

NORTHWESTER

NEWSLETTER



Time to be Renewed!

April 5, 2025

[Chippewa Valley Conf](#)
[Day of Renewal](#)

St. John's Lutheran
Eau Claire, WI

April 5, 2025

[St. Croix River Conf](#)
[Morning of Renewal](#)

Mt. Zion Lutheran
Hudson, WI

April 9, 2025

[Dairyland Conf](#)
[Morning of Renewal](#)

Immanuel Lutheran
Strum, WI

April 12, 2025

[Apple River Conf](#)
[Morning of Renewal](#)

Our Savior's Lutheran
Amery, WI

June 4-5, 2025

[WELCA Retreat](#)
Luther Park
Chetek, WI

Bold Women of Faith

"Oh, Lord, you have searched me and known me. You know when I sit down and when I rise up you discern my thoughts from far away. Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts." Psalm 139: 1-2, 23

I hope that many of you have celebrated the Bold Women of Faith in your congregations this month and perhaps even participated in International Women's Day in one way or another. My own mother was once recognized by the other women of her congregation as a Bold Woman of Faith when she was in her early 90s. She seemed genuinely puzzled by this honor until I gently explained that they can see her faith by what she does and how she lives. To be honest, I felt honored for her to receive such recognition, as I had known her faith all along.

There is much going on in the next few months. I hope you are aware of and are planning to attend our [WELCA Retreat](#) at Luther Park Bible Camp June 4-5. This is always a great time to gather with old friends and make new ones as well as to enjoy so many aspects of God's creation. Fliers and registration can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also coming up in April, most of our conferences are planning a Day or Morning of Renewal. These gatherings are sure to be filled with song, speakers, and fellowship. I look forward to meeting many of you there.

In conjunction with this special day, many conferences also hold elections for their conference board or team. These teams usually plan only one or two events per year, so there is not a burdensome amount of time that is required. Some of our conferences are struggling. Chippewa Valley and Lake Superior are without representation on our Synodical Board and are also lacking women, bold women, to step forward to lead and guide their sisters. This is only a two-year commitment, and I am asking you to prayerfully consider where God is calling you to be and how you can be involved.

I encourage you to know your worth and to live your faith boldly in Christ.

WE are worthy and WE are all bold women of faith.

Faithfully yours,
Joan Moe, SWO President

Gracious God, help us to live out your vision of being fearfully and wonderfully made. Give us an ever-present voice that tells us we are whole, we are loved, and we have value because it is you who declares us worthy. Be with us as we stand firm in that knowledge. In Jesus name, Amen

--The Rev. Dr. Andrea L Walker, "Knowing your worth," Boldcafe.org March 2025





Getting busy and writing my article on Valentine's Day, I was thinking "What can I write?" Well, Valentine's Day is a day of remembering those we love. So here we go!

I was asked for our church newsletter, what is my favorite Bible verse? My favorite is 1 Corinthians 13:13. "For now there are faith, hope, and love. But of these three, the greatest is love." Love is so very important in my life, thinking of my children, grandchildren and even great-grandchildren. I have much love and respect for my family and respect for my friends, church family, neighbors, and I can go on even more. The best thing I can do is when I am doing for all these people, I do it in love.

One big thing for me is music and I love playing the organ in church. I do that with love, even when I make mistakes. Directing our parish choir, I do this with love, kindness, and laughter. We are a small choir, but we sing with our hearts.

Along with that, I help making quilts and every knot I tie is also done with love. We have laughter, we joke around, show concern for others, especially if they need prayer. (Silent prayer is wonderful.) It is fun to see the beautiful quilt tops made from so many different colors and our coffee breaks are great with all the homemade treats that make our work not work.

Another thought I ponder on is, Jesus said, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.... Love others as much as you love yourself." Matt. 22:37, 39. With all the mission work we do, it is not work when we are doing it in love.

One more thought I have to say is how our forefathers came to this country and found that they needed God in their lives and began our churches more than 150 years ago. It has been a privilege to have

YOUR OFFERINGS AT WORK!	
SWO Checking Account	
Balance 2/1/2024	\$14,164.55
Receipts	
conference funds	\$172.50
convention registrations	\$2,370.00
convention offerings	\$3,790.00
convention conf exp funds, misc	\$5,050.00
Conference Offerings	\$4,042.17
Unit worship offerings	\$15,739.89
Total Funds	\$45,329.11
Expenses	
checks	\$33.00
conference funds	\$172.50
Board expenses	\$745.50
SWO Ministries	\$5,399.50
Gather	\$149.50
Lay School	\$300.00
Seminary Schlsp	\$1,950.00
Bible Camps	\$3,000.00
Convention expenses	\$5,062.87
Sent to Churchwide:	
Convention offering	\$4,325.00
Churchwide Katie's Fund	\$700.00
conference offerings	\$4,042.17
1/2 worship offerings to churchwide	\$8,000.00
Total expenses	\$28,480.54
Transferred to savings:	
1% offerings to equipment fund	\$157.40
2024-25 conv expense funds	\$1,585.00
	\$30,222.94
Balance 1/31/2025	\$15,106.17
Thank you, Women of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin for your faithful support and the many ministries supported through your offerings!	
Phyllis Beastrom, Outgoing Treasurer Audited February 20, 2025	

been part of organizing our church anniversaries. How these people worked so hard together to make their dreams come true to have a building, a place where they could worship our heavenly father.

This is so much to put into an article, but I think of the song "People, people who

need people are the luckiest people in the world." And I will include People showing Love for one another.

Looking forward to our church year, have a Blessed and Meaningful lent time and a Glorious Easter.

In Christian Love,
Carol Medchill, Vice President

CONFERENCES

Apple River Conference

Suzanne Gill

**"Spring into Life"
Morning of Renewal
Saturday, April 12, 2025.**

**Guest Speaker Gayle Lando
will present on Racial Justice
and the Trail of Tears**

Registration is \$15

**Coffee and treats at 8:00
Program begins at 9:00am.,
Lunch will follow the morning
program**

**Our Saviors Lutheran
217 Deronda Street
Amery, WI**



St. Croix Valley Conference

Anne Janda

Morning of Renewal for the St. Croix Valley Conference takes place on Saturday, April 5 at Mt. Zion Lutheran Church in Hudson. They have chosen a Western theme for this event and encourage attendees to wear Western attire. Mt. Zion is also partnering with Turning Point (for victims of domestic and sexual violence) in River Falls. They will be accepting in-kind donations of shampoo/conditioner, body wash/lotion and combs and/or brushes.

The guest speaker is Nikki Ness, founder of "Eyes That See," a non-profit organization located in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The non-profit is committed to fighting poverty and injustice through

community, education, and empowerment, specifically by helping women leave the sex industry. They provide safe housing, medical care, counseling, and vocational training as well as a strong sense of community. The organization will host a craft sale during lunch, the proceeds of which will go to "Eyes That See." (eyesthatsee.org)

In this issue of The Northwester, we highlight the women's activities at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Burkhardt.

The women at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Burkhardt remain very active! We have a very committed group of quilters who "turn-out" quilts at an amazing rate! Quilts are donated to a large variety of non-profit groups. In November of 2024 our Women's Thank Offering Service included a guest speaker, Pati Kachel from "The Parable Fund." She presented "A Patchwork Quilt of Heartwarming Stories" with beautiful quilts and inspiring stories.



Pati Kachel's quilt story presentation

A Chili Supper fundraiser is held every October (since 1954!). We also deliver Christmas gifts to homebound members. Through 5th Sunday Women's offerings, we can support several local and worldwide needs as well as support our church women. We continue to evolve, but constants are Bible Studies, altar guild, Sunday coffee fellowship and assisting at Redeemer in any way necessary to share God's light and love to all.

2025 is Year C in our lectionary and our gospel readings are from the book of Luke. Luke 4:16-19 finds Jesus in his hometown of Nazareth where he makes the public announcement of his vocation. He quotes the Hebrew Bible (Isaiah):

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring
good news to the poor. He has sent
me to proclaim release to the
captives and recovery of sight to the
blind to let the oppressed go free to
proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

What an outline! This is what our women's groups are doing; not necessarily uniform, but still united.

Hope to see you in Hudson!



Heart of the North Conference

Janice Ahneman

For the Heart of the North Conference Day of Renewal held at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake in October of 2024, the board members were looking for a way for attendees to interact with each other. They came up with an idea for each woman to share with their table mates what activities and ministries her church is involved with during the year. Then one person from each church shared with the whole group what goes on in her church.

The list is 44 items long! Lutheran World Relief was the recipient of many church projects: quilts by the hundreds, kits galore, fabric kits, health kits, school kits and money.



Food is another big area of ministry. Community dinners, Harvest suppers, Halloween, hot dogs, and water, lefse making, bake sales, food pantry support and Ruby's Pantry.

Clothing projects were numerous as well. School closets, shoe drives for local organizations and overseas, stockings and socks, winter clothing, i.e., hats, scarves and mittens and gloves. Also sponsoring wash days at laundromats at reduced rates for low-income families.

Our Bibles camps also benefitted from women groups activities as well as the ELCA via Good Gifts, Benjamin House, nursing homes, Pregnancy Help Center, Northwest Passage, Hurricane Relief, Jamaican mission.

Ladies love to sing in Community choirs, help at nursing homes, give parents a night by watching children, make prayer shawls, participate in greeting card ministries, hold Bible studies, help local school children through backpack programs, bazaars, carnivals, and garage sales.

Heart of the North ladies are very busy! Well done, ladies. Well done.

It was a day of New Beginnings at the 2024 Heart of the North Conference Day of Renewal held on October 27 at Bethany Lutheran Church in Rice Lake.

HON Board President Amy Brekke welcomed everyone and introduced HON Synod Representative, Janice Ahneman, and Synod Women's Organization President Joan Moe who gave greetings and updated attendees about activities at synod and churchwide. Major events of the past year were the Retreat at Luther Park, Chetek, in June, and the Synod Convention at Spirit Lutheran Church in Eau Claire in September. Elections took place at the convention for representatives to the next WELCA

triennial gathering will be held in Des Moines, Iowa in 2026.

Pastor Susan Odegard presented an inspiring devotion based on her own "New Beginnings" as a second career pastor. We were lead in Sharing the Peace, hymn, prayer, and communion.

The guest speaker was Duana Bremer, Salvation Army Director for Barron, Polk, Burnette, and St. Croix counties. Her inspiring presentation taught us much about the Salvation Army, its history, its missions and programs and its current activities in our area to aide homeless people and those with addiction and mental health issues.

During the business portion of the morning, roll call of the churches was taken (59 people were in attendance), offering collected, installation of officers was conducted.

On a light note, we enjoyed a skit based on a modern version of the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10: vs 18-42, which pointed out to us how busyness can interfere with our sitting at the feet of Jesus.

During a time of sharing, a person from each congregation present told of the ministries going on in their congregations.

The offering amount was \$592.00. The SWO will get half and H.O.N and Salvation Army Family House Shelter will share half. An In-Kind Offering was also collected of items to be donated at the Salvation Army.

After a wonderful lunch, everyone came away with a new appreciation and gratitude for the work of the Salvation Army as well as the contribution we, as Women of the Heart of the North, do for our communities.

Dairyland Conference

Amelie Lindberg-Livingston

Morning of Renewal Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

**Guest Speaker Paul Savides,
Co-Chair of the JONAH Task
Force on Affordable Housing**

Registration is \$20

Coffee and treats at 8:30 am
Business Meeting at 9:30 am
Guest Speaker at 11:00am
Lunch at noon

**Immanuel Lutheran
105 Elm Street
Strum, WI**

See the [flyer](#) in this newsletter.



Vote Faithfully!

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

Go to [MyVote](#) to update your voter registration record, request an absentee ballot, and to find out what's on your ballot.

The Spring Election will be held on April 1, 2025.

[Chippewa Valley Votes](#) is a non-partisan, all volunteer organization in the Eau Claire area. If you would like a voter education presentation or a table at your church or event, contact Kim Vlcek at vlcekk@yahoo.com



NORTHWEST SYNOD OF WISCONSIN

Synodical Board Members
(Officers and Conference Reps)
2024-2026

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

Carol Medchill
2364 250th Ave
PO Box 772
Chushing, WI 54006
715-648-5817
First Lutheran, Cushing
medchill@lakeland.ws



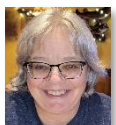
SECRETARY

Deanna Lear McGinnis
2705 5½ Ave
New Auburn, WI 54757
C-715-642-3713, H-715-237-2592
Chetek Lutheran, Chetek
Deannamcginnis@gmail.com



TREASURER

Nancy Priebe
2881 140th St
Frederic, WI 54837
715-645-0025
npriebe65@gmail.com



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

LAKE SUPERIOR Conf #1

Vacant

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
tjahneman@gmail.com



ST CROIX VALLEY Conf #4

Anne Janda
612 Oak Knoll Ave
River Falls, WI 54022
C-612-664-2648
Ezekiel Lutheran, River Falls
annejanda81@gmail.com



CHIPPEWA VALLEY Conf #5

Vacant

CHEQUAMEGON Conf #6

Barb Krug
883 Brucker St
Medford, WI 54451
C-715-965-5696
Our Saviour's & St. Paul's, Medford
barbkrug@charter.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
vlcekk@yahoo.com

WEBMASTER & FACEBOOK Editor

Dawn Wicklund
H-715-394-2507, C-218-348-8557
dawnwicklund@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 vlcekk@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.



ELCA Women's Chippewa Valley Conference
Day of Renewal

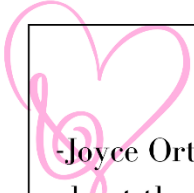


ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE

Saturday, April 5, 2025
8:00 AM - 1:00 PM

St John's Lutheran Church
1804 Highland Avenue
Eau Claire, WI 54701

Registration & Refreshments
8:00 - 9:00 AM



Program

-Joyce Orth from Fierce Freedom, speaks about the realities of domestic human trafficking and how to raise awareness of it.

-Kim Peach and Karen Morris from Bethesda Lutheran speak about the love and joy of giving and accepting help.

-Delight in the young voices of St. John's Sunday School!

Cost: \$25 per person (payment required with registration, no refunds)

Lunch is included in the cost of registration. Please check below if you require a gluten-free meal.

Send checks and registration forms to:

Kris Nelson

803 11th Street, W. Home: 715-835-6830
Altoona, WI 54701 tina_nel@yahoo.com

Please make checks payable to WELCA

Kris Nelson, Penny Erickson & Holly Sweeny of the Chippewa Valley Conference Team would like to extend an invitation to three to four volunteers to step up and lead next year's Day of Renewal. We have put together a folder of information that helped us organize this year's event. Making this conference happen was truly rewarding. It is a great way to make new friends and experience fellowship amongst others.

Please return this form with your payment by March 24th.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Church and City: _____

Please check here if you require a gluten-free lunch ☐



MORNING OF RENEWAL

Wednesday, April 9, 2025

8:30 am Registration, coffee
9:30 am Meeting
11 am Guest Speaker
12 noon Lunch



Women of the ELCA
Dairyland Conference

*Immanuel Lutheran Church
109 Elm St
Strum, WI*

The theme this year comes from Matthew 25:40, 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

Our speaker this year is Paul Savides. Paul is a long-time resident of the Chippewa Valley. He received his BA at Carroll College and MAT at UW Eau Claire. He taught middle school and high school English at Mondovi Schools for 27 years. He has worked as a community organizer in Eau Claire for the past 17 years, primarily as a volunteer organizer with JONAH (Joining Our Neighbors, Advancing Hope). He's a co-chair of the JONAH Affordable Housing Task Force and co-founder and co-director of the Eau Claire Tenant-Landlord Resource Center. He also serves on Dairyland Housing Coalition and the Eau Claire Community Haven House Advisory Committee, which administers a day shelter for people who are experiencing homelessness.

All Women of the ELCA are encouraged to attend and bring a friend!! Elections for coordinator, co-coordinator, and secretary will be held so please designate a delegate from your church unit. Give prayerful consideration to serving in one of these positions on the board. Our continuation depends upon having a full slate of officers.

Each unit is asked to send an offering payable to "Women of the ELCA" along with your registration. This will be used to help defray expenses for this event, and any remaining balance will be divided between the SWO and E.O.C. Haven Homeless Shelter in Trempealeau County. Instead of quilts, donations of hygiene products for men and women for Immanuel Lutheran's Pantry are preferred.

Registration fee is \$20.00 per person and due April 2, 2025. As the lunch is being catered, late registrations cannot be accepted. Please send one registration form for your church and make checks payable to WELCA. Use the back of the form for additional registrants. Mail to: Karen Zuber, S12185 S Oak Rd, Eleva, WI 54738. Contact Karen with questions at 715-287-4747 or zubergirl.kz@gmail.com

Registration form (list additional registrants on the back).
Registration is due April 2, 2025. Late registrations cannot be accepted.
Registrations are transferrable, but not refundable.

Church:

Name:	Phone:
Name:	Phone:
Name:	Phone:
	Delegate \$
	Members at large \$
	Offering \$
	Total \$



2025 WELCA Retreat

INFORMATION SHEET

Wed. June 4 & Thur. June 5

Presenter: Destiny Jackson

Music: *Looking for a volunteer to play the piano*

Hosted by: Chippewa Valley Conference
Jacki Johnson – coordinator 715-864-1489

Held at: Luther Park Bible Camp
944 24 ¼ Street Chetek, WI

Full 2 day - Retreat - Early Bird Registration **\$90 postmarked by 5/10/25. \$100 postmarked after 5/10/25**

This includes 4 meals, overnight lodging in a handicapped accessible cabin, cabins sleep 6 women (per side – 2 sides), Speaker, camp activities, and costs to host the retreat.

Needed items for overnight stay: Bible and pen along with personal items, towels, pillows, bedding or sleeping bag, flashlight, swimsuit (if you want to swim), snacks, camera, and spending money.

One day only, Early Bird Registration **\$60 postmarked by 5/10/25. \$70.00 postmarked after 5/10/25**

Wednesday is the full day of activities. Thursday has limited activities.

This includes 2 meals, Speaker, camp activities, and costs to host the retreat.

Needed items for one day retreat: Bible and pen along with swimsuit (if you want to swim), towel, camera, and spending money.

NO ONSITE Registration* and *No early check-ins for Cabins

No refunds, but registration can transfer to another woman

Registration: Wednesday - 9:15 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. in the Ministry Center

First time participant orientation begins at 9:30 a.m. and 9:45 a.m.

Registration: Thursday - 7:30 A.M. – 7:45 A.M. in the Ministry Center

Retreat begins at 10:15 a.m. on Wednesday and concludes at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday

**A free will offering will be taken each day with proceeds going to
(Church women's group and Personal offerings are encouraged)**

½ WELCA for Synod use

¼ Feed My People

¼ Lutheran Disaster Relief

**TO BE ECO FRIENDLY – PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN RE-FILLABLE WATER BOTTLE
WATER JUGS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE CAMP - PLASTIC BOTTLES OF WATER WILL NOT BE PROVIDED**

REGISTRATION FORM

Early bird rates apply if postmarked by 5/10/25



2025 WELCA Retreat

Wed. June 4 & Thur. June 5

Meet our Presenter: Destiny Jackson

Destiny has a joyful love for Jesus. She has a heart for the broken; to walk alongside them on their journey of healing, restoration and freedom. This led her from behind the salon chair to writing workbooks, speaking at events, and teaching healing through art classes as the Lord spoke to her. No matter what form of communication, Destiny is committed to sharing the transformational love and healing from Jesus that she has experienced firsthand.

-----**PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NEEDED**-----

Make Checks Payable to **WELCA** (not your church or Luther Park)

Send to: Barb Krug @ 883 Brucker Street Medford, WI 54451

Questions: call or text 715-965-5696 email: barbkrug@charter.net

Name: First & Last (as you would like it on your name tag) _____

Is this your 1st retreat? _____ **Would you like an orientation of/at the camp?** _____

Address: _____

Email _____

Telephone: _____

Church Name and City _____

If attending only one day – which day? _____

Do you have any special dietary requirements? _____



2025 WELCA Retreat

Wed. June 4 & Thur. June 5

ACTIVITIES



Chair massage - \$2.00 per minute (10 minute) – pay therapist at appointment – both days
Sign up needed and will be at a separate table in the Ministry Center (*look for the sign*)

Card Making - \$2.50 per card – pay at time of activity to instructor – both days
No sign up needed

Bookmark making – Wednesday only – *No sign up needed*

Swimming, Kayaking and Canoeing – both days – *No sign up needed*

Pontoon and Wagon Rides – both days – *Sign up needed* (look for sign in Ministry Center)

Chair Yoga – both days – *Sign up needed* (look for sign in Ministry Center)

SIT & SIP – Wednesday only – *No sign up needed*
Enjoy a little wine and relaxation in the beautiful setting of Luther Park Bible Camp

Candy Bar BINGO – Wednesday only – *No sign up needed*



KING'S WAY BIBLE & GIFTS

will have an assortment of Bibles, gifts, apparel, boxed cards, pens, and fun stuff to purchase - both days.



Luther Park Bible Camp

sits on 10 beautiful acres along Prairie Lake in Chetek, Wisconsin.
Their 15 buildings include a Dining Hall, a Chapel, 4 Retreat Facilities, Indoor Worship Space, 8 Cabins, and offices.

The offices of the ELCA Synod of Northwest Wisconsin are located at Luther Park as well.

Joan Moe, our WELCA Synod President and Bishop Martin Halom will extend greetings.