

## On the Inside

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## CSS W/ELCA 2019 CONVENTION

August 16-18, 2019  
Holiday Inn Wichita East  
WICHITA, KANSAS  
316-681-5092  
(July 20 deadline for  
room reservations)

## Work together for good - Rev. Dinah Dutta

*Dear sisters in Christ,*

How are you? It has been so long since I have communicated with you. Soon the season of Epiphany will be over and we will enter into the season of Lent.

These days the Lord is speaking to me with the word of God and what the following verse really means. This was

***And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.***

***Romans 8:28 (NKJV)***

one of my dad’s (the late Rev. Dr. Pooranchand) favorite Bible verses. I realized that until recently I had greatly misunderstood what “all” really means. In the last year, the Holy Spirit has been teaching me to understand that “all” includes our hurts, our brokenness, our failures, our losses and much more.

I imagine, you just like me, are asking, “How could something bad that happens to us individually or to our families work together for good?” I do not have one answer that fits us all. But the next time we meet, I would like to share with you the amazing ways the Lord is leading me to find grace, peace, forgiveness, and wholeness in my day-to-day walk with the Lord.

As many of you know, I have been “on leave from call” since April 2018. I am serving God as a chaplain at the KU Medical Center in Kansas City, KS. I also am preaching almost every Sunday to different congregations.

At the hospital, I hear the term “float”



nurses in reference to those who move from one floor to another, or from one hospital to another. In keeping with that thought, I now call myself a “float” preacher.

The Lord has proven to me His word he gave through Isaiah 61:1.

*“The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn.”*

My dear sisters in Christ, the Lord has anointed us to proclaim good news, by loving, forgiving and returning to the foot of the cross and experience the new life he has promised us through His resurrection. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. I shall keep all of you close to my heart in Christ’s love. You may contact me if you want to pray with me or if you have a special prayer request. The Lord be with you!

785-979-8362

[pastordutta@gmail.com](mailto:pastordutta@gmail.com)

## 2019 CSS W/ELCA Convention: “Wonderfully Made” — *Beth Rockelman, vice president*

*“I praise thee, for thou art fearful and wonderful. Wonderful are thy works! Thou knows me right well.”*

Psalm 139:14

How is that for a theme verse? Wonderful, that is what it is! “Wonderfully Made” is our logo for this summer’s 2019 CSS W/ELCA convention in Wichita, KS.

A beautiful butterfly will grace everything. We could describe the theme and logo as “awesome”.

When we were all together at our fall synod board meeting, one of our wonderfully made ladies read this verse and it was chosen for our convention theme and 2019 goal. “Made in God’s image, we go rejoicing.”



### **How do you observe Lent?**

*Anna Prockish, board member*

It is already March and soon we will enter the Lenten season. For many years, ELCA has encouraged churches to collect a “Give It Up For Lent” offering to benefit various causes. This year, the offering will go to ELCA World Hunger.

I will make a bulletin board display for the church I attend and will use the ELCA packet information that has been sent to all churches. Children and adults are encouraged to use the available collection banks. Redeemer Lutheran Church in Salina plans to give the “40 Days of Lent” study guide to its members.

On March 31, the fifth Sunday, our church will have a potluck brunch with a free-will offering for ELCA World Hunger. W/ELCA units and/or their congregations are invited to hold a fifth Sunday potluck (anytime during the year) with a free-will offering to benefit the organization or cause of their choice. Our fifth Sunday meal/free-will offering in June will raise money for Lutheran World Relief baby kits. Last September, our fifth Sunday meal/offering was held as a stewardship kick-off event. Our senior citizens, especially, welcome the opportunity to eat and have fellowship with others instead of eating at home by themselves.

What has your unit or congregation done or plans to do to observe Lent? I welcome your ideas.

[aprock7778@gmail.com](mailto:aprock7778@gmail.com)

Our convention will be held August 16-18 at Holiday Inn West East, 549 South Rock Road, 316-681-5092. (This is change from previous announcements) The deadline for hotel room reservations is July 20. Be sure to mention you are part of the Women of the ELCA (not Welkah).

Breakfast and sales/hotel taxes are included in the room price of \$126.71 per night, and will accommodate up to four persons. Breakfast meal tickets will be provided by the hotel. You will be on your own for Saturday lunch.

Walli Ellis from Lindsborg, KS, convention registrar, will send convention registration packets to churches around March 23. Please share the enclosed information and make copies of the registration forms, as needed. Registration grants will be awarded based on the amount of cluster offerings or donations received. (See article and form, page 4)

Convention events will include the collection of items for MOSAIC in Winfield, KS. MOSAIC is a faith-based organization that serves people with intellectual disabilities and provides opportunities for them to enjoy a full life.

Ladies are invited to sing in the choir and experience a labyrinth.

Evelyn Clark, program chair, is setting up workshop/focus group leaders and entertainment. Loretta Holmes, board member, has contacted a number of vendors who will be present at the convention. CWO Representative, Joy Michalicek from Minnesota, also will attend.

[Bethr@midamerica.net](mailto:Bethr@midamerica.net)

### **Cluster assignments**

*Kara Jecha, board member*

To acknowledge the hard work they do, Cluster Coordinators will receive a \$10 discount off the regular \$70 registration fee. Thus each coordinator’s registration fee will be \$60 to attend the CSS W/ELCA 2019 convention.

Cluster assignments for the convention are: Ark River Valley, Loretta Homes, program, worship and music; Prairie Angles, Sue Schonhaler, Banner; Mid-Missouri, Janice Gerken, distribute T-shirts; Cluster 4A, Karen Orrill, table grace Friday evening; SE Kansas City Metro, Paula Simonich, table grace Saturday noon; Tri-State, Ardythe Cederberg, table grace Saturday night banquet; Smoky Valley, Marty Ryan, Barbara Nelson Scholarship Auction; God’s Sonflowers, Cindy Wadlington, mini-affle; Amazing Women, Wilma Prifti, prayer partner exchange; Ozark Mountain, Mick Friberg, banquet table favors.

[chuchlady@gbta.net](mailto:chuchlady@gbta.net)

## Extend a “popcorn” invitation — *Alice Burnett, president*

**Come let us sing**, Psalm 95:1.

The Bible has many references that invite God’s people. “Invite, invite, invite” were the instructions given by our church-wide W/ELCA president Lisa Plorin at the Conference of Presidents. I thought, “Sure, but how do I do it?”

The lesson came to me in a very clear way. I go to the gym regularly where one woman in particular asked me to join Zumba. Each invitation was short and offered with enthusiasm. I responded by shaking my head “no”. My excuses were that I could not attend because it was the wrong day or time, or that “my body does not move that way”!

She invited me at least eight times, until finally, I consented. I now attend Zumba class each Tuesday morning.

### **S.O.A.P.—You can make a difference**

***Ann Hoover, board member***

As plans are being made for the 2019 CSS W/ELCA Convention, I am excited about all the possibilities for the thoughtful consideration of being “Wonderfully Made”. How can we relate this to human trafficking? The victims are not given the opportunity to feel “wonderfully made.” I wish I could send this message to each and every one of them.

In the January/February 2019 issue of *Gather*, there is an excellent article about the S.O.A.P. program (Save Our Adolescents from Prostitution). It suggests a project which involves putting a label on hotel soaps that will give victims access to the 800 hotline number. I think this is an excellent program that is worth checking out.

There are several ways you can make a tangible difference in your area— Prayer, Hold a S.O.A.P. event, ask for better laws, raise awareness, reach out and support local organizations, share ways to get help. Much more information is available at [womenoftheelca.org/humantrafficking](http://womenoftheelca.org/humantrafficking). Please be mindful of this issue as you plan your unit and cluster meetings.

[jestmom@hotmail.com](mailto:jestmom@hotmail.com)

The teacher and the class of young women are glad I attend and keep encouraging me. They say they enjoy seeing me in class as I attempt to dance. Why do I keep going? Because the young woman keeps reminding/inviting me each week. And because, it is FUN!



Does Women of the ELCA mean something to you? What would happen if it suddenly was not there?

I ask you to give “popcorn” invitations to women to come to Bible studies, meetings, quilting sessions, and meals/snack times we share. In God’s time, they will respond. Simply invite often by saying “**Come**”.

[kaburnett@cox.net](mailto:kaburnett@cox.net)

## Another year of generosity

***Vickie Donnell, treasurer***

Serving as treasurer of the CSS W/ELCA is the best job in the world! This is because I hear from all of you and see first-hand the generosity of women across the synod. It makes my day to go to the mailbox and get a note from a unit or cluster contact.

In 2018, we had 57 congregational units and 11 clusters that submitted contributions during the year. The amount in offerings sent to church-wide was \$15,608. Money in the amount of \$10,374 passed through our treasury and was given to charitable organizations and groups in addition to the \$411 given directly by units or clusters. Congregational units and clusters also donate to local organizations and send money to church-wide. Well done, CSS women.

If you have Thrivent Choice Dollars available, consider directing them to our synodical organization.

[vickiedonnell@yahoo.com](mailto:vickiedonnell@yahoo.com)

**REGISTRATION FEE GRANT APPLICATION  
CSS W/ELCA 2019 CONVENTION**



Grants are offered for the \$70 registration fee to attend the CSS W/ELCA 2019 Convention, August 16-18, 2019 in Wichita, KS. Each Cluster is encouraged to take a special offering at its Spring meeting in order to help bring someone to the convention. The number of grants awarded will depend on the total amount of offering monies received.

**The grant does not pay for food or lodging.** If you have any questions, please contact Beth Rockelman or a CSS W/ELCA board member.

- Only one name from each W/ELCA unit may be submitted.
- First time applicants receive preference. No applicant will be considered after receiving a grant twice.

**APPLICANTS MUST BE:**

- 1) Woman of any age; and
- 2) A member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

**APPLICANTS MUST QUALIFY IN ONE OF THE FOLLOWING AREAS:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ I am providing care for an elderly relative in a home setting.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I am a student.
- \_\_\_\_\_ My children are under 18 years-old and are living at home.
- \_\_\_\_\_ I have never attended a Central States Synod Women of the ELCA Convention.

I am attending as a Voting Member \_\_\_\_\_ or Participant \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cluster \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

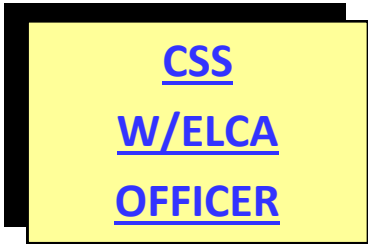
Church name and address \_\_\_\_\_

***What do you hope to gain from the experience of attending Women of the ELCA Convention?***

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Please complete this form and return by **May 15, 2019** to: Beth Rockelman, 2103 Blair Drive, Apt. E, Jefferson City, MO 65109. [Bethr@midamerica.net](mailto:Bethr@midamerica.net) Phone 573-782-4759 or 573-761-0722.

**CONSIDERATION FOR NOMINATION FORM**  
**CENTRAL STATES SYNODICAL ORGANIZATION**  
**WOMEN OF THE ELCA**



\*Check those positions in which the nominee is willing to serve. Individuals nominated must consent to serve if elected. Each position is for a two-year term.

\* Positions for which nominations are needed for 2019 are:

\_\_\_\_\_ President                      \_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer                      \_\_\_\_\_ Board Member

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Home Phone** \_\_\_\_\_ **Work phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of congregation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

(continued on next page)

**CONSIDERATION FOR NOMINATION**

(continued)



Please list your experience (beginning with the most recent first. List significant experience in each area over the last ten years.) May add sheets as needed.

**Occupational History** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Leadership or participation in church women’s organization** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Leadership or participation in congregation** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Leadership or participation in church-wide ELCA** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Other organizations** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Community** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Rationale for believing nominee can serve effectively in position for which selected:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *(Must have this signature to be viable)*

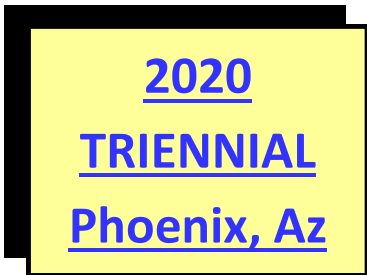
***Signature of President/Coordinator/Leader of nominee’s Congregational Unit***

-----  
Please complete both pages of this form and return by **June 12, 2019** to:

Rhonda Templing, 234 NW 210 Rd, Hoisington, KS 67544. If you have any questions, contact Rhonda at: (home) 620-935-4213; (cell) 785-483-9402. Email: [rtemp@russellks.net](mailto:rtemp@russellks.net)

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**NOMINATION FORM FOR TRIENNIAL VOTING MEMBER**  
**CENTRAL STATES SYNOD WOMEN OF THE ELCA**



Six positions are available:

- \* One must be a woman of color or have a primary language other than English
- \* One must be a first-time participant
- \* Four should be from varying locations and age groups

(The CSS W/ELCA president will be a voting member by virtue of her office so a total of seven voting members will be attending from CSS W/ELCA.)

**There will be no nominations from the floor.**

No nominations will be accepted after the postmark deadline of **May 24, 2019.**

Each congregational unit is allowed one nomination for triennial voting member.

Each form must be signed by a leader (president, cluster leader, Synodical officer or board member) from the nominee's church unit.

The procedure followed is in line with the church-wide recommendations. It is called "a rank order" process.

Please choose one delegate from your unit. Send the completed and signed two-page nomination form to Rhonda Templing in regular mail. Elections will be held Saturday, August 17, 2019 at the CSS WELCA Convention in Wichita, KS.

Please **check all** of the information that applies to you:

- I am a woman of color
- I am a woman whose primary language is NOT English
- I have never been to a triennial convention or gathering
- I went to the last triennial as a voting member
- My age group is 18-40
- My age group is 41-60
- My age group is over 60

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

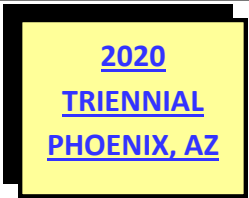
NAME of CONGREGATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

*(continued on next page)*

**TRIENNIAL DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM**

(continued)



Please list your experiences over the last 10 years:

**Occupational History** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**LEADERSHIP AND PARTICIPATION IN.....**

**Local congregation and/or cluster** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Central States Synod and ELCA church-wide** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Other organizations** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Community** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Why do you want to be a voting member to triennial?** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Signature of unit president, cluster leader, synod officer or board member***

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Please complete both pages of this form and return by **May 24, 2019** to:

Rhonda Templing, 234 NW 210 Rd, Hoisington, KS 67544. If you have any questions, contact Rhonda at:  
(home) 620-935-4213; (cell) 785-483-9402. Email: [rtemp@russellks.net](mailto:rtemp@russellks.net)

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**OFFICERS/BOARD MEMEBERS 2018-2019**  
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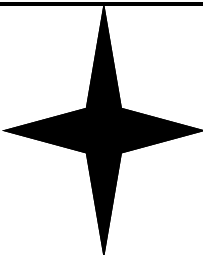
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Central States Women NEW website  
[www.css-elca.org/welca](http://www.css-elca.org/welca)  
 Central States Women Facebook:  
[www.facebook.com/CSSwomenofeca](http://www.facebook.com/CSSwomenofeca)  
 (this is not a typo—it is eca)  
*All are secure 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  
Central States Synod Women of the ELCA

**Keep up-to-date with events, news, etc. concerning the CSS W/ELCA**

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