



PACIFICA PARTNERS

Pacifica Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Helen Riggs, Editor

MARCH 2009

Volume 19, Number 3

MARCH GATHERING AT HOPE LUTHERAN, TEMECULA MARCH 7, 2009



Martha (better known as Therese Moore)

Some ladies enjoying their coffee



Bible Study given by Pastor Gloria Espeseth

Jennifer Go, Investment Representative



Some of the Love Gifts for Alternatives to Domestic Violence

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, March 28, 2009—King of Kings, Oceanside, Harvest/Sonshine Clusters event 9:00 am—1:00 pm—Program—"WATCHERS ON THE HILL" Registration \$8.00

For information email Joan Bassett at
joanbassett24@cox.net

Saturday, April 18, 2009—St. Paul's Fullerton—Rejoice, Saddleback, Son & Surf Cluster Event—8:30 am \$6.00 payable at door includes Brunch/Breakfast—speaker will be Merle Bailey, Doctor of Divinity—Theme "The Church in Nigeria call Charlyn Travers 714-527-2114 for reservations

**Friday, April 24, 2009—Girls Night Out at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 4800 Irvine Center Dr. Irvine
Featuring: Nancy C. Anderson "Me and My Big Mouth"**

Saturday, September 19, 2009 "Bible Study in the OC" at Our Savior's in San Clemente 9:00 am—2:30 pm Cost \$20 includes lunch. Childcare available—Rev. Dr. Sarah Henrich, professor of New Testament at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, author of the 2009-2010 Bible Study. Watch for more information in the months ahead and for the registration form.

Saturday, October 3, 2009 Clairemont Lutheran in San Diego invites you to their special event "Beauty from Brokenness" starting at 2:00 pm. Mary James will be the guest speaker.



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.



"Balancing vs Centering: Faith, Family and Finances"

happened yesterday (3-7-09) and what a day it was! Martha (Therese Moore), Pastor Gloria Espeseth, Jennifer Go, Jackie Stewart, Lisa Castilone, and Pastor Heidi Hester – teaching, challenging, thought provoking, educating, and inspiring. Acknowledging our fears and anxiety but calming tips and info plus reminders of whose we are and where we are centered. Fellowship with breakfast prepared by the women of Hope and around a pasta bar lunch catered by Apple Spice. The outpouring of Love gifts for Alternatives to Domestic Violence. Lovely tables prepared by our SWO board. Women attending from Chula Vista to Victorville and everywhere in between. Some who have not attended an event in a long while, faithful members who are always there, new ones for whom this was a new experience.

We did not have an evaluation form at the event yesterday. But if you were there, we would love to hear from you. What did you like best? Did it meet your expectations? What touched you the most? What did you learn? What ideas (topics, location, etc) might you have for the next time? Email me at eunicehanson@cox.net or drop me a note at 3627 Cerro Ave, Oceanside CA 92056.

And your Pacifica Women of the ELCA board will continue to work to bring these day events to you on the first Saturday in March and the first Saturday in November. Mark your personal calendars and mark your church calendars so we don't have conflicting events. Personally invite more women, specific women – there are so many more who have not experienced what we are really all about and how that can make a difference in their lives and in their serving.

November 7th is the day. We are planning a day very different from yesterday though worship and fellowship will be a part. The very basic schedule will begin with worship, move to a convention without walls/servant event, and close with an early banquet. It will be in the Inland Empire and we are exploring ideas in the Redlands area or the San Bernardino area. We are planning to work closely with our very young women especially with the servant event. And we will have fun with perhaps some surprises in learning from and about each other.

Yesterday we also began what I hope will be an ongoing process of sharing who we are and what we do as

congregational units. As I mentioned last month, our executive director is on sabbatical and is gathering a history of our organization and collecting stories from units. When she emailed me asking for units in our area that she might visit, I realized I really did not know your unit stories. Furthermore, I realized that in sharing these stories, units that feel they are struggling may gain new ideas and insight and know that they are not alone but neither are they powerless and can in fact become revitalized. Several women filled out the form I provided yesterday and handed it back to me. Thank you!! Included in this newsletter is the form with the basic questions – download it either from the newsletter or our web site and type as much or as little as you would like, to answer the question of what your unit is about. Again it can be mailed or emailed.

Give me a little more time to compile the ones I have received – but I will find a way to begin sharing and keep on sharing these ideas. It may be part of this newsletter and/or a separate section of the newsletter. And we likely will place them in a separate section on the web site as well. And if you see your unit highlighted, don't think you cannot share again. Try something and let us know what you tried and how it worked.

STILL CHALLENGING YOU TO KEEP ON ACTING BOLDLY IN CHRIST!
Eunice

There were 115 women who registered and the winner of the highest attendance was Faith, Sun City with 12, followed by Eden, Riverside with 9. Since Hope, Temecula was the host they did have 15 women present./



Greetings from your Pacific Synod WELCA Treasurer:

Since the fiscal year for Pacifica Women of the ELCA ended January 31, 2009, I would like to report how well we did this past year. **I would personally like to THANK all those Congregational Units that provided support** so that we can keep pace with our budget. In reference to our Benevolence giving, highlights are that We have contributed \$7852.83 (50%) of \$14562.94 of our Unit Offerings, \$625.03 of cluster events, \$2591.64 of Convention Offerings and \$3000.00 for our Triennial Offering to the Churchwide Organization-Women of the ELCA which is in Chicago. This enables them to support their churchwide ministries. In addition, your Pacifica SWO Board at their February board meeting voted to send an additional \$1500.00 offering to Women of the ELCA.



For all this I offer a prayer:

Almighty God:
you give seed for us to sow,
and bread for us to eat;
make us thankful for what we have received;
make us rich to do those generous things
which supply your people's needs;
so all the world may give you thanks and glory.
Amen.

May we continue to **ACT BOLDLY** in 2009.

Blessings,
Andrea Campbell
Pacifica WELCA Treasurer

A Word of Thanks....

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you..." These beautiful words of Paul in his letter to the Philippians, are a profound reflection of my feelings about you, dear sisters in Christ! I so very much appreciate your remembrance of me, once you learned of my struggle with cancer. Your thoughtful cards, notes, phone calls, prayer shawls and quilt touch my heart. Your prayers sustain and uplift me.

URGENT MEMO

To: All Pacifica WELCA Unit Treasurers

From: Andrea Campbell, Pacifica WELCA Treasurer

Recently received notice from Women of the ELCA church-wide office in Chicago that some of our Congregational Units are sending their "Offering Transmittal Form A" to Chicago in error.

Please ladies send this form A with your congregational regular offerings to me, Andrea Campbell at my address below. Per phone calls I have received recently regarding these hard economical times, these offering are acceptable to be sent monthly, quarterly, semi-annual or as your congregational unit decides upon. Contact me for more forms or you can go on-line at

www.womenoftheelca.org and click on link titled "Resources". Also, your latest Stewardship guide that each church received recently has a supply of these transmittal forms.

As we continue our partnership with God, we have a purpose and mission. God is always close by to help us.

I thank all you Pacifica women for being faithful, for serving and for using your time, talents and treasures.

Blessings,

Andrea Campbell, Pacifica WELCA Treasurer
6555 Jaluit Street
Cypress, CA 90630

Telephone (714) 891-2556

I thank God for each of you, and for the joy of knowing you and serving with you. Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers as you continue to minister to and for God's people as Women of the ELCA.

*Blessings and love,
Yvonne Bertolet*



Being Bold Women: We Don't Have to Look Far

As part of being a member of the Women of the ELCA Synodical Board, we have been asked to write about being a Bold Woman. I was in a quandary as to what I could write about (after all, I don't usually write anything any more unless it's a quick email, a grocery list or making nursing notes at work).

In the beginning of February we had the first meeting of the Board at our new Synod Office. Because it was around the time of Valentine's Day, our president, Eunice started the meeting by asking us to each talk a little about our families and how they relate to the theme of "love". As each woman shared around the table, it became apparent to me that almost every one of us had some example of current trials or stresses within our families. There were a wide range of problems (including my own) from health issues to custody battles to blended families. Within each of these stories were themes of love, strength and faith in God. Each and every one of us (not just the Board), in our own way and in our own lives are Bold Women who are dealing with the stresses of this society and this economy. We are not only working to hold our families together but we are also continuing to actively promote and pronounce the love and greatness of our Lord and Savior.

As you read the March issue of "Lutheran Woman Today" you will or have already seen many examples of wonderful bold and brave women serving our church and our Lord. There are wonderful examples of women as missionaries, women from history, our new president and other women working in the Women of the ELCA church wide organization, etc. On almost every page you can find an example of a Bold Woman (don't forget Esther!). We can easily see how these women were or are bold in their faith and in their community but we also cannot ignore each and every one of us in our "ordinary" lives. Praise God for our Wonderful, Bold Women in our own homes and Christian communities!

Thanks be to God!
Sue Bodenschatz



Meet Sherri Kreissig—New Board Member

I am a child of God trying to use the gifts He has given me, to His Glory.

I am a wife, to my high school sweetheart, Mike and Mom to 4 beautiful and talented children, plus three beautiful, talented children that married into our family, and five beautiful, adorable grandbabies. I am the baby of a very large extended family whom I love very much. I am a singer/actor in my Worship Ministry, President of the Women's Ministries and Founder of the Women's Retreats at Hope Lutheran Church in Temecula. And now I am a board member of the Women of the ELCA Pacifica Synodical Board.

I love my family and friends with intensity and passion and will forever.

Blessings....Sherri Kreissig

THANK YOU SO MUCH

Margaret and Jack Volkmann which to express their deepest thanks to all those who have been praying for their son, Brad. He is home but is still very weak and is on disability and not "getting better faster" which of course is frustrating. They ask for continued prayers for him and his family.

Special thanks go to: Ruth Bergstrom, Becky Shurson, the women at St. Marks, Chula Vista who made Brad a beautiful prayer quilt. To all those who have sent cards and wishes and prayers, the family is very appreciative for this generous expression of love and concern.



PASS IT ON
By Mary Klouise Kitsen

It was Easter, but this particular Sunday I was far away from my native new England, in Honolulu, Hawaii. I was certain as I walked slowly from my hotel to church. Would it really seem like Easter in a strange city and a strange church? I missed being home.

As I entered Kawaihoa Church, I was awed by the clean, simple beauty of the building as well as by the sheer glory of the magnificent flowers which filled every available bit of space. The members of the University of Hawaii concert choir filled several long rows in the large church. Their faces were delightfully youthful, glowing and fresh—I could not even guess how many races were represented.

As my eyes went from face to face, I understood what made Hawaii such a special state—so many backgrounds, so many rich heritages.

When the time arrived for the choir to sing, the director stepped forward with his pitch pipe. He approached the girl on the end of the first row and blew the tone of the pitch pipe softly into her ear. At once the girl hummed the same true note into the ear of the girl next to her. In turn that young lady caught the tone and sounded it to her neighbor. As choir member passed it to choir member, the sound of the note grew louder and clearer and lovely to hear. I felt tears spring into my eye.

When the music was over, the minister stepped forward and asked that we bow our heads in prayer, "Let us follow the example of these young people from the university choir," he prayed. "Let us, each and everyone, allow God to sound a true note of Christianity into our ear and then let us pass this note on to the one next to use so that in time the note will be heard throughout the world."

Suddenly I was sure it was Easter! And you know—of course it's my imagination—but whenever I speak out for the Lord since that day, I seem to hear that clear note, growing as it is passed on.

May the Lord guide you, protect you and be with you this Easter and always.

[Shared by Andrea Campbell—from *Guideposts*.]

**"Bible Study in the OC"
at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in
San Clemente**

**Saturday, September 19, 2009
9:00 AM - 2:30 PM**

A time for Bible Study, Friends, Fellowship and Food

Join the ladies of Our Savior's in welcoming

**Rev. Dr. Sarah Henrich, professor of New Testament at
Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota
and author of the 2009-2010 Lutheran Woman
Today Bible Study**

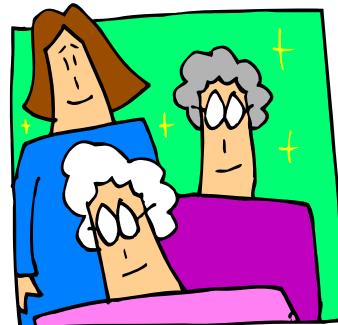
as she introduces

**"To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the
Romans"**

Cost: \$20.00 Childcare available Please register by: September 1st

Questions? Contact Kelly Frohner at 949-361-2331 andrewsmom@prodigy.net

[The registration form will appear in a later issue of Pacifica Partners....this is just for your information and to save the date.]



UNIT IDEAS

CHURCH NAME/CITY: _____

YOUR NAME: _____

WOMEN'S MINISTRY GROUPS: _____

ORGANIZATION MODEL: _____

EVENTS: _____

TELL US WHAT YOUR UNIT DOES THAT MAKES IT SPECIAL

Mail or Email to:
Eunice Hanson
3627 Cerro Avenue
Oceanside CA 92056
eunicehanson@cox.net

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 Bledsoe 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)

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.....

April 1, 2009 Pacifica Partners 2008



PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2009 Synodical Board Members

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V ice President **Juli Patten**
84-740 Kili Dr. #1123, Waianae, HI 96792
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Secretary **Becky Shurson**
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Treasurer **Andrea Campbell**
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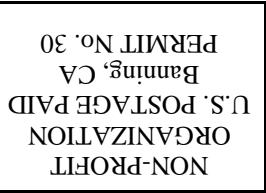


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Dated Material—Please Do Not Delay
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