Vol. 29, Issue 2, JUNE 2018

Walking in the Word

Official Newsletter of the Central States Synod Women of the ELCA

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The Road To...CSS W/ELCA Convention 2018

The theme of this summer's CSS W/ELCA convention is "The Road To..." based on Luke 9:5-7. As they were going down the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go."

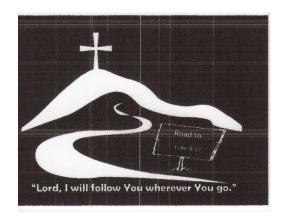
The logo was designed and submitted by ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS. Thank you ladies for your artistic contribution to our upcoming gathering.

Convention costs are: full registration, \$70; Saturday only, \$40; meals, Friday evening, \$13; Saturday lunch, \$10; Saturday banquet, \$22. A \$10 late fee will be charged for registrations received after June 15.

All convention activities and lodging will be at the Windermere Convention Center in Roach, MO. The room rate at Lake View Lodge is \$115, for up to 4 persons per room. Reservations should be made with Dawn Lessiack at 573-442-0141 or dr.lessiack@gmail.com.

The convention begins Friday, July 13 with the SWO board meeting at 9 a.m. Registration opens at noon. A hospitality room will be open for breakfast 6:30 a.m.—8 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Rev. Dinah Dutta of Lawrence will give our devotional message Saturday morning.

The Saturday evening banquet will begin at 6 p.m. with entertainment provided by German Singers from Cole Camp, MO. Sunday morning



worship service and installation of CSS W/ELCA officers will begin at 9 a.m.

Barbara Tormondsen, member of the (churchwide) executive board of the W/ELCA, will be the speaker Saturday morning and will lead a Bible study in the afternoon. Bishop Roger Gustafson will be present Friday and Saturday.

Two other workshops also will be held Saturday: Local Christians Helping Overseas Farmers with Sustainable Agriculture: Food Resources Bank, and Once We Were Refugees.

Non-voting members are invited to attend one of the service projects Saturday morning beginning at 9 a.m. Ladies will cut new or gently-used T-shirts into diapers. The cut up T-shirts will be sewn into diapers for Lutheran World Relief at a later date. Donated shirts must be L or XL with no political statement.

Wreath making will be the focus of

(Continued on page 3)

"Which road will you take?" - Rev. Dinah Dutta

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

I thank God for each one of you dear sisters in Christ, especially those of you working hard to make all the arrangements for our upcoming CSS W/ELCA convention in July. I feel so blessed to be part of



this wonderful ministry. By the time we receive this newsletter, we will be into the season of Pentecost. And most importantly, counting the days to our SWO convention.

The theme of the 2018 convention is, "The Road To..." based on Luke 9:5-7. "As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go'."

I have been reading a book titled, We Make the Road by Walking by Brian D. McLaren. In his book, McLaren tells us, "You are not finished yet. You are 'in the making'. You have the capacity to learn, mature, think, change and grow. You also have the freedom to stagnate, regress, constrict and lose your way. So which road will you take?"

In Luke 9:5-8, Jesus replies. "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." This passage hits me hard every time I read it. Is Jesus' goal to ignore those who would follow but are unwilling to pay the cost of doing so? It sounds harsh and so unlike the Jesus

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

(Luke 9:23)

we know.

The passage is all about "following". So I invite you to ponder a question I often ask myself. Can I be a Christian without being a follower of Jesus?

Again, Jesus replies. "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23) The answer could not be any plainer. Jesus made very strong demands of those who said they would follow wherever he goes.

Jesus is a sojourner, a non-resident alien. He is

You have the capacity to learn, mature, think, change and grow. You also have the freedom to stagnate, regress, constrict and lose your way.

So which road will you take?

one who stays for a time and then travels elsewhere. Are we able to follow a sojourner?

When we read this, we may think, what kind of demanding leader is this? What right does he have to command such sacrifice and instant obedience?

My dear sisters in Christ, do we not remember? Jesus, the king of the Jews, the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Lamb of God, rose from the dead and humbled himself to come to us, to encourage our faith.

When we say, "I will follow you wherever you go", are we willing to walk a new and creative path. Are we willing to walk away from old, ordinary and destructive patterns?

As we gather together, we should challenge ourselves to think about the "cost of discipleship". What comforts or possessions do we have that we are unwilling to release in order to follow Christ?

Looking forward to seeing you at the convention. May the peace of the Lord be with you!

pastordutta@gmail.com

Join us on the Journey — Alice Burnett, president

Greetings to my sisters in Christ,

As we prepare for and make plans to attend the 31st CSS W/ELCA convention in July we reflect on the verses found in Luke 9:5-7. "As they were going along the road, someone said to him,



"I will follow you wherever you go."

What road will you take to Windermere in Roach, MO? Will it be a short or a long trip? How many will you invite to journey with you? Indeed, the phrase "The Road To..." is for you to complete.

There will be worship, reflection, and business meetings at the convention July 13-15. (Board members will arrive a day early). Each of you will have

The Road To...Convention 2018

(Continued from page 1)

the other workshop. A \$20 charge for materials should be sent by June 15 to Becky Verslues, 11712 Branch Road, Lohman, MO 65053.

Two agencies in the Camdenton, MO area will be the recipients of our in-kind gifts: *Citizens Against Domestic Violence* and *The Lamb House*. A list of the needed items is available by contacting your W/ ELCA unit leader or your Cluster Coordinator.

Convention participants are encouraged to bring and bid on baskets for the Barbara Nelson Scholarship Fund. Ladies also are welcome to shop at the "Bridges Fair Trade Out of St Louis".

For more convention information:

Kathy Regehr at kathyrregehr@hotmail.com

Rhonda Schlesselman at rhondaschlessel man@hotmail.com

Dawn Lessiack at dr.lessiack@gmail.com

the opportunity to meet and talk with Barbara Tormondsen, churchwide W/ELCA president. Bishop Roger Gustafson will attend the convention Friday and Saturday, also.

CSS W/ELCA conventions always have been uplifting and I return home renewed and ready to continue on my "Road To...". Invite someone to experience this in the beautiful Ozarks.

I am aware that communication about the W/ELCA is sometimes a challenge. The board is addressing the problems. Please inform yourself through our newsletter, *Walking in the Word*. It is available by email or by mail subscription of \$10/year. I encourage you to share a copy with others. (See page 4, for subscription information)

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please feel free to contact me or any one of the board members. We will do our best to guide you or answer your questions.

I look forward to seeing you in July.

kaburnett@cox.net

The Road to find our passion

Carolyn Olson—secretary

At some point in our lives we encounter a hobby, an interest, or a cause that intrigues, inspires, or provokes us. Passions come in all shapes and sizes. One person's passion may be another person's irritation.



Sometimes passions simply smolder unnoticed until we recognize them. Other times, we stumble upon a passion — a new idea, activity, or career that we didn't know we would love. It can be our experience that when passions are thrust upon us, we are reminded that we are part of something larger than ourselves.

The Holy Spirit blows where she chooses and she may have plans to blow a small spark in our souls and make it into a bright and consuming passion. Watch for that passion to come your way!

(This message is an excerpt from "Passion that chooses us" by Angela T. Kahbeb) colson3958@yahoo.com

The Road to communication — Anna Prockish, board member

When I attended my assigned cluster meetings in April (Northern Lights and God's Sonflowers), I found the majority of the women are not aware of our publications and/or social media offerings at the synod and national levels. They are not users of Facebook nor do they peruse the internet for information. They often do not know how to access our web sites.



As CSS W/ELCA communications chairperson, I am disheartened, but not surprised, given the age of those who attended the meetings. An overwhelming majority of the women present were over 65 years-old. Many do not use a computer or smart phone, and, if they do, they only use it for basic needs.

This newsletter and social media sites are the current tools in addition to our mailings that we use for disseminating information. Our annual CSS W/ELCA convention is another important avenue through which we may connect with others, gather informa-

Share the Good News — Mary Liby, editor

WITW is published quarterly. The next issue will be September 2018. Please share the newsletter with other members of your W/ELCA unit.



Those who would like to receive the newsletter by email or

by U.S. postal service, please fill out the form on page 8. Beginning July 1, a subscription rate of \$10 per year will be charged for those receiving the newsletter by mail. The charge will help cover printing and postage costs.

Please send your mail subscriptions to Vickie Donnell, 4672 E Hidden Oak Place, Springfield, MO 65802. Checks should be made payable to CSS W/ELCA.

We welcome input from all for our WITW newsletter: exciting news about your unit; special prayer concerns; testimonials of God's blessings; cluster tion and ask questions. Many cited various reasons as to why they have chosen not to attend a convention.

All of this leads me to ask, what is the best way for us to communicate with members? I do not know the answer and our board talks about this at every meeting. How can we most economically get information to you? What do you want to know about? What resources can we help you find?

If you receive *Walking in the Word,* will you please share it? Will you ask someone to print extra copies to give to your ladies?

Please let us know how we may serve you so that you feel connected to Women of the ELCA.

785-212-0685 (cell) aprock7778@gmail.com



All of these are secured websites

Central States Women website:

www.csswomenoftheelca.com

Central States Women Facebook:

www.facebook.com/CSSwomenofeca/ (this

is not a typo—it is eca)

National W/ELCA website:

www.womenoftheelca.org

www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA

www.pinterest.com/womenoftheelca

www.twitter.com/WomenoftheELCA

www.youtube.com/user/ELCAVideo#g/u

meetings; and any other good news you would like to share! You may send submissions to: lmlfarms@embargmail.com

Please send your subscription forms to Vickie Donnell, 4672 E Hidden Oak Place, Springfield, MO 65802. Checks should be made payable to CSS W/ ELCA. WITW newsletter by mail, \$10 year. E-mail, no charge.

What is your mission? — Ann Hoover, board member

It is all about mission at the Hoover household. With my husband currently on a mission trip, it is hard to think of anything else. With that in mind, I ask you, "What is mission? What are your opportunities for mission in your life? How do you act on these callings?

The dictionary defines mission as an important assignment carried out for political, religious, or commercial purposes, typically involving travel. Another definition is the vocation or calling of a religious organization, especially a Christian one, to go out into the world and spread its faith.

I am guilty of ignoring calls to mission and service, especially when I feel I have no more room on my plate. Then there is the "cost" excuse. We all know a sacrifice of time and money will make something happen.

Mission possibilities are evident at convention.

Join the convention choir

Friday night's opening worship service will feature the Willadsen Family from Sedalia, MO. The family of two brothers, Karl and John, and John's daughters, Andrea and Julie, will sing and play string instruments during their praise and worship performance.

The service will be informal, replicating worship services of periods in early America. The audience will join the musical family to sing older gospel songs. Ladies are encouraged to bring the words to their favorite camp songs to be enjoyed following the worship service.

Rev. Dinah Dutta, convention chaplain, will lead the Sunday morning worship. Communion will be given at the opening and closing worship services.

Lois Viebrock will direct the choir as it sings "Follow Me to Jordan" and "Let Us Break Bread". Jeannette VonHolten will be the convention accompanist.

Everyone is invited to sing with the choir during the worship services. Choir practices will be Fri., July 13 at 4 p.m., and Sat., July 14 at 4:30 p.m.

Our annual get-together offers wonderful fellowship with some of the nicest ladies you will find anywhere. It also provides inspiration to demonstrate your faith and discipleship to those around you.

The question is not, do we hear the call. But rather, will we obey and follow him. You may not be called to missions outside your culture, but you are called as a Christian to show His Message by your life and your words.

The convention at Windermere will be so much fun. It reminds me of summer bible camp which was a highlight of my younger days. Please join me this year and relive a bit of your youth. You will come away refreshed and ready to take on that mission.

jstmom@hotmail.com

Educational Scholarships

Dawn Lessiack— board member

At its 2018 spring meeting, the CSS W/ELCA board selected two students as recipients of educational scholarships. The scholarships were given to Jacqueline Thornton of Larned, KS and Ericka Youngquist of Springfield, MO. Each student will receive an \$800 scholarship.

The girls received a congratulatory letter from CSS W/ELCA President Alice Burnett. The CSS W/ELCA is proud to support this scholarship for women to further their education. dr.lessiack@gmail.com

Jecha fills board position

Kara Jecha, Timken, KS has been appointed to the CSS W/ELCA board. She is serving the remainder of the unexpired term of Kim Frederking. That term will expire in July 2018. She is running for a full two-year term.

Jecha is an active member Hope Lutheran Church in Rush, KS.



churchlady@gbta.net

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The Road to discipleship — Kathy Steinke, board member

The following spiritual exercise was the focus of a spring retreat held at St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO, where Kathy Steinke is a member.



"Our deepest freedom rests not in our freedom to do what we want to do, but rather in our freedom to become who God wills us to be. This is done in a daily dying to self, in a compassionate reaching out to others, and in making Jesus prayer our own: 'Father ...not my will be done but yours'." — James Finley, The Center for Action and Contemplation

Discipleship may be achieved by following a three -fold approach: emptying ourselves; living for others; being filled with God's will.

— "If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete be of the same mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a

slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross." — Philippians 2:1-8

Paul said, in his letter to the Philippians, that Jesus emptied himself.

Of what, do you think, did Jesus empty himself?

Of what do you need to do to empty yourself to be a more faithful disciple?

The Bible passages also raise other questions for discussion.

Think of your life as a cup.

With what is your cup now filled?

With what does our culture encourage us to fill it? If Jesus could fill your cup, what would be in it?

— "Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." — Philippians 2: 9-11

What do we have to take on or leave behind to get from one to another?

kathysteinke81@gmail.com

Board members assigned to CSS W/ELCA clusters

Amazing WomenKathy Steinke	Ozark MountainVickie Donnell
Ark River Valley Alice Burnett	Post Rock Kathy Regehr
Disciples of the PlainsKara Jecha	Prairie AngelsKara Jecha
God's Sonflowers Anna Prockish	Smoky ValleyKathy Regehr/Anna Prockish
HeartlandCarolyn Olson	SE KC Metro Dawn Lessiack
Mid-MissouriDawn Lessiack/Ann Hoover	SE MissouriKathy Steinke
Northern Lights Anna Prockish	Sunflower Carolyn Olson

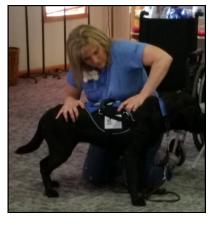
Kansas Cluster spring meetings held

Thirty-six persons attended the *Post Rock* cluster meeting April 22 at Emmanuel Church in Hoisington, KS. The theme was "The Road To...". Guest speakers were Quenia McGilber from Circles of Central Kansas and Rev. John Brudvig who spoke about his trip to Russia. Monetary donations were given to CSS W/ELCA and Circles of Kansas. In-kind donations were given to the Hoisington Food Bank. The upcoming convention was discussed.— submitted by Virjean Scheuerman, Otis, KS.

God's Sonflowers held its cluster meeting April 28 at Good Shepherd Church in Washington, KS. Rev. Bill Petersen, interim pastor at Falun/Salemsborg, led the group in "making a joyful noise". A spokesperson from KSDS Assistance Dogs, Inc., Washington, KS explained how the organization trains dogs to assist persons with disabilities. In-kind gifts were given to KSDS. Each church gave a Love offering to the CSS W/ELCA. Next

year's cluster meeting will be held at Walsburg Parish, Leonardville, KS at a date to be determined.

Zion Lutheran Church, Beloit, KS was the site of the Northern Lights cluster meeting. The April 8 meeting was attended by 13 ladies who dis-



cussed their concerns: declining church membership, how to generate interest of younger members, the purpose and future of clusters, and synod communication.

The **Sunflower** cluster will have its annual meeting Sept. 22 at Our Saviors Lutheran Church, Topeka, KS.

Central States Synod Women of the ELCA Cluster coordinators

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Ph: 785-528-3434 Cell: 785-817-3942

Imlfarms@embarqmail.com



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

Central States Synodical Women of the ELCA 2018 Convention Voting Member & Participant Registration For July 13-15th, 2018



Address			
City	State		Zip
Phone Number(s)			
E-Mail			***************************************
Church Name & Address			
Cluster			
Voting Member	Participa	ant	(check one)
Convention Registration (does n	ot include	e meals)	
Full Registration		\$70.00	
Late Registration (after	15)	\$80.00	
Saturday only		\$40.00	
Meals			
Friday evening		\$13.00	
Saturday lunch		\$10.00	
Saturday banquet only		\$22.00	
TOT	AL		_ (Check payable to Central States Women of the ELCA
Wreath Making Fee			ee due before June 15) ail to: Becky Verslues
			11712 Branch Rd. Lohman, MO 65053
Lake View Lodge		\$115.00	
(Lodging accommo phone:573-442-014			le prior to July 1 st by contacting Dawn Lessiacl ack@gmail.com)
I am interested in singing the			
I need a gluten free meal or	other spe	ecial diet.	

SEND

**VOTING MEMBER CARDS NEED TO BE RETURNED BY May 19, 2018

**REGISTRATION FORMS AND FEES DUE DATE IS May 19, 2018

If you have questions email: rhondaschlesselman@hotmail.com or 660-668-3823

**Only those serving as a Voting Delegate will be returning a Voting Member Card.

Those that are NOT a voting delegate and attending as a participant will submit ONLY the registration form and fees.



Walking in the Word

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

Keep up to date with things going on with the CSS W/ELCA. Subscriptions available by email alert (FREE) or USPS (\$10 year)

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Return form to:

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