

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN



# *The Northwester*

*Newsletter for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

*Northwest Synod of Wisconsin*

*Volume 28 - Issue 3 - September 2015*

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

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## *The times, they are a-changin'*

You probably have heard about the SWO Board's recent decision to make some changes in how you are able to receive *The Northwester*. Because of increased costs of printing and mailing, the Board made the choice to give the readers an option in the way they receive the SWO newsletter.

Many of you have opted to have the issues be received via the Internet. To those who prefer not to get their issue in this manner, don't worry, it will still be published, printed and sent through the Postal Service as it has been done.

The printed version, received through the Post Office will have a subscription price of \$8.00 per year. Those who enjoy reading their issue on their computer, will be able to receive it at no charge. We hope that by giving you an option in how to receive *The Northwester*, will give additional readers the information that is important to the Women of the ELCA in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin.

We would appreciate your feedback on this new way of publishing *The Northwester*, and hope that you will also send your local unit news to any of the SWO Board members listed on another page.

Please bear with us as we continue to improve your newsletter. If you have any suggestions, please let us know!

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been fun meeting with you at your days of renewal and your summer retreats. I may not remember names, but faces are becoming familiar. It's nice to hear about the things that concern you and the work that you are doing for our Lord. And I even enjoy the questions that you bring forward.

Continuing with the "attitude of gratitude"-----

We received large posters of gratitude from the New Hope Children's Shelter in Texas for the items we sent in our "Drop Your Drawers" campaign. Some of you saw the drawings at your retreats. The kids made three dimensional flowers, line drawings of soccer players, etc., and signed their names in appreciation of all that we sent. Meanwhile, some federal judge in California decided that detaining children is against the law. I did contact Paul Hernandez, director of Lutheran Social Services of the South, to get a clarification and to see if that ruling affected their work in Texas. It does not. It seems that another organization is holding mothers and children in prison settings!! Unbelievable!!

Because my stepson's company (Go-Macro!) paid for the entire shipping of our "Drop Your Drawers" items, we were able to send all financial donations to the LSS of the South for the work with the unaccompanied minors at the border. This amounted to over \$480 that they can now use for the terrific amount of unmet needs they face.

I am grateful for your generosity!! Our Wisconsin Synod Women of the ELCA are at the top of the heap in our entire region for money sent to church-wide in Chicago. I sensed discouragement in some of the other SWO Presidents because of declines within their organizations, so it is up-lifting to me to report such good news about what you are doing.



**The Lutheran World Relief shipping schedule** for this fall is now available. Copies are being distributed at retreats and leadership training. In our Synod we are looking at **October 10<sup>th</sup> for both Eau Claire (Trinity Lutheran on Lexington Blvd.) and Rice Lake (Bethany Lutheran on Messenger Street).**

I spent over an hour on the phone the other night in a conference call with our national president, three women from the church-wide office in Chicago, and a dozen other SWO Presidents. Several of them were new to their positions like I was last year. We each had an opportunity to report on doings in our Synod, so I was able to talk about "Drop Your Drawers," your wonderful retreats, and your generosity. We were asked to come up with information about any work in our Synods regarding human trafficking that we can report in February when all SWO Presidents meet again in Chicago. Please let me know of anything in your communities, areas, or churches that is helping to counteract this evil.

Triennial promoter people are being selected as we speak. They will be trained in November and available to come to our gatherings after that. The theme for the Triennial is "All Anew." It will feature a celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation as well as transformation via the Holy Spirit today. Be in dialogue at your church NOW to come up with plans to raise money to send as many women as you can to this Gathering that will be in Minneapolis, July 13-16, 2017, and I found out that it is too early to sign up to volunteer to usher, serve communion or whatever. However, people at our headquarters in Chicago are securing speakers and readying promotional materials. We will be required to elect our seven voting delegates for the Triennial at our convention in April. I have applications for anyone interested in this position that comes with a free registration for the convention part of the Triennial.

Mark your calendars for April 29 and 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016, for our NW Wisconsin Women of the ELCA convention at the Plaza Hotel and Suites in Eau Claire. The committee is hard at work setting up workshops, getting speakers, and making other decisions about the different parts of our event. You can contact Janet Allison or myself with your ideas, but do it soon so we have a chance to include them. We are in need of a couple more nominating committee members who will be tasked with finding candidates for secretary and vice president as well as conference reps from Apple River, Chequamegon, Heart of the North and Dairyland. Our "retired" SWO President Marcia Lindseth has graciously agreed to chair the nominations committee, so you can contact her with names of people who might be willing to serve either on the committee (from Dairyland, Lake Superior, or Chippewa Valley) or in one of the Board positions mentioned.



Our next SWO Board meeting includes Conference Coordinators. This will be held at First Lutheran in Barron on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Agendas and further information about the meeting will be sent at a later date to those who should attend. But meanwhile, you can air your concerns and give your ideas to any SWO Board member or Conference Coordinator. We will do our best to deal with issues that arise.

Thank you for your hospitality at your retreats and events. If your church is having something special, please invite me!! I look forward to being with you.

Sue Saarem, SWO President

# FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

## Devotions: A Cup of Water

*And if anyone gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones because he is my disciple, I tell you the truth, he will certainly not lose his reward.” Matt. 10:42 (NIV)*



In the early afternoon as the dew is dried on the grass, I’m getting the rider mower out and mow as long as I can. Then I see unwanted grass and weeds in the flowerbeds needing removal. Then there are twigs, branches and pine cones that the red squirrels have strewn around that need picked up. Oh, then I haven’t even checked mole traps yet. I run from one task to another, thinking how fast time goes and what I’m NOT getting done.

One day I figured out I was expecting too much of myself. I was trying to do my best, yet I was not keeping up. Working outside was leaving the inside undone. I thought I was giving my best effort, but was I?

I wonder if this is the same in my daily Christian walk. Am I doing my best for God or running from one task to another and leaving much undone? How much am I doing to please God? Do I stumble in frustration?

At different stages of our life our priorities have to change. We may not be able to do what we’ve done before. Our time, health, and resources change. We have to look at our priorities in a whole new way. When we can no longer do yard work, household duties, or repairs, God will give us something else to do.



I think of the words of a song, “If just a cup of water I place within your hand, then just a cup of water is all that I demand.” Wait on the Lord to see what our best for him includes. He has a need for everyone.

*Dear God, I want to walk on your path, not of my own making. Help me to do this. Amen.*

By Sue Piotrowski, New Hope Lutheran Church

**The NORTHWESTER is  
up-grading!!!**

To receive your Northwester via **FREE** electronic version, print your name **CAREFULLY** and send this information to your conference representative or the Northwester Editor, Eleanor Johnson. Their names and addresses, [US Postal Service and email] are on the Officer page.

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*Because of the difficulty of checking over 700 subscriptions for expiration dates, if you prefer an email subscription, it will start with the next issue to be published. Thanks for your understanding.*

## Discipleship

There are many reasons and ways that we choose to have an opportunity to demonstrate and share our faith with others. I chose a two day (+) drive with 10 high school students and 4 other adults in 3 vans driving over our nations busy freeways to go to camp with them. It was one of the best decisions I've made at this late stage of my grandma "hood" days. It meant no sleep (I love naps), a long drive, good and not so delightful driving conditions and a great deal of responsibility for our precious cargo.



The trip started on July 17 and we returned home on the 27<sup>th</sup>. It turned out to be an experience of a lifetime for this grandma and about 114 high school students and counselors as we learned to live in villages, studied the "Fruits of the Spirit", worshipped together and reached new challenges before us.

Students and counselors throughout the nation merged their lives together and had, as Dave Jarvis, the director at Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp in Canon City, Colorado, proclaims the best high school camp experience he has had in his 27 years as the director of the Lutheran camp.

As we worshipped together we renewed and strengthened our faith and found hope that this community of believers will return and move in their own church communities and the world knowing that all is well (but challenging) with the walk they have chosen sharing their faith with others in the future.

Experiences were rich, deep, meaningful, and challenging as we lived together with unknowns, worshipped in some way every hour of the day, found our faith when we needed it as we climbed mountains, rode the raft in the raging river, or climbed the low and high rope courses.



We learned to trust others when we lost our confidence or questioned ourselves or our faith. It was wonderful to experience the growth with our eight young men and two young women amongst the 114 high schoolers who had come to Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. Most came not knowing what to expect. There were some who had been there before. The community of hope that they built has them planning for more. All of our 10 want to return to learn more about themselves, their faith and the life challenges before them. They worked hard to earn the money to go to camp and have plans for returning. They gave up baseball tournaments and their other summer activities to do something they will never forget.



This grandma is so proud of them and will get in better shape so I can climb the mountains, ride the river raft and maybe climb the ropes next summer. I have hope for me and know that there is HOPE for the young men and women who attended and counseled at Rainbow Trails Camp in July of 2015. I thank them for allowing me to be a camp Grandma Mary.

Mary Jane Sedin  
Peace Lutheran Church, Poplar

*Take your Daily Grace with you every day*



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. Ask for your Daily Grace to go. Download an app for your Apple (iTunes) or Android devices now. You can also sign up to receive Daily Grace via e-mail.

- See more at: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/gracetogo-pages-129.php#sthash.QcNaP9yk.dpuf>

## FROM THE TREASURER

Another summer is soon gone and I hope it was a productive season for you physically, socially and spiritually. Fall schedules will soon begin. I have been receiving money from units all summer but many units take a break over the summer.



I was able to send \$482 donated to the Lutheran Social Services of the South clothes shipping directly to that agency for more clothing as needed. We appreciate the generosity of the trucking company who decided to donate their space in their truck going south. We are still waiting to hear from Malawi how they would proceed on literacy teaching of women in their synod. We have \$3,098 in that fund by July 1, 2015.

I thank the units who sent in their \$30 convention expense fund donation which will help to greatly keep the price we need to charge as low as possible for the SWO convention next spring in Eau Claire. We have

received \$1,415.00 from this year's donations for convention expenses.

We have started to plan for the conference officers training on Saturday, September 26. Conference treasurers will meet together for one session to discuss details of the job.

Unit treasurers, if you will not be attending your own conference training, you can attend this training. Now that I am on my second year on this job, I may have more information and be able to answer your questions.

A reminder again that the address for sending monetary donations into W/ELCA Churchwide office has changed. They have obtained a company to record all donations at a saving of time and money to the W/ELCA and the ELCA. The **new address** to send in such things as Thankofferings and Katie's Fund on Form B is **W/ELCA, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.**

By July 1, income & offerings of 2015 were:

Malawi Literacy Project	\$3,098.65
Regular Unit Offerings	\$8,630.00
Convention Expense Fund	\$1,415.00
Conference Offerings to WELCA	\$1,600.92
Northwester Subscriptions	\$1,071.00

Ministries & Expenses to July 1:

Northwester	\$1,678.82
SWO Board Expenses	\$1,150.07
Seminary Scholarships	\$3,500.00
Resource Center	\$ 500.00
Bible Camps-2	\$1,000.00
W/ELCA Churchwide offering	\$4,316.00
2016 Convention Expenses	225.00

On July 1, our investment in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund was at \$5,628.24.

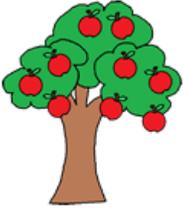
On July 1, our checking account had a balance of \$4,503.11.

Blessings to you,

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# STEWARDSHIP



Stewardship can be like an apple tree. We all know that apple trees can grow on their own, but to bear the biggest fruits, the trees must be given annual care. It doesn't take long for the young apple tree to bear fruit, but after a few years the branches have multiplied. Some get entangled with others. Others get so little nourishment that they become weak and unable to bear any weight. Worst of all, the nourishments meant for the fruit are instead devoted to multiplying branches.

What to do? Wish for an orange tree? What about cloning only the "most successful" apple tree. But looking at it from the apple tree's point of view: what if you're not the "successful tree"? Do you want to deny your reality, become something/someone else?

So how do we solve the problem of the overgrown apple tree? We can prune all the branches so the tree looks like a fence post! That way there are no entanglements. One problem though-not much fruit comes from fence posts!

Another solution: Prune the tree so it takes the shape of a ladder and then lift yourself by your roots and climb to heavenly bliss! One problem: you have to have the right technique!

There is a better solution, a way to prune trees carefully. Cut away branches that limit the growth of the other branches. Snip off entangled twigs. This pruning yields a stronger structure, and most of all, now the tree grows many fine, large, tasty and beautiful apples.



Let us be like the well pruned tree - able to bear large, tasty, beautiful apples.



Take a look under [elca.org/ELCA](http://elca.org/ELCA) under Stewardship lifestyles for more on this article/worksheet on Apple Tree.

Stephanie Rumstick, Dairyland Conference Representative

"Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter;  
whoever finds one has found a treasure.  
Faithful friends are beyond price;  
no amount can balance their worth.  
Faithful friends are life-saving medicine;  
and those who fear the Lord will find them."

(Ecclesiasticus 6:14 - 16)

*"Sturdy shelter. Beyond price. Life-saving medicine. "*



Yes, we thought, that certainly describes the many faithful friends of Women of the ELCA. So that's what we've named our new giving program: "Faithful Friends."

"Faithful Friends" is an easy way for you (or your congregational unit or Synodical organization!) to give monthly to Women of the ELCA by automatic withdrawal from your checking account or by automatic charge to your credit card.

The "Faithful Friends" program supports the Women of the ELCA General Fund, which makes it possible for the Churchwide organization to act quickly and flexibly in response to any needs that may arise.

The prophet Isaiah tells us that God says, "I am about to do a new thing" (43:19a). And "Faithful Friends" is one way you can help Women of the ELCA be ready for whatever new thing God has in store.

## How to join Faithful Friends

Visit [welca.org/FaithfulFriends](http://welca.org/FaithfulFriends), download the form, print it out, fill it in, and mail it to:

ELCA Gift Processing Supervisor  
8765 W. Higgins Road, 5th floor  
Chicago IL 60631-2767

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

I was excited to keep track of what was happening at the Youth Gathering in Detroit, MI in July. For those of you who did not follow along, can you imagine 30,000 Lutherans converging on a city, thirty thousand



Lutherans doing service projects, gathering in kind gifts and helping a community that is rebounding from economic crisis. I followed the Youth Gathering on Facebook and was touched and humbled to see our youth cleaning parks, doing yard work, landscaping, painting houses and fixing fences. Along with the youth, our Women of the ELCA were right there beside them. I saw our elected leadership, the Chicago office team and our Bishop joining in, making a difference.

The Women of the ELCA had an anti-sex trafficking exhibit in the Community Life area of the Gathering. The exhibit gave information about recognizing warning signs of sex-trafficked victims and warned how youth can be lured into trafficking through social media such as Facebook. The exhibit collected in kind gifts to make over 1500 hygiene kits that were distributed to seven organizations in Detroit that work with survivors, at-risk youth and victims of human sex trafficking. These kits were made possible by donations of over \$10,000 from W/ELCA units and individuals and donations from the youth attending. The youth made cards of encouragement to put into the hygiene kits, adding a personal, caring touch.

I know this is an issue that has touched our women and is moving us to action. I know that our youth are also concerned and want help put an end to trafficking. What can we do to help provide opportunities to join together with our youth to raise awareness of trafficking and make a difference? If you would like to see the posters from the Youth Gathering, they are on the Women of the ELCA website ([www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)). Select the "Our Work" tab and click on Justice then on Human Trafficking. There is a link to the posters in the article. One of the posters lists the following clues someone is being trafficked; under 18 and selling sex; trading sex for money, food, housing or clothes; frequently seen at hotels/motels; tattoos signifying "ownership"; pictured in online ads for sex. For a complete list of signs to recognize for trafficking go to [www.polarisproject.org](http://www.polarisproject.org) under the Human Trafficking tab. (National Human Trafficking Resource Center hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text INFO or HELP to BeFree (233733)).



Just seen on Facebook from the ELCA...



The ELCA Malaria Campaign just reached its fundraising goal of \$15 million! Thank you for being a part of this monumental milestone and helping us protect countless lives from this preventable, treatable disease. We couldn't have done it without you!

Five years ago ELCA members, congregations, Women of the ELCA units and synods came together, dreamed big with our Lutheran companion churches and partners, and set out to raise \$15 million for malaria programming. Today we celebrate all that we have accomplished together.

Working with our Lutheran companions and partners in 13 African countries, we have brought about lasting change. But our work is not over. While the ELCA Malaria Campaign will officially come to an end on Jan. 31, 2016, our commitment to ending deaths from this disease will not. In the coming years, support to our companions and partners to address malaria will come through gifts to ELCA World Hunger, which has a long history of supporting health-related work.

Without you, none of this would have been possible. Thank you for your prayers, your partnership and your generosity.

## "THE BRICK"

A young and successful executive was travelling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting in and out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something.



As his car passed, no children appeared, instead a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on his brakes and backed his car to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what the heck are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money to fix my car, why did you do it?"



The young boy was apologetic, "Please, mister...please, I'm sorry but I didn't know what else to do." He pleaded, "I threw that brick because no one else would stop..." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car..."It's my brother, he rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."

Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."



Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out a linen handkerchief and dabbed at his fresh scrapes and bruises. A quick look told him everything would be okay. "Thank you and God bless you", the grateful boy told the stranger.

Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long, slow walk back to his Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door.

He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: "Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!"

God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, God has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice to listen or not.

God didn't promise days without sorrow, sun without rain; but God did promise strength for the day, comfort for the tears and light for the way.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you think you need more exercise, you may enjoy this!  
"And God Looked Down."

Most seniors never get enough exercise. So in his wisdom God decreed that seniors would become forgetful. They would have to search for their glasses, keys and other misplaced items and they would do some walking.  
And God Looked down and saw that it was good.



Then God saw there was yet another need. So God in his wisdom made seniors lose coordination. They would drop things which would require them to bend, reach and stretch.  
And God looked down and saw that it was good.

Then God considered the functioning of senior bladders. He decided that in His wisdom there would be calls of nature more frequently. This would require more trips to the relief station that would burn calories.  
God looked down and saw that it was good.

Seniors were obliged to exercise more from these senior shortcomings and did become more active as a result.

So if you find you are required to get up and down more as you age. Remember it's God's will and in your best interests, even though you mutter under your breath.

And it is good. Amen!

## A BLESSING SERVICE FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF KITS

**Leader:** The materials we dedicate today are representative of the many items which have been gathered over the last year. We commend those who so dependably met together to make these beautiful quilts. We thank you for their devoted service. We praise you for the members of the family of God who have gathered together to purchase and assemble these kits; we pray that they will continue to use their talents to create beautiful messages of love to the people in your in your world who may be desperately seeking your Word of grace and comfort. Help us renew our promise to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless, clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast, welcome the stranger and be a loving neighbor to all the people of the earth.

*A member presents a quilt:*

**Leader:** Let us pray, Almighty God, it is your will to bring comfort and help to the distressed. Bless these quilts and blankets wherever they may be used, that they may provide warmth and security to those who have experienced tragedy or have no other shelter. May those who receive them also experience the covering of your love and comfort, and encounter your grace and peace as they rest under their protection. May these coverings help them to encounter the comforting knowledge of you as their Saviour.

*A school kit is presented:*

**Leader:** Gracious Lord, you have taught us your truth through your Son, Jesus Christ. Bless these school kits where ever they may be sent, that those who use them may grow in knowledge and skill. As they receive their education, make it possible for these students to build talents for themselves and for the families they will help to support. Give them a sense of your will in their lives as they continue to learn of your love.

*A Baby Care kit is presented:*

**Leader:** Creator Lord, you have given us the gift of children. Bless these kits that whoever receives them may celebrate the joy of the new life which was brought into your world. May they welcome their child into their arms and homes and we pray that their baby will be received with love and wrapped in the knowledge that you are their creator. We pray that these families will be blessed and come to know you as their Lord and Savior.

*A Personal Care kit is presented:*

**Leader:** God of Life, you have said that you “came that we may have life, and have it abundantly.” Bless those who receive these kits that they may find a blessing in the gifts it contains. We pray that they may be able to provide for themselves a measure of personal well-being, and know of the cleansing power of your grace and love. Help them be strengthened through your abundant love and care.

*A member presents a Fabric kit:*

**Leader:** Lord God you brought grace and forgiveness to Adam and Eve by replacing their fig leaf covering with garments of skin. Bless these fabrics that all who receive they may find warmth and comfort. Bless us your servants, Lord; those who brought these gifts to you and those who have labored in love to create them. Inspire us in our service to others, that more and more may see and experience your loving, caring hand in their lives. We ask that you bless the fruits of our labor and the whole work of Lutheran World Relief efforts that together we may minister to your world in need. We ask this in your gracious name. Amen.

What if you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?



# 2015 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



## SEPTEMBER

- 26 – SWO Leader Training, Christ Lutheran, Menomonie

## OCTOBER

- 10 – **LWR Shipping Date – Eau Claire @ Trinity Lutheran, 1314 Lexington Blvd.**  
-- **Rice Lake, @ Bethany Lutheran, 35 W Messenger St**
- 14 – Dairyland Conference Leader Training Meeting, Central Lutheran, Mondovi
- 16 – Chequamegon Conference (Community program) featuring Pati Kachel “Conversations with Corrie ten Boom”, Calvary Lutheran, Neillsville
- 17 – Chequamegon Conference **Retreat**, St John Lutheran, Edgar. Guest Speaker, Pati Kachel, “Characterization of Katrina Von Bora” in AM, “A Patchwork Quilt of Heartwarming Stories in PM.
- 21 Convention Committee Meeting at The Plaza Hotel and Suites, Eau Claire
- 24 – Heart of the North Conference Leader Training, Living Water Lutheran, Cameron
- 24 – Apple River Conference, Fall Leader Training Meeting, Milltown Lutheran

## NOVEMBER

- 7 – SWO Board meeting with Conference Coordinators, First Lutheran, Barron

# 2016

## APRIL

- 9 – Apple River Conference Day of Renewal
- 29-30 – **SWO SYNODICAL CONVENTION, The Plaza Hotel and Suites, Eau Claire, WI** – see additional information below

## AUGUST

- 13 or 20 – Apple River Conference Retreat, Luther Point, Grantsburg

## OCTOBER

- 22 – Apple River Conference, Leader Training

# 2017

## JULY

- 10-13, 2017 – 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial CONVENTION of the Women of the ELCA, Minneapolis, MN Convention Center, where the business of the Women of the ELCA is conducted.
- 13-16, 2017 – 10<sup>th</sup> Triennial GATHERING of the Women of the ELCA, Minneapolis, MN. The theme for this Gathering is “All Anew” (Wednesday – Saturday)



The **2016 SWO Convention** is just around the corner so mark your calendars for April 29-30 2016! We will be meeting at The Plaza Hotel in Eau Claire. (The room block number is 8696 if you would like to make your reservations now) “**Ordinary Women SERVING An Extraordinary God**” is the theme for our convention.

We are pleased to announce that Michelle Rayburn will be our key note speaker for Saturday. Stay tuned for more information on Awareness Sessions, service projects and much, much more! We are looking forward to seeing you all next April, but if you have questions or ideas please let us know. Bonnie Thalacker [sthalker@aol.com](mailto:sthalker@aol.com), or Jean Larson [davejeanlarson@tcc.coop](mailto:davejeanlarson@tcc.coop)

# NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN SWO BOARD MEMBERS – 2014 – 2016

## PRESIDENT



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## VICE PRESIDENT



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Our Savior's Lutheran, Superior  
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## LAKE SUPERIOR CONF #1 – BOARD MEMBER



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Peace Lutheran, Poplar  
none

## APPLE RIVER CONF # 2 – BOARD MEMBER



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