



PACIFICA PARTNERS

Pacifica Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Helen Riggs, Editor

NOVEMBER

Volume 18, Number 8

PACIFICA LUTHERAN WOMEN HOLD REVIVAL IN ANAHEIM November 2-4, 2007



This was a first for the Pacifica Synodical Women's Organization. Seems there was a double booking at the Clarion Hotel in Santa Ana and we were the 'fortunate' ones who got the **BIG WHITE TENT** right along busy Harbor Blvd. One could equate us to being like Abraham and Sarah in the desert. Of course we had some conveniences they didn't. It sometimes felt like we were reading by candle light once the sun went down. Thankfully we didn't have any Santa Ana winds nor rain, since we could see daylight through the holes in the top of the tent.

Everyone adjusted to the noise and just had to remember to **SPEAK** into the microphone so you could be heard over the cars, trucks and buses. Even helicopters went over head and an occasional car alarm would go off. We were right in the hotel parking lot. But they did put down black astro turf on the ground.

The meals were all delicious, hot and plentiful. On Friday evening we enjoyed the yummy chocolate buffet, dipping various fruits into the drizzling chocolate. Having the theme of: ***Chocolate Buffet—Connecting Women in Faith*** we had lots of chocolate through out the weekend. The theme verse was taken from Psalm 34:8 "*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*"



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 1, 2008—Springtime One-Day Gathering at Hope Lutheran, 29141 Vallejo Av., Temecula (see flyer)

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all my friends in Pacifica Synod.

It is hard to believe we are so close to Christmas. The year seemed to fly by. As most of you know I moved to Montana to my daughter and grand-children. It has been a good move and I'm really enjoying my time here. I have been able to see my family and have good time together. Family is so important.

I have not gotten involved in a Lutheran Church yet as there is not one close by. I have been in contact with the synod women's organization and hope to get involved someplace. It is alot different here as the cities are a distance apart as well as Lutheran Churches.

I'm working part-time as well as watching the grand-children. I work at a store doing bookkeeping and also working in the school system doing some substituting. I'm enjoying both. The weather is quite different than California but have gotten used to it. We had our first snowfall but it only lasted overnight. The weather is cool so you just have to dress for it. I miss everyone and all the activities but try to keep up on things thru the newsletter and talking with friends. Keep up the good work.

If any of you would like to write, my address is Diane Erickson PO BOX 123, Colstrip, MT. 59323. You all have a good holiday season and take care.

Love,
Diane



* **Monday Prayer at Noon** is a weekly opportunity to join in prayer with women throughout the United States, the Caribbean, and Canada. Check www.womenoftheelca.org for specific weekly prayer concerns.

PACIFICA PARTNERS provides news and information to congregational units of the Pacifica Synod. *Pacifica Partners* is published monthly except for July/August and November/December, which are combined issues. Copies are distributed as a courtesy to each congregational unit (CU) in the Pacifica Synod. It is also sent to Women of the ELCA churchwide office, other SWO presidents, Synodical Bishop, current and former board members.

Address changes and corrections should be sent to the Secretary:

Becky Shurson
13848 Meadow View Lane
Yucaipa, CA 92399

Deadline for news is the **first** of the month prior to the month of publication, unless specified.

PURPOSE STATEMENT

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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.



Pacifica Women of the ELCA have gathered in convention for the twentieth time – and yes it will likely be one to go down in history! We may never choose to meet in a tent again, but still it gave a flavor none of us would have imagined or planned. And many of you recognized that in spite of the challenges it also created.

Almost the first thing I do upon arriving home after convention is read the evaluations! We can never make 100 women happy 100% of the time – but we do keep trying. And some lessons we thought we'd learned three or four years prior seem unlearned another year – we had planned for more music this year but somehow unlearned the need for early and direct communication with a music team! So we made several last minute adjustments in that area as well. Many of you want more music next year and we on the board and planning team want that as well.

It was only one comment but sometimes that means others think the same. One person said that questions asked on the evaluations are never answered. Evaluations are not meant to be a medium for questions and answers. We are simply asking what you liked and didn't like and/or how you experienced what was offered at this convention. If you have a question, please call or email any of us on the board. Our numbers and email addresses were in the convention booklet and now, after election of a new member, the updated directory will appear in the next Pacifica Partners that is mailed to each unit plus will be available online at our web site www.pacificawomen.org.

Many of our sixty five synods meet for their Women of the ELCA conventions in a church setting. That is something I have wanted to try for several years. And this next year we will be trying very hard to make that a reality. It is San Diego's area turn to hold the convention so we will be looking at our churches in the county. It will likely mean a whole new set of challenges. I am not promising that it will be less expensive. But it will definitely allow us to be more flexible in allowing many more to come for all or one day or some parts of the time rather than having to meet a hotel contract. The basic idea will also be to have sleeping rooms at a nearby hotel for those that are able to attend the entire gathering time.

It will be January before we really get down to the brainstorming and planning for next year. But ideas are swirling – not just for the convention itself, but how to make everyone feel a part of it. Meantime, are you also planning to attend “Come to the Waters” in Salt Lake next July? Your delegates, elected at our HI convention, are Viola Angebrandt, Sue Bodenschatz, Andrea Campbell, Jackie Corina, and myself. I've heard it said you should attend your unit and then your cluster events, then your synod gathering, and then the Triennial. But Karen Ronchetti and my daughter, Mikki, are two testimonials for starting at the top!! Even more than at our synod gatherings, you will get what our organization is really all about! Not only how you can benefit – but how you will be a blessing to others as you, yes YOU, carry out our mission statement to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ!

As this will be our final issue for this calendar year, may you all breathe in and enjoy all the blessings – and Peace! - of both Thanksgiving and the entire Christmas Season!

ACTING BOLDLY IN CHRIST!

Eunice

This will be the last issue of Pacifica Partners for the year 2007. The next issue will be a combined newsletter for December/January. Articles are due December 15, 2007. If you have something you wish to submit, please do so by that deadline.

May each and everyone of you have a Wonderful Christmas and a Joyous New Year!!



ELECTION RESULTS and more.....

Forty women made the decisions on who was to serve as President, Treasurer and the four board members. The President is elected by nominating ballot, which means the first ballot is then the ballot from which you elect. There were 11 nominees: Melissa Anderson, Wanda Bledsoe, Andrea Campbell, Jackie Corina, Holly Doolittle, Eunice Hanson, Harriet Morris, Juli Patton, Charon Schalge, Keala Simoes and Nancy Worley. Ten of the nominees declined the nomination. A second ballot was needed since the nominating ballot needed 30 to elect, Eunice received 22. The second ballot was unanimous and Eunice Hanson was elected president to serve a second term.

The treasurer was elected on the first ballot and Andrea Campbell was elected to serve another term.

There were five nominees for the four positions on the board. Those elected were: Juli Patton, Sue Bodenschatz, Viola Angebrandt and Therese Moore. Mary Ann Messick, who served one year on the board was thanked for her service.

On Friday evening the Credential report had a total of 115 in attendance. The final credential report had 114.

The offerings received from Friday evening totaled \$558.50 while the Praise Offering totaled \$2,585.50. (In case you didn't get your unit's Praise Offering sent in to Andrea Campbell, it's not too late.) Sunday's offering totaled \$935.89. Of the total offerings received 50% will be sent to Churchwide while 25% stays within our synodical budget, the remaining 25% is split and will go to Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Border Concerns.

Some other notable items were: Harriet Morris and Bev Covey received a gift for being the first to send in their registration. First Lutheran in Vista had the most in attendance with 12. Over 40 flannel baby quilts were completed for the Linus Project.

The Silent Auction had 55 items up for bid and the total amount raised was \$2017.00. Thank you ladies for your support in raising money for scholarships.

More Highlights.....

Friday evening started with a café talk between Wanda Bledsoe and Pastor Maria Santa Cruz (Our Savior's, San Diego) who was serving as the convention Chaplain.

We would learn Pastor Maria's story and her journey from Mexico to the United States. This story telling and journey was set throughout the weekend. She married at 18 and her husband was in the U.S. and wanted her to come to the States. But she said NO! Her grandmother earlier had also wanted Maria to come but she didn't want to. Even though she was poor and didn't even have shoes to wear, she was happy! She finally did take the journey to cross the border with a small baby boy in March 1979. Immigration authorities caught her and sent her back. For the next attempt, the coyote told her she had to leave her baby behind. She couldn't do this so it was a difficult decision to make. Her husband told her they would send for the baby later, so she came. Maria was very unhappy being in the U.S. without her 3 month old baby. Her baby did get to the U.S. and is now 29 years old. And her journey continues.

By the age of 21 Maria now had 3 children, 2 boys and one girl and is not documented. The Amnesty Program started and she applied and became a legal resident. After five years she became a citizen. She felt the call from God to serve the church and her husband said she needed to choose her family over the church. A difficult choice for any woman to make.

Maria is a child of God and He has always been with her. She wasn't happy here because of the prejudices, even though she was poor in Mexico, she was happy there. We are fortunate that she went to seminary and became a pastor and serves the church with such love, compassion and warmth!

Pastor Maria was an inspiration and we appreciated her sharing her 'story' as well as her journey to where she is now.

BISHOP'S REPORT....

On Saturday morning following breakfast Bishop Finck presented his Synod Report. As usual he gives us such a unique presentation and puts such lovely photography into his reports.

He did share his 'story' on when he ate too much chocolate when he was 5 years of age and since then has never liked chocolate. (Which meant it left more for us.)

The Bishop's report centered around the word

CHOCOLATE:

Community

Holocaust

Overwhelming

Care

Opportunities & Offerings

Labors of Love

Tanzania

Ethiopia

Something new from the synod is an e-newsletter. If you wish to receive this supplement you can either call or email the synod office.

We are very fortunate to have a Bishop who takes his time to spend with our women's organization.



Pastor Judith Miller who serves on the Task Force of Cherish the Children as Ministry Team Leader brought to our attention this ministry that the Pacifica Synod endorses. (see elsewhere a resolution on this very subject.)

Pastor Judith shared with us *that if you want something voted on in the church you go to the men but if you want something done in the church you go to the women.*

As women there is much we can do to help our children and truly cherish them.

Friday Worship & Bible Study...

Friday evening worship started with a liturgical dance performed by Allsa Springer, from Orange High School, to "Amazing Grace". She offered us a glimpse of what is meant by the word grace in both music and dance. Tom Waldron of Red Hill Lutheran, Tustin provided praise music and got us warmed up for the Bible Study that was presented by Charon Schalge. Charon likened God to a "Chocolatier". We don't know what's inside a piece of chocolate but since God made us, He knows what's inside us.

Charon talked to us about SHAPE. Why should we care about our SHAPE and why is it important. We have been SHAPED for a purpose...to contribute to the body of Christ in such a way as to depend on God and share His love and to be connected to others.

S spiritual gifts

H heart

A abilities

P personality

E experiences

In a nutshell...

what am I gifted to do.

what am I passionate about

what do I naturally excel at doing

what is my personality style

what is my wide variety of experiences in life



CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

Geneva Wallace served as our representative from Churchwide this year and she came all the way from Lusby, MD. Geneva brought greetings on behalf of Carmen Richards, Churchwide President and Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director.

The women's organization is a co-sponsor of the "Healthy Heart" initiative that is in congress. And this is a program that is important to all, not just women.

Geneva mentioned our twentieth anniversary and that we need to recognize this within our units as well. It's not too late to have a special celebration for our 20th birthday.

She emphasized "Living from the Heart of God" which is a journal of life experiences. You may wish to check this out.

Some of our resources can be found on our Women of the ELCA website, it's there 24/7. Café is the online magazine that isn't just for young women. So check that out as well. The Stewardship Planning Guide was just mailed out to units so there is a wealth of information in it. We also have our Lutheran Woman Today magazine which has our Bible Study—Blessed to Follow: The Beatitudes as a Compass for Discipleship.

Our organization's focus is Enabling Women.

Geneva told us that giving is ahead this year after we have been behind for the last 13 years, so that is good news.

Glad you could be with us Geneva!

**Grandchild asking her grandmother
"Grandma if you're still
holding 39, how old would
you be if you let go?"**



WORKSHOPS..... By Helen Riggs

Workshops that were offered this year dealt with: Immigration; Care-Giving; Worship and card-making.

Making cards for our service people serving in Iraq and Afghanistan was a wonderful opportunity to have a hands-on activity but also serving a purpose in letting our service people know they are not forgotten. You had the chance to make Thanksgiving or Christmas cards and you could make as many as you wished. Each person then wrote a personal note inside. We have the Elks Lodge #1959 in Huntington Beach to thank as they are picking up the shipping tab to send these cards overseas.

Immigration was at the fore front of this convention. Bishop Finck stated that Bishop Mark Hanson said more public presence and witness about matters of faith is needed. The Conference of Bishops have "ready benches" and our own Bishop serves on immigration and Israel and Palestine benches.

Questions arose in the workshop I was present regarding the back-log on immigrants coming into the U.S., there is a quota of 70,000 per year, but since 9/11 it is about half that total. (We are to correct our terminology that we should use undocumented and not illegal.)

So many people live in refugee camps waiting to enter legally—so after a time they come in without proper documentation.

Sometimes our help can cause more problems in countries when it prevents their people from making goods, such as clothing and providing produce.

Discussion was done with various women sharing personal experiences about the difficulty many undocumented people face daily. Sometimes children were moved to the U.S. and didn't want to come—they did well in their schools but here due to lack of English aren't doing as well.

Information is available on the churchwide website as well as the Pacifica synod's website, as well as [www. breadfortheworld.org](http://www.breadfortheworld.org)

Bishop Finck, Pastor Bill Raditz and Pastor Maria were present for this workshop.

RESOLUTIONS....**RESOLUTION NO. 2007-1**

WHEREAS, our companion synod is the South West Synod (SWS) of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) and

WHEREAS, our first gift of money from a previous convention was used to send the first woman to seminary, and

WHEREAS, there is an ongoing need to continue the encouragement, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that each year a portion of our convention offerings would be sent to the South West Synod (SWS) of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY)

RESOLVED, that we would encourage the SWS EECMY to use it to further women's education in seminary.

Submitted by Betty Flom
St. Johns, Kailua, Hawaii
This resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-2

WHEREAS, in 2001 the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adopted a Message on Commercial Sexual Exploitation "to raise awareness of an industry that sexually exploits vulnerable persons, principally women and girls, but also men and boys", and

WHEREAS, "commercial sexual exploitation includes the businesses of prostitution, pornography, and stripping", and

WHEREAS, "people in the United States spend more on pornography than on movie tickets or on all the performing arts combined, and

WHEREAS, "the "commercial sexual exploitation of children and youth is pervasive. Globally, two million girls and boys are forced or lured by false promises into prostitution every year.", and

WHEREAS, the reality of sexual exploitation of children in California and Hawaii is addressed by numerous published articles and by various foundations and associations and by the experience of some members of the Pacifica Synod, and

WHEREAS, "love born of faith in Jesus Christ calls us to attend to, discuss, resist, and reject the system of sexual exploitation", therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Synodical Women of the

ELCA will adopt the Cherish Our Children Initiative, and will keep women informed, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Women Cherish Our Children Initiative by encouraging prayers, education, raising awareness, relationship-building, and action among its units, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Pacifica Women shall seek to involve as many units in the Cherish Our Children Initiative, and be it further

RESOLVED, that we have a workshop on this topic at the 2008 Convention.

Submitted by the Reference and Counsel Committee
This resolution was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 2007-3

WHEREAS Pacifica Women of the ELCA convened at this 20th annual convention, and

WHEREAS we have gathered in Anaheim in a big white tent, and

WHEREAS we have conducted our necessary business under the leadership of our president, Eunice Hanson, the officers and the Board of the Pacifica synodical women's organization, and

WHEREAS our planning committee has served with love and strength to coordinate the events, and

WHEREAS our pastoral support has been gracious and loving throughout this gathering, and

WHEREAS our Bible Study shaped us, and

WHEREAS the dancer, speakers, musicians and workshop leaders have filled our hearts and minds with ideas, wisdom and love, and

WHEREAS our delegates have provided direction through resolutions and voting, and

WHEREAS our love gifts have provided blessings to the Orange County Rescue Mission and

WHEREAS our cards to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan shows our support and thanks, and

WHEREAS women generously donated to and purchased from the silent auction to support our scholarship fund, therefore be it

RESOLVED that we express our heartfelt appreciation and thanks to everyone who has contributed to the convention with a round of applause.

More Workshop Highlights.....

CARE-GIVING presented by Wanda Bledsoe
Written by: Sam Peterson, Faith, Sun City

First thing to remember as a caregiver is that you are not alone. Even if it seems that way. God is with you all the way. Our first response is fear. Fear of what has happened; fear of what the future holds; fear of how we'll survive. As we begin to control our fear and accept what has happened to us, our anger sets in. Why did this happen to us, we've always done the right things. How could God let this happen? Then the guilt--I must have done something wrong. God's punishing me. Or, why did it happen to him, it should have been me.

These are all natural feelings that we go through when unsuspected tragedy hits us. We can't choose our circumstances, but we can choose how we live it. Don't be afraid to ask for help. It's a blessing to have help, but you do lose some privacy. Accept help the way it is given and make sure you let your helpers know how much you appreciate their being there. But, most of all remember that God is right there beside you ready to help you through this time of trial.

BUT ALL MAY WORSHIP

During the 20th Annual Gathering of the Pacific Women of the ELCA, I attended the workshop by Pastor Dawn Anderson-Booth titled **BUT ALL MAY WORSHIP**, not knowing what to expect. What I did learn was that Pastor Dawn is an amazingly strong woman, mother and pastor.

Pastor Dawn is a mother of 4 children, 3 of which have autism; 1 severe, 2 high functioning. I heard the anguish in her voice as she told us of her life immersed in the world of autism. But her overall message in the workshop was to make congregations aware of the special needs of families with autistic children. Pastor Dawn proceeded to describe autism and the new statistics that one-quarter of the families in our communities have children who have special needs and learning disabilities, and how these families become isolated from networks of support. She told us of her own experiences; receiving the diagnoses of her children and the processes that parents go through to understand and make sense of their

world.

Pastor Dawn invited women to form Task Groups in their churches and communities to provide support for families. Becoming isolated from their church family puts a profound impact on these families of autistic children; a challenge to the family because they distance themselves from friends, family, and church because they are grieving. She wants to raise awareness to professionals that parents are going through grief when receiving the diagnosis of autism. Autism is a terminal illness. It never ends and it's everyday. Learning to cope is a 12-step approach. Pastor Dawn also mentioned that the Hispanic family becomes more isolated as they do not know how to get help or support.

Pastor Dawn is offering Awareness Workshops to churches who want to start Task Forces to cherish and reach out to these families, how the church can change or open up to accept families into the church community. You can reach Pastor Dawn at 714-436-1951 or email at **dawn@adsi.net**

Barbara Hall-Whisenhunt
Executive Ministry Coordinator
Christ Lutheran Church, San Clemente



SUNDAY Worship with Crystal Bells

Websites to Check Out

'www.pacificasynod.org' (Pacifica Synod)

'www.elca.org' (This will access the national churchwide office)

'www.womenoftheelca.org' (NOTE: new domain name for churchwide website of the Women of the ELCA; *Café*, for free website for women 20-35 is part of this website.)



'www.lutheranwomantoday.org' (This website will access the LWT magazine directly.)

'www.lwr.org' (ever wanted to know where the quilts go that your units have made or the school and health kits that you assembled and sent to Lutheran World Relief?)

'www.hisrosesandthorns.com' (a Christian website of Wanda Scott Bledsor and Janet Sannipoli)

'www.thebreastcancersite.com' (Click on this site once a day to provide free mamograms for those who otherwise would not be able to have them.)

'www.creative-memories.com/suzanne_kusik' (Your Memory Album and Business Coach—Suzanne Kusik—Creative Memories Consultant, 714-968-4808)

'www.giveaminute.org' (Click on this site once a day and the sponsors will contribute funds for a minute of care for the needy Indian children of the Tarahumara Children's Hospital in Creel, Mexico. The site has a mission information link and photo gallery which shows pictures of the area as well as some of the children. This site also links to the Hunger Site where the sponsors will give a cup of grain for a daily click.)

'www.bread.org' (Bread for the World for information.)

If you know of a website that would be of interest to others feel free to let me know inclusion in this area.

E-mail to helen.riggs1@verizon.net

The Deadline is.....

December 15, 2007 for *Pacifica Partners*

PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELCA 2007 Synodical Board Members

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2007-2008 Board Members



Front row—Eunice Hanson, President; Becky Shurson, Secretary; Andrea Campbell, Treasurer and Keala Simoes, Vice President

Back Row— Board Members Therese Moore, Viola Angebrant, Violet Quist, Sue Bodenschatz, Juli Patten, Karen Ronchetti, Inga Sanders and Lynda McClellan



Geneva Wallace & Eunice Hanson



3 generations—Anderson family



Are you sure we're meeting here?



Project Linus

Pacifica Women of the ELCA proudly presents

It's A Small World...One Bread, One Body

“For we, though many, are one bread and one body...” 1 Corinthians 10:17

A Springtime One-Day Gathering of Pacifica Women of the ELCA

Date:

Saturday, March 1, 2008

Location:

Hope Lutheran Church – 29141 Vallejo Avenue - Temecula

Time:

8AM – 4PM

Program Includes:

Guest Speaker – Worship Service – Bible Study
Business – Workshop – Hands-on Service** – Food – Fellowship

Registration Fee:

Early Bird \$25 (November – January)
Regular Registration \$30 (February)

Don't miss this historic, first-time event!

Church with the most attendees receives a gift for their unit.

Love Gifts to Bring:**

Grocery Gift Cards, Restaurant Gift Cards, Luxury/Spa Items, and Devotional Materials

** During the gathering, we will use the love gifts to assemble gift baskets for the mothers and children of Amelia's Light, a residential program of Lutheran Social Services that focuses on homeless women and children as they transition to self-sufficient living status. Amelia's Light is located in former base housing of March Air Reserve Base in Riverside.

Send questions and registrations to:

Eunice Hanson, Registrar (eunicehanson@cox.net), 3627 Cerro Avenue, Oceanside, CA 92056 (760-945-9716)

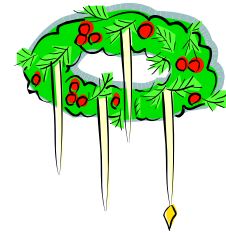
PACIFICA WOMEN OF THE ELCA - EQUIPPING WOMEN IN FAITH

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



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