

WISWO ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Women of Western Iowa met at Trinity Lutheran in Webster City for our 37th annual convention on June 21, 2025. Our theme for the convention was from Psalm 124: 1-2 "I lift my eyes to the mountains where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth." Maria Heetland was our keynote speaker and told us the story of her faith journey and how it was put to the test during a health crisis in her family. We had a video message from Bishop Lorna, and Anna Jetson, from the churchwide board spoke to us about the Women of the ELCA. Barbra Jotzke-Torrier updated us on the work of LSI, and Jan Rosdail-Aegerter spoke on the Companion Synod Network, and Igumbilo Girls School. Billie Jo Shahan led bible study, and we did a craft based on our theme. Pastor Jean Morse from Trinity led our closing worship service. It was a fun day of fellowship, and learning.

The Dorcas cluster had their annual retreat at Twin Lakes Christian Center, on September 10, 2025. This is always a fun event. Pastor Jean Morse and Vicar Mike Gaffney led us in worship and bible study. We heard from speakers from LSI, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a program to build beds for children that do not have them.

In October, the WISWO Board had a retreat at Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Opening devotion was given by Billie Jo Shahan. Brittney Swanson talked to us about the camp, and we took a tour of the camp on the people mover. Hunter Campbell led our bible study on "Inclusion." We closed with music with Scott and Hunter. It was a beautiful fall day at the camp, and we enjoyed a wonderful day of fellowship.

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

Convention offerings totaling \$2,188.00 were disbursed as follows:

Women of the ELCA - \$729.34

Lutheran Services in Iowa – 729.33

Igumbilo Girl's School – 729.33

In-Kind Offering went to Community & Family Resources in
Webster City

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

We are currently planning our 38th Annual Convention to be held on Saturday, June 20, 2026, at St. Paul Lutheran in Atlantic. Our program will be on the trip last year to Tanzania by members of the Companion Synod Network. We will hear about the Igumbilo Girls School, which is near and dear to the hearts of the Women of Western Iowa, along with what is happening in the ELCT- Southern Diocese.

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 deadline for this event is June 21, 2026. We would love to see a showing of women from Western Iowa, this is a great event, with speakers, workshops, and worship with women from all over the county. More 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