



The Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization Newsletter
 Women Of The Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

August 2018 Views from the Rockies

~ Freed in Christ Southeast Cluster Workshop 3

Greetings from Rocky Mountain Synodical President

President's Corner

Summer is in full swing. Here in Cheyenne the Daddy of them all, Cheyenne Frontier Days, is entertaining both the Rodeo as well as the Country music fan. I have returned from my travels and looking forward to the Fall Convention. The temperature outside will have cooled down but the excitement will be heating up with the Convention theme, A 'Maze' of Grace on October 5-7, 2018 in Colorado Springs at Grace Lutheran.

Come meet new friends and renew friendships, refresh your love of the WORD, sing praises and say prayers. Remember to bring in-kind items to share with both the young adults who are aging out of foster care and Sarah's Home. Enjoy the workshops, the business session, news from Churchwide and from the Synod.

The RMSWO Board and I look forward to seeing you in Colorado Springs. If you haven't already registered, please do so soon. You do not want to miss out!

Your sister in Christ,

Anna Thompson, RMSWO President

A "Maze" of Grace

RMSWO Convention

October 5-7, 2018

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Ribbon-cutting ceremony shines light on Phebe Hospital

By Eva James Yeo

GIVING THANKS WAS THE CENTRAL PURPOSE of my journey to Liberia as 11 of us traveled to be a part of the Nov. 30, 2017, ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new solar panels at Phebe Hospital. I attended with other Women of the ELCA representatives and the RREAL staff who oversaw the solar panel installation.

And your gifts of nearly \$600,000 made it happen.

The completion of the PV (photovoltaics) for Phebe project is a testament to how Women of the ELCA can make a difference in our congregations, communities and world when we work together. The solar panels are expected to save Phebe Hospital about \$35,000 a year.

Fundraising efforts are underway for the second "Skip the Grid" solar project in Liberia: Current for Curran. Nearly \$20,000 of the \$200,000 needed has been raised for solar panels to be in-

stalled for Curran Hospital in northern Liberia.

On our final day in Liberia, we gathered with the women at St. Peter's Lutheran Church for thanksgiving, songs of praise and prayer.



From left: Eva James Yeo, Mary Kay Sloan, Mary Jo Mettler, Valora Starr



Leymah Gbowee speaks at Phebe Hospital ribbon cutting

Mary Jo Mettler thanked the Liberian women for giving her courage to act on her faith and pursue the solar project. Valora Starr asked, "What keeps you going as women of the church in Liberia?" Most agreed that meeting together for prayer and Bible study gives them the strength and support to serve others and God. They said they're committed to encouraging the next generation to get involved by asking them to plan social events, coordinate speakers on interesting topics and provide leadership roles.

What keeps you going as a woman who participates in Women of the ELCA?

(This was just a portion of the article from the Spring 2018 Interchange.) All women of the RMSWO should be very proud of their participation in this project through the

offerings at the 2017 Fall Gathering.

Director for Justice joins Women of the ELCA staff



Jennifer DeLeon, an educator, grassroots organizer and consultant with faith-based organizations, joined Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as director for justice April 9, 2018. DeLeon is bilingual and bicultural, fluent in English and Spanish and proficient in Portuguese.

Learn more by visiting the website: www.womenoftheelca.org

Freed in Christ: to Listen, Learn, and Love my Neighbor

June 9th women from twelve churches came to Christ the King Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs for an all day workshop using the ELCA social statement *Freed in Christ: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture*. Pastor Paula Stecker led us prayerfully to consider “How shall I be a neighbor to those from whom I am different?” It was a beau-



tiful day of sharing good food (thank you, women of Christ the King and Aspen Pointe Catering), laughter, prayers, music, and sharing answers to difficult questions in small groups using “mutual invitation,” which is a respectful way of responding in a group so each has an opportunity to speak. The leader or designated person will share first. Then the leader invites another to share. After that person has spoken, that person is given the privilege to invite another to share. She can say “pass for now” or “pass” if she doesn’t want to say anything and then invite another to share. (taken from *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb* by Eric H. F. Law)

Offerings went to Lutheran Family Services and RMSWO, and money from drawings for gift baskets went to Care and Share.



During large group discussion of “What privilege of being white can you identify in your life?” one

young woman who knew personally about what was being discussed stood up and told us not to feel guilty but rather, when witnessing an injustice, to be an advocate.

In the third session, “Doing Justice,” women regrouped to being with others from their congregation with the big question “What will we do in our congregations?” Each group summarized their commitments on a 3 x 5 card which was brought to the altar during the communion service. The plans include holding special adult classes to discuss racism, taking the discussion to youth groups, inviting friends of other cultures to join with us, using books such as *United Against Racism* in adult Sunday

School, creating a cohort to organize an inclusion initiative, and showing movies and documentaries such as *13th*. One group stated simply, “Keep the conversation going.”



During the workshop, women shared their experiences and insights. The day was filled with mutual invitation, a respectful way of

Diane Frederick, RMSWO Keynote Speaker



Diane Frederick served on the executive board of Women of the ELCA from 2008-2014. Prior to that, she served as a board member and president of the Saint Paul Area SWO, and before that she served on the board of the Rocky Mountain SWO. As a trained *Paths to Wholeness* leader, Diane facilitated this material in many synodical women's organizations, conferences, and units.

A graduate of Concordia College, St. Paul, Diane has taught at the preschool and elementary lev-

els. She also began a parenting-teen program with childcare at the local Casper high school for babies of teen parents. After teaching in MN Diane served as the director of a local food shelf and was recognized as *Outstanding Food Shelf Director* from Minnesota Food Share.

Diane and her late husband, Ed, have served parishes in the Rocky Mountain Synod and in the Saint Paul Area Synod. They have two sons, Jeremy and Nathan, a daughter-in-law, Jen, and grandson, Jackson. As a member of Grace Lutheran Church in Casper, Diane serves as congregational president along with many volunteer activities, including serving a weekly lunch to high school students, knitting prayer shawls, and leading Sunday School music. Reading, learning to quilt, baking and gardening fill her free moments.

Diane sees Women of the ELCA as another opportunity to witness and share her faith. Her challenge is to see Christ in everyone she meets. She looks forward to meeting more women as they celebrate their oneness in Christ.

Christian Book Exchange

Do you have devotionals you no longer use? Do you have books by Christian authors that you've read? Bring them with you to the RMSWO Fall Convention and Gathering. There will be a designated area to leave books and take books. Any books that are left after Saturday evening will be donated.



Put savings to work for ministry

Does your Women of the ELCA group have savings sitting unused in the bank? Consider how you can put those dollars to work supporting the churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA. Give to Women of the ELCA "Where Needed Most" and support our ongoing ministries of advocacy, leadership development, discipleship and program resources, *Gather* magazine, *Café* e-zine and podcast, racial justice education, Bible studies, and more. Questions? Contact Audrey Novak Riley, director for stewardship and development, at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2736, or Audrey.riley@elca.org.

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Lois Bylund, Executive Board Member

Lois Bylund was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017 for a second term. She serves on the constitution review committee and as convention coordinator.

Prior to her election to the churchwide executive board, Lois was president of the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization (3D). She also served as an advisory member to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod and as a cluster coordinator.



A resident of Moorhead, Minn., Lois is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in that city. There she is an active member of her circle and served as unit president twice.

RMSWO Bible Study Leader

Pastor Brenda Frelsi



Pastor Brenda has been the pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Casper, WY for over 6 years. A graduate of Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque, IA, she has been a pastor for 16 years, all of which are in Casper. She has

come to love the high plains setting at the base of Casper Mountain. Her hobbies are biking, running, XC skiing and biathlon, knitting and photography. Her goals of ministry are to help people take themselves less seriously as they grow in faith and to be the source of a kindness epidemic.

Lois is currently serving as recording secretary of the Trinity Foundation Board at her church. She has also served on the church council and as a voting member of the synod assembly.

Lois has served on the planning committee and worked in the kitchen and dining room for the community Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Moorhead. She has also delivered meals to families and shut-ins and served as a United Way representative. Lois is an active member of the Blue and Bold Toastmaster's Club in Fargo, N.D.

Lois and her husband, Leon, have three children. She has worked for a hospital services company for many years and now serves as its operations coordinator.

Lois enjoys crafts, refinishing and refurbishing furniture. She hopes to learn to quilt when she retires.

Our Mission

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose

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.

GRACE

=

God's Riches At Christ's Expense

RMSWO Convention Tentative Agenda

Friday, October 5, 2018

- 3:30-5:30 Registration
- 4:00-5:00 Treasurers Workshop
- 5:30-6:30 Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 Workshop 1-Walking the Labyrinth
Workshop 2- Devotion Writing
- 7:40-8:10 Vespers

Saturday, October 6, 2018

- 8:00-9:00 Registration (Vendors/ Exhibitors)
- 9:00-9:45 Bible Study 1
- 9:45-10:00 Break (Vendors/Exhibitors)
- 10:00-12:00 Lunch (Exhibitors Speak) (Vendors/Exhibitors)
- 1:00-1:50 Keynote Speaker
- 1:50-2:00 Break (Vendors/ Exhibitors)
- 2:00-2:45 Workshop 3-Who is Katie and why should we care?
- 2:50-3:35 Bible Study 2
- 3:35-3:45 Break (Vendors/Exhibitors)
- 3:45-4:30 Workshop 4-STEP, the teen-focused foster care arm of Lutheran Family Services
Workshop 5-Kairos- Prison Ministry
- 4:30-6:00 In kind project assembly and Vendor/Exhibitor Time
- 6:00-7:00 Dinner
- 7:00-8:00 Closing Worship Service with Installation of new Board & Triennial Voting Members
- 8:00-9:00 Hospitality Time
- 8:00-8:30 New Board Meeting

In Kind Donations: This year we will help provide “College Student Care Packages” for young adults who have aged out of the Foster Care Program that we will hear about from Lutheran Family Services and also for young adults in Sarah’s Home.

COLLEGE STUDENT CARE PACKAGE

Being a college student can be very stressful.

Help Lutheran Family Services support the students they serve by creating care packages for them! Possibilities could include:

Gift Cards

(Added to each care package)

- Amazon *(for books)*
- Walmart
- Target
- Starbucks

Heath and Beauty

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Shaving Cream
- Razors
- Loofah
- Toothbrush/
toothpaste

One Tough Cookie!

- Chips Ahoy Chewy
- Chips Ahoy Brownie
- Chips Ahoy Oreo Crème
- Chips Ahoy Candy Blasts
- Chips Ahoy S’mores
- Chips Ahoy Red Velvet

Relax! You Got This!

- Adult Coloring Book
- Colored Pencils
- Hot Chocolate Packets
- Fun or Fuzzy Socks
- Fuzzy Throw Blanket
- Headphones
- Toothbrush/
toothpaste

Stay Healthy

- Puffs
- Wet Wipes
- Ricola Throat Lozenges
- Lip Balm
- Hand Sanitizer

Box of Sunshine!

(Everything should be yellow)

- Mike and Ike Zours
- Lays Potato Chips
- Goldfish Crackers
- Ritz Crackers & Cheese Dips
- Fruit Gushers
- Lemonade Mix
- M&M Peanut

Just Add Water

- Lipton Instant Soup
- Instant Mac & Cheese
- Instant Raman
- Instant Lunch Meals
- Microwave Brownie Mix & a Mug
- VIA Instant Coffee
- Refreshers Instant infused tea
- Kool-Aid
- Mio Energy drops

- Campbell’s Soup *(Microwave)*
- Gummy Vitamins
- Band-aids
- Neosporin
- Advil

Something out of the Blue

(Everything should be blue)

- Chips Ahoy Cookies
- Act II Popcorn
- Icebreakers Gum
- Planters Peanuts
- Snickers Crisper
- Walmart Gift Card
- Poptarts



For more information please contact
Katie Scherr at katie.scherr@lfsrm.org
or 720-541-6826.

RMSWO FALL CONVENTION

A "MAZE" of GRACE

SPONSORED BY YOUR ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD
WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

Friday through Sunday

October 5 – 7th, 2018

In Colorado Springs @ Grace Lutheran Church

It is time to register for the **Convention!**



ALL will agree that women are a powerful force in our church today. What current issues do women face? What have your "Sisters in Christ" been promoting? How can you help? How can you get involved? Enjoy visiting with your friends from all the ELCA churches in the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Your RMSWO Board Welcomes you: Cheyenne, Wyoming-Anna Thompson (St. Paul's); Price, Utah-Jan Young (Ascension St. Matthew's); Sterling, CO-Lila Young (Peace); Colorado Springs, CO-Debra Haar (Prince of Peace); Colorado Springs, CO Tammi Clawson (Grace); Greeley, CO-Julie Elmquist (Immanuel); Albuquerque, NM-Sharon Hamilton (St. Paul)

Women of all ages are invited to participate in this weekend of workshops and business. For questions about the event, please call, text or email RMSWO President Anna Thompson @ (307) 221-3218 or anna498.at@gmail.com. (Be watching the Views for more information.)

For registration questions, call Debra Haar, registrar@ (719) 392-5398 or (719) 650-5688.

REGISTRATION FORM

Your \$75 registration fee covers program costs, lunch, (2) dinners, presenter fees, childcare and scholarships.

The registration fee is \$75, however
registrations received before Sept 5th will be \$50.
Mail your form and registration fee to the Convention Registrar:

Debra Haar, 6555 Weeping Willow Dr., Colorado Springs, CO
80925



Please complete and mail in the registration form with a note if asking for a scholarship. All are welcome to the event and the RMSWO Board wants to make this event possible for everyone!

FALL CONVENTION HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES:

1) The Clarion Hotel, [314 W. Bijou St., Colorado Springs, CO 80905](#). This hotel gets 4/5 stars on reviews and is only 1.7 miles from Grace Lutheran. Group rates aren't any better than individual rates. Everyone needs to make their own reservations. The rooms are approximately \$120 per night with 2 queen beds. Breakfast is provided free. Their phone number is 719-471-8680. This hotel is downtown, just off of I-25 at the Bijou Street exit.

2) Aspen Leaf Cottages (Tammi Clawson's employer). All properties are close to the church and are reasonably priced. I would suggest that if you are interested you can go to [homeaway.com](#) and look at them. The property numbers to search by are:

3778339 "Downtown Victorian Charm" (1/2 mile from Grace)
 3762961 "Sun-Filled Cottage" (1/2 mile from Grace)

3922546 "Inviting Scandinavian Cottage" (2 blocks from Grace)
 3922548 "Charming 'Euro' Cottage" (2 blocks from Grace)

4087184 "Classic Craftsman" Lower unit (A) (less than 3 miles from Grace)
 4087185 "Classic Craftsman" Upper unit (B) (less than 3 miles from Grace)
 4087186 "Classic Craftsman" Private cottage (C) (less than 3 miles from Grace)

There would be a deposit and cleaning fee, but Nancy (the owner) is really prompt on refunding the deposit after a stay. If anyone wants more information, please email Nancy through the HOMEAWAY site.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "RMSWO"



Print Name: _____
 Church: _____
 Address: _____ City _____
 State _____ Zip _____
 Voting Member: _____ OR Participant: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Do you have any allergies? _____ Do you have any special needs? _____

Will you need childcare? Circle No Yes If yes, how many? _____ what ages? _____

Mail your form and registration fee to the Convention Registrar:
 Debra Haar, 6555 Weeping Willow Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80925

RMSWO Board Nomination Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Cluster: _____

Congregation: _____

Office: ___ President ___ Vice President ___ Secretary ___ Treasurer ___ Board Member

Age Range: _____ 20-35 _____ 36-50 _____ 51-64 _____ over 65

Women of the ELCA Experience:

ELCA Experience:

Ecumenical Experience:

Community Experience:

Why are you interested in serving on the RMSWO Board?

Describe the special gifts, skills and experiences that you would bring to the Board:

What challenges do you expect the Board to be facing in the next two years?

Vocation/Occupation:

RETURN COMPLETED FORM: (with photo, if possible) to: Sharon Hamilton, 7401 San Pedro NE #93, Albuquerque, NM 87109; or email to: sharon0223@yahoo.com (Attach additional pages if needed.)

2020 Triennial Voting Member Nomination Form

Rocky Mountain Synod Women of the ELCA

Voting Member election will occur at our 2018 Convention on October 5-7, 2018

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME PHONE: _____ CELL PHONE: _____

EMAIL (print clearly): _____

CHURCH: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____

CONFERENCE (circle): BOULDER BROOMFIELD CLUSTER METRO EAST CLUSTER METRO SOUTH CLUSTER
METRO WEST CLUSTER NORTH COLORADO CLUSTER SOUTHEAST COLORADO CLUSTER
NORTH NEW MEXICO CLUSTER BORDER CLUSTER UTAH CLUSTER WYOMING CLUSTER

Women of the ELCA Triennial Voting Member Selection Guidelines:

- A. 10% shall be person of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English
- B. Consideration shall be given to geographic location, variety of ages, diversity of experience, including living with a disability
- C. At least 25% shall be women attending the convention for the first time
- D. Cannot be nominated if have served as a Triennial Convention Voting Member in the last six (6) years for the RM Synod Women

EXPERIENCE AND CHURCH SERVICE: Begin with the most recent and most significant experience in each area over the last five (5) years – attach additional sheet if needed

Congregation Service:

Conference Service:

Synodical Service:

Regional/Churchwide Service:

Community Service

Previous Triennial Voting Member (former “delegate”): ___ No ___ Yes (list the last year served): _____

Ethnic/Racial Heritage: ___ Caucasian ___ Hispanic ___ Native American ___ African American ___ Asian American

Primary Language if other than English: _____

Are you a person with disabilities? ___ Yes ___ No

Age Range: ___ 18-35 ___ 36-50 ___ 51-65 ___ >65

My signature and my Congregational Unit Leader’s signature signify that I am willing to allow my name to be placed in Nomination and that I am willing to serve as a voting member (or alternate) to the 2017 Triennial Convention in Minneapolis, MN July 10-12, 2017, if elected.

(My signature) Date _____ (Signature of Congregational Unit Leader) Date _____

**Return completed form by August 1, 2018 to: Sharon Hamilton, Chair of Nominating Committee,
7401 San Pedro Dr. NE #93, Albuquerque, NM 87109**

About Katie's Fund

Katharina von Bora Luther was a practical and bold woman of faith. Through Katie's Fund, Women of the ELCA honor her life by supporting global connections, leadership development and living theology. Will you help continue Katie's legacy? Your gifts develop leaders, bridge cultures and nurture faith.

Your gifts to Katie's Fund, whether to the endowment or to the current fund, ensure the organization's continued commitment to community, growth and action. The income earned by the Katie's Fund Endowment, along with Katie's Fund Current, supports ministry in three key areas.

Leadership Development: providing opportunities for current and future leaders to participate in and further the mission of Women of the ELCA.

Global Connections: building global partnerships that increase multicultural awareness and promote service.

Living Theology: nurturing faith through Bible studies, worship experiences and educational theological forums.

These three areas are central to the life of Women of the ELCA. They represent ministries that prepare, nurture and sustain participants as they further the mission of the Women of the ELCA: mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Learn more at welca.org/katiesfund.

Gifts of any size are welcome. Individuals, congregational units and synodical women's organizations are all invited to support Katie's Fund.

What is Travel Equalization?

To help make travel less expensive for the voting member, each congregational unit is asked to send the RMSWO treasurer a dollar for each member of the unit by April 15th of each year. These funds are then used to help balance out the travel expenses for all voting members. Travel equalization grants are available for congregational units which are more than 150 miles away (300 round trip). Virtually all in attendance incur travel expenses, the equalization funds are not intended to cover 100% of the cost of travel but to help.

The deadline to submit forms is **TWO WEEKS AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONVENTION**. Travel will be reimbursed at the cost of a 21-day-in-advance airline ticket or auto mileage at \$.34 a mile, whichever is less. If more requests are received than funds are available, it may be necessary for the grants to be reduced by a uniform percentage.

Send the Travel Equalization to Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization, Attn: Jan Young, 1567 Eastwood Dr., Price, Utah 84501.

The following guidelines apply for reimbursement:

1. Travel may be by any reasonable means of transportation: air, car, bus, train, etc.
2. The total reimbursement per congregation shall not exceed the combined lowest airfare for the total number of voting members for the congregation. (Lowest airfare is based on a minimum 21 day advance purchase and lowest seat price available)
3. Each voting member will receive .34 per mile, or an appropriate mileage reimbursement determined by that year's RMSWO Board. It is expected that voting members will car pool. Expenses for meals and lodging during travel will be at the individual or congregational unit's expense.
4. The RMSWO cannot cover additional travel expenses incurred.
5. All requests must be received within **TWO WEEKS OF THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONVENTION**.
6. The check will be made payable to the Congregational Unit.

A Note from Sarah's Home

Our hearts are overflowing with joy! Sarah's Home is in full swing...full of life, laughter, hope and joy. I love it when the girls come into my office to show me something they have learned or created in our on-site school, Aspire Academy. I love it when they want hugs!!! This is happening because many of you are coming alongside us in prayer and various donations! Thank you!

Prayer requests: That we can effectively help the families of our girls; for God's love and healing to flow freely at Sarah's Home; and that God's will alone be done at Sarah's Home.

The Facts: 1) There are at least 350 to 400 new victims of child sex slavery EVERY DAY in our America. Less than 1% are rescued. 2) In 2017 the Rocky Mountain Safe Streets Innocence Lost

Task Force in Colorado rescued 112 minors from sex trafficking. 3) 88 of the 112 minors recovered last year were female. 4) This past March the Senate approved the Stop Enabling Sex Traffickers Act. This bill will allow victims of sex trafficking to pursue justice against online platforms that knowingly facilitate the selling/purchasing of sex. For more information please visit our website: www.sarahshome.us

Cherish All Children resource addresses trafficking, exploitation: Designed to help your congregation understand the issue of child sexual exploitation and trafficking, "My Neighbor is Not for Sale" is a four-part guide for adult education sessions, youth groups and more. Download the study at www.chrishallchildren.org and make copies for your group.

Did you know?

In the United States in:

the 1850's – Married women allowed to own and manage property in their own name **during incapacity of their spouse.**

the 1870's – Married women granted control over **their earnings.**

1920 – All women won the **right to vote.**

1963 – Passage of the Equal Pay Act aimed at abolishing **wage disparity based on sex.**

2010 – Sex discrimination was outlawed in **health insurance.**

The issue of justice for women has been an ongoing struggle marked by determination and hard-fought battles throughout history and continues to dominate the headlines in today's world. You now have a timely opportunity to help the ELCA with one of its social statements. According to the January 17 eConnection (Rocky Mountain Synod):

"The ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ invites you to read and evaluate the "Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice." Click on the links in the article to find out more information. The task force asks that all

responses to the draft statement be submitted by **September 30, 2018.** The task force will review and consider each response during the fall of 2018 and send a proposed social statement to the ELCA Church Council in the spring of 2019. A recommended proposed statement will be considered by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly.

The draft statement is lengthy (70+ pages), but there is plenty of time between now and September 30 to download and read the draft and to submit comments and responses. Perhaps your church could form its own group/task force to read and review the statement and submit a response. --Julie Elmquist

Starting A Congregational Unit

If you subscribe to the mission and purpose of the Women of the ELCA, there are **4 Simple Ways to become an active unit.** The mission and purpose statement are located on the website, www.womenoftheelca.org. **1.** Meet together for study, support and mission (*Café* and *Gather* offer ways to do this). **2.** Participate in the ministry of Women of the ELCA beyond your congregation. (e.g. Synodical Women's Convention, Triennial Convention and Gathering) **3.** Support financially the total program of Women of the ELCA (e.g. through offerings) **4.** Designate leadership to communicate with synodical and churchwide women's organization.

2016-2018 Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organizations Board Members

President, Anna Thompson

5015 W. Villa Circle
Cheyenne, WY 82009
307.221.3218
anna498.at@gmail.com
St. Paul's Lutheran, Cheyenne

Vice President, Sharon Hamilton

7401 San Pedro NE #93
Albuquerque, NM 87109
Sharonh0223@yahoo.com
St. Paul Lutheran, Albuquerque

Secretary, Tammi Clawson

318 N. Foote Ave.
Colorado Springs, CO 80909
tbclawson58@msn.com
Grace Lutheran, Colorado Springs

Treasurer, Jan Young

1567 Eastwood Drive
Price, Utah 84501
ajyoung@sisna.com
Ascension St. Matthew's, Price

Board Member, Debra Haar

6555 Weeping Willow Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80925
haardap@hotmail.com
Prince of Peace, Colorado Springs

Board Member, Lila Moore

305 Platte
Sterling, CO 80751
oggram@KCI.net
Peace Lutheran, Sterling

Board Member, Julie Elmquist

2152 27th Ave.
Greeley, CO 80634
sjelmquist@msn.com
Immanuel Lutheran, Greeley

Board Member, Rhonda Bentz

5 Highway 474
Algodones, NM 87001
rhonda_8588@hotmail.com
All Saints Lutheran, Albuquerque

Repentance is theme of Gather's fall Bible study

Repentance is one of the most powerful acts of a person or a church, making possible not only forgiveness but also reconciliation. This fall, Gather magazine (www.gathermagazine.org) will explore what repentance means for Lutheran Christians in a three-part Bible study. Written by the Rev. Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, this Bible study focuses on the role of repentance in our faith, our relationships and the church. Here's a preview:

September—Time after time: Turning to God

"Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." With these words, the prophet Joel reminds us that repentance is nothing to be afraid of—for when we turn to God, we find grace. What does it mean to (re)turn to God with all our hearts, and how do we do it?

October—If I could turn back time: Turning to others

When Zacchaeus met Jesus, he was moved to give half of his wealth to the poor and to make amends

with those he had defrauded. Why? In the Gospels, Jesus' call to repentance is a call to turn back to the ways of God's reign on earth: justice, peace, and mercy for the neighbor and the community. What does repentance look like in our relationships?

November—Turning points: Turning as the church to the world

The word repentance often refers to an invitation that brings people into the church. But what happens when the church turns outward to the world? When the church has been complicit in abuse, racism, anti-Semitism and other attitudes and practices that lead away from God's reign, what happens when the church repents?

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**E-mail address for RMSWO:
rmswoelca16@gmail.com**

How To Sign Up For The RMS e-Connection by e-mail

By Susan Mitchell

We encourage every woman in the Rocky Mountain Synod to sign up to receive the weekly Synod Newsletter called e-Connection. It is sent out every Wednesday to your e-mail address, and it contains articles and pictures about many things in our lives together as Lutherans living in the states that make up the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Once a quarter, e-Connection will have an article about the current issue of our “Views from the Rockies”—the newsletter of the RMS Women’s Organization. You will be directed to the Synod website, which is where “Views” issues will be available. You may read them online, and you may also print a copy for your personal use. Ask your church office to print the Views for you if you do not have access to the website.

Please sign up as follows:

1. On your computer, go to the Rocky Mountain

Synod website by putting this URL into your browser: www.rmselca.org

2. On the home page, scroll down to the bottom, and in the middle of the page you will see: Subscribe to e-mail Newsletter. Below that line is a yellow rectangle that says e-mail List. Simply click on the yellow rectangle! This takes you to a page that asks for your e-mail Address, your first & last name, and to check a box stating if you are a Pastor, Associate in Ministry, Diaconal Minister, or Deaconess. Below this you should check the box that states: “I wish to receive e-Connection each week.”
3. Finally, click on the bottom bar that says “Sign Up.” That’s it! Remember, this is a free subscription to the synod e-mail weekly newsletter. You will receive notice of new issues of our Views from the Rockies newsletters from the synod’s e-Connection e-mail.

About Views from the Rockies



The “Views” is written/circulated by the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women’s Organization, Women of the ELCA, and provides information about programs and projects.

NOTE: Articles for the Views are to be sent to anna498.at@gmail.com by the 12th of January, 12th of April, 12th of July, 12th of August and 12th of November.

There are no longer printed copies of “Views from the Rockies.” Each church and all individuals may now download and/or print FREE COPIES from the Rocky Mountain Synod website. To access the website and get the newsletter, go to www.rmselca.org/Ministries/Women.

If you would like to receive the Views newsletter in your personal e-mail, please send an e-mail to rmswoelca16@gmail.com with the subject line “Add me.” You will be added to the e-mail list and receive all future newsletters and e-mail blasts from the RMSWO Board. Your e-mail address will not be shared with any other organization.

The website of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women’s Organization has not only 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. Erin Powers at the synod office has kindly kept the site updated. We will keep new, interesting information highlighted on the web.

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

RMSWO Website: www.rmselca.org/Ministries/Women

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