

SNOW Newsletter

From the Desk of the President

Special points of interest:

Organization commits to growth even as revenues decline

Convention Keynote Speakers and Churchwide Representative

Convention Schedule, Registration forms, & Physical Offering

Triennial Convention & Gathering

Thank You—Pocket Prayer Squares for Assembly

Spring Conference Gatherings



Hello my Sisters in Christ!

Wow! Where has the time gone...it just seems like yesterday that I was writing my first letter for our SNOW newsletter, and 5 years later, my second to last article. It has been an enjoyable 5 years leading our NW MN SWO. I have gained many friends and traveled to many parts of NW MN to experience the great work women in congregation do in the name of Women of the ELCA.

You should be receiving convention packet shortly, and after reading the material you will notice some changes to our convention. We will be trying a full 2 day event at our annual convention in September. Part of the reason for trying this format is in response by our attendees wishing to attend more than 1 break out session. We will

be breaking up our business sessions into shorter segments, especially since we will have the election of our 8 voting members to the Triennial convention in 2020. We will have a worship service and our bible study on Friday and the keynote will happen after our meal on Friday Evening. We are bringing back the popular "Root Beer and Hymns" on Friday evening. On Saturday you will be able to attend 2 different breakout sessions, and we will close with another worship service.

Luther Crest Bible Camp has the space to house our attendees in new and updated facilities. We did not put a hold on any rooms in the local hotels, but there are many fine hotels in Alexandria if you choose to stay at a hotel. The fee that you will pay to attend the convention includes your lodging. You need to call Luther Crest Bible Camp directly to make your lodging reservation. Their number is; (320) 846-2431.

I am excited about our convention. I hope to see you there!

Peace and joy!

Sue Ellwanger, President
NW MN Synodical Women's Organization

Inside this issue:

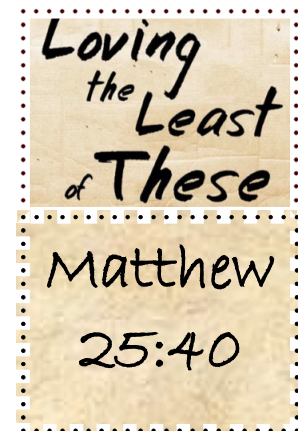
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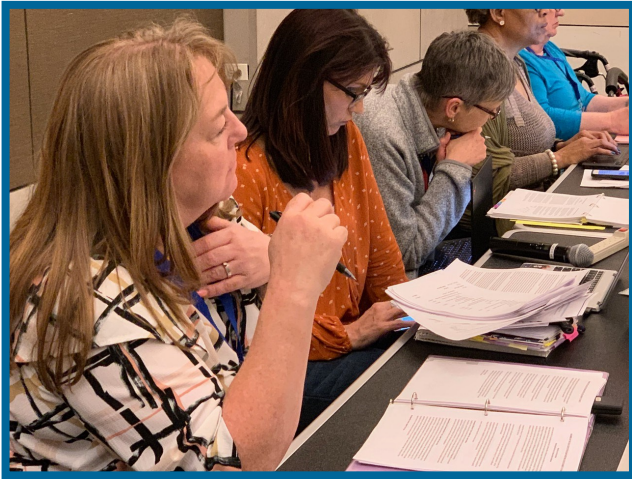
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SEP 20-21

ORGANIZATION COMMITS TO GROWTH EVEN AS REVENUES DECLINE



Women of the ELCA's executive board continues to explore ways to grow the organization, holding up the Caribbean Synod as an example. "I can't help but smile when I think about what is happening in the Caribbean Synod," Executive Board President Lisa Plorin said during the board's biannual meeting, April 26–28, in Chicago. When Hurricane Maria devastated Puerto Rico in 2017, "our sisters lost so much. And that includes their documentation and unit constitutions." About 80 women from 23 congregations in the Caribbean Synod gathered in mid-January to talk about how to remain committed to Women of the ELCA. The event, coordinated by the churchwide organization, was an effort to find ways to support the synod following the hurricane. "Like Katie Luther these resilient women are up and thriving," Plorin said. "They are living out our mission statement by growing in faith, affirming their gifts, supporting one another in their callings, engaging in ministry and action, and promoting healing and wholeness in their church. "If they can do this, so can every other synodical organization."

New units, new future

In another example of growth, the executive board approved a new special unit based at Egner Chapel at Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. In her application for a special WELCA Campus Unit, the Rev. Kristen Glass Perez, college chaplain and director of religious life at Muhlenberg, said she is "excited about exploring the possibilities for new programs, partnerships, and service with Women of the ELCA."

The new campus unit plans to address human trafficking, domestic violence, immigration, and racial justice. Meanwhile, executive board members responded to a report from a newly formed exploratory committee that is

looking into the organization's future by answering three questions posed by the committee. Anyone can answer the questions at welca.org/future. The new exploratory committee formed two subcommittees. One committee will review any proposed constitutional changes, and the other will oversee surveys and examine the data.

In other action, the executive board:

- installed a new board member, Raeann Purcell of New Smyrna Beach, Fla. (Florida/Bahamas Synod), to fill a vacancy created by the resignation of Anissa Canova, of Gouldsboro, Pa.
- approved a recommendation to move up to \$250,000 from the New Ministries Fund to cover operational expenses due to a shortage in revenue. Because the revenues fell short of the budget, no funds were added to the reserves for the Eleventh Triennial Convention (2020) as earlier budgeted.
- ♦ implemented a plan for each executive board member to establish and strengthen a personal relationship with three synodical presidents. Through these relationships, the executive board will thank the presidents for their support, offer assistance, and: strongly encourage the synodical board to financially support at least one voting member for the next triennial convention.
- ♦ strongly encourage the synodical board to make a commitment of 50 percent of all convention offerings be sent to the churchwide organization.
- ♦ strongly encourage the synodical board to send a minimum of 50 percent of regular offerings to the churchwide organization.
- ♦ strongly encourage all units within the synodical women's organization to make at least one Thankoffering per calendar year to the churchwide organization.
- approved the recommended distribution of grants to India and Japan.
- ♦ approved a process for designating and disbursing Women of the ELCA-held global purpose endowment funds, including the India grants.
- ♦ • approved an update to Women of the ELCA's travel policy.



Sara Larson, left, and Sandy Grier show off their new Just Love bandanas



In triennial convention and gathering business, the executive board:

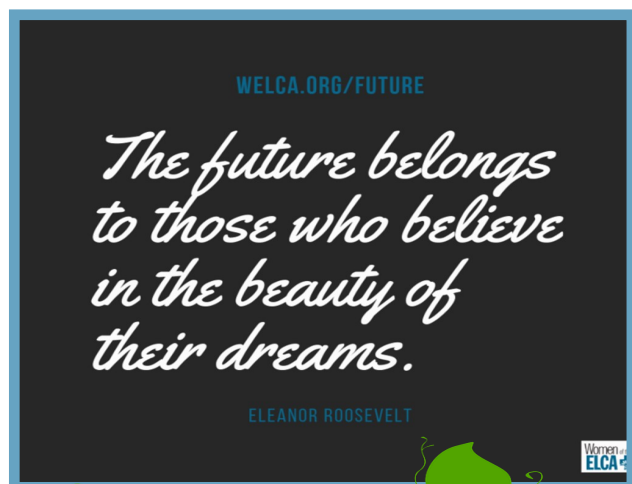
- adopted rules of procedure for the 2020 convention (July 14–16, 2020 in Phoenix).
- adopted the proposed agenda for 2020 gathering (July 16–19, 2020).
- approved the designated offerings for the 2020 triennial convention and gathering as follows:
 - . Eleventh Triennial Convention, 50 percent to Women of the ELCA ongoing ministries; 50 percent to Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest.
 - . Eleventh Triennial Gathering, 50 percent to the ongoing churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA; 25 percent to the Dream Center, Phoenix; and 25 percent to AAMPARO.

The executive board heard reports from:

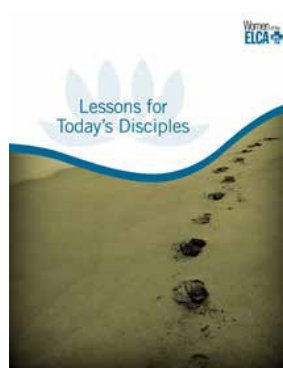
- the 2019 conference of synodical presidents.
- The office of the presiding bishop.
- The conference of bishops.
- Women of the ELCA staff.

The next executive board meeting is Oct. 23–25 in Chicago.

Article taken from Spring/Summer Interchange



Studying God's word is the second mark of discipleship



Christian discipleship is a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ so that others may believe. In the spring 2019 issue of *Interchange*, we included the first of seven acts of discipleship—praying — found in our downloadable free resource: “Lessons for Today’s Disciples.” Over the next few

issues, we will explore the remaining marks of discipleship. The second lesson of discipleship is studying God’s word. Studying God’s word is fundamental to the process of discerning, understanding, articulating, and applying the meaning of God’s word in the life of a disciple. This lesson will highlight standard practices that were followed by disciples in the early church. When Jesus was about 12, he went to the Temple to study and listen to the elders. Studying God’s word in community is one mark of discipleship. It is essential to be with each other so that as we study God’s word and pray, we grow in faith together. Community is the activator that encourages us and others to grow. Jesus always taught in community because that is where his ministry took place. Jesus frequently spoke to his disciples in parables and explained to them in community so that they might struggle together to find a common understanding.

Read Acts 2:42–47. This was an exciting time for the new church. Peter was preaching the good news, and thousands of new believers were coming into the community. In studying God’s word, hearing the apostles’ teachings, fostering fellowship, breaking bread together, gathering to pray, and sharing financial resources, the community came alive. When we study together, we begin to see that the mission is larger than any one person could imagine or accomplish. Fellowship, which comes from studying in community, gives disciples opportunities to build deeper relationships with God and with others as brothers and sisters in God’s family. Reflect on verse 42 and make a list of the opportunities available to you for studying God’s word in community and fellowship.

“Lessons for Today’s Disciples” was written by Valora K Starr, director for discipleship for Women of the ELCA. You can find the resource by visiting welca.org/ resources and searching for its title.

Keynote Speakers



Gary and Cindy Nolte

Long time members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead MN Gary is a retired financial consultant and former stockbroker, and Cindy has retired from a nursing career. Throughout the years, Cindy participated in a nursing preceptorship in Honduras and also worked in various nursing positions that include hospital, clinic, migrant health, home health and public health. Together, the Noltes have participated in Rotary and church medical and construction projects in Honduras, Nicaragua, and Haiti; hurricane relief efforts in Honduras and New Orleans; and polio eradication efforts in India, Nigeria, Niger and Ghana. In 2006, Gary received the Regional Service Award for a Polio Free World. Married for over 50 years, the Nolte's have two grown birth children and five Vietnamese foster children.



Churchwide Board Rep



Lisa Plorin, President

Lisa Plorin was elected president of the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017. She is chair of the executive committee and serves as ex-officio member of the budget committee. She served on the churchwide executive board from 2014-2017.

Previously, Lisa served in many capacities on both the unit and synodical level in Western North Dakota (3A) including president and vice president of the Western North Dakota Synodical Women's organization.

She was on the planning team that established the W.I.S.E. (Women In Seminary Education) scholarship fund that recognizes women who are entering ordained ministry in Western N.D.

A lifetime member of New Hope Lutheran Church, Upham, Lisa is also a part of the gifts program and preaches supply for Prairie Hope Ministries, a three-point parish in her area. Lisa and her husband, Steve, have two daughters, Kortni and Brooke. Kortni, a graduate of Minot State University, is an elementary school teacher with the Minot Public School District. Brooke is at Minot State University studying special education. Both spend summers working for Metigoshe Ministries.

The family owns and operates a small construction business, Dirty Dog Digging and Trucking.

Lisa works part time for Weight Watchers as a leader and fills in as a retreat hostess at Metigoshe Ministries when she can. She enjoys spending time with her family and cheering on their local high school sports teams. Each summer Lisa spends the first week in August Cycling Around North Dakota In Sacajawea Country, a seven-day bicycle trip that covers more than 400 miles.

Root Beer & Hymn Sing



Silent Auction

Theme Baskets Ideas:



Garden
Baby
Personal Care
Meditation
Books
Cooking

*All proceeds go to those attending the 2020
Triennial Gathering*



Draft—Convention Schedule

Friday, Sep 20		
11:00 AM	Registration	
12:00 Noon	Committees Meet	Displays, Hands on Activity
12:15 PM	Orientation of Voting Members	
1:00 PM	Opening Plenary Business Session I	
1:30 PM	Opening Worship	
2:15 PM	Bible Study	
3:00 PM	Break	Displays, Hands on activity
3:30 PM	Business Session II	
5:30 PM	Dinner	
7:00 PM	Keynote Speakers	
8:00 PM	Root Beer and Hymns	
Saturday, Sep 21		
7:30 AM	Registration	Coffee & Fellowship
8:30 AM	Gathering Music (<i>Business Session III if needed</i>)	
9:00 AM	Churchwide Report	
9:30 AM	Break	
10:00 AM	Workshop I	
11:00 AM	Workshop II	
12:00 Noon	Lunch	
1:00 PM	Gathering Music	
1:15 PM	Installation of Board and Voting Members	
1:30 PM	Communion Worship	
2:30 PM	Closing of the Convention	



Gathering 2020 Registration

Triennial gatherings bring Lutheran women together from across the church with life-changing workshops, worship, Bible study and more. The Eleventh Triennial Gathering,



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX

July 16–19, 2020, will be no exception. Women will gather in Phoenix, Ariz., under the theme “Just Love.”

Registration opens September 30. Early-bird registration, through January 6, 2020, is \$325; after that registration is

\$375. Day registration is \$200. Register at welca.org after September 30 or email women.elca@elca.org for a registration form.



Marinated Chicken Thighs

Recipe courtesy of Marc Forgione

Ingredients:

2 cups fresh parsley leaves, chopped
8 large sprigs fresh thyme, chopped
4 large sprigs fresh rosemary,

chopped

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 small shallot, diced

2 tablespoons cracked black peppercorns

2 tablespoons cracked pink peppercorns

1 1/4 cups extra-virgin olive oil

8 skin-on chicken thighs

Flaky salt, such as Maldon, for seasoning

Directions:

1 Mix the parsley, thyme, rosemary, garlic, shallots, black peppercorns and pink peppercorns together in a bowl.

Add the olive oil to cover the herbs/spices. Set aside 2 tablespoons of the marinade.

2 Place the chicken thighs in a resealable plastic bag. Add the marinade and marinate overnight in the refrigerator.

3 Preheat the grill to medium.

4 Remove the chicken thighs from the marinade, pat with a paper towel and place, fleshy-side down, on the hot grill. Grill until cooked through, turning once, 7 to 8 minutes per side. Finish with the reserved 2 tablespoons of marinade and some flaky salt. Serve on top of your favorite salad.

Thank You!



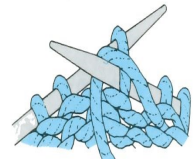
My Dear Friends,

When I first played with the idea of giving 400 plus voting members at the Synod Assembly pocket prayer squares, I was not sure it was a realistic goal. After all was said and done, I received close to 1000!! I was not prepared for the out pouring of talent by you. My heart was full, as I looked around the auditorium, seeing the voting members holding the prayer square in their hands as prayers were said before each ballot for bishop. The extra pocket prayer squares were given to both Luther Crest and Pathways Bible Camps for their campers.

Each of the final seven candidates for bishop were presented with full size prayer shawls.

Thank you again, for making my crazy dream a reality and so much more!!

Sue Ellwanger, President



Women ^{of the} ELCA 

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.

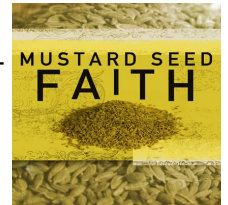
Conference 1 Spring Gathering

The Conference I Spring Gathering was held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Greenbush on Saturday morning, April 27. The theme verse for this gathering was "A mustard seed of faith" from Matthew 17:20.

The program included opening prayer led by Pastor Ken Bowman, an opening hymn and special music. The keynote speaker was Brianna Ingraham who spoke on the topic, "A Mustard Seed Did Grow" as she recounted her life journey from Maryland to Red Lake Falls. Lew Wallace presented some tips on Spring planting. Madeline Waage spoke about the Little Brother, Little Sister program and the need for adult mentors. An offering was taken to be divided evenly between the SWO and the Little Brother, Little Sister Program.

Chairperson Marilyn Grandstrand led the business meeting and announced her nomination for the SWO president and hopes that someone will assume her position as Conference I chairperson.

Sue Smith, SWO Board representative related news from the SWO Board and encouraged e-mail communication to save both expense and the environment. The synod conference will be Sept. 20-21 at Luther Crest near Alexandria and the theme will be, "Loving the Least of These." She said the SWO are seeking a treasurer, board members, nominating committee members and delegates to the Triennial. She read a message from Sue Ellwanger. Marilyn announced that the business meeting will be divided into two sessions at the SWO Conference so one will be one Friday and a second one on Saturday. There will be voting members elected to the Triennial Convention in Phoenix. The 2019 Fall Cluster Gathering will be at Zion Lutheran in



Conference 3 Spring Gathering



"Follow Me" (Matthew 9:9) was the theme of the Conference 3 Spring Gathering held April 13, 2019 at Maple Lake Lutheran Church, rural Fertile. We had endured a week of flooding, snow, and wind, but were blessed with a beautiful, sunny morning. After lovely piano preludes by Chris O'Neill of Trinity Lutheran in Beltrami, the program began with a welcome by Beverly Slevin, Conference 3 Coordinator. She and Chris led us in singing the theme hymn "Listen, God is Calling". Kathy Christianson of the nearby Little Norway congregation gave a devotional based on Micah 6:8 defining us by the way we live. Isaac Ness, a young area farmer, sang the anthem "I Come to the Cross".

Marlene Block, the Maple Lake WELCA president, welcomed us to their church and also gave us information of the upcoming women's retreat at Fair Hills Resort June 10-11. The theme will be "Joy in the Journey" with Briana Ingraham of Red Lake Falls as the speaker. After singing "Lord, Speak to Us That We May Speak", Senora Pederson gave "Snippets" of the bookstore items she had for sale. Then a humorous skit was presented, "Clean Your Room", with a mother (Marlene Block) and a teenage daughter (Jackie Lunak). There was another vocal solo by Isaac Ness, "The King of Love", followed by the registrars' report of 63 in attendance. The offering meditation was given by the Conference 3 Financial Reporter, Connie Haller, including reflections from her Holy Land tour.

The inspiring keynote speaker was Pastor Kecia Stroot of the Evangelical Covenant Church in Roseau. She and her husband have adopted four children from Haiti after having four biological children. They have become very involved with the Haitian ministry of Faith in Action International, revealing God's love to the people of Haiti (faithinactionint.org). Roxanne Goulet, treasurer of the NWMN Synod Women, had come from Roosevelt with some announcements of the September 20-21 Convention to be held at Luther Crest Bible Camp. We closed with the hymn "We Are Called" and a prayer by Darcey Larsen of Concordia Lutheran. After a table prayer, we all enjoyed a delicious Taco Salad lunch.

Dorothy Harstad, Conference 3 Recorder



Conference 5 Spring Gathering

The Women of the ELCA Conference 5 Spring Gathering was held at Salem Lutheran Church, Hitterdal, MN, on Saturday, April 6, 2019. The theme of the conference as based on Matthew 25: 36 and 40 – I was in prison and you came to visit me... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.. Val Johnson, on behalf of Salem Lutheran Church's WELCA welcomed the delegates, followed by an opening hymn, Shine, Jesus, Shine, and devotions by Pastor Tom Olson, who used the theme's scripture from Matthew 25 as his guiding text.

Becky Olson opened the business meets, which included roll call. There were 2 representatives from the NWMN WELCA Synod Board and 1 from Churchwide were also present, along with the guest speaker, Gerri Leach, her guest, and Pastor Tom Olson. The Financial and Recorder's reports were distributed, discussed, and approved. Becky asked for volunteers to serve as the Nominations Committee: Jean Rodriguez volunteered; Becky will reach out to find other members. There was not any Old Business, nor any New Business. The Fall Conference will be held in October at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN (date to be announced). Special Music: by Alicia Anderson, an elementary student, from Ulen, MN.

Sue Ellwanger, WELCA Synod President, expressed her concern regarding lower participation and financial support from member congregations. She invited conversation from the participants as to what could be done to invite greater participation. Sue noted that last Fall's Thankofferings were down significantly. There are programs available to incorporate with Thankofferings through the Churchwide office.

Roxanne Swishe, Synodical board member, emphasized using the quarterly Interchange Newsletter from Churchwide for updates on what is happening from a leadership standpoint. She also told us the LWR pickup was May 6-10th for quilts and kits @ LSS, Fargo, and in Wadena. NWMN Synod WELCA Convention will be held at Luther Crest, in Alexandria on Sept. 21 and 22 (Friday – Saturday) raising up the theme, "Loving the Least of These. There will be elections for President, Treasurer, and Board Members along with a nomination committee and voting members for the Triennial Convention. Lois Bylund, Churchwide Executive Board Member of the Women of the ELCA announced the upcoming Triannual Convention, July 14-19, 2020, in Phoenix, AZ. Voting members are needed. She reported on how WELCA is having an impact on our youth—educating them about Human Trafficking. The program was on Jail Ministries, presented by Gerrie Lusch and her guest, who told her story and how programs from the jail ministries helped change her life. A great presentation! Pastor Tom Olson spoke the Benediction. We closed with the song, Let All Things Now Living. A physical offering of personal and hygiene items were collected and donated to jail ministries. Carol Crose, Salem Lutheran, Hitterdal presented our guest with a handmade quilt.

By Laurie Anderson, Recorder



Conference 7 Spring Gathering

The Conference 7 Spring Gathering was held on April 29, 2019 at Zion Lutheran Church of Amor Church in Battle Lake, MN. During registration attendees viewed the displays of the over 200 quilts made by Zion WELCA.

The Conference was opened with a Welcome by Carol Gealow, Zion WELCA President. Devotions were given by Pastor Jim Gronbeck and table grace was given by Marilyn Wahlgren before the attendees were ushered into the meal.

Rene Hasbargen, Conference 7 Coordinator, called the meeting to order after the meal. The opening hymn was "I Love To Tell The Story" accompanied by Sandi Sedivy. The Purpose Statement was recited, Roll Call taken, Fall (2018) Gathering Minutes and Fall (2018) Financial Reports were accepted as printed.

Sue Ellwanger, Synod Representative provided the group with updates from the synod.

Keynote speakers, Victor and Lori Ricigliano of Ricigliano Farms, and Ashley Thompson with Solutions Counseling, spoke to the group about their involvement in Equine Assisted Therapy. Victor and Lori shared how combining their love of animals, children and their horse ranch has helped provide a venue for equine therapy that helps challenged children. The Ricigliano's shared some of the success stories as well as times of physical and financial roadblocks they have faced to help realize this mission.

Special music from Sonja Holmgren, "God of Women", was provided during the offering. "We Give Thee but Thine Own" and the "Lord's Prayer" were also sung. Rene Hasbargen gave the Benediction.

The meeting was closed after announcing the Fall Conference Meeting for October 19, 2019 at Eagle Lake Lutheran Church of Battle Lake.

Morning snacks at that meeting will be provided by Augustana Lutheran Church of Elizabeth, Our Savior's Lutheran Church of Ten Mile Lake, Dalton and Tingvold Lutheran Church of Underwood.



Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention

September 20th and 21st, 2019~ Luther Crest Bible Camp 8231 CTY. Rd. 11 NW Alexandria, MN 56308

Convention Registration - ALL ATTENDEES MUST COMPLETE THIS FORM

Voting Member Registration due by August 20, 2019

Non-Voting Registration due no later than September 10, 2019

_____ Voting Member (1 per Congregation) _____ Non-Voting _____ Conference Officer
 _____ Convention Planning Committee _____ SWO Board Member _____ 1st Time Grant Recipient

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ Zip _____ E-mail _____

Are you the contact for your Congregational Unit? ____Yes ____No

Conference #	Name of Congregation	City
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CHECK PLAN DESIRED: *Please Register early to facilitate Convention planning!*

Must be postmarked by August 20 for voting members:

_____ Full - Friday and Saturday	_____ \$150.00 (Includes all Meals, Snacks & Breaks and Lodging)
_____ Friday –Saturday Commuters	_____ \$110.00 (Includes All Meals & Breaks)

Please Indicate Any Special Dietary Needs:

No Cash; Checks Only, Payable to NW MN SWO **Check Total: \$**

ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE DUE DATES

FULL PAYMENT REQUIRED WITH REGISTRATION FORM

NO REFUNDS AFTER SEPTEMBER 10.... HOWEVER, REGISTRATIONS ARE TRANSFERRABLE

Please Call Luther Crest Directly for Lodging: 320-846-2431

MAIL REGISTRATION FORM WITH CHECK TO:

NW MN SWO Convention
RoxAnne Goulet, Registrar
Box 131
Roosevelt, MN 56673
Phone: C: (218) 281-370-0182
RBW13049@yahoo.com

Attending Leadership Training? _____ Yes _____ No
(If you are an officer of a unit or conference you are encouraged to attend the Leadership Training)

For office use only:

Check #	Amount \$	Both Days	Overnight	Commuter
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Physical Offering for Convention

Physical Offering Benefitting: Churches United for the Homeless and Public Health Family Home Visiting



Baby/Toddler Items

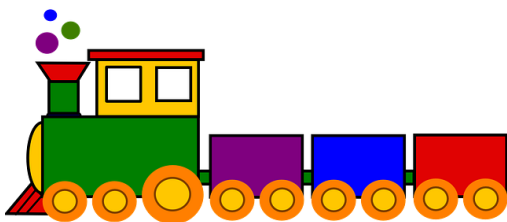
Diapers of all sizes
Diaper Wipes
Powdered Formula
Cotton balls
Baby lotion
Baby bath soap (liquid)
Baby shampoo
Skincare ointments
Baby nail clippers
Baby-sized comb and soft baby brush.
Books, blocks, small toys

Mom Items

Feminine Hygiene products

Travel Sized:

Shampoo/ conditioner
Deodorant
Hand/body lotion
Soap (bar or liquid)
Tooth brush
Tooth paste
Mouthwash
Floss
Brush
Comb



Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you did for me.'
Matthew 25:40



Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA

NW MN SNOW Newsletter

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NW MN SWO Convention—September 20 & 21, 2019

Loving
the
Least
of These

**32nd Annual Convention
Northwest MN
Synodical Women's
Organization**

**Luther Crest Bible Camp
Alexandria, MN**

'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these sisters and brothers of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40