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From the President

Greetings to you all! It has been a short time since our convention in September, but it was a very wonderful experience. It seems to have gone by quickly and left us all wanting more. That is a good thing, because the officers and board are getting ready to "wow" all of you again with the next convention at St. Joseph, Missouri, on July 27-29. We will bring all new service projects and community projects, and have awesome and inspiring workshops and entertainment. The only thing we are hoping for is that you come and bring an entire car full of friends with you. At the convention, we did have our guests from churchwide enjoy our weekend so much that they are thinking about coming back to visit our next convention as a vacation! I hope they do come see us. We love making new friends and getting connected with those sisters in Christ that we seldom see. You really don't know what you're missing until you just go and experience it! The energy and level of in-depth love we have for one another is just phenomenal. Please save the date on your calendar and talk about it and get the women of your church excited about it.

Looking to the future of our women's organization, I would like to see all the cluster groups encourage someone from each cluster to volunteer as a nominee for a synod board or officer. I know most of you do not meet until spring, but, now is the time to talk to those good people who have leadership qualities and tell them how important it is to serve and keep the organization running smoothly. That is exactly how I was approached. My friends said "you would be good at this". I did not believe them. I just did it anyways because I believed something this important was a very good investment of my time and energy. I have worked hard for the Women to the ELCA, because I love every woman that it represents. My nearest and dearest friends I have met here and the life long relationships beginning here are what it is all about. Take time to pray about the future of our women's organization and pray about what part you may build up in your unit, cluster, synod, and churchwide. Listen to what the Lord places in your heart and share it with your sisters in Christ. I believe in you, and I believe God has a plan for you. Women of the ELCA rock ...come join us, you'll be glad you did.

~Susie Borgstrom

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Historian

My name is Rhonda Templing and I was elected to the board at the convention in September. I have served on the board before in different capacities. I will continue as historian and will also serve as cluster coordinator liaison. I live on our farm north of Hoisington, KS, with my Mom, Helen Templing. We attend Emmanuel Lutheran in Hoisington, KS.

Prayer Requests

Prayer is one of the ways we communicate with God. I will be co-ordinating prayer requests for the Central States Women of the ELCA this year. If you would like to ask your Central States Women's board to pray for a particular concern, please e-mail me at gjsharp@aol.com and I will share the information with the board members.

We have been instructed to pray for each other when there is a need. When you have a prayer need please let me know. ~Gloria Sharp

Secretary

Wasn't it a Joy to gather with Women of the ELCA sisters in Great Bend in September for Central States Synod Women's Organization's 24th annual convention. Check the Central States Synod web site in a month or so, to read the minutes of the recent convention.

Most units and clusters have held election of new leaders by now. Please email any change in cluster or unit leader to me. (Need Name, Address, Telephone number and Email address.) My email address is carolyn1501@hotmail.com. My postal service mailing address is 1501 W 20th ST; Sedalia, MO 65301. Thank you for doing this so communication can go to the proper person.

To all leaders in Central States Women of the ELCA organizations, I paraphrase from a Women of the ELCA Installation Service. "May God, who has chosen you for this task, graciously dwell in you and give you the strength and compassion to fulfill it."

"May we, as the people of God, encourage these leaders by remembering them in prayer."

~Carolyn Bauer, Secretary
Central States Synod Women of the ELCA

Treasurer News

If you weren't at Great Bend in September, you missed a lot of joyful worship, fun, and fellowship. We really did "Rejoice"! It was a very good convention with everyone sharing their resources to help others. Some of you who couldn't attend the convention have sent me your Love Offerings and donations for the other projects we were supporting. Thank you to all of you for your contributions.

The total of the convention offerings received is \$ 4,184. One half of this amount, \$ 2,092, was sent to churchwide Women of the ELCA. One fourth, \$ 1,046, was sent to Kans for Kids. The other fourth is kept in Central States SWO.

With our emphasis on raising up healthy women and girls, we had a session of Stretch-Splash-Pray. Those who participated brought pledge money and some congregational units sent special offerings. A total of \$ 1,552 was received for the malaria initiative, "Nothing but Nets".

Thirty-two lucky bidders took home baskets from the silent auction for the Barbara Nelson Scholarship Fund. A total of \$ 931 was added to the fund.

While the convention delegates were attending the business session, the convention participants worked on the service project of making fleece blankets to be given to Camp Hope. Many in-kind gifts were also collected for Camp Hope along with cash donations of \$606. One hundred two blankets were tied by participants.

My thanks to everyone involved for a very successful convention.

~Jewell

Pieces

As I write this, my husband has been working on installing a laminate floor in my kitchen. This floor is a very long time in coming, but as he snapped the pieces together, I began to chastise him for putting two of the same patterned pieces next to one another. Then, he invited me to arrange the pieces so that didn't happen...It was harder to do than you might think...making the pieces of this floor to appear "random."

Earlier that same day, my mom was helping me to cut up a big piece of fabric into smaller pieces to assemble a quilt top- With the quilt, I was very concerned about the pattern- getting the pieces in the correct order. Today, I'm looking at my calendar, trying to fit in all that I need to do in the next couple weeks- Seeking some sort of order in my life that seems to have turned so chaotic- so random...

Then I remembered something about God making order out of chaos...and it occurred to me that (perhaps with a little perspective) we could see that God uses these "random" scraps of the fabric of our days to make an orderly pattern to our lives....

Lord, help me to not be so concerned with the chaos in my life- knowing you will restore order-knowing that you will take the pieces of our days and create a pattern. And help me be thankful for my new laminate floor and my husband that installed it, even if the tiles aren't entirely random. Amen.

~Kathy

About Mary

My name is Mary Kern. I have been a member of Christ and Trinity Lutheran Church, Sedalia, MO since 1965. I have been active in our unit for about 17 years, as a member, coordinator and co-coordinator. I am on the board of our cluster. I have attended four triennial conventions and am registered for the triennial in North Carolina. I have attended the Central States Women of the ELCA conventions for several years. I am looking forward to the convention in St. Joseph next year.

I have never been on a mission trip but I support Mission work when I can. I have a Fair Trade coffee, chocolate, etc. table the first Sunday of each month. Another initiative was raising money for the "Malaria Nets". Our small congregation raised \$1090 in 2 ½ months. I am chairman of our "Mission Investment Fund". This committee uses the interest from this fund to support our youth mission work, missionaries and other mission work.

I look forward to working with the other women on the board.

~Mary

MISSION-ACTION

The 2011 CSS Women of the ELCA convention in Great Bend this past Sept was one of the best I have attended. To paraphrase our out-going president, Women of the ELCA are doers. We see a need and take action without a lot of talking. I want to share with you what was accomplished in a week-end. The offerings collected were \$2518.00 on Friday night and \$916. At the Sunday worship. These offerings were split in the following way 50% to Church Wide Women of the ELCA, 25% to Central States Syndical Organization and 25% to Kids for cans. The Splash-Stretch-Pray raised \$1450.00 for Lutheran Malaria Initiative in pledges and donations. The Barbara Nelson Scholarship basket silent auction raised \$931.00. We shopped the Fair Trade sale and spent \$569.00 to support women. Also \$556.00 was collected for Camp Hope. Ninety-six fleece blankets were completed for Camp Hope and you brought loads and loads of tangible gift for Camp Hope. We used our time over the 2 1/2 days learning, rejoicing, and above all doing the mission that we have been called to do.

I am writing this on Reformation Sunday and had a wonderful experience today in church. Peter Mayer, who is giving a concert tonight in Lawrence for the ELCA Malaria Campaign was with us to share some of his life and his great music. The concert tonight was completely underwritten by several organizations including the CSS Women of the ELCA and several churches, this made possible for all ticket sales to go to malaria relief. Also an anonymous donor will be matching all ticket funds. This is what can be accomplished when we all work together.

~Cheryl Taylor

Nothing But Nets

Malaria is a leading cause of death in Africa. Just one bite from a mosquito could transmit the disease and lead to death. Nearly one million people, mostly young children, die from malaria each year. Malaria claims the life of an African child every 30-45 seconds. On average an African child has between 1.6 and 5.4 episodes of malaria each year.

Adults are unable to work and children can't attend school when suffering from malaria. Money has to be spent on medical treatment instead of food and other necessities. Poor communities become even poorer from the effects of malaria.

But, the good news is that malaria is preventable and treatable! Sleeping under an insecticide-treated bed net can protect a family of four from malaria-carrying mosquitoes. The bed nets protecting a sleeping family can also be beneficial to the entire community. The insecticide woven into the net helps to make the entire community safer by repelling and killing mosquitoes so they can't go on to bite other families who aren't protected by a net.

How can we women in the Central States Synod help? In 2010 we passed a resolution to encourage each family unit in each of our congregations to consider giving \$10 which will buy one bed net which lasts 3-5 years to protect a family of four. We were also asked to pray for those suffering from malaria and for those who are working to prevent, treat, and contain the disease. Consider organizing a Sunday or two at your church to promote the purchase of a bed net for \$10 by each family unit and to pray for the victims of malaria as well as the people working to eradicate this disease. Checks should be made out to Central States Women of the ELCA with "Lutheran Malaria Initiative" written on the memo line and sent to our treasurer, Jewell Swinney.

Just think of the huge difference we could make!

At our Great Bend convention, we made "net corsages" and received information about this project to rid malaria in Africa at one of the booths. Thank you to Mary Frances Bugh, Donna Bramhall, and Lois Viebrock for working the booth. Did you share the information with your church women?

Remember, by working together we can make a huge difference!!

~Gloria Sharp

Info from Iris

The Central States Women of the ELCA had a weekend of 'rejoicing' as we met for our 24th annual convention at the Highland Hotel and Convention Center in Great Bend KS, September 23-25, 2011.

Attendees came bearing gifts for Camp Hope, a camp for children diagnosed with cancer. Those gifts included \$569.00 in monetary offerings, more than \$400.00 worth of in kind gifts of everything from bouncing balls to sheet sets and all of this was topped off Friday morning when participants gathered to put together 96 fleece tied blankets with 10 more being finished up later, making a total of 106 blankets for Camp Hope. Kans for Kids which provides assistance to any child in Barton County KS who is living with childhood cancer was recipient of offerings totally more than \$850.00. Stretch-Splash-Pray, the event in support of the purchase of malaria nets, brought in \$1,450.00! Thirty-two baskets of goodies in the Barbara Nelson silent auction (that goes to support scholarships to the W of the ELCA triennial convention) sold for \$931.00. And SERRV/Fair Trade sales were over \$500.00! I would have to say that the 122 people registered for the convention and the churches they represented, must be com-mended for their faithful giving! Offerings of \$1,700 will be sent to the Church wide W of the ELCA and \$850.00 will remain with the CSS W of the ELCA to further the work of our organization at home and throughout the world. So, our fulltime registered attendees totaled 122 and from them and their churches, poured out offerings of \$7,250.00 plus those 106 fleece blankets! All I can say to that is 'Praise the Lord'! (If each of these 122 folks bring 1 more person with them to our convention in 2012, just think of the impact we could have in helping others!)

Newly elected president of the CSS W of the ELCA is Susie Borgstrom, Windom KS, re-elected as treasurer is Jewell Swinney, Burdick KS and elected to the board are Mary Kern, Syracuse MO, Rhonda Templing, Hoisington KS and Lois Viebrock, Versailles MO.

We were joined by CSS Bishop Gerald Mansholt, our chaplain-Rev. Cynthia Schnaath, Rev. Rosalind Brathwaite-Churchwide W of the ELCA board member from New York and Ann Hightower, of the Chicago based churchwide offices of the W of the ELCA.

There was time for 2 communion services, music and fellowship, renewing old friendships and beginning new ones! There were special performances by Rev. Barbara McClain, Deighton KS, who led the lunch and laughter session focusing on hats and the men's quartet, 4-Told.

We will continue 'on our way rejoicing' as we look toward our next convention, July 27-29, 2012, at the Ramada Inn in St. Joseph MO!

My thanks to all of the Central States women for their hard work and faithful-ness to the causes of the W of the ELCA. I have appreciated your prayers and support as I have preformed the duties of president these past 4 years. The bonds formed within the ranks of the board become like those of a family, even more so as our board has opted to stay in members homes for our meetings. My family has supported me through my tenure by helping me with the executive board meetings held in my home and carting heavy boxes to the car/from the car/up the stairs/down the stairs, never a complaint, but the remark was made as I left for the final convention as president, "Now, you won't be bringing all this back, is that right?" (Never did he think I would haul home the large limestone rock that was part of our altar at the Great Bend convention!)



Ron, Melanie and Iris Turnbull
at the 2010 CSS W of the ELCA
convention, Branson MO.

If you have questions concerning the Central States Women of the ELCA,
please contact Susie Borgstrom at jsborg@earthlink.net
or 620-664-3906 or 265 Eisenhower Rd., Windom KS 67491.

From the Editor

Happy New Year to one and all! I pray this edition of Walking in the Word finds everyone healthy and refreshed in the thought of a new year. A couple of things I wanted to touch on as the New Year begins. #1 I need to apologize for being so late in getting this edition out to you. Life has been totally crazy here. We decided mid-November that we would be moving in December. We are now living in my husband's parent's lovely home in Lindsborg while they are enjoying luxury living in an Independent Living Retirement Apartment in Salina. Needless to say this kept us very busy. #2 I look forward to continuing to work on the newsletter for you and should be more productive with it now. As many of you knew I have also been serving as treasurer at our church. I have resigned that position as of the first of this year to devote my time to W/ELCA. #3 Now I will get picky....I am asking that when you are submitting articles to me for the WITW Newsletter that they be submitted in either a PDF file, a word document or simply typed into the body of the email itself. This would be a tremendous help to me. My contact information is listed with the board members on page 2 of this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any concerns or questions.~Lisa

Lois Viebrock

, your newly elected board member (maybe I should say "re-cycled" board member, as I have served before).

- I am a retired teacher. I taught music in the public school for 43 years.
- I'm organist, choir director; attend two Bible Study groups, as well as the Women of the ELCA circle, and on the PMC team. Am on the local Theater board. We do live events each month. I may be playing for musicals or acting in a play. I love it!
- Convention Highlights for me:
 - The people! It seems they get friendlier each year. One in particular this year was working on setting up various events and kept things moving. She was an energetic "little" lady - Michele Brack
 - The men's quartet that sang at the banquet and the FOOD, as it was served quickly and was excellent.
 - Also Pastor Cynthia Schnaath's sermon Sunday morning was very inspiring

I'm happy to be serving you again and looking forward to seeing each of you at the next convention. For those of you who weren't there—Come! Try it y it! You'll like it!

Cluster News

Mid-Missouri Cluster-Christ and Trinity, Sedalia, MO , hosted the Fall Cluster meeting for Mid-Missouri Cluster on September 17th . Papua New Guinea was the focus for the day. Esther and Janet Winter, members of Christ and Trinity, spent time in PNG as children of missionaries and Esther returned later to teach. Also present was Gretchen Mueller, Our Savior's, Jefferson City, who spent time teaching in PNG. They gave a presentation and displayed many items from PNG. In-kind gifts of Fabric Kits, Coloring Books and Wooden Crayons were collected for PNG and half the offering (\$204.) will benefit a woman in PNG to receive mid wife training in Australia. The luncheon menu consisted of typical foods in New Guinea. Youth Group members served as waiters/waitresses and received a nice amount of tips for Youth Group projects.

Carolyn Bauer, Central States Synod representative, brought greetings and news from Central States and Churchwide Women of the ELCA. Gloria Sharp, Mary Kern, Phyllis Glasker, Vicki Neil, and Elizabeth Rockelman shared highlights of the Triennial Convention and Gathering in Spokane.

The invitation to Mid-Missouri Spring Cluster meeting for April 28, 2012 was given by Mary Frances Bugh. The meeting will be hosted by Immanuel, Brauersville & Trinity Pymont.

Instead of raising money with theme baskets, June Hughes, St. Andrews, Columbia, brought an apron with many pockets. Women placed money in the pockets which amounted to \$57.00. Upon learning the "apron offering" was going to buy mosquito nets, someone raised the amount to \$60.00, which, like yeast in a recipe, grew to \$80.00, for eight nets. A free will offering for Katie's Fund was \$36.00 and the other half of the meeting offering was sent to Central States Synod Women's Organization.

Elected to the planning board were Elizabeth Rockelman and Nanette Ellis. They join Mary Kern and Mary Simmons on the planning board.

~Submitted by Carolyn Bauer

Cluster Coordinators-Central States Synod Women of the ELCA

AMAZING WOMEN

(no current contact person)

CLUSTER 3D

(no current contact person)

CLUSTER 4A

(no current contact person)

HEARTLAND SOUTH

(no current contact person)

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