



AR-OK Women of the ELCA

Spring 2017 Newsletter

AR-OK WELCA President's Message



Lent is a time to reflect, to be restored, a time of rest, and to look forward to the joy of Easter morning. As I reflect during this season and turn my thoughts to you my sisters in Christ, all that you do to support the causes that we all feel so strong about, Oaks Indian Mission, Katie's Fund, Bulling, and Human Trafficking women's health. These are the things that you support that are making a difference. Thank you!

As we leave Lent, we move into Easter morning, with noisy children, Easter egg hunts, family dinners, and we see the joy all around us. Spring has arrived with all the bright colors warm weather to remind us of all of God's love for each of us and our world.

My prayer for you and me is that we find the peace, rest, renewal and are refreshed this Lenten season and while we are still in the season of Easter, joyfully celebrating Christ's resurrection.

Peace and Blessings, Penny Budzien

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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The Tenth Triennial Gathering will be held
July 13-16, 2017,
Minneapolis, Minn.

"All Anew" is the theme.

While the planning continues, think about ways in which God is calling our organization to new ventures.



all anew
WOMEN OF THE ELCA
TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING
JULY 13-16, 2017

TREASURER'S MESSAGE

Some of you expressed concern at the Annual Convention in September regarding the absence of two line items in the budget – **Oaks Indian Mission and Katie's Fund**. The good news is that the Board decided to use those proceeds from the convention to fund these two categories. There was an excess of \$821.25 (this was a shock to all of us) and Oaks Indian Mission & Katie's Fund has each received \$410.63

Speaking of Oaks Indian Mission, they have a new Director, Pastor Don Marshall. He was on the Board at Oaks and just recently finished that term and also just finished serving as Interim Pastor at Sand Springs, OK. **Send your donations to Oaks Indian Mission, P O Box 130, Oaks, OK 74359.**



In addition, last year the Presidents & Vice-Presidents of Rockin' Region IV challenged all of us to raise \$500 to honor of the Reformation's 500th anniversary and that they challenged each of the 64 Synod's to do the same. This money is over and above our regular offerings and will be given to the Women of the ELCA, with ¼ to support any special initiative that Women of the ELCA may choose for the Reformation celebration, ¼ towards Katie's Fund and ¼ to support the regular budget of Women of the ELCA (church wide). So far, our Region IV had raised \$ 322.00. We are \$178 shy of our challenge. Won't you help? Send your checks to me with the notation "Rockin' Region IV Challenge".

Also, please send your regular Unit offerings (**use Form A**) to me each quarter if you can so that I can send ½ to CWO-Women of the ELCA and that our contributions are spread throughout the year. Just like your church, the AR/OK Synod of the Women of the ELCA and the CWO- Women of the ELCA can operate more efficiency knowing that we have contributions coming in throughout the year. Use **Form B for other offerings such as Katie's Fund, Thankofferings, etc.**

In addition, "Telling the Offering Story" is attached. This indicates how your Unit, Conference/Cluster and Convention Offerings are distributed.

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

33 CENTS A DAY WOULD DO IT

If every woman gave 33 cents a day or about \$120 a year to the organization, Women of the ELCA could more than meet its budget for conventions, regular ministries and resources that women love.



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)

½ Retained by Unit
\$10.00

½ 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)

½ 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 ½ of Regular Offerings to the CWO \$5.00

SWO Sends ½ of Conference Offerings Received to the CWO \$5.00

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

½ is Sent to a Mission or Charity by the SWO \$10.00

½ 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)

Cluster 2 News

Greetings to my dear friends in Christ,

At the November Board meeting of the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synodical Women's Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (SWO ELCA), Penny asked each of us to think about our passions and how we, individually and/or as a group, could use these passions to the benefit of this organization. My first inclination was to verify my understanding of the word, "passion." Surprise! The Oxford Dictionary lists this word as a noun with the definition: **a strong and barely controllable emotion**. Now, those of you who know me well already understand my challenge with this tasking: How can any word that is defined using emotion as a qualifier be applied to me, to my life, and then shared with a group? The word emotion, incidentally is defined as "a natural instinctive state of mind deriving from one's circumstances, mood, or relationships with others" and is synonymous with "strength of feeling and/or warmth of feeling"...Let me explain. I already mentioned that my first inclination was to verify the meaning of "passion." this happened for several reasons:

- I'm an engineer – that's correct – an engineer **by nature and by training** – that is, an individual who analyses and dismantles every last detail of every object, action, discussion, relationship and decision. I need to know how things work and why things fail.
- I exhibit obsessive compulsive tendencies and must acquire all pertinent data available before taking any kind of action or making any decisions.
- I am very rarely ruled by emotion and this makes "passion" appear obscure to me.

Therefore, completing this tasking required me to embark on a journey to understand how I could apply the word "passion" to myself.

As individuals we are influenced by Faith, Family, and Experience and I added these items to my criteria of identifying my "passions." I eventually discovered that if I qualified the emotion involved (joy or happiness, fear, anger, regret etc.) I could identify the activities I am driven or compelled to accomplish, as well as those activities I am most driven to avoid. Sixty odd days into this journey, I recognized my greatest joys are family (husband, children – all adults now, and grandchildren, my sister and my brothers), friends, and the solitary activities of gardening and landscaping, sewing and studying health and fitness. I also recognized when I addressed the great anger caused by certain things that some activities became exceedingly important to do and to share. Oddly, in combining the greatest joy, greatest anger and greatest need to avoid regret I discovered a great passion... and now I can share the passion and a challenge with all of you...

Have you ever sat across the table from someone, knowing you need to engage them in an uncomfortable topic of conversation and hesitated? You may be asking, "What is the topic?" Well, today the topic for me is women's breast health. I realize it's not October, therefore, it's not Breast Cancer awareness month. It is, however, the beginning of a new year, and I just recently saw my radiologist for my annual screening. Are you 40 or over? Is there a history of breast cancer in your family? Did you know that family history affects the recommended age for your first mammogram? Have you scheduled your annual mammogram yet this year? Maybe the question should include an offer of transportation, "I know city traffic can be challenging, can I help you schedule your appointment while we're having tea/coffee today? I'll add it to my calendar so I can drive you and we can have breakfast or lunch before or after your appointment." I know these questions are personal and very direct, and I'm not your doctor. I know they are not my business. You may feel it's not your business to ask your mother, your grandmother, your sister, your daughter or your friend any of these questions. I confess that opening a conversation and asking these questions makes me uncomfortable too. Yet this discomfort is miniscule compared to the regret I would feel if I had not asked and my loved one discovered her cancer too late for treatment. My challenge to you....Help someone you know practice accountability for her breast health; Open the topic and encourage someone dear to get a mammogram this year.

I've shared my personal breast cancer journey with many women (and men too) over the past 17 years. A quick synopsis: diagnosed with invasive cancer upon receiving my 1st mammogram at age 40, bilateral mastectomies, chemotherapy and reconstructive surgeries, cancer free 17 years. When I share I always advocate an annual mammogram. I even share and receive regular updates from most of my family and friends. However, this year I have challenged myself to be more direct with every woman I know. I will be asking the uncomfortable questions. Why more direct questions? Why more uncomfortable questions? The answer is simple – My dearest friend recently shared her 1st mammogram results with me. My dear friend - someone 10 years my senior, with whom I had shared the joys and losses of life and family, the friend I think of as family had not been getting regular check-ups. My friend, I had failed. OUCH! The answer is ... I am selfish. I don't want to live with regret and I don't want to be angry with myself or my loved ones because of failure to communicate the importance of an annual mammogram. The answer is She is my sister in Christ and I am her keeper.

What is your answer? Will you accept the challenge?

Peace, Larie

Cluster 4 News

Hi, I am Nancy Starkey one of the new SWO board members. I am a member of Our Savior in Bartlesville, OK, which is part of Cluster 4.

Lets start with the changes that are taking place. Most of you, I believe are aware of the fact the Women of A/OK SWO voted in September to become Clusters like the Synod. As part of the change it was decided that the spring gatherings would become an event for the old conference which is made up of Cluster 4 and 5. The spring gathering will be April 8, 2017 at Prince of Peace in Tulsa. Spring gathering include Bible study, Luncheon, fellowship and business. On January 21 the committee met to plan the program and activities. I will keep you informed as Information becomes available.

On another note, Our Savior women is planning on a trip to the Pioneer Woman's Mercantile and restaurant in Pawhuska. We haven't got a date as yet. We would love to have the women of Cluster 4 and 5 join us. If you would like to join us as an individual or a group contact me Nancy Starkey <nrstarkey57@gmail.com> 918-336-9120. I don't know if we can reserve table or not. I would love to have some social activities within the Clusters during the year. I would love to share ideas for activities as groups or individuals. Sharing is part of what makes us grow together as far as I am concerned.

Cluster 5 News



A new Quilting/Craft Group for Cluster 5 has started up at Joy Lutheran Church in Tulsa. It is called Lydia's Cluster 5 Quilt/Craft Group. 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.

At this time they have delivered 29 lap quilts to the Oklahoma Cancer Specialists and Research Institute, and 37 baby quilts to the Margaret Hudson Program. We will continue to work on these projects plus adding the Oaks Indian Mission by making quilts for the students. Contact Carol Rowe for more information, carolrowe@cox.net or 918.691.6562.

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



Sarah Carson, L-r, Terri Lackey, Elizabeth Hunter

WELCA TAKES 12 TOTAL AWARDS

Women of the ELCA took eight awards at the 2017 Associated Church Press (ACP) convention awards ceremony in Chicago, Ill., on April 28.

Last month Women of the ELCA took four DeRose-Hinkhouse awards March 30 at the Religion Communicators Council (RCC) convention also in Chicago.

The awards were given for work completed in 2016.

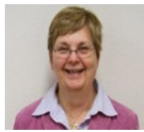
"The extraordinary work of our staff and the many writers who contribute to our publications help all women in the church build community and live the life of a disciple each and every day," said Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA.

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

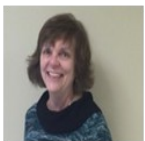
Theda Hall
56 Kirkaldy Drive
Bella Vista, AR 72715

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
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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

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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

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Joy, Tulsa, OK

Board Members (Excluding*)



Member at Large
Term 2016-2018
Cluster 6

Jane Nelson
1 Syston Lane
Bella Vista, AR 72714

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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

TRIENNIAL GATHERINGS ARE A TIME TO SING, DANCE AND RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Plenary sessions at a triennial gathering are exciting. Where else do you get 2,500 Lutheran women singing, dancing and responding to the Holy Spirit at the same time!? Plenary sessions at the Tenth Triennial Gathering will be no exception. They are being shaped around Gather magazine's summer Bible study, All Anew: Ready Or Not.

The gathering is July 13-16, 2017, in Minneapolis.

Each session will include Bible study, world music, inspiring words from Lutheran women and audience interaction.

After opening worship, our Thursday evening plenary explores the concept of "Saying Goodbye to Nice." Bible study author Kelly Fryer will remind us how heroes and sheroes of the biblical story often had to do and say things that were unpopular with family, friends and neighbors as they lived out the "new" thing God was doing. We'll explore what it means to be part of God's renewal today.

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, will lead a panel responding to Fryer's study. Friday morning we turn to session two, "Stand with the Least of These." Fryer will remind us the biblical story tells us that whenever God does a new thing, it happens in, through and with people who live on the margins.

Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee, our Lutheran sister from Liberia, will help us answer the question with whom is God asking us to align today? In whose corner are we being called to stand? Again, a panel will respond to the study and Gbowee's talk.

On Saturday we'll "Upend the Tables" as we are reminded that the biblical story is filled with characters who challenged unjust systems, took action that turned societal norms upside down and spoke truth to power. The Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, a national leader in areas of poverty and immigration and an ELCA pastor, will help us examine the systems we are part of that need to be challenged, asking what counter-cultural, justice-making actions are we being called to take. A panel will respond to the study and Salvatierra's talk.

Are we ready to say goodbye to nice, stand with the least of these and upend some tables? When 2,500 powerful and influential Lutheran women say yes, change will take place in this church!

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.womenofthelca.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 'bolcafe.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.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->

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



The steadfast love of the Lord
never ceases, his mercies
never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
Lamentations 3:22-23

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



Friday Night Supper - Ozark Ladies Present Martin Luther
Church Wide Representative: Cindy Arnett



Saturday: Bible Study/ Speakers / Workshops

Saturday Night: Mary Magdalene Awards/Entertainment



Sunday: Worship at United



all anew



Lodging: Booneslick Lodge 21140 Highway 71, Jane, MO
417-226-1888 Cost: \$60 (tax included) up to 4 per room.

SAVE THE DATE!
DETAILS WILL FOLLOW SOON!

AR/OK Women of the ELCA

2017 Board Meetings

May 20, 2017

United Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR

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