

Mark Your Calendars for the 36th Convention

President's Message



The Central States Synod Women of the ELCA Board is inviting you to the 36th Convention of the Central States Women that will be held June 20-22, 2025, in Independence, MO. The theme of the convention is *Vessels of God's*

Grace, based on Ephesians 2:8.

"For by GRACE you have been saved through faith, and this is not of your own doing; it is the gift of God. (NRSV)

Our salvation comes through faith—not through our good works or anything we humans can do. Salvation is our free gift from God—there is nothing we can do to earn it! Salvation comes only from God, about which we humans cannot boast. Our convention speakers will be focusing on this wonderful gift of grace and how we can act as *Vessels of God's Grace!*

The convention will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 19677 East Jackson Drive in Independence. Convention lodging is \$129 + tax = \$149.61 per night (up to 4 per room). This rate includes 2 complimentary breakfast vouchers each day. Vouchers for additional persons in



the room are available at \$7 each per day payable at check-in. TO RECEIVE A ROOM AT THIS RATE, PLEASE MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATION NO LATER THAN MAY 20TH. To make your reservation, call (816) 350-3000 and state you are with Women of the ELCA.

The cost of registration for the entire convention is \$100, while Saturday only is \$60. Registration will be accepted up to the date of the convention. However, registration must be received no later than June 13th if meals are included. The cost of Friday evening's meal (prime rib stew/potato bar and dessert) is \$20. Saturday's lunch of deli sandwiches, pasta salad and dessert, will be \$21. Saturday dinner of roasted chicken with rice pilaf and dessert will be \$29. Remember—MEALS MUST BE ORDERED BY JUNE 13TH.

Convention registration packets have been mailed to all congregations—check for them in your church office. Please make copies of the packet to share with the women of your congregation. Make a special effort to reach out to those who have never attended a convention.

Our convention registrar is Marty Berggren. She can be contacted at (816) 565-0701 or mcberryghren@aol.com

The members of the board are anxious to greet each of you in Independence. Enjoy the rest of this issue as you learn much more about what to expect when we gather in June.

Submitted by Gloria Sharp, President

In This Issue

Convention Highlights	Page 2
Worshipping Together	Page 3
Preaching--One Song at a Time.....	Page 3
Celebrating the Convention.....	Page 4
Growing Katie's Fund	Page 4
2025 Ingatherings	Page 4
Our Offerings at Work.....	Page 5
2026 Triennial.....	Page 5
Saved by Grace—Share by Giving.....	Page 6
Convention Offerings	Page 6
Call to Discipleship.....	Page 7
Education Scholarship.....	Page 8
In Loving Memory.....	Page 8
2025 Elections	Page 9
Convention Favorites	Page 9
Convention Grant	Page 9
Board Members.....	Page 10
Lynn Starr Education Scholarship Application	
Convention Grant Application	

Convention Highlights—Stories of God’s Amazing Grace

Grace changes people, and can lead, drive, and draw them in. It is a strong, active force that can be experienced. The upcoming convention promises to do just that, as stories of God’s amazing grace are shared. Breakout sessions on Saturday will include:

Bible Study on Ephesians 2: 8

Rev. Kim Frederking

Pastor Kim is senior pastor at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Salina, KS, and a creative Bible study leader and presenter. She shares that “a vessel filled to the rim with God’s grace pours out beauty upon this broken world that all might receive healing. It does not pour out exhaustion, judgment, bitterness, anger, self-centeredness or self-righteousness; it does not divide and diminish but invites and lifts up.” This will be a grace-filled highlight of the convention for sure.

“Unconditional Love and Support for Survivors of Trafficking and Exploitation”

Heidi Olson & Roxie Loyd

Forensic nurse, Heidi Olson, teams up with Roxie Loyd from ReHope to share stories of grace in action. Heidi Olson, RN, SANE, has a wide range of experience in pediatric and forensic nursing care and trains healthcare workers to identify victims of trafficking and exploitation. Roxie Loyd is the Director of Programs & Services at ReHope, an organization which uplifts survivors through faith-based residence and recovery programs.

“Grace, Hospitality, and Assistance to New Refugees”

Sarah Kolsto

Sarah Kolsto currently serves as the Refugee Services Director at Della Lamb Community Services. Della Lamb is one of two refugee resettlement agencies in Kansas City. Sarah has spent the last ten years welcoming thousands of new neighbors seeking safety and peace after fleeing war and persecution. She aids families with housing, jobs, food, and language support from the first day of their 90-day journey toward self-sufficiency.

“Women of the Reformation”

Evelyn Clark

Evelyn Clark attends Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Topeka, KS. Evelyn is well traveled, having visited Wittenberg four times with three tours focused on Luther and the Reformation. The Reformation changed the social, economic, and political structure of Europe, but Luther’s work might not have been as effective had it not been for women. Who were these women, what did they do, and how did the Reformation affect the lives of women?

Our keynote speaker is Rev. Pastor Kendra Nolde, retired pastor of Gethsemane in St. Louis, MO. Since retiring from congregational ministry, she has served part-time on the synod staff as Director of Evangelical Mission and has served two interim positions.

The chaplain for the weekend is recently retired pastor Janice Hawley, mother of three, wife, teacher, and certified coach. She served as Mission Developer in the Central States Synod and recently served as pastor at Holy Cross in Creve Coeur, MO. Pastor Janice is passionate about the power of prayer and will host “Prayer Sisters” on Friday evening of the convention.

Submitted by Kathy Steinke, vice president

***“For by GRACE you have been saved through FAITH, and this is not your own doing; it is the GIFT of God.
Ephesians 2:8 (NRSV)***

Worshipping Together as a Community of Faithful Women

I teach classes for our young confirmation-age students. Recently I showed a video of the Christian rock group *For King + Country* performing their rendition of the Christmas Classic, “The Little Drummer Boy.” If you’ve not seen it please follow this link for a treat: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NzEX3QMuVPM>. In the video, the group not only sings but beats—No—it’s really more like emphatically pounding on various sized drums. It’s a very moving video that anyone watching and listening to can’t help but be moved. I posed this question to my confirmands: “Is this worship?” After much lively discussion the conclusion was a resounding “yes!”

For many of us, the sign of a “good” Lutheran is someone who can open the whatever hymnal happens to be in the pew rack at the beginning of the service and never look down or turn a page during the liturgy. At times, we are a rote liturgical community of faith.

Praising God and worshipping together as a community of faith, as a community of faithful women, will be offered in a variety of settings at the upcoming convention.

Our worship Friday evening is entitled “Celebrating Women, Light and Grace.” A praise band will enrich our worship experience and complement the service. The LOVE offering gathered will be shared 50% to our Churchwide Organization, 25% to ReHope, and 25% to Della Lamb (see other articles in this issue to learn about ReHope and Della Lamb). Look for a different worship experience that celebrates women and the many contributions made by biblical women of faith.

On Sunday morning we are delighted to welcome Pastor Anna Borders as our presiding minister and Bishop Susan Candea as our celebrant. Offering received during this service will be designated 50% to Central States Synodical Women’s Organization and 50% to Katie’s Fund (see article in this issue to learn about Katie’s Fund).

Both of these worship experiences promise to be fulfilling and enriching. Come and experience music that will move you and messages that will inspire you to make you an even richer *Vessel of Grace*.

Submitted by, Pastor Jill Duis, board member

NOTE FROM EDITOR: Take time to access the link above—you will be blest. *For King + Country* is a Christian pop duo composed of Australian brothers Joel and Luke Smallbone. VD

Preaching the Gospel, One Song at a Time



The Potter’s Wheel

The Potter’s Wheel will be providing the entertainment for the convention dinner on Saturday evening, June 21st. If you enjoy Bluegrass, or gospel music, you are in for a special treat!

The Potter’s Wheel is a 4-piece band based in Lebanon, MO, that has been playing together for over 20 years. The band instrumentation is composed of a bass, a guitar, a banjo, and on the mandolin is Bonnie, the lead vocal singer, (also referred to as the “Boss”).

The group performs a variety of traditional and original material, entertaining groups with a lively show and clean humor. They have performed in many venues: churches, festivals, county fairs, receptions, and city functions from St. Louis to Kansas City, Silver Dollar City and everywhere in between.

All will enjoy their “down to earth” personalities, superb vocals, and good humor! Their top notch entertainment will be a highlight of our evening together.

Submitted by Janice Gerken, treasurer

Celebrating the Convention



Again, this year a t-shirt celebrating the convention will be available for purchase. Thanks to the good work of Kathy Steinke and her daughter, Amy, we will have another shirt with the same fit and soft fabric as previous conventions. The delightful convention logo is printed on a medium blue shirt.

This is not a shirt that will be put in a drawer for keeping—you will seek every opportunity to wear it as you share the beautiful message with those you meet. Be sure to order using the form in the registration packet and send by June 1.

2122: Growing Katie's Fund

Katie's Fund is an endowment of the Women of the ELCA that honors the legacy of Katharina Von Bora Luther that seeks to raise up bold leaders and provide exciting and creative ministry for generations to come. It supports opportunities beyond the annual operating budget of Women of the ELCA. *2122: Growing Katie's Fund* was launched in 2022 to support the endowment for the next 100 years. Funds raised through this campaign will support ministry in leadership development, global connections, and living theology.

This is an opportunity to support the vision of a future where women continue to lead the church in new and innovative ways. Leave a legacy to help equip future leaders of the church by supporting this campaign through a memorial gift, cash gift, estate gift, or a gift of stock.

During the convention there will be an opportunity to learn more about this campaign from a representative of the Churchwide Organization who will be in attendance.



Reminder—2025 Lutheran World Relief Ingatherings

- October 18 Location TBD
St. Louis area
- October 18 Our Savior's Lutheran
Jefferson City, MO
- October 21 Christ Lutheran
Wichita, KS
- October 21 St. John Lutheran
Pittsburg, KS
- October 22 Trinity Lutheran
Hays, KS
- October 23 St. John's Lutheran
Salina, KS



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Our Offerings at Work

Greetings to all! Here in Central Missouri there is acute anticipation for the warm breezes and temperatures of spring after a winter of cold, snow, and ice. So too, our journey through this Lenten season is one of anticipation as we await the fulfillment of the promise of eternal life through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our Lord. May God travel with each of you and bless you on this journey of faith and hope.

The fiscal year of the Central States Women of the ELCA closed on January 31, 2025, with a strong financial balance of

\$29,167.59. As noted in the previous newsletter, this balance is due largely to the fact that we did not hold a convention in 2024. The present balance of our GENERAL FUND is \$27,574.19, with additional offering yet to be deposited in the amount of \$1,548.38, which will bring our total balance to \$29,122.57.

The LYNN STARR EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND currently has a balance of \$3,537.00. In 2024, five women were each awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$550 for a total of \$2,750.00. Any donations from our units or from individuals to this fund would be greatly appreciated in order that we may continue to award substantial scholarships for women wishing to further their education. The application for the 2025 Lynn Starr Education Scholarship can be found in this issue or on the Central States Women of the ELCA web page. [Women of the ELCA | Central States Synod](#). Please inform the women of your congregations about the availability of this scholarship.

Finally, the balance of the BARBARA NELSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND is currently \$17,206.66. This is a substantial fund which is available for first-time attendees from the Central States Synod to be used for their registration (and other expenses) to attend the Triennial Gathering. In 2026, this churchwide event is being held right here in the Midwest, in Des Moines, IA! The dates of the Gathering are July 16-19, 2026. If you are a first-time attendee please plan to attend and make application for this scholarship.

As always, thank you for your generosity and support for the Central States Women of the ELCA.

Submitted by, Janice Gerken, treasurer



2026 WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING



july 16-19, 2026 ✝ des moines, iowa

Plan Now to Attend

The 2026 Triennial Gathering will be held in Des Moines, IA, July 16 – 19, 2026. The theme for the Gathering is “I am Worthy”, based on Psalm 139:14—“*I am fearfully and wonderfully made*”. Repeating the phrase “I am worthy” helps us recognize the Holy Spirit’s ongoing work in our lives.

Registration will open July 15, 2025. Look for upcoming details on the Women of the ELCA web page [Lutheran Women, Faithful Women, ELCA Advocacy | Women of the ELCA](#).

Prior to the Gathering, the 13th Triennial Convention will be held July 13—14, 2026, via Zoom. The convention is the highest legislative authority of the Women of the ELCA.

Our Central States Synodical Organization has been allotted four voting members, plus the president, for the convention. We will be electing these voting members at our upcoming convention. If you are interested in serving as a voting member, please complete the nomination form in the convention registration packet and return it by May 15th. Again, this Triennial Convention will be conducted via Zoom.

Saved by Grace—Share by Giving



The recipient of the in-kind donations for our upcoming convention will be Della Lamb Community Services. This is a not-for-profit organization, founded in 1897 by Della C. Lamb, a United Methodist woman who responded to the needs of the Italian immigrant women by opening the first childcare center in Missouri. Since that time, Della Lamb has been committed to serving vulnerable women and children in Kansas City's historic northeast neighborhood.

In 2014, Della Lamb became a local refugee resettlement agency, serving as the first point of welcome for some of the newest members of the Kansas City community. Over the past 10 years, thousands have been welcomed from all over the globe—people seeking safety and peace after fleeing war and persecution. Some of these clients have spent decades in refugee camps, raising families while being displaced from their countries of origin. Although the current climate of anti-immigrant actions has presented new challenges to the organization, Della Lamb remains committed to providing support to the newest neighbors on their journey toward self-sufficiency in Kansas City.

A list of items requested for donation has been included in the convention registration packet. They include hygiene products and household cleaning supplies. Cash donations are surely welcome. Central States women are always generous with in-kind donations—let's make that happen again in 2025.



ReHope is a faith-based 501(c)(3) organization providing housing, treatment, and lifelong sustainment services for women and children victims of human trafficking. Formerly known as Restoration House of Greater Kansas City, ReHope began its mission in 2015 as a response to the increasing epidemic of sex trafficking in the United States.

The roots of prostitution and trafficking are often found in severe abuse, loss, and/or neglect. It is these traumatic experiences that make people vulnerable to being trafficked. As the staff members receive the women and children coming out of these horrible situations, they view them as survivors, and offer unconditional love and support without judgment.

Due to the deep-rooted trauma, ReHope believes the healing and restoration process is a long-term endeavor. Therefore, survivors are provided with individual attention and focused programming that promotes sustainable healing and ongoing support. Only then can these survivors move confidently toward healthy, self-sustained, independent living.

Convention Offerings

Friday Evening Worship

(LOVE offering)

50% to Churchwide Women of the ELCA Organization

25% to Della Lamb

25% to ReHope

Sunday Morning Worship

50% to Central States Synodical Organization

50% to Katie's Fund



Call to Discipleship

Dear Sisters in Christ, how are you? This is my last love letter to you as your board member. I am grateful to you for the opportunity to be part of this wonderful ministry. I hope that you have plans to attend the convention in June.

I've shared a lot about discipleship over the time that I have served on the board and I appreciate the privilege to share with you one last time this CALL TO DISCIPLESHIP. As always, I'd like to share my story.

One day in 2002 my then pastor, the late Rev. Lilley, unexpectedly called me and told me I was chosen to attend the synod assembly that year as a *person of color*. I was shocked that he used the title, *person of color* and felt insulted as I had never had anyone prior refer to me in that manner. When I asked, Pastor Jeff Lilley, he kindly explained to me the meaning of *person of color (POC)* as a term that is used in our church language. Though I was not satisfied with the explanation,

I could not say 'no' and I attended my first synod assembly, met many wonderful people, and attended synod assemblies in the years that followed. During the 2005 synod assembly it was announced during the elections that the nominating committee had no candidate to fulfill the requirement for a *POC*. I thought that weird since I saw many *POCs* in the assembly. Suddenly I heard a dear pastor standing up announcing she had a person to nominate and called out my name. Well, I had no idea what it meant, she asked me to meet with her and in our time together she explained I had to say 'yes' and because she was a pastor, I trusted her. I was elected and served two consecutive terms on the council and on a mission budget team (2005-2011). I was surrounded by a great team of leaders and learned a lot from them that helped me when I became a pastor.

The *POC* term that I disliked did not stop there. In 2014 I was nominated to be on the ballot for the executive board of the Women of the ELCA as the *POC* by a sister who I had never met. Even to this day I don't know who brought my name forward. I served two terms on the board from 2014-2020. During that time I spoke at many conventions, sharing my story and was blest to connect with many sisters from all over the US. Many with whom I remain in contact, including the sister in Kenya.

One of our Central States Synodical Organization's presidents nominated me to be on the ballot for the organization's board. By now.....you must be wondering where I am going with this. Please, bear with me. These sisters obeyed the call to discipleship and realized to be a disciple is to make disciples—to identify someone and help them hear God's call towards discipleship.

I was the first *POC* pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Valley Falls, KS, the oldest Lutheran church in Kansas; at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Atchison, KS; and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Emporia, KS. I served at Cross of Glory in Derby, KS, and preached at many churches in Kansas where they had never heard preaching from a *POC* pastor before me. Dear sisters, God is not done with me yet—in January this year I got an invitation to preach at Upper Wolf Lutheran Church in Robinson, KS. Robinson is a town of 250 people, most of whom have never known a *POC* or surely not heard from *POC* pastor before. I am preaching regularly there.

All these faithful disciples took a chance to invite me to be their pastor to proclaim the good news, yes, a *POC* indeed. The title I disliked, *POC*, brought me to my knees to humbly obey God's call and continue to serve HIM and HIM alone. Therefore, my dear sisters, the call to discipleship is to make disciples for Christ. Where are you on your personal journey of discipleship and supporting others in their journey?

*I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do*

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

continued from previous page

...Call to Discipleship

*I love to tell the story; how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy word.*

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

*I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long.*

*I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911

Music: William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

Submitted by Rev. Dinah Dutta, board member

Education Scholarship Application in This Issue

Again this year scholarships will be awarded from funds available in the Lynn Starr Education Scholarship Fund. These scholarships are awarded to female members of any ELCA congregation seeking post high school education with priority given to members of Central States Synod congregations. The scholarships are one-year and non-renewable. It is important that applicants follow the guidelines available on the application. All young women in ELCA congregations who are beginning or in the midst of their post-high school education should be encouraged to apply. The application is also available at [Women of the ELCA | Central States Synod](https://www.womenoftheelca.org/central-states-synod)



In Loving Memory of Beloved Bold Women...

***Wilma Prifti
1941-2025***



Wilma passed away in January after a 3-month battle with an aggressive form of angiosarcoma. She is remembered as a 'glass-half-full' woman, who showed genuine hospitality to everyone and believed in gathering strangers around a table for conversation. She served as the president of the WELCA unit at St. Mark's congregation in Clayton, MO, for many years and most recently relished her role as one of the cluster coordinators for the Eastern Missouri Cluster. She enjoyed meeting women from across Kansas and Missouri and always looked forward to attending conventions and Triennial gatherings. Her smile brightened any room, and she never stopped praying and encouraging others. Thank you, God, for Wilma Prifti.

***Nadine Melgren
1936-2025***



Nadine passed in February following a 2-year heroic battle with fallopian tube cancer. She will be remembered as a model for many—as a wife, mother, grandmother, teacher, and servant leader. In the midst of raising five small children, she found time to achieve two degrees and begin teaching in the area of special education, dedicated to students with special needs. Nadine's faith was the cornerstone of her life. She was active in WELCA from its inception—serving in leadership on the synodical board and at Messiah congregation in Springfield, MO. She was an active volunteer in the community. At Messiah, she will be remembered for her influence on generations of children, having taught Sunday School for over 50 years. The world is a better place because of Nadine Melgren.

2025 Election of Board Officers & Members

Transition to a bi-annual convention and the constitutionally required 2-year term in board positions means that we will be electing or reelecting all positions on our board at the upcoming convention. Have you ever considered serving on the Central States Synodical Organization Board? In the words of current members, this is what you can expect:

- † *"It's highly fulfilling and rewarding as we gather to bring about the development of a solid and inspirational convention"* (Janice Gerken, treasurer).
- † *"It's a privilege to serve...you meet and get to know so many of our sisters throughout Kansas and Missouri, as well as from the Churchwide Organization, who become lifelong friends"* (Gloria Sharp, president).
- † *"Being a board member or officer is an exciting opportunity to shape the future of Women of the ELCA! All voices are so important to transform our organization into God's calling for us as women of the church. Women are the shapers of the future and this is our opportunity to be heard"* (Jill Duis, board member).

Pray about this opportunity—you will be blest in serving. A nomination form for board positions will be available in the convention registration packet. Applications are due no later than May 15.

Grant Available for Convention

Grants are available for the convention registration fee. If you can answer one of the following questions in the affirmative, you should apply for this grant.

- † Do you provide care for an elderly relative in a home setting?
- † Are you a student?
- † Do you have children under 18 years of age living in your home?
- † Is this the first time you will attend a Central States Synodical Women of the ELCA convention?

See the application form in this issue of *Walking in the Word*.



Convention Favorites are Back.....



Hospitality Room



CENTRAL STATES SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION WOMEN OF THE ELCA OFFICERS/BOARD MEMEBERS

President: Gloria Sharp
1702 Canterbury Road
Jefferson City, MO 65109
573-462-9758
gjsharp@aol.com

Vice President: Kathy Steinke
10661 Hackamore Lane
St. Louis, MO 63128
314-422-2835
kathysteinke81@gmail.com

Secretary: Susie Borgstrom
265 Eisenhower Road
Windom, KS 67491
620-664-3906
Susieborgstrom1957@gmail.com

Treasurer: Janice Gerken
36282 Renken Road
Mora, MO 65345
660-281-7380
janicegerken@aol.com

Board Member: Jill Duis
12141 West Willow Road
Odell, NE 68415
402-239-6991
jduism@yahoo.com

Board Member: Pat Dunavan
3015 NE Walnut Grove Road
Topeka, KS 66617
785-207-6529
prairies@aol.com

Board Member: Rev. Dinah Dutta
1000 Colonial Circle
Lawrence, KS 66049
785-979-8362
pastordutta@gmail.com

Board Member: Gaye Mizell
11870 Spruce Haven Drive
St. Louis, MO 63146
314-606-9567
lovetoknit50@gmail.com

Board Member: Louise Ahrens
4505 NE 67th Street
Kansas City, MO 64119
816-405-8165
piflouise@aol.com

Historian: Rhonda Templing
234 NW 210 Road
Hoisington, KS 67544
620-935-4213
rtemp@russellks.net

Newsletter Contact: Vickie Donnell
4672 East Hidden Oak Place
Springfield, MO 65802
417-839-8862
vickiedonnell@yahoo.com

Keep up to date with news from Central States Synodical Organization of Women of the ELCA
Subscriptions to this newsletter, *Walking in the Word*, are free of charge and available via USPS or e-mail. Please notify Vickie Donnell at the contacts above.

Our Mission

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

**Central States Synodical Organization
Women of the ELCA
Lynn Starr Education Scholarship Application
2025 Award**

Please write legibly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Home Phone _____ **Cell phone** _____

Email Address _____

Home Church _____ **City** _____ **State** _____

College Attending (if known) _____

Signature of Applicant _____

Recommended by _____ **Title** _____

Guidelines:

1. Scholarships are awarded to female members of any ELCA congregation seeking post high school education. There is a limit of one award recipient per congregation.
2. Priority is given to female members of Central States Synod congregations.
3. The award is a one-year non-renewable scholarship.
4. Scholarship monies are written to and sent directly to the educational institution the recipient is attending.
5. A written recommendation and signature from the applicant's pastor, mentor, unit president or unit representative must be included with this application. The recommendation cannot come from a current or previous board member (within last four years).
6. A well-written essay of approximately 500 words, describing applicant's participation in church, school, and community activities, must be included with this application. **This essay is the primary determining factor in the awarding of scholarships.**
7. Award recipients will be notified in May 2025.
8. Award recipients will be asked to forward a photo electronically that will be used in synodical organization publications, along with the name and address of their college.
9. Individual awards will not exceed \$1,000. Multiple awards may be given in a year.
10. It will be the recipient's responsibility to keep the CSS Board Treasurer, Janice Gerken, informed of the college selection and its address, along with the recipient's student ID number at janicegerken@aol.com.
11. **Application must be postmarked by April 15, 2025.**

**Send application to:
Gaye Mizell
11870 Spruce Haven Drive
St. Louis, MO 63146
314-606-9567
Lovetoknit50@gmail.com**

Convention Grant Application

THIS GRANT IS OFFERED TO THE 2025 CONVENTION OF THE CENTRAL STATES SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Grants will be offered for the **CONVENTION REGISTRATION FEE**. The number of grants awarded will depend upon funds budgeted. The grant does not include meals or lodging.

If there are questions, please contact Gaye Mizell, Board Member, at 314-606-9567 or lovetoknit50@gmail.com. Applications must be postmarked by **May 15, 2025**. Return grant application to: Gaye Mizell
11870 Spruce Haven Drive
St. Louis, MO 63146

Only one applicant from a congregational unit will be considered, based on postmark date. First time applicants get preference and no applicant will be considered after having received a grant twice. Applicants must be a woman and a member of an ELCA congregation.

APPLICANTS MUST BE ABLE TO ANSWER AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING IN THE AFFIRMATIVE:

- I am providing care for an elderly relative in a home setting.
- I am a student.
- My children are under 18 years of age and are living in my home.
- I have never attended a Central States Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention

I am attending as a Voting Member _____ as a Participant _____ (check one)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Church Name with City & State _____

What do you hope to gain from the experiences of attending the Women of the ELCA Convention?

add additional sheet as necessary.