



PACIFICA PARTNERS

Pacifica Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Helen Riggs, Editor

FEBRUARY

Volume 19, Number 2

Balancing Vs. Centering: Faith, Family and Finances

"Mary's chosen the better part." Luke 10:42b

*March 7, 2009
Hope Temecula
2941 Vallejo Ave.*

Come hear **Pastor Gloria Espeseth** who will lead us in our Bible Study. Pastor Gloria is from Gethsemane Lutheran in San Diego. She has been an active supporter of the Women's organization and she has come to several of our events in the past. We look forward to having her with us in March.



Pastor Heidi Hester of Shepherd of the Hills, Whittier will serve as our Chaplain and lead closing worship. Pastor Heidi has been with us at a past conventions and we look forward to having her with us in March.

There will be more surprises and opportunities at this March Gathering so it's something you don't want to miss. Remember to get your registration in before February 20th and save \$5.00. Bring a car load of women from your unit. You won't be disappointed. So we'll see you there on March 7th at Hope, Temecula.

HAVE YOU CHOSEN THE BETTER PART?

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**March 7, 2009 March Gathering at Hope, Temecula
Balancing vs. Centering**

8:00 am to 4:00 pm lunch included in price

See registration form in back of this newsletter

**April 18, 2009 Cluster Spring Event will be held at St.
Paul's Lutheran Church, Fullerton**

For more information: 714-879-8290

**April 24, 2009 Girl's Night Out at L.A.F.F. held at Good
Shepherd, 4800 Irvine Center Dr., Irvine**

\$10.00 donation taken at door. Info: 949-552-1918

**This month featuring Nancy Anderson- "Me and My Big
Mouth" *How to stop nag-active communication.***



* **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”

is happening soon! There are two articles written by Wanda in this issue regarding Love gifts and the panel we will have as part of our program for the day. Becky sent out the article which includes a list of items needed as Love gifts when she sent the email that the January issue was ready on the web site. So hopefully, you have had a chance to begin collecting the items. We always have an outpouring of Love with our gifts – I am always totally amazed.



“Martha” will begin our day and then keep us on track throughout. You will enjoy her! Pastor Gloria Espeseth will then present our Bible study on our theme and theme verse: “Mary has chosen the better part” from Luke 10:42b. If you’ve ever heard Pastor Gloria before, you know her Bible study will be well worth hearing.

Our next part of the day will be a panel on our theme of Faith, Family, and Finances. Wanda’s second article in this issue is a conversation with one of the panelists she has invited.

We will of course have lunch and a time for visiting and fellowship. This will be followed by a presentation from the domestic abuse organization – and Wanda talks about that in her article that lists the items you can bring.

The “business segment” this year will be a power point presentation. Many have still wanted and miss the “nuts and bolts” instructions for officers that we traditionally had in January. I’ve been looking for a new and better way to do this. Am hoping to get across the resources that are available that give the specific instructions as well as discuss how our units can and should be changing. I keep hearing how units are struggling and maybe this will give some ideas and insight. I’d also like you to come prepared to share something that is happening in your unit. Because I will only have about an hour, we likely will not be able to hear from all. But those that are not able to share that day and/or think of something later, I would like to ask you to email or even “snail mail” me your story. I will then find a way to share these stories/ideas/etc later. And if this power point turns out to be something I can come to your unit and share, I’ll be happy to do so.

One reason I’m asking this is that our churchwide director is currently on a sabbatical and is working on a history of our Women of the ELCA. She is visiting southern CA this week and earlier emailed me asking for specific units that might have a unique ministry, outreach program, ecumenical effort, etc. I didn’t have an immediate answer for her as I really did not know your individual stories. We may not get your

stories in her history, but I think they are worth sharing now so that our units know what is happening and what can happen in our organization in our part of the world in Pacifica Synod..

Pastor Heidi Hester has accepted our invitation to come and be our chaplain for the day and lead us in closing worship. You may have heard her at a synod assembly – especially in relationship to music and our new ELW. She is a pastor at Shepherd of the Hills in Whittier.

So COME! And invite others! The cost is only \$25 for the day and the registration form is also in this issue. Our board members are now mentors to units – they are willing to answer questions or get you answers to questions. They will encourage you in ways of letting all women in your congregations know what our organization is all about. In previous articles I have mentioned how our synod cannot get the word to every woman, we rely on the units to help us do that. I’ve spoken to a few of you individually about this. I know many of our units are putting information on bulletin boards and in newsletters etc. Some are not. But then I’m getting the response that we can get the word out but still we cannot force “them” to come. I’m thinking maybe we are forgetting a very key element – specific invitation! When we talk evangelism we hear over and over that new members come because they were invited. Not invited in a general announcement or bulletin/newsletter/flyer invitation but personally invited. So I challenge each of you to pick one woman you think would benefit from our organization, or you see as a leader in other ways, or a woman you’d like to get to know better – and personally invite her to come with you to this March event.

Because I “grew up” in the organization, when I married and moved from my home area, I think I would have found a circle on my own. But I was personally invited and then picked up by a fellow member. It guaranteed that I would get in the habit of attending as a young wife and mother. In my current home congregation, our unit has intentionally invited someone other than a “regular” to serve on our coordinating board. Our delegate to convention has been chosen and invited in that same manner. And we have worked to support a second first time attendee – again by personal invitation. It does not mean that your first invitation will reap immediate rewards – but you plant the seed and that is what we are all called to do. In attending, perhaps that seed will be watered, but always remember only God can give the growth! 1 Corinthians 3:6

AS ALWAYS, ACTING BOLDLY IN CHRIST!
Eunice

Faith...Finances...Family

Focus On Mission by Wanda Scott Bledsoe

Is There Room In Your Heart? Do You Have Money To Spare?

You, the Pacifica Women of the ELCA are known to have hearts as big as the California sky, as bright as the sun and as deep as the Pacific Ocean. All you want to know is “What organization needs our help?” This year since we will be meeting at Hope Temecula on March 7th (from 8 am-4 pm), we have chosen Alternatives To Domestic Violence, an organization that serves women and children in Temecula and throughout Riverside County, as our mission organization. We will be sure to identify like organizations in your communities.

Here are just a few statistics to give you an idea of the magnitude of the problem and the need for your generosity. Did you know:

- *One in every four women* will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.
- In 2005, 389,100 women and 78,180 men were victimized by an intimate partner. These crimes accounted for 9 percent of all violent crime.
- Of female murder victims, 33.4% were killed by their husbands or boyfriends; 2.4% of male murder victims were killed by their wives or girlfriends.
- An estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.
- The majority (73%) of family violence victims are female. Females were 84% of spousal abuse victims and 86% of abuse victims at the hands of a boyfriend.
- Boys who witness domestic violence are twice as likely to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults.
- Of female murder victims in 2005, 33.4% were killed by their husbands or boyfriends. In contrast, 2.4% of male victims were murdered by their wives or girlfriends.

Who is Lisa Castilone? Lisa is the coordinator for our Temecula office of Alternatives To Domestic Violence and has been with the organization since 2005. Lisa is a survivor of domestic violence herself and is the mother of six children. She is currently chipping away at her dream of becoming a Marriage and Family Therapist. Lisa is especially gifted in the use of art as a way of healing and will bring with her a display that will touch your heart beyond belief.

(Con't on page 5)

(Con't from page 4)

Pacifica Women on the Cutting Edge During the past several years, we have worked hard to make sure we presented programming that allowed you to look at the latest, most current issues through as Bishop Finck put it, "The Luther Lens." The latest issue in the realm of domestic violence is one that has been featured on The Today Show and that is Abuse in Teen Relationships.

Information you need as a mother, grandmother, aunt, friend Lisa Castilone is also the Vice Chair of the *Teen Dating Violence Prevention Task Force* in Temecula. She will be sharing the latest information and legislation regarding teens in abusive dating relationships.

What would Mary do? What would Martha do? What will you do? For now, here is a list of items you can bring for the office and for the shelter:

Small children's socks, underwear, pajamas, diapers, wipes, Beautification items: make-up, hair products, Gift Cards, Gas Cards, Art Supplies for Healing Art Classes (crayons, markers, glitters pens, ribbon, glue)

WHEW! Another "Not To Be Missed Event" Last year, a guest came up to me and said she had been invited by her neighbor and told she had to come because it was sure to be an event she wouldn't want to miss. She said she wasn't disappointed. I like her neighbor's attitude and faith. Hopefully we, your Event Planning Team, have earned your trust so you can reach out to women young and old in your congregation, your neighborhood and at work and say, "You have just got to come with me on March 7th. This is an event you won't want to miss!"

See you there... along with your guests. I'll make sure to set up some extra tables for you.

SAVE THE DATE more information to come.....

**"Bible Study in the OC"
at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in
San Clemente
Saturday, September 19, 2009**

Being a BOLD Woman

Sometimes being a bold woman is easy, bossing your children and or husband through the daily chores of our busy lives, but sometimes it takes us out of our comfort zone. In the November newsletter I read the article about Bold Women's day and felt sure there was something on that list that little old me could do.

Call for a DVD, well that wasn't difficult but it didn't seem like I would have to try out my new bold persona for that, I called. I scheduled a screening during one of our Wednesday night bible studies. Wow the first one and so easily accomplished I figured I was on a roll. Then I came up against number two-Use the Litany for Bold Women's Day. Go to my pastor and ask about this, yes I can do this but then ask the council and the congregation to use a special litany aimed at women instead of the tried and true, normal, ordinary, usual one!

They are all Christians, Lutherans even but this would be a challenge. My congregation can be a little stuck in their stuff also known as traditions. Throw in a new song whew! The reaction can be downright negative. But my calling is to be a bold woman in Christ and I am determined that nothing, not even tradition will stand in my way. So I asked and lo and behold Maluhia Lutheran in Waianae, Hawaii will be celebrating February 22nd with the Bold women's litany and we will recognize bold women in our church.

I encourage you to try and find your "BOLD" and just do it. WE are strong, capable, nurturing women united by our faith. Aloha from one bold woman in Hawaii!

*Juli Patten
Vice Presidenet*

Just some little thoughts.....

*If you're too open minded, your brains will fall out.
Don't worry about what people think; they don't do it very often.*

*Going to a church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.
My idea of housework is to sweep the room with a glance.*

*It is easier to get forgiveness than permission.
A balanced diet is a cookie in each hand.*

Women of the ELCA

We've Planned The Best For The Best

Panelist...Faith Family Finances

He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted Isaiah 61

Jackie Stewart is a licensed marriage and family therapist who works for Lutheran Social Services and has had an office at Hope Temecula since 1966.

Wanda: "Jackie, thank you for agreeing to be a panelist on our Balancing vs Centering Faith-Family-Finances panel?"

Jackie: "I am so glad you asked me, Wanda. The minute I heard your theme and your theme verse, ideas started popping in my head."

Wanda: "Just how do you see the two being related, Jackie?"

Jackie: "It seems as if women today have additional challenges to the ones Martha faced in getting a meal on the table while making time to listen to the very important message Jesus had for she and her sister, Mary."

Wanda: "When the Convention Planning Team dreamed up the topic many months ago, we envisioned a discussion around how being centered in Christ would help us juggle our commitment to serving God, our families and perhaps having to help earn a living, manage the family, try to tithe and be sane enough to tell about it."

Jackie: "I understand. But now with every news media available preaching doom and gloom verified by those of us who have lost jobs, maybe even our homes and at a minimum have seen a drastic change in our way of living, the impact of this panel takes on new importance."

Wanda: "I couldn't agree with you more, Jackie. What do you see as your role on this panel? What will you be bringing to the table; pardon the pun?"

Jackie: "I want to bring a sense of hope, joy and faith to a society that seems to be more increasingly focused on gloom and doom. I am struck by the spirit of fear that is permeating our society. Your theme verse says a lot. Martha worried and Mary chose to focus on Christ. I can't wait to share with the women why worry is definitely not the way to go."

Wanda: "Jackie, I hadn't thought about our women possibly living in an environment of fear and uncertainty, maybe even questioning their faith as our economy continues to decline. I understand that fear can have a negative effect on our health and our relationships. Wow! I am sure our women will want to hear what you have to say. I can't wait to hear the questions they will have for you. Thank you for agreeing to share your time with us. Will there be an opportunity for some laughter in all of this?"

Jackie: "Absolutely! Wanda. I sure hope you are planning to invite women of all ages. It has been my experience that retired women will want to come, but the mothers of the children in your Sunday School and Youth programs might think they are too busy to come. I hope you and your board find a way to convince them otherwise. This sounds like a panel discussion women of all ages can't afford to miss. I am excited to see how the other two panelists, the pastor and the woman you mentioned who will be talking about wealth management will deal with this subject. I am particularly interested in how you will address the subject of giving back to God."

Jackie: "The pleasure is all mine, Wanda."

(Con't on page 7)

(Con't from page 6)

Wanda: "Making sure we pay God first in these economic times? Now that would make good sermon material. Hm. Jackie, the way you describe your take on this, I think even Martha and Mary would attend if they could. Thanks again, Jackie."

Jackie: "The pleasure is all mine, Wanda."

Wanda: "Our March Gathering is shaping up to be the best ever. I am challenging each unit to bring as many women outside your unit as you can. The unit with the most guests will be recognized in a special way. Don't worry about seating. I've already reserved some extra tables for you. This is a program for today's challenges met by a faith that stands the test of time.

"See you there and if I don't, come up and let me know you made it. Oh, be sure to introduce me to the guest you bring."

tivity. After 15 years, they still had not completed it. They were more concerned about building their own homes than finishing God's work. Haggai told them to get their priorities straight.

IMPORTANCE: It is easy to make other priorities more important than doing God's work. But God wants us to follow through and build up his Kingdom. Don't stop and don't make excuses. Set your heart on what is right and do it. Get your priorities straight.

God's Encouragement

EXPLANATION: Haggai encouraged the people as they worked. He assured them of the divine presence of the Holy Spirit and of final victory, and instilled in them the hope that the Messiah would reign.

IMPORTANCE: If God gives you a task, don't be afraid to get started. His resources are infinite. God will help you complete it by giving you encouragement from others along the way.

*From New Living Translation – Life Application Bible
Submitted by Dona Jenkins*

Glimpse Into the Bible: Haggai

Pressures, demands, expectations, and tasks push in from all sides and assault our schedules. Do this! Be there! Finish that! Call them! It seems as though everyone wants something from us – family, friends, employer, school, church, and clubs. Soon there is little left to give, as we run out of energy and time. We find ourselves rushing through life, attending to the necessary, the immediate, and the urgent. The important is all too often left in the dust. Our problem is not the volume of demands or lack of scheduling skill, but values – what is *truly* important to us.

Our values and priorities are reflected in how we use our resources – time, money, strength, and talent. Often our actions belie our words. We say God is number one, but then we relegate him to a lesser number on our "to do" lists.

Twenty-five centuries ago, a voice was heard, calling men and women to the right priorities. Haggai knew what was important and what had to be done, and he challenged God's people to respond.

Megathemes

Right Priorities

EXPLANATION: God had given the Jews the assignment to finish the Temple in Jerusalem when they returned from cap-

You will be filled... Jeremiah 31:14

Your soul will be satisfied with God's goodness.

He will sustain you, no matter the situation. He will pour into you as you are poured out. You won't run empty. Don't trust in your strength, trust His. There is no end to His goodness!



Lutheran Office of Public Policy Update

By Violet Quist

Funding for health and human services, especially safety net programs for people living in poverty, will continue to be a top priority for the L.O.P.P. in California for 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 it's 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, MediCal for the poor, and cost of living allowances for the elderly, blind, disabled, and CalWorks (for poor families and children.)

Senate President Pro-Term 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 re-authorize the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) passed in the U.S. House of Representative (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 1/26/09. Apparently you did - - - Great Work!

Please write, call, or email 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.



Executive director Linda Post Bushkofsky is spending her sabbatical visiting Women of the ELCA in congregations all over the country.

Read along on her blog as she captures stories of bold ministry in congregations just like yours. Is there a congregation you think she should visit? Let her know!



A NEW WAY TO GROW!

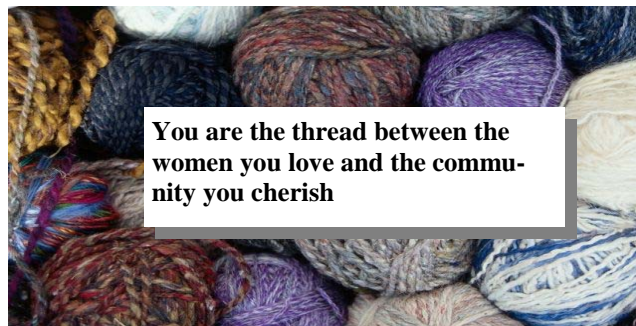
Have you considered becoming an individual partner? It's a whole new way to grow! Make some you know an individual partner in Women of the ELCA.

Women of the ELCA means a lot to you. Here you find fellowship, friendship, and support. Are there important women in your life looking for these same things? They could be your daughters, granddaughters, sisters, nieces, or friends. Now you can offer them a new way to connect to Women of the ELCA!

For only \$20 a year, you can give someone the gift of an individual partnership. The recipient receives a one-year subscription to *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, a subscription to Café, and semi-annual newsletter, and access to Bible studies, global networks, advocacy efforts, and other resources.

The legacy of her gift can provide a way for her to deepen her faith an to continue the work of Women of the ELCA for generations to come.

For more information please call 800-638-3522 ext. 2730 or log onto www.womenoftheelca.org



You are the thread between the women you love and the community you cherish

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.....

March 1, 2009 *Pacifica Partners 2009*

PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2009 Synodical Board Members

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Registration

“Balancing vs Centering: Faith, Family and Finances”

“Mary has chosen the better part.” Luke 10:42b

March 7, 2009 – Hope Lutheran, Temecula

Early-Bird-postmark by 2/20	\$25	This event is from 8 am – 4 pm and includes continental breakfast & lunch.
Postmark after 2/20	\$30	

Please make check payable to:

Pacifica Women of the ELCA

Mail to:

**Eunice Hanson
3627 Cerro Avenue
Oceanside, CA 92056**

760-945-9716 home, 760-717-2646 cell

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Please Print: (or affix an address label)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: () _____ - _____ Email: _____

Church: _____ Church City: _____

PURITY OF LIFE

You may see this before, but it's always a good reminder for us.

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees the neighbor hang up wash outside.

"That laundry is not very clean, she said, she doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs another laundry soap."

The husband looked on, but remained silent.

Every time her neighbor would hand out the wash, the young woman would make the same comment. About one month later, the woman was surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and said to her husband, "Look, she has learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her?"

Her husband said, "I got up early this morning and washed the windows."

And so it is with life: What we see while watching others, depends on the purity of the window through which we look.



THE GIRLS IN MY CIRCLE

When I was little, I used to believe in the concept of one best friend, and then I started to become a woman. And then I found out that if you allow your heart to open up, you will be shown the best, in many friends.

One friend is needed when you're going through things with your partner. Another friend is needed when you're going through things with your parents. Another will sit beside you in the bleachers as you delight in your children and their activities.

Another when you want to shop, share, heal, hurt, joke, or just be. One friend will say, 'Let's cry together,' another, 'Let's fight together,' another, 'Let's walk away together.'

One friend will meet your spiritual need, another your shoe fetish, another your love for movies, another will be with you in your season for confusion, another will be your clarifier, another the wind beneath your wings.

But whatever their assignment in your life, on whatever the occasion, on whatever the day, or wherever you need them to meet you with their gym shoes on and hair pulled back, or to hold you back from making a complete fool of yourself...those are your best friends. It may be wrapped up in one woman, but for many, it's wrapped up in several.....

one from 6th grade,
one from high school,
some from the college years,
a couple from old jobs,
on some days your mother,
on some days your neighbor,
on others, your sisters, cousins, and
on some days, your daughters.





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Banning, CA 92220-6459