

# SNOW Newsletter

## Special points of interest:

- Fall Cluster Gathering 2018 Reports
- Spring Cluster Gathering Schedule
- Scholarships
- Convention Physical Offering
- Pocket Prayer Squares for Synod Assembly

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## From the Desk of the President

Dear Sisters:

It is hard to believe that this is my final year as President of the NW MN SWO. It has been a joy having all of you walk this journey with me.

Our convention will be held at Luther Crest Bible Camp, near Alexandria. Our convention will have a different look, it will be a 2 day convention for all to attend. Some

of this change is based on responses from the evaluations forms from previous conventions. We will be breaking up our business sessions and will have our Keynote Speaker on Friday. On Saturday, you will be able to attend 2 break-out sessions. We are bringing back Root Beer and Hymns on Friday evening. We are still working through many of the details and timing for the convention. Stay tuned! At this convention, we will be electing 8 voting members to attend the Triennial convention which will be in July of 2020 and held in Phoenix, AZ. We will be electing a woman of color or English is a second language, at least 2 ladies who have never attended a convention and the balance can be those who have attended a previous convention as a voting member, or someone who has never attended a convention. We will also be electing a President, Treasurer, 3 Board Members and 3 to be on the Nominating Committee. The nomination forms for all of these positions can be found in the first mailing. Please prayerfully consider having your unit send in your nomination form.

Another "ask" of our ladies. We are in need of 650 prayer squares, which will be used at the Synod Assembly during the election of our new Bishop. They just need to be 6" x 6" either crocheted or knitted, any pattern, any color. Please see the flyer for more information.

Thank you for all you, and the women of your congregation do for the Women of the ELCA

Peace,

Sue Ellwanger  
NW MN SWO President



## Conference 1 Fall Gathering

The Conference 1 Fall Gathering was held October 6, 2018 in Warroad at the beautiful new Zion Lutheran Church. First Lutheran ladies of Salol provided coffee and muffins during registration.

The theme was "Passing on the Faith". We were welcomed by WELCA president Julie Jones and led into singing the hymn 'Faith of Our Fathers'. The guest speakers, Dave and Gloria Anderson from Milestone Ministries, continued the theme by showing us how to read the Bible to make it come alive (Lectio Divina) and discovering ways to speak the faith out loud (any time and any place!). They also spoke on understanding 'Four Faith Practices': caring conversations, devotions, service, and rituals & traditions.

Special (trumpet) music was provided by Jeff and Shelley Galle while offering was collected. A Jan Wollin special memorial offering was also collected and the amount will be matched by the synod for "The Next Generation Fund". This fund assists first call pastors and deacons with their educational debts.

The business meeting was led by Chair Carolyn Eeg with secretary and treasurer notes provided and approved. Roll call was answered by naming the Bible study lessons they were using in their groups. Total number attending was 49. The terms of Chair and Recorder are up for election, but there were no candidates

found, so the search will continue. Carolyn also updated everyone regarding upcoming dates, forms to complete, and the need for communication. Synod board representative Sue Smith shared information from the Annual Convention held September 14-15 and that the 2019 Convention will be September 20-21 at Luther Crest Bible Camp.

Pastor Mary Gilthvedt closed the gathering with a prayer and led the singing of the table grace. A delicious lunch was served while we enjoyed the fellowship of those present. There were also drawings for door prizes.

Conference 1 Recorder, Karen Hanson



Nelly poppins

## In 2019, study the Bible with Gather magazine



Start 2019 off right with *Gather's* four-session (January through April) Bible study, "The Gospel of John: Meetings with Jesus," written by the Rev. Julie A. Kanarr. Kanarr, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church in Belfair, Washington, helps us understand Jesus' message through his interactions with the people we meet in John's Gospel. Together we'll explore the way Jesus engages people in honest, sometimes difficult conversations that lead to faith, renewal and transformation. The four sessions are:

1. Come and see: Seeking and finding faith (John 1–2)
2. By night and day: Coming to faith in Jesus (John 3–6)
3. Friends for life in Christ (John 8–9; 11–13; 17)
4. Seeing the risen Christ (John 20–12)

Learn more about *Gather's* Winter 2019 Bible study and other studies at [gathermagazine.org/bible-study](http://gathermagazine.org/bible-study).

Visit [gathermagazine.org/subscribe](http://gathermagazine.org/subscribe) to order today!

## Conference 2 Fall Gathering



**Linda Kaushagen, Gelene Lundeen, Janet Lian**

Conference Two held its Fall Gathering, Saturday, October 6, 2018 at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls,. Theme for the day was "I Love to Tell the Story." Theme verse "And he said to them, go throughout the world and preach the gospel to all people." Mark 16:15. Zion Lutheran ladies served morning coffee and treats. We opened the program with the hymn "I Love to Tell the Story." Accompanist for the day was Reid Froiland and song leaders were Chris and Terri Cuppett.

Conference Two Coordinator, Judy Scramstad, welcomed the group and we read the "Purpose Statement." Host welcome by Jan Anderson, Redeemer Lutheran. Devotions were given by Pastor Darrell Cory. He also used the hymn "We've a Story to Tell to the Nations as part of his devotions.

Special music, with several selections was provided by the youth of Redeemer's Sing and Ring Bell Choir directed by Suzanne Browning." Chris and Terri Cuppett also favored us with several selections. Briana Ingraham was our guest speaker. Coming to us from outside Baltimore, Maryland. She now calls Red Lake Falls her home and she told us her story.

A presentation will be given by LaVonne Forsberg, local artist. She told us about the stain glass windows she designed at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Greetings and information were extended by Marilyn Grandstrand, SWO Board Representative. Offering Meditation by Linda Kaushagen, Conference Financial Reporter and roll call by Marjorie Iverson, Conference Two Recorder with 87 attending and 19 churches represented.

Marilyn Grandstrand thanked the outgoing officers, Judy Scramstad and Marjorie Iverson and installed Janet Lian as coordinator, Gelene Lundeen as recorder and Linda Kaushagen, financial reporter. After closing comments, the Lord's Prayer was said, table grace was sung, with a delicious noon luncheon served by the women of Redeemer Lutheran.

Marjorie Iverson, Conference Two Reporter



## Conference 4 Fall Gathering

Our Conference 4 Fall Gathering met on Saturday October 6, 2019 at Bethany Lutheran Church at Nevis, MN. The theme was "In God's Hands" Psalm 138:7. "Though I walk in the midst of strangers. You guide my life. When my enemies rage, You stretch out your hand, Your right hand saves me." We were welcomed by Barb Durham of Bethany. Greetings by Betty Wignes, Conference 4 coordinator. Everyone read the WELCA purpose statement. "Here in This Place" was sung. Devotions by Pastor Carleton Smee. "If we're Honest" was sung by a trio. "Precious Lord take my hand" was sung. Robyn and Jenny shared their testimonies as how God has showed His power and love in their lives. Robyn was dealing with family issues and felt God had left her high and dry. She was angry and let God know. Later, a young man, a stranger, approached her and shared what God had put in his heart to tell her. His words were, "God got you back, Robyn, He is listening. He hears you and He loves you" Those words changed her life, her family and her relationship with God.

Jenny shared a story of turning away from her God, her family and turning to drugs. It took family interventions, treatment and support from her friends, family and her church to help her return to

God. Even after she kicked her habits, life did not go smoothly. A failed marriage, due to abuse and mental illness, has not squelched her spirit. She is an inspiration to her daughter, young son, the rest of the family, friends and her congregation. We were blessed to have them share their stories. To remind us that God holds us in his hands always and forever.

Business was called to order. Roll call was given. 40 attended from 9 churches. Recorders report was given. Treasurers report was given by Gladys Luecken. General Business; Betty Wignes and Ardella Lindberg resigned from being Coordinator and recorder. Bonnie Underdahl offered to be recorder.

We had offering. Sending Hymn was "Rest in His Love and Abide" We prayed the Lords Prayer and sang the Table Grace.

We were served a delicious lunch.

Thank You to the Women of Bethany and First Lutheran—Heartland Parish for hosting the Gathering.

Thanks to Beth, Carol, Jenny and Julie for sharing their gift of music, and for serving a delicious lunch and providing so many nice door prizes.

Ardella Lindberg , Recorder.



## Conference 5 Fall Gathering

The WELCA Conference 5 Fall Gathering was held at the Dilworth Lutheran Church on Saturday morning, October 13, 2018. Registration started at 8:30 and beverages were served with fresh cinnamon bread.

Carol Johnson, Conference Coordinator, opened the business meeting at 9:00 with greetings and prayer. All sang "Holy, Holy, Holy" and Carol read the theme verse from Exodus 15:21.

The roll call was taken for the 34 member churches; 18 churches were represented. 76 women attended.

Synodical Board representative Joan Westlake from Detroit Lakes extended greetings from the board. She reported on the Sept. 14-15 SWO meeting. 46 voting members attended the

business meeting. 170 women enjoyed the activities and speakers with the conference theme "Hospitality". It was an excellent event.

Recorder and Financial Recorder reports were distributed and both were approved by motions, seconded, and carried. Carol announced coming events happening in our local churches.

Discussion was held on election of officers. There was no nominating committee. Nominations were taken from the floor. Laurie Anderson from Bethesda in Moorhead was nominated for recorder. Rebecca Olson from Trinity in Moorhead was nominated for coordi-

nator. Carol Johnson also ran for re-election for coordinator. Motion was made to proceed with the election. It was seconded and carried. Ballots were distributed for voting.

74 ballots were collected. Laurie was elected as recorder and Rebecca was elected as coordinator. Installation will be held next spring.

Offering was taken for Conference 5 of the NW MN Synodical Women's Organization. Donations could be made at the lunch tables for local Habitat housing.

The business meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Welcome was extended by Paula Johnson and prayer was led by Pastor Elizabeth Hiller. A wonderful lunch was served by the Dilworth women. Jean Hanson provided special music. Tim Hiller was the speaker and his topic was "Working and Worshiping".

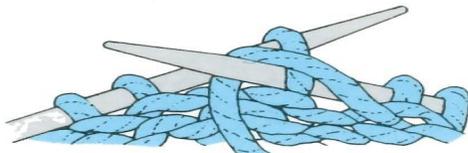
Thank you to Dilworth Lutheran for their hospitality. Thank you to all the wonderful helpers for their time and effort in making this time together possible.

Loree Hanson

Sandra Marr, co-recorders



## Pocket Prayer Squares for Churchwide Assembly



There has been a request for all women of the Northwest Minnesota Synod who are able, to help make pocket prayer shawls to be used at the Synod Assembly, which will be held June 7-9, 2019 at Concordia College, Moorhead.

These can be either knitted or crocheted. The dimensions are to be 6 inches by 6 inches. You can use any type of yarn, color, and stitch. We will need a total of 650 by the beginning of June.

This is a great way to use up some of your leftover yarn!

When you are done making your squares, please bring them with you to your Conference Spring Gathering, or you can mail them to:

Sue Ellwanger  
13604 625th Ave.  
Eagle Bend, MN 56446

## Conference 6 Fall Gathering

Theme: "God is the Potter, We are they Clay"

Hosted by: Faith Lutheran Church, Staples, Balsamlund Lutheran, Aldrich, and St. Peter's Lutheran New York Mills.

Members and guests present: 55

Nancy Johnson welcomed everyone to the gathering. Cheryl Koll gave the devotion. We had a hymn sing lead by Jeff Iverson and a brass ensemble.

Pastor Carl Larson gave the Bible study on Jeremiah 18:1-12, The Potters Hands. He talked about how important the potter was in ancient times and how everyone knew where the potter was located because his pottery was so important for daily use. Potter means formed, fashioned, shaped, and created from a mold. We are all shaped by God and formed into a mold.

Communion was served with the communion ware that Ren Fuglestad made for Faith Lutheran.

Ren Fuglestad gave a program on "He Didn't Throw the Clay Away" Ren is a potter and shares his story through his pottery. To begin to form a pot from clay the clay is centered on the wheel as we need to be centered in Christ, it needs a firm foundation, our foundation is the Bible. The well of the pot needs pressure to form the sides, as we have pressures of the world. Some of the pots can't take the pressure and don't come out perfect, but you don't throw the clay away, you rework it, reform it. That is what grace is about. Jesus came and died for us and

works with us just as a potter works with clay. A potter has a plan, just as God has a plan for us we need to respond to God as the clay responds to the potter. We look on the outside appearance; the Lord looks on the inside. Let God work with the plan He has for you. Keep your life centered on Christ.

Mary Ann Peterson gave a SWO report on the convention held, September 14, & 15, 2018 at Trinity Lutheran in Detroit Lakes. The 32nd Northwest MN Synodical Women's convention will be September 20 & 21, 2019 at Luther Crest Bible Camp, Alexandria. The new officers were installed; they are co-chair Terri Olson & Daria Anderson from Calvary Lutheran in Perham, Recorder Marilyn Tinjum, from First Lutheran Detroit Lakes, Treasurer, Ardys Horner, First Lutheran Detroit Lakes.

A baked potato bar lunch was served by the Women of Faith Lutheran.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Ross



## Conference 7 Fall Gathering

Psalm 100: 1-2, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. The Conference 7 Gathering was held on October 27th, 2018 at Sverdrup Lutheran Church in Underwood, MN. During registration coffee and muffins brought by the women of Good Shepherd Lutheran (Henning), Vining Lutheran and Nadaros Lutheran (Clitherall) were served.

The Conference was opened with a Welcome by Karen Thompson, Sverdrup WELCA President and the singing of "Sing to the Lord of Harvest" accompanied by Nita Schultz. Devotions were given by Pastor Zinta Sundby.

Cindy Wallace, Conference 7 Coordinator, called the meeting to order. The Purpose Statement was recited, Roll Call taken, Spring Gathering Minutes and Spring Financial Reports were accepted as printed.

Jon Olson, Lutheran Campus Ministry, reported on events going on at the Moorhead Campus. Lois Balko, Synod Representative, presented the highlights of the Synod Convention held on September 14th - 15th at Trinity Lutheran in Detroit Lakes.

The election of officers were held with Lorene (Rene) Hasbargen, from Breckenridge Lutheran, being elected as Conference 7 Coordinator and Tereasa Link, from Sverdrup Lutheran, being elected as Conference 7 Recorder. Lois Balko installed the new officers.

Christine introduced the Band of Faith. We were entertained with music by the band, led by Michael Nettetstad. The Band of Faith is a group of musicians that is centered in Pelican Rapids, with members coming from different locations. The program was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Vicki Severson and Jenna Thompson sang during the taking of the offering. "We Give Thee but Thine Own" and the "Lord's Prayer" were sung. Pastor Zinta Sundby gave the Benediction. The meeting was closed with "Be Present at Our Table Lord" and lunch was served, followed by fellowship.



## Physical Offering for Convention

### Physical Offering Benefitting: Churches United for the Homeless and Public Health Family Home Visiting

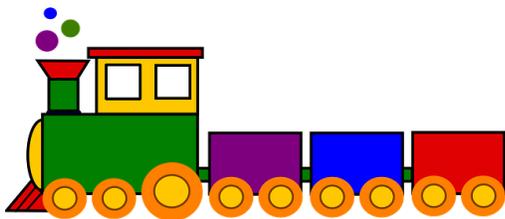


#### Baby/Toddler Items

- Diapers of all sizes
- Diaper Wipes
- Powdered Formula
- Cotton balls
- Baby lotion
- Baby bath soap (liquid)
- Baby shampoo
- Skincare ointments
- Baby nail clippers
- Baby-sized comb and soft baby brush.
- Books, blocks, small toys

#### Mom Items

- Feminine Hygiene products
- Travel Sized:
- Shampoo/ conditioner
- Deodorant
- Hand/body lotion
- Soap (bar or liquid)
- Tooth brush
- Tooth paste
- Mouthwash
- Floss
- Brush



*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you did for me.'*  
Matthew 25:40

## 2019 Spring Conference Gathering Schedule

Conference 1

Conference 2    April 27            First Lutheran, Middle River, 8:30AM

Conference 3    April 13                Maple Lake Lutheran, Fertile, 9:15AM

Conference 4

Conference 5

Conference 6    May 4                    Lake Park Lutheran, Lake Park, 9:00AM

Conference 7    April 29,                Zion Lutheran, Amor, 4:30PM

Conference 8

*Check out our website for updates at [www.nwmnsynod.org](http://www.nwmnsynod.org)*



### RISE UP



### CAMPAIGN

**THANK YOU** for your support of our Rising Up Campaign. \$70,000 was received in response to our campaign. More information coming soon!  
David Holtz

## BOLD WOMEN'S SUNDAY

Celebrate the bold women in your life.

Sunday, February 24

Women <sup>of the</sup> **ELCA**

Visit [welca.org/bwd](http://welca.org/bwd) for ideas for observing in your congregation.



### Calling all High School Graduates!

**Due April 1, 2019**

If you are planning on attending an ELCA College, we have **SCHOLARSHIPS** available! Check our website [www.nwmnsynod.org](http://www.nwmnsynod.org) for more information or contact Lois Balko at 218-329-8320, email at [lkberno@gmail.com](mailto:lkberno@gmail.com)

### What Does Our Logo Mean?



Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).



Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA

NW MN SNOW Newsletter  
Lois Bylund, Editor  
1911 19th Street S  
Moorhead, MN 56560

Cell: 701-261-3481  
E-mail: snoweditor@gmail.com

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# Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA

**NW MN SWO Convention—September 20 & 21, 2019**

Loving  
the  
Least  
of  
These

**32nd Annual Convention  
Northwest MN  
Synodical Women's  
Organization**

**Luther Crest Bible Camp  
Alexandria, MN**

*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40*