

SNOW Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Mary Magdalene Awards
- Convention Highlights
- Thankofferings
- A Message from The President
- Upcoming Events
- Katie's Fund—New Campaign

34th Annual Convention Highlights



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Mary Magdalene Awards



Sue Aalgaard, First Lutheran Bemidji; Jean Benson, First Lutheran, Detroit Lakes;
Not pictured: Yuvonne Anderson, Esther Lutheran, Parkers Prairie

John tells us that after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared first to Mar Magdalene and instructed her to "GO TO MY BROTHERS AND TELL THEM" (John 20:17). In response, Mary Magdalene went to the Disciples with the news, "I HAVE SEEN THE LORD!" And she told them that He had said these things to her. (John 20:18)

At our 32nd annual convention we honored women from our conferences with our Mary Magdalene Awards. These special and treasured women were given a rose, a certificate, and a monetary donation to a charity of their choice that is associated with the Women of the ELCA.

Award recipients are as follows:

Jean Benson, First Lutheran —Detroit Lakes

Charity: Lutheran World Relief

Yuvonne Anderson, Esther Lutheran– Parkers Prairie

Charity: Lutheran World Relief

Sue Aalgaard:, First Lutheran – Bemidji

Charity: Lutheran Campus Ministry

Cathy Schroeder: Christ the King—Moorhead

Charity: Pathways



Our Mission

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Our Purpose

As community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.



Congratulations to our First Timers Grant Recipients:

Beth Fabian, Faith Lutheran, Staples and
Karen Olson, Zion Lutheran, Twin Valley



Keynote Speaker



Love Without Limits

Morning presentation

- Your story matters—tell it.
- You can make a difference
- Human love is tiny, god's love is titanic
- Hope is a GPS—if yours isn't working borrow mine
- Most people totally misunderstand power. We need to empower others
- Understanding someone's ideas and agreement with their ideas are NOT the same.
- When you can not stand on your own, depend on your friends
- Use your VOICE
- Love wins Always

She told her grief story and many women who attended, shared theirs.



Human Trafficking



My name is Pastor Al Erickson, Director of Adults Saving Kids. In 1990 we started working with Women of the ELCA on the issue of human trafficking. We are now supplying ways to help youth fend off child molesters, drug dealers, Internet pornographers, domestic violators, bullies and others seeking to take advantage of them. There is still work to be done, but we believe our congregations can be stronger and our kids safer if they take on the two things we have prepared. One is a curriculum, training parents and grandparents to pass on the faith to their offspring as the Bible mandates family leaders to do. The book of Proverbs has parents showing their children how to be wise, not foolish; prudent, not simple-minded. We have materials to help parents and grandparents learn how they can equip their offspring with good tools and wise skills. We also can help a congregation set up a Prayer Project Lifesaver, where every member of a congregation will be prayed for every day by other members who have volunteered to do so. I invite you to look at partnering with us for such strengthening things to happen in your congregation. Let's save our kids and families from harm and anguish. Check out our websites: adultssavingkids.org and parentsarise.org.

I would like to thank each board member of Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization for your service and support.

Churchwide Representative: Diane Henning

“Saying YES is easier because God is giving us many opportunities to serve Him.”



Incoming & Outgoing Board Members



Worship, Bible Study, Breakout Sessions and More



Congregational (Unit) Information

When new officers are elected in your congregation, we need to know. Please fill out the Congregational Unit Information sheet and either mail, or email it to the SWO secretary. We need the updated names and contact info in order to keep everyone up to date of things you need to know. The form can be found on this website:

www.nwmnsynod.org/assets/Congregational-Information-Form.pdf

You may print it out and send it to the secretary, or use the form to fill out the information in an email to the secretary:

Ardys Horner:
14144 E Fox Lake Rd
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
ardyshorn@arvig.net

For newly elected Conference Leaders, the form you will use is labeled Conference Officers and it is found at:

www.nwmnsynod.org/assets/Conference-Officers-Form.pdf

NW MN Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA 2022—2023 Officers and Board Members

President (2 Yr.)

Marilyn Grandstrand

Vice President (1

Yr.)

Diane Nord

Secretary (1 Yr.)

Ardys Horner

Treasurer (2 Yr.)

Terry Piphon

Board Members

Arlene Teigen (2 Yr.)

Nola Smith (2 Yr.)

Julie Jones (2 Yr.)

Carol Gealow (1 Yr.)

Diane Teigland (1 Yr.)

Maggie Stewart (1 Yr.)

Nominating Committee:

Renee Harsbargen

Geri Nynas

Carol Balk

2023 Triennial Voting Members: Ardys Horner, Terry Piphon, Nola Smith, Lois Balko, Arlen Teigen, Sue Ellwanger and Julie Jones.

Leading the Delegation: Marilyn Grandstrand, President

Thank you! 

Convention Offerings

\$3,486.00

50% Churchwide

25% MN Veterans Home,

Fergus Falls

25% Katies Fund



Thank You, LORD!

In-Kind Gifts

\$1,200.00 in Gift Cards to be given to Someplace Safe.

Someplace Safe works to create safer communities in West Central Minnesota by providing high quality crime victim services.

CHI St. Francis—works with homeless youth and Salvation Army



Winter SNOW Edition
Deadline for Articles will be
January 30th—Conference
Recorders, please send
minutes and photos for publi-
cation. Also any Conference
Spring Gathering dates and
information will also be pub-
lished in the Winter Edition
snoweditor@gmail.com

A Message from the President



Dear Sister's In Christ,

Greetings from your Synodical Women's Organization's officers and board!

Thank you so much for attending the annual convention in September. We now have a full board to serve you. Thank you to these women who said "yes" to leadership on the synodical board. I personally want to thank you for your confidence in my leadership as you re-elected me as your president.

Fall Gatherings are happening now! They will be happening thru October. The gatherings I have attended have been very informative. Thank you to the congregations and conference leaders for planning them. Please send me the list of your new officers when your gathering is completed (mgrand1000@ymail.com or PO Box 412, Karlstad MN 56732). This list enables the board an avenue to distribute information to you, the Women of the ELCA. It is very important that you inform women in our congregations that they do not need to have an active WELCA group to participate in our conference or synodical women's activities. Any women who is a member of an ELCA church is welcome to all of our activities. In fact, we welcome all women! Please spread the word!

I am happy to announce that Zion Lutheran in Thief River Falls has agreed to host our convention in 2023. We have not set the date at this time. The convention will be hosted by Conferences 1, 2, & 3. At the 2022 convention it was voted that we have a one-day convention on a Saturday for 2023. This was due to the triennial convention being held the dates we would normally meet for our convention.

Thank you for all you do for the Women of the ELCA!

God's Blessing,

Marilyn

Marilyn Grandstrand
NWMN SWO President
763-258-9217

Mgrand1000@ymail.com



ThankOfferings

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thankofferings.

The founders of Women of the ELCA decided back in 1988 that Thankofferings are to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Our founders would be amazed to see what that covers these days! Our ongoing ministries include our many online and printed communications channels, including the website, our justice and advocacy work, training and development for elected leaders throughout the women's organization, our constant work in support of congregational and synodical women's organizations, the administration of our grants and scholarship programs, all that goes into our triennial convention (the business meeting, that is), and so much more.

How Thankofferings work—Many women set aside small amounts at home throughout the year and then bring together their gifts with those of the other women in their circles or local groups at the end of the year. Others organize a Thankoffering service with the whole congregation, celebrating the ministries of women in a bold, exciting way. It's all up to you. An annual service with your circle or your congregation is only one way to take part in this age-old practice among women of faith. Just as we're grateful more than once a year, we can make Thankofferings any time the spirit moves us.

Individuals and congregations may make Thankofferings online with a credit card at <https://Community.elca.org/welca>. Individuals giving by mail. Please make out your check to Women of the ELCA and write **Thankoffering** on the memo line. Congregational units please include Form B Then mail it to:

Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield VA 22116-8009



It's been shown time and again that gratitude is good for us – spiritually, mentally, and even physically. Making a Thankoffering is gratitude in action. And Women of the ELCA is grateful to you for taking that action. Thank you.



Women ^{of the} **ELCA**



Conference 5 Fall Gathering

Conference 7 Fall Gathering



CONFERENCE 5
Fall Gathering

SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER 2022

9:00-12:00 BRUNCH, MUSIC, BIBLE DEVOTION, BUSINESS MEETING

GUEST SPEAKER: LISA HANSON, "THE NEXT STEP IN NORTH DAKOTA, STORIES OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING"

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
4000 28TH STREET SOUTH
MOORHEAD MN 56560

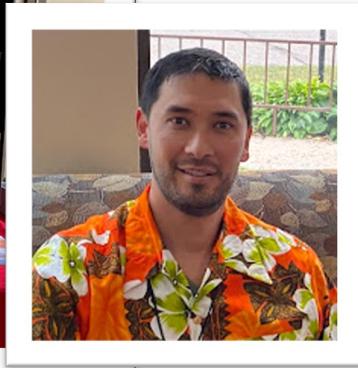
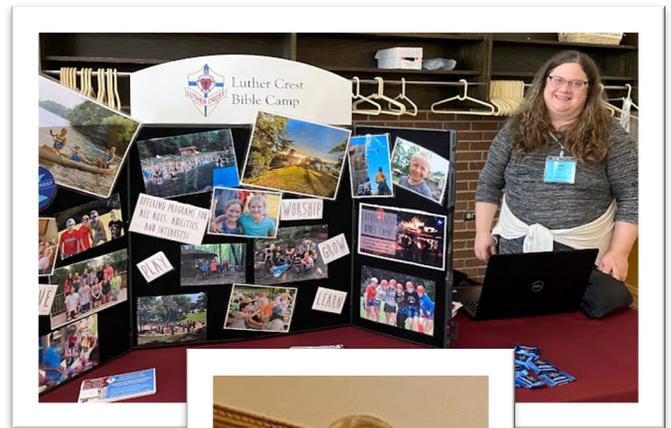


"Let your Actions Build Up Your Neighbor And Make the World a Better Place"

Saturday, October 22, 2022
Registration and Coffee 9:00 AM
Meeting and Program 9:30-11:45
Lunch 11:45 AM (approximate)

Hope Lutheran Church
1309 Stony Brook Rd.
Fergus Falls, MN

"Dear Children, let us not love with words or speech, but with actions and truth"
1 John 3:18



Convention Highlights



NEW CAMPAIGN HOPES TO BUILD WOMEN'S MINISTRIES INTO NEXT CENTURY

by Terri Lackey

6.10.2022 | 2122, News



In the beginning, Lutherans knew Katie Luther as the wife of Martin Luther. When Women of the ELCA first established the Katharina von Bora Luther Fund Endowment in 1997, Katie was a mystery to many.

But over the years, through resources, scholarships, articles, and skits, Women of the ELCA told the story of this bold and brave woman who brewed beer, raised cattle, managed a busy household, and kept a theologian in line. These days, Katie Luther is loved and admired by those who know her. Many women see a bit of themselves in this legend who wore many bonnets.

Building a future

Women of the ELCA established Katie's Fund 10 years after the organization was founded in 1987, said Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director since 2002. For 25 years, women have given to Katie's Fund to support and sustain the ministries of Women of the ELCA.

And the organization hopes giving will last far into the future. That's why they created a new capital campaign, 2122: Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years with a goal to raise \$1 million.

"By expanding Katie's Fund by one million dollars through this new campaign, Women of the ELCA can continue to multiply the reach and impact of women's leadership and ministry in the church," Bushkofsky said.

Dollars given to Katie's Fund are invested in ministry, now and future, she said. Katie's Fund supports ministry in three areas: leadership development, global connections, and living theology.

"We use the fund to raise bold leaders for the women's organization and support creative ministry for generations

to come," Bushkofsky said.

From advocacy to education

And those ministries run the gamut from enabling women to attend advocacy and immersion events to educating young people about human trafficking at ELCA Youth Gatherings. The ministry funds include providing scholarships for young women to participate in Women of the ELCA triennial gatherings and supporting documentaries about vital women's issues.

In April 2019, Katie's Fund dollars sent five women to Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington, D.C., an event that supports Christians who mobilize for advocacy. Two of those women—Lois Griffiths of Pennsylvania and Shirley Paulson of Wisconsin—continue to combat human trafficking in their states.

"How did women in our synod grow from concerned but shy Christians into strong advocates to end human trafficking?" asked Paulson, former president of the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin women's organization. "We did what we felt God was calling us to do, one step at a time, one act leading to another, using what we had learned and the connections we had made." Read more about the anti-trafficking work in the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin.

Educating youth about trafficking

Katie's Fund supported human trafficking education for teens and adult leaders attending the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston in 2018. In its exhibit space, Women of the ELCA demonstrated that sex trafficking could affect youth of all cultures and backgrounds. In the exhibit area, the teens and adult leaders assembled hygiene kits for local agencies caring for youth affected by sexual abuse or trafficking.

"In Houston, we partnered with a local organization that supports victims of human trafficking and at-risk youth," said Elizabeth McBride, who led the event for Women of the ELCA. "During the three days our exhibit was open, youth assembled 2,005 hygiene bags."

In every bag, youth inserted a pamphlet with Houston-area phone numbers and resources available to help, McBride said. "Visitors to our space also added a compassion card to every bag with messages of kindness and hope. The notes were handwritten by youth gathering participants and read, 'You are loved,' 'You matter,' or 'I'm praying for you.'"

Acting boldly

In 2005, the Rev. Jessica Olson Miller, now serving The Neighborhood Church, Fargo, N.D., was one of 22 who received a Katie's Fund scholarship to attend the Sixth Triennial Gathering in San Antonio, Texas, with the theme: Act

Boldly. Katie's Fund paid for travel, meals and hotel rooms.

"I experienced four days of conversation, prayer, laughter, worship, praise, lament, challenge and invitation," recalls Miller, then in her 20s. "I was reminded this boldness can have many forms...and that each woman in this church has been called by God to share her gifts."

Discovering insights

In 2015, Katie's Fund sent 11 young women (clergy and lay, seminarians, college students) to the Holy Land on a journey of accompaniment and discovery with the ELCA's Global Mission and Young Adult Ministry program, Peace Not Walls.

The 10-day journeys were not field trips or service trips. They were journeys of transformation. The young women, whose travel and learning opportunities were supported by gifts to Katie's Fund, discovered new insights into peace, justice and the roots of shared faith. And they shared their wisdom with the larger church.

"These journeys have changed how I read Scripture for I envision spaces and places I have actually walked," said the Rev. Dr. Jeanette Bidne, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Blue Earth, Minn. "The experience has spilled over into my Bible study teaching, preaching, and understanding of news headlines in other places of the world. I have faces and names to go along with the words: refugee, occupation, and oppressed."

Other ways your gifts to Katie's Fund support women's ministry

- In 2004, it provided a scholarship and travel for a Lutheran World Relief-sponsored coffee trip that led to the campaign, "Pour Justice to the Brim: A 90-Ton Challenge," to double the amount of fair-trade coffee purchased through the Lutheran Coffee Project. The campaign was a great success. In just one year, thousands of women educated and mobilized their congregations around fair trade and exceeded the 90-ton goal.
- Also, in 2004, Katie's Fund allowed two women to attend a Lutheran World Federation-sponsored forum on water issues.
- In 2006, it allowed one woman to travel to India for the 300th anniversary of Protestant/Lutheran presence there and contributed to a Women of the ELCA exhibit at the Youth Gathering.
- In 2010, Katie's Fund provided crucial support for "I Believe You," a documentary about domestic violence and faith. The film received Emmy nominations and aired on ABC and NBC stations. The same year, it supported Words Matter, a symposium coordinated by the National Council of Churches of Christ that provided tools to help Christians think about how language affects their relationships with God and with each other.
- In 2011 and 2012, Katie's Fund dollars supported scholarships for two women to attend the Young Women's Leadership Experience at the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women.
- In December 2012, it helped two young women travel to Liberia to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Women of the ELCA and the longstanding partnership between Lutheran women in Liberia and the United States.
- In 2014, it allowed Women of the ELCA to provide two DVDs to each resource center in the ELCA. The documentaries, "I Believe You" and "Harvest of Empires," were screened at the 2014 Triennial Gathering. By providing the DVDs to resource centers, women were able to use the documentaries for unit and other local gatherings.
- In 2017, it funded the redesign and redevelopment of welca.org, gathermagazine.org and boldcafe.org, websites that support women within the organization.
- In 2018, it facilitated a delegation to the First International African Lutheran Conference, Moshi, Tanzania. The delegation was diverse in age (three generations), leadership expressions (churchwide, synodical and unit), ethnicity (African American and African National) and regionally (2B, 4F, 6F and 8F).
- In 2019, it supported the Women's Theological Conference of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (for women clergy and lay leaders) and the churchwide president's participation in the conference. Also, in 2019, Katie's Fund covered a portion of the cost for a participant to attend the Third International Seminar for Lay People in Leading Positions hosted by the Lutheran World Federation. To learn more or to give, call 800-638-3522, ext. 2740 or visit welca.org/katiesfund.

Women of the ELCA includes participants who gather in more than 4,000 congregations and special units in the U.S. and the Caribbean for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more. The organization embraces ministries that support its mission to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. WELCA is a separately incorporated ministry of the ELCA supported by individual and group offerings.





NW MN SNOW Newsletter

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Women^{of the} ELCA

Upcoming Events from Churchwide

Churchwide Thankoffering Service

- ◆ Saturday, November 5 at 3 p.m. (CDT) Join women from across the United States and the Caribbean in celebrating God's grace and redeeming love through the 2022 Thankoffering Service. Spanish translation provided. Advance registration required. REGISTER After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

An Advent Devotion

- ◆ Sunday, November 27, 3 p.m. Central Join the Rev. Becca Ehrlich as we begin Advent 2022 with "Good Things Come in Small Packages," a devotional she has written for Gather magazine. Spanish translation provided. Advance registration required. REGISTER After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Blue Christmas Service

- ◆ Wednesday, December 21, 7 p.m. Central Our Blue Christmas Service offers a safe place to bring your grief, fear, and loss. Brief readings. Quiet and reflective music. Prayers. All are welcome. Spanish translation provided. Register now to attend. The service takes place at 7 p.m. CST on Wednesday, December 21, 2022. REGISTER After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.