

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

February, 2018



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Love. Grow. Serve.

Something is Missing!

And we think it is YOU! With Convention coming next November, your Grand Canyon Synod WELCA Board will be looking to fill some vacancies. We know that many of you have gifts and talents that would benefit the goals and purpose of our women.

Ask yourself: "Have I fulfilled the purpose that God created for me?" "Could I commit two years, or more, to help women build their faith?" "Am I willing to take a leap of faith and leave my comfort zone for the purpose of supporting the legacy left by previous generations of women?" "How best can I support women of the church?" "Is my life boring?" If you answered "YES" to even one of these questions, there is a spot for you.

The election process is now beginning. Nomination forms can be found on our updated website—grandcanyonwomen.org. We would LOVE to hear from you to answer any questions or doubts you might have. Serving on the Board is a definite GROWing experience that will enhance your life and the lives of many others.

UPCOMING STUDY Winter 2018:

**Multiple Meanings:
Learning from other
interpretations by
author Mark Allan
Powell**



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.

Message from President Myrna



We are “church ladies!” Recently, our weekly women’s study group spent time looking at Paul’s Church Ladies (Priscilla, Phoebe, Lydia and Rhoda) from a book we’ve been using. And we watched a clip from the musical “The Church Basement Ladies.” It got me to thinking about our present day church ladies, and how we got to be so.

When did you make a connection with women’s ministry? Was it as a child or young girl, observing your mom’s involvement with the church ladies? Maybe even tagging along and learning how to “pour” at the coffee table? Or was it as a young woman, getting to know women of similar ages as you shared experiences and learned together about child rearing and juggling a myriad of tasks as your children grew in age and activities? Or was it during your career when you realized you needed deeper bonds with women whose faith stories inspired you? Maybe it happened for you in retirement, when you witnessed how your faith and sisterhood were important resources not only for you, but for the women in your life.

Were you invited to some event, activity, retreat by a “church lady?” Were you surprised to learn you had been prayed over by one or more women who recognized your gifts and your love for Jesus and how you could put those to use for our women’s ministry?

We’ve not always been known as “Women of the ELCA, or WELCA,” and actually, some of you don’t even like that recognition. But that’s been our organizational name since the 1987 merger of several Lutheran denominations. We’ve been known in the past as “ladies aid,” “missionary guilds,” “circles,” and many other names. But we’ve ALWAYS been church ladies: making connections with other women at many stages of our faith lives, learning together, caring for one another, holding each other in our prayers, serving together, crying and laughing together, acting together to bring healing and wholeness to our communities and beyond.

This “All Anew” year is about redefining women’s ministry – in your circle of influence. “We are no longer our mother’s or grandmother’s WELCA” as someone told us not long ago. We are today’s women of faith, called by Christ into today’s world and into the needs of today. God is always calling us to a larger vision, a new orientation. To do that, we need to leave behind those things that no longer work for our women’s ministry. We can’t get anywhere if we’re not willing to leave behind, to let go of what isn’t working. God is calling us to be something “all anew!” Be proud to be known as a “church lady” and carry on in a new way... Until next time, Myrna

“Just sayin...” Vice President, Suki

I have a friend who comes to my home, checks the fridge and cupboards and tosses anything beyond the ‘expiration date.’ As my final year on your Grand Canyon Synod Board begins to wind down (my ‘expiration date’ is 11/11/18), I have been reflecting on what has been accomplished. The past four years have encouraged me to step back, listen and learn from the voices of experience. It has also encouraged me to be more bold about my belief in trying to live up to God’s call in my life. . .and take action. *“Life is worth nothing unless I use it for doing the work assigned me by the Lord Jesus — the work of telling others the Good News about God’s mighty kindness and love.”* Acts 20-24

During the past four years I have witnessed great accomplishments. We have a large number of women pastors serving in the Grand Canyon Synod! Two formerly dormant Conferences are coming alive! Our Hispanic sisters, bringing a different culture with the same purpose, are beginning to join us for events! The Canyon Echoes publication is reaching more women than ever! The updated web site has become ‘user friendly’ and informative! Boot Camps (for informational purposes) are being requested! We are seeing younger faces in the crowd! Hallelujah!! Program ideas and service projects are being shared! Updated financial reports and PayPal have increased the ease of getting business done! “Embraced by Grace” t-shirts have been seen from coast to coast! Yes, we are a Synod that is coming out of the ‘dark’ ages and moving into the 21st century in a bold and exciting way.

As chair of the 2018 Nominating Committee, my goal this year is finding women who have a heart for Jesus and are willing to serve and continue this forward movement. It has become very apparent to me that ‘service’ is the best gift that life can give. I encourage you to listen to those nudgings from God. He is calling YOU! When you move forward in obedience you will become empowered beyond your belief! His strength and His power become yours.

After 30+ years of involvement on the local and Conference levels, I listened to the nudges and submitted my name for Synod. It has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling times of my life! I have learned and grown so much. I am *“Truly blessed and duly grateful.”* Think of Esther and add this to your daily prayers. *“Father, I thank you for the abundant life you have given me. I know you created me for a purpose, and I realize I am capable of moving from my comfort zone.. Help me pay attention, listen, and ACT on your assignment. I know I was born for such a time as this. Amen.”* Just sayin. . .



Committee Reports

DISCIPLESHIP

...go and make disciples of all nations

(Continuation of “Digging Deeper” from last issue, on characteristics of Discipleship)

3. Bible Reading. Most households in the U.S. own at least one Bible yet only 38% of adults read the Bible in any given week. The Bible should be a part of our Christian toolkit of discipleship. Take advantage of Bible reading support books; in a church library, in the public library, on-line, and elsewhere, you can find Bible dictionaries, introductions of the books of the Bible, concordances, background information on life in Bible times, and more. The more effort you give to your Bible study, the more the word of God will speak to you and bless you.
4. Christian Service. Disciples are called to contribute to the well-being of God’s world and of those who live in it. Whenever we use our gifts of the Spirit to work for God’s people, we will not only bless others, but we will be blessed ourselves by a sense of fulfillment and joy. This month, focus on your service. How can YOU make Christ present in the places where you will spend time this week? What new way of service to Christ might you be called to? Invite someone to join you on this journey.
5. Relationships that encourage spiritual growth. The church can offer worship and Bible study, teaching and preaching, workshops and service opportunities. However, true spiritual growth takes place in personal caring relationships with other Christians. When we truly care about the faith journey of a brother or sister and talk with them about their experiences, we demonstrate genuine concern, support, and encouragement; we help that person grow in faith. And we receive the same support and encouragement in return, helping our own faith to grow deeper. This month, find one person you consider a spiritual friend. Contact that person — at church, via e-mail, by phone . . . any way you want. Arrange to meet. Spend time talking about your faith and walk with each other on your faith journey. **(To be concluded next issue)**

Committee members: Wanda Frenchman-Takacs, Suki Kisling, Alice Natale, Pastor Jennifer Zahnow

JUSTICE

... do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God

The goal of the Justice Committee is to raise awareness and prevention of three main issues in our community. This month we are focusing on the ministry needs of the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, AZ. This is a social ministry of the ELCA, “committed to connecting diverse communities, and creating a safe environment where the values of education, culture, and spiritual formation are accessible to all people.” ELCA congregations and individuals support the mission through monetary and in-kind donations. Find out more about the Navajo Lutheran Mission at <http://nelm.org/about-us.php>. Current needs for the Mission include: funds for operations, sponsors for kids; tuition, and funds for the Hozho Café that feeds the community a hot meal once a day during the week. Funds for programs in the community are also needed to support classes like AA, GED, and ongoing learning. If you have the capacity to give to this cause, please call 928 659-4201 or visit <http://nelm.org/support-the-mission.php>.

In your women’s groups this month we encourage you to utilize new prayers and readings to reach beyond your habits. Remember our Native American brothers and sisters with the following prayer from Lutheran Indian Ministries: *“Creator God, Lord of all nations and tribes, we come before You today to offer our thanks and praise for Your forgiveness through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, through Whom we have the promise of eternal life in Your heavenly Kingdom. Teach us, as we live out our lives on this side of eternity, to act justly and with love and mercy toward others in light of Your Holy Word. Help us to bear witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all our brothers and sisters, that all peoples everywhere may believe. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.”*

Committee members: Judy Baker, Phyllis Borchardt, Heidi Gerrish, Lisa Sherry, Pastor Maria Valenzuela

STEWARDSHIP

...is what happens after you say “yes” to Jesus

THIS ISSUE’S FOCUS IS LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF (LWR): We can’t control when disasters strike and we can’t end poverty overnight. But there are things we *can* do now to help people around the world reach their full potential. Learn how simple items can transform lives and how you can, too. During Lent, it’s a great time to focus on LWR’s **Project Promise: Build Kits of Care** to replenish LWR’s supplies of Personal Care Kits, School Kits, Baby Care Kits, Fabric Kits, Fleece Tied Blankets and Soap. Choose to focus on one type of kit and involve your entire congregation, including the young people. Write a Thrivent Action Team grant to supplement purchase of needed supplies. Thrivent’s action team application is easy – you just need to find someone in your congregation who is a Thrivent member and who can apply for the \$250 Grant online. The Grant comes as a VISA card. For the kits, you can find more information on kit construction, resources and tips for assembly at this link: <https://lwr.org/get-involved/build-kits-of-care>. Once you’ve collected and assembled your kits, box them up following the guidelines from LWR and bring them to our **Phoenix LWR Ingathering on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in Phoenix**. This is also the time to get your LWR quilts shipped off. The truck will be available from 9 am to 2 pm. Laura Krueger remains our LWR Arizona Ingathering contact. If you have questions about this ingathering, contact Laura at lkrueger15@gmail.com

Committee Members: Debbie Romboletti, Myrna Wells-Ulland, Randi VenHuizen

Board Meeting Report—February 9, 2018

Spirit of Grace, Surprise, AZ

4:00 pm—9:15 pm

- Year end financial report (see right hand column)
- October Retreat Report:
- 93 registrations; first time attendees from Iglesia Luterana Vida Nueva, La Sagrada Familia, Esperanza; Spanish translator provided. We again max'd out the available meeting space. Program evaluations were very positive. Offering provided \$401 each to LSS-SW and StreetLight USA, with \$802 to churchwide. In addition, gift cards brought another \$580.00 to StreetLight and \$590.00 to Lutheran Social Services.
- Myrna reported on the new web site update: www.grandcanyonwomen.org
- Gather Bible Study—117 registrations; offering with be divided as follows—50% to Churchwide, 25% Lutheran Social Services Southwest, 25% Lutheran Social Services Nevada. We are again providing translator services to our Latina sisters.
- Myrna proposed having Suki continue as WELCA Ambassador when her board term expires in November. Duties would include continuing Boot Camps and publishing Canyon Echoes.
- Our active unit report is up to date. The number of 2020 Triennial Convention voting members from our GC Synod will be determined by the churchwide Women of the ELCA board in April.
- Our Scholarship Policy was revised.
- November Convention, November 9-11, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Phoenix airport; Churchwide Representative will be Joy Michalicek from Duluth; Convention business will be conducted and completed on Friday afternoon; remainder of week end to be Gathering. Assignments were made and financials were discussed.
- Next Board meeting is Saturday, May 19 at Grace Lutheran in Phoenix.

Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA

Treasurer's Report

February 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018

Balance on Hand 2/1/17	\$ 23,508
Receipts	37,225
Disbursements	<u>(37,158)</u>
Balance on Hand 1/31/18	<u>\$ 23,575</u>
Conference Funds:	
Cactus Conference	\$ 344
Capital Conference	474
Colorado River Conference	777
High Country Conference	833
NE Valley Conference	118
Rio Salado Conference	593
Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference	<u>1,481</u>
Total Conference Funds	4,620
General Funds:	
Checking	12,250
Mission Investment Fund	<u>6,705</u>
Total General Funds	<u>18,955</u>
Total Balance on Hand	<u>\$ 23,575</u>

CONFERENCE AND CONGREGATIONAL UNIT TREASURERS

Make out individual checks for each type of offering.
Include your unit (church) number for unit offerings..

Send Form A offerings (regular offering, convention offering, conference offering, Love offering) to our GC Synod Women's Treasurer with all checks made payable to Women of the ELCA GCS. Mail to:

Debbie Romboletti
1111 Heaton Ave
Henderson NV 89052

Send Form B offerings (Thankofferings, Designated Gifts) with all checks made payable to Women of the ELCA . Mail to:

Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gift Processing Center
PO Box 1809
Merrifield VA 22116-8009

Challenge Yourself!

Faith, Sexism, Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement

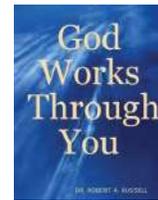
A message from your Grand Canyon Synod Women, with thanks from our sisters in NE Minnesota for this synopsis:

“This church shall develop social statements...that will guide the life of this church as an institution and inform the conscience of its members in the spirit of Christian liberty.” (ELCA Social Statement, “The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective”)

The ELCA task force study on this social statement is in process, originally set into action from the 2009 Churchwide Assembly. It is a call to hear new things and to explore together how matters of justice and sexism intersect with faith. YOU are encouraged to enter into study and conversation by examining the text of the study. The modules of the study are listed below and can be accessed at www.ELCA.org, then in the search box enter: Faith, Sexism and Justice: Conversations Toward a Social Statement. We hope you find each Module’s questions compelling!

For each module there’s a leader guide, complete with prayers, scripture to rely on, questions to stimulate hard conversations, and additional resources.

- Module 1: Why do we need to talk together about women and justice?
- Module 2: What problems do women face, and what does justice require?
- Module 3: How is sexism personal, and how are we the body of Christ together?
- Module 4: What does economic sexism look like, and how can we seek equity for all?
- Module 5: How can we address violence against women and girls?
- Module 6: Why do images and words for God matter?
- Module 7: How do we challenge the misuse of Scripture against women and girls?



These are all worthy topics to ponder. Go to the web site and get involved. A social statement will be presented to the 2019 Churchwide Assembly.



NOVEMBER 9-11, 2018
PHOENIX, AZ

Due to Constitutional limitations, several of your Grand Canyon Synod Board Members will be leaving their elected posts. Vacancies need to be filled and YOU just might be the woman to do it! Listen to the words of Paul from Ephesians 3:20.

“God can do anything, you know — far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.” These are the words from a man who felt insecure with his gifts and his abilities. Perhaps you have, or are, experiencing many of these same feelings. Perhaps you are looking for more in life but just haven’t found that special ‘thing’ that will fill your heart and soul with peace within. Maybe you think you don’t have time to put one more thing into your busy schedule. However, what if that one more ‘thing’ brought you a feeling of accomplishment and joy.

I encourage you to visit the grandcanyonwomen.org web site and browse through the many activities that women who feel ‘Embraced by Grace’ are accomplishing. There you will also find the duties and responsibilities of the Officers and the Board, plus applications to become an active part of the future. Take a good look. Pray. And then pray some more. If you have any questions, please contact any of the Nominating Committee listed below.

Suki, sukikisling@gmail.com, 702 493-7436
Pastor Deborah Hutterer, dhutterer@lss-sw.org, 602 881-2963
Marlene Haller, mhaller01@cox.net, 480 785-6843
Pastor Kim Sterner, sternerkim@yahoo.com, 602 510-9575

What a joy it will be to hear the words, *“Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful in small things, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!”*

Suki Kisling, Chair of Nominating Committee

**Gather Bible Study Event
 Spirit of Grace Lutheran—Surprise, AZ
 Saturday, February 10, 2018
 Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell, Author/Speaker
 “Multiple Meanings: Learning from other interpretations”**



Table decorations inspired our door prize drawings



Phyllis opens her door prize



The Gerrish Girls, Heidi and Julie, lead us in singing and stretch breaks



Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell, Trinity Lutheran Seminary



Fashionista t-shirts for sale. Ordering can still be done on line from our website. We've made it easy. Proceeds benefit future scholarships.



Can we get our PayPal access to work for credit cards?



Some of the 117 registrants who enjoyed Dr. Powell's message



Our Hispanic sisters were able to use translator equipment, helping them understand the program



Part of the Spirit of Grace hostess committee who made our day complete. Well done! Thank you!



Marlene Haller shares about her relationship with the homeless in her church's neighborhood



Blanca, from La Sagrada Familia

The generous offering of \$1140 was split 50% to churchwide, 25% to LSS-SW and 25% to LSS-Nevada. Thank you!

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.

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](#).



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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—**NEWLY UPDATED!**

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 information about our 2017 (and 2020) 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

Rio Salado Conference

Saturday, February 24, 2018—8:00 am—1:30 pm

Our Savior's Lutheran

612 S. Ellsworth Rd., Mesa, AZ 85208

\$10.00

“Finding Your Bold”



Keynote speaker: Jean Bradford as “Katie Luther”

Offering: WELCA Churchwide/I-Help

In Kind Gifts: Women of I-Help

(hats, gloves, socks, large size underwear, sanitary products, snacks, bus passes, gas cards)

Make checks payable to: Women of the ELCA GCS

Mail to: Donna Blad, 3759 S. Oxley St., Mesa, AZ 85212

Questions??? - Randi 402 216-3067

Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference



Saturday, March 3—8:30 am—2:30 pm

Mt Zion Lutheran

4520 W. Ajo Way, Tucson, AZ 85746

\$10.00

**“Fill my Cup Lord”
Mad Hatter's Tea Party**

Keynote speaker: Bonnie Willemsen

Author, Columnist, Humorist

Offering: WELCA Churchwide/Gospel Rescue Mission
Gift Basket Scholarship Raffle

Make checks payable to: Women of the ELCA GCS

Mail to: Sherry Bougie, 6129 W. Red Sky Circle, Tucson, AZ 85713

Questions??? - Sherry 520 578-9715

Cactus Conference Gathering



Saturday, March 3—9:30 am—2:00 pm

Gloria de Cristo Lutheran Church

11273 E. 40th Street, Yuma, AZ 85367

**“Do You Love Me?
Feed my lambs. . . Tend my sheep”**

\$10.00 registration/lunch

\$38.00—Bus from Lord of Life in Sun City West leaves at 6:45 am and returns approximately 5:00 pm. Contact your church office or call 651 645-0073 for bus reservations.

Keynote speaker: Local farmer and a Desert Agriculture Specialist

Outreach Project: Toma Mi Mano (Take My Hand) Ministry

Make checks payable to: Women of the ELCA GCS

Mail checks and registration to: Geri Skogen, 20825 N. Gable Hill Drive, Sun City West, AZ 85375

Questions??? - 928 342-6002

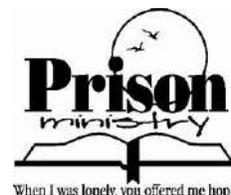
Capital Conference Gathering

Saturday, April 7—8:30 am—1:00 pm

Faith Lutheran Church

801 E. Camelback Road, Phoenix, AZ 85014

\$10.00



“Reaching Out”

Keynote speaker: Pastor Jackie Pagel, Trinity Lutheran

Outreach Project: Sue Ellen Allen— “Reinventing ReEntry: A Prison Ministry”

Offering: Grand Canyon Synod WELCA/Reinventing ReEntry

Make checks payable to: Women of the ELCA GCS

RSVP: Laura Cary, LMC1255@msn.com

Questions?? - Shepherd of the Valley - 602 228-5386

Deadline: March 29, 2018

Colorado River Conference

Saturday, April 21—8:30 am—3:00 pm

Christ the Servant Lutheran

2 S. Pecos, Henderson, NV 89074



“Helping Others Help Others”

Hebrews 13:16

“And do not forget to do good and share with others, for with such sacrifices GOD is pleased.”

\$15.00

Keynote speakers: Armena Mnatsakanyan & Derrick Felder
Lutheran Social Services

Service Projects: Soap for Hope & Baby Baskinettes

Make checks payable to: Women of the ELCA GCS

Mail checks to: Christ the Servant, Attn: Conference Registration

Questions??? Jean 909-557-5247 or jeanraymond@cox.net

High Country Conference

Saturday, April 28—8:30 am—3:00 pm

Spirit of Joy Lutheran

330 Scenic Dr., Clarkdale, AZ 86324



“We Are Called”

\$10.00

Keynote speakers: Hanna Miller, Lutheran Social Services
Lea Begay, Rock Point Navajo Mission
Immigration Issues

Service Project: Matthew Kits

Make checks payable to: Women of the ELCA GCS

Mail checks to: 245 Rodgers Place, Clarkdale, AZ 86324

Questions???? - redunn43@gmail.com

Northeast Valley Conference



April 28—9:00 am—2:00 pm

Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center

7415 E Elbow Bend Rd

Carefree AZ

"Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you"

\$25.00

"Keepers of the Wisdom—Our Stories"

Keynote Speaker: Vickie Mullins

Outreach project: New/Gently used books for
Phoenix Assistance League

More Information: Myrna Wells-Ulland, 218 340-6735, or myrna.ulland@gmail.com

Grand Canyon Synod 2018 WELCA Convention/Gathering

Friday—Sunday, November 9-11, 2018

Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel

4300 E Washington St.

Phoenix, AZ

The Convention:

- The business (convention) portion of our time together will be on Friday afternoon. All voting members need to be present for the convention session, which will begin after lunch and conclude before dinner.
- Each congregational unit can send one (1) voting member. Those congregations not represented by a unit are invited to send one representative who shall have seat and voice.
 - The names and addresses of all voting members must be determined and communicated to our convention registrar at least 30 days prior to the convention.
- The business transacted during the convention includes receiving reports, approving the next fiscal year budget, electing officers, board members, and the 2020 Triennial Voting Members, and acting on any resolutions brought forward from the convention voting members.
- There will be activities available for non-voting women who are riding with voting members. Non-voting women do not need to attend the convention (business) meeting.

The Gathering:

- Will begin at 7 pm on Friday evening and conclude after Sunday morning worship. There is no planned business meeting on Saturday.
- Watch our website's "2018 Convention and Gathering" page for updates and information as the program is finalized.
- There will be an opportunity for a Saturday-only Gathering registration.

Guest Rooms:

The Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel has been completely renovated including the 290 guest rooms and is a non-smoking facility. The single room rate is \$139; double is \$149; triple is \$159, and quad is \$169; plus 12.57% tax. The room rates are per room, not per person and include breakfast. Wifi is complimentary. All rooms have a mini-frig and coffee maker and hair dryer. Valet parking for guests is complimentary. 24-hour airport shuttle. 24-hour fitness center. Outdoor heated pool. On-site restaurant is The Post. Visit The Perch Lounge for your favorite cocktail, beer or wine. A Starbucks coffee kiosk is also on site.

Happenings Around the Grand Canyon Synod



Trash to Treasures—What happens when eight women, on two teams, have a Caravan Garage Sale?? It's a WIN, WIN! The women of **Community Lutheran in Las Vegas, NV** chose two charities (SpreadtheWordNevada.org and Project 150 for homeless teens) and hit the weekend garage sales. They spent a total of \$210.00, approximately \$26.00 each, and hauled in the following: SpreadtheWordNevada will be receiving 125 books. Project 150 rakes in 9 men's dress shirts, 4 pairs of shoes, 4 blankets, 9 hats, 6 pairs of gloves, 12 jackets, 4 boy's sweaters, 4 pairs of slacks, 9 pairs of socks, 34 girls sweaters and tops and 5 skirts!

The best part was the sisterhood of spreading the good news of Community Lutheran Church and the two charities. The winning teams went to 15 garage sales in two hours! One of our gracious ladies offered to go back to many of the garage sales and pick up leftovers that were generously offered to give to our ministry. We were able to talk about Jesus with one wonderful family and a husband told us his story of faith. They were so grateful for what we are doing; they asked us to come back next week to get more things! Our **Born to Garage Sale** caravan will be held again in the Spring and Summer.



The quilters at **Gloria de Cristo in Yuma** made their own Build a Sign for the opening of their winter programming. Suki, VP of the WELCA Grand Canyon Synod, presented a Boot Camp offering information on Women's Ministries (WELCA) and answered many questions

regarding Thrivent Action Teams, innovative programs (Erin O'Bra Fashion Show), Triennial Report, upcoming Elections, Gather magazine and many other 'ah ha' moments.



It was Taco Night with table decorations, piñatas, food, and sombreros. They are now looking forward to hosting the Cactus Spring Gathering on March 3 when they will focus on Yuma, the "Salad Bowl of the USA". . . America's Winter Vegetable Capital and the top Medjool date producer in the world.



Come & Visit

We have a great new, and always improving, website. Check us out and let us know what you think.

www.grandcanyonwomen.org



Eat! Sing! Pray!

And that's exactly what happened when the women from Living Water in Scottsdale invited the women from La Sagrada Familia to join them for a potluck on January 18. Much talking and sharing was done!



More Happenings Around the Grand Canyon Synod

U of A Lutheran Campus Ministries



The annual LCM Friend-raiser/Fundraiser Banquet was held at Our Saviour's Lutheran in Tucson on Reformation Sunday. Guest Speaker was Dr. Courtney Friesen, UA Religious Studies professor. A total of \$5,915 was raised including \$3,225 from the Wittenberg Doors project designed by former UofA student and current Grand Canyon Synod Board Member, Heidi Gerrish! LCM seeks to cultivate a *living faith in the triune God...that is integrating, Earth-honoring, vocational, inclusive, global, and generous.* Several students will be traveling to Germany during spring break.



Berkley Harris Reporting from Senegal

I am a musical theater lover. I grew up in community theater singing, dancing, and acting most of my hours and the other hours I had a constant soundtrack of show tunes playing. One of my New Year's traditions is to listen to the song, *Seasons of Love*, from the musical *Rent*. For some of you unfamiliar, here are the opening lines: "525,600 minutes, five hundred twenty five thousand moments so dear, How do you measure, measure a year?" This song reminds me of all the unique and beautiful ways to conceptualize time. Time in Senegal is dramatically different from back home. In the U.S. we seem obsessed with time. In America, time is money. In Senegal, time is stopping to greet people to and from your journey. Time is stopping what you are doing to help someone in need. Senegal has shown me that time is left open to be used for relationship building. Community is valued above all else. Time here is measured in love. Time is much more than money. Time is relationships cultivated, compassion shown and community fostered.

I'm looking forward to sharing my time in Senegal with all of you at the Grand Canyon Synod Convention/Gathering this coming November.

To read more details from her experiences in Senegal, follow Berkley at <https://berkleyhope.wordpress.com/>



CONGRATULATIONS to our GC Synod Women's Board member, Pastor Jennifer Zahnow, who recently accepted a call to serve as Interim Pastor at Spirit of Joy in Clarkdale, AZ.



Start Your Machines!

When Michele Gab created a Thrivent Action Team and asked for fabric and notions to decorate T-shirt dresses for homeless girls, members of New Song Lutheran Church in Henderson, NV, responded with dozens of boxes and bags of donations. Then, on a Saturday, 55 women gathered around cutting tables and sewing machines to turn some of the fabric into 100 T-shirt dresses and 80 baby blankets for a local shelter, 50 dog beds for an animal shelter and 38 hospice kits for Lutheran World Relief!! You GO GIRLS!



Become an active Disciplette by joining the Grand Canyon Synod WELCA Board. Click [here](#) to download nomination forms.



Boot Camp Training

Need some new life in your Women's Ministries Unit?

What to expect:

- ◆ What is WELCA? Our Purpose Statement?
- ◆ Why should I 'join'?
- ◆ How much does it cost?
- ◆ What's Churchwide? Synod? Conference? Unit?
- ◆ What is CWO, SWO, GCS-ELCA, EVOO and Boldcafe?
- ◆ Gatherings, Conventions, Retreats, Triennials—Oh My!
- ◆ How does WELCA benefit me?
- ◆ FUN ideas for programs and meetings.
- ◆ Where can I serve?
- ◆ Upcoming Events
- ◆ Gather some of your women together and call Suki at 702 493-7436 or email sukikisling@gmail.com to deliver the Grand Canyon Synod Women's Boot Camp to your church.



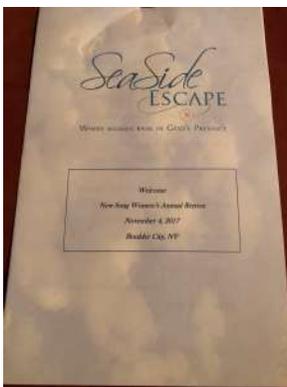
Lutheran World Relief Ingathering Event Saturday, April 14, 2018



Shepherd of the Valley
1500 W. Maryland Ave—Phoenix
9:00 am—2 pm



It's time to collect all of our quilts and kits and drive them to Shepherd of the Valley to meet the LWR truck. What this means for us—we SAVE MONEY in shipping! There's plenty of time to organize a work day to assemble some of the Care Kits and finish those quilts. Log on to lwr.org and click on "Get Involved" for specific instructions. Laura Krueger is our LWR Arizona coordinator. Contact Laura at lkrueger15@gmail.com with questions about the Ingathering.



On November 4, 22 women from **New Song** in Henderson, NV traveled all the way to Boulder City to study Psalm 46:10—*"Be still and know that I am God."* It was a beach get away right in the middle of the desert!

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!

Upcoming Events for Women in the GC Synod

Rio Salado Conference

“Finding Your Bold”
 Saturday, February 24, 2018
 Our Savior’s Lutheran
 Mesa, AZ

Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference

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

Cactus Conference

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

Capital Conference

“Reaching Out”
 Saturday, April 7, 2018
 Faith Lutheran Church
 Phoenix, AZ

Colorado River Conference

“Helping Others Help Others”
 Saturday, April 21, 2018
 Christ the Servant
 Henderson, NV.

Northeast Valley Conference

“Keepers of the Wisdom—Our Stories”
 Saturday, April 28, 2018
 Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center
 Carefree, AZ

High Country Conference

“We Are Called”
 Saturday, April 28, 2018
 Spirit of Joy
 Clarkdale, AZ

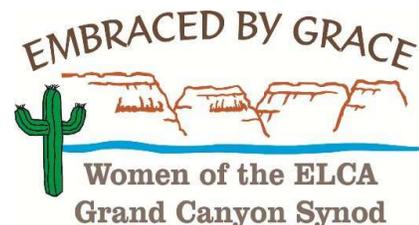
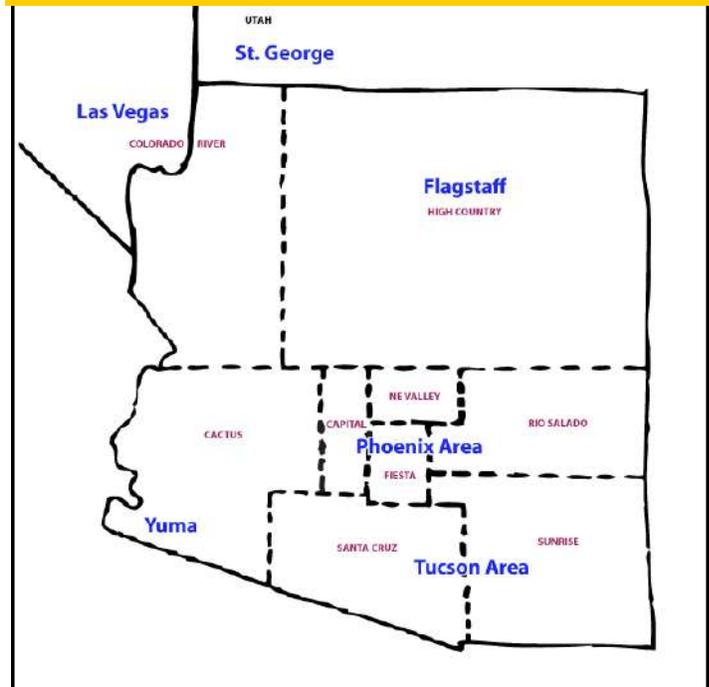
Grand Canyon Synod Assembly

June 14-16, 2018
 Resurrection Lutheran
 Oro Valley, AZ

ELCA National Youth Gathering

June 27-July 1, 2018
 Houston Convention Center

The 9 GC Synod Conferences



Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA 2018 Convention/Gathering

November 9-11, 2018
 Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel
 4300 Washington St Phoenix, AZ

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: grandcanyonwomen.org

Our main email: grandcanyonwomen@gmail.com

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Heidi Gerrish (Lutheran Campus
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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!