

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

September 2017



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UPCOMING STUDY: 3-session study (September through November) on The Apostle's Creed



Published 10 times a year, *Gather*, the magazine of Women of the ELCA, offers articles, theological reflections and devotions to help readers grow in faith and engage in ministry and action. Each issue contains a thought-provoking Bible study written by one of a variety of pastors and authors from across the church.

Find more details at:

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/bible-studies-pages-55.php>

Subscribe now: 844-409-0576

Yearly subscription cost is \$19.95. Digital access (computer, Ipad, smartphone) is free to print subscribers.

Grand Canyon Synod WELCA Women's Retreat October 20th-21st, 2017 In Scottsdale at the



FRANCISCAN
RENEWAL CENTER

TRANSFORMED: *A New Katie*

Registration is now open! In lieu of holding a Convention Gathering every year, the Grand Canyon Synod WELCA hosts a Retreat event (no business meeting) in the alternate year of a Convention. 2017 is the year of our Retreat.

The Franciscan Renewal Center, 5802 E. Lincoln Drive in Scottsdale, promises to be a place where 'even the trees whisper' and will offer the perfect backdrop for an inspiring weekend.

Registration is open until October 4 unless we fill our seating capacity before then. All registrations and payment must be received by our registrar on or before October 4. See pages 9-10 in this issue for information and the registration form and information about the retreat and housing. We're also offering two scholarships. See page 11 for the scholarship application form. Save the date and register now! Bring a friend!

Message from President Myrna



Together with some 3300 sisters in faith, your Grand Canyon synod women were well represented at the 2017 Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis on July 13-16, 2017 under the theme of "All Anew." My thanks to Randi VenHuizen for her Triennial reflections which are incorporated into this News. There were opportunities to

hear powerful speakers, worship, participate in servant events, tours, visit the Exhibit Hall, attend workshops, connect with old friends and meet new as we fellowshiped and learned together. The Gathering's renewal theme offered many opportunities to consider how we are being changed. We were challenged to see the world with new eyes, to sense the needs of our neighbors in a new way.

Following our Opening Worship on Thursday afternoon and then a reception to "meet the Bishop," we had our first plenary session. Kelly Fryer (author of our summer Gather Bible study) told us "we're daughters of a troublemaker." She said we're called to follow Jesus' example of standing with those on the margins. Bishop Eaton led a panel responding to Kelly's message. On Friday, Nobel Peace Prize winner Leymah Gbowee reminded us that "anew" isn't an event, it's a process. Jesus renews us daily to do his work. Friday and Saturday gave us an opportunity to attend a mid-day organ recital at Central Lutheran Church. The afternoons were filled with workshops to attend, servant events to participate in, and choir practice if you sang in the triennial choir.

Friday evening included a film screening, "Beauty of our Dreams," a documentary about what faith groups are doing to support girls' education globally. The film focuses on spiritual communities and individuals motivated by faith to help all girls have the chance to learn. It also explores why religious institutions often neglect the need to educate girls. Those who attended this film screening found it educational and inspiring.

Saturday early morn kicked off with the 5K Run, Walk and Roll in Loring Park. Some 300 of us turned out to get some exercise and raise money for churchwide's Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls initiative. In our Saturday plenary session, The Rev. Alexia Savatierra examined systems that should be challenged, asking what counter-cultural, justice



making action we are being called to take. She reminded us that, as Lutheran Christian women, we're good at mercy. But that is no longer enough. We need to get out of our pews and move into justice work. A Q&A session followed her presentation. Saturday afternoon was more workshops, servant events, visiting to the Exhibit Hall. In the evening, another film screening, "Dreamcatchers," was shared. This features a former Chicago prostitute, Brenda Myers-Powell, co-founder and executive director of a charitable organization that helps women and teenage girls leave the sex industry and breaks the cycle of abuse and exploitation. Saturday evening also provided those with tickets to listen to the National Lutheran Choir perform at Central Lutheran Church.

In our closing worship on Sunday morning, presided over by The Rev. Barbara Lund, director of Wisdom Ways Center for Spirituality in St. Paul, MN, The Rev. Angela Khabeb from Ascension Church in Waukesha, WI, warned us that if we're comfortable in Jesus, we're doing it wrong. One of her quotes, "When we've got God all figured out, we are in a very dangerous place. Because our God is big. Our God is the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end – and the middle, too, just in case there was any confusion. God's word teaches us that the clouds of the air are the dust of God's sandals. That's a big doggone God." She reminded us that the God of the universe blesses everyone. Rev. Khabeb received a standing ovation following her sermon!

Can we continue the momentum experienced at the Triennial Gathering? Are we ready for "all anew?" Can we work to bring about change so sorely needed in our communities, in our society, in our world? Can we set free old, outdated ideas and encourage new growth? Whose corner are we being called to stand in?

As we go forward, carrying the inspiration and momentum of this Triennial experience, be encouraged by the words from Isaiah 43:18-19 - "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."

Until next time, Myrna

Just sayin'....VP, Suki

There's a popular restaurant south of my home that posts a "Closed for Renovations" sign at the end of May. As my 75th birthday was rapidly approaching and I felt the need for a little renovating ("Come off by yourself in the desert; let's take a break and get a little rest." Mark 6:31), I took off on a short road trip, alone with God and my Gemini twin and closed down the computer, iPad and phone. Kindle was loaded with some new reading material (I knew I could count on the Gideons for scripture), healthy snacks were packed in the cooler, along with a bottle of champagne. A friend had even given me a noise maker if I got the urge to really celebrate (there was a gift of chocolate also included). Yes, I decided to give myself permission to check out, rest and reflect. After all, God rested at the end of His creation (Genesis 1:2-3).

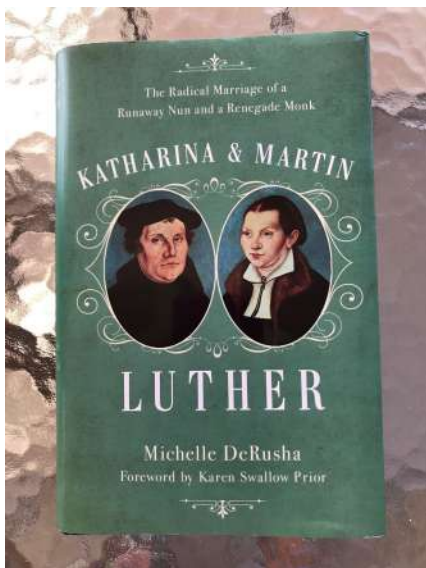
As women of the church we always seem to have our plates full of more than green jello and hot dishes. It seems that we are always the ones who get asked to 'help' (if you want things done ask a busy woman) and we rarely say 'NO'. We often even say 'NO' to ourselves! Was it when we were busy raising our families or busy with 'retirement' when we gave up obeying the Fourth Commandment to remember the Sabbath day. Granted, the days are so busy now that it's hard to remember when seven days have gone by! Busyness is the enemy of our soul and we need to STOP. That's why it's o.k. to set some time aside just for YOU. Yes, your family needs you. Your animals need you. Your church needs you. The world needs you. But, YOU need YOU to be healthy and refreshed. Don't wait for 'free time' in your life to make needed renovations. Free time will never happen unless YOU create it. Even though my home is somewhat of a sanctuary, it still contains dust, mail, weeding, laundry, etc. A total get-away is needed in order to really get in touch with where you are in life. Trust me, it can be a real wake up call from God!

When my local restaurant 'Reopens' for business in mid July, it is a day of celebration. That's the same feeling I had when I returned from my 'Birthday Renovations'. I came back refreshed, ready to celebrate and live my life more purposefully. . . just sayin.

P.S. A good tool (and excellent traveling companion) is John Ortberg's "What is God's Will for My Life?"



Book Review – “The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk”



The go-to book for a look into the lives of Martin and Katie Luther is covered in “Katharina & Martin Luther: The Radical Marriage of a Runaway Nun and a Renegade Monk” by Michelle DeRusha. It's the perfect read for insight as we prepare for this year's celebration of 500 Years of Reformation when those famous 95 Theses were nailed to the Castle (now called All Saints) church door in Wittenberg.

The pages will entice you to keep reading about the revolutionary marriage which was one of the most scandalous and intriguing in history. Unlike other books which focus on history, this writing gives insight into the domestic life which shaped a model for marriage. Over the years this unlikely marriage turns into a remarkable, tender love story showing the strength, boldness and faith of the Luthers.

If you have visited, or are planning to visit Germany, this book will introduce you to the places and names that have become so important in our Lutheran beliefs. It will also give you an advance history lesson if you are planning to attend the Grand Canyon Synod WELCA Retreat on October 20-21 when we will have a visit from Katie Luther.

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Alice Natale grew up in Orange County, CA, and attended Fullerton Junior College and Long Beach City College. She ultimately graduated from Redlands University with a degree in business.

Alice worked for Long Beach schools in the late 1960's and moved to LA County in 1971. After 33 years in county service she retired and relocated to Payson, AZ where she volunteers in the public library, the literacy after school programs, the Deacons Food Bank and is on several other boards. In addition she is an active member of Mount Cross Lutheran church, currently holding office as president of WELCA and church council vice president. Alice is a member of the Cursillo programs as well as Daughters of American

**Alice
Natale**



Revolution and Daughters of Scotia. As a former county employee, she is a lifetime member of the LA County Management Council.

Alice has three biological children and one stepson along with 8 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren, all of whom live in Arizona, California and Nevada.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Late Breaking News! Las Vegas In-Gathering?

We anticipate we may have an in-gathering in Las Vegas in mid-October. Plans have not been finalized as we go to publication. We will send out an e-blast with details as soon as we receive information.

Phyllis Borchardt is a life long Lutheran who was baptized and confirmed as a member of an Augustana Synod church in rural Minnesota. Her life's journey has taken her far and wide with Worship experiences in small and large congregations from Mt. Olivet in Minneapolis to a mission congregation in the Phoenix area. She is currently a member of Spirit of Grace in Surprise, AZ and serves as Treasurer of the



**Phyllis
Borchardt**

WELCA Unit. Phyllis participates in outreach ministries at assisted living facilities and on an individual basis.

Her goal as a Lutheran is to support and assist voices to the issues that Martin Luther raised 500 years ago. After participating in Rally in the Valley, a presentation by Dr. Lose echoes an interest in making our church relevant in today's secular society where traditional worship has taken a back step in today's fast paced society where instant gratification has created an environment and/or made religion less appealing in our world.

Phyllis spent over 25 years in the hotel industry and had the opportunity to live and work all across the USA. Travel has been a lifelong passion and moving around has afforded many opportunities to work, worship and play in various communities and settings. About 20 years ago she met Larry, a very supportive gentleman she is pleased to call her husband. They continue to travel as time allows and are still working to complete their Bucket List.

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Baker was born in Duluth, MN and moved 'out of the country' and into the 'big city of Phoenix' in 1960. Prior to retirement she worked as a Certified Nursing Assistant and an Optician at Nationwide Vision Center.

She did attend church, but was never interested in getting involved until she came across Grace Lutheran in the heart of Phoenix. She became a

**Judy
Baker**



Sunday school teacher, a Stephen Minister, a Church Council member and is now a current member of the Grand Canyon Synod Council and WELCA Board. Dear to her heart is the summer respite program for the homeless at Grace which she has served for the past 13 years.

Judy has five children and continues to be very active in her community. Her personal goal is to see the Synod develop into a well-balanced association to help affiliated churches prosper and serve their community.

For a complete Board Member List, including Name and Contact Information please see Page 17.

2017 Triennial Gathering July 13-16, 2017



Nearly 40 women from our synod were in Mpls



**11th Triennial coming to Phoenix July 16-19, 2020.
Preregister now at reduced rate until 12/31/17.**

Alleluia Diaper Closet Urgent Needs!

The Diaper Closet at Alleluia Lutheran Church, 8444 W Encanto Blvd, Phoenix AZ is in URGENT need of diapers and wipes to supply their Diaper Closet. This is a ministry serving families within an approximate 5-mile radius of Alleluia Lutheran.

Every first and third Saturday of the month, more than 100 children are served, from infants to toddlers still in diapers. Their closet is running low.

Can you or your women's ministry group respond to this need? Contact Pr. Maria at 623-640-8997.

Committee Reports

DISCIPLESHIP *...go and make disciples of all nations*

Your Board has been working diligently to bring more information to you in order to grow your faith and to grow your interaction with other WELCA women around the Grand Canyon Synod and beyond. The Canyon Echoes newsletter (obtained by e-mail or on the website www.grandcanyonwomen.org) is improving and receiving many nice complements! Soon you will be able to access our website for resources for Conference Gatherings (see page 14 for information). Churchwide also unveiled a new website at the recent Triennial Gathering offering a fresh, new, and contemporary look, including the home page (womenoftheelca.org), Café (boldcafe.org) and Gather (gathermagazine.org). If you are looking for ideas for growing your Unit, finding speakers for programs, or making suggestions on how we can improve our purpose, please contact President Myrna or any of the Discipleship Committee.

Suki/ sukikisling@gmail.com

Wanda/ wandak247@gmail.com;

PastorJennifer/ pjezahnnow@gmail.com

Myrna / president@grandcanyonwomen.org

STEWARDSHIP *...is what happens after you say "yes" to Jesus*

One of the things we love about WELCA is the wonderful resources they provide. We have a new PowerPoint presentation entitled **Stewardship in an All Anew Way**. The program can be used at one of your meetings or even at a Spring Gathering at some time. If you're interested, please send an email to: grandcanyonwomen@gmail.com and address it to the Stewardship Team. One of us will get back to you.

Randi / randiv@cox.net Debbie / treas@grandcanyonwomen.org

Myrna/ president@grandcanyonwomen.org

Responding to Hurricane Harvey in the Gulf

You are hearing of many opportunities to lend support to the victims of the hurricane which has devastated Houston and many surrounding communities in Texas and Louisiana. Our response always needs to include our prayers. One agency that you can count on to distribute 100% of your monetary contribution is our ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response.

As Women of the ELCA, if you contribute through our churchwide Women of the ELCA, every cent is forwarded immediately to ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response and people will know it's the women of the church acting together to bring healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. Make your check payable to Women of the ELCA, note Lutheran Disaster Response: US Hurricane Response in the memo line, and mail to Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield VA 22116-8009. Thank you!

2017 Triennial Convention Notes from Myrna Wells-Ulland

Your Grand Canyon Synod women were represented at the 2017 Triennial Convention in Minneapolis by myself, as president, and by Susan Girouard from Community Lutheran in Las Vegas and Randi Ven Huizen from Spirit of Joy in Gilbert. This convention was the first for both Susan and Randi. We were joined by 300 other voting members from across all synods of our ELCA. Convention proceedings were spread over four plenary sessions and began with a communion service. Business included electing new officers and board members to the churchwide (CWO) executive board. Elections for the CWO president and vice president were from an ecclesiastical/nominating ballot. Laura Krueger, your former GC synod women's president, was one of 17 elected to the CWO board. I chaired the Conduct of Elections Committee. We also heard reports from outgoing CWO president, Patti Austin; from Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director of Women of the ELCA; from our Presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Elizabeth Eaton; from Ely Smith, Treasurer of the CWO executive board, and others. The budget for 2018 was reviewed and approved. The audit report was reviewed and approved. We were introduced to three new websites which I hope you will visit and enjoy: the CWO's redesigned website at www.womenoftheelca.org; the *Gather* website at www.gathermagazine.org and Café, the online magazine focused on younger women but read by all ages at www.boldcafe.org.

Changes to the Constitution were approved, basically modifying verbiage from "voting members of the ELCA" to **"voting members of an ELCA congregation."** An approved constitution change affecting all synodical women's organizations is the requirement:

To distribute pre-convention reports to all voting members at least 20 days prior to our conventions.

We also affirmed the ELCA's repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery, adopted by the August 2016 churchwide assembly of the ELCA, including **educating ourselves about this statement and its consequences for Native people in North America and continuing to develop relationships with American Indians and/or Alaskan Native ministries within or near our synods, including practicing accompaniment with native peoples instead of a missionary endeavor to them.** Churchwide will post this full Resolution on its website. You can read much more detail about this Doctrine from the ELCA's website (search Doctrine of Discovery) or try this link: <https://search.elca.org/Pages/Results.aspx?k=Doctrine+of+Discovery>.

We discussed and voted on several memorials (resolutions coming from synodical conventions) and resolutions (motions coming from the floor), summarized below. Many of these actions impact what we will be involved with in this next triennium and your GC synod women's board will be encouraging that discussion and involvement.

Memorials to **Support the TDTR (Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality) Network** (our anti-racism emphasis) were sent back to the CWO executive board for further consideration. These memorials were defeated, however, it asked that we invite the TDTR team to meetings and events to present programs about racism, that we establish a line item for such programming in our budget, that churchwide provide funding, training and programs to assist this action, and that we report back to the 2019 Conference of Presidents about actions taken within our SWOs. **TDTR is a long standing program of churchwide; I'm not sure if we have any trained presenters in our GC synod.** If we do, please let me know.

A memorial **Regarding Tainted Water in Flint, Michigan** was adopted. This memorial came from the New England SWO and addresses the contamination of the Flint River. The memorial resolves **encourage all of us as Women of the ELCA to affirm the need for clean water for the people of Flint, Michigan by raising awareness and/or offering tangible support to the people of Flint and requests that each synodical women's organization report on actions taken at the 2019 Conference of Presidents.**

A memorial to **Reduce the Size of Synodical Boards** was rejected. This resolution wanted to amend the Constitution and Bylaws for SWOs by lowering the number of elected board members to three.

Cont. next page

A memorial **Condemning All Forms of Corporal Punishment** was adopted. This memorial came from the NE Iowa SWO and **asks Women of the ELCA to support the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child by stating clearly that it condemns all forms of corporal punishment of children (hitting, kicking, shaking, throwing, pinching, pulling hair, burning or scalding, etc.) and requests that each synodical women's organization report on actions taken to raise awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the 2019 Conference of Presidents.** This memorial notes that while the US has signed the UN Conventions of the Rights of the Child, it is the only UN member state in which it has not been ratified.

A memorial **Regarding Domestic Abuse and Violence and its Prevention** was adopted. This memorial came from the NW Wisconsin SWO and **encourages us to continue to educate ourselves about domestic abuse and the services available in our communities, and to act by choosing from a list of options included in the resolution. We are also requested to report back on what we've done to continue to raise awareness of domestic violence at our 2019 Conference of Presidents.**

A memorial **Regarding Bible Women Ministry of India** was adopted. This memorial came from NW MN SWO and **encourages us to hold in prayer the Bible Women of India as it ministers to families in India and to affirm the efforts of the NW Minnesota Synodical Women's support of the Bible Women of India.**

Resolutions that came from the floor included a resolution to **Act to End Human Trafficking. Actions include holding January 11 through February 2, 2018 as a time of prayer to end human trafficking (prior to the 2018 Super Bowl), that we use resources such as the ELCA's Cherish All Children's mission model, that we continue to educate ourselves and others about warning signs of being trafficked and resources available to us, that we connect with others fighting human trafficking including Lutheran Social Services, and that we report on actions taken at the 2019 Conference of Presidents.**

Another resolution, **Go Green 2020**, was adopted, **encouraging participants at the 2020 Triennial to bring along their portable devices to download convention materials and to bring reusable coffee mugs and fillable water bottles.**

A resolution developed by our own Phyllis Borchardt from Spirit of Grace in Surprise and presented from the floor by your voting delegation to **Engage Women of the ELCA in Supporting Leadership Needs in the ELCA** was also adopted. This **resolution recognized the "retirement tsunami" of pastors upon us in the ELCA in the near future. It encourages us to pray for and lift up women who might seek ordination or seminary education. It also asks us to lift up support for the ELCA Fund for Leaders (a merit-based scholarship program) to raise up and financially support students studying at ELCA seminaries who demonstrate leadership potential and gifts for ministry.**

Another resolution, **Supporting a Responsible Energy Future and Care for Creation**, was adopted. This **requests that we continue to learn about and advocate for a carbon fee and dividend, and other measures such as solar power, to care for God's creation.**

A resolution on the **Number of Board Members from a Congregation (set as up to 2 women)** was a **request for a review by the Constitutional Review Committee of the CWO Executive Board, since it would require a constitutional change and require two readings** (meaning it has to come to two Triennial Conventions). This resolution was adopted.

Finally, Susan and Randi (with Laura Krueger's help) distributed some 350 of our "2020—See You in Phoenix" luggage tags, inviting women to come to Phoenix in 2020 for the next Triennial. The Triennial Convention is the "business" portion of the Triennial experience and it is the highest legislative authority of our Women of the ELCA. We will again be electing voting members for the 2020 Triennial at our next GC synod women's convention in the fall of 2018. (This is because we won't have another convention before the summer of 2020.) Our voting delegation strives to include a woman of color or whose primary language is other than English, a first-timer, and your synod women's president, who is an automatic representative for you. The number of voting members is determined by the number of "active units" within our GC synod. We have some work to do to increase our number of active units, allowing us to elect 3 voting members at our 2018 convention. In 2017, we had 48 "active units" on the churchwide roster. If we get to 51-75, we can add one more voting member. The number of voting members increases by each increment of 25 active units in the synod.

Transformed: A New Katie



**"Be transformed by the renewal of your mind"
(Romans 12:2)**

**Retreat for
Women of the Grand Canyon Synod
Friday, October 20th &
Saturday, October 21st**

**Franciscan Renewal Center
5802 E Lincoln Dr, Scottsdale AZ 85253 www.thecasa.org**

Be refreshed and renewed in the serene setting of the Franciscan Renewal Center, where it's said that "even the trees whisper." Join us in celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and help us vision the future for our women's ministry movement. Retreat activities include:

Reformation era music
German wine and cheese gathering
Reformation era art
A visit from Katie Luther
German strudel with our coffee
Fellowship time

Presentations by:
Streetlight (Human Trafficking)
& Lutheran Social Services-SW
Lutheran Jeopardy
Visioning the future for WELCA
Communion with offering

Quiet time in the Center's Prayer Chapel, Gardens and Labyrinth

Registration is open until October 4 unless we fill to seating capacity before then. All registrations and payment must be received by our registrar on or before October 4. Important additional information about the retreat and housing can be found on the following pages, including our scholarship application form. We are also offering two (2) scholarships to attend our Retreat.

Save the date! Register now! Bring a friend!

Transformed: A New Katie Retreat registration form:

Last Name: _____ First Name _____

Email address: _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Church Name/City _____

Conference (if known), please circle: Cactus Capital Colorado River Fiesta
High Country NE Valley Rio Salado Santa Cruz Sunrise

Please select one option: (For Overnights: Each room as 2 queen beds; 1 or 2 persons per bed)

FRIDAY OVERNIGHT—Fri. dinner, Sat. breakfast & lunch, Retreat materials

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Occupancy \$175	<input type="checkbox"/>	Double Occupancy \$135
<input type="checkbox"/>	Triple Occupancy \$115	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quad Occupancy \$ 95

<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMUTER with Friday dinner, Saturday b/fast & lunch, Retreat materials \$75
<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMUTER with Saturday b/fast & lunch, Retreat materials \$60
<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMUTER with Saturday lunch, Retreat materials \$50

FRI & SAT OVERNIGHT—Fri. & Sat. dinner, Sat. & Sun. b/fast & lunch, Retreat materials

<input type="checkbox"/>	Single Occupancy \$311	<input type="checkbox"/>	Double Occupancy \$234
<input type="checkbox"/>	Triple Occupancy \$195	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quad Occupancy \$165

If you were a first-time attendee at our Las Vegas GC Synod Women's Convention in November 2016, include your \$10 certificate with your registration and adjust your payment amount. We look forward to having you with us again!

All rooms are double occupancy. Your roommate preference name: _____

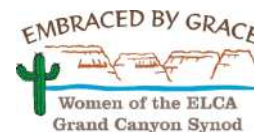
There are no elevators in the overnight housing. Do you need a ground floor room? ____yes ____no
Handicapped room if available? ____yes ____no

Special Dietary Accommodations Requested (all meals served in the dining room, buffet style; vegetarian option available): _____

Indicate your registration option, keep a copy of the Registration form and return this form with your check made payable to GCS WELCA.

Mail to Laura Cary, 6706 N Dysart Rd, #175, Glendale AZ 85307

**No refunds after October 4 but registration is transferrable. Notify Laura of any changes:
602-228-5386 or email Laura at lmc1255@msn.com**



Grand Canyon Synod Women Retreat Scholarship Application

I am applying for one of two available scholarships. Preference will be given to women who are first-time retreat attendees. Please select the scholarship you are applying for. Scholarship awards will be announced on Sept. 27, 2017.

Name _____

Address _____

Preferred Phone _____

Email _____

Your age range (circle): 18-30 31-40 41-50 51-60 61 or over

Your church name _____

Your church address _____

Have you attended a Grand Canyon Synod Women's Retreat in the past? _____ no _____ yes

Scholarship Desired (please check one):

_____ Overnighter with Friday double occupancy lodging, retreat registration and meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and Saturday lunch (\$135 value)

_____ Commuter with Friday dinner, retreat registration and Saturday meals (b/fast and lunch) (\$75 value)

This scholarship is provided by the Grand Canyon Women to encourage attendance at our Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA's autumn retreat, held every other year. In 2017, our Retreat will be held at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, AZ from Friday, October 20, 7 pm through Saturday, October 21, 4 pm. The scholarship will cover your Retreat registration, Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast, and Saturday lunch. It also covers a double occupancy overnight room at the Retreat Center on Friday if desired.

Please describe how you are presently active in serving Christ:

How could your participation in this Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA event benefit you, and the women's ministry in your church?

I understand that if I am granted this scholarship, I will attend and participate in the Retreat on October 20-21, 2017. If I am unable to attend the scheduled retreat, I will refund the scholarship award in full.

Signature _____

Date _____

Submit by mail to Myrna Wells-Ulland, GC SWO President (no later than September 22, 2017)
9686 E Preserve Way, Scottsdale AZ 85262
Or by email: myrna.ulland@gmail.com

Transformed: A New Katie Retreat registration form:

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Email address: _____

Home address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

Church Name/City: _____

Conference (if known), please circle: Cactus Capital Colorado River Fiesta
High Country NE Valley Rio Salado Santa Cruz Sunrise

Please select one option: *(For Overnights: Each room has 2 queen beds; 1 or 2 persons per bed)*

FRIDAY OVERNIGHT- Fri. dinner, Sat. breakfast & lunch, Retreat materials:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Occupancy \$175 | <input type="checkbox"/> Double Occupancy \$135 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Triple Occupancy \$115 | <input type="checkbox"/> Quad Occupancy \$95 |

- | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUTER with Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast & lunch, Retreat materials \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUTER with Saturday breakfast & lunch, Retreat materials \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUTER with Saturday lunch, Retreat materials \$50 |

FRIDAY & SATURDAY OVERNIGHT- Fri. & Sat. dinner, Sat. & Sun. breakfast & lunch, Retreat materials:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Single Occupancy \$311 | <input type="checkbox"/> Double Occupancy \$234 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Triple Occupancy \$195 | <input type="checkbox"/> Quad Occupancy \$165 |

If you were a first-time attendee at our Las Vegas GC Synod Women's Convention in November 2016, include your \$10 certificate with your registration and adjust your payment amount.

We look forward to having you with us again!

All rooms are double occupancy. Your roommate preference name: _____

There are no elevators in the overnight housing. Do you need a ground floor room? ____yes ____no
Handicapped room if available? ____yes ____no

Special Dietary Accommodations Requested (all meals served in the dining room, buffet style; vegetarian option available):

Indicate your registration option, keep a copy of this side of the Registration form and return this form with your check made payable to GCS WELCA. Mail to Laura Cary, 6706 N Dysart Rd, #175, Glendale AZ 85307

What is an active unit?

At our recent convention in Las Vegas, the question came up about “active units.” Some felt that unless you had a designated “circle/circles” in your congregation, you aren’t considered an active unit. That is no longer the case. The Women of the ELCA are an integral part of the ELCA. We are the women’s ministry arm of the ELCA. and we continue to partner in all areas to extend our shared growth and development as a church worldwide. Our bonds as Women of the ELCA have their roots in our foundation, the church unit. As individual units we come together to form our nine conferences, our synod (Grand Canyon), participate in our region (2), and then our churchwide organization. But what does it mean to be a unit, and therefore, an active unit?

A unit is defined by our constitution as having four required components:

1. **the unit’s women come together for study, support, and action**
2. **the unit’s women participate in the ministry of the Women of the ELCA beyond the congregation**
3. **The unit designates one person in the unit as a contact person to be in communication with both the synod women’s organization and churchwide, and**
4. **the unit supports financially the total program of Women of the ELCA (at the synod and/or churchwide through regular and special offerings)**

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.



When all four components are met, the unit is designated as an “active unit.” Each active unit has a vote in all synod matters and sends a voting member to participate in the business of the synod women’s organization. Additionally, at our national Triennial Convention, the number of voting members from each synod are assigned based upon the number of active units within the synod. So our synod voice is strengthened with more active units. Currently, our Grand Canyon synod has the minimum number of voting members (2) plus your president to our Triennial conventions. If there were more active units within our synod, we may have the opportunity to increase our number of voting members to the next Triennial, which will be in Phoenix in 2020.

Each unit has the opportunity to define itself in your organizational structure. Your unit’s constitution is the document that outlines how often you meet, what you do, and what your leadership looks like. Each unit can meet the needs of your women by tailoring itself to best meet the interest, location, resources, and unique talents of your Lutheran sisters. From Bible studies to Café groups to book study groups, to quilting to community service, to advocacy for those with

no voice and for justice issues, to congregational service and participation in local conference events, when two or more of you are gathered in His name (there is love), you could be an active unit.

Coming together as an active unit gives you a unique local place to share in Christ’s love and gives you a voice in our Women of the ELCA. If you have any questions, please contact any of your board members whose contact information is always on the last page of the Canyon Echoes. If your unit would like help in organizing, re-organizing, or re-energizing your women’s ministry, please contact us. Our president, Myrna Wells-Ulland, and our Vice-President, Suki Kisling, are willing to travel anywhere in our synod to engage in meaningful discussion with you about your women’s ministry. Our goal: active units all across our synod!

If you want to bring new life to your church women, be sure at least one of your women is in attendance at the 2017 Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis in July. We will guarantee that any woman who attends will leave this event filled with new enthusiasm for, understanding of, and passion for Women of the ELCA ministry in her church. Register now at www.welcatg.org and BE SURE to use **Region/Synod code: 2D**



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 the Google Play Store. You may also sign up to receive **Daily Grace** via email by visiting the Women of the ELCA Website.

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**

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](#).



Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA
Women of the ELCA



Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA
Women of the ELCA



Women of the ELCA

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

Happenings Around the Grand Canyon Synod

Developing a Servant's Heart

Christ Lutheran in Sedona hosted the **High Country Conference Gathering** on April 29 with keynote speaker, Suki Kisling, sharing tales of the multitude of servanthood opportunities waiting for all of us, be it WELCA, your home church, your community, or around the world. Several Units shared information on different Mission Outreach programs which definitely illustrated "servant's hearts." Mount Cross in Flagstaff raised money for heating and provided quilts to the Navajo Mission at Rock Point. Christ Lutheran shared their mission of "Hands Healing Hunger." Karen Plager of Living Christ shared her experiences with Global Health Ministries. Marge Conger shared photos of current issues in South Sudan. Several churches mentioned distributing 'Matthew Kits' which was a program introduced at the Las Vegas Convention last November. Other feeding programs for homeless and low income families along with benefits from the sale of Fair Trade Coffee, Chocolate, and Tea were also highlighted.

Heidi Bird, local Thrivent Representative, explained the benefits of Thrivent Action Teams with an



Suki and High Country Sisters from Rock Point

excellent example from Christ Lutheran who turned two teams (a total of \$500.00) into a \$26,000+ live and silent auction benefit!!! An excellent reason why we ALL need to learn about and use Action Teams!

A moving Worship and Communion service was officiated by Rev. Gwen Brandfass. Next year's Gathering has been scheduled at Spirit of Joy in Clarkdale on April 28.

"Hearing the Call to Lead" Grand Canyon ELCA Synod Assembly June 9-10

Over 300 clergy, deacons, voting members and guests gathered at Love of Christ in Mesa, AZ to celebrate the 11 years of service of Bishop Steve Talmage and to welcome Interim Bishop Lowell Almen.

Numbers are drastically falling for the available pastors and leaders who will be needed in the future. Current seminarian students and interns spoke describing their "Call to Lead" and encouraged each of us to search out potential leaders. Each student (young, mature, male, female) suggested that, when we see such a candidate, that we offer friendship, prayer, encouragement and financial support to that potential leader. It's never too early or too late to plant the seed.

The WELCA display brought LOTS of new women with questions and curiosity. We were also blessed to witness the commissioning of Berkley Harris (one of our U of A scholarship recipients at the 2016 Las Vegas Convention) as she heads off to Senegal for a year with Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM). Your WELCA Synod Board presented Berkley with a check for \$500.00 to help her reach her fundraising goal for the trip. We look forward to updates from Senegal this year.



Our WELCA Booth

Berkley Harris (far right) at synod assembly. Berkley is now in Senegal as a YAGM



More Happenings Around the Grand Canyon Synod

“Footprints in the Sand” Anew ~ All God’s Daughter’s Tea

Life in the sandy Las Vegas desert transformed into a day at the beach when WELCA at Community Lutheran presented Tea at the Beach on May 20. Each table was cleverly decorated with a variety of beach themes. . .the Sandcastle ‘Ice’ Breaker encouraged lots of chatter among guests. . .Tommy Bahama Happy Half Hour with a margarita and pina colada machine along with sand buckets and shovels filled with inviting snacks put everyone in the mood for a delicious lunch with a beach theme. A fun “Name that Tune” of beach songs brought back many memories along with a hula hoop contest.

In kind gifts of sunglasses, Frisbees, and flip flops were collected for the upcoming medical mission trip to the shores of El Salvador. Pam White, a nurse, spoke of her experiences on former trips and two beach dudes (Pastors Mark and Brian) stopped by to further explain the importance of this trip. A ‘Free Willy’ offering basket was passed around with proceeds going towards the trip.

Kudos to Janie Gillespie and the whole planning team who made a day at the beach, in the middle of the desert, such a reality. What a FUN and exciting day!



All God’s Daughters Tea Planning Crew



“Jesus Saves” table at the CLC Tea

Conference Gathering Resources—An “Online Boot Camp”

During the Conference Gathering ‘season,’ many of your Grand Canyon Synod WELCA Board members were privileged to attend meetings in southern Nevada and all of Arizona. We witnessed the diversity of programs and the excitement of what women are accomplishing within the Synod. We also heard of frustrations—and we’ve created some new tools to help Conferences with their planning and reporting. Look for them soon on a new Conferences Gathering page on our website. This “Online Boot Camp” will offer ideas and suggestions to help you navigate the planning and arrival stages.

First, we encourage you to dismiss any old forms you find dated earlier than 2016! Online, you will be able to find new, updated forms which you can download and insert into a 3-ring binder or save electronically. The outlines for church responsibilities are “suggestions” and can be used as a map to point you in the right direction. We’re well aware that detours can be taken to create a less stressful conference gathering journey, and we encourage each conference to develop a plan that works best for them. The goal is to include each church within your conference in planning and participation. Questions or suggestions about Conference Planning? Contact Suki at sukikisling@gmail.com

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 grandcanyonwomen@gmail.com. THANK YOU!

Faithful Friends



Take your financial support of our churchwide Women of the ELCA to a new level. Become a "Faithful Friend"

"Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one has found a treasure.
Faithful friends are beyond price; no amount can balance their worth.
Faithful friends are life-saving medicine; and those who fear the Lord will find them."
Ecclesiastes 6:14-16

Yes, those phrases certainly describe the many steadfast supporters of Women of the ELCA. And that's the name for a new giving program: "Faithful Friends," an easy way for you, your congregational unit, your conference and your synodical organization to give monthly to Women of the ELCA by automatic withdrawal from your checking account or by automatic charge to your credit card.

General offering revenues are WAY down and we are all being challenged to step up our giving. Your synodical women's board and all leaders in our WELCA conferences and units have the opportunity to model faithful giving to support our churchwide organization. And it doesn't stop there. Individuals can also model faithful financial support. Our organization needs your help!

The "Faithful Friends" program supports the Women of the ELCA General Fund, which makes it possible for your churchwide organization to act quickly and flexibly in response to any need that may arise. The prophet Isaiah tells us that God says, "I am about to do a new thing" (43:19a). And "Faithful Friends" is one way you can help Women of the ELCA be ready for whatever new thing God has in store.

All you need to do is download the [form](#), print it out, fill it in, and mail it to:

ELCA Gift Processing Supervisor
8765 W. Higgins Road, 5th floor
Chicago IL 60631

You can start [giving on-line](#) right away, and you can stop any time with just a phone call to Women of the ELCA, 773-380-2730, or by email at women.elca@elca.org

Grand Canyon Synod Women's Treasurer Change of Address Effective September 26, 2017

Debbie Romboletti
1111 Heaton Ave
Henderson NV 89052

Email and phone number remain the same

Use current address of 2339 Meteor Shower St, Henderson NV 89044 until 9/26/17

Upcoming Events for Women in the GC Synod

Grand Canyon Synod Women's Retreat "Transformed: A New Katie"

Friday Eve/Saturday Oct. 20-21, 2017
Franciscan Renewal Center
5802 E. Lincoln Drive
Scottsdale, AZ

Boot Camp with Suki

Monday, November 20, 2017 7pm
Gloria de Cristo
Yuma, AZ

Gather Bible Study

Mark Allen Powell
Saturday, February 10, 2018
Spirit of Grace
Surprise AZ

Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference

"Fill My Cup, Lord"
Saturday, March 3, 2018
Mt. Zion, Tucson

Cactus Conference Spring Gathering

"Feed My Lambs"
Saturday, March 3, 2018
Gloria de Cristo
Yuma, AZ

Colorado River Conference

Saturday, April 21, 2018
Christ the Servant
Henderson, NV

High Country Conference Gathering

Saturday, April 28, 2018
Spirit of Joy
Clarkdale, AZ

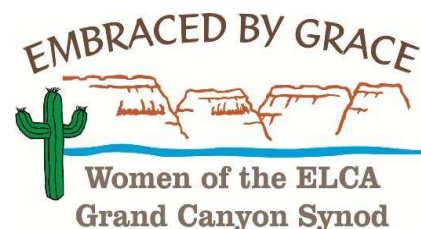
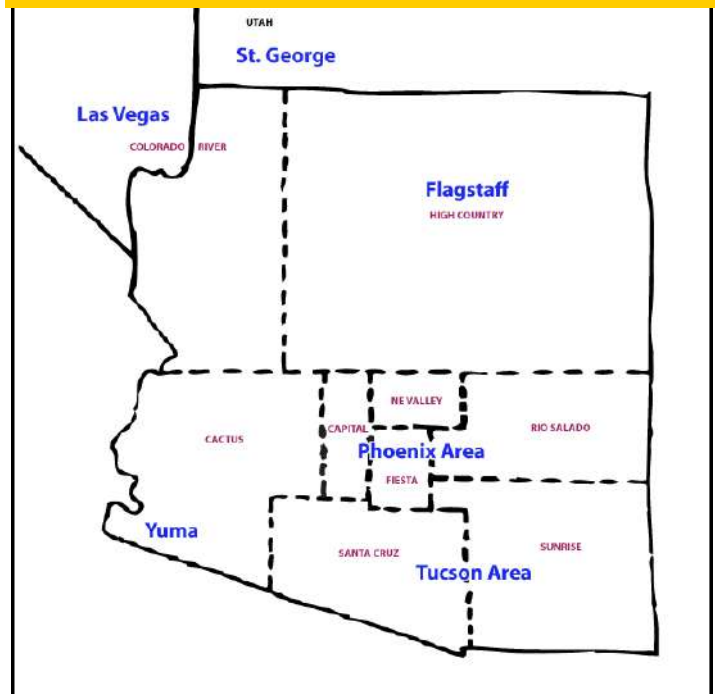
Grand Canyon Synod Assembly

June 14-16, 2018
Resurrection Lutheran
Tucson AZ

ELCA Youth Gathering

June 27-July 1, 2018
Houston Convention Center
Houston TX

The 9 GC Synod Conferences



Have an upcoming conference or synod-wide event you'd like to see listed? Send us an email at grandcanyonwomen@gmail.com



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)

2016-2018 Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA

Our website: www.grandcanyonwomen.org

Our main email: grandcanyonwomen@gmail.com

Executive Committee

President: Myrna Wells-Ulland
(Living Water-NE Valley)
9686 E Preserve Way
Scottsdale, AZ 85262
480-214-3204 (h) 218-340-6735 (cell)
president@grandcanyonwomen.org

Vice-President: Suki Kisling
(Desert Hills-Santa Cruz)
1917 W. Mintbush Dr.
Green Valley, AZ 85622
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sukikisling@gmail.com

Secretary: Wanda Frenchman Takacs
(Native American Urban Ministry-Capital)
wandakay247@yahoo.com
480-229-4219 (cell)

Treasurer: Debbie Romboletti
(New Song-Colorado River)
1111 Heaton Ave (as of 9/26/17)
Henderson NV 89052
702-875-2013 (cell)
treas@grandcanyonwomen.org

Board Members

Judy Baker (Grace-Capital)
602-296-4342

Rev. Jennifer Zahnow (Colorado River)
702-755-2903 (cell)

Randi VenHuizen (Spirit of Joy-Rio Salado)
402-216-3067 (cell)

Phyllis Borchardt (Spirit of Grace-Cactus)
623-521-0790 (cell)

Lisa Sherry (Sierra Evangelical-Sunrise)
520-226-9616

Alice Natale (Mount Cross-High Country)
923-474-2838

Heidi Gerrish (Lutheran Campus
Ministry U of A-Sunrise)
480-390-8242 (cell)

Pastor Maria Valenzuela (Alleluia-Cactus)
623-640-8997 (cell)

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 officer's email or to the main email. Thank You!