

Women of the ELCA had a great Gathering in Minneapolis MN over 3000 women from every state and territory. We met in convention and voted on issues important to women and girls around the world. Then gathered for worship, fun, fellowship, and learning experiences. In September the women of AR/OK held our convention. We affirmed our mission, conducted business, had bible study lead by pastor Liz Alderson (she did a great job). The women of United Lutheran in Bella Vista hosted a great convention did a skit on Katie and Luther that had everyone laughing until we cried! It was written by Louise Wobig.

Some of the issues that are important to our women are human trafficking, helping young adult women transition to adulthood (via Saving Grace NWA) young women in the third world countries with different sewing projects, in addition to quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

We are planning a trip to Tanzania in 2019 for about 6 to 8 women, meeting with and learning from the women's group there. If any women would like to join us in planning and going on this trip please contact me or the synod office.

We also have Spring Gatherings around the synod. This year the gatherings will be held at Resurrection in Yukon, United in Bella Vista AR Hope Lutheran in Heber Springs AR and Joy Lutheran in Tulsa with a theme of Wings of Wisdom. I will have the privilege of attending 3 Spring Gatherings, although the theme is the same each will be different and always interesting to see how each group presents the theme.

This year our convention will be in Yukon at Resurrection bible verse will be Colossians 3:14 and above all things clothe yourself with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. Hope to see many women there September 28 to 30th.

Penny Budzien

President of the Women of The ELCA