

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

May 2019

Views from the Rockies

► See Fall Gathering Details pages 2-4

Rocky Mountain Synodical President's Corner

Women of the ELCA Conference of Presidents

February 22-24, 2019

This annual conference is held at The Lutheran Center – headquarters for the ELCA – in Chicago, Illinois. You know you've landed at a Chicago airport when you walk past a man playing jazz on his saxophone in a hallway on your way to the airport/hotel shuttle pick-up area! You know you're attending a church women's event when you see several women about your age waiting for the airport/hotel shuttle. We look at each other and then ask, "Are you headed for the Marriott, too?"

I felt a bit awestruck being at The Lutheran Center – a bit like being on a pilgrimage! The Center is in such a good location for people traveling there for meetings, being near the airport and near a Marriott hotel. The hotel is within walking distance to the Center (if it's not super cold or windy) and I did walk the distance a couple of times.

At this conference we heard from President Lisa Plorin and others who gave reports during the weekend. All worship services were in the chapel on the first floor. Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, we met in small groups by region – our synod is in Region 2. In those small groups, we wrestled with some difficult questions regarding the future of the Women of the ELCA. The question that many of us found alarming was:

Why is this organization important to you? If this organization went away tomorrow, would you miss it? Would it matter? Why?

For centuries, women were kept out of leadership roles and often worked behind the scenes

without credit for the greater good. Out of this tradition came separate women's groups in the church and the workplace. Women have made great strides for equality in society and our ELCA denomination seeks to give women equal opportunity in all aspects of the church. **However, I believe that women still want to gather from time to time as a group of women to celebrate and encourage each other. Does this hold true for you? As Mary did at the birth of Jesus — ponder these words in your heart.**

God's Blessings,
 Julie

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Fall Gathering Presenters

Carolyn Good



Carolyn Good has been a part of ecumenical ventures most of her life. She grew up in a small town in the Hill Country of Texas, graduated from the University of Texas in Austin and got her Master's Degree

from the University of Colorado in Boulder. After her undergraduate degree she moved with her husband to the Boston area where they raised their family and Carolyn was the director of music in the Lexington United Methodist Church as well as serving on the worship committee for the New England Annual Conference.

From that area Carolyn became involved with the World Council of Churches, serving on the liturgy and music team around the world. She attended the World Assemblies in Africa and Brazil. Five persons from each continent were invited to Bossey, Switzerland for further study and Carolyn was one of the five from North America. When Carolyn moved from New England to New Mexico she became active in Church Women United locally and represents CWU on the New Mexico Conference of Churches. Her most recent ecumenical experience was attending the Parliament of the World's Religions in Toronto, Canada.

God's Gift

In the joyful moments ---- *thank Him.*

In the busy moments ---- *bless Him.*

In the trying moments ---- *trust Him.*

In the quiet moments ---- *praise Him.*

—Roy Lessin

Pastor Bre Roberts



Bre Roberts serves as campus pastor at Luther House, Lutheran Campus Ministry at UNM and CNM in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Together with her husband and fellow pastor Ryan, they co-parent two charmingly ordinary pastors' kids and are the caretakers for the family's cats, Cow and Drizzt. Bre

received a BS in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona and a MDiv from Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California. Bre also serves as the co-chair for Young Clergy Women International, a network of the youngest ordained clergy women in the Christian tradition. Prior to living in the Land of Enchantment, she served as an associate pastor in Baltimore, Maryland. Bre speaks fluent nerd, has six tattoos, and is slowly learning to quilt.

Pastor Kristi Koppel

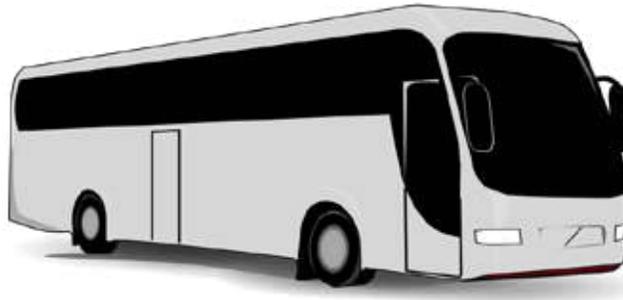


Kristi was born and raised in Sierra Vista, Arizona, and completed her Bachelor's degree in Environment Science at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and her Master of Divinity at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. She has served congregations in Austin, MN, Alamogordo, NM, and currently partners with the fine people of St. Paul Lutheran Church here in Albuquerque. Kristi and her beautiful wife, Jan, enjoy cooking (and eating, of course) and a good glass of wine, anything outdoors, and spending time with friends and family. A perfect day is when all of these are combined!

Ride The “Lazy K” Bus To Albuquerque!

The Rocky Mountain Synod Women’s Organization Board would like to invite you to ride the bus to Albuquerque for our September Gathering!

The “Lazy K” bus will pick up WELCA members in Denver, Colorado Springs, and Pueblo (down I-25) on its way to Albuquerque in September for the Rocky Mountain Synod Women’s Gathering. You’ll be picked



up Friday, September 20, and brought back Sunday, September 22.

Cost: \$125 Round-trip

Enjoy the fellowship of traveling together without the hassle of driving!

RSVP to ride the bus by May 5.

See you in Albuquerque!

Fall Gathering Information

Lodging -

Sharon Hamilton has arranged the following:

Ramada Plaza, 2020 Manual Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM phone 505.884.2511 or fax 505.881.4806

<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/ramada/albuquerque-new-mexico/>

\$79 per night for a room with up to 4 people + tax - Two (2) double beds or king bed with a fold out sofa (which must be requested)

- Hot breakfast
- Shuttles to and from the airport AND to and from the church

Vendors/Exhibitors

- Storehouse
- World Gifts - Remember to bring shopping money!
- ELCA Foundation (Tina Kvitek)
- Joy Junction
- WELCA (with Triennial info)
- Luther House

“Make-up can only make you look pretty on the outside, but it doesn’t help if you’re ugly on the inside. Unless you eat the make-up.” —Audrey Hepburn (Wild Words from Wild Women Calendar)

Transportation -

Bus transportation through Lazy K Coach out of Burlington, Colorado.

Bus starts in Denver Friday, September 20, early in the morning, arrives in Albuquerque that afternoon. Bus leaves Albuquerque Sunday, September 20, early in the morning and returns to Denver.

- 40 reclining seats with footrests
- DVD, two tables for cards and visiting
- and a restroom.
- \$125.00 per person

Monetary offerings will be divided:

50% to the RMSWO and 50% to Storehouse, an Albuquerque food bank

Local projects/ In-kind offerings

Non-perishable food items forStorehouse

Gift cards for..... Sarah’s Home

Socks, undies, prayer square for.....Lilly bags

From the AARP Magazine: ‘When women lock arms, at whatever level in society, they can change the world.’ (How the cofounder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation discovered that empowering women was the key to transforming global society.) Interview by Hugh Delehanty

Fall Gathering — Draft Agenda

Friday, 9/20

3:00 – 5:30 – Registration

5:30 – 6:45 - Dinner/Ice Breaker

6:45 – 7:00 – Break/Gather

7:00 – 8:30 – Movie “The Staircase”

12:30 – 12:45 – Vendor Time/Gather

12:45 – 1:00 – Hymn Sing

1:00 – 2:00 – Keynote – Carolyn Good

2:00 – 2:15 – Break

2:15 – 3:00 – Bible Study Session #2

3:00 – 3:15 – Break

3:15 – 4:15 – Workshop #2

4:15 – 4:30 – Break/Hymn Sing

4:30 – 5:30 – Workshop #3

5:30 – 5:45 – Break/Gather for meal

5:45 – 6:45 – Dinner

6:45 – 7:00 – Break/Gather

7:00 – 8:00 – Worship w/ Eucharist

8:00 – 8:30 – Hospitality/Depart

Saturday, 9/21

8:00 – 9:00 – Registration/Fellowship

9:00 – 9:15 – Hymn Sing

9:15 – 10:00 – Bible Study Session #1

10:00 – 10:15 – Break

10:15 – 11:15 – Workshop #1

11:15 – 11:30 – Vendor Time

11:30 – 12:30 – Lunch



Celebrate Ruth Hoffman's 22 years of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry

It is with deep gratitude for her ministry and witness, living out our call to be a public church that we celebrate Ruth Hoffman, Director for Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM who has announced she will be retiring in November of this year.

Reflecting on her ministry Ruth writes:

"I have truly been blessed to serve in the ministry of advocacy for the Rocky Mountain Synod and the ELCA. The support of our synod for advocacy has been steadfast and faithful for the more than thirty-five years since the advocacy offices in New Mexico and in Colorado were initiated. Just as important has been the support and advocacy work of ELCA and ecumenical congregations and members throughout New Mexico.

When I began serving as director of LAM-NM (It was then called Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry-NM.), I wrote these words: "it is very



easy for the needs of people living in poverty to be lost in the shuffle and not be heard among the many other voices that work to influence public policy." These words are no less true today which means that it remains crucial that advocacy ministry continue to be an integral ministry of our life together as Christ's church. I am confident that advocacy ministry in New Mexico will continue to grow and positively impact the lives of our many neighbors living in poverty and experiencing hunger.

Many, many thanks for accompanying me throughout these years of my faith journey."

Thank you for your witness Ruth! (Source *eConnection Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA April 10, 2019*)

RMSWO also wants to thank you, Ruth, for your example of advocacy and support for those whose voices were not being heard.

Current For Curran

Curran Hospital is a Lutheran hospital located in Lofa County, Zorzor, Liberia, about 200 miles from the capital city of Monrovia. The hospital has 125 beds, outpatient services, a school of nursing and supervision for 23 community health centers and clinics. Lutheran women have been supporting Curran Hospital for over 100 years. Reliable energy supply is necessary for quality health care delivery in Liberia where less than 1% of the population has access to the electricity grid, generating needed power at rural hospitals literally is a life-or-death scenario. Solar presents an opportunity for a more reliable energy supply – more reliable for the hospital and the many people it serves. This Skip the Grid installation will provide clean, renewable energy to the hospital so it can continue to care for more Liberians.

First Solar has generously donated all the panels

needed for the installation, but more contributions are needed to make this project happen.

You can be part of the hundreds of people helping make this impactful project a reality by:

- Sharing information about this project to your community, church or with your friends
- Follow Skip the Grid on Facebook www.facebook.com/skipthegrid
- Contribute to the project online or send your gift by check to the ELCA through the Northeastern Minnesota Synod Office.

Please make checks payable to: NE MN Synod, ELCA with "Current for Curran" in the memo and mail then to:

Northeastern Minnesota Synod
1105 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802

Scenes from Chicago Churchwide National Quilting Day March 16, 2019



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 and conflict.



This amazing ministry is one that blesses the lives of quilters and those who receive quilts, and by inviting others to join us, in turn, blesses even more people! (Source: <https://lwr.org/nqd>)





Far left:
Lutheran
World Relief
Warehouse.

Near left:
Quilts in
the Ware-
house to
be shipped
to those in
need.



St. Paul, Albuquerque, Quilters

From the March *Gather* Magazine page 9: "Quilters cut fabric. They sew. They design. They tie. They talk. They laugh. They cry. God's work happens with their hands. ...they are a part of each others' joys and sorrows of life....they come together to put their hands to work and their hearts together."

The Peace Lutheran Quilters – Sterling, CO

Lila Moore, Naomi Binder, Janet Lebsock, Judy Kellogg, Judy Uhrig, Connie Padraza are pictured. Not pictured: Shirlene Cramer, Edna Nickal, Blanca Gallegos. Shown with the 30 quilts that will be delivered to the S.A.R.A. House and the Share House both in Fort Morgan. We continue to the next project which is 40 quilts to be divided between Logan County Sheriff Dept., State Patrol, Sterling Police and Sterling Fire Department. Then it is on to the quilts taken to The Crossing Rescue Mission in Denver where each child receives a quilt. This total has been as high as 82 quilts. We also have given quilts to the homeless here in Sterling.



WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

SEPTEMBER

20-21-22nd

@ St. Paul Lutheran
Church in
Albuquerque, NM



Ephesians 4: 4-6

SPONSORED BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD
WOMENS ORGANIZATION AND NORTH NM
WELCA CLUSTER

PRESENTER: Carolyn Good

Registration forms and mailing instructions are included on the next page. Scholarships for the \$60 fee are available. Childcare offered. See “The View” for more information about a group bus from Colorado.

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!!!!!!!!

For questions about the event, please call RMSWO President
Julie Elmquist @ 970-371-2734

HOTEL INFORMATION: Ramada Plaza 505.884.2511

- \$79 per night for a room with up to 4 people – Two (2) double beds or king bed with a fold out sofa (which must be requested)
- Hot breakfast
- Shuttles to and from the airport AND to and from the church

Your \$60 registration fee covers program costs, meals, presenter fees, and childcare.

Return **EVENT** registration form and \$60 by **August 31st** to:

Deb Haar
6555 Weeping Willow Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80925 719-650-5988

Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

Emergency contact (relationship): _____ Phone: _____

Diet restrictions: _____ Special needs: _____

Do you need babysitting? circle YES NO If yes, what ages? _____

Make \$60 checks payable to "RMSWO WELCA"

Return **BUS** registration form by **May 5th** to:

Deb Haar
6555 Weeping Willow Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80925 719-650-5988

Name: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

\$125 bus fee paid to "RMSWO WELCA" by August 31.



Southeast CO Women of the ELCA Spring Gathering

June 8, 2019

9:00-4:00

Registration fee: \$35.00

Deadline May 30, 2019

Mt Calvary Lutheran Church

1318 North Circle Drive, Colorado Springs

(From I-25 take the Fillmore exit east about 4 miles. After Union Fillmore turns into circle Dr.)

For more information and registration please contact Deb Haar at 719-650-5688 or haardap@hotmail.com

Have you ever wanted to know how to begin a Bible Study or have good conversation around the Bible? Pastor Julie Britsch will lead us to understand and practice ways to read the Bible using the four lenses of the "book of faith" initiative of the ELCA: devotional reading, historical reading, literary reading and Lutheran theological reading. Bring along your Bible and a tote bag to find a new way to open the scriptures and join in the conversation of our Bible Study.

Eric and Elisa Wicks will offer 30 minutes of special Baroque music at the Gathering.

We will have a drawing for specially made up baskets with the money going to Sarah's Home and El Paso Southern CO Honor Flights. Our offerings will be given to Care & Share and RMSWO.

Please fill in this registration form completely. Mailing instructions at the bottom.

NAME: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number: _____ e-mail: _____

Emergency contact & phone # _____

relationship to you: _____

Your church _____ Special needs? _____

Please make your selections for our catered lunch:

Bread:	Meat:	Cheese:	Dessert:
___ Bun	___ Vegetarian	___ Yes	___ Fresh Fruit
___ Croissant	___ Ham	___ No	___ Cookie
___ Wrap	___ Beef		
___ Gluten Free	___ Turkey		
	___ Tuna/egg salad		

Make your \$35 check payable to SE CO WELCA and mail with registration form to:

Deb Haar

6555 Weeping Willow Drive

Colorado Springs, Co 80925

Call 719-650-5688 with any questions.



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A continental breakfast and a catered lunch will be food for your body while a Bible Study and Communion feed your soul.

We will have a drawing for specially made up baskets with the money going to Sarah’s Home and El Paso Southern CO Honor Flights. Our offerings will be given to Care & Share and RMSWO.

We are pleased to offer special music at the Gathering. Eric Wicks, organist at First Lutheran, and his wife Elisa will present a thirty minute program of Baroque music. Elisa plays the Baroque violin and Eric plays piano and harpsichord. They will perform sacred and secular pieces.

For more information and registration please contact Deb Haar at 719-650-5688 or haardap@hotmail.com

2018-2020 Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organizations Board Members



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Prince of Peace, Colorado Springs, CO

Newsletter design/layout by Mary Lauck



Your 2018-2020 RMSWO Board

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
7375 Samuel Drive
Denver, CO 80221**