

**SPEAKER RESOURCE LIST
NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN
WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

Revised March 2018

Note: Fees for these presenters are listed when they were supplied. If no fee is listed, ask if they have a standard fee. If not, speakers are generally given an honorarium and mileage. The mileage rate is to be determined at the time of booking.

Amanda Allen
651-969-2258
701-240-4787
amanda.allen@lssmn.org

Amanda is the senior manager of **Camp Noah, a Lutheran Social Service ministry for children who have experienced disaster or other trauma.** Camp Noah moves to where the disaster has occurred to minister to all the children with the support of churches and community. After 20 years of experience in the organization, she reports Camp Noah is the only group she has seen with 100% ratings for success as attested by both parents and children who have participated.

Alzen Family Band
13655 - 30th St. S

The Alzen Family Band consists of a mother, father and children who play **bluegrass and gospel music** and share testimony.

Afton, MN 55001
alzenfamilyband@gmail.com
612-868-4726

Fee: Call for pricing

Helen Anderson
helena@grantsburgTelcom.net
Frederic, WI
715-488-2233

Helen speaks on **Lutheran World Relief** in general as well as her **study visits to West Africa, South America and Brazil.**

Fee: Honorarium plus mileage

Ruth Anderson and Barb Swant
1461-16th St.
Barron, WI 54812
(Ruth) purplesand@centurytel.net
715-205-8920
(Barb) barbswant@yahoo.com
715-418-0979

Ruth and Barb are the authors of **Mary's Story**, the novel of the crucifixion of Christ as witnessed by his mother. They speak on a number of other topics as well: **Prayers of Jesus, Psalm 23, Grieving With Mary, Pan Pipes and Great Pipes, Finding Song of Your Soul, Summer in Wisconsin, The Christmas Story with Mary, Forgiveness,** and their latest presentation, **Lessons From the Canyon.**

Fee varies – Ruth and Barb are happy to work within your organization's budget.

Kate Beaton

kate@conservationvoters.org
www.conservationvoters.org
715-252-2544 (cell)
715-257-4275 (office)

Kate speaks on the **politics of Wisconsin conservation**. As the Western Organizer for Wisconsin League of Conservation Voters and based out of Eau Claire, she works to build lasting meaningful relationships with conservationists, health professionals, farmers, and families to empower Wisconsinites to advocate for good environmental policy to protect our water, land and air.

Lori Bowman

1107 Heart Island Pkwy
Rice Lake, WI 54868
executivedirector@
benjamins-house.org
715-736-2437

As Executive Director for Benjamin's House Emergency Shelter serving Barron County, Lori works with the **impoverished and homeless population** and tries to find solutions to the issues facing many people today.

Kathy Chesley

809 Ellis Ave
Ashland, WI 54806
kathy@godstruggler.com
715-682-3289
www.godstruggler.com

Kathy has many topics to share, or you can give her a theme and she will write something. Some of her themes are **LOL-the Benefits of Laughter, Blowing the Dust Off Your Bible, Teach Us to Pray, Teen Choices and Challenges, A Celebration of Aging, and themes on coping with chronic pain**.

Fee: Negotiable, but a minimum of \$100 plus mileage

Sherry DePolis Thompson

W6769 County Rd D
Sheldon, WI 54766
715-452-5819
virgil49d@hotmail.com

The View Is Worth the Climb -Whose Footsteps Will You Follow? Sherry composes and records songs about everyday life. She shares the stories behind the songs and how God uses the challenges of our lives to strengthen our faith in Him. Mother of 7, Sherry has shared her testimony in word and song for 38 years, and yes, she still yodels!

Fee: Offering plus mileage

Hannah Lea Elness

hannahlea@hotmail.com
612-812-2666

Hannah's presentation includes **sex trafficking, pornography, & empowering women out of poverty** through the organization she works for called Trades of Hope. This organization works with women in 16 countries, specifically fighting trafficking in Nepal, Bangladesh, India, Costa Rica and the USA. It empowers women out of poverty by providing sustainable income through a dignified partnership of the sale of their ethically produced hand-made jewelry, bags, scarves and home décor.

Jodi Emerson
2519 N Hillcrest Pkwy
Suite 100
Altoona, WI 54720
jodi@FierceFreedom.org
715-514-2890

Jodi is the Director of Public Policy and Community Relations at Fierce Freedom, a non-profit that raises **awareness and educates the public about domestic human trafficking**. She is also the developer of the Be Aware Campaign, a training program that fights human trafficking in the hospitality industry.

Bovaird (Bo)Gabriel
2534B Hills Court
Menominee, WI 54781
orvbo@wwt.net
715-231-2468

Bo gives 45-minute presentations on the following:

- The Glory of Feed Sacks**
- The History of Quilts**
- First Ladies of the White House**
- Scraps Make the Best Quilts**
- The Underground Railroad – The Involvement of Quilts**
- The Elegance of Butter Pats**
- Life & Symbols of the American Hobo**
- The History of Food—Fun Things You'll Enjoy Hearing**

Fee: \$30

Deb Gilbertson
gilbertsonfarm@yahoo.com

A natural comedienne and a retired nurse manager, Deb gives three possible presentations:

- Checking Your Attitude**
- Forgiveness Is Freedom**
- Words Can Damage**

Fee: Honorarium plus mileage

Global Health Ministries
763-586-9590
www.ghm.org

Global Health Ministries partners with Lutheran efforts to enhance and sustain the **health and well-being of people around the world**. To obtain a speaker go to www.ghm.org, click on Take Action/ Invite Speaker/Contact us, or phone them.

Amy Hartman
372 Warwick St
St. Paul, MN 55105
amyhartman94@gmail.com
651-802-6920

Amy addresses **child sex trafficking** and believes as Christians one of our calls is to respond to the injustice of child trafficking. She began her journey in the Northwest Synod of WI which eventually led to the role of National Director (now Emerita) of Cherish All Children.

Michele Hermansen
New Richmond, WI
mhermansen@gmail.com
612-868-2255

Michele is a speaker, author and photographer whose presentations relate to a variety of ages on a variety of topics. Her book, **Unexpected Journeys**, tells of her working visits to Africa.

Susan and Everin Houkom
Chippewa Falls, WI
slhoukom@gmail.com
715-861-5485

Susan and Everin attend Lay School of Ministry together and speak about their **trip to Germany in celebration of Martin Luther and the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.**

Diane Kaufmann

5207-70th St.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
dikaufmann@yahoo.com
715-579-1731

As a Racial Justice Advocate, Diane focuses on **Racial Justice Advocacy** and the topic of **racism** and how it applies to us today.

Fee: an honorarium to the Synod Resource Center plus mileage

Pati Kachel
c/o The Parable Fund
PO Box 270006
Vadnais Heights, MN 55127
patikachel@memail.com
www.theparablefund@me.com
651-485-1506

Pati presents over **35 original story programs on a variety of topics** that are near and dear to her heart. With stories, songs, scriptures and good humor she creatively communicates about the abundant life found in following Jesus Christ. She does programs everywhere from portrayals of Katie Luther and Corrie ten Boom to costumed characterizations: “Ya Sure, I’m a Norvegin Luteran” to “Move Over Martha Stewart.” Visit her website or watch video clips of her performances on YouTube.

Fee: Round trip mileage from Shoreview, MN, plus an honorarium of \$150-\$250 per hour-long program or a free-will offering received after the program

Greg Kaufmann
5207-70th St.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729
gkaufmann@nswi.org
715-579-1556

Topics include: **Formation of the New Testament** –Ever wonder why we have a New Testament? Jesus didn't! Why does it have 27 books in it and not some other combination? How did we end up with one anyway? These and other questions will be addressed. (This presentation takes a minimum of 2 hours)

Introduction to the Four Gospels –There were a variety of Gospel accounts of Jesus, but we ended up with four in our New Testament. Why four? During our time together we will look briefly at the beginning and ending of each of the four Gospels

and use this as a lens to see the unique portrait of Jesus offered by each of the four.

(G. Kaufman, cont.)

Vocation of All the Baptized” or “Why My Life Matters!”

Here Greg highlights the second pillar of the Reformation, which is often misunderstood or forgotten. Every Lutheran knows the first pillar of the Reformation: that we are saved by grace through faith. But we often forget the second, which is the priesthood of all believers. This presentation will provide Lutheran insights as we struggle with how to give meaning and purpose to our lives.

Luther's Legacy – Images of places and people in Germany connect Luther's radical insights into life and justice to our own struggle to make a difference in the world.

Fee: Normally \$150 per hour for teaching, plus mileage

Rev. Sarah Kerkes
1924 Wyoming Avenue
Superior, WI 54880
pastoroslesuperior@outlook.com

Pastor Sarah speaks on **domestic abuse**. She was in an abusive marriage for 15 years. Her personal story is one of survival, strength, and the presence of God in her hardest days. She will also talk about the ways the church can be a place of safety and support. She can speak about **Holy Humor** as well as lead Bible studies on a variety of topics.

Fee: \$300 plus travel expenses

King's Countrymen
Lorn & Kristi Schultz
W579 US Hwy 10
Mondovi, WI 54755
kingscountrymen@yahoo.com
715-926-5854
cell: 715-495-5375

The King's Countrymen perform **Bluegrass gospel music** and share God's love with audiences of all ages.

Fee: Offering plus mileage

Moira Kneer
Community Outreach Coord.
Sacred Heart Hospital
Eau Claire
moirakneer@yahoo.com
715-379-5772

Moira gives free presentations to community or church groups on a variety of topics. Some are inspirational or practical, and others overflow with laughter. Some of her topics include **Seuss for Seniors, Life lessons learned from the Peanut Gang, The Unexpected Caregiver on the Yellow Brick Road**, as well as topics on living alone, leaving a living legacy, and faith-based presentations on prayer, leadership, and Mary: A Woman for All Seasons. Two new themes were added in 2017: “**With Age Comes Wisdom... of a Sort.**” Using cartoons and humor, Moira looks at

the wealth of wisdom that age brings, and “**Cultivating a Grateful Heart**” where the themes of gratitude and kindness are discussed.

Ann Knutson
2010 – 9 7/8 Ave.
Cameron, WI 54822
annknutson2@gmail.com
715-458-0414

Ann speaks on **Malawi, Africa: Answering God's Call... Empowerment**. Ann has visited a juvenile prison and a maternity ward in Malawi. She lived a week in a rural village as they lived and experienced the Walk to the Cross on Good Friday. Most recently she and Mphatso Thole and Mabel Madinga founded the non-profit, Masomphenya (Vision) Women & Girls Empowerment Foundation, in Malawi.

Fee: mileage and donation to “Malawi Fund”

Phyllis Knutson
221 Amundson Street North
Amery, WI 54001
715-268-8370

Phyllis is a nationally known birch bark **basket maker** who will delight you with her adorable and functional baskets. She weaves some historical and practical notes into her talks and displays a spiritual perspective as well.

Fee: Negotiable plus mileage

Sandra Kosmo
3214 Chasewood Ln
Eau Claire, WI 54701
skosmo14@msn.com
715-734-2112

Sandra is a retired Lutheran pastor who presents a lively and excellent presentation on **endangered species and how God expects us to care for creation**. She authored the children's book, **Wanda Whooper**.

Angie Kutney
1426 - 180th St
to us
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
angkutney@gmail.com
715-222-7915

Angie is a Racial Justice Advocate. She focuses on **Racial Justice Advocacy** –the topic of **racism** and how it applies today.

Fee: Mileage

Gail Lando
22691 Akermark Rd
Grantsburg, WI 54840
gailk@granstburgtelcom.net
715-689-2437

Gail is a Racial Justice Advocate and focuses on **Racial Justice Advocacy** – the topic of **racism** and how it applies to us today, including white privilege, racism in the Church, and a presentation on the **Trail of Tears**, a Biblical and historical look at Systemic, Institutional Racism and White Privilege. Walk the Trail of Tears with the Choctaw Nation and Moses.

Fee: \$50 plus mileage if more than 25 mi. round trip. (If she brings a partner, the fee is the same for each of them)

Marcia Lindseth

135 Hillridge Ct.
Prescott, WI 54021 -1324
715-262-3498 (home)
715-278-8460 (cell)
mlindseth@centurytel.net

Marcia is a WELCA trained Racial Justice Advocate along with

Diane Kaufmann, Mary Meierotto, Gail Lando and Angie Kutney. These advocates focus on **Racial Justice Advocacy**. They can discuss what **current racial events in the USA** have to do with our understanding of “**White Privilege**.” They also can talk about “Systems” that are in place that lead to some of the troubles and misunderstanding that perhaps cause the current problems we have since the founding of our United States. They can help to improve our understand and talk about what our churches can do to become part of the solution.

Fee: Mileage

Karalyn Littlefield

370-155th Ave.
Turtle Lake, WI 54889
littlefieldkaralyn@gmail.com
612-432-5264

Karalyn's topic is: “**Feeding the World—One Child At a Time.**” Food insecurity impacts people world-wide. The children of Malawi have a partner to help them fight hunger. The ELCM, with support from the ELCA, sponsors feeding centers throughout the country of Malawi, serving children who are in need of help.

Fee: A donation to the Malawi Feeding Centers (given to the NW Synod of WI Synod office) and mileage

Mary Beth Meierotto

90555 Old Co. Hwy. K
Bayfield, WI 5414-4756
(Home) 715-209-0900
marymeierotto@gmail.com

Mary Beth is a Racial Justice Advocate willing to speak on **Racial Justice Advocacy** and **racism topics** as it applies to us today.

Fee: Mileage

Cathy Nordheim

20255 Maxwill Ave. N
Marine on St. Croix
cathynordheim@gmail.com
952-913-2369

Cathy's presentations can be customized for workshops, speaker events or three-session retreats. Her topics are: **Be Well, Be Whole: For Women on the Move**. She provides practical tips, conversation and music along with exploring how to claim our wholeness in the ordinary moments of our days. **Peace in Chaotic Times**. In this presentation Cathy suggests a buffet of healthy practices that can keep us calmer, help us build connections, and strengthen our witness in these

uncertain times.

Fee: \$150 per hour plus mileage

Susan Odegard

Shell Lake, WI
susanodegard@gmail.com
715-468-7718

Susan is the pastor of Salem Lutheran Church in Shell Lake and a trained representative of “Embrace.” She can lead groups to discuss **domestic abuse and date rape awareness**.

Judi Olson

WeLaugh for health@gmail.com
715-341-1017
laughingclubstevenspoint@
@gmail.com

Judi is a Certified Laughter Leader who **uses laughter exercises with deep breathing** which delivers more oxygen to the body and brain. It helps make one feel more energetic, healthy and alive and increases positive feelings and reduces stress hormones.

Kim Patterson

336 Valley St.
Amery, WI 54001
kpatterson@dynamonix.com
715-268-7435

As a Lay School of Ministry graduate, Kim enjoys sharing God's grace through speaking engagements, whether through leading worship services or hosting in-depth Bible studies. She shares the **history behind the Bible passages and discusses what the passages mean to us today**. Through delving into the scriptures it helps us better understand the blessings God has bestowed on us in our daily lives.

Fee: Honorarium plus mileage

Beverly Peterson

12135 N US Hwy 63
Hayward, WI 54843
beverlypeterson@centuytel.net
715-634-9356

Bev recently authored her 3rd book titled ***Blessings and Healings***. She will talk about what God has done in her life and the lives of others.

Penne Peterson-Sewell

penne.sewall@gmail.com
612-269-2556

“**Wait Training for Cross Bearers**” by Helda Pay is actually a staff member at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Louis Park, MN, Penne specializes in humorous, faith-based presentations for audiences large and small. She shares the joys and challenges facing women of God.

Michelle Rayburn

11510 County Hwy. M
New Auburn, WI 54757
michelle@michellerayburn.com
www.michellerayburn.com
715-382-6030

Michelle is the author of *The Repurposed and Upcycled Life: When God Turns Trash to Treasure*. She speaks on connecting faith, creativity and everyday life. Check out her website for more information.

Fee: \$250 for a single event and \$550 for a weekend retreat

Lynne Rigg

Red Wing, MN
lrigo2@aol.com
651-388-6730

Lynne can speak on her **three-month experience in Israel/Palestine** as an Ecumenical Accompanier with the World Council of Churches. She has served in Ramallah- Clinic in **Al Amari Refugee Camp** – Mobile Clinic in Remote areas. She also worked with the **Malawi Feeding Centers**

Cynthia Ruchti

6739 County Rd B
Pittsville, WI 54466
cynthia.ruchti@gmail.com
www.cythiaruchti.com
715-884-2534

Author of 18 books, Cynthia speaks on **hope-filled topics**. Check out her website for book titles, speaking presentations and lots more information.

Fee: Single event \$250 plus mileage

Susan Saarem

1315B-120th Avenue
Amery, WI 54001
pmssarem@yahoo.com
715-268-5586

A former teacher, retired pastor's wife and SWO president from 2014-2018, Sue speaks on **Prayer**, exploring aspects that include personal and participatory, private and interactive and bold and silent prayer. She also can speak on the topics: **Bags of Blessing From the Bag Lady, Let's Run Away With Jonah!, and Biblical Fruit (and fruit that isn't so Biblical)**.

Fee: Mileage

Mary Segerstrom

W145 Gonty Road
Mondovi WI 54755
segdairy@frontier.com

Mary's greatest gift is to uplift and inspire others through her humor, speaking and singing. Among her topics are: **Definition of a Christian – Slippery When Wet!** or **Old Fashioned Ladies Aide** or a program around a theme or

715-926-5375

occasion of your choice.

Fee: Mileage plus offering

Barbara Solsaa

barbara@clergylifecoaching.com

Barb is a **Professional Christian Life Coach** who specializes

in creating balance and boundaries for clergy and who does all the Boundary Workshops for the synod pastors. She speaks on a variety of other subjects, including safe churches and the importance of doing background checks for volunteers who work with the youth in our churches.

Fee: Negotiable – mileage plus \$100 minimum

Jan Struck

Appleton, WI

struckwithlaughter@sbcglobal.net

www.struckwithlaughter.org

Jan leads retreats with such topics as **Coffee with a Side of Grace, Down to the Potter's House –Cracked Pots, M & M –the Mary & Martha Syndrome, Seriously...**

Walk On Water? For more, check her website.

Fee: \$300 per day plus expenses

Other Resources:

Synod Resource Center

1005 Oxford Avenue

Eau Claire, WI 54703

715-833-1153

staff@synodresourcecenter.org

The Resource Center makes available **audio and video tapes, print resources and internet access stations** to churches, pastors and lay people. The hours are 9-5 Monday through Friday except holidays. Come in and browse during open hours. Appointments can be made for special evening or weekend sessions for small groups, committees or church councils. Contact the staff or the Resource Center Director, Pastor Greg Kaufman for more information.

Video on Trafficking

www.cordeliaanderson.com

“The Perspective of a Trick”