



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

Fall Gathering Newsletter 2023

Views from the Rockies

► *Fall Gathering Schedule.....p. 3*

RMSWO President’s Corner

Have you registered for the Fall Gathering in Colorado Springs on October 6-7 at the First Lutheran Church-Peel House on 1515 N. Cascade? I hope you will read everything and then register for this event. It will be wonderful to see all our sisters in Christ together again. We have a full agenda with Bishop Gonia leading us in opening worship on Friday night. Come learn, share, meditate, hug and sing with your sisters.

I am off to Phoenix tomorrow and am so excited to represent the RMSWO at the Triennial Convention and stay for the Gathering. I wish more of you were coming as well but

will share in the next newsletter some of my highlights from both and from others who are also attending from the Rocky Mountain. Keep us in your prayers as we focus on the work of the organization Tuesday through Thursday and then on the many things that we can learn during the Gathering.

Pray for your RMSWO Board! We are always in need of your support, new ideas, new projects, a new focus to help in some way. Stay in touch because we listen! God is with us, let us all walk in His way!

Peace and Love,
 Anna

In this Issue

RMSWO President’s Corner.....	1
Family Promise, Colorado Springs: Ralph Patrick & Cindy Weaver	2
Fall Gathering Schedule.....	3
Vicki Profitt: Sarah’s Home & Daniel Academy.....	4
Pastor Stephani Shumaker	4
Susan Bolduc	5
Pastor Kelsey Fauser.....	5
Bishop Jim Gonia and Rocky Mountain Synod Map	6
RMSWO Gathering Registration	7
Elder Boxes.....	8
RMSWO Board.....	9
Views Information	10

Ralph Patrick & Cindy Weaver

Family Promise, Colorado Springs

Ralph Patrick, Executive Director, Family Promise of Colorado Springs



Ralph comes to Family Promise with a broad background in social services and pastoral ministry. He has worked in the inner city of Chicago, and Del Rio, TX., and served as a senior pastor in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and Ft. Collins, CO. He also spent three years as an evangelistic missionary in the Enga Province of Papua New Guinea. Most recently Ralph worked as a Regional Director and Director of Community Engagement in the Colorado chapter of The Alzheimer's Association. He has a B.A., Concordia University, St. Paul; M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne; M. Theol. Glasgow University. Ralph has been trained as both a spiritual director and life coach. He has made numerous humanitarian trips to Sierra Leone, Africa; Haiti, and most recently Battambang, Cambodia. Ralph is passionate about making an impact with those who are

marginalized in society and is pleased to be a part of the exciting work being undertaken at Family Promise.

Cindy Weaver, Volunteer Manager, Family Promise of Colorado Springs

Cindy started at Family Promise as Executive Administrative Assistant in March of 2021. Cindy's experience as



a church administrator and assistant director of a cosmetology school prepared her to help carry the Family Promise organization through the past two years. Her passion for connecting with the Volunteer Coordinators of our network of faith-communities that provide shelter to our families led to her moving into the Volunteer Manager position in October of 2022. Cindy loves her role of equipping and encouraging congregation and community volunteers to provide support to families as they work to achieve housing stability.



FALL GATHERING SCHEDULE

Friday Night 4:30-5:30 pm On-site registration-Light Appetizers

5:30-5:40 pm - Welcome – Anna Thompson

5:45-6:10 pm - Family Promise – Cindy Weaver/Ralph Patrick

6:10-6:15 pm – BREAK

6:15-7:15 pm – EVENING WORSHIP

7:15-7:30 pm – BREAK

7:30-8:15 pm - Bible Study – Pastor Kelsey Fauser

8:15 pm Closing prayer

Lord our God, your young Son Jesus was eager to amaze the elders in the Temple with what he had learned. I thank you for that model of joyful learning and ask that you kindle the same spark of joy in all our hearts. Amen.

Saturday Morning	8:00-9:00 am	On-site Registration
	8:30-9:00 am	Chair yoga – Maren Felde
	8:30-9:00 am	Singing
	9:00-10:00 am	Bible Study – Pastor Stephanie Shumaker
	10:00-10:15 am	BREAK
	10:15-11:30 am	Financial Workshop with Tina Kvitek
	11:30-11:45 am	BREAK
	11:45-1:00 pm	LUNCH

Saturday Afternoon	1:00-2:00 pm	Assemble Elder Boxes for One Nation Walking
	2:00-2:10 pm	BREAK
	2:10 -3:10 pm	Speaker - Vicki Proffit – Sarah’s Home/Daniel Academy
	3:10- 4:10 pm	Guided Meditation – Debra Haar
	4:10-4:15 pm	BREAK
	4:15- 5:15 pm	Beyond Charity – Susan Bolduc
	5:15-5:30 pm	BREAK
	5:30-6:30 pm	DINNER – Drawing for quilts
	6:30-7:30 pm	Bold Café -The spirituality of tension – Anna Thompson
	7:30-7:45 pm	Closing & Invitation to Fall Convention 2024

Vicki Profitt: Sarah's Home & Daniel Academy



Born into a Christian home, my parents were pastors then church planters, teachers and missionaries to the Philippine Islands. My husband and I pastored for 25 years. We have three biological children, two ad-

opted children, eleven grandchildren and two great-grandchild.

God placed a passion for young women and children into my heart as a young woman. In 2003 I became the founder and director of Teen Challenge House of Promise on the western slope of Colorado, a residential program for broken women and their children. In February of 2015 I was appointed the executive director of Sarah's Home, a residential program for rescued sex trafficked teen girls.

The desire of my heart is to love the Lord, my God, with all of my heart, soul and mind and my neighbor as myself.

Pastor Stephani Shumaker



Stephanie is the Associate Pastor at Atonement Lutheran Church in Boulder, CO. She was installed on May 17, 2022. She is a graduate of the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Before Atonement, Pastor Stephani worked

Vicki Profitt is the Executive Director for both SARAH'S HOME and DANIEL ACADEMY. In 2018, Vicki Profitt began hearing about the staggering numbers surrounding how many boys are being trafficked in the United States. It was at this time that God began laying it on her heart to open a home for boys. In 2020, she was approached by owners of an 1,800-acre ranch where the owners had unsuccessfully tried to open a home for boys coming out of sex trafficking. They had heard about Sarah's Home and reached out to see if she could help them. They joined forces and developed Daniel Academy which was inspired by Daniel in the Bible.



They are a Christ-centered residential program for sex trafficked adolescent girls and boys with Aspire Academy as the accredited school. She works with the staff and volunteers in the program asking for prayers for young people to listen to the voice of God on their behalf; and for every part of their being to be healed and restored to the person God created them to be. Profitt will share the stories and tell us how we can assist in this ministry.

as a pediatric chaplain resident at the Children's Hospital of San Antonio, TX. Stephani is a native of San Antonio and has a BS in Public Health from Schreiner University. In 2019 Stephani was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant into the United States Air Force as a Chaplain Candidate. In her ministry, she is passionate about fostering meaningful experiences for people of all generations in worship, service, action, and community.

Pastor Stephani is mom to a 2-year-old dog Pico De Gallo and enjoys spending time outside, exercising, riding horses, baking, and knitting.

Susan Bolduc

Susan is a member of the First Lutheran Church and has volunteered in faith-based advocacy for more than 25 years. She believes our call to love our neighbor requires both charity and civic engagement.



Susan has served as a member and president of our Rocky Mountain Synod's Advocacy Policy Committee and has led congregational and community social justice groups. She facilitates adult studies on ELCA Social Statements.

Currently, she is a member of The Colorado Springs Faith Table, advocating for affordable housing. She has testified at the State Capitol, The Colorado Springs City Council, Town Halls, and

the Planning Commission. She is a member of Together Colorado, a statewide multi-faith, multi-racial Faith in Action organization. This group works on human dignity issues, such as housing, economic and racial justice, environment, immigration, health care, and transforming the justice system.

Previously, she worked on global and domestic hunger through Bread for the World. Susan worked on a subcommittee of The Millennium Development Goals, where she lobbied for the Jubilee Act to forgive the oppressive debt of the world's poorest countries.

In her working years, she was a stockbroker for Morgan Stanley, a financial advisor, a human resource manager for large corporations, and a cost engineer for power plant projects.

She is most proud of being a mother and grandmother. She has ten grandchildren, including a set of quintuplets.

Pastor Kelsey Fauser



Before serving as Pastor to Grace, Pastor Kelsey was a seminarian at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago just praying to not only make eye contact with a dog daily but also to earn her MDiv (Master of Divinity) degree.

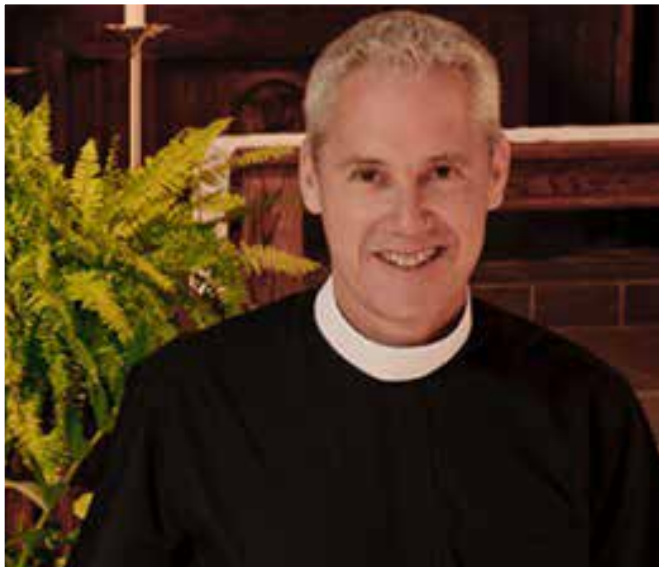
She completed the masters part in May 2021 where she completed an almost year-long internship with Bratislava International Church in Bratislava, Slovakia before the Covid Pandemic made her come back stateside to finish out her internship with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Longmont, CO. Pastor Kelsey studies guided her in many realms of her ministry like

a summer-long unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Brigham and Women's in Boston, MA, a special emphasis on Global work, Pastoral Care, and LGBT+ Inclusion, as well as currently being in the Chaplain Candidate Program for the United States Navy. Pastor Kelsey is still struggling to answer the hard-hitting question of "how can you be in the Navy when there are no oceans in Colorado?". She was ordained at her home congregation in Glenwood Springs, CO on September 16, 2021.

Being born and raised in Colorado, Pastor Kelsey enjoys all things outdoors like skiing, hiking, dog watching, Stand-Up-Paddling, dog petting, and biking. With two older brothers, Pastor Kelsey is an avid sports fan and enjoys playing soccer on a local Springs team. In her free time, she enjoys snuggling up with her cat, Higbee, reading and watching the latest hit show.

Pastor Kelsey is still striving and praying to make eye contact with a dog daily.

Bishop Jim Gonia



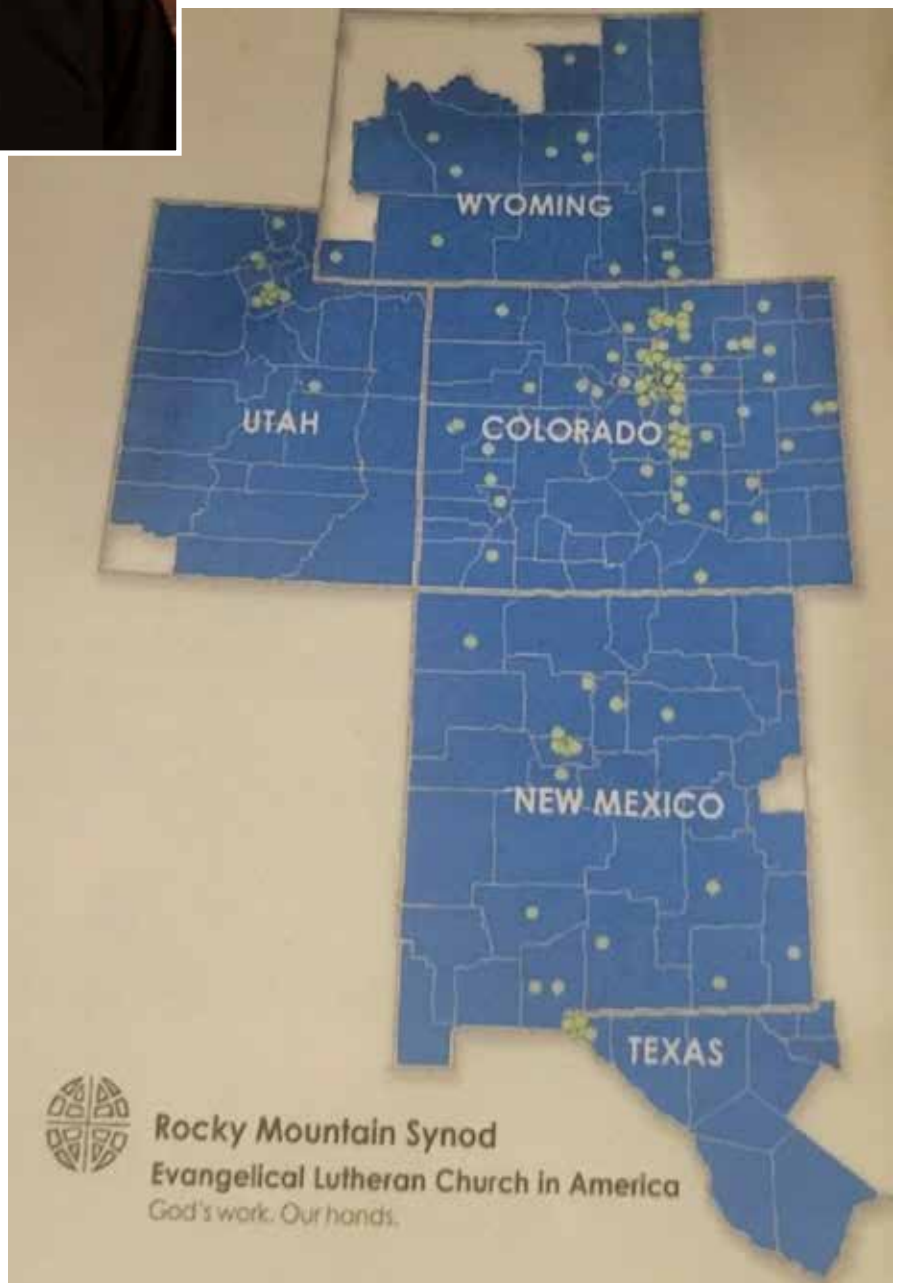
Divinity degree from Luther Northwestern Seminary (now Luther Seminary) in 1988; and a Master of Theology degree in Islamic studies at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., in 1997.

His wife, Kim, is an ordained pastor in the ELCA serving Risen Lord Lutheran Church in Conifer, Colorado. They have three children, all graduates of Lutheran universities: Caroline, Mallory, and Peter.

Bishop Jim Gonia was elected to a six-year term on April 28, 2012, at the Rocky Mountain Synod's annual assembly in Colorado Springs, Colo. He was installed on September 23, 2012.

He served as a missionary in Madagascar from 1988 to 1998. From 1998 to 2009 he was called as the associate pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church in Denver. Prior to his election as bishop, he served the ELCA's churchwide ministries as Global Mission Area Program Director for West Africa, Tanzania and Madagascar. In this position Bishop Gonia was responsible for overseeing the ELCA's programs and relationships with Lutheran church bodies and partners in nine African countries.

Bishop Gonia received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind., in 1982; a Master of



REGISTRATION FORM—RMSWO FALL GATHERING

Date: October 6-8, 2023

Where: First Lutheran-Peel House, 1515 N. Cascade, Colorado Springs, Colorado,

Theme: Walking Together in God’s Way

Bible verse: Joshua 22:5 “Take good care to observe the commandment and instruction that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”

Registrar: Deb Haar, 6555 Weeping Willow Dr., Colorado Springs, CO 80925

Registration Fee: \$50 (Covers meals: Friday night- snack, Saturday- Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner)

For lodging: Google Hotels on Fillmore Ave or Uintah Ave Exits in Colorado Springs.

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Send Registration Form and checks payable to RMSWO to:

Deb Haar, 6555 Weeping Willow Dr., Colorado Springs, CO. 80925 **No Later Than September 29, 2023.**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Congregation: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Age Range: 20-30yrs 31-40 yrs 41-55 yrs 56-65 yrs 66+ yrs

Dietary restrictions: Gluten Free Diabetic _____ Other

Is this your first time attending? Yes No



ELDER BOXES 2023

This is a shoebox filled with a variety of useful items. Your gift may be wrapped or unwrapped in Christmas paper. Label the top of the box for a man or woman. Please keep the contents to \$20.00 to \$25.00 total, so that each gift is equal in value. This ensures that each recipient receives the same value gift. Below is a list of suggested items:

Shampoo/conditioner	Hat, gloves
Notepad, note cards, pen.	Tissues
Soap	Tweezers
Wet wipes	Playing cards
Comb/brush	Washcloth
Toothbrush and toothpaste	Band-Aids
Coffee mug	Warm socks
Pocket knife	Antiseptic ointment
Sewing kit	Flashlight & batteries

If you would like your gift to feel more personal and special, please feel free to add items such as a gift card, stamps, handkerchief, lip balm, nail clippers/nail file, deodorant, hand or body lotion, etc. Your gift will bring a smile and warm the heart of a Native American Elder.

Thank you for the joy you will bring to a Native elder this Christmas!

2022-2024 Rocky Mountain Synodical Women's Organization Board

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Newsletter design/layout by Mary Lauck



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/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 RMSWO 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/women

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

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SYNOD

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