



AR-OK Women of the ELCA

Fall 2017 Newsletter

AR-OK WELCA President's Message



This has been a year of challenges. We as a board, and myself as the leader of the board with the changes that we as Women of the ELCA voted in at our last convention. That said we are a work in progress. I believe with the help of our Lord we will continue to grow as a board and make progress as we go forward.

We have returned from Minneapolis and the convention and gathering refreshed and renewed. "All Anew" the worship services were very exciting and up lifting, Speakers were very interesting for the second time we heard Leymah Growee, she asked the question 'With whom is God asking us to align today? In whose corner are we being called to stand'? Pastor Angela T. Khabeb gave the message at our closing communion service and she was amazing. You can see highlights on the WELCA web site. At the convention we voted on budget and memorials that we will talk about more at our convention in Bella Vista AR. We did learn much [about how and why we do the things we do.](#)

We are bringing challenges to our local units, work to stop human trafficking, and injustice in our churches, neighborhoods and communities. We saw the documentary "Dream catchers" a group in the Chicago area to bring young women out of prostitution showing young women that they can have hope and a future. See you in Bella Vista!

Peace and Blessings,

Penny Budzien,
President Women of the ELCA

FROM YOUR VICE PRESIDENT

Please prayerfully consider a position on the ARK/OK Synodical Board for 2017-2018. Nomination forms will be available later this spring.

Also begin to think of a deserving woman for nomination for the Mary Magdalene award at the fall convention.

Please contact me at mrsbeck@gmail.com or 918-335-0705 for more information. Also if any spring gathering committee members have questions or concerns about the leadership handbook, contact me.

Blessings, Carol Beck

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FROM YOUR AK/OK TREASURER

It was suggested at our November Board Meeting that some explanation is needed to clarify our giving. So here goes. **(Also, see the enclosed schematic and Form A and B.)**

Your **UNIT** offerings (and they should be made quarterly in order to give your board some idea as to the monies coming in) are divided as such: one half (50%) is retained by AR-OK SWO and one half (50%) is sent to CWO (Churchwide). You should record them on Form A and send to me. **Theda Hall, 56 Kirkcaldy Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715-5700.** I will then send ½ to CWO (Churchwide). If you bring them to the Convention or Conference/Cluster meetings, please insure that you have indicated on the check that this is a “UNIT” offering and use Form A.



For Conference/Cluster Spring Gathering offerings, one half (1/2) goes to the charity or mission that the conference/cluster has chosen and one-fourth (25%) is sent to CWO (Churchwide) and one-fourth (25%) is kept in the SWO-AR/OK Synod Women of the ELCA. **Use form A** for this offering. This is why it is important that you indicate on your check whether your unit is making a UNIT contribution or a Spring Gathering offering.

Convention Offerings are different. One half (50%) is sent to the missions or charity(s) chosen by the SWO and the other half (50%) is sent to CWO (Churchwide). **SWO-AR/OK Synod does not keep any of these offerings. However, if this is a UNIT regular offering, use Form A & ½ of this is sent to CWO (Worldwide) and ½ is kept by AR/OK Synod of the Women of the ELCA.**

All other offerings such as Thankofferings, Designated and Special Offerings should be mailed directly to (SWO) Churchwide with **Form B**. Mail to Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, P O Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. **(If you would rather mail them to me, that's OK. I will, in turn, forward it to SWO.) Remember to use Form B.**

So, to summarize,

UNIT OFFERINGS – Mail quarterly to AR/OK Treasurer with **Form A**.
Theda Hall, 56 Kirkcaldy Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715-5700.

SPRING GATHERINGS—50% goes to you charity or mission, 25% goes to AR/OK-WOMEN OF THE ELCA and 25% goes to CWO-CHURCHWIDE. Send all monies to the AR/OK Treasurer (in this case, **ME**) and I will send 50% to your charity/mission and 25% to CWO-Churchwide. Remember to send your conference form with the monies within **15 days** after your conference. And, if you have **UNIT OFFERINGS, PLEASE INDICATE IF THEY ARE YOUR REGULAR UNIT OFFERINGS on FORM A, OR A SPRING/CLUSTER GATHERING OFFERING.**



CONVENTION OFFERINGS – 50% is designated to missions/charities and 50% is sent to CWO (Churchwide). **The AR/OK SYNOD-WOMEN OF THE ELCA does not keep any of this offering.** Again, if you have regular Unit contributions, please indicate that this is your Regular Unit Offering and attach to Form A. **FOR ALL OTHER OFFERINGS, USE FORM B. This includes all other offerings, such as THANKOFFERINGS, KATIE'S FUND, SPECIAL OFFERINGS & OTHER DESIGNATED GIFTS.**

If you have ANY questions, feel free to email me (tlhent@aol.com) or call me (479-899-3044) Please note that my address has changed. **It is 56 Kirkcaldy Drive, Bella Vista, AR 72715-5700.**

Blessings,
Theda L. Hall, Treasurer
AR/OK Synod of the Women of ELCA



Offering Form A

For use by CONGREGATIONAL UNITS
for offerings to SYNODICAL TREASURER

Use Form A to submit **Regular Offerings** and **SWO Convention Offerings** to your Synodical Women's Organization. Make check payable to "Women of the ELCA." **Mail form with check to your synodical treasurer.** For more information, please call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730.

DATE	
CONGREGATION	CONGREGATION NUMBER
CONGREGATION CITY/STATE	CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER NAME
UNIT TREASURER NAME	PHONE NUMBER
ADDRESS	EMAIL
CITY/STATE	ZIP

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
REGULAR OFFERING	\$
SWO CONVENTION OFFERING	\$
CONFERENCE OR CLUSTER OFFERING*	\$
	\$
	\$
TOTAL	\$

* It is recommended that at least 50% of any cluster or conference offering be sent to the synodical treasurer to be passed on in full to the churchwide women's organization. Use this line if you are handling the offering from a cluster or conference event.

MAIL TO:

Theda L. Hall, Treasurer
AR/OK Synod of the ELCA
56 Kirkcaldy Drive
Bella Vista, AR 72715-5700



Offering Form B

For use by CONGREGATIONAL UNITS
for offerings to CHURCHWIDE

Use Form B for **Thankofferings**, **Where Needed Most**, **Katie's Fund**, **Special Offerings**, and other **Designated Gifts**, including gifts to other ELCA ministries. Make check payable to "Women of the ELCA." For more information, please call 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2730 or go online to womenoftheelca.org.

Mail form with check to: Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.

DATE	
CONGREGATION	CONGREGATION NUMBER
CONGREGATION CITY/STATE	ZIP CODE REG/SYNOD
UNIT TREASURER NAME	PHONE NUMBER
ADDRESS	EMAIL
CITY/STATE	ZIP

DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
THANKOFFERING	\$
DESIGNATED GIFTS & SPECIAL OFFERINGS (PLEASE SPECIFY)	
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$
TOTAL	\$

TELLING THE OFFERING STORY



Regular Unit Offerings \$20.00
(Received at unit meetings)

1/2 Retained by Unit
\$10.00

1/2 Sent to AR-OK SWO \$10.00
(Delegates at the 1990 triennial recommended that at least half of regular offerings be sent to your synodical organization)
(Use Blue Form A)

Conference Offerings \$20.00
(Received at your conference gathering)

1/2 or more Sent to AR-OK SWO \$10.00
(CWO recommends that at least half of these offerings be used to support your SWO)
(Use Blue Form A)

Remainder is Sent to a Mission or Charity
(Conference sends directly to the organization) \$10.00

SWO Sends 1/2 of Regular Offerings to the CWO \$5.00

SWO Sends 1/2 of Conference Offerings Received to the CWO \$5.00

SWO Convention Offerings \$20.00
(Received at the AR-OK convention)

1/2 is Sent to a Mission or Charity by the SWO \$10.00

1/2 is Sent to the CWO by the SWO
(The SWO does not receive any of this offering!) \$10.00



Act boldly.

Thankofferings, Designated, & Special Offerings

(Units should mail these directly to the CWO)
(Use Black Form B)



! The Arkansas/Oklahoma Synodical Women's Organization is planning its 30th

Convention which will be held at United Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR, Sept 29-Oct 1, 2017.

Our theme is "All Anew...New Every Morning" from Lamentations 3:22-23.

Each congregational or inter-congregational unit of the Arkansas/Oklahoma Synodical Organization is entitled to one delegate. Delegates are required to attend all the business sessions of the convention. Enclosed you will find a registration form that needs to be returned to the registrar by August 25, 2017. Please make copies of the form and share them with all the women in your unit. All women of the Arkansas/Oklahoma Synodical Organization are invited and encouraged to attend—membership in W-ELCA is not required. Please invite your family and friends to be part of this great weekend.

The cost for a delegate or participant is:

Registration - \$75.00 (must be in before August 25) \$85.00 (after August 25)

The registration fee includes Friday supper and "Ozark Home Companion Presents Martin Luther," Saturday lunch and dinner, and all printed materials plus snacks during the convention.

Hotel Information: Marriott Courtyard Bentonville

1001 McClain Road Bentonville, AR 72712

Phone: 479.273.3333 Reservation Name/Block Code: AR/OK Synod

Cost: \$124 plus tax (up to 4 people) with breakfast

Last Date for Reservations: August 25, 2017

Our In Kind Gifts will benefit **Saving Grace**, which provides transitional living and life skills to young women who have aged out of foster care or are looking for an alternative to homelessness. To read more about the organization go to <https://www.savinggracenwa.org>. For a complete list of needed items, click on the Donate tab and scroll down to Needs List. You can download the list and print it as a poster for your women. We hope to have a shortened list available soon. ALSO, you might think about having one of your Thrivent members apply for a Community Action Grant to buy supplies. You could have a special Sunday for your congregation to bring gifts as part of the Action Grant.

There is so much money out there waiting to be given away!

Our Churchwide Representative is Cindy Arnett. Cindy, from Cupertino, CA, will bring us greetings from Churchwide and news about the organization's events, programs and financial matters. She will also lead a workshop on Saturday that will tackle the issue of attracting more women to W-ELCA.

Bible Pastor Liz Albertson, DEM/Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Family, will lead our Bible Study on Saturday morning. See the attached poster for information about the workshops that we hope to have.

We're planning lots of entertainment. On Friday, after a good German supper, United Lutheran will do an updated version of their famous Martin Luther musical, and on Saturday evening our Bluegrass group will entertain. We will also present the Mary Magdalene awards, and, of course, we will have some business to conduct.

We will have tables for vendors, and if your congregational unit is selling items for a fund raiser, you may have a table, too. Contact Louise Wobig (Lwobig@cox.net) to reserve a table.

We look forward to seeing you in September in Bella Vista!

Your Convention Chairs

Jane Nelson wallybv@cox.net 479-855-2745

Dorothy Klitzke harvey.klitzke@cox.net 479-531-9315 cell: 479-531-7585

Theda Hall tlhent@aol.com 479-715-6841 cell: 479-899-3044

Louise Wobig Lwobig@cox.net 479-855-6982 cell: 479-426-1850

ARKANSAS - OKLAHOMA SYNODICAL CONVENTION AGENDA
TENATIVE

September 29-Oct 1

United Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR

Friday – September 29

2:00 pm AR/OK SWO BOARD MEETING at United Lutheran Church
4:00–5:15 pm REGISTRATION BEGINS at United Lutheran Church in Narthex
In kind drop off for Saving Grace
5:30-6:30 pm Reformation Dinner Luther Hall Lower Level
6:30 Ozark Ladies Present Martin Luther and the Reformation in Sanctuary
7:30 Vespers Pastor Karen and Jeremy
Convention Opening Penny Budzien
Introduction of our Churchwide Representative—Cindy Arnett
Hospitality in Hotel

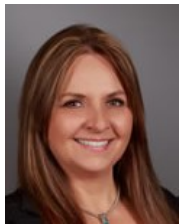
Saturday – September 24th

7:30-8:30 am Muffins and Coffee in Fellowship Hall
8:00-8:30 am Registration Continues in Narthex
8:15-8:30 am Voting Member Training
8:45 am CONVENTION Continues in Sanctuary
Delegates must be seated
Welcome/Housekeeping
9:00-9:45 am Bible Study with Pastor Liz Albertson in Sanctuary
Offering (Unit and Personal) Theda Hall
Quilting Service project ongoing throughout convention
10: 00 am Business Meeting
Business Session/Sanctuary
Elections
Unit and Personal Offerings
Treasurer Report
11:00 am Vendors
12:00 pm Lunch in Luther Hall (Lower Level)
12:30 pm Saving Grace in Sanctuary
In-Kind Offerings
1:15-4:00 pm Workshops
4:15-5:30 pm Business Session/Continued if needed
6:00 pm Dinner in Luther Hall
Presentation of Mary Magdalene Awards
7:30 pm Bluegrass Gospel Band in Sanctuary

Sunday – September 25th

7:00 am BREAKFAST on your own
8:30 am Business Session in 4-plex
9:30 am WORSHIP at United Lutheran
Coffee in Fellowship Hall
10:45 am Post convention BOARD MEETING in 4-plex
All outgoing and newly elected board

Workshops:



“See How We Grow! A new look at how women can grow together”

Our Churchwide Representative, **Cindy Arnett**, enjoys coordinating women’s retreats and conferences, and mentoring young women to help them discover who God has called them to be is close to her heart. She also likes helping women explore opportunities for leadership in the kingdom of God. And she loves helping women discover how to revitalize their units and clusters. As all of us who love W-ELCA struggle keeping women interested in our organization, we look forward to Cindy’s insights and suggestions.



“What’s New At Oaks?”

All of us who know and love **Susan Humphrey** know she has a very big heart, and we know her heart is filled to overflowing with love for Oaks Indian Mission. Susan has helped nurture Oaks’ mission for a very long time, and she’ll fill us in on what’s happening there. Oaks is special to so many of us, and we look forward to hearing Susan’s news.



“Canopy NWA” A new country/A new home/A new life! Hope for Refugees”

Pastor **Dawn Donato** from Christ the King Lutheran Church in Bentonville will talk to us about Canopy NWA, an organization created to provide assistance to refugees in Northwest Arkansas. Canopy’s mission statements states: We are inviting on our community to recognize our shared humanity by showing compassion and care for those seeking refuge in Northwest Arkansas.” In the midst of a world in turmoil, Pastor Dawn will tell us how Canopy NWA offers hope.



“The Lutheran Rosary: A new look at an old way to pray”

Pastor **Karen Fowler-Lindemulder** will lead a workshop in creating Lutheran Rosaries. We’ll provide the materials and some helpers; Pastor Karen will provide the instructions and the prayers; you’ll provide the artistry. Join us for this “new” way to express our love to God.



“Ethiopia—New Christians every day”

Synodical Board member **Carol Reinke** is eager to share with you some of what she has learned about Ethiopia, an African country where there are almost 8 million Lutherans. Ethiopia has the most Lutherans in Africa and has ordained women since 2011. There is so much to learn about this country. Plan to attend Carol’s workshop.



“Thrivent Action Grants—A new way to build community”

Casey Bolte and her colleagues, **Steven Schmidt** and **Matthew Taylor**, will give you information and answer your questions about Thrivent Financial’s wonderful Community Action Grant Program. There are lots of dollars just waiting to be claimed. Come hear all about it!



Other highlights:



United’s Piecemakers will have quilts ready to be tied throughout the convention. Stop by to tie and chat any time.



Our famous Bluegrass Gospel Band will perform for us on Saturday evening following the Mary Magdalene awards.



Don’t forget to get your nominations in for the Mary Magdalene Award



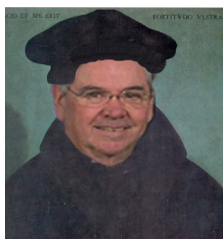


AR/OK Women of the ELCA 30th Synodical Convention

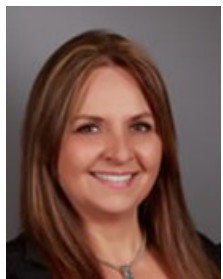
"New Every Morning"
September 29 -- October 1

United Lutheran Church
100 Cooper Road
Bella Vista, AR

LOOK at what we've planned!



Following a German Dinner featuring bratwurst, potato salad and chocolate cake, **Martin Luther** will kick off our Friday night festivities with his short history of the Reformation in song, including his famous Reformation Rap. You'll get to vote by song in the contest between our German and Scandinavian heritage. Martin will be followed by Evening Vespers led by Pastor Karen and Jeremy Fowler-Lindemulder.



Our Churchwide rep, **Cindy Arnett**, will bring us greetings on Friday night, and on Saturday she will lead a workshop on helping us discover how to revitalize our units and clusters. Cindy is a longtime member of Bethel Lutheran Church in Cupertino, California, where she was a staff member for 17 years. She was elected to the churchwide executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2014. Cindy is interested in learning more about global ministry and is now back in school working on a master's degree in International Higher Education with a focus on social justice issues. Cindy relaxes by hanging out with husband Nick, daughter Carrie, and the grandkids, and spending time with her pets: 2 dogs, a horse, and a sun conure bird.



We are so pleased to have Pastor **Liz Albertson** with us again. She will lead the Bible Study on Saturday. Pastor Liz joined the AR-OK Synod Staff in October 2015. As Director of Evangelical Mission and Assistant to the Bishop for Youth and Family Ministries, her role is to help congregations and ministries thrive. Pastor Liz grew up in Oelwein, Iowa, and she is a graduate of Wartburg College and Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. From 2000 to 2002, she was a member of Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Milwaukee, serving at Hope House homeless shelter. Pastor Liz served 9 years as pastor of North Beaver Creek Lutheran in Wisconsin. We look forward to her wise insights and her delightful humor.



Our keynote speaker on Saturday morning is **Becky Shaffer**, the founder of Saving Grace, a haven for young women 18-24 who have aged out of the foster care system but who have no skills to equip them to survive in the world they are thrown into. A foster child herself, Becky knows that "acceptance, restoration and hope are often taken for granted, but for those living without—receiving them makes all the difference in the world." You will be amazed and moved by Becky's story and the stories of the young women who have found hope at Saving

Suggested IN-KIND offerings for Saving Grace

Please bring any items listed on the flyer sent earlier. But, to make it easier for you to choose, Becky suggests a kitchen theme:

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Kitchen Towels and/or | Washcloths (white so they can be bleached) |
| Kitchen utensils | Paring knives |
| Silverware | Food Storage Containers with lids (for leftovers and lunch boxes) |
| Dish Washer Tabs | Dish Soap |



Arkansas/Oklahoma Synodical Women's Organization Women of the ELCA (WELCA)
30th ANNUAL WELCA CONVENTION — REGISTRATION FORM

September 29-October 1, 2017

United Lutheran Church

100 Cooper Road Bella Vista, AR 72715

Phone: 479.855.1325 email: admin@unitedlutheranbv.org

Name _____

Guest Name (If applicable) _____

Address _____

Phone (Home #) _____ (Cell #) _____

Email address _____ WELCA Cluster # _____

Church _____ City _____ State _____

Age (Optional): _____ How many conventions have you attended? _____

Will be attending as:

_____ Attendee _____ Voting Member (Delegate) _____ SWO Board Member

Registration \$75 \$_____

The registration fee includes Friday supper, Saturday lunch and dinner, all printed materials plus snacks during convention.

Late Fee \$10.00 (after August 25) \$_____

Meals for Guests

*****Guests who stay for the convention will pay the full Registration Cost rather than just the cost of meals*****

Friday/Night \$15.00 \$_____

Sat/Lunch \$15.00 \$_____

Sat/Dinner \$20.00 \$_____

Food Allergies/Special Diet Needs: _____

***** ENCLOSED IS A CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF: \$_____ ****Note: There are NO refunds**

Make checks payable to: **AR/OK Women of the ELCA**

Mail by AUGUST 25, 2017 to:

Theda Hall, Treasurer/Convention Registrar, 56 Kirkcaldy DR, Bella Vista, AR 72715

479-715-6841 home/479-899-3044 cell

tlhent@aol.com

*****HOTEL INFORMATION: PLEASE NOTE THIS HAS CHANGED*****

Marriott Courtyard Bentonville

1001 McClain Road Bentonville, AR 72712

Phone: 479.273.3333 Reservation Group Name: AR/OK Synod

Cost: \$124 plus tax with breakfast

Last Date for Reservations: August 25, 2017

**NOTE: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR OWN HOTEL RESERVATIONS.
REMEMBER TO LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE WITH THE "AR/OK SYNOD" GROUP.**

2017 ANNUAL WELCA CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Check ALL that apply to you:

- ☐ I have a financial need.
- ☐ I have never attended an AR/OK WELCA convention.
- ☐ I have never received an annual convention scholarship in the past.
- ☐ I have never received a triennial convention scholarship in the past.
- ☐ I am not a delegate to this convention.

(NOTE: unit/church should pay delegate's registration fee)

- ☐ I am under 35 years of age.
- ☐ I am a woman of color.
- ☐ I am differently-abled.

(Explain: _____)

- ☐ I am not a conference coordinator.

(NOTE: unit/church should pay partial scholarship for coordinator)

- ☐ I am committed to remain active in WELCA.

What has been your involvement in Women of the ELCA?

When applying for scholarship, include this sheet with your registration form



MARY MAGDALENE AWARD

John tells us That after the **RESURRECTION, JESUS** appeared first to Mary Magdalene and instructed her to 'GO TO MY BROTHERS AND TELL THEM' (John 20:17) In response, Mary Magdalene went to the Disciples with the news:

I HAVE SEEN THE LORD!
and she told them that He had said these things to her" (John 20:18)

Each year at our annual convention we honor a woman from each of our conferences with our Mary Magdalene Award. These special and treasured women will be given a gift, a certificate and a monetary donation to their favorite charity.

Do you know a woman who has been faithful to Jesus' command to "GO and Tell!"?
Please nominate her for this award.

In 2004, we added one Youth Award for a young lady in 9th grade through college.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Congregation: _____ Cluster: _____

Favorite Charity & address: _____

Brief biography of nominee:

How does she exemplify the "GO and TELL" spirit of Mary Magdalene?

(You may attach a separate sheet for more information)

Please be sure to encourage this lady to attend the fall convention.

Have your unit help pay her way or sign her up for a scholarship.

Your name & phone number:

Send by August 30, 2016 to:

Carol Beck

453 Chisholm Circle

Bartlesville, OK 74066

Revised 2017

Cluster 3 News

Being on the Board of SWO-ARK/OK

The last two years I reluctantly (at the urging of LaTesa Williams) served on the board for SWO-ARK/OK. Not a very enthusiastic beginning. However I have, with prayer and encouragement, come to realize that I can be joyfully engaged with the women of ELCA Churches across Arkansas and Oklahoma. I find that we women who work in the church have much to share. Most of us are aging and have grey hair and not as much energy as the young women that are coming behind us. Our job now is to joyfully pass the baton on to women who do have energy. But it seems there are fewer of those young women than old ones. What to do? Each one of us needs to pray. Pray specifically for a young women to mentor into the work of the church. Pray for a young women who loves to cook to help in service to feed the hungry of our community(Mobile Meals), or the hungry on the street or the members of our church with joyful hearts and hands. Pray for a young women who loves children and will teach Sunday school even though she is tired and teaches 5 days a week in a local elementary or middle school. Pray for a young women who loves to work with her hands and can sew or do crafts and would like to work with young children or all the women of the congregation on a service project for the elderly in nursing homes or any other creative way to be of service to the community. Pray specifically and deliberately for young people to be in our midst on a weekly basis, and to make an engaged commitment to the church community where you worship. When they do appear and they will ,gently guide them to a place of service and love, not overworking them but helping them to become successful teachers and workers in Gods kingdom. So pray for what you know. Ask God to give you a young person to mentor in your life gift or skill. You may be surprised at the outcome.

Now as I am on the Board, starting year 3. I have taken a much less reluctant attitude. Decided to go to the Women of ELCA 10th Triannual conference and enjoyed it immensely. It was well organized, the speakers were on target with topics of the day. Justice in the church and the work place for all people, no matter their ethnicity or gender or age or state of health. No matter what our plight in life we are all God's children.

Women of ELCA Tenth Triennial Convention in Minneapolis, MN.

This was the 3rd time that I have attended a Triennial convention. I think I went to the first two. Do not remember where the second one was but know that the first one was in Washington, DC. That being said I'm so glad that I went to this one. My husband drove and we visited friends and family as we made our way north from OKC, to Minneapolis. So much fun to have Breakfast with one friend and Dinner with others in a different city. Almost all of them were Lutheran too! We stayed with friends in Fridley, MN also Lutheran, and I got dropped off at the convention each morning. Opening service was great. Loved all the music and the pageantry. Bought tickets the first day for the National Lutheran Choir concert to be held on Sat. We took our friends with us. Music was very nice. Central Lutheran is a thriving downtown congregation. Beautiful.

Second day was filled with workshops too long a line for lunches, bible study and key note speakers. Bookstore shopping and lots of walking with a lovely reception on the lawn in the Convention Plaza park.

Third day, the "Ra'ah Villiage" was a place of many things to experience. I became reacquainted with a serger (fancy sewing machine) for a couple of hours, filling a spot in an assembly line service project for "Day for Girls". You can check this out at <https://www.daysforgirls.org/> . A wonderful program to help keep adolescent girls in school. Did you know when a girl menstruates in a country like India or a village in East or West Africa or South America(Brazil) they stay home from school. That means they miss 1 week each month of every school year. This should not be allowed to happen. But culture and unavailability of hygiene products keeps the girls home. We can stop this.....Check it out at the web site above. Workshops, lots of topics to choose from: I went to **Reading the Women of the Hebrew Bible**. Very interesting, lots of great speak from the women in attendance and Abigail the topic of conversation. What do you know about Abigail? Workshop 2: You are Not alone: Facing Shame with Faith, Courage and Love. Shame" the intensely painful feeling that we are unworthy of love and belonging."

Continued on Page 12 (top)

Walking through the Village was an adventure in shopping, free gifts and new knowledge. Projects were being born and finished and ideas were abounding. I walked the Labyrinth and brought a handmade small labyrinth home with me. Quilts were assembled for the Lutheran World Relief program. So much going on it was hard to pick and choose what you wanted to concentrate on. Some of the ladies accepted the quilt challenge. The displayed quilts all made from Black and White and one other color of the quilters choice were wonderful. As varied as the snowflakes in winter. And last but not least for those who like to exercise on vacation there was the "Run, Walk and Roll " event. This event raised "\$19,000 plus for the Women of ELCA health initiative "Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls"

For more information about the presenters and the projects and workshops check out the Women of ELCA.org web site. <http://www.welcatg.org> There were 3,300 women in attendance, 1300 of these women were there for the very first time. This was my third time to attend. Not sure why I missed 3-9, sorry I did. The next convention will be in 2020 in Phoenix, Arizona. I'm registered. I hope you will come too!

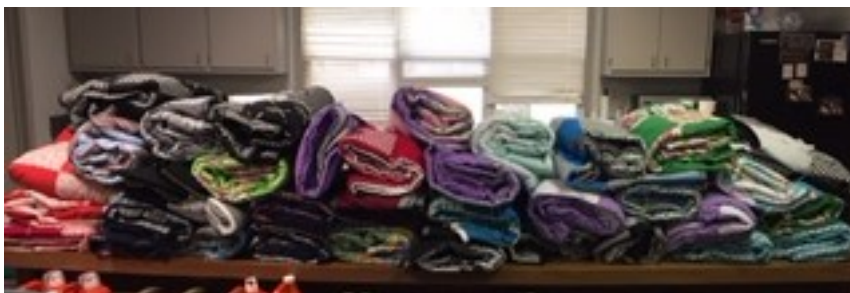
Things to read: Bought a book a lady I was visiting with told me she thought every mother should read. Hum, So I went looking for it. **Mary's Story**. A book written in first person of Mary the mother of Jesus. Fascinating and a page turner. Written by Barbara Swant and Ruth Anderson. Unique Bible literature So glad I went looking for it. Best purchase I made besides my Ethiopian coffee of course. Thank you to the dear lady that talked to me.

Hope to see you at the ARK/OK SWO fall conference in Bella Vista, Arkansas. The setting is lovely, the host church is beautiful and the programs and speakers will be interesting and uplifting. I guess you could say that I have a new heart for the small service I give to the Women of ELCA .

Peace ,Good Health and God's Love, Carol

Cluster 5 News

The Lydia's Cluster 5 Quilting/Craft Group were able to give a generous gift to the Oaks Indian Mission on behalf of the Endowment Fund of Joy Lutheran Church and First Lutheran and Joy Lutheran congregational members. Our group delivered 50 quilts, 50 sets of sheets, 50 pillows, 4 extra large laundry



detergents and fabric softener for the dorms! Also we were able to update the windows with 16 new blinds in the 2 guest cottages! The dorms will be open next week with the children coming back for school to start. They will be able to choose which bedding set they would like for the year. The staff at Oaks were very excited and can't wait for the children to see the faces of the children as they chose! Pastor Don Marshall, the Executive Director at Oaks told us they will take lots of pictures and send us, so watch for the September newsletter for more pictures!!

Come and join us for quilting, knitting, cross stitching or whatever project you are working on and bring your lunch! We meet every Wednesday from 9:00 am—2:00 pm in Joy Lutheran's Fellowship Hall.

If you have any information or an article from Cluster 5 you would like to share, please send to me, Michelle Staedeli at chelle6277@yahoo.com or 918.251.9284. We would love to share our information with all of our Sisters in Christ!

Many Blessings, Michelle

ARKANSAS/OKLAHOMA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

2016-2017 Board Roster

(Terms: October 1 – September 30, years listed, Except Treasurer's Term)

Board Officers



President
Term 2015-2017
Cluster 2

Penny Budzien
10305 Bonny Castle Drive
Yukon, OK 73099

Home: 405.324.0651
Cell 405.826.9358
Email: embudz1@aol.com
Resurrection, Yukon, OK



Vice-President
Term 2016-2018
Cluster 4

Carol Beck
453 Chisholm Circle
Bartlesville, OK 74006

Home: 918.335.0705
Cell: 918.766.3157
Email: mrsbeck@gmail.com
Our Savior, Bartlesville, OK



Secretary
Term 2015-2017
Cluster 5

Martha Lowe
808 W. Imperial Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74011

Cell: 918.519.0568
Email: marthalowe52@gmail.com
Joy, Tulsa, OK



Treasuter
Term
Feb 1, '16-Jan 31, '18

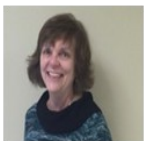
Theda Hall
56 Kirkaldy Drive
Bella Vista, AR 72715

Home: 479.715.6841
Cell: 479.899.3044
Email: tlhent@aol.com
United, Bella Vista, AR

Board Members (Excluding*)

Member at Large
Cluster 1

Open
Are you Called?



Member at Large
Term 2016-2018
larieeshunter@sbcglobal.com
Cluster 2

Larie Hunter
116 E. Meade Drive
Yukon, OK 73099

Cell: 405.350.0192
Email:
Resurrection, Yukon, OK



Member at Large
Term 2015-2017
Cluster 3

LaTesa Williams
3021 SW 96th
Oklahoma City, OK 73159

Home: 405.691.1609
Cell: 405.613.6711
Email: latesa@gmail.com
Redeemer, Oklahoma City, OK



Member at Large
Term 2016-2018
Cluster 3

Carol Reinke
2301 NWW 26
Oklahoma City, OK 73107

Cell: 405.641.4222
Email: reinkehome@cox.net
Redeemer, Oklahoma City, OK



Member at Large
Term 2016-2018
Cluster 4

Nancy Starkey
103 Spring Road
Bartlesville, OK 74003

Cell: 918.336.9120
Email: nrstarkey57@gmail.com
Our Savior, Bartlesville, OK



Member at Large
Term 2015-2017
Cluster 5

Michelle Staedeli
1613 S. 2nd Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Home: 918.251.9284
Cell: 918.576.3889
Email: chelle6277@yahoo.com
Joy, Tulsa, OK

Board Members (Excluding*)



Member at Large
Term 2016-2018
Cluster 6

Jane Nelson
1 Syston Lane
Bella Vista, AR 72714

Home: 479.855.2745
Cell: 479.855.
Email: wallybv@cox.net
United, Bella Vista, AR

Member at Large
Cluster 7

Open
Are you Called?



Member at Large
Term 2015-2017
Cluster 8

Jan Hodges
112 Essex Street
Hot Springs, AR 71913

Cell: 501.622.0564
Email: skip.jan.hodges@gmail.com
Prince of Peace, Hot Springs, AR



Member at Large
Term 2015-2017
Cluster 8

Joan Evans
251 Hideaway Hills
Hot Springs, AR 71901

Home: 501.262.1950
Cell:
Email: joanevans73@gmail.com
Prince of Peace, Hot Springs, AR



***Trainer:**
Spring Gathering
Cluster Reps

Susan Humphrey
11519 S. Hudson Avenue
Tulsa, OK 74137

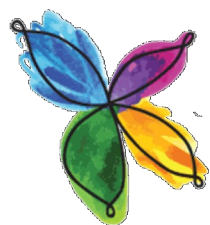
Cell: 918.695.4045
Email: dabbler54@gmail.com
Joy, Tulsa, OK



***Synodical Newsletter**

Carol Rowe
3321 W. Freeport Street
Broken Arrow, OK 74012

Cell: 918.691.6562
Email: carolrowe@cox.net
Joy, Tulsa, OK



all anew

Triennnial Report:

In-kind gifts collected included more than \$19,000 in gift cards, more than 27,000 items of hygiene products, clothing, quilt kits, and Days for Girls kits. Labyrinths collected totaled 5,850.

Those agencies receiving in-kind gifts included:

Alice's Garden, a 2.2-acre urban farm and community garden in Milwaukee

Breaking Free, an organization that works with victims and survivors of sex trafficking and prostitution.

Days for Girls, provides women and girls in more than 100 countries with menstrual hygiene items and health education.

Families Moving Forward, which provides temporary homes for families with children in the crisis of homelessness and offers a path to finding stable housing.

Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota serves 87 counties and more than 300 communities in Minnesota.

Lutheran World Relief provides relief on behalf of U.S. Lutherans.

About 3,300 participants of Women of the ELCA, the women's organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, were in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for the Tenth Triennial Gathering (July 14-16).

The logo for 'bold connections' features the word 'bold' in a large, white, sans-serif font above the word 'connections' in a smaller, white, sans-serif font, all set against a solid orange rectangular background.

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.womenoftheelca.org/bold-connections->

The logo for 'Café' is a circular emblem with a dark brown border. Inside, the word 'Café' is written in a white, serif font, and below it, the website 'boldcafe.org' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

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 every-day life... - See more at: <http://www.womenoftheelca.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.womenoftheelca.org/publications->

Gather magazine is now available in a digital format on their website and for iPad and Android tablets and smartphones.

Visit gathermagazine.org to view the online digital version or download the App for your phone or tablet.

You must be a print subscriber to access the full Magazine digitally. To view the magazine online or on your tablet, you'll use the subscriber ID number found on your address label.



Daily Grace is now available for your android device as well as your Apple Devices, available free at Google Play or iTunes, or receive the message via email by signing up at eepurl.com

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:

carolrowe@cox.net

Or mail to: Carol Rowe

3321 W. Freeport Street

Broken Arrow, OK 74012

This newsletter is
distributed by email

If you would like to receive an
email copy please send your
request to carolrowe@cox.net

**AR/OK SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION of the ELCA (WELCA)
NOMINATION FORM FOR
OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS
2017-2019 TERM**

Congregational Units: Please complete the information requested before returning this nomination form.

Check [X] next to the position in which the nominee is willing to serve. The individual nominated must consent to serve, if elected.

All positions are for a **two-year** term:

<input type="checkbox"/> President <input type="checkbox"/> Member At-Large <input type="checkbox"/> Member At-Large	<input type="checkbox"/> Secretary <input type="checkbox"/> Member At-Large <input type="checkbox"/> Member At-Large
--	--

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Work Phone: (____) _____

E-mail Address: _____

Age Range: [] 20 - 25 years [] 26 - 35 years [] 36 - 55 years [] 56+ years

Race & Ethnicity:

[] African American	[] Arab, Middle Easterner
[] Caucasian	[] Alaska Native
[] Asian	[] African American
[] Hispanic	[] Native American
[] Other:	

Primary Language, if other than English: _____

Cluster #: _____

Name of Congregation: _____

Address & Town of Congregation: _____

Please complete BOTH sides and return by August 23, 2016 to:

**CAROL BECK
453 CHISHOLM CIRCLE
BARTLESVILLE, OK 74006**

For more information, call or email:

Carol Beck, VP, Nomination Chair
(918)766-3157 mrsbeck@gmail.com
or

Penny Budzien, President
(405)826-9358 Embudz1@aol.com

EXPERIENCE & CHURCH SERVICE (Positions held in office and service work done.) Begin with the most recent and significant in each over the **LAST FIVE YEARS**.

Congregational Level: _____

Cluster/Conference Level: _____

Synodical Level: _____

Regional or Churchwide Level: _____

Community Service: _____

Special Gifts or Talents: _____

The information below this line is to be completed by the person recommending this nominee...

~~~~~  
**Reasons for believing this nominee can serve effectively in the position for which she had been nominated:**

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

**Signature of Nominating Participant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number, w/Area Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Congregation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Town and State of Congregation:** \_\_\_\_\_  
~~~~~

Photo of the 2017-2020 executive board: Lisa Plorin, Becky Shurson, Freddie Jordan, Anna Sarver



The 2017-2018 Board



CONVENTION OFFERINGS

Of the \$48,092.47 collected for the Tenth Triennial Convention offering, half will support the “PV for Phebe” project providing solar energy to Phebe Hospital in rural Liberia, and half will be used for Women of the ELCA ongoing ministries. Of the total, \$10,539.47 was collected at opening worship and \$37,553 was sent by congregational units and individuals.

2018 BUDGET

Voting members unanimously approved the 2018 budget of \$3,123,231.

Voting members and participants of Women of the ELCA, the women’s organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, are in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for Tenth Triennial Convention (July 11-13) and Gathering (July 14–16).

AR/OK Women of the ELCA

2017 Board Meetings

September 29, 2017

Pre Convention Meeting @ United Lutheran, Bella Vista AR

2017 CONVENTION

Cluster 6 Host

September 29—October 1, 2017

United Lutheran Church, Bella Vista AR

**Jane Nelson, Louise Wobig and Susan Coom
Convention Co-Chairs**



**Visit the
WELCA
website...**

**...they have great
information, ideas, news
and free downloads!**

www.womenoftheelca.org