



# Christian Sisters in Spirit

Newsletter of the Central / Southern Illinois Synod  
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Volume 6—Issue 1—June 2009

## From the President

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and blessings from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thank you to so many of you that have generously blessed Toromare with the scholarship funds necessary for her education at Wartburg Seminary. Those gifts have come to fruition and she graduated May 23. She will be going home to start her ministry on June 15. I know that Toromare will greatly appreciate your continued support in prayer and in monetary gifts to help the needy in her country. With famine and civil unrest in Madagascar, the needs are great.



*Ms. Mary Plymire*  
President  
C/SIS Women of the  
ELCA

God has again showered us with His goodness as we ventured into unknown waters with our retreats. Our first time retreat at the Shrine of our Lady of the Snows featuring Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) Nanette Ellis was a huge success. Her presentation of “Good Grief” spoke deeply to many women and helped them in a profound way. Our May retreat at Camp Greisheim was special since we have never had a May retreat before. We loved the blossoms and the warm weather and Pastor Rachel bass had us doing yoga on the deck. Everyone came away from both outings with thanksgiving that they had attended. However, we are planning to return to a March retreat as there are so many other year-end functions occurring in May.

I was saddened to receive a copy of the letter written by WELCA of First Lutheran, Decatur (East Central Conference) to Linda Post Bushkofsyk, Executive Director of the Women of the ELCA, informing her of their intent to leave the WELCA organization. It is my hope that they will continue to attend future events as a way to keep in touch.

Our Synodical Executive Board met in June to finalize details for our upcoming Biennial Convention on September 18-19. We are excited to have Sharon Heck, Churchwide Representative, to bring news of our national organization and words of wisdom on how we can improve as well. Churchwide Staff Director for Racial Justice, Inez Torres Davis, our guest speaker, will challenge us to consider how we treat our Father’s World and the people in it. Let us gather together at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Springfield to support one another in becoming the women of God we are meant to be.

## NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

Marian Shrader

Our Spring event, scheduled for April 25 at Trinity Lutheran, Golden, IL., was postponed due to the death of Pastor Deena Laird, pastor at St. Peter Arenzville and St. John, Bluffs. Pastor Laird and conference coordinator Patty Stinson had worked to develop the program theme "Bees in Your Bonnet." The program will be presented at our Fall meeting at Trinity Lutheran.



### MISSION

COMMUNITY  
Evelyn Schuette  
Chair

On April 18 the LSSI Fashion Show / Luncheon and Silent Auction was held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield. This event netted approximately \$23,000 for LSSI programs. Roberta Hardy and crew prepared and served an elegant lunch for about 300 people, followed by a fashion show of dresses for brides, bridesmaids, mothers, and little girls (a couple of guys in tuxes appeared as well). The C/SIS WELCA donated a baby wreath for the silent auction. WELCA members from the five congregations also served as members of the planning team.



### Mission Growth

Dorothy "Thi"  
Bowden

Thanks so much to all of you who took time from your busy schedules to attend the spring retreats. Both retreats were informative and wonderfully rejuvenating. If you weren't able to attend, I hope you will join us next year!

## NORTHERN CONFERENCE

Betty Wiechman

Hosted by St. Peter's and St. Paul's Benson a New Life Celebration was held April 18. Shirley Missey welcomed participants and led the devotion, "Spring Clean Up For the Heart and Soul." Just as we make our homes fresh and presentable, so we should also do in our lives. Get the grime and dirt out of the walls in our daily lives. Do all in the name of Jesus.

Pastor Anne Strickert gave a presentation entitled, "Are We Spiritually Ready?" The Bible is the story of God working in people's lives. There is grace and blessing everyday. What has God done in your life? What is your legacy? Share it with others and leave it for the future generations. Our lives are part of God's story. Accompanied by Julie Kennel, Jeanne Setterlund led group singing of old-time favorite hymns.

Lori Reimer, parish nurse from Salem Lutheran, Peoria, presented a program on the "Five Wishes Document." It can be used as a compliment to your existing Living Will and going more depth than the basic Living Will. She suggested that you place it in the hands of trusted people in your life and to even have a copy in the glove compartment of your car.

Linda Ruby opened the business meeting; roll call accounted for 59 participants from 8 congregations. One-half of the offering collected will go the C/SIS and one-half to Lutheran Hillside Village. Linda talked about reorganizing our lives in these economic times and encouraged us to think about how we can help ourselves and others in our communities.

Newly elected officers:

Mission Community.....Linda Anglin  
Mission Growth .....Bev Pyles

Jeanne Setterlund modeled a casual outfit purchased from Thrift Shops. The outfit was a "hit" and only cost \$18. Our fall Son Shine Brunch will include a style show. Models participating will be from conference churches. Clothes must be purchased from thrift shops. The theme of the day will be *Resuscitate, Recalibrate and Rejuvenate!*

**Keep checking our web site:**  
[www.welca-csis.org](http://www.welca-csis.org)

## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE

Alice Sternberg

The Southern Conference Women of the ELCA and the Lutheran Men in Mission held their joint Spring Gathering April 26 with a total of 35 in attendance. Julie Post, Parish Ministry Assistant at Peace, led the opening devotions. President Mary Plymire attended and brought a display of pictures depicting ministry around the synod.

Our business meeting roll call showed 22 in attendance representing ten congregations. Ms. Jane Otte thanked everyone for their donations to the LSSI Book in a Basket project. Ms. Otte gave a presentation about the prison ministry project where incarcerated parents read a book on tape, then the book and tape is given to their child to help keep the bond between parent and child strong. In keeping up with technology, the tapes will soon turn to CD's.

Newly elected offices are:

- Synod Representative..... Janelle Pulcher
- Mission Community..... Marlene Schroeder
- Mission Action Chair ..... Barbara Youngblood
- Mission Growth Chair..... Pattie Singer
- Conference Coordinator..... Amy Schlabitz

The offering was divided between the LSSI Book in a Basket project and the Central-Southern Illinois Women of the ELCA. A physical offering of 44 items was donated to the Steeleville Community Food Pantry.

Following their individual business meetings, the men and women returned to the sanctuary for a presentation by Sandy Webster, representative for the Red Cross Disaster Relief. Her presentation included information about the various programs offered by the Red Cross. This past winter and spring they were involved with caring for many people without power for days and weeks after ice storms and destructive winds. They also assist individuals serving in our armed services who need to come home for family emergencies. Ms. Webster distributed information folders about family disaster preparation kits.

The day ended with a meal prepared by the women at Peace Lutheran.

## THIS AND THAT...

Alice Steljes new address is 14 Island Vie Lane, Springfield, IL 62712... Please correct in your address book so mailings do not go to her old address.

**HELP US** redirect funds by signing up to receive your newsletter electronically! With first class postage rates continuing to climb, all monies saved can be allocated to other causes. SIGN UP TODAY by emailing Reoberta at [rjh1934@aol.com](mailto:rjh1934@aol.com). Put 'Sign up for Newsletter' in subject line.

**BOARD MEMBERS ONLY...** Mary's cell phone number has the incorrect area code on your listing. Change 214 to 217.

## West Central Conference

Doris Riecks

The West Central Conference Spring meeting was held April 25 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Litchfield, with the theme "Grow in God's Grace."

There were 26 in attendance. The conference opened with registration and continental breakfast served by the host church and followed by an opening worship service. The offering will be shared by the C/SIS Women of the ELCA and the Big Brothers Big Sisters, Montgomery County Branch of the Illinois Capital Region. Physical offerings of miscellaneous items were also donated to the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Lisa Rakey, Program Manager of the Montgomery County Branch, Big Brothers Big Sisters and presented a very informative program relating to their operation. Her subject was "Creating Little Moments BIG MAGIC." The Illinois Capital Region has been serving children in Sangamon County for more than thirty years, and began serving Montgomery County in January of 2007. Ms. Rakey further stated that their goal is to serve 1,000 children in one-to-one mentoring relationships by the end of 2009.

Following a short business meeting a delicious lunch was served by the women of Trinity Lutheran. No definite plans are available for the Fall Conference.



*"Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all."*

Proverbs 31:26, NIV

MISSION

ACTION

Rose Moser,  
Chair

### Toromare Mananato Graduates!

Wonderful news! After three years of studying hard, Toromare Mananato has graduated from Wartburg Seminary last May. She is now back home in Madagascar with her family. She will be given the position of Secretary General of the Malagasy Lutheran Church's women's organization. This great accomplishment would not have been possible without the help of the women of the Central-Southern Illinois Synod. Thank you for your prayers and monetary contributions over these past three years. Please continue to pray for her and her family; she will need God's continual help in leading the women of the Malagasy Lutheran Church. If you would like to continue to help support her ministry through monetary contributions, please contact President Mary Plymire at 217.529.2488.

### Fair Trade Items for Sale

Due to popular demand, we will have Fair Trade coffee, tea, cocoa, and chocolate bars available for sale during our upcoming biennial convention! If you would like to purchase some of these delicious items and by doing so help small farmers in developing countries provide a decent living for their families, bring some extra cash or your checkbook.



# 2009 Biennial Convention

*This is My Father's World*

**September 18-19, 2009**

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield**

### You won't want to miss...

- ◆ Presentations from Inez Torres Davis, Programming Associate for Churchwide Women of the ELCA, on Stewardship of what God has given us.
- ◆ A chance to meet Sharon Heck, Churchwide Women of the ELCA Board member.
- ◆ Inspiring Contemporary Worship led by Pastor Cindy Krause from Metropolis
- ◆ Fellowship
- ◆ An opportunity to meet and visit with your sisters in Christ from across the synod.
- ◆ Yummy food !

The business meeting will be held Friday the 18th beginning at 3:00pm.

The gathering will begin at 9:00am on Saturday.

Registration fee is \$45 for both days or \$35 for Saturday, if you register by **August 8**. Information packets with registration forms were mailed to each congregation early in May. See enclosed registration form to sign up!

# 2009 Biennial Convention

Women of the ELCA



## This is My Father's World

September 18, 2009—Business Meeting

September 19, 2009—Gathering

St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield

### Registration Form

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Church / City / Conference \_\_\_\_\_

I am registering as a... \_\_\_\_\_ Delegate (due by July 15) \_\_\_\_\_ Participant (due by August 8)

I am a.... \_\_\_\_\_ First time convention attendee \_\_\_\_\_ Age 18 or under

#### Special Needs:

\_\_\_\_\_ Childcare: # of children and ages \_\_\_\_\_  
(Childcare provided free of charge)

\_\_\_\_\_ Hearing Impaired: Need \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Special Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Registration Fees:</b>	<u>Before August 8</u>	<u>After August 8</u>
Friday and Saturday	\$45.00	\$50.00
	(includes Friday Dinner and Saturday Lunch)	
Saturday Only	\$35.00	\$40.00

**Total Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to C/SIS Women of the ELCA

Mail to: Alice Steljes, 14 Island View Lane, Springfield IL 62712

#### Housing

A special rate of \$59.99 is available at the Baymont Inn and Suites the night of September 18. In order to receive the discounted rate you must make your reservations by September 1. Call (217) 529.6655, tell them you are with the Women of the ELCA.

