

Walking in the Word

Official Newsletter of the Central States Synod Women of the ELCA

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CSS W/ELCA 2020

CONVENTION

August 7-9, 2020

Best Western Premiere

KANSAS CITY, MO

800-528-1234

The meaning of the ritual of using ashes

-- The Rev. Dinah Dutta

*Grace and peace to you in the name
of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

Happy Season of Lent. I am sure you are thinking how could Lent be a happy season, right? Lent is a happy season because we spend time reflecting, introspecting, and waiting to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ as living saints.

I have been praying and wondering what I would like to share with you as this very special season begins. In our chaplain gatherings, we have many discussions about Ash Wednesday. The chaplains come from different denominations. Some of them expressed they do not know the significance of Ash Wednesday.

Often, many people ask if there is a Biblical significance of the ashes. Therefore, I decided to share with you the significance of ashes and Ash Wednesday.

Ashes in ancient times were used to express grief and sorrow for sins. In Job 42: 3-, Job said to God: "Therefore I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes." The prophet Jeremiah called for repentance by saying: "O daughter of my people, gird on sackcloth, roll in the ashes" (Jeremiah 6:26).

The prophet Daniel recounted pleading to God: "I turned to the Lord God, pleading in earnest prayer, with fasting, sackcloth and ashes" (Daniel 9:3)

Jesus is quoted as speaking of the practice in Matthew 11:21 and Luke



you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago (sitting) in sackcloth and ashes."

We hear from these texts, ashes represent repentance, fasting, and prayer.

Have you heard about ashes to go? Since 2007, some members of major Christian Churches in the United States, including Anglicans, Catholics, Lutherans, and Methodists, have participated in 'Ashes to Go' activities, in which clergy go outside of their churches to public places, to distribute ashes to passers-by.

All these things make me ponder, what does it mean for us believers in Christ to participate in the ritual of using ashes? Is it just an external sign of repentance? Or are we truly

(continued on page 2)

The meaning of the ritual of using ashes

(continued from page 1)

repentant? What are we repentant about? Are we willing to witness Christ as the bold women of the ELCA, empowered by the Holy Spirit when people ask the significance of the ashes when they see the sign of the cross on our foreheads?

My dear sisters in Christ, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust, you shall return."

We also are reminded of Diane Butler Bass's words. "The journey to Easter is not a mournful denial of our humanity. Rather, Lent embraces our

humanity – our deepest fears, our doubts, our mistakes and sins, our grief, and our pain. Lent is also about joy, self-discovery, connecting with others, and doing justice.

Lent is not morbid church services. It is about being fully human and knowing God's presence in the crosshairs of blessing and bane. And it is about waiting, waiting in those crosshairs, for resurrection."

I hope you agree with me Lent indeed is a happy season. Happy Season of Lent dear sisters!

pastordutta@gmail.com

God's praise needs to be declared

--Alice Burnett, president

Oh, Lord open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. Psalm 51:15

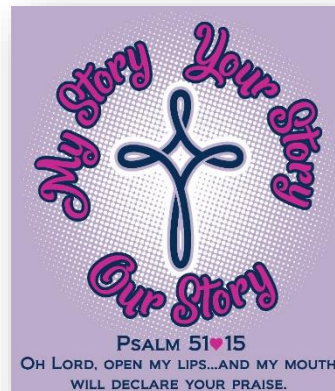
I learned this simple verse as a small girl in Sunday School. Little did I know that this would be a life-long prayer encouraging me to tell my story and proclaim God's praise.

Given the Holy Spirit in baptism, we have it in us to declare the Lord's praise and tell our individual stories. The theme, "My Story Your Story Our Story", was prayerfully considered by the board, knowing it may be hard for some of us to share our individual faith stories. The reality is that God's praise needs to be declared. Ladies, that is our job, especially now!

A packet is in the mail for the Central States Synod Women of the ELCA convention. Look for the information sent to your unit/contact person or go to our website: www.css-elca.org/welca. You can always contact me or a board member to answer questions.

Many stories will be told at the Triennial Gathering in Phoenix AZ, July 16-19, 2020. There is still time to register, find a hotel and transportation and to decide which sessions to attend. The fellowship and worship with women from across the ELCA are indescribable.

Speakers will include The Rev. Gladys Moore, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, and artist, Kelly Glow. You will have an opportunity to visit vendors,



The logo was designed by the members of the CSS W/ELCA board.

The logo will be featured on T-shirts and the convention banner.

exhibits, and take tours of the Phoenix area. What a mountain top experience this can be! Go to the website: www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page to learn more. Seek out a woman in the Central States Synod who has attended a Triennial event and ask about her "story".

Kathy Regehr blessed us with her organizational skills six years ago. A bus was chartered for Central States to the Charlotte, North Carolina Triennial. If there is interest in this endeavor, I encourage a leader or organizer to contact me or a board member regarding a bus to Phoenix. But time is of the essence. What fun it was site-seeing, singing, playing games and simply being together while traveling on a bus!

May God bless you, my sisters in Christ,

kaburnett@cox.net

33rd CSS Women of ELCA Convention – August 7 - 9

The 33rd CSS W/ELCA Convention will be August 7-9 in Kansas City, MO.

This year's theme is "My Story, Your Story, Our Story" and the selected Bible verse is Psalm 51:15.

The convention and lodging will be at Best Western Premier Hotel. Lodging cost will be \$98.15 which includes breakfast. Call 1-800-528-1234 to make reservations before July 3. State that **you are with the Central States Synod Women of the ELCA**, (not welkah).

The 2020 convention registration information packets will be mailed soon. Full Registration cost is \$70. Cluster Coordinators get a \$10 discount.

Voting Members need to register by June 1. Participants have until June 15. Everyone, including officers and board members, must complete a registration form. The registrar must have an accurate number of attendees for churchwide report; meal count; choir music folders; and, quantity of literature needed for various activities.

The registrar is Anna Prockish. Send registrations to her at the address listed on the form.

She may be contacted via e-mail with any questions. aprock7778@gmail.com

This year, in-kind gifts will be collected for "The Gathering Table". Items need are large bottles of shampoo, conditioner, liquid soap and body wash. Empty plastic pill bottles **with lids** are needed as well. Please remove the labels.

Do you crochet, knit or weave? When children and adults face surgery, a feeling of wanting to hold something is strong. A hand-held square of yarn made by our W/ELCA ladies at the Friday workshop will provide a measure of comfort and caring. Some yarn and patterns of squares and crosses will be available. Participants should bring their own hooks, needles or small loom. Patterns of a circle, heart, star, snowflake, book, football, kite or flower also are welcome. Women also are encouraged to bring extra yarn to share. Invite a friend to make some prior to convention. Now is your chance to learn how to crochet, knit or weave. Kathy Steinke will have weaving instructions. A crochet pattern is printed on page 8.

Convention attendees will gather Friday afternoon to share their stories.

Workshop topics and groups include a Bible study with churchwide organization representative; cluster

leaders/coordinators with Kara Jecha; quilt histories; Via Dolorosa-Italy; Docents-Western Heritage; Sharing Faith Stories; Bible spices and oils and pet therapy.

Bishop Susan Candea will share her time and talents during convention. The Rev. Anne Meredith Kyle will be our chaplain.

Clusters coordinators and members assigned to man tables for the Barbara Nelson Silent Auction Baskets, little raffle and quilt raffle need to be present by 1 p.m. on Friday. The little raffle requires setting up and displaying items as they are brought in. Ticket sales for the raffle and quilt also will begin early Friday afternoon.

Worship and Music Planning Committee Chair is Vicki Hedger from Lord of Love Lutheran Church in Belton, MO. Paula Simonich is the Program Committee Chair. Connie Ross is Local Arrangements

Cluster assignments

The registration fee for Cluster Coordinators will be \$60—a \$10 discount off the regular \$70 registration fee.

Cluster Assignments for the 2020 convention are:

Logo - developed by the CSS W/ELCA board
SE Kansas City Metro (Paula Simonich) – Program, Worship, and Music

Post Rock (Rhonda Templing) – Banner
Smoky Valley/Revelation (Marty Ryan/Gloria Martin) – distribute T-shirts

Disciples of the Plains (Carolyn Mott) – Table grace Friday Evening

Revelation/Smoky Valley (Gloria Martin/Marty Ryan) - Table grace Saturday noon

Northern Lights (Lynda Tobald) – Table grace Saturday night banquet

Amazing Women (Wilma Prifti) – Barbara Nelson Scholarship Auction

Heartland (Sarah Dunning) – Mini Raffle

Ozark Mountain (Mick Friberg) – Quilt Raffle

Mid-Missouri (Janice Gerken) – Prayer partner exchange

God's Sonflowers (Cindy Wadlington) – Banquet table favors

churchlady@gbta.net

Tell about God's blessings through your stories

- Annalee Crotinger, secretary

Don't you just love a well-developed story with believable characters and a highly crafted plot? Of course, most of us do whether we see it or hear it. Just consider all of the genres of movies and television shows that are produced. And, then all of the books that are published each and every year. It does need to be exclaimed, though, that out of the thousands and thousands of titles of that are delivered to the marketplace in various forms, the Bible is still the best-selling book of all time!

Over the generations, the stories about the women and the men in the Bible have captivated the attention of millions around the world. Through them, the truth of God and His Word has been shared with us and lights our daily paths.

Our life journeys tell the stories of how we have grown strong in God's Word as individuals and as Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. No matter the different walks of life we have traveled, we all have stories not only of celebratory times but also of very rough times when our faith in the Lord carried us.

Our narratives are witnesses to God's enduring love for us and how that precious connection steered many of us from some very crooked, frightening paths to more peaceful, secure walks with Him by our sides. In order to better support one another in our spiritual walks with Him, we need to be able to tell one another about our personal travels with God and how they exemplify His blessings in our lives.

This summer's CSS W/ELCA convention is a perfect opportunity to reflect upon your personal journey with God. You will hear fascinating stories how God is present in other women's lives.

Come, tell your story how God has blessed your life. Come celebrate the W/ELCA story and how it has empowered women from all regions of Missouri and Kansas.

Enjoy your blessings and remember to share your story!

crotingera@usd403.org

Shared stories can save lives -- Kathy Steinke, board member

Maybe it's just me, but I respond most passionately to social injustice when I hear stories of those who have lived through hardship and pain. Survivor Annika Huff was accosted at a bus stop only miles from her aunt's and uncle's house. She was then drugged, beaten and trafficked for the next few years. Her story is powerful. Stories like hers can connect people who are miles apart - geographically and emotionally.

Kansas and Missouri of the Central States Synod are tied together by 654 miles of Interstate 70 that runs across the two states. This major four-lane highway is a favorite thoroughfare used by abusers to transport their victims.

I urge you to visit the website: trucker-sagainstrafficking.org/videos and listen to real stories from women who were saved from human trafficking through the mission and work of that organization. There also are stories from bus drivers and law enforcement personnel who have helped save lives.

Learn how you can help spot victims and support the goals of Truckers Against Trafficking. Engage in ministry and action!

Do you know about other organizations, with a heart for social justice, that could be highlighted in the next *WITW* issue? Please email me and share your story

kathysteinke81@gmail.com

Hope will move us forward -- Ann Hoover, board member

***Do not love the world
or the things in the world.
If anyone loves the world,
love for the Father is not in him.
For all that is in the world,
the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and
the pride of life,
is not of the Father but is of the world.
And the world passes away,
and the lust of it;
but he who does the will of God
abides forever.***

1 John 2:15-17

As the church bodies today become more political and rush to become what the world wants them to be, it becomes disheartening for those who wish to use the Holy Bible as the sole standard.

Hope doesn't always have to be based upon what changes happen from here on out. I have hope that someday the changes we see today will eventually come to a defining point. That is, in

order to move forward, we actually will have to move backward to a time when church was church, and, the ways of the world did not affect it.

As I struggle, I still know that we of the CSS Women of the ELCA are such a caring and inviting group of ladies that I am always excited and encouraged when attending the conventions. There is so much caring for one another and for others with gifts and donations. All the planners and committees work so very hard to make things just right for everyone.

As we ponder the theme this year, let's tell the story of the CSS Women of the ELCA. It is a story of ladies who always do so many good things. As we get together the one weekend a year to worship, study God's word and learn how we can help others, we should not only tell our story, but also ask others to experience it with us.

jstmom@hotmail.com

Women of ELCA 2020 Triennial Gathering



The Triennial Gathering will be July 16-July 19, 2020 in Phoenix, AZ. Registration is \$375. Day registration is \$200. Go to welcatg.org to learn more.

There will be inspirational worship services, keynotes, breakout sessions, and vendors. You will have the opportunity to meet women from all over the ELCA, including Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, the Rev. Gladys Moore, and artist-in-residence Kelly Glow. Bishop was elected to a second term at the 2019 assembly. Eaton's four emphases for the ELCA are: We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

Rev. Moore will lead the *Gather* magazine's summer Bible study, "Just Love". Artist and singer Dr. Kelly Deanna Williams produced an album that commemorates the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

CENTRAL STATES SYNODICAL WOMEN OF THE ELCA CONVENTION REGISTRATION**August 7, 8 and 9, 2020**

Best Western Premier Hotel (Kansas City Sports Complex),
 4011 Blue Ridge Cut Off, Kansas City, MO 64133
 Telephone: 800-528-1234

Theme: My Story, Your Story, Our Story

Bible Verse: Psalm 51:15 Oh Lord, open my lips...and my mouth will declare your praise.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail _____

Church Name and City _____

Cluster _____

_____ Voting Member registration due by June 1 _____ Participant/guest registration due by June 15

Voting Members must send an e-mail by July 1 of any resolutions and biographies of nominations for board members. They also will be asked to assist on committees during convention such as nominating, resolutions, etc. by President Alice Burnett prior to convention.

Convention hotel lodging is \$98.15 per night, includes breakfast and is tax exempt. **Make reservations directly with hotel by July 3.** Telephone: 800-528-1234. May have 4 persons per room.

Full Convention Registration	\$ 70	Meals: Friday Evening _____ \$ 24
Saturday only Registration	\$ 40	Saturday Lunch on your own
Cluster Coordinators <u>\$10 discount</u>	\$ 60	Saturday Banquet _____ \$ 27
Late Registration after June 15	\$ 80	Special dietary needs _____

Registration Costs \$ _____

Total Meals \$ _____

T-Shirt Order \$ _____ (pick up at convention) include order form with registration

Grand Total \$ _____ Make check payable to CSS Women of the ELCA

_____ I am interested in singing in the choir.

No refunds for registration, meals, or t-shirts will be given after **July 10th**

Send registration and T-shirt forms to **Anna Prockish, Registrar, 2430 Village Lane, Salina, KS 67401**
 Anna will contact you by email or phone to let you know your registration/check have been received.

The Central States Synodical Women of the ELCA will be taking pictures and videotaping at the Convention. By registering for this event, you give the Synodical and Churchwide organizations permission to use your image and comments in educational, information, and promotional materials in a variety of media, including electronic media.

2020 REGISTRATION GRANT FORM

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Grants will be offered for the **2020 Convention Registration Fee**. Each Cluster is encouraged to take a special offering at its Spring meeting to help bring someone to convention. The number of grants available will depend upon the offerings received. The grant **does not include food and lodging**. If you have any questions, please call Loretta Holmes or contact a CSS W/ELCA Board Member.

Applications must be postmarked by May 16, 2020.

- Only one name from each W/ELCA unit may be submitted.
- First time applicants get preference.
- No applicant will be considered after having received a grant **twice**.

APPLICANTS MUST BE:

1. A woman of any age.
2. A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

APPLICANTS MUST QUALIFY IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:

_____ 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 at home.

_____ I have never attended a Central States Synod Women of the ELCA Convention.

I am attending as a Voting Member _____ or Participant _____

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Cluster _____

E-mail _____

Church Name and Address _____

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

Return grant applications to: Loretta Holmes, 568 Turtle, Haysville, KS 67060

Phone: 316-524-0960 e-mail: lholfmes8@sbcglobal.net Deadline is May 16, 2020

Board members assigned to CSS W/ELCA clusters

Amazing Women..... Kathy Steinke
 Ark River Valley..... Loretta Holmes
 Disciples of the Plains Kara Jecha
 God's Sonflowers..... Alice Burnett
 Heartland South..... Wendy Hoops
 Mid-Missouri..... Ann Hoover
 Northern Lights..... Loretta Holmes
 Ozark Mountain Vickie Donnell
 Post Rock Annalee Crotinger

Prairie Angels Kara Jecha
 Smoky Valley/Revelation Annalee Crotinger
 SE KC Metro..... Beth Rockelman
 SE Missouri..... Kathy Steinke
 Sunflower Wendy Hoops
 Tri-State..... Vickie Donnell
 IIID Beth Rockelman
 IV-A..... Ann Hoover

Congratulations to Rev. Kim Frederking



Remember Kim Frederking from the CSS W/ELCA 2017 convention held in McPherson, KS? She played "Katie Luther" in an afternoon skit. She has been unable to attend conventions the last couple years because she has been busy dedicating her life to serving God.

On Feb. 29, at her home church, Bethlehem Lutheran in WaKeeney, KS., Kimberly J Frederking was ordained as a Lutheran minister of the ELCA. May God bless and guide our dear sister in Christ, the Rev. Kim Frederking. Bishop Susan Candea of Central States Synod presided.

Blessings and messages of congratulation may be sent to Rev. Kim Frederking, PO Box 385, WaKeeney, KS 67672. kimmigo@ruraltel.net

Crochet a prayer square, bring to convention

Crochet hook: H, (size G or F makes smaller size)

Make a slip knot.

Chain 5 & join

Chain 2 (counts as first double crochet)

Work 2 more dc in center of ring.

Chain 2 for corner space. Then 3 dc into ring

Repeat steps from * to * 2 more times

Ch 2 for corner

Slip stitch to join to the beginning of round

You should have a total of 12 dc st all together in this round counting the first chain 3 as one of the double crochet stitches.

ROUND 2

Slip stitch over to corner ch 2 space

Chain 2 (counts as first double crochet)

2 dc, ch 2 for corner space, 3 dc in same space.

[Ch 1, 3 dc, ch 2, 3 dc in corner space]

Repeat sequence 2 more times.

Slip stitch to join the beginning of round. You should have 24 dc stitches.

ROUND 3

Slip stitch to the chain 2 corner

Chain 2 (counts as first double crochet)

2 dc, ch 2 for corner space, 3 dc in same space

[*ch 1, 3 dc in chain 1 space below. Then ch 1*, 2 dc, ch 2, 3 dc in next ch 2 space]

Repeat sequence in brackets 2 more times and then repeat from * to * once, then ch 1 to join to beginning dc for a total of 36 double crochets.

Tie off, weave in the ends.

For a larger square, add a round 4.

**CONSIDERATION FOR 2020 NOMINATION FORM
CENTRAL STATES SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION
WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

There are four opportunities to serve on the CSS W/ELCA board this year. Please prayerfully consider these opportunities and fill out the nomination form below.

Each position is for a two-year term.

Check those positions in which the nominee is willing to serve.

Individuals nominated must consent to serve if elected.

_____ Vice-President _____ Secretary _____ Board Member (2)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work phone _____

Email address _____

Name of congregation _____

Address _____

Please complete both pages of this form and return by May 1, 2020 to:

Dawn Lessiack, 3611 W Hilltop Drive, Columbia, MO 65203

If you have any questions, contact Dawn at: Home 573-442-0141 Cell 573-268-9768

CONSIDERATION FOR NOMINATION (continued)

Please list your experience (beginning with the most recent first, list significant experience in each area over the last ten years.)

Occupational History _____

Leadership or participation in church women's organization _____

Leadership or participation in congregation _____

Leadership or participation in church wide ELCA _____

Other organizations _____

Community _____

Rationale for believing nominee can serve effectively in position(s) for which selected:

Signature of President/Coordinator/Leader of nominee's congregational unit

(Must have this signature to be viable)

Please complete both pages of this form and return by May 1, 2020 to:

Dawn Lessiack, 3611 W Hilltop Drive, Columbia, MO 65203

OFFICERS/BOARD MEMEBERS 2019-2020**CENTRAL STATES SYNOD WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

Executive Board Member:	Rev. Dinah Dutta 1000 Colonial Circle Lawrence, KS 66049 785-979-8362 pastordutta@gmail.com
Vice President:	Beth Rockelman 2103 Blair Drive, Apt. E Jefferson City, MO 65109 Ph: 573-761-0722; 573-782-4759 bethr@midamerica.net
Treasurer:	Vickie Donnell 4672 E Hidden Oak Place Springfield, MO 65802 Cell: 417-839-8862 vickiedonnell@yahoo.com
Board Member:	Loretta Holmes 568 Turtle Haysville, KS 67060 Ph: 316-524-0960 lholfmes8@sbcglobal.net
Board Member:	Wendy Hoops 408 South Country Club Road Chanute, KS 66720 Ph: 620-245-1937 wendy.hoops75@gmail.com
WITW Newsletter Editor:	Mary Liby 25680 S Urish Rd Osage City, KS 66523 Ph: 785-528-3434 Cell: 785-817-3942 lmfarms72@gmail.com

President:	Alice Burnett 12130 Dove Hill Court Derby, KS 67037-9485 Ph: 316-776-2838 or 316-258-7685 kaburnett@cox.net
Secretary:	Annalee Crotinger 3633 Avenue N Bison, KS 67520 Ph: 785-387-2454H; 785-387-2336 crotingera@usd403.org
Board Member:	Ann Hoover 25370 Little Buffalo Rd Stover, MO 65078 Ph: 573-377-6389 jstmom@hotmail.com
Board Member:	Kathy Steinke 10661 Hackamore Ln St. Louis, MO 63128 Cell: 314-422-2835 kathysteinke81@gmail.com
Board Member:	Kara Jecha 117 Pine Street Timken, KS 67575 Ph: 785-355-2000 Cell: 785-372-1637 churchlady@gbta.net
Central States Women <u>NEW</u> website www.css-elca.org/welca Central States Women Facebook: www.facebook.com/CSSwomenofeca (this is not a typo—it is eca)	



*No eye has seen, no ear has heard,
no mind has conceived what
God has prepared for those who love him.*

1 Corinthians 2:9

Official Newsletter of
The Central States
Women of the ELCA

WALKING IN THE WORD

The newsletter written and published by the
Central States Synod Women of the ELCA

Keep up-to-date with events, news, etc. concerning the CSS W/ELCA

Subscriptions available by email alert (free) or USPS mail, \$10 a year (4 issues) for printing, postage.
Checks should be payable to CSS WELCA.

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____

ZIP _____ EMAIL _____ DATE _____

I prefer to receive *Walking in the Word* by: EMAIL _____ USPS _____

Return form with payment to:

Vickie Donnell, 4672 E Hidden Oak Place, Springfield, MO 65802

vickiedonnell@yahoo.com



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Women of the ELCA
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