



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

March 2019
Views from the Rockies

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Greetings from Rocky Mountain Synodical President

President's Corner: Save and Plan!

These days we often get "Save the Date" cards for weddings. Because a wedding is an important event, we put it on the calendar and make plans to attend – travel, lodging, wedding gift, what to wear, etc. In this issue of the "Views," you will see a very important "Save the Date" flyer! It is for the RMSWO Fall Gathering in Albuquerque, New Mexico to be held September 20-22 at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Save the Date and Plan to Attend! The North New Mexico Cluster is helping the RMSWO Board plan for the event and have poured their hearts and souls into making this a Don't-Miss-It-Event!

Tell yourself that you will be there. Make plans to send several from your church...3 or 6 or 10 women! Do you hold annual fund-raisers for your organization? If so, set aside some of the proceeds to help with registration, lodging and transportation. If not, plan a special fund-raiser to help send a group of women from your congregation. With the Gathering a little more than six months away, there is time now to plan how you will be able to attend.

The board is trying to line up commercial transportation for 20-40 attendees that could start in Cheyenne, Wyoming and gather attendees in locations such as Greeley, Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo. Tell yourself that you will be on that bus!

Yes, it does take some effort to send even a few from your church to the Gathering. Yes, something might happen to change someone's plans.

But this will be a weekend of starting and renewing friendships, of deepening of your faith, of shared meals and laughter, of music, worship and quiet reflection.

In 1998 I attended a RMSWO Convention in Albuquerque and in 1999 rode in a van to Park City, Utah for a Gathering because someone told me, "You HAVE to go!" Please prayerfully consider if this will be the first time or the 10th time that you attend with your sisters in Christ.

God's Blessings!

Julie

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New RMSWO Board Bonds

The weekend of January 11-13, 2019, the “New RMSWO Board” met in Colorado Springs for our first official board meeting. Due to the huge change in the weather on Friday that included MUCH colder, windy, rainy and snowy weather, some members were not able to arrive as scheduled! Therefore, on Saturday morning, we began the day with Session 1 of “Sacred Space as a Metaphor—Reflecting God’s Presence in the World” where we had the opportunity of looking up a number of scripture passages, discussing them, as well as, sharing personal experiences from our individual lives!

This produced a time of “blending and binding us together as the NEW BOARD”! It was intense! So after having lunch TOGETHER, we were able to travel via 2 vehicles to Garden of the Gods and view the

Garden with its white, fluffy, snow dusting! It truly was an awesome sight!!

Due to the kindness of a young exchange student from Italy, we were able to have this WONDERFUL PHOTO! It was the break we all needed before heading back to our meeting venue, refreshed and able to work together for the next FOUR hours to handle and complete ALL items on our Agenda!

Thus, this Board may not achieve great things, but because of our “bonding together”, we will be able to move forward, doing things with greater knowledge, understanding, respect, and love of who we are as individuals, but also together as your RMSWO Board!

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Von Mosch



Violet Carlson: A Bold Woman

In observance of Bold Women Sunday, Feb. 24, 2019, I would like to pay tribute to Violet "Vi" Carlson. Violet June Carlson was born February 7, 1929 in Greeley, Colorado to Aaron and Esther Benson. Vi met Clarence Carlson at a dance in Eaton, Colorado and they were married October 25, 1953 at First Lutheran Church in Longmont, Colorado. They were just a few days shy of their 65th wedding anniversary when Vi passed away on October 21, 2018.



Clarence and Vi Carlson shown here in a photo from the 2009 Immanuel Lutheran Church directory.

As a Registered Nurse, Violet served Weld County, Colorado in the Health Department as a public health nurse where she helped run mass immunization programs and addressed other community health needs. Her specialty was maternity and child health care. She traveled to several schools and homes where her patients and their families considered her their personal visiting angel.

Violet was a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Greeley where she was very involved with the women's groups, and the sewing group. She was a past President of Immanuel's Women of the ELCA and very supportive of women's ministries. She worked tirelessly sewing quilts, organizing yard sales, hosting church dinners and

women's meetings and generally doing "whatever needed to be done." When Immanuel celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2005, Vi planned and took charge of the noon meal that fed over 150 people.

Vi was an inspiration to both her family and her church family. Even when her health declined, she made a valiant effort to attend worship, the Sewing Group and her Circle's Bible Study meetings. She was "...a good and faithful servant..." and will be missed by many!

Julie Elmquist, Immanuel, Greeley, CO

**BOLD
WOMEN'S
DAY 2019**

Celebrate bold women.
Sunday, February 24

Visit welca.org/bwd
for ideas for observing
in your congregation.

Women of the ELCA

"God has a plan for all of us, but He expects us to do our share of the work."

~Minnie Pearl

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

2019



SEPTEMBER

20-21-22nd

2019

**In Albuquerque, NM
@ St Paul**

**Lutheran Church
1100 Indian School Rd NE**

Ephesians 4:4-6

**SPONSORED BY
ROCKY MOUNTAIN
SYNODICAL WOMENS
ORGANIZATION**

FALL GATHERING

Featured Speaker: Carolyn Good
NM Conference of Churches

For more information contact
RMSWO President Julie Elmquist
970-330-6679 sjelmquist@msn.com

**Plan Ahead! Registration Forms will come your way in
April, 2019. \$60 registration fee.**

ALL ARE WELCOME !!

Celebrate National Quilting Day

by *Melanie Gibbons*

“Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love.”

March 16, 2019, is National Quilting Day (NQD). Now, I may be biased, but I believe we in the Lutheran tradition have a lot to celebrate!

For nearly 70 years, compassionate people just like you have put their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around the world. And not just a few quilts—hundreds of thousands of quilts every year. These gifts of love make life brighter, softer, and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with displacement, chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster or conflict.

So, on National Quilting Day, Lutheran World Relief wants to celebrate you! We want to lift up your ministries and show others the phenomenal work you do. You can join the party in several ways:

Share your stories, photos, and fun tips via social media that weekend, and tag Lutheran World Relief (@LuthWorldRelief on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram). You can also use the hashtag #NQD2018 to join in the wider conversation!

Hop on to the LWR Quilters & Kit Makers Community Facebook group ([facebook.com/groups/lwrquilters](https://www.facebook.com/groups/lwrquilters)) to watch live video feeds from LWR NQD events happening across the country.

Ask your congregational leaders to include a petition in the prayers of the church on Sunday, March 17, lifting up quilters and those who receive quilts.

Have a reception between or after Sunday services on March 17 to honor your quilters.

Visit lwr.org/nqd to let us know you're celebrating. There you can download resources to help you plan your own National Quilting Day event!



Thank you to all quilters, supporters of quilters, packers, drivers and cheerleaders of quilters! Your faithfulness in sharing your gifts and time weave the Holy Spirit into each and every quilt sent around the world. We at Lutheran World Relief thank God for you every day!

Melanie Gibbons is quilt and kit ministry manager at Lutheran World Relief.

Fall Gathering in Albuquerque, New Mexico

Your RMSWO Board met January 11-13 in Colorado Springs, Colorado with a concern as to how to get a good attendance in a Synod that covers so many square miles.

We are looking at ways to help members along the I-25 corridor in Wyoming and Colorado, but we would also love to have

a large contingent from Utah and attendance from the El Paso, Texas area.

If anyone has any ideas or suggestions, please contact one of the board members. Names and contact information are found on page 13.

Peace and Joy,
Julie Elmquist

Eleventh Triennial Gathering July 2020

More Information to Come!

The Eleventh Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA will be held in Phoenix, Ariz. The triennial convention is the highest legislative authority within the organization.

Visitors are welcome at the Eleventh Triennial Convention, and a special visitors seating area will be available. Since no registration is needed prior to attend, name tags will be available outside the convention center.



New post on Women of the ELCA

“Just love” Gathering 2020 logo reminds we are parts of one body

by **Elizabeth McBride**

At the triennial gathering 2017 closing worship service, the Rev. Angela Khabeb exclaimed: “News flash! Christianity is not comfortable. If you are comfortable in Jesus, you’re doing it wrong.”

Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect, we are often are broken, sometimes we don’t fit. Sometimes our edges are rough—but we are one body in Christ.

The inspiration for Women of the ELCA Gathering logo came after I walked around the downtown area of Phoenix, the site of the 2020 gathering. I noticed a mural located outside of the convention hotel. Its collection of broken mirrors, tiles, shards of plates and painted rocks ebbed and flowed in a kinetic frenzy of color and textures.

We are The body of Christ

The mural reminded me of the body of Christ and how we are all misshapen pieces in one glorious and beautiful work of art.

The palette of deep purple and bright green in the new gathering logo is reflective of the scenery of the valley in the Phoenix area. Along the streets of this city, dusty earth tones are punctuated with bright purple flowers and vibrant green cacti. The turquoise color connects to the history of native cultures in Arizona and the southwest region. Red signifies love. The shade of red in our gathering logo is not one of fire and caution, but rather one of joy.

As we embrace the theme “Just love” we remember the words of the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra at the gathering in 2017 in Minneapolis: “I believe that if we follow mercy all the way, go deep into mercy, we end up at justice.”

The Gathering 2020 will be held in Phoenix, Ariz., July 16-19, 2020. Watch for information about registration on welcatg.org in late summer.

Elizabeth McBride, director for intergenerational programs and editor of Café, designed the Gathering 2020 logo. She has a bachelor of arts degree from Arizona State University and has designed graphics for Women of the ELCA since 2000.

Credit: Elizabeth McBride

February 26, 2019 at 5:25 am

Gathering 2020, News | URL: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/?p=15764>

January 8, 2019

Women of the ELCA
Rocky Mountain Synod
7375 Samuel Dr
Denver CO 80221

Thank you for your gift of \$582.50 to our Skip the Grid project - Current for Curran. Your faithful generosity is making a life changing difference to the patients, staff and residents at Curran Hospital. Curran is located about 3 hours north of our first solar project, Phebe Hospital, and is another Lutheran Hospital that has been supported by Lutheran women for over 100 years. Curran is very remote, runs on expensive diesel generators, and needs exactly what Skip the Grid is designed to do: empower health care systems and other critical infrastructure in West Africa with solar power.

Your contribution is taking us one step closer toward our \$598,000 goal by June 30, 2019 for Current for Curran.

Thank you for all your support. None of this could have happened without you and many others across the country.

Your sister in Christ,



Mary Jo Mettler
Northeastern Minnesota Synod Women of the ELCA
Current For Curran Promoter
djmjmettler@gmail.com

Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/skipthegrid/>, join our Twitter feed at [@RREALSolar](https://twitter.com/RREALSolar) and checkout our website www.skipthegrid.org

In accordance with IRS regulations, this letter serves to inform you that no goods or services, except for possibly intangible religious benefits, resulted from this donation to the Northeastern Minnesota Synod for the Phebe Solar Project. It is important that you retain this letter with your other income tax records for the year to help support the deduction of this gift.



Recover. Renew. Restore.

RECEIPT - Keep this portion for your tax record

Women of the ELCA Rocky Mountain SYNOD
1567 Eastwood Dr
Price, UT 84501

Thank you for your generosity! Because of your generous support, God has allowed Sarah's Home to bring five rescued, sex trafficked teen girls closer to hope and healing in 2018. One of our girls graduated from the program with her high school diploma and served an internship in a program similar to Sarah's Home! On behalf of our girls, we want to express a very heart felt "Thank you!" Great is your reward in Heaven! We truly cannot do it without partners like you!

GIVER: Women of the ELCA Rocky Mountain
SYNOD
1567 Eastwood Dr
Price, UT 84501

Cumulative Receipt
January - December 2018

Because your contribution is a completed and unrestricted gift to Sarah's Home, it is tax deductible. No goods or services were provided to the giver unless otherwise stated.

<u>FUND #</u>	<u>NAME OF FUND</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
125005	Sarah's Home Inc.	\$100.00

Sarah's Home, P.O. Box 29, Peyton, CO 80831
Phone: 719-347-3026 Email: info@sarahshome.us Web: www.sarahshome.us



GIVING RETURN FORM

Please return this portion with your next gift.

Gift Amount: \$ _____
Make checks payable to Sarah's Home. (Please do not send cash.)

* Indicate change of address.

<u>FUND #</u>	<u>NAME OF FUND</u>
125005	Sarah's Home Inc.

Women of the ELCA Rocky Mountain SYNOD
1567 Eastwood Dr
Price, UT 84501

* Indicate any changes of preference for your next gift.



Kairos Prison Ministry International, Inc.

A 501(C)3 non-profit organization

Rocky Mountain Women's Synod
Jan Young
1567 Eastwood Drive
Price, UT 84501

We are so grateful for your gifts to the Kairos Prison Ministry. Through your donations, the ministry is able to pursue its mission of ministry to those who are impacted by incarceration. Through the grace of God, and enabled by your gifts, we are working to bring persons lost in shame, guilt, unforgiveness, and hatred to know the healing and saving power of Jesus Christ, and a new way of life.

We hope you understand how much your support of this ministry means to the people with whom we come into contact. Lives are touched and new hope is born because God has put our work on your heart. We are eternally grateful and hope that your love for us and our mission in Christ's name might continue.

Terry Bessler
Advisory Council Donor Secretary
Sterling Kairos Advisory Council

Kairos Prison Ministry International Inc is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and we acknowledge your charitable contributions listed below which were given to the ministry with no benefit, supplies, or assets of any kind received in return (other than the eternal satisfaction of enabling work in the name of Christ Jesus).

Date of Gift	Amount	Comments
12/11/2018	532.50	Check 3343
Total Gifts	532.50	



While praying one day a woman asked, 'Who are you, God?' He answered, 'I am.' 'But, who is I am?' she asked. He replied, 'I am love, I am peace, I am grace, I am joy, I am strength, I am safety, I am shelter, I am power, I am the creator, I am the comforter, I am the beginning and the end, I am the way, truth and the light.' With tears in her eyes she looked toward heaven and said, 'Now I understand, but who am I? God tenderly wiped the tears from her eyes and whispered, 'You are mine.'"

(Author Unknown)



Café (boldcafe.org) is a monthly on-line magazine for and with young adult women made possible from support from women’s groups active in Women of the ELCA (welca.org), the women’s organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

A place for all God’s children

by Lisa Heffernan

Just about every Sunday morning, three men from a nearby group home for adults with disabilities come to worship at the congregation I serve. Accompanied by their carer for the day, they enter the sanctuary and say hello to the ushers and me before picking up bulletins and taking their places in the pews.

It took me a little time to feel comfortable greeting and chatting with them as I would with anyone else who comes to the church doors. Even so, our weekly exchange of hellos still felt a little awkward and stilted.....

What gifts do they bring to the congregation’s life together? What could I or others in **the congregation do to be more welcoming, so that any person with a disability could** participate in worship and activities to the fullest?

.....they aren’t just some disabled men who show up for worship each week. They are God’s children and they have a place to belong in the congregation I serve. **And I hope that, as my pastoral relationship with them continues to build, that God will grant us--all of us--the ability to embrace one another and all that we bring to the table.**

Belonging to the body of Christ

by Lisa Heffernan

Most of the time, I hate my feet. They’re tiny, have terrible circulation, get **puffy sometimes, and I had a wound on one toes that stuck around for almost six years. As a paraplegic who was born with spina bifida, my relationship** with my feet and legs is just strange anyway. I don’t walk, so what do I need to take care of them for?

Discussion questions:

1. How can we work together, with our abilities and disabilities, to strengthen our lives together as followers of Christ?



- 
2. Who do we most value in our congregations and lives? Who do we value less or not at all? Why?
 3. How can congregations begin to think about the accessibility of their churches, both in a physical and relational sense? Where may God be leading your congregation as you **consider how you might become more accessible or how you might learn more about our** siblings in Christ who have disabilities?

Closing prayer:

God of all people, We thank you for the gifts you give each one of us to serve in the name of Jesus Christ. Help us to care for and love one another, especially those whom we may view as lesser than ourselves. Help us to see each other's minds, bodies, and hearts as **beautiful in their own ways, as we seek to create a church without barriers of any kind. May we see one another as your beloved children, each needed to participate in your mission of love and justice in our world. Amen.**

The Rev. Lisa Heffernan, 32, serves as the solo pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Chamberlain, S.D. She is also a member of the ELCA Disability Ministries team.

This article first appeared in the February 2019 issue of Cafe (<http://boldcafe.org>).

[Sample from Bold Café. Check it out and get together with other young women for discussion, share time and prayers together.]

Southeast Cluster Save the Date: June 8!

Save the date, June 8, 2019, for the Southeast CO Women of ELCA spring gathering which will be held at Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, 1318 North Circle Drive, Colorado Springs.

Please come! Of course there is always, always a meaningful program, much conversation and laughter as we get to know women from other congregations better while bonding with ladies from our own churches.

And ALWAYS joyful singing, and lots of good food.

Spread the date to your circle and all women of your congregation.

Your sister in Christ,

Helen Peterson

719.332.7949 or 719.596.7868

ralphelen@gmail.com

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Your 2018-2020 RMSWO Board
(Jan Young not pictured.)

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 anna498.at@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

Newsletter design/layout by Mary Lauck

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD
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