



AR-OK Women of the ELCA

SUMMER 2019—CONVENTION EDITION



AR-OK WELCA President's Message

Thank you for allowing me to be your president for the last four years. This has been a very rewarding experience. I have learned many things about Women of the ELCA and myself. The opportunity to grow in faith and love with you has been a true blessing for me. Thank you.

There have been many challenges during this time as well. We went from conferences to clusters but with some unintended consequences. When we made the change, we no longer had three at large positions on the Board. They all became at large positions. A board member can serve two terms in one position and must switch to another position, if she would like to stay on the board for the six years allowed by our constitution. Well as you can see, we don't have another position available. That might be something that we need to look at in the future. We did have changes on the Board, but, right now, we have a great Board. They have been a great help to me in many ways: they kept me on track, they had great ideas to share, and we all worked well together. We have learned and grown together.

We have had Board meetings at The Oaks Indian Mission, The Synod Office, and at the host churches for the conventions over the last four years. I have attended Spring Gatherings in both Arkansas and Oklahoma each year with my friend Larie Hunter, who was gracious enough to drive me to the meetings away from Yukon Oklahoma. Each Spring Gathering was different, even with the same theme. Susan Humphrey does an excellent job each year writing these for us, as well as conducting the training at the January Board meeting at Joy Lutheran Church in Tulsa.

This May I went with Bishop Mike Girlinghouse, Pastor Kara Shaw, Pastor Melissa Ehrhardt, and Pastor Liz Albertson to Tanzania to visit the Morogoro dioceses. This was an amazing trip. I will share more when we are together at the convention.

As you can see this is not a one-person operation; it takes prayer, the Board and others willing to share their talents, for which I have been blessed. Thank you all.

Peace and blessings,
Penny Budzien President of the Women of the ELCA Arkansas/
Oklahoma Synod



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Meet the Board Members



The moment God opened wide the door!

—LaTesa Williams, At-Large

I had no idea how my life would change when I met Jackie Escue. We were both Engineering students

at OSU in Stillwater when we met in class. She came up to me and said, “I’m praying for you.” Her boldness in faith changed my life. We studied the Bible together, attended Campus Crusade for Christ, formed an engineering study group, and I got serious about God.

I had been a baptized member at Redeemer Lutheran in Oklahoma City all of my life. But, I wasn’t serious about my faith nor did I attend church regularly. Although Jackie was only in my life for one short year, she made a difference that changed my life forever. God’s presence in her life changed my life.

Jackie and her husband left Stillwater to attend a different school and I lost track of her. I believe that God placed her in my life for a reason. I have been an active member at Redeemer ever since, attending worship regularly and serving as I can. I began as church council secretary and have continued to serve in many leadership positions. Whatever I can do for the church I do.

After graduating college I worked as an Electrical Engineer for seven years, until my first child was born. I had all intentions of returning to work after my children began school. God had different plans for me. Someone mentioned homeschooling and God opened a new path for me to walk. Today, I find myself with one son in college and two sons still homeschooling, with no interest in changing this course. God is amazing. We went from assuming that we needed to be a two-income family to realizing that every month we found a way to pay all of our bills on one income. As time went by, my husband’s company thrived and things got easier. I have the time to do what I can at church and still teach my children at home. God is a very strong, daily presence in my life and I am blessed. It is humbling to know that our God loves me so much that God placed a person in my life to get my attention and walk with me as I grew in my faith and my relationship with God. I have never seen Jackie again but her faithful witness is not forgotten as I live out my life in Christ striving to witness to others by offering them the love and joy shared with me so long ago. As I give thanks to God for such a wonderful friend, I ask you, who is the “Jackie” in your life?

Kara Shaw, Vice President



The Reverend Kara Shaw grew up in Wheeling, WV and graduated from Wheeling Jesuit University in 2005 with a BS in Mathematics and Secondary Education with minors in Special Education and Elementary Education. While in college Kara was a Disney College Program Intern working at Magic Kingdom and DisneyQuest Parks.

Kara attended Trinity Lutheran Seminary in Columbus, OH starting in 2005. In 2008 Kara married Wm. Travis Shaw at Oglebay Resort and Conference center’s formal gardens, after four years of dating and a two year engagement. She served internships at Christ Lutheran Church in Antioch, TN (suburb of Nashville) in 2007-2008 and Bethel Lutheran Church in Saint Clair Shores, MI (suburb of Detroit) in 2009-2010. Kara did supply work at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bridgeport from 2008-2009.

In 2011 Kara graduated with a Master of Divinity degree from TLS and was approved for Ordination by the West Virginia Western Maryland Synod and Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod joint candidacy committee for Ordination. Kara received her first call to a two point parish, Zion Lutheran Church, Shipman, IL and St. John’s Lutheran Church, Dorchester, IL in June of 2011, where she served until August of 2016. She was ordained on July 10, 2011 by Bishop Ralph Dunkin at St. Mark Evangelical Lutheran Church of Wheeling, WV.

Kara is the mother to two toddler daughters. You may know the girls by their screen names Doodle Bug and Little Bird. Kara is currently called to serve Peace Lutheran Church in Edgemont, AR. Kara’s first memory of being called to Ordained ministry is telling her childhood pastor, Pastor Rick in the narthex that when she grew up she was going to be a pastor just like him.

Kara is also a self described Disneyphile whose most famous original quote is also the mission statement of her ministry, “If Jesus lives in our heart and Figment lives in our imagination do you think they ever get together and play?” Kara’s mission in life is to help others love with Faith, Hope, and Pixie Dust.



Meet the Board Members



Jackie Wilson, At-Large

I have been involved with Women of the ELCA since the early 1980's. During that time I have had the following life with "The Lord my God in my midst."

I have the following certificates: Leadership and Supervisory skills for Women; Advanced Executive Secretary Training; and Discipleship and diversity training in Chicago. I have retired with 30+ years as executive secretary at major commands in the Air Force finishing with 14 years as the secretary to the Little Rock Air Force Base commander. I just recently retired as church secretary at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Hot Springs, Arkansas.

I have served as on the Churchwide Executive Board of the Women of the ELCA from 2011-2014. During that time I was secretary from 2011-2014 and the SWO Convention Coordinator from 2014-2017. Also during that time I was on the Constitution Review Committee and served on the review committee to revise the Women of the ELCA executive director's job description. I am a former secretary of the Virginia and Arkansas/Oklahoma Synodical Women's Organizations.

I was a delegate to both the Virginia and Arkansas/Oklahoma Synodical Assemblies/Conventions. In my congregation, I was a member of the Seeds for Growth. I was also former secretary on church council, secretary/treasurer on altar guild and WELCA unit.

Other activities include volunteering at local Jackson House to feed the hungry in soup and sandwich kitchen monthly; coordinated/supported Children's Home and a Rehab/Assistant Care Home, prepared "Hope 4 U" bags for the homeless in the community and a volunteer to gather blankets/jackets for those in need.

At the synodical level I serve on the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod Council as Cluster 5 Coordinator 2016-2020 and also serve as a Member at Large on the Arkansas-Oklahoma Women of the ELCA board 2017-2019.

Married to Bob for 50.5 years (50 more to go); have 2 sons with wonderful wives and 4 beautiful grandchildren. Bob and I are also blessed with our fur baby "Poppy."

God has been a presence my entire life. I have truly been "BLESSED".



Dorla Dixon, At-Large

Women of the ELCA has been a part of my life since my mother took me to Lutheran Church Women meetings at Reformation Lutheran Church in Eastlake, Ohio. I understood then the importance of women coming together in faith and fellowship as sisters in Christ. When we moved to the Hot Springs area, it was only natural to get involved in the LCW at Prince of Peace, which became a Women of the ELCA unit in the merger to form the ELCA in 1988.

Although I was active in the local unit, even serving as President, I had never attended any kind of convention. One of our members, Jane Burtness invited me to attend one of the very first Women of the ELCA A-OK synodical conventions that was held at Mt. Sequoyah in Fayetteville, Arkansas. I became truly impressed and excited about the organization and attended almost every synodical convention thereafter. A group of women from Prince of Peace attended our first Triennial in 1993, Washington, D.C. Three years later I was elected to serve as a delegate to the Triennial in Minneapolis. I also attended Triennials in Philadelphia and Salt Lake City. I plan to go to Phoenix next year!

Soon after the Minneapolis Triennial, I became a board member and served as secretary—this was during the mid-to-late 1990s. I enjoyed my tenure as secretary and meeting so many new friends.

After an unfortunate experience and a ten-year absence, my husband and I returned to Prince of Peace about three years ago. Immediately the women I knew and loved welcomed me, and I again became active in Women of the ELCA. It's good to be home among Lutheran women! Once again I am serving on the WELCA board and as the WELCA synodical newsletter editor/production person.

I serve as secretary for my church's unit as well as serving as part-time office manager at Prince of Peace. I've represented Prince of Peace at Synod Assemblies. I am also a substitute teacher during the school year.

My husband, Bill and I have been married for 45 years. We have one son and daughter-in-law, Rose, and two grandchildren, Kennedy (12) and Elliott (6) who live in Vancouver, WA. I plan vacations around going to the Pacific Northwest or to Panama City Beach, FL!

Wishing all of you God's richest blessings and peace!



Don't Miss: Tiny Angel Gowns at the AR-OK Fall Convention!

Colleen Angel from Community of Joy Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village, will speak to us about her growing ministry, **Tiny Angel Gowns**. Come join us to hear how Tiny Angel Gowns got started and has a reach of over 8,000 people on Facebook. Over 52,000 preemie bereavement gowns have already been made and donated to hospitals across the country. The smallest gown is the size of a dollar bill. See if you don't agree that this mission is a great example of God's Plan.



Join us during non-business sessions! No need to bring anything, everything supplied – we just need you! Help turn the sewn gowns, trace and turn diapers and vests. There is ironing to do or you can help work on making some of the little bonnets. If you knit, you can pick up a pattern to help make hats. If you know of a hospital in your local area, you can take a package of finished gowns and deliver them to the hospital with instructions on how they can get more.



If you have an unused "stash" of white or pastel ribbons or white lace and want to donate them to Tiny Angel Gowns, they would be greatly appreciated.



TANZANIA!

Wow! Our delegation is home from our trip to Tanzania, and what a trip! We all got there at different times (due to weather). I was the last to arrive having missed my connection in Zürich. Elisipha met me at the airport late on Saturday night and we stayed at a hotel and headed out early Sunday morning for Morogoro and the church service. I was greeted warmly by everyone I met. The service was a dedication for a new church building. Pastors from all over Morogoro were present. The music was wonderful. After the service we went to see a home for young women who were going to school, and if there are enough funds, on to college. They sang for us and shared their stories. We learned that young women from their tribes would be traded for cattle and marriage to old men. They are less important than cattle!

We traveled to a game reserve, saw lots of animals but no lions. It was a fun day.

We went to the Kimbilio Women's Center, where we met many dedicated women who mentor women that come to the center to escape abuse. There we met a 14-year-old who was the mother of a one-week old baby. They would mentor her, teach her about motherhood, and help her learn a trade. The needs are many. WE can help through the Morogoro Diocese. Days for Girls is a program that would help at both centers and villages that we visited. We found that the women's groups in Morogoro are active. They get together several times a month, they teach the younger women bible study, songs, and crafts to sell. The Chalinze group called Elishadia started in 2014 with 9 ladies and today have 80! They use money from sales of their crafts to aide women in need by giving them loans to help in times of need. They have purpose and drive to help the community of women wherever they can.

This was a trip of a lifetime. I learned much, and I can't wait to go back.

Peace and blessings,
Penny





Rejoice! Renew! Exult!

Zephaniah 3:17

2019 Arkansas-Oklahoma WELCA Convention

Sept. 27- 29 at Faith Lutheran in Little Rock

Register by July 15 to take advantage of early-bird registration fees!

[Online registration and payment options available!](#)

Lodging at Hampton Inn & Suites, west Little Rock- \$89.00/night plus tax

Rejoice! Renew! Exult!

Zephaniah 3:17

Greetings,

The Arkansas-Oklahoma Synodical Women's Organization will hold its 32nd annual Convention at Faith Lutheran Church in Little Rock, Arkansas, September 27-29, 2019. Our theme is "Rejoice! Renew! Exult!" (Zephaniah 3:17) Each congregational or inter-congregational unit of the AR-OK Synod is entitled to one delegate. Delegates are required to attend all business sessions of the convention. Please find the attached registration form that must be returned to the registrar. Please **make copies** of the form and share them with all of the women in your congregation. **NEW** this year, you can also **register online** through this [link](#) (details below). **ALL WOMEN** of the AR-OK Synod are invited and encouraged to attend; membership in WELCA is **not** required. There will be plenty of fun and interesting activities to participate in for non-Delegate attendees.

Registration (Delegate or Participant):

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION \$70.00 (by July 15), regular registration \$75.00 (by August 25), late registration \$85.00 (after August 25); see form for other fees and discounts. The registration fee includes Friday supper, Saturday lunch and dinner, snacks and beverages, and all printed materials.

Hotel Information: Hampton Inn & Suites
1301 South Shackleford Rd.
Little Rock, AR 72211
Phone: 501.537.3000

The Convention rate is \$89.00 +tax. This includes breakfast each morning. Rooms are available for Friday and Saturday Night. Reservations must be made no later than September 12 to receive the reduced rate.

REMEMBER TO LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE WITH THE "AR-OK WELCA" GROUP.

In-Kind Gifts: Days for Girls and Dorcas House- This year we will be supporting women's health both here and around the world by collecting in-kind gifts in support of women's menstruation. Days for Girls is an organization that provides menstruation kits to women and girls in need around the world. Included in the newsletter is a flyer explaining more about Days for Girls' wonderful mission and what you can do to help. Dorcas House is a women's shelter in Little Rock that serves women (and their children) who are fleeing domestic violence or struggling with addiction. We will be collecting tampons and pads for the women they serve.

Church Wide Representative: Freddie Jordan (Columbus, Ohio), WELCA Executive Board Secretary, will bring us greetings from church wide and news about our organization's events, programs, and financial matters. She will also lead a workshop on Saturday.

Bible Study: Pastor Liz Albertson, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop for Youth & Family, will lead us in a Bible Study on our Convention theme verse, Zephaniah 3:17.

Activities for Non-Voting Members: We have several fun activities scheduled for our non-voting participants to do while the two business sessions are taking place. From interesting talks and discussions, to helping with service projects, we guarantee there will be something interesting and fun to do.

Wine Tasting and Fellowship: Friday night we will have time for fun and games along with a wine tasting featuring wines from Arkansas and Oklahoma. Wine tasting is optional and costs an additional \$6 (to be paid at the Convention - separate from registration). Please be sure to RSVP on the registration form, so we can get an accurate count of how many plan to attend.

Mary Magdalene Awards: Please nominate a deserving woman from your unit for recognition. We have eight awards to give out every year. See the attached nomination form or submit via our [online nomination form](#)*.

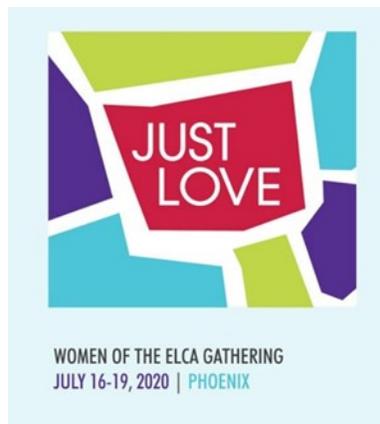
Business: Board Officers and Members and Delegates will conduct elections and housekeeping. **This year we will be electing our Triennial Delegates.** If you would like to nominate someone, you can use the attached nomination form or submit via our [online nomination form](#). Because of church wide policies, we are especially seeking women of color or women whose primary language is not English and first-time attendees. Those that do not fit these criteria are still welcome. Please note- **WE CANNOT ACCEPT NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR; THEY MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO START OF BUSINESS AT THE CONVENTION.**

Online Registration Option: All registration and nominating forms are available online. You can access the online registration form [here](#). Registration fee for online registrants can be paid either by mail or via tithely (an online payment processing system). Instructions for payment are available on the registration form included in this packet and on the online form. Nomination forms for Mary Magdalene Awards, Board Officers/Members, and Triennial Delegates are available [here](#).

We look forward to seeing you in Little Rock!

Convention Chairs:

Nia Indelicato	life.in.liminal@gmail.com	540.553.2035
Kara Shaw	pastor.kara.shaw@gmail.com	501.294.8289
Jackie Wilson	jac47kie@gmail.com	501.580.7002
Dorla Dixon	dorlasue63@gmail.com	501.844.7699



* **To access links, press the control key and click.**

ARKANSAS-OKLAHOMA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA)

32ND ANNUAL WELCA CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

SEPTEMBER 27- 29, 2019

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

7525 W. MARKHAM STREET · LITTLE ROCK, AR 72205

THIS FORM IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE (<https://tinyurl.com/AOK2019>)

Name: _____

Guest Name* (if applicable): _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ WELCA Cluster: _____

Church: _____ City: _____ State: _____

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

I will be attending as:

Delegate/Voting Member: _____ Attendee: _____ SWO Board Member: _____ Speaker/Special Guest: _____

REGISTRATION FEES

Registration covers Friday dinner, Saturday lunch and dinner, all printed materials, plus snacks and beverages during convention for regular attendees. Guests of attendees are asked to pay for any meals they attend.

Convention Fees

Early Bird (Before July 15): \$70.00 \$ _____

Regular (Before August 25): \$75.00 \$ _____

Late (After August 25): \$85.00 \$ _____

Online Payment Processing Fee: \$2.50 \$ _____ (only for those choosing to pay online)

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

***Meals for Guests Fees**

Friday dinner: \$10.00 \$ _____

Saturday lunch: \$10.00 \$ _____

Saturday dinner: \$20.00 \$ _____

SUBTOTAL \$ _____

I AM PAYING VIA:

AN ENCLOSED CHECK IN THE AMOUNT OF: \$ _____ (payable to AR/OK Women of the ELCA)

ONLINE TROUGH TITHE.LY IN THE AMOUNT OF: \$ _____ (<https://tithe.ly/give?c=664790>)

I AM APPLYING FOR A SCHOLARSHIP (Fees will be charged after scholarship decision has been made)

*****THERE ARE NO REFUNDS *****

Food (and other) Allergies/Special Dietary Needs: _____

WINE TASTING RSVP - A fee of \$6.00 will be collected at the Convention

I plan to attend I DO NOT plan to attend I am not sure (we check w/ you before the Convention)

Mail registration form and payment before August 25 to:

Tracie Omit, Treasurer, 4526 Spring Cliff Loop, Rogers, Arkansas 72756; teaora@hotmail.com

LODGING INFORMATION: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING YOUR OWN RESERVATIONS

Hampton Inn & Suites- 1301 South Shackleford Rd. Little Rock, AR 72211; Phone: 501.537.3000

The Convention rate is \$89.00 +tax. (includes breakfast) **Last day for reservations: September 12**

REMEMBER TO LET THEM KNOW YOU ARE WITH THE "AR-OK WELCA" GROUP

MARY MAGDALENE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

THIS FORM IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE (<https://tinyurl.com/AOKnominate>)

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.” (Jon 20:18).

Each year, we honor a woman from each of our Clusters with our Mary Magdalene Award.

These special, treasured women are given a rose, a certificate, and a donation to their favorite charity.

Do you know a woman who has been faithful to Jesus’ command to “GO and TELL!”?

Please consider nominating her for this award.

In 2004 we added on Youth Award for a young lady in 9th grade through college. You may use this form to nominate them as well.

Nominee Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ WELCA Cluster: _____

Church: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Favorite Charity & Address: _____

You can attach additional pages if you need more room for the following questions:

Brief Biography of nominee: _____

How does she exemplify the “GO and TELL” spirit of Mary Magdalene? _____

Nominated By: _____ Email and Phone: _____

Please be sure to encourage your nominee to attend the Convention.
If money is an issue, have your unit help pay her way or sign her up for a scholarship.

Send by September 1, 2019 to:
Penny Budzien 10305 Bonny Castle Dr. Yukon, OK 73099
Cell: 405.826.9358; Email: embudz1@aol.com

**AR/OK SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA)
NOMINATIONS FORM
OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS- 2019-2021 TERM**

THIS FORM IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE (<https://tinyurl.com/AOKnominate>)

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:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ President | _____ Secretary |
| _____ Member At-large (Cluster 1) | _____ Member At-large (Cluster 3) |
| _____ Member At-large (Cluster 5) | _____ Member At-large (Cluster 7) |

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ WELCA Cluster: _____

Church: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Age Range: 18-25 years 26-35 years 36-55 years 56 and older

Race and Ethnicity- **check ALL** that apply:

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African-American | <input type="checkbox"/> Alaskan native | <input type="checkbox"/> Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Caucasian |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Native American | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer Not to Answer |

Primary Language (if other than English): _____

PLEASE COMPLETE **BOTH PAGES AND RETURN BY AUGUST 25 TO:**

**Kara Shaw
105 Castle Ct.
Fairfield Bay, AR 72088**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kara Shaw, Vice President, Nominations Committee Chair
Cell: 501.294.8289; Email: pastor.kara.shaw@gmail.com

OR

Penny Budzien, President
Cell: 405.826.9358 Email: 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 Church wide Level: _____

Community Service: _____

Special Gifts of Talents: _____

Information below this line is to be completed by the person recommending the nominee

Reasons for believing this nominee can effectively serve in the position for which you have nominated her: _____

Signature of Nominating Participant: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Church: _____ City: _____ State: _____

**AR/OK SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA (WELCA)
TRIENNIAL DELEGATE NOMINATION FORM
ELEVENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING- PHOENIX, ARIZONA JULY 14-16, 2020**

THIS FORM IS ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE (<https://tinyurl.com/AOKnominate>)

**Please complete the information requested before returning this nomination form
REMINDER- NOMINATIONS CANNOT BE MADE FROM THE FLOOR
THEY MUST BE TURNED IN BEFORE THE START OF BUSINESS ON SATURDAY MORNING**

Check [X] next to the position in which the nominee is willing to serve. The individual nominated must be able to attend Triennial if elected.

_____ Women of Color or whose primary language is other than English
_____ First Time Delegate/Voting Member
_____ Non-Restricted Delegate/Voting member

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____ WELCA Cluster: _____

Church: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Age Range: 18-25 years 26-35 years 36-55 years 56 and older

Race and Ethnicity- **check ALL** that apply:

African-American Alaskan native Asian Caucasian
 Hispanic Native American Pacific Islander Prefer Not to Answer

Primary Language (if other than English): _____

PLEASE COMPLETE BOTH PAGES AND RETURN BY AUGUST 25 TO:

**Kara Shaw
105 Castle Ct.
Fairfield Bay, AR 72088**

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

Kara Shaw, Vice President, Nominations Committee Chair
Cell: 501.294.8289; Email: pastor.kara.shaw@gmail.com

OR

Penny Budzien, President
Cell: 405.826.9358 Email: 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 Church wide Level: _____

Community Service: _____

Special Gifts of Talents: _____

Information below this line is to be completed by the person recommending the nominee

Reasons for believing this nominee can effectively serve in the position for which you have nominated her: _____

Signature of Nominating Participant: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

Church: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Mark your calendars for the Fall Convention Sept. 27- 29 at Faith Lutheran in Little Rock

Rejoice! Renew! Exult! Zephaniah 3:17



Saturday Bible Study will be led by Pastor Liz Albertson who is Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop for Youth & Family, will lead us in a Bible Study on our Convention theme verse, Zephaniah 3:17: *The Lord, your God is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing.*

Penny Budzien will share stories from Tanzania. Penny, Bishop Mike Girlinghouse, Pastor Liz Albertson, Pastor Kara Shaw, and Pastor Melissa Ehrhardt traveled to visit the Lutheran Church in Tanzania this May. They went to learn from one of the fastest growing Lutheran Churches in the world, to see how the spirit is working among them and what lessons they can bring back for us in Arkansas and Oklahoma. We will also have a **LIVE INTERNET CALL FROM TANZANIA** with Elisipha Lepital, Legal Secretary for the Morogoro Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, the highest ranking woman in the Morogo Diocese. We're excited to hear from her and thankful we're blessed with the opportunity.



The Significance of Speech- Guest speaker, Pam Christie, will lead a talk on the significance of speech. According to the Moody Blues, it is up to us "to decide which is right and which is an illusion." We will have an interactive discussion regarding what our personal speech says about us, the meaning of some of the current speeches being delivered, and what the Gospel might say about it all.

Fun Activities and Service Opportunities will be available throughout the convention. We will offer crafts, a chance to learn about Tibetan Prayer Flags and make our own versions, and information on the different WELCA resources to help you better connect and reflect. We will also have several impactful service projects participants can help contribute to including Tiny Angel Gowns, premie bereavement gowns. There will be plenty to do for non-voting members.

Freddie Jordan, Executive Board Secretary, will be joining us and bringing greetings and news from church wide. Freddie hails from Columbus, Ohio where she is a member of her church choir and Sunday school teacher. Before serving on the church wide Board, she served as the president of the Southern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization. Freddie has three young children and she works as an adjunct chemistry professor at Central State University in Wilerforce Ohio. We are excited to welcome Freddie to our Convention. Freddie will lead a breakout session on Saturday afternoon.



Identifying Your Spiritual Gifts-

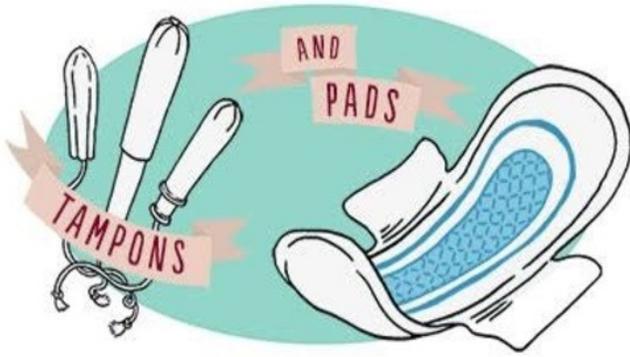
Nia Indelicato will lead a workshop on identifying your spiritual gifts. Participants will learn about spiritual gifts and will take time to reflect on how their gifts show themselves in every-day life.

Convention In-Kind: Days for Girls and Dorcas House
Days for Girls is a nonprofit that provides menstruation supplies to women and girls in need around the world. In some places, menstruation can cut a young woman off from her life and daily activities, like going to school, all because she does not have access to feminine hygiene products. Days for Girls provides reusable menstruation kits to help women and girls stay connected during their period. Please see the included Days for Girls flyer for more information on how you can help. Lorrie Healy, a Days for Girls Team Lead from Rogers, AR, will lead a breakout session on Saturday afternoon.



In addition to supporting women around the world, we will be supporting women at home too. We will also be collecting disposable tampons and pads for the women of Dorcas House, a shelter that serves women fleeing abuse or suffering from addiction. Please bring a package of tampons or pads to the convention to donate to Dorcas House.

In-Kind Donation Opportunity– Period Products for Dorcas House



In addition to our project for Days for Girls, we will be collecting tampons and pads for Dorcas House. Dorcas House is a local (Little Rock) women's shelter that serves women (and their children) who are escaping domestic violence or suffering from addiction. Dorcas House is a faith based organization whose mission centers around changing the lives of their clients by helping them strengthen their relationship with Christ. Help us support the feminine hygiene needs of the women of Dorcas House by bringing in a packet (or more) of tampons or pads.

Online Registration Available!

You can now register for the Convention, Apply for a Scholarship, and Nominate Board Members, Triennial Delegates, and Mary Magdalene Awardees online!

Payment can be paid either by check through the mail or online via [Tithe.ly](https://www.tithe.ly).

Click [here](https://tinyurl.com/AOK2019) to go to the online registration form (<https://tinyurl.com/AOK2019>).

The Scholarship Application is accessible through the online registration form.

Click [here](https://tinyurl.com/AOKnominate) to go to the online nomination forms (<https://tinyurl.com/AOKnominate>).

Tithe.ly can also be used by anyone submitting a paper registration form through the mail

Call For Triennial Delegate Nominations

Nominations for Triennial Delegates CANNOT be made from the floor. We need your nominations before the start of business on Saturday. You can nominate someone with the form provided or through our online nomination form available at this address: <https://tinyurl.com/AOKnominate>.



Find us on
Facebook

AR-OK WELCA now has a Facebook page! Connect with us online to get updates on the Convention and stay up-to-date with Synod news. Find us under Arkansas-Oklahoma WELCA.

Mary Magdalene Award

Don't forget to nominate someone for a 2019 Mary Magdalene Award! Do you know a woman who embodies the Mary Magdalene spirit of "GO and TELL"? Someone who spreads the word and love of Christ to others in a special way? Be sure to nominate her for a Mary Magdalene Award.

One award will be given out for each cluster, and we need your nominations. You can nominate her through the included form or through our online nomination form accessible via this address: <https://tinyurl.com/AOKnominate>.



Arkansas Oklahoma WELCA Convention Supports Days for Girls

This year our convention will be supporting women's menstrual health by helping make, collect items for, and assemble menstruation kits for women around the world.

What is Days For Girls?

In some areas of the world, women and girls don't have reliable access to menstruation products. As a result, girls and young women are often excluded from normal activities (like going to school) while they are menstruating. Days for Girls seeks to solve this problem by providing women and girls with reusable menstruation kits that provide them with the personal care products they need to maintain their normal daily activities while they are menstruating. Days for Girls also provides training, education, and income-generating opportunities to the communities it serves. Days for Girls truly cares about making a lasting impact.



It all starts with a **DfG POD** (Portable Object of Dignity), the basic unit Days for Girls Kit. PODs contain 1 waterproof shield and 2 absorbent liners. PODs are the seed for Micro-Enterprises, because they can be sold at an affordable price point, and women can add components in the future. Because DfG Kits last years, this is a timeline that works for many women. Days for Girls prioritizes using locally-available materials whenever possible.

The **Supreme Days for Girls Kit** is the deluxe version of a Kit, and what is made by our Chapters and Teams around the world. It contains the materials shown to the right.

You may notice that these Kits don't look like traditional pads...and there's a reason for that. The bright colors camouflage staining. The absorbent liners unfold to look like a washcloth, which allows women to wash and dry them outside in the sun without causing embarrassment. All of these design choices add up to a lasting, easy-to-care-for solution.



Can't sew, but still want to help?

If you can't sew, don't worry, there are still ways to help. Each kit contains items that aren't sewn which we'll need to collect. You can also help with the raw materials for our seamstresses (inquire with Kara if you are interested in this). Monetary donations are also welcome, and there are other specific tasks to help with (contact Kara for more info).

Specifically, we need to collect:

- ◇ Ziploc brand freezer Bags (1 gallon sized)
- ◇ Washcloths (med. Thickness, dark color)
- ◇ Travel-sized bars of soap
- ◇ Underwear— dark colors (girls' sizes 10-14)



How can you help?

We need people to make and/or collect items for the kits ahead of the convention. You can do this individually, or as a WELCA/Church group. We especially need people who can sew to help us make their pieces of the kit that require sewing.

I can sew! How do I get involved?

Days for Girls is (understandably) very strict when it comes to quality control. Those who volunteer to sew items will need to receive some quick training on item construction before they are given the patterns. But the GOOD NEWS is that we have connections throughout Arkansas AND Oklahoma that we can leverage to get you what you need to get sewing.

If you are interested in sewing, please contact Kara Shaw (501.294.8289), and she can get the thread flowing.

Learn more about Days For Girls at <https://www.daysforgirls.org/>

Contact Nia Indelicato (life.in.liminal@gmail.com) for more info about the A-OK WELCA Project.

ARKANSAS/OKLAHOMA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

2018-2020 Board Roster

(Terms: October 1—September 30, years listed, except Treasurer's Term)

BOARD OFFICERS

<p>PRESIDENT Term 2017-2019 Cluster 2</p>		<p>Penny Budzien 10305 Bonny Castle Dr. Yukon, OK 73099</p>	<p>Home: 405.324.0651 Cell: 405.826.9358 Email: embudz1@aol.com Resurrection, Yukon, OK</p>
<p>VICE PRESIDENT Term 2018-2020 Cluster 8</p>		<p>Pastor Kara Shaw 105 Castle Ct. Fairfield Bay, AR 72088</p>	<p>Cell: 501.294.8289 Email: pastor.kara.shaw@gmail.com Peace, Edgemont, AR</p>
<p>SECRETARY Term 2018-2020 Cluster 8</p>		<p>Nia Indelicato 1118 Kings Mountain Dr. Little Rock, AR 72211</p>	<p>Cell: 540.553.2035 Email: life.in.liminal@gmail.com Faith, Little Rock</p>
<p>TREASURER Term 2/1/19— 1/31/21 Cluster 6</p>		<p>Tracie Omit 4526 Spring Cliff Loop Rogers, AR</p>	<p>Cell: 479.304.8518 Email: teaora@hotmail.com Peace, Rogers, AR</p>

BOARD MEMBERS (Excluding*)

<p>MEMBER AT LARGE Cluster 1</p>	<p>OPEN ARE YOU CALLED?</p>	
<p>MEMBER AT LARGE Cluster 2</p>	<p>OPEN ARE YOU CALLED?</p>	
<p>MEMBER AT LARGE Term 2017-2019 Cluster 3</p>		<p>LaTesa Williams 3021 SW 96th Oklahoma City, OK 73159</p> <p>Home: 405.691.1609 Cell: 405.613.6711 Email: latesa@ymail.com Redeemer, Oklahoma City, OK</p>
<p>MEMBER AT LARGE Term 2018-2020 Cluster 3</p>		<p>Carol Reinke 2301 NWW 26 Oklahoma City, OK 73107</p> <p>Cell: 405.641.4222 Email: reinkehome2301@gmail.com Redeemer, Oklahoma City, OK</p>

BOARD MEMBERS continued (Excluding*)

MEMBER AT LARGE Cluster 4		OPEN ARE YOU CALLED?	
MEMBER AT LARGE Term 2018-2020 Cluster 4		Linda Ewen 351826 E. 780 Rd. Cushing, OK 74023	Cell: 918.399.3648 Email: icewen4@hotmail.com or immanuellutherancountrychurch@gmail.com Immanuel, Cushing, OK
MEMBER AT LARGE Term 2018-2020 Cluster 4		Sharon Mitchell 2510 W Hwy 66 Stroud, OK 74079	Cell: 918.968.5062 Email: samitchell7@ymail.com Immanuel, Cushing, OK
MEMBER AT LARGE Cluster 5		OPEN ARE YOU CALLED?	
MEMBER AT LARGE Term 2018-2020 Cluster 6		Kelsey Sojka 600 S. Promenade Blvd. Unit 1201 Rogers, AR 72758	Cell: 402.290.2465 Email: sojkakelsey@gmail.com Bella Vista, AR
MEMBER AT LARGE Cluster 7		OPEN ARE YOU CALLED?	
MEMBER AT LARGE Term 2018-2020 Cluster 8		Jackie Wilson 700 Summit Ridge Cir. Hot Springs, AR 71901	Cell: 501.580.7002 Email: jac47kie@gmail.com Prince of Peace, Hot Springs, AR
MEMBER AT LARGE Term 2018-2020 Cluster 8		Dorla Dixon 1539 Timberlake Dr. Royal, AR 71968	Cell: 501.844.7699 Email: dorlasue63@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		Dorla Dixon 1539 Timberlake Dr, Royal, AR 71968	Cell: 501.844.7699 Email: dorlasue63@gmail.com Prince of Peace, Hot Springs, AR

**WELCA AR-OK
CONVENTION
NEWSLETTER!**

Dorla Dixon
1539 Timberlake Drive
Royal, AR 71968



AR/OK Women of the ELCA

2019 CONVENTION

**September 27-29, 2019
FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH
Little Rock, AR**

Registration & Program Information Inside



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:

Dorla Dixon
1539 Timberlake Drive
Royal, AR 71968