



# Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA



## Love. Grow. Serve.

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God"

Micah 6:8 (NRSV)

Twenty-Eighth  
Convention/Gathering  
November 9-11, 2018  
Phoenix, AZ

This book belongs to:



## **Purpose Statement**

### **Mission Statement**

To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

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 Propósito**

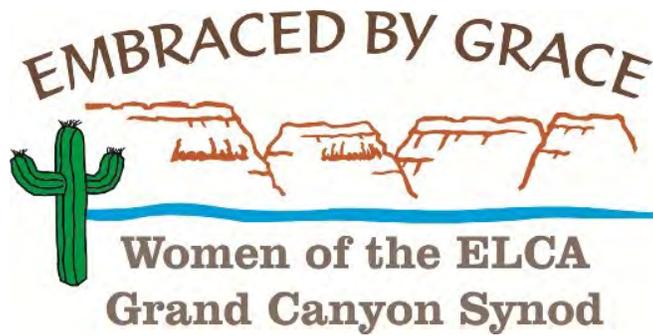
### **Declaración de misión**

Movilizar a las mujeres para actuar con valentía en base a su fe en Jesucristo

En tanto que somos una 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 y la integridad en la iglesia, la sociedad y el mundo.

The symbol... with the cross, water and a white lily, identifies the 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 is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptism water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations; baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Matthew 28:19





## Twenty-Eighth Convention & Gathering



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

**November 9-11, 2018  
Crowne Plaza Phoenix Airport  
Phoenix AZ**

### Theme Verse

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you, but to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.*

**Micah 6:8 (NRSV)**

**Convention/Gathering Goals: Together, as women of the church, we will**

1. Learn what our women's ministry is all about
2. Commit to work together in outreach and service
3. Strive to be women of the church together
4. Renew our sense of calling to "do, love, and walk" our faith wherever we go

# General Information

- GENERAL SESSIONS** All General Sessions will be held in Wren Ballrooms 2 & 3
- SESSION SEATING** Voting Members must be seated in the designated area during the business sessions.
- MEALS** Meal tickets will be collected at each meal covered by your registration.
- Friday dinner stations—poolside, weather permitting
  - Saturday breakfast— on your own; hotel guests have a \$10 restaurant voucher for breakfast in The Post
  - Saturday noon lunch poolside, weather permitting
  - Saturday dinner, meal reservation
  - Sunday breakfast— on your own; hotel guests have a \$10 restaurant voucher for breakfast in The Post
  - Sunday noon meal—on your own
- CHAPLAIN** Rev. Karn Carroll - Prayer Room is located in the Copper Room
- OFFERING**
- Convention Offering:** *(received Saturday morning)*
- ♥ Helps offset our Convention & Gathering expenses; this event is not self-funding
- LOVE Offering:** *(received Saturday morning.)*
- ♥ Comes from individuals, conferences and the congregational/ inter-congregational units to the GC Synod Women to support our serving you throughout the year
- Worship Offering:** *(received at worship on Sunday morning)*
- ♥ 50% to Women of ELCA churchwide
  - ♥ 25% to Alleluia Diaper Closet
  - ♥ 25% to Hozho Café, Navajo Lutheran Mission at Rock Point
- IN-KIND GIFTS** Diapers and wipes to Alleluia Diaper Closet  
Adult PJ's to LSS-SW for client holiday gifting  
Personal care items to LSS-SW Refugee Resettlement Program
- BOOKSTORE** Spirit in the Desert Bookstore      Wren 5 Ballroom
- NAMETAGS** PLEASE WEAR NAMETAGS AT ALL EVENT SESSIONS.
- Gray Nametags—voting members*
  - Blue Nametags—non-voting members and guests*
- EVENT PHOTOS** May appear on our website page or on our social media pages. Your consent is assumed unless you object.
- ALLERGY ALERT** Thank you for not wearing perfumes, colognes, or scented lotions to our events.
- CELL PHONES** Please turn off your phones before all events, and take any required phone conversations out into the hallway. Thank you!

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**Pages for your Notes have been inserted into  
your program:**

**Pages 13, 14, 46, and 58**



**Love. Grow. Serve.**



**GREETINGS  
AND  
WELCOME  
TO THE 28th CONVENTION & GATHERING  
GRAND CANYON SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION**

Welcome to the Twenty-Eighth Convention & Gathering of the Grand Canyon Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

We, as a community of women from all areas of our synod, are gathered here to join together in worship, in song, in reflection of God's Word, to learn, and in sharing our gifts and working together to do the necessary business and planning of our Synodical Women's Organization. We are most grateful for this opportunity!

As we travel along in our journey of faith and continue to strengthen our foundation in Christ, we must take time to listen and respond to God in our daily walk; then to act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ.

May our time together be filled with God's blessings and may we experience spiritual renewal, enabling us to go forth to serve, aware of being Fully Known and Fully Loved.



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

Special Thanks to:

The Convention/Gathering Planning Team led by Suki Kisling & Heidi Gerrish

*Thanks to the many women (and a few men) who assisted prior to and at our arrival, decorating, ushering, hosting, greeting, registration packet assembly and all the other behind-the-scene things done to make this convention/gathering a huge success!*

*You know who you are!*

*We appreciate all you have done to make this weekend a successful, spirit-filled gathering.*



January 2018

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! I'm sending many prayers of thanksgiving for your faithful service and ministry to this wonderful organization known as Women of the ELCA.

While you are gathered together during your synodical convention I would like you to reflect on the next generation of Women of the ELCA. Think back to when you became involved and embrace that excitement. God has a great future for this organization. He is calling us to build on this legacy for our daughters, granddaughters and great granddaughters to enjoy and love. A verse from Isaiah 6 reminds us that when God calls we should be ready to say, "Here am I; send me!"

You will share this weekend with a representative from the Churchwide Executive Board. Please share with her your vision for the future. Engage her with conversations about your joys and concerns for the time ahead. She is here to serve as your advocate and your partner and to take part in everything you have planned. Be sure to introduce yourself to her and invite her to share a few moments with you in fellowship and sisterhood.

Enjoy the time you will spend together. My prayer is that you will leave inspired and excited. Share your experiences with those who could not attend in your congregational unit and invite them to come to your next event.

May God bless you richly during this event and always.

Peace!



Lisa Plorin  
President, 2017-2020 Triennium  
Women of the ELCA



Women  
of the  
**EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA**

8765 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631

800-638-3522, ext. 2730  
773-380-2730  
fax: 773-380-2419  
[www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

# Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA

## Convention/Gathering Schedule



### Friday, November 9, 2018

	Location		Room Set Up
Noon	Saguaro	Lunch/Pre-Convention Board Meeting	Classroom
	Foyer	Registration	
12:30 pm	TBD	Convention Committees Meet	
1:00 pm	Wren 1	Service Projects, Coloring and Conversation	Rounds
1:15 pm	Wren 2&3	Voting Members Seated	Classroom
1:30 pm	Wren 2&3	Convention – Business/Elections (Voting Members)	Classroom
3:00 pm	Lobby	Hotel Room Check In	
3:00 pm	Wren 5	Bookstore/Spirit of the Desert Partner in Ministry	Classroom
3:00 p.m.	Foyer	Partner in Ministry Set up	Foyer Tables
4:00 pm	Wren 1	Faith Talk with Café with Elizabeth McBride	Rounds
5:00 pm	Wren 2&3	Convention Dismissal	
6:00 pm	Pool Side	Dinner Stations (Pool side, weather permitting)	
7:00 pm	Wren 2,3	Gathering Welcome/Music	Classroom
		Keynote: Pastor Meghan Aelabouni <i>“Fully Known, Fully Loved”</i>	
8:30 pm	Hospitality	Evening Social	

### Saturday, November 10, 2018

6:00 am	The Post	Breakfast served until 10:30 am (on-site restaurant)	
8:00 am	Foyer	Registration	
8:45 am	Wren 2, 3	Music to rise and shine, Welcome, Introductions of Guests and First Timers	Classroom
		Devotions with Pastor Karn, Micah 6:8	
9:15 am	Wren 2, 3	Greetings from Churchwide Board – Joy Michalicek	
9:45 am		<b>BREAK</b>	
	Wren 5	Bookstore	
	Foyer	Partners in Ministry Displays	
10:15 am	Wren 2, 3	Keynote Continues with Pastor Meghan <i>“Fully Known, Fully Loved”</i>	Classroom
11:15 am	Wren 2,3	Family Reunification Project: Connie Phillips, LSS-SW	Classroom
11:45 am	Wren 2, 3	Grand Canyon Synod WELCA Convention Report/Q&A	
		<b>CONVENTION OFFERING LOVE OFFERING</b>	
Noon	Pool Side	Lunch/BREAK (Pool side, weather permitting)	
	Wren 5	Bookstore	
	Foyer	Partners in Ministry Displays	

1:00 pm	Wren 2, 3	Music InFaith Presentation on Katie's Fund Challenge	Classroom
2:00 pm	Wren 5 Foyer	<b>BREAK</b> Bookstore Partners in Ministry Displays	
2:15-3:00 pm	<b>Workshops</b>		
	Turquoise	"Justice Issues" - CASA - Allison Hurtado	Theater
	Wren 2, 3	Grand Canyon Synod Global Engagement Pastor Karn, Berkley Harris, Julie Gerrish	Classroom
	Saguaro	"Giving Circles" - InFaith, Part 1 Cindy Aegerter; Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby	Rounds
	Palo Verde	LSS-SW Refugee Resettlement -Hannah Miller	Theater
3:15 pm		<b>BREAK</b>	
3:15 -4:00 pm	<b>Workshops</b>		
	Turquoise	"Healing of Memories for Women Veterans" Richard Andersen, Spirit in the Desert	Theater
	Saguaro	"Giving Circles" - InFaith, Part 2	Rounds
	Wren 2, 3	"Alleluia Diaper Closet" Laura Krueger	Classroom
	Palo Verde	"Attracting Younger Women" Joy Michalicek	Theater
4:00-5:00 pm	Wren 2 Wren 5 Wren 1 Foyer	Choir practice Bookstore Service Projects (The Gathering Place) Partners in Ministry	
5:00 pm	Foyer	Partners in Ministry Tear Down	
6:00 pm	Wren 2, 3	Evening Banquet/Entertainment "The Breeze"	Rounds
8:00 pm	Palo Verde	Taize Prayer Service - Pastor Karn Free Time	Theater

**Sunday, November 11, 2018**

6:00 am	The Post	Breakfast served until 10:30 (on site restaurant)	
8:15 am	Wren 2	Choir Practice	Theater
9:00 am	Wren 2, 3	Greetings from Grand Canyon Synod Bishop Hutterer	Theater
9:30 am	Wren 2, 3	Installation of WELCA Officers and 2020 Triennial Voting Members	
10:00 am	Wren 2, 3	Worship/Communion - Pastor Karn, Pastor Meghan	Theater
		<b>WORSHIP OFFERING</b>	
11:00 am		On our way "Fully Known and Fully Loved"	
11:30 am	Board Room	Post-Convention Board Meeting (Old/New Board)	
Noon	Front Desk	Deadline for Hotel Checkout	

**Worship Offering designation:**

- 50% - Women of the ELCA Churchwide
- 25% - Alleluia Diaper Closet
- 25% - Hozho Café, Navajo Lutheran Mission at Rock Point

**Gift Basket Fund Raiser:**

- 50% - Katie's Fund
- 50% - GC Synod Women's Scholarship Fund

# Keynote Presentation

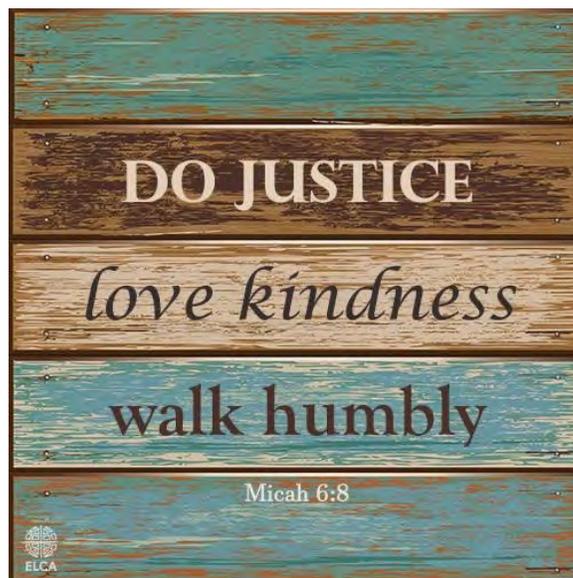
## “Fully Known, Fully Loved” Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni

Has the quest to be “perfect” ever kept you from getting real?  
Have you ever longed for a *full* life instead of one that is overloaded—or empty?  
What does it *really* look like to “do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God?”

During our keynote sessions, “Fully Known, Fully Loved,” Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni will invite us all to ponder what it means for us to be fully loved by the God who knows us fully—imperfections, flaws, sins, and all. Jesus came so that we and all people might have abundant life. In other words, we are fully known and fully loved in order that we might fully *live*. But what does this mean?

Through multimedia storytelling, laughter and conversation, and hands-on activities, we’ll explore how being fully known and loved by God frees our hearts, hands and lives to experience abundant life, and to share it with others, in humility, mercy and justice. We’ll end this time together strengthened by God’s grace and love, and renewed in our sense of calling to “do, love, and walk” our faith wherever we go.

Friday evening: Keynote begins  
Saturday morning: Keynote continues



# **Presentations and Workshops**

## **Faith Talk with Café (Elizabeth McBride)**

*(Friday 4:00 pm—Wren 1)*

Young adult women and their friends meet at Starbucks, at a friend's place or restaurant to discuss current topics in [Boldcafe.org](http://Boldcafe.org)—Women of the ELCA's on-line magazine about faith, relationships, vocation and more. Join us as we sample what a Boldcafe group looks like. We'll listen to the monthly Boldcafe podcast and share discussion questions and a closing prayer. Start off your convention/gathering with some faith conversations.

## **LSS-SW Family Reunification Project (Connie Phillips)**

*(Saturday, 11:15 am—Wren 2&3)*

Connie Phillips, President and CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest, will share about the experience of LSS-SW this past July reunifying parents and children who were separated at the border. Connie will share how this work took place, perspectives of staff on the ground and stories from the families reunited.

## **Katie's Fund Challenge (Cindy Aegerter & Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby)**

*(Saturday 1:15 pm—Wren 2&3)*

**The All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund: Bold Action. Inspired Giving. Sustaining WELCA.** What is your hope for WELCA? What is the legacy that you want to leave for future generations of women? What can you do to ensure that our daughters, granddaughters and sisters in Christ benefit from all that WELCA has to offer? Through reflection and prayer on these questions WELCA's leadership has boldly embarked on a campaign to grow Katie's Fund to \$3 million dollars by the next Triennial. Katie's Fund ensures WELCA's continued commitment to community, growth and action through: leadership development, global connections, and living theology. Led by Cindy Aegerter and Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby from InFaith Foundation, together we'll discover how we as women answer the call to act boldly in our generosity through intentional giving that will sustain WELCA's life changing ministry.

## **Justice Issues (Allison Hurtado)**

*(Saturday 2:15 pm—Turquoise)*

**CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates.** CASA volunteers are everyday people appointed by a judge to speak up for abused and neglected children in court. In Arizona, there are 15 county CASA programs administered by the CASA of Arizona office which is a program of the Dependent Children's Services Division of the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Courts. CASA of Arizona and its volunteers have been advocating for abused and neglected children in Arizona for over 30 years and have served over 22,000 children. CASA of Arizona is part of a nationwide movement of community volunteers and is an affiliate member of the [National CASA Association](http://NationalCASA.org).

## **Giving Circles (Cindy Aegerter & Consuelo Guterrez-Crosby)**

*(Part 1: Saturday 2:15 pm—Saguaro)*

*(Part 2: Saturday, 3:15 pm—Saguaro)*

Multiplying generosity, making a difference. Ignite your passion and the passion of others and together harness the power of many to multiply generosity and achieve greater impact. Giving circles are about change, possibility, growth and being in community with others. By gathering individuals who want to learn and work collaboratively, we increase effectiveness, involvement and impact in our shared communities. Learn more about giving circles and gain tools to help you start your own circle. (Note: This is a 2-part workshop, attend both sections)

## **LSS-SW Refugee Resettlement (Hannah Miller)**

*(Saturday, 2:15 pm—Palo Verde)*

Hannah will provide an explanation of what is a refugee and updates on current state of refugee resettlement in US. Explanation of services LSS provides for refugees in AZ with a special focus on the Refugee women's empowerment program. What you and your congregation can do to support refugees. Q&A.

## **Healing of Memories for Women Veterans (Richard Andersen)**

*(Saturday, 3:15 pm—Turquoise)*

**Our Healing of Memories** workshops for Women provide the opportunity for attendees to find four values which are at the heart of our ministry at Spirit in the Desert. Those four values re: Renewal, reconciliation, healing and transformation. Who will benefit from the Healing of Memories Retreats for Women? Women Veterans, both retired and active duty, Women Veterans specifically those suffering from domestic violence and sexual abuse on duty and at home, Navajo women who are veterans or first responders, both retired and active. Facts and Statistics about Women Veterans: Sadly, about 1 in 4 women and 1 in 100 men seen for VA health care report a history of Military Sexual Trauma. Impact of the community and changes we anticipate as a result of the Healing of Memories Retreats for Women.

## **A Better Chance Diaper Closet (Laura Krueger)**

*(Saturday, 3:15 pm—Wren 2&3)*

Alleluia Lutheran Church in the West Valley of Maricopa County is a small church with a big heart. Looking for a project that would engage the congregation and serve the local community was a goal. With God's intervention, the congregation jumped into a project that is serving the youngest members of the community. Alleluia's "A Better Chance Diaper Closet" was launched. Come and learn how a small congregation is having a big impact and how the lessons learned during Alleluia's journey can help any congregation make a huge impact on their community.

## **Attracting Younger Women (Joy Michalicek)**

*(Saturday, 3:15 pm—Palo Verde)*

**Attracting Younger Women** - Is your women's group fading at your church? Do you feel sometimes like your pastor and church council don't care about your W-ELCA Groups? Are you feeling a little alone? Are you noticing younger women at church, but don't know how to reach out? We will be discussing and working through these issues together. We will be doing a little brainstorming, a little sharing and finding out about techniques that have worked at other churches. Learn how to reach out to women in your own congregation.

**GC Synod Global Engagement (Pr. Karn Carroll, Berkley Harris,  
Julie Gerrish)**

*(Saturday, 2:15 pm—Wren 2 & 3)*

Berkley and Julie are both recent graduates of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) and both spent their year in Senegal, West Africa. They will join Pr. Karn, who chairs our Grand Canyon Synod's Global Engagement Team, in presenting their Senegal experience and connecting that experience to the partnership of our synod with the Lutheran Church in Senegal.

## **Notes**

# Notes

## Who's Who at the Convention & Gathering



### Joy Michalicek (Churchwide Women of the ELCA Representative)

Joy Michalicek was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She serves on the board's programs and communication committee and the executive committee.

She also works with the "Current for Curran" solar campaign and, prior to that, the "PV for Phebe" campaign.

Before being elected to the executive board, she served as a triennial gathering promoter for the Tenth Triennial Gathering (2017). Previously, she served one term as the synodical women's organization (SWO) president for Northeastern Minnesota (3E) and two terms as a SWO board member. Joy served two years as a synodical scholarship advisor working with younger women.

"This gave me a passion for getting younger women involved in Women of the ELCA," she said.

In addition to her duties on the churchwide executive board, Joy serves as the council president for Kenwood Lutheran Church in Duluth, Minnesota. She also sings with the praise team, rings hand bells and serves on the personnel and fellowship boards.

Joy works at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, as a project specialist in facilities management. She and her husband, Kevin, have two sons, two large lazy dogs and an independent cat. Joy likes to walk trails, swim, walk along Lake Superior, bargain shop and watch murder mysteries.

In addition to her churchwide report on Saturday morning, Joy will be leading a workshop on Saturday afternoon: **"Attracting Younger Women" (3:15 pm—Palo Verde)**

### Laura Krueger (Parliamentarian)

Former President of Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA and currently serving on the churchwide Women of the ELCA Executive Board, Laura is a lifelong Lutheran who has strived her whole life to find ways to serve her Lord. She has served on multiple committees and as an officer of several organizations and has a deep understanding of parliamentary procedures. Laura currently serves in the role of parliamentarian for the churchwide executive board. A wife, mother and grandmother, Laura is employed at a local community college as Director of Admissions & Records. Laura and her husband, Jim, have been members of Alleluia Lutheran Church, Phoenix since 2005.



In addition to serving as our convention Parliamentarian, Laura will be leading a workshop on Saturday afternoon: **"A Better Chance Diaper Closet" at Alleluia Lutheran (3:15 pm Wren 2&3)** You can also find Laura in our Partners in Ministry area at the LWR and Alleluia Diaper Closet displays.

## Rev. Dr. Karn Carroll (Chaplain)

Pastor Karn grew up in Minnesota. After graduating from Wartburg College, she received her Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in 1999 and her Doctorate of Ministry in Biblical Preaching from Luther Seminary in 2013. Since being ordained, she has served congregations in Bethesda, MD, Circle Pines, MN, and currently is at Our Saviour's in Phoenix, AZ.



Karn is married to Ryan and they have two sons, Seth and Sean. Ryan is an engineer, Seth attends the University of Arizona and Sean is in high school. They love their pets: a small papillon/daschund mix, a St. Charles cavalier/long-haired chihuahua, and a desert tortoise.

Pastor Karn strives to center her ministry with guidance from Paul's letter to the Ephesians, "I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with the power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge." (Ephesians 3:16-19). This has become Karn's prayer: for all to experience Christ and his love.

In addition to serving as our Chaplain, Pr. Karn will participate in a Saturday workshop titled **"Grand Canyon Synod Global Engagement" (2:15 pm—Wren 2&3)**

## Cyndy Warnier (Music Leader - and Spirit in the Desert Bookstore)

Cyndy Warnier is the Program & Development Director at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center. Cyndy has worn many hats in her life, paramedic, dental hygiene, music/worship, author, and National Parks chaplaincy. She often does pulpit supply and campground ministry while on vacation in wayward mountain towns! "Campground ministry is exciting – skunks, bears, and the occasional moose wander in to join us!" She has enjoyed leading worship with the Grand Canyon WELCA ladies, leading chorales, community choirs, inspirational performances, facilitating retreats, writing Christian drama, and shutter-bugging with her ever-present camera.



Married for 44+ years to Al who also works at Spirit in the Desert and is a horticulturist/landscape specialist, together they explore and teach about the Sonoran Desert. Whether it's desert critters, plants, sunrises and sunsets, or on a mountain somewhere in the West USA--wherever their RV or a good hike takes them, Cyndy takes pictures—LOTS of pictures. Their recent trip to Creede, CO, led to over 1,000 photos, 150 of them had a moose as the subject. "Why so many pics of moose?" you may ask. The answer is best given in the words of the great photographer, Ansel Adams, "When words become unclear, I shall focus with photographs. When images become inadequate, I shall be content with silence."

**Pastor Meghan Johnston Aelabouni**  
**Keynote Speaker: *Fully Known, Fully Loved***  
**Friday evening 7 pm—Wren 2&3**  
**Saturday morning 10:15 am—Wren 2&3**



I was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, where I was baptized at Zion Lutheran Church. I mainly grew up in Cheyenne, Wyoming and Lodi, California--small cities surrounded by Wyoming ranches and California grapes. Thanks to my mother, I grew up very involved in my Lutheran congregations: I attended Sunday School, VBS, and Lutheran camps, sang in the church choir, washed communion cups in the sacristy sink, and preached my first sermon when I was in high school.

I attended California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA where I graduated with a B.A. in English and Religion, and also received a Master of Divinity degree from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, where I studied abroad in Germany and also met my husband, Gabi (on the first day of orientation, in the chapel... a fitting first meeting for two pastors!) After serving ten years as a parish pastor, I started a Ph.D. program in Religion, Media and Culture at Iliff School of Theology and the University of Denver in 2016.

When not studying, writing and speaking, or co-parenting our three kids, I love reading good stories, keeping up with movies and TV programs (for research, of course!), singing, and travel. I also love "collecting" puns and corny jokes; and although I wouldn't say I love exercise, I enjoy *having* exercised, especially when ice cream is my reward! When I finish my doctoral program, I hope to continue writing and teaching about religion and the places God shows up in the stories of our lives and the world.

**Connie Phillips, MSW (LSS-SW Family Reunification)**  
**(Saturday morning 11:15 am)**



Connie Phillips became President & CEO of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest in February 2015. She has provided nonprofit leadership and executive management for over 28 years, working in the fields of mental health, child welfare, and domestic violence.

Connie completed her college education at Grand Canyon University and went on to obtain her Master's degree in Social Work from ASU in 1985.

Connie is a committed advocate of the nonprofit sector, recognized by the Arizona Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers as Social Worker of the Year (2002) and the Phoenix Chamber of Commerce as the recipient of the Athena Award for Public Service in 2009. Connie is a Piper Fellow with the Virginia G. Piper Charitable Trust.

Connie came to Arizona from Las Vegas, NV to attend college and has never left. She and her husband, Randy Eary, have two adult sons who live in Phoenix.

**Elizabeth McBride, (Faith Talk with Café- Friday 4 pm—Wren 1)**

Elizabeth (Beth) is the editor of Café and Director of Intergenerational Programs for Women of the ELCA. Café, the monthly on-line publication for and with young adult women is produced by Beth McBride. Find it at <http://boldcafe.org>. Beth also connects with young adult women across the church, especially on college and seminary campuses, and plays a lead role in Women of the ELCA's presence at the ELCA Youth Gathering and networking events involving young adults. She specializes in conducting workshops about communication among different generations through social media. You can also meet Beth at the WELCA display in our Partner in Ministry area.



**Cindy Aegerter, CFRE, (All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund (Saturday 1:15 pm- Wren 2&3 & Giving Circles Saturday 2:15 & 3:15 pm—Saguaro)**

**InFaith Community Foundation**



Cindy Aegerter serves as a Senior Gift Planner and has been a member of the Charitable Giving Services team at InFaith Community Foundation since 2004. In her role as Gift Planner, Cindy consults with donors and their financial advisors to develop giving solutions that meet their charitable and financial goals. In addition, she works with churches and faith-based nonprofits that hold their endowments at InFaith to educate their supporters and

promote planned giving.

Cindy is a graduate of the University of Oregon, School of Journalism, and worked in public relations prior to moving into the nonprofit sector. Cindy serves on the Board of Directors for Simpson Housing Services, whose mission is to house, support and advocate for people experiencing homelessness; and on the Philanthropy Committee for Ecumen, which operates a variety of senior housing options and services. Cindy is a member of the Minnesota Planned Giving Council, and has received certification as a Certified Fund Raising Executive from CFRE International. She lives in Minneapolis and is active in her neighborhood association.

**Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby (All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund & Giving Circles) InFaith Community Foundation**

As the Women's Philanthropy Associate at InFaith Community Foundation, Consuelo engages women of faith to use their talents to educate, advocate and activate change for women and girls. Prior to InFaith, she helped to expand a national program for first generation college students, developed and led trainings at national conferences, developed and fostered community partnerships with various stakeholders, and served as facilitator for the Women of Color Collective at Macalester College. Consuelo has a Bachelor of Arts from Macalester College with a double major in International Studies and Sociology and a Master of Public Policy from Hubert H.



Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs with Concentration in Nonprofit Management and Social Policy. She, her husband and two children enjoy playing tennis, riding bikes, camping and wintertime fun with their two Siberian Huskies.

**Allison Hurtado (Justice Issues—Saturday 2:15 pm—Turquoise)**



Allison is the Community Outreach Specialist for CASA of Arizona. She provides tools and guidance to all of the 15 county CASA programs in Arizona to help with their outreach and recruitment efforts. Allison has a Journalism degree from Arizona State University and prior to holding this position she was a reporter for Ahwatukee Foothills News from 2010 to 2015, covering everything from local crime and government to schools and community events. Her favorite stories to tell were those of lives being changed through the kindness of others which made the transition to the CASA Program a natural fit.

Children in foster care have a special place in her heart as Allison has been an “aunt” to dozens of foster children over the last eight years—three have been adopted by her sister and brother in law. Allison and her husband recently became licensed foster parents as well and are fostering a teenager while raising their own young children.

**Hannah Miller (LSS-SW Refugee Resettlement—Saturday 2:15 pm Palo Verde)**

Hannah Miller is the Director of Community Engagement for Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS-SW). Hannah regularly meets with community members to share the work of Lutheran Social Services, speaking with congregations, groups and individuals about the services of LSS-SW and providing meaningful opportunities for engagement. She also leads gatherings that provide a one-hour overview of the LSS-SW mission and organizes the annual fundraising luncheon. Hannah began working with LSS-SW as an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer in 2014 in the refugee women’s empowerment program and worked in LSS-SW Refugee & Immigration services for 3 years before assuming her current role. She has her Bachelor of Arts in International Politics with a minor in Peace and Conflict Studies from Juniata College. Hannah loves hiking, camping, and singing as a soprano in the Phoenix Valley Chamber Chorale.



**Choir from Iglesia Luterana Vida Nueva in Phoenix**

They will be with us on Friday evening to share their music.

**“The Breeze”  
Sweet Adeline’s Quartet**

They will entertain us at  
our Saturday evening  
banquet



**Rev. Richard Anderson (Healing of Memories for Women Veterans—  
Saturday 3:15 pm Turquoise)**



**Executive Director, Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center**

Richard is a Vietnam veteran and a graduate of the University of Minnesota and Luther Seminary. Richard had successful careers as a founder of the ARC Retreat Community, as a southwest Minnesota pastor, and a Thrivent Financial representative. He served as an Executive Director of St. Andrew's Foundation in Mahtomedi and as an interim pastor in the St. Paul Minnesota Synod. Immediately prior to accepting the call to serve as Executive Director of Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center, he served at Lutheran Social Services of

Minnesota as Director of Congregational Relations and Senior Gift Officer.

**Berkley Harris and Julie Gerrish (Grand Canyon Synod Global Engagement) Saturday 2:15 pm Wren 2 & 3**

Berkley Harris has lived in Arizona nearly her whole life and in that time she has been highly involved in the ELCA. In recent years, her time in campus ministries at University of Arizona led her to become involved in WELCA. She attended many WELCA events until becoming a Young Adult in Global Mission. Her time with ELCA Global Mission was in Senegal, West Africa. Since returning home, she is finding new ways to experience and impact young adult and women's ministries through her passion for justice and community.



Julie Gerrish was also a recent Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) participant, spending a year in Senegal. They will share their YAGM experience and join Pr. Karn Carroll in connecting their experience to the Grand Canyon Synod's Global Engagement Team. The Lutheran Church in Senegal is a partnership with our Grand Canyon Synod. YAGM is a program of our churchwide ELCA.



**Bishop Deborah Hutterer of the Grand Canyon Synod will bring greetings from the Synod on Sunday morning at 9:00 am (Wren 2 & 3)**

Bishop Hutterer was elected as the sixth bishop, and the first woman to hold this position in the Grand Canyon Synod, at the Synod Assembly in June 2018. The Reverend Deborah K. Hutterer was ordained in 2004. She earned a Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communication from Augsburg University.

Personal and professional challenges have caused Hutterer to grow and constantly pushed her to trust the promise of death, resurrection, and new life. As she enters this new call as bishop, she trusts God's leadership, guidance, and presence, and calls you to join her, using all of the gifts each of us has to be Jesus in the world today.

## **2018 Scholarship Awards**

### ***Today's Katie Scholarship***

"Today's Katie" was inspired by Martin Luther's wife, Katherine von Bora Luther, who was a great influence and help to Luther in his ministry. With this example to follow, in 1988, the Grand Canyon Synod Board agreed to offer four (4) scholarships to young women, ideally one from each of the four geographical areas of our synod. Units were asked to submit names of young women who are actively involved in the life of their church and the community. It was hoped that by actively involving these young women in the annual convention/gathering that interest in Women of the ELCA can be fostered and the development of leadership skills can be nurtured.

### ***2018 Today's Katie Recipients:***

Berkley Harris (University Lutheran, Tempe AZ/Fiesta Conference)  
Saray Escobar Gomez (La Sagrada Familia, Phoenix AZ/NE Valley Conference)

### ***June Klar Memorial Scholarship***

June Klar, an early president of Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA, was active in her church and community and held many positions within the church, in Women of the ELCA, as well as, offices in Church Women United. June was blessed with many gifts which she freely shared; gifts of leadership, enthusiasm, dependability, humor and deep spirituality. She had a real compassion for helping young women. Through leading two Economic Alternative Sessions for CWU, she hoped to help young women realize their full potential, gain new skills, and raise their self esteem. She also worked with Shelters for Women and Children, and Habitat for Humanity. Because of her compassion for helping young women realize their potential, a scholarship fund was created in 1996 upon her death to help young women attend Women of the ELCA conventions to honor her service. Women who are under the age of 40 years old, who are active in their church and community and have never attended a convention can apply.

*(No applications received in 2018)*

### ***Conference and Diversity Scholarships***

Along with support from the Grand Canyon Synod Women's Scholarship Fund and our Mission Outreach Fund, each of our nine conferences within the Grand Canyon Synod is encouraged to offer Conference Scholarships, including Diversity Scholarships, to women within their conference. These scholarships are intended to encourage more women to attend and participate in our convention/gathering, especially women attending for the first time and/or women of color or whose primary language is other than English. All recipients are asked to participate fully in the convention/gathering experience.

### *2018 Conference Scholarship Recipients:*

High Country Conference: Jan Taylor, Spirit of Joy/Clarkdale.  
Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference: Stephanie Petrilli, **Our Saviour's**/Phoenix

### *2018 Diversity Scholarship Recipients:*

#### *Capital Conference:*

Roxana Menes, Faith, Phoenix; Renee Allison, Native American Urban Ministry (NAUM), Phoenix;  
Pr. Mary Louise Frenchman, NAUM, Phoenix; Mary Nelson, NAUM, Phoenix; Marceline Bonito, NAUM,  
Phoenix

#### *Northeast Valley Conference:*

Rosario (Rossy) Guzman, La Sagrada Familia, Phoenix; Rosario Gomez, LaSagrada Familia, Phoenix;  
Gladis Garcia Armenta, La Sagrada Familia, Phoenix

Many of these scholarships were made available by Conferences, Congregational Units and Individual Gifts. Thank you for the support of these women!

# THE GATHERING PLACE

## **In Wren Ballroom 1**

A place for our service projects and in-kind donation collection, a place to color, converse, relax and catch up with friends. At 4 pm on Friday, Beth McBride will facilitate a Faith Talk with Café. No prior registration required. Experience how to use Café with a small group!

### **THREE (3) AREAS OF IN-KIND DONATIONS:**

#### **Adult PJs**

Remember when you received new pajamas for Christmas? Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest is planning to do the same for the older people who are part of their Aging and Disability Services, to give comfort to an older adult in need during the holidays.

Bring in your adult medium, large and XL pajamas! And maybe some grippy foot sox!

#### **Personal Hygiene Products for Newly Arrived Refugees**

Help us assemble Personal Hygiene Kits to distribute to a newly arrived Refugee family, through Lutheran Social Services-SW. Each kit needs a full size shampoo/conditioner (an all-in-one bottle), a pack of 4 toothbrushes, a large toothpaste, a pack of 6 razors, a can of shaving cream, a comb, a 2-pack of deodorant, 2-3 bars of hand soap or body wash, and washcloths. Optional items are lotion and mouthwash.

#### **Diapers and Wipes for Alleluia Diaper Closet**

We're collecting diapers in sizes newborn through toddlers, plus diaper wipes, to help stock the "A Better Chance" Diaper Closet at Alleluia Lutheran in Avondale AZ. Alleluia needs 11,000 diapers a month to serve their in-need clients. Let's give their kiddos a better chance!

### **Gift Basket Fund Raiser**

It's not a Silent Auction. Churches, units and individuals are invited to provide unique baskets. (Purchase six tickets for \$5; 12 for \$10, 18 for \$15 and 24 tickets for \$20) The winning tickets will be drawn at Saturday evening's banquet. Must be present to win! Proceeds will be divided equally between our Grand Canyon Synod WELCA Scholarship Fund and Katie's Fund at churchwide. Remember, Christmas is just around the corner!

# 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

Those phrases describe the many steadfast supporters of Women of the ELCA. And that’s the name for a giving program: “Faithful Friends,” an easy way for you, your congregational unit, your conference and our 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.

We are all being challenged to step up our giving to offset the decline in general offering revenues. Your synodical board and all leaders in our WELCA conferences and units have the opportunity to model faithful giving to support our churchwide organization. Individuals can also model such faithful financial support. Become a faithful friend!

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

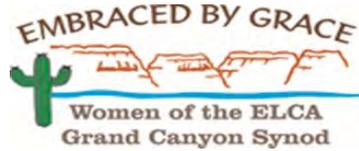
You can start giving on-line right away, and you can stop any time with just a phone call to Women of the ELCA, 773-380-2730, or by email at [women.elca@elca.org](mailto:women.elca@elca.org)

**It all starts with you! Looking for ideas about how to get involved in women’s ministry in your church, in your community and beyond? Here are just some examples of how to begin:**

- ♥ Visit the displays in our Partners in Ministry area including Spirit in the Desert’s table in the Bookstore (Wren 5)
- ♥ Support the LWR Quilt and Kit shipping fund
- ♥ Challenge your congregation to support the Alleluia Diaper Closet
- ♥ Get involved with a project from Global Health Ministries
- ♥ Start a faith-based book discussion—over lunch, or maybe over a glass of wine
- ♥ Contact your local community college or university - support out of town students with a meal during exam week, or during holiday breaks
- ♥ Do you knit, crochet, quilt? Contact the Volunteer Services office at your nearby hospital - perhaps they need lap blankets, or baby caps or newborn layettes, etc.
- ♥ Start a ministry at a nearby Women’s Prison, or a facility housing incarcerated immigrants. A Bible study, or magazines or books? Maybe subscriptions to our Gather magazine? A prayer group? Contact the facility’s Chaplain
- ♥ Learn to speak Spanish and connect with the Latina women in your community
- ♥ Volunteer to accompany immigrants during court proceedings
- ♥ Donate clothing appropriate for work to the Native American Urban Ministry clothes closet at Grace Lutheran in Phoenix, or their Women Prisoner Re-Entry program
- ♥ Support the Navajo Mission in Rock Point
- ♥ Support border ministries’ needs in Tucson or Yuma area

# OFFERINGS

There are several types of offerings, which are collected either at the Synod level (“Grand Canyon WELCA”) or the Women of the ELCA Churchwide level (“Churchwide”)



## Synod Level Offerings

**Regular offerings** are from our individual congregational units and provide ongoing income for the ‘core work’ and ministries of Women of the ELCA and are used to cover the operational costs necessary in the development of programs and resources in support of our mission: to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Grand Canyon WELCA sends 50 percent of these offerings to Churchwide.

**Love offerings** are special offerings are collected at our conventions, retreats and/or Conference gatherings. 100 percent of these offerings stay with Grand Canyon WELCA to cover operational costs at the Synod level to provide programming and support resources to our congregational units and conferences.

**Convention offering** is a new offering established by Grand Canyon WELCA to help offset the expenses of our convention/gathering event, which is not self-funding. Despite our diligent efforts to control our event expenses, not all expenses are covered by the registration fee. This offering is one way that you and your congregational unit can help defray our event expenses and help keep the registration fees reasonable.

**Gathering/Worship offerings** are special offerings taken at gatherings, retreats, conventions and other events and which may occur during the worship portion of a program. These offerings are generally divided so that one-half are sent to Churchwide and the remaining half are distributed to designated recipients.

**All checks for the above offerings should be made out to Women of the ELCA – GCS (Grand Canyon Synod) and either submitted to the Grand Canyon WELCA treasurer or brought to the applicable event.**



## Churchwide Level Offerings

**Designated Gifts** support specific ministries of the ELCA and Women of the ELCA. These ministries are opportunities to give above and beyond regular offerings and Thankofferings. The Grand Canyon WELCA treasurer should be notified of the gift so that Churchwide is made aware of what is being done within our Synod.

**Thankofferings** help Women of the ELCA participants and their congregations reflect on their ministries and how they have been blessed. Historically, this long tradition of giving offerings of thanks took place in the Fall, showing gratitude for God’s blessings in a bountiful harvest and preparing for the harshness that Winter may bring. Thankofferings provide occasions to reflect on women’s mission and ministry and see where new needs are arising. Thankofferings make up part of the organizational annual gift to WELCA and support Women of the ELCA programs and services and help the church reach out to ministry worldwide.

**Checks for Churchwide offerings should be made payable to Women of the ELCA and should be mailed directly to Churchwide accompanied by Form B or as directed by Churchwide.**

## President's Report



I am honored to represent you as your president in this community of faith called Women of the ELCA in the Grand Canyon Synod. I'm thankful for the committed women on your board who give of themselves so generously to accomplish the work we are called to do. I encourage you to fully engage in this week-end: learn, sing, be inspired, grow in your faith journey, worship, participate in our service projects, introduce yourself to someone you haven't yet met, laugh, cry; however the Spirit moves in you.

*"Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand new. It's bursting out? Don't you see it?"* Isaiah 43:19 (The Message). "All Anew – Our Call to You" has been our theme these past two years and I see so much evidence of something new, perhaps a "redefining women's ministry" here in our Grand Canyon Synod. What does that look like, exactly? Let me share some perspectives:

We held two hugely successful *Gather* Bible study events with the authors of our Winter study: In January 2017 we heard from the Rev. Dr. Kit Kleinhans – who wrote "Christian Faith and Christian Freedom (a study of Galatians)," at Lord of Life in Sun City West. And in February 2018 event, with the Rev. Dr. Mark Allan Powell – author of "Multiple Meanings: Learning From Other Interpretations," held at Spirit of Grace in Surprise. Study of God's word is at the very foundation of who we are as women of the church.

Midway through this last biennium we celebrated the 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial Gathering of Women of the ELCA in Minneapolis in July 2017. What a totally inspiring 4 days, shared by some 3,300 of our sisters in faith from across the ELCA! And soon, we look forward to hosting the 11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Gathering right here in Phoenix, on July 16-19, 2020 at the Convention Center!

The PV for Phebe project to provide funding to install solar panels at Phebe Hospital in Liberia was accomplished by the grace of God. In September of 2017, ground was broken and the project was dedicated in November. Thank you to everyone who supported this project!

We celebrated the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation with a sold-out Retreat in October 2017 at the Franciscan Renewal Center under the theme: "Transformed: A New Katie." Through music, art, and presentations from "Dr. Luther" and "Katie," and a little German wine and food, the history of the Reformation came alive. Retreat workshops challenged us to continue to uplift needs in today's world, including efforts to support victims of Human Trafficking.

In the spring of 2018, eight of our nine conferences held a Conference Gathering! What an answer to prayer, and a visual of how women's ministry is changing. These Gatherings are single-day events in and near your own back yard to learn about new ministry opportunities, grow in faith and friendship with your Lutheran sisters.

I'm encouraged as I continue to learn of innovative activities within congregations to engage women, build relationships, and serve those in need. We will welcome five new active units at this week-end's event! And if your women need encouragement to "do a new thing," why not schedule a Boot Camp with Suki?

We've invited our Latina sisters to join us at our events and will continue to support them through interpreters and scholarships. New friendships are being created.

We are women of the church, 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. Can we see the world with new eyes, to sense the needs of our neighbors in a new way? Can we get out of our comfort zones, out of our pews, and move more fully into work that promotes justice and peace? Can we stand with those on the margins? Jesus renews us daily to do His work. Can we free ourselves from old, outdated ideas and practices? Can we let some things die so new growth can emerge? May the spirit of a new thing continue to call you and live in you and in your women's ministry! This is an awesome time to be women of the church.

Your sister in Christ, *Myrna Wells-Ulland*

## Vice-President's Report



It was a cold, rainy Christmas Eve in Las Vegas, NV back in 1980 when my husband and I walked into our first Lutheran church. There were about 100+ folding chairs set up for the expected crowd. The choir was in a balcony loft and the voices sounded amazing. The people were welcoming and friendly (did I mention that it was Christmas Eve?). The pastor greeted us when we entered and remembered our names when we left! We decided to return on Sunday to see what these Lutherans were up to. That night was the beginning of my life as a Lutheran.

Now, nearly 37 years later, after serving in about every capacity the Women of the ELCA has ever dreamed up, I find myself phasing out of elected service and entering a new chapter in my life. What an adventure it has been! When I knew very little about the bible, there was a group of working women who were struggling with their knowledge. We met every week in my home, learned together, shared in our accomplishments and our troubles, and are still bonded in friendship even though we are scattered all over the United States.

When my husband suffered a fatal heart attack, the church immediately showed up and walked with me through the days and weeks that followed. I was suddenly alone in a big house not knowing what the rest of my life was going to look like. Then God showed up (it was like a personal encounter) and my faith began to grow more than ever. *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."* Philippians 4:13 became my go-to scripture.

Leadership was never my destination, but God had something else in mind. What started as a small committee thinking it would be fun to go away for the week end, annual retreats were put together. In February, 2019 the women at Community Lutheran Church in Las Vegas will be celebrating their 30<sup>th</sup> annual Retreat! They have never missed a beat. It will be a time of reliving fond memories and celebrating our faith.

In 2005 it seemed time to move to Green Valley, AZ where my parents had been wintering for about 20 years. They agreed to attend Desert Hills Lutheran with me and never went back to their usual Methodist church. Moving from Nevada to Arizona meant that I was still a part of the Grand Canyon Synod and I already knew many of the women. It was like another instant family.

Helping to build up the Women's Ministries programs at Desert Hills and in the Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference was another faith building journey that led to my election as Vice President of the WELCA Grand Canyon Synod. These last four years have challenged me to reach new goals, begin new programs, and hit the road to visit congregations in Utah, Nevada and all of Arizona. I can honestly say that it has been VERY exciting, enriching, and entertaining. It's wonderful to be part of a faith community where we can have FUN while living out our Faith.

This Convention/Gathering is the result of many years of progress and change. Younger women pastors will be presenting some wonderful programs. The first elected woman Bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod, our much loved Rev. Deborah Hutterer, will be joining us with her message encouraging us to 'start anew and lift our feet.'

My prayer is that you all leave on Sunday and return to your homes and churches all fired up for the work God is doing in the Grand Canyon Synod and around the world. As the writing of my next chapter begins, I hope to see you at future gatherings and events. God has a plan and I'm on board for a new challenge.

Embraced by Grace, *Suki Kislring*

## **Justice Committee Report**

Across the synod, women's ministries are supporting activities in fulfillment of the Justice mission, addressing human trafficking, racial justice advocacy and domestic violence.

In February 2017, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Forum on Modern Day Slavery was presented by Green Valley/Sahuarita STOP Human Trafficking Task Force. Information was also shared on the Southern Arizona Anti-Trafficking Unified Response Network (SAATURN). Attendees gained awareness of events in Arizona that seem to attract human traffickers, including the Tucson Gem Show, the Super Bowl, and the Phoenix Car Show.

Our October 2017 Synod-wide retreat programming included a presentation by StreetLight USA, highlighting their model of care for young girls who are at risk for, or victims of, child sex trafficking. 25% of our Retreat offering was directed toward StreetLight USA, and several hundred dollars of gift cards were collected for them.

Our Native American populations are served through two ministries, Native American Urban Ministry in downtown Phoenix (Capital Conference) and the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission in Rock Point, AZ (High Country Conference). Both programs receive ongoing support, both monetary and in-kind, from our women. A portion of our worship offering at our November Convention/Gathering is being directed to the Hozho Café at the Navajo Mission in Rock Point, a program that feeds the community a hot meal once a day on weekdays.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. At the Tenth Triennial convention in 2017, WELCA was called to specific work relating to domestic violence education and prevention. At Spirit of Grace's Fall Thankoffering luncheon in November, New Life Center shared information about their program providing services to domestic abuse victims and children. In Kind donations were collected for their need list. Our November Convention/Gathering presentations and workshops include the Family Reunification Project of LSS-SW; CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates); LSS-SW work with Refugees and Refugee Resettlement, and the Healing of Memories program for Women Veterans, held at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center.

Committee members include Phyllis Borchardt, Heidi Gerrish, Judy Baker and Maria Valenzuela

## **Stewardship Report**

The focus of the Stewardship Committee is to help the women in our organization understand how to use time, talent and treasure in service to God, to help those in need, and to help make the world a better place.

The Grand Canyon WELCA is very generously supported by our congregational unit members. It is with this support that we bring stewardship emphasis before our women during our annual conference gatherings, our Synod-wide biennial conventions and retreats, and through communications about stewardship opportunities through Canyon Echoes and social media. Our events have featured presentations about various regional and global organizations, along with performing service projects to benefit some of these organizations. Our women have participated in the Lutheran World Relief's (LWR) In-Gatherings in support of LWR's quilt, school kit and personal care kit ministries. We have also provided support to a number of local and regional organizations including (but not limited to) Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest and Nevada, Streetlight USA, Young Adults in Global Mission, Alleluia Diaper Closet, and the Navajo Evangelical Lutheran Mission. In support of our churchwide Women of the ELCA, our women have participated in Thankofferings and, in celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, we have provided support to Katie's Fund, the Churchwide endowment that supports the development of bold and creative leaders.

Together, we accomplish God's work with our time, talents and treasure. We will continue our stewardship efforts during the upcoming biennium, including a special emphasis on promoting and supporting the Katie's Fund Challenge for the increase of the Katie's Fund endowment issued by Churchwide. We welcome your participation on our committee and in all of the activities that celebrate being good stewards of the gifts God has blessed us with.

Committee members: Myrna Wells-Ulland, Randi VenHuizen, and Debbie Romboletti

## Discipleship Committee Report

Discipleship is all about inviting and sharing the good news. That is exactly what has happened since we last met in Las Vegas. Members of your WELCA Board have traveled far and wide to share the stories about what women in the Grand Canyon Synod are doing in their church, their community and in the world.

2018 Conference Gatherings had the largest attendance in history! Many great ideas were shared in a follow-up special Conference Gathering Edition of the quarterly Canyon Echoes newsletter which is e-mailed out to over 600 women in southern Utah, southern Nevada and Arizona.

Because of invitations and personal visits, plus converting our Registration and Scholarship forms into Spanish and providing a translator at some events, we will officially be welcoming two of our Hispanic congregations, La Sagrada and Vida Nueva, at this Convention/Gathering week-end. Other new units being recognized are Christ the Lord, Esperanza and Native American Urban Ministry. Increasing our active congregational units has also increased the number of Voting Members we will be able to send to the July 2020 Triennial being held in Phoenix! More votes; more impact.

Boot Camps have become popular with Units who have questions and are seeking guidance for their women's groups. To schedule a visit to your unit, contact Suki at [sukikisling@gmail.com](mailto:sukikisling@gmail.com) We continue to engage with the *Gather* magazine Bible Study authors. This week-end you will be meeting Pastor Meghan who has been leading us down the path of Repentance in the 2018 Fall *Gather* study. On January 12, Pastor Julie Kanarr, author of the Winter *Gather* bible study, will be joining us at Shepherd of the Valley in Phoenix to enlighten us on the Gospel of John.

Last Fall we revamped our [www.grandcanyonwomen.org](http://www.grandcanyonwomen.org) website to make it more user friendly. You can learn all about us, check out upcoming events, read past issues of the Canyon Echoes, purchase your 'Fashionista' Grand Canyon Synod t-shirt, find Conference resources, fill out registration forms and pay on line! You can also check us out on Facebook and Twitter.

As you can see, we have been making changes from the 'old way of doing things' to bring us up to speed with modern technology. That does not preclude doing some things the old fashioned way, such as personally inviting someone to join you at a WELCA event where we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our special gifts, and support each other. Along the way many are finding that we can have FUN in living our faith. *"We are each ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us."* 2 Corinthians 5:20 Let's take up the challenge to be ambassadors (see the word adore?) and spread the word of God's love.

Committee Members: Suki Kisling, Alice Natale, Wanda Frenchman-Takacs

## What is an active unit?

### How to define an “active” unit

What does it mean to be an active unit of Women of the ELCA? Your unit must commit to four items in order to be recognized as “active” and it’s so easy to accomplish! Active units are the designation for the women’s ministry in your congregation. All women are therefore participants in your active unit, choosing how they want to participate.

- Come together for study, support, and action.
- Participate in the ministry of Women of the ELCA beyond the congregation.
- Support financially the total program of Women of the ELCA.
- Designate leadership that shall be in communication with the synodical and Churchwide women’s organization.

### Come together for study, support, and action

There is no prescribed way to come together for study, support, and action. How your particular group of women comes together can change as the makeup of the group changes or your needs change. Not everyone in a unit needs to participate in every activity. Units can have as many smaller groups of women as you’d like, each carrying out a different activity. There is no requirement to have or designate “circles” within your women’s ministry.

Study could mean coming together monthly for the Bible study found in *Gather* magazine, or a group could gather regularly to discuss the featured topic in *Café*. You could also come together using one of our many program resources. Or choose your own video-based study or a book study. Do what works and is of interest for your women!

Supporting each other can come in many forms. It could be expressed by praying together or organizing a prayer chain. It could involve a “secret sister” or “secret angel” exchange.

Action could involve working in a food pantry, writing letters to elected officials, making relief quilts or knitting prayer shawls, or advocating for the homeless or those who have no voice. These are examples of action.

### Participate beyond the congregation

Programming and activities occur in several different expressions of Women of the ELCA. The women in your unit could attend an event sponsored by the Grand Canyon synodical women’s organization, such as a retreat or convention or gathering. Some local area conferences are very active and offer regular programming in which to participate. Subscribing to *Gather*, *Interchange*, or *Café* are all ways to participate in our ministry beyond the congregation, as is attending a triennial gathering or an event sponsored by the churchwide women’s organization.

### Support financially the total program

Most questions about whether a unit is “active” involve this question: What does it mean to support financially the total program of Women of the ELCA?

In the fullest sense, the women in a unit would regularly be doing all of the following:

Collecting regular offerings and sharing a portion with their synodical women’s organization.

Having regular Thankoffering services and sending 100% of the Thankofferings to the churchwide women’s organization.

Supporting designated giving programs of Women of the ELCA.

Participating in occasional giving opportunities, like the anniversary of the organization, a memorial, or even disaster relief.

Subscribing to *Gather* and *Interchange*.

Purchasing other resources produced by Women of the ELCA.

Some of our units do indeed support the organization in all these ways. Others may do one or two of these things. There are likely growth opportunities for most units in this area, and so we encourage all units to grow in their financial support of Women of the ELCA.

### Designate leadership to be in communication

This is a simple requirement. One person in the unit needs to be a contact person, so that information from the synodical and churchwide women’s organizations can be provided to the unit through this person.

## Responsibilities of Voting Members

- All Voting Members and Alternates must be seated by 1:15 pm and attend the pre-convention orientation—Friday 1:30 pm in the Palo Verde Conference Room.
- Voting Members and alternates must be registered in advance and have proper credentials, which they will receive at the time of registration.
- Voting Members must sit in the area designated for their conference and identified by their church.
- Voting Members must be seated fifteen (15) minutes before the session is scheduled to begin.
- The final decision for seating Voting Members rests with the Credentials Committee.
- A properly registered Alternate may assume the responsibility of the Voting Member in an emergency situation. Once the Alternate is seated, she fills the responsibility of the Voting Member until the end of the convention.
- The Voting Member must attend all business meetings, participate in elections and other voting and is expected to attend workshops and other special convention/gathering events so that a complete report can be taken back to her congregational unit.
- The Voting Member should take notes and be prepared to give a report to her congregational unit.
- Some Voting Members will be asked to serve on committees appointed by the President. Willing acceptance of an appointment to a committee is appreciated.
- Deadline for submitting Resolutions is November 8, 2018

## How to report the convention and gathering to your unit.

At the Convention:

- ♥ Use your Program Booklet to document, and take notes, especially concerning the actions that are voted upon. Or, use your notebook or laptop!
- ♥ Include those facts and statements, which seem most important. Be conscientious in taking notes in order to have accurate information when reporting to your unit.

Presenting the Convention & Gathering Report:

- ♥ Arrange to report your experience to your congregational unit. Bring handouts, examples, etc. to refer to as you share the information learned from your experience.

Your presentation should include:

- ♥ General Information—Make a statement concerning date, place, setting of event, number of voting members and participants., special guests, scholarship awardees., goals of the event.
- ♥ Business Session— Report resolutions and news of the next synod-wide events and next convention.
- ♥ Election Results—Announce the names of those elected as officers and board members.
- ♥ Financial Matters—Note budget decisions, financial reports and financial responsibilities
- ♥ Speakers and Special Guests—Share a few statements concerning one or two messages that you found meaningful.
- ♥ Special Features—Mention all or several, but describe only two or three; such as special music, opening of convention, devotion topic, banquet entertainment, etc.
- ♥ Conclusion—Present some general observations about the fellowship and spirit of the event. You might ask the group to sing the Gathering hymn, if there is one. Close with a prayer for the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Be Enthusiastic! Make a positive report, give a perceptive overview. Share the spirit, fellowship, warmth and enthusiasm that you received with the women at the Convention/Gathering.

If your eyes have truly been opened to the Lord, then your heart will be too, and you will be able to make your women feel as if they, too, were in attendance.

# Convention Agenda

November 9-11, 2018

## Friday, November 9, 2018

Noon	Registration	Foyer
12:30 PM	Convention Committees Meet	as assigned
1:00 PM	Service Projects, Coloring and Conversation	Wren 1
1:15 PM	Voting Members seated	Wren 2&3
1:30 PM	Convention Convenes**	Wren 2&3
3:00 PM	Hotel Check-in	
3:00 PM	Bookstore	Wren 5
	Partner in Ministry Tables Set Up	Foyer
4:00 PM	Faith Talk with Café w/Elizabeth McBride	Wren 1
5:00 PM	Convention Dismissal	Wren 2&3
6:00 PM	Dinner Stations (pool side, weather permitting)	
7:00 PM	Gathering Welcome/Music	
	Music Leader: Cyndy Warnier	Wren 2&3
	Vida Nueva Musicians	
	Keynote: Pr. Meghan Aelabouni	Wren 2&3
8:30 PM	Evening Social	Hospitality Suite

### **\*\*BUSINESS SESSION of CONVENTION**

Wren 2&3

Orientation of Voting Members  
Report of Credentials Committee  
Call to Order  
Appointment of Parliamentarian  
Adoption of Agenda  
Adoption of Convention Standing Rules  
Announcement of Convention Business Committees  
    Committee on Credentials  
    Committee on Conduct of Elections  
    Committee on Offerings  
    Committee on Minutes  
    Committee on Reference and Counsel (Resolutions)  
Prayer for Nominations—Pastor Karn Carroll

Report of Nominating Committee  
Instructions from Elections Committee  
Ballot for **President**  
Report of Elections Committee—ballot for President

Report of Nominating Committee  
Instructions from Elections Committee  
Ballot for **Vice-President**  
Report of Elections Committee—ballot for Vice-President

Report of Nominating Committee  
Instructions from Elections Committee  
Ballot for **Secretary**  
Report of Elections Committee—ballot for Secretary

## **CONVENTION, CONTINUED**

Report of Nominating Committee  
Instructions from Elections Committee  
Ballot for **Treasurer**  
Report of Elections Committee—ballot for Treasurer

Report of Nominating Committee  
Instructions from Elections Committee  
Ballot for **Board Members**

Call for New Business

Report of External Review/Audit Report—Debbie Romboletti  
Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 2017-2018  
Presentation of 2019-2020 Budget

Report of Elections Committee—ballot for Board Members

### **Stand & Stretch**

Report of Nominating Committee  
Instructions from Elections Committee  
First Ballot (Ticket A) for **2020 Triennial Voting Members**

Adoption of 2019-2020 Budget

Report of Elections Committee—first ballot 2020 Triennial Voting Members

Report of Nominating Committee  
Instructions from Elections Committee  
Second Ballot (Ticket B) for **2020 Triennial Voting Members**

President's Report—presided over by VP, Suki Kisling

Report of Elections Committee—2nd ballot 2020 Triennial Voting Members

Report of Nominating Committee  
Instructions from Elections Committee  
Third Ballot for (Ticket C) **2020 Triennial Voting Members**

### **Stand & Stretch**

Report of Elections Committee—3rd ballot 2020 Triennial Voting Members

Report from the Reference and Counsel Committee (Resolutions)

Report of the Minutes Committee  
Report of the Offerings Committee  
Unfinished Business

Convention Dismissal

## **RANK ORDER PROCESS for Electing 2020 Triennial Voting Members**

**We are electing four (4) Voting Members to the 2020 Triennial Convention this year.**

Two criteria that need to be met in electing our voting members:

- 1) As nearly as possible, at least 10% of the delegation shall be persons of color or whose primary language is other than English.  
Persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English shall be understood to mean African American, Black, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian, Hispanic, American Indian, and Alaska Native People.
- 2) At least one-fourth (25%) of the voting members shall be women attending the convention for the first time.

For our Grand Canyon Synod Women, consideration shall be given to geographic location, variety of ages and diversity of experience. Women who have served as a previous Triennial Convention Voting Member in the last six (6) years are not eligible.

The **first ballot (Ticket A)** for 2020 Triennial Voting Members will be used to elect the woman of color or whose primary language is other than English.

Election on Ticket A (First Ballot) will be conducted and resolved before moving to Ticket B.

Women not elected on Ticket A who would also be eligible as first time voting members will be listed on Ticket B (Second Ballot).

The **second ballot (Ticket B)** will be used to elect the first-time voting member.

Women on either Ticket A or Ticket B who were not elected will be listed by descending order by vote count and will serve as alternates for the voting member on their respective tickets.

Women on either Ticket A or Ticket B who were not elected will also have their names added to the third ballot (Ticket C).

The **third ballot (Ticket C)** will be used to elect the remaining number of nominees needed to complete our delegation. In our situation, this is two (2). This ballot will include the names originally selected by the Nominating Committee for this ticket AND the names of women who were on Ticket A and Ticket B who were not elected.

We will conduct as many ballots on Ticket C as are needed to complete our delegation. The list of alternates on Ticket C will be the woman or women not being elected on the final ballot, to form the top list of alternates, listed in descending order by actual votes cast on the final ballot. If multiple ballots are needed on Ticket C, the woman/women not elected on those ballots are added to the list of alternates, listed in descending order first by the number of the ballot and then by actual votes cast.

*To be elected, a woman must receive a majority of votes, eg, 50% of the votes cast, plus one. If an election does not occur on the first ballot, the number of nominees on the second (and all succeeding ballots) is limited to twice the number of voting members needed to be elected on that ballot.*

# Proposed Standing Rules of Convention

## 1. DELEGATE BODY

The voting members to be seated at the convention shall include: one woman from each congregational unit of the **Synod Women's Organization (SWO) and the Executive Board members of the Synod Women's Organization**. Visitors are invited to attend the business meeting and will be seated in the visitor section.

## 2. ORIENTATION

Voting Members are required to attend the Voting Member Orientation at 1:30 pm on Friday.

## 3. SEATING OF VOTING MEMBERS

The roster of voting members may not be changed after the opening of the first Business Session. Voting Members are to be seated for the Orientation Session at 1:30 PM and shall not be absent from any meeting of the convention without excuse. Voting members who must be absent are to be excused by the Credentials Committee Chairperson. The Chair of the Credentials Committee shall coordinate the replacement of the voting member with the alternate, if an alternate is available. Pre-registered voting members arriving late will be seated only with the approval of seated voting members.

## 4. QUORUM

A majority of the registered voting members shall constitute a quorum.

## 5. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Seat and voice shall be granted to the following:

- Registered voting members from the congregations
- **All officers and board members of the Grand Canyon Synodical Women's Organization**
- **The Bishop of the GC Synod of the ELCA, or the Bishop's representative**
- **The representative of the President of the Churchwide Women's Organization**

Participants at the convention, including the Scholarship recipients, may have voice, with the approval of the voting members (no more than 2 minutes), but no vote.

## 6. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

The president, at the opening business session, shall announce the appointment of the following convention business committees:

- A. Committee on Credentials
- B. Committee on Elections
- C. Committee on Minutes
- D. Committee on Nominations
- E. Committee on Offerings
- F. Committee on Reference and Counsel

## 7. VOTING PROCEDURE

To be eligible to vote, a voting member must be seated in the designated section. No proxy or absentee voting is permitted.

A two-thirds vote is required for adoption of:

- a. Recommendations from the SWO Administrative Board
  - 1) **The Synod Women's Organization Budget for the fiscal year: February 1-January 31**
- b. Resolutions
- c. Recommendations from the Committee on Reference and Counsel to add an item to the Agenda.
- d. Other actions as specified in *Robert's Rules of Order*.

Election shall be by ballot [Constitution-Article VI, Section 4, Item 6]; all other voting shall be by show of voting cards. Voting cards shall be used as follows:

Green card—Affirmative Vote; Red Card-Negative Vote; White Card—Abstention

## 8. CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

- A. Terms of office for those elected shall be two (2) years.
- B. Consideration shall be given to persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English and/or persons with disabilities.
- C. Those elected shall be President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary and eight (8) Board Members for two (2) year terms.
- D. No more than one (1) person from each congregational unit may be elected to the Executive Committee or Administrative Board.
- E. All elections shall be by ballot.
- F. Nominations from the floor shall be accepted. Permission to place a name in nomination must be granted by that person prior to placing her name in nomination. A written or printed biography of the nominee shall be provided to all voting members when the nomination is made.
- G. Eight (8) board members shall be elected as follows:
  - i. Each Board Member shall be from a different unit than the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer.
  - ii. The Administrative Board and the Executive Committee shall include at least one (1) from each of the four (4) geographical areas of the Grand Canyon Synod:
    - a. North—Colorado River and High Country Conferences
    - b. East—Northeast Valley, Rio Salado and Fiesta Conferences
    - c. West-Cactus and Capital Conferences
    - d. South-Sunrise and Santa Cruz Conferences
  - iii. If only one (1) person is needed to complete the slate, the names of the two (2) nominees with the most votes will constitute the final ballot.
  - iv. In all elections, a majority of votes cast shall elect.

## 9. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

If any voting member desires to add any item of new business (i.e. a motion or resolution of a general character), she shall do so by providing the proper form completed. Submit the form to the Committee on Reference and Counsel no later than the time designated by the chair.

The Committee on Reference and Counsel shall report to the convention its recommendations for handling such new business, which may include the recommendation that the matter not be considered. A two-thirds vote of the convention shall be required to add the item of new business to the agenda.

Actions taken by the convention shall be consistent with the documents of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and with the documents of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## 10. SPEECHES

All speeches in general discussion, unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds vote of the convention, shall be limited to two (2) minutes. No person shall speak more than twice on the same issue without the consent of the convention and only after all others have spoken. Speakers must use the microphone and identify themselves by name, congregational unit, city and state, to be recognized by the chair.

## 11. DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

After the convention is in session, permission to distribute materials not issued by the Administrative Board of the **Synodical Women's Organization and/or the Convention Planning Committees must be secured from the** Committee on Reference and Counsel.

12. PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Wearing promotional buttons or slogans, the distribution of materials or carrying placards to promote one candidate over another is not permitted at the convention.

13. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Any business which cannot be completed by the scheduled hour of closing will be referred to the **Administrative Board of the Synodical Women's Organization** for action.

14. GOVERNING PARLIAMENTARY LAW

*Robert's Rules of Order, Latest Edition* shall be the governing law of this convention, except as otherwise provided in the Standing Rules of the Convention.

**TIPS ON PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

TO DO THIS	YOU SAY THIS				
		May you interrupt?	Is your motion debatable?	Is your motion amendable?	Vote required to pass.
Move a motion (called a "main motion).	"I move that... (Not "I would like to move that ...)	No	Yes	Yes	Majority.
Amend a motion.	"I move to amend by ..." (adding, inserting, striking)	Yes	No	No	Majority unless otherwise indicated.
Postpone further debate, consideration or vote.	"I move that this matter be tabled"	No	No	No	Majority.
End debate and bring to a vote.	"I move the previous question ..."	No	No	No	2/3.
Refer a matter to another person or group.	"I move that this matter be referred to ..."	No	Yes	Yes	Majority.
Reconsider a previous action at this convention.	"I move to reconsider the vote on ..." (only if you voted on the winning side).	No	Yes*	No	Majority.
Object to procedures.	"Point of order"	Yes	No	No	Chair decides.
Challenge ruling of the chair.	"I appeal the chair's decision.	No	Yes	No	Majority.
Find out when a motion you wish to make can be made.	"When would it be in order for me to move that ..."	No	--	--	--
Request information.	"I wish to request ..." (information, clarification, etc.)	No	--	--	--
Get an exact count after a close vote (voice).	"I call for a division."	Yes	No	No	--

\*If the original motion is debatable.

# Glossary of Terms

**Adopt**—to choose or accept and put into effect (by vote or consensus)

**Agenda**—Items listed in order to be discussed.

**Approve**—to confirm or sanction formally; to ratify

**Assembly**—**The ELCA's term for the gathering of voting members for decision-making and legislative functions.**

**Bold Connections**—free monthly e-newsletter of Women of the ELCA

**Bylaws**—standing rules governing the regulation of the internal affairs of an organization

**Café**—web-based magazine for young adult women who want to build community, participate in advocacy, and strengthen their faith.

**Conference**—The groupings of congregational units and inter-congregational units within the territory of a **Synodical Women's Organization.**

**Conference Planning Committee**—Members elected or appointed at conference gatherings to plan and facilitate future gatherings and who remain in **communication with the Synod Women's Board**

**Congregational Unit**—**The women's ministry** organization in a congregation. This may be made up of smaller groups of women in the congregation, e.g., Bible study, altar guild, quilters, Café group, prayer shawl ministry, etc., but this is the term designated for the total activity/organization within the congregation.

**Convention**—The gathering of voting members for decision-making or legislative functions within the Women of the ELCA.

**Churchwide Organization (CWO)** - The national expression of Women of the ELCA, headquartered in Chicago in the same building as the central offices for the ELCA; and the CWO Board of Officers and Members representing regions across the USA and the Caribbean.

**Fiscal Year**—an accounting period generally 12 months, which does not necessarily coincide with the

calendar year. The fiscal year for Women of the ELCA is Feb 1 to Jan 31.

**Gather** - a monthly magazine for all women, developed by Women of the ELCA.

**Gathering**—term for meeting of women from the Units located within a conference or of an entire synod

**Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA Executive Committee**—officers of the Synod, including President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer

**Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA Administrative Board**—Officers and elected board members of the synod

**In-Kind**—given in goods, commodities, or acts or services rather than money

**Interchange**—our leadership newsletter sent by regular mail to Women of the ELCA leaders in congregational units, synodical organizations, and conferences.

**Inter-congregational unit**—a local organization for women from two or more congregations that have no congregational units.

**Majority**—one more than half of the voting delegation.

**Membership**—refers to the congregational/inter-congregational units who have affiliated with Women of the ELCA. It does not refer to the individual woman within a congregation.

**Memorial**—A statement of facts, usually with a petition on some issues to be acted upon, brought to the triennial convention by a synod or **Synodical Women's Organization; resolution**

**Participants**-Individual women who choose to participate in a variety of activities that fulfill the purposes of the organization.

Quorum— minimum number required by constitution to conduct business.

Region—one of nine geographic territories of the ELCA. We are in Region 2 and our GC Synod is 2D

Resolution—an item to be acted upon which is brought to the Reference and Counsel Committee by a one or more voting members.

*Roberts Rules of Order*—the generally accepted rules by which meetings have been conducted since 1876.

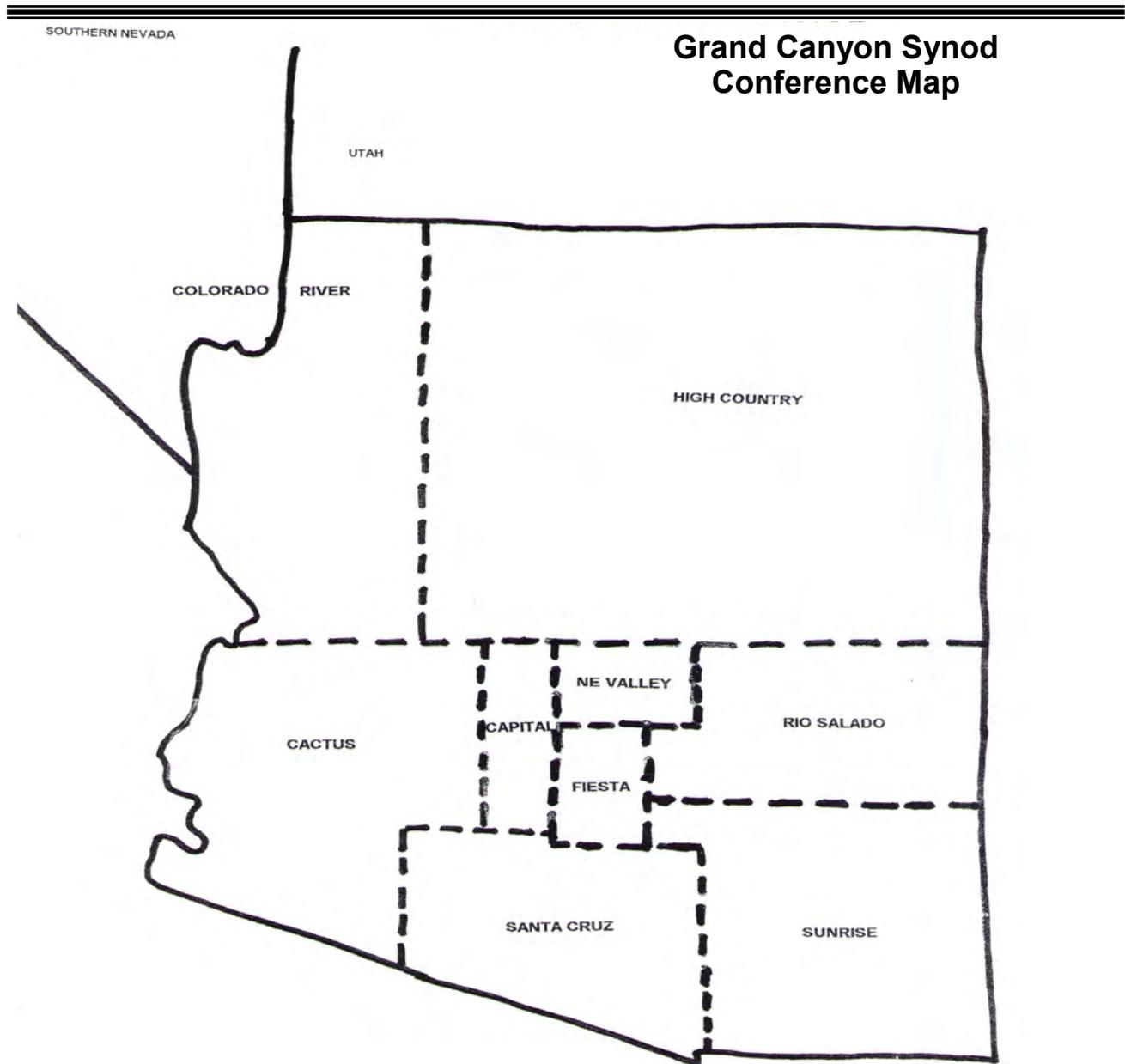
Standing Rules of Convention—Those governing rules approved by the voting members and officers pertaining to the business procedures to be followed at the convention.

**Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)** - The Synodical expression of the Women of the ELCA with 4 officers and 8 board members in our Grand Canyon Synod, elected to serve and support women's ministries, programs, faith development and provide opportunities to gather as a synod.

Synod—One of the 65 territories of the ELCA.

Triennial—Churchwide convention and gathering held every three (3) years.

Women of the ELCA—the shortened form of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. WELCA should only be used in conversation with women who have been involved and who know what you are talking about.



## **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR GRAND CANYON SYNOD WOMEN'S OFFICERS**

### **President Nominee: Myrna J. Wells-Ulland**

Living Water Lutheran Church, Scottsdale AZ (Northeast Valley Conference)

Age category: over 65

Current president of GC SWO 2016-2018, board member 2013-2016, Canyon Echoes publishing assistant. President, NE MN SWO 2009-2013. Voting member to 10th Triennial Convention WELCA 2017; delegate to 8th Triennial Convention WELCA 2011; volunteer at 9th Triennial Convention 2014. Synod Assembly voting member 2015-2018. Learning Mission Team leader, LWR Quilt and Kit coordinator, Choir, Service & Caring Team member, ELCA World Hunger promoter, communion assistant, Gather Bible study and Tuesday Women's study leader at Living Water. Member, churchwide ad hoc committee for WELCA 2013. Past congregational president, V-P, chair of stewardship team, member evangelism team, handbells, choir, VBS/SS teacher and coordinator, confirmation small group leader. Trained in BeFriender lay ministry. Past president Second Harvest Northern Lakes Food Bank (Duluth MN). Retired as Clinic Director, St. Luke's Duluth, MN. Past exec director MN Health Information Mgmt Assoc.

I have a love for women's ministry and mission and a passion to redefine women's ministry in today's world. I bring leadership skills, good governance, a passion for the work of the larger church. Skilled in public speaking, teaching, strong administrative and organizational skills, project management, financial management, computer skills. Bachelor's in Health Information; Master's in Health Services Admin.

### **Vice-President Nominee:**

#### **Secretary Nominee: Randi VenHuizen**

Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, Gilbert AZ (Rio Salado Conference)

Age category: over 65

Current board member GC SWO 2014-2018. Secretary, Nebraska SWO 2011-2013. 2017 Triennial Gathering Promoter. Voting Member to 9th Triennial Convention WELCA 2017 and also in 1990. Member Rio Salado conference planning team 2018 to re-energize the conference. Past Nebraska SWO conference secretary. Active in WELCA since its inception.

I bring a commitment and love of WELCA to the Synod Board.

#### **Treasurer Nominee: Debra Romboletti**

New Song Lutheran, Henderson NV (Colorado River Conference)

Age category: 51-65

I am currently serving my first term as the GC Synod Women's Board Treasurer. Previously, I served as Financial Secretary for the Colorado River Conference Planning Committee. I also currently serve on the Women's Ministry Board at New Song Church in Henderson NV, having been the Coordinator prior the Ministry's transition to board leadership. I also serve as a captain of one of the Hospitality teams at New Song, and previously served a two-year term as the Church's treasurer. Career-wise, I am a Certified Public Accountant by trade, having been in the profession over 30 years. I am a partner at HRP CPAs, a local accounting firm in Las Vegas NV.

# **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR GRAND CANYON SYNOD WOMEN'S BOARD MEMBERS**

## **Judith A. Baker**

Grace Lutheran, Phoenix AZ (Capital Conference)

Age category: over 65

Former GC Synod Council member (3 years). Current GC SWO board member (2016-2018). Former Grace Lutheran board member. Sunday School teacher, Stephen Minister.

I'm a team player. I enjoy working with women and learning and planning. I have enjoyed all the past boards I've served on.

## **Phyllis Borchardt**

Spirit of Grace Lutheran, Surprise AZ (Cactus Conference)

Age category: over 65

Currently president of WELCA at Spirit of Grace. Current GC SWO board member (2016-2018). Coordinated registration for Feb. 2018 Gather Bible Study event. Site location research for Nov. 2018 GC SWO Convention & Gathering.

I bring organizational and administrative gifts to the synod women's board.

## **Wanda Frenchman Takacs**

Native American Urban Ministry (NAUM), Phoenix AZ (Capital Conference)

Age category: 36-50 and Woman of color

My congregational service is with the NAUM in downtown Phoenix. The ministry was developed to serve Native Americans living in the city to be able to worship in both a Christian and traditional Native American setting. I serve at our two monthly worship gatherings by helping with digital presentation and sound, setting up clothing donations, lunch, transportation of worship members, offering communion and reading scripture, and promote our worship on social media. I represented the Native Ministry in Chicago at a Multi-Cultural Summit at the ELCA. I was also a NAUM voting member at the GC Synod Assembly 2017-2018.

I've been a member of the GC WELCA Capital Conference Planning Committee since 2011; past secretary of the GC WELCA Capital Conference in 2016. I've done the social media promotion and made programs and conference flyers for the annual event. Currently serving as the GC SWO board secretary (2016-2018). This is my second term as a board member. I've also attended the GC WELCA's bi-annual conventions, retreats, bible study workshops and other events, and have done promotion via social media, newsletter and website of the group's activities and events.

I'm currently a Project Coordinator for a civil engineering firm, with 16 years in the industry. I worked as the communications/office coordinator at King of Glory Lutheran for 2 years in 2015. Through my involvement with GC WELCA since 2014, I see missed opportunities and representation for women of color, young professionals, single mothers, college students. My strong social media and tech background allows communication on many levels. My compassion for my sisters in Christ may not fit the typical "Lutheran Woman" profile, ie, Hispanic, Native American, Refugee, Lesbian, young, etc. and I can be a role model for these women.

## **Board Member Nominees, continued:**

### **Patty Gee**

Living Christ Lutheran, Flagstaff AZ (High Country Conference)

Age category: over 65

Previous GC SWO board member, led the Justice Committee. Current president of local WELCA and High Country Conference secretary.

My gifts/talents are in organization of workshops, gatherings, informational local WELA sessions throughout Grand Canyon. Membership database, basic technology skills. Able to follow through with tasks and responsibilities.

### **Heidi Gerrish**

LCM at U of A/future member Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Tucson AZ (Santa Cruz Conference)

Age category: 18-35

I presented my YAGM (Young Adults in Global Missions) story at your gathering in 2016, have done 2 Visioning workshops. Current GC SWO board member 2016-2018.

I speak Spanish and am connected with the LCM groups at UA and ASU. My work at LSS-SW keeps me in contact with many ELCA congregations. I enjoy graphic design and would love to help with communications!

### **Kathy Swan**

Christ the Lord, Carefree AZ (Northeast Valley Conference)

Age category: over 65

28 year member of Grace Lutheran Church in Culver City, CA, president and secretary of that WELCA executive board committee, organized a new women's circle, served on Education Committee, taught SS and VBS, chaired Advent Christmas parties and spring luncheons. Girl Scouts of America leader for 28 years, 13 as a troop leader. Served on the GSA Beverly Hills Service Unit team as secretary and treasurer, chaired neighborhood tasting bees and campouts. Member of the GSA Camp Stuff 'n' Stuff core staff for 25 years, planning activities and creating or finding crafts that worked well with the theme of camp. Twice received GSA's GSUSA Appreciation Pin.

14-year member of Christ the Lord in Carefree. Co-started a Women of the Spirit Ministry, and served as secretary. Planned 3 retreats, speaker events, and spring luncheons. Elected Educ Committee Chair and church council member for 6 years. Co-chaired VBS, chaired VBS for Adults, developing themes and activities. Coordinated MOPS program for the last 6 years, and serve as the lead teacher for MOPS kids.

Invited to join the WELCA GC Synod NE Valley Conference Planning Committee in 2016; have helped plan 3 NE Conference retreats.

I have many years' experience chairing, organizing, planning, publicizing and leading events and activities. I like to think outside the box. Most rewarding for me is that I took on events and activities with small attendance and consistently grew the attendance/participation.

## **Board Member Nominees, continued:**

### **Pastor Maria Valenzuela**

Alleluia Lutheran, Avondale AZ (Cactus Conference)

Age category: over 65 and Woman of Color/Primary Language Other than English

Retired ELCA clergy. Served as Director of Latino Ministries at Churchwide and for GC and Rocky Mountain synods. Served as Pastor of Care at American Lutheran Church in Sun City, AZ. Started ministry in Surprise as a lay person. Served as pastor in organizing new ministry in El Paso, TX. Served as pastor at Messiah, Vida Nueva and Alleluia churches. Current GC SWO Board member (2016-2018). Volunteer at Tolleson/Senior Center.

I bring the Latino culture and experience throughout the ELCA to the GC SWO board.

### **Berkley Harris**

University Lutheran, Tempe AZ (Fiesta Conference)

Age category: 18-35

I am excited about the opportunity. I have always been passionate about women's ministry within my faith communities. Interaction with WELCA events allowed me to get more connected during my time in college. I have recently become more connected with the ELCA through my time in YAGM with Global Missions. I believe in building a community of women to foster deeper connection to faith and to build a strong network of service.

I hope my 'fresh' perspective could add to a development of an even stronger community and ministry of women in the Grand Canyon Synod.

## **ADDITIONAL NOMINATIONS RECEIVED:**

## **REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 2020 TRIENNIAL CONVENTION VOTING MEMBERS**

(note: these nominations are limited to one from each congregational unit)

### **Judith A. Baker**

Grace Lutheran, Phoenix AZ (Capital Conference)

**Woman of Color and/or Primary Language Other Than English: No**  
**Previous Triennial Voting Member: No**

Age Category: 65+

Congregation and Women's Ministry Service: SS teacher, Stephen Minister, Church Board member.

Synodical Service: GC Synod Council; GC SWO board

### **Phyllis Borchardt**

Spirit of Grace Lutheran, Surprise AZ (Cactus Conference)

**Woman of Color and/or Primary Language Other Than English: No**  
**Previous Triennial Voting Member: No**

Age Category: 65+

Congregation and Women's Ministry Service: Church Council Spirit of Grace; WELCA Treasurer Spirit of Grace; WELCA President Spirit of Grace; outreach ministry.

Conference Service: Cactus Conference Planning Committee

Synodical Service: GC SWO Board; GC WELCA Gather Bible Study

### **Wanda Frenchman Takacs**

Native American Urban Ministry, Phoenix AZ (Capital Conference)

**Woman of Color and/or Primary Language Other Than English: Yes**  
(Native American)

**Previous Triennial Voting Member: No**

Age Category: 35-49

Congregation and Women's Ministry Service: Native American Urban Ministry, help with digital presentation and sound, setting up clothing donations, lunch, transportation, Communion and scripture reading. Represented the Native Ministry in Chicago in March 2018 at Multi-Cultural Summit at ELCA.

Conference Service: Capital Conference Planning Committee for WELCA since 2011, past secretary of WELCA Capital Conference 2016. Social media promotion.

Synodical Service: NAUM voting member at GC Synod Assembly 2017-2018. GC SWO Board 2014-2016; GC SWO Board Secretary 2016-2018.

Community Service: Assist with NAUM's clothing closet for people that need professional clothing for job interviews or returning to work, including social media promotion.

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
FOR 2020 TRIENNIAL CONVENTION VOTING MEMBERS,  
continued**

**Heidi Gerrish**

LCM—UA & Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Tucson AZ (Santa Cruz Conference)

**Woman of Color and/or Primary Language Other Than English: No**  
**Previous Triennial Voting Member: No**

Age Category: <35

Congregation and Women's Ministry Service: Board member of Lutheran Campus Ministry (LCM) at UA since 2016, presenting at WELCA events/gatherings/retreat, Bible study, music performances at church.

Conference Service: GC SWO Board member 2016-2018.

Synodical Service: Music performance at Synod convention.

Churchwide Service: YAGM service in Uruguay 2015-2016

Community Service: Hospice volunteer.

**Judy Gunson**

Desert Hills Lutheran, Green Valley AZ (Santa Cruz Conference)

**Woman of Color and/or Primary Language Other Than English: No**  
**Previous Triennial Voting Member: No**

Age Category: 65+

Congregation and Women's Ministry Service: DHLC Church Council and President the past 2 years. DHLC WELCA President, Vice President, board member. DHLC Foundation Board Past President and Vice President.

Conference Service: Co-coordinator of Sunrise/Santa Cruz Spring Gathering the past 3 years.

Synodical Service: Voting member at Synod Assembly the past 3 years.

Community Service: Volunteer Elks Auxiliary, Genesis House Shelter for Abused Women & Children, Posada Life Adult Daycare, La Posada.

**Linda Radwick**

Sierra Evangelical Lutheran, Sierra Vista AZ (Sunrise Conference)

**Woman of Color and/or Primary Language Other Than English: No**  
**Previous Triennial Voting Member: No**

Age Category: 65+

Congregation and Women's Ministry Service: Circle contact; President, Altar Guild; Choir

Conference Service: Conference Gathering Planning Board

Community Service: Hosp. Volunteer, Homebound Visitor

**Debra (Debbie) Romboletti**

New Song Lutheran, Henderson NV (Colorado River Conference)

**Woman of Color and/or Primary Language Other Than English: No**  
**Previous Triennial Voting Member: No**

Age Category: 50-64

Congregation and Women's Ministry Service: Women's Ministry Coordinator 2012-2017; Women's Ministry Treasurer, current. Hospitality Team Captain.

Conference Service: Colorado River Conference Planning Committee 2014-2015

Synodical Service: GC SWO Treasurer 2017-present

**REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
FOR 2020 TRIENNIAL CONVENTION VOTING MEMBERS,  
continued**

**Pr. Maria Valenzuela**

Alleluia Lutheran, Phoenix AZ (Cactus Conference)

**Woman of Color and/or Primary Language Other Than English: Yes**  
(Hispanic/Bilingual)

**Previous Triennial Voting Member: No**

Age Category: 65+

Congregation and Women's Ministry Service: Retired pastor, Board Member,  
GC SWO

Synodical Service: Served as Director for Latino Ministry

Churchwide Service: Director for Latino Ministry, churchwide

Community Service: Tolleson/Senior Center

**Martha Weld**

Prince of Peace Lutheran, Phoenix AZ (Northeast Valley Conference)

**Woman of Color and/or Primary Language Other Than English: No**

**Previous Triennial Voting Member: Yes (more than 6 yrs ago)**

Age Category: 65+

Congregation and Women's Ministry Service: yes

Conference Service: WELCA Board—2yrs

# Notes



INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANT'S COMPILATION REPORT

To the Board of Directors  
Grand Canyon Synod Women of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America  
Scottsdale, AZ

Management is responsible for the accompanying financial statements of Grand Canyon Synod Women of The Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (a nonprofit association), which comprise the statement of financial position-modified cash basis as of January 31, 2018, and the related statement of activities-modified cash basis for the year then ended in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting, and for determining that the modified cash basis of accounting is an acceptable financial reporting framework.

We have performed the compilation engagement in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services promulgated by the Accounting and Review Services Committee of the AICPA. We did not audit or review the financial statements nor were we required to perform any procedures to verify the accuracy or completeness of the information provided by management. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion, a conclusion, nor provide any form of assurance on these financial statements.

The financial statements are prepared in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Management has elected to omit substantially all the disclosures ordinarily included in financial statements prepared in accordance with the modified cash basis of accounting. If the omitted disclosures were included in the financial statements, they might influence the user's conclusions about the company's assets, liabilities, net assets, income and expenses. Accordingly, the financial statements are not designed for those who are not informed about such matters.

We are not independent with respect to Grand Canyon Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

HRP CPAs

HRP CPAs  
May 2, 2018  
Las Vegas, Nevada

702.852.6720 • 8945 W. Post Road, Suite 110, Las Vegas, NV 89148 • [www.hrpcpas.com](http://www.hrpcpas.com)

GRAND CANYON SYNOD WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA  
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION-MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
AS OF JANUARY 31, 2018  
(UNAUDITED)

ASSETS	
Current assets	
Cash	\$ 23,505
Prepaid convention expenses	2,000
Undeposited funds	70
Total current assets	25,575
Other assets	
Prepaid triennial expenses	1,439
Total other assets	1,439
Total assets	\$ 27,014
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Current liabilities	
Cactus Conference	\$ 344
Capital Conference	474
Colorado River Conference	777
Northeast Valley Conference	118
Rio Salado Conference	594
High Country Conference	833
Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference	1,481
Prepaid registrations	2,450
Total current liabilities	7,071
Net assets	
Unrestricted	16,995
Temporarily restricted	2,096
Permanently restricted	
June Klar scholarship fund	855
Total net assets	19,945
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 27,014

See Independent Accountant's Compilation Report

GRAND CANYON SYNOD WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA  
 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES-MODIFIED CASH BASIS  
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED JANUARY 31, 2018  
 (UNAUDITED)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
<b>Revenues</b>				
Offerings	\$ 13,561	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 13,561
Registration fees	9,616	-	-	9,616
Shirt sales	-	857	-	857
June Klar scholarship fund	-	-	100	100
Scholarship offerings	480	-	-	480
Other	140	-	-	140
Interest income	24	-	-	24
Total revenues	<u>23,821</u>	<u>857</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>24,778</u>
<b>Expenses</b>				
Board	4,073	-	-	4,073
Charitable contributions	8,053	-	-	8,053
Conferences and meetings	10	-	-	10
Insurance	62	-	-	62
Promotional shirts	-	918	-	918
Advertising and promotion	1,471	-	-	1,471
Bank service charges	123	-	-	123
Mission programs	1,079	-	-	1,079
Office supplies	65	-	-	65
Postage and delivery	13	-	-	13
Retreat	9,064	270	-	9,334
Triennial scholarships	1,500	-	-	1,500
Triennial promotions	1,053	-	-	1,053
Computer and internet	627	-	-	627
Total expenses	<u>27,193</u>	<u>1,188</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>28,381</u>
Change in net assets	(3,372)	(331)	100	(3,603)
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>20,367</u>	<u>2,427</u>	<u>755</u>	<u>23,549</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 16,995</u>	<u>\$ 2,096</u>	<u>\$ 855</u>	<u>\$ 19,945</u>

See Independent Accountant's Compilation Report

Women of the ELCA  
Grand Canyon Synod  
Treasurer's Cash Report  
February 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018

	Total
Balance, February 1, 2017	\$ 23,507.93
<b>Receipts:</b>	
Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference Funds In	764.75
High Country Conference Funds In	1,067.81
Offerings	
Congregational Unit Offerings	7,697.77
Love Offerings	3,165.00
Conference Gathering Offerings	3,802.00
Retreat Offerings	1,604.00
Triennial Special Offerings	453.28
Registrations	
Conference Gatherings	3,467.00
Retreat	10,071.00
Gather Bible Study	2,475.00
Conference Silent Auctions and Raffles	896.00
Shirt Sales	856.50
Reimbursement	106.00
Donations from Board	640.54
June Klar Scholarship Donation	100.00
Interest Income-Mission Investment Fund	24.21
Amazon Smiles	34.12
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>37,224.98</b>
<b>Disbursements:</b>	
Offerings:	
Conference Love Offerings to GC WELCA	1,646.00
Women of the ELCA - Churchwide	5,160.40
Women of the ELCA - Triennial	1,600.00
Women of the ELCA - Special Offerings	500.00
Women of the ELCA - Katie's Fund	802.00
Young Adults in Global Mission	500.00
Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest	401.00
Streetlight USA	401.00
Gathering Offerings - Various	2,150.50
Convention Deposit	2,000.00
Board Travel and Meeting Expenses	3,546.10
Shirt Purchases	917.77

Women of the ELCA  
Grand Canyon Synod  
Treasurer's Cash Report  
February 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018

	Total
Conference Gathering Expenses	2,252.35
Retreat Expenses	7,833.98
Gather Bible Study Expenses	9.80
Mission and Outreach	1,078.73
2017 Triennial Scholarships	1,500.00
2020 Triennial Scholarships	750.00
2017 Triennial Promotional Expenses	1,053.28
2020 Triennial Promotional Expenses	689.41
Computer Supplies and Expense	627.24
Advertising and Promotion	1,471.02
Travel Insurance (Women of the ELCA)	62.00
Office Supplies	65.00
Bank Charges	127.35
Postage	13.30
Total Disbursements	37,158.23
 Net Change	 66.75
 Balance, January 31, 2018 (A)	 \$ 23,574.68
 Summary of Cash Balances:	
Conference Funds:	
Cactus Conference	\$ 343.76
Capital Conference	473.91
Colorado River Conference	777.07
High Country Conference	832.83
NE Valley Conference	118.02
Rio Salado Conference	592.62
Sunrise/Santa Cruz Conference	1,480.75
Total Conference Funds	4,618.96
General Funds:	
Checking	12,250.65
Mission Investment Fund	6,705.07
Total General Funds	18,955.72
Total Balance on Hand	\$ 23,574.68

Women of the ELCA  
Grand Canyon Synod  
Proposed Budget  
For the Fiscal Year February 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020

	<b>APPROVED BY</b> <b>SWO 4/6/18;</b> <b>AMENDED</b> <b>9/29/18</b> FYE <u>1/31/2019</u>	<b>PROPOSED</b> FYE <u>1/31/2020</u>
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		
Unit Offerings	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500
Love Offerings	3,165	3,165
Mission and Outreach Program Funds Transferred In	3,921	3,216
Convention 2018	20,684	-
Retreat 2019	-	11,000
Gather Bible Study Registration 2/2018	3,500	-
Gather Bible Study Registration 1/2019	2,450	-
Gather Bible Study Registration 1/2020		2,450
Interest	25	25
Total Receipts	<u>41,245</u>	<u>27,356</u>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
Convention 2018	20,684	-
Retreat 2019	-	10,000
50% Regular Offerings to Churchwide	3,750	3,750
Mission and Outreach Programs	3,921	3,216
Gather Bible Study 2018	2,351	-
Gather Bible Study 2019	1,890	-
Gather Bible Study 2020	-	1,890
2020 Triennial Promotions (Reserve \$600)	200 Year 1 of 3	200 Year 2 of 3
2020 Triennial Offering (Reserve \$900)	300 Year 1 of 3	300 Year 2 of 3
2020 Triennial Scholarships (Reserve : \$750)	250 Year 1 of 3	250 Year 2 of 3
Katie's Fund Challenge	1,000	1,000
Grand Canyon WELCA Scholarship Fund	1,000	1,000
<b>Synodical Board Expenses:</b>		
Housing and Meals	2,300	2,300
Travel (Airfare and Mileage)	1,700	1,700
Postage and Supplies	191	191
Advertising and Promotion	90	90
Storage Unit	568	593
Insurance	100	100
Contingency	750	576
Bank/Paypal/WePay Charges	200	200
Total Disbursements	<u>41,245</u>	<u>27,356</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<u>\$ 0</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>

# Grand Canyon Synod Women of the ELCA 2016-2018

## Executive Committee

### President

Myrna Wells-Ulland (*Living Water—NE Valley*)  
9686 E Preserve Way  
Scottsdale AZ 85262  
480-214-3204 (h)  
218-340-6735 (c)

[president@grandcanyonwomen.org](mailto:president@grandcanyonwomen.org)

### Secretary

Wanda Frenchman Takas (*Native American Urban  
Ministry—Capital*)  
4728 N 15th St, #44  
Phoenix AZ 85014  
480-229-4219 (c)

[wandakay247@yahoo.com](mailto:wandakay247@yahoo.com)

### Vice-President

Suki Kisling (*Desert Hills—Santa Cruz*)  
1917 W. Mintbush Drive  
Green Valley AZ 85622  
702-493-7436 (c)

[sukikisling@gmail.com](mailto:sukikisling@gmail.com)

### Treasurer

Debbie Romboletti (*New Song—Colorado River*)  
1111 Heaton Ave  
Henderson NV 89052  
702-875-2013 (c)

[treas@grandcanyonwomen.org](mailto:treas@grandcanyonwomen.org)

## Board Members as of November 2018

Judy Baker (*Grace—Capital*)  
3022 W Turney Ave  
Phoenix AZ 85071  
602-881-1093 (c)

[judithb850@gmail.com](mailto:judithb850@gmail.com)

Alice Natale (*Mount Cross-High Country*)  
1209 N Sunshine Ln  
Payson AZ 85541  
928-474-2838 (c)

[alicenatale@yahoo.com](mailto:alicenatale@yahoo.com)

Phyllis Borchardt (*Spirit of Grace—Cactus*)  
17138 N Estrella Vista Dr  
Surprise AZ 85374  
623-521-0790 (c)

[pdb12262012@gmail.com](mailto:pdb12262012@gmail.com)

Pr. Maria Valenzuela (*Alleluia—Cactus*)  
19123 W Catalina Dr  
Litchfield Park AZ 85340  
623-640-8997 (c)

[valenzuelam86@gmail.com](mailto:valenzuelam86@gmail.com)

Heidi Gerrish (*UA Campus Ministry—Sunrise/SC*)  
1421 W Calle Gallego  
Tucson AZ 85745  
480-390-8242 (c)

[heidi.gerrish@gmail.com](mailto:heidi.gerrish@gmail.com)

Randi VenHuizen (*Spirit of Joy—Mesa*)  
8245 E Fay Ave  
Mesa AZ 85208  
402-216-3067 (c)

[randiv@cox.net](mailto:randiv@cox.net)



## Report of Committees on Credentials and Offerings

	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Unit Voting Members			
Synod Officers & Board Members			
<b>Total Voting Strength</b>			
Churchwide Representative			
Non-voting members			
Guests			
<b>Total in Attendance</b>			
<b>Of those in attendance:</b>			
Today's Katie Recipients			
June Klar Scholarship Recipients			
Conference Scholarship Recipients			
<b>Convention Offering (Saturday)</b>			
<b>LOVE Offering (Saturday)</b>			
<b>Worship Offering (Sunday)</b>			

**Do not be daunted by the  
 Enormity of the world's grief.  
 Do justly, now.  
 Love mercy, now.  
 Walk humbly, now.  
 You are not obligated to  
 complete the work, but neither  
 are you free to abandon it.**

**-the Talmud**



## History of Women of the ELCA



Lutheran women in the United States have been gathering in mission since the 1800s, and we owe much to our foremothers who responded to God's call, created a place and lived out a purpose when women had no voice in the church.

Three groups came together in 1987 to form Women of the ELCA. These groups were the American Lutheran Church Women (of the American Lutheran Church), the Lutheran Church Women (of the Lutheran Church in America) and Women in Action for Mission (of the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches). The constituting convention was held June 13-14, 1987 in Milwaukee WI, with the theme "Embrace God's World." The organization was officially constituted January 1, 1988, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Communication tools would soon follow. The magazine, Lutheran Woman Today, began publishing in January 1988 and Newsletter (the predecessor to Interchange) followed in June of that year. The organization's first website was inaugurated in 1995. Café, our electronic magazine for young women, launched in 2006, with podcasts to follow.

In 2011, Lutheran Woman Today changed its name to Gather, and continued providing award-winning content (Bible studies and articles) to more than 45,000 readers, with a pass-along rate of 3 additional people per subscriber.



The organization's first smart phone app, Daily Grace, was unveiled in 2011 (available for IOS and Android).

Various program initiatives were launched in 1988, some of which continue today, such as our scholarship program. Initiatives came and went, meeting the needs of the women at the time. Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls, the organization's health initiative, began in 2005. Bold Women's Day, an annual celebration of our mission and the women who accomplish it, launched in 2007.

Today, the organization is active in approximately 7,000 of the 9,200 ELCA congregations and in 64 of the 65 synods (the only synod without a synodical organization is the Slovak Zion Synod, the ELCA's only non-geographical synod).

Our purpose hasn't wavered since we created our first constitution. "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."

Since constituting in 1988, Women of the ELCA has belonged to the women; it is self-incorporated. No money from the ELCA budget is given to Women of the ELCA; all monetary support comes from the women themselves.

**Thanks to you, Women of the ELCA continues its ministry today.**

# Grand Canyon Synod Women's Convention & Theme History

- 1987:"Joyfully United" Constituting Convention Holiday Inn/Holidome, Phoenix, AZ
- 1988:"Woven Together in Love" Radisson Suite Hotel, Phoenix, AZ
- 1989:"Aglow With the Spirit" Hilton, Las Vegas, NV
- 1990:"Go and Tell" Hilton Pavilion, Mesa, AZ
- 1991:"Empowered by the Spirit" El Conquistador, Tucson, AZ
- 1992:"Our Father's World...We Care" Sheraton Resort, Prescott, AZ
- 1993:"Rejoice, Rejoice, Rejoice" Hotel Westcourt, Phoenix, AZ
- 1994:"Saint's Alive" Ramada (Downtown), Tucson, AZ
- 1995:"I Am the Good Shepherd" Sheraton, Mesa, AZ
- 1996:"Fiesta of the Spirit" The Showboard, Las Vegas, NV
- 1997:"Wonder, Worship, Praise" Asilomar, California
- 1998:"Ready for the Journey" Embassy Suites, Phoenix, AZ
- 1999:"Rooted in Christ" Hilton East, Tucson, AZ
- 2000:"Living in Christ" Hilton Mesa Pavilion, Mesa, AZ
- 2001:"Share God's Gifts" Prescott Resort, Prescott, AZ
- 2002:
- 2003:"Listen, God is Calling—Called to Care" Hilton East, Tucson, AZ
- 2004:"Listen, God is Calling—Called to Action" Prescott Resort, Prescott, AZ
- 2005:"Free to Be Bold" Hilton Phoenix Airport, Phoenix, AZ
- 2006:"Act Boldly for Peace" Hilton Tucson East, Tucson, AZ
- 2007:"Pathway to Wellness" Phoenix Marriott Mesa, Mesa, AZ
- 2008:"Enriching Your Body by Loving the Lord Your God" Prescott, AZ
- 2009:"Come to the Waters....and Hear Him Call" Laughlin, NV
- 2010:"Come to the Waters...Answering His Call" Embassy Suites, Phoenix/Southdale, AZ
- 2011:"Renew Our Steadfast Spirit" Sheraton Hotel & Suites, Tucson, AZ
- 2012:"Sisters of the Faith Celebrate Faith of the Sisters" Double Tree Hilton, Gilbert, AZ
- 2014:"Lifeline Connections" High Country Conference Center, Flagstaff, AZ
- 2016:"God Acting Through Us" Alexis Park Resort, Las Vegas, NV

(convention moved to biennial years beginning in 2012)



## Women of the ELCA Triennial Conventions, then Gathering Themes

- 1987: Constituting Convention, Milwaukee, WI "Embrace God's World"
- 1990: First Triennial Convention & Gathering, Anaheim, CA "Celebrate God's Creation"
- 1993: Second Triennial Convention & Gathering, Washington, DC "God's Gift of Hope"
- 1996: Third Triennial Convention & Gathering, Minneapolis, MN "Proclaim God's Peace"
- 1999: Fourth Triennial Convention & Gathering, St. Louis, MO "Live God's Justice"
- 2002: Fifth Triennial Convention & Gathering, Philadelphia, PA "Listen, God is Calling"
- 2005: Sixth Triennial Convention & Gathering, San Antonio, TX "Act Boldly"
- 2008: Seventh Triennial Convention & Gathering, Salt Lake City, UT "Come to the Waters"
- 2011: Eighth Triennial Convention & Gathering, Spokane, WA "Renew, Respond, Rejoice"
- 2015: Ninth Triennial Convention & Gathering, Charlotte, NC "of many generations"
- 2018: Tenth Triennial Convention & Gathering, Minneapolis, MN "All Anew"

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**2020: 11th Triennial Convention July 14-26, 2020 Phoenix, AZ**  
**11th Triennial Gathering July 16-29, 2020 Phoenix, AZ**



2023: 12th Triennial Convention, Spokane, WA



## Notes

Thank you to our English to Spanish language translator, Alma Garza. She is assisted with audio headsets borrowed from our Grand Canyon Synod Office.

### ***Thank you to Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center***

For printing our program booklets and our song book.  
We are partners with you here in the Grand Canyon Synod.



[www.spiritinthedesert.org](http://www.spiritinthedesert.org)

A holy place where people  
experience hospitality and  
renew their calling in the  
world

## Guide to our event activities:

**Wren 1:** “The Gathering Place” space – informal conversation, coloring, service projects; Café workshop Friday 4 pm

**Wren 2-3-4:** General Assembly space – Friday evening opening, Saturday keynote and speakers; Saturday evening dinner, Sunday morning worship

Saturday workshop: 1:15 – 2 pm Katie’s Fund

Saturday workshop: 2:15 – 3 pm Grand Canyon Synod Global Engagement

Saturday workshop: 3:15 – 4 pm Alleluia Diaper Closet

**Wren 5:** Book Store and Spirit in the Desert’s table

**Palo Verde:** Convention Friday afternoon; Saturday afternoon workshops; Saturday evening Taize service

Saturday workshop: 2:15 – 3 pm LSS-SW Refugee Resettlement

Saturday workshop: 3:15 – 4 pm Attracting Younger Women

Saturday Taize Service following dinner/entertainment

**Saguaro Room:** Saturday afternoon workshops

Saturday 2:15 – 3 pm Giving Circles, part 1 (a 2-part workshop; attend both sessions)

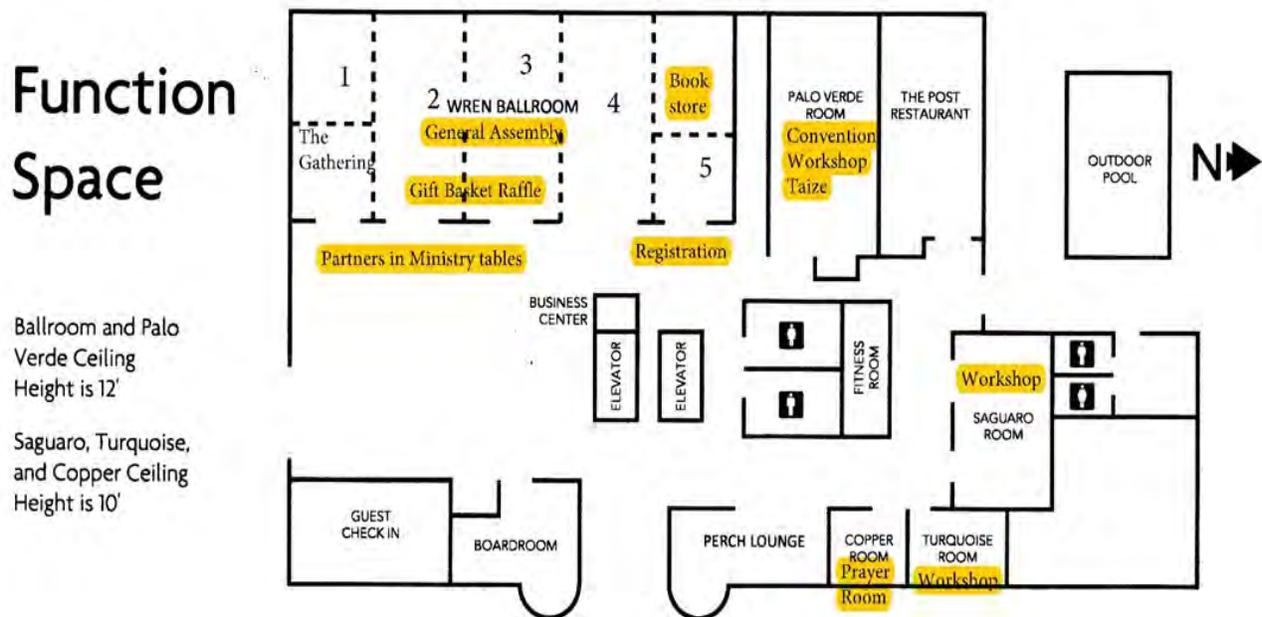
Saturday 3:14 – 4 pm Giving Circles part 2

**Turquoise Room:** Saturday afternoon workshops

Saturday 2:15 – 3 pm CASA

Saturday 3:15 – 4 pm Healing of Memories Women Veterans

**Copper Room:** Prayer Room (Friday through Sunday morning)



***Thank you to Thrivent Financial*** for support of the 28th Convention/Gathering of Grand Canyon Women of the ELCA.

***Remember to take advantage of Thrivent Action Team Grants to support activities in your unit and your conference!***



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