



Mission Statement

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

Pacifica Partners



Karen Ronchetti, Editor

January 2026

Volume 36 Issue 1

SAVE the DATE—March 7, 2026

*Pacifica WELCA Spring Gathering
at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, La Mesa*



Inside this Edition is the Spring Registration form,
2026 Triennial Gathering Information and more!

Calendar

January 2026	SWO Board Meeting via zoom
February	SWO Board Meeting @ Shepherd of the Valley
March 7, 2026	WELCA 1 Day Spring Event
July 13-14, 2026	Triennial Convention via zoom
July 15-19, 2026	Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA
November 2026	Pacifica WELCA Convention & Gathering (OC)



Please don't throw me away or stick me in a file!

Instead, take me apart,

copy me!

Share me with your friends.

Your Editor and Synodical board members
thank you.

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Go once, make new friendships that will last a lifetime and you will always want to go back!

CONVENTION RECAP

We re-elected Pastor Juli Patten, as Vice President, Stephanie Gasca as Secretary and Harriet Morris as Treasurer. Board Members who were re-elected are Kelli Bower, Sue Connors, and Laura Ortiz.

Despite the weather challenges and a few technical issues (we were the first group to use the new building), the time together was amazing. We were entertained by a special group of kids from Clairemont Lutheran who sang a few beautiful songs for us. Great guest speakers, Bible Study, food and Silent Auction!

We collected \$851 from our Silent Auction, which will be divide between our 3 scholarships, Offerings of \$2035.00 that was divided as the board set up for convention and the love gifts of food that were collected were for the food pantry in San Diego. Tied blankets were sent to Bethlehem Lutheran in Washington to help the victim of the flooding. Thank you to all who made this convention a success.

Our Purpose Statement

As a community of women

created in the image of God,

called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and

empowered by the Holy Spirit,

We commit ourselves to

grow in faith,

affirm our gifts,

support one another in our callings,

engage in ministry and action, and

promote healing and

wholeness in the church,

the society, and the world.





**THIRD AVENUE
CHARITABLE
ORGANIZATION**

Collecting the following for T.A.C.O.:

Men's White Socks

Men's White Undershirts / T-Shirts

Men's White Underwear

Also can use Men's pants and Shoes, any sizes



Silent Auction Basket

To make our Silent Auction a Success

We are asking all churches to provide a basket or item for
our silent auction to help support our three
Scholarship funds:

Convention, Seminarian and Triennial

We will have silent auction forms in the February Newsletter and
upon arrival at the Spring Gathering
for you to fill out!

No theme is needed. No item is too big or too small!

Preliminary Schedule (**always subject to change. Update to follow**)

Saturday, March 7, 2026

9am	Continental Breakfast by SWO Board/Registration
9:30am	Opening
9:45am	Bible Study
10:30am	Guest Speaker from T.A.C.O.
10:45am	Workshop
12 noon	Lunch (12:30pm Silent Auction closes)
12:45pm	Guest Speaker, Pastor Adham Al-Araj
1:45pm	Silent Auction reveal / Convention update & more
2:15pm	Closing Worship



Special Guest Speaker:

Adham Al-Araj

He was Born and raised in Bethlehem, the historic city of Jesus' birth. Adham is a proud Christian Palestinian deeply rooted in faith and community. A graduate of Bethlehem Bible College, he completed a year-long internship in Dubai before pursuing a Master of Divinity at North Park University in Chicago. Adham also enriched his theological academic year through a Lutheran study year at Wartburg Seminary. With a heart for ministry and cross-cultural understanding, he is passionate about sharing the gospel, building bridges between cultures, and serving God's people through compassionate leadership and faithful witness.

ABOUT BETHLEHEM ARABIC LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bethlehem Arabic Lutheran Church is planting new roots as the first Arabic Lutheran congregation in California, uniting faith and culture under one roof. Our mission is to share God's love through the gospel of Jesus Christ in both Arabic and English, creating a welcoming community for worship, service, and spiritual growth. We honored our shared heritage while reaching out in hope to all who seek God's peace and purpose. With open hearts, we invite families and individuals to join us in building a vibrant ministry grounded in grace, compassion and the transforming power of Christ.

Women of the ELCA-Pacific Synod 2026 Spring Gathering

Saturday, March 7, 2026

9am - 3pm



Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church

10842 Fury Lane

La Mesa, CA 91941

REGISTER by February 28, 2026

Registration \$30.00 pay at the door

1) send Registration to: welca@verizon.net

OR

2) send registration (mail) to: (postmark by 2/28/2026)

Karen Ronchetti

8305 Magic Circle

Huntington Beach, CA 92646

*Make checks payable to: **Pacifica Women of the ELCA** (at the door)*

Please Print Clearly: (or affix an address label)

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City: _____

Email: _____

Church: _____ Church City: _____



TRIENNIAL GATHERING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION—July 16-19, 2026

January 2026

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Age Group: 18-25 26-35 36-45 46-55 56-75 76-90

Active member of an ELCA congregation and an active participant in Women of the ELCA This will be a monetary scholarship. The committee shall determine the number of scholarship recipients. The available funds are to be evenly distributed amongst the recipients. Total funds available this year are up to \$1000. Any additional expenses will be covered by the recipient.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Cluster: _____

City: _____

Zip: _____

Congregation/City: _____

E-mail address: _____

Is this your first time attending a Synodical Convention? Yes No

(if not, when was the last time you attended?): _____

What is your involvement in your unit? _____

Why do you wish to receive a Scholarship? _____

If you are awarded the Scholarship, do you wish to remain anonymous? Yes No

Any other comments: _____

(This information will be kept confidential) **Return by March 1, 2026**

Karen Ronchetti, Pacifica SWO President
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Email: welca@verizon.net
Phone: (714) 654-8919



One of our Executive Board members has generously created a \$50,000 matching gift for SALT! Every dollar that you give (up to \$50,000!) will be matched!. This means that your gift is a twofer! Give today!

The appeal's name comes from Leviticus 2:13 "Add salt to all your offerings." This bit from Leviticus gives instructions on how to season grain offerings made to God-and gives us an important message. We are not just called to give our "first fruits" but to offer them with seasoning. We define salt as a verb: Share abundance, love, and thanks (SALT).

Please encourage those you know to SALT their offerings to Women of the ELCA where needed most with a little extra this year to help us pay for our day to day operations (staff salaries and benefits, rent, postage, I.T., web communications, insurance, travel costs, accounting) that make all our ministries (Gather, Bold Café, Bold Connections, Global Ministries, Scholarships, Services, Grants, and more) possible!

To DONATE by check, please send checks made out to Women of the ELCA with **SALT: Where needed Most** in the Memo to Women of the ELCA ELCA GIFT PROCESSING CENTER P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.



Give from the heart and build a legacy for future generations

Leaving a legacy is possible for anyone with any level of income through a planned gift. Women of the ELCA is grateful to those who gave small-planned gifts over a hundred years ago that continue to sustain our ministry today. Your gift will be equally important because it comes from your heart and your spirit of generosity, whether it is a large gift from a large estate, a modest gift dedicated during a time of economic uncertainty in your life, or any size gift from any place in between. While making an estate plan might feel complicated, know that anyone can make a planned gift. An ELCA Foundation regional gift planner is your first step in the process. They will guide you each step of the way, with confidential and compassionate financial counseling aimed at facilitating your generosity. That means—they make it easy for you to give where you want to give. To take that first step, find your regional gift planner here and tell them you are interested in making a planned gift to Women of the ELCA.

[Contact ELCA Foundation for Planned Giving to Women of the ELCA.](#)

Please consider putting the above information in your newsletter

The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is “I Am Worthy,” based on Psalm 139:14: “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.”



Des Moines, Iowa TG2026/ July 16-19, 2026

Love Gifts & Servant Events

Fellowship

Workshops & Worship

Run, Walk & Roll

Quilt Challenge

Join US!! Registration is open!

Go to: www.welcatg.org, for more information

download the form for the “Quilt Challenge”,

Run, Walk and Roll, Choir, etc.

See who our Special Guests and Speakers are, along with a glimpse into a few of the workshops and activities that will be offered.



Did you Pre-Register? If so, please let me know so we can keep our SWO list updated and reach out if necessary. If you would like to go, but have questions, please reach out to your SWO Board.

Karen Ronchetti

welca@verizon.net

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President: Karen Ronchetti (2026)
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Huntington Beach, CA 92646
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E-mail: welca@verizon.net
Church: King of Glory, FV
Cluster: Rejoice

Vice President: Rev. Juli Patten (2027)
84-740 Kili Drive, #1123 (as of 2-1-2025)
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Phone: 808/590-8262
E-mail: revalohaboo@gmail.com
Chaplaincy: stationed in Hawaii
Cluster: Hukilau

Secretary: Stephanie Gasca (2026)
11580 Acacia Street
Loma Linda, CA 92354
Phone: 951/662-6467
E-Mail: sgasca1@gmail.com
Church: First, Redlands
Cluster: Son & Surf

Treasurer: Harriet Morris (2027)
1951 47th Street, Spc #3
San Diego, CA 92102
Phone: 619/518-4484
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Church: Clairemont Lutheran, SD
Cluster:

SYNODICAL BOARD MEMBERS

Melissa Anderson (2026)
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Cluster: Big Bear

Viola Angebrandt (2026)
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Cluster: Raincross

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Cluster: Saddleback

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Chula Vista, CA 91910
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Cluster: East San Diego & Harvest

Laura Ortiz (2027)
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Cluster: West San Diego & Harvest

Judy Patten (2026)
84-740 Kili Drive #1122
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Cluster: Hukilau

