

Walking in the Word

Official Newsletter of the Central States Synod Women of the ELCA

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Resolutions Approved

- *Encourage women to serve as PMAs
- *Recognize anniversaries of ordination of women and women of color
- *Increase Thankofferings church-wide
- *Recognize 2019 CSS W/ELCA convention workers, planners, volunteers

You Are Wonderfully Made

CSS W/ELCA 2019 Convention

Thankfulness, faithfulness and generosity were the feelings that arose at this year's annual con-

vention, said CSS W/ELCA President Alice Burnett. "Our annual gathering of our sisters in Christ is always uplifting and joyful. This year we were reminded that we are wonderfully made, loved and blessed by God."

The 32nd convention was held Aug. 16-18 at Holiday Inn I-35 in Wichita. President Burnett welcomed 110 participants which represented more than a 45 percent increase in attendance from last year's convention.

The Rev. Susan Candeia, Bishop-elect of the Central States Synod, attended the gathering and presided at the Sunday morning worship service. In her sermon, Rev. Candeia addressed the meaning of the convention's theme. "Being wonderfully made means that God created us for a purpose. We are to be Christ-like in all that we do."

"You are welcomed into Christ's family and forgiven of all your sins. You are born anew each and every day," said Rev. Candeia.

In her introductory message Friday evening, the Bishop-elect talked



Bishop-elect Rev. Susan Candeia

about the ELCA and its future. "We are a people of hope. We are a community of disciples called to connect with each other and the world."

The Lutheran church made a bold statement at an ELCA church-wide assembly earlier this year by announcing it is a "sanctuary denomination".

"This was a bold statement because it shows we are more concerned about justice, grace and mercy rather than the institution of the church," Rev. Candeia said.

"We are willing to take a risk. We don't have to agree. But we should embrace diversity in a bold way," she added.

The Rev. Susan Candeia is a member of Atonement Lutheran, Overland Park, KS, where she will be installed as Bishop, October 20, 2019.



Elections held for board, Triennial voting members



Triennial voting members and alternates

CSS W/ELCA officers, board members and voting members met Saturday morning to elect two officers, four board members and seven Triennial voting members at its 32nd annual business meeting. Alice Burnett, president, and Vickie Donnell, treasurer were re-elected to two-year terms. Ann Hoover and Kara Jecha were re-elected and Kathy Steinke was elected to two-year terms on the board. Wendy Hoops was elected to serve another one-year term on the board. Steinke replaces Anna Prockish who completed the allowed consecutive terms on the board. Thank you Prockish as you continue your service as next year's convention registrar.

This is Steinke's second non-consecutive board term. She is a retired elementary school teacher and active member of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, St. Louis. MO. "I am honored to serve you as a newly elected member of the CSS W/ELCA executive board. I'm equipped by Christ to do the best I can to connect us to each other and Christ's work in this wonderful Synod. I am passionate about prayer, hospitality, the power of hugs and the Holy Spirit."

My email is [kathysteinke81@gmail](mailto:kathysteinke81@gmail.com) Let me know what's on your heart.



Using the rank order process, the following women were voted to attend the 2020 W/ELCA Triennial as voting members: woman of color, Phyllis Glasker, Columbia, MO; first-time attendees, Kara Jecha, Timken, KS, and Chris Wiens, McPherson, KS. The other voting members selected were Beth Melgren, Springfield, MO; Ann Hoover, Stover, MO; Mary Liby, Osage City, KS; and Jill Duis, Odell, NE. The following were elected to serve as alternates: Carol Bunge, St. Joseph, MO; Sharon Hoffman, Lindsborg, KS; Carolyn Olson, Topeka, KS; Janet Malpert, Lindsborg, KS; and Elois Hubenett, Windom, KS.



2019-2020 CSS W/ELCA BOARD: I to r: Kathy Steinke, Ann Hoover, Wendy Hoops, Vickie Donnell, Alice Burnett, and Kara Jecha. (not pictured: Beth Rockelman, vice-president, Annalee Crotinger, secretary, Loretta Holmes, board member, Rev. Dinah Dutta, executive board member).

Your generosity counts! — Vickie Donnell, treasurer

The total of the Love Offering gifted on Friday evening was \$1,986.80. The offering will be shared, with 50% going to our church-wide organization (CWO), 25% to MOSAIC and 25% to Lions International in Wichita, KS.

The two agencies also will receive one-half of the \$325 received as in-kind cash donations. With contributions that had been received prior to the convention, MOSAIC and Lions Clubs in Wichita each will receive a check of a total sum of \$696.70.

The estimated value of the personal hygiene and paper items brought to benefit MOSAIC was \$715 and 356 pairs of previously-worn eye glasses were donated to the Lions.

The basket 'silent' auction was quite successful this year with 30 baskets contributed. Including contributions received prior to the convention, \$1,388 will be transferred to the Barbara Nelson Fund invested with the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund. This fund will be called on during 2020 as its purpose is to provide scholarships for individuals to attend Triennial gatherings.

The offering received at the Sunday morning worship service totaled \$1,277. The board had designated 50% of that total to be given to our CWO and 50% to our Education Scholarship Fund used to provide scholarships to women in the Central States Synod seeking post-secondary education.

***"Do not neglect to do good
and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God."***

Hebrews 13:16

Along with this offering, and funds received from the 'little' miscellaneous raffle and purchase of Mary Liby's 'card kits', plus offering gifts received prior to the convention, \$1,591.50 will benefit the Education Scholarship Fund.

Thank you to our president, Alice Burnett, who through her delightful storytelling at the Saturday evening banquet raised awareness of the longtime dedication of Lutheran women. She urged each of us to recognize our daily blessings by giving an 'offering of thanks'. A spontaneous 'noisy offering' resulted in \$100.48 that will be sent to the CWO and designated for Thankofferings. These funds support ongoing ministries, including the triennial conventions, the work of their board, the



Nadine James, quilt designer and member of St. Marks Lutheran Church, Emporia, KS, and Bess Jensen, Rush Center, KS, winner of the quilt. The raffle for the 80" x 96" quilt raised \$294.

annual conference of synod presidents, communication ministries, and justice and advocacy work.

Through the generosity of Nadine James of St. Marks Lutheran in Emporia, we were able to have a beautiful quilt to raffle in recognition of the 50th anniversary of ordination of women in the ELCA. A gift of \$294 will be made to the Central States Synod Seminary Education Fund specifying that it be given to female candidates.

The final financial picture of the convention has not been completed. However, it appears there will be an excess of revenue over expenses. I will share that in the next issue (December 2019) of *Walking in the Word*. If you have questions or comments about our financial picture, don't hesitate to contact me.

vickiedonnell@yahoo.com or 417-839-8862

Giving and Sharing

Love offering.....	\$1,986.80
Sunday worship	\$1277.00
Silent auction.....	\$1,388.00
Little raffle	\$1,591.50
Quilt.....	\$294.00
Alice's Thankoffering.....	\$100.48

Strive hard to leave a W/ELCA legacy — Rev. Dinah Dutta



Dear sisters in Christ, I thank God for each one of you and the wonderful leadership you gave at our gathering. As always I came back renewed, refreshed and re-energized. As our bishop reminded us, we have much to do as we move forward to be witnesses in the broken world.

We are not only wonderfully made, but also, God's works are wonderful and we - His called children - know them well. I encourage you as I encourage myself, let us not wait for another year to invite, include, and equip sisters in our churches, in our neighborhood, in our workplaces.

Let us strive hard to win the race set before us (I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus, Philippians 3:14). I always hear in our stewardship messages about leaving a legacy. Therefore, I ask all of you. What kind of legacy do we want to leave for our daughters and grandchildren?

Comments appreciated

— Beth Rockelman, vice-president

Thanks to all for helping make our 2019 W/ELCA convention a wonderful event. A special thank you to my sister officers and board members. They all are so wonderfully made as made evident by their multi-tasking.

Thank you for turning in evaluations. Your comments and suggestions will be very helpful in planning the 2020 convention.

There are a few comments I want to immediately address. Silence would indicate a feeling of not caring.

Voting during the business meeting took longer than usual due to the election of Triennial voting members which takes place every three years. Fortunately, we did not have any tie-votes or no-majority votes which could have resulted in a longer session.

An observation was made that seating was very limited for the chair massages Friday afternoon. Accommodations were made and time slots appropriately scheduled for the 15 ladies who checked the chair massage activity on their registration forms. Pre-registration was required due to the limited hours scheduled and the availability of a second masseuse.

The MOSAIC and Lions Club representatives spoke during the participants session at 9:15 a.m. and from 1-2 p.m. which allowed those to attend who were in the earlier business meeting.

When I go around speaking at different conventions throughout W/ELCA synodical gatherings, I hear from sisters that we are becoming less and less in numbers and many units are closing. What if each one of us becomes good stewards and leaves a legacy why W/ELCA ministry is important to us? I have no doubt that by sharing and telling our stories, our ministry will prosper 100 and 1,000 fold. What do you think?

Thank you sisters for your generosity, your love for the ministry, and for your time away from family. I hope you made new friendships. I always do at these meetings. Please take care. I keep each one of you close to my heart in prayer. I am a prayer warrior. Please do not hesitate to call me or send an e-mail.

I also seek your prayers as I continue to seek the Lord's guidance in my life. I continue to claim my ordination promise for myself as well for all the board members and new leaders elected.

"You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 15:16, KJV

Let us remember always, ***"He must increase and I must decrease"*** (John 3:30).

God be with you until we meet again!

pastordutta@gmail.com



The Rev. Elizabeth Cummings, Haysville, KS, Convention Chaplain, and The Rev. Dinah Dutta, CSS W/ELCA executive board member.

Be a mentor to younger Lutheran church women — Mary Liby

There is a common misconception among Lutheran churches that a W/ELCA unit must be formally organized and have officers and/or business meetings. But, W/ELCA does not have to be standardized. W/ELCA simply is a community of women who get together in service to benefit others, said Joy Michalicek church-wide representative at the Friday night session. It does not matter whether a group is large or small, or whether the ladies are serving funeral dinners or hosting a large fundraiser. Each gathering of women, regardless of its size or purpose, is a W/ELCA unit because its members are disciples of Christ joining together to help others.

Michalicek used humor and down-to-earth advice as she encouraged W/ELCA ladies to be mentors to younger women. "Invite them to an event and sit with them in

Discipleship has many parts

— Loretta Holmes, board member

Discipleship is best practiced by praying, studying, worshipping, inviting, encouraging, serving and giving. Praying may be a private or group conversation with God. He knows of our needs before we ever ask. Studying the Word of the Lord helps up to understand and to live the life that He wants for us.

Worshipping and praising God fulfills our soul and helps us to understand the path that He wants us to follow. Inviting and encouraging others to follow the path to God is a form of discipleship that allows us to build upon God's kingdom.

Serving also is an important form of discipleship as it keeps our minds focused on how God wants us to live and follow His ways. Giving is another way to honor God, either in the forms of money or time and talent. Pure giving to the Glory of God shows God that we want to walk in His glory.

"I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well."

Psalm 139:4

church. Get others involved by asking them to do a specific job. Ask them for help," Michalicek said.

The CWO representative reminded the audience of the variety of inspirational materials that are available through the CSS W/ELCA website.

Daily Grace, a printed devotional booklet, also is available on an app at no cost. The *Gather* magazine is available on audio for those who have difficulty reading the printed articles.

Michalicek is an executive board member of the Women of the ELCA and serves on its programs and communication committee. She is the council president for Kenwood Lutheran Church in Duluth, MN. Michalicek works at the University of Minnesota and she and her husband, Kevin, have two sons.



Joy Michalicek

Freely show God's love

— Wendy Hoops, board member

Joy Michalicek, CWO representative, lead a very good Bible study Saturday afternoon, "Love Your Neighbor as Yourself".

Loving your neighbor means loving yourself. In loving yourself we need to value what Christ values. He died for us, flaws and all.

Show grace. Freely receiving God's grace empowers us to freely give it. Have compassion. Michalicek talked about the parable of the Good Samaritan. Pay attention to your neighbor, watch out for their wellbeing. Serve your neighbor, kindness out of duty is NOT love.

Words are powerful. Build up one another, speak kindly. Give people the benefit of the doubt, make allowances for their humanity. Share in their joys and sorrows, even when it is not easy. Failing to forgive ourselves shows a form of pride. When you forgive yourself you help others. We love because God loves us. Always.

Focus groups address needs, benefit others

Camp Tomah Shinga

—Loretta Holmes
board member

Executive Director Jacob Spilker said Camp Tomah Shinga is a place where walls get broken down. This can be really helpful

for adults who need a retreat, or for kids who need a place where they are loved and accepted. Spilker expounded on how much the camp has grown over the years in all areas. Camp attendance has increased by about 100 more campers a year and this year's staff numbers are the largest to date. More camping areas have been added and a couple years ago a yurt (large canvas tent) site was added. We are very blessed to have such a place in Kansas, and pray that God will continue to bless Camp Tomah Shinga.

St. Francis Migration Ministries

—Kathy Steinke, board member

Christ calls us to love our neighbor as ourselves. During one

focus group at our recent convention, Kendra Allison, volunteer coordinator with St. Francis Migration Ministries (SFMM) and Forrest Ehmke, member of Christ Lutheran, Wichita, KS shared information about their mis-

sion work. SFMM helps refugees resettle and build lives in Wichita by providing essential support to refugees approved through the U.S. Department of State's Resettlement Program. Most of the clients resettled in Wichita are from the Congo, Eritrea, and Burma. Many of these families have lived in refugee camps for up to 18 years waiting for approval of their eligibility status by Homeland Security.

Some of the resettlement services, provided in the first few months by local agencies partnering with Lutheran congregations, support these refugee families with housing, employment skills, job placement, English language learning, financial assistance, clothing, health screenings, and cultural and community orientation.

For more information about this mission work and how you can help, please visit the website

givingto@St-Francis.org or call 800-898-4896.

The Stars for Our Troops

—Kathy Steinke, board member

The Stars for Our Troops service project

at the convention was hosted by Evelyn Clark and her sisters from Resurrection Lutheran Church in Haysville, Kansas. It was a fun and meaningful way to recycle retired American flags and honor veterans.

Participants made mementoes for veterans using stars from retired American flags obtained from local VFW chapters. Prior to convention, the stars were carefully cut out of the blue field of each flag. The scraps were collected and returned to the VFW hall to be burned according to protocol.

In Wichita, our women volunteers enjoyed placing each star into a small plastic bag along with the following statement typed on the paper cut-out.

"I am part of our American flag that has flown over the USA. I can no longer fly. The sun and winds have caused me to be tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that YOU are not forgotten."

These small pocket statements were made to be given to veterans to carry in their wallets.

Each participant was given 10 stars to take home to give to veterans or active service members in their hometowns. This is a wonderful activity that may be done at any time by any ability level. The small 2x3 inch or 3x4 inch re-sealable plastic bags may be purchased at craft stores. This project is further explained online at www.starsforourtroops.org.



CSS W/ELCA President Alice Burnett congratulated this year's education scholarship winners. They are (l to r) **Madison Liby**, First Lutheran, Topeka, KS, Kansas State University; **Brianna Reeves**, Cross of Glory Lutheran Church, Derby, KS. Bethel College, Newton, KS; **Maria Apel**, Messiah Lutheran Church, Lindsborg, KS, Kansas State University;

(bottom left) **Brenda Rodger**, United Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Millberger, KS, Parish Ministry Associate Program.



This quartet was the special entertainment for the Saturday night banquet. The ladies are members of the Wichita Sweet Adelines. They call their group *CHIC*. One of the songs they sang was "Sanctuary" which coincidentally was the chosen song for the convention.







2020 Women of ELCA Triennial Gathering

July 14-16, 2020

Phoenix, AZ

At the 2017 Triennial Gathering, the Rev. Angela Khabeb exclaimed, "...Christianity is not comfortable. If you are comfortable in Jesus, then you're doing it wrong. Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect, we are often broken, sometimes we don't fit. Sometimes our edges are rough—but we are one body in Christ.

The palette of deep purple and bright green in the logo reflects the valley scenery of purple flowers

and vibrant green cacti in the Phoenix area. The turquoise color connects to Arizona's native cultures. The red signifies love and joy.—(condensed from article written by logo artist, Elizabeth McBride, director for intergenerational programs and editor of *Café*.—women of the elca.org)

Watch for information about registration at www.css-elca.org/welca.



33rd Annual CSS Women of ELCA Convention

August 7-9, 2020, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Kansas City, MO

BARBARA NELSON TRIENNIAL GATHERING
MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Barbara Nelson
Memorial
Scholarship

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

*Must be a member of an ELCA congregation in the Central States Synod

*Never have received a Barbara Nelson Scholarship

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone Number _____

E-Mail _____

Congregation _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

On the back of this application write a paragraph of 50 words or less stating why you would like to attend the 2020 Triennial Gathering.

This scholarship fund was established for scholarships for Central States Synodical Women to attend a Triennial Gathering. Distribution shall be made in years there is a Triennial Gathering. The formula used is:

The interest accrued during the 3 fiscal years prior to a Gathering.

50% of the monies contributed during the 3 fiscal years prior to a Gathering.

Scholarships will be awarded according to monies available.

Recipients will be selected by the Executive Committee of the Central States Synodical Women of the ELCA at its Fall Board Meeting. CSS Women of the ELCA are trustees of the fund. Notification will be done in a timely manner.

Applications must be postmarked by September 30, 2019

SEND TO: Beth Rockelman

2103 Blair Drive Apt E

Jefferson City, MO 65109 (phone 573-782-4759 or 573-761-0722)

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

President: Alice Burnett
 12130 Dove Hill Court
 Derby, KS 67037-9485
 Ph: 316-776-2838 or 316-258-7685
kaburnett@cox.net

Vice President: Beth Rockelman
 2103 Blair Drive, Apt. E
 Jefferson City, MO 65109
 Ph: 573-761-0722; 573-782-4759
bethr@midamerica.net

Secretary: Annalee Crotinger
 3633 Avenue N
 Bison, KS 67520
 Ph: 785-387-2454H; 785-387-2336
rotingera@usd403.org

Treasurer: Vickie Donnell
 4672 E Hidden Oak Place
 Springfield, MO 65802
 Cell: 417-839-8862
vickiedonnell@yahoo.com

Board Member: Ann Hoover
 25370 Little Buffalo Rd
 Stover, MO 65078
 Ph: 573-377-6389
jstmom@hotmail.com

Board Member: Loretta Holmes
 568 Turtle
 Haysville, KS 67060
 Ph: 316-524-0960
lhomes8@sbcglobal.net

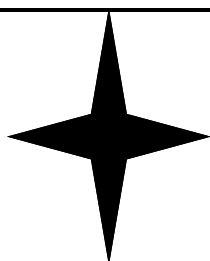
Board Member: Kathy Steinke
 10661 Hackamore Ln
 St. Louis, MO 63128
 Cell: 314-422-2835
kathysteinke81@gmail.com

Board Member: Wendy Hoops
 408 South Country Club Road
 Chanute, KS 66720
 Ph: 620-245-1937
wendy.hoops75@gmail.com

Board Member: Kara Jecha
 117 Pine Street
 Timken, KS 67575
 Ph: 785-355-2000
 Cell: 785-372-1637
churchlady@gbta.net

WITW Newsletter Editor: Mary Liby
 25680 S Urish Rd
 Osage City, KS 66523
 Ph: 785-528-3434
 Cell: 785-817-3942
lmfarms72@gmail.com

Central States Women NEW website
www.css-elca.org/welca
 Central States Women Facebook:
www.facebook.com/CSSwomenofeca
 (this is not a typo—it is eca)
All are secure websites



*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
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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.
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