

SNOW Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- Spring Cluster Gathering Highlights
- Blue Mat Project
- Convention Information
- Registration Form

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From the Desk of the President



Dear Sisters in Christ!

Greetings from your Synodical Women's Organization Board! Summer is upon us. It is so beautiful seeing the flowers, gardens, and field crops growing after a very slow start. In my part of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, we had a very wet beginning to spring and summer. We are so thankful we were able to finally get our flowers, gardens and crops planted.

My prayer for the NWMN SWO is that we will be able to grow and in order to grow we must have women who are willing to step up and say "I will" when asked to serve on the local, conference, and synodical level of WELCA leadership. If asked to serve, please say yes OR volunteer to serve. Remember, the disciples did not know what following Jesus would mean for them. They said yes, and Jesus said he would give them the tools needed. We will give you the tools to fulfill your leadership position. We will be electing a President, Treasurer, and 3 Board Members for 2 years terms. We also need to elect the following for a 1-year term: Vice President, Secretary, 2 board members and a nomination committee (3 members). We also will elect voting members to represent NWMN SWO at the Triennial Convention in Phoenix AZ in September of 2023. This is your organization, please send a voting member from your church to the convention in September. You do not need to have a formal unit for your church to attend and send a voting member.

Our annual convention will be held September 16 & 17 at Bethlehem Lutheran in Fergus Falls. We are honored to have Dr. Jacqueline Bussie as our keynote speaker. Bishop Bill Tesch will be leading us in worship. We will have several breakout sessions on topics such as immigration, Indigenous people, RREAL and more. We also will have our silent auction with proceeds being used to support those attending the Triennial Convention and Gathering in Phoenix, AZ in September of 2023.

We are asking you to bring gift cards in amounts up to \$25.00 for our in-kind offering. We will distribute the cards to organizations in Conferences 7 & 8 such as the Salvation Army, Someplace Safe, Veteran's organizations, and other organizations to be used by their clients. I look forward to seeing you at the convention. Remember to bring your offerings!

God bless,
Marilyn Grandstrand
NWMN SWO President



Conference 5 Spring Gathering Highlights

The NWMN Women of the ELCA, Conference 5's Spring Gathering was held on Saturday; April 30, 2022 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hemdram, MN. Participants gathered around God's promise, as spoken in Joshua 1:9– ***“Be strong and courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”***

We were welcomed into a setting with warm greetings after a long 2-year hiatus due to the Covid Pandemic guidelines. Seeing the many beautiful quilts draped across the pews said, “We’re back!”. **Bonnie Scholl**, President of Immanuel's WELCA, opened the meeting, welcoming 50 participants. Devotions were shared by **Pastor John Anderson**, of United Valley Lutheran Parish (Immanuel, Halstad and Augustana Lutheran in Halstad, MN). Ardis Honer, the representative from the NWMN Synod WELCA Board, brought greetings, reported on scholarship funds for students, and asked for continued support from the congregations.

The Lutheran World Relief truck, through Midwest Freight, 314 27 Street North, Fargo, will be available for quilt boxes to be loaded May 9-13. Additional Synod Board members are needed. Elections will be held in September at the Annual Meeting. All women of ELCA congregations are members of WELCA even if they do not have an identified WELCA organization, but do have women meeting for other church functions (e.g. circle, quilting, Bible studies). **Terry Pipho**, Treasurer of the NWMN WELCA Synod Board, reported that congregation's units and individual offerings totaled \$24,310 for fiscal year, 2021. For more details go to the NWMN Synod website, www.nwmnsynod.org - under *Synod Organizations*.

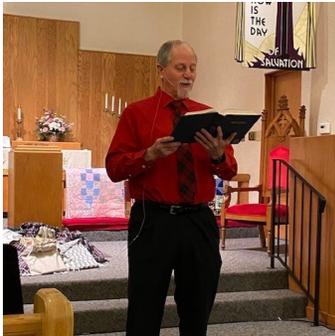
The Business Meeting was led by **Becky Olson**. Roll Call showed 10 congregations were represented. Recorder's Report was approved as written.

Old Business: None

New Business: election of officers at Conference #5's fall gathering. Suggestion: make the Synod WELCA committee more diverse, so that more congregations outside of Moorhead can be represented. Business meeting adjourned.

Thank you for the special music by violinist **Gabriele Nobili**, an exchange student from Italy, currently living in Hendrum.

Mariah Prussia, a physical fitness, and wellness trainer gave a well-received thoughtful and motivational presentation, “Define the Fight Through Faith.” Thank you to the United Valley Lutheran Parish for hosting the meeting and providing the delicious brunch.



Our Mission

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

Our Purpose

As a 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.

Conference 6 Spring Gathering Highlights

Tuesday, April 26, 2022, IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, WADENA, MN

THEME: BE JUST AND KIND” Micah 6:8b “And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God”.

Diane Teigland, WELCA President from Immanuel Lutheran Church of Wadena, welcomed everyone to the Spring Gathering. She led the women in repeating the WELCA purpose statement and gave the Devotion.

Hymn 712 “Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service” was sung.

Pastor Erin Bovendam of Calvary Lutheran Church in Perham gave the Bible Study on Micah 6: 1-8.

Hymn 661 “I Love to Tell The Story” Was sung after a short break.

The Message “A Young Women’s Perspective” was given by Johanna Brunsberg, a high school senior at Wadena High School. Johanna followed the message with a Flute Solo.

Mary Ann Peterson gave a greeting from the Synod. She reported on the Scholarship Fund; Mary Magdalene Award; LWR Pick up dates; and the SWO Convention at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls on September 16 & 17, 2022. She emphasized that all women of the church are part of WELCA including quilters, bible study groups etc.

The business meeting was called to order by Terry Olson, Co-Chairman of Conference 6. Daria Anderson, Co-Chairman reported she is updating congregational contact information and emphasized the importance of sending updated congregational unit information to the SWO Secretary. Roll call was taken with 57 members and 2 guests present. The minutes of the last meeting were read by Marilyn Tinjum, Recording Secretary. Carolyn Nelson gave a Treasurers Report and asked that anyone having expenses for the meeting contact her so the expenses can be paid by the Synod Office. There was no unfinished business. The next meeting will be held this fall (2022) at Cormorant Lutheran Church, Lake Park, MN. Information on the Fall Gathering will be sent to the members at a later date. No additional business was presented. The business meeting was adjourned. The Offering Prayer was given by Carolyn Nelson. An Offering was taken and will be given to the NW MN Synod Women of the ELCA. The members joined in a Table Grace. A box lunch was served in the dining room.

Respectively Submitted by Marilyn Tinjum, Recording Secretary



Silent Auction



Basket Ideas:

- Garden
- Baby
- Personal Care
- Meditation
- Books
- Cooking

All proceeds go to those attending the 2023 Triennial Gathering



Blue Mat Project—Faith Lutheran, Staples

The women of Faith Lutheran Church in Staples, MN have their sewing machines humming along for a new purpose. The “Blue Mats” project has grown out of two concerns: recycling materials that otherwise would end up in a landfill and the needs of homeless people in our state. The project started with several Lakewood Health System employees at Staples having an idea to re-purpose surgical fabric into a usable product. This blue fabric is originally used to cover sterilized surgery tools and then is discarded. But the fabric never touches a patient, so is clean and safe to use for other purposes.

Women at Faith Lutheran in Staples have been meeting once a month at church to assemble and sew this fabric into “Blue Mats,” while some women take the assembled materials home to sew. The mats have four layers of the blue material, a pocket for a few small belongings, and elastic loops to roll it into for easy handling.



The sturdy mats measure about 24” by 48”-54” typically. From January to early May 2022, women at Faith Lutheran (Staples) have made at least 250 mats.

Church members and friends will deliver the blue mats to Listening House in St. Paul, MN. Listening House is a daytime, drop-in community, and resource referral center for the homeless. The Blue Mats are used by homeless men and women as a water-resistant barrier to lay on the ground for themselves and their few belongings. Some use the mats as added layer of cover in a tent-like manner. Staff at the Listening House says the mats are useful items wanted by their homeless recipients and given out as fast as they come in. They are very much appreciated.



Conference 8 Spring Gathering Highlights

Conference 8 Spring Gathering was hosted by Shalom WELCA ladies on Thursday, April 28, 2022.

The event started with scrumptious array of homemade scones, juice and coffee while everyone was being checked in.

The Program started at 9:00 am and Shalom WELCA Co-President, Joann Garland, welcomed everyone.

Speakers on various topics were introduced:

Nola Smith—Conference Coordinator; Luella Thom—NW Synod Recorder; Sandra Devens—NW Synod Finance Officer ; Jody Johnson—Luther Crest Bible Camp; Kathy Ortloff— Lutheran World Relief; Marilyn Grandstrand—NW Synod President;

Diane Koranda—Provided closing remarks and led the Closing Prayer before lunch.

Special Guest Speaker, Leigh Nelson—Someplace Safe Victim Advocate

A beautiful duet was performed by Pastors, David Fleener & Kathryn Rothman.

A delicious taco bar lunch, catered by Angelina’s, was served with a delicious dessert of a scoop of sherbet and a homemade chocolate mint wafer.

It was a wonderful fellowship time and according to feedback, all had a great time.



NW MN SWO CONVENTION INFORMATION

Hotels for WELCA Convention 2022

COUNTRY INN AND SUITES

925 Western Ave.
218-739-2211
20 rooms held--\$140. Plus tax
All are single kings
Breakfast included
Will hold until Aug. 15

SUPER 8

2454 College Way
218-739-3261
8 rooms which are double queens
\$88.70 (\$177.40 for 2 nights)
Breakfast is included
Will hold until the day of convention

AMERICINN

526 Western Ave.
218-739-3900
2 rooms which are double queens
\$169 Fri. and Sat.
\$159 plus tax other days
Breakfast included
Will hold till 1 week before

RODEWAY INN

218-739-3311----No rooms available
for September 16 & 17
Rooms are held under
NWMN WELCA Convention

Churchwide Representative



Diane J Henning, Executive Board Member Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Diane was elected to the executive board of the Women of the ELCA in August of 2021. She serves on the budget and finance committee.

Diane grew up on a farm in southern Minnesota and since a young age has always served the church in

many capacities. She taught Sunday church school, played the organ and piano for worship as well as other events, was church council secretary, choir member, member of the Lutheran Church Women board prior to the merger, was elected to the Saint Paul Area synodical board as president and re-elected several times, served as a board member and convention coordinator. She also served on synod council with four different bishops since the merger. Currently Diane is a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Lakeville, MN and serves on the church council in women's ministry, and assists as needed with the youth and family, Bible study leader, and other.

Diane is retired but has a background in accounting and property management. She is the mother of one grown son

Hello.



Are you feeling called to be a leader in our organization?
Nominations Are Now Open For:
President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board Members
Check out our Website for the nomination form at
www.nwmnsynod.org



**First Timer's GRANT APPLICATION
FOR THE NW MN SWO OF THE ELCA
ANNUAL CONVENTION**

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Selection Criteria:

The woman has never attended a SWO Convention.
Why the woman would like to attend the convention
Each congregational unit can have only one applicant. More can apply, but we are limited to only 10 scholarships.
The woman may not serve as a delegate and grant recipient at the same time.

Selection Procedure:

All applications should be sent to the address below and a committee appointed by the SWO President comprised of board members will review each application.
All applications are due one month prior to the convention.
The applicants who are chosen, based on the above criteria will receive a phone call and letter informing her of the scholarship.

Please Print: Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-Mail Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Congregational Unit and Town _____

Occupation _____

Interests _____

Why you would like to attend the Convention

Deadline is August 1, 2022

Return to: Diane Teigland
Box 267
Bertha, MN 56437
218—639-5610

rev 5/30/2022





**Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention
September 16 & 17, 2022--- Bethlehem Lutheran Church,
102 W Junius Ave, Fergus Falls, MN**

Convention Registration – ALL ATTENDEES MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM

Voting Member Registration due by August 8, 2022

Non-Voting Registration due no later than September 1, 2022

___ Voting Member (1 per Congregation) ___ Non-Voting ___ Conference Officer

___ Convention Planning Committee ___ SWO Board Member ___ 1st time Grant Recipient

PLEASE PRINT:

Name: _____ **Phone** _____

Address: _____ **City** _____

State _____ **Zip Code** _____ **E-mail** _____

Are you the contact for your Congregation Unit? Yes ___ **No** ___

Conference # _____ **Name of Congregation** _____

CHECK PLAN DESIRED: Please register early to save money and facility Convention Planning!!

If postmarked by August 8

If postmarked after August 8

___ Full – Friday and Saturday \$ 100.00 \$ 125.00
(Includes all meals and breaks)

___ Friday Banquet Only \$ 25.00 \$ 30.00

___ Saturday Only \$ 75.00 \$ 75.00
(Includes lunch and breaks)

Please indicate any special dietary needs: _____

NO CASH... CHECKS ONLY.... PAYABLE TO: NW MN SWO CHECK TOTAL \$ _____

All registrations MUST be postmarked on or before due dates... no exceptions. **Full payment** is required with registration form. No refunds after September 1st, however registrations are transferable.

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM ... WITH CHECK TO:

NWMN SWO CONVENTION

Attn: Luella Thom

PO Box 103

Carlos, MN 56319

Phone: 320-815-7701

Email: Thom17@wisper-wireless.com

*****Attending Leadership Training on Friday? ___Yes ___No Encouraged if officer of unit or conference*****

***** Please make your own hotel reservations (See attached list)*****

For Office use only: Check # _____ **Amt:** _____ **Both Days:** _____ **Friday:** _____ **Saturday:** _____



NW MN SNOW Newsletter

Lois Bylund, Editor

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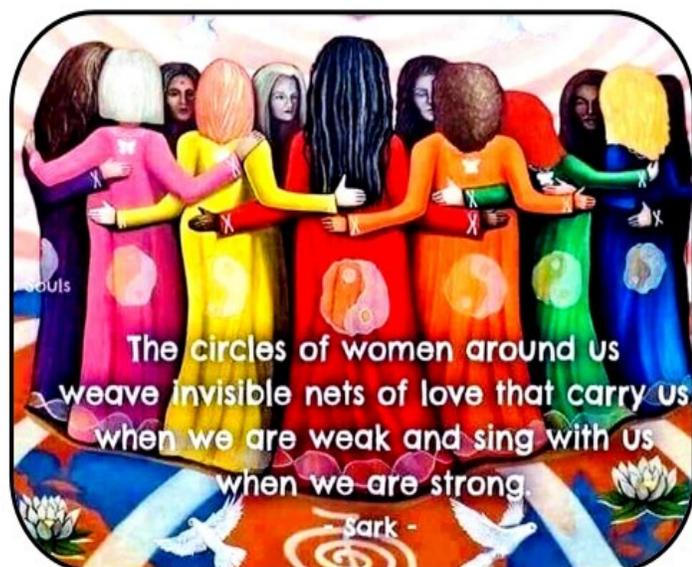
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Women ^{of the} ELCA

NW MN SWO Annual Convention September 16-17, 2022



Theme: "Love One Another"

**Bethlehem Lutheran
102 W Junius Ave
Fergus Falls, MN 56537**

