



PACIFICA PARTNERS

Pacifica Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Helen Riggs, Editor

January

Volume 19, Number 1

Pacifica Women of the ELCWA March Gathering



Balancing Vs. Centering: Faith, Family and Finances *"Mary has chosen the better part." Luke 10:42b*

Can You Have It All? Can You Do It All?
(Start with 40 days of transformational meditations to get ready)

Discover the answers in...

- A Bible Study led by Pastor Gloria Espeseth
- Workshops & Panels Linking Faith↔Family↔Finances
- Centering Worship
- A Relational Meal
- Faith↔Family↔Finance SWO Business Session
- Love Gifts From the Heart
- Benefiting Victims of Domestic Violence
- Guest Speakers "Saving Another Environment"
- 40 days of preparatory meditations prior to the event
- And a special appearance of Martha of Bethany

Be sure to save the date: **March 7, 2009**
and join us at **Hope Temecula!**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 23rd—L.A.F.F. nite in Irvine—featuring Lauren Kitchens “Building Your Balcony People”
7:15 p.m. at Good Shepherd, 4800 Irvine Center Dr. in Irvine—donation of \$10 taken at the door

March 7th - March gathering—see front page for information
Registration form on page 8

Created in the image of God: A Community of Women

Created in the Image of God: A Community of Women showcases Women of the ELCA groups across the country living out the mission of our organization and participating in our activities and ministries. Watch Video

If you would like a free DVD of *Created in the Image of God* to help you promote Women of the ELCA in your congregation or synod, call us at 800-638-3522, ext. 2737, or email. A discussion guide and poster are included



* **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.



Another new year has just begun!! So are you waiting “on pins and needles” to hear what other new things our Pacifica Women’s board has in store for you?? Love to keep reminding you that I promised as your president that I am a risk taker and change would happen. And I feel strongly that we have so much to offer as an organization and yet we have to keep changing to grow and strengthen for the lives of women in this world and nation are also changing.

First let me report our board voted via email from four different choices and it was decided that our current board will simply carry over an extra year until our next convention in 2010. While a few of us will serve longer than is “legal”, churchwide concurred that there have been situations where that has happened. It easily is the most clear way of making the transition from annual to biannual conventions.

“Balancing vs Centering: Faith, Family and Finances” will happen March 7th at Hope Lutheran in Temecula. It will be another full one day event that you won’t want to miss. With the current economy and how it affects all of us, this event will provide practical help and guidance and of course a chance for all of us to give back with Love gifts to a domestic violence organization in the Temecula area. Stress from money problems often means even more domestic violence. This newsletter is being produced before our planning team for the event meets again – so the Feb issue will have specifics for Love gifts – but also watch the web site, www.pacificawomen.org, and we likely will send an email to get that information out.

Pastor Gloria Espeseth will lead us in Bible study. Many of you likely have heard her and know that she will make our theme come alive. When she was invited, she responded that family and finances was a topic she could do well. We have not heard from her in quite a while so it is a treat to have her back with us! And again we will close the day with worship to send us on our way.

In between we will have workshops and/or a panel regarding financial planning and how stress about \$\$ affects the family. Those details are being worked out but the wheels are busily turning to make it interesting and informative and so very appropro to what is happening in our lives in our world today.

The flyer also promised SWO business. Last year we held a

workshop designed to make resolutions more understood and show you how easy they can be to create. This year we will respond to those who have been asking for some nuts and bolts about how a unit and its leaders operates – but of course in a new way. A power point presentation will be developed to give some helpful pointers, show new ways units can operate, and much more. Cluster helps and information will also be included. In other words, not just for those in specific leadership roles, but for all to better understand how our organization can and does work for us.

So what will the day cost? Our team has not met again – but since I am usually the finance person, I will officially say the same as last year - \$25 for a wonderful day! Lunch and some type of morning repast will of course be included.

In the last issue I promised more follow up regarding evaluation responses to our convention in November. One thing was clear, worshipping in a sanctuary both on Sat and again with the host congregation was very much appreciated! When we have worshipped in a hotel, we simply have accepted that. But when we had the opportunity to worship together in a church, it was indescribable! Our chaplain and Bible study leader were marvelous. The internet workshop and Cherish Our Children workshop were both lauded. Many, many accolades for the young women’s program! Then yes, there were the expected comments about missing the ability to go to your hotel room and a staff to take care of you. Also, many still felt the cost should have been less in a church venue. There were some practical suggestions and comments as well.

Another comment that appeared a few times and several times from the board was to again have convention without walls. When the young women reported that they had gone on a prayer walk around Foothill Oak Elementary, some wondered why didn’t we do that?? Well, for one thing we didn’t think of it!! Sooooo, watch for developments for our November Event!! Official planning won’t begin till our new board meets in Feb and then again later in the summer – but there already are new visions for that event. Put November 7, 2009 on your personal calendar now! AND put it on your church and unit calendar!! No unit should be planning an event that weekend – the first weekend in November should always be reserved for Pacifica Women of the ELCA!

AS ALWAYS, ACTING BOLDLY IN CHRIST!
Eunice

New Board Members

I would like to introduce myself. I am Dona Jenkins and I was elected at the convention this year to serve as a Pacifica Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) of the Women of the ELCA (WELCA) board member.

My background related to church activities is very diverse. For the last 3 years, I have been the president of our unit at Eden Lutheran Church in Riverside. In this position, I have initiated yearly coordinating of mission projects, at least 2 per year. I am currently serving as the vice-president of our unit, volunteer coordinator, audit committee member, records retention team member, technology support team member, cluster coordinator and altar guild member.

Professionally, I have worked in positions in which I used my skills for information technology auditing, project management and computer programming.

In my free time, I enjoy gardening, shopping and playing with my new grandson.

I hope to get to know many of you, our Pacifica Synod Women. Together, we can work towards carrying out the purpose of the Women of the ELCA. Also, further spread His Word to the world and gladly be "In His Service".

Please feel free to contact me through email or phone –

dona.jenkins@pacificawomen.org OR (951) 784-1188

In His Service,
Dona Jenkins

My name is Sheri Berglund and I am excited to be a part of the Pacifica Synod WELCA Board. I was at the convention in 2007 in Anaheim and came home filled with spiritual energy, inspiration, strength and peace. We were a diverse community of women gathered together sharing our joys and sorrows through the loving embrace of the Holy Spirit.

I was baptized, confirmed and blessed as a high school graduate at Kingo Lutheran church in Fosston MN, population 2000. I remember feeling great validation and security throughout my youth within the community of our church. My peers felt like brothers and sisters, the adults made me feel safe as if they were my parents and the seniors in the church were all my grandparents and made me feel like I was the greatest kid ever. As a mother, it is important that my children are raised feeling the security, acceptance and spiritual connection that was so significant during my youth. As a woman, I have the model of my mother who has devoted herself to Kingo Lutheran church for 60 years. Whenever I hear women talking and laughing, I am reminded of my mother with her circle in the living room socializing over desert after their Bible study. When I am sitting in church admiring the beautiful banners I can see my mother and a group of women cutting and sewing pieces of material for a new banner. The mission work, organizing bake sales, potlucks, baby showers, wedding showers, meals for the grieving and homebound, sitting with the hospitalized and the list never ends. A never ending list accomplished by women working together in the loving embrace of the Holy Spirit resulting in strength for the children, the parents, the grandparents and the women of the church.

I am a wife, mother, gardener, book worm, music lover, lover of good movies, loyal friend, collector of antique glass and dreams of one day having the time and energy to manifest all of the creative ideas filed under "to do". I have worked as the business administrator of a pediatric clinic for the past 12 years.

My husband Eric, daughter Nicole (15 yrs), son Matthew (12 yrs) and I are members of the San Marcos Lutheran Church. We feel very blessed to be a part of this church and the loving community that it offers.



BEING BOLD

When each of the board members were asked to write an article about “Being a Bold Woman of Faith”, I thought and thought about the topic, hoping either a sudden or subtle idea would take hold in my mind. So... here I am and I will try to let you know about what being a bold woman of faith means to me, who are some bold women in my life and how we might look ahead for all of us to become bold women of faith.

Bold woman. I attend our women’s group book club meetings every month and it was interesting when I heard the different views of a strong or tough woman. Can a strong or tough woman also be a personable woman whom we respect and enjoy being her friend? Or, would a strong or tough woman be inherently an angry, bitter woman? I believe the former is true. A strong, tough and bold woman can also be respected and a joy to be with. Thus, bold, strong and tough can all be attributes of a bold woman.

Bold women in my life. Many of my friends who I consider bold women are those with actions that denote their intentions and ideas. For instance, my friend who is very involved with church activities uses her knowledge and experiences to share the Word in “being” an exemplary example of what and who I would see if I looked for Christ in others. Another good friend is always there with a bold outlook on determining how to be bold in awkward situations and passing that knowledge in my direction. These are a couple of bold, strong and tough women in my life.

Being a bold woman of faith. I believe when we use our talents and time to further our missions to being faithful bold women, we are demonstrating our strong and bold faith to others. What talents do you possess? We all have the simple gift of communicating. Whether it is through conversation, writing, drawing, photography and even emailing, we can make a difference in being that bold woman of faith. Let others see you grow in your faith, seek you out for an encouraging word or boldly declare that YOU are a bold woman of faith.

Dona Jenkins

Women of the ELCA grant applications now being accepted

Application materials for 2009 grants are available on our Web site. Any non-profit organization is eligible to apply. We accept proposals from both domestic and international not-for-profit organizations that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages. Both new and existing projects that do work in the areas of physical, emotional, and spiritual health for women are encouraged to apply. The grant application can be filled out online or downloaded from www.womenoftheelca.org. The deadline is February 17, 2009.

Make an offering to the grants program

A designated gift to the grants program goes **in total** to support our annual domestic and international grants. Our grants program represents one important way in which we fulfill our organizational commitment to “promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.” Your designated contribution will ensure that we can increase the number and dollar amount of grants to projects and agencies both here and around the world that are dedicated to education, health care, justice, and emboldening women and girls to live healthier lives. Make your check **payable to Women of the ELCA** and write *Grants Program* in your check memo line.

If we can be of any assistance during the 2009 funding process, please contact Emily Hansen at 800-638-3522 ext. 2736 or emily.hansen@elca.org. Emily Hansen is Women of the ELCA's program director for grants, scholarships, stewardship, and social justice related to wealth and poverty issues.

SHOES IN CHURCH

I showered and shaved...I adjusted my tie.
I got there and sat...In a pew just in time.

Bowing my head in prayer...As I closed my eyes.
I saw the shoe of the man next to me...Touching my own, I sighed.

With plenty of room on either side...I thought, "Why must our soles touch?"

It bothered me...His shoe touching mine...But it didn't bother him much.

A prayer began: "Our Father"...I thought, "This man with the shoes, has no pride. They're dusty, worn and scratched. Even worse, there are holes on the side!"

"Thank you for blessings," the prayer went on. The shoe man said....a quiet "Amen"

I tried to focus on the prayer...But my thoughts were on his shoes again.

Aren't we supposed to look our best...When walking through that door? "Well, this certainly isn't it," I thought. Glancing toward the floor.

Then the prayer was ended...And the songs of praise began. The shoe man was certainly loud...Sounding proud as he sang.

His voice lifted the rafters...His hands were raised high. The Lord could surely hear...The shoe man's voice from the sky.

It was time for the offering...And what I threw in was steep. I watched as the shoe man reached...into his pockets so deep.

I saw what was pulled out...What the shoe man put in. Then I heard a soft "clink"...as when silver hits tin.

The sermon really bored me....To tears, and that's no lie. It was the same for the shoe man...For tear fell from his eyes.

At the end of the service...As is the custom here, We must greet new visitors...And show them all good cheer.

But I felt moved somehow...And wanted to meet the shoe man. So after the closing prayer...I reached over and shook his hand.

He was old and his skin was dark...And his hair was truly a mess, but I thanked him for coming...For being our guest.

He said, "My name's Charlie...I'm glad to meet you, my friend. There were tears in his eyes...But he had a large, wide grin.

"Let me explain," he said...Wiping tears from his eyes. I've been coming here for months...And you're the first to say "Hi."

I know that my appearance...."Is not like the rest...."But I really do try..."To always look my best."

"I always clean and polish my shoes..."Before my very long walk. "But by the time I get here..."They're dirty and dusty, like chalk.

My heart filled with pain...and I swallowed to hide my tears As he continued to apologize...For daring to sit so near.

He said, "When I get here..."I know I must look a sight. "But I thought if I could touch you..."Then maybe our souls might unite."

I was silent for a moment...Knowing whatever was said Would pale in comparison....I spoke from my heart, not my head.

"Oh, you've touched me," I said...."And taught me, in part; "That the best of any man..."Is what is found in his heart."

The rest, I thought...This shoe man will never know. Like just how thankful I really am...That his dirty old shoe touched my soul.

*Thanks to Melanie Zimmers
First, Redlands*



Model Constitution & Bylaws Update

Be sure you check the January issue of the *Interchange* for the latest updates on your unit's constitution. These reflect changes from the 2008 Triennial Convention that was held in Salt Lake City last July. Does your unit have a constitution? If it doesn't, now is the time to get one put together. You should give this to the women who are serving as leaders so they know how your unit will function. It is also suggested that you send a copy of this constitution to the synodical president. (Although I would check with Eunice Hanson to make sure she wants all this paper work.)

If you have any questions you can contact Marilyn O'Connor, director for governance, and she can assist you. You can reach her at 800-638-3522, ext. 2727 or via email at: marilyn.oconnor@elca.org

You can also access this information on the Women of the ELCA Website, www.womenoftheelca.org. This is a valuable site in which to get information and the latest news. Every congregational unit receives a hard copy of the *Interchange*, so be sure to check with your church secretary or pastor to make sure your unit is getting this informative publication. It now comes monthly.

A Note from the Editor

For some of you this may be your last issue of a hard copy of the Pacifica Partners. If you no longer are the contact person for your congregational unit, or your subscription has expired, you need to let us know. Many of you will have a deadline of April '09 to renew your subscription. Remember, you can get it on our website. Also, if you do have an email address and we know some of you do out there, could you please send it to me so that we can add you to our email mailing. This all saves \$\$ for postage and printing.

It would also be greatly appreciated that when you move you take time to notify the secretary, Becky Shurson so that proper changes may be made. We have to pay for each newsletter that is returned. Thank you.

Women of the ELCA scholarship applications now being accepted

Women of the ELCA offers scholarships to Lutheran women of all ages. Whether an undergraduate, graduate, or seminary student, you or someone you know may be eligible. Scholarship guidelines and application materials are available at www.womenoftheelca.org. Applications and all letters of reference must be post-marked by February 17. Letters of reference *must be mailed by the writer, not the applicant*. Due to the competitive process, there are no exceptions to the guidelines and deadlines.

Make an offering to the scholarships program

A special offering to our scholarship funds goes **in total** to support our scholarships. Your special offering can be given in observance of a special occasion, such as a memorial or anniversary. The scholarship funds that benefit from your special offering are endowments, so they make a lasting memory and difference in the lives of others. Make your check **payable to Women of the ELCA** and write *Scholarships* in your check memo line.

Have Something to Share?

If you have an inspirational antidote, a short message or poem and would like to share it, just submit to Helen Riggs at: helen.riggs1@verizon.net

Items should be sent by the first of the month. I will try to use those that are received according to space allowed. Just don't make them too lengthy.

Remember to submit news of your cluster happenings and special events at your congregation that you wish to invite other women to attend. Just be sure you give at least a month's advance notice.

This is your newsletter, so let's hear from you!



Registration

“Balancing vs Centering: Faith, Family and Finances”
“Mary has chosen the better part.” Luke 10:42b

March 7, 2009 – Hope Lutheran
29141 Vallejo Ave., Temecula
951-676-6262

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

Please make check payable to:
Pacifica Women of the ELCA

Mail to:
Eunice Hanson ,3627 Cerro Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92056
eunicehanson@cox.net, 760-945-9716 home, 760-717-2646 cell

Please Print: (or affix an address label)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: () _____ - _____ Email: _____

Church: _____ Church City: _____

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



PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2009 Synodical Board Members

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The Deadline is.....

February 1, 2009 Pacifica Partners



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