



December 2022

Views from the Rockies

► *Convention Reflection..... pp. 2-4*

December RMSWO President’s Corner

President Julie Elmquist asked in the August Views, “Who will be the next president?”

While attending the Fall Convention, I was asked to accept the nomination to become your new President. My name was on a nomination form to become a board member but not for President. I enjoyed serving on the RMSWO Board in the past and look forward to serving again. I thank each of you for this opportunity and hope I can also count on each of you for support and prayers.

As we move through Advent, I have been using the Synod Advent Calendar each day (rmselca.org/AdventCalendar). A word is given and reflected upon by one of our pastors in the synod or part of the Synod staff. Excellent! On December 3rd, for example, ‘Gratitude’ was the word of the day. In John 15:11 “I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

It was suggested we pick one thing that makes us grateful and brings us joy. My family and friends give me joy and being of service to others. What would be your pick? Some of the other words given in this Advent Calendar are: Go, Peace, Time, Awake, Ready, Fear, Gratitude, Wisdom and Hope so far.

As your day begins during Advent may you ponder on these words and how you can use them to help you through the waiting and prepare us for the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Share the Good News with others around you to bring them joy and help them to be grateful to be a child of God.

May you be blessed and be a blessing through this season of Advent as you prepare for this holy birth. Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year!

Love and prayers,
 Anna

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A convention reflection

“Spur one another on toward love and good deeds”

The Rocky Mountain Synodical Women’s Organization held its first hybrid convention at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Greeley, Colorado, September 30 through October 2, 2022. Hybrid—because while most attended in person, there were five women who joined us via Zoom. Brianna Lindauer, pictured above, was the Zoom coordinator.



As we met in small groups during the study, Pr. Monica asked us to talk about how the past few years have changed us and those around us and also how we might urge not only others but ourselves as well.

Saturday morning began with breakfast goodies provided by the women of Faith Lutheran, Eaton, Colorado – Thank You!

The business meeting started at 10:00 a.m. and included reciting the Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement, introduction of the board and the Churchwide representative (Laura Krueger), adoption of the budget and election of officers and board members.



Pastor Monica serves a joint call to both Immanuel Lutheran Church and Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry in Greeley. She is committed to cultivating communities of faith and belonging that embody God’s transforming love in the world. Pastor Monica is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Art History. Before coming to Greeley, she served as Vicar at Saint Peter’s Church in New York City and worked in education at museums in Santa Fe, NM and San Francisco, CA. She loves hiking, road cycling, knitting, and a good novel.

The hybrid convention made for an agenda that was familiar yet scaled back.

Friday started with registration and gathering for a baked potato bar meal. Many thanks to the women of Immanuel for this! The Zoom portions were held in the sanctuary, so we met there after dinner for the Bible study. Immanuel’s Pastor Monica Butler led the study on the theme verse from Hebrews 10:24–25:

²⁴“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, ²⁵not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”



Officers elected:

President—Anna Thompson
Vice-president—Ruth Von Mosch
Secretary—Sharon Hamilton
Treasurer—Debra Haar
Board members—Tamara Clawson and Lila Moore.

We also elected voting members for the Twelfth Triennial Convention to be held September 19-21, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona. Those voting members are: Sharon Hamilton, Lila Moore, and Ruth Von Mosch.

When the business meeting ended sooner than anticipated, attendees were free to walk around beautiful Glenmere Park, meditate in Immanuel's outdoor chapel (see photos at right), or simply sit and visit!

Following lunch, we met again in the sanctuary to hear the two guest speakers. Dani Souza spoke on behalf of A Woman's Place, a shelter in Greeley for abused persons and their families. She told us about the challenges of meeting needs during the COVID years, when they went from having 28 beds available to only 8 single rooms. Dani reminded us that domestic violence does not discriminate—it can be found in every economic level, educational level, every religion, and every race/ethnicity. The barriers victims face when trying to leave the abuser include love, fear of revenge, isolation, embarrassment, shame, cultural, legal and lack of transportation, job, or education. Dani also mentioned that one of the most needed items for their clients is pajamas!



Next, Araceli Calderon spoke about her work with Weld BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services). Weld BOCES works with 45 school districts and helps provide services to migrant families such as educational classes for parents so that they can in turn support their children's education. The BOCES clients must be newcomers to the area and must work in agri-business such as meat



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Photos at Glenmere Park and Immanuel's Outdoor Chapel



packing plants or agricultural field work. BOCES does not help with food or housing needs. The migrant families are here on a temporary basis, going back and forth between their home countries and the United States. Weld BOCES is not allowed to accept charitable donations because it relies on federal funding.

Laura Krueger, from Churchwide Women of the ELCA, gave an inspirational message which you can find in another area of the newsletter.

The RMSWO Board led a prayer service that included Laura Krueger conducting the Installation of Officers and Board members. This service ended the Zoom part of the convention. At this point the in-person attendees could depart or were welcome to stay for an evening meal and to spend another night in Greeley to be able to attend worship at Immanuel Sunday morning, October 2.



12 Days of Christmas' True Meaning

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans, and especially that partridge who won't come out of the pear tree have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829, Roman Catholics in England were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Someone during that era wrote this carol as a catechism song for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning; the surface meaning, plus a hidden meaning known only to members of their church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember:



The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.

Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments.

Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.

The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law,

the first five books of the Old Testament.

The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.

Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit: Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.

The eight maids a milking were the eight beatitudes.

Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-control.

The ten lords a-leaping were the Ten Commandments.

Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.

Twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

Now you know more about this 'very strange' song that became a Beautiful Christmas Carol.

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Laura Krueger, Executive Board Member

Laura Krueger was elected to the churchwide executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017 and re-elected in August 2021. She has served both terms as parliamentarian of the board. In her first term, she served on the budget and finance committee and currently serves on the executive committee and the program and communication committee.

Laura has served on synodical boards in two synods, Upstate New York and Grand Canyon, in various roles: board member, convention chair, vice president, and president of the Grand Canyon Synodical Women's Organization. She has experience as a unit leader and a conference leader. Laura is passionate about the many ministries of Women of the ELCA.

A resident of Avondale, Ariz., Laura is a member of Alleluia Lutheran Church, Phoenix. She has served as Christian Education Director and regularly leads children's sermons, as well as adult forums and Bible studies. Laura serves as worship

cantor and leads Alleluia's Mission Team, focusing on a community diaper Closet.

An Army brat, Laura was born in Germany, grew up and attended college in North Carolina, lived in Upstate New York for many years, and now lives in the Southwest. She began her career in business and found her passion in education. She works as the registrar at a community college. She has been involved in parent-teacher associations, church council, and athletic booster clubs in addition to the many roles in Women of the ELCA.

Laura is married to Jim, a retired electrical engineer. They have three grown sons, David, and twins, Jon and Chris. They have three grandchildren, Avery, Grayson, and Rowen who live in North Carolina.

Laura enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, and crocheting.

Laura Krueger, Report from CWO

I bring greetings from the Women of the ELCA, our president, Joy Michalicek, our executive director, Linda Post Bushkofsky, the churchwide executive board and staff. I also bring you greetings from our sisters in Southwest California, Pacifica, and Grand Canyon synods where I have had the great joy of participating in their online conventions over the last few months. And also from sisters in Central Wisconsin synod and St. Paul Area who I had the great pleasure to join in person



as they returned to in-person events.

I am excited to be here with you today.... It is great to be with my Sisters in Christ in a Three-Dimensional way. We have spent so much time in the one-dimensional world over the last two years that many of us have missed time and traditions spent with the generations of our families while Covid was running rampant through our country. I think we all got a better understanding and appreciation of what we depend upon in the love shared with our Sisters in Christ. I think we have missed the time spent sharing our life stories with each other and how we are answering the call to action from God.

I'd like to share a little of my faith journey and I hope you will find a bit of your story in mine. Or if not your story, I hope you will be inspired by my story.

My Story:

I was born into a Lutheran family and raised in the church. For as long as I can remember, my family has always been involved in the work of the church. As an army brat, I have strong memories of involvement in the church wherever we were stationed. As a college student, I was proud to have participated in a Lutheran Campus Ministry chapter. Up to that point, my church involvement was always behind the scenes until I became involved with campus ministry. What a lot of people don't know, is that I was once that girl who sat in the back of the room, not making eye contact and praying that no one noticed me. And heaven forbid, I had to talk in the front of the room. Standing in front of a group (no matter the size) was one of my worst nightmares.

During some of my college years and definitely as a young wife and mother, God put people, mostly women, in front of me who encouraged, persuaded and pushed me into positions where I had to get in front of the group. I'm sure some of you have those people in your path. They are hard to ignore! God had a plan for what I was to do while living on this earth, just as he does for each of you. Being in the background was apparently not in the plan!

I have been blessed to serve on synodical boards in two synods, Upstate NY and Grand Canyon. That journey led me to the blessing of serving you on the Churchwide Executive Board and getting the opportunity to share this time with you. The Women of the ELCA has changed my life and helped me to grow and strengthen my faith. I pray each of you has had that same experience.

The path I took with Women of the ELCA began with involvement in my congregational unit. When the ELCA was being formed, I was asked to be on a team to assist women's groups in these various Lutheran love for this fabulous group of women and the organization that helps women to grow and serve. From there I was convinced to take on a conference planning team position. And before long I was being nominated as a synodical board member. I have not looked back since. Even when I moved from New York state to

Arizona, and I thought I was going to take a break from leadership, the Holy Spirit had other plans. Before I knew it, I was part of another synodical organization where I was eventually elected as President. Then at the Triennial Convention in 2017, I was elected to the churchwide board. The Women of the ELCA has played an important part in my faith journey. I have built relationships with women across the country, learned from them, developed leadership skills alongside them, and formed a strong passion for this organization and the work it does.

Three Expressions:

To my delight, I have had the opportunity to be part of all three expressions of this wonderful organization that we call Women of the ELCA, the congregational unit, the synodical organization and the churchwide organization.

At the heart of our Women of the ELCA ministry is the congregational unit. The unit is how we gather to study scripture, write letters to lawmakers, work to right wrongs such as Human Trafficking, learn about racial justice and advocacy, and inspire each other to live healthy lives. The unit is where we become the hands of God by serving meals to the hungry, making quilts to keep families warm and dry, gather supplies to help others who need them. We do all this in community, creating networks of mutual support, praying together, sharing the struggles and the joys, inviting, and sometimes enticing each other to new opportunities, while affirming each other as we live out God's calling to each of us. Thanks be to God for each of you as you participate in the congregational expression of our ministry.

Today, we meet as the synodical expression of the Women of the ELCA in the Rocky Mountain Synod. It is an opportunity for congregational units to form a community across the synod and to do some great work together. The synodical organization helps units to connect, and provides opportunities to learn about justice and advocacy. The Synodical organization provides opportunities to learn where God needs the women to lead the community to make a difference in the lives of children, women, and families.

Your synodical leaders help encourage new Women of the ELCA units and work with units who may be struggling, bringing encouragement, ideas and prayer. You are blessed here in Rocky Mountain Synod by your synodical leadership team

Of course, each of you here today and all the women in your congregational units are a blessing to your synodical organization. You show your support by participating in events like this one and by sending your offerings regularly, so they can provide you with the support needed to continue God's work.

The third expression of Women of the ELCA is the churchwide organization which consists of each of us here and all the women in our congregations across the country. All the women on our college campuses, in retirement homes, meeting in coffee bars, in the park, on the internet and in our homes and congregational buildings. The Churchwide organization includes all the women and girls in the 64 synodical organizations and all the ministries we do together with all our thousands of participants and friends across our church, as well as the 15 elected members of the churchwide board and the staff members at the office in Chicago.

Resources:

The churchwide staff, working with the executive board, are responsible for the many wonderful resources that can be found on the website at www.welca.org. You will find some award-winning bible studies on a multitude of topics and in both English and Spanish. AND they are all free!!! Just the cost of your printer ink and paper if you choose to print them. Other resources include the Gather Magazine, Café e-magazine, the Daily Grace devotional app, podcasts, Bold Connections e-newsletter, and a blog which has a new publication each week. Many of these blogs can be used as devotionals or conversation starters. Check out the faith stories being shared by women of all ages and walks of life. Look for ways that God is creating connections through opportunities like the BYOD Café meetings once a month online, which is celebrating their 2 year anniversary next week, the videos and bible study opportunities

provided by our Gather Bible Study leaders, the worship services such as Blue Christmas that are shared with sisters all around the country, and so much more. And recently added to the website are videos of training sessions for various leadership roles within the organization. I encourage you to check out all these resources.

During the time of the Pandemic, it amazed me how women have worked to stay connected. Many of us here today probably never heard of Zoom 2 years ago and now you are practically pros at meeting with others, participating in Bible Studies and connecting with others in an effort to keep each other safe but still together. Because of Zoom I had the opportunity to meet with the awesome group of ladies who are your synodical board before my arrival in Colorado on Thursday.

The Women of the ELCA has continued to work on making connections across the country. During the pandemic, women continued doing the work of the church as best they could and with great success! Quilts were made, food was collected, calls were made to ensure our sisters were staying safe and healthy, prayers were lifted, the Bible was studied and sometimes with sisters across the country that we would not have met, if not for the connections made through the internet. At times the pandemic may have seemed like a curse, but so many other moments were a blessing. It gave us an opportunity to slow down a bit and listen to where God may be calling us as individuals and as an organization.

Women of the ELCA Accomplishments:

The women involved in this organization we call Women of the ELCA has not been afraid from the very beginning to take on the tough topics. Some of you may remember that we took on the banning of plastic-foam cups. Though we did not get them banned, we raised awareness that caused dramatically less use of plastic-foam across the United States. We had a big part in promoting and celebrating women being ordained. Many of the dollars donated by women in this organization have provided scholarships to help our sisters follow their calling. We have worked to eliminate landmines, supported the installation

of solar panels, and now lives are being saved in Phoebe Hospital in Liberia and other areas in Africa. As women, we joined forces to bring attention to the cruelty of human trafficking and now it is time to continue the work we began years ago and work for the equality and equity of all our brothers and sisters and break the bonds of racism that has gripped our country for way too long.

Challenge:

I challenge you, along with your units to join us as we focus for the remainder of this triennium on creating an inclusive community through the Three A's: 1.) Awareness Raising – educate yourself, participate in book studies. Listen to sisters who have been oppressed. Then 2.) Through Accompaniment, walk in solidarity with sisters and brothers in the struggle for racial equity by developing authentic relationships and finally 3.) Through Advocacy, join with the church in our belief that our government can be convinced to help advance the common good for everyone. Together we can bring justice for all into our communities, society and the world.

Because women have mastered the ability of multi-tasking, we can also work on other things that will improve the lives of women and their families. At our last Triennial Convention, several memorials were passed, one of which was to continue the work to end Human Trafficking across our country. Just as we did at the 2014 and 2017 Women of the ELCA Triennial Conventions, voting members voted to continue our efforts to bring awareness to this crime and to prevent human trafficking. What is your Women of the ELCA group doing?

Human Trafficking:

Just as with our efforts to end racism across our country, the best place to begin the journey to ending Human Trafficking is with awareness. Educate yourself,.....Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery. This crime occurs when a trafficker uses force, fraud or coercion to control another person for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts or soliciting labor or services against his/her will.

Learn about what trafficking is happening in your area. Learn about what is needed to heal the victims of human trafficking. Learn about who the enemy is in the trafficking of our brothers and sisters of all ages. There are many resources and links to other resources on our Women of the ELCA web pages.

You can make a difference in ending Human Trafficking. It starts with knowledge and awareness, continues with support for those who are doing the work and support of the victims in any way possible, and then strongly advocating for change in our laws and the ways we think and devalue other human beings and always pray for guidance from the Holy Spirit.

Bold Women Day:

The Women of the ELCA are Bold Women with a mission to act boldly on our faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus calls us to be bold. Bold women take on tough work. Bold women make an impact in their congregations, their communities, the society in which they belong and we even take on the world if needed.

History has shown that as women mobilized in our faith, we have taken on tough topics that has created change for the good. Our work is not yet done! Let's be the catalyst that brings good to our world by ending Human Trafficking and Racism. Let's work to heal our communities and the world.

We are a busy and focused group who is looking to follow our purpose statement that calls us to support one another, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness. These are the things that excite me and confirm my commitment to this amazing organization.

What sometimes saddens me is wondering if this organization is sustainable into the future. I know God has a plan for us and we have a lot of work that needs to be done. However, the reality of today is that none of that work can be done without funds. The Women of the ELCA has survived for many years on a prayer (literally), a prayer that the offerings will continue to flow from individual to congregational unit to synodical organiza-

tion to the churchwide expression. The reality is that offerings have been steadily decreasing over the last decade and with the pandemic, we have faced an even more dire situation.

The staff in Chicago is amazing in what they have been able to do with so little. They have found ways to save money while still producing award-winning publications and resources. The Executive Board had to make the hard decision to cut staff dramatically over the last triennium. The dedication and love of this organization of the remaining staff is phenomenal. They rolled up their sleeves, readjusted their duties and got back to work for us.

So as not to sound so doom and gloom, I have a lot of faith in all of you as participants in this organization. You may be asking what your part is in making sure this organization can move forward so that future generations can be blessed as we have been over the last 30 plus years.

How Can I Help?

Well, I'm glad you asked..... one simple thing is to become one of our faithful friends. To be a faithful friend, all you have to do is to give monthly through the Faithful Giving Program. You can find a link to sign up on our website, www.welca.org. All you have to do is sign up to give a minimum of \$10.00 per month. The monies can come directly from your account on the 1st or 15th of each month, your choice. No need to remember to write a check. You won't even miss it. If everyone here today and a few of your friends gave \$10.00 each month, think of what work we could do! If 150 women in each of the 64 synods gave \$10 per month, the Women of the ELCA would have an income of over \$1 million dollars a year. Think of God's work that could get done for the mere cost of one lunch a month or a couple of fancy coffees. Become a Faithful Friend today and help us sustain this fabulous organization into the future.

So, I know many of you, just like me, love to shop. Do you shop on Amazon?.... If so, consider **using Amazon Smile** and **donate to Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church** while you shop. It is an easy way to give that will bring extra joy to

your shopping.

The month of November is a time of thanksgiving and many of our congregational units have historically participated in the tradition of **giving thanks in a Thankoffering Service**. I encourage each congregational unit to continue this tradition. I urge each congregational unit to collect a Thankoffering at least once a year and forward it to the churchwide Women of the ELCA. These offerings are used to support the many ministries of the Women of the ELCA, providing resources, grants and scholarships. This offering is a way to recognize the blessings we have continued to enjoy, even during a pandemic.

Katie's Fund:

Another thing you can do is to make a major donation to Katie's Fund. Through Katie's fund, we can create a legacy that will carry forward funding into the future. Have you done an estate plan? We pray you will consider Women of the ELCA's Katie's Fund as a beneficiary.

So have you heard..... The **campaign 2122 to raise \$1 million for Katie's Fund over the next 3 years**. I encourage you to learn about the campaign that will sustain Katie's Fund for the next 100 years to carry us forward to 2122. We celebrated the launch of the campaign in June. If you were not able to join us at the online launch party. I encourage you to watch the video on our website. Learn how Katie's fund was founded 25 years ago and what the fund supports.

Among the exciting news shared during the campaign launch was this: a \$1,000 grant from Katie's Fund to each synodical organization! The women of our organization have so faithfully supported Katie's Fund during its first 25 years. Since Katie's Fund is designed to support resources and activities, the churchwide executive board and the 2122 leadership team are pleased to announce that each of our 64 synodical women's organizations will receive a grant of \$1,000 from Katie's Fund to use in a way of their own choosing for a program or ministry that falls into one of the three areas supported by Katie's Fund: leadership development, global connection, or living theology. It is key that we keep God's money mov-

ing, planting seeds for new ministries that support our mission and purpose. This seed money can challenge your thinking about mission today.

I encourage each of you to check out the information on the 2122 campaign found on our website: www.welca.org/katiesfund. Then prayerfully consider what you can pledge to give over the next three years. I have already made my pledge. Because of what I have gained from my experiences in Women of the ELCA, what I have learned to strengthen my faith journey and the sisters I have met along the way, I have committed to stretch and give \$15,000 over the next three years. Some of you may not be able to commit to that amount, some may be able to commit to more. Remember the pledge is a three year commitment so you do not need to give it all up front. If Women of the ELCA has been important to you and if you are interested in learning more about this campaign, please feel free to reach out to me or use the form included in this newsletter.

Can you imagine what our sisters in the future would say to us now? How they will fondly look back and thank God for the women of today who thought into the future to ensure funding for the many ministry and outreach opportunities.

On behalf of the Executive Board, I thank you for the contributions you have made to the Women of the ELCA and the many ministries we support. Your generosity has gone far to do God's work locally, and around the world.

Triennial:

So, one last question.....what are you doing in **September 2023**? I hope you are planning to come visit me in Phoenix, Arizona. The next Triennial Convention and Gathering will be an exciting and fun time especially since it has been so long since we have been able to gather together in a three-dimensional way. The city of Phoenix is gearing up and looking forward to welcoming Lutheran Women from all over the world. You will be amazed and surprised that the rumor of the hot days is just a myth. In fact, in September, one of our wettest months of the year, we will show the contrasts that makes Phoenix the great place God created. The warmth of the people

of Arizona will make you forget any unpleasantness that you may have heard. I hope to see all of you in Arizona in 2023.

Thanking:

It is a blessing to share this time with you. Thank you for your generosity in giving me time to tell my story and the story of the churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA. I am blessed by your hospitality.

So, my Sisters in Christ, as the author of Hebrews shares, as interpreted in the Message: *So let's do it—full of belief, confident that we're presentable inside and out. Let's keep a firm grip on the promises that keep us going. He always keeps his word. Let's see how inventive we can be in encouraging love and helping out, not avoiding worshipping together as some do but **spurring** each other on.*

We got this.... With joy and thanksgiving we gather together as a community of women, created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Let us remember to commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, and support one another in our callings, engaging in ministry and action, and promoting healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Alone we can only do so much, together as Women in this Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we can boldly step out in faith. And God will bless you and the work you do! He will be there to lead and support you as you are challenged in ways you never knew. For It is God's people that do God's work. May God bring blessings to each and every one of you today and always! Thank you.

Contact information: Laura Krueger, Churchwide Executive Board Member, 10851 W. Monte Vista Rd, Avondale, AZ 85392 lkruegaer15@gmail.com

"Who can add to Christmas? The perfect motive is that God so loved the world. The perfect gift is that He gave His only Son. The only requirement is to believe in Him. The reward of faith is that you shall have everlasting life." ~Corrie Ten Boom

What is Boldness?

Boldness is a call to action. As Women of the ELCA, women who are claimed and called by God, we believe that a life lived boldly is a faith-filled celebration and an investment in the world we want for ourselves and our children. Women of the ELCA are called “to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.” Boldness comes in many forms; its basis, in whatever form, is right action by an individual or group. Some boldness is bright and loud. Some is firm and quiet. Women of the ELCA celebrates this range of voices, knowing that the avenues for bold self-expression are limitless. Do you have a definition of BOLD? What do you believe is your best BOLD?

Bold Women’s Day—observed beginning in **2023 on the first Sunday in March**—celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a dif-

You’re invited to support the campaign for Katie’s Fund

2122: Growing Katie’s Fund for the next 100 years launched on June 11, 2022. **2122** is a campaign to raise \$1 million for the Katharina von Bora Luther Endowment Fund, fondly known as Katie’s Fund. The primary communication hub for the campaign is welca.org/katiesfund. There you can find all kinds of information about the campaign, including a six-minute promotional video, blog stories about the campaign, and stories of how Katie’s Fund has enabled leadership development, global partnerships, and living theology over the past 25 years. To learn more, contact Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women of the ELCA. O: 773-380-2740 or C: 570-442-3759 or email: linda.bushkofsky@elca.org. See the 2122 Pledge Form.

ference in the lives of others. It’s all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ.

Do you know a Bold woman? Who is she and why? Consider celebrating Bold Women’s Day in your congregation the first Sunday in March by using the resources developed by the Women of the ELCA and can be found on their website. (womenoftheelca.org/resources)

BOLD LITANY

May the strength of God pilot us,
May the power of God Preserve us,
May the wisdom of God instruct us,
May the hand of God protect us,
May the way of God direct us,
May the shield of God defend us,
May the host of God guard us against the
Snares of evil and the temptations of the world.
Amen.



ADVENT

- Act Kindly to others.
- Devote time to learning about Jesus.
- Volunteer to help others.
- Experience the wonder of the season.
- Notice the beauty of God’s creation.
- Take a friend to Sunday school and worship.

A place for your grief, fear and loss



The reality of life—memories of the past and the pain of the present—can leave many people feeling less than merry in

December. It might be the death of a loved one, a discouraging diagnosis, a job loss, or some other crisis.

As a community of women, we have committed ourselves to promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world. How can we do that for those who are sad or suffering this season?

We will gather on the longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere—the Winter Solstice—December 21.

Register now to attend the Blue Christmas Service. The service (webinar) will take place at **7:00pm CST on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, via Zoom.** (womenoftheelca.org/blue-christmas)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Giving Thanks to God – All Day, Every Day

The daily practice of giving thanks to God for blessings received is at the heart of our lives as women of faith. Even the ordinary blessings of daily life call us to gratitude.

Lutheran women have a time-honored way to practice giving thanks – Thankofferings. Some women keep the practice of setting aside daily Thankofferings throughout the year, and then joining all those daily offerings into one with those of other women in the community – well, it's powerful.

You can learn more about Thankofferings and their long history at welca.org/thankofferings.

Views from the Rockies, December 2022

Circle Power

So many of our Women of the ELCA ministries occur in small groups, often referred to as circles.

I saw this “circle story” on Facebook: A young mother and toddler were in an airport, waiting to board a flight. The child was having a meltdown. The mom, pregnant and traveling alone with the toddler, sat down on the floor and cried, her toddler lying beside her, kicking and screaming. Six or seven women – strangers to the woman and each other – slowly came and sat down beside the woman and child, forming a circle around them. One sang a calming song to the child. One offered water, another offered an orange and yet another offered the child a little toy.

Mom and child soon calmed down and they were able to board their plane. My favorite line from the Facebook post, written by one of the women in the circle was: “It occurred to me that a circle of women, with a mission, can save the world.” You know that to be true, don't you?

Source: Daily Grace – Aug 26, 2022 Excerpted from “Holy circles” by Linda Post Bushkofsky in June 2018 *Gather* magazine.

About this resource

This resource suggests short prayers of thanksgiving that you can use any time during the day as you set aside your Thankofferings. If you like, you might decorate an envelop or jar to receive your daily Thankofferings.

An example or two: **At all times** – I give thanks at all times, for the Lord is good, for God's mercy endures forever. Amen! **Morning coffee or tea** – Blessed are you, alert and active Lord, for your gifts of morning coffee and tea, which help inspire and energize your people to sing your praises. Thanks be to God! Amen!

Pray with them and for them

Content warning: this reflection mentions domestic violence.

People often ask how to help when they suspect that a loved one is in an abusive situation. My advice? Offer them a non-judgmental place to talk. Find what resources are available in your area. Help your loved one to access those resources. Help them think through an escape plan. Most important, pray with and for them.

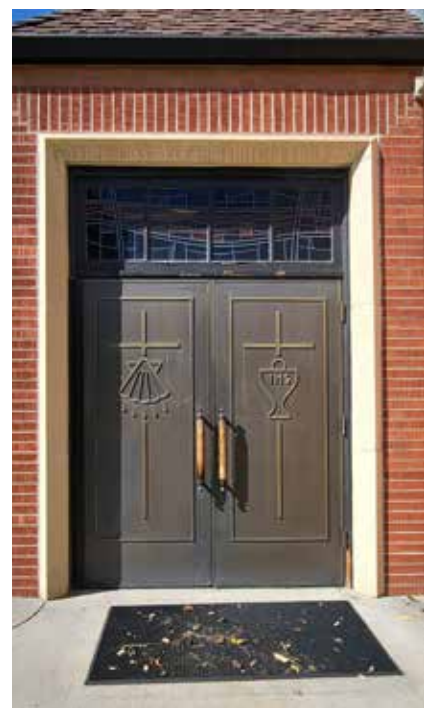
My friends never asked, “Why do you stay?” They never judged me before or after I left. They prayed for and with me. As I look back on the time in my

life, I often say that the only way I survived those years was through the grace of God, my family, and my domestic violence advocates.

Domestic violence does not discriminate. It affects people in all walks of life, every race or ethnicity, every social and economic level, and every gender. It is my hope that after hearing my story, someone else will become a survivor.

Source: Daily Grace Nov. 29, 2022. Excerpted from “The journey from victim to survivor” by Rhonda Campbell Clay in October 2015 **Gather** magazine.

Photos of Immanuel Lutheran Church



2122

Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years

Pledge form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Preferred Phone _____

Congregation name _____

Synodical Women's Organization _____

Pledge amount and payment plan

I would like to participate in the 2122 Campaign in the following manner:

Total amount of gift/pledge \$ _____

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I prefer to commit through a check or cash, in the amount of \$ _____ payable: Yearly Monthly Other

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Staff will contact you regarding the starting date of your gift.

Donor Recognition Options

I allow WELCA to use my name for donor lists.

Please recognize the gift as follows:

Name _____

I prefer this gift to remain anonymous.

Signature _____ Date _____

Please mail your completed pledge form to:

**The 2122 Campaign
Women of the ELCA
8765 West Higgins Road
Chicago IL 60631-4101**

Questions?
Contact Linda Post Bushkofsky at
773-380-2740 or
linda.bushkofsky@elca.org

Tax ID # 41-1586596

For electronic gifts, go to
<https://community.elca.org/welca>



Planned Gift

I have made arrangements to remember Women of the ELCA in my estate plans.

Contact me about including Women of the ELCA in my estate plans.

2022-2024 Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization Board

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How To Sign Up For The RMS e-Connection by e-mail

By Susan Mitchell

We encourage every woman in the Rocky Mountain Synod to sign up to receive the weekly Synod Newsletter called e-Connection. It is sent out every Wednesday to your e-mail address, and it contains articles and pictures about many things in our lives together as Lutherans living in the states that make up the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Once a quarter, e-Connection will have an article about the current issue of our *Views from the Rockies*—the newsletter of the RMS Women’s Organization. You will be directed to the Synod website, which is where *Views* issues will be available. You may read them online, and also print a copy for your personal use. Ask your church office to print the *Views* for you if you do not have access to the website.

Please sign up as follows:

1. On your computer, go to the Rocky Mountain Synod website by putting this URL into your browser: [https://www.rmselfca.org/faithformation-](https://www.rmselfca.org/faithformation/RockyMountainSynodicalWomensOrganization)

[tion/RockyMountainSynodicalWomensOrganization](https://www.rmselfca.org/faithformation/RockyMountainSynodicalWomensOrganization)

2. On the home page, scroll down to the bottom, and in the middle of the page you will see: Subscribe to e-mail Newsletter. Below that line is a yellow rectangle that says e-mail List. Simply click on the yellow rectangle! This takes you to a page that asks for your e-mail Address, your first & last name, and to check a box stating if you are a Pastor, Associate in Ministry, Diaconal Minister, or Deaconess. Below this you should check the box that states: “I wish to receive e-Connection each week.”
3. Finally, click on the bottom bar that says “Sign Up.” That’s it! Remember, this is a free subscription to the synod e-mail weekly newsletter. You will receive notice of new issues of our *Views from the Rockies* newsletters from the synod’s e-Connection e-mail.

About Views from the Rockies



The “Views” is written/circulated by the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women’s Organization, Women of the ELCA, and provides information about programs and projects.

NOTE: Articles for the Views are to be sent to anna498.at@gmail.com by the 12th of January, 12th of April, 12th of July, 12th of August and 12th of November.

There are no longer printed copies of “Views from the Rockies.” Each church and all individuals may now download and/or print FREE COPIES from the Rocky Mountain Synod website. To access the website and get the newsletter, go to www.rmselfca.org/faithformation/RockyMountainSynodicalWomensOrganization.

If you would like to receive the Views newsletter in your personal e-mail, please send an e-mail to anna498.at@gmail.com with the subject line “Add me.” You will be added to the e-mail list and receive all future newsletters and e-mail blasts

from the RMSWO Board. Your e-mail address will not be shared with any other organization.

The website of the Rocky Mountain Synodical Women’s Organization has not only this newsletter but more information about what is going on now, what has happened in the past, and what to look to in the future. We will keep new, interesting information highlighted on the web.

RMSWO Website: www.rmselfca.org/women

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

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD

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