

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

May 2017



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UPCOMING STUDIES INCLUDE:



May 2017

An intergenerational
devotional.

Summer 2017

"All anew," a three-session
summer Bible study by
Kelly Fryer.

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>

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TRANSFORMED: *A New Katie*

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



**FRANCISCAN
RENEWAL CENTER**

Save the Date! 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. We're developing the program as you read this newsletter.

As more information becomes available it will be on the web site **grandcanyonwomen.org/events** and in the Canyon Echoes.

Message from President Myrna



Greetings to you as we celebrate the Resurrection! We are an Easter people. He is Risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Many of you have already left for cooler climes, away from the warm days and nights coming soon to the Valley. One of my favorite hymns is "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" (ELW #808) and the text reminds

me that our Lord Jesus will be our song as we journey, however long or wherever that journey takes us. Blessings on your summer journeys! Wherever the coming months find you, may you be refreshed and renewed and "sing" as you spend time with family and friends in familiar, or perhaps new, locations. We look forward to your return in the autumn.

If you are spending the summer in or near the Upper Midwest, why not join us in Minneapolis on July 13-16 for the 10th Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA? There will be plenty of opportunities to worship, to sing, to learn, to be inspired, to grow in your faith journey. There is still time to register at www.welcatg.org. Registration remains open until June 9th. Remember to register under Region 2,

Synod D! That's our Grand Canyon synod affiliation code! And plan to wear your black fashionista t-shirt that identifies you as one of us. If you need a t-shirt or two, contact me and we'll see that you get it in time for the Triennial. And don't forget to let Randi VenHuizen (randiv@cox.net) know that you've registered, so we can stay connected with all of you.

Many Conference gatherings have been held all across our synod these past months, and the programming has been excellent. Thank you to everyone who participated in planning and executing these events. These continue to be opportunities in/near your own back yard to learn about new ministry opportunities and grow in faith and friendship with your Lutheran sisters.

Planning continues for our October synod-wide women's retreat on October 20-21 at the Franciscan Renewal Center (FRC) in Scottsdale. We will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, as well as look forward to how our women's ministries are being transformed. The FRC is a beautiful place to relax and let God speak to you. Watch for our registration announcements. You won't want to miss this event!

Until next time, "Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey; may all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you. May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song. Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey." Journey on!

Just sayin'....VP, Suki

Politics. . . Religion. . . Taxes. . . The three dreaded conversations at a gathering. I'm here to tell you that there is a way to talk about all three and never raise an eyebrow. It's really pretty simple and it's contagious! Are you ready?

Change your attitude! That's it. That's the answer. Easy. Right? Let's back up and take a closer look at what I'm suggesting.

Think of yourself as a work of art; God's masterpiece. Are you living in the world of black and white with a little gray sprinkled around? Or, are you a fantastic rainbow shining multiple colors everywhere you go? Do you look like a Monet or like a Ryder – that's my five year old grandson whose artwork leaves much to the imagination. Ephesians 2:10 tells us "*we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*" Are you really living up to what God intended when He designed you?

Granted, in today's world, life provides many challenges. Often our human limitations and our mind sets get in the way of becoming the person we were born to become. The simple answer is to change our focus. Turn off the TV. Stay away from negative people. Become more aware of what you put into your mind and your heart (**what goes in often comes out**). CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



Just Sayin'...VP, Suki cont'd from page 2

Set aside time to be with, and listen to, God. He really will talk to you. Jesus was not immune to troubled times and troubled people. Just like us, Jesus entered life through His mother's womb. He became a SERVANT. In all circumstances, He always remained humble. . . well, there was that one time in the Temple. Let His words become your example and your mentor.

Yes, because of Him, we are saved by grace, but we are also made to do some good works along the way. (Ephesians 2:10) When our focus changes from 'us' to 'God' and His purpose in our lives, we will begin to feel peace in our life. Busy? Yes, we will probably be busier than ever, but we will also experience a new kind of satisfaction and solitude. The masterpiece will begin to take shape.

Good works are tasks that are beneficial to others. We are called to 'get up and go' to those less fortunate. Get out of our comfortable surroundings and the 'fort' we tend to build around ourselves. Find your PASSION and your PURPOSE. Take a risk; He always has your back. Once your focus shifts from 'Oh, woe is me and the state of the nation' to 'I can help feed the hungry or nurture a child', your journey to SERVANTHOOD has begun. Your new attitude will become contagious and all those 'gatherings' will become far more enjoyable. Others will see and want what you have. . . and most often you will never have to say a word. Just sayin. . .

2017 Triennial Gathering Scholarship Winners

Three women have been notified of winning \$500 scholarships as first time participants at the Triennial Gathering in July in Minneapolis.

We look forward to hearing about their experiences. Thank you to everyone who submitted an application; we appreciate your interest in this opportunity. This scholarship was provided by the Grand Canyon Synod WELCA.



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

Colorado River Conference

Celebrating GRACE in Bullhead City, AZ with the Women of Colorado River Conference from Kingman, Lake Havasu and Henderson on Saturday, April 22nd. Lots of energy, EXCELLENT food, conversation and learning more about the homeless. CJ, from the Guardian Foundation, meets the homeless on their own turf. He feeds them, helps them get benefits. . . LOVES them. His statement "We worship a homeless person on Sunday and on Monday, we won't even look one in the eye." Something to think about.



MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

The Rev. Jennifer Zahnow M.A.T, is currently on leave from call in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and working at Thrivent Financial. Prior to her current position, she served as youth pastor of New Song Lutheran Church in Henderson, Nevada (2009-2015) and Academy teacher and director of New Song Christian Academy in Henderson, Nevada (2013-2015), she served as solo pastor at First Lutheran Church in Nebraska (2005-2008). Pastor Zahnow received her Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, Ohio (2005) and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology with and emphasize in Elementary Education from Dana College in Blair, Nebraska (1998). She serves on the Grand Canyon Synod Council-ELCA.

JENNIFER Zahnow



She served as a voting member from the Grand Canyon Synod to the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Pastor Zahnow served as the first grade teacher in the New Song Christian Academy. Prior to her current position she taught in the Clark County School District as a substitute and licensed teacher (2009-2013 and 2015-2016). She completed a Master's of Arts in Teaching from Sierra Nevada College Incline Village, Nevada (2015). She also holds endorsements in Autism, and Teaching English as a Second Language (TESL). In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with family and friends, taking photographs, traveling, and going to Disneyland.

I was born and lived in Minnesota most of my life. I have also lived in Helena, Montana; Leavenworth, Kansas; back to Minnesota; Chandler, Arizona; Cleveland, Ohio, back to Minnesota and now we have settled near Whetstone, AZ. My husband Bob and I love this area and plan to stay. I was Baptized into a Missouri Synod Church, Lone Oak Lutheran Church in Eagan, MN. This has been the family



LISA Sherry

church going as far back as my Great-Great Grandfather who crossed the pond from Germany. In my teenage years we moved to Christ Lutheran Church, Eagan, MN, which was my introduction to the ELCA and I was confirmed there. My husband and I became members of Prince of Peace ELCA, Burnsville, MN. We were active with the food shelf, the Church Mega Sale, which the whole community attends and looks forward to each year, and we ushered the Saturday evening service every week. We are now happily active in Sierra ELCA in Sierra Vista, AZ. I am the Co-Convenor (Vice Pres) of the Sierra WELCA and very busy with that, along with helping the tutoring program, and belong to a wonderful bunch of Ladies for Gather Bible Study.

I am a Retired Sargeant Major from the Army with 23 years of service. Needless to say I have had numerous adventures. My best adventure would be a training exercise in Germany. This is where I met Bob. He was training my soldiers on a Warfighters program we were to use for the exercise. The sparks flew and here we are 18 years later. We enjoy our Grandson and have another Grandchild on the way. We also enjoy the outdoors, hiking, and on-line gaming. Since our move here 2 years ago, I thank our Lord for every sunrise, every sunset, and the brilliant stars in his sky.

MEET YOUR BOARD MEMBERS

Randi was born in North Dakota, moved to Tucson at age seven, then to California after high school where she lived for many years. Unfortunately her first marriage didn't last and she found she was a single mother raising three children. She found a good job working for Contra Costa County first working in the District Attorney's Office and then working for the County Clerk's Office where she ended her

RANDI VenHuizen



career as a Courtroom Clerk in the Superior Court. Her friends used to tell her she'd never meet anyone but as she was active in her church (singing in the choir, being a Lay Minister, being active in WELCA), she helped to organize the local food pantry, was the Vice-President of Church Women United and as a mother of three children driving them to every practice there was, she told her friends she really didn't have time for a man. But God had other plans and he sent the most wonderful man to the church she was attending. Before she knew it, they fell in love, got married and have been married for almost 22 years. Brad was transferred to Omaha, Nebraska where they lived for almost ten years before retiring to Mesa.

In Omaha, she was active in WELCA and was the Secretary of the Nebraska SWO. Once she and Brad moved to Mesa, they immediately found a church to join and got involved. She is on the church council as a liaison to worship, sings in the choir, is active in their Women's ministry, is a Stephen Minister and a member of OWLS (Older Wiser LutheranS). This is her second term on the GCSWO Board and she is looking forward to helping get the Rio Salado Conference active once again. Randi was appointed a Triennial Gathering Promoter for the 2017 Triennial Gathering which is going to be held in Minneapolis July 13 -16, 2017, an experience she has truly enjoyed.

Canyon Echoes May 2017

I was born and raised in Phoenix, AZ in the loving congregation of Esperanza Lutheran Church. I attended the University of Arizona, majoring in public health and Spanish, and spending a lot of my time with the Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM). While I was involved in LCM I was welcomed into the Women of the ELCA by our very own Suki and many others.

After college I had the opportunity to serve for a year through the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Montevideo, Uruguay. These experiences have all allowed me to see many parts of the church and the world.



HEIDI Gerrish

Currently I live and work in Tucson, serving children and their families in the behavioral health field. My hobbies range from knitting to roller skating, tap dancing, and playing with my sweet little puppy. I continue to worship with the Lutheran Campus Ministry, and will serve as a liaison for WELCA and the University to build a strong bond with our sisters who are starting out on their paths. I'm very excited to serve on the board and offer some of the under 30 perspective, while certainly learning a lot from the sisters in our synod!

For a complete Board Member List, including Name and Contact Information please see Page 16.

Committee Reports

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

The Discipleship committee has been discussing various ways to encourage women to participate in Spring Gatherings, Conventions and Retreat. As always, it seems to be a COMMUNICATION problem! Among the many suggestions we are going to pursue, here is one we would like each of your leaders to accomplish. Each church office should have a mailbox marked for Women of the ELCA (WELCA) or Women's Ministries. Make sure the church secretary is aware that ALL mail pertaining to women should be inserted in this mailbox. Then make sure that someone checks the box on a regular basis and shares the information with other women in the congregation, be it through the church newsletter, bulletin boards (one church has put a bulletin board in the women's bathroom in order to reach their audience) or personal phone calls. On the flip side, if you are mailing out invitations to

other congregations, be sure to put "Attention WELCA" on the outside envelope.

We also encourage everyone to log on to our website (www.grandcanyonwomen.org) for all the latest information about what is going on around the Synod. You will also find issues of the Canyon Echoes, along with program ideas and skits you could use for Unit meetings. Check out Page 12 of this issue to find other web sites to motivate you in a positive direction. Your committee is also working on some new and innovative ideas that will enhance and encourage younger women to get involved. Before you know it, you might be following us on Facebook. Or even Tweeting! Best of all, share conversation with other women about all of the exciting things that are happening with Women's Ministries throughout the Grand Canyon Synod and around the world. We're just a click away.

JUSTICE

On February 18th, 2017 the 3rd Annual Forum on Modern Day Slavery was presented by Green Valley/Sahuarita STOP Human Trafficking Task Force. There were a number of wonderful presenters and here are some of the highlights of the Forum.

Tammy Breitzke from DHS, I.C.E. in Tucson covered information on the structure of the SAATURN (Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network). This is a Department of Homeland Security Task Force for Law Enforcement and apprehension of traffickers. Tammy gave us invaluable information on resources/Hotlines where victims of trafficking can find safety and break away from the trafficker.

FACT: Human Trafficking is the fastest growing crime industry in the world ranking second only to illegal drugs. The Tucson Gem Show is a *Hotbed* for the Trafficker to find victims. It is 2nd only to the Super Bowl, and the Phoenix Car Show is a close runner up. If you encounter anything that just doesn't seem right

and/or you notice a child or adult that seems to be held against their will, your first action is call 911. The SAATURN Hotline is 520-837-2775, they will also have info on resources for the victim. There is also the National Human Trafficking Hotline.org 888-373-7888 or Text HELP or INFO to 233733.

Additional resources for the victims:

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children 1-800-843-5678.

Shared Hope International
at savelives@sharedhope.org.

Red Light Rebellion Youth awareness
programs at www.redlightrebellion.com.

"Chosen" a film which was produced by Shared Help International was shown. After which "Angie" a trafficking survivor, shared the horrors she endured for more than 20 years. She made us very aware that this is an issue happening in our own neighborhood.

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

Sometimes, it is about the money.....

The Merriam Webster dictionary's definition of Stewardship includes the words "the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." Unfortunately, even with the best intentions by those entrusted with an organization's resources, sometimes those resources can become compromised.

According to an article published the Women of the ELCA, "Five Ways to Avoid E-mail Scams Requesting Money," found on their website (<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/news--amp--announcements-pages-6.php>), there have been recent reported cases where WELCA synodical organizations have been the victims of e-mail scams asking for money. The Treasurer will receive e-mails, presumably by the President, re-

questing money be wired. Often, the red flags that may arise with this go unheeded, and, consequently, money is lost.

Some organizations have lost a significant amount of money as a result. The article provides additional information on how the scam works and offers suggestions on how to avoid becoming a victim in this type of scam.

Your Synodical Board has very specific policies and procedures with respect to the care of the synodical gifts it receives from the various units, including requiring specific documentation prior to making any disbursements. We highly recommend that units review their own procedures to make sure their resources remain under the utmost care and out of the hands of scammers.

An Ingathering for LWR was held at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Phoenix on Saturday, April 22nd



Summary of the Ingathering:

School Kits: 188

Personal Care Kits: 594

Baby Care Kits: 71

Fleece Blankets: 7

Quilts: 278

The next Arizona Ingathering will be in early April 2018 but the date hasn't been confirmed. We are hopeful there will also be a Fall 2017 Ingathering in Las Vegas this year. Appreciation is extended to **Laura Krueger**, Arizona LWR Coordinator, for arranging the details and being on site for the event.



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**





Did you know that you can now direct a portion of eligible purchases from Amazon as a donation to our **Grand Canyon Synodical Women's Organization** by using Amazon Smile?

Click [here](https://www.amazon.com/smile) to select our GCSWO directly. Or, if you sign on to [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) you can enter our full name in the charity search box and search for us that way. You must always start at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) to select our GC SWO as your preferred charity. Please note that you cannot deduct this donation personally. The donation is between AmazonSmile and our organization. We recommend you try it out!

Mini Prayer Shawls



Looking for a great idea to promote the theme for your unit or your conference gathering? Want to give a special gift of appreciation to someone? Like to crochet? We've added the pattern for a crocheted Mini Prayer Shawl to our website's Newsletter and Resources page. Click this link to locate the page and scroll down and click on the Prayer Shawl link: <http://grandcanyonwomen.org/newsletterresources.html>



RALLY in the VALLEY

February 20-21, 2017





Triennial Gathering Promoters Update

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



Our Tenth Triennial Gathering is on July 13th through the 16th at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Have you registered to attend? I do hope so. At this point, I have about 25 names registered. If you have registered recently, please send me your name.

IN KIND GIFTS: Although there are numerous In Kind Gifts being requested (Quilt Kits, Days For Girls Kits, Hygiene Kits and Clothing), I suggest the easiest for us to bring, since we're traveling so far, is Gift Cards. They are requesting Gift Cards from: Target, Walmart, T.J. Maxx, Marshalls, Home Depot, Ace Hardware and Lowe's. Visa gift cards are also welcome. If you'd like to bring any of the other kits, log on to the welcatg.org website for more information on the kits.

WORKSHOPS include topics that range from learning more about women in the Old Testament and exploring ideas about ending human sex trafficking to discovering how faith, courage and love can provide an antidote to shame and learning how to explore your spirituality through writing.

TWO DOCUMENTARY FILMS "Dreamcatcher" and "Beauty of Their Dreams" — will offer different ways to explore the gathering theme and our organization's commitment to promoting healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world. One film will be shown on Friday evening and the other on Saturday evening. Each will be followed by a facilitated discussion session.

SERVICE PROJECTS No matter when or why women in our organization gather, our purpose and mission call us to act and serve. Our five gathering verses promise renewal and that often comes from serving others.

On Friday and Saturday afternoon, make your way to the exhibit hall and into servant events area(intentional service and action that will improve the lives of others). Activities range from making feminine hygiene kits to engaging in environmental issues. Many of the servant events will be led by our in-kind gifts recipients, sparking ideas for transforming and creating new ministry projects back home.

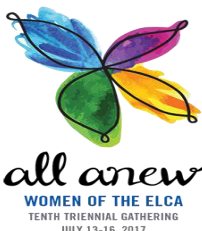
So as you can see, we'll have plenty to do in addition to meeting with all of our Sisters in Christ. I hope to see you there.

UPDATE YOUR REGISTRATION!

Please update your registration NOW to include Region/Synod code 2D. Visit www.welcatg.org website, click on REGISTRATION, then REGISTER then on MODIFY REGISTRATION. Enter your email address and registration reference number, which you received when your registration was confirmed.

This will open your registration file, scroll down and enter 2D in the appropriate box.

Your registration will then be connected to the President of the GC Synod Women, and allows you to receive communications from her in advance of going to Minneapolis.



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

Theme verse: Isaiah 43:19 "I am about to do a new thing"

Registration and Hotel Reservations Are Open until June 9th.
For more info: welcatg.org or randiv@cox.net

Look forward to 2020 ~ Phoenix, AZ!! 2023 ~ Spokane, WA

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 ELCA
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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

Sunrise/Santa Cruz Spring Gathering

"Forgiveness and Surprising Grace," a tale of rape and incest, was shared with 66 women at the Sunrise/Santa Cruz Spring Gathering held at Streams in the Desert in Tucson on Saturday, March 4. University of Arizona Campus Ministry opened the day with a wonderful musical program and readings. Pastor Tom Dunham delivered a memorable sermon involving Ollie and Bess. U of A student, Ann Emilie Tjorhom (one of the Conference Scholarship winners at the Las Vegas Convention) gave an overview of life being involved with Campus Ministries.

Former minister, Debi Shippy, gave a heart wrenching talk on her life in 'the perfect church family' which involved her father trying to rape her at five years old and her brother continuing the incest for many years. Her path to finishing college, becoming a nurse and an ordained minister was one of 'forgiveness and surprising grace'!

A Silent Auction brought in \$610.00 for future Conference Scholarships, along with a very healthy Worship and LOVE offering. Excitement mounts for March 3, 2018 at Mt. Zion in Tucson where we will entertain a Mad Hatter Tea Party with "Fill My Cup, Lord" as the theme. Bonnie Willemssen, author of "Rocky Road is Not Just an Ice Cream," "Jack and Jill are Over the Hill: A Collection of Cockeyed Chronicles," and "Messages of Hope" will be the keynote speaker.



Hot Diggity Dog

The WELCA at Resurrection Lutheran in Oro Valley sponsored a very educational and informative program on Service and Therapy Dogs. Who knew a therapy dog was also able to remove hard to reach clothes from the dryer and pick up something as small as a 'Hello' name tag! A delicious lunch (featuring hot dogs) was served and Suki Kisling gave an update of activities around the Grand Canyon Synod.

New Song Church Women's Ministry Annual Tea (Colorado River Conference)

The Women of New Song held their annual tea on Saturday, March 18, 2017 at New Song Church. The Tea, held in the Community Room of the Church, was a resounding success, with approximately 80 women attending. The theme for this year's tea was "Your Favorite Childhood Memory." Each specially decorated table hosted eight women, and the women enjoyed tea, tasty food, games and fellowship. There was a raffle of several donated gifts, including gift baskets designed by "gift basket creator extraordinaire" Sharon Berry, along with gift certificates from local businesses. The raffle raised \$360, and these proceeds were designated to offset the costs of the Ministry's upcoming Day of Service on May 20.



Capital Conference Spring Gathering

The Women of the Capital Conference held their annual Conference Gathering on Saturday, April 1st at Our Saviour's church in Phoenix. This year over 40 women from churches in Central Phoenix gathered to learn & pray about what the bible says about Social Diversity and the One Body of Christ with its Many Parts. Pastor Maria Valenzuela gave the devotions. Pastor Mary Louise Frenchman from the Native American Urban Ministry gave the keynote speech about diversity and acceptance. A special guest speaker from Native American Connections presented about how the Patina Wellness Center is helping her on her road to recovery. Laura Cary led the ladies in beautiful singing and the Planning Committee provided delicious pastries and coffee and a nice lunch of chicken salad.



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!

More Happenings Around the Grand Canyon Synod

Cactus Conference Gathering

The Cactus Conference Women of the ELCA Gathering was held on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Sun City West, AZ. The theme of the Gathering was Love Your Neighbor...Who is My Neighbor? Morning refreshments were provided and served by Spirit of Grace Lutheran W-ELCA and coffee was provided and served by Lord of Life. Over 160 women attended.

Given recent Middle Eastern migrations into European communities, the continuing Hispanic migration into the US, and the recent heated discussions about our U.S. immigration policies, Winnie Fritz, MSN, Ed D, NEA-BC/CNAA and highly regarded public speaker, addressed our theme, Love Your Neighbor...Who is My Neighbor? The title of her talk and PowerPoint slides was, The Many Faces of God's Love – The Middle East and How Could We/ Should We Respond?



Workshops included three 30-minute good neighbor/Samaritan workshops that were offered twice:

- Senegal: Muslims and Lutherans – Serving Needs Together by Pastor Erv Langholz
- A Better Chance Diaper Closet by Laura Krueger & Martha Keene, Alleluia Lutheran Church
- Child Crisis AZ supported annually (2017 children's shoes collection) by Spirit of Grace & presented by Cheryl Hurd, Community Relations Coordinator

Pastor Mary Louise Frenchman from NAUM delivered the outreach message. The Native American Urban Ministry (NAUM), a ministry of the ELCA, the Grand Canyon Synod and the congregations of the Grand Canyon was established to work with Native Americans adjusting to the challenges, even hardships, brought on by urban, Judeo-Christian and European dominant cultures. Pastor Frenchman was appreciative of the large collection of blankets, shoes, clothes, etc. from our outreach in-kind donations. She introduced her NAUM guests, Marta Cruz and Elizabeth and Autumn Young. The gathering also supported two workshop outreach projects with diapers and children's shoes.

Pastor Kim Sterner lead the closing worship, a neighborly litany based on Psalm 15 and summarized how the day's presentations addressed expanding circles of people loved by God. She ended with the circle around the Lord's Table. Communion was served by Pastor Kim, Intern Kimberlee, Toni Beyer & Suki Kisling.



Upcoming Events for Women in the GC Synod

Grand Canyon Synod Assembly

June 9-10, 2017

Love of Christ Lutheran

Mesa, AZ

10th Triennial Gathering of WELCA

July 13-16, 2017

Minneapolis Convention Center

Minneapolis, MN

Grand Canyon Synod Women's Retreat

SAVE-THE-DATE

"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

SAVE-THE-DATE

Saturday, February 10, 2018

Location TBD

Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference

"Fill My Cup, Lord"

Saturday, March 3, 2018

Mt. Zion, Tucson

Cactus Conference Spring Gathering

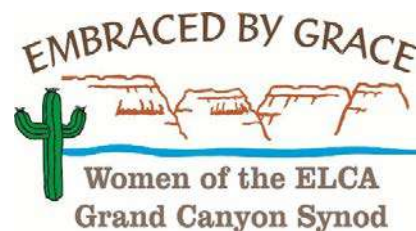
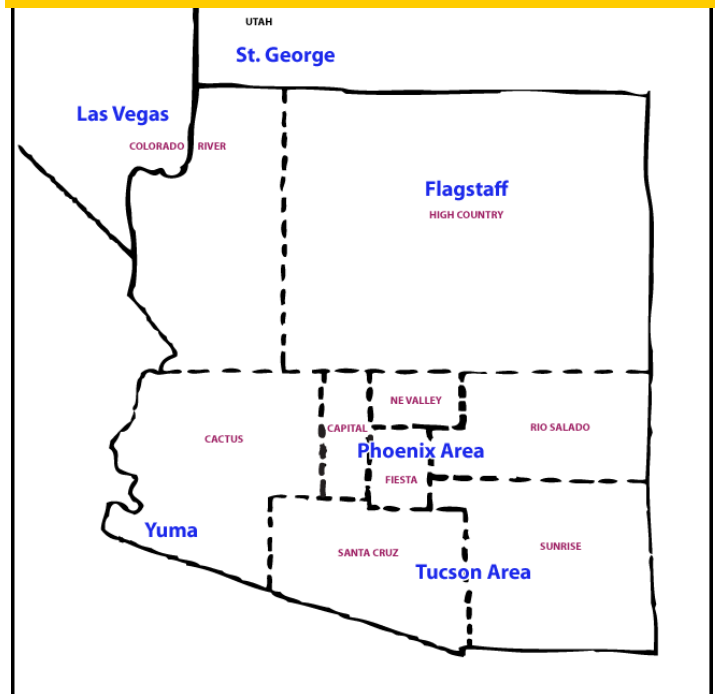
"Feed My Lambs"

Saturday, March 3, 2018

Gloria de Cristo

Yuma, AZ

The 9 GC Synod Conferences



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

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

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Pastor Maria Valenzuela (Alleluia-Cactus)

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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!