

Central/Southern Illinois Synod

Women of the ELCA Report

April 16, 2019

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I would like to thank Bishop Roth for his support of the Women of the ELCA. I would also like to thank Tucker Good who set up our website www.welca-csis.org. Tucker made a beautiful video of the Women of the ELCA and it is on our website and was shown at last year's synod assembly. Please look at our website for updated information on conference retreats and our fall Biennial Convention for October 11-12, 2019. This also has WELCA C/SIS board member emails and information. My thanks to the many faithful Lutheran women who continue to use their time and talents to serve the Lord and are a part of the Women of the ELCA. I am blessed to serve with so many **bold** women. One of the speakers on Advocacy from a February meeting of the WELCA synod presidents challenged us to "Esther Up". She encouraged us to speak up for those who need our support and be advocates for those less fortunate.

BOARD MEMBERS AND ACTIVITIES

Our C/SIS Women of the ELCA Board consists of the following: President – Jean Scherer (West Central Conference), Vice- President – Miranda Searcy (Southern Conference), Secretary – Penny Madlinger (West Central Conference), Treasurer – Lynn Smith (Southern Conference), Mission-Chair – Mike Schmidt (West Central Conference), West Central Conference Representative – Bonnie Hartke, Northwest Conference Representative – Cindy Lierly, Northeast Conference Representative – Donna Schuler, Northern Conference Representative – Rebecca Sipf, Southern Conference Representative – Debra Rathert and no representative for East Conference. I would like to thank all the board members for doing a great job and we will miss Lynn Smith whose term is up and Miranda Searcy who is moving out of our synod. The board is working on a scholarship for women in leadership positions as well as planning for the fall Biennial Convention.

The North East Conference met April 6, 2019 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fairbury and we had an interesting 99 year old speaker who was a WW11 fighter pilot and we learned about food rationing in Britain during the war. The Southern Conference will be in Carbondale on April 28th and Northwest will be meeting on June 1st in Arenzville.

FALL RETREAT 2018/ BIENNIAL CONVENTION 2019

Our Fall Retreat on October 19-20, 2018 at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Urbana and Grace Lutheran Church in Champaign was enjoyed by all. We toured and learned about the Sola Gratia Farms from Tracy Barkly, performed Tai Chi and yoga to keep us active, had Bible Study, service projects and a presentation on Fair Trade coffee by Rose Moser. Check out our website for pictures of the events.

Please join us at Lake Williamson Christian Center for our fall Biennial Convention October 11-12, 2019. Scholarships will be available for each conference. We will have speakers, service projects, and Bible Study. One of our service projects will be labeling soap with the human trafficking hotline to help victims of human trafficking, thru the S.O.A.P. Project. You will be able to come either Friday or Saturday or both days. Lodging is on site at the Christian Center and meals are in their dining hall.

The 2020 Triennial Convention is coming July 16-19, 2020 and the theme is "Just Love". It will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, which of course has a dry heat. The last triennial had over 3,000 women attend it in Minneapolis and it was fantastic. The speakers are wonderful as well as the fellowship and worship services.

MISSIONS

We continue to keep Toromare Mananato, from our companion Synod in the Malagasy Church in Madagascar, in our prayers. We will be discussing how to support her further. We have supported her for many years with different projects such as building a house, helping purchase a camera, recorder, computer and printer and helping with maintenance for her car, so she can continue her outreach of ministry in her Synod.

WELCA RESOURCES

Please consider using the free phone app "Daily Grace" for a short daily devotion, the "Bold Café" which is an online devotion and podcast and "The Gather" magazine for Bible Studies and it has great articles relevant to our daily lives. WELCA also celebrates Bold Women's Day, Rachel's Day and has the Interchange magazine with leadership news.

OUR PURPOSE STATEMENT

"As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

Come join us in following Jesus!

Yours in Christ,

C/SIS WELCA Board President
Jean Scherer