



The Scribe

Western Iowa Synod Women of the ELCA



Sue Boblit, Editor

Convention Special Edition 2025

Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Newsletter
Published Three times a year.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Dorcas Cluster Fall Retreat

September 10, 2025
Twin Lakes Christian Center
7718 Twin Lakes Rd
Manson Iowa

SAVE THE DATE

Fall Retreat sponsored by the WISWO Board
October 25, 2025
Watch for details

38th Annual WISWO Convention

Saturday, June 20st, 2026
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Atlantic

13th Triennial Convention & Gathering

July 2026
WELCA Thirteenth Triennial Convention (Virtual)
July 13-14, 2026
WELCA Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA
July 16-19, 2026
Registration is now open
www.welca.org



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.

MISSION STATEMENT OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST

NEWS FROM YOUR WISWO TREASURER

Total convention offerings received were \$2,188.00.

This will be divided between LSI, Igumbilo Girls School, and Women of the ELCA.

There is still time to send your offerings and assessments (\$20.00 per unit). Please be sure to make a notation telling me where it should go.

Thank you for your generosity



Jeff E. from Community and Family Resources in Webster City accepted our In-Kind Donation and spoke to us about the programs they offer.

Linda Clarke, appointed Treasurer

Minutes of the 37th Convention
Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization
June 21, 2025, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Webster City

CONVENTION SCRIPTURE:

*I lift up my eyes to the mountains, Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. Psalm 121: 1-2*

Registration began at 8:30, with morning treats provided by the women of Trinity Lutheran. The convention was called to order at 9:00 AM, with President Sue Boblit leading the "Opening Litany of Convention" We joined in singing the first 2 verses of our convention hymn, #419 "For all the Faithful Women". We were accompanied by Linda Singer on the organ.

Linda Hutchinson from Trinity Lutheran welcomed us to Trinity, gave a few housekeeping details. Jodi Hutchinson was introduced as the nurse for our convention and provided her cell number in case someone needed assistance. Anna Jetson was introduced as the Churchwide representative for our convention. She will give a report later in the morning. Barbra Jotske-Torrier from LSI was also introduced and will speak to us about LSI this afternoon. Barbra also has a display set up in the dining room, please stop by. Bishop Lorna Halaas couldn't be with us today. She shared a "Celebration Video" with us and shared how she has enjoyed the time she has spent with us during her time as Bishop of the Western Iowa Synod. We thank her for her service and the many times she joined us and led our worship. We look forward to working with Pastor Scott Dalen the newly elected Bishop of Western Iowa.

President Boblit introduced Jeff E., he is currently the Men's Recovery House Manager and Counselor at the Webster City location. Jeff shared information on the services provided at Community and Family Resources. They offer many programs and services. He was joined by a client that is in recovery, he told his story of many years of addiction and the struggles that they face as they go through the recovery process. He was happy to say he has been sober and on the right path for recovery. They both thanked the women for their offerings and in-kind items to be used at the facility. They are located in several communities. More information can be found on their website www.cfrhelps.org.

President Boblit called the business meeting to order and called on Diane Ohrtman to give the credentials report. She reported 11 voting members, 3 officers, 5 board members for a total of 19 Voting Members. 27 visitors and 4 guests were in attendance for a total of 50 attending.

President Boblit introduced the Standing Rules of Procedure on page 5 of the convention book. The synodical board moved for the adoption of the Standing Rules of Procedure as printed, no second was required. On the adoption of the proposed rules of procedure, is there any discussion. Hearing none, a vote was called by show of hands. Motion carried.

President Sue Boblit, asked for additions to the agenda, hearing none, Agenda was approved.

The minutes from the 36th annual convention can be found in your convention book and were approved by the board. The minutes also appeared in the August 2024 Convention Edition of the Scribe. Therefore, it is not necessary to read them at this time.

President Sue Boblit introduced the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization board. President- Sue Boblit, Vice-President – Billie Jo Shahan, Secretary – Diane Ohrtman, Treasurer by appointment – Linda Clarke. Board members and committees are Stewardship – Jeanne Handeland and Linda Nase, Discipleship – Ladonna Schaefer, Marge Tindall, and Marilyn Nielsen (Marge and Marilyn were unable to attend today), Justice – Jan Rosdail-Aegerter and Susan Geiger. Thank you to the board for their dedication to the Women of Western Iowa.

President Sue Boblit called on Billie Jo Shahan to share some information on WISWO Outreach and Lutherans Restoring Creation. Billie Jo's Outreach takes her to congregations to share news about the Women of Western

Iowa. Lutherans Restoring Creation is about creating a community of stewards of the earth, caring for creation. If you would like more information on either of these, or want to invite Billie Jo to your church, you can contact her at WISWO-outreach@outlook.com.

President Sue Boblit called on Billie Jo Shahan chair of the board nominating committee. Billie Jo placed Sue Boblit into nomination for President. President Boblit asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing none. Sue Boblit was placed on the ballot for president. President Boblit asked for a motion to approve the ballot as presented (there is a sample in your convention book) Motion was made by Diane Ohrtman, second by Bonny Carlson. After a short prayer President Boblit called for a show of hands to elect the President. Motion Carried, Sue Boblit was elected President for a 2-year term. Billie Jo was called to present the nominations for Board members. The following names were presented, Ladonna Schaefer and Linda Saathoff, with one more opening. President Boblit asked for nominations from the floor for board members, Brittney Swanson was nominated and placed on the ballot. (Brittney's Biographical information will be printed in the convention Scribe edition). President Boblit asked for a motion to approve the Ballot of Ladonna Schaefer, Linda Saathoff, and Brittney Swanson for Board members. Motion by Bev McGriff to approve the ballot of names, second by Jeanne Handeland. President Boblit gave a short prayer and asked for approval of the ballot by show of hands. Motion carried. Ladonna Schaefer, Linda Saathoff, and Brittney Swanson were elected to the board. Congratulations to all.

President Sue Boblit presented the nominees for the Triennial Convention, July 13-14, 2026, to be held virtually. President Boblit noted she had only received 2 nominees; nominees cannot be placed from the floor. The nominees for Triennial Convention Voting Members are Linda Nase and Jane Kruse. President Boblit asked for a motion from the floor to approve the ballot as presented. Motion by Diane Ohrtman, second by Ladonna Schaefer. President Boblit asked for a show of hands to approve, motion carried.

President Boblit adjourned the morning session of the business meeting.

Following a short break, Billie Jo Shahan introduced our Keynote Speaker, Maria Heetland. Maria shared with us how her faith was put to the test when her son was ill. She never gave up no matter how dire the situation looked. Her faith was put to the test, but she never doubted her faith, always trusting in God. It was a very moving story of her faith and how her family was put to the test, never giving up.

President Boblit called on Anna Jetson, an executive board member of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Anna shared news from the executive board. She talked with us about the debt that WELCA has incurred due to many reasons, covid, increase in costs for the 2023 Triennial that were not taken into consideration, and smaller than anticipated participants for the 2023 Gathering, which all resulted in less revenue. This led to the decision to hold the 2026 Triennial virtually. The executive board is working on preparing a budget that does not create deeper debt. Anna noted that the executive board is working on a strategic plan, our purpose remains the same and will work to provide new resources, connect with women who have not been actively involved. All are invited to attend the Triennial Gathering in Des Moines in July of 2026. Registration will open in a few weeks. Thank you to Anna and all the board members for their work.

We joined in singing the table prayer and adjourned to the dining room for a delicious lunch served by the women of Trinity.

After lunch Jan Rosdail-Aegerter gave us an update of Ester Kitunda, and the Igumbilo Lutheran Girls Secondary School. Jan and three others from the companion synod team will be heading to Tanzania in August. They will be visiting the Igumbilo Girls School, as well as many other places. She encouraged all to sign up for the Footsteps newsletter, as that is where they will be documenting their travels, to share with everyone. Jan also gave us an update on companion synod activities in Chile. We will have more information to share on Ester Kitunda in the convention Scribe.

Barbra Jotzke-Torrier from LSI spoke to us about the work of LSI, even after the loss of funding and the unsubstantiated claims that LSI was money laundering, LSI is celebrating 160 years of impacting lives. We are unstoppable and still standing, she said. LSI and the ELCA work in partnership to serve those in need. She spoke

of the many programs they have; she noted that there are over 1100 kids in foster care every night. LSI works to find foster families, and offers many services for children, youth, and families. She noted you can find more information on the LSI website at www.lsiowa.org.

Billie Jo Shahan led us in a Bible Study on Psalm 121. We looked at the verses in Psalm and had small group discussions. Thank you to Billie Jo for leading.

We followed the Bible study with a paper craft project, based on our theme verse, Psalm 121 vs 1-2. It was fun to listen to the chatter as the women worked on their projects. Many lovely pieces of art were created.

Following the craft project we had a short break and moved into the sanctuary. The afternoon business meeting was called to order at 1:50 pm.

The Credentials Committee as of 1:50 pm reported 3 officers, 5 board members and 10 voting members, 28 visitors and 2 guests for a total of 48 in attendance.

Linda Clarke presented the treasurers report and the proposed 2026-2027 budget. Linda asked if there were any questions or discussion. Hearing none, the budget was previously adopted by the board and placed on file.

President Boblit noted that the President's report can be found in the convention book and will be printed in the convention addition of the Scribe also.

The Claims Committee reported that the offering received will be reported in the *SCRIBE Special Convention Edition*. Today's offering was divided among Igumbilo Girls School, LSI, and Women of the ELCA. The in-kind offerings to Community and Family Resources will be reported in the Convention Scribe.

Sue Boblit gave the Scholarship Committee's Report. Scholarships of \$600.00 were awarded to Vicar Kim Kacmarynski, Emily Fleckenstein Anderson, Susan Rohan, Billie Jo Shahan, and Damon Hopkins. We congratulate them and pray for them as they continue their journey.

President Boblit thanked the ladies of Trinity for their hospitality. They were great hosts for the convention and very accommodating to our needs.

President Boblit invited Deb Lamb to come forward. Deb invited the women to St. Paul Lutheran in Atlantic for the 38th annual convention on June 20, 2026. We look forward to gathering at St. Paul for our convention.

Anna Jetson led the attendees in the Order of Recognition for outgoing board members Jeanne Handeland and Marge Tindall. Maria then led the Order of Installation for the newly elected and current officers and board members. Officers include Sue Boblit, President, Billie Jo Shahan, Vice President, Diane Ohrtman, Secretary. Board members are Jan Rosdail-Aegerter, Susan Geiger, Ladonna Schaffer, Marilyn Nielsen, and Linda Nase, and newly elected Linda Saathoff and Brittney Swanson.

We heard from Trinity Lutheran Youth on their service trip to The Dwelling in Winston -Salem, NC. This is a church that serves those experiencing homelessness, proclaiming that all belong. Some of the youth spoke about their past trips, and how they look forward to going again. They presented a short film about The Dwelling.

Pastor Jean Morse led us in worship with communion to close our day. Thank you to Pastor Jean and all who participated in worship.

President Boblit led us in the closing of the convention.

Respectfully submitted by, Diane Ohrtman/WISWO Secretary

REPORT OF THE SYNODICAL PRESIDENT

Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

The Women of Western Iowa met at Bethlehem Lutheran in Cherokee for our 36th annual convention on June 15, 2024. Our theme for the convention was “Intergenerational Faith” Bishop Lorna Halaas led worship. Maria Lokensgard, from the churchwide board spoke to us about the Women of the ELCA, Syd Brinkman from the NE Iowa Synod joined us also. She shared information on Katie’s fund and the Women of the ELCA goal of raising 1.2 million dollars. We played a game about global hunger, and the challenges of growing crops in many countries. It was very educational and fun! Jan Rosdail-Aegerter spoke on the Companion Synod Network, and Igumbilo Girls School. Rogelio Rodriguez from LSI, spoke on unaccompanied migrants. They spoke of the many challenges that they face. It was informative and interesting.

The Dorcas cluster had their annual retreat at Twin Lakes Christian Center, on September 11, 2024. Main speaker and Bible study leader was Rev. Kelli Glasgo from the Church of Damascus Road. We also heard from the Lion’s Club, and a speaker about the Leader Dogs for the Blind. It was an informative and fun day.

In October, the WISWO Board had a retreat at Bethany Lutheran in Spencer. Karyn Leininger spoke to us on “Sharing the Dream in Guatemala.” We had a Bible study on “Marks of Discipleship” – Praying the Lord’s Prayer/Studying God’s Word. It was a relaxing day of fellowship and conversation.

The Women of Western Iowa were able to make the following donations this last year:

Convention offerings totaling \$2,719.00 were disbursed as follows:

Women of the ELCA - \$823.00

Good Gifts – Women’s Farmer School - \$823.00

Igumbilo Girl’s School Scholarship fund - \$823.00

Western Iowa – 2024 Youth gathering - \$250.00.

Cash, checks, and gift cards totaling \$555.00 went to CAASA as well.
as many of the kind gifts that were needed by CAASA.

We were also able to contribute to Katie’s Fund, and Igumbilo girls’ school through other funds we received throughout the year.

Thanks to the generosity of the Women of Western Iowa we can do great things.

We are looking forward to the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering, July 16th – 19th, 2026 in Des Moines. We are excited to have it in Iowa and look forward to welcoming women from all over the country. Registration will open on July 15th, 2025. Information can be found at welcatg.org.

All are invited to attend our events; you do not need to belong to a unit to attend the events. **ALL ARE WELCOME!** We come together to worship, engage in ministry and action, and to support one another in our callings.

Sue Boblit

President, Western Iowa Synodical Women’s Organization

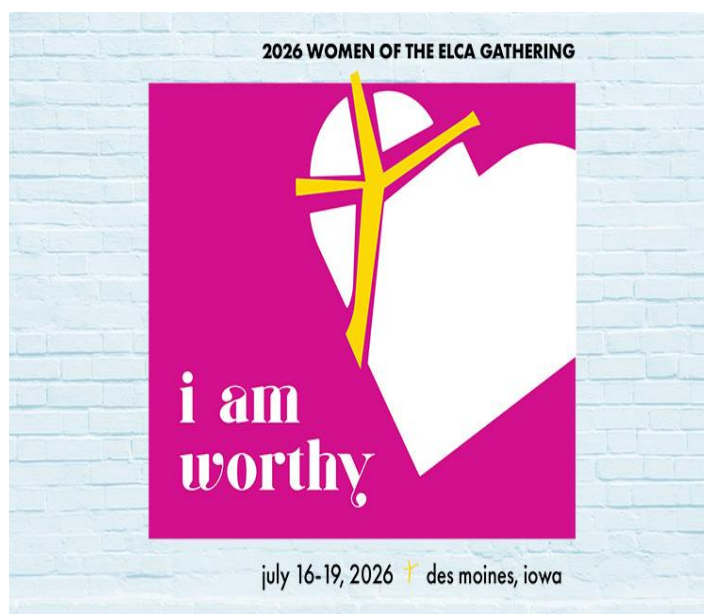
Nomination from the floor for board member

Brittney Swanson – 526 E 2nd St, Huxley, IA 50124 Phone (C) 515-520-3493. Email: brittney@lutheranlakeside.com Church: Lutheran Lakeside Camp, Spirit Lake

1. WELCA – Recently attended first WELCA Event
2. Churchwide – Youth Representative for Youth Summit
3. Congregation – Coordinate Wednesday night meals, chair of young parents board game group, play on Church softball team
4. Executive Director Lutheran Lakeside Camp
5. Community Service - Coaching
6. Age group: 35-49
7. Ethnic/Racial Heritage: Caucasian. Primary Language: English.



New WISWO Board: left to right Jan Rosdail Aegerter, Brittney Swanson, Ladonna Schaefer, Billie Jo Shahan, Susan Geiger, Diane Ohrtman, Sue Boblit, Linda Clarke, Linda Nase



We cannot wait to share news about the upcoming Triennial Gathering, July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa! [Registration](#) is now open!

Visit the [gathering website](#) to learn about speakers, (the website will be updated regularly) hotels, and more! Plus, we are looking for sponsors, vendors and exhibitors!

[VISIT WELCATG.ORG FOR NEWS AND TO REGISTER THIS MONTH!](#)

We will continue to share information on the Triennial Gathering as it becomes available.



Maria Heetland Keynote Speaker



Anna Jetson Churchwide Rep



Barbra Jotzke-Torrier LSI



Jan Rosdail Aegerter Companion Synod





Billie Jo Shahan

Bible Study

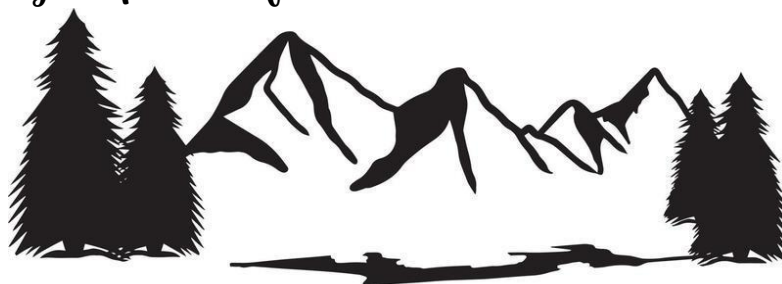


Pastor Jean Morse
Worship

Fun Crafting



*I lift up my eyes to the mountains.
Where does my help come from?*



*My help comes from the Lord,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
Psalm 121: 1-2*

Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Directory 2025-2026

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Lin Saathoff
Linda Nase

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Vice President

Billie Jo Shahan
WISWO-outreach@outlook.com

Secretary

Diane Ohrtman
dianeohrtman@yahoo.com

Justice Committee

Susan Geiger
Jan Rosdail - Aegerter

Discipleship

Brittney Swanson
Marilyn Nielsen
Ladonna Schaeffer

Women of the ELCA

Dr. Jennifer Hockenberry – Interim Ex. Director
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Copy me, take me apart! Share me with all your friends!

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sdboblit@gmail.com

ATTENTION: Please send all your articles and pictures via e-mail (if possible) to sdboblit@gmail.com
or mail to Sue Boblit 104 E 1st St, Spencer Iowa. Thank you!

THE NEXT DEADLINE –October 31st, 2025