

SNOW Newsletter

From the Desk of the President



Dear Sisters in Christ,

Greetings! We have endured the worst of winter, at least I hope the worst is past. My prayer is that you all had a wonderful holiday season and Christ shone brightly in your celebrations.

Your SWO Board met in retreat and decided on our theme for the year: Love Thy Neighbor. The theme is based on Mark 12:29-31 "...You shall love your neighbor as yourself..." We also established 3 goals for the year: 1) Provide

resources to help units grow. 2) Provide education on racial justice for Indigenous people in NWMN and 3) Provide education on human trafficking. Please take time to visit the Women of the ELCA web-site (welca.org). There are so many resources there under the resources tab. There are also resources under the Ministry & Action tab. You can use these resources for personal development, programming and Bible study.

The conferences are planning their Spring Gatherings. The SNOW includes those that have set dates. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Bring a friend and have a great day of fellowship and worship.

We have planned a one-day SWO Convention this year. The NWMN SWO Convention will be on September 9, 2023, at Zion Lutheran in Thief River Falls MN. It will be hosted by Conferences 1, 2, & 3. Make plans now to attend. It is a great time of learning, worship and fellowship.

Finally, please consider attending the Triennial Gathering in Phoenix AZ, September 21-24, 2023. Registration will begin on March 1st. You can find more information at www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page. The SWO has money available to help with the cost of the Gathering. Please let me know if you plan on attending.

Check our Facebook page (Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA) and our webpage (www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/synod-womens-organization) for updates on events and learning experiences.

It is my privilege to serve as your president. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. You can also contact your Conference Representative. Their contact information is on page 7 of this edition of the SNOW.

May God continue to bless you!

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Special points of interest:

- God Was Calling Me
- Note from Treasurer
- NW MN WELCA
- Mary Magdalene Nominations
- Scholarships
- SWO Board and Conference Leaders
- Human Trafficking

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God Was Calling Me — Linda Kaushagen's Story



Linda Kaushagen, Financial Secretary for Conference 2, is from Trinity, Thief River Falls, shares her story of how she came to be their Financial Secretary. Linda was attending the Conference 2 Gathering, and during the business portion of their meeting, when they were asking for volunteers for conference officers, no one was raising their hand or volunteering. Linda looked around and realized she was sitting next to a stained glass window with the illustration of Jesus. As she looked up at the illustration of Jesus, she felt he was looking right at her, calling her to say yes. Linda was hesitant to raise her hand at that moment, but afterwards, as she was walking downstairs to the lunch room, she approached one of the then-officers and told her "YES" she would be willing to serve. She has been doing it ever since. She enjoys serving and hopes that you will find her story an inspiration, hoping you will say "yes" when Jesus calls you.



Spring Conference Gatherings



	Location	Date	Registration Time
1	Mt. Carmel Lutheran, Roosevelt	Saturday, April 22	9:30 AM
2			
3	St. Paul's Lutheran, Crookston	Saturday, April 22	9:00 AM
4	Trinity Lutheran, Laporte	Saturday, April 15	9:30 AM
5	Faith Lutheran Church, Wolverton	Saturday, April 22	9:00 AM
6	Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes	Tuesday, April 18	8:30 AM
7	First Lutheran, Battle Lake	Monday, April 17	4:00 PM
8	First Lutheran, Kensington	Thursday, April 27	8:15 –9:00 AM

ONE DAY ONLY NW MN SWO Annual Convention

Date: Saturday, September 9, 2023



Women of the ELCA

The Twelfth Triennial Convention
September 19-21, 2023
Phoenix, Arizona

The convention, the highest legislative authority in Women of the ELCA, will be held at the Sheraton Phoenix Downtown. Voting members, elected in the 64 synodical women's organizations, will conduct the business of the organization. They will elect leaders for the 2023-2026 triennium, act on memorials from synodical organizations and resolutions from the floor, approve a budget and much more.

From Your Treasurer

February 2023

Terry Pipho, Treasurer Report

IMAGINE women in mission as part of the women of the ELCA community, where women meet and work to fulfill the mission of God. Where do you see yourself? Imagine being a leaderful woman of the women of the ELCA community - ACTING BOLDLY, with bravery, confidence, courageous, daring, not hesitating or fearful of danger or rebuff, ready to take risks. What could we be capable of? The \$62,500 budget for this fiscal year is practical and doable. But can we do more?

We have included in the budget for this coming year a Leadership Training Event and Triennial Expenses line item to support women like yourself to experience a Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, AZ, in September 2023. We are planning a women's retreat and the annual convention in 2023. We plan

to give to Katie's Fund Endowment as part of the \$1 million campaign to support the next generation of bold women.

Please look over the profit and loss report for the last two years. Fiscal year ending 1/31/2023, we gave over \$19,600 to Women of the ELCA, including \$871.50 to Katie's Endowment Fund. We gave over \$9,000 to local ministries, including \$871.50 to MN Veterans Home in Fergus Falls from the convention offering. We provided a leadership training retreat for synodical board members. We gave \$1,000 in scholarships for local high school students to attend an ELCA college. You planned and held 15 conference gatherings and one annual convention.

We had a good year. Now, can we do better in 2023?

Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Womens Organization Profit & Loss February 2022 through January 2023

	Feb '22 - Jan 23
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 - Uncategorized	662.86
4003 - Conference Registration	8,117.00
4006 - Conference Expense Income	2,790.00
4012 - Convention Registration	8,310.00
4013 - Convention Expense Income	965.00
4023 - Triennial Gathering Income (To be u...	0.00
4026 - Congregational Unit Offerings	30,771.15
Total Income	51,616.01
Gross Profit	51,616.01
Expense	
5000 - Uncategorized Expenses	0.00
5010 - Board Expenses	3,147.83
5016 - Women of the ELCA Offerings	18,732.92
5017 - Benevolence/Missions	8,531.00
5020 - Conferences Expenses	9,155.49
5022 - \$WO Convention Expenses	11,557.90
5024 - Leadership Training	490.87
Total Expense	51,616.01
Net Ordinary Income	0.00
Net Income	0.00

Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Womens Organization Profit & Loss Budget Overview February 2023 through January 2024

	Feb '23 - Jan 24
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
4000 - Uncategorized	0.00
4003 - Conference Registration	10,000.00
4012 - Convention Registration	12,000.00
4023 - Triennial Gathering Income (To b...	1,500.00
4026 - Congregational Unit Offerings	39,000.00
Total Income	62,500.00
Gross Profit	62,500.00
Expense	
5010 - Board Expenses	2,500.00
5016 - Women of the ELCA Offerings	21,000.00
5017 - Benevolence/Missions	9,000.00
5020 - Conferences Expenses	10,000.00
5022 - \$WO Convention Expenses	14,500.00
5024 - Leadership Training	1,500.00
5026 - Triennial Expenses	2,000.00
5070 - Womens Retreat	2,000.00
Total Expense	62,500.00
Net Ordinary Income	0.00
Net Income	0.00

Fall Conference Gathering Highlights

Conference 1—Was held at First Lutheran Church in Karlstad on Saturday, October 15, 2022. The theme was: “Restoring Hope” and the theme verse was Jeremiah 29:11 which says, “For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope”. The speaker was Linda Hatlestad, who spoke on the theme. Special music was provided by Lori Foster and Jodie Kirkeide from Greenbush. There were 21 attendees which included guests. Marilyn Granstrand installed new officers elected—Sue Smith and Roxanne Goulet as Co-Coordinators. Meeting concluded with the hymn, “How Can I Keep From Singing”.

Conference 3—Was held Saturday, October 15, 2022, at Calvary Lutheran Church in Winger, MN. The Theme "Unmasked" was based on Micah 6:8, "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." This was the basis for Shirley Sonsteli's devotions and all the hymns and special music. Joyce White, a member of Calvary, was the speaker, with four of her musically talented daughters and one granddaughter to provide special music. Maggie Stewart installed officers elected: Lori Walters from Concordia, Fertile, as Coordinator and Karen Bakke from Kingo, Fosston, as Financial Recorder. They ended the meeting with the hymn, "God Be With You 'til We Meet Again".



Conference 4— Was held at First Lutheran church in Bemidji on October 8, 2022. The theme Bible verse was Exodus 35:35 He has filled them with skill to do every kind of work done by an artisan or by a designer or by an embroiderer in blue, purple, and crimson yarns, and in fine linen, or by a weaver- by any sort of artisan or skilled designer. Devotions were given by First Lutheran Pastor, Corey Fuhrman, who used a loom woven rug to show how the strong thread of the rug was equated to the presence of God in our lives. Special Music by Tom Mickelson, accompanied by Sarah Carlson, organist. Guest speaker was Geri La Voi, with her presentation entitled “Weaver’s Delight”. Both Pastor Fuhrman and Geri used the poem by Corrie Ten Boom “Life is but the Weaving” or sometimes know as “The Tapestry”.
Photo L to R: Barb Horn winner of the tapestry from speaker Geri LaVoi.



Conference 6—Was held at Cormorant Lutheran Church in Lake Park on October 1, 2022. The theme was “Young Men Shall See Visions”. The Bible verse comes from Joel 2:28 I will pour out my spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Pastor Wade Dutton gave the Bible Study on “Joel Prophet of God”. Special Music was provided by members of the Cormorant Luther Choir “Voices of Praise”. The program message was given by Sawyer Anderson “Water Warrior”, 13 years old has been raising money for the past 5 years for water wells in Zambia, Africa; and Sam Bestage “Sam’s Meals for Many”, a senior at Lake Park, has been raising money the last 6 years for Thanksgiving meals for needy Families in the area. During the business meeting there were no nominations for the Recorder position—remains open at this time. Meeting concluded with an offertory prayer given by Carolyn Nelson, Financial Recorder.



Boldcafe (boldcafe.org)

Café (<http://boldcafe.org>), an on-line magazine, shares stories written by bold young adult women + friends who write about faith, relationships, advocacy and more. Readers and writers of Café include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young adult women who use Café as a Bible study resource individually or with a group.


**Mark Your
Calendar**

**SNOW Newsletter
Deadline**

April 30, 2023

HUMAN TRAFFICKING—Adults Saving Kids



Pastor Alvin Erickson, from the twin cities, is a leader of an organization called Adults Saving Kids.

The adults saving kids website www.adultssavingkids.org has curriculum to use in local congregations. Course material for parents and grandparents with different sessions in each course. There are also podcasts by people who have been abused by older adults and used to hurt and make money.

The courses include power point presentations for teaching, supplementary materials to use for discussions. They hope to impact every congregation in the state of Minnesota by educating parents and grandparents in how to engage their children and grandchildren to protect them from these predators. They hope congregations will access these materials and use them for adult forums and other teaching opportunities.

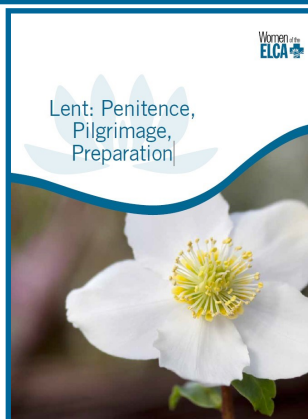
Their other objective is to have every member of the congregation be prayed for every day and the website sets up a plan for doing that.

If you are interested in having Rev. Al Erickson speak to your congregation or set up a zoom meeting, you can reach him at: alvin.erickson@gmail.com or go to their website at adultssavingkids.org



SIGN UP FOR DAILY GRACE

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace by signing up for a daily email message. You can also download the newly updated app for your IOS and Android devices.



GO DEEPER INTO LENT

Several Lenten devotions and meditations, examples of spiritual practices, and guides for discussion or journaling are included in this resource, available under the Resources tab of the [Women of the ELCA website](http://www.womenoftheelca.org). Your group might decide to use it together, or you might use it alone.



bold
connections

View the latest issue of [Bold Connections](#), the monthly e-newsletter that features the latest news and information about our programs and activities. *Bold Connections* is delivered via e-mail on the first of every month. [Subscribe now.](#)

Accepting Nominations for Mary Magdalene Award

We are now accepting nominations for the Mary Magdalene Award. We will be honoring Women from our conferences at our annual convention. These special and treasured women will be given a rose, a certificate and a monetary donation to a charity of their choice that is associated with the Women of the ELCA. The nomination form can be found on the Synod website: www.nwmnsynod.org. Please send your nomination form to: Diane Nord, Vice President, 44441 Monument Beach Loop, Pelican Rapids, MN 56572, 701-388-5182, or email to diane_nord@yahoo.com



SWO High School Scholarships Available

If you, or anyone you know is a high school senior graduating this spring, and is planning to attend an ELCA College, they may be eligible for a scholarship through the SWO W/ELCA. A letter detailing the qualifications, plus a form to fill out can be found at online at: nwmnsynod.org/assets/High-School-Scholarship-Letter-and-Application.pdf

The four criteria for eligibility are:

1. Be a graduating High School Senior with a "C" average or above.
2. Be a member of an ELCA Church.
3. Be a resident of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA.
4. Be attending an ELCA College.

If you have questions, or want to submit a completed form, contact

Diane Nord, Vice President
44441 Monument Beach Loop
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701-388-5182,
or email to :
diane_nord@yahoo.com



"The Ten Commandments"



Learn more about the Winter/ Spring 2023 Bible study by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin

Join Gather magazine and revive your soul in 2023 with a four-

session study of the 10 commandments. ELCA pastor and Bible study author Christa von Zychlin will help us see how these commandments are more than they may appear at first glance. For example, Martin Luther taught that the commandment, "Do not kill," means not only refraining from murder, but actively promoting the health and life of others. Get ready to explore old and new interpretations of God's laws, using Luther's Small and Large Catechism and more!



OUR MISSION

Mobilizing 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.

NW MN SWO Board Members and Conference Leaders

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Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the ELCA

NW MN SNOW Newsletter

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Women^{of the} ELCA

Twelfth Triennial Gathering September 21 –24, 2023



**Registration Starts
March 1, 2023**

Phoenix, Arizona

