

WHAT'S NEWS

Women ^{of the} ELCA 

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

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2018

Drop Everything: Be still and know that I am God —Psalm 46:10a (NRSV)

20th Biennial SoCal SWO Convention

October 5-7, 2018 • Cal Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks

Plan to attend and send a delegate from your congregational unit.

“Drop Everything-Be still and know that I am God” based on Psalm 46:10a (NRSV) is the theme of our upcoming SWO 2018 Convention. This important event will take place October 5-7 at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks with overnight accommodations at Best Western Posada Royale Hotel, Simi Valley.

Goals of the convention are:

- Conduct the business of the SoCAL SWO
- Find Christ in the chaos • Discover Peace within
- Drop, Stop and Pray

Being still and acting boldly might seem like contradictions within themes and statements of the Women of the ELCA. This exciting weekend will focus on why we cannot have one without the other. Through Bible study, workshops, homilies and worship, our aim is to provide tools that teach us how important it is to rest assured in our faith, to have peace within, while developing an attitude of standing against injustice and promoting the love of God. Leading the way will

be a stalwart team of Pastor Chamie Delkeskamp (Bible Study leader), Pastor Nikki Felder (Chaplain), and Bishop Guy Irwin (Sunday Worship Leader). Karen Voris will be in attendance representing churchwide Women of the ELCA.

Gathering together is also important because it is when we elect the entire SoCAL SWO leadership of four officers and seven board members who will serve a 2-year term. Our president and vice president are elected by ecclesiastical ballot (nominations are taken from the floor). Nominations for secretary, treasurer, and board members come from our congregational units. **Now is the time to submit those nominations.** We will also be electing delegates to the 11th Triennial Convention, July 14-16, 2020 in Phoenix, AZ. Look for the soon-to-arrive packet containing flyers and forms to promote and register for the SWO convention, submit nominations and apply for a \$100 scholarship toward the registration fee. A flyer and registration form is also included in this newsletter. See you there.

Drop Everything:

Be still and know that I am God
—Psalm 46:10a (NRSV)

THE 20TH CONVENTION OF THE
SOUTHWEST CALIFORNIA SYNOD

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Friday October 5 thru
Sunday, October 7, 2018

CAL LUTHERAN UNIVERSITY
Thousand Oaks



ELECT OFFICERS

VOTE ON RESOLUTIONS

ENJOY BIBLE STUDY & WORKSHOPS

PRAY • GIVE THANKS • WORSHIP

SING • EAT • SMOOZE • LAUGH

PLUS PLENTY OF FREE TIME TO

JUST BE STILL

Women from Southwest California Synod churches are urged to send a representing delegate. All women are welcome to attend. See registration form for rates /weekend packages. Questions: Contact juliejnsn1@roadrunner.com or phone Julie at (805) 486-5762

We pray that this convention may be led by the Holy Spirit to mobilize women to ACT BOLDLY on their faith in Jesus Christ, our Lord. We look forward to seeing each and every one of you there.



REGISTRATION FORM

WEEKEND RATE (NO HOTEL STAY)

\$120 includes registration plus Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner

SATURDAY ONLY RATE \$110

\$110 includes registration plus Saturday lunch and dinner

FULL WEEKEND PACKAGE

Includes registration and meals plus accommodations at Best Western Posada Royale Hotel, 1775 Madera Road, Simi Valley, CA 93065 (hotel bookings made by Julie).

\$342	1 person per room	\$194	3 persons per room
\$231	2 persons per room	\$176	4 persons per room

(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: _____

Hotel has no elevator - do you need to have your room be on the first floor? yes no doesn't matter

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

We will accept 2 payments, 1/2 by July 30 and the balance by September 15

Cost is transferable but not refundable. **Questions? call 805 486-5762**

SOUTH BAY / GREATER LONG BEACH CLUSTER GATHERING

The Greater Long Beach and South Bay Clusters of the Women of the ELCA held a joint Spring Gathering on June 16, 2016 at First Lutheran Church in Torrance. The theme was based on Psalm 46:10 "Be still, and know that I am God! Knowing God is God!"

We all enjoyed gathering together and sharing the delightful meal. The program: **A faithful response to Human Trafficking** was presented by Vicar Brenda Greenwald. Notes and recap from her talk are as follows:

Human trafficking (sex trafficking, labor trafficking, child trafficking) is modern day slavery. The national statistics are staggering. Who is targeted? Girls ages 14–16 and boys 11–13, any ethnicity, gender, race, religion, and class. Who targets? Trafficker, predator, pimp and sugar daddy/mama. Children are disposable and are low to no cost to obtain. Children are ordered like burgers. Obtaining children is an ongoing recruitment—customers want variety and new faces are constantly in demand. The LGBTQIA population, runaways, unloved are at extreme risk. Traffickers lure with video games, books, movies, music and TV. They look for the emotionally weakened, vulnerable, those without love, care and trust.

A Question of Faith:

How do we as a faith community help children see their VALUE as beloved children of God? How do we counter the negative messages children hear and see about themselves? How do we say hello, accept them, treat them fairly? How do we lift them up?

Hope and Help:

California is a major trafficking state in proximity to Las Vegas. Interstate 10 is the #1 route. It takes a lot more than a "stranger danger" public service announcement to help those at risk. SB 1322, a controversial bill that would decriminalize prostitution for minors would make crimes of solicitation and loitering with intent to commit prostitution misdemeanors inapplicable to children younger than 18. It also would



allow law enforcement to take sexually exploited children into temporary custody if leaving them unattended would pose an immediate threat to their health or safety.

Additionally, training, being observant, and victim assistance is vital.

Long Beach has a Human Trafficking Task Force with public response, rallies and protests. Long Beach also has an active chapter of the international or-

ganization, Men Against Trafficking.

As individuals, we **all** have responsibility (response-ability) to be courageous and creative, in exposing suspicious behavior, to ask who is my neighbor?

Hope and help from the ELCA:

The Women of the ELCA has 10+ years of working against human trafficking with advocacy, stories and action. Go to womenoftheelca.org for more information.

The ELCA has a social message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation: This behavior=sin. Care and concern for children and youth is important. Expose and call out evil and gender-based violence.

ELCA Global mission: Advocates companion churches to watch and report for signs of human trafficking.

Lutheran World Federation: Supporting the family.

ELCA World Hunger: Addresses the consequences and cause of vulnerability of those suffering from poverty and hunger.

ELCA Advocacy Office: Lobbies for legislation, and advocates for corporate social responsibility.

ELCA Justice for Women: Provides resources for use in education, worship and advocacy.

As Women of the ELCA, our task is to nurture congregations to be: welcoming and supportive to victims, offer hope to those traumatized, and faith to those who are healing.

The Women of the ELCA will be at the June 2018 Youth Gathering in Houston, TX to offer education on human trafficking. Each congregational unit is asked to support this program with their donations to WELCA, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, ILL 60631.

Come, Holy Spirit, advocate, leading, pulling, compelling.



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Karen Moyer Reports

shops and additional Bible studies. Several scholarships are offered. The registration form in this newsletter has more detailed information, costs, etc. We are honored to have Bishop Guy

Erwin preside at Sunday's worship service.

We also reviewed the recommendations and resolutions approved at the 10th Triennial Convention. We discussed the SoCal SWO active units based on offering, membership, and participation and are still compiling this info. We reviewed the new Katie's Fund campaign where each SWO is challenged to give \$30,000 over the next three years or \$10,000 a year.

Our next board meeting is August 18, 2018 at the Synod Office at 9am.

In Christ, Karen L. Moyer

The SoCal SWO officers and board members met at Salem Lutheran Church, Glendale, in April. We continued our planning for the 2018 SWO convention where elections will be held for new officers, board members, and Triennial voting members. Save the date: October 5 - 7, 2018 at California Lutheran University. Theme: "Drop Everything: Be still and know that I am God" which is taken from Psalm 46:10a (NRSV). Theme song will be "Shout to the Lord."

We are assembling a variety of work-

Come review and give feedback on the ELCA's Social Statement on WOMEN and JUSTICE

Join us for a look at this new draft and to discuss the issues raised. This is a Hearing with an opportunity to provide feedback for the final draft of the statement before it is brought before the Churchwide Assembly for a vote in 2019. Dixie Hanson, our contact with the national church, will hostess this important event. Register today!

**Saturday, August 25th, 9am-3pm
at the Lutheran Center
1300 E. Colorado St., Glendale
Freewill Offering
INCLUDES A HEALTHY LUNCH
RSVP: call Robin 818 507-9591
or send an email to
rlujan@socalsynod.org**

TREASURER'S REPORT

by Karil Drake, SWO treasurer

Our fiscal year began on February 1, 2016. I sent our final SWO contribution to Churchwide Women of the ELCA. We were able to complete our pledge, and for that we are very grateful to all units who sent regular offerings to our SWO. Remember, 55% of those offerings are sent on to Churchwide Women of the ELCA, and the funds are used to prepare resources for our use, scholarships, an excellent staff, training events, and a great many other wonderful blessings.

We are almost halfway thru the fiscal year and only eight units have contributed since February 2018. They are: • Olivet Lutheran, Hawthorne • St. Andrew's Lutheran, Los Angeles • Good Shepherd Lutheran, Los Angeles • American Lutheran, Burbank • Salem Lutheran, Glendale • Gloria Dei Lutheran, Santa Maria • Westchester Lutheran, Los Angeles • St. Paul Lutheran, Santa Monica

Please give prayerful consideration to regular offerings from your unit in support of your SWO and Churchwide W/ELCA. Send them to: Karil Drake, 1329 Western Ave., Glendale, CA 91201.



Our 2018 Convention overnight accommodations will be at the Best Western Posada Royale Hotel Hotel, Simi Valley

Nestled in California's Simi Hills not far from CLU, this Mediterranean-style offers comfortable rooms plus the following amenities to its guests. Wireless internet connection in public areas, 100% smoke-free hotel, cocktail lounge, outdoor heated pool, exercise room open 6am-10pm daily, complimentary full breakfast, 24-hour front desk, baggage hold, guest laundry, safe deposit box, and more. Attendees at the 2017 Autumn Renewal (also held at CLU) stayed here and found the commute from hotel to convention area to be an easy and short drive.



**SoCal Synod Bishop Guy Irwin
will preside at SoCal SWO Convention
worship service on Sunday, October 7, 2018**



the idea of a right of superiority over others based on an assumption that European Christian culture reflects God's desire for the whole world.

We cannot by any action today undo the painful injustices done to Native people on this continent and throughout the Americas, but we can at least see this painful history with greater honesty for what it really is—irreparable harm—and we can pledge not to forget what was done here, in this land, where Natives have suffered because of the migration and settlement of new people, and have been made nearly invisible in their own ancient home, supplanted by strangers who now—ironically—complain about even newer newcomers.

Living in greater honesty about our shared, painful history is not easy, but it is necessary—the deep reality about our nation's history is that our prosperity today is rooted in the exploitation, dispossession, and enslavement of Native American and of African people, and that these great injustices are at the root of our national story. To be able to speak this reality may feel shaming—and it is indeed a shameful story—but honesty is freedom: freedom from delusion, and greater honesty should liberate us all—no matter who our ancestors were—to live together with deeper respect and compassion as neighbors and fellow-citizens.

We are deeply honored to welcome Bishop Irwin to our upcoming convention. He is indeed an advocate for acting boldly as well as being still while gathering strength and developing faith-based discernment in today's world.

Here is an excerpt for his homily at the June 2108 Synod Assembly honoring and celebrating Native Americans:

When our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, voted to reject the historic Doctrine of Discovery two years ago, we trying to say that as a church we would no longer use our idea of God, and what Europeans understood as God's preference for European culture, as a way to diminish the value of other humans and their cultures, or to claim special authority over others. We will as a church no longer support

SO CAL SWO SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT 2017/2018

What is a SWO?

Synodical women's organizations (SWOs) establish a partnership with congregational units in their geographic areas and with the churchwide women's organization. SWOs exist to support women in congregations. Each

SWO has a board whose members are elected at an annual or biennial convention by delegates from units. Each SWO establishes clusters or conferences of units within its geographic area.

SWO Board President, Karen Moyer, Vice-President Rosemary Lawson, Sec-

retary, Dianne Tillman, Treasurer Karil Drake Board Members: Sharon Heck, Kristal Shipp, Keia Morris, Dona Kintzi, Mary Ridenour-French, and Terri Kelly

What is Churchwide Women of the ELCA

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran

Church in America is quite a mouthful, we know. Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in over 7,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! Women of the ELCA embraces all kinds of ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. There is a place for you in Women of the ELCA.

How does our organization work?

There are three expressions of Women of the ELCA, each with its own constitution:

1) congregational, 2) inter-congregational and 3) special units (about 7,000).

FAITH EMBODIED in our SWO Work:

Autumn Renewal at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks, October, 2018. Our theme, Dream Anew, included wonderful Dream Curators Valora Starr and Rahel Mwitula Williams who opened our eyes wide to dreaming of possibilities for our faith embodied work. We learned that we all need to grow our dreams and pathways to achieve that growth. This is where attendees can gather tools to make their dreams happen.

The SWO Board meets quarterly to conduct the business and plan activities. The next activity on our calendar is the October 5-7, 2018 Convention at California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks. This is where we elect our officers, board members, and delegates who will attend the Triennial Convention of the Churchwide Women of the ELCA in 2020 in Phoenix AZ. Our convention theme is Drop Everything: Be still and know that I am God" based on Psalm 46:10a.

Other SWO Activities/Highlights:

Our SoCal SWO group was represented at the 10th Annual Churchwide Triennial Convention and Gathering this past

July in Minneapolis by over a dozen women including first-time attendees Keia Morris and Diana Craig, along with veteran attendees Mary Shipp and Karen Moyer. Our official voting members met to discuss business, elect churchwide officers and board members. Our entire group participated in Bible study, heard fantastic speakers, learned more about PV for Phebe - a solar panel project now complete. In case you are wondering PV means "photovoltaic" the process by which light is turned into electricity. PV for Phebe is a project of Northeastern Minnesota's Synodical Women's Organization, voted on by the 9th Triennial Convention in 2014. Donations provided solar panels.

Keia and Mary worked for "Days for Girls," a program where volunteers make beautiful, colorful, re-usable personal hygiene supplies for young girls in Africa. These supplies allow young girls to leave their homes and continue their regular daily tasks with dignity and confidence during their time of the month.

In January of this year, the SoCal SWO met at the Synod office for our annual Winter Gathering with 42 in attendance representing 16 churches in our synod. The theme for the program was Caregiving Opportunities based on Galatians 6: 9 - 10a: *So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all.* Attendees ate a wonderful brunch before the program began. The panel for the program was led by: Dr. Carol Mack, grey lawyer; Kathy Rust, director of Community Engagement, Solheim Senior Community; Lynn Carter, hospice volunteer, Salem Lutheran Glendale; and Rev. Donald Koepke, director emeritus California Lutheran Homes Center for Spirituality in Aging. Each panelist shared their caregiving experiences/expertise and after a short break, questions from the floor

were answered.

STORIES of Faith:

Our *What's News* newsletter for the year of 2017/2018 contained many faith stories including the following:

Expression of Love - This event, sponsored by the Foothill cluster in August, highlighted stories of women who expressed their love through the needlework they did in response to the message of Mark 12:31-*The second is this 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these.* The women seated around one large table listened first to the story of the "prayer shawl" ministry of Anastasia McGee from our host church - Salem Lutheran, Glendale. She told of the joyous and comforting feelings expressed by prayer shawl recipients. Each shawl is unique and often made to the interest of the one receiving it. Most everyone spoke of a ministry that challenged them to use their talents to create "masterpieces" for use as blankets, scarves and quilts.

Moving forward in 2018 we are working toward a revised list of congregational units within the Clusters. It will include those congregational units that is an active unit, which means the unit participates in Synodical activities, Cluster activities, Gather Bible Study and sends an offering to the Synodical Women and Churchwide. Having a more complete list will allow our SWO to take more voting members to the Triennial. Moving on, this is my last year as President and the Convention will be electing a new leader. I am dreaming that younger members of the Women of the ELCA will be interested in being an officer or a Board member.

In Christ,
Karen L. Moyer

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

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**Start thinking about
putting your name on this
list. Volunteer to be on the
SWO Board. You'll love it!!
Really!!!**



PEACE WITH JUSTICE

by Sharon Heck

Immigration is a topic which has brought much distress to all of us. We are concerned about the DACA young people, brought to this country as children, and now left in limbo when the U.S. president ended their protected status. This new policy announced,

ners have issued a letter concerning family separations. The letter follows:

Recently, the Trump Administration announced that it will begin separating families and criminally prosecuting all people who enter the U.S. without previous authorization. As religious leaders



by Atty. General Jeff Sessions, ordered immigration judges to stop granting asylum to victims of domestic abuse and gang violence, which upends existing immigration law and blocks tens of thousands of asylum seekers from obtaining refuge in the U.S. This new policy, announced in mid-April, resulted in children of immigrants to be taken away from their parents as a way to discourage other immigrants from coming to our borders.

Our ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and 19 other inter-religious part-

representing diverse faith perspectives, united in our concern for the wellbeing of vulnerable migrants who cross our borders fleeing from danger and threats to their lives, we are deeply disappointed and pained to hear this news.

We affirm the family as a foundational societal structure to support human community and understand the household as an estate blessed by God. The security of the family provides critical mental, physical and emotional support to the development and wellbeing of

children. Our congregations and agencies serve many migrant families that have recently arrived in the United States. Leaving their communities is often the only option they have to provide safety for their children and protect them from harm. Tearing children away from parents who have made a dangerous journey looking to provide a safe and sufficient life for them is unnecessarily cruel and detrimental to the well-being of parents and children.

As we continue to serve and love our neighbors, we pray for the children and families who will suffer due to this policy and urge the Administration to stop their policy of separating families.

Here is a possible postcard message to be sent to our U.S. Senators:

As a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, I urge Senator Feinstein (Senator Harris) to denounce President Trump's "zero tolerance policy." The Senator should use all of Congress' authority to end this immoral practice which separates families. Homeland Security and the Justice Department are cruelly separating families at the border for no legitimate reason. They have separated thousands of children from their parent, needlessly traumatizing already vulnerable people. And they have done this with no viable plan for family reunification. We must demand that children be reunited with their families. Please take action now and inform me of what your action has been.

Please send your postcards (or letters) to the local addresses below. Phone calls are also good.

Senator Dianne Feinstein
1111 Santa Monica Blvd., #915
Los Angeles, CA 90025
(310) 914-7300

Senator Kamala Harris
11845 West Olympic Blvd., Ste. 1250W
Los Angeles, CA 90064
(310) 231-4494

WHAT'S NEWS

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

SWO • SoCal Synod

OUR MISSION & PURPOSE: 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.

Julie Jensen, 921 Gill Avenue
Port Hueneme, CA 93041

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



WHAT TO DO NEAR CLU

1.1 mi. from CLU: Wildwood Park's most popular destination is Paradise Falls, a 40-foot waterfall a mile away from civilization. It is fun to get to and see with a quick and easy 1-mile walking path.

4.1 mi. from CLU: Reagan Presidential Library is perched atop the mountains of Simi with an extraordinary collection of memorabilia plus other exhibits. Parking, shuttles, gift shop, food. Senior discounts available.

3.7 mi. from CLU: Gardens of the World is a beautifully landscaped botanical garden with several different areas - Japanese, English, Italian, California, and more. Walk through the entire place in under an hour, and leisurely at two hours. If you've never been, it's definitely worth your time, and it's free!

2.2 mi. from CLU: Conejo Valley Botanical Garden is a place to walk and contemplate while in the hustle and bustle of expanding Thousand Oaks.

2.8 mi. from CLU: The Oaks Shopping Mall has the 1980's vibe with a long 2-story interior corridor and a new outside wing. It has a food court, a nice selection of stores and a great place just to hang out.

3.8 mi. from CLU: The Stagecoach Museum has a lot to see and do! Feel like a trailblazing pioneer while visiting the various outside buildings and artifacts. Inside rooms feature the Victrola Room, the Jungleland Room, and the Victoria Hair Room, plus a school house and other early California antiques.