

River Channels

Newsletter of the Southeast Minnesota Synodical Women's
Organization

November 15, 2025

Issue 146

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Women ^{of the} ELCA 

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 11, 2026, MNRC Spring Event at St. John
Lutheran Church, Mapleton, MN

April 18, 2026, RRC Spring Event at Cross of
Christ in Houston

April 25, 2026, ZRC Spring Event at Zumbro
Lutheran Church in Rochester

April 25, 2026, BERC Spring Event at Good
Shepherd, Wells, MN

April 25, 2026, CRC Spring Event at Cross of
Christ, Welch, MN

July 13-15, 2026, 13th Triennial Convention via
Zoom

July 16-19, 2026, 2026 Women of the ELCA
Gathering, Des Moines, IA

September, 2027, Convention of the SE MN Syn-
odical Women's Organization, Mount Olive
Lutheran, Rochester, MN

Plan for the 2026 Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa!

July 16-19, 2026

Event registration will open July 15, 2025!

For more information go to

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

There will be no bus to the Gathering, please make plans to car pool.

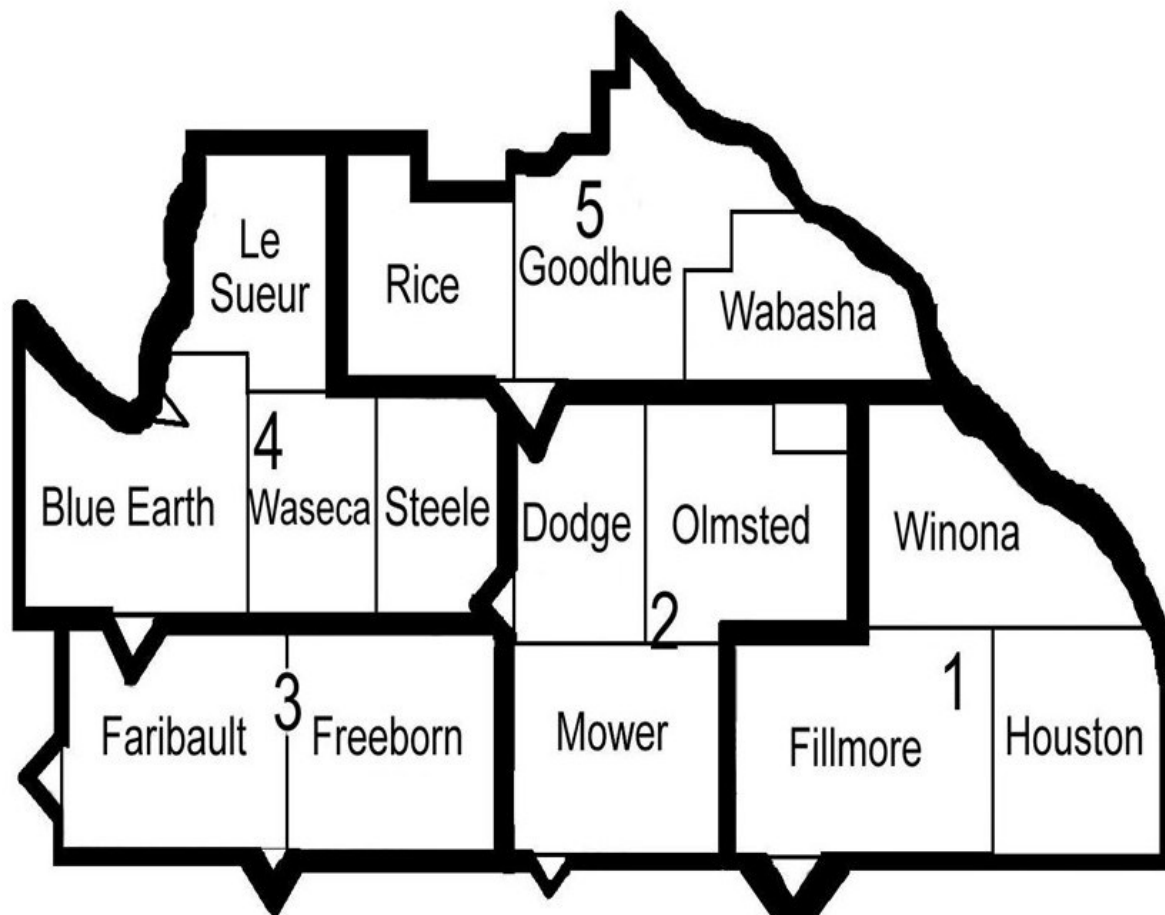
Watch for more information

**SE MN Conferences
ELCA Region: 3I
Partner Synod: New England Synod
Companion Churches:**

- **Central Diocese Tanzania Lutheran Church;**
- **Colombia Lutheran Church;**
- **South Sudan Lutheran Church in Africa**

Map of SE MN Conferences

1. Root River Conference
2. Zumbro River Conference
3. Blue Earth River Conference
4. Minnesota River Conference
5. Cannon River Conference



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CONFERENCE LIAISONS

BLUE EARTH RIVER	CANNON RIVER	MINNESOTA RIVER	ZUMBRO RIVER	ROOT RIVER
	Kathy Bolin			Diane Linbo

CONFERENCE CONVENERS

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River Channels is a publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. River Channels is distributed free to the congregational unit presidents, the conference committee members, the synodical and church-wide leadership of Women of the ELCA, and the Southeastern Minnesota Synod staff. Individual subscriptions are \$5.00 for four issues a year or free by email. Send articles, photos and other materials to Editor, River Channels, at the address in the listing on this page. The pages in this newsletter may be photocopied for educational and promotional use by Women of the ELCA members in the congregational units of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod.



Ancestors Who Shape and Guide Us

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God.

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled.

"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

"Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man.

Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

Luke 6:20-23

I read a couple blog posts from the Women of the ELCA's Cafe' in preparing this Wednesday Prayer. One of these was Rev. Dr. Ralen M. Robinson's article "Women of Sacred Presence: Stories of Faith and Strength". She looks to women who have paved sacred paths, from her own ancestral line and from the line of strong and courageous women in the Bible. First, Ruth. "She lost her social standing because her husband died, traveled through a famine-torn country, and became a foreigner with no social standing. Despite her hardships, Ruth stood faithfully by her mother-in-law's side, offering her unwavering support and extending her hand to people of all cultures." We can look back now and see that Ruth was both blessed and a blessing to others. While she was poor, most likely hungry and weeping, she stood firm in her faith.

Rev. Ralen also speaks of Hagar, who "endured invalidation and bondage, crying out to God to be seen and recognized." Even after enduring rape as a slave-girl and then being thrown out of her home, Hagar cried out to God. And God heard. Hagar was seen by God and blessed.

These are remarkable stories of strength that may seem beyond our own reach. Sometimes people share with me that they don't feel like what they are doing is enough - that it is not grand enough. Is it really making a difference? This month I presented to the Southeastern Minnesota Women of the ELCA who had generously raised up Cherish All Children as their mission for gifts these past two years. They set out with a goal of raising \$4,000 to support our work. Some may have wondered if their \$20 or \$25 was enough to make a difference. Well, when they presented a check for over \$8,000, I felt remarkably blessed! Each woman received one of our Prayers for Cherishing Children

Continue from page 4

Ancestors Who Shape and Guide Us

booklets and many committed to praying daily for a child in their congregation or community. Their blessings will continue to reach so many children.

We can use our voices, our money, our time, and our talents to be a blessing to others, just as our ancestors have been to us.

God of the ages, continue to equip us, and show us that we are not alone but stand with all whom you have created, chosen, and seen. Help us to be a blessing to those in need. Amen.

Written by Joy McElroy, Cherish All Children executive director. If you would like to support teens and young adults staying in our Metro Youth Transitional Housing over the holidays, find info here: LSS Youth Holiday Gifts! Cherish All Children is a ministry within Lutheran Social Service MN that partners with churches to prevent child exploitation.

Your donations make this ministry possible! Give today! Thank you for making a difference in protecting children.

Are you a member of Thrivent Financial? Click here! Designate your Choice Dollars to Cherish All Children - it really adds up! www.cherishallchildren.org

Our mailing address is:
Cherish All Children
1605 Eustis Street
St. Paul, MN 55108

We hope you enjoy joining us in prayer each Wednesday.

Purpose Statement

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.

Note from the Secretary

By Linda Sandborg

21st Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention Saturday, September 27, 2025 Grace Lutheran, Waseca, MN St. John Lutheran, Waseca, MN

Sharon Northouse, Synodical Co-President, welcomed all present and opened Session I of the Business Meeting at 8:15 am.

Women of the ELCA Purpose statement was read by all.

Report of the Credentials Committee

Co-Chair, Sharon Northouse, called on Diane Linbo, Chair of the Credentials Committee to present the Committee's report. As of 8:20 am on September 27, 2025 the credentials committee reports the following:

Synodical Officers and Board Members	7
Voting Members	<u>20</u>
Total eligible to vote	27

The adoption of the committee report was moved by the committee, therefore there is no second needed. Committee report approved.

Call to order

A quorum having been established, Sharon Northouse, Co-chair, declares the 21st Convention of the Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization open in due form and ready for the transaction of business.

Introduction of the current Officers and Board Members

Kathy Bolin, Co-President, Sharon Northouse, Co-President, Linda Sandborg, Secretary, Diane Linbo, Treasurer, Jane Rinehart, Discipleship & Stewardship, Linda Steinhauer, Justice, Minnie Dunbar, Communications and River Channels Editor.

Appointment of the Parliamentarian

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin appoints Minnie Dunbar as Parliamentarian of the 21st Convention of the SE MN Synodical Women's Organization.

Adoption of the Proposed Standing Rules

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin asks Secretary, Linda Sandborg to present the Proposed Standing Rules.

Note from the Secretary

By Linda Sandborg

The proposed rules are in the booklet on page 11. Linda stated on behalf of the Synodical Board, I move the adoption of the Proposed Standing Rules and no second is required.

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin called for discussion. Hearing none, Co-Chair called for a vote. The affirmative has it and the Proposed Standing Rules are adopted.

Adoption of the Business Meeting Agenda

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin asks Secretary, Linda Sandborg to present Business Meeting Agenda found in your folder (Green page)

On behalf of the Synodical Board, I move the adoption of the Business Meeting Agenda with flexibility allowing the Chair to reorder items as necessary. No second is required.

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin called for discussion. Hearing none, Co-Chair called for a vote. The affirmative has it and the Business Meeting Agenda is adopted.

Report of Nominating Committee

Co-Chair Kathy Bolin gave an outline of the current process that is being used.

Co-Chair, Sharon Northouse reported the following names have been placed into nomination for Synodical Officers and Board Members:

Kathy Bolin - President

OPEN - Vice President

OPEN - Secretary

Diane Linbo - Treasurer

Jane Rinehart - Discipleship and Stewardship

Cherie Miller Haas - Justice

Minnie Dunbar, Co-Communications/River Channels Editor

Pat Eichhorst, Co-Communications/River Channels Editor

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin called for nominations from the floor.

Julie Schreifels - Vice President

Terri Hanson - Secretary

There have been 2 names placed in nomination from the floor.

Julie Schreifels, Cross of Christ, Welch, MN - Cannon River Conference

Terri Hanson - Trinity Lutheran, Blue Earth, MN - Blue Earth River Conference

Co-Chair called on Diane Linbo, Chair of Elections Committee for instructions prior to

Note from the Secretary

Continue from page 7

By Linda Sandborg

the first ballot. All voting members should have a printed ballot. Instructions were given to add the two names from nominations from the floor to the ballot and to place an **X** in front of the person for whom they wish to vote for and were instructed not to vote until the Co-Chair said to do so.

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin called for the first ballot. Ballots were collected and the Co-Chair closed the vote.

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin reported the following names have been placed into nomination for the 2026 Triennial Voting Delegates, July 13-14 via Zoom. Total number of delegates is President and 6 other voting delegates for SE MN Synodical Women's Organization.

Minnie Dunbar - Blue Earth River Conference, Mansfield Lutheran Church, Alden, MN

Pamela Groves-Gaggioli - Cannon River Conference – St. John's Lutheran, Northfield, MN

Co-Chair called for nominations from the floor.

Sharon Northouse, Zumbro River Conference, Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN

Julie Schreifels, Cannon River Conference, Cross of Christ Church, Welch, MN
Terri Hanson, Blue Earth River Conference, Trinity Lutheran Church, Blue Earth, MN

Judi Mickelson, Cannon River Conference, First Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN

There have been 4 names placed into nomination from the floor. (See above).

Co-Chair called on the Chair of the Elections Committee, Diane Linbo for instructions prior to the first ballot. All voting members should have a printed ballot. Instructions were given to add the 4 names placed in nomination from the floor to the ballot and to place an **X** in front of the person for whom they wish to vote and were instructed not to vote until the Co-Chair said to do so.

Co-Chair called for the first ballot for 2026 Triennial Voting Delegates. Ballots were collected and the Co-Chair closed the vote.

Call for New Business

Kathy Bolin reported on the visit from Martha Kitiku, Director of Women's Department for the Central Diocese of the ELC in Tanzania. On May 28, 2025 the Synodical Officers and Board Members decided to cancel her visit for this year and hope to revisit this in the future due to concerns with new administration and VISA challenges.

Note from the Secretary

By Linda Sandborg

Call for the report of the First Ballot – Synodical Officers and Board Members

Co-Chair, Sharon Northouse called for the report on the first ballot.

Election Chair, Diane Linbo reported the first ballot.

Number of eligible votes: 27

Total ballots cast: 27

Votes needed to elect: 22

President - Kathy Bolin - 27

Vice President - Julie Schreifels - 26

Secretary - Terri Hanson - 26

Treasurer - Diane Linbo - 27

Board Members – Co-Communications/River Channels Editor

Minnie Dunbar - 27

Pat Eichhorst - 27

Board Member – Discipleship/Stewardship - Jane Rinehart - 27

Board Member - Justice - Cherie Miller Haas - 27

The Co-Chair declares the names placed on the ballot elected to their positions.

Call for the report of the First Ballot - 2026 Triennial Voting Delegates

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin called for the report of the first ballot.

Minnie Dunbar - 27

Pamela Groves-Gaggioli - 27

Sharon Northouse - 27

Julie Schreifels - 27

Terri Hanson - 27

Judi Mickelson - 27

The Co-Chair declares the names placed on the ballot elected as 2026 Triennial Voting Delegates.

Session I of Business Meeting of the 21st Convention of the Synodical Women's Organization was recessed.

CONVENTION PROGRAM was held in the Sanctuary of Grace Lutheran Church.

Co-President, Kathy Bolin welcomed everyone to the 21st SE MN Synodical Women's Organization Convention. The Opening of the Convention is on page 10 of the booklet

Note from the Secretary

By Linda Sandborg

and was read. The Co-President declared the Convention open at 9:30 am. Opening Hymn, ELW 781 "Children of the Heavenly Father" was sung.

Welcome and announcements was given by Pastor Paige Whitney, Grace Lutheran Church.

Land Acknowledgement was read by Pastor Paige Whitney.

Welcome from Synodical Women's Organization by Kathy Bolin. There were three banners on display: SE MN Synod Banner, National WELCA Logo, and Purpose Statement Banner from Bethel Lutheran Church in Rochester. Kathy Bolin gave explanations of these banners.

Greetings from Bishop Regina Hassanally, SE MN Synod. She talked about how her grandmother was ahead of her time in recognizing that women can be pastors and bishops in the church. In order to have a healthy world we need to raise healthy men too. Pastor Regina noted that she and her husband have 4 boys and no girls. Recently it was pointed out to her that pastors are not baptizing as many babies/people as in the past. This is something for her to consider but even so as we live out our baptism and we touch the world with our baptism as we meet each other everyday, as we reach out to meet those who are in need.

Greetings and report from Maria Lokensgard, Region 3 Women of the ELCA Representative. She talked about Katie's Fund, Triennial Convention, How WELCA works, SALT(Share Abundance, Love & Thanks) program, Planned Giving from the Heart (Give from the heart and build a legacy for future generations) with a planned gift, Endowment Fund, Hockenberry Strategic Plan, 2024 Impact report, Gather, Daily Grace, Thankofferings. All of these and more can be found of the Women of the ELCA website.

Kathy Bolin introduced our main speaker, Joy McElroy, Executive Director of Cherish All Children. Kathy Bolin thanked everyone for all the contributions that SE MN SWO has received for Cherish All Children as a part of our project for the last two years. Cherish All Children educates, equips and engages churches and communities to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking. Cherish All Children is a nonprofit part of Lutheran Social Service. Sexual exploitation and trafficking happens everywhere not just in large communities but also in rural areas. It also affects girls, boys, LGBTQ. She referenced the story of one lost sheep, will not the shepherd leave the 99 and goes in search for the one lost sheep and rejoices when the one sheep is found. They work with law enforcement, FBI. Have guidelines, classes/tools, safety policies available for churches and communities to use for all generations. She encouraged every-

Note from the Secretary

By Linda Sandborg

one to engage in raising the next generation. Use their website for help and information how you can make a difference and protect our youth.

Offering was taken and the Cherish All Children song was sung from the Prayers for Cherishing Children book in your folder.

Pastor Paige Whitney led us in table prayer before lunch. Please remember to visit the Vendors and maybe even spending some time in the Global Health Ministries service project. Enjoy fellowship with all the other women from SE M SWO.

Business Session II was opened by Co-President Kathy Bolin at 1:00 pm.

Report of the Co-Presidents by Kathy Bolin and Sharon Northouse. See Page 7-9 of booklet.

Report of the Treasurer

Co-Chair Kathy Bolin called on Diane Linbo for her report. Please see pages 19-22 in booklet.

Offering will be a split of the following: 50% Churchwide Women of the ELCA Organization; 50% - Good Earth Village, Lutheran Campus Ministries of Winona and Mankato

Credential report was given by Diane Linbo.

Voting Members:	20
Synodical Board:	<u>7</u>
Total Eligible to vote:	27
Other Registered:	49
Clergy:	1
Other Guests: Speakers & Exhibitors:	<u>12</u>
TOTAL PRESENT:	89

Amount of Offering Today:	\$ 1074.00
Offering received in mail:	<u>2440.00</u>
TOTAL(As of today)	\$ 3514.00

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin asks Treasurer, Diane Linbo to introduce the 2026-2027 Budget. Please see page 23 of booklet

Kathy Bolin stated the adoption of the budget has been moved by the Synodical Board and no second is required. Are there any questions? Hearing none, Co-Chair calls for a vote. All those in favor of the adoption of the budget – say Aye. Those opposed – Nay. The affirmative has it and the 2026-2027 budget is adopted.

Scholarship was give to Rhonda Conrath, St. John Lutheran Church, Waseca, MN

Report of the Secretary

Co-Chair asks Secretary, Linda Sandborg to present the Minutes of the 20th Convention of the SE MN Women of the ELCA – September 30, 2023.

The minutes can be found on pages 12-18 of the booklet. On behalf of the Board, I move for the adoption of the Minutes of the 20th Convention of the SE MN Women of the ELCA

Co-Chair, Kathy Bolin, notes the acceptance of the minutes has been moved by the Synodical Board, and no second is required. Are there any questions? Hearing none, I call for a vote.

All those in favor say Aye, those opposed say Nay. The affirmative has it and the minutes are accepted.

Report of the Resolutions Committee

Co-Chair calls on Minnie Dunbar for the committee's report.

Please see page 24 of booklet. On behalf of the Resolution Committee I move the committee recommendation for resolution # 1.

Co-Chair- The questions is on the committee recommendation for resolution # 1. No second is required as it comes from the committee. Are there any questions? Hearing none, I call for a vote. Those in favor say Aye, those opposed say Nay. The affirmative has it and the committee recommendation for resolution # 1 is adopted.

Recognition and Installation of Board Members

Maria Lokensgard did the recognition service for outgoing Synod Board Members: Sharon Northouse, Linda Steinhauer, and Linda Sandborg. Please see page 30 of booklet.

Maria Lokensgard did the installation of the newly elected Synod Board Members: Kathy Bolin, Julie Schreifels, Terri Hanson, Diane Linbo, Jane Rinehart, Sherie Miller Haas, Minnie Dunbar, and Pat Eichhorst. Please see pages 31-32 of booklet.

Maria Lokensgard did the commissioning of the delegates to 13th Triennial Convention: Minnie Dunbar, Pamela Groves-Gaggioli, Sharon Northouse, Julie Schreifels, Terri Hanson, and Judi Mickelson. Please see page 33 of booklet.

Co-Chair Kathy Bolin asks everyone to please turn to page 34 of the booklet for the Closing of the Convention.

We, the Co-Chairs, declare the 21st Convention of the Southeastern Minnesota Synodi-

River Channels

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November 15, 2025

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- July 13-15, 2026, 13th Triennial Convention via Zoom
- July 16-19, 2026, 2026 Women of the ELCA Gathering, Des Moines, IA
- September, 2027, Convention of the SE MN Synodical Women's Organization, Mount Olive Lutheran, Rochester, MN

Plan for the 2026 Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa!

July 16-19, 2026

Event registration will open July 15, 2025!

For more information go to

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

There will be no bus to the Gathering, please make plans to car pool.

Watch for more information

2025 SWO CONVENTION



Joy McElroy of Cherish All Children our speaker.

The women of the SE MN collected money over the past 2 years and was able to present a check for over \$8,000.



Maria Lokensgard, Executive Board Member, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Rolling Bandages

2024-2025 SWO Board: Kathy Bolin, Diane Linbo, Linda Steinhauer, Linda Sandborg, Sharon Northouse, Jane Rinehart, and Minnie Dunbar



2026-2027 SWO Board: Kathy Bolin, Diane Linbo, Terri Hanson, Julie Schreifels, Jane Rinehart, Minnie Dunbar, Cherie Miller Hass, Pat Eichhorst

2025 SWO CONVENTION



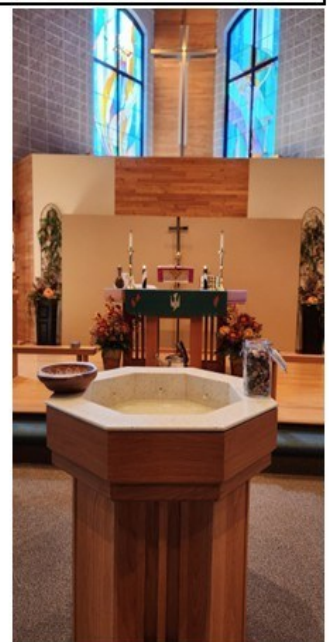
Ladies gathering for the convention program



Pastor
Paige
Whitney of
Grace
Lutheran



Bishop Regina
Hassanally of SE MN Syond



Altar at Grace
Lutheran

2026 Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention and Gathering Information

**Triennial Convention (Business meeting)
via Zoom July 13 - 14, 2026**

**Triennial Gathering - Des Moines, Iowa
July 16 – 19, 2026**



Theme: "I am Worthy"

Bible Verse: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made."

Psalms 139:14

We invite you to join with our ministry as we seek to nourish women's faith and love and to inspire women to proclaim their identity, intent, and action.

This proclamation reminds us of God's promise to always be with us, even during times of devastation and division. Repeating the phrase "I am worthy" helps us recognize the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in our lives. This practice of self-affirmation creates opportunities for healing and repair within ourselves, the church, society, and the world. When we declare, "I am worthy," we align ourselves with God's promises. There is great power in our resolve.

Please use www.womenoftheelca.org website to find more information under EVENTS and scroll down to Triennial Convention and Triennial Gathering with dates.

November 2025

UNIT OFFICER UPDATE FORM 2025-2026

CONFERENCE NAME: _____ (Choose one below)

Blue Earth River; Cannon River; Minnesota River; Root River; or Zumbro River

UNIT (Congregational) NAME: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Church email: _____

Date of Installation: _____

Fill in all information below-DO NOT WRITE "SAME AS LAST YEAR"

Complete this form yearly within two weeks of election and whenever officers change. Thank you.

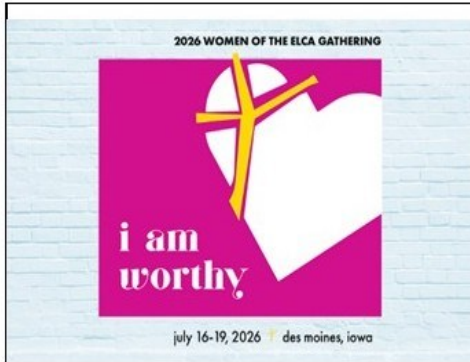
CURRENT UNIT OFFICERS:	FORMER OFFICER'S NAME
President Address City, State Zip Phone _____ Email _____	
Vice President Address City, State Zip Phone _____ Email _____	
Secretary Address City, State Zip Phone _____ Email _____	
Treasurer Address City, State Zip Phone _____ Email _____	
Stewardship (Mission Action) Address City, State Zip Phone _____ Email _____	
Justice (Mission Community) Address City, State Zip Phone _____ Email _____	
Discipleship (Mission Growth) Address City, State Zip Phone _____ Email _____	

SEND A COPY OF THE COMPLETED FORM TO THE FOLLOWING:

Diane Linbo, Treasurer SE MN Women of the ELCA

402 15th Ave NW, Kasson, MN 55944

semntreas@gmail.com 507-634-6602 – Home 507-261-4141—Cell



2026 Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention and Gathering Information

Triennial Gathering—Des Moines, Iowa
July 16—19, 2026

Theme: “I am Worthy”

Bible Verse: “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” Psalm 139:14

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](https://www.welcatg.org) FOR NEWS AND TO REGISTER THIS MONTH!

For the gathering website, registration and other information is on
<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

Thrivent Action Grants Update:

thrivent

You don't need to be a Thrivent member to apply for a \$250 action grant. There is another category, Associate member. It costs \$19.95 per year, and allows you to apply for one grant a year. Apply online at:

<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership#apply-1>





Enjoying lunch provided by Grace Lutheran and St. John Lutheran Churches in Waseca

River Channels Newsletter Subscription Form

River Channels is published by the Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women of the ELCA. One copy is sent to each unit president. If your unit has co-presidents, only one will receive a copy. Conference officers also receive a copy. Individuals may subscribe for \$5.00 per year. Please use this form to order, and type or print clearly.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email Address _____ Phone Number _____

New Subscription _____ Renewal _____

Enclose check for \$5.00 per subscription (\$10 for two years).

Email Subscriptions are free

Make payable to: SE MN Synodical WELCA (In memo of check, put in Newsletter Subscription.)

Mail to:

Diane Linbo
402 15th Ave NW
Kasson, MN 55944

Discipleship and Stewardship

By Jane Rinehart

A New Hymn Celebrates WELCA: “For the Healing and Wholeness of the World”



The first recorded meeting of the church women of St. John's Lutheran in Northfield was in the fall of 1875. To celebrate the 150th anniversary, the women of St. John's commissioned a hymn based on the WELCA purpose statement. Bruce Benson, retired pastor of St. Olaf College congregation, wrote the words. David Sims, St. John's handbell choir director and the music development manager at Augsburg Fortress Publishing, composed the tune. The new hymn, "For the Healing and Wholeness of the World" was first sung at the WELCA birthday celebration at St. John's on October 11, 2025 and first sung in worship on October 12, 2025. In honor of the celebratory worship service, Bishop Regina Hassanally was the guest preacher.

Bruce Benson wrote this about the text: It's no secret that preachers regularly "borrow" language, imagery, and ideas from others. This hymn text is no exception. If you read the Purpose Statement of St. John's WELCA before reading the hymn text, you might well accuse me of blatantly stealing someone else's language. I prefer to think that what I did was harvest, not heist. The Mission Statement was a field ripe for harvest. All I did was pick it, and make it rhyme.

David Sims says this about the about the tune: This hymn had to be singable in a variety of settings: in the sanctuary, in St. John's Hall, in the library, in circle meetings, at homes, and with or without accompaniment in any of those places. I tried to craft something that would be durable in those circumstances and to find a melody that felt more like a folk song than a march. The lyrics repeated at the end of each stanza needed to have their own musical character, one that stopped a little longer on both the "church" and the "world" for which the women of St. John's have worked.

*for the women of St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, Minnesota,
in celebration of their 150 years of service*

For the Healing and Wholeness of the World



Cre - a - ted in God's im - age and by Je - sus called and sent,
A joy - ful con - gre - ga - tion of bold wom-en— not a few!
O God, your grace is both a gift and work we're called to share.



em - pow - ered by the Spir - it, to our mis - sion we as - sent:
We hear the word of God and claim its pow - er to re - new.
We take it up with o - pen hearts, with grat - i - tude and prayer.



to grow in faith, af - firm our gifts, and serve is our in - tent,
We hon - or truth, we prac - tice grace, we learn to love a - new,
Give us your peace, your wis - dom, too, and teach us how to care



for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the church and the world,
for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the church and the world,
for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the church and the world,



for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the world.
for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the world.
for the heal - ing and whole - ness of the world.

Text: W. Bruce Benson © 2025 W. Bruce Benson. All rights reserved.

Music: LOVE ANEW, David Sims © 2025 David Sims. All rights reserved.

3rd Quarters Treasurer's Report



Quarterly Report August 1, 2025 - October 31, 2025

Income:

Unit Offerings:

Blue Earth River	\$	263.00	
Cannon River	\$	352.41	
Minnesota River	\$	482.20	
Root River	\$	575.00	
Zumbro River	\$	<u>1,250.50</u>	
Total			\$ 2,923.11

Interest		0.20	
River Channels Sub.	\$	45.00	
SWO Conv. Exp.	\$	170.00	
Sale of Necklace	\$	20.00	
Exhibitor's Meals	\$	50.00	
Void Check # 4605	\$	222.16	
Registration - Voting	\$	500.00	
Reg. Non Voting	\$	1,300.00	
Synod Board	\$	175.00	
SWO Off. Mailed	\$	2,035.00	
SWO Off. Sept 27	\$	1,074.00	
2023 Zumbro Conf	\$	300.00	
2024 Zumbro Conf	\$	<u>50.00</u>	
Total			\$ 5,941.36
Total Income			\$ 8,864.47

Balance July 31, 2025	\$ 18,290.79
Income	\$ 8,864.47
Total Income	\$ 27,155.26
3rd Quarter Disbursements	\$ (15,544.46)
Balance October 31, 2025	\$ 11,610.80

Money Market Account

Balance July 31, 2025	\$ 2,345.50
Income	\$ 0.27
Total Income	\$ 2,345.77
Disbursements	
Balance October 31, 2025	\$ 2,345.77

Disbursements: \$ 1,461.55

50% to CWO

(Aug. Sept. Oct.)

Board Expense:

Newsletter Expense	\$	374.46
Mileage	\$	173.25
Postage		
Office Supplies		
Board Mtg. Meal	\$	88.26
Schroeder Audit	\$	80.00
Crossroads/Reissue	\$	<u>222.16</u>
Total		2,399.68

Convention Expense

Mileage	\$	387.90
Postage	\$	32.30
Paper/Copies	\$	328.08
Meal/New Officers	\$	37.89
Board Mtg/M Meal	\$	151.44
Conv. Catering Meal	\$	895.00
Fresh Fruit	\$	67.51
Speaker McElroy	\$	200.00
Pianist	\$	50.00
Sound Tech	\$	50.00
Custodian	\$	50.00
Pastor Paige Whitney	\$	50.00
Scholarship	\$	25.00
Bethlehem Inn	\$	100.00
Reg. Synod Board	\$	175.00
Cherish All Children	\$	6,069.77
Print Prayer Books	\$	<u>80.89</u>
Total	\$	8,750.78

Convention Gifts

Churchwide	\$	2,022.00
Good Earth Village	\$	674.00
Winona Campus Min	\$	674.00
Mankato Camous Mir	\$	<u>674.00</u>
Total	\$	4,044.00

Zumbro Conf. Gifts

Churchwide	\$	87.50
Good Earth Village	\$	87.50
Winona Campus Mir	\$	87.50
Mankato Campus Mir	\$	<u>87.50</u>
Total	\$	350.00
Total Disbursement	\$	15,544.46

Treasury Notes

By Diane Linbo

Hope you all have had a great summer and have been able to enjoy the fall color's!!

Trees have pretty much lost their leaves and the color's that go with them!

We had our SWO Fall Convention on September 27th. Thanks to those that were able to attend. Had a great weather day and a great program and excellent food.

Thanks again to Grace Lutheran for hosting our convention this year! Thank you for your mailed in offerings and also the offering the day of the convention.

With the mailings of offering, and offering collected we had total of \$4,044.00

Churchwide 50 % - \$2022.00

Good Earth Village - \$674.00

Crossroads Campus Ministry – Mankato - \$674.00

Lutheran Campus Center - Winona - \$674.00

Also collected offering for Cherish All Children - \$6069.77, \$1000.00 from a church in our SEMN Synod, and an anonymous donation of \$1000.00. Total of \$8,069.77.

Joy McElroy was our speaker the day of the convention. She was very ap-

and donations for Cherish All Children.

Donations for Convention Expense Fund was \$685.00. This money is used to help with expense of the convention. Thank you.

Just a reminder, our year does end on January 1, 2026. Thank you in advance for sending in your Unit Offerings! Also send in your Unit Officer Updates if any changes, and we do collect the \$10.00 for Convention Expense Fund yearly. Thank you again.

“Happy Thanksgiving”

Lord, this thanksgiving we invite you into our homes and our hearts.

You always have a seat at our table, and we thank you for all the blessings you give, and the ways you care for us. You grace our lives with so much goodness. We are grateful for family and friends both near and far away. When we gather in your name you are with us where ever we are. Please fill us with Joy, Hope, and Love as we Celebrate this Special Day. Amen.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Websites of interest to Women of the ELCA

Augsburg Fortress Publishers

www.augsburgfortress.org

ELCA Churchwide Offices

www.elca.org

Good Earth Village

www.goodearthvillage.org

Lutheran World Relief

ww.lwr.org

Southeastern Minnesota Synod

www.semnsynod.org

Women of the ELCA

www.womenoftheelca.org