

Pacifica Partners

April 2019 -- Volume 29, Issue 2

From the President's Desk



Our March Event is history ([see the pictures on our website](#)), and everyone was quite impressed with our Bible study by Pastor Gloria and the slide presentation by Matt and Carrie Foster from the North County Stand Down. Even think everyone even enjoyed the KFC meal! Pastor Patrice and Pastor Gloria led our closing worship.

Next we are on to planning our convention November 1-2 at King of Glory in Fountain Valley. Our planning team has met and selected the theme: "Celebrating Fruits of the Spirit" with Galatians 5:22-23a as the verses to be central to our theme. The [Save the Date flyer](#) is now available; feel free to print and distribute. We continued to have many more details to work out and they will be shared as they develop and are ready to be revealed. April 26 is our next meeting and we are able to meet at King of Glory. Our convention was held there in 2010 but only a couple of planning team members were in attendance. Plus, it is always nice to be refreshed on the layout of the campus being able to see what we are thinking of for this year. Meanwhile, we do communicate in between meetings via email (and sometimes text), so please don't hesitate to contact us with information, ideas, questions, or to volunteer in any way!

Our churchwide rep this year comes to us from Minnesota. Her bio that was sent to us earlier this year is included in this newsletter. I have communicated with her via email and have found she is currently attending seminary – an update to her bio! We have invited her to be a keynote speaker besides in addition to her sharing her report. My family and I came from near her part of the world and she has friends and family here in CA, so if her school schedule allows, she is planning to come early or stay later.

In my previous article, I talked about an exploratory committee that has been created "to discuss and explore how to best fulfill Women of the ELCA's mission and purpose in a changing world." Look for the article that was in [Interchange/Intercambio](#), a leadership newsletter that comes from our churchwide offices; the article is in this issue. Our board has discussed the three questions and the synodical presidents discussed them at Conference of Presidents (COP) in Chicago in February. But I'd really like to have input from our California and Hawaii women "in the pew"! Please take the time to share your thoughts by writing or emailing any of us on the board, or submitting a letter to the editor through our website. Those letters get forwarded to me and I'll make sure they get forwarded to the exploratory team.

Also at COP this year, the Triennial 2020 in Phoenix logo was announced. We were all given a fabric banner to take back to our synods. The artist is a member of our churchwide staff and she has an article explaining her creative process and what the colors and words mean. Look for that

in this issue as well. It will inspire you to make plans to attend!

You will notice some changes in this newsletter and on our [website](#). I want to give a huge THANK YOU to Djana Venolia for helping us make the great leap from printing/sorting/ mailing our newsletter to updating our website and having our *Pacifica Partners* emailed through the website. We are now being given the extraordinary gift of the expertise of our sister synod in Nebraska and we welcome Gwen Edwards as our editor and website manager. She is a former president of the NE synod women and also a former churchwide executive board member. She was our churchwide rep at our convention in 2016 when we met at Bethlehem Lutheran in Los Alamitos. So many of you have met her! Transitions can often take some time and adjusting. Change can be very good but is not necessarily accomplished instantaneously!! Let us know what you think!

Anew in Christ!
President Eunice Hanson



SAVE THE DATE

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELCA

32nd Annual Convention & Gathering

“Celebrating Fruits of the Spirit”

November 1 & 2, 2019

King of Glory Lutheran Church
10280 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA

The fruit of the Spirit
Galatians 5:22

How do we fulfill our organization’s mission, purpose?



Several women gathered in January to discuss how to best fulfill Women of the ELCA’s mission and purpose in a changing world.

An 11-woman exploratory committee met in St. Louis, Jan. 4–6, and centered its work on investigating the organization’s current business model. The committee was created at the behest of the churchwide executive board’s budget and finance committee at the board’s April 2018 meeting. (Search for “Board, staff look for new ways to carry out mission” on [welca.org](#) or in Google.)

“On my flight home [from the meeting], I had some time to reflect over the course of the weekend and felt a full and grateful heart,” said Lisa Plorin, churchwide president for the 2017–2020 triennium. “It was inspiring to be in the presence of women from all corners of the United States who have the same passion for this organization as I do.”

Plorin said she is looking forward to seeing how the committee’s plans grow to ensure the life and vitality of the Women of the ELCA. Plorin supported the work of the committee in an ex officio capacity.

The committee began its work examining the organization’s governance structure, communication methods, constitutional structure and financial realities. Following a small group brainstorming session, the Rev. Leila Ortiz, chaplain for the committee and an assistant to the bishop in the Metro D.C. Synod, led a Bible study based on 2 Kings 5.

She reminded committee members that everyone is relevant to the issue. Ortiz asked, “Who is not at this table? Who could give the organization new life? Who has wisdom to share?” Like Naaman’s experience in the biblical passage, the process of bringing about new life will likely be messy, Ortiz said, and may take several different approaches.

Ortiz offered the committee members a repeated question over their weekend meeting: What must die so Women of the ELCA can come alive again?

The many assets of Women of the ELCA

The committee listed the many assets of Women of the ELCA: people (participants, subscribers to Gather magazine, elected leaders, staff), publications (Gather, Interchange/Intercambio, Bold Connections, Daily Grace, Café, program resources, synodical newsletters); giving to the annual budget, Katie’s Fund, restricted funds, synodical-held funds, congregational unitheld funds, expectation of planned gifts and intellectual property).

Over the next several months, the committee will engage participants in a variety of ways, asking questions and gathering data. The engagement began in February at the annual Conference of Synodical Presidents. In advance of the conference, synodical women’s organization presidents were asked to consider the following three questions:

1 If you could make changes to our constitutions to encourage more participation in the organization, what would they be?

2 The triennial convention costs approximately \$2,400 per voting member. Annual revenue from offerings has been insufficient to pay for the convention over the past two triennium. How could your SWO assist with the costs?

3 Why is this organization important to you? If this organization went away tomorrow, would you miss it? Would it matter? Why?

The committee broke into two sub-groups, one to examine constitutional issues and one to create assessment tools. Following this in-person meeting, the committee will continue its work by email and conference calls. The committee will offer an interim report to the churchwide executive board at its April 2019 meeting, with another report scheduled for its October 2019 meeting.

The following women are serving on the committee:

Ms. Cindy Arnett, Sierra Pacific

Ms. Desiree Cole, Metro Chicago

Ms. Sheena Foster, Metro D.C.
The Rev. Susan Haukaas, Eastern N.D.
The Rev. Gwen King, Southeastern Pa.
Ms. Laura Krueger, Grand Canyon and a member of the churchwide executive board, 2017–2020
Ms. Sara Larson, Southwestern Minnesota and a member of the churchwide executive board, 2017–2020
Ms. Reanna Purcell, Florida-Bahamas
Ms. Phyllis Rude, Alaska
Ms. Jody Smiley, Virginia, and chair of the committee
Ms. Camille Trott, Metro D.C.
Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA, and Gabriela Contreras, director for meeting planning, also attended the meeting. To see the full story with links, visit welca.org and search for “How do we best fulfill our organization’s mission and purpose?”

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Churchwide Representative to attend Pacifica's Convention



Sara Larson
Executive Board Member
Women of the Evangelical Church of America

Sara Larson was elected to the executive board of the Women of the ELCA in July of 2017. Sara serves as the chair of the budget and finance committee.

Previously, Sara served as a board member for Southwestern Minnesota Synodical Women’s Organization (3F). She has been actively involved in the ELCA on the community, regional and national level sharing the mission of the Women of the ELCA for the past 14 years.

Sara loves to meet new people and share God’s message. She has traveled to South Africa, Central America and Indonesia and many American destinations.

Sara is a member of First Lutheran Church in Marshall, Minn. She leads the 7th- and 8th-grade youth group and has preached a few sermons. She enjoys helping where needed.

For 19 years, Sara has worked as a guardian ad litem in the court system, advocating for abused and neglected children. She also performs private court services for several surrounding counties.

She lives in rural Balaton, Minnesota, with her dog. She loves to garden and be physically active. Sara has coached for many years and recently became a licensed Minnesota State High School League official. She attempts to be a positive role model and an encouraging spirit for men, women and youth.

“Just love” Gathering 2020 logo reminds we are parts of one body



At the triennial gathering 2017 closing worship service, the Rev. Angela Khabeb exclaimed: “News flash! Christianity is not comfortable. If you are comfortable in Jesus, you’re doing it wrong.”

Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect, we are often broken. Sometimes we don’t fit. Sometimes our edges are rough— but we are one body in Christ.

The inspiration for Women of the ELCA Gathering logo came as I walked around downtown Phoenix, the site of the 2020 gathering. I noticed a mural outside of the convention hotel. Its collection of broken mirrors, tiles, shards of plates and painted rocks ebbed and flowed in a kinetic frenzy of color and textures.

The mural reminded me of the body of Christ and how we are all misshapen pieces in one glorious and beautiful work of art.

The palette of deep purple and bright green in the new gathering logo (top left) is reflective of the scenery of the valley in the Phoenix area. Along the streets of this city, dusty earth tones are punctuated with bright purple flowers and vibrant green cacti. The turquoise color connects to the history of native cultures in Arizona and the southwest region. Red signifies love. The shade of red in our gathering logo is not one of fire or caution, but rather one of joy.

As we embrace the theme “Just love,” we remember the words of the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra at the gathering in 2017 in Minneapolis: “I believe that if we follow mercy all the way, go deep into mercy, we end up at justice.”

The Gathering 2020 will be held in Phoenix, Ariz., July 16-19, 2020. Watch for information about registration on welcatg.org in late summer.

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Mark Your Calendar

April 25-27, Pray for the Churchwide Executive Board as they meet

April 26, Pray for the Convention Planning Team as they meet

May 10-11, Pacifica Synod Assembly

May 15, *Pacifica Partners* Deadline

November 1-2, *32nd Annual Convention & Gathering*, King of Glory, Fountain Valley, CA

July 14-16, 2020, *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Convention*, Phoenix, AZ

July 16-19, 2020, *Women of the ELCA Eleventh Triennial Gathering*, Phoenix, AZ

Do you have events within your Congregational Unit that you want to invite other ladies to attend? That you want listed in this "Mark Your Calendar" section? If so, please e-mail them to pacficiapartnerswelca@gmail.com.

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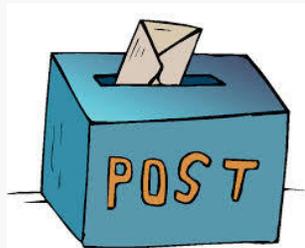
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Submit a letter to the Editor

We want to hear from you! Send us an email to pacificapartnerswelca@gmail.com with suggestions, ideas for events, Bible studies, and events you would like to share with all Pacifica W/ELCA participants.

Thank you for subscribing to *Pacifica Partners* or giving us permission to add your email address to receive communication from the Pacifica Synodical Women's Organization. If you know other ladies who are not receiving our emails, please share this with them and encourage them to sign up.

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De la Mesa de Nuestra Presidente incluso Sara Larson bio



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