

EMBRACED BY GRACE



Women of the ELCA
Grand Canyon Synod

Our geographic area covers the southwest corner of the
United States including all of
Arizona, Southern Nevada
and St. George, Utah

Canyon Echoes

Volume XXXII Issue 9

August, 2016



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The magazine of Women of the ELCA.

In the Fall 2016 study, Meghan Johnston Aelabouni helps us explore biblical images of a God who acts beyond our conceptions of what's "fair." From Jonah's prayer to God from the belly of a big fish to school-age siblings and squabbling nations, she delves into what it means to worship a God who forgives the guilty, chooses the unlikely and gives to those who haven't "earned" it.

Find more details at: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/bible-studies-pages-55.php>

Subscribe now: 844-409-0576

Yearly subscription cost is \$15. Digital access (computer, I-Pad, Android) is free to print subscribers.



November 11-13, 2016

27th GC Synod Women's Convention/ Gathering

What To Expect in Vegas

- *Red, White & Blue Patriotic Greetings
- *A very meaningful Veteran's Day
- *Great Resort Suites to make you feel at home
- *Many old friends and lots of new friends
- *Election of new WELCA Board

*Stimulating Workshops
God Acting Through Us
Treasurer's Roundtable
Building Women's Ministries
Native American Ministry
Youth and Drug Addictions
Human Trafficking in Our Neighborhoods

- *Uplifting Music
- *Silent Auction and Raffle
- *Ministry Opportunities
- *Partners in Ministry (Sponsors)
- *Taize Prayer Service
- *Interactive Prayer Wall
- *Hospitality Suite
- *Participation in Service Projects
- *Spirit in the Desert Gift/Book Store
- *GREAT Entertainment
- *Communion/Worship Service
- *A Visit from Katie
- *FUN *FAITH BUILDING *FRIENDS**



Musings from President Laura

The lazy days of summer do not seem to be as lazy as I remember them as a child. It seems my days this summer have been filled with the hustle and bustle of life, keeping up with church commitments, work and finding time to spend with family and friends. There is no time left to be lazy! I often wonder, "Is it all worth it?"

Then I read a blog posted by our Churchwide President, Patti Austin, titled "Value Who You Are." She reminded the reader that most of our lives are centered around doing things, often for others. One day, we wake up and wonder who we are. What is our identity? What value do we have?

As daughters of God, we all been given gifts and we are expected make unique and valuable contributions. A contribution that is bigger than ourselves. As I look around my present and reflect on my past, I see thousands of Christian women who have and are still inspiring me to continue God's mission in this world.

This issue of Canyon Echoes is filled with stories of women who are using their gifts to do God's work in their communities both locally and around the world. There is much work yet to do! Our identity as daughters of God can be found in the ways we use our gifts. If you are still wondering how you can use your gifts, join us in November at the Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA biennial Convention in Las Vegas, NV. We will be sharing ways to share your gifts in God's Mission Field.

As we all journey to find our identity, let's be thankful for the gifts from God and for our sisters who inspire and share with us. Together we can do so much more!

Peace and Grace,

Laura Krueger

‘Just sayin. . .’ from VP, Suki



Reflecting on the scripture of this year's Convention, *"Each one of us has received special gifts from God, and we must use them for the benefits of others."* (paraphrased from 1 Peter 4:10), I must admit that during the years of marriage, divorce, single parenting, working, and widowhood, my gifts were focused on what I could do to keep going. The bible is a little harsh with this. *"You have spent enough time in the past doing what heathens like to do. . . Indecency, lust, drunkenness, orgies, drinking parties, and the disgusting worship of idols."* OUCH! It's all right there in 1 Peter 4:3

Almost two years ago I decided to put my name in for the WELCA Board; it was a time in my life where I thought I have time (I now understand that I ALWAYS had the time. . . I just used it unwisely.) Fortunately for me, I was elected. What a difference it has made in my life! Every morning I get up knowing that I have a purpose. . . something to do, some place to go, and some pretty awesome people to do it with. Traveling around the Synod and meeting women in all stages of life has filled me with a passion to work for God (GREAT benefits) and make the time to make a difference. . . and laugh!

As my first term comes rapidly to a close, I am praying that many of you will consider setting aside some of your precious and valuable time to consider running for the WELCA Board. We need to fill all 12 positions at Convention this year in order to continue the hard work that has been accomplished by our past leaders. Ask yourself this question. *"Am I using my good fruits wisely or am I ignoring the gifts that God gave me?"* Granted, not everyone is a leader, but everyone has been given gifts. ALL women are needed. With a strong new Board of dedicated, passionate women using their God given gifts, I have faith that the Women of the ELCA Grand Canyon Synod will be setting the pace for the whole church, near and far!

You will find Board Applications on our web site—www.grandcanyonwomen.org. You are never too young or too old or too busy to say "YES" to God. You might just get the surprise of your life; you really did have the time. Just sayin. . .

Discipleship

Last issue we talked about Mark 16:7 ~ **“Go and Tell”**. At the recent Synod Assembly, Bishop Steve urged us ALL to **‘Get Moving’** (2 Peter 1:5). This seems to be a prominent theme in our lives and deserves some attention. Your WELCA Discipleship Committee has been busy the past two years urging women to **‘Get Involved.’** We have raised our visibility throughout the Synod with BIG signs at events, ‘Embraced by Grace’ tee shirts and jewelry, expansion of the Canyon Echoes (our mailing list is the largest ever), created an active Web site. . . And you can find us on Facebook, Twitter and Pinterest! We are moving out of the dark ages and coming into the 21st Century! True, there are still some things that we have to do because ‘that’s the way we’ve always done them’ (follow a Constitution and take care of business), but there’s a new excitement building among the churches that is giving us HOPE that women are once again coming forward, joining together, and spreading the word about the WELCA and all of the projects that are making a difference in our communities and around the world. If you haven’t already done so, sign up for the November Convention. This is one you don’t want to miss. We’re planning educational workshops, motivating speakers, and lots of surprises! Come and join in the fun; it will be a time when you just might discover ‘who God made you to be’. Psalm 139-14

Committee members: [Susan Girouard](#), [Suki Kisling](#), [Wanda Frenchman-Takacs](#), [Randi VenHuizen](#),

Justice

There are now some new racial justice advocacy resources available through the Women of the ELCA. The resources include ‘How to have helpful conversations about race in the church;’ a Bible study, “Listening to the third slave;” and a historical timeline. Written by Inez Torres Davis, director for justice of Women of the ELCA, these resources are FREE to download from womenoftheelca.org/racialjustice or under the “Resources/Alphabetical” link. These are great program resources for small and large groups.

Your Grand Canyon Synod WELCA will continue the education of Human Trafficking with a live forum at the November Convention in Las Vegas. No matter where you live, this is happening in your neighborhood. At Convention you will be hearing from some victims, and their parents, on Saturday afternoon. The hard core facts and the testimonies of these young girls and their parents, will be eye opening. We hope to see you there.

Committee members: [Susan Drane](#), [Patty Gee](#), [Pat Shaw](#)

Stewardship

PV for Phebe. Solar energy for Phebe Hospital in Liberia. You’ve read about it in earlier issues. Now the Women of the ELCA from NE Minnesota and RREAL are thrilled to announce the good news that the project has been awarded a \$100,000 Challenge Grant from National Geographic. The bad news is that this grant will not be awarded if the project cannot be completed by September 2017. In order to meet this deadline from National Geographic, \$375,000 must be raised by the end of this calendar year! That means getting as many people informed and excited about supporting this project as we can—individuals, potential corporate sponsors, congregations, women’s groups, foundations—you get the idea!

450,000 Liberians rely on Phebe Hospital for their health care. Phebe spends \$500,000 a year for diesel fuel for their needed electricity, and this doesn’t assure them a consistent supply of electrical power for their hospital operations. PV for Phebe will use solar power to help meet the hospital’s electricity needs with clean, renewable energy. The project aims to realize cash payoffs of the installation costs within five years, with further savings up to and through the system’s 30-year lifespan.

The Women of the GC Synod have a history of involvement with Phebe Hospital, with connections established long before the PV for Phebe project became a dream in 2013. We have the power to make a difference for Phebe Hospital. Charitable gifts can be made through skipthegrid.org, a division of RREAL (Rural Renewable Energy Alliance in Pine River, MN) or to the NE Minnesota Synod’s Foundation, 1105 E Superior Street, Upper Ste, Duluth MN 55802.

Committee members: [Marlene Haller](#), [Patricia Johnson](#), [Martha Weld](#), [Myrna Wells-Ulland](#)

Las Vegas Convention News

Silent Auction and Raffle for Scholarships

Photography, paintings, quilts, jewelry, gift baskets ~ items are coming in from many women, and we are excited to be raising money for the WELCA Scholarship Fund to be used for future Conventions, Retreats, and Triennial. 100% of all proceeds will go to Scholarships! If you have an item to donate, please contact Suki at sukikisling@gmail.com or Lynne at gottf8th@cox.net with a description (picture would be nice) and value prior to **October 15**. They will make sure that the proper forms will be ready when you arrive at Convention on Friday.



Service Projects

All day Friday, Veteran's Day, Zeus A will be open to write notes on cards to our service personnel. We will be participating with 'A Million Thanks.' Check them out on line at http://amillionthanks.org/send_a_letter.php#maincontent. Cards and pens will be provided. It will be the perfect time to send THANKSgiving and CHRISTmas greetings.

Zeus A will be open ALL day on Saturday as we assemble **"Matthew Kits"** for the homeless kids in the area. As you travel this summer, stock up on those hotel hygiene products. Many of you have already produced lots of scarves, mittens and socks. Plastic bins will be available for your donations when you arrive at Convention on Friday. Keep it up; we need LOTS of items to keep these kids clean and warm during the upcoming winter months. Let's show them the LOVE!

Hula Hula!



Never say never. We have some great entertainment planned for the Saturday night banquet. Husband and wife team, Jason and Kelli Andino, former Cruise Line Entertainers and new parents, will be performing some of their favorite show stoppers. A few other surprises are planned for the evening, so get out your Island fancies (come barefoot if you like) and relax in the cool Island breezes as you sway to the music and imagine a life of 'no worries.'



Facebook Photo Contest

In order to share all the fun & excitement of Convention, all attendees are urged to snap photos of FUN moments and post them on the GC-WELCA Facebook page. (Ask one of the youth in attendance to help you with this.) Each time you post and 'tag' your friend(s) in the photos, your name & theirs will be entered in a drawing, limited to 5 drawing entries per day. Post & tag as much as you want!

Winners (5) must be present, after Worship on Sunday, to win the prize. This will be FUN and interactive; you might want to start practicing at some of your local events.

Financial Information

Unit **LOVE** offerings will be collected on Saturday morning during the Second Plenary Session.

The Sunday morning **Worship Offering** will be divided as follows: churchwide Women of the ELCA (50%), Nevada Homeless Youth (25%), and ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) (25%).

Make checks payable to:

"GC Synod Women of ELCA"

For Your Travel Planning

Friday, November 11	Noon	A flourish of workers preparing for your arrival
	3:00 p.m.	Registration Opens / Bookstore / Mingling Military Service Project
	5:00 p.m.	Voting Member Orientation Dinner on your own
	7:00 p.m.	Convention Opening / Taize Prayer Service Hospitality Reception
Saturday, November 12	8:00 a.m.	Reconvene Convention / Workshops
	Noon	Lunch with YAGM Speaker
	1:00 p.m.	Convention / Workshops / Service Project
	4:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
	6:00 p.m.	Island Banquet / Entertainment / Taize, Service / Hospitality Suite
Sunday, November 13	8:00 a.m.	Convention Closing / Worship / Done at Noon



Alexis Park All Suite Resort

***Largest non-gaming resort and conference center in Las Vegas**

***Wet bar, dining & living area in every suite**

***Coffee maker, refrigerator & microwaves**

***Fitness Center**

***Flat screen TV's with premium cable**

***Full Service Restaurant and Lounge**

***Complimentary Hotel Shuttle from LAS Airport and mid-Strip drop off**

***Centrally located two blocks off the Strip and across from the Hard Rock Casino**

Room Rates: Single/Double Suites \$94.00 + tax Triple/Quads \$114.00 +tax

These rates will apply Thursday, November 10 through Sunday, November 14. To secure your suite, phone 702-796-3397 and use the code ELCA116. Or use the online reservation link

<https://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID=1433526&hotelID=85179>

A deposit of the first night's room, plus tax, will be immediately charged to the credit card. A refund can be issued up to 72 hours (3 days) prior to the event. These room rates are for the room, not for individual persons who will stay in the room.

The availability of mini kitchens make it convenient to bring breakfast and snack items, thus saving on restaurant charges. And, if you work the numbers, the room rates are extremely reasonable! Why not invite a few old and new friends? This is an event you won't want to miss!



Want to sing in the Choir on Sunday

Indicate that on your registration, and we'll put you in touch with our Music Leader, Cyndy Warnier, prior to your arrival in Las Vegas. The choir will rehearse on Saturday afternoon. If you neglected to mark it on your registration, please contact Cyndy directly at cyndy@spiritinthedesert.org. **More voices needed!**

In-Kind Gifts to Local and World Need

New this year is a report form asking each unit to provide information about the gifts they've given to local, regional and world missions. One form per congregational unit. This form was included in our March convention issue of Canyon Echoes. You can also download the form from our website's [2016 Convention Page](#)

Late Breaking Convention Registration News as of July 31

106 registrations!

29-first timers 8—Scholarships in Waiting

31- voting members

Cactus Conference still leading the way with registrations; Colorado River a close second!

Register and pay online by clicking [here](#). Registration fees increase after October 1!



From our GC Synod's YAGM

Heidi Gerrish, University of Arizona graduate

2015-2016 ELCA Young Adults in Global Missions (YAGM) in Uruguay

By the time you are reading this, I will be back in Arizona after living 11 months in Montevideo, Uruguay serving with the ELCA~YAGM program. It has been a whirlwind of experiences that I would never have known to expect! Most of my time has been spent working with kids and teens in the most impoverished neighborhood in the country, Barrio Borro. Smells of burning trash, horse dung and sweat are strong during my morning bus ride to La Obra Ecumenica. The big iron gate is opened, and I am greeted with 'Hola! Como andas? Todo Bien? (Hi! How're doing? All good?). While making rounds of greetings, I touch and kiss the cheeks of many faces: cold, warm, greasy, smelly, beardy, and any kind of face you could imagine. At first they were just faces. Now I know their stories, their gifts, their personalities and they have made me feel like I'm home.

Tuesday through Friday mornings are spent with the teenagers at Casa Joven tutoring on all sorts of subjects. We learn skills such as cooking and spend time in the various artisan workshops. Fridays are spent in the music workshop learning rhythms specific to Uruguay, like candombe. We all share lunch together, the teenagers leave and then it's time for Club de Ninos, with kids ages 6-12. We teach the kids about health, identity, art, gardening, music, cooking and chess. Often we just get goofy and have a good time dancing. On Tuesday and Thursday we take the public bus to a pool where they are given swimming lessons and have a chance to take a hot shower.

On Thursdays I leave early and take a one hour bus ride to our church, Nuestro Salvador. I always arrive to a small herd of children yelling my name and running down the dirt road to hug me. Last year we began a diaconal project called El Sembrador. The project uses talents from within the community to create a space where kids can spend time off the streets, learn and be cared for. I teach a physical expression workshop, playing games, dancing and teaching kids anywhere from age 5 to adult about new ways to express themselves. One night a surprise bus strike kept me stranded in Colonia Nicolich. A family opened their home to me, fed me dinner, and gave me a place to sleep without asking anything in return! Hopefully we can all reach out and push ourselves to show this level of respect and warmth in all of the relationships we enter into.

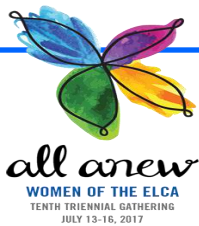
I am so looking forward to seeing you at the WELCA Convention in November! Don't be afraid to ask if you want a little kiss on the cheek, a taste of the traditional *mate* (a type of tea that is popular and shared among friends), and for me to answer your questions. It's been an exciting year and I appreciate all of the support and prayers I have received from the WELCA!



From Uruguay to Vegas!

Heidi will be speaking at the
Saturday Luncheon
November 12, 2016

* It has just been announced that Heidi's younger sister, Julie, has been accepted in the 2016-2017 YAGM program and will be serving a year in Senegal! KUDOS to parents Cindy (who will be attending Convention with Heidi) and Paul for raising some great kids who have a Passion and a Purpose to make a difference.



Triennial Gathering Promoters

By Randi VenHuizen
randiv@cox.net ~ 402 216-3067



Registration Opens September 6!

Early-bird registration for the 10th WELCA Triennial Gathering opens September 6. The \$310.00 rate is good until December 31, after which registration will be \$350. Day registration is \$175.

Exciting speakers, preachers and workshop leaders are being lined up to bring the Gathering theme to life, exploring the theme verse Psalm 104:30: "Lord, send forth your spirit.. and renew the face of the earth." The verse calls on God to send the Holy Spirit to renew not just God's people, not just God's church, but ALL of God's earth.

Because the gathering falls during the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017, the theme resonates with reformation and transformation images. Participants will explore ways in which the Holy Spirit changes us. Register at welcatg.org or send an email to women.elca@elca.org

Reflect, pray and prepare for the day

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Provided from our churchwide office, **Daily Grace's** brief writings will help you encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace! You will be comforted, challenged, inspired, consoled and confronted. The daily reflection will stir you to live out your baptismal calling. **Daily Grace** is available from the I-Tunes App Store or Google.



Interchange/Intercambio is published four times a year by Women of the ELCA, in spring, summer, fall and winter. It is sent without charge to each congregational unit of Women of the ELCA and to elected leadership in synodical women's organizations and conferences. You can download the English or Spanish version free anytime by clicking [Interchange/Intercambio](#).

Helpful Websites and Contacts

www.elca.org

This will access the ELCA's national churchwide office

www.womenoftheelca.org

Churchwide website of Women of the ELCA; resources for your congregational unit as well as *Café*, an e-magazine for young women

www.grandcanyonwomen.org

Website for our Grand Canyon synod women

grandcanyonwomen@gmail.com

Email to reach our Grand Canyon synod women's leadership

www.gathermagazine.org

Website for *Gather* magazine, the magazine of Women of the ELCA

www.welcatg.org

Website for latest information about our 2017 Triennial Gathering

www.boldcafe.org

Online magazine for Lutheran women

www.lwr.org

Website for Lutheran World Relief

www.bread.org

Bread for the World—find out how to write congress, donate and order your copy of *bread*, find out what's happening, request email updates

www.elca.org/hunger

ELCA World Hunger—hunger facts, resources, stories, how to give



Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA
Women of the ELCA



Grand Canyon Women of ELCA
Women of the ELCA



Women of the ELCA

WomenGive inFaith RETREAT

Women of the ELCA and InFaith invite you to share your passion for changing lives and spreading the joy of good stewardship with other women of faith at the WomenGive inFaith retreat.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 12PM–4PM

Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church
11025 North 111th Avenue, Sun City

Registration: \$25*

*Entire amount will be pooled and a grant made through a giving circle at the retreat. \$15 is a tax deductible charitable gift.

Lunch and afternoon refreshments will be provided.
Registration begins at 11:30AM.

Join us! Celebrate the power of women's giving and leadership to change the world in a friendly and welcoming setting. Retreats are more enjoyable with friends. Invite one or two to join you!

Please RSVP by August 19 at
InFaithFound.org/womengive/retreats

Thanks to Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church, the Rev. Daniel Defassio, the women of Shepherd of the Desert and the Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA for their hospitality and help.

WomenGive inFaith

A CAMPAIGN OF InFaith COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Engaging women of faith to use their talents and passions to educate, advocate and activate.

YOU WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Reflect on inspirational Bible-based stories about women, faith and philanthropy.
- Share your stories about generosity and making a difference.
- Ignite your passion and joy of giving.
- Explore your money messages and perspectives on abundance vs. scarcity.
- Increase your knowledge of financial planning tools for strategic, sustainable and generous giving.
- Support an initiative that helps women and girls as part of a giving circle experience.

InFaithFound.org
800.365.4172

The mission of InFaith Community Foundation is intentionally aligned with Thrivent's mission. The Foundation is a public charity and community foundation and is independent of Thrivent Financial and its financial representatives.

No products will be sold or gifts solicited.



We're Looking for 12 Great Women Leaders!

Your synodical women's organization (SWO) leaders are a great resource for every unit in our GC synod. They know about exciting program ideas, resources you can use (many of which are FREE), ministry opportunities to connect your women with needs in your community, region, and globally, and they want to support you and the women in your churches. Together, we are the women's ministry arm of our ELCA.

All GC synod women leaders are volunteers, just like you in your church or conference. They are elected at our biennial convention, coming up on November 11-13, 2016. This year, all of our leadership positions are up for election: our president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and 8 board members.

Whose names will be on the ballot this year? Has God placed this call upon your heart? Will your name be among those nominated? Have you said "YES" to this opportunity for leadership? Nomination forms are on our [website](#) and must be submitted by October 1.



Saying "Yes" means having an open heart. It means being hopeful and excited about opportunities. It means choosing to believe that challenges can be handled and problems can be resolved. "Yes" means being willing to step into trusting that the path will be revealed. It means being responsible to change and grow and move forward one step at a time. And "Yes" means loving and respecting ourselves and those around us. "Yes" is a big and powerful word and the only way to express it, and experience it all, is to begin. (Author Unknown)

Visit www.grandcanyonwomen.org to find many opportunities where you can say "Yes." The [March 2016 issue of Canyon Echoes](#) is the perfect place to begin.

Scholarship Opportunities for our Convention/Gathering in November in Las Vegas

It's not too late to submit scholarship applications - the deadline is August 15! Categories are

- Today's Katie—for women 18-30 who haven't attended our convention before and want to be involved
- June Klar—for active women under 40 who have not attended our convention before
- Conference—one scholarship from each of our nine conferences
- Diversity—for women of color and/or whose primary language is other than English

Find complete information and forms on our website's 2016 Convention Events page:

<http://grandcanyonwomen.org/events/2016conventioninformation.html>



all anew
WOMEN OF THE ELCA
TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING
JULY 13-16, 2017

Tenth Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA
July 13-16, 2017
Minneapolis, MN Convention Center

Theme verse: Psalm 104:30 "Lord, send forth your spirit....and renew the face of the earth"

Registration Opens September 6!

For more info: welcatg.org or randiv@cox.net

2020 ~ Phoenix, AZ!!

2023 ~ Spokane, WA

Summer Boot Camp

Saturday, August 27, 2016

8:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church

1159 N. Greenfield Rd.

Gilbert, AZ 85234



WELCA Grand Canyon Synod Vice President, Suki Kisling, will be **‘Spreading the Joy’** with a presentation on how to bring excitement back into your women’s ministries with simple, innovative programs. ALL women from the Valley, and beyond, are invited to attend and share your ideas. It will be a time to beat the heat, kick up your heels (or sandals), and enjoy a fun summer day with like-minded women (always a JOY).

If your last name falls between A-P, bring a salad to serve 8-10 people. Q-Z, bring a dessert. Rolls, beverages, plates, napkins and utensils will be provided.

Registration is a smile and an open, happy spirit. We are going to have some FUN! In order to plan for setting up, please **RSVP by Friday, August 12**. Call Randi at [402 216-3067](tel:4022163067) or e-mail randiv@cox.net to reserve your space.

See you there. Ta Dah!



“Get Moving!”

2 Peter 1:5

Community Lutheran Church in Las Vegas, NV was the site of the **29th Annual Grand Canyon Synod Assembly** held on June 16-17. More than 350 guests from the three-state Synod attended the Assembly with 278 voting members casting their ballots to approve by-law amendments, financial reports and election.

WELCA President, Laura Krueger, and Vice President, Suki Kisling staged a sit in at the WELCA

booth and greeted many women who are searching for programs, leadership, and answers to questions regarding WELCA. Over 60 Convention Registrations were taken, along with information on Triennial and Canyon Echoes. Samples of lighted pens were given away, along with travel bags, post it notes, business cards and candy. Synod shirts and a new piece of jewelry also caught the attention of many.

Because Jesus Christ is alive and moving among us through his body, the Church, people around us are being transformed. Bishop Stephen Talmage encouraged congregations to **‘get moving,’** focusing on what God is calling them to be about. Several witnesses shared their amazing faith stories of how God is working through their lives, even in cases of extreme personal hardships. Two Synod members, Rev. John Schaumburg and Rev. Maria Valenzuela were honored for their years of service and Pastor Miguel Gomez-Acosta was installed as the new Director for Evangelical Mission. Next year’s Assembly will be held on June 9-10, 2017 at Love of Christ in Mesa, Arizona.



Happenings Around Our GC Synod



Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has a new focus on their kit ministry, called PROJECT PROMISE. They now have a website built just for the kit ministry, with easy-to-share resources and information. Whether you need a flyer to advertise your kit-making event or you need step-by-step instructions for creating a School Kit or Personal Care Kit, buildkitsofcare.org is your 1-stop for all the information needed to share the Project Promise story. And now you can post photos and stories to social media with [#KitsOfCare](https://twitter.com/KitsOfCare). To learn more about Project Promise or get resources to share in your community, visit buildkitsofcare.org.



Graduating seniors at **Living Water Lutheran** in Scottsdale were presented quilts on May 22, Senior Recognition Sunday, made by the Piece Makers Quilting Group. Go Forth!

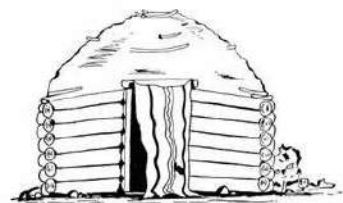
Change of Plans

At the July meeting, your Synod Board voted to publish a mid October issue of Canyon Echoes (instead of November1) which will update the Convention activities and other upcoming events. We will also publish an extra Advent/Holiday edition in mid December. If you have any news or events please e-mail (grandcanyonwomen@gmail.com) three weeks prior to publication.

What's happening with your women's ministry?

Has your church or conference had an interesting event or speaker? In what ministries are your women involved? Do you have photos? What you are doing may be the inspiration for another unit or congregation or group of women. Share your news with us by emailing content and photos to our GC women's email at grandcanyonwomen@gmail.com.

The ladies of **Christ Lutheran in Sedona** had a very busy May. We joined with Outreach for a trip to Rock Point on May 12-14. We took food staples and potted plants to Grandmothers in their homes at Rock Point in northern Arizona. Rock Point is an hour or more in either direction from major shopping. The home sites we visited were even more remote with beautiful terrain and bumpy dirt sandy roads.



Participating in the High Country Conference, we hosted the Friday night meal for some of our hosts from the school and mission. On Saturday we were able to tour a Hogan, teepee and sweat lodge before enjoying Navajo tacos for lunch. We learned of the many challenges and issues the local people deal with on a daily basis. The Mission works hard to be a place of community. We ended our visit with a worship service on Saturday afternoon.

Youth from **CLC in Las Vegas**, together with their fearless leaders, Kristen Thiel and Intern Pastor Megan Filer, spent a week on Skid Row in LA where



about 5,000 are experiencing homelessness. These kids served at Hope Gardens with families, Midnight Mission, Union Rescue Mission and on various construction projects.



What an eye opening experience for them and everyone who has been blessed by their presence. Photo at left shows Pastor Megan, with her liturgical hair, playing with some little darlings.

Happenings Around Our GC Synod

A group of 21 women from the **High Country Conference** traveled to the Navajo community of Rock Point, AZ, located 200 miles from Flagstaff. Kate Adelman, Executive Director of the Mission explained that one of 2016's project goals is to begin a Cultural Center that will provide cultural sharing and community activity. We saw that the project is well underway, viewing the traditional Sweat Lodge and accompanying Shade Shelter and Hogan. We were told that these are evidence to the Rock Point community of the Mission's commitment to learning and sharing Navajo spirituality and traditions.

The other inspiring addition was the expansion of the Mission School's internet learning with a grant providing 20 'state of the art' wireless laptops, along with teacher technology equipment. In an effort to reach the community, a library is being established (they can always use book donations!) on the Mission grounds that will also include internet access for the greater Navajo Community.



Parker Adelman describes the Cultural Center plans, with the traditional Hogan in the background.



Community Lutheran in Las Vegas celebrated their annual 'All God's Daughters' Tea on May 21, 2016. The event began with a photo booth to capture groups of women dressed up for the tea, followed by a parade of tables so all attendees could view the creative and beautiful decorations. Each table hostess chose a theme for her table; many TERRIFIC ideas! The menu consisted of an antipasto appetizer, quiche, salad, and chocolate covered strawberries.

Intern Pastor, Megan Filer, gave an inspiring talk on accepting yourself and being the best you can be. Although she spoke via video (she was elsewhere graduating with her Masters), she touched us all with her open heart. A big thank you to Susan Milazzo for organizing another yet wonderful tea and a chance to connect with the fabulous women in our lives.



MYSTERY

Twenty one brave women met in the in Green Valley on June 13 to experience scheduled luncheon day). After one hour Springboard Home of Girls, one of the through the years. The five girls, aged 14-17, currently in residence, gave their testimony of low self esteem, unhappiness, pregnancy, alcohol and heroin addiction. Teen Challenge (The Cross and the Switchblade) is the parent company. Springboard, one of the few homes for girls, offers them a new life with a Christian based educational program and learning life skills, such as cooking, cleaning, knitting/crocheting and being responsible. Springboard also offers counseling to the parents. All of the girls spoke about accepting Christ as their Lord and Savior and will be leaving Springboard with a whole new life before them. After being served a wonderful brunch, we left with a new appreciation of what our youth are facing in today's world.



TRIP

parking lot of **Desert Hills Lutheran Church** their first Mystery Trip (normally a regularly on the road, the six cars pulled into the many service projects we have supported

Bold Connections is a free monthly e-newsletter of Women of the ELCA. Whether you participate a lot or a little in Women of the ELCA in your congregation, you'll find helpful news and information on our programs and activities, and stories of how together we live out our purpose and mission. It is delivered via e-mail toward the end of the month.

To sign up for Bold Connections, go to www.womenoftheelca.org and look under Publications.

bold
connections

Upcoming Events for Women in Our GC Synod

Global Leadership Summit

August 11-12, 2016

Desert Hills Lutheran, Green Valley

sukikisling@gmail.com

Summer Boot Camp

Saturday, August 27, 2016

Spirit of Joy, Mesa, AZ

randiv@cox.net

GC Synod Women's Board Meeting

Saturday, October 1, 2016

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.

Prince of Peace, Phoenix

NE Valley Women's Retreat

October 15, 2016

Resurrection Lutheran, Scottsdale

myrna.ulland@gmail.com

GC Synod Women's Board Meeting

November 10, 2016

Alexis Park Resort, Las Vegas, NV

27th GC WELCA Convention/Gathering

November 11-13, 2016

2017

Community Lutheran Retreat

"Have You Heard? Tell Me More"

January 27-29, 2017

Lake Havasu, AZ

shirleyklizotte@gmail.com

Cactus Conference Gathering

Saturday, February 25, 2017

Lord of Life, Sun City, AZ

Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference Gathering

"Forgiveness & Surprising Grace"

Saturday, March 4, 2017

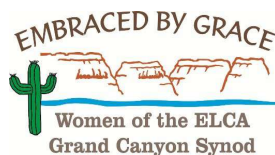
Streams in the Desert, Tucson, AZ

jgunson@cox.net rellr2@cox.net

Colorado River Conference Gathering

Saturday, April 22, 2017

Community, Bullhead City, AZ



27th WELCA GC Synod Convention/Gathering

November 11-13, 2016

Alexis Park Resort and Hotel
375 E. Harmon Av., Las Vegas, NV

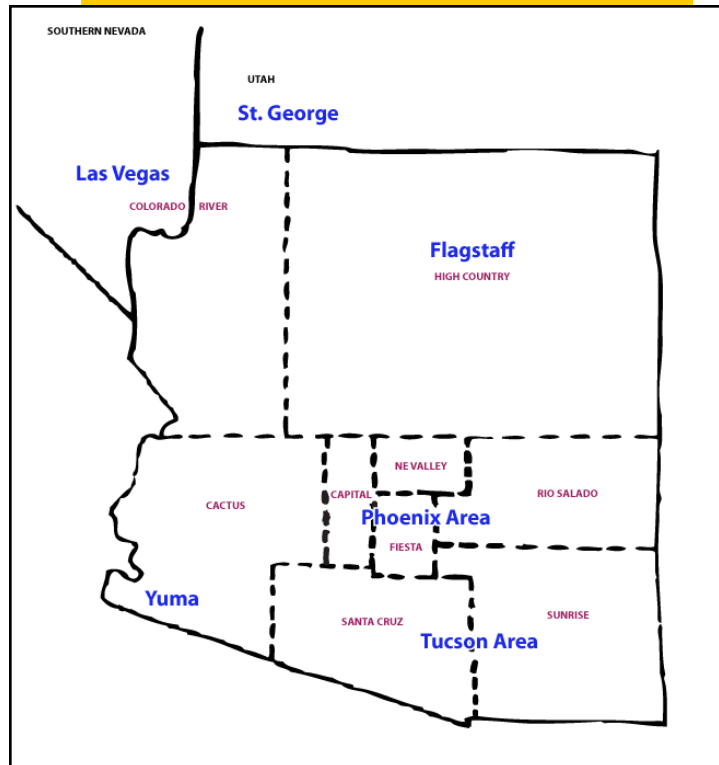
Contact: Suki Kisling

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Our GC Synod Conferences



July, 2017 ~ 'We're going to Triennial in Minneapolis! Come along and have some FUN.'



Purpose Statement

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.

El Proposito

Como comunidad de mujeres creadas a imagen de Dios, llamadas a convertirnos en discípulas de Jesucristo, y fortalecidas por el Espíritu Santo, nos comprometemos a crecer en la fe, afirmar nuestros dones, apoyarnos las unas a las otras en nuestras respectivas vocaciones, involucrarnos en el ejercicio del ministerio y la acción, y promover la sanación e integridad en la iglesia, la sociedad y el mundo.

What does our churchwide Women of the ELCA logo mean? Our churchwide logo, with the cross, water and a white lily, identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It's a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It's also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19)

2014-2016 Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA

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Our email: grandcanyonwomen@gmail.com

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Pat Shaw
Love of Christ, Mesa-Rio Salado

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Community Lutheran, Las Vegas-Colorado River

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Spirit of Joy, Mesa-Rio Salado

Wanda Frenchman Takacs
Native American Urban Ministry, Phoenix-Capital

Martha Weld
Prince of Peace, Phoenix-Northeast Valley

Patricia Johnson
Abounding Grace, Tucson-Sunrise

Myrna Wells-Ulland
Living Water, Scottsdale-Northeast Valley

Your board wants to hear from you. If you have concerns or ideas you would like us to consider, please send your thoughts to our email: grandcanyonwomen@gmail.com