

NORTHWESTER

NEWSLETTER



Support Malawi During Health Crisis

Deacon Laura Ramlow, NW Synod of WI, recently sent out information about a cholera outbreak in Malawi. Find out how congregations, groups and individuals can help, read the letter at this online [link](#).

Stay in Touch! Be Involved!

As we move into Lent, we know that spring is approaching. It's an exciting time to plan for things to come! Planning is underway for the Triennial Gathering in Phoenix this fall. Our Katie's Fund money has arrived and your SWO Board is making plans for its use. More information will follow.

In the meantime, here are a few links to sites that you may find interesting and useful. Have you heard about Bold Connections? I have joined the Monthly Dinner group a few times and find it to be very uplifting!

Katie's Fund: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/katiesfund>
If you would like to view a video about Katie's Fund, click here: <https://youtu.be/jeRpqu9PRN8>

Visit Women of the ELCA for information and resources: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/>

2023 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering Planning has begun! The Twelfth Triennial Convention/Gathering is scheduled for September 19-21, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona. The Convention will be held at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown.
<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>
<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/twelfth-triennial-convention>

Voting members, elected in the 64 synodical women's organizations across the United States, will conduct the business of the organization. The Triennial Gathering will be held after the business meeting, bringing together women from all over the U.S. Detailed information will be shared as it becomes available.



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

Bold Café/Bold Connections

Sign up for Bold Connections, Women of the ELCA's monthly newsletter with news about events and more. Also, if you check the Bold Cafe box, you'll receive a monthly newsletter in your inbox with links to news articles, upcoming events, dinners, and more.

Join the Bold Cafe Monthly Dinner group on Facebook to stay in touch! The monthly zoom dinner group brings together women from around the country to discuss ideas with various Gather magazine authors. They are the first Thursdays of the month. STAY IN TOUCH: <https://www.boldcafe.org/>

Faithfully yours,
Joan Moe, SWO President

Our website is back online www.nswswiswo.org

“Rescued” by Love

What a beautiful winter we have had! During the Christmas holiday we enjoyed a winter wonderland with snow draped trees and grasses, snow glittering in the sun, and a white, clean freshness that covered all the land. Now we are entering longer days, the joy of receiving more sun light, and warmer days are coming our way. Like so many of us, thoughts of green grass, leaves on the trees, flowers blooming, and planning our gardens are now on our minds. The joy of rebirth!

We are entering into the season of Easter, the time of the Christian year when we remember the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As a child growing up, a heavy emphasis was always placed on the death of Jesus. I was taught that He died in my place for my sin, so that I could be saved and go to heaven when I die. I also learned that Jesus came back to life on Easter. But I then learned something incredible happened when Jesus came out of that tomb, I was rescued. This rescue didn't depend on me or my actions, it rested completely on Jesus. I still remember the sense of relief I felt when I realized that Jesus made me new, he made me right with God and it wasn't up to me! The aim is to remember that each one of us needs to be rescued and made new.

One common way to remember both the joy and weight of Easter is by participating in the season of Lent. Though traditions vary, Lent is still celebrated around the world and usually encompasses the six to seven weeks before Easter. Many faith traditions observe Lent through fasting, prayer and giving.

How each of you celebrate the warmth and joy of Easter, we all need to remember the love we received through the ultimate sacrifice. Through the love of God and obedience of Jesus, we are saved or 'rescued' in our faith and will have eternal life in Heaven.

SWO Vice President Gloria Rolstad

Please share this Newsletter with the women of your congregation.

A Note from your SWO Treasurer

“O sing to the Lord a new song; for he has done marvelous things.” Psalm 98:1

In the verses of the hymn “Earth and All Stars”, a host of natural and cultural phenomena, including the elements of snow, wind, and hail, loud blowing snowstorm are invited to sing to the Lord. Personally, these elements of weather give me anxiety and I'm thankful when the storm is over, the sun is shining, and after the snowstorm, I will soon get plowed out! So as I write, I am nervously watching every weather report about what to expect from this upcoming snowstorm, but I know I must place my trust in our loving God that all will be well and when it's over I will make a joyful noise and sing praises to our creator and celebrate the marvelous things that God does.

We also thank and praise God for the active, faithful, and joyful stewardship of Women in the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin. It is through you that the SWO and the Churchwide Women's Organization can fulfill their mission and ministries. The SWO fiscal year ended January 31st. I am delighted to report that the offerings from your units totaled \$16,347 and \$8400 was shared with Churchwide Women of the ELCA. One-half of the offerings from conference events totaled \$2,751.75 and was sent in full to Churchwide WELCA. A few units sent a total of \$450 for the Malawi Literacy Project which was forwarded to our synod office and will be sent to Malawi when requested.

Our Synodical Women's Organization has received \$1000 from churchwide Katie's Fund, and we have chosen to use part of those funds for providing good water in Malawi. Units are also welcome to participate in this project and raise or designate funds for this project.

REMINDERS:

- **I will gladly email or mail the 2023 offering guide. This will help you if you're unsure of where to send offerings and which form to use. Please submit Form A with all your offerings to me and Form B for gifts going to churchwide.**

- Now is the time to send the yearly \$30 for the Convention Expense Fund (if you haven't yet). Each congregational unit shall submit this yearly to the SWO treasurer to help defray the expenses of the convention, enabling a lower convention registration fee and encouraging more to attend.
- Soon we will start planning our 2024 convention. If you have ideas or suggestions for our convention, please share with a SWO board member.
- Encourage your Thrivent members to request Thrivent Action Team grants – each member can request two yearly, each for \$250. These can be used to purchase batting and other quilting supplies, items for Lutheran World Relief kits, diapers for the food pantry - consider the needs of your congregation or community and apply for the Thrivent Action Team grants.
- Units are encouraged to collect a Regular Offering every time they meet (Bible Study, fellowship over lunch, making quilts, assembling kits, planning an event). The unit treasurer shares one half of the offerings received with the Synodical Women's Organization, who then shares one half of that amount with the churchwide organization of Women of the ELCA.

Phyllis Beastrom
 SWO Treasurer
 715-273-5847 or call or text 715-821-5847
 nswotreas@gmail.com

Forms

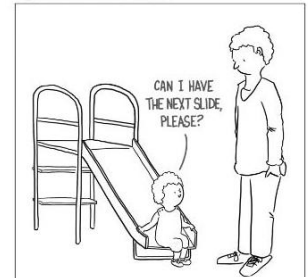
The updated [Unit Officer's Form](#) with the new Board and Conference Reps listed is included later in this newsletter. Please send to those according to the instructions on the form whenever your unit officers may change. Contact SWO Secretary Barb Garling dubar342@gmail.com with questions.

A **Certificate of Insurance Form** needs to be completed by each church host site and submitted to the synod office for each Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) or Conference event held throughout the year. There is no fee to the host site, but the form must be submitted no less than two weeks before an event. Click [here](#) to find fillable copy of the form online. Contact SWO Treasurer Phyllis Beastrom nswotreas@gmail.com with questions.

Speakers List

The SWO Board is updating the 2018 "Speakers List". If you know of an individual or group that you have heard and enjoyed, please share that with us. Send their name, current contact information and a description of their program to me at:

Barb Garling
 SWO Secretary
 1745 6 1/2 Street
 Almena, WI 54805
 Or email me at dubar342@gmail.com



How you know your kid is going to be a public speaker

News from the Northwest Synod of WI Conferences

Chippewa Valley Conference

Diane Campbell

The Chippewa Valley Conference has set Saturday, April 22, 2023, for our Day of Renewal. We are thrilled that Central Lutheran Church, 28 E Columbia St. in Chippewa Falls, WI. 54729 will host this event. This opportunity to gather with other women of faith throughout our Conference will start with registration between 8 and 9 am. Our theme is THERE'S MORE TO COME, presented by Cindy Tewalt. A sit-down luncheon is included, and we plan to finish by 1 pm. The [registration form](#) is included later in this newsletter. The cost has been set at \$15. Payment is required with your registration by April 8th. Sadly, we will not be able to offer refunds, because our luncheon food will be based on the number of registrations received.

This is our first opportunity to replace members on the Chippewa Valley Board, since before Covid. We have 3 openings. Our Conference Board Members meet about 4 times a year, and our focus is the Day of Renewal. Please pray fully consider joining our Board as it will give you a unique and meaningful opportunity to help women from all churches in our conference to gather and meet each other in an informal setting. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me, Diane Campbell at 48princessdi@gmail.com, or our Conference Chair Jackie Johnson at jacki7@gmail.com

The Chippewa Valley Conference retreat committee has reserved Luther Park on June 7th and 8th and we invite all the women in our synod to join us for one, or both days. More information will be available in our next newsletter.

Heart of the North Conference

Janice Ahneman

The women at Augustana in Cumberland are working on quilts and school bags. Last year our group made 224 quilts and 184 school kits. We have set a goal of 300 quilts for this year, and we have completed 125 so far. We are holding a Bible Study once a month using the study in the Gather magazine. It is a small group, but the ladies find the study interesting.

In November, the W'ELCA at Chetek Lutheran hosted a Pilgrim Brunch for the community. After the brunch they were treated to a music program by the Danfolk, a husband and wife singing group. In December, the W'ELCA hosted their annual Christmas Lunch for the community. After the luncheon they were entertained for the Christmas season by Warren Petryk on our baby grand piano. Warren sings with the 'Memories'. Our W'ELCA meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:30 pm with a program speaker and dessert lunch. We also have established a monthly one sheet newsletter called the FOCUS for women of the church to inform them of projects and upcoming events. Pat Pawlak is our editor and serves for Mission of Discipleship.

Lake Superior Conference

Kathy Rewalt

As the snow continues to fall, our churches are gearing up for the Lenten season which begins with Ash Wednesday. Five of our churches share the Lenten experience by rotating our Soup Suppers and Wednesday Services. We look forward to seeing each other and enjoy sharing a meal and worshipping together. As our new year has begun, special highlights are shared below from two of our churches in Superior.

Zion Lutheran in Superior has been busy supporting their church and the community. Their activities have included a December cookie sale; selling sub sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday; sponsoring a Pasty Sale at church to help where finances are needed as well as giving back 10% of the proceeds to community

organizations. They sponsor a Food Shelf Cupboard at the church and have been blessed when people they have helped in the past come back with food donations for the Food Shelf. They want to share/give back where they received help. Other activities have included a Dessert Theatre play and a drive thru dinner.

Our Savior's Lutheran in Superior continues with many activities. They report that their women's group has been very loosely connected for the past few years. Although meetings are not back on track, they have been working hard on community and outreach. One of their big outreach ministries is their children's clothes closet called "Threads of Hope." They take donations of gently used or new clothing and have them available for anyone in need. Their families simply come in during office hours or make an appointment with one of the workers and can select clothing for their children.

In December, they had a vendor fair with bake sale and pasty sale. They also help support the annual Superior Singers Concert and potluck. This has been an annual event for many years.

Their quilters have been busy, meeting twice a month to put quilts together for donation to those in need. Before sending the quilts on their way, they hang them all around the altar in a colorful display and have a blessing of the quilts. They also make a quilt for the graduating members of the church. It is a special gift that their seniors love. It is a constant reminder of God's love through the support of their church family. They have not gotten back to the monthly Bible Study as their pastor has a weekly study on Wednesday mornings.

Activities continue to keep all of us in Lake Superior Conference searching for the next opportunity that God will give us to Love our Neighbors. Community is so important to all our congregations. May God bless you during your Lenten Journeys into your Easter Celebrations.

So, about that pandemic. . .

The Wisconsin Council of Church recently sent out a letter encouraging people to receive the bivalent booster shot for Covid-19. The text of [WCC](#) letter is included later in this newsletter.

St Croix Valley Conference
 Carol Hajicek



Vote Faithfully on April 4, 2023!

"We are stewards of public life for the common good."
 Bishop Elizabeth Eaton

Women of the ELCA
 St. Croix Valley Conference

MORNING OF RENEWAL!

SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023
 8:15 AM Registration
 8:45 AM Event Begins

Pastor Lori Peper will present
"THANK YOU, MARY AND MARTHA!"



\$10 registration includes lunch

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
 510 GERMAIN STREET, SOMERSET WI

Email Andrea Puterbaugh at andiputer@pnethome.us

Pastor Lori Peper is married and lives in Dresser, WI. She is the proud mother of 3 adult children. She currently serves West Immanuel in the Apple River conference of the NW Synod of WI. She previously served First Lutheran in Barron, and a 3-point parish in Amery. A former Music Director in Hudson and member of Bethel Lutheran, Pastor Lori entered seminary in 2007 and was a recipient of a scholarship from the St Croix Valley Women of the ELCA. Thank you, again! She enjoys all aspects of parish ministry with a special interest in the ways music lifts our spirits and enhances the worship experience.

Good Neighbor Ukulele Ministry began with a spark of interest stirred while pastor Lori was serving in Amery, at Neighbors United in Christ, a 3-church parish. Having enjoyed the ease, and enjoyment of the instrument, a ukulele jam group was soon formed. Our first 'gig' outside the church came from a member's suggestion to jam at a nursing home where her mother, Lucy was living. That began a musical ministry of lifting spirits, sharing the reasons for our hope in Christ Jesus. The Holy Spirit and Lucy started the ball of ukulele ministry rolling. Over the past 8 years, this little, 4-stringed instrument has brought us, and so many, many others much joy. We have more than 60 players in the group, have inspired others to start their own groups, and play in nursing homes, the Polk County Fair, Mall of America, church services, park events, anniversary parties and much more.

Chequamagon Conference
 Peggy Erickson

I have this verse on my refrigerator and read it often. I hope it lifts you up too.

"I shall pass through this world but once. If, therefore, there be any kindness I can show, or any good thing I can do, let me do it now."


Etienne de Grellet, French missionary

Dairyland Conference

Amelie Lindberg-Livingston

YOU ARE INVITED

Prayer Breakfast
MARCH 8, 2023 9:30 AM



Speaker Moira Kneer will present
"Who is that Woman,
or Person in My Mirror?"
(Please bring a small hand mirror)

Immanuel Lutheran
109 Elm St
Strum, WI 54770

This event is Free.
RSVP by March 1 to the church 715-695-3511,
or Karen Franson 715-695-3553 or email
fransonkaren17@gmail.com

The Dairyland WELCA Conference Board has been updating our conference member church's contact information Google Docs Spreadsheet. Even if an individual member church doesn't have an 'official' Women's group, we would still like to know of any events or fundraisers that are taking place. And, if we can help in any way. Please contact Amelie Lindberg-Livingston, Dairyland Conference Representative at 218-340-11022 or email to ajl55810@msn.com. Members may request permission to view the Google docs spreadsheet from Kim Vlcek at vlcekr@yahoo.com.

JOIN US FOR

Walking Together

Rebound: From Nostalgia to New



MARCH 11, 2023
BETHANY LUTHERAN
RICE LAKE

\$25 Per Person

Worship + Workshops + Inspiration

For details and registration visit:
<https://nswi.org/walking-together-epic/walking-together-2023>




Click on above poster for Walking Together webpage.

The W/ELCA Dairyland Conference annual Morning of Renewal is set for April 12 at Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls. The \$15 registration fee for the event includes a program, meeting, speaker, and lunch. Guest speaker Deacon Lidix Montoya will present on the Neighbor to Neighbor program, antiracism, and generalities and misconceptions about the Hispanic culture. A flyer will be sent out soon.

Drammen Lutheran, Mondovi, is making plans for a gathering to celebrate their 150th anniversary in September 2023.

Youth Advocacy Retreat

April 14-16, 2023 Holiday Inn West - Madison, WI



Open to youth grades 9-12, and adult youth leaders. Cost is \$75. Hosted by the WI and Upper MI ELCA Synods and the LOPPW. Click on the picture above for more information.

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN

Synodical Board Members
(Officers and Conference Reps)
2022-2024

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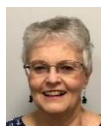
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Articles/photos of your W/ELCA activities are welcome.

LAKE SUPERIOR Conf #1

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5620 US Highway 2
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Our Savior's Lutheran, Iron River
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APPLE RIVER Conf #2

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HEART OF THE NORTH Conf #3

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ST CROIX VALLEY Conf #4

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CHIPPEWA VALLEY Conf #5

Diane Campbell
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CHEQUAMEGON Conf #6

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DAIRYLAND Conf #7

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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 vlcekkr@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, N4710 Owen 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-telecom.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!



ELCA Women's Chippewa Valley Conference
2023 Day of Renewal
April 22nd, 2023, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Central Lutheran Church
 28 E Columbia St. Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

Registration 8 - 9 a.m. Coffee and Breads will be provided.

Theme: *THERE'S MORE TO COME.....*

Presenter: Cindy Tewalt



Cost is \$15.00 per person.

Make checks payable to: WELCA

Payment is required at time of Registration. No Refunds! Lunch will be provided.

Send registration & check payable to WELCA to address below:	Contact the following with questions
Linda Stock, CVC Treasurer 3367 37 th Street Elk Mound, WI 54739	Jacki Johnson, call, text, or email 715-864-1489 or jackij7@gmail.com
	Linda Stock, call, text, or email 715-874-6502 or jlstock@wwt.net

Please return by April 8th



.....Please Copy This Form As Needed.....

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, & ZIP _____
 E-mail _____
 Phone _____ Church & City _____

January 26, 2023

Dear Friends:

"Let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds" says the Letter to the Hebrews "not neglecting to meet together...but encouraging one another."

Those are appropriate words to consider as the COVID pandemic grinds on. And make no mistake: it does grind on. It may not seem that way at first. Positive test rates, cases, hospitalizations and deaths are all trending down at the moment. None of those statistics is anywhere near their peak this time last year.

But infections remain stubbornly persistent. Hospitalizations for those over 70 remain high and are slowly trending up. Worst of all, COVID kills five to ten Wisconsinites each week.

Almost two-thirds of residents have received the primary series of COVID vaccines. But that rate remains little changed from a year ago. Meanwhile, only 19% have gotten a bivalent booster, the best protection against infection and serious complications. Worse, serious disparities in vaccination rates remain along racial, ethnic and geographical lines.

So no, while it may appear that COVID has faded away, it is still very much with us. That means the work of provoking, taking care, and encouraging is far from done.

Here's how you can help:

- Help your community understand that bivalent boosters are not the same as previous boosters. COVID changes in the same way that the flu does. It requires regular updates in protection against it.
- Also help your people understand that bivalent boosters are important. They protect members of the community and their loved ones. (Be specific about who those loved ones are. Despite scripture, people often don't respond to generic calls to love and good deeds.)
- Encourage masking when you're together, or at least tolerance for those who do. Wearing a mask doesn't mean you're sick. Nor does it mean that you're afraid. Everyone has their own comfort level, and reasons to take precautions.
- Encourage them to stay home if they're sick, even if it doesn't seem like COVID. That goes for pastors too! Don't rely on a single test to rule out infection and take it easy if you're not feeling well. That's good advice for any kind of illness.
- The WCC is not currently recommending that faith communities go fully online. But it's a good idea to provide alternatives for those who can't come in person, or who aren't comfortable with it.

It's also important to meet together in another sense. Keep talking about COVID and your response to it. COVID may always be with us. The work of loving and coming to agreement together is definitely permanent.

Stay safe and stay together,

Rev. Daniel Schultz
Community Health
Program Director