



**Central/Southern Illinois Synod
Women of the ELCA
December 2023**

We wish everyone a Blessed Christmas!

From Our President, Helen Flatau,

Dear sisters in Christ,

We must first rejoice at the great attendance at our FALL GATHERING at Zion, Mt. Olive. Over fifty registrations, although two missed because of illness. COVID is still around our communities! Biggest flaw was too many things to do! Mother Jones made mining and union issues come alive! Pastor Nancy made the Mt. Olive Care Center come alive! Our group brought THREE large baskets of hygiene products to donate to the Mt. Olive Care Center. Pastor Janet Lepp began and ended our day with worship, and everyone was sent home with a sack of goodies/travel kit! Sisters of Zion saw that we were well fed, and our venue was stunning!

PLEASE feel free to send me any comments, concerns. We did NOT get to see/pursue Pollinator Gardens or Evaluations. My email is flatauhelen@gmail.com. Let me know if you want pollinator seeds and directions for beginning a pollinator garden, at home or church!

BOLD WOMEN'S DAY is coming Early 2024 and is usually observed the first Sunday in March. See <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/bold-womens-day>

for a liturgy and ideas! More to follow! THINK of who the BOLD WOMEN and Christian witnesses are who shaped your life. See Pastor Nadia Bolz-Weber for an extreme example of BOLD.

FINALLY, Deacon Pat Caley has agreed to begin a ZOOM WELCA Bible study. We are hearing from many congregations that they cannot get more than one or two women to participate locally. SO, LET'S BE BOLD WOMEN! MORE TO COME...

We are very pleased to announce our new treasurer, Linda Schmidt, of Zion, Gillespie. More to follow. Zion is part of the ZION pastorate of our new pastor, Zachary Krampien, who is called to "ZION.2"

Sharon Zuiderveld accepted the position of West Central Conference Representative. She attends Faith Lutheran Church in Jacksonville and more to follow in the next newsletter. The position of Vice President is open and looking for someone to join a supportive Board of women!





Sharon Zuiderveld C/SIS Women of the ELCA's new West Central Conference Representative

As a member of Faith Lutheran Church in Jacksonville, I have been involved in many activities over the years. Organist, Sunday School teacher, Worship Committee member, and, more recently, as the Congregational Care Coordinator.

I am retired from being Director of the Jacksonville Public Library and, prior to that, was the cataloger of children's materials at Bound to Stay Bound Books. My late husband and I are parents of three adult sons and five grandchildren.

My hobbies include traveling, quilting, and reading.

NE Conference WELCA Fall Gathering



L to R: Carol Hanlon, (our new NE Pres), Jean Harrison, (Recorder), SAM Marcia Buchs, and Sandra Erickson.



L to R: Sandra Erickson, Maurine Gentes, Ginger Bauknecht, Lucy Kehinde, and Pat Lund.

Our NE Conference WELCA Fall Gathering was held on Oct. 14

at St Paul Lutheran Church in Pontiac. Breakfast was provided by our host ladies. Our theme verse was 1 Peter 4:10 "As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's very grace".

One of our St Paul interim ministers, SAM Marcia Buchs, kindly gave an inspiring presentation on how she was "called to serve" as a SAM.

She also talked to us about our calls, and how we can serve others by actually doing things that we enjoy.

We also heard from Bobbi Thomas about her attendance at the Triennial Convention in Phoenix, and about the Synod gathering in Mt. Olive.

The number attending was 33.

Some of our churches reported on the impressive number of quilts that they'd made for the LWR ingathering. Our physical offering was paper items for the Livingston County Community Pantry.

The monetary offering totaled \$385 which was divided between ELCA Disaster Response and C/S

IL Synod WELCA, each receiving \$192.50.

We all enjoyed singing a couple hymns which followed out theme: "We Are Called" and "Here I Am, Lord", accompanied by Sandra Erickson.

Submitted by

Jean Harrison, Recorder



Thank you to Mary Turner, Northwest Conference representative for your service. We appreciate your service and will miss you!

September 9, 2023 First English Lutheran Church, Peoria

Twenty four women attended this Central/ Southern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA **Northern Conference Son-Flower Women's Gathering**. It was held at First English Church in Peoria on September 9, 2023. The theme was "*For Such a Time as This*" Esther 4:14. Aimee Shinall was the dynamic speaker who is the Victim Services Coordinator from Peoria County Sheriff's Department. She gave us tips on how to avoid scams. Bev Gross, Northern Conference Representative, handed over her position to Kathy Olesuk. Thanks to Bev for her many years of service and welcome to Kathy! The food was delicious with great fellowship and worship.



The speaker, Aimee Shinall, Victim Services Coordinator is from Peoria County Sherriff's office.



Beverly Gross is handing over her position as Northern Conference Representative to Kathy Olesuk



Kathy Olesuk Northern Conference Representative

Kathy is a member of First English Lutheran Church in Peoria, where she is active in Rebecca Circle and several other ministries. Born and raised in Chicago, Kathy graduated from Loyola University Chicago with a Bachelors degree in business administration. She recently retired from a career in Information Technology. Since retiring, she and her husband Fred enjoy spending more time with family and friends, serving at their church and the Peoria community. Email: kfolesuk@yahoo.com

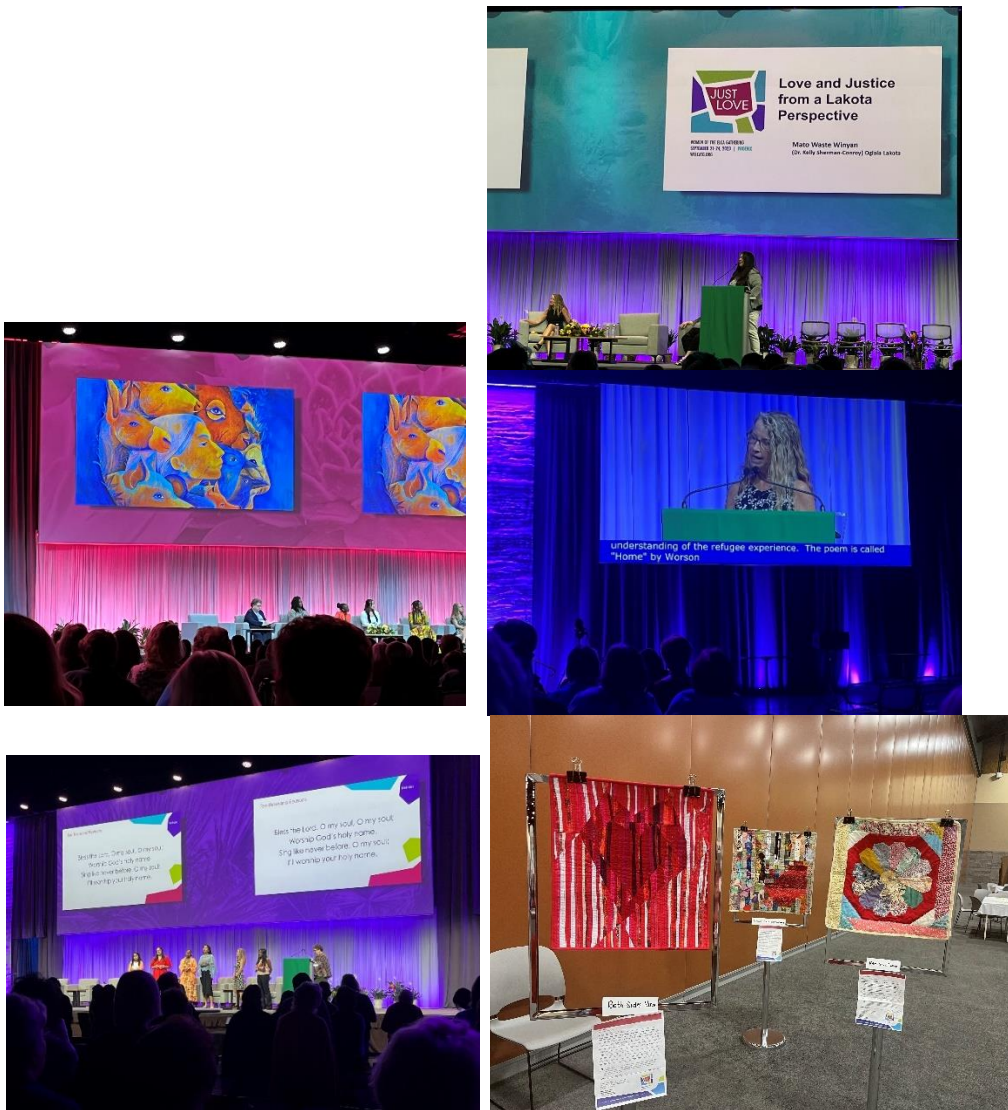


RECAP of the WOMEN OF THE ELCA TWELFTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION SEPTEMBER 19-21 2023, AND TWELFTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023

The Convention in Phoenix, Arizona was represented by our three voting members from the Central/Southern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA: Mary Jo Erickson from Champaign; Janet Lepp from Champaign; and Bobbi Thomas From Chenoa. They helped elect new officers to serve on the churchwide executive board from 2023-2026. They also

voted on constitutional changes, memorials, the proposed budget, etc.

We were pleased to have seven women attend the Gathering from our synod with several representing Peoria and two from the Springfield area. More to come in the next newsletter from your voting members and others who attended.



The Gathering theme of “Just Love” had speakers Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy talking about “Love and Justice from a Lakota Perspective “and Dr. Jacqueline Bussie, who is the author of “Love Without Limits. Outlaw Christian”.

They also had Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, who is the President and CEO of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, speak. “Indian 101” was a class to learn more about the United States and how we have interacted with Indigenous people during our history. It was eye opening. Many more classes were held with other speakers , Bible studies and worship services were enjoyed.

SPRING EVENT IDEAS...Please look for more information about a possible Spring Event for our Central/Southern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA! Please send Board members feedback if you would like to hold a spring meeting at your church and if you have ideas for speakers! The Board will help with planning and advertising it!

REMINDER: IMPORTANT WEBSITES such as welca.org for up-to-date information about the Women of the ELCA including Daily Grace short devotions and how to get it as emails; photos from the 2023_Just Love GATHERING, Phoenix; information about the next GATHERING July 16-19, 2026, in DES MOINES, IOWA, THANKOFFERING SERVICE information and many more resources!

Our website for the Women of the ELCA Central/Southern Illinois Synod is welca-csis.org. We try to keep it updated with upcoming events and information and pictures!

FALL GATHERING FINANCE

Income

19-Sep	Casper, Gross, Hemann, Scherer Postrovick, Kratochoil, Schoen	Fall Registration \$20 each	\$ 140.00
22-Sep	Brines, Wollet, Froiland, Lepp Frerichs, Hartke, Hardt, J Hardt, Schuette, Carroll, Ernst	Fall Registration \$20 each	\$ 220.00
28-Sep	Stoor, Friesner, Kosowski Davis, Rogers, Olesuk, Anderson	Fall Registration \$20 each	\$ 140.00
27-Oct	collected at 10/7 Gathering	Fall Registration \$20 each	\$ 280.00
	collected at 10/7 Gathering	Silent Auction proceeds	\$ 146.00
	St Peter - Glasford	Fall Gathering donation	\$ 75.00
	Dean, Schulte, DeBoard, Schmidt, Grandone, Welch, Thomas, Sarti, Flatau, Krampien, Fiore	Fall Registration \$20 each	\$ 220.00
	Minkanic	Fall Registration	\$ 20.00
	Offering from at 10/7 Gathering	Offering	\$ 483.00
		INCOME TOTAL	\$ 1,724.00

Expenses

7-Oct	Loretta Williams	Mother Jones Speaker	\$ 50.00
	Pastor Nancy Hubert	Mt Olive Care Center Speaker	\$ 50.00
	Women of the ELCA	Offering collected at 10/7 gathering \$483/2	\$ 241.50
		EXPENSES TOTAL	\$ 341.50

\$ 1,382.50

Balance from 1-31-2023 Treasurers Report**\$ 5,863.93****Income**

13-Feb	Salem Evangelical -Jonesboro	Regular Offerings	\$ 150.00
	St. Paul - Pontiac	Regular Offerings	\$ 111.50
	Immanuel - New Doublas	Regular Offerings	\$ 32.00
	Church of the Cross - Metropolis	Regular Offerings	\$ 50.00
	Trinity - Litchfield	Regular Offerings	\$ 60.00
27-Feb	St Peter - Glasford	Regular Offerings	\$ 176.50
7-Mar	ELCA	Katie's Fund Grant	\$ 1,000.00
16- Mar	St. John's - Sibley	Regular Offerings	\$ 60.00
	void line item not sent - dated 8-1-22		\$ 120.00
	void ck 1029 dated 10-2-21, never cashed		\$ 200.00
	void 1046 never cashed	dated 8/6/22	\$ 601.00
	NE Conference - spring gathering	Regular Offerings	\$ 317.00
16-Apr	First English - Peoria - North Conf	Regular Offerings	\$ 600.00
11- May	Immanuel - Carthage	Regular Offerings	\$ 66.00
30- May	Grace Lutheran - Springfield	Regular Offerings	\$ 250.00
12-Jun	St John Lutheran	Regular Offerings	\$ 60.00
1-Jul	St. Marks - Washington	Regular Offerings	\$ 300.00
19-Sep	Salem - Jonesboro	Regular Offerings	\$ 50.00
	Bethel Lutheran - Danville	Regular Offerings	\$ 50.00
19-Sep	Casper, Gross, Hemann, Scherer	Fall Registration \$20 each	\$ 140.00
	Postrovick, Kratochoil, Schoen		
22-Sep	Brines, Wollet, Froiland, Lepp Frerichs, Hartke, Hardt, J Hardt, Schuette, Carroll, Ernst	Fall Registration \$20 each	\$ 220.00
28-Sep	Stoor, Friesner, Kosowski	Fall Registration \$20 each	\$ 140.00
	Davis, Rogers, Olesuk, Anderson		
28-Sep	St. John's - Sibley	Regular Offerings	\$ 60.00
27-Oct	collected at 10/7 Gathering	Fall Registration \$20 each	\$ 280.00
	collected at 10/7 Gathering	Silent Auction proceeds	\$ 146.00
	St Peter - Glasford	Fall Gathering donation	\$ 75.00
	Grace & Peace, Peoria	Regular Offerings	\$ 84.80
	Dean, Schulte, DeBoard, Schmidt, Grandone, Welch, Thomas, Sarti, Flatau, Krampien, Fiore	Fall Registration \$20 each	\$ 220.00
	Minkanic	Fall Registration	\$ 20.00
	Trinity - Chenoa	Regular Offering	\$ 50.00
	Grace Lutheran - Champaign	Regular Offering	\$ 200.00

	Offering from at 10/7 Gathering	Offering	\$ 483.00
2-Nov	St. Peters, Coatsburg	Regular Offering	\$ 100.00
	Northeast Conference Meeting	Offering	\$ 222.50
6-Nov	St Johns, Sibley	Conference offering	\$ 50.00
	Northwest Conference	Closing money	\$ 45.00
		INCOME TOTAL	\$ 6,890.30

Expenses

13-Feb	Women of the ELCA	4th Qtr Nov-Jan \$3135.10/2	\$ 1,567.55
11-May	Women of the ELCA	1st Qtr Feb-Apr \$957.00/2	\$ 478.50
	Elaine Frerichs	reimbursement for mirrors	\$ 303.80
15-May	Helen Flatau	sheet protectors	\$ 26.09
1-Aug	Campus Ministries - ISU	donation	\$ 500.00
	Campus Ministries - U of I	donation	\$ 500.00
	Little Lambs	donation - IMO Kristin S	\$ 500.00
	Lutheran World Relief	Malaria Initiative	\$ 500.00
	Beverly Gross	seed money Northern Conf	\$ 300.00
29-Aug	WELCA	National Gathering	\$ 250.00
28-Sep	Penny Madlinger	Gather Magazine subscriptions	\$ 99.50
7-Oct	Loretta Williams	Mother Jones Speaker	\$ 50.00
	Pastor Nancy Hubert	Mt Olive Care Center Speaker	\$ 50.00
27-Oct	Janet Lepp	Triennial Reimbursement	\$ 273.00
	Mary Jo Erickson	Triennial Reimbursement	\$ 302.25
5-Nov	Women of the ELCA	2nd Qtr May-Jul \$976/2	\$ 488.00
	Women of the ELCA	3rd Qtr Aug-Oct \$560/2	\$ 280.00
	Women of the ELCA	Offering collected at 10/7 gathering \$483/2	\$241.50
		EXPENSES TOTAL	\$ 6,710.19

Balance as of November 6, 2023 **\$ 6,044.04**

Respectfully Submitted,
Penny Madlinger, Treasurer

Penny Madlinger has resigned, and we want to say a thank you for her 6 years and more of service as Secretary and Treasurer for the Board. We thank you for your many years of service and sharing your time and talent with us! Keep in touch with us!

Love and Greetings from Little Lambs Learning Center, Uganda!

Hello Friends! Greetings from Little Lambs learning center Uganda! Another year coming to a close but first we want to say Happy Thanksgiving although it's not a holiday celebrated here in Uganda we can not pass up the opportunity to tell you how truly thankful we are for you! Just like the years before we look back and all we see is God's Goodness and Faithfulness. We are so glad to continue this legacy Kristin started...just take a moment and look at how big the children are now compared to five years ago! Our very first group of kids can read and write very well; most of them are already in 3rd Grade! We have had a very fruitful year, we had our annual 3day camping trip in April....We took the children to the Uganda Museum and also visited the mall and went to see Elemental in a real movie theatre (another first for them)! The excitement is growing as we prepare to close our 3rd and final term in 2 weeks! All the children are healthy. We all know what the highlight of their year is.....our annual Christmas party. As the years have gone by we have thought of more creative ways to get them to experience new things and get a feel of how your culture celebrates Christmas. We by no means diminish the real reason for Christmas these children know this better than anyone else in the world I think. But we also get a chance to shower love on them in a very special way. No one goes shopping for them....or even has the means to buy them a new pair of shoes. The one pair we gift them on Christmas is the only pair most of them own and they wear it to school every day (all year round) , to our field trips and parties... everywhere. That's it....so they look forward to this season as they get to open a box filled with clothes nothing fancy but to them it's everything. I am so blessed to be a part of this transformation process. Today I had a very bad day....I went to the market to buy the school weekly groceries and it started raining while I was at the market. I had to load everything on the commercial motorbike and make it home in the rain. As I was walking down to the school because the road was slippery and didn't want to risk a fall on the motorcycle some of the little ones were heading back home. Tracy(5 years old) saw me and came running! "AUNTIE BARBARA! Welcome back! We are getting new clothes and shoes soon!" ...the excitement in her voice and pure faith that something special was awaiting her this season melted all my fatigue and frustration. That friends is the difference you are making one child at a time. May God continue to bless you as you continue to bless our children. Happy Thanksgiving. With love from Uganda.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Helen Flatau, President

Zion Lutheran Church, Mt. Olive
flatauhen@gmail.com
618-888-2263

Elaine Frerichs, Secretary

Trinity Lutheran Church, Litchfield
sefrerichs@outlook.com
217-556-2813

Linda Schmidt, Treasurer

Zion, Gillespie

Deacon Pat Caley, Mission Chair

St. John's Lutheran Church, Springfield
pcaley@stjohns-springfield.org
217-638-1106

CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES:

Roberta (Bobbi) Thomas, Northeast Conference

Trinity Lutheran Church, Chenoa
rathomas@ilstu.edu
309-319-0400

Mary Jo Erickson, East Central Conference

Grace Lutheran Church, Champaign
mjerrickson30@gmail.com
217-552-9345

Kathy Olesuk, Northern Conference

First English Lutheran Church, Peoria
EMAIL: kfolesuk@yahoo.com

Southern Conference Rep. (open)

Sharon Zuiderveld, West Central Conf Rep

Faith Lutheran Church, Jacksonville
EMAIL: sharonzuiderveld@hotmail.com

Northwest Conference Rep. (open)