

NORTHWESTER

NEWSLETTER



Good Soil!

*Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
Where love can grow and peace is understood.
ELW 512*

How good it feels to be outdoors, soaking up sunshine when we can, enjoying the rain that waters the fields and flowers. Personally, I enjoy filling my pots with soil and planning what flowers and plants will go together in which pot and then deciding where that pot will go. How much sun does it require? Does it need a shady spot? How often should I feed it?

I like to think that this is how God tends to our hearts, caring, nurturing, and feeding our souls. Sometimes we are fed in unlikely places and ways and sometimes we feed (and encourage!) each other. What a blessing!

This spring I have very much enjoyed attending many of our conference Days of Renewal, although I could not attend all of them. My soul has been fed by the words I heard from our speakers and from

the Word that has been shared. I also am encouraged by the fellowship that you enjoy with each other. This has been a wonderful time to catch up with long-time friends and to make new ones. It is certainly a time of growth and renewal.

May your hearts be that good soil where God's word can grow.

Faithfully yours,
Joan Moe, SWO President

Speakers List

The SWO board is updating the Speaker Resource List and would welcome any additions to our list. If you know of a speaker you could share with the rest of the Synod, please email Gloria Rolstad, grlstad@msn.com, and give her the name, contact information and a brief description of the topic and/or program on the speaker you would like added.



Travel and Life Experiences

"He has showered his kindness on us, along with all wisdom and understanding" Ephesians 1:8

I had the opportunity to visit the "Creation Museum" and the "Ark Encounter" in both Petersburg, KY and Williamstown, KY respectively. I went with my friend, Donna, who I've traveled with before and enjoy being with.

The Creation Museum is a 75,000 square foot facility and is the perfect place to learn and discover the Seven C's of history: Creation, Corruption, Catastrophe, Confusion, Christ, Cross, Consummation, beginning with Genesis. The museum shows the historical and scientific accuracy of Scripture. Donna and I also noticed at each exhibit the signs would describe the naturalistic evolutionary worldview which was placed side by side with the scriptural view. According to the museum, the naturalist evolutionary view lacks an accounting for intelligence, order and every condition necessary for scientific discovery.

At the Ark Encounter there is a replica of a full-sized Noah's Ark built according to the dimensions given in the Bible. The modern ark spans 510 feet long, 85 feet wide, and 51 feet high, this ark amazes visitors of all ages. There are three stories to walk through and be amazed. This massive replica is also a powerful teaching tool and contains a wealth of information to strengthen our faith. These exhibits allow the visitors to experience what life may have been like on the Ark.

My friend Donna and I both acknowledged the strong presence of God in both museums, and we were in awe.

We walked so much through both museums, but the exercise was good! Thankfully both museums had motorized scooters for those who had come to view the exhibits but were unable to walk the whole way.

Both museums contained so much information and visual content that I bought a book at each museum so I could reread and remember what I had learned on this trip. But the best book to have in our possession is the bible. We have so much information at our fingertips that teaches us about history, how to live, how to treat others, salvation and most importantly, about our Father in Heaven and Jesus's ministry.

This trip was a wonderful experience shared with a wonderful friend. I hope all of you will have the same opportunity as I did.

SWO Vice President Gloria Rolstad

A Note from your SWO Treasurer



Thank you to all who were inspired at their spring conference events and gave generous offerings. The five conference offerings sent to me totaled \$1960.57 and that full amount was sent to Women of the ELCA churchwide. The other half of the offerings sent to me supported local food pantries, Sleep in Heavenly Peace to supply beds for kids, and an organization that supports families in temporary need of financial assistance. I'm confident the other conferences also had similar designations for their offerings.

The Synodical Women's financial report for the last fiscal year have been audited. Offerings from your church women's units totaled \$16,346.52 and from that offering, \$8400 was sent to churchwide Women of the ELCA. Other ministries supported included Bible Camps \$3500, and three Lay School scholarships for total of \$300.

So far this year, we have received \$1000 grant from Katie's Fund and \$5500 in worship offerings. We have designated \$500 from the Katie's Fund grant for a Malawi well, sent \$2500 to churchwide for half of the offerings, and gave a \$500 Seminary Scholarship to Catherine Reuter.

Your offerings are supporting local ministries as well as ministries throughout the church. You are living our Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement to support one another, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world. *(continued on next page)*

Please share this Newsletter with the women of your congregation.

I will e-mail or mail the treasurer's giving guide and remittance forms A and B to be included with your offerings if you need them. Call/text me at 715-821-5847 or e-mail beastrom@redwing.net

Have you or your unit supported 2122 Growing Katie's Fund for the next 100 years? 2122 is a \$1 million



campaign for Katie's Fund designed to raise up bold leaders and also to support and build women's ministries into the next 100 years. Individuals and units 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. Find the pledge sheet and more information at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/katiesfund>

Phyllis Beastrom
SWO Treasurer
715-821-5847
beastrom@redwing.net or nwswiswotreas@gmail.com

Scholarships Bear Fruit!

When you receive the next quarterly "Christ in Our Home" booklet, be sure to read the July 1-8 devotions. They were written by Bethany Ringnal, a former scholarship recipient of our synod. Originally from Pilgrim Lutheran in Superior, Bethany is building a Jesus-shaped life of solidarity and hospitality with displaced people in Minneapolis/St. Paul. She serves as local ministry leader with the international association for refugees and is Mom to two young kids and an unruly garden. We are being blessed again by the fruits of our giving.

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](#).



The Twelfth Triennial Women of the ELCA Gathering is scheduled for September 21-24, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona. Early bird registration has been extended to June 15, 2023.

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

News from the Northwest Synod of WI Conferences

Chippewa Valley Conference

Diane Campbell

April 22, 2023 found women from all over the Chippewa Valley Conference gathered at Central Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls, WI. This was a day when friends invited friends, friends from the same church sat together to catch up, and new friendships were made. Our speaker, Cindy Tewalt shared humorous stories from her past that made us laugh, and she also focused on the title of her presentation: There's More to Come. This event was specifically scheduled to occur as winter was beginning to leave us, and we could feel spring in the air. We called our event: A Day of Renewal.

Our Chippewa Valley Conference Board faced a huge challenge. We were already down two Board members since Covid, and all our current members have been on since 2019. We were praying, and networking throughout the morning, explaining to the small groups gathered for coffee and conversation during registration that we needed at least 3 women to volunteer to serve on the Conference Board that day, or the Board could not go on. We wondered, would the women hear God Calling to them?

I'm thrilled to say that four women heard God Calling!!! Holly Sweeney, Becci Olson, Kris Nelson, and Penny Erickson were installed by Joan Moe, our SWO

President. They will join Claudeen Oebser and Carol Peterson as we continue to provide opportunities for the women in our Chippewa Valley Conference. We are so thankful that all 6 women listened when God called out to them.

Members leaving our Conference Board include Jacki Johnson, Linda Stock, Peggy Schroetter and Joan Moe. Joan left almost a year ago when she became our SWO President. Jacki and Linda want to devote their energy to the Retreat Committee.



*Chippewa Valley Conference Incoming and Outgoing Officers
Back Row: Kris Nelson, Holly Sweeney, Carol Peterson, Becca Olson,
Penny Erickson, Jacki Johnson
Front Row: Linda Stock, Diane Campbell, Claudeen Oebser.
Missing is Peggy Schroetter.*

Speaking of the CHIPPEWA VALLEY RETREAT ON JUNE 7 and 8, this will be the last year we will host it.

Going forward, the Retreat Committee wants more input from YOU, and your friends throughout our Synod. The last two years the Chippewa Valley Conference hosted the retreat and invited everyone in the Synod. Going forward it will be a Synodical Retreat planned by women throughout the Northwest Synod. An opportunity for YOU to have input. We are excited about this change.

Another challenge to all of us to see if we are listening with our hearts. Is God calling YOU to be on the new Retreat Committee? Or is God calling YOU in another way? Probably the biggest challenge is to.....

.....LISTEN, GOD IS CALLING. And then to say YES!

Heart of the North Conference

Janice Ahneman

Chetek Lutheran, Submitted by Sandy Gunderson

In April, 12 Chetek Lutheran ladies attended the Looney Lutherans lunch and show at Heyde Center for the Arts in Chippewa Falls. We enjoyed a delicious meal at noon with the show YOUNG(ISH) AT HEART, a two-hour show of laughter creative tips for keep fit...because JELLO isn't the only thing that jiggles, musical advice for dealing with aches and pains and a segment hosted by your favorite luncheon meat SPAM! Laughter is really good medicine!

The Hannah Circle performed a skit of "ESTHER" for our W'ELCA program May 3rd for the ladies and community. We were reminded how Esther risked her life to save the Jewish people from destruction when the court official Haman persuades the king to authorize a massacre against all the Jews of the Empire. The ladies have finished 98 quilts for LWR so far this spring. Also, in May, they will honor and recognize 12 Chetek graduates with a quilt designed for them after the worship service along with a short special program and cake will be served.

On June 7 we have 8 ladies and a gentleman coming to entertain us with songs and hymns on their Dulcimers, a musical instrument with a long rounded body and a fretted fingerboard, played by bowing, plucking, and strumming on a sounding board or box used in the mountain country. This is open to the community and refreshments will follow the program. On June 8 some of our ladies will be attending the Retreat at Luther Park hosted by the Chippewa Valley Conference. Thank you, ladies, for doing this for the HON ladies.

Lake Superior Conference

Kathy Rewalt

Spring has sprung and now that the snow has melted, we can start many of our spring/summer activities in our churches. We were fortunate this Easter season to be able to gather our Community Choir again to sing a Good Friday cantata. Singers from our churches in Iron River, Brule, Port Wing, Cornucopia and Ashland formed the 30+ member choir which had started practicing this cantata in 2020 just before we got shut down by Covid 19. It was a great Easter celebration of worship and song.

Good Shepherd in Ashland has been successful in collecting money to support the Stone Soup project in town. Stone Soup offers a hot lunch to anyone who needs a meal. The church handed out jars to congregational members with a small stone in it asking them to put change into them each day for a month. When the jars were returned to the church, they had raised nearly \$450 for the project. They are also active in purchasing 100 bus passes each month that are given to the homeless shelter. Project Sweet Dreams collects pajamas and a book to be given to each child that comes into New Day Advocacy Center in Ashland.

Wednesday Bible/Sunday school is starting to be a popular activity in our conference. Saron and Good Shepherd in Ashland have combined their resources and enjoy the children from both congregations gathering and learning each week. Our Saviors in Iron River also has a program with children coming down from the elementary school on Wednesdays for classes. Reaching out into our communities is very important to our church families.

Summer is bringing on new challenges to our conference. Port Wing and Washburn will soon join several other churches in our conference who are looking for new pastors. Challenges for all of us as we continue to serve Christ both within our doors and outside into our neighborhoods. Gods' blessings to all as we enjoy our beautiful northland and welcome sweet springtime.

Dairyland Conference

Amelie Lindberg-Livingston

The W/ELCA Dairyland Conference had over sixty people in attendance at their recent Morning of Renewal at Peace Lutheran in Pigeon Falls. Guest speaker Deacon Lidix Montoya presented about her work in the Neighbor to Neighbor (N2N) program and shared some insights on antiracism and misconceptions about the Hispanic culture. Lidix welcomes requests for presentations. More information is this [link](#).

The conference board is working on a goal of meeting with all the church units in the conference. To assist with this goal, church units have been asked to send information about their monthly events and activities. The women's groups are responding, a wonderful list of events is being compiled and the board is working to

schedule these on their calendars. The goal is to build connections and relationships within the among women and the churches in the conference.

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 nwswotreas@gmail.com with questions.

Our website is back online

www.nwswiswo.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/>

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
presidentnswiswo@gmail.com
moejoan@gmail.com



VICE PRESIDENT

Gloria M Rolstad
2178 – 120th Street
Milltown, WI 54858-2818
715-554-1129
Bone Lake Lutheran, Luck
grolstad@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
tahneman@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
vlcekkr@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 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!