

**PLEASE COPY THIS PACKET
AND DISTRIBUTE WIDELY TO
WOMEN IN YOUR
CONGREGATION.**

**35th ANNUAL CONVENTION
OF THE CENTRAL STATES SYNODICAL
ORGANIZATION
WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

June 23-25, 2023

**Stoney Creek Hotel Kansas City—Independence
18011 Bass Pro Drive Independence, MO 64055**

Greetings from your Board! Please accept our personal invitation to attend the 35th Annual Convention of the Central States Synodical Organization of Women of the ELCA to be held June 23-25th in Independence, MO. Coming off of a most successful convention last year, we are eager to again gather in person. We look forward to letting you know what has taken place over the past year and look forward to the next, as we bring our newly aligned five cluster organization into being.

Do you know that the word 'light' appears 236 times in the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible? From the origin of light in Genesis we move through the scriptures to appreciate that God is light. *"The LORD is my light and my salvation,"* declared David, *"Whom shall I fear?"* God created natural light and is responsible for spiritual light. He is the pure light—the source of constant and unwavering light. Therefore, there is no need for us to grope about in darkness and despair. We hope you will join us as we celebrate:

"The LORD is my light and my salvation whom shall I fear?" Psalm 27: 1a

Under the guidance of this verse and in response to suggestions received after last year's convention, the Board has planned a convention that will surely be meaningful for all. Some of what you can expect...

- † An environment and accommodations that are welcoming, pleasant, and easily navigated.
- † An outdoor setting which is inviting and promises to be beautiful in late June—check out Waterfall Park and its 1.2 mile loop trail at <https://www.visitkc.com/waterfallpark>.
- † Activities and opportunities to make new friends and reconnect with others—the Hospitality Room has returned.
- † Meaningful worship with prayer and song—there will be more singing this year!
- † A report on the activities and status of our Churchwide Organization from a representative of the Executive Board—we will hear the latest regarding the upcoming 12th Triennial Convention and Gathering coming up in September.
- † Greetings and report from the Central States Synod by The Rev Susan Candea, Bishop of the Central States Synod.
- † Keynote address by Kelsey Scism, a former teacher, Christian writer, wife, and mom of six, who spends her time seeking the Lord's voice in everyday moments. <https://www.lovingourlord.com>
- † Enlightening Bible study led by our Chaplain, The Rev Linda Daniels-Block. Bring your Bibles.
- † Break-out sessions focusing on our scriptural theme—how we can best 'walk in the light', 'be the light', and 'sustain the light' as our organization calls us *'to discipleship in Jesus Christ'*.
- † A 'take-home' craft project that will be filled with blessings.
- † Meeting the 2023 recipients of the scholarships awarded from our Education Scholarship Fund.
- † Silent auction to support the Barbara Nelson Memorial Fund along with the 'mini raffle' to gift yourself or others with special treasures.
- † Entertainment by inspirational speaker Dan Meers, who has been the Kansas City Chiefs mascot, K.C. Wolf, since its inception—the mascot all other mascots look up to! <https://www.danmeers.org>

We are pleased to be able to hold our 35th annual convention at Stoney Creek. Nestled within the Falls of Crackerneck Creek, the hotel is easily accessible where you can just enjoy the sounds of a gorgeous waterfall or take a walk around the backyard lake. Our hope and prayer is that the women of your congregational unit will support this convention or if your unit is not active, just please come—we will be waiting to greet you.

Central States Synodical Organization Board,
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