

# CENTRAL SOUTHERN SYNOD OF ILLINOIS WOMEN OF THE ELCA

December, 2014

**Save the date: April 25, 2015  
Spring Gathering  
Grace and Peace Lutheran  
Church, Peoria, IL**

In August, 2014, Bishop Roth, interested clergy and lay people journeyed to Madagascar on a mission trip. Our Central Southern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA provided scholarships in the amount of \$500.00 to each of the women in the group of travelers. We are all anxious to hear about their trip, see their photographs, and hear the many stories of their experiences. The travelers are all invited to attend the Spring Gathering on April 28. **And so are you!** The Gathering is in the early planning stages and more information will be mailed to your congregation after the first of the year. It will be a great day! Bring carloads from your congregation!

**Toromare and Bishop Roth  
met in Madagascar!**



On Tuesday, August 26, 2014 1:44 PM, Toromare Mananato <toromaree@gmail.com> wrote:

Greetings

I met your synod representatives but very short time because I did an evaluation of evangelisation program. your bishop and I took a picture as he said he wants to show you .I thank God for having you as companion synod.  
thanks



**Greetings from  
President Mary Plymire!**

Dear Sisters in Christ,

How can it be that Christmas is just around the corner???? Yet when I ventured out today it felt like January or February instead of early December. Did I miss something??

Our board met on November 8th in Springfield to make plans for the upcoming year. We set the date for the 2015 Biennial at St. John's Lutheran Church in Springfield. That date is September 19th. This year our convention/gathering will be a one day affair with the idea that perhaps more working gals can attend. Our theme is going to be Faith, Friendship and the Future. Although we have yet to find speakers and programs, we feel sure that this will be another great event in our history.

In your church's mail please also look for materials relating to the election of officers and possible nominations for women to serve on our board. This time we will have vacancies in the all the major offices of the executive board as well as some representative and mission chair positions. Meanwhile the nominating committee has been formed and will meet in January to begin the search for new faces and a new future.

I would like to give a huge thank you to our secretary, Roxanne Hochsprung, for printing out all the newly changed constitutions for our organization. These have been adapted to the constitution based on the last Triennial in Charlotte. If you need a copy please get in touch with Roxanne or myself. Or you can go online to the website and download it yourself. Remember that you don't have to do a thing to change your unit's constitution. All you have to do is get a copy of the congregational unit sample and you'll be good to go. Of course you may want to insert your church's name where necessary but that's really all.

(continued on page 2)

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# Luke 2

## Contemporary English Version (CEV)

### The Birth of Jesus

<sup>2</sup> About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books.

<sup>2</sup> These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria.

<sup>3</sup> Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family.

<sup>5</sup> Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, <sup>6</sup> and while they were there, <sup>7</sup> she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Please keep April 25, 2015 in mind for a trip to Peoria where we will hold our Spring Gathering at Grace and Peace Lutheran Church. Our theme will center on the Bishop's trip to Madagascar and we will hope to hear from some of our scholarship winners who went on this trip. Some of our conferences will be using this gathering in place of a spring conference meeting which is perfectly fine. Sometimes it's difficult to arrange speakers and programs and this is one event in which we know many of our women would be interested.

Before ending this piece I would like to welcome Clare Smith from Carbondale as the new Southern Conference Coordinator/Convener who replaces Barb Froemling. Clare will also be serving on our nominating committee for the Biennial. Thank you for saying "yes" Clare and being willing to serve.

Pastor Robert Dealey, Assistant to the Bishop, has generously offered to present our newsletter and other pertinent flyers on the synod web site, Mission Matters. If you've never seen it, please ask your pastor as the clergy in our synod receive this on a regular basis and it's really for anyone in the synod. We also have to thank Dave Wheat, from St. John's Springfield, for helping us with our own website, [welca-csis.org](http://welca-csis.org). We really are trying to get the word out any way we can. If you have other ideas for communicating with our church women, please let me know and have a very blessed Christmas.

Mary Plymire, President

### TREASURER'S UPDATE:

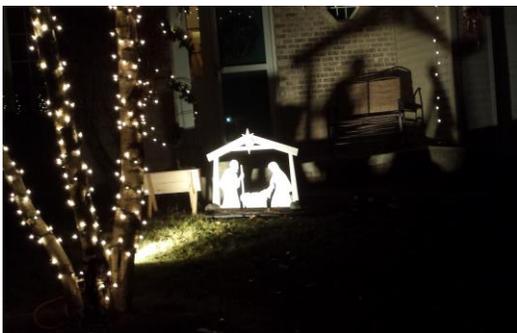
Looking back to last year, Unit giving fell short of the C/SIS budget by \$1,308.15. As of the middle of November, 2014, we are short \$4,336.33 to make the annual budget. So you see how crucial it is for all Units in the Central/Southern Illinois Synod to get all Regular Offerings in by January 31, 2015.

A lot of the outreach of Women of the ELCA depends on the generosity of WELCA Units in all of our churches.

Thank you for all you do!! Whether your unit is big or small, all offerings are important!

Patty Rudin  
C/SIS Treasurer  
P.O. Box 353  
Benson, IL 61516

*A Blessed and Joyful  
Christmas to All!*



# Conference Gatherings

**West Central Conference  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Litchfield, IL  
Saturday, October 25, 2014**

The Women of the ELCA, CSIS, West Central Conference held their Fall Event at Trinity Lutheran Church, Litchfield, IL on Saturday, October 25, 2014.

Registration and coffee hour began at 9:00 a.m. with 29 in attendance from 5 churches.

Unit President, Bonnie Hartke, welcomed the women and introduced Ashley Ritzmann, who led the devotions. The theme of her message centered around Luther, Grace and the Reformation. Judy Dalhaus assisted, reading Ephesians 2:1-10. Kim Henderson was the greeter and Elaine Frerichs served as acolyte. Ushers were Evelyn Schuette and Sylvia Boehme. Pianist, Connie Niehaus played as the group sang "Shout to the Lord." The offering collected was divided between the Women of the ELCA, C/SIS, and The Pregnancy Resource Center. The physical offerings were necessities for newborns.

The program continued with a tour of the Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center after which the group returned to Trinity Church. Conference Coordinator, Pat Casper announced there would be no business meeting. Mary Plymire, Synod President of The Women of ELCA CSIS, announced that instead of individual spring conference meetings, there would be a synod wide retreat with breakout time for each conference to briefly meet.

After a delicious meal provided by the ladies of Trinity Lutheran the group was dismissed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jomarilyn Hartke

**Northwest Conference  
St. Peter's Lutheran Church  
Coatsburg, IL  
September 27, 2014**

"Of Many Generations" Isaiah 58:12 was the theme for the North West Conference Gathering, Women of the ELCA, Saturday morning, September 27, 2014, held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church and Hall in Coatsburg, Illinois. Coffee hour began at 9:30 with an ice breaker/get acquainted sheet of faith words to unscramble, portrayed in the form of a family tree. Interim Pastor Jill Flynn led Devotions, with 2 hymns.

The program was a joint effort by women in attendance who brought photos of their family, confirmation or church and told how their faith had been influenced by those pictured. Coordinator Sharon Fryrear conducted the meeting. She and Marian Schrader reported on the Lake Bloomington Synod Retreat. They enjoyed the overnight stay in the comfortable lodge, plus music keyboard by AIM Kathy Eckert, prayer/yoga with Pastor Rachel; Jane Otte on the Church Social Statement for Women and Girls in Violence; and the authors of the book Questions Kids Ask About God. Marian was one of four whose name was drawn for a free book. She displayed the book and passed it around for her conference ladies to examine. The offering was divided one-half to Synod; one-half to Katie's Ladies. The group sang "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands". Pastor Jill led the closing, noon salad luncheon and prayers. The 26 ladies from six churches appeared to enjoy this program and fellowship immensely. Till we meet again in the Spring, date and place to be announced later.

In Christian Fellowship,  
Marian Schrader

## It's Getting Real for Jenny Michael, Past President, Women of the ELCA!

Like many of you, I have had the privilege of meeting Jenny Michael. I marvel at her energy, enthusiasm, and strong faith. She has a zest for life and a great sense of humor. In fact, at the Triennial this past July, she even photobombed a group picture of our Synod delegation! As you know, Jenny is currently a seminar student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, Iowa. Because of her current proximity to Central Illinois our Board decided to contact Jenny to see if she might be available to attend our Biennial Convention next September. As Secretary of the CSIS Board, I volunteered to contact Jenny. Unfortunately she is not able to attend our convention. I would like to share her response; it is shown below. Whatever congregation is in her future, it is very fortunate!

Roxanne  
Hochsprung



Hello Roxanne, I finally have a chance to reply and I thank you for your patience. I would love to consider your request. However, in September 2015 I will be starting my year of internship. The internship sites vary widely from Oregon to Kansas to Iowa to Minnesota. And we don't find out exactly where we are going to be assigned until April 2015. Additionally, when I'm assigned it's like being in a new job... difficult to know if I'd be able to get time off, needing to establish a relationship with my congregation and so on.

So, while I think it would be delightful to share your convention time with your SWO, I must decline your gracious invitation. I hope you will understand.

Blessings to you and good luck on your continued search.

## Do you like email?

Technology is wonderful! We all use it in one way or another. How about receiving this newsletter and other information from the Central Southern Illinois Women of the ELCA via email? A very cost effective way of communication! The number of names on a distribution list is unlimited. Why not add everyone in your unit to the distribution list! Email your Board secretary at:

[hochsprung@hotmail.com](mailto:hochsprung@hotmail.com)

You can also email your unit happenings/projects, etc. for inclusion in this newsletter or on our website: <http://welca-csis.org>

And if you are on Facebook, have you "Liked" Women of the ELCA? Or Twitter? Or the blog Daily Grace? Or for a wealth of information, check out:

[www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)