



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

March 2023

Views from the Rockies

► *Bold Women's Sundayp. 2*

March RMSWO President's Corner

Lent is here. What is your plan? I remember when I was in my teens it was important for me to give up something for Lent; maybe chocolate, soda pop, dancing etc. As you will see later in this issue, there is an article "Do You Want to Fast This Lent?" by Pope Francis where you will see other suggestions for Lent. Again, what is your plan and will you be able to fulfill it? Forty days can be a very long time to accomplish something. I think I will 'fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity' as suggested in the article.

More plans to make would be for the upcoming Bold Women's Day. March is Women's History Month and this year March 5th is Bold Women's Day designated by the Women of the ELCA. Think about the many women you have known in your life. Celebrate the BOLD women in your life. If you need resources, please check out this website, www.womenoftheelca.org.

I hope by this time the church has received my letter which is also included in this newsletter. I asked to color the Flat Elsie and take photos of the activities you do in and through your church with your women and then send them and a short story to me. Please share so more of us have new ideas to utilize in our own congregations. I hope this will help us become better acquainted and expanding our sisterhood of the Women of the ELCA.

RMSWO President Anna Thompson



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Bold Women's Sunday, March 5, 2023

—What Are Your Plans?

Finding Your Bold (Resource from Women of the ELCA)

Getting Started: 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?

Opening Bold Litany

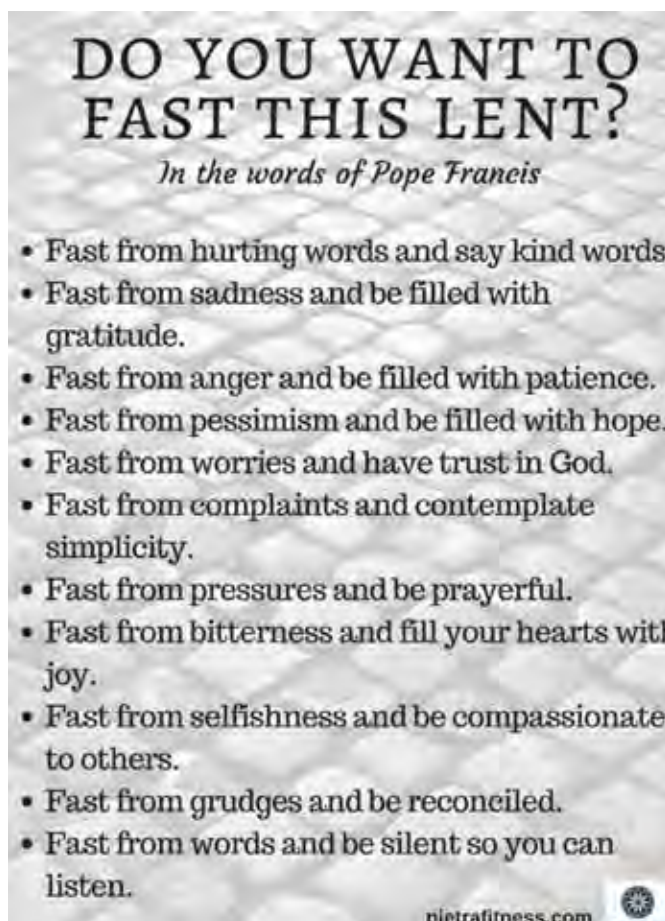
Leader:

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.

OR

Celebrate Bold Women's Day—resource from Women of the ELCA

- A Bold Life of Faith: Katharina von Bora Luther
- Act Boldly bookmark
- Act Boldly for Health
- Act Boldly for Mission
- I Am She



Save The Date **RMSWO Fall Gathering**

Date: October 6-8, 2023

Where: First Lutheran, Colorado Springs, Colorado

Theme: Walking Together in God's way

Walking Together in God's Way!

RMSWO Fall Gathering

October 6-8, 2023

First Lutheran, Colorado Springs



Bible verse: Joshua 22:5 "Take good care to observe the commandment and instruction that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to

him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul."

More to come in the April

Views from the Rockies.

Southeast Colorado Cluster Retreat

Save the Date: Saturday, June 10, 2023

Southeast CO WELCA Retreat

Grace Lutheran Church

Colorado Springs, CO

Topic: "I'm FINE. How are you?"

*A day of discussing and learning about
Mental Health and how it affects us all*

Look for more information and registration forms

In the April *Views from the Rockies*





A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN



ABOUT US

What is WELCA? It's an easy way to say Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Our organization includes Lutheran women who gather in more than 4,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more! WELCA embraces ministries that support our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. We have a place for you in Women of the ELCA.

OUR MISSION

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

OUR PURPOSE

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.

FIND US ONLINE

Visit womenoftheelca.org to learn how we respond to the world's needs through ministry and action, our free resources, daily devotionals, blogs and publications, like *Gather* magazine, *Cafe* e-zine, *Bold Connections*, and with a community of women just like you.

DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS?

You can contact us anytime through our website or directly.
Call: 800-638-3522 Ext. 2730
Email: women.elca@elca.org



**Rocky Mountain Synodical
Women's Organization (RMSWO)**

Anna Thompson, President
5015 W. Villa Circle
Cheyenne, WY 82009

January 23, 2023

Dear Women of the RMS,

I am the new president of the RMSWO. I was elected In October. I am also the Views Newsletter Coordinator. I am a mother of two daughters and a son, gran to eight grandkids and a great gran to two wonderful great grandsons. This is my second time I am serving as President and would like to have more women involved with the organization.

With this in mind, I am borrowing an idea from the education department, Flat Stanley. Flat Stanley is a drawing of a little boy who is to be colored by elementary school children and then sent to family and friends to document his adventures. This is what the Board and I hope will happen with Elsie. The drawing of Elsie is part of this mailing.

Please decorate Elsie anyway you would like and then with the women in your congregation, share the women's activities in your church with us so that we can share through the Views. Take pictures and write up a short story over the **next two months** (February and March) and then send these items to me via email, anna498.at@gmail.com or via snail mail at the address provided. The responses will be shared in future issues of the Views from the Rockies.

Are you already on the email listing to receive the Views from the Rockies Newsletter? If not, you can be added to the email list so you receive the Views. If you have women who would like to receive the Views in their personal email, they can be added to the email list, please share their email with me.

March is Women's History Month. It is time to honor and celebrate women! The Women of the ELCA have moved **Bold Women Sunday** to the first Sunday in March to share in this celebration. Resources are available on the Women of the

ELCA website: womenoftheelca.org.

I just finished reading this amazing book, *Wilma Mankiller, How One Woman United the Cherokee Nation and Helped Change the Face of America*. She is a bold and spiritual woman and she is described in this quote from the book on page 207:

Wilma Mankiller has brought together wise voices in a conversation about the things for which we long the most: Community, a sense of belonging in the universal scheme of things, support from kin and friends, feeling valued as we are. Balance, between people and nature, women and men, youth and age, people of different skills and colors, past and present and future. Peaceful ways of resolving differences, sitting in a circle, listening and talking, a consensus that is more important than the time it takes. Being of good mind, a positive outlook that energizes positive words and actions. Circle as paradigm, a full range of human qualities in each of us, equal value of different tasks, reciprocity, a way of thinking that goes beyond either/or and hierarchy. Spirituality, the mystery in all living things, the greatest and smallest, and therefore, the origin of balance, a good mind, peace, community.

And page 231:

"One of the advantages of being born an indigenous person is in knowing that no matter what happens in your life, someone will always be there for you and you'll be there for that person. It's a reciprocal relationship. No matter where in the world you go, someone will be around to remind you: You belong."

Do you know a Bold woman in your life you want to celebrate? Think about planning a Bold Women Sunday with the resources available. Send the offering directly to the Women of the ELCA to help cover program expenses and the development of new programs for women and children.

Your sister in Christ,
Anna Thompson, President
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Leadership Event:

On February 17 and 18 I attended via Zoom the Leadership Event: Living Faithfully presented by Women of the ELCA. If you were not able to attend, you still can view the event. **It will be available on the Women of the ELCA website.** Rev. Mary Finkles lead the opening from 1 Peter 4:7-11. She compared us to Acorns. An acorn is a seed that has the past, present and future of a tree through God. She shared, "You are not lacking in any spiritual gifts. You are like the acorn. Everything is present for God to work. Be Bold. Be generous so all can participate." When Pastor CeCe Mills presented the bible study from Jeremiah 29:4-11 where she focused us on the fact that 'God Knew.' 'God prepares us to meet what is coming. Can you answer these questions? 1. How can you set aside time to set God's provisions? 2. How can you step back in your now to see where

God is near? 3. How can you imagine your trajectory for your now? 4. How can you bask in God's plan for you now, before you see it? **God knew!** God is an active God! Bask in the now! God's got you! Make it a habit to pause, to breathe!

Other things I learned from this Leadership Event: Gather Bible Study and video are available on line at <https://gathermagazine.org> for print subscribers. Other resources to receive are found at www.womenoftheelca.org and review Tools for Leaders. You can sign up to receive Bold Connection monthly and Bold Café is a blog with the new one at [www.boldcafe.org/dinner on March 2.](http://www.boldcafe.org/dinner-on-March-2)

Registration will open on March 1 for the Triennial Gathering. Use: www.welcatg.org to see more about the Gathering. Those who are preregistered will receive an email around March 1 as well.

Not Obsolete

I'm roughly of the same vintage as the Skagit River Bridge, north of Seattle, which collapsed a few years ago after a truck's load of drilling equipment bumped the bridge's steel framework. The bridge was described as "functionally obsolete." News reports at the time of the collapse reported that nearly 85,000 additional US bridges were also "functionally obsolete," according to the Federal Highway Administration.

Like a lot of those 85,000 bridges, some of us could probably use a bit of maintenance and repair. We're walking around with some visible (and invisible) signs of damage and aging.

Thankfully, unlike aging bridges, Christians don't become functionally obsolete as we age. Granted, some of us don't age gracefully; others of us are stuck in outmoded ministry models, fighting change at every turn, but we always remain adequate for our task of being disciples. Whatever

our age, whatever our abilities, wherever we find ourselves, we are more than adequately equipped to be disciples of Christ. "Are you still breathing?" asks Sister Joan Chittister. "Then you've still got work to do in the name of Christ."

Source: *Daily Grace* – Feb. 11, 2023 excerpted from "Functionally obsolete?" by Linda Post Bushkofsky from the June 6, 2013, blog of the Women of the ELCA.

*God didn't promise days without Pain,
Laughter without Sorrow,
Nor sun without Rain.
But He did promise Strength for the day,
Comfort for the tears and
Light for the way.*

2022-2024 Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization Board

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Newsletter design/layout by Mary Lauck



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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