



Views from the Rockies

Newsletter of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Volume 22 Issue 2

Second Quarter 2011

♦ See details about the fall gatherings, p. 2 ♦

Greetings to all from your Rocky Mountain Synodical President – Diana Bleignier

Join us “On the Road” at fall gatherings

Spring is that time of year when we think of renewal and growth. The colors of our liturgical year express emotions and ideas that are associated with each of the seasons. Green is used to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ. So what a great time of the year we as women gather together for renewal and growth in nurturing our spiritual development by participating in the Women's Cluster Events.

As I attended and participated in each of the Cluster events held this spring, it was with great joy and excitement that I witnessed the wonderful relationships women had fostered over the years. Meeting those we were acquainted with brought about hugs, laughter and great conversation. The real gift for all was meeting women who had attended for the first time a Cluster gathering. The invitation and reaching out brought growth to our community of women. How exciting!

...it was with great joy and excitement that I witnessed the wonderful relationships women had fostered over the years.

The color green conveys our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ and expresses the emotions and the very ideas we are all engaged in. We are a group of women dedicated

to finding new and engaging ways of keeping our ministry alive. The following hymn has been going round and round in my mind since my participation with all of you at your Cluster Gatherings and also as I and your elected board members diligently plan for the upcoming Synodical Fall Gatherings. The hymn I refer to is:

“We Are All One In Mission”

We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ the Lord of all
A single great commission compels us from above
To plan and work together that all may know Christ's love.

We all are called for service, to witness in God's name.
Our ministries are different; our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others with God's surprising grace,
So every folk and nation may feel God's warm embrace.

Now let us be united, and let our song be heard.
Now let us be a vessel for God's redeeming Word.
We all are one in mission; we all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united by Christ, the Lord of all.

I hope you all plan to attend one of the four Fall Gatherings in October! It will be nice to offer hugs and to laugh together and have great conversations. Above all, be sure to extend an invitation to all the women of your congregation! May the Lord Bless you and keep you! May his peace abide within each of you!

*Peace and Joy!
Diana*

Join Others on the Road

Theological leaders will guide us through a day of exploration of God's purpose for our lives with reflection and Bible study. We will meet on Saturday with registration at 8:30 and the program begins at 9:00 and concludes at 3:00.

Four locations are set this year to accommodate the large geographical feature of our synod. Each setting has the same agenda, includes lunch, and ends with worship service. The registration fee is \$50. Join us at the location of your choosing for a day with fellowship, devotions and journey on:

The Unpaved Road

Choose to attend one or more of the following:

Saturday, October 15, 2011

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran
2000 Ptarmigan Trl.
Estes Park, CO 80517

Covenant Lutheran
1863 South St.
Wheatland, WY 82201

Saturday, October 22, 2011

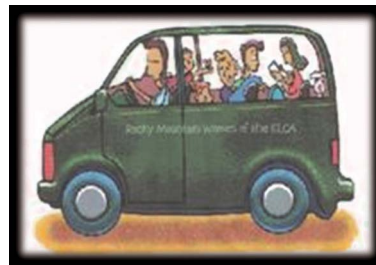
All Saints Lutheran
4800 All Saints Rd. N.W.
Albuquerque, NM 87120

Our Savior's Lutheran
2500 E. 3900 S.
Salt Lake City, UT 84124

Each location will support a local charity with in-kind gifts. A tithe from each location's gathering offering will also be donated to each charity.

More information will be available in late July and sent to each congregation. Material will also be posted on the website, www.rmselca.org/women.

*Great
opportunity
close to
"home"!*



Elected Delegates to the Triennial Convention July 12-14, 2011, Spokane Washington

Betty Ann Arner – Albuquerque New Mexico

Regina Pacheco – Cheyenne, Wyoming

Daphne Remington – Aurora, CO

Ruth VonMosch – Pueblo, CO

Pat Kenning – Littleton, CO (alternate for Erica Morgan-Albuquerque, NM who was unable to attend)

Sheree Weverstad – Parker, CO (Churchwide had closed delegate replacements for all synods by the time Sheree found she could not attend.)

2 Views from the Rockies, Volume 22 Issue 2



Nominee to Churchwide Board

Ruth VonMosch – Pueblo, CO, King of Kings was nominated from the Rocky Mountain Synod, Region II, to run for the Churchwide Board. Our prayers and well wishes are with her as it will be very exciting to perhaps have someone from the Rocky Mountain Synod represented on the board.



Women of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod Fall Gathering

The Unpaved Road

Your road led through the sea, your pathway through the mighty waters – a pathway no one knew was there! Ps 77:19 *The Living Bible*



Saturday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Registration - \$50 (includes lunch & child care)

Pick your date and location

Saturday, Oct. 15, 2011

Estes Park, CO
Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran

Wheatland, WY
Covenant Lutheran

Saturday, Oct. 22, 2011

Salt Lake City, UT
Our Savior's Lutheran

Albuquerque, NM
All Saints Lutheran

Enjoy the leadership of women theologians as each group explores the journey to find God's path for each of us.

Please look for the publicity materials later this summer where registration forms, weekend activities, Friday night accommodations and local charity information will be available.

www.rmselca.org/women

Boulder Cluster Spring Event

“Traveling with God: Pack your bag and come along!”

The Boulder Cluster Spring Event met at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Wheat Ridge, CO on May 14, 2011 with 47 women participating from churches in Longmont, Arvada, Boulder, Wheat Ridge, Northglenn, and Westminster.

The keynote speaker, Caitlin Trussell, spoke on “Traveling with God: Pack your bag and come along!”

The theme Bible Verse: John 14:13
No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friend.



A delicious brunch and table decorations were provided by women of Holy Cross under the direction of Marjorie Steinkruger and Micki Lynch.

The closing worship service included an inspirational healing service.

In-kind gifts of baby yarn and greeting cards were donated for the prison ministry at New Beginnings Church.

Next year's event will be held at St Stephens Lutheran Church in Northglenn.

Southeast Colorado Cluster Event

Row, Row, Row your Boat

The Southeast CO Cluster's annual spring retreat was held at King of King's Lutheran Church in Pueblo, CO April 29 and 30, 2011.

Friday afternoon we enjoyed dining and walking on the Riverwalk.

Two very special events entertained and informed us. Friday evening began with beautiful music by the Pueblo Children's Chorale. Saturday at lunch, a Colorado author, Cynthia Winford, talked to us about homeless individuals. She researched for her novel, *Irma's Story*, by volunteering and helping the homeless. She opened our eyes to this problem.



Pastor Barb Lemke led a very spiritual and thought-provoking Bible study throughout the weekend which she and women from her congregation had designed.

As the early church often used as a symbol, so did the women of the Southeast CO Cluster—that of the symbol of the boat as the life of a Christian. Many insights and lessons were carried home to be pondered and shared with others.

Subscribe to Women of the ELCA Blog

Commentary and reflections on issues, events and trends in our church, society and world, as seen through the lens of our mission and purpose and our ministries. <http://blogs.elca.org/women/>

Metro East ELCA Women's Brunch

When?

Saturday, November 19, 2011
10 am–12:30 pm

Where?

Joy Lutheran Church
7051 E. Parker Hills Ct.
Parker, Colorado
303-841-3739 or 303-841-2341
e-mail: joylutheran-parker.org

RSVP prior to November 11, 2011

Agenda

Food and Devotions
Introductions
Special Music: *Simply Grace*
Program: To be announced

More information to follow.

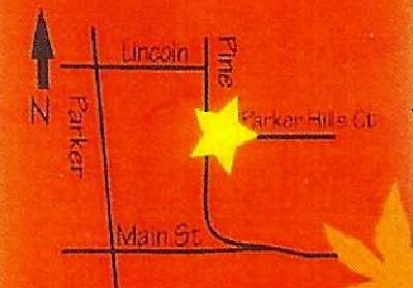
Questions?

Contact Gwen Wilhelm
at 303-841-2341



7051 E Parker Hills Ct
Parker, CO 80138
303-841-3739

joylutheran-parker.org



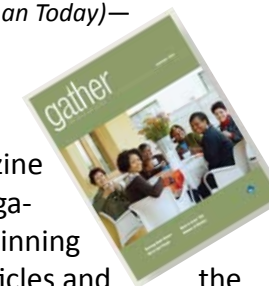
To: All Women of the Metro East Lutheran Churches
Where: Come to Joy Lutheran Church in Parker, Colorado
When: November 19, 2011

BRING A FRIEND!

Terrific Resources for Women of the ELCA

Gather (formerly *Lutheran Woman Today*)—
www.elca.org/women

With the September issue, *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine becomes *Gather*. The new magazine will still have the award-winning Bible study, the same great articles and the columns that inform, challenge, comfort and encourage. Editor Kate Sprutta Elliott made the first announcement of the name change at a recent event at Wartburg Seminary. For those on Facebook, we invite you to “like” *Gather* by going to the new page.



Planting Seeds for a Healthy Tomorrow

This resource can be used to introduce your unit—or better yet, all the women in your congregation—to the Women of the ELCA health initiative, Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls. It includes 17 easily adaptable program ideas that have been created and used by congregations just like yours from around the country. Programs include health and wellness fairs, healthy eating education, exercise and fitness programs, health retreats and more. Download your free copy PDF Format



RMSWO 2011–2012 Board

 <p>President Diana Bleignier Greeley, CO 970-353-6729 dbleignier@hotmail.com</p>	 <p>Vice President Sheree Weverstad Parker CO 303-290-6167 sweve290@comcast.net</p>	 <p>Secretary Carol McGill Longmont, CO 303-772-6434 mcgill.carol@comcast.net</p>
 <p>Treasurer Rhonda Sinnema Denver, CO 303-741-2282 Rhondasinema@comcast.net</p>	 <p>Parliamentarian Joyce Teter Longmont, CO 303-776-2793 jteter2@aol.com</p>	 <p>Pastoral Advisor Pastor Barb Lemke Aurora, CO 303-364-2245</p>
 <p>Board Member Betty Ann Arner Albuquerque, NM 505-294-1935 bettyannarner@q.com</p>	 <p>Board Member Judy Dirks Wheat Ridge, CO 303-431-0613 jjdirks@q.com</p>	 <p>Board Member Linda Drury Price, UT 435-637-1412 lindaruth51@yahoo.com</p>
 <p>Board Member Erica Morgan Albuquerque, NM 505-873-3572 ericasmorgan@comcast.net</p>	 <p>Board Member Daphne Remington Aurora, CO 303-340-2720</p>	<p>Serving On The RMSWO Board If you are interested in filling a one year term on the board, please submit your name along with a brief description as to why you wish to serve and a picture of yourself to President Diana Bleignier.</p> <p>E-mail Address: dbleignier@hotmail.com</p> <p>Mailing Address: 1606 22nd Ave. Greeley, CO 80631</p> <p>NOTE: e-mails have changed since the last issue for Diana, Judy, and Betty Ann.</p>
 <p>Board Member Ruth VonMosch Pueblo, CO 719-545-5116 sanvon@sisna.com</p>	 <p>Board Member/Web Steward Gail Young Cheyenne, WY 307-634-2428 young_gail_l@msn.com</p>	

10th Biennial Convention of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization

October 19-21, 2012 **New Mexico location TBD**

Start making plans to encourage participants and to send your delegate.

Now is a good time to begin conversation about nominations for Board positions, identify skills and review women's ministries.

TREASURER'S REPORT

WOMEN of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod	Quarter Ending April 30, 2011
<u>Income</u>	
Booth Donations	0.00
Convention/Gathering Registration	0.00
Fund Raising	0.00
Interest Earned	.65
Individual Member Offerings	11.18
Board Offerings	331.00
Cluster Offerings	240.00
Convention/Gathering Offerings	40.00
Designated Charity offering	0.00
Travel Equalization	0.00
Other Offerings	0.00
Umbrella Offering	0.00
Unit/Congregational Offerings	2,059.38
Subscriptions to Views	16.00
TOTAL INCOME	2,698.21
<u>Expense</u>	
Facility Use	0.00
Meals & Entertainment	206.29
Software	(63.83)
Postage & shipping	176.65
Travel	1,567.70
Printing & Publishing	574.00
Conferences	0.00
Mileage	35.00
Honorarium - Pastors	0.00
Honorarium - Keynote	0.00
Honorarium - Facilitators	0.00
Contract Labor	0.00
Scholarship Award	0.00
Advertising & Publicity	0.00
Designated Charity donation	0.00
Katie's Fund	0.00
Umbrella Fund	0.00
Church-wide Offering	1,169.69
Bank Charges	0.00
Supplies	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	3,665.50
Net Income/(Loss)	(967.29)

Financial Statement

The Treasurer's Report shown on the left is the financial statement through the first fiscal quarter ending April 2011. In this quarter the income is 7.4% less than the first quarter in 2010. Total expenses exceeded income by \$967.29. The first quarter includes one cluster event with offering. Two cluster offerings are expected in second quarter offerings.

Gathering

This year we are bringing the Gathering to four locations, which we hope will provide more opportunity. Your attendance and support will be greatly appreciated. We will also collect for a local designated charity specific to that location. Our budget for the Gathering is expected to break even.

Stewardship

"To honor the foundation that has been laid and to build well upon it, we must be leaders in stewardship. Women are finally being acknowledged as the important financial stewards we are and have always been." A sample from the Stewardship Planning Guide 2010-11 messages offering support and assistance to women's groups in growing their donations for women's ministries.

With most church and non-profit organization's income decreasing last year, we are reviewing ways to help your unit expand or explore a giving policy to increase individual member response.

The synodical organization sends 50% of your offerings to church-wide Women of the ELCA.

Resources

Resources, such as the Stewardship Planning Guide mentioned above, and other forms are available at www.womenoftheelca.org. Click on "Stewardship & Giving" in the left column.

Board members are always available to answer any questions as well. The names and contact information are listed on the www.rmselfca.org site under women.

Please share any financial concerns via email to rhondasinema@comcast.net or by telephone to Rhonda at 303-741-2282.

Gather Bible Study, September 2011—May 2012

To Follow and to Serve: The Gospel of Mark

Take heart; get up, Jesus is calling you.
-Mark 10:49b

By the Rev. Patricia Lull, an ELCA pastor who has served as a parish pastor, director of campus ministry in the ELCA, and as dean of students at Luther Seminary, St. Paul. Her interest in the Gospel of Mark began in childhood when she first heard these stories at St. John Lutheran Church in Fremont, Ohio, and started to imagine life in that biblical world. She has designed the 2011-2012 Bible study for both experienced and novice readers of Scripture, challenging all to read this gospel narrative as an invitation to discipleship in the 21st century.

September Session 1 Jesus of Nazareth
Theme verse: "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near, repent and believe in the good news." Mark 1:15

October Session 2 Mother and Brothers
Theme verse: "Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:35

November Session 3 Power and Authority
Theme verse: "He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?'" Mark 4:40

December Session 4 Beyond Boundaries
Theme verse: "How many loaves have you? Go and see." Mark 6:38

Jan/February Session 5 Confessing Christ
Theme verse: "I believe, help my unbelief!" Mark 9:24

Session 6 Tough Questions
Theme Verse: "Take heart, get up, he is calling you." Mark 10:49

March Session 7 Rising Expectations
Theme verse: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." Mark 13:31

April Session 8 A Wholly Different Week
Theme verse: "But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Mark 14:28

May Session 9 Go and Tell
Theme verse: "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here." Mark 16:6

About the author

Patricia Lull white background Patricia Lull is an ELCA pastor who has served as a parish pastor, director of campus ministry in the ELCA, and as dean of students at Luther Seminary, St. Paul. Her interest in the Gospel of Mark began in childhood when she first heard these stories at St. John Lutheran Church in Fremont, Ohio, and started to imagine life in that biblical world. She has designed the 2011-2012 Bible study for both experienced and novice readers of Scripture, challenging all to read this gospel narrative as an invitation to discipleship in the 21st century.



from:
<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/Worship-and-prayer.aspx>

More resources from:

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

<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA.aspx>

New! Sacred Space as Metaphor



Sacred Space as Metaphor follows an earlier resource, Sacred Spaces. Since we know God creates a sacred space within each of us, we can live into this metaphor, embracing all that is ours in Christ and the question, "In what ways am I experiencing the life of Christ?" This resource will help you engage the sacred work of growing into Christ as a bearer and reflector of God's grace and love for the world. Download the pdf at the website listed below the heading above.

Café: Stirring the Spirit Within

Visit boldcafe.org

Café is an award-winning Web-based magazine for young women who want to build Community, participate in Advocacy, strengthen Faith, and strive toward Enlightenment (CAFE!). It incorporates a Lutheran perspective for women of Christian faith or simply for any woman who is interested in how faith can relate to the issues that women face today.

Our readers include pastors, seminary and col-

lege students, and other young women who use Café as a Bible study resource individually or within their congregations. Many also use it to learn more about what the Lutheran church has to say about certain issues and to start discussions with friends or classmates.

Visit Café and sign up to receive e-mail alerts when new issues are posted. The monthly Café podcast is available here and through iTunes.

Don't miss the next issue!



boldcafe.org
read. connect. grow.



Scenes from "Row, Row, Row Your Boat"

Southeast Cluster Spring Event

The theme and discussions:

The decor reminded us of our journey as women following Jesus. In the breakfast discussion groups, at right, it was a time to share our stories.



The music:

Pastor Barb Lemke led the attendees in singing and the Pueblo Children's Chorale entertained the group during lunch.



The Historic Riverwalk and Lunch:

Above left: Board Member Judy Dirks, President Diana Bleignier and Board Member Ruth VonMosch stop along Pueblo's Historic Arkansas Riverwalk at the bronze "Walks Among the Stars" sculpture by Arizona artist Dave McGary and a gift from the LeVert W. Hoag Foundation.

Left: President Diana and Women of the Southeast Cluster enjoy the Cluster Event Luncheon on Friday afternoon in Old Town Pueblo along the Riverwalk. The Riverwalk is a 32 acre urban waterfront which returned the river to its historic location in the heart of downtown Pueblo. The Arkansas River has been the lifeblood of Pueblo for over 300 years. Native Americans followed the river for hunting and trapping. Early settlers came as sheepherders and cattlemen.

This newsletter is available on our website

Please navigate to the website of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization where you will not only find this newsletter but more information about what is going on now, what has happened in the past, and what to look to in the future. Willy Duran at the synod office has kindly kept the site updated for us. Gail Young will be, with his help, taking over that task in the future. We will try to keep new and interesting bits of information highlighted on the web.

Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization
www.rmseca.org/women



About Views from the Rockies

Views from the Rockies is produced and circulated by the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization (RMSWO), Women of the ELCA, and provides information concerning current programs, projects and other information.

One copy is distributed free to every church in the RM Synod, cluster coordinator, current RMSWO board members, past RMSWO presidents, the RM Synod office, and Women of the ELCA church wide staff. Copies are also sent to individual and group subscribers. Many congregations have subscriptions for each circle, unit officers or their women's board, and new members of their congregations.

The Views is published quarterly (Jan/Feb/Mar; April/May/June; July/Aug/Sept; Oct /Nov/Dec.)

Expiration dates are printed above the name on the address label.

Subscriptions paid for the 2010 Views will be sent the 2011 Views for free!

Please make a note of that date and renew before the next issue. ALSO, if your address has changed, or will change soon, please notify us of the new address. The subscription form below can be used for address change only, just note "address change" instead of renewal.

Subscribe to the Views

Subscriptions are \$8.00 a year. Please complete this form (type or print/write legibly), then mail with your check to the Treasurer:

Rhonda Sinnema
 5100 Happy Canyon Rd.
 Denver, CO 80237

Please make check payable to:
Women of the ELCA and note "Views subscription" on memo line

Newsletter design/layout by Mary Lauck

Views from the Rockies Subscription Form

E-mail: _____

This is a _____ RENEWAL subscription - or - This is a _____ NEW subscription

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____ +4: _____



ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNO WOMENS ORG
 WOMEN/THE EVANG LUTHERANCHIN
 455 SHERMAN ST STE 160
 DENVER CO 80203-4401

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

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*The Synod Fall Gathering Will Be Brought To
 An Area Near You: Wyoming, Utah,
 New Mexico and Colorado
 On The Weekends of October 15 & 22, 2011*

9 am-3 pm

"The Unpaved Road"

Psalms 77:19

