

River Channels

Newsletter of the Southeast Minnesota Synodical Women's
Organization

May 15, 2026

Issue 148

Inside this Issue

SE MN Conferences Map	2
Note from President.....	4
WELCA Purpose Statement	4
Note from Vice-President.....	5-6
Secretary Notes.....	7
Justice Notes.....	8-9
Minnesota River Spring Event.....	10
Blue Earth River Spring Event.....	11
Root River Spring Event.....	12
Zumbro River Spring Event.....	13
Lutheran Social Quilt & Kit Projects...	13
Cannon River Spring Event.....	14
Conference Structure Changes	15
2026 Women of the ELCA Triennial...	16
Unit Officer Update Form.....	17
2026 Triennial Convention Bus.....	18
Thrivent Action Grants Update.....	19
River Channels Subscription Form.....	19
2027 SWO Convention.....	20
LWR Ingathering Information.....	21
1st Quarter Financial Report.....	22
Treasury Note	23



DATES TO REMEMBER

- May 16, 2026, Spring Market & Coffee Shop,
Bricelyn, 9 a.m.– 11 a.m.
- July 13-15, 2026, 13th Triennial Convention via
Zoom
- July 16-19, 2026, 2026 Women of the ELCA
Gathering, Des Moines, IA
- April 17, 2027, Root River 2027 Spring Event
at Henrytown Lutheran Church
- September 18, 2027, 8 a.m.—2 p.m., Convention
of the SE MN Synodical Women's Organiza-
tion, 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!

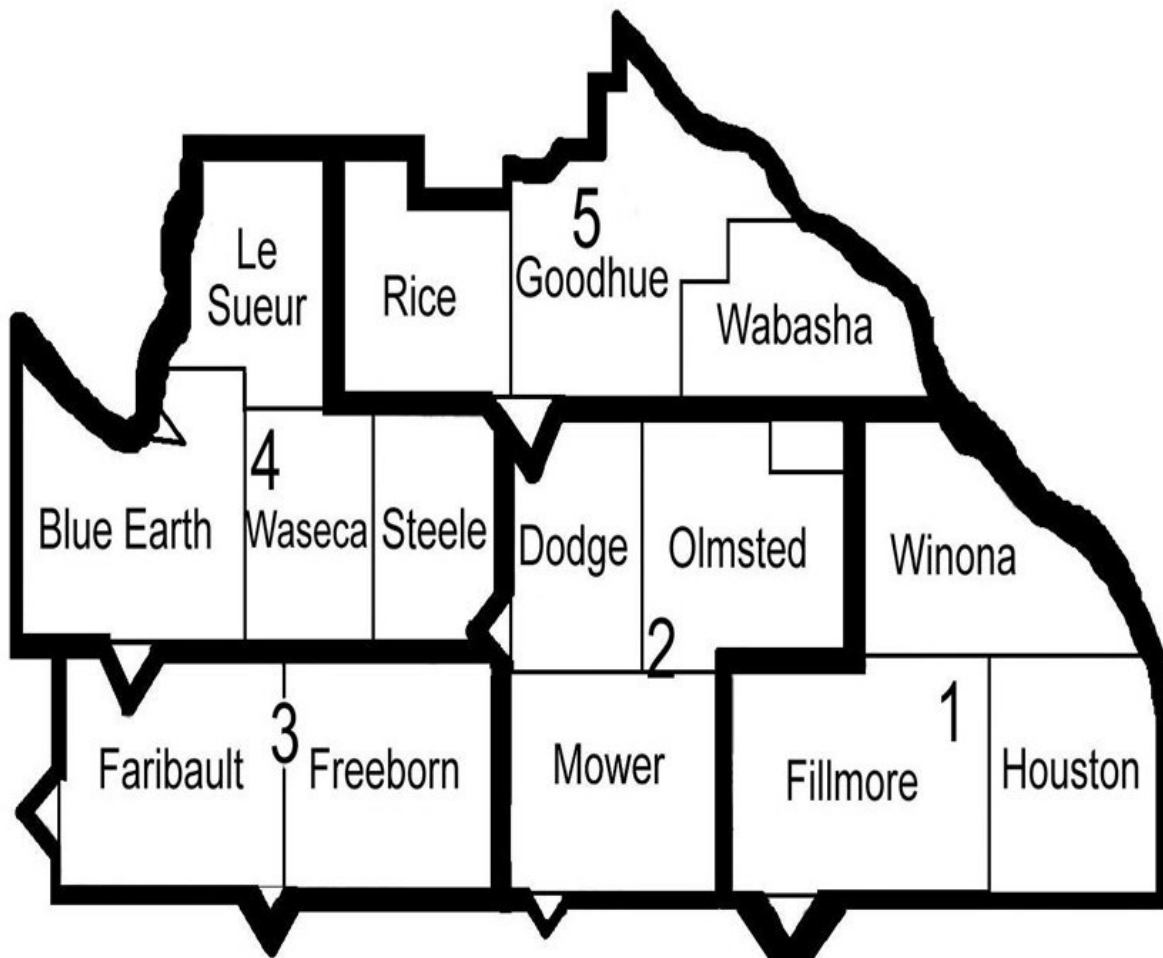
For more information go to
<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>
See page 7 on signing up a bus to the
Gathering.

**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



PRESIDENT
Kathy Bolin
1317 2nd St SE
Rochester, MN 55904
507-292-0277
bolin1948@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT
Mona Skare
205 N State St.
Bricelyn, MN 56014
mfskare@gmail.com
507-838-1700

SECRETARY
Terri Hanson
521 South Galbraith
Blue Earth, MN 56013
701-527-0611
tjhanson@bevcomm.net

**CO-COMMUNICATIONS/
RIVER CHANNELS EDITOR**
Minnie Dunbar
P.O. Box 33
Kiester, MN 56051
641-420-8126
minniedunbar@gmail.com

TREASURER
Diane Linbo
402 15th Ave. NW
Kasson, MN 55944
507-634-6602 - Home
507-261-4141—Cell
semntreas@gmail.com
linboins@gmail.com

**DISCIPLESHIP and
STEWARDSHIP**
Jane Rinehart
10666 First Timberlane
Drive
Northfield, MN 55057
612-840-6450
janestinehart@gmail.com

JUSTICE
Cherie Miller Haas
1422 Mineral Springs Rd
Owatonna, MN 55060
507-363-3096
camhy7@gmail.com

**CO-COMMUNICATIONS/
RIVER CHANNELS
EDITOR**
Pat Eichhorst
756 River Park Rd SE
Oronoco, MN 55960
507-993-1813
pat.eichhorst@gmail.com

Southeastern Minnesota Synod:
www.semnsynod.org

Women of the ELCA
8765 Higgins Rd.
Chicago, IL 60631
www.womenofeelca.org

CONFERENCE LIAISONS

BLUE EARTH RIVER
Terri Hanson

CANNON RIVER
Jane Rinehart

MINNESOTA RIVER
Cherie Haas/Diane
Linbo

ZUMBRO RIVER
Pat Eichhorst

ROOT RIVER
Kathy Bolin

Primary Conference Contacts.

BLUE EARTH RIVER
Lynda Everhard
414 Lynwood Dr
Albert Lea, MN 56007
605-496-3866
lyndaeverhard7@gmail.com

CANNON RIVER
Merylyn Calcutt
801 Headley Court
Northfield, MN 55057
507-210-1051—cell
507-645-2814—home
merylyn.calcutt@gmail.com

MINNESOTA RIVER
Linda Sandborg
405 19th Ave NE
Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-2881
sandborg.linda1@gmail.com

ROOT RIVER
Lyn Halvorson
5969 County Road 22
Houston MN 55943
507-458-4601
chucklynh@netscape.net

ZUMBRO RIVER
Co-Contact: Carol Preissner Mary Ann Smith
220 S. Broadway #1023 507-287-8144
Rochester, MN 55904 atasm@charter.net
507-272-6362
cmp1023@gmail.com

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.

Notes from Your President

By *Kathy Bolin*

You are the Light

April was such a busy but fun and uplifting month. I was able to attend three of the Conference Spring Events. They were all excellent. Three Spring Events were on the same day, or I would have been at the other two as well. From meeting Pierce, the Barred Owl (he was on the program at the Root River Conference Spring Event) to beautiful music, thought provoking and timely messages on compassion, lovey artwork, stories about the plants of the Bible (and tasting many of them) and much more each event was delightful. Perhaps the most fun was meeting many of you and getting to visit and laugh together. You are such gifts and blessings in your congregations and communities and to the Women of the ELCA. Thank you.

You Are the Light! Watch for information about the dates that have already been chosen for 2027 Spring Events. What fun to have such enthusiasm. I am already looking forward to next year's events and hopeful that I can get to all five of them. And I am happy to come and visit you during the year.

The following women were elected as delegates to the 2026 Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention. This is a zoom meeting on July 13 – 14. We will be meeting at Bethel LC in Rochester so that we can attend the zoom meeting together.

Minnie Dunbar (Blue Earth River)

Judi Mickelson (Cannon River)

Sharon Northouse (Zumbro River)

Pamela Groves-Gaggioli (Cannon River)

Julie Schreifels (Cannon River)

Kathy Bolin (President, Zumbro River)

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.

Notes from Your Vice President

By Mona Skare

Welcome to our Spring Market and Coffee Shop! This fundraising event is now held each May by the women of Bricelyn Lutheran Church (BLC).

The idea arose partially from a brief note in our local newspaper reminding readers that in the fall of 1973 (!) the women of BLC sponsored a “Country Store” featuring baked goods, a crafts presentation, Christmas gifts, and a “Kloset Korner” of bedding and Norwegian foods; and then while cleaning the church kitchen in 2024 we found several very large cooking pots that were no longer used. Perhaps we could sell them? From there creative ideas started to fly, and the idea of a fundraiser “market” was born. We voted in April of 2024 to sponsor such an event and did so the following May 17th!

Each year our Spring Market and Coffee shop is held on or around May 17th - Syttende Mai (Norwegian Constitution Day) - a day that continues to be celebrated each year in our country and in Norway. People are welcome to join us between 9 and 11 the morning of our Market. We serve “egg coffee”; a Norwegian treat such as Scandinavian waffles, rommegrot or Norwegian rice; coffee cake; and fresh fruits. Each guest selects from our menu and pays accordingly.

We ask community members to donate gently used household and garden items, which are displayed and priced for sale. The less desirable large cooking pots that first year, as well as donated roasters and tea kettles, were planted with flowering annual plants – a big hit! We’ve been encouraged to offer more planted items each year, so we’re fortunate that Bricelyn has a lovely flower and garden shop.

Thrivent Action Team approved applications help us fund the Market and Coffee Shop, allowing us to purchase grocery items for the baked goods, fruits and coffee, plants and potting soil. All proceeds are given to our mission support organizations – our local food pantry, ELCA World Hunger, LWR, Good Earth Village, Lutheran campus ministries, Lutheran Disaster Relief fund, Connections Shelter Church and others. We have raised over \$1000 each year during this fundraiser! Items remaining are first offered for half-price during the following Sunday coffee hour and later packed up and donated to a local charity shop that supports the needs of our local communities.

Continue on page 6

Notes from Your Vice President

By Mona Skare

Continue from page 5

The Spring Market and Coffee Shop brings community members – and others – together for fellowship, food and fun! Tables for the coffee shop are decked out with Norwegian items, and the display tables with items for sale are decorated brightly with vintage kitchen tablecloths. This event is certainly one of our favorites, as it's a happy, joyful, colorful – and successful - day!

Our Spring Market & Coffee Shop this year will be held on Saturday, May 16th from 9-11.



Note from the Secretary

By Terri Hanson

The SWO Board met in Kasson on March 3 with leaders from the five conferences to share updates and plans for the Spring Events. Board members present included Kathy Bolin, Mona Skare, Diane Linbo Jane Rinehart (CRC), and Terri Hanson. Conference representatives included Lynda Everhard, BERCC, Carol Preissner, ZRC, Linda Sandborg, MNRC, Elsie Olson and Rae Evenson, RRC. Those present reacted favorably to the draft job description of Conference Liaison (described elsewhere in this newsletter).

During the SWO Board meeting which followed the conference planning session, options for the 2027 SWO program were discussed. Gaye Lindfors will be speaker, if she is available, and project ideas were discussed; something in support of vulnerable youth may be identified, in line with Memorial 3: Calling for the Safety and Protection of Our Children.

Kathy Bolin and Terri Hanson volunteered to host a display table at the March 14 Councils as Leaders meeting; this minimized the need for a presence at Synod Assembly. Board members will attend Spring Events where possible and host display tables. The Board will meet again on August 3 in Owatonna.

New Board Job Description: Conference Liaison

This is a draft; we share it at this time mainly to call attention to the last item and to encourage you to reach out to your conference liaison with an invitation to visit your church community!

- Lead the Installation of Officers at the Spring Conference.
- Be present at a SWO display table at the conference.
- Write notes of thanks to the host congregation and event planners and, as contact person with SWO, be responsible for other communications with the conference as needed.
- The Liaison is encouraged to visit at least one congregation in the Conference either on a Sunday morning or at a local WELCA meeting or some other event, as a way for the SWO Board to reach out to the members in the conference.

Respectfully submitted, Terri Hanson, Secretary

Social Justice

By Cherie Haas

The last time I wrote was to introduce myself and to discuss justice in terms of the immigrants who live among us. I wrote just before Operation Metro Surge that made this issue a critical one in our state. So before I continue, I need to say that although the surge is over, ICE detentions are not and this is still a critical issue in Minnesota and across the country, anywhere that detention centers like Whipple in Minneapolis and Dilley in Texas are still operating under horrendous living conditions. Continue to contact your representatives about ending ICE detention centers or at least calling for humane living conditions there and due process for all.

Now I'd like to focus on meaningful social justice ministry we can all do in our own little corners of the world. Especially since COVID and the advent of more remote methods of communication, we have many more people than ever who are lonely. Many of these people are shut-ins, older people or those with disabilities who are unable to drive or get out on their own. Or older people whose spouses, immediate family members, and friends have all passed and they feel like they've been left alone. There are also those facing crisis who feel alone in decisions they need to make.

I recently joined members of my church's social justice committee at another local church to learn about a program they call Caring Friends. This program pairs fully vetted church members with those identified as needing a caring friend. This friend will be the consistent visitor they can count on to stop by every month for an hour to visit. Or maybe there's a temporary situation going on where someone needs a friend to lean on for a while until a crisis passes.

Whatever the situation is, this program gives us a chance to become Christ's hands and heart to someone else at a time when they need it.

Some of the ways this program has been used include birthday calls (a phone call or visit for milestone birthdays or all birthdays of 80+ years), anniversary calls (a phone call, visit or card on parishioners' first anniversary of joining your church), and monthly communion visits to those unable to get out to church. These are in addition to regular monthly visits to people in their homes or care centers for caring concern and friendship. Some Caring Friends pick their adopted friend up for weekly Bible study at the church or take them out for a monthly lunch.

Are there other programs that similarly provide friends for those who need one? I am reminded of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program that serves a similar purpose for young people who need an additional adult role model in their lives. Programs such as this give a framework and training to those who volunteer and support for dealing with the variety of situations that can arise. Whether we join a program such as this or volunteer on our own, we can all be Christ's hands and feet and caring hearts to others around us.

On one more note for this issue, a community-wide effort to be Christ's hands and heart for others is happening in a few weeks in Owatonna

where I live. Project Community Connect is an event at which a variety of service providers set up tables and booths to share their services with the public. The public can come and receive free haircuts and manicures, dental evaluations, transitional housing information, mental health connections, and a variety of other resources, goods and services. This will be happening at the Four Seasons Center in Owatonna on April 29 from 12-4pm. Another way to be Christ's hands and heart!

Matthew 25:40 (NIV) – "The King will reply, Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."



MINNESOTA RIVER CONFERENCE SPRING EVENT



Ladies of Minnesota River on Saturday, April 11th at St. John Lutheran Church, Mapleton, MN.



Minnesota River greeter April 11

SPRING
FUN
FOR
GROWING
FAITH

BLUE EARTH RIVER CONFERENCE SPRING EVENT

The Blue Earth River Conference Spring Event was held in Wells at Good Shepherd Lutheran. Women from a half dozen congregations attended, along with Mona Skare and Terri Hanson from the SWO Board. Fred Snyder, Companion Services program director, LSS; Makaila Bangs, Program Manager, Good Earth Village, and Sarah Suskovic, Crossroads Campus Ministry board member had displays and gave temple talks. A wonderful program of music and history by Rachel Christensen, Healing Harps, was followed by the installation of officers.



Rachel Christensen



Mona Skare and Terri Hanson from the SWO Board



Fred Snyder



ROOT RIVER CONFERENCE SPRING EVENT



Keynote Speaker Linda Lind, on The Plants of the Bible, an excellent program.

Ladies gathered at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Houston, MN on Saturday, April 18



Karla Bloem, Director of the International Owl Center located in Houston MN with Pierce, one of the center's educational owls. Karla and Pierce were fun, educational and well received.



Garden Flutes trio provided beautiful music.

ZUMBRO RIVER CONFERENCE SPRING EVENT



Pastor Anna Ferro leading communion



Keynote Speaker Pastor Shelley Cunningham

Lutheran Social Services Quilt and Kit Projects

Many of our churches have donated quilts and kits to Lutheran World Relief (lwr.org/kits) and Global Health Ministries (ghm.org/service-projects). Now another Lutheran nonprofit, Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota, is seeking similar kits to distribute to local people in need. This includes families and teens moving from homelessness to stable housing; foster care providers; adults with disabilities; and children in crisis care. LSS has offices in St. Paul, Rochester and Mankato. The LSS Service Projects include hygiene kits, toddler supplies kits, welcome home kits, self-care kits, and menstruation kits. Project details are given in the LSS Service Project Guide.

To find out more about the LSS Service Projects and to get a copy of the guide booklet, contact the LSS Community Engagement Team at 651-236-8612 (you can leave your contact information and they will call you back), or email them at CommunityEngagement@lssmn.org. LSS says, "We want to make sure your time and donations are put to good use and that your service project experience is seamless from start to finish. Coordinating with LSS ahead of your project ensures success."

CANNON RIVER CONFERENCE SPRING EVENT

The Cannon River Conference Spring Event took place at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Welch on Saturday, April 25th. The morning began with registration at 8 a.m. as the attendees could enjoy breakfast treats and coffee, renewed friendships and visit tables set up by Good Earth Village, Crossroads Campus Ministry (Mankato) and Lutheran Campus Ministry (Winona) as well as a SEMN SWO staffed by Jane Rinehart. Love Offering of school supplies for Village Partnerships for Education and baby products and clinic supplies for First Choice were accepted.

At 9 a.m. the morning business portion of the day began with Devotions given by Pastor Alison Bondy, history of Cross of Christ Church given by Janet Daley and the greetings from SEMN SWO was given by Jane Rinehart.

The question of should the Conference continue with a board format or change to a Leadership team format for the future was put before the attendees. A lively discussion brought up several areas of concern and ideas for going forward as a conference. A vote was taken and the decision to change to a Leadership team format was passed. Work will be done in the upcoming year to work out the details of how the Leadership team will function. Members of this 2026-2027 Leadership Team will be representatives from Cross of Christ Lutheran Church (as the 2026 conference host) and First Lutheran of Red Wing (as the 2027 conference host). Marilyn Calcutt will continue as the Conference Contact.

The business portion of the meeting ended with the singing of the hymn "For the Healing and Wholeness of the World", which was commissioned by St. John's Lutheran Church of Northfield, for the anniversary of WELCA.

After a break, the group reconvened with temple talks by representatives from Good Earth Village, First Choice, Lutheran Campus Ministry-Winona, Crossroads Campus Ministry-Mankato. Each organization gave updates of their organization.

The keynote speakers of the morning were Bruce and Brenda Blair who have been going to Sierra Leone, Africa for 10 years! A new education partnership developed between the Blairs and the village of Mondema and has resulted in ongoing education and learning.

Marilyn Calcutt, Cannon River Conference

Conference Structure Changes:

All five conferences have now adopted the new structure of having a “*Leadership Team*.” Gone is the day of Conference Board positions with terms. No more convener, nominating committee, treasurer and secretary positions. The *Leadership Team* is a group of women from the congregation that will host the next year’s Spring Event. This team plans the Spring Event with the help of the previous year’s main Leadership Team contact. For instance: The main contact for the 2026 Zumbro River Spring Event was Carol Preissner. She had a group of women from Zumbro LC help plan the 2026 Spring Event. Carol will now help guide the *Leadership Team* at Our Savior’s LC in planning the 2027 Spring Event. In 2027 the main contact at Our Savior’s LC will help the 2028 host church plan the 2028 Spring Event. So, there are no terms for positions just finding a group in your congregation that is willing to host the Spring Event one time and then help the next year’s host church with any questions or assistance they need. So far this has been working well. The results of this new structure have been that there have been Spring Events in all five conferences the past two years. Prior to that only 3 of the conferences were able to have Spring Events and the Synodical Board was hearing that these conferences still wanted to gather as a conference. They missed the fellowship with the other congregations in their conference. If you have any questions, please contact me, Kathy, or the Primary Conference Contact listed in the River Channels.



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.”

Psalm 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

**Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention
July 16 – 19, 2026, Des Moines, Iowa
2026 Triennial Convention Bus**

Thinking about the trip to and from Des Moines, Iowa? An option may be to take a chartered bus to the Triennial Convention. This option allows you to travel to your hotel on July 16, and return home on July 19. The two suggested hotels in the convention materials charge a parking fee ranging from \$14.00 to \$30.00 per day. Counting three days at the minimum, those fees add up.

If there is enough interest, we will charter a 50-passenger bus to pick up passengers starting in Lake City, and then onto Red Wing, Cannon Falls, Northfield, Owatonna and Albert Lea, Minnesota. The bus would leave Lake City on July 16, at approximately 7:30 a.m. and then stop at each of the cities listed above, arriving in Des Moines, Iowa, early Thursday afternoon. The bus would return to Minnesota following the Sunday Worship Service. More pick-up and drop-off information (time and locations) will follow.

A round-trip fee of **\$110.00** will be charged. If you are interested in riding the bus to the convention, please **register by emailing Judi Mickelson (email below)**. Registration will be first come first served, for up to 50 people, with **payment due by March 30, 2026**. **You must register by email to Judi Mickelson to hold your seat on the bus, then send payment as listed below.**

Send registration form and check to:

Make Check payable to:

Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization

Mail to:

Judi Mickelson, 1138 East Avenue, Red Wing, MN 55066

Email: jmickels1975@gmail.com

Questions may be directed to:

Judi Mickelson, 651-764-3575
First Lutheran Church, Red Wing, MN

Doris Gruber, 651-764-1319
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

Bus Registration Form

Name _____ Phone # _____

Church Name _____

Pick-up City Location _____

Email Address _____



Thrivent Action Grants Update:

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>

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 us 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

2027 SWO CONVENTION

“Anticipating God’s Abundance”

The Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization has chosen the following Lutheran Social Service in Minnesota Programs for 2026 - 2027. Project goal \$9,000 or more!

SAFE HARBOR - focuses on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Trafficking

BASIC CENTER - supports 16 - 17 year old youth who are homeless and at risk of homelessness

STAY IN COMMUNITY - serves 18 years aging out of the Foster Care Network and provides support and guidance so they may remain in healthy communities

These programs all serve the SEMN Synod areas and support the WELCA's Memorial "Calling for the Safety and Protection of Our Children."

All funds will be equally distributed to these programs at the 2027 Southeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Convention (September 18, 2027 Mount Olive Lutheran Church Rochester).

Please make checks out to SEMN SWO with "Abundance Project" in memo line. Send to: Diane Linbo, 402 15th Ave NW; Kasson MN 55944

**"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."
John 10:10**

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Ingathering Location and Dates for LWR Quilts

Other locations can be found at <https://ingathering.lwr.org/>

- Albert Lea area LWR Quilt Ingathering
First Lutheran Church
301 W Clark Street, Albert Lea, MN 56007
May 16, 2026, 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
as of now, the Fall Ingathering will be Oct. 10, 7 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Contact: Julie Gilbertson, 507-402-9061 (cell)
email: grandmajulie40@gmail.com
- St. Paul LWR Warehouse
398 # Richmond Street, South St. Paul, MN 55075
Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 4 pm. Call to verify hours before coming.
Closed Friday - Sunday, but may drop off donations in a shed.
Office phone: 651-457-9009
- Good Shepherd Evangelical Church
4141 Mormon Coulee Road, La Crosse, WI 54601
date for fall is Oct 10, 2026, from 7am to 11am
contact: Jim Below, 608-788-8408, jbelow@gmail.com



1st Quarters Treasurer's Report

Women of the **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

Quarterly Report February 1, 2026 - April 30, 2026

Income:

Unit Offerings:	
Blue Earth River	\$ 390.50
Cannon River	
Minnesota River	
Root River	\$ 200.00
Zumbro River	<u>\$ 1,616.00</u>
Total	\$ 2,206.50

Interest	\$ 0.15
Newsletter Subscriptions	\$ 20.00
SWO Conv. Exp. Fund	\$ 65.00
Church Women United	<u>\$ 35.00</u>
Total	\$ 120.15

Conference Income

BE Mailed In Off.	\$ 55.00
Blue Earth Offering	\$ 870.00
Blue Earth Registration	\$ 170.00
Root Offering	\$ 866.00
Root Registration	\$ 795.00
Minnesota Offering	\$ 802.00
Minnesota Registration	\$ 595.00
Balance Thrivent	\$ 66.34
Minnesota Assembly	\$ 250.00
Zumbro Offering	\$ 2,104.00
Zumbro Registration	\$ 1,530.00
Cannon Off. & Reg.	\$ 1,042.00
Cannon Mailed In	<u>\$ 100.00</u>
Total	\$ 9,245.34

Balance Feb. 1, 2026	\$ 13,976.56	
1st Qtr. Income	<u>\$ 11,571.99</u>	
Total Income	\$ 25,548.55	
1st Qtr. Disbursements	<u>\$ 6,044.79</u>	negative
Balance April 30, 2026	<u>\$ 19,503.76</u>	

Disbursements:

50% Unit Offering CWO Feb. - Apr \$ 1,103.25

SWO Board Expenses:

Mileage	\$ 462.15
Newsletter Expense	\$ 417.58
Postage	\$ 5.99
Office Supplies	\$ 34.71
Name Badges	\$ 91.53
Board Mtg. - Lunch	\$ 62.79
Printing - Kathy	\$ 50.00
Church Women United	\$ 35.00
Reg. Council Leaders	\$ 20.00
Triennial Offering	\$ 500.00
Triennial Servants Events	<u>\$ 300.00</u>
Total	\$ 3,083.00

Conference Registration

Root River Conference	\$ 30.00
Minnesota Conference	\$ 15.00
Zumbro Conference	<u>\$ 15.00</u>
Total	\$ 60.00

Conference Expense

Blue Earth Expense	\$ 361.20
Minnesota Expense	\$ 770.86
Zumbro Expense	\$ 1,144.00
Root Expense	<u>\$ 625.73</u>
Total	\$ 2,901.79
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 6,044.79</u>

Money Market Account

Balance Feb. 1, 2026	\$ 2,346.04	
Interest	<u>\$ 0.13</u>	
	\$ 2,346.17	
New Computer	<u>\$ 1,640.69</u>	<u>negative</u>
Monthly Maintenance	<u>\$ 20.00</u>	<u>negative</u>
Balance April 30, 2026	\$ 685.48	

Happy Spring & Summer!
"New Beginnings"

A brand new day, a moments cheer, our long awaited spring is here.
With the gentle warmth of the sun's embrace to put a smile upon your face.
The gardens start to come alive as winter chills, they did survive.
The smallest buds began to grow, preparing for a dazzling show.
The days grow longer, brighter too, to lighten the way for me and you.
Spring really helps the way we feel to nurture our senses like a hearty meal.
Like new beginnings that's what they say, a zest for life with skies less grey.
A chance to shed our winter woes, to see what the road ahead bestows.
For Spring has sprung, and life feels brighter, our hearts feel lighter.

By Maxine Bailey

This poem pretty well sums it up, spring is here, but our temperatures sure do not feel very spring like. Hopefully, when you read this the weather will be much warmer!! When you have to attend grandson's baseball games in winter coats, that means it is cold!!!

I attended 3 of the 5 conferences this spring. Again, great speakers, special music, and of course we always get the best food!! Thank you to those that planned these events. It is greatly appreciated!!

Thanks again for sending your officer updates. Please continue with your unit offerings too. These are so important for a source of income for us as a synod, and also for churchwide.

Speaking of money, we as a board decided to raise the Convention Expense Fund from \$10.00 a year to \$20.00 a year. Convention costs are rising too. Speakers, special music, and having great food for those attending. Thank you in advance.

Diane Linbo 402 15th Avenue NW Kasson, MN 55944
linboins@gmail.com / semntreas@gmail.com
Home: 507-634-6602 Cell: 507-261-4141

Southeastern Minnesota Women of the ELCA

P.O. Box 33

Kiester, MN 56051

641.420.8126

minniedunbar@gmail.com

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