

Triennial Convention Report 2008
Jan Malpert, Delegate

Central States six delegates and our president, Iris, arrived in Salt Lake City on July 8, 2008 for the seventh Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA. The delegates elected a new slate of officers and board members and five were selected to serve a second term.

Our new president is Beth Warren of our companion synod, North Carolina. She was a member of the churchwide executive board and executive committee during the last Triennium.

Our Region 4 is now represented by vice president, Charlene Spillmann of Texas, (4E) and board members JoAnn Fuchs of Texas (4F) and Diane Brauer of Nebraska (4A).

A new budget was adopted and we voted on several constitutional changes.

Executive director, Linda Post Bushkofsky, told of a recent survey that found what women like best about our organization is the friendship and support they get for each other, opportunities to study God's word and serve other people.

Some highlights of the previous triennium were inaugurating Bold Women's Day, participation in women's health issues (Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls initiative), and endorsement of the HEART for Women Act.

Through Women of the ELCA, we gave away a quarter of a million dollars in grants to help women over the last three years. These grants went to organizations all over the globe. The 2007 grants for Region 4 went to charities in Lincoln NE, St. Louis, MO and Wichita Falls, TX.

Some memorials acted on were minimizing or eliminating use of plastics, especially plastic bags and water bottles, mountaintop removal mining, financial accounting which gave synodical women's organizations freedom to appoint committees to review their financial activities rather than go the more expensive route of hiring an independent group for audits and Pastoral support for Women of the ELCA. We are encouraged to invite our clergy to activities of our units and acknowledge with gratitude, the support provided by our clergy to our units. The resolutions included "Closing the gap", that encouraged congregational units to invite teen girls and young women of participate as advisors to Synod Woman's organization boards.

The offering at the opening worship was \$34,113. The closing worship offering was \$10,148. Before the convention, individuals and congregational units sent \$28,935 for the offering. The total of the offerings was \$73,196. Half of this offering will support ongoing ministries of the Women of the ELCA churchwide organization. The other half will be divided equally between Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service for its work in the area of commercial sexual exploitation and the Stand With Africa/Lutheran World Federation for a water project.

Bishop Hanson presided at a communion service for the Thankoffering worship. That offering totaled \$31,617.

The next Triennial will be held in Spokane, Washington, July 14-17, 2011.