



The Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization Newsletter
Women Of The Evangelical Lutheran Church In America

Views from the Rockies

May 2017

see Fall Gathering Registration, pp. 4-5

*Greetings from Rocky Mountain
Synodical President*

President's Corner

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Each of us has been blessed through Christ's life, death and resurrection. He has given us grace. In an anagram, GRACE means God's Richness At Christ's Expense.

Yes we are truly blessed to have our sins forgiven, the slate wiped clean. As we move through the year, let us look at our lives as children of God. How has your life been changed through Christ's love? This fall we will be hearing from women of faith, how their lives changed and how we can also advocate for change. Plan now to attend the Fall Gathering, October 6-8, 2017 at Bethel Lutheran in Aurora, Colorado.

Bold Women Quote

When the Dalai Lama said, "The world will be saved by the western women," he was acknowledging the growing power western women have to influence global change. Of course changing the world doesn't require women to become more like men. Rather it demands that women own and exercise what have long been regarded as their leadership liabilities - sensitivity, perceptiveness, connectedness and compassion - because those feminine leadership attributes, when combined with the strengths of men, measurably improve the outcomes of the decisions being made.

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Dear SWO Presidents and Treasurers,

We always hate to hear about someone caught up in a scam, but it happens. Lately scammers have been taking advantage of nonprofit organizations – including SWOs and congregations – by e-mail. They will send an e-mail to the treasurer, an e-mail that appears to be from the president, requesting that she send some money.

Please take a look at this article which is located on our website about the problem and how you and your SWO can avoid getting scammed. Decide what precautions and procedures you need to put in place – and please tell the leaders in your CUs and clusters and regions to do the same.

Blessings,
Audrey Novak Riley
Director for Stewardship and Development
Women of the ELCA
welca.org/stewardship

Five Ways To Avoid E-mail Scams Requesting Money

Recently, Women of the ELCA synodical women's organizations have experienced e-mail scams asking for money. In one case, a scammer sent an e-mail to the SWO treasurer in the name of the SWO president, asking for money to be wired.

Though there were red flags, after multiple e-mails, the treasurer eventually wired a few thousand dollars to the scammer.

To keep this from happening to you, here are five tips to avoid these scams from an article written by and used with permission of Batts Morrison Wales & Lee, a national CPA firm dedicated exclusively to serving churches, nonprofit organizations, and their affiliates.

In the article, the firm mentions multiple incidents in which nonprofit financial leaders received fraudulent e-mails that appear to be from their superiors asking them to wire or transfer funds to an outside bank account. In some cases, the financial leaders believed the e-mail request was legitimate.

How the scam works

Scammers spend time on the organization's web-

site, learning who the leaders are. Specifically, they will look for one of the top leaders in the organization (president, senior pastor, etc.). They then search for his/her e-mail address and nickname, often found on the website.

Then, the scammers identify the top financial person (along with a nickname) and his/her e-mail address.

Next, the scammers create an e-mail in which they spoof the real e-mail address of the top leader they have identified. The e-mail will look very much like it came from the top leader and may even appear as having come from his/her actual e-mail address. Scammers will then send the e-mail to the organization's top financial leader.

The e-mail will contain instructions, using nicknames, if applicable, to wire or transfer money to an account about a project or activity in which the top leader is allegedly involved.

What to do to prevent becoming a victim of a scam like this

- Alert your leadership team to this type of scam.
- Have your organization's IT team (or someone knowledgeable in e-mail scams) advise you regarding how to detect or screen for spoofed e-mail addresses.
- Maintain an agreement with your bank that requires two separate appropriately high-level people in your organization to authorize any wire transfers or similar disbursements.
- Maintain a policy that forbids finance personnel from making or authorizing distributions of funds based on e-mail or similar instructions alone. Require that finance personnel speak in person or by phone (by calling the SWO president or pastor) and discuss the party who is requesting the distribution.
- Maintain a policy that forbids finance personnel from making or authorizing disbursements without proper and complete supporting documentation, regardless of who makes the request.

This content of this article was originally distributed as a Nonprofit Red Alert™ by Batts Morrison Wales & Lee, a national CPA firm dedicated exclusively to serving churches, nonprofit organizations, and their affiliates. To learn more about BMWL or to sign up to receive BMWL's articles and alerts, please visit www.nonprofitcpa.com.

Quilt Blessing

"If you can tie your shoes, you can tie a quilt!" That's the motto of Mission Quilts at Immanuel Lutheran in Greeley, Colorado. In 2014, some of



the members decided to resume making quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The first two years, members met once a month and since 2016 the group has gathered twice monthly. While it is true that sewing is involved in preparing and finishing a quilt, on the days the group meets, one only needs to know how to pin and tie!

The photograph shows quilts on display in the Sanctuary at Immanuel this past January on the Sunday that the quilts were blessed during the worship service. This year our congregation's Lenten Challenge was also quilt related. Members were asked to bring supplies for Lutheran World Relief fabric kits and/or to donate funds to help ship LWR quilts and other items. Sew on and sew on and sew on!

Submitted by Julie Elmquist,
Immanuel, Greeley CO

Stewardship is the ecstasy of giving the best we have to the one we love the most, because everything we have comes from God. And that which we give is greatly multiplied and comes back to us in unexpected ways. We give because we need the church and our communities, not because they need us!

Author Unknown

Fall Gathering Tentative Agenda

Friday, October 6th

- 3-5 p.m.: Registration/Hospitality
- 5 p.m.: Opening/Welcome
- 6-7 p.m.: Dinner/ 1st Speaker
- 7-8 p.m.: Mixer/ Who am I
- 8 p.m.: (Video about Katie Luther) Vespers
- 8:45 p.m.: Hospitality

Saturday, October 7th

- 8-9 a.m.: Registration
- 9:15 a.m.: Welcome and Skit
- 10:15 a.m.: Break
- 10:30 a.m.: Bible Study—
Proverbs 31:10-30/
Hebrews 13:20, 21
- 12:00 p.m.: Lunch
- 1:15 p.m.: Speakers/ Q & A
- 2:15 p.m.: Break
- 2:30 p.m.: Speakers/ Q & A
- 4:30 p.m.: Singing
- 4:45 p.m.: Break
- 5:30 p.m.: Dinner
- 6:45 p.m.: Keynote Speaker/ Wrap Up
- 7:45 p.m.: Hospitality

Sunday, October 8

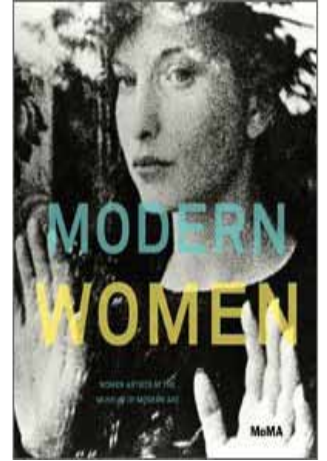
- 8:30 a.m.: Worship
- 9:30 a.m.: Fellowship



WOMEN OF FAITH PAST AND PRESENT

Sponsored By Your Rocky
Mountain Synod Women's
Organization

Friday through Sunday
October 6 – 8th, 2017



In Aurora Colorado @ Bethel Lutheran Church

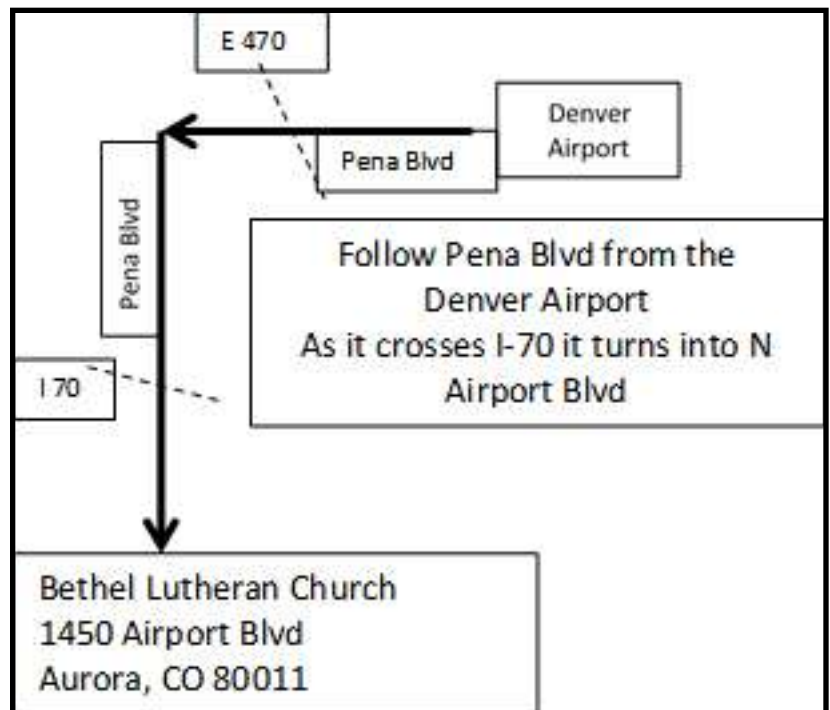
It is time to register for the Fall Gathering!

Everyone will agree that women are a powerful force in our church today. What current issues do women face? What have your "Sisters in Christ" been promoting? How can you help? How can you get involved? The Fall Gathering event will raise awareness in how you can act boldly on your faith.

The RMSWO Board are: Cheyenne, Wyoming- Anna Thompson (St. Paul's); Price, Utah-Jan Young (Ascension - St Mathews); Sterling, CO-Lila Moore (Peace); Colorado Springs, CO-Debra Haar (Prince of Peace); Colorado Springs, CO-Tammi Clawson (Grace); Greeley, CO-Julie Elmquist (Immanuel); Albuquerque, NM-Rhonda Bentz (All Saints); Albuquerque, NM-Sharon Hamilton (St. Paul).

The current RMSWO Board invites you to attend. The Fall Gathering will strengthen our churches because we meet and share God's love through new ideas and fellowship. Enjoy visiting with your friends from all the ELCA churches in the Rocky Mountain Synod.

Directions to both the church and
the hotel.





Invite your friends to come! For questions about the event, please call RMSWO President Anna Thompson @ (307) 221-3218.

The registration fee is \$75. Please bring gift cards as a prison ministry donation and a free-will offering for Sarah's Home and RMSWO.

Arrive for the Friday evening kick-off session. Drive Carefully. For questions, call Debra Haar, registrar@ (719) 392-5398 or (719) 650-5688.

The hotel being used for the Fall Gathering is the **Lexington Inn & Suites**, 16921 E. 32nd Avenue, Aurora, CO 80011. Double Queen Standard = \$79+taxes; Double Queen Handicap = \$79+taxes; Double Queen Suite = \$109+taxes; 3 Queen Bed Suite = \$119+taxes.

[Phone: 303.367.5000 Call directly and ask for the RMSWO Room Block.]

Cut on the dotted line* REGISTRATION FORM *Fill out completely

Your \$75 registration fee covers program costs, meals, presenter fees, and childcare.

The registration fee is \$75, however
registration received before Sept 5th will be \$50.

Mail your form and registration fee to the Registrar:

Debra Haar, 6555 Weeping Willow Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80925

All are welcome to the event and the RMSWO Board wants to make this event possible for everyone!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO "RMSWO WELCA"

Print Name: _____ Church: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Do you have any allergies? _____ Do you have any special needs? _____

Will you need childcare? Circle: No Yes If yes, what ages? _____

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Women of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod

Treasurer's Report

February 2016 through January 2017

03/22/17

Cash Basis

	Feb '16 - Jan 17
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Convention/Gathering	
Contribution-Supplies/Expenses	713.81
Registration	3,280.00
Total Convention/Gathering	3,993.81
Fund Raising	
SERVV International	187.30
Total Fund Raising	187.30
Interest Earned	3.60
Offerings & Donations	
Board Offerings	540.00
Cluster Offerings	
Southeast Cluster	280.00
North New Mexico Cluster	429.50
Total Cluster Offerings	709.50
Conv/Gath Offerings	3,871.00
Designated Offerings	
Travel Equalization	255.00
Other Offerings	50.00
Umbrella/Living Waters/Famil Sv	67.50
Total Designated Offerings	372.50
Unit/Congregational Offerings	
Northwest Metro CO	861.38
Colorado West	300.00
Metro East CO	1,058.75
North Colorado	921.75
North New Mexico	2,174.10
South East Colorado	47.16
Metro South CO	975.00
Sun (El Paso & So. NM)	50.00
Utah	200.00
Wyoming	475.00
Total Unit/Congregational Offerings	7,063.14
Total Offerings & Donations	12,556.14
Total Income	16,740.85
Expense	
Meals & Entertainment	
Meals - Meetings	61.47
Meals - Events	714.47
Total Meals & Entertainment	775.94
Software	214.30
Sales Inventory	459.69
Postage & shipping	
Postage	82.73
Postage & shipping - Other	6.65
Total Postage & shipping	89.38

Women of the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod
Treasurer's Report
February 2016 through January 2017

03/22/17
Cash Basis

	Feb '16 - Jan 17
Travel	
Meals	111.83
Gratuities (Luggage)	125.00
Local Transportation	884.79
Airfare	946.35
Lodging	2,643.81
Total Travel	4,711.78
Mileage	1,045.08
Gifts	101.61
Insurance	36.90
Refund of Registration	75.00
Contract Labor	
Catering	41.88
Total Contract Labor	41.88
Offerings - Disbursed	
Other Designated ELCA	50.00
Designated Charity donation	1,272.00
Umbrella/Living Waters/Famil Sv	166.55
Churchwide Offering	2,616.25
Total Offerings - Disbursed	4,104.80
Supplies	
Events - Coordinator	39.73
Office & Administrative	80.54
Total Supplies	120.27
Training	75.00
Total Expense	11,851.63
Net Ordinary Income	4,889.22
Net Income	4,889.22

BALANCE SHEET as of 1/31/2017

Wells Fargo Checking Account \$ 3,697.26

Wells Fargo Savings Account \$14,277.02

Total Assets - \$ 17,974.28

Total assets as of 1/31/2016 - \$12,644.93, for an increase of \$ 5,329.35 for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

ELCA Federal Credit Union

The ELCA Federal Credit Union was created by the ELCA to provide a wide variety of financial services to ELCA members, employees of synods, congregations and other ELCA-related ministries. Every member is also an owner, with a vote in how the credit union conducts business. With the church as its sponsor, the ELCA Federal Credit Union operates in ways that are consistent with the church's values. And because the ELCA Federal Credit Union is a financial cooperative, any earnings are returned to member/owners like yourself in the form of lower rates on loans, high-

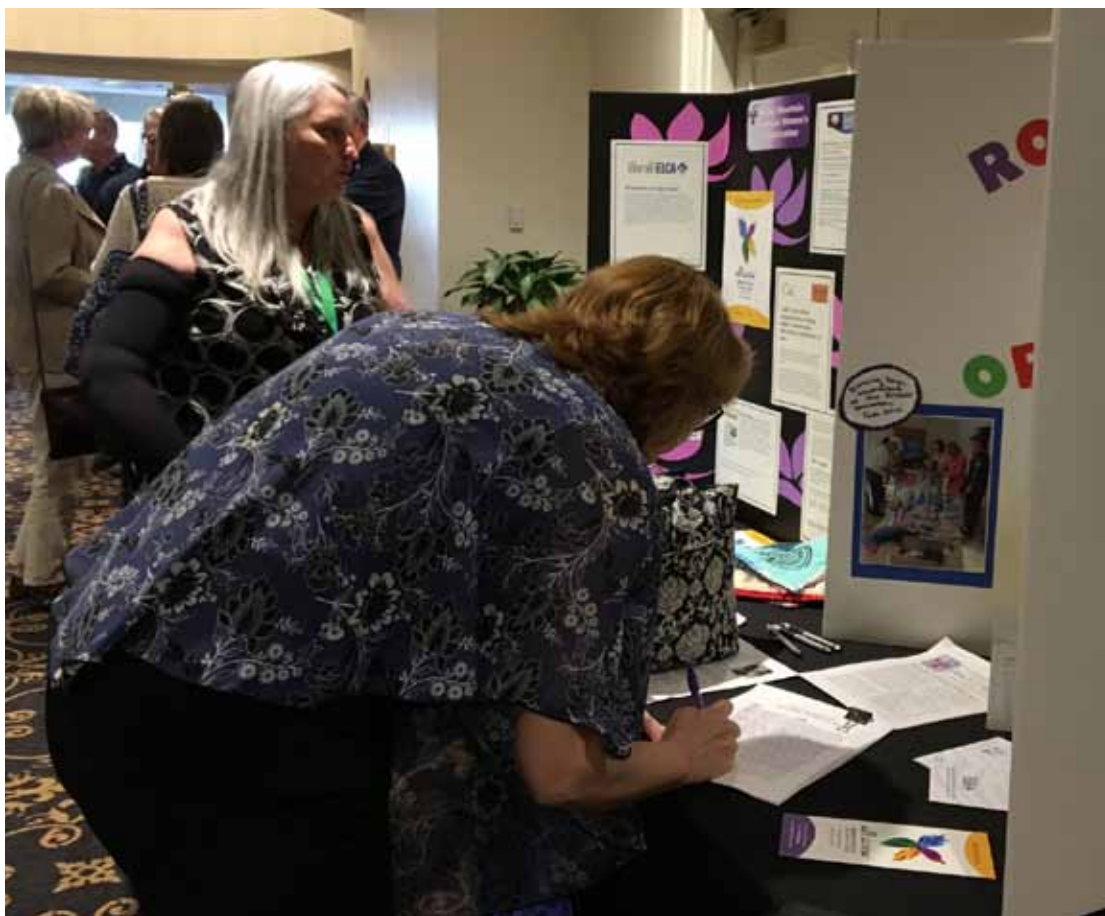
er rates on savings, reduced fees and enhanced services. When you belong to the ELCA Federal Credit Union, you're part of a financial cooperative, and the money you save is loaned out to other members. So take advantage of better interest rates than you'll find at many other financial institutions and help fellow Lutherans.

Ready to join? Become a member of the ELCA Federal Credit Union today by visiting www.elcafcu.org.

Synod Assembly May 2017

The Synod Assembly in Colorado Springs was held May 5-7th. Tammy Clawson and Deb Haar represented RMSWO at the Assembly gathering. We talked to people from all sizes of churches

We exchanged ideas and information with many women. It was a very enjoyable and informative weekend for everyone.



From Seeds for the Parish:

Perfect book for groups and individuals exploring women of the Bible—***Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex, and Salvation***, by Alice Connor (February 2017)

Women in the Bible aren't shy or retiring; they're fierce and funny and demanding and relevant to 21st-century people. These women's stories are messy, challenging and beautiful.

When we read their stories, we can see not only their particular, fearsome lives but also our own.

Visit augsborgfortress.org/fierce to order the book and download the free reading guide.

within the Rocky Mountain Synod. We invited all the women to our National Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis in July and to our October Fall Gathering at Bethel Lutheran in Aurora, CO. We had women sign up to receive The VIEWS online. We gave out over 40 quilted finger labyrinths.

Prayerful Support for Sarah's Home

Sarah's Home is a faith-based, therapeutic home for underage girls who have been freed from the forced commercial sex trade in the U.S. The RMSWO is a partner with Sarah's Home.

Please Pray for Sarah's Home:

- For God's presence in the midst of the struggle.

- That the love of Christ would give the girls a genuine hope for the future.
- For the staff as they demonstrate the love of God to the girls.
- For the girls as they learn to accept the embrace of God's love.

Go to www.sarahshome.us for more information about Sarah's Home.

Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization

Who are the Women of the ELCA?

We are of various ages, backgrounds, levels of education and in varied family/friend relationships. 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.

Have Faith... Be Bold! Travel to Minnesota this summer!

The Women of the ELCA Tenth Triennial Gathering will be held July 13-16, 2017 in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Join us for this inspiring faith-filled weekend. Experience enriching workshops, stirring worship, engaging Bible study and challenging cinema with hundreds of sisters in faith. We are real women – mothers, daughters, sisters, best friends and new friends – talking about our faith, our doubts and challenges, our joys and what inspires us.

RMSWO President Anna Thompson reports that there are still spaces open for additional attendees. For more information, please visit **welcatg.org**

or call 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2730

Esther was a Bold Woman! And a Woman of Faith...

Selected because of her beauty to be in the harem of King Ahasuerus, Esther so pleased the king that she was eventually chosen by him to become his new queen. When one of the king's advisors, Haman, threatened to have all the Jews of the vast kingdom killed, Queen Esther knew she had to act. Though risking her death, Queen Esther appeared unbidden before the king, who generously agreed to grant the queen a request. Before revealing her request, Esther invited the king and Haman to two nights of feasting. After asking the king to save her people, the king not only granted Esther's request, but saw to it that Haman was hanged.

History is filled with stories of women of faith like Esther – Deborah, Mary Magdalene, Joan of Arc, Katherine von Bora, and Mother Teresa.

Come celebrate women like these and present day women as well at the RMSWO Fall Gathering, **"Women of Faith: Past & Present,"** October 6-8, 2017 at Bethel Lutheran Church, 1450 Airport Blvd., Aurora, CO 80011. Contact Anna Thompson at (307) 221-3218 and/or see upcoming *The Views* for more information.

* * * * *

"Called to Serve, Called to Give and Called to Love" was the theme for the Fall Convention held September 16-18, 2016 in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Many thanks to Pastor Brenda Frelsi (Bible Study), keynote speaker Bishop Jim Gonia, host churches Christ, Ascension & St. Paul's, Maren Felde (Fabulous Caterer!), RMSWO Board members, and all Convention attendees—we are CALLED!



New! Lutheran World Relief Load-In Days

Beginning June 2017, Urban Servant Corps in Denver, Colorado will have once-a-month Load-In Days for quilts and other items for Lutheran World Relief. According to Krista Kilgus, the Load-In Days will be the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at Urban Servant Corps, 1660 Ogden Street in Denver.

Urban Servant Corps also asks congregations who make deliveries to volunteer for one morning of the monthly delivery each year. The duties are to welcome those who are bringing donations and help load the boxes in to the basement of the Urban Servant Corps home.

One congregation has already signed up to be on duty for the June 3rd Load-In Day. To volunteer your congregation or for more information, please contact Krista Kilgus at krista@servantcorps.org

Submitted by Julie Elmquist

RMSWO Board member

Save the Dates:

Southeast Colorado Cluster Event: Saturday, June 10th, 2017, from 9:30am-4:00pm, "Baptized, We Live" by Pastor Julie Britisch at Grace Lutheran in Colorado Springs. **Contact: Helen Peterson at (719)596-7868 for more information and to register.**

Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, MN on July 13-16, 2017. Read more about attending on www.welcatg.org.

RMSWO Fall Gathering: October 6-8, 2017, "Woman of Faith-Past and Present" at Bethel Lutheran in Aurora, CO. Contact: Anna Thompson at (307)221-3218. Watch the Views for more information.

Rhonda Bentz Joins RMSWO Board

Rhonda Bentz is our newest Board Member from Algodones, NM. She attends All Saints Lutheran in Albuquerque and has been an active member in the church and women's groups for over 40 years. She has attended Synod Conventions, WELCA Gatherings and Cluster Events.



Rhonda has worked in the medical field for 43 years of which 27 years as an Emergency Room Nurse and 22 years as a Family Practice Nurse and continues to work part time in corporate ambulatory care clinic. Her gifts are singing, sewing, organizing special events and community outreach. The challenges she sees as a board member are involving more younger participants, staying fiscally solvent and making all of the RMSWO events accessible and relevant to all women of the Synod.

Triennial Gathering: In-kind gifts—Give to the community

Giving in-kind gifts at the gathering is a tradition that positively impacts the host city. Visit welcatg.org for a list of the in-kind gifts and ways you can start encouraging your unit to begin collecting them early such as: gift cards and toiletry items. Items may be brought to the "In-Kind Gifts" area in the exhibit hall during the gathering where they will be sorted, counted and packed. They can also be mailed to the following address for arrival between May 15 and June 15, 2017: **Women of the ELCA, In-Kind Gifts, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631-4101.**

2016-2018

Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organizations Board Members

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Board Member, Rhonda Bentz

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rhonda_8588@hotmail.com
All Saints Lutheran, Albuquerque

New e-mail address for the RMSWO: rmswoelca16@gmail.com

Tenth Triennial Convention Speakers, preacher

The Rev. Jodi Hauge will preach, and the Rev. Brenda Smith will preside at the opening wor-

ship of the convention, which is a service of Holy Communion. The Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, will lead Bible study during the convention. The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA,

will address the convention and install the newly-elected officers and board members. All Women of the ELCA participants are welcome

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Rev. Jodi Hauge



Rev. Brenda Smith



Rev. Meta Herrick

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 you may 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: www.rmselca.org

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.rmselca.org/Ministries/Women**.

If you would like to receive the Views newsletter in your personal e-mail, please send an e-mail to rmswoelca16@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. Erin Powers at the synod office has kindly kept the site updated. We will keep new, interesting information highlighted on the web.

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

RMSWO Website: www.rmselca.org/Ministries/Women

Newsletter design/layout by Mary Lauck

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD
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Denver, CO 80221**