

NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN



# The Northwestern

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

*Northwest Synod of Wisconsin*

*Volume 31- Issue 3 – September 2018*

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

## ORGANIZATION

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0027

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

## Advice From a Tree



- 🌳 Stand tall and proud
  - 🌳 Go out on a limb
  - 🌳 Remember your roots
  - 🌳 Drink plenty of water
- 🌳 Be content with your natural beauty
  - 🌳 Enjoy the view



"Every thought is a seed...If you plant 'crab' apples, don't count on harvesting 'golden delicious!'"



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

### HEART OF THE NORTH RETREAT – AUGUST - 2018



Our SWO president's granddaughter, Dakotah,  
& Great-granddaughter, Maci at the HON retreat  
with a friend, Arlene.



Due to unforeseen circumstances, the President's message will be delayed to the next issue. Enjoy the photos of the Heart of the North Conference Retreat, the Apple River Conference Retreat as well as the Chippewa Valley Conference Retreat!



**APPLE RIVER CONFERENCE RETREAT – AUGUST, 2018**





# CHIPPEWA VALLEY CONFERENCE RETREAT

## AUGUST – 2018





## FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT



The installation service for Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson was Christ-centered, dignified, nurturing and inspirational. Among the highlights was the anthem sung by the mass choir. Written by Shirley Erena Murray, the song entitled, “For Everyone Born A Place at the Table” contained this powerful verse:

*For young and for old, born a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song, the hands of a child in the hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong.*

As this song was sung, my thoughts went to the Heart of the North retreat held at Luther Park Bible Camp in Chetek in August. I thought about the 57 attendees who came together to listen to God's word in the Bible study capably led by Pastor Jamie Brieske, and to share stories and songs, renew friendships, make new friends, join in activities, hear what the Women of the Church are doing, and discover the work of a non-profit who helps women suffering from mental health issues.



Another significant fact about this retreat was the age range of attendees from a 3-week old infant (Lori Wells' great-grandchild) to an 88-year old faithful retreat attendee. All had “a place at the table” from the wrinkled hands of Arlene to the tiny hands of Maci. It was a beautiful experience as we enjoyed a peaceful place to grow in our faith and renew our friendships with other sisters in Christ.

I encourage every conference to continue planning and attending future retreats where women young and old can have a “part in the song” and a “place at the table” and feel Jesus' presence in a very real way.

And as the refrain closes this anthem, “And God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy.” How fitting is that for our mission as members of W/ELCA!

The wisdom of Charles Schultz

From Charles Schultz, Peanuts cartoonist:

“The smile on my face doesn’t mean my life is perfect.

It means I appreciate what I have and what I have been blessed with.

I choose to be happy”.

Did you see the Article on Leadership featured on *Daily Grace* on August 6, that Dawn wrote? If not, you should subscribe to the “Daily Grace” devotion that is sent to your email every day! **Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by signing up for a daily email message. You can also download the newly updated app for your IOS and Android devices. We featured it in our June issue.**

## From the Treasurer

*"All good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above;  
Then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord for all His love."*

Through our offerings and Thankoffering I'm reminded that God has given us all the good gifts we have and deserves our thanks!

As a community of women, in our purpose statement, we commit ourselves to "grow in faith, affirm our gifts and support one another in our callings." "Support one another" means supporting our community of women in all its expressions. We are encouraged to receive offerings at every gathering of women – whether it be for a meeting, Circles, quilting, Bible Study, planning session – anytime women gather for a purpose. From those generous offerings, 50% is retained by your unit to be used for your unit's missions and the other 50% is generously given to our synodical women's organization, who in turn shares 50% with our churchwide women's organization.

The Thankoffering is a tradition that goes back to the 1800's or even earlier. Then, when it seemed that there was not enough money to carry out the work of the church, the women would take action. Gathering in groups called "cent" or "mite" societies, each woman would set aside offerings at home throughout the year, in thanksgiving for blessings received. And on occasion, the women would come together as we do today, joining their offerings together to support ministry of many kinds. When Women of the ELCA was formed 31 years ago, we committed to continue this tradition of giving in gratitude for blessings. Each year, in thousands of congregations, Thankofferings are given to support the life-changing ministries of Women of the ELCA. The Thankofferings received are sent entirely to Women of the ELCA on Offering form B.

Thank you, faithful women for your generous offerings and Thankofferings given joyfully to thank and praise God for all that God has done and continues to do in our lives.

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

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

Treasurers – Come to the Day of Enrichment on September 22nd or September 29th. I will share treasurer information and will be available for your questions.

Phyllis Beastrom, SWO Treasurer

## **Another way to support the NW SWO!**

Do YOU know you can help the Northwest Synod of WI Synodical Women's Organization by using AmazonSmile?

Through Amazon's charitable program, AmazonSmile, *you can support* the Synodical Women's Organization when you do your online shopping!

It doesn't take much effort. Simply sign into [Smile.Amazon.com](http://Smile.Amazon.com), register, and choose Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization. Amazon donates 0.5% of every purchase you make to the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization. There's no added fee, no catch, and best of all you're supporting the Synodical Women's Organization.

# Discipleship

## What Discipleship is Not!

Discipleship is a popular word, often used vaguely and ambiguously and gets thrown around at church. People have described classes, courses, programs, Bible studies, accountability groups, mission trips and even fellowship as discipleship.

Some people think making disciples is a specific call or spiritual gift, something only meant for the pastors, missionaries and “super-Christians.” *This thinking is wrong!*

Discipleship is not an optional course. It is not a twelve-step program. It is not intended for only a select few to carry out. Christ’s mandate to make disciples is meant for every one of His followers.

So, *What* is Discipleship?



It’s actually quite simple. Discipleship is the relationship between a teacher (disciple-r) and student (disciple). “Disciple” comes from the Greek word that means, “to learn.” Historically, the word recognizes a pupil-teacher relationship. This should be a cyclical process—meaning once we are disciplined, we are to disciple others, and so on.

One of the most important characteristics of being a disciple (a student or pupil), is to develop an intimate relationship with God through Christ rather than just learning about Him. Discipleship equips the Christian with God’s Word, prayer, doctrine, worship, encouragement, and service.

Why We Should Disciple?

Word, Relationship and Ministry work together to model discipleship principles taught by Jesus. The goal of discipleship is to develop healthy believers that walk by faith, share their faith, and multiply their faith.

To *walk by faith* means to be living as a Christian in obedience to Jesus.

To *share faith* means retelling God’s story and how He has worked in your life and in redemptive history.

To *multiply faith* means to bring others into God’s fold and make disciples of their own.

Why should we make disciples? For starters, it is a direct command from Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20). Also, it is because we, as Christians, are the sent people of God. As the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus is sending us (John 20:21). We are sent by Him to continue as His representatives on earth and participate in the narrative of redemptive history that He authors. Jesus told us that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few (Luke 10:2). He has made us laborers.



Every Christian should be helping unbelievers become believers by showing them Christ. And every Christian should be helping other believers grow to more and more maturity. Both of these are making disciples. And every Christian should be seeking to get help for themselves from others to keep on growing. That is our discipleship.

Submitted by Gloria Rolstad, Apple River Conference Representative



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## Stewardship

"I was asked to do this quarter's Stewardship article for the *Highlights*. I did what most people today would do. I looked up on the Internet "How to write a Stewardship article". This may seem funny coming from your NIS W/ELCA Treasurer of almost four years, but Stewardship as a Christian can mean a lot of different things to many different people, so I did not want to go off my knowledge alone.

The first article I came across was Hugh Welch written November 26, 2012, entitled 'Four Principles of Biblical Stewardship'. Well, I liked the first paragraph. I am off to a great start. It was a quote from C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*. 'Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment is given to you by GOD. If you devoted every moment of our whole live exclusively to HIS service, you could not give HIM anything that was not in a sense HIS own already.'

OK and article done. Okay, okay I know, I am not off the hook that easily. GOD has given me/us all we need to be great Stewards, but it is how we choose to go about our service that makes us unique in our talents and gifts. Our uniqueness makes us the stewards GOD calls us to be.

Below are the articles four principles of Biblical Stewardship:

**The Principle of Ownership** – 'The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world and all who live in it.' Psalm 24

**The Principle of Responsibility** – 'We are called as GOD'S stewards to manage that which belongs to God.

**The Principle of Accountability** – 'How we account for how we have managed everything that has been given to us including our time, money, abilities, information, wisdom, relationships and authority.'

**The Principle of reward** – 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the LORD, not for men/women, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the LORD as a reward. It is the LORD CHRIST you are serving.' Colossians 3:23-24

If you are reading this article, I hope and pray that you open your heart to the needs you see daily and that you may use your uniqueness to serve the LORD, and if it happens to be in accounting, please prayerfully conserving as NIS W/ELCA Treasurer. I can assure you it is both a blessing and a pleasure to serve with good women stewards of the NIS W/ELCA. GOD'S work our hands. Hugs and Blessings, Always.

From a Northern Illinois *Highlights* newsletter, by SWO Board member, Melanie Romano

## Unit/Conference News



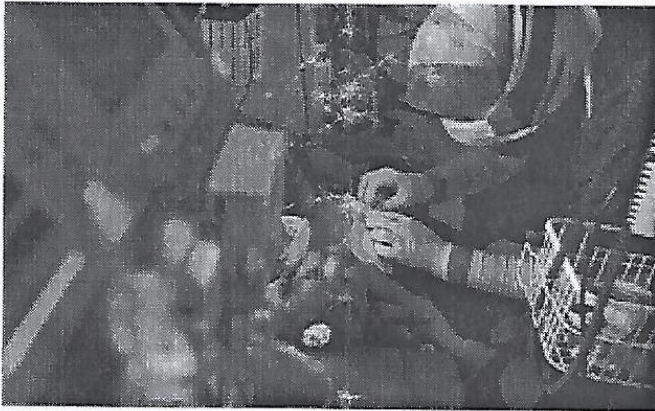
From the Dairyland/Lake Superior Conferences Retreat

The photo on the left is the entire group of women who gathered on August 16-17, 2018 at Luther Park in Chetek. The photo on the right is the Women of the ELCA from the Lake Superior Conference. It sounded like the joint venture was a success! Possibly other Conferences might want to try it also, to help promote learning about each conference and their similarities and differences.



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## Augusta Victoria Hospital needs your help



A nurse at The Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital (AVH) in East Jerusalem tends to Areen, a 10-month-old hemodialysis patient from Ramallah in the West Bank on Saturday morning, 8 September, 2018. AVH is the only hospital that offers pediatric hemodialysis for Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. Photo by Ben Gray / LWF

Media reports say the Trump Administration will not continue to fund the Lutheran World Federation-operated Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem. Please call the White House hotline (202-456-1111) to urge them to ensure there is no interruption of assistance for children and others in need of treatment for cancer and additional life-threatening diseases.

Prayer of Intercession:

Look with mercy, gracious God, upon people everywhere who live with injustice, terror, disease, and death. We remember before you today the Palestinians who come for healing to East Jerusalem hospitals, including the Lutheran Hospital on the Mount of Olives. As these hospitals struggle now with keeping their doors open, send your Holy Spirit upon us and all government authorities to provide the support needed for your healing work to continue in Jerusalem; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

by Peace Not Walls on September 8, 2018

For more information about Augusta Victoria Hospital, go to [www.avh.org](http://www.avh.org)

## 2018

### 2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS



#### SEPTEMBER

- 22 – Day of Enrichment, Elk Creek Lutheran, Osseo

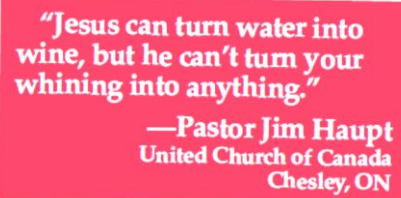
#### OCTOBER

- 6 – Thomas Street Railroad Crossing, 143 W Thomas Street, Wausau, WI
  - 13 – Trinity Lutheran, 1314 E Lexington Blvd, Eau Claire, WI
  - 13 – Bethany Lutheran, 35 W Messenger St, Rice Lake, WI
- All times are 8 am – 11am

## 2019

#### APRIL

- 6 – Chippewa Valley Day of Renewal, more information to follow



# JOY

"Jesus, Others, Self"



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**NW SYNOD of WI Website**  
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Articles/photos of your W/ELCA activities  
are encouraged.

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Website: [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

## NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Northwest 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](mailto:hdjebjohnson@tds.net). If you are emailing, please include Northwest 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**

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

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