and supports within a community of faith.

Sacred Spaces provides a helpful framework for creating personal sacred space. You will learn how to select and create your sacred space, set aside and dedicated to your growth and/or healing, whether that space is a whole room, a quiet corner of a room, or your garden. This resource is individual in nature, though it could certainly generate lively discussion.

Will there be triennium theme resources?

Women of the ELCA technically no longer has triennium themes. This decision was made with the churchwide executive board in the planning for the 2008 Triennial Gathering last July.

The reasoning is that between the organization's mission and purpose statements, and an ongoing health initiative, we already have a deep well to draw from to create programs and to develop resources for women's ministry. It also has been

the experience of the churchwide organization that by the time everyone is really living into a theme, it is just about time to change it again.

By focusing on our mission and purpose statements, everyone will know Women of the ELCA as an community of women committed to acting boldly on our faith—our mission—and to growing in faith, affirming gifts, and supporting one another—our purpose. “But we really liked the Come to the Waters theme for the Triennial Gathering. What if we want to use it, or expand on it in some way, for a synodical convention, or a retreat, or some other event or program? Can we do that?” Absolutely! If Come to the Waters or a variation on it works for you, you are free to have a Come to the Waters-like theme. It's an easy theme to connect to our mission and purpose statements in your programming. The only real change that has come about is that the churchwide expression will not be creating resources specifically tied to a triennium theme. Resources that are in development over the next year and beyond will all be focused on all the ways we act boldly on our faith, live out our purpose statement, and become physically, emotionally, and spiritually healthy women.

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There's still time to take part in the cell phone recycling challenge!

Women of the ELCA has teamed up with the Women's Funding Network and the Good Deed Foundation to **recycle 250,000 cell phones by May 1, 2009!** Money raised through the recycling campaign will be used to:

1. Support programs that lift women and families out of poverty;
2. Help provide lasting solutions to climate change, a major contributor to poverty worldwide; and
3. Provide 911 emergency phones for senior citizens and people at risk.

In the United States alone, more than **half a billion** cell phones are no longer being used and are ready for recycling, and another **11 million** phones are added to that total every month!

Visit the Women of the ELCA page on the Good Deed Web site to recycle your old cell phones! Go to www.gooddeedfoundation.org/welca to request a postage paid recycling envelope and collection boxes.

A letter from our churchwide president and executive director.

As the churchwide president and executive director of Women of the ELCA, we would like to thank you for all the ways you have supported Women of the ELCA over the past year.



We are proud to highlight just a few of the things that the churchwide organization, through your support, accomplished in 2008:

- \$25,000 was given to Augusta Victoria Hospital in Palestine as part of the 20th Anniversary Offering.
- \$49,467 was given to a clean water project in Zimbabwe as part of the 20th Anniversary Offering and the 7th Triennial Convention Offering.
- \$24,467 was given to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for its work in combating human trafficking as part of the 7th Triennial Convention Offering.
- Scholarships were awarded to 24 women, helping them as they grow in faith and service through further education.
- Grants were made to 28 domestic and 8 international groups, helping those groups expand their varied ministries to women and girls.

Amazing things were also done in our 64 synodical women's organizations and in our more than 7,000 congregation-based and special units.

Your generosity is astounding, but it is not surprising: Together we stand in a long line of faith-filled Lutheran women who have combined their financial resources and brought about transformation for women and girls and for their families and communities.

Today we write to you, however, not as the churchwide president and executive director but as two Christian Lutheran women who believe in this organization so wholeheartedly that we come before you to ask that you increase your financial support of the churchwide organization.

We know that many of you are wondering about your financial futures. We also know that many of our sisters around the globe are wondering if they can feed their families today. Who will feel the financial crisis now spreading through our world? Women and girls, especially those who are marginalized. Who will respond to those needs? We will. Women like you. Women like us.

We ask you to consider how much greater your capacity for giving may be. We ask you to double your giving to Women of the ELCA in 2009.

We know this is a bold request, but we also know that women and girls here at home and around the globe are looking to us in this time of great need. Together we can create a better world for them.

Your gift to Women of the ELCA is much more than a donation. It is an investment in bold women leaders who are bringing about healing and wholeness in the church, society, and world.

Please join us in supporting the churchwide organization of Women of the ELCA. By increasing your giving, you reaffirm your connection with and commitment to the mission that we carry out together.

Beth Wrenn
Churchwide President

Linda Post Bushkofsky
Executive Director

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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 mamograms 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)

If you know of a website that would be of interest to others feel free to let me know inclusion in this area.

E-mail to helen.riggs1@verizon.net

The Deadline is.....

May 1, 2009 *Pacifica Partners 2008*

PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2009 Synodical Board Members

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