

# SNOW Newsletter

## From the Desk of the President

### Special points of interest:

- Fall Cluster Gathering 2016 Reports
- Spring Cluster Gathering Schedule
- WELCA 101
- Scholarships
- Treasurers Report
- 10th Triennial Gathering Bus Information
- PV for Phebe Update



Dear Sisters in Christ:

We are almost through the first month of 2017, and it is time for another issue of the SNOW newsletter. I would like to take this time to share what is going on in the NW MN SWO.

**2017 NW MN SWO Convention.** The Board is excited to announce the date of the 2017 SWO Convention. It will be held on **September 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** and will be held at Fair Hills Resort near Detroit Lakes. Fair Hills is an all-inclusive resort which includes overnight facilities. There will be some changes with our convention this year. The business meeting will be held Thursday afternoon and

the full day will be Friday. Our theme: *Be Kind ...The Power of Kindness Can Change the World.* Our keynote speaker is Kevin Wallevand, a reporter from WDAY in Fargo. He will speak on and show his documentary on Human Trafficking. By rotation, the convention was to be held and hosted by units in Conferences 1, 2 and 3. The board talked with many units in those conferences and we came up empty. RoxAnne Goulet from Mount Carmel in Roosevelt volunteered to be the convention chair. If you get a telephone call asking to help at the convention, please say 'yes'. Our physical offering this year will be providing suitcases and duffle bags with needed items for kids that end up in foster care. These will be distributed through Pinehaven Youth and Family Services. More information will be coming with what should be included in the suitcases.

**Have you sent in your year-end tally sheets?** It is important to fill this out and return it to Diane Teigland. Diane's address: Box 267 Bertha, MN 56437. It is impressive to read what you as units are doing not only for Lutheran World Relief, but in your local communities.

**High school Scholarships.** The NW MN SWO has \$250.00 scholarships for high school seniors that plan on attending an ELCA College. After doing research last fall, it was discovered that these scholarships were to be funded by monies sent in by units and individuals, and not to come from our general fund. If these scholarships are important to you and your units, please consider sending in your gift and earmark it "scholarships" to Carolyn Nelson, our SWO Treasurer. The number of scholarships awarded will be based on the monies in that fund. Please help us build up this fund so we are able to give scholarships to all applicants.

**The 2017 Triennial Gathering** is just 5 months away. Are you registered to attend? It will be held at the Convention Center in Minneapolis on July 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>. If you would like more information, or to register, please go to [www.welcatg.org](http://www.welcatg.org). Ardys Horner is organizing buses to head to Minneapolis. You can find more information found elsewhere in this newsletter about transportation to the Gathering.

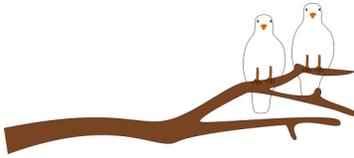
Thank you for all you do for the Women of the ELCA!  
Sue Ellwanger  
NW MN SWO President



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## Conference 1 Fall Gathering



“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19a)” was the theme of the Fall Conference #1 Gathering that was held at Messiah Lutheran Church in Roseau on October 15, 2016.

Over 40 members plus some guests enjoyed a beautiful fall day with Pastor Michael Beery leading devotions and hymns were sung focusing on the theme. The beautiful voice and piano skills of Sara Breedlove provided a special treat for the group. Special speaker SWO president Sue Ellwinger presented a report and slide show about the trip to India that she and RoxAnne Goulet made last January. Lastly, SWO board representative Sue Smith updated everyone on the Synod Convention held in Perham with announcing the names of the new officers and Triennial voting members elected and sharing information on the Triennial Conference to be held in Minneapolis in July. Sue also informed the group of the need for a host church for next years Synod Convention.

The business meeting was conducted by co-coordinators Gloria

Skrutvold and Harriet Heinen. There was a discussion about fee amounts allowed to be charged by host churches for gatherings and clarification of the assessment fee. Another concern was that many WELCA groups did not receive their invitations. Before adjourning, volunteers were finally gotten for officers for 2017: Karen Hanson accepted re-election for recorder, and Janice Wollin and Carolyn Eeg of Greenbush will be the new co-coordinators.

The Spring of 2017 Gathering will be hosted by Mt Carmel (Roosevelt) and Bethany (Williams). The officers will work hard to update mailing addresses to assure that the invitations reach each congregation.

Karen Hanson, Conference #1 Recorder



## Conference 2 Fall Gathering

Conference Two held their Fall Gathering, Saturday, October 8, 2016 at Faith Lutheran Church, Goodridge, Minnesota. The theme for the day was “The fruit of the spirit is love, joy and peace” based on Galatians 5:21. Ekelund Lutheran ladies served morning coffee and treats.

We opened the program with the hymn “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.

Cluster Two Coordinator, Judy Scramstad, welcomed the group, followed by a welcome from Judy Jones, President. Pastor Kristin Ostercamp led us in devotions. Our guest speaker was unable to attend due to a death in the family. We had a skit on the Women of the Bible....Ruth, Lydia, Eve, Hannah and Sarah. A reading “Pennies” by Pat Hanson, we were each given a penny to share or make grow. A presentation on “Designer Crosses” was given by a group of ladies....telling us the different meanings of the crosses.

Special music was provided by Maria Coan, Mercedes Coan solo and piano and Jenna Henrickson on her violin and piano selections.

A presentation by Tony and LeAnn from Oklee Quilting Supply they give us some ideas that the women's groups could do for projects.

Greetings and information from the SWO Board were extended by Roxanne Goulet, SWO Board Representative. Offering Meditation by Virginia Anderson, Cluster Financial Reporter and roll call by Marjorie Iverson, Cluster Recorder with 64 attending.

After closing comments, the Lord’s Prayer was said, table grace was sung, several door prizes were handed out followed by a delicious noon luncheon served by the women of Faith Lutheran.

Marjorie Iverson, Conference Two Recorder



## Conference 4 Fall Gathering



Conference 4 Fall Gathering meeting was held at the beautiful remodeled Calvary Lutheran Church at Park Rapids on Saturday, October 29, 2016.

Rachel Aanenson welcomed everyone. Jo Judson provided flute

music throughout the program along with Donna Yiliniemi.

The Theme was "Lost and Found" Sara Forsberg introduced the speaker. Katie Grisamore, Chaplain at Hubbard County Detention Center. Sara is volunteering at the

center now. Katie told about the Bible Study that she has 3 times a week. They have very good attendance. So many of them have not attended church and heard about God's Love for them. There are up to 60 people at the center. She shared stories of lives have been changed. Thank You to Calvary Lutheran for hosting our meeting and serving a delicious lunch.

Our spring meeting will be held on Saturday, April 22nd 2017 at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Leonard, MN at 9 a.m. The speaker will be Becky Dorman sharing what the mission of Clearwater Life Center does in the community. **PLAN TO ATTEND AND BRING A FRIEND.**



### Bus Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

We are hoping to have enough women signing up so that we can have two buses taking different routes through our NW Minn Synod. Please send your \$50.00 deposit along with this form to Ardys Horner. Make your check payable to: ANDERSON BUS CO. The Balance of \$35.00 will be due closer to the time of the gathering.

**Mail check to:** Ardys Horner, Bus Coordinator  
14144 E. Fox Lake Road  
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501

**Ardys Horner Contact Information:**

Email: [ardyshorn@arvig.net](mailto:ardyshorn@arvig.net)

Cell # [218-850-2912](tel:218-850-2912)

**Triennial Gathering July 13 –16, 2017  
Minneapolis, MN**



## Conference 6 Fall Gathering

Conference 6 Fall Gathering was held at First Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes with 89 guests present. The them was "Serve with Joy" Norma Smith, President of the First Lutheran WELCA, welcomed those who attended the fall gathering. Pastor John Simonson led us in prayer, followed by a delicious dinner prepared by the men and women of the church. Louanne Gerdes, Coordinator of Conference 6, welcomed us in the newly remodeled sanctuary. Pastor Rachel Simonson led the bible study based on 1 Peter 4:10. She stressed the importance of using all our unique gifts such as serving others, volunteerism and generosity to make the world a better place. Deb Tucker, a Hospice worker who is also involved in "Pet Partners", spoke about how her dog, a Keeshound, visits with her at nursing homes to promote interactions that help the patients.

Sue Ellwanger, SWO president, reported on the NWSWO convention in Perham. She encouraged all women to attend the triennial convention in Minneapolis in July. Ardys Horner will arrange bus transportation and wants everyone that is going to contact her. Sue recognized the outgoing officers, Louanne Gerdes as Coordinator and Rachel Johnson, recording secretary. She installed the new officers; Ruby Kiihn as Coordinator, Pam Ross as recording secretary and Ardys Horner who will continue as Treasurer. She also acknowledged Louanne Gerdes who received the Mary Magdalene award at the recent convention.

Grace Lutheran in Detroit Lakes will host the Spring Gathering. The gathering was closed with the Lord's Prayer.



## Conference 7 Fall Gathering

Conference 7 held their Fall Gathering on October 25th, 2016 at Breckenridge Lutheran Church in Breckenridge, MN.

Evie Fox, WELCA President, welcomed all in attendance. We opened with the singing of "Here I am Lord" with Devotions by Rene Hasbargen following.

Kathy Jacobson opened the business meeting and the Purpose Statement was recited. Roll Call was taken, with 124 women in attendance. The Recorder and Financial reports were accepted as printed.

Sten Taracks and Claire Benson, representing Lutheran Campus Ministry, spoke about life at the Campus house and a mission trip taken.

Carolyn Nelson, Synod Treasurer, gave a brief report on the Synod Convention.

The election of officers for Coordinator and Recorder was held.

Cindy Wallace, First Lutheran in Battle Lake, was elected as Coordinator. Esther Youngberg, Augustana in Fergus Falls, was elected as Recorder.

Valerie Sohl, our Guest Speaker, spoke on "My Journey Home", a journal of grief. She kept a journal of song and poetry she wrote as she traveled through grief. She presented these through music.



Special Music was provided by Sarah Gifford and Joyce Manning.

The Gathering was closed with the offering taken, "The Lord's Prayer" and the Table Grace sung.

## PV for Phebe Update

On Jan. 15, 2017 a shipping container of solar panels and related materials will leave Global Health Ministries in Fridley bound for Phebe Hospital, Bong County, Liberia! During February and March, Phebe Hospital's masons and laborers will be conducting site preparation work to prepare for the actual installation. A team of RREAL engineers and technicians plan to spend several weeks from March through mid-April working with Liberians to set up and install the solar system.

Although the PV for Phebe team is excited and grateful to finally be able to bring solar energy to the hospital, this effort still needs your support. First, energy efficiency upgrades are still needed, and a back-up power supply needs to be added in case of emergency.

Please consider making a difference and a financial donation ( <https://my.rreal.org/phebe100>) for an exciting gift of light and life to the people of Liberia.



## Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief

Wednesday, November 16th the fellowship hall at **Zion Amor Lutheran of rural Battle Lake** was alive with laughter, fellowship and a good feeling of helping those less fortunate than us. The Zion WELCA assembled 77 personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief ( LWR ). Through a Thrivent Action Team we received \$250.00 and were able to purchase all of the towels for this event. The members of the church donated all of the other items to complete the kits. These kits along with many quilts were shipped to LWR the early part of December. We are proud of making a difference in the world, one towel at a time.



## *“WELCA 101”*

### *an introductory course for women new to the organization*

#### *Why an “introductory” course?*

Over the past thirty years, the make-up of Women of the ELCA has changed. When the Women of the ELCA formed, most of the population was in the 30-60 year age range. Most of us already had an idea of what the predecessor organizations did and what the terminology was. We adapted to different names for the same committees and groups (by and large). Some group members still refer to “ladies’ aid”, “women’s convention”, and other terms from the past. This has caused confusion for newer members who are without the previous background language. It became more evident as the older generation passed on. Younger women rejected some of the terminology and the composition of the group changed accordingly. In other words, they didn’t want to be part of “we’ve always done it that way” and wanted a purpose that fits their life’s path.

Hence the attempt to redefine the women’s group and role in the structure of the congregations within our denomination. A glossary of terms has been developed for the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women’s Organization to assist those who are new to the organization or need a refresher on what’s what and who’s who.

The Women of the ELCA is a nationwide organization with the stated goal **“To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith.”**

Our purpose statement says:

**“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.”**

We are challenged to live our faith through word and deed, following the example of Our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. So women lead Bible Study (Mission Growth); make quilts and kits for those in need (Mission Action); work for justice (Today’s Dream, Tomorrow’s Reality) ; raise funds for scholarships that change lives and communities (Katie’s Fund); give Thankofferings to help with programs of the Women of the ELCA; and the list goes on. Hopefully, these insights will help new members understand who we are and what we do. It will provide added information to those who have been there from the beginning.



## Glossary of Terms

<b>Assembly</b>	term for “convention” by the ELCA,
<b>Churchwide</b>	designation for the national ELCA
<b>Conference</b>	a division of a <b>Synod</b> ; i.e., Northwestern Minnesota is divided into eight conferences—1-Roseau, 2-Thief River Falls, 3-Crookston, 4-Bemidji, 5-Moorhead, 6-Detroit lakes, 7-Fergus Falls, 8-Alexandria..
<b>Congregational Unit</b>	Local women’s group, “WELCA”, “Ladies’ Aid”, etc.
<b>Convention</b>	A meeting where governing decisions are made for an organization by elected delegates (voting members)
<b>CWO</b>	Churchwide Women’s Organization, or the national ELCA Women’s Organization
<b>NW MN</b>	Northwestern Minnesota
<b>NW MN SWO</b>	Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women’s Organization
<b>ELCA</b>	Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
<b>Gathering</b>	a meeting for informational purposes
<b>Region</b>	an area comprised of a number of Synods or Synodicals, i.e., NW MN is part of Region 3.
<b>Participant</b>	non-voting attendee at a convention, an observer
<b>SWO</b>	Synodical Women’s Organization
<b>Synod</b>	designation for an area of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
<b>Synodical</b>	designation for the Women’s Group within an area
<b>Triennial</b>	Meeting held every third year, i.e., 2011, 2014, 2017, etc
<b>Voting Member</b>	preferred term for “delegate”
<b>WELCA</b>	Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Thank you to Karen Retzlaff – SWO President, Eastern North Dakota for compiling and providing much of this information.

## 2017 Spring Conference Gathering Schedule

- Conference #1 - April 29, 2017 9:00 AM Mt. Carmel—Roosevelt
- Conference #2 - April 29, 2017 9:00 AM Trinity Lutheran Church—Thief River Falls
- Conference #3 - April 29, 2017 8:30 AM Our Saviors—East Grand Forks
- Conference #4 - April 22, 2017 9:00 AM Our Saviors Lutheran—Leonard
- Conference #5 - April 22, 2017 8:00 AM Grace Lutheran—Ada
- Conference #6 - April 22, 2017 8:30 AM Grace Lutheran—Detroit Lakes
- Conference #7 - April 24, 2017 4:30 PM Augustana Lutheran—Fergus Falls
- Conference #8 - April 22, 2017 8:30 AM Good Shepherd—Wheaton



*Check out our website for updates at [www.nwmnsynod.org](http://www.nwmnsynod.org)*

### From the Desk of the Treasurer....

Women of the ELCA NW MN  
Balance Sheet as of January 30, 2017

Assets	
Current Assets: Checking/Savings	
1000—Scholarship Offering	1,100.89
1005—Triennial Offering	12,649.16
1010—WELCA Checking	<u>30,362.21</u>
Total Checking/Savings	44,112.26
Total Assets	44,112.26



### Calling all High School Graduates!

If you are planning on attending an ELCA College, we have **SCHOLARSHIPS** available!  
Contact: Margaret Kragerud at 218-483-4923 or [krageruds@live.com](mailto:krageruds@live.com).

**Applications are due April 1, 2017**

## TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING



Have you registered for the Tenth Triennial Gathering this summer in Minneapolis? Join this summer's Bible study author, Kelly Fryer, as she leads us in a discussion around the gathering theme "All Anew." There will also be opportunities to hear *Gather* authors Sue Gamelin, Venice Williams and Mark Allan Powell and gathering artist-in-residence Vonda Drees. **Reserve your spot now!**

### Church planter, good eater to preach at Tenth Triennial Convention

The Rev. Jodi Houge, pastor of Humble Walk Lutheran Church, Saint Paul, Minnesota, will preach at the opening worship service at Women of the ELCA's Tenth Triennial Convention, July 11, 2017





Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA

NW MN SNOW Newsletter

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# Women <sup>of the</sup> ELCA

## NW MN SWO Convention—September 14 & 15, 2017



**30<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the  
NW MN Synodical Women's  
Organization of the ELCA**

*Be Kind... The Power of  
Kindness Can Change the World*

**Fair Hills Resort, Detroit Lakes, MN  
September 14-15, 2017**

**Keynote Speaker: Kevin Wallevand**