



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

Views from the Rockies

January 2017

see Triennial Gathering Can Start Now: p. 2

Greetings from Rocky Mountain Synodical President

President's Corner: A New Year

The new year has started with exciting things to come. Have you registered for Triennial Gathering? If not, the early bird registration has ended **but** there is still space and should be a wonderful experience in Minneapolis. One of the speakers for Triennial is Leymah Gbowee, who received the Nobel Peace Prize when she led the women's peace movement to help bring an end to the second Liberian civil war. Leymah was fed up. She was living amid civil war in her home country of Liberia, and tired of watching her neighbors, family and friends die. She started talking to women in her community and invited them to take a stand for peace. Leymah said, "The one way I see us changing the world that we live in is by speaking up and standing up." (Source: ELCA, International Women Leaders)

As Women of the ELCA, we can help other international women like Leymah, who had received an ELCA scholarship for completion of her advanced education. International Women's Day is March 8th. (Resources for this celebration can be found at www.elca.org. Host a virtual book drive; create a social media campaign; make it a match; or perhaps coordinate a special offering or plan an International Women's Day worship service.) Make

your plans for your congregational unit.

We, as a community of women, were created to speak out, speak up and speak for women whose voice has not been heard. Do you know a woman who needs your voice to help make changes in her world? As Leymah did in her country, you too can use your voice to help others in need of your voice.

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“All Anew” Triennial Gathering Can Start Now

Engage the Tenth Triennial Gathering theme “All Anew” in new and different ways before you even leave home. Working alone or in groups, you can make a quilt, create a finger labyrinth, color the All Anew coloring sheet, worship with the free downloadable online devotionals or gather in-kind gifts.

Finger Labyrinth

For the Tenth Triennial Gathering, we’re making and collecting finger labyrinths. There are patterns for those who sew, knit and crochet. The patterns can easily be adapted for embroidery or felting, so it’s a project for every fiber artist, new or experienced.

The finger labyrinths will be given to the voting members at our Tenth Triennial Convention(2017), and every participant at the triennial gathering will receive one too. If the goal of 5,000 finger labyrinths is met, the extra labyrinths will be donated to chaplains in schools, hospitals, hospices and nursing homes.

The patterns can be downloaded from www.welcatg.org.

Always Thankful, All Anew

The opening worship service of the Tenth Triennial Gathering on Thursday evening, July 13, 2017, will be a Thankoffering service. Bring your congregation’s Thankoffering, bring your circle’s Thankoffering, bring your family’s Thankoffering, bring your own Thankoffering. Or you may give Thankofferings online at welca.org/give. Click on “Where Needed Most,” and choose Thankofferings or make a check out to: Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. The closing worship service of the Triennial Gathering will include a joyful offering to be divided as: 25% PV for Phebe, 25% Cherish All Children and 50% Women of the ELCA. **Phebe Hospital** in rural Liberia was founded in 1921 by the Lutheran church in partnership with Methodist and Episcopal churches.

The hospital is without reliable power and needs \$624,000 to install solar power, which would replace outdated generators. The idea for the project grew out the Women of the ELCA’s 25th anniversary trip to Liberia, and the Northeastern Minnesota Synodical Women’s Organization has led the way. **Cherish All Children** is a social ministry organization affiliated with the ELCA whose purpose is to equip congregations to prevent sexual exploitation of children.

Quilt Challenge

Quilters of all abilities are invited to create a quilt interpreting the gathering theme in a black and white challenge where you can use just one other color. Entries will be judged by women from the Minnesota Quilters Guild. For complete instructions, visit welcatg.org.

Give to the community: In-kind gifts

Giving in-kind gifts at the gathering is a tradition that positively impacts the host city. Visit welcatg.org for a list of the in-kind gifts and ways you can start encouraging your unit to begin collecting them early such as: gift cards and toiletry items.

Friends of the Triennial Gathering

Friends of the Triennial Gathering who give \$500 or more may have the name of their circle, congregational unit, cluster/conference or synodical women’s organization posted on the wall of fame at the triennial. Learn more at welcatg.org under the *News* tab at the top of the page.



Southeast CO Women of ELCA Cluster Event

Baptized we Live

Saturday, April 29, 2017

9:30 AM to 4PM

Grace Lutheran Church

Colorado Springs, CO

1128 E. Boulder, 80907

(from I-25 take Uintah exit I-43 east to Hancock (about 2 m. at a traffic light), turn right (S.) about 1 m. to Boulder. Church is on corner, take a right to get to parking lot)

A day of fellowship, and study as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation (with a flavor of Germany added in).

The study, exploring Lutheranism as a way of life, presented by Pastor Julie British. (book by Daniel Erlander included in registration)

Continental breakfast and salad luncheon.

Offerings: ELCA Good Gifts, sending girls around the world to school and RMSWO.

In kind gifts: Personal health kits for Lutheran World Relief.

Bring 2 bars soap, toothbrush, heavyduty comb, and nail clipper for each kit and the committee will buy towels.

Contact person: Carolyn Gardner, registrar, 719.347.2229 ; E-mail: carolyngardner@live.com

RMSWO at the Synod Assembly in May

Help is needed for our presence at the RMS Assembly, May 5-7, 2017. As a way to participate in the Triennial Convention & Gathering even when you are not able to attend, you can make finger labyrinths to be given to participants at the Assembly. Patterns for finger labyrinths are available for knitting, crocheting and for sewing and can be found at www.welcatg.org. If you are making the labyrinths, please send to Tammi Clawson, 318 N. Foote Ave., Colorado Springs, CO 80909 or bring them to the Assembly. The plan is

to share them at the assembly and send the extras to churchwide for use at the Triennial events.

A trifold will be used to show some of the activities happening in the Rocky Mountain by women in congregational units. If you have pictures and short stories to share, please send them to me at rmswoelca16@gmail.com. Thank you for your help with both of these items. Be bold and share the fun in your congregational unit with others in the Synod.

Save the Dates:

Southeast Colorado Cluster Event: Saturday, April 29th, 2017, "Baptized, We Live" by Pastor Julie British at Grace Lutheran in Colorado Springs. Contact: Helen Peterson at (719)596-7868 for more information and to register.

MetroEast Colorado Cluster Event: April 29, 2017, "Let it Go" by The Women of Bethel, 9:30am-12pm Bethel Lutheran in Aurora, CO. Contact: Joy Faciane at joyfaciane@yahoo.com for more information and to register.

Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, MN on July 13-16, 2017. Read more about attending on www.welcatg.org.

Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly: May 5-7, 2017 in Colorado Springs at the Antler Hilton. Come visit the RMSWO table for information about programs and events.

RMSWO Fall Gathering: October 6-8, 2017, "Woman of Faith-Past and Present" at Bethel Lutheran in Aurora, CO. Contact: Anna Thompson at rmswoelca16@gmail.com. Watch the Views for more information.

Do you see this woman?—2017 COP Theme

The 2017 Conference of Presidents (COP) will take place in Chicago at the Lutheran Center, February 17-19, 2017. The Churchwide Constitution of Women of the ELCA, in Article XV, Section 2, Items 1-4, sets out the goals of the annual Conference of Synodical Presidents:

1. To provide and receive information related to emphases, priorities and projected programs of Women of the ELCA.
2. To make recommendations to the executive board.
3. To develop leadership skills.
4. To foster community and renewal.

The planning team for this event has come up with some creative ideas to get our message across. The theme for the conference is “Do You See This Woman?” and our Scripture passage is from Luke 7:36-50.

Congregational units and individuals may participate in the in-kind offering by donating gift cards

How Are You Celebrating Bold Women’s Day?

Bold Women’s Day is observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February. This year it is on February 26th. It celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Whether you live out your bold story of faith in the workplace, family or community, your faith compels you to make a difference in the lives of others. It’s all about being a disciple of Christ.

How is your congregation unit celebrating Bold Women’s Day? Let us know by e-mailing us at Women.elca@elca.org and put Bold Women’s Day in the subject line. (Source: Interchange of Women of the ELCA) **Please share with us, the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women’s Organization as well by e-mailing rmswoelca16@gmail.com which is our e-mail address.**

(Visa, WalMart or Target) in any amount. The gift cards will be given to an organization that supports homeless youth. You may send them to your synodical president and she will bring them with her, or you may send them directly to churchwide. Presidents will also be invited to bring their SWO’s a generous offering at worship during the meeting.

Please cover our 64 synodical presidents and the six executive board members with traveling mercies and grace as they journey to Chicago for leadership development, spiritual revival and community renewal.

Also, let us keep our newly elected synodical treasurers in prayer as they step into their new roles on February 1.

Please send your gift cards to RMSWO President Anna Thompson at 5015 W. Villa Circle, Cheyenne, WY 82009 by February 14, 2017. Thank you for your help in supporting this effort.

Advent Celebration

For many years, some of the WELCA units in the North Colorado Cluster have hosted an Advent Service on a rotating basis. On Sunday, November 27, 2016, the women of Faith Lutheran Church in Eaton, Colorado, invited us to “A Journey to the Nativity.” The program included: The Journey at the Advent Wreath, The Christmas Journey, The Journey at Bethlehem, The Journey at the Manger, and the Journey Back at Faith.

The other congregations participating in or invited to these services are Bethel in Windsor, First in Ault, Immanuel in Greeley, Our Savior’s in Greeley and Shepherd of the Valley in LaSalle. The women of Faith Lutheran gave a reflective and inspiring program in their beautiful sanctuary. The event concluded with refreshments and fellowship during which we had a chance to renew friendships and make new acquaintances.

Submitted by Julie Elmquist, Immanuel, Greeley

Loss of Two Long Time RMSWO Supporters

Rocky Mountain Women of the ELCA lost two long timesupportivemembersinDecember2016. Joyce Teter passed away December 6 and Betty Swenson passed away December 20. Both were members of First Lutheran Church, Longmont, Colorado.

Joyce, 79, was born in Frederick, CO, February 21, 1937. She was an executive secretary working in atmospheric research. She was also a parliamentarian and served a number of years as parliamentarian for the RMSWO board. She also served on the Boulder Cluster Planning Committee for a number of years. She installed the planning committees for the cluster a number of times and presented outgoing and incoming committee members with thoughtful devotional gifts. Joyce enjoyed dancing and crafts. Joyce was a widow, her husband having died in 1994. She was also preceded in death by a daughter, Beverly. Services were held at First Lutheran December 16, 2016. She is survived by a daughter, Karen, and grandson, Nathan, two sisters, an uncle and a number of nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Betty, 83, was born in Salina, KS, November 4, 1933. She graduated from Bethany College with a degree in Math Education. Betty served Rocky Mountain Synod Lutheran Church Women as Treasurer. She also served on the Boulder Cluster Planning Committee. She faithfully promoted stewardship in the cluster and in her congregation through skits and the annual Thankoffering Services. Betty served in the Colorado Legislature from 1985-1992 and also participated in Lutheran Days at the Legislature. She was named Colorado Mother of the Year in 1985. She enjoyed baking, handcrafts, volunteer work and travel. She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Bill, three children, 7 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren. Services were held at First Lutheran December 27, 2016.

Both of these faithful servants will be remembered and missed by the many whose lives they touched.

Meet Our Newest Board Member



Julie Elmquist is our newest Board Member. She has been an active member of her congregational unit as past chair, past secretary and currently vice president. Julie is member of Immanuel Lutheran in Greeley and has represented them as a voting member at the synod assembly and as a volunteer at the assembly.

Some of Julie's special gifts she brings to the Board are worship planning, writing/proof reading and seeing differing viewpoints leading to compromise. Julie loves to read, sing and travel and works part-time as a substitute teacher in the Greeley-Evans School District #6. Julie has been a volunteer in the school system in Greeley, Church Women United and a past member of the Greeley Chorale. She will be working with all of us on the Board to encourage other young women to be active participants in the RMSWO.

Join ELCA Credit Union

"Lutherans Helping Lutherans. That's what the new ELCA Federal Credit Union is all about," said the Rev. Arnold Pierson, president and CEO of the new banking cooperative for ELCA Lutherans that opened in June 2016. "This is a socially responsible way for (ELCA) Lutherans to do their banking," said Luis Reyes, vice president and COO of the credit union.

Who can join? "Anybody who is a member of, works for or volunteers for an ELCA church or agency and their family members," Pierson said. "Women are generally leaders of finance," Reyes said. Individuals can join by opening a savings account with \$25. A credit union account allows a member to save money with better rates and lower fees than at most other financial institutions.

Members of the credit union can access auto and personal loans, credit cards, checking and savings accounts, surcharge-free ATMs, online banking and bill payment and more. To learn how to save or borrow money through the socially responsible ELCA Federal Credit Union, call 877-715-1111 or visit www.elcafcu.org.

2016-2018 RMSWO Board Members

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New email address for the RMSWO

rmswoelca16@gmail.com

Board Member, Vacant (6): If interested in serving please contact Vice President Sharon Hamilton. Your time, talents and skills are something that can be used on the RMSWO Board.

RMSWO Past Leaders – Do You Remember Them?



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 email, please send an e-mail to rmswoelca16@gmail.com with the subject line “Add me.” You will be added to the email list and receive all future newsletters and email blasts from the RMSWO Board. Your email 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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