

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN



The Northwester

Newsletter for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Volume 29- Issue 2 – June 2016

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

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
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Meet your 2016-2016 SWO Board

Back row L to R: Patti Austin, Churchwide President; Gloria Rolstad, Apple River; Phyllis Grohn, Chippewa Valley; Mary Jane Sedin, Lake Superior; Audrey Severson, Treasurer; Carol Lekies, Chequamegon; Connie Anderson, Secretary; Barb Garling, Heart of the North.

Front Row L to R: Dawn Olson, Vice President; Emilie Horken, St Croix; Sue Saarem, President; missing from photo: Jane Brown, Dairyland.



FROM THE PRESIDENT



I was only a little bit nervous about our biennial convention. I truly felt the prayers that many of you offered because I even slept through the night before it started, and that doesn't usually happen for me when there is something important in my life. Thank you pray-ers!

We got lots of good feedback about the variety of workshops. It seems to be a good thing that we can use our own people and local speakers to cover a wide range of topics to help us grow in faith. Thank you to those who took the time to fill out the evaluations.

I'm impressed with the number of people who willingly pitched in to help with all the different things it took to make the convention work. It would be impossible for me to name everyone who helped with the elections, the exhibits, the conference job assignments, worship and all the other pieces that needed to come together to make our weekend worthwhile. Even though your name is not printed here, know that the work you did is greatly appreciated.

I also need to share with you the appreciation we received for the blankets, cards and food sorting that resulted from the hands-on workshops at this convention. The Cheshire cat has nothing on the smiles and gratitude expressed to us for your work and the donations we were able to make.

The addition of official merchandise was well received. You will probably notice an increased amount of Lucinda pins being worn by your W/ELCA sisters! I sold several items at the Synod Assembly on May 21st, too. You can contact me for the few items that remain: one pashmina shawl, 3 travel mugs, several Thistle Farms soy candles, and about 15 Lucinda pins in a variety of colors.

It would be ideal to have everything come off without a hitch, but in our humanity that doesn't usually happen. That's where the "ordinary women" thing barges in! And there were a couple of "cyber-space" problems as well that were not realized until we got to Eau Claire on Friday when it was too late to fix them. Like my dad used to say, all's well that ends well, and our mission was accomplished never-the-less! You will find the missing reports in addition to the election results elsewhere in this issue of the Northwester.

The resolution to help victims of domestic abuse passed unanimously. It will be forwarded to church wide for inclusion with the 2017 Triennial memorials. Meanwhile, I'm hoping the SWO Board will come up with a plan for implementing some of the suggestions right here in our Synod. Being "guinea pigs" for a cause this important might actually make a difference in the lives of our sisters who are silently suffering because they don't know where to turn.

The results of the informal surveys that many of you completed at your Spring Days of Renewal have been tabulated. It seems that in the busyness of our lives, a one-day convention looks appealing to almost everyone who filled out the form. Almost as many thought rotating locations was a good idea. Very few want to see the convention at a different time. About two-thirds thought the cost manageable. On other matters, the bus idea for getting to the Triennial will definitely be pursued for the over 100 people who would like that; and 43 people agreed to help with serving communion if we are asked to help in that capacity. You will be hearing more from your SWO Board on these matters in the future. This issue of the Northwester goes to "bed" prior to the June 11th Board Meeting when discussion and decisions will occur, so watch future issues for updates.



Some other items of interest also look to the future. The list of our voting delegates to the Triennial is included along with promoter Roberta Bitler's article. We can now start the application process for scholarships to the Triennial Gathering days. That form is included in this issue and it will show up in the September Northwester, too, with a November 1st deadline. But there are strings attached this time! Your SWO Board purchased full registrations in the amount of \$280 when they were at their lowest price immediately following the last Triennial. However, our official documents allow \$200 per scholarship for the 14 people who will be blessed. Those of you with math savvy will see the \$80 difference here needs to come from somewhere! We are asking the scholarship recipients to repay SWO the \$80 which is way less than if we had waited to buy the registrations when they go on sale after September 6th. Fourteen people will get a bargain besides a scholarship!

We will be sending out an August mailing again this year covering details of our September training which will be held at Central Lutheran in downtown Chippewa Falls. The date is one week earlier than normal, so please double check your calendars for September 17th. A big thank you to Central Lutheran for being willing to host this event. Enjoy your summer. Do something fun! Share your ideas and concerns with your Conference Reps or call me. I love talking over W/ELCA business!

Sue Saarem, SWO President for the NW Synod of Wisconsin



Discipleship

And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Ephesians 4:32

At the end of April, Joy Lutheran Church held their annual Spring Banquet. I chose for the theme this year "Garden Party" with a focus on "Seeds of Kindness". Our tables were decorated with bouquets of artificial flowers along with small birdhouses. We had as table favors very small clay pots which contained a flower made from a round pretzel and M&Ms on a sucker stick and seed packets that showed Wildflowers and said "Commit random acts of kindness and senseless acts of beauty".

The devotion that I chose for the evening centered around the "Secret Garden of Prayer." It compared our prayer garden to the garden described in the children's book "The Secret Garden". We were reminded that our gardens sometimes need to be repaired. Our gardens need to be used. We were also reminded that our key to our garden is communication with our Heavenly Father and if our gardens are cared for properly they will flourish and spread and be beautiful. Is not that what discipleship is about too. Our key to discipleship is our relationship with our Heavenly Father and if we use that key he will be there to help us as we try to be true disciples in our everyday lives.

The best way to make this discipleship garden grow is by planting "Seeds of Kindness" Our activity for the evening, as adult coloring books have become quite the thing, was to color a flower from a page in an adult coloring book. They were to put on that page what their seed of kindness would be that they would like to plant.



There were as many answers as there were people at the banquet. Some included visiting the sick, praying for people in need, giving someone a smile or a hug, donating food to a hungry family, and one child said to be kinder to her brother. Look around you. What do you see and who do you see in your everyday life. Do you see someone that is lonely? Maybe you are not in the habit of sowing seeds of kindness. Maybe now is the time to start. Start small. Determine that you will sow one seed each week. It may be a good idea to start a journal and call it "My Seeds of Kindness".

Keep track of what seeds you are sowing and as you do go back from time to time, see how your sowing becomes a bigger and bigger part of your life. So I ask you, are you sowing seeds of kindness?



Emilie Horken, St Croix Conference rep



JUSTICE



Cherish All Children

Pray + Educate + Connect + Act

I have learned quite a bit about trafficking in the past 6 years, especially about sex trafficking. During that time, I have learned about how women become trafficked. In some countries they are sold by parents for workers as the family needs the money or they are promised jobs in the city to help support their family and are lead into trafficking. In the US, victims can be trafficked from anywhere regardless of family life or social status. Young adults that are vulnerable have a greater rate of being trafficked as they can be in the wrong place at the wrong time more frequently but any young adult can be taken, tricked or coerced into this life. The bottom line is no one chooses this path, it is forced on them.

I was reading some of my social media posts and came across an article from The Washington Post (May 12th edition) that made my skin crawl. In 2011, college students from Kazakhstan came to Florida as foreign students to be exposed to the people, culture and life style in the United States during their summer vacation. They were to work in a yoga studio near Miami and received visas through the U. S. Department of State for their Summer Work Travel program. They were supposed to be organizing yoga retreats, scheduling appointments and answering phones. The company was called Janadana's Yoga and Wellness S.A and claimed they were a yogic and holistic healing and wellness worldwide organization; dedicated to giving people knowledge of the numerous yogic disciplines, healthy eating and holistic lifestyle to promote better health and longer life. The students would work 48 hours a week, earning \$12.00 per hour and living in the space above the yoga studio.

When the students arrived in the U.S., they were told the yoga studio did not exist and they would be performing a different kind of work. They were expected to perform erotic massages and sex acts in exchange for money and were to be trained by the owner's female associates. The students, two young women, were rescued by law enforcement two months later in August 2011. The organizer of the scheme, Jeffrey Jason Cooper (aka Cr. Janardana Dasa) was indicted by a federal grand jury in the Southern District of Florida on charges that include sex trafficking, wire fraud and bringing foreign nationals to the U.S. for prostitution and using a facility to operate a prostitution enterprise.

I was shocked to find this type of thing happening in the U.S. I cannot imagine the horror of those two young women or their families. It is disturbing that a sex trafficker could use this type of program for such an evil purpose. It just reinforces to me that we, the women of this country, need to do what we can to bring an end to trafficking of any sort. And we, the women of this country, need to continue to keep ourselves educated so we can ask the questions and keep our children and grandchildren safe.

Dawn Wicklund
Former SWO Secretary

Thank you for allowing me to serve on the SWO board for the past 6 years. I have enjoyed my time with the board members and serving all of you. I will continue to focus on trafficking and share with you what is happening on that front. Please note the trafficking workshops in Wisconsin Rapids in June and Superior in July. (More information is available on our Synod Website, the SWO Synod Website. We hope to see you there!)



FROM THE TREASURER

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization
February 1, 2015 -- January 31, 2016
Audrey Severson, Treasurer

Balance on Hand February 1, 2015		\$18,068.88
Checking	\$ 5,487.11	
Savings	\$ 5,593.52	
Equipment Account	\$ 1,369.25	
ELCA Mission Investment	\$ 5,619.00	
Total	\$18,068.88	
RECEIPTS		
Churchwide Ministry Income		\$ 742.02
World Hunger	\$ 60.02	
Malaria Campaign	602.00	
Thankoffering	80.00	
Northwester Subscriptions		\$ 1,723.00
SWO Receipts		\$ 30,602.36
Unit Offerings	\$24,398.66	
Conference Offerings	3,563.75	
Leadership Training Wkshp	456.00	
Phebe Hospital Solar Project	200.00	
Lutheran Social Services South	481.25	
Malawi Literacy Project	1,428.00	
Interest	24.70	
Miscellaneous	50.00	
SWO Convention		\$ 2,350.00
Convention Expense Fund	\$ 2,195.00	
Convention Offering	155.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$35,417.38
TOTAL FUNDS		<u>\$53,486.26</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
NW Synod Ministry		\$ 832.00
Malaria Campaign	\$ 302.00	
Malawi Famine Relief	500.00	
Synod Assembly Display	30.00	
Northwester Newsletter		\$ 2,952.68
SWO Board Expenses		\$ 4,025.24
Website	\$ 111.96	
Board Mtgs, Mileage	2,589.35	
Leadership Training Wksp	915.20	
Racial Justice	40.00	
Nominating Committee	318.73	
Miscellaneous	50.00	
SWO Ministries		\$ 6,382.00
Lay School Scholarships	\$ 700.00	
Seminary Scholarships	3,500.00	
Bible Camps Gifts	1,000.00	
Synod Resource Center	500.00	

LSS of the South	482.00		
Phebe Hospital Solar Project	200.00		
Churchwide Ministry			\$ 16,295.55
Offerings	\$12,199.00		
Conference Offerings	3,564.00		
World Hunger	42.95		
Thankoffering	80.00		
Malaria Campaign	300.00		
Event Insurance	109.60		
SWO Convention Planning	Expense 2015		\$ 547.80
TOTAL EXPENSES			\$ 31,035.27
Balance on hand Jan 31, 2016			\$ 22,450.99
Checking	\$ 7,891.52		
Savings	7,279.70		
Equipment Fund	1,638.25		
Mission Investment	<u>5,641.52</u>		
Total	<u>\$22,450.99</u>		
Total Malawi Literacy Fund	\$3,527.65		

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN Synod Women's Organization CONFERENCE ACCOUNTS
CONFERENCE SUMMARY OF FUNDS MAINTAINED BY SWO TREASURER

	RECEIPTS 2015	DISBURSEMENTS 2015
Apple River*	\$ 650.00	\$ 0.00
Chequamegon	1,557.79	1,758.74
Chippewa Valley	4,690.00	4,691.74
Dairyland*	50.00	0.00
Heart of the North	6,835.00	6,645.67
Lake Superior	0.00	0.00
St Croix Valley	1,798.00	2,173.40

* These conferences have additional funds in their own checking account.

*

CONFERENCE BALANCES, JANUARY 31, 2016

Apple River	\$ 789.45	
Chequamegon	1,463.26	
Chippewa Valley	644.96	
Dairyland	625.36	
Heart of the North	492.11	
Lake Superior	231.11	
St Croix Valley	327.11	
TOTAL	\$ 4,573.36	



**NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN SWO
BUDGET COMPARISON & PROPOSED THROUGH 2017**

	Actual 2014-2015	Budget 2015-2016	Actual 2015-2016	Amended 2016-17	Proposed 2017-18
INCOME					
Unit Offerings	\$ 22,785.22	\$ 22,000	\$ 24,398.66	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 25,000.00
Conference Offerings	\$ 3,811.52	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,563.75	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Convention Fund	\$ 2,520.00	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,195.00	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,100.00
Northwester	\$ 1,783.00	\$ 1,800	\$ 1,723.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,300.00
Interest, misc	\$ 391.17		\$ 22.64	\$ 15.00	\$ 1,135.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 31,290.91	\$ 29,900	\$ 31,903.05	\$ 31,715.00	\$ 33,035.00
EXPENSES					
Churchwide offering	\$ 13,702.51	\$ 11,000	\$ 12,199.00	\$ 12,250.00	\$ 12,500.00
Conference Offers	\$	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,564.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Malaria campaign	\$ 500.00				
Katie's Fund				\$ 100.00	
Northwester	\$ 5,342.88	\$ 4,000	\$ 2,952.68	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,000.00
Subtotal	\$ 19,546	\$ 18,000	\$ 18,715.68	\$ 18,350.00	\$ 18,000.00
SWO Board:					
mileage	\$ 2,694.11	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,909.00	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 2,400.00
meetings, meals	\$ 293.00	\$ 300	\$ 339.65	\$ 370.00	\$ 350.00
Leadership Training	\$ 454.06	\$ 400	\$ 459.20	\$ 475.00	\$ 500.00
postage, supplies	\$ 150.72	\$ 300	\$ 328.70	\$ 370.00	\$ 370.00
bank charges/ checks		\$ 100		\$ 175.00	\$ 70.00
Nominating Committee		\$ 300	318.73		\$ 300.00
insurance (churchwide)	\$ 152.30	\$ 150	\$ 109.60	\$ 150.00	\$ 120.00
financial review				\$ 60.00	\$ 60.00
equipment/software	\$ 2,342.69				\$ 500.00
Convention exp			\$ 547.80		\$ 600.00
website	\$ 101.50	\$ 400	111.96	\$ 125.00	\$ 170.00
Subtotal	\$6,168.38	\$ 4,450	\$ 4,124.64	\$ 4,125.00	\$ 5,440.00
SWO MINISTRIES					
Lay School Scholarship	\$ 700.00	\$ 700	700	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Seminary Scholarship	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,500	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Triennial Scholarships	\$ 3,920.00				
SWO conv scholarships	\$ 700.00			\$ 840.00	
Companion Synod	\$ 4,050.74	\$ 500	500	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Racial Justice	\$ 785.22	\$ 900	\$ 40.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
Resource Center		\$ 500	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Bible Camps		\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
other ministries		\$ 350		\$ 300.00	\$ 1,320.00
Triennial Gathering	\$ 200.00			\$ -	\$ 175.00
Subtotal	\$ 13,355.96	\$ 7,450	\$ 6,240.00	\$ 9,240.00	\$ 9,595.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 39,090.13	\$29,900.00	\$ 29,080.32	\$ 31,715.00	\$ 33,035.00

10th TRIENNIAL of Women of the ELCA to be held in MINNEAPOLIS!



July 13 through 16, 2017, the Women of the ELCA will be holding their Tenth Triennial in Minneapolis!! It will never be any closer than this, so this is the time to go!! The theme is “All Anew” and takes in the fact that we will be celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Triennials are Worship, Singing, Workshops, Inspirational Speakers, Shopping, and Fellowship with women around the world. Our Northwest SWO will again be offering two scholarships per conference, and these scholarships cover \$200.00 of the pre-bought registrations, so we are asking scholarship recipients to pay the other \$80.00. (President Sue and the other members of the board were pretty smart to purchase these pre-registrations at the last Triennial to save our treasury some money.) It is still a great deal so be sure to apply! There is an application in this newsletter. And with the Triennial in Minneapolis, we don’t have plane fare to pay for; just the hotel (share a room and the cost with your buddies), food and registration (apply for the scholarship!)

Online registration opens [September 6, 2016](#). Just go to the Women of the ELCA website and click on Triennial. I don’t know if they will be sending out registration booklets or not this year, so go online to register. I don’t know what hotels we will be staying at but our synod will be reserving a block of rooms. We are also partnering once again with Lands’ End clothing for shirts, sweaters, etc. which you can get with the Triennial or Women of the ELCA logo. Go to the W/ELCA website and in the “search” box, type Lands’ End clothing and you’ll be able to place your order.

We are going to be checking into a bus (or two or three) to take us to Minneapolis; maybe one from the northern area and one from the southern area. Once you have registered, please contact me and let me know you have registered, and also if you are interested in riding the bus. I am thinking we would be picking up people at a few places where people can leave their cars on [July 13](#) and then returning on [July 16](#). I don’t know yet what the cost of the bus would be.



Again, the Triennial will never be any closer. You end up regretting not what you did but what you didn’t do. You will never regret going to a Triennial so plan to attend! And how about asking your daughter, your granddaughter, your mother, your grandmother, your niece, your aunt, your neighbor – they don’t even have to be Lutheran! (We’ll take Methodists, Catholics, Baptists, Presbyterians, Druids . . . you get the idea!)

Roberta Bitler
edbert@sirentel.net
(715) 349-5908

These are the delegates who were elected to serve as our delegates to the 10th Triennial in Minneapolis

Lydia Pfeifer (Centuria), Brenda Wheeler (Webster), Jean Larson (Eleva), Dawn Wicklund (Superior), Nancy Priebe (Frederic), Phyllis Grohn (Eau Claire), and Carol Johnson (Milltown).



After consulting with the church-wide staff in Chicago, it was determined that our alternate list is in this order:

Marie Sanborn, Marian Nernberger, Mary Jane Sedin, Audrey Severson, Marcia Lindseth, and Phyllis Beastro.

**10th Triennial WELCA Gathering “All Anew”
July 13-16, 2017 – Minneapolis, Minnesota**

Scholarship Application

Two (2) Scholarships per Conference will be awarded - EACH WORTH \$200.00*

(*See explanation on page 2 of this application)

PLUS

One(1) Scholarship for the full registration will be awarded to a woman 40 years old or younger

Preference will be given to 1st time attendees

Deadline: November 1, 2016 Mail to: Audrey Severson, SWO Treasurer
N6059 – 530th St., Ellsworth WI 54011
Or e-mail to her at

nswotreas@gmail.com

Please print carefully.

Name _____ email address _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Congregation _____ City _____

Conference _____

I have _____ have not _____ attended a WELCA Triennial Gathering

What National, Synod or Conference Events have you attended and when?

Have you ever 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: (please circle one of the following numbers):

- 1) Financially, I could not attend without help.
- 2) The financial support will be helpful.
- 3) The financial support is not needed, but is encouraging and affirming.

 check here if qualified to apply for the “40 and under” full registration scholarship

The Scholarship Selection Committee (the Administrative Committee of the SWO), will review the applications for all scholarships, keeping the criteria below in mind as well as considering ages, ethnic background, and mother/daughter applicants:

EXPECTATIONS:

- 1) An attitude of wanting to make a difference because of attendance at this event.
- 2) A willingness to share your experience either in written form and/or verbally in our Northwest Synod.

RESTRICTIONS:

- 1) No more than two (2) yearly events in succession.
- 2) One Triennial Gathering every six (6) years.
- 3) A Synodical Board member may receive a scholarship for only one event during her term.
- 4) Inability to attend the event constitutes forfeiture of the scholarship.

*Immediately following the 2014 Triennial in Charlotte, your SWO Board purchased the 14 Triennial scholarship registrations for \$280 each, which is by far the cheapest price they will ever be. Because our Policies and Procedures official document allows us to contribute \$200 each for these scholarships, we are asking the recipients to reimburse us for the \$80 difference. Therefore, if you are selected we will be asking you to provide our Treasurer with a check for the \$80. If you have questions about this, please contact your **SWO President, Sue Saarem 715-268-5586.**

Greetings from your SWO's Racial Justice Advocates!

We are happy to report on two significant events that have happened recently:

1) One of our Racial Justice Advocates has now become the REVEREND Angela Kutney. Angie was ordained on June 9, 2016 at a beautiful worship service at Peace Lutheran Church in Dresser, her "home church." Bishop Rick Hoyme presided at the ordination service and several persons important in the life of Angie also participated, including her Father, Rev. Wayne Deloach, her Godfather, Rev. Gary Nokleberg, and her sister, Rev. Amy Waelchli. Twenty-eight other pastors were also present at Angie's service along with a large congregation of witnesses. Angie graduated from Wartburg Theological Seminary on May 15th and she will be installed as Pastor of Milltown Lutheran Church later in June. We are happy that Pastor Angie will remain in our Northwest Wisconsin Synod as a pastor and will also continue to do racial justice presentations as her time permits. Thank you to our Synod Women's Organization for providing a seminary scholarship to Angie for all four years of her seminary education, and also for training her as a Racial Justice Advocate for our Synod. Our SWO has been making significant gifts to our women seminarians for many years and it is bearing much fruit. Please remember Pastor Angela in your prayers as she continues her ministry among the people of our Northwest Wisconsin Synod.



2) We are happy to announce that the SWO Board has voted to support the training of another Racial Justice Advocate for our Synod Women's Organization! Nominated by two of our Racial Justice Advocates, Diane Kaufmann and Marcia Lindseth, **Mary Beth Meieriotto** is preparing to attend the Women of the ELCA's Justice Ministry training retreat for the racial justice advocates network, also known as Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality (TDTR). It will be held August 25-28, 2016 in Kansas City, KS at the Savior Pastoral Center Retreat & Conference Center.

Today's
Dream:
Tomorrow's
Reality



Women of the ELCA
Anti-racism Programming

There is some excitement around 2016's training retreat as WELCA has been teaching women how to have helpful conversations about race since 1997 and in 2015 our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, asked congregations to start having conversations about race. Inez Torres Davis, Director for Justice for our WELCA, has re-written the TDTR core curriculum. Mary will receive training on the new TDTR core curriculum.

Mary lives in Bayfield and is a member of the Lake Superior Conference. She is active in her congregation's ministry. She has conducted Faith Formation book studies and is currently preparing to become a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) to serve her congregation, Bethesda Lutheran in Bayfield. She has attended the Synod's Lay School of Ministry for the past eight years and has attended several TDTR presentations. She has been involved in activities at the Red Cliff Band of

Lake Superior Chippewa Indians in her hometown of Bayfield, including participation in a Food Shelf Committee for the tribe and participating in the New Year's Community Dinner put on by her congregation and members from the Red Cliff Band. Mary also assists Pastor Larry Jorstad with his discretionary fund which quite often is used to aid individuals and families on the reservation. Mary and her husband adopted a Native American son who is now 22 years old. We are hoping that Mary, when she finishes her training and given her background with Native American Ministry, will help our Racial Justice Advocates, and all of us in our Synod, learn more about and reach out to the six Native American tribes without our synod. Please pray for Mary Beth as she attends her TDTR training in August.

As a reminder, remember that we have four trained Racial Justice Advocates who are waiting for your invitations from units, churches, and conferences to come and speak with you about confronting racism. We appreciated the many people who chose to come to our presentations at the Synod's "Walking Together" event in March and at a few church presentations we have done this past spring. As Inez Torres Davis has said, *"We have great potential to address racism in powerful ways. Let us accompany one another on this road to healing of our church, our society, and our world."*

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Rev. Angie Kutney
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715-222-7915
angkutney@gmail.com

Convention Wrap-up

The convention was a great success. Where would we be without your registrations? Your participation makes the work that the planning committee did a success. It is a busy task – but what a great opportunity to meet so many inspiring, exciting and energetic ladies. We certainly are “Ordinary Women Serving an Extraordinary God.”

And speaking of registrations, our final number of people included 48 voting delegates, 78 participants, 12 board members, 2 clergy, 4 guests, 8 husbands, 1 granddaughter and 4 committee members for a grand total of 166 attendees. Thank you all for your participation.

Jean Larson, Convention Co-Chair



A BIG "Thank You" goes out to everyone that helped make our 2016 a successful working convention! There were 9 of us that went to Feed My People on Friday for a tour and to help bag cereal into smaller packages to be used later for weekend kids backpack lunches.

A day later, during two of the awareness sessions, our convention attendees helped tie 8 fleece blankets and make 5 lap

blankets! (note for next convention-bring more fleece! You all went wild making quilts) We also made over 130 hand stamped cards! There were people that never tied a blanket before or stamped a card that learned something new and we all had a great time. We would like to thank Thrivent for their generous donation to help purchase the fleece. Also thank you to Peggy Erickson for supplying the items used to make the cards.

The blankets were warmly received by the residents at the Amery Memory Care. The lap blankets and some of the cards were given to the Veteran's home in Chippewa Falls and the rest of the cards were given to the Stanley Food Pantry to distribute to their families. Thank you all for helping to make so many people in our synod warm and happy!



Bonnie Thalacker

THANK YOU!

This note was received from the Wisconsin Veteran's Home at Chippewa Falls:



“On behalf of the staff and members of the Wisconsin Veteran's Home at Chippewa Falls, I wish to thank you for your generous donation of beautiful lap quilts and greeting cards that were handmade at the Women of the ELCA Convention. Our members enjoy and appreciate the diversity of the items we off and your generosity makes that happens.

We appreciate your support of the Wisconsin veterans and their families. It is through contributions such as yours that we are able to provide an enriched quality of life for the members.

Again, thank you for your donation to serve veterans,

Sincerely, Mary Selz, Director of Activities



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LOCAL UNIT NEWS



The Women of the ELCA of Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake recently held creative fund-raiser to be a force for change in Barron County. They held a silent auction of 27 purses and bags filled with a variety of treasures-books, jewelry, gardening tools, books, gift certificates and much more-while seeking bids in the auction.

Show are Paulette Hanson and Gail Weber with arms full of purses; the two women organized the event with the proceeds benefitting "End Domestic Abuse Barron County" fund.

A Domestic Abuse Advocate from the Barron County Department of Health and Human Services, Kristy Moran, was on hand to speak about her work with clients who are victims of abuse.

She receives referrals from Child Protective Services, Environmental Health, Behavioral Health, hospitals, doctors and community members. She

strives to ensure that each woman receives a survival manual and attempts to reach victims through community events and social media. Every week she advocates for victims during court hearings. Over \$1,700 was raised to help victims of domestic abuse. They found that the entire congregation was willing to be a part of this project.

For more information, please contact Marlene Thurs, 1610 W Allen St., Rice Lake, WI 54868. She may also be reached by phone at 715-264-5902.



Need an on-the-go companion for your faith journey? Daily Grace offers brief reflections every day in which you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. Be comforted, challenged, inspired, consoled and confronted. Sign up for Daily Grace on Women of the ELCA. You can get it by e-mail as well as on apps for your phone.

To get it by e-mail, just go to Women of the ELCA website <http://www.womenoftheelca.org> and the link is right on the home page. This link will take you to sign up by e-mail. If you wish to get it as an app for your phone, click on resources and you'll find information.

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Or email at hjdebjohnson@tds.net



2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



AUGUST

- 13 – Apple River Conference Retreat, Luther Point, Grantsburg
- 15-16 – Heart of the North Conference Retreat, Luther Park
- 17-18 – Chippewa Valley Conference Retreat, Luther Park, Chetek
- 18-19 – Dairyland Conference Retreat, Luther Park, Chetek

SEPTEMBER

- 17 – Synod-wide Leadership Training, Central Lutheran, Chippewa Falls

OCTOBER

- 8 – Heart of the North Conference Fall Leadership Training, place TBA
- 12 – Dairyland Conference Officer Leader Training, Pleasant Valley Lutheran, Eleva
- 22 – Apple River Conference Leadership Training, Fristad Lutheran, Centuria

2017

JULY

- 10-13 – 10TH Triennial CONVENTION of the Women of the ELCA, Minneapolis, MN Convention Center; where the *business* of the Women of the ELCA is conducted. [Monday to Thursday].
- 13-16 – 10th Triennial GATHERING of the Women of the ELCA, Minneapolis, MN, Convention Center; the theme for this Gathering is “All Anew”. [Wednesday to Saturday].



JOY

“Jesus, Others, Self”

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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.

Subscriptions to the newsletter are **\$8.00 per year.** 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.

Address changes and 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 **SEPTEMBER 1, 2016**

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