

NORTHWESTER

NEWSLETTER

NEWSLETTER



He went about doing good.

"...Jesus went about doing good...for God was with him."
Acts 10:38

As we move from All Saints Day into Advent, from Christmas into Epiphany, I look around and see the church at work in the world. It has been exciting and encouraging to read about all the ways we in our synod have been active in our communities.

Some churches serve a Thanksgiving Day meal, others serve meals on a regular basis for those in their community. Many held a Trunk or Treat event in their parking lots for neighborhood families on Halloween. Others build beds so children don't have to sleep on the

floor. We make prayer shawls and blankets, put together layettes and school kits, and oh so many quilts are made with love. The Spirit is moving in the church!

Some of our churches may no longer have an organized unit that meets regularly, but we are still doing the work of the Church, doing God's work. Anything we as women do within and on behalf of the church, we are doing Women's Ministry. We are involved, whether we are mentors, we prepare communion or make visits to shut ins or serve in the kitchen. We cook, we knit, crochet and quilt.

We make a difference. We are doing ministry.

"So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith." Galatians 6:9-10

Thank you for the work you do.
Joan Moe, SWO President



Advent

The word "advent" is Latin for "a coming" or "an arrival". The season of Advent in the Christian calendar anticipates the "coming of Christ" from three different perspectives: the physical nativity in Bethlehem, the reception of Christ in the heart of the believer, and the return of Christ at the Second Coming. The concept of Advent is based on God coming to earth and living among us, which is exciting news! Advent commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve.

As the holiday season approaches, we often hear the language spoken of "preparing the way." Traditionally, Advent is a time of reflection and affirmation, with each week represented by a theme. The traditional themes of Advent allow us to contemplate ways to share our deepest gifts: hope and faith, peace, love, and joy.

Advent Week 1: Hope and Faith. Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, we contemplate both hope and faith as we spiritually prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas.

Advent Week 2: Peace, we are called to mute our own thoughts. With quiet minds and open hearts, we find rest in the peace that surpasses all understanding.

Advent Week 3: Love, Jesus taught that we should love everyone: black, brown, or white; rich or poor; cool or nerdy; gay, straight, Democrat or Republican. At our core, we are one in God's love. It's a view of unconditional love that defines Christ consciousness extremely well.

Advent Week 4: Joy, we remind ourselves of the spiritual truth of this season: "Unto us a child is born." The joy that is Christmas—the birth of the Christ and the anticipation of his return. Joy to the world, the Savior is here and has been here all along!

To learn more about Advent, there are two studies listed on the Women of the ELCA (womenoftheelca.org) website:

- * Advent: A Season for All Generations.
- * A Different Kind of Journey: Advent as a Walk, Not a Sprint.

Have a blessed Christmas season everyone!
Gloria Rolstad, Vice President



A Note from your SWO Treasurer

We are continually called to serve God and those around us. One opportunity for serving is through our offerings. Your offerings not only support local ministries, but also ministries within the synod and throughout the entire church.

Reminders:

- Thankofferings are sent in full to Women of the ELCA on Form B (the address is on Form B.)
- Many units send their year-end or additional financial gifts for Women of the ELCA during December and we thank you for your faithfulness

and continued support for ministries of Women of the ELCA. The SWO fiscal year ends January 31st so please mail your offering by mid- January so they can be recorded in this year's activity.

- Does your unit have extra funds at the end of the year? If so, put those funds to work spreading God's love where it is needed. Consider sending an extra gift to Women of the ELCA churchwide for Katie's Fund or to our Bible Camps, Lutheran Social Services of WI, LWR shipping fund, ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Disaster Relief or local needs such as the food pantry, homeless shelter, organizations that provide services for those in domestic or trafficking crisis.
- YEARLY each unit shall send \$30 to the SWO treasurer for the convention expense fund. The purpose of this fund is to help defray the expenses of the convention and to keep the convention registration fee low enabling more women the opportunity of attending. This \$30 can be sent to me in February, March, or April. We haven't started discussing convention, but we should be able to hold an in-person convention somewhere in 2024.
- If you need offering forms A or B or the Treasurers Guide which guides you as to which form to use and where to send that offering, e-mail or text me and I can e-mail them to you.

It is with grateful hearts that we thank and praise God for the active, faithful, and joyous stewardship of Women in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. It is you and your offerings that support the many worthwhile ministries of your community, the SWO, and churchwide Women of the ELCA. Thanks be to God.

Phyllis Beastrom, SWO Treasurer
W6244 410th Ave
Ellsworth, WI 54011-3000
nwswotreas@gmail.com
715-821-5847 call or text

Unit Officer's Form

The updated Unit Officer's Form with the new Board and Conference Reps listed is later in this newsletter. Please send to those according to the instructions on the form whenever your unit officers may change.

Barb Garling, SWO Secretary

***News from the Northwest Synod of WI
Conferences***

St Croix Valley Conference

Carol Hajicek

We were happy to finally meet in person in September at Joy Lutheran in Prescott for a morning conference retreat. I, unfortunately, was not able to attend (just recovered from a mild case of covid and thought it best to err on the side of caution and stay home). Reports are that although attendance was small it was a good day and a good start to getting back to "normal". We will be planning two conference events for 2023: sometime in the spring at Christ Lutheran in Somerset and in the summer at Redeemer Lutheran in Hudson. The leadership board will be meeting soon to begin choosing dates and planning for those events.

I have received updates on congregation unit contacts from a few of our churches. While my email address is listed correctly on the SWO officer page of the Northwester, somehow a letter was dropped in the listing on the unit contact sheet. It has now been corrected, but if you still have an older form and were unsuccessful in sending your information to me, the correct email address is carolrh@baldwin-telecom.net.

Lake Superior Conference

Kathy Rewalt

Late fall has arrived, and we are quickly moving into the winter season. Lake Superior conference has been busy as usual. With the many dinners and bazaars that are taking place, our churches are on high speed. Here are some highlights from three of our congregations.

Peace Lutheran in Poplar has been enjoying seeing the community come together again as they held their Harvest Dinner and Holiday Bazaar. Their quilting group has been busy, and they donate quilts to several organizations including CASDA. Along with their quilts they continue to reach out into the community and have sponsored the Harbor House, Ruth House, Salvation Army, KIN, CASDA, Northern Waters Parish Nurse Ministry, Sea Farers, and the food shelf. They have an active parish nurse ministry at Peace and part of that ministry is an initiative started last year, The

Nurses Honor Guard, which pays tribute to nurses at the end of their lives.

Messiah Lutheran in Washburn has a women's group which started meeting over six years ago. Previously they have used DVD Bible studies and last year they watched and discussed "The Chosen." This fall they started studying a parenting book called "Bless This Mess, a Modern Guide to Faith and Parenting in a Chaotic World." All it takes is one dedicated lay person who is willing to keep the faith during the lean times. They are meeting twice per month.

Hope Lutheran in Oulu has also finally got back to having events in house. They had their late summer Fish Boil, and their Fall Harvest Dinner. Along with the dinners, they sponsored a quilt raffle and rummage sale with monies helping with expenses for the renovation of their church bathrooms. They have also donated this year to VBS, and they continue to donate their time as they rotate working at the Fig Leaf (local Thrift Store). During the Christmas Season they choose and sponsor some gifts from the ELCA Good Gifts catalog and this year they are going to help support St. Judes.

All of us up North on the Lake would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year. We look forward to the opportunities that God will send us as we support our local congregations as well as looking outside our walls to see where He will want us to use our time and talents. Peace to all.

Heart of the North Conference

Janice Ahneman

Calvary Lutheran and Zion Lutheran

Our small two-point parish put together 26 school kits and 29 Health kits this year. Calvary is in Loretta, Wisconsin and Zion is in Winter, Wisconsin. Terri Blomberg is our Pastor, and we love her.

New Hope Lutheran Church of Sand Creek & Pine Creek

We celebrated with our New Hope Comforters on November 13. Over 1,000 Quilts are designed and created by loving hands throughout each year. They bring God's love, warmth, and beauty into the lives of many near and far. Many are given locally, and many sent through Lutheran World Relief to villages in the far corners of the globe. We give thanks for the long hours and faithful care that is given.



Over 1000 quilts made at New Hope Lutheran!

Dairyland Conference

Amelie Lindberg-Livingston

The Dairyland Conference Board has begun planning the next Morning of Renewal for be held in mid-April, 2023. Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls will host the event.

Pastors and members from several congregations participated in a Health Fair for members of the Hispanic community on November 19 at the Arcadia High School. The event was co-sponsored by Neighbor to Neighbor and RUTH. More information about these two organizations and the Health Fair is included in articles later in this newsletter.

Little Norway Lutheran

Hello from Little Norway Lutheran located in Black River Falls, Wisconsin. After not meeting for nearly two years some changes have been made. After a declining number in our two circles, we became one Bible Study Circle with meeting to study from the Gather Magazine one month and the next month gather for a WELCA meeting.

A mini-Advent brunch is in the planning stages for December 7th. The brunch will be replacing a larger event we had for many years. A catered meal will be enjoyed followed by special music and readings by members. We will also be honoring one of our senior members, Lillian Hart, who will be turning 95 on December 14th. Along with food and fellowship we will collect personal care items for our local food pantry and write on Christmas cards for our shut-ins. Times have changed and we are attempting new ways to celebrate Advent.

Several organizations will benefit from our Christmas donations. It was decided to provide donations to

Project Christmas. Friends Sharing Food, Katy's Fund, Salvation Army, and St. John's Lutheran Church for their Thanksgiving dinner. Approximately \$600.00 will be distributed to these important organizations.

Chippewa Valley Conference

Diane Campbell

Fall is a time of finishing projects, and regrouping. The Lutheran World Relief Projects have been delivered to the gathering places, and some quilts were donated to those in need in our neighborhood via their schools and food pantries. Halloween related activities were held and most of the harvest meals are history.

In Eau Claire, our ELCA women joined forces with the men and participated in the first annual Fall Arts Celebration. Six ELCA Congregations gathered at Hope Lutheran Church on October 30th. Each participating church choir preformed individually and then joined together to form one large 90-member choir. While the choirs were getting ready, Sara Orh played the harp. Another part of this celebration consisted of art carvings, wood burning, oil paints, and watercolor. Neighbor to Neighbor, a newly formed program in Eau Claire, received the donations collected.

During Advent, our women will be involved as their church's host concerts, bazaars, and other special celebrations.

The Chippewa Valley Conference is planning two events just for women:

- Plans are in the works for a **SPRING FLING on April 22, 2023**. Watch your email for more details and information on the location
- **June 7th and 8th 2023, we will be at Luther Park** for our retreat, and we once again invite ALL women in our Synod to join us.

Chequamegon Conference

Peggy Erickson

The Chequamegon Conference will be hosting Spring Day of Renewal on April 15, 2023, at Trinity Lutheran, Loyal. We will be having a Lighthouse theme. Further information will be sent early in the New Year. New officers will be elected. We look forward to being active again and seeing old and new friends.

Apple River Conference

Suzanne Grill

The Apple River Fall Gathering was held on August 20, 2022, at Balsam Lutheran near Amery. Our guest speaker was Sandia Kosmo, the author of Wakanda Whooper. She is a volunteer and advocate of restoring the population of whooping cranes which were on the edge of extinction. After her very informative talk we were able to buy her book and she gave us origami cranes. The meeting also included election of officers. New on the board are Merry Yates as minister of discipleship, Nancy Priebe as secretary and Sue Allbrect as Co-coordinator.

During the period from August to November our conference units are having their annual bazaars, lutefisk dinners, meatball dinners, apple pie and lefse sales. Most also make school kits, personal care kits, infant care kits and quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief as well as local needs.



RUTH (Rural Unity Through Hope)

A new social justice and advocacy organization is taking shape in Trempealeau County called RUTH. Members of this non-denominational group include pastors, lay ministers and members of congregations in the Dairyland Conference, and have been meeting at Peace Lutheran, Pigeon Falls; Reaching Out Ministries, Whitehall; and Pleasant Valley Lutheran, Eleva. They are working to identify unmet social needs of people in rural communities and partner with congregations and community resources to address those needs.

RUTH has worked with the Reentry Coalition and the Whitehall Public library on a bicycle loan program to help meet transportation needs of men and women who were recently incarcerated; identified two individuals to serve as the co-coordinators for Trempealeau County's Sleep in Heavenly Peace program; and worked with Deaconess Lidixe Montoya, Neighbor to Neighbor Ministry, to coordinate a health fair for members of the Hispanic community in Arcadia.

The next RUTH meeting is set for 6:30 pm on December 12 at Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls. Contact Kim Vlcek at vlcekk@yahoo.com or Ellen Hauser at ellenhauser150@gmail.com for more information.



Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N)

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin's website describes Neighbor to Neighbor: Together in Ministry/Vecino a Vecino: Juntos en Ministerio as a new ministry "where we join together to boldly practice the gospel as we cultivate meaningful relationships between the Anglo ELCA congregations with the Latino American community in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. We strive to form a beloved community that is inclusive and diverse, a space to know your neighbor, share the hope of the gospel with the community and a platform for church to start the journey to explore social and racial justice in our context and communities."



Lidixe Montoya

N2N is led by Deaconess Lidixe Montoya, who is also Minister of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at Trinity Lutheran in Eau Claire. Some of the initiatives Lidixe has coordinated include: a new 4-H Club for youth in the Hispanic community; an annual thrift sale to help fund scholarships for Latinx students at UW-Eau Claire; health fairs for people in the Hispanic community in Eau Claire, Curtiss, and Arcadia. Find more information about Lidixe and N2N here: <https://nswi.org/neighbor-to-neighbor>



Lidixe Montoya talks with a family at the Arcadia Health Fair.



Arcadia Health Fair



A Health Fair for members of the Hispanic community was held in Arcadia on November 19, 2022. More than twenty organizations attended the event to share resources on

health, wellness, and community involvement and included such things as: hearing tests, English and Spanish language books, voting information, educational opportunities, and social services available. A food truck was onsite to provide delicious Hispanic food choices, and door prizes were donated for attendees.



Multiple community and congregational members from Pepin, Trempealeau and Eau Claire counties staffed booths and helped as volunteers and interpreters for Neighbor to Neighbor

Ministry (N2N); UW-Eau Claire; UW-Extension; Headstart; Independence and Arcadia Public Libraries; Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program; Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP); National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI); Western Dairyland; Pepin and Arcadia Methodist Churches; Chippewa Valley Votes; Rural Unity Through Hope (RUTH) and many more!



Bishop Skow-Anderson talks with UWEC students



Bishop Malpica and RUTH member Scott Brown chat

Bishop Lori Skow-Anderson, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin; and Bishop Felix Malpica, La Crosse Area Synod attended along with multiple synod staff. It was a great day at the Arcadia Health Fair!

Civil Rights Pilgrimage

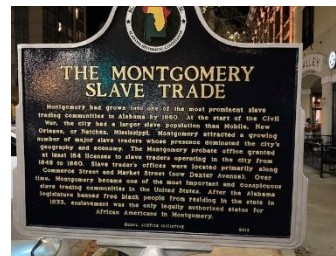
Kim Vlcek

In November, I traveled to Alabama with a group of eleven people from Wisconsin and Minnesota. As part of the Civil Rights Pilgrimage, we visited sites in Montgomery, Selma, and Birmingham where historic events took place during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's. As part of our pilgrimage, we wrote a Haiku* for each day. Below are some I wrote my impression of a few the sites we visited. I highly recommend this trip offered through the NW Synod of WI. We have a lot to learn folks!

*Black lives on sidewalks
Brown signs tell the history
White folks learn the truth*



*White people tell lies
To justify slavery
And believe their lies*



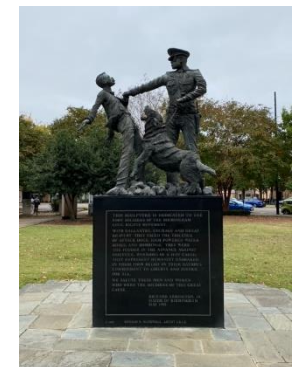
*It was a long walk
Selma to Montgomery
To get what was theirs*



**A Haiku is a non-rhyming poem of three lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables.*



*Four girls were murdered
Children march for civil rights
Mom teaches kids truth*



Over 4400 racial terror lynchings have been documented in the U.S. during the period between Reconstruction and World War II. The marker below memorializes three men who were lynched in Duluth, MN in 1920. (Photo taken at Peace and Justice Memorial by Rev. Elizabeth Bier.)



NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN
 Synodical Board Members
 (Officers and Conference Reps)
 2022-2024

PRESIDENT

Joan Moe
 1483 Truax Blvd.
 Eau Claire, WI 54703-1471
 C-715-533-3820
 Hope Lutheran, Eau Claire
president@nswiswo.org
moejoan@gmail.com



VICE PRESIDENT

Gloria M Rolstad
 2178 – 120th Street
 Milltown, WI 54858-2818
 715-554-1129
 Bone Lake Lutheran, Luck
grlstad@msn.com



SECRETARY

Barbara Garling
 1745 – 6 1/2 Street
 Almena, WI 54805-9388
 H-715-357-3700 C-715-641-0479
 Augustana Lutheran, Cumberland
dubar342@gmail.com



TREASURER

Phyllis Beaström
 W6244 – 410th Avenue
 Ellsworth, WI 54011-3000
 H-715-273-5847, C-715-821-5847
 Bethlehem Lutheran, rural Ellsworth
nswotreas@gmail.com
beaström@redwing.net



Articles/photos of your W/ELCA activities are welcome.

LAKE SUPERIOR Conf #1

Kathy Rewalt
 5620 US Highway 2
 Iron River, WI 54847-4700
 H-715-372-6428, C-715-817-5826
 Our Savior's Lutheran, Iron River
springlake@cheqnet.net



APPLE RIVER Conf #2

Suzanne Grill
 2269 – 211th Street
 Luck, WI 54853-2030
 H-715-825-4100, C-612-598-8197
 North Valley Lutheran, Centuria
sk_grill@yahoo.com



HEART OF THE NORTH Conf #3

Janice Ahneman
 1070 11th Ave
 Cumberland, WI 54829-9110
 H-715-822-4475 C-715-671-8154
 Augustana Lutheran, Cumberland
tjahneman@gmail.com



ST CROIX VALLEY Conf #4

Carol Hajicek
 1040 Franklin Street
 Baldwin, WI 54002-9315
 H-715-684-4871, C-612-986-7677
 Zion Lutheran, Woodville
carolrh@baldwin-telecom.net



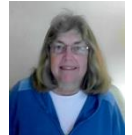
CHIPPEWA VALLEY Conf #5

Diane Campbell
 4115 Jeffers Rd – Apt 208
 Eau Claire, WI 54703-7900
 715-832-4707
 Spirit Lutheran, Eau Claire
48princessdi@gmail.com



CHEQUAMEGON Conf #6

Peggy Erickson
 N4710 Owen Avenue
 Neillsville, WI 54456-6428
 H- 715-743-3048, C- 715-819-2243
 Calvary Lutheran, Neillsville
eperickson@tds.net



DAIRYLAND Conf #7

Amelie Lindberg-Livingston
 W1980 50th Avenue
 Stockholm, WI 54769-8707
 C-218-340-1102
 Sabylund Lutheran, Stockholm
ajl55810@msn.com



NORTHWESTER NEWSLETTER Editor

Kimberly Vlcek
 715-577-7198
vlcekk@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER & FACEBOOK Editor

Dawn Wicklund
 H-715-394-2507, C-218-348-8557
dwicklund@gmail.com



Website
<http://www.nswiswo.org>



Facebook
www.facebook.com/WomenoftheNorthwestSynod/

The NORTHWESTER

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this edition of the NORTHWESTER. This digital publication continues to be a work in progress and your ideas and comments are welcome! Submit individual comments and ideas, as well as news and photos from your conference, congregation or women's group to Kim Vlcek at vlcekk@yahoo.com.



Women of the ELCA

Our Mission – Mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Our Purpose – As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

Women of the ELCA -- Northwest Synod of Wisconsin -- Synodical Women's Organization
CONGREGATIONAL UNIT CONTACTS FOR YEAR _____

NAME OF CHURCH

Conference

Location, if different than mailing address

Mailing address of Church

Church Phone Number

Email address

CONTACT PERSON AND/OR PRESIDENT

Name

Address

Phone

Email Address

TREASURER

Name

Address

Phone

Email Address

PLEASE return with current information electronically at your earliest convenience:

• **Your CONFERENCE Representative**

Apple River- Suzanne Grill, 2269 211th Street, Luck, WI 54853-2030 sk_grill@yahoo.com

Chequamegon- Peggy Erickson, N4710Owen Avenue, Neillsville, WI 54456-6428 eperickson@tds.net

Chippewa Valley- Diane Campbell, 4115 Jeffers Rd Apt 208, Eau Claire, WI 54703
48princessdi@gmail.com

Dairyland- Amelie Lindberg-Livingston, W1980 50th Ave, Stockholm, WI 54769-8707 ajl55810@msn.com

Heart of the North- Janice Ahneman, 1070 11th Avenue, Cumberland, WI 54829-9110 tjahneman@gmail.com

Lake Superior- Kathy Rewalt, 5620 US Hwy 2, Iron River, WI 54847 springlake@cheqnet.net

St. Croix Valley- Carol Hajcek, 1040 Franklin St, Baldwin, WI 54002 carolrh@baldwin-telcom.net

• **SWO Secretary:** Barb Garling, 1745 6 ½ Street, Almena, WI 54805 dubar342@gmail.com

• **SWO President:** Joan Moe, 1438 Truax Blvd, Eau Claire, WI 54703-1471 presidentnswiswo@gmail.com

Thank you!