



AR-OK Women of the ELCA

Spring 2018 Newsletter

AR-OK WELCA President's Message

Meet Your Board Members



During the next few newsletters I will be introducing you to your WELCA BOARD MEMBERS. I will not use any particular order. The first one is **Jane Nelson** who enjoys being with others, and did you know she loves the color red? She has red in many places in her home, furniture, quilts and even in her closet! She has been a member of Lutheran Women for 45 years, 30 years in WECLA and before that 15 years in one of the Lutheran Women groups that now make up WELCA. She is a Yankee from Wisconsin. Seek out Jane and ask her about her grand children or what food she likes or was unusual that she has eaten. Jane is our sister in Christ.

The second board member is **Carol Reinke**. She has been a member of Lutheran Women for 60 years on and off in Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and LCA and ELCA. She likes turquoise and enjoys wearing this color. She has a daughter who lives with her and a son and his wife and grand child who live across the street from her and her husband Les. She is midwestern friendly. Carol travels to Ethiopia with her husband and uses her artistic talents to decorate the children's area of the hospital there. Seek out Carol and ask her about Ethiopia and the work she does there.

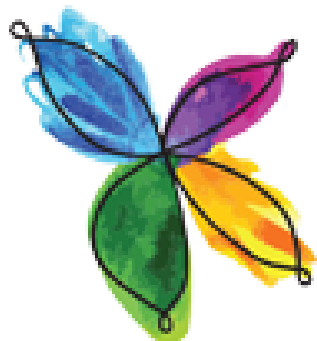
As Lutheran women we have a variety of interests and talents on our board. We are planning to travel to Tanzania next winter. We would like a group that totals about 6 women to go and learn from our Tanzanian sister in Christ what they are doing and how they are growing. They have suffered from drought and floods in this last year. We are praying for them and their families. The one thing we all have in common is our love of Christ and of our sisters in Christ no matter where they are.

Save the dates September 28 through 30 for the Women of the ELCA Convention in Yukon, Oklahoma at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Watch for further information in a newsletter to come.

Peace and Blessings,

Penny Budzien,

President Women of the ELCA



all anew
WOMEN OF THE ELCA

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Spring Gatherings & Vice President's Message	2
Convention Planning Committee	3
Convention 2018 Save the Date	4-5
Human Trafficking	6
WELCA Publications	7
Back Page Calendar	8



Spring Gatherings!

"I said, 'Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest.'"—Psalm 55:6

Our Spring Cluster Gatherings are being held during the month of April! Susan Humphrey has again planned a meaningful Bible study entitled: ***Wings of Wisdom—Finding and Sharing Wholeness and Peace in***

Difficult Times. Please plan to attend the gathering in your Cluster. The dates and places are:

April 14, 2018—Clusters 2&3 (OKC @ Resurrection)

April 14, 2018—Clusters 6&7 (Bellavista @ United)

April 21, 2018—Cluster 8 (Heber Springs @ Hope)

April 28, 2018—Clusters 4&5 (Tulsa @ Joy)

From The Vice President:

John writes that after the resurrection Jesus appeared first to Mary Magdalene and instructed her to *"Go to my brothers and tell them."* In response Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: ***"I have seen the Lord!"*** (John 20:17-18).

Each year the Arkansas/Oklahoma Synodical Women's Organization presents the **"Mary Magdalene Award"** to women who have been faithful to Jesus' command to "Go and Tell"! These women are nominated by their Church unit organization. They have witnessed their responsiveness to Jesus' command. They may be doing what the Lord commands in ways that can be either openly visible or perhaps quietly consistent.

Your Synodical board will select one woman from each cluster from the nominees submitted. These special and treasured women will be honored during the convention. Please be thinking of a deserving woman from your unit to nominate.

Also watch for the nomination form for officers and synodical board members. Board officers to be elected are: Vice President, 2 year term; Treasurer, 2 year term; Secretary, 1 year term; and four members-at-large. Please prayerfully consider a position and have your unit nominate you.

Blessings,

Carol Beck



2010 Mary Magdalene award recipient
Marlene Doan


Women
of Faith™

Fall Convention 2018 Convention Planning Committee at Work!

... On being clothed in love and bound “anew, in perfect unity/harmony”...

Good Morning, Greetings, Salutations, Happy Monday (or Weekday), or Blessed Sunday... How do we start our days, our jobs, our big and little tasks and our friendships? My husband, Joey, greets each day and each interaction with anyone he meets with the words “Happy ***day!” (The stars being replaced by Sun, Mon, Tues, etc. as appropriate for the day of the week.) It is his way of wrapping everything he does in the goodness of God’s love, and letting that goodness lead the course of his daily life. Now, I know you are all wondering, “How could the way Larie’s husband greets a new day or even another person possibly be relevant to an article in our Women of the ELCA newsletter?” so I’ll try to explain....

I bring greetings from your planning committee for the Arkansas/Oklahoma Synodical Women of the ELCA for the 2018 Fall Convention and news of our planning activities. The committee began planning by asking your board to select a Bible verse related to the Triennial theme “All anew,” and which included the word “love.” At the January board meeting, Colossians 3:14 was chosen for our convention theme. Selection of the Bible translation to be used was delegated to the planning committee. (The pew bibles at Resurrection Lutheran in Yukon are the New Revised Standard version which says “Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.”) In our search through translations, we found the verse sometimes wordy but exacting in detail and other times more succinct but vague in detail, yet certain words and phrases were always present: “clothe yourself in love,” “binds” and “perfect unity” or “perfect harmony.” Take a minute this season to look it up and discover which translation resonates in your soul – we’ll let you know which translation we liked best at a later date!



Your committee is working to keep costs low and enjoyment value high. The convention will be held at Resurrection Lutheran Church in Yukon Oklahoma, with housing at the Hampton Inn. The Hampton is within a mile of the church and a full breakfast is included in the room rate. We’ve been greeted with enthusiasm and eagerness to help by Pastor Mark Borseth and the congregation at Resurrection. We’ve been offered the “family discount” by a local caterer (also a member at Resurrection.) We’re hoping to secure local talent from Redeemer to help with our entertainment on Saturday evening. Our convention will be blessed with visits from the CFO of the Women of the ELCA, Linda Post Bushkofsky, as well as national board representative, Tina Bigelow. Additionally, we’re reaching out to organizations and individuals in the greater Oklahoma City area to share how they clothe and are clothed by God’s love and how we might help them. We’re currently planning ongoing workshops benefiting both infants in NICU and “A day for girls.” So, bring yourselves, your questions and your enthusiasm to our annual fall convention and share in the perfect harmony God provides. Better still, consider sponsoring a young woman in your congregation and bring her too.

If you would like a table at the convention to share how you clothe your community in love, please contact your committee. Your convention planning committee consists of the following individuals:

Carol Reinke (Email: phone 405-641-4222, Email: lareinkehome@gmail.com)

LaTesa Williams (cell phone 405-691-1609 Email: latesa@ymail.com)

Larie Hunter (cell phone 405-420-9089 Email: lariehunter@gmail.com)

Special advisor to the committee: Penny Budzien (your Ark/OK W-ELCA President)

Please feel free to contact any of us regarding the conference. **Special note:** if you send email to LaTesa or Larie, PLEASE give them a quick call or text letting them know you sent an email and mark the subject line “WELCA - fall conference.”

In closing, since Colossians 3:14 was chosen for the theme of our fall convention, I’ve been trying to focus on all the ways I have seen people clothed in God’s love. I’ve seen it in: the organizations they belong to, the gifts they give, the gifts they receive, how they treat one another, and how they speak to one another. So, I return to Joey and his daily greeting “Happy ***day!” This greeting is a little thing. It hardly seems relevant to the “clothing of love, unity or harmony.” He has used it for many years, and over the years, I have witnessed many tired, forlorn, discouraged and angry faces transformed by its use. I have watched him use these words to disarm his own anger or frustration, as well as to disarm the anger of employees, contractors and supervisors. Friends and acquaintances have adopted this greeting and upon meeting them outside of our usual meeting places they have rushed to greet us – or to greet Joey – with his greeting, “Happy ***day!” These simple words help to remind him, and to remind me, that God has created not only the day but all that is present in each day. These words remind me that “happiness is a ‘clothing’ of love” and through this, God brings unity and harmony into a sometimes difficult world.



Fall Convention 2018!

Save The Date

Your committee for the Fall convention has been hard at work. Latesa Williams, Larie Hunter, Penny Budzien and I (Carol Reinke) have been having a great time meeting every 2 or 3 weeks, for breakfast, to plan our upcoming Fall Convention. The convention dates are September 28th, 29th and 30th. Opening of the convention is Friday evening with a vespers service and a social hour afterwards. **SAVE THE DATE!!!!!! AND HAVE SOME FUN!**

Last year's convention will be a "hard act to follow" but we have been brainstorming some new ideas and working hard to put together an interesting and thoughtful program. Can't wait to see you all there. It will be in Yukon, Oklahoma this year at Resurrection Lutheran Church. The ladies at Resurrection also drew the card for Spring Gathering this year. Those gals are going to be very busy.



As most of the women who read this newsletter know our organization is getting grayer and grayer. We have a rich and wonderful legacy as Lutheran Women and it deserves to be passed on to the next generation of Women in the church. The younger women want something new and we need their input to give them what they want. I believe they want to learn more about the heritage of faith they have chosen. They also want to know more about the work of women in this organization. Therefore, I declare it to be the duty of those who have enjoyed our sisters in Christ for so many past bible studies and retreats and conventions to

"pass the baton", so to speak, forward by sponsoring a younger woman in your congregation to come to our Fall Convention. Help her see it as an opportunity to grow in faith and help her figure out how to take care of her family while she is away and Help her financially by sponsoring her registration. I intend to do just what I am proposing because I think we need the young women to take over and soon. Plan on traveling together and possibly sharing a room at the hotel. You will be friends for life before the weekend is over and you will be so glad you helped these young women experience a new and vital part of her/our Lutheran Heritage.

One last word about all this. Maybe we should not wait for fall. Maybe you can sponsor a young woman to our Spring gathering Bible Study and luncheon in each Cluster coming up this Spring. Start today and pray for guidance. I have learned that when I ask with an open heart I always hear. So, think about this new idea and ask a younger woman in your congregation if they would like to come and then ask to pick them up and take them to the next event. You'll be so glad you did.

All this being said, if there is a woman older than yourself that you know has been to these events in years past and says now that she is no longer interested, it might be that she is too shy to say that she no longer cares to drive so far or is too shy to ask for a ride. Be a little inquisitive and ask around. You might find a new friend of the "great generation " to take with you to the Spring Gathering Bible Study. My mother who is now legally blind, is one of those, too shy to ask, but since she has "asked" she has enjoyed many outings in her new home.

Be of Service—Peace and Grace, Carol Reinke

Carol's musings:

Today, Tuesday February 13, 2018, LaTesa Williams, Penny Budzein, Larie Hunter and I had breakfast together as we had our 3rd planning meeting for the Fall Convention. We have been having a great time and realize that our job is really cut out for us as last year's convention was nice and will be a hard act to follow. We think our 2018 Convention will be very good and can hardly wait to see you all there this fall. To the ladies who have attended our conventions in the past and are planning on coming again this year, please consider inviting a young woman from your congregation who has never attended. It is up to us as leaders in our congregations to mentor young women and encourage them to continue the work of our Lord in caring for the mission of the Church. As you pray for these women consider sponsoring and traveling with them to the Convention. If you have never come to a convention and thought it might be fun but didn't want to come alone, ask a friend to come with you and share a room. You will have a great time and new bonds will be made in love, friendship, faith and service to each other. God Bless you, See you soon in Yukon. —Your Sister in Christ, Carol Reinke

Women of the ELCA

AK/OK Synod



SAVE the DATE!!!!!!

September 28, 29, 30, 2018

FALL CONVENTION

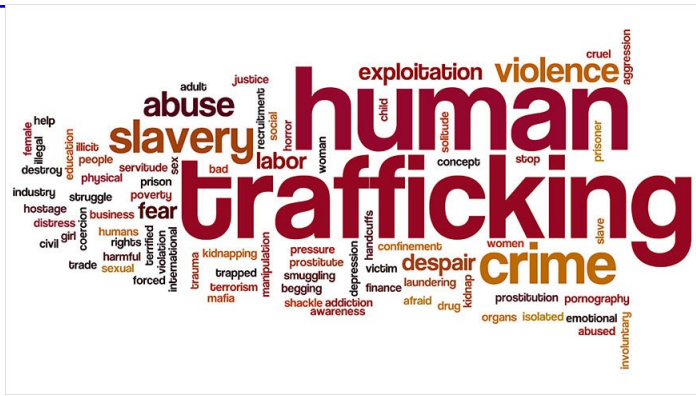
**“ALL A*NEW....In Perfect
Harmony”**

Resurrection Lutheran Church

Yukon, Oklahoma

Worship, Bible Study, Workshops,
Fellowship, Food, Music and Fun

**More information at your
Spring Gathering**



Mobilizing Communities Against HUMAN TRAFFICKING

by Jackie Wilson

Human Trafficking is a global problem and one of the world's most cruel and shameful problems. Operation Underground Railroad (OUR) exists to free child sex slaves and break the cycle of exploitation. They locate the exploited children,

connect with Law Enforcement; they rescue the children and either reunite them with their parents or take them to safe havens for rehabilitation.

OUR has gathered the world's experts in extraction operations and in anti-child trafficking efforts to bring an end to child slavery. OUR Underground Jump Teams consists of former CIA, Navy SEALs, and Special Ops operatives that lead coordinated identification and extraction efforts. These operations are always in conjunction with law enforcement throughout the world. Once victims are rescued, a comprehensive process involving justice for the perpetrators and recovery and rehabilitation for the survivors begins. It is time for private citizens and organizations to rise up and help. It is our duty as a free and blessed people.

At the 2017 Super Bowl (these are the largest sex trafficking events) 8 traffickers were arrested and 31 girls rescued. Also, these children are bused in during the racing seasons across the country. Check with your local sheriff's office and see when your task force meets, and how you can help these young boys and girls find help.

The national hot line number is 888-373-7888.

OUR Promise To the children

Who we pray for daily, we say:
Your long night is coming to an end.
Hold on. We are on our way.



Cluster 8—Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Hot Springs, Arkansas

BE WISE—STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING!

Jackie's article is informative and thought provoking. Women of the ELCA has made Human Trafficking a focus issue. We will have a special offering at the Fall Convention for organizations in Arkansas and Oklahoma that are on the frontlines, helping victims to escape and rebuild their lives. At Prince of Peace in Hot Springs, a glass "owl" jar is in the narthex for donations that will be presented at the convention in September. We have asked members of the congregation to fill it up again and again. That's one way we can help stop human trafficking!

—Dorla Dixon



Stay connected with Bold Connections View the latest issue of Bold Connections, the monthly e-newsletter that features the latest news and information about our programs and activities. Bold Connections is delivered via e-mail toward the end of the month. - See more at: <http://www.womenofthelca.org/bold-connections>.



Café is an award-winning web-based magazine for young adult women who want to build community, participate in advocacy, and strengthen their faith. It incorporates a Lutheran perspective but is a great read for any woman who is interested in how faith can relate to everyday life... - See more at: <http://www.womenofthelca.org/publications>.



Interchange » Interchange is our leadership newsletter sent by regular mail to Women of the ELCA leaders in congregational units, synodical organizations, and clusters and conferences. It contains organizational news, new resource information, programmatic updates, and more. Leaders are encouraged to share the contents with all the women in their group. It can also be downloaded in PDF format from our website... - See more at: <http://www.womenofthelca.org/publications>.

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Daily Grace offers Faith Reflections. In these brief writings you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace.

Something missing that
you would you like to see
In the next newsletter ?

...email your articles,
ideas and comments to:
dorlasue63@gmail.com

Or mail to:

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AR/OK Women of the ELCA

2018 Board Meetings

May 18-19, 2018
Resurrection Lutheran Church, Yukon, OK

Sept. 28, 2018
Pre-Convention Meeting @ Resurrection Lutheran Church

2018 CONVENTION

September 28-30, 2018
Resurrection Lutheran Church
Yukon, OK
Larie Hunter, LaTesa Williams and
Carol Reinke
Convention Co-Chairs



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