

# NORTHWESTER

## NEWSLETTER



### Consider the Lilies of the Field...

This is the time of year when I especially enjoy my flower gardens. The heavy lifting, moving of pots, weeding, and transplanting of the spring is over. There is still some weeding to do, but as long as I stay on top of it every week or so, it doesn't take much time. Now I can just sit outside and enjoy the beauty.

We moved into our current home a little over four years ago. A new house meant I could plant new flower beds! That first fall I just needed bare ground to transplant flowers from our former home before the ground froze, but the following spring I was able to look at my blank canvas and make plans.

God gives us flowers in different shapes and heights and colors and with a variety of needs, so much like people. Some flowers bloom in early spring while others are still dormant. Summer blossoms appear while other plants are just emerging, preparing for their show in August and September. Probably my showiest flowers are the Hibiscus, the ones that grow five feet tall and have large red blossoms. Since they are in the front of our house, their beauty is shared with everyone who passes by. I've even had people stop and knock on our door to ask about them.

The plants I've had the longest are my Bleeding Hearts, this being their fourth home in 25+ years, while others are new to me this year. Some plants I buy, some are

shared by friends. I am always looking for ideas on how to include more flowers in my yard.

My mother-in-law, who died a few years ago at age 99½, also loved her flowers, but we had different styles. She liked everything in neat rows with plenty of space between plants. My flower beds are probably too crowded for her taste, but my theory is that there is less weeding to do when the flowers take over and crowd out the weeds. I also like the way my flowers grow intertwined, supporting each other. I like to think this is God's intention for us.

"Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing." (1 Thes. 5:11)

"That is, so we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine." (Romans 1:12)



*For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love, which, from our birth  
Over and around us lies.*

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise  
this our sacrifice of praise.*

I look forward to our growing together.

Joan Moe, SWO President

## Thank You!

As my interim position as President has ended, I wish to again thank my Board for their encouragement and support and for all of you who have supported our women's organization throughout the years.

Remember that you are the Hands and Feet of Christ when you give financially to the Women of the ELCA in supporting their ministry, providing quilts to Lutheran World Relief, as well as, providing them to those in your community who are in need. Making school kits for children who have been displaced from their homes due to war or famine. Supporting your local food banks and other various works your units help to support.

In Christ,  
Barb Garling

## Serving Our Community

*Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10*

My church built its first food booth at the Polk County fair 73 years ago. The purpose of the Bone Lake Lutheran food booth was to help raise money needed for the church's expenses. Our church has since built its second food booth and we now have additional projects to support with our proceeds we make during the county fair. God has graciously helped in our growth.

To run the food booth successfully, most of our church members are needed each year to help serve in the many jobs that are available and take on the responsibilities needed to run the booth for the four and a half days we serve the fair goers.

The work begins in the beginning of May by those who are gifted by God with leadership and organization skills. These people come together for several meetings to plan for the operation of the food booth for the upcoming year. We also have women, who are leaders in the preparation of the various foods to be served at the fair. Then the food is cooked by many more women and men who donate their time to make all the food so we can serve those who come to eat at our booth. Everyone donates food to use for the food preparation or to bring to the fair booth.

And the clean-up at the booth! Every dish, utensil, pots and pans, shelves, cupboards, drawers, refrigerators, and anything attached to the inside of the booth and outside of the booth are cleaned, fixed and painted in preparation of our opening. So many of our church members serve by cleaning and having the booth ready for our customers. As you can see, the members of our church are very busy and are helping each other to ensure the food and the food booth are ready when we open for the Polk County Fair.

The majority of our food is homemade, and the pies are baked fresh. We are famous for our homemade pies! God has blessed so many in our church with baking and cooking skills. People return yearly to eat at our food booth and get a piece of our many different varieties of homemade pie.

By the end of the fair, we are tired, hot, and spent from all of the work, not just at the fair but from all of the work beforehand to have a successful year at our food booth. Although we are working very hard, we have so many moments of talking and laughter because we enjoy each other's company. This is such a fun time to spend with our church family.

Our church sees God leading and helping throughout this process. Through God's love and by accomplishing our goals with God's help, we work and serve with each other to get the booth ready so we can serve our community from our bounty.

Gloria Rolstad, SWO Vice President



## Unit Officer's Form

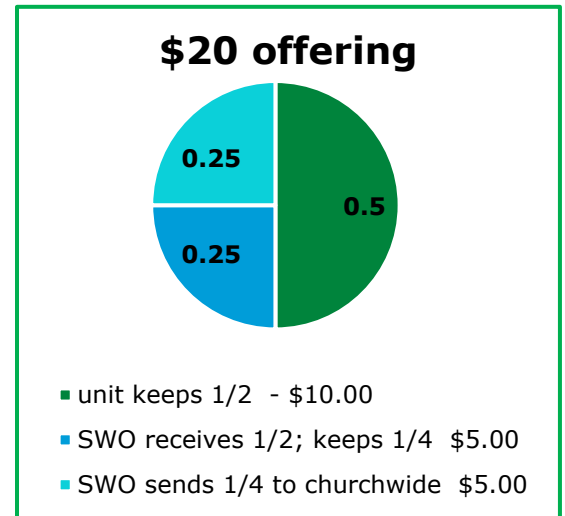
In this edition is the updated Unit Officer's Form with the new Board and Conference Reps listed. Please send to those according to the instructions on the form whenever your unit officers may change.

Barb Garling  
SWO Secretary

## We are Together in Mission

**Thank you** for giving an offering whenever you gather for circle, quilting, Bible study, and unit gatherings.

**Your regular offering supports all expressions of Women of the ELCA and the ministries they support.** Offerings received in your congregational unit are shared. A portion is kept for your local ministry, a portion (recommended 50%) is sent to me, your Synodical Women's Organization Treasurer to support the ministry of the Synodical and Churchwide Women's Organizations. I send 50% of the offerings received to Churchwide Women of the ELCA to support their ministry. For example, if you give a \$20 offering to your unit, your unit keeps \$10 and sends the other \$10 to the Synodical Women's Organization. The SWO keeps \$5.00 and sends the other \$5.00 to Churchwide.



**Together our offerings make a larger impact than what we individually could do. We are all in mission together, serving Christ and sharing God's love to our neighbors near and far through our various ministries and projects.**



2122 Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years, is a \$1 million campaign for Katie's Fund designed to raise up bold leaders and support and build women's ministries into the next 100 years. You are encouraged to make a pledge – either a one-time pledge or a pledge to fulfill over 3 years. The funds pledged and raised will be announced at the 2023 Triennial Convention in September in

Phoenix. The pledge form can be found on the Women of the ELCA website or here is the link:

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PledgeformF.pdf>

Katie's Fund was established 25 years ago to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, a practical and bold woman of faith. Through Katie's Fund, Women of the ELCA honors her life by supporting global connections, leadership development and living theology.

The Churchwide Board of Women of the ELCA voted to give a \$1000 grant to each Synodical Women's Organization from Katie's Fund to be used for supporting leadership development, global connections, and living theology. We will keep you informed as to how this grant will be used in our synod.

**Treasurer's Guide:** Please contact me if you have any questions about offerings or offering forms. I can also e-mail you the Treasurer's guide which tells you where to send offerings, special gifts, Thankofferings, etc. Please send your Thankofferings along with Form B to Women of ELCA (address is on Form B).

### CONGREGATIONAL UNIT TREASURERS

Please send your unit offerings to:  
Phyllis Beastrom  
SWO Treasurer  
W6244 410<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Ellsworth WI 54011

Phyllis Beastrom 715-821-5847 [beastrom@redwing.net](mailto:beastrom@redwing.net)

## News from the Northwest Synod of WI Conferences

### St Croix Valley Conference

Carol Hajicek

	<p><i>Life is good. And life can be messy! The good news? We don't have to wait for it to be perfect before we can live it to the fullest!</i></p>
<p align="center"><b>Saturday, September 17, 2022</b></p> <p align="center">8:45am – 11:30am Event – Lunch to Follow <b>Joy Lutheran Church</b> 1435 St Croix St, Prescott, WI 54021</p> <p align="center">Registration &amp; Coffee (Joy Lutheran) 8:15am – 8:45am \$10 Registration Fee</p> <p align="center"><b>Speaker Gaye Lindfors – This is Livin'!</b> <i>A foundation for living that moves us from messy moments to happy places.</i> <small>(A copy of the flyer is included later in this newsletter.)</small></p>	

### Lake Superior Conference

Kathy Rewalt

With summer on its downward swing, I would like to highlight a few of the churches in Lake Superior Conference with their past and future events. While we have not gathered as a large group, I was excited to learn of all the activities going on in our area. Our women up north are busy outside our walls.

First Lutheran in Port Wing has enjoyed its church picnic and is looking at their Pie Slice Sale on September 4. With monies from this fundraiser, they can support extra church activities and contribute to building needs. Their Saturday Market Day on Oct 8 at the Apple Fest is another opportunity for them to sell baked goods for funds to support more outreach programs.

Good Shepherd in Ashland has many programs that they support on a regular basis. They thank the First Responders in the area with a dinner in their honor. Their continued support of the homeless shelter gives bus passes and personal kits to the people in need.

Their Mission of the Month is gathering school kit supplies and they continue making quilts and prayer shawls.

Our Savior's in Iron River has a special fall event on September 17 – The Tour of Homes. This year they have five lovely homes in the area to tour. Proceeds from the ticket sales go to the local Food Shelf. The ladies also have their quilts and prayer quilts that are given out regularly to those in need. Luther Park is also a recipient of their donations. Gift baskets and other items are given for their annual auction.

What a joy it was to talk to ladies of these congregations and find out how they are supporting and loving their communities. This is only a small sample of the difference our women's groups make to their congregations and surrounding areas. God asks us to love our neighbors and these women are. I thank God for all of you.

### Dairyland Conference

Amelie Lindberg-Livingston

Sabylund Lutheran, rural Stockholm, hosted 40+ attendees at the Dairyland Conference "Morning of Renewal" on Wednesday, April 20, 2022. New board officers include Connie Anderson, Secretary; Kim Vlcek, Financial Secretary; Monica Bahr, Mission Action; and Amelie Lindberg-Livingston, SWO Coordinator. The board will meet in early September to begin planning for the next year.

### Chequamagon Conference

Peggy Erickson

A number of years ago, the SWO held a convention at the Plaza Hotel in Eau Claire. I was so impressed by the team work and efficiency that the group had – I thought "I'd like to be part of that board". I helped out those days with one of the hands-on projects and had a great time. I knew it was a group of women that I would enjoy knowing. I was elected a few weeks ago as Chequamegon Conference Rep to the SWO board and look forward to being part of a great group of women. When the vacancy arose, I said YES immediately. I know God has presented opportunities to me so when He calls, I can say "Here I am, Lord." Blessing to you all and I look forward to meeting you along the way.

**Apple River Conference**

Suzanne Grill

News from North Valley Lutheran WELCA

We put on the annual Sweetheart Auction February 13th. It's always a lot of fun with Adam Bever as auctioneer, and a good fundraiser. We presented the liturgy for Bold Women Sunday on February 27th. For Lent we served supper and services rotating with First Lutheran of Cushing and Faith at Balsam Lake. May 5th we prepared and served lunch for Polk County Career Day at the fairgrounds. We presented liturgy in observance of Rachel's Day on May 15th. June 26th, we prepared and served lunch at the Fisherman's Party in Milltown. July, we cleaned out the kitchen and were able to donate items to support the garage sale put on by the Arnell Animal Shelter in Amery. July 17th WELCA helped the men put on a pancake breakfast to raise money for the Maggie Isaacson Scholarship Fund.

News from Pilgrim Lutheran WELCA

On Wednesday, July 13, at noon the women of the church gathered at "Traditions of Frederic" in downtown Frederic. Our tradition has been for many years to bring a picnic lunch to the



residents of the nursing home as well as for the workers. We like the idea of giving the workers a day of rest and a different meal for the residents. The menu

consisted of hot dogs that were cooked on the grill, potato salad, baked beans, chips, pickles, and delicious strawberry shortcake for dessert.



We served about 50 people including members of Pilgrim and friends. Good food, good people, a good time was had by all. 🍷

**Heart of the North Conference**

Janice Ahneman

The Heart of the North Board has been hard at work planning the Heart of the North Conference Day of Renewal. The date is September 17, 2022, at New Hope Lutheran, Sand Creek. Election of new officers will be held. Speaker will be Robyn Lee representing Beds 4 Kids. Serving Chippewa, Barron and northeastern Dunn

counties, Beds 4 Kids provides children in foster care a comfortable place to sleep so no child will sleep on the floor within our community. Please bring an in kind offering of cash to purchase mattresses or new twin sheets, twin blankets, pillows and/or pillowcases in original packaging.

Also, a musical program will be presented on the grand piano by John Dutmer. Mr. Dutmer formerly taught vocal music at Chetek High School and Middle School. He is often the musical director of the Red Barn Musicals in Rice Lake. Registration begins at 8:15AM. Program begins at 9AM. The event concludes with a catered lunch. Attached is a registration form and a poster. Feel free to download as needed. Registrations are due by September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Hope to see many of you there.

**Chippewa Valley Conference**

Diane Campbell

Spring, Summer and Fall find the women of the ELCA especially busy with family, church and community activities.

In June many of us attended a two-day retreat at Luther Park. A change from our normal retreat time of August. It was so good to see friends from other churches and conferences in our Synod.

The Synodical Board hosted a half-day Convention in June also. Our main business was to regroup. We had Board members who were willing to remain on the SWO Board, and some who chose to step down. We held our elections for new Board Members and New Officers. Slowly, but surely, we are regrouping and facing the many questions of What Now? How will the Women of the ELCA Groups function, communicate, and operate after about a two-year gap in gathering?

On a church level, the Women of the ELCA are as involved in their faith life and churches as we were pre-covid. We are busy with mission work, serving funerals, hosting fundraisers for our church, and sharing the Word of God through our Actions.

The look of "official" WELCA meetings and gatherings are certainly different. Gone are the days when we have officers AND 3 mission positions! Now we are

often lucky to have a contact person AND a treasurer for each church. Our women are involved and active, and they do “gather” but do not always feel a need to be called WELCA and hold regular meetings.

I know for myself, I totally enjoy gathering with my Sisters in Christ, singing, praying, sharing and learning. But, doing the ground work needed to host regular meetings in addition to the committees I already serve on....Well, it’s just one more thing on my plate.

Often during my devotions, I dwell on the amazing Women of the Bible. The women in the Old Testament who were brave and strong in their faith. The women in the New Testament who followed Jesus and were part of his ministry - not as the 12 disciples, but as support for the disciples, by feeding them, opening their homes, and being faithful.

Today, the Women of the ELCA are doing the same (supporting, being strong, faithful, and brave) only now, more than ever we are in leadership roles in our Churches, our Conferences, our Synod and Church Wide.

The format/structure of the Women of the ELCA in the churches is changing. Some, like me, feel the loss of gathering with other women of faith. Others have never experienced it so don’t miss it and are moving on and serving in their church in new and different ways. Perhaps it they would be doing this on their own, but I feel we women are supporting each other fulfilling our WELCA Mission Statement: Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

We are Strong Women! And we are empowering other women to respect their skills and serve the Lord with happiness in their hearts!

This is evident as we move into our fall season, when we gather together the results of our efforts to make quilts and various kits for Lutheran World Relief. And yet, there’s a shift here too. Quilts, school supplies and other needs are being donated both locally and to LWR. The bottom line is that we are living out our faith.

What will WELCA Gatherings look like in the future? I have no idea. We may not meet regularly, but we will continue to support one another and encourage all women to be STRONG in their faith and actions.

### June 2022 Women’s Retreat

Over 130 women gathered for the June 2022 Retreat at Luther Park. A HUGE thank you to the Chippewa Valley Conference for planning and hosting the event!



Friends-Old and New



Fun



Fellowship



Creativity



Laughter

Generations of Women



Leadership

#### 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 or women’s group to Kim Vlcek at [vlcekr@yahoo.com](mailto:vlcekr@yahoo.com).

**NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN LAKE SUPERIOR Conf #1**

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

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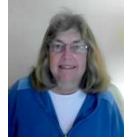
**CHIPPEWA VALLEY Conf #5**

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715-832-4707  
Spirit Lutheran, Eau Claire  
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**CHEQUAMEGON Conf #6**

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**DAIRYLAND Conf #7**

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Facebook

[www.facebook.com/WomenoftheNorthwestSynod/](http://www.facebook.com/WomenoftheNorthwestSynod/)

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



**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.**

# Fall Retreat

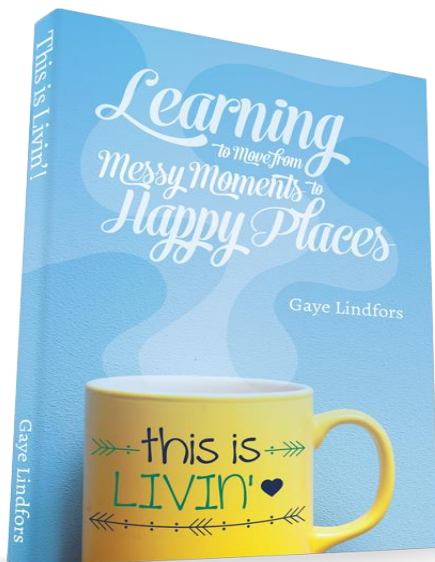
## St. Croix Valley Conference

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Saturday, September 17, 2022

Joy Lutheran Church

1435 St Croix St, Prescott, WI 54021



\$10 Admission Fee

8:15am - 8:45am

Registration and Coffee

8:45am - 11:30am - Event  
Lunch to follow

Speaker

Gaye Lindfors

*This is Livin'!*

*Life is good. And life can be messy! The good news? We don't have to wait for it to be perfect before we can live it to the fullest! We can look for, create, and celebrate good moments even during the "You've got to be kidding me!" seasons. Let's laugh a bit, push the reset button, and chuckle some more as we rediscover how to create great moments, which turn into great days, which turn into a great life!*

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**

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***Thank you!***