

SNOW Newsletter

From the Desk of the President

Special points of interest:

- Keynote Speaker for Convention
- Churchwide Representative to convention
- Scholarships
- Proposed Constitutional Changes
- Spring Cluster Gatherings Schedule



Greetings Sister's in Christ,

Today is a beautiful, sunny March day but it is cold outside after a nice warm weekend. Who is ready for Spring?

I recently returned from the Conference of Presidents in Chicago, IL at the ELCA offices. This is an annual event for all the WELCA synodical presidents. We had 2 days of worship, Bible study, learning and exchanging ideas. It was an amazing time of sharing ideas and learning about what's happening at WELCA.

It was so awesome to hear greetings from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, hear about Global events, caucus with other presidents in Region 3, find out what's new with Lutheran World Relief, learn about AMMPARO, workshop on community organizing, updates on the triennial convention, and programming updates. It was a packed weekend but so Spirit filled.

Change would be the theme of WELCA this year. There are proposed changes to the constitution that will be voted on at the triennial convention in July. You can find those proposed changes on the WELCA website under voting members. Please read the changes and let the voting members (listed in the newsletter) know how you feel about these changes. Changes are also coming to the SNOW publication and the LWR kits. Read about these changes in the newsletter.

I am thrilled to announce that our keynote speaker for our 33rd annual convention September 18-19, 2020 will be award winning author, Dr. Jacqueline Bussie. Dr. Bussie is the author of Love Without Limits and Outlaw Christian. Why not use one or both of these books for your Bible/Book study?

I have also issued a challenge to our sister synod, 7A New Jersey, to see who can collect the most loose change during our respective conventions to purchase ELCA Good Gifts. The synod that collects the most loose change will receive a School fee and uniform for a girl (\$40.00) from the other synod. Start stashing that loose change for the offering now. Check out the containers at the tables in the dining area when you come to convention in September. Have a reflective Lenten season and inspired Easter!

In Christ,

Marilyn Grandstrand
President



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Convention Keynote Speaker



Dr. Jacqueline Bussie is an award-winning author, professor, theologian, public speaker, and student of life in all its messy beauty. Her books include *Love Without Limits* (2018) and *Outlaw Christian* (2016), which won the 2017 Gold Medal Illumination Award for Christian Living. Jacqueline teaches religion, theology, and interfaith studies classes at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, where she also serves as the Director of the Forum on Faith and Life. Every day she is amazed and grateful that she actually gets paid to do the three things she loves most: 1) interact with incredible students, 2) write, and 3) try to make the world a more compassionate place.

In her free time, Jacqueline loves to: read books, ride in the front car of roller coasters, take ballroom dance classes with her husband, and travel to any place she has never been before. She is a huge fan of long walks, laughter, the band Bon Iver, the smell of honeysuckle on a hot day, and her husband's fantastic fajitas. Her favorite place to write is next to any body of water. Though Jacqueline hails from Florida, she now lives in Fargo, North Dakota—which is all the proof she needs that the Divine has a sense of humor.

LOOSE CHANGE CHALLENGE



Loose change challenge between NW Minnesota and our sister synod, 7A—New Jersey, to see who can collect the most loose change during our respective conventions to purchase ELCA Good Gifts. The synod that collects the most loose change will receive a School uniform and fee for one girl (\$40.00) from the other synod. Start stashing that loose change for the offering now. There will be containers on the tables in the dining area when you come to convention in September.

Kandy Pflaster Churchwide Representative



Kandy Pflaster was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She serves on the board's programs and communication committee.

Previously, Kandy served as president, vice president and High Plains board representative for the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization (4A). As part of her work with the Nebraska SWO and the Nebraska Synod Council, Kandy traveled to Nebraska's companion synods, Argentina and Tanzania, and served on the Nebraska Synod Council rostered disciplinary committee.

Kandy was a voting member for the Nebraska synod at the ELCA churchwide assembly in 2005. She served on the Nebraska Synod Council as Women of the ELCA representative, and she was a triennial gathering promoter for the Tenth Triennial Gathering (2017).

Kandy is a resident of Cozad, Nebraska, the "hay capitol" of the state. She has lived in Nebraska her entire life and has been a member of American Lutheran Church in Cozad for about 30 years. She served as president of the women's unit and chair of the pastor call

committee. She assembled the church member directory and is a lector.

She recently served eight years as a community-elected member of the Cozad Hospital Board and Cozad Hospital Foundation.

Kandy has a bachelor's degree in nursing and was director of nursing for a skilled nursing facility for 20-plus years. After a career change in 2007, she began working in surgery where she is now the charge nurse for surgery at Kearney Regional Medical Center. Her passion is working with surgeons and the operating staff in new surgical procedures.

Kandy and her husband, Tony, have three children and six grandchildren, all of whom live nearby. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She and her husband take an annual "Grandkid's Trip" with her grandchildren where no parents are allowed. Interests and hobbies include photography, cooking, camping, gardening, traveling and organizing events with friends or family.



**NW MN Synodical Women's
Organization Annual
Convention**

Sept 18-19, 2020

Zion Lutheran Church

505 Main Ave N

Thief River Falls, MN 56732



“Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza,” (“God is our refuge and strength,”) – Psalm 46:1

AMMPARO is a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future.

The word “amparo” in Spanish means the protection of a living creature from suffering or damage. The ELCA’s strategy to Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) was envisioned after witnessing the plight of children who are forced to flee their communities because of complex and interrelated reasons, including chronic violence, poverty, environmental displacement and lack of opportunities in El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala. Due to our connection to companion churches in the region, including companion synod relationships, and existing ministries in the U.S., the ELCA is well-positioned to help ensure that these vulnerable children are protected.

In a holistic, whole church response that connects international and US outcomes, the ELCA has developed this strategy based on the following commitments:

- Uphold and guarantee basic human rights and safety of migrant children and their families;
- Address the root causes of migration in countries from Central America’s Northern Triangle and Mexico and the treatment of migrants in transit;
- Work toward just and humane policies affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and
- Engage as a church body with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation and its causes and to advocate for migrant children and their families.

As brothers and sisters in Christ, the ELCA is called to bear witness to the conditions affecting so many communities and to work to find solutions that will acknowledge the humanity in all of God’s children. Join us in making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and families.

Changes in Collection Items for Lutheran World Relief



Effective May 1, 2020 Lutheran World Relief will no longer be accepting fleece blankets or fleece in any of their kits. The fleece blankets cause environmental concerns. Lutheran World Relief encourages you to donate those to your local Charities.

The bulk soap is discontinued due to fewer requests for soap by LWR partners as this is an item that can be purchased locally. If you have large quantities of soap, those can still be used in the Personal Care kits and Baby Care kits.





11th Triennial Convention

Proposed Constitutional Changes

Voting members at our 11th Triennial Convention will be deciding on several important proposed changes to our constitutions. Many of these seek to make room for more flexibility in the way we live out our mission of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ, some streamline our leadership structures, and some bring us into the 21st Century.

Flexibility: Instead of mandating that every woman in leadership must be a participant in a unit, proposed constitutional language encourages each leader to be a participant in a unit, (she still must be a voting member of an ELCA congregation, however.) Likewise, instead of mandating that every synodical women's organization must have clusters or conferences, proposed constitutional language encourages each synodical women's organization to foster clusters or conferences. The traditional titles for SWO leaders are sometimes intimidating to possible candidates for leadership. Proposed language offers the option of calling these leaders chairs, co-chairs, coordinators, or the like. The only SWO officer who must keep the traditional title is the treasurer, to facilitate her work with banks and other outside entities.

Streamlining: Our churchwide constitution currently mandates that SWO boards must consist of a certain set number of people, and if the SWO wants to change that number, it must submit a formal request and wait for the churchwide executive board to approve the request. Proposed language does away with that – it merely says “three or more: board members and each SWO board may make its own adjustments as circumstances require. Our constitutions currently rule out electing two women to the SWO board from any one congregational unit, proposed language allows for the election of one officer and one board member from the same unit.

Proposed changes include streamlining the churchwide board as well. Currently the board has four officers and 17 other elected members, for a total of 21; proposed language calls for four officers and 11 other elected board members, for a total of 15. These 11 members would consist of one from each of the 9 ELCA regions, plus two at-

large members. Proposed language also expands and adjusts our recommendations for diversity and inclusion so that we don't recommend fractions of people.

Many synodical organizations struggle with the process of electing voting members to triennial convention. Proposed language simplifies that thoroughly, calling for three voting members from each SWO; the president and two others. The proposed language takes into account our updated goals for diversity and inclusion in nominating and electing the members of this three-person delegation.

Into the 21st Century: We recognize that our commitment to diversity and inclusion within our organization calls for updates to our constitutions from time to time. Proposed language now encourages the inclusion of women age 45 or younger and the inclusion of members of the LGBTQIA+ community in leadership, including in the election of voting members to the triennial convention.

Proposed changes make it clear that board meeting need not involve travel. Many of us are happy to use videoconferencing (for example, Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, or the like) for meetings and the proposed changes recognize that reality.

It took a lot of work: These proposed changes grew out of the recommendations of the exploratory committee whose charge was to seek ways to help our community of women created in the image of God stay healthy and growing far into the future. Our elected churchwide board pondered and considered and amended the committee's proposals over several meetings (some by videoconference). What you see here is the result of a lot of study, a lot of thought and a lot of work. Our voting members in convention will have the final say on whether they go into effect. You are encouraged to contact the voting members to let them know your feelings about the proposed changes.

Voting Members NW MN Synodical Women's Organization to the 11th Triennial Convention:

Lois Balko, Merrily Burmeister, Sue Ellwanger, Roxanne Goulet, Marilyn Grandstrand, Julie Jones, Terry Pipho, Susan Smith, and Roxanne Swisher.



Spring Conference Gatherings

Conference 1 | Roseau

Location: First Lutheran Church, 312 3rd Ave S, Baudette, MN
Date/Time: Wednesday, May 6, 2020 | 11:00 a.m.
Program: Jeannie Haukaas, speaking on her trip to Jordan's Holy Sites
Contact: Kathy Tischart | Email: ktischart@hotmail.com | Phone: (218) 634-2078

Conference 2 | Thief River Falls

Location: Bethany Lutheran, 1315 6th St NE, Red Lake Falls
Date/Time: Saturday, April 18, 2020 | 8:30 a.m. Registration
Program: Suzy Novak Boelter, Director, North Country Food Bank
Contact: Janet Lian, Home: (218) 294-6320, Cell: (218) 684-5951 djlian@gvtel.com

Conference 3 | Crookston

Location: New Hope Lutheran, 245 Fering St., Alvarado 56710.
Date/Time: Saturday, April 25, 2020
Contact: Alice Beaudry, PO Box 853, Alvarado 56710. (218) 965-4811. atbeaudry@gmail.com
For more information here is the flyer WELCA Spring Gathering – Final

Conference 4 | Bemidji

Location: Bethany Lutheran, Nevis
Date/Time: Saturday, May 2, 2020
Contact: Bonnie Underdahl, littlelegbc@hotmail.com

Conference 5 | Moorhead

Location: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rice St. S, Hendrum, MN 56550
Date/Time: Saturday, May 2, 2020 | 9:00 AM Registration
Program: Mariah Prussia, 2020 North Dakota Mother of the Year
Contact: Sandy Knutson, msknutson@cableone.net

Conference 6 | Detroit Lakes

Location: Bakke Lutheran Church, 27492 Co Hwy 32, Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
Date/Time: Saturday, April 25, 2020 | 8:30 a.m. Registration | 9:00 Meeting | Lunch is to be a Salad Luncheon
Program: Lynn Hummel of Detroit Lakes
Contact: Terri Olson olson.ter@gmail.com

Conference 7 | Fergus Falls

Location: First Lutheran Church, Fergus Falls, MN
Date/Time: Monday, April 20, 2020 | 4:30 pm Dinner | 5:00 pm Meeting
Program: Music and testimonials from "The Moline Sisters", a musical trio from Fergus Falls
Contact: Tereasa Link gtblinks@gmail.com

Conference 8 | Alexandria

Location: Shalom Lutheran Church, Alexandria
Time/Date: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 | 8:15 am Coffee and Registration | 9:00 am Meeting
Program: Susan Keehn of Someplace Safe
Contact: Joanne Garland 320.219.0810



ATTENTION

This will be the last printed version of the SNOW. The SNOW newsletter will be available on the website from now on due to the cost of the printing and mailing and the environmental impact.



Scholarships Available



Calling all High School Graduates!
Applications Due April 15, 2020

If you are planning on attending an ELCA College, we have

SCHOLARSHIPS available!

Check our website www.nwmnsynod.org for more information or contact Lois Balko at 218-329-8320, email at lkberno@gmail.com



Check out our Facebook

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Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA

Silent Auction

Theme Baskets Ideas:



Garden
Baby
Personal Care
Meditation
Books
Cooking

All proceeds go to those attending the 2023 Triennial Gathering



Women of the **ELCA** 



Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA

NW MN SNOW Newsletter

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Women ^{of the} ELCA 

NW MN SWO Convention—September 18 & 19, 2020

Love God

Love Your Neighbor

Matthew 22:34-40