

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN



The Northwester

*Newsletter for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northwest Synod of Wisconsin
Volume 27 - Issue 1a - March 2014*

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America **NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION**

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
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SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE!!!



You are all invited to come together to worship, sing, hear marvelous speakers, meet new friends and renew old friendships on May 2-3, 2014 at the Biennial Synodical Women's Organization Convention being held at the Plaza Inn & Suites in Eau Claire.



SYNOD WOMEN ORGANIZATION'S CONVENTION MAY 2 - 3, 2014

PLAZA INN & SUITES (Block #8247)

1202 W. Clairemont Avenue

Eau Claire, WI 54701

715-834-3181

Theme: Too Blessed To Be Stressed

Bible Verse: "You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you." Isaiah 26:3

Registration Fee: \$50 early (or \$60 after April 14)

Room Rate: \$89 - (for up to 4 women - includes continental breakfast)

Friday Night Entertainment – Mood Swings Singers

**Saturday Keynote Speaker: Pati Kachel with
"A Patchwork Quilt of Heartwarming Stories"**

Awareness Sessions: [Full listing found on Saturday schedule]

- Freedom Of Forgiveness; A Lesson From Mary's Story
- Barbara Swant & Ruth Anderson
- Too Blessed to be Stressed - Penny Lien
- Legal Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence - Nancy Kraft
- Good News Jail & Prison Ministry - Chaplain Stephen Norlander
- Didn't Racism End in 1964?—Kimberly Schafer & Gail Lando
- Teaching Children About God - Janet Pingel
- BEAT IT! Cancer Survivors' Panel - Support Group Members
- Hagar International, Human Rights Abuse - Roberta Joern
- Energizing Your Congregation's Unit - TBA
- Heart to Heart - Jennie Childs, Thrivent

Prayer Room with Attendants: Ilene Chapman and Sue Saarem for quiet meditation

Exhibit Hall: filled with enthusiastic exhibitors (and even shopping opportunities)

Join us for fellowship, Communion, learning opportunities, and more!!

Committee Members: Brenda Wheeler, Becky Loftus, Lacey Loftus, Peggy Schroetter, Susan Carlson, Jean Larson, Marcia Lindseth (SWO President), and Coordinator Janet Allison

For updates watch the Northwester, go online, or contact jallison@bloomer.net
For registration information, contact Brenda Wheeler, swosecretary@centurylink.net
The SWO webpage can be found at <http://www.nwswiswo.org>

You are all invited to...
SYNOD WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION CONVENTION, MAY 2-3, 2014
"TOO BLESSED TO BE STRESSED"

The Convention Committee members, Brenda Wheeler, Peggy Schroetter, Jean Larson, Susan Carlson, Becky & Lacey Loftus, Marcia Lindseth, and I (Janet Allison, Coordinator) invite you to attend the 2014 SWO Convention at the Plaza Inn and Suites in Eau Claire on May 2-3, 2014. There will be singing, praying, fellowship, awareness sessions on a variety of topics, laughter, and just generally a good, Christian experience. Please join us. There are more details in this issue of the Northwester—please check them out.

Jenny Michael, "the" WELCA President, will be with us! We are so happy that she is able to come. You will be able to meet her during our opening sessions, the Friday night social, and at her awareness session on Saturday morning. Her bio is also printed in brief in this issue of the Northwester. She says she put the GRR in Girl!

Pati Kachel is the keynote speaker. She will present "A Patchwork Quilt of Heartwarming Stories". That is especially appropriate as our units have been focusing on creating many warm quilts for our neighbors in need. Pati will make you laugh as she stitches us into her message.

A musical group, Mood Swing, will entertain us on Friday night during the reception. A group of four women sing all types of music a cappella—and they are VERY good! They will put us in a mood to practice our **theme: Too Blessed To Be Stressed**. I think you may even find yourself tapping your toes while you enjoy their songs.

In-Kind Gifts (listed in a separate article) will be distributed in our conferences. Bring personal items, place them in the box with your conference name on it, and a conference representative will see that the gifts are distributed to organizations within your conference. If you forget your gift, cash is good.

The **convention offering** will be divided as follows: ¼ to Malaria Campaign, ¼ to the Eau Claire Community Table, ¼ to Churchwide, and ¼ to SWO. The saying goes...give generously. We are truly blessed and we have the reputation for generous giving.

All through the convention a **prayer room** will be available for prayer and quiet meditation. Attendants Ilene Chapman and Sue Saarem will be available to pray with/for you if you desire.

Exhibits? We have exhibits that will open late Friday afternoon. The Friday night reception will start in the exhibit hall.

Check the poster in this issue for the date, room rate, and awareness session topics. Check the schedule (also in this issue) for times of the events.

The committee and I believe we have MANY opportunities for you. Please join us and let us know how we did.

The Convention Committee ♪ Janet Allison, Coordinator

FROM THE CONVENTION COORDINATOR

Things are shaping up nicely for the convention May 2 and 3, 2014. Too Blessed to Be Stressed is the theme. The Bible Verse is Isahia26:3, “You, Lord, give perfect peace to those who keep their purpose firm and put their trust in you.”

We have tried to have a balance of topics to enlighten you. Some topics are a bit “heavy”, while others are light and educational. We hope there is something for everyone...young, not-so-young, and in between.

Gathering Music on Friday night and Saturday will be lead by Pr. Melinda Halom, Bethel Lutheran Church, New Auburn.

Entertainment for Friday night will be “Mood Swings”, a group of women who sing from the heart. You will be dancing in the aisles while these women perform.

The Keynote Speaker for Saturday’s Luncheon will be Pati Kachel (see her intro in this issue).

Remember to make your reservations with the Plaza Inn and Suites, Block No. 8247. The room rate for up to four women is \$89. Bring a copy of your church Tax Exempt No. and that will be the total cost. For guests staying at the hotel, there is a continental breakfast provided on Saturday morning.

The committee members and I hope you will come and bring a friend. Those **committee members** are Susan Carlson, Brenda Wheeler, Becky Loftus, Jean Larson, Peggy Schroetter, SWO President Marcia Lindseth, and Coordinator Janet Allison.

If you have questions, please email me at jallison@bloomer.net and I will answer them.

AWARENESS SESSIONS – partial listing...

Too Blessed To Be Stressed--Penny Lien

Who Do You Care Most About?—Jenny Childs, Thrivent

Good News Jail & Prison Ministry—Chaplain Steve Norland

Freedom of Forgiveness, a Lesson from Mary’s Story—Barbara Swant & Ruth Anderson

Beat It—Cancer Survivors’ Panel—Judy Lindsley, Becky Christensen, and Jackie Lewis

from the Rice Lake Cancer Support Group

Speaker on Human Trafficking—To be announced

Teaching Children About God—Janet Pingel

Indianhead Legal Assistance for victims of Abuse—Nancy Kraft

Racial Justice—Northwest Synod Racial Justice Advocates

Prayer Room: Throughout the convention, a prayer room will be available with attendants who will offer a prayer for you or pray with you. This room is a place for quiet meditation. Sue Saarem and Ilene Chapman attended the prayer room in 2012 and we have invited them back again.

Introducing

Pati Kachel



*Pati loves God, His people and His holy Word...
and she loves to tell stories about all of these!*

Pati inspires listeners through stories and programs about the abundant life found in Jesus Christ. She entertains audiences in churches, retreat centers, conference centers, schools, libraries, living rooms, homeschool co-ops, camps, senior residences, hospitals, universities, prisons, coffeehouses, tea rooms and bookstores. Pati has traveled extensively, having presented story programs and songs from Pittsburgh to Seattle and throughout the Midwest. Internationally, she has performed in Canada and The Netherlands.

Memorable and meaningful, Pati's stories are humorous, heartwarming and above all, Christ-focused. She simply shares heart-to-heart through storytelling, singing, teaching and testimony.

She creatively incorporates an appreciation for music, literature, poetry and travel into these programs. Pati carefully weaves words and imagery to draw listeners into her stories. With a few simple stage props, colorful hats and costumes, she keeps spectators fully engaged. Audiences easily receive her gentle voice and joyful spirit.

For over thirty years, this nationally known performer has belonged to *Salt of the Earth Storytellers*, an ecumenical fellowship of Biblical storytellers. She is also a founding member of the Twin Cities-based *Story Arts of Minnesota*, which promotes the craft of storytelling and supports performers to develop as creative artists.

She welcomes the opportunity to provide wholesome and edifying entertainment for organizations. Look inside to find the best story program match to meet your group's needs.

Pati is available to present these programs through The Parable Fund. This nonprofit organization's mission is to share earthly stories based on scriptural truths communicating Judeo-Christian values. Complete details about The Parable Fund are listed on the back page. To learn more, to see where she has served, or to schedule a program, we invite you to visit our ministry website at: www.theparablefund.org

*"I will praise You,
O Lord,
with all my heart;
I will TELL of
all Your wonders."*

Psalms 9:1

**The
Parable
Fund**



Telling It Well

Jenny Michael, President, Churchwide Executive Board 2011–2014 Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Jenny Michael was elected president of the churchwide executive board of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the 8th Triennial Convention in July 2011.

Previously, Jenny served as a churchwide executive board member during the last triennium. She has also served as president of the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization, president of the Tampa Conference, and leader of her own congregational unit. While living in Tampa, Jenny assisted on planning committees for women's events with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Florida and has participated as a leadership resource for her synod.

As a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Pensacola, Florida, Jenny is an active member of her congregational unit and sings in the choir. She currently volunteers on the Worship Committee and Evangelism Committee at her home church. Additionally, she has led retreats and workshops, and provided leadership training and programming for Women of the ELCA.

A few years ago, Jenny worked for a short time as a government contractor in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. While in Cuba, she was given special licensure by the Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod to serve the small, but faithful Lutheran community church there as a Lay Minister of Word and Sacrament since there were no ordained chaplains available on the base. She preached each week and was responsible for many pastoral duties in the absence of clergy.

Jenny enjoys reading, taking her pug, Squishy to the "doggie beach", and sharing in women's discussion groups. She loves to travel and enjoys meeting new people. Being from a family of four girls and parents who fostered a strong image of how women shape our world, she says she puts the "G-r-r in GIRL!" Jenny is always interested in encouraging every woman to discover her gifts of leadership. She is committed to supporting women as they seek to live out the Gospel in their lives every day.

During this triennium, Jenny is especially excited about the possibilities to grow the mission and ministry of Women of the ELCA. She is looking for you to share with her how best we can make this happen!

Because we always hold our convention in Eau Claire, gifts in kind have been going to Eau Claire charities. This year we have decided to do something different—we'll divide the gifts between our conferences. Conference Boards can decide who gets the gifts—and they will take them home from the convention. Here is a suggested list of gifts to bring with you to be distributed...

Gifts in Kind for the SWO Convention

Paper Products

Toilet paper
Paper Towels
Paper Cups
Napkins
Kleenex
Ziploc Bags

Cloth Items

Socks
Underwear
Washcloths
Towels

Hygiene products (travel or small sizes)

Toothbrushes
Toothpaste
Razors
Deodorant
Shaving Cream
Hand Cream
Bars of Soap
Sanitary Napkins
Hairbrushes/Combs
Nail Clippers
Diapers
First Aid Supplies

SWO CONVENTION SCHEDULE FRIDAY, MAY 2

- 12:00 Exhibit Setup
3:00-4:00 Board Meeting
4:00-8:30 Registration Opens
4:00-10:00 Exhibits Open
4:00 Burgundy's Restaurant Opens
4:15-5:15 Board Dinner—Terrace Room
5:30-5:45 Gathering Music in Crystal Ballroom
5:45-6:45 Opening Session
7:00-8:00 Voting Delegates meet—Two Rivers 2
7:00-8:00 Awareness Sessions
 Too Blessed To Be Stressed—Penny Lien—Two Rivers I
 Heart to Heart—Jennie Childs, Thrivent—Clear Water B& C
 Good News Jail & Prison Ministry—Chaplain Stephen Norlander--Terrace
8:00-10:00 Prayer Room Available—Executive Board Room 2
8:00-8:30 Program for the evening—**Mood Swings—Crystal Ballroom.** These ladies sing a cappella and are guaranteed to boost your spirits and put you in a festive mood for the convention—and perhaps for days afterwards.
8:30-10:00 Reception & Exhibits—Start in Exhibit Hall and spread to Crystal Ballroom

SCHEDULE SATURDAY, MAY 3

- 7:30-9:30 Registration Open
7:30-Noon Exhibits open
7:30-Noon Prayer Room Available—Executive Board Room 2
7:45-8:00 Gathering Music
8:00-8:45 Opening session, Communion, Offering—Crystal Ballroom
9:00-10:00 Awareness Sessions
 Freedom of Forgiveness, a Lesson from Mary's Story—Barbara Swant and Ruth Anderson—Two Rivers 2
 Beat It—Cancer Survivors' Panel—Clear Water A
 Too Blessed To Be Stressed (Repeat from Friday p.m.) Penny Lien—Two Rivers 1
 Hagar International—Human Rights Abuse--Roberta Joern—Terrace
 Energizing Your Congregation's Unit—Jenny Michael—Clear Water BC
10:00-10:30 Morning Coffee Break and Hotel Checkout—Hall outside Crystal Ballroom
10:30-11:30 Awareness Sessions
 Freedom of Forgiveness (Repeat from 9 a.m.) Barbara Swant and Ruth Anderson—Two Rivers 2
 Teaching Children About God—Janet Pingel—Two Rivers 1
 Legal Assistance for Victims of Domestic Violence—Nancy Kraft--Clear Water A
 Heart to Heart (Repeat from Friday p.m.)—Jennie Childs, Thrivent—Clear Water B& C
 Didn't Racism End in 1964?—Kimberly Schafer & Gail Lando—Terrace
11:30-11:45 Assemble in Crystal Ballroom for lunch
11:45-12:00 Piano Music & Gathering Songs
12:00-1:00 Lunch
1:00-1:15 Wiggle Break (Could be earlier if lunch is finished)
1:15-2:15 Pati Kachel, Keynoter (Could start earlier if lunch is finished)
2:30-3:00 Closing Remarks and Installation of new SWO Officers

REGISTRATION FORM

WOMEN OF THE ELCA NW WISCONSIN SYNOD CONVENTION MAY 2-3, 2014

Where: Plaza Hotel & Suites, 1202 W Clāremont Ave, Eau Claire, WI

Fees: \$50.00 Until April 14, 2014 (No refunds after April 1)
\$60.00 Late registration and same Day Registration
Registration is transferable but not refundable after April 1, 2014

Registration includes: Conference, Friday night reception, Saturday coffee break, and lunch

Registration Check-in will be in the Ballroom Corridor
Begins: Friday, May 2 @ 4 PM-6PM
Saturday, May 3 @ 7:30 AM-9AM

Please send check (payable to Women of the ELCA) to:

Brenda Wheeler Telephone: 715.866.4724
P. O. Box 603
Webster, WI 54893-0603 swosecretary@centurylink.net

Please detach and mail section below

Name _____ *Delegate ___ Non-delegate ___
*(Each unit is entitled to one voting delegate)
Address -Street and City _____
Telephone _____ E-mail _____
Conference you are in _____
Congregation _____ Church Address _____

Plaza Hotel Reservations are made by calling the Plaza Hotel and Suites, 1-800-482-7829 or 1-725-834-3181 - Ask for the *Women of the ELCA Block No 8247* for the reduced rate of \$89 per room, 1-4 per room. **Bring a copy of your congregation's tax free certificate to leave with the hotel.**

Revised 7-14-13

Please copy this Registration Form as needed!

SWO CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
Northwest Synod of WI Women of the ELCA

May 2-3, 2014 - Plaza Hotel & Suites, Eau Claire, WI

Two (2) Scholarships per Conference will be awarded - Each worth \$50
Preference will be given to 1st time attendees

Deadline: March 20, 2014 - (note extended date!)

Mail to: Brenda Wheeler, P.O. Box 603, Webster, WI 54893 or
Email to swosecretary@centurylink.net

Name _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Congregation _____ City _____ Conference _____

I have _____ have not _____ attended a NW WI Synod Women's Convention.

What Synod or Conference Events have you attended and when?

Have you received a scholarship from the Synodical Women of the ELCA? If yes, list event(s) and year(s)

Activities: (Please list activities from the past three years only)

Local Congregation

Women of the ELCA: Unit, Conference, Synod

Community

I am applying for this scholarship because:

2014 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



2014

MARCH

- 22 – SWO Board Meeting, Bone Lake Lutheran, Luck, 1101 255th Avenue, Luck
- **LOOK FOR THE REGULAR MARCH ISSUE OF *The Northwester* in your mailbox soon!!**

APRIL

- 5 – Heart of the North Conference Day of Renewal, New Scandinavia, Dallas
- 5 – Spring Day of Renewal, Apple River Conference, Luck Lutheran, Luck
- 5 – St Croix Valley Conference, Morning of Renewal, First Lutheran, New Richmond

MAY

- 2-3 – Synodical Women’s Organization Convention, Plaza Inn & Suites, Eau Claire

JULY

- 22-24 – NINTH TRIENNIAL CONVENTION, Charlotte, North Carolina
Our Delegates: Dawn Wicklund & Rhonda Cummings – First-time attendees
Avalene Swanson, Phyllis Beaström, Carol Medchill, Marcia Lindseth, Audrey Severson, and Carol Johnson
Alternates: Diane Campbell, Gail Lando, Mary Lou Wold, and Kay Shager.
Kay Shager is also alternate for first-time attendee
- 24-27 – NINTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING, Charlotte, North Carolina

AUGUST

- 11-12 – Heart of the North Conference Retreat, Luther Park, Chetek
- 16 – Fall Retreat, Apple River Conference, Luther Point Bible Camp, Grantsburg

SEPTEMBER

- 27 – SWO Leadership Training Meeting, Bethany Lutheran, Rice Lake

OCTOBER

- 25 – Leader Training Meeting, Apple River Conference, Balsam Lutheran, Amery

NOVEMBER

- 23 – SWO Board and Conference Coordinators, First Lutheran, Barron



**Are YOU going to the Ninth Triennial Gathering
at Charlotte, North Carolina - July 24-27, 2014?**

There is still time to Register!

Registration ends June 10, 2014

and housing reservations need to be made by June 19, 2014.

You can register online at www.welcatg.org [credit card only]
Questions? Contact Gabriela Contreras at 800-638-3522-ext 2747
Or Gabriela.Contreras@elca.org

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN SWO BOARD MEMBERS – 2012 – 2014

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Lakeside Community Lutheran, Webster
swosecretary@centurylink.net **NEW!!**

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Bethlehem Lutheran, Bay City
nwswotreas@gmail.com **NEW!!**

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NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Northwester is published four times a year by the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Women's Organization. *Local units are encouraged to subscribe for all of their officers, including the president and your pastor.*

The SWO board trusts that local units will help them be good stewards of the offerings that are sent to them by helping to offset the cost of publishing *The Northwester*. Subscriptions to the newsletter are **\$6.00** per year. --- **And Yes, you may renew for multiple years!** ---

The due date of your subscription appears on the address label. **Reminders are not sent**, so please watch your label for your expiration date and renew.

All address changes and any questions concerning subscriptions should be addressed to Eleanor Johnson, Editor, at the address below. [Or email at hdjebjohnson@tds.net If you are emailing, *please* include *Northwester* or *W/ELCA* or subscriptions in the subject line]. This newsletter may be photocopied.

DEADLINE for the next issue of *The NORTHWESTER* is **June 1, 2014**

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Enclosed is payment of **\$6.00** payable to: **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**, Northwest Synod (SWO)

Name _____

New _____ Renewal _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Telephone _____

Church _____ Conference _____

(Email) _____

Mail to: Eleanor B. Johnson, W5370 Century Road, Greenwood, WI 54437-8308 ----- hdjebjohnson@tds.net

