

# WALKING IN THE WORD

JUNE 2008, OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE  
CENTRAL STATES WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
JUNE 2008 Volume 19, Issue 2



## Will I See You in Springfield, Missouri?

This year's Central States Synod-Women of the ELCA Convention will be held at the Clarion Hotel in Springfield, MO from Friday, July 25- Sunday, July 27<sup>th</sup>. I invite all women to attend to find out what a great and wonderful group such as ours can achieve in only a couple of days.

Our convention offerings include of course the business portion of our meetings, and time for devotions and church services, but also opportunities for service and learning, as well as some just plain fun. We will be supporting the crisis center of the Ozarks, known as Isabel's House. Isabel's House will be receiving our in-kind gifts. We will have an outdoor service project at the Nature Center, an indoor project to work on baby bibs and small quilts, and an opportunity to gather goods from area stores for Isabel's House. Workshops on anti-racism, our Companion Synods Russia and Papua New Guinea, planned giving, altar flower arrangements, and a representative from Isabel's House, as well as a President's/Treasurer's workshop and, of course, a workshop from our churchwide representative Denise Smith.

Of course no convention is complete without entertainment. On Friday night we will hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Talent or Not Show. It is inspiring to see the many talented women volunteer to entertain us with their gifts. Saturday's entertainment following the banquet will be the talent of Joe Allen. Joe's talent with the piano is truly amazing.

In order to raise funds for our Barbara Nelson Memorial Scholarship Fund we will once again hold a silent basket auction. Baskets of items are being collected from both the clusters and individual churches.

I hope to see everyone in Springfield. For more information and forms, please check the synod website at [www.css-elca.org](http://www.css-elca.org) or find a link to our page at the churchwide website at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org).

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Every Monday  
Prayer at noon

July 10-13  
7th Triennial Convention in  
Salt Lake City, Utah

July 25-27  
Central States Synodical  
Convention  
Springfield, Missouri

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# Info from Iris

The Central States Women of the ELCA Executive Board met this past March at my home near Axtell, Kansas. It always amazes me how much can be accomplished from Friday night supper through Sunday morning breakfast when we gather in this respect! In amongst the business, we had time for fellowship that included fresh Amish bread, whirlwind shopping at Elsie Grace's, a meal at Grandpa Red's, and speculation as to when the farm cat would have kittens! We attended Saturday night worship at Friedens Lutheran Church, Home KS. But no matter what we were up to, the business of the Central States Women of the ELCA was always in the forefront of our conversations. A big part of that business was going over the budget and emphasizing the impact to the budget if we can get "Walking in the Word" to most of our women via the internet.



Iris Turnbull, President  
Central States  
Women of the ELCA

Look for our display at Synod Assembly in St. Louis. The focus will be our Russian companion synod. We are working with Lynn Starr, former Central States Synod Women of the ELCA president, to produce cards with the Lord's Prayer in Russian, that will be taken back to Russia by representatives who will be in attendance at Assembly. We had done this previously and when the opportunity arose, we felt it was important to continue our support. This summer's Central States youth gathering in Kansas City is another area of support for our women, through a monetary donation to help with meals.

We welcome our new editor for *Walking in the Word*, Mary Bridges! She will be working to get our newsletter on the Central States Synod website as well as taking care of sending out those copies that need to go through the mail. All subscriptions to the newsletter need to be sent to treasurer, Marilyn Youngquist. Those subscriptions run \$5.00 per year but you can get the same thing free at [www.css-elca.org](http://www.css-elca.org). Anyone who subscribed previously, but would now like to go the internet route, please let Marilyn know and she will refund the subscription amount you would have left. (The newsletter expenses run around \$1,800 per year and our aim is to cut that by two thirds.)

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# CLUSTER NEWS

## HEARTLAND 11C CLUSTER MEETING

Doris Ericson, reporting:

Women of the ELCA of Peace Lutheran, Joplin, MO, St. John's Lutheran of Pittsburg, KS, and Friends Home Lutheran of Savonburg, KS, held their cluster meeting at St. John's, on Saturday, April 12. There were about 25 in attendance. The welcome was given by Pastor Tom Wehrman with opening devotions by St. John's.

The theme for the program, "Marked To Be A Blessing," was given by the ladies of Friends Home church. Offering Interpretation was given by Peace Lutheran. The, In-Kind-Gathering, was for SEK-CAP Choices Emergency Shelter. The lady from SEK-CAP told us about their working as an emergency shelter, and how long people can stay with them. St. John had a hymn game that was very exciting. Several hymns were sung.

Mary Kreidle, our synod board member from Springfield, MO, gave us a synodical report about the convention coming up in July.

Doris Ericson, cluster coordinator, conducted business of the cluster. Heartland 11C will be in charge of the bookstore at the Central States Synod Convention, July 25-27, at Springfield, MO. Next year Friends Home will have the cluster meeting. No date has been set. The ladies of St. John served a lovely lunch, and had cute paper purses for favors for everyone. Large purses were in the center of each table on pastel cloths.

## TRI-STATE CLUSTER 1-A News

Wilma Mai, Recorder

The spring meeting of the Tri-State Cluster Women of the ELCA was held at St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City, KS on April 19<sup>th</sup>. Ardythe Cederberg led the opening devotions and Bible Study from Luke 10:38-42. The theme was "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding."

Total attendance was 25. Eighteen women from six units were present and seven guests. The offering of \$513 was designated to be divided between the CSS Women of the ELCA and Heifer International.

The business meeting was conducted by Ardythe Cederberg, Coordinator. Sharron Knox was appointed as temporary recorder to replace Wilma Mai. Kathy Ouellette gave the Women of the ELCA Synodical report including information on the Synod Convention in Springfield, MO July 25-27 and other activities of the Synodical Women. The Tri-State Cluster is responsible for making book mark favors for the Convention.

A program on the work of Heifer International was presented by veterinarian Tom Keller of St. Francis, KS. Tom gave a video presentation of his involvement with Heifer International in Romania.

Kathy Ouellette installed the officers, and the meeting closed with a communion service led by Pastor Charlotte Strecker-Baseler and assisted by Bethel Goltl. The fall meeting is planned for Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Brewster, KS. The tentative date is October 18.

## ARK VALLEY CLUSTER IIC

### Respectfully submitted, Betty Ladwig

The Ark Valley Cluster IIC met April 19th, 2008 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mulvane. Thirty-nine people were in attendance. Lily Hurd and her women's group from Our Savior's were our hostesses for coffee and rolls and later a delicious salad luncheon. Betty Ladwig opened the meeting and introduced Pastor Blue, who welcomed the women and led us in prayer. JoAnn Eberhardt and LaMoyne Urmey led the hymn singing for opening. Kathy Drake and Jean Hagbom gave a presentation on the 7th Triennial in July, and the Central States WELCA in Springfield, Mo. on 7-25-7. Susie Borgstrom was introduced; she talked of Board and an update on her brother who has been so ill.

Prayer shawls are to be provided for Synodical meeting for each delegate. After a brief break Pastor and Glenyce Reimers presented a very interesting program of their experiences in Tanzania (Spreading the Gospel-Educational Missionary work in Africa, they showed a power point presentation of the area they served, the Lutheran school on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro where Glenyce taught English, social studies, sewing, music and religion. The Reimers were dressed in African dress and had a wonderful exhibit of artifacts, carvings and art from their time there. The table blessing was given by Pastor Natasha Kemp from Good Shepherd. The Fall Cluster will be October 18th and Cross of Glory in Derby will be our host church. The April ingathering of canned goods was designated for the Care and Share Food Pantry in Mulvane.

The second Women's Discipleship group met Saturday, May 3rd, at St. Paul's. The lesson was on "Blessings in the Midst of Suffering" from *Lutheran Woman*. A mission project to support will be chosen at our next meeting. The organizational meeting was held earlier in the year, how we will be structured, meeting times and places; we will be meeting again in August. Elaine Harvey & Betty Ladwig are co-leaders.

## SMOKY VALLEY CLUSTER IIB GATHERING

### Dorothy Brockmeier

The 2008 meeting of Smoky Valley Cluster, IIB was held as scheduled at St. John's Lutheran Church in Salina, Kansas on Saturday April 5. We had a wonderful day.

The study segment of the gathering was led by Elim Lutheran Church in Marquette's Pastor, Cheryl Lamaak. The day's theme, "Come to the Waters," with scriptural focus on Mark 1:9-11. "Living water for our spirits" was emphasized by our own baptism, how to witness, and our love of Jesus through baptism.

The business meeting was conducted by President Doreen Anderson from Messiah in Lindsborg. Roll call indicated a total of 67 representing 11 units. Synod treasurer, Marilyn Youngquist of Bethany in Lindsborg, brought greetings and information from the synod board. She installed Dorothy Brockmeier; Immanuel in Salina, as president; Doris Swenson of Bethany in Lindsborg as secretary; and Barbara Ulman of Assaria in Assaria as the new coordinator.

An invitation for the 2009 gathering was given by Meryl Stern, of Redeemer in Salina. The offering provided \$238.00 for synod projects and \$283.00 for clean water. The afternoon program was Marc Anderson on the topic of clean water. He gave many good ideas on how to conserve water. Pastor Ed Foster of St. John's in Salina conducted a communion service to conclude the gathering

Life is all about change, and we have another one coming to *Walking in the Word*, the newsletter for Central States Women of the ELCA. Because of rising costs the board has decided to move away from having the newsletter in printed format that is mailed out four times a year and put it on our website where it will be easily accessible, but most of all printing and mailing costs are zero.



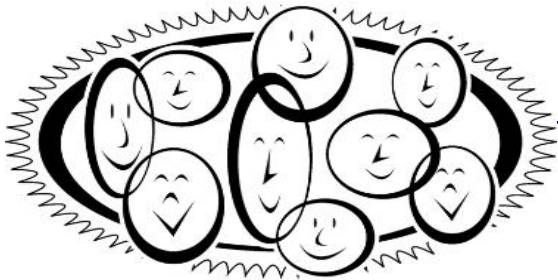
I am Mary Bridges, and I have agreed to serve as the editor. I currently live in Lindsborg, Kansas with my husband Kenny and our very special cat, Lucifer. I serve part-time as a staff associate for Messiah Lutheran Church.

I hope you will be patient during this time of transition as we go from primarily printed material to web-based material. Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or questions you may have.

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### *Mission Community*

As a group of Christians, we are constantly asked by our leaders to pray for one another, encourage one another, and continue all good and noble acts toward our fellow human beings. We as women of the ELCA have specific goals and focus on being

good disciples of the Lord by seeking relationships with other women to improve their way of life. We minister to local, national, and global communities. We share our faith, no matter the culture or religious affiliation. We support people in all relationships, in all settings, religious or secular. We seek to understand others by promoting education and inclusiveness. Sometimes it is easier to keep doing "what we do" than "stirring it up, so to speak. I would like to ask you to step back and look at your current mission involvements. Is there something you would like to change? Would you like more information on something interesting that you heard about? Come to our Central States Synod Convention on July 25 and bring all your questions with you. At this place you will find ideas for programs, speakers, missions, and stewardship. Each time we get together is a little different, but a few things are the same....We do know that the Lord will bless us with His presence. We also know we will be blessed with new friends, and reunite with those we know. We will have fun and praise the Lord with thanksgiving. Business will get tended to, joyous songs will be sung, wonderful food will be eaten, and sleep may or may not come to us all in the night. Whatever the case, whoever you are, your faith will be strengthened, your hopes for a new and glorious day will be high, and the peace that passes all understanding will be strong in your heart. . . . .

As sisters in Christ it is our duty to lift one another up when we come together and then go out into all the world and make the Lord known to others. We are indeed children of God, and now is the time to celebrate the life and love that has been given us!



How many people does it take to change a light bulb?  
You've heard that quite often—it's 'old hat'  
It made me think about getting ready for a Worship Service  
How many people does it take for that?

Well, someone to vacuum and dust the pews  
for a church that's nice and clean  
Then someone to get the church warm or cool  
(and that's not so easy- if you know what I mean)

Altar hangings need to be the right color  
and banners hung. to go with the theme  
Prepare bread and wine for communion  
That takes more time then it may seem.

The ushers who do many things  
to help the service "go smooth"  
The organist and pianist, too  
All help make the worship for you.

Don't forget the pastor,  
who spends hours preparing what to say  
The acolytes and assisting ministers  
need to prepare for the day

The choir and all musical groups  
who add to the worship with song  
The bulletin preparations for information  
(an aid to worship as you follow along)

How many people does it take to get ready for worship service?  
**EVERYONE!**

And then I thought of the convention  
and all the planning that it can take  
The meetings, committees and speakers  
and the booklet our presidents gets to make  
Are you prepared for the convention  
Have you prayed for the Holy Spirit to enter in?  
Have you opened your mind and heart?  
You have!  
Well, then, let the convention begin!

Lois Viebrock



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The **DEADLINE** for  
submitting material is the  
15th of the prior month.  
Send items to  
[mbridges12@cox.net](mailto:mbridges12@cox.net)

It is available on the web at  
[www.css-elca.org](http://www.css-elca.org) then click  
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