

WALKING IN THE WORD

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE
CENTRAL STATES WOMEN OF THE ELCA
JUNE, 2009 Volume 20, Issue 2



“Gift of Grace”

Manhattan, KS will be the place to be for the Central States Synod, Women of the ELCA Convention to be held July 24-26th, 2009. The convention will take place at the Clarion Hotel.

This year’s theme will be “Gift of Grace” based on Bible verse Romans 3:24 “...justified by His grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” With God’s grace we strive to listen to others with love and compassion, reflecting the grace of God.

Convention Update

Many great experiences are planned for this convention. Workshops, service projects, bowling, great entertainment, and thoughtful grace filled worship and Bible study will refill our spirits.

We will once again have our basket auction to raise funds for the Barbara Nelson Memorial Scholarship Fund. We will offer a chance for Bible study, workshops, service projects, and fellowship.

Full-time convention registration will be \$65.00 until June 15th, at which time the cost will go up to \$75.00. Please check our synod web site. All forms for the convention can be found there.

I look forward to seeing everyone in Manhattan!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

Every Monday
Prayer at noon

CSS Women/ELCA
Convention, July 24-26
Manhattan, KS



**WALKING IN THE
WORD IS NOW
AVAILABLE ONLY ON
THE WEB!**

Walking in the Word is published four times a year: June, September, December and March.

The **DEADLINE** for submitting material is the 15th of the prior month. Send items to mbridges12@cox.net.

It is available on the web at www.css-elca.org then click on the link **Women of the ELCA**, and then click on the link **Walking in the Word**.

Info from Iris

I believe you will find this issue of "Walking in the Word" filled with convention information! We may even repeat ourselves a bit, but I remember reading somewhere that a person has to hear something a certain number of times before they retain it, so by the time you read these pages, I pray that each one of us will be more "up" on the Central States Women of the ELCA Convention at the Clarion Hotel, Manhattan KS, July 24-26, 2009!

By now your delegates should be in place and you should be working on resolutions you want to bring before the convention. A resolution form was part of the information sent out in the initial packet. Feel free to make copies of the form, and bring more than one resolution from your unit. **All nominations that come from the floor, and all resolutions, need to be turned in Friday evening, July 24, by 5:30 p.m., at our registration desk.** This is different from past conventions, but as per the Conference of Presidents this past February, we will work toward better organization of these two venues.

The nominating committee is already busy, and I will soon begin to appoint other convention committees! Delegates, please prayerfully consider serving on one of the committees as I contact you in the upcoming weeks.

Area churches and clusters are very busy preparing for women all across Missouri and Kansas to come together under the theme, "Gift of Grace." So, get that registration sent in, gather up those in-kind offerings for "Help Us Learn...Give Us Hope, get your pledges compiled for Tomah Shinga's bowl-athon, order your t-shirt, see how much scrap yarn you can get rid of on Warm Up America sections, fill your car with friends and I will see you in Manhattan!



Iris Turnbull, President
Central States Women of the ELCA
at Bethany Lutheran Church, Lindsborg

Pictured below: Carla Standley, Marilyn Youngquist, Carolyn Bauer and Iris Turnbull, the Executive Board of the Central States Women of the ELCA, met in March at Iris' home, Rural Axtell KS.



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Accepting Our God-Given Self

Recently, I was in Cincinnati and had the great opportunity to walk with one of my sisters in Christ. I had never met this woman before, so we started our conversation rather timidly, finding out some things about each other. When I asked her what she did for a living, however, she shared her faith with me. She was unemployed but was not dismayed about this, as she felt that God had just closed one door and was opening a new and better door for her life. Her acceptance of this was refreshing. We both then shared how easy this acceptance of God being in control can make our lives if we don't fight it. I thought about this again when I heard the scripture lesson about Jesus being the vine dresser and we are the vine. We need to be pruned in order to bear fruit. The theme of God being in control was repeated in this reading.

In the spring, we think about planting our gardens. We dig down into the soil, plant the seeds or plants, water, stake, and just make the best place for them to grow. Although many of us may live in an urban setting, we are still tied to the earth in our core. Just as you plant a garden with a variety of vegetables, we too come in many varieties. Some of us may be tall corn plants; some lower to the ground like green beans; some below the surface like beets. Some of us may be rich and juicy like tomatoes, some pungent like onions, and some keep our fruits hidden like Brussels sprouts. Some of us are even kind of different, like rutabagas. But, a tomato can't be an ear of corn any more than a green bean can be a beet. God has created each of us with our own unique talents and abilities.

So, the next time you are feeling down or feeling that you should do this or that so you can be like some other woman in a magazine or in your life, think about a garden and all the variety of flowers and plants in it. God created each one and together He cares for them and creates a beautiful and useful landscape.

Mary Keidle

NEEDED: CLUSTER INFORMATION

Some clusters held elections this spring. Please send new cluster contact information to Central States Synod Women of the ELCA Secretary:

Carolyn Bauer,
1501 W 20th ST
Sedalia, MO 65301

or email carolyn1501@hotmail.com



Information needed is:

- Cluster name
- Name of coordinator
- Coordinator's address
- Telephone number and email address (if one is available.)

Units, if you haven't already given your current contact information to Carolyn, or to your cluster coordinator or board contact person, please send this information to Carolyn. It is helpful if you include the cluster name with your updated information.

BASKETS FOR SILENT AUCTION

Last year at Synod convention, we had a silent auction of several assorted baskets of lots of "stuff." Our fundraiser was a success, and we are planning to do it again this year. When you bring your basket, have a list of what is in it so we know what we are all getting, as some stuff is hard to see. It also helps some people know how much to bid. How big or little is up to you—be as creative as you dare. I would like to remind you what it is about. In 1994, one of our sisters in Christ, Barbara Nelson, passed on. She served as a leader, a speaker, a role model, and had a great deal of impact on the ELCA Lutheran Church. She and others "went to bat" for all of us so our organization would not be lost in all the changes of the church at the time. She did many things and we honor her with this memorial—Barbara Nelson Triennial Convention Memorial Fund. To apply for a grant for consideration to go to Spokane, Washington for the 2011 Triennial, you only need to meet two criteria: be a member of the Central States Synod Women of the ELCA. and have never been to a triennial gathering before. We would love to give out all our scholarships that are available when the time comes. That is what the money is for, and it is a learning experience you will not forget. I went as a delegate to the last one in Salt Lake City, and I had a great experience—next time I want to take a lot more of us. For now, we all need to pull together, and support each other in all of our efforts. Every basket that is donated will be appreciated and every buyer who takes home a basket will be satisfied in knowing that a worthwhile cause is being upheld. Please come and participate by cheering each other on if nothing else. We will have so much fun at this eventSee you there!

Your sister in Christ,
Susie Borgstrom



Barbara Nelson
Scholarship



Lessons for Today's Disciples is a new resource on the Internet from Women of the ELCA. I have chosen to take a few excerpts from Lesson 7, "Giving Freely." The Bible passage for this lesson is 2 Corinthians 9:1-15. Giving begins with our hearts, and when we decide to give, things happen. We must know that everything belongs to God. Giving is merely the mechanism for distributing the resources needed (time, gifts, dollars, action) to care for God's creation. Giving is often confused with "giving up" something or creating scarcity and deficiency. The mystery is that when we give generously and freely, we find that the more we give, the more there is to give. Our attitudes about giving and its importance in God's plan are more important than the amounts we give (Luke 21:1-2).

Thank you to all of the congregational units which are giving to our synodical unit to support the mission we have as Women of the ELCA. Since February you have sent in close to \$6,000 in offerings. We in turn have given offerings of about \$11,000 to Churchwide and other places.

Marilyn Youngquist

Cluster Meetings



Mid-Missouri Cluster IV-C Spring Gathering

The Mid-Missouri Cluster IV-C women met on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Jefferson City, Missouri. The theme for the day was "Stop, Look, and Listen" with the Scripture verse: "Be still and know that I am God..." Psalm 46:10a.

Highlights of the day included:

Lois Viebrock did a book review of *Radical Welcome*. The women were reminded of our need to be listening to others and to God so that we are more welcoming people. "Don't go through life so fast that you have to have a "brick" thrown at you to stop, look and listen."

A musical presentation called *Noah* by the Jubilation Bells of Our Savior's. The story of Noah was presented in music and narration.

A presentation by Shirley Reed on the Union Mission of Kansas City. The mission was established in 1925 and is a ministry that helps homeless men. Shirley has been a part of this ministry for most of her adult life.

A report by Carolyn Bauer concerning Central States Synod news of the W-ELCA.

A silent auction of gift baskets took place and the money was donated to the Union Mission.

In-kind gifts were given to the Samaritan Center in Jefferson City. This is an inter-faith organization that provides clothing, food, electric and gas bill help and other services (medical, legal, family life, mental health, etc.) to the poor.

The Heartland South 3-C Cluster met on April 18, 2009 at Friends Home Lutheran Church, rural Savonburg, KS. PMA Kathy Sanley, opened the meeting with a welcome and opening devotions. The theme program, "God Works For Good In Hidden Ways," was given by the ladies from Peace Lutheran in Joplin MO. Biblical references were from Isaiah 55 and I John 4. Many interesting personal experiences relating to the theme were shared. Synodical board member Mary Keidle, was present, and contributed to the afternoon business session. The ladies from St John, Pittsburg KS, led the offering interpretation. The ingathering was non-perishable food items that are donated to a local food pantry. Also donated were several quilts that are donated to a local charity which works with needy families. The spring 2010 cluster meeting will be hosted by Peace Lutheran, Joplin, MO.

Sixty-four women of the Smoky Valley Cluster met at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Salina, on Saturday, April 18, 2009. The theme was "The Riches of God's Grace," based on 2 Corinthians 12:9: "The Lord said unto me, 'My grace is sufficient for you...'" The Bible study leader was Pastor Kent Happel from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Salina. The afternoon session featured Alice Potts of Assaria, who told of the Heifer Project and how the simple gift of an animal changes the lives of so many poor families in the world as they are fed and become self-supporting, and in turn help other families get started on that road.

It was necessary to elect two new coordinators due to the health problems of Barbara Ulmen, who was elected last year. CeCelia Anderson and Melanie Ryding were elected to serve together with Doris Swenson. An offering for Central States Synod Women's projects and convention scholarship amounted to \$276, and the offering for the Heifer Project amounted to \$437. We are invited to have our 2010 cluster gathering at Salemsborg Lutheran Church, rural Smolan.

Doris Swenson,
Coordinator

CLUSTER MEETINGS CONTINUED

The Post Rock Cluster 1-E held their Spring Gathering at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Lucas on May 3, 2009. There were 65 registered attendees, with an offering of \$660.16 collected. An in-kind offering was also collected and \$300 was given to MOSAIC of Ellsworth.

Georgia Schwimmer of Gloria Dei welcomed everyone. The opening devotion was given by Diane Wagner on Hebrews 13:1-3. Diane stressed to keep on loving, accept God's gift of grace and read a "Love in Action" devotional. Special music was provided by Doris Johnson on the flute.

The guest speaker, Jane Heeke of Great Bend, showed slides and talked about her trip to the Solomon Islands, which are a group of six islands in the South Pacific. The people of the Solomon Islands travel by boat or small aircraft and live in the "bush," which is the area in the center of each island. The Solomon Islands became independent from Great Britain in 1978 and do not have separation of church and state. Jane said that we may look different on the outside but we are all the same on the inside because we are children of God. The theme hymn, "Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace," was then sung.

Deborah Rupprecht, Central States Women's Board member, brought greetings from President Iris Turnbull. She talked about the upcoming convention in Manhattan, Kansas July 24-26th with the theme Gift of Grace. The prayer partner gifts for the convention are to cost under \$1.00 with the gift being apple-oriented.

Deana Duesberg from MOSAIC explained that they are a disability-related educational facility. In Ellsworth they serve 26 people. They have been serving as a Lutheran facility which was originally known as Bethphage many years ago.

Kathy Ahlvers, Coordinator, opened the business meeting. The minutes were approved as printed. The motion to approve was made by Miriam Strasen and seconded by Marlene Brack. M/C. VirJean Scheuerman, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report. It was approved as printed. Motion to approve was made by Joyce Karst and seconded by Hilda Deitz. M/C. New business discussed was the convention responsibilities which were 1) Gift of Grace Banner which Trinity Lutheran, Great Bend, will make and 2) A basket for the Barbara Nelson Fund Auction which Peace Lutheran, Albert will make with a duck theme.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Great Bend extended an invitation to attend the Fall Cluster Meeting. Shirley Maier, St. Mark's gave the closing entitled "Let Mutual Love Continue." The closing hymn, "May the Good Lord Bless and Keep You," was sung.

Refreshments and sharing time was held afterwards. The tables were decorated with little gift boxes that each lady was able to take home and use.

Michele Brack, Secretary

WORKSHOPS BEING OFFERED AT CONVENTION:

**Children To Give Away,
The Orphan Trains**

Camp Tomah Shinga

Biblical Story Telling

Lutheran Campus Ministries

Help Us Learn—Give Us Hope

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CHECK THE CENTRAL STATES WOMEN OF THE ELCA WEBSITE FOR
MORE CONVENTION INFORMATION.