



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

August 2022—Fall Convention Edition

Views from the Rockies

► *Convention Speakers p. 2*

August RMSWO President’s Corner

Who will be the next president? Maybe YOU!

Our Rocky Mountain Synodical Women’s Organization (RMSWO) will meet in convention September 30 – October 2 for a business meeting and to hear speakers.

What happens during the business meeting? We will hear reports, approve a budget, and hold an election! We will elect officers and board members. And because next year (Sept. 2023) is the Twelfth Triennial Convention, we will also elect voting members to that convention.

Why elect a new president of the RMSWO? According to our constitution, a woman may serve two 2-year terms as president and then is to go off of the board for at least two (2) years. I was elected president at our 2018 Convention, so I have now served for four years.

God will provide! Somewhere out there in the Rocky Mountain Synod is our next SWO president! You may be thinking, “Oh, it couldn’t be me – I wouldn’t know how!” **God will provide!** You will have the support of the other officers and board members and past presidents like Anna Thompson and me. You will have resources and support from Churchwide Women of the ELCA. **God will provide! Please prayerfully consider if God is calling you to fill this position at this time.**

Just as our congregations have had to adjust and modify over the past few years, so it is with the Women of the ELCA. We have done things we’ve never done before and survived. We have continued as an organization and figured out new ways to gather and keep in touch.

God gave a son to Abraham and Sarah when they thought it would never happen. God helped Moses plead with Pharaoh to let the Hebrews leave Egypt. God gave manna to the Israelites when they thought they had no food. Jesus blessed the five loaves and two fishes and fed thousands of people. Throughout history, God has shown that He is with His people and loves them and cares for them and only asks us to believe, have faith and love God in return.

You need not be a Super Hero or a Nobel prize winner to be the president of a Synodical Women’s Organization. You need only to be a beloved Child of God! So ask God if this is what is being asked of you and say “YES!”

Blessings,
 Julie

In this Issue

| | |
|--|-----|
| August RMSWO President’s Corner..... | 1 |
| Convention Featured Speakers..... | 2 |
| Pastor Monica Butler | 2 |
| Executive Board Member Laura Krueger | 3 |
| First Day of School and Rainbows | 3 |
| 2022 Convention Flyer and options..... | 4-5 |
| Draft Schedule and Registration Form..... | 6-7 |
| Board Nomination Form..... | 8 |
| Triennial Nomination Form | 9 |
| RMSWO Board..... | 10 |
| You are precious, honored, loved | 10 |
| Views Information..... | 11 |

Convention Featured Speakers

The first speaker for the afternoon session will be Brittany from *A Woman's Place*, which is a shelter in Greeley for abused women and their children. Brittany will speak about the mission of A Woman's Place and some of the difficulties the shelter experienced during the recent pandemic.

The next speakers for the afternoon session include two women who work for Centennial BOCES in Greeley. Centennial BOCES, or Board of Cooperative Educational Services, is a cooperative agency that provides educational services to school districts across northern Colorado.

Araceli Calderón De Weis



Since before coming to the U.S. in 2004, Araceli Calderón de Weis was a champion for community involvement in policy making in her native Mexico. In her role as Program Coordinator at Centennial BOCES, Ms. Calderón de Weis has dedicated

her life in Greeley, Colorado, to promote the inclusion of immigrant and refugee voices in the spheres of community building and policy setting in northern Colorado. Her work through local educational and cultural programming is a remarkable example of advocacy for immigrant rights through community empowerment.

Maria G. Castillo Sáenz



Maria has worked in various capacities in public education, including middle school and high school teaching. Over the last 10 years she has served families in the Migrant Education Program (MEP) in various capacities

and now serves as Regional Director for the Northern Region. Maria was born and raised in

a small town in Chihuahua, Mexico until she was 14. She holds B.A in Secondary Education, B.S. in Business Administration and a M.A. In Educational Leadership from the University of Northern Colorado. Currently she serves in various committees and boards including the Colorado Immigrants' Rights Coalition and the Northern Migrant Coalition. Maria is committed to serving families and students in her community through education and access. She has a passion for creating opportunities and programming that have a positive impact in their lives. In her free time she enjoys traveling, food, and spending time with her family.

Pastor Monica



Pastor Monica serves a joint call to both Immanuel Lutheran Church and Lutheran-Episcopal Campus Ministry in Greeley. She is committed to cultivating communities of faith and belonging

that embody God's transforming love in the world. Pastor Monica is a graduate of Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in Art History. Before coming to Greeley, she served as Vicar at Saint Peter's Church in New York City and worked in education at museums in Santa Fe, NM and San Francisco, CA. She loves hiking, road cycling, knitting, and a good novel.

Executive Board Member Laura Krueger



Laura Krueger was elected to the churchwide executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017 and re-elected in August 2021. She has served both terms as parliamentarian of the board. In her first term, she served on the budget and

finance committee and currently serves on the executive committee and the program and communication committee.

Laura has served on synodical boards in two synods, Upstate New York and Grand Canyon, in various roles: board member, convention chair, vice president, and president of the Grand Canyon Synodical Women's Organization. She has experience as a unit leader and a conference leader. Laura is passionate about the many ministries of Women of the ELCA.

A resident of Avondale, Ariz., Laura is a member of Alleluia Lutheran Church, Phoenix. She has served

as Christian Education Director and regularly leads children's sermons, as well as adult forums and Bible studies. Laura serves as worship cantor and leads Alleluia's Mission Team, focusing on a community diaper Closet.

An Army brat, Laura was born in Germany, grew up and attended college in North Carolina, lived in Upstate New York for many years, and now lives in the Southwest. She began her career in business and found her passion in education. She works as the registrar at a community college. She has been involved in parent-teacher associations, church council, and athletic booster clubs in addition to the many roles in Women of the ELCA.

Laura is married to Jim, a retired electrical engineer. They have three grown sons, David, and twins, Jon and Chris. They have three grandchildren, Avery, Grayson, and Rowen who live in North Carolina.

Laura enjoys spending time with family and friends, reading, and crocheting.

First day of School and Rainbows *by Brooke Gregory*

The first day of school has come and gone. Our leisurely summer schedule quickly erased.

As a parent with young kids, I have high expectations for the first day of school. In the scene played out in my mind, we are all up early, dressed and eager to begin the new school year. We sit and enjoy breakfast together, smiles all around. We have time to spare for pictures on the front stoop before skipping to the bus stop, then hugs and waves as my son climbs aboard the school bus. My expected vision failed to play out last year. This year, I had hoped our start to second grade would be better. Throughout the summer, we'd been coping with our son's physical and emotional response to the sight and smell of food. Nearly every mealtime had been filled with drama—frustrating and exhausting.

Though progress had been made, the first day of second grade was a battle. My husband and daughter left, and I remained at home with my 8-year-old. I tried to keep my mouth shut, afraid my frustration and short-tempered would turn me into "crazy, yelling mom." How do I send my kid off to school with no breakfast?! I stomped around the kitchen and told my son to get

his shoes on. (In the midst of this, I failed to close the fridge door all the way—which means we came home to melted butter and room temperature food.) I took the "first day of school" picture, but it was with sadness—no big smiles. We failed again at the first day of school, I thought as we walked to the school bus.

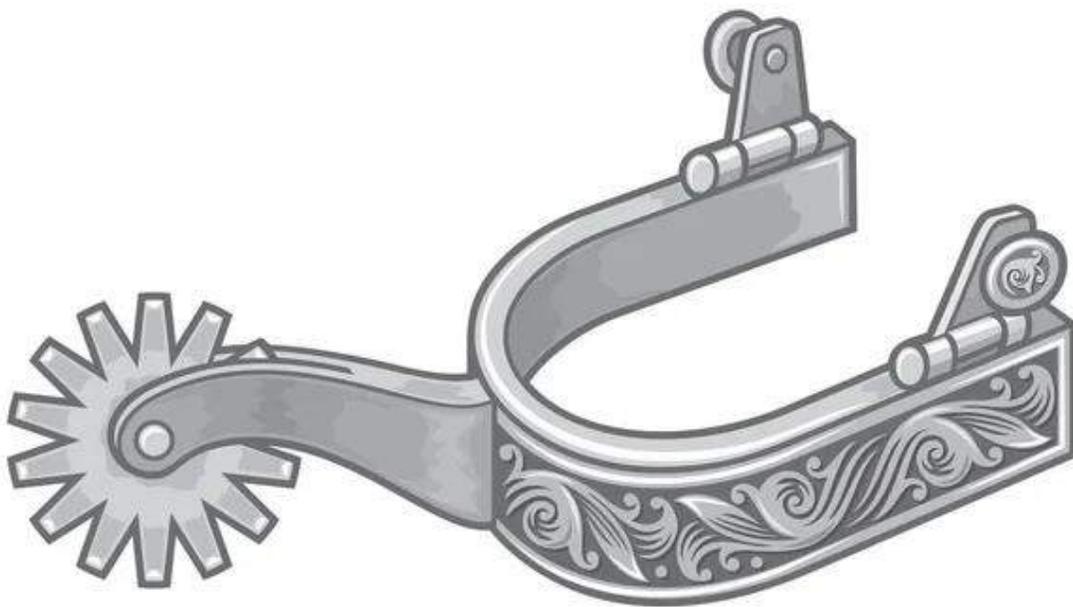


The sun was bright; the day was warm as we began our short walk to the bus stop. But my heart was not in it. I really just wanted to send him on his way and escape. (Not my finest parenting moment.) As we walked, big drops of rain began to fall, sun still shining, and we spotted a full rainbow. Rainbows are special in our family—a sign of hope, a reminder of the presence of God who loves us and keeps promises.

What a wake up call!

I put my son on the bus, and it drove away. I walked to my car the rain still falling. My work clothes were soaked; my hair limp and frizzy; and I was late to work. But I just stood there, and thanked God for the beauty of a rainbow and for loving us even when we're grumpy. The first day of school was not what I had planned. Still, it was simply perfect! (Daily Grace)

**Spur one another on toward
love and good deeds**



RMSWO Convention
September 30- October 2, 2022
Immanuel Lutheran Church
Greeley, Colorado

Theme verse - Hebrews 10:24-25

²⁴“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds,

²⁵ not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

What will the Fall 2022 Convention be like? The plan is to meet in person with the option for participation by Zoom.

- Participate in person as a voting member or as an attendee
- Or join us by Zoom, again either as a voting member or as an attendee

Our hope is to encourage a renewal of “...meeting together...” and gathering together, even though it still might be in a manner not quite how things used to be!

With so much of our church life changed these past years, we will also be asking all of you to think about what does it mean to be a woman of the ELCA now? What do we want to continue to make a priority and what decisions need to be made about doing some things differently in the future?

Your Rocky Mountain Synodical Women’s Organization board is so thankful and grateful for all of you who have continued in whatever way to support the Women of the ELCA. You kept meeting for Bible study, for quilting, for mission and community projects. You continued to send in financial support which, in turn, enabled our RMSWO to send funds on to Churchwide Women of the ELCA. You participated in our first Zoom Convention! Pray with us and stay with us as we “...consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds...”



Schedule

The schedule for the convention was made with flexibility in mind so as to have as many women participate as possible.

- You might choose to attend by Zoom only.
- You might choose to opt for two hotel stays and attend everything from Friday evening through Sunday morning worship at Immanuel.
- You might choose to stay only Friday evening at a hotel and drive home Saturday evening.
- You might choose to attend Friday evening by Zoom and then drive to Greeley just for the Saturday sessions and then drive home Saturday evening.

Whatever works best for you is what we want you to choose!

DRAFT Schedule for RMSWO Fall Convention

Immanuel Lutheran Church

1865 14th Avenue Greeley, Colorado 80631

(970) 352-3003 www.immanuelgreeley.org

Option "A" \$60 (one or two hotel nights)

Friday, September 30 - Evening meal and fellowship time

Saturday, October 1 - Morning business meeting

Saturday lunch

Saturday afternoon speakers (2 speakers and Bible study)

Brief worship/prayer service with Installation of officers and board members

Saturday evening meal

Sunday, October 2 – 10:30 a.m. - Worship at Immanuel (optional)

Option "B" \$50 (hotel stay optional)

Saturday, October 1 - Morning business meeting

Saturday lunch

Saturday afternoon speakers (2 speakers and Bible study)

Brief worship/prayer service with Installation of officers and board members

Saturday evening meal (optional)

ZOOM Only option - \$25.00 registration fee

Hotel options

Super 8 Motel 2423 W 29th St. (no elevator, breakfast is vouchers at local restaurants)

Friday (9/30) Double Queen or One King: \$89.00

Saturday (10/1) Double Queen or One King \$95.00 Total for both nights with tax: \$202.42

(Senior rates, military rates, group rates available)

Comfort Inn & Suites 2467 W 29th St.

Friday (9/30) Double Queen or One King \$178.00

Saturday (10/1) Double Queen or One King \$152.00 (Group rates available)

Registration – RMSWO Convention – Sept. 30-Oct. 2, 2022

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____

Preferred phone # _____

Email Address _____

Emergency Contact & Phone # _____

Home Congregation _____

Congregation City/State _____

Voting Member _____

Attendee only _____

Registration Option Option "A" _____ Option "B" _____ Zoom only _____

Option "A" (includes Friday evening meal, Saturday lunch, Saturday evening meal)

Option "B" (includes Saturday lunch, Saturday evening meal)

Zoom only option is \$25.00

Special Dietary Needs:

Vegetarian _____ Gluten Free _____ Other _____ (please specify)

Please send completed registration and check payable to "**RMSWO**"

by September 20th (by email or U.S. Mail) to:

Debra Haar
6555 Weeping Willow Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80925
haardap@hotmail.com

Or: Julie Elmquist
2152 27th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
sjelmquist@msn.com

(719) 650-5688

(970) 371-2734

RMSWO Board Nomination Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Cluster _____

Congregation _____

Office: ___ President ___ Vice President ___ Secretary ___ Treasurer ___ Board member

Women of the ELCA experience:

ELCA experience:

Ecumenical Experience:

Community Experience:

Why you are interested in serving on the RMSWO Board:

Describe the special gifts, skills and experience that you would bring to the Board:

What challenges do you expect the Board to be facing in the next two years:

Vocation/Occupation:

RMSWO Nomination Form for 12th Triennial Convention

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Cluster _____

Congregation _____

I am (check any/all that apply)

_____ a woman of color

_____ primary language is other than English

_____ a first-time attendee to a Triennial Convention

Please submit this form by September 20 to:

Julie Elmquist
2152 27th Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634

sjelmquist@msn.com

2020-2022 Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization Board Members



President
Julie Elmquist
sjelmquist@msn.com
 Immanuel Lutheran, Greeley, CO



Treasurer (effective 2-1-2022)
Debra Haar
haardap@hotmail.com
 Prince of Peace
 Colorado Springs, CO



Vice President
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 King of Kings, Pueblo, CO



Board Member
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oggram@KCI.net
 Peace Lutheran, Sterling, CO



Secretary
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 Grace Lutheran, Colorado Springs, CO

Views Newsletter Coordinator, Anna Thompson
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Newsletter design/layout by Mary Lauck

You are precious, honored, loved by Emile Anne Carson

In the Old Testament book of Isaiah, chapter 43, God tells the people (through the voice of Isaiah) that they are precious, honored, and loved. At the time, the people were probably feeling terrible because they were living in exile. There was grief, loss, poverty, and a sense of alienation. Into that place of brokenness, God offers words of compassion. In Hebrew (the original language of the Old Testament), the words used in Isaiah, chapter 43 are yaqar (precious), kabad (honored), and ahab (loved).



You are precious. You are honored. You are loved.

We don't always feel precious, honored, and loved. In fact, we often don't feel that way. The original audience of Isaiah likely didn't feel the truth of God's words either. But what if we just keep saying them to ourselves anyway? On days when we feel like it, and more commonly, on days when we don't. Transformation happens in repetition. Precious, honored,

and loved. These aren't your feelings; they are your identity. (Daily Grace)

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.rmselca.org/faithforma->

[tion/RockyMountainSynodicalWomensOrganization](https://www.rmselca.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.rmselca.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 RM-

SWO 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.rmselca.org/faithformation/RockyMountainSynodicalWyomensOrganization.

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

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD
7375 Samuel Drive
Denver, CO 80221**