

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN



The Northwester

Newsletter for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

Volume 31- Issue 2 – June 2018

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin – Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Our Savior's Lutheran Church

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Lord, Teach us to Pray...

Have you begun the Bible Study in the June issue of *Gather* magazine? There are several excellent articles centered on prayer. One by Rev. Violet Cuciniello Little speaks of praying in faith, hope and love.

The editor Elizabeth Hunter says that this Bible study written by Rev Dr. Anna Madsen asks us to explore 'the basis of our prayer requests, our receptivity of God's work [and] our trust that, as Samuel says, 'the Lord will not cast away his people''

Karen Craigo tells us she experiences prayer as something unspoken. As she says, "not every prayer starts with "Dear God." And your prayers do not have to end with "Amen."

If you do not currently receive *Gather* magazine, you can order it by calling 1-844-409-0576, or visit www.gathermagazine.org or by mail at *Gather*, PO Box 336, Congers, NY 10920-0336.



gather
FOR FAITH AND ACTION

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all!

To say that I am excited to be the new SWO President for the Northwest Wisconsin Synod would be an understatement. To say that I am a tad bit overwhelmed would fall into that category as well. However, I truly believe that God has led me to this point. And for that, I give thanks.

Preparing for the joint meetings of the incoming and outgoing board members, I reflected on Isaiah 41:10: *"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

Strengthen, help, uphold. Three words that bring me much comfort.

Strengthen. Strengthening involves adding something stronger to something that already exists. It doesn't replace weaker objects but rather reinforces them. The definition of the word 'strength' is to make something stronger so that it will take more weight or force without breaking. I believe that is our purpose as an organization.

Help. There is no way we can help someone without action; without getting involved. I recently read an article that focused on helping others. An example given was that if a person is drowning someone must enter the water either by jumping in themselves or throwing something into the water to pull the victim out. Either way – to truly help they will get wet. Looking back on the verse and considering the action behind the word 'help', I believe that God will never be too far away to help me, to help us and to help our organization.

Uphold. To lift up, to support, to sustain. To keep from falling. (Oh, how I'm trusting that one.) Isn't it reassuring to know that God is always right there, willing to keep us from falling?

When God leads us into a position of leadership, He wants us to not have fear. He is with us – always. He will not abandon those He has placed in positions of leadership / authority. We will not – we cannot – abandon him. He is our strength.

It will be my honor to meet with unit and conference leaders/groups and synod staff. Please contact me if I can be of service. My contact information will be posted elsewhere in this paper; however, for your convenience I'll provide it here as well: email – president@nwswiswo.org; telephone number – 715.790.1270.

Lori Wells, SWO President



Praying for God's guidance:

Dear Lord, Lead us in your righteous ways. Teach us your ways. May we know you more and love you better with each passing day. We pray for your strength and your help, as

individuals and as an ensemble of women. Guide us as we continue to do your work here on earth. With deep love and in Jesus' name, Amen.

'Life is like a Camera'



Focus on what's important,

Capture the good times.

Develop from the negatives,

And, if things don't work out, *Take another Shot!*



FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



It was all about leadership for me when I was a little girl. Being the oldest in the family, I felt I had to be in charge of my siblings. It often happened when we visited my aunt and cousins who lived down the road from us. Sometimes we walked home in near darkness, and I bravely led the way to protect them from bobcats, skunks, wild dogs, dangerous snakes and who know what other scary creatures might be out there in the darkness.

In later years they told me how impressed they were with my bravery, and I had to confess I was trembling in my shoes as I carried my big stick and walked as fast as they would

allow me to walk.

That's how leadership is. It can be scary business. Who knows what barriers, challenges, and opposition might be out there for us. Good leadership requires discipline, courage and determination. It also requires visionary and communication skills, team work, hospitality and maybe a little humor as well. Sometimes we feel overwhelmed by the challenges ahead of us, but we don't have to carry a big stick or tremble in our shoes. As God's children and members of his Church, we have confidence in the prayers of our sisters and brothers, the encouragement of those we work with, and the promises that are found in scripture: "Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will uphold you with my right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

Our SWO board was gifted with good leaders who served their terms in 2016-2018. We are thankful for these capable and qualified women. They were committed to our mission statement to "mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ":

Sue Saarem	President
Audrey Severson	Treasurer
Mary Jane Sedin	Superior Rep
Emilie Horken	St. Croix Rep
Phyllis Grohn	Chippewa Valley Rep
Carol Lekies	Chequamegon Rep
Jane Brown	Dairyland Rep



And now we have a new board who will continue to need our prayers as they serve with boldness and confidence the mission of the Women of the ELCA. Thanks to each one who accepted the challenge and privilege of being leaders and servants of our Lord. You will find the complete list of these women in another section of the *Northwester*.

--Dawn Olson, Vice-president

Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the 2018 SWO Speaker List may receive it in one of three ways:

- + Call Dawn Olson (715-635-4610) or email dawndoug41@yahoo.com
- + Google WELCA Northwest Synod of WI and click on HOME -SWO of the NW Synod of WI. Go to Resources page.
- + <http://nwswiswo.org/Menu/Resources/Resources.html>

"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."

From the Treasurer(s)

FROM THE OUT-GOING TREASURER

This spring we were able to award \$500 scholarships to six seminarians: Kim Suhr, Emily Stelling, Bethany Ringdal, Mikayla Kopp, Bridget Jones, and Rachel Seija.



I am encouraged to report the SWO convention offering totaled \$4,532. One half of this total \$2,266 was sent to the W/ELCA churchwide office and the remaining half was designated to be divided between Benjamin House for the homeless in Rice Lake and ELCA Disaster Fund. The total cost of the convention was \$6,156 including five scholarships. We were able to reduce the cost of the convention by about \$5,000 by holding it at a church. We thank Bethany Lutheran Church for hosting our convention.

This is my last term as your SWO treasurer. It has been an honor serving you as the keeper of your offerings. I have been able to meet so many faithful officers of our church units and witnessed your generosity. Please send your offerings to your new treasurer Phyllis Beastrom after July 1. You are in experienced hands with her, as she has been a previous treasurer.

God's riches blessings to you,

Audrey Severson, *Out-going SWO Treasurer*

♪ Notes from your NEW SWO Treasurer ♪

Please send your unit offerings, questions, and requests to me, your new SWO treasurer, Phyllis Beastrom, W6244 410th Avenue, Ellsworth WI 54011-3000; 715-273-5847; 715-821-5847 cell nswotreas@gmail.com or beastrom@redwing.net

The Guide to Treasurers chart has been updated with my name and address and is on our SWO website: <http://www.nswiswo.org> Links for Offering Forms A & B are also on our website.



Please share this information with your unit treasurer so she has the current information for sending offerings to the proper place.

The SWO Board will be offering a Day of Enrichment at two locations within our synod on September 22 (Osseo) and September 29 (Hayward). This will be a great day of learning for all women in our synod. Put these dates on your calendar and choose the date that works for you. I will also be offering a session for new and continuing treasurers at each Day of Enrichment. **Be sure to attend one of the Days of Enrichment.**

Phyllis Beastrom, *Incoming SWO Treasurer*

"Isn't it Strange"



- ~ It's strange how \$20 seems like such a large amount when you donate to church & such a small amount when you go shopping...
- ~ It's strange how 2 hours seem so long when you're at church, but when you're watching a movie...
- ~ It's strange how difficult it is to read a chapter in the Bible, but it's easy to read a popular novel...
- ~ It's strange how difficult it is to learn a fact about God and share it with others, but it's easy to repeat gossip.
- ~ It's strange how we need to know about an event for church 2-3 weeks before the day, so we can add it to our agenda, but we can adjust it for other events at the last minute...
- ~ It's strange that you can't find words to say when you're praying, but you have no trouble thinking what to talk about with a friend...
- ~ It's strange how everyone wants front-row-tickets to concerts, but we want to sit in the back row in church...
- ~ It's strange how we believe everything that magazines and newspapers say, but we question words in the Bible...



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"Wouldn't it be better to retire from your work NOW, Daddy, while you can still play with us?"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil and Jeff Keane



"You're better than just a father. You're a DADDY!"

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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A woman went to the Pastor of her church and said, "I won't be attending Church anymore."

The pastor said, "May I ask why?" She said, "I see people on their cell phones texting and typing during the service, some are gossiping, some just aren't living right, some are sleeping, some are staring at me, they are all just hypocrites."

The Pastor was silent, then said, "Can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision?" She answered, "Sure, what's that?"



The Pastor said, "Take a glass of water and walk around the church two times and don't let any water fall out of the glass." The woman said, "Yes, I can do that!" She went and got the glass of water and walked around the church two times. She came in and proudly said, "It's done!"

The Pastor asked her these questions: "Did you see anybody on the phone, Did you see anybody gossiping, Did you see anyone sleeping, Was anybody living wrong, Did you see anyone sleeping?"

She answered, "I didn't see anything because I was so focused on the glass, so the water wouldn't spill out." The Pastor told her, "When you come to church, you should just be focused on God, so that you don't fall. That's why Jesus said, 'Follow Me', He did not say 'Follow Christians'."

Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God, let it be determined by how focused you are with God.

Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization

February 1, 2017 - January 31, 2018

Audrey Severson, Treasurer

Balance on Hand February 1, 2017 **\$17,880.21**

Checking	\$ 7,766.38
Savings	\$ 2,811.39
Equipment Account	\$ 1,638.25
ELCA Mission Investment	\$ 5,664.19
Total	\$17,880.21

RECEIPTS

Churchwide Ministry Income	\$ 368.65	SWO Receipts	\$ 29,929.70
World Hunger	\$ 38.65	Unit Offerings	\$21,125.15
Katie's Fund	150.00	Conference Offerings	4,229.00
30th Anniversary Offering	30.00	Leadership Training Wkshp	510.00
Triennial Gathering Offering	150.00	Malawi Literacy Project	200.00
Northwester Subscriptions	\$ 1,051.00	Interest	13.60
		Miscellaneous	5.00
		Conference Gift	474.00
		Triennial Bus	3,372.95
		SWO Convention	\$ 1,695.00
		Convention Expense Fund	\$ 1,645.00
		Convention Offering	50.00

TOTAL RECEIPTS **\$33,044.35**

TOTAL FUNDS HELD **\$50,924.56**

DISBURSEMENTS

NW Synod Ministry	\$ 1,000.00	Lay School Scholarships	\$ 700.00
Synod Bold Generosity		Seminary Scholarships	4,000.00
Capital Campaign	\$ 1,000.00	Bible Camps Gifts	1,000.00
Northwester Newsletter	\$ 2,155.06	Synod Resource Center	500.00
		Malawi Literacy Project	200.00
SWO Board Expenses	\$ 6,424.54		
Website	\$ 162.04	Churchwide Ministry	\$ 18,444.15
Board Mtgs, Mileage	1,045.20	Offerings	\$10,182.70
Leadership Training Wksp	1,209.46	Conference Offerings	4,079.00
Racial Justice	76.78	30th Anniversary Offering	2,700.00
Nominating Committee	66.40	Triennial Gathering Offering	250.00
Audit	60.00	World Hunger	38.65
Office Supplies/postage	251.06	Katie's Fund	150.00
Triennial Conv Exp	164.60	Fund for Leaders	1000.00
Triennial Gathering Bus	3,389.00	Event Insurance	43.80
SWO Ministries	\$ 6,400.00	SWO Convention Planning Expense 2017	\$ 44.10

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$ 34,467.85**

Balance on hand Jan 31, 2018	\$ 16,456.71
Checking	\$ 9,181.28
Savings	4,216.95
Equipment Fund	2,051.25
Mission Investment	1,007.23
Total	\$16,456.71

Total Collected for Malawi Literacy Fund since 2014 **\$4,366.65**

Convention News

2018 Convention “Be Renewed in the Spirit”

This year the convention was held April 20-21, 2018 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake. Those attending included 37 voting members, 85 non-voting members, 11 SWO officers and board members, and 14 speakers, presenters and guests for a total of 147 attendees.

During the Friday night business meeting delegates for the 2020 Triennial were selected. New officers and board members were elected.

The delegates voted to suspend conference-sponsored leadership training days in favor of SWO Board providing training for all leaders in the northern half of our synod and an identical training day for the southern half of the synod with special accommodation made for new financial secretaries. The SWO board is looking into possible locations of Hayward and Osseo on September 22 and 29. Look for more information on details in future *Northwester* issues and also the synod SWO website, <http://www.nswiswo.org/>.

Comments from evaluations follow:

“What did you like best from this convention?”

Enjoyed it very much. Worked out well.

All women gathered together and meeting new people.

The opportunity for fellowship and worship with women from around the synod. Learning about issues that we can do something about.

The exchange with ladies from other congregations and sharing ideas

The opportunity to meet faithful women and learn firsthand about issues with which they are concerned.

The location is great—plenty of room.

Liked the one-day format

Started and ended on time.

Music—wonderful

Speakers

Renewing of friendships- sisterhood.

Enjoyed Holden Evening Prayer (following business meeting)

Bethany is perfect place to have convention and easy to find.

Always good seeing people I know from conference and synod events.

Nice variety of speakers.

After receiving so many positive responses, the SWO board has decided to reserve Bethany Lutheran Church for the SWO Convention to be held April 24-25, 2020.

Come to a hearing on the *Draft of the Social Statement on Women and Justice!*

The Northwest Synod of Wisconsin is hosting a hearing on the text of the “Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice on **Thursday August 16th at 2:30 pm** in the dining hall at **Luther Park just outside of Chetek.** This afternoon represents a time when the Chippewa Valley women are completing their summer retreat and the Dairyland and Lake Superior gals are arriving for theirs. Attendance is not limited to women or retreaters, however. Everyone is welcome for the hearing.

This hearing is a special opportunity to respond to the text of the draft statement and to hear the perspective of others as well. A representative of the ELCA Task Force on “Women and Justice: One in Christ” will be present at the hearing. (This Task Force wrote the document.)

An appointed recorder will keep track of everything said (without names) and submit a report to the task force. Members of the task force will read all reports as they prepare to revise the text this coming fall. A revised statement will be issued in February of 2019 based on the feedback from the hearings being held around the whole USA.

Over 100 listening events were already held, and specialists have provided insight on Scripture, theology, economics, history, media and more. Study documents have been made available to all congregations.

A copy of the draft of the social statement on women and justice may be ordered by calling the ELCA resource line at 800-638-3522. It can be downloaded at ELCA.org/WomenandJustice. Multiple copies for group study are available from the ELCA online resource catalog at bit.ly/OrderWJDraft.

If you have questions regarding your synodical hearing, please visit the website ELCA.org/WomenandJustice or contact Pastor Greg Kaufmann at the Synod Office. Or you can contact me as the process builder for our synod – Sue Saarem, 715-268-5586 or pmssaarem@yahoo.com.

Unit/Conference News

From the Heart of the North Day of Renewal:



The picture from left to right is the new 2018-2020 HON Board: Sandy Harelstad, Financial Secretary, Dorothy Marquardt, Stewardship/Justice, Joan Gerland, Secretary, Marie Sanborn, Discipleship, Barb Swant Coordinator.

The Heart of the North Conference Day of Renewal was held on [April 7th](#) at Trinity Lutheran Church at Spooner. This year's theme was "Celebrating You and Celebrating the Lives You Have Saved." The morning was filled with music, sharing, fellowship, activities and installation of our 2018-2020 Board.

Our special speaker was Ann Knutson from First Lutheran at Barron. Ann's message was "A Simple Act of Love Can Change A Village - Malawi Africa". Ann also shared information on the Masomphenya Women & Girls Empowerment Foundation. This non-profit organization was formed by Mphatso Thole, Mabel Madinga and Ann Knutson. This non-profit organization "focuses on providing a solid foundation that nurtures the inner strength, creativity and self-esteem of women and girls in Malawi".

If you would like more information on this project, you may contact Ann at 715-458-0414, email mwgefoundation@gmail.com or you can visit the website at www.mwgef.org. Ann also shared that she is available to share her love and the work that is being done in Malawi to units and churches in the Northwest Synod.

Barbara Garling
Heart of the North Representative.

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



2018

JULY

- 19 – St Croix Valley Conference Summer Retreat, Bethany Lutheran, Star Prairie

AUGUST

- 4 – Apple River Conference Summer Retreat, Our Savior's Lutheran, Amery
- 13-14 – Heart of the North Conference Summer Retreat, Luther Park, Chetek
- 15-16 – Chippewa Valley Conference Summer Retreat, Luther Park, Chetek
- 16 – **“Women and Justice: One in Christ”** hearing on social statement draft document at dining hall at Luther Park Bible Camp – 2:30 pm. This is for in our synod who would like to comment on the document. (Every church was mailed a copy of the social statement last November. You can order a copy by calling the ELCA resource line at 1-800-638-3522. OR download a copy from ELCA.org/WomenandJustice Multiple copies are available from the ELCA online resource bit.ly/OrderWJDraft)
- 16-17 – Dairyland Conference Summer Retreat, Luther Park, with a special invitation for the Lake Superior Conference to join them

SEPTEMBER

- 22 – Day of Enrichment - Osseo, church to be announced (note - this will take the place of Leader Training in **both** locations.)
- 29 – Day of Enrichment - Hayward, church to be announced



JOY

“Jesus, Others, Self”

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN – SWO BOARD MEMBERS-2018-2020

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CHEQUAMEGON Conf - #6 – Bd Member

Open position!

DAIRYLAND Conf - #7 – Bd Member



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NW SYNOD of WI Website

www.nswiswo.org

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

BISHOP'S REP and W/ELCA LIAISON

Pastor Greg Kaufmann, Asst to the Bishop

C – 715-579-1556

gkaufmann@nswiswi.org

SYNOD RESOURCE CENTER housed at:

Grace Lutheran Church

202 W Grand Avenue, Eau Claire, WI 54703

www.synodresourcecenter.org

Bonnie Weber, Assistant Director

bweber@synodresourcecenter.org

NW SYNOD OF WI OFFICE at:

Luther Park Bible Camp

944 24 ¼ Street, Chetek, WI 54726-7942-#715-859-6810

W/ELCA Churchwide OFFICES at:

The Lutheran Center

8765 W Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631-4141

1-800-638-3522-ext 2730

Office hours: 8:30 am – 5:00 pm – M-F

General email: women.elca@elca.org

Website: www.womenoftheelca.org

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Northwester is published four times a year by the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Women's Organization. Local units are encouraged to subscribe for all of their officers, including the president and your pastor.

Subscriptions to the newsletter are **\$8.00 per year.** The due date of your subscription appears on the address label. Reminders are not sent, so please watch your label for your expiration date and renew.

Address changes and questions concerning subscriptions should be addressed to Eleanor Johnson, Editor, at the address below. *[Or email at hdjebjohnson@tds.net. If you are emailing, please include Northwester or W/ELCA or subscriptions in the subject line].* This newsletter may be photocopied.

DEADLINE for next issue of *The NORTHWESTER* is **September 1, 2018**



Enclosed is payment of **\$8.00** payable to:
WOMEN OF THE ELCA, Northwest Synod (SWO)

Name _____

New _____ Renewal _____

Street _____

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Home Telephone _____

Church _____ Conference _____

(Email) _____

Mail to: Eleanor B. Johnson, W5370 Century Road, Greenwood, WI 54437-8308
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