

WHAT'S NEWS

Women of the ELCA 

Southwest California Synodical Women's Organization • Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

AUTUMN RENEWAL 2017 - DREAM ANEW

Mark your calendar for Autumn Renewal scheduled October 20–22, 2017 at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA. Those attending the Autumn Renewal will be staying at the Best Western Posada Royale Hotel & Suites, Simi Valley, CA but travel to CLU Ullman Commons for Friday and Lundring Events Center for Saturday and Sunday for the daily activities.

The theme “Dream Anew” builds on the Triennial and Western States Youth gathering themes as a way to inspire the conversation with High School students who attended the summer gathering as well as leverage the resources and conversations of the Triennial “All Anew.”

Faith is choosing and believing God’s dream for your life. Nothing starts happening in your life until you start dreaming. God gave you the ability to dream, to create, to imagine. Dreaming is an act of faith. Everything you see on this planet started as a dream. So, how do you get God’s dream for your life? How do you Dream Anew?

Bible Scripture verse: Ephesians 3: 20: *Now glory be to God, by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of – infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes.* —NTL

Two Bible Study Leaders selected are: Rahel Williams, Manager, Donor Relations, Young Adult Global Missions, Global Church Sponsorship, ELCA and Valora K Starr director for discipleship for Women of the ELCA. Keia Morris, Deacon will serve as Chaplain. Music will be led by Angelica Lutheran Church Praise Band.

Event goals: Listen, Discover, Accept, Act

Saturday afternoon free time will include: beading, fascinator making (a fashion hat), prayer walk, labyrinth meditation walk, chair yoga and the possibility of additional activities. Come and see what will be available Saturday afternoon.

In-Kind Offerings: CallU Pantry – food or gift cards

Offering: will be split between Churchwide Women of the ELCA and International Women Leaders Campaign.

*Pictured below: Best Western Posada Hotel, Simi Valley
CLU gathering sites: Ullman Commons and Lundring Events Center at Gilbert Sports & Fitness Center*





PEACE WITH JUSTICE

by Sharon Heck

Bread for the World's 2017 Offering of Letters is titled "Doing Our Part to End HUNGER." The United States and the world have made substantial progress toward ending hunger and poverty over the past several decades. Worldwide, extreme poverty -- living on less than \$1.90 a day -- has been cut in half over the past 30 years. But more work needs to be done. Nearly 800 million people in the world are still hungry. In the United States, 1 in 6 children lives in a family that struggles with hunger.

President Trump and many in Congress are pushing to dismantle or cut funding for programs that offer direct help to buy food for infants and families in this country. Also threatened are

international programs that provide nutrition assistance for young children and that help struggling farmers grow more food for their families and communities.

Government programs cannot by themselves end hunger. Families, churches and charities also have to play their parts. But we can only end hunger if our national government does its part. Bread for the World's 2017 Offering of Letters calls on Congress to pass budget and appropriations bills that put us on track to end hunger by 2030.

Regardless of which party controls Congress or the White House, our elected leaders must adopt and administer our nation's budget. Through the federal budget our government invests in many programs that help people stay

out of poverty and feed their families. Nations around the world, including the United States, have agreed to work for an end to hunger and related goals by 2030.

Vital policies and safety-net programs--including WIC, global nutrition, SNAP, and refundable tax credits--must be properly funded and protected. Dismantling or cutting funding for such programs would make the goal of ending hunger by 2030 unlikely.

By writing your own letters to Congress--and encouraging your church to conduct an Offering of Letters--you can do your part to help end hunger. Contact Bread for the World at www.bread.org to obtain an Offering of Letters Kit and to learn more about current advocacy steps you can take. Here are the addresses if you want to write a letter right now.

Senator _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Representative _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Triennial Gathering Minneapolis, Minnesota

The Triennial Gathering is a wonderful event. A time to spend with friends and meet new friends. I would like to encourage everyone to attend the Triennial Gathering July 13- 16, 2017.

Some of us registered at the last Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina. I hope to see more of you attend. To date churchwide has informed us that there are eight registered and three authorized their names to be shared with the SWO. Having the names helps us to plan a lunch together before leaving for the Triennial in Minneapolis. Bishop Guy Er-

win is willing to meet with us before we go. Go back into your registration online and authorize your name to be released to the SWO so I can invite you to the lunch. Or contact Karen Moyer e-mail and/or phone are in the newsletter.

You may want to engage in the gathering theme before you leave home. You can work alone or in groups to make a quilt, create a finger labyrinth, color the All New coloring sheet, and worship with our free downloadable devotions or gather in-kind gifts. There are instructions for each opportunity to download on the www.womenoftheelca.org website.

• **Make a finger labyrinth**-Quilted, knitted, embroidered, felted or cro-

cheted, there's a pattern for everyone. The hope is to collect more than 5,000 finger labyrinths.

• **Participate in the quilt challenge** - Quilters of all abilities are invited to create a quilt interpreting the 10th Triennial Gathering theme, All Anew, in a black & white + one challenge. Entries are judged by the Minnesota Quilters Guild.

• **Explore the All Anew theme** - Enjoy the meditative properties of coloring. Explore our 10th Triennial Gathering theme with free downloadable devotionals.

• **Gather in-kind gifts** - Quilt Kits, Days for Girls Kits, Gift Cards, Hygiene Items, Clothing.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Moyer reviews the Winter Gathering and the Conference of Presidents.

2017 Southwest California Synodical Women's Organization Winter Gathering

Romans 12: 10. *Be devoted to one another in brotherly love: give preference to one another.* NASB

January 28, 2017 we held a very successful Winter Gathering at Bethania Lutheran Church, 603 Atterdag Road, Solvang, CA with 84 in attendance.

A panel discussion on "Being a CA-REGIVER". Please read the newsletter article written by Dona Kintzi for more information on the Winter Gathering.

The evaluations received were very constructive for future planning. Here are a few: comments: excellent pro-

south up north; consider additional workshops on the topic in the future; and/or consider having two Winter Gatherings, one in the north and one in the south. The evaluation results have been distributed to the board for future planning considerations.

The Conference of Presidents was very informative. In our caucus time I met with the presidents of Region 2. Go To Meeting is the conference call selection of choice. Boot Camp an option for a conference or a renewal. The Region 2 caucus submitted the following recommendation for Using Fillable Forms. There were six recom-



gram topic and execution, food and fellowship super; very well organized, great speakers and honest sharing time; thank you - great for what time offered but need hand-outs for each county with resources; think about a bus next time to bring those from the

mendations submitted by the various Synodical Presidents.

Luther's History Overview presented by Elizabeth Hunter and Sarah Carson based on the book "October 31, 1517" written by Martin Marty. If any one is interested in reading this book,

I have copies of the book available for \$15.00. There schedule included: time for coloring the Triennial logo, sewing finger labyrinth, recognition of New Presidents, returning Presidents and outgoing Presidents as well as worship. There were also workshop opportunities such as: How to Write a Resolution, Stewardship Moment and Leadership Styles. Café Presentation of the Chocolate Lounge was enjoyed by all. Our Partner Synod is 3H Saint Paul Area.

The State of the Ministry Report was given by President, Patti Austin. Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, report can be found on the Women of the ELCA website under the title: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHARES 30 LOVES AND HOPES or Facebook. President Patti Austin gave. Bishop Elizabeth Eaton addressed the group.



WHAT'S NEWS IS FREE BY EMAIL:

Can we send you your What's News online? If yes, it will be free. Contact Julie Jensen at juliejnsn1@roadrunner.com and give her the email address you want her to send to.

Do not worry if you are not online, we will still mail the What's News for the same price, \$8 for the four newsletters per year.

2017 WINTER GATHERING: A PERFECT DAY

Reported by Dona Kintzi, SWO board member



It could have been snowing outside and it wouldn't have mattered, because the climate inside at the Winter Gathering was warm and inspiring. About 84 women (and a few brave men) gathered at Bethania Lutheran in Solvang on January 28, 2017. Many Southwest California Synod congregations contributed to make this a wonderful time together. We truly thank those who came to share, to enjoy, to support, and to learn more about caregiving.

Many are called upon to care, whether professionally trained or not. Those in need arrive in our lives through a gradual process or come as a complete surprise. Ready or not, the caregiver needs to gather resources, build support, and "pray" the course.

After being greeted with Danish rolls and Kringle (a delicious Danish pastry), breakfast casseroles, and fruit, our Saturday began with song, Welcome by Karen Moyer, (SWO President) and devotions by Pastor Chris Brown. Exploring the Beatitudes, Pastor Brown shared about Jesus calling us forth to be a blessing, comforting those who are in need, and extending brotherly love as in our theme for the day—Romans 12:10 *Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.* NRSV

Soon after, four remarkable presenters elaborated on their calling and expertise in the areas of giving and receiving care. It was a day of sharing and informing, caring and discussion as panelists touched on key topics around "Being a care giver" and how to care for one's self or another.

Suzanne Hollrah, who has spent many years working at Atterdag Village caring for the residents, takes a special interest in the listening and preserving of their stories. She invited us to be present when caring, to actively engage in conversation, and respond with grace.

Pastor Chris emphasized our need to stay consciously healthy during times when called upon to be a caregiver. When entering into the role by being close to someone who is injured or aging physically or mentally, each of us needs to be nourished as well. Our soul needs replenishment to face the mental and physical challenges of this type of personal interaction. We need to fight off the negative shadows of self-doubt: "I don't know what I'm doing" or "I'm not any good at this."

Nola Huss, MSN, RN, FNP, reminded us that being a caregiver is demanding and lonely. There are many resources and a great place to start is with finding

your local Area Agency for the Aging (AAA). This agency is a nationwide network, which serves the elderly populations (60+) in their local areas. Some of the services include information about paying for costs of Senior Care, types of Senior Care, a resource Locator Tool, and Paid Caregiver Programs. We know that being a caregiver can be exhausting and challenging. It is easy to become overwhelmed and mistakes are OK. Nola encouraged us to build support and seek out the agencies nearest to us.

Russ Gordon, family therapist, listed warning signs to be mindful of such as; fatigue, not enough sleep, weight loss, deterioration of personal hygiene, difficulty making decisions, or depression. He encouraged us to be intentionally mindful to make healthy choices in eating and exercise, making sure one's sleep is not disrupted, journaling, or go outside and get lost in the awe of God's creation.

The day was perfect. We all wanted to stay longer and continue our discussions. Many hands went up to relate personal stories and problems looking for solutions, grace and understanding from our articulate, passionate, and well experienced panel who so graciously shared with us all. The wealth of information that each person brought to the table blessed our time together. The room was full of compassion and hope, as we deal with this timely subject of being a caring, careful caregiver.

The offering was collected and half was given to the Atterdag Village Arts and Crafts program. Karen Moyer thanked everyone for coming and shared which congregations were represented, inviting women to stick around to greet one another and/or talk more in depth with the panel. The meeting adjourned at 12:30pm. ■



REGISTRATION FORM

FULL WEEKEND PACKAGE:

Includes registration, accommodations and meals

- \$350 1 person per room
- \$240 2 persons per room
- \$200 3 persons per room
- \$185 4 persons per room

SATURDAY ONLY:

Includes registration and meals

- \$130 per person

(please provide separate registration form for each roommate)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Church: _____ Church City: _____

In case of emergency, contact: Name: _____ Tel# _____

Special dietary needs: _____

Roommates' names:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Total amount enclosed:

Make checks payable to WOMEN OF THE ELCA
and mail, along with this completed form to
JULIE JENSEN, registrar, 921 Gill Avenue, Port Hueneme CA 93041

Registration is transferable but NOT refundable. **Questions? call 805 486-5762**

UPCOMING EVENTS



Save the Date!

Expressions of Love

QUILTS • PRAYER SHAWLS • BABY BLANKETS

**Saturday, August 12th 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Salem Lutheran Church
Fireside Room
1211 N. Brand Boulevard, Glendale**

Share your stories, display your quilts, prayer shawls, and blankets. Learn how to make these Expressions of LOVE, obtain supplies, where to send these gifts and how to start a small group. You can reserve a special spot to display your work. Lunch will be available.



The Greater Long Beach Cluster
Women of the ELCA
invites all women of our congregation
to the Spring Gathering

Washed with Pure Water

“let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure waters” –Hebrews 10:22

St. Luke Lutheran Church
5635 East Wardlow Rd., Long Beach, CA 90808

Saturday, June 10, 2017

9:30am - Gathering and Registration

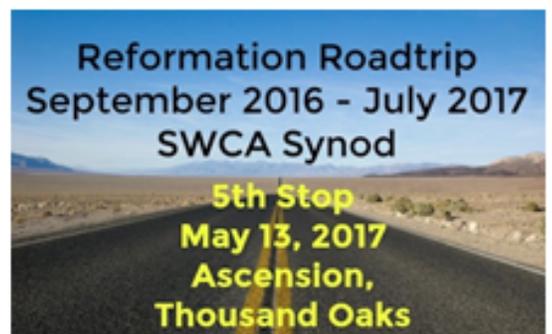
10:00am Lunch (cost \$7)

RSVP by June 5th to

Carol Henderson (56 2) 925-9671

Reformation Roadtrip

The fifth stop of the Reformation Roadtrip is at Ascension, Thousand Oaks from 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. on May 13! The cost is \$10 per event, and includes lunch. To make your reservations for one or more Reformation Roadtrip events, please email Samantha at shenderson@socalsynod.org.



UNITS, CLUSTERS, SWO, CWO

Did you know there are three expressions of WOMEN OF THE ELCA? Maybe you do....or maybe you need to brush up....or perhaps you just don't know.

1. Congregational, Inter-congregational and Special Units
2. SWO (Synodical Women's Organization)
3. CWO (Churchwide Women's Organization)

The Units are the largest expression of the organization. The SWO's establish a partnership with the units in their areas and the CWO is the entire organization.

The SWO provides for grouping units into clusters (also known as conferences in some SWO Organizations) that work with the SWO to fulfill the purpose of the Women of the ELCA.

To fulfill the purpose of the Women of the ELCA the clusters work with the SWO and the units through activities that:

- Provide experiences for learning and leadership development,
- Build community
- Provide opportunities for joint ministry and action,

- Provide opportunities for stewardship education and offerings, and
- Establish networks for communication.

The Cluster usually has a planning committee of at least three members, including a coordinator elected at the cluster meeting

Clusters usually meet once in the spring and once in the fall of each year. They like to move the meeting location to various congregations in their Cluster.

In the Southwest California Synodical Women's Organization we have nine Clusters. Each Cluster has a mentor assigned from the SWO Board.

- Central Coast – Dona Kintzi
- Channel Island – Dianne Tillman
- Foothill – Karil Drake
- Greater Long Beach – Karen Moyer
- LA Metro – Keia Morris
- San Gabriel Valley – Sharon Heck
- South Bay – Kristal Shipp
- Tehachapi – Rev. Donella Silveira
- Twin Valleys – Terri Kelly
- Twin Valleys - Mary Ridenour-French

As far as I know now there are three active Clusters: Central, Greater Long

Beach and Twin Valleys. If there are more Clusters that are active, please let me know.

I should be receiving reports on the activities that are going on in your Clusters. The offering taken during your Cluster Event should be designated ½ to Synodical Women's Organization.



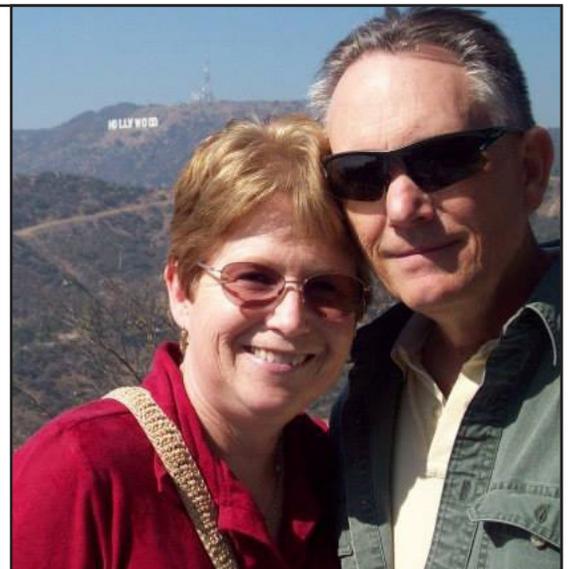
I am here to help answer any question the Cluster planning team or Cluster mentors may have. Please call me and I will try to help.

Yours in Christ,
Rosemary Lawson
SWO Vice-President, Cluster Mentor

Hi, My name is Terri Kelly... a new SWO Board Member

(pictured at left with her husband)

I am a California native and have been a Lutheran for about 20 years. I enjoy Christian meditation, my Knit, Pray and Perl group, water aerobics, camping and quilting. I struggle with Stage IV melanoma, but with God's help I have been doing very well!!! I live with my husband Dan and my Goddaughter Breanna in Thousand Oaks. We are helping Breanna get through college. She wants to be a teacher. My daughter lives in Virginia with her husband and little girl. I hope I can be of service to the women of ELCA.





Hi, I'm Karil Drake, the NEW Synodical Women's treasurer

Thanks for your vote of confidence! We are just starting on our new fiscal year, Feb. 1st, and have already received offerings from:

- St. Paul's, Santa Monica
- Bethania, Solvang
- Christ the Shephard, Altadena
- Lutheran Church of the Master, Lancaster

We just started with a new credit union, so I apologize to these churches for not depositing your checks timely. I am ready for the rest of you now!

There are new documents, Forms A & B this year. Please contact me before sending your offerings in and I will happily mail or email the new forms to you. My contact info is phone number: (818) 243-9573 or email: KarilDrake@yahoo.com. Forms can also be downloaded from:

www.womenoftheelca.org/stewardship-resources-pages-94.php

Please mail your Form A offerings to this new address:

Karil Drake, 1329 Western Ave. Glendale, CA 91201

Form A: (unit to SWO)

Your Regular Offerings are collected at Circle meetings, Bible study sessions, and general meetings. A portion of your regular offering (50% or more is recommended) is sent to the synodical women's organization

treasurer. She then remits 55% of the regular offering to the Churchwide Women's Organization.

Your SWO convention Offerings are used to finance the SWO convention (last year) or Autumn Renewal (this year).

Your Cluster/Conference Offerings are passed onto the Churchwide Women's organization.

Form B: (unit to Churchwide)

Thank offering, designated gifts, Special Offerings and grants for women should be sent directly to: Women of the ELCA ELCA Gift Processing Center PO Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Thanks for your kind attention to these changes! See you at Autumn Renewal!

Peace,
Karil Drake



In Loving Memory

Rose Martha Norris, 85, born on May 10, 1931, in Kathryn, North Dakota, passed away March 27, 2017.

Karen Moyer's tribute in Rose's Memory Book:

Rose has been a friend since I became a member of St Timothy Lutheran Church. She made sure that I attended the Women of the ELCA meetings where I ended up leading the Bible Studies. Then she insisted that I attend the Southwest California Synodical Women of the ELCA convention as a voting member. This started my long process through the SWO to

follow in her footsteps and become the SWO President. Rose was a great person to work with and I learned a lot from her. Then it was my turn to gently suggest that Rose

attend ELM, Equipping Leaders for Mission which is part of the Southwest California Synod's lay leadership training program. Rose attended the two years training and loved to attend the group luncheon. She used her training in our weekly Bible Studies at St. Timothy. Rose will be missed greatly. Always loved to hear her stories of family and friends. Goodbye Rose you are with your Heavenly Father now.



2016-2018 ROSTER OF SWO BOARD MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND SUPPORT

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