

Newsletter of the La Crosse Area Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Classified: Volunteer Needed: Crosswinds Editor

Description: Publish Crosswinds quarterly and email or postal mail to recipients; issues go out March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1

Requirements: able to communicate and work closely with the La Crosse Area W-ELCA Synodical Board members; meet deadlines; communicate with the Synod Office; communicate with units and conference reps and coordinators in the four conferences about upcoming events; be proficient in Microsoft Publisher or Word

Benefits: work with a great group of women who love Our Lord and one another

For more info and/or to volunteer: contact any board member or Mona

W-ELCA Purpose Statement

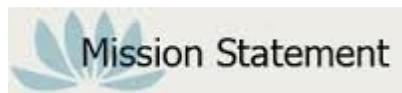
As a community of women
 created in the image of God,
 called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,
 and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
 we commit ourselves to
 grow in faith,
 affirm our gifts,
 support one another in our callings,
 engage in ministry and action, and
 promote healing and wholeness
 in the church, the society, and the world.

*I have been the Crosswinds Editor since March 2016. I've enjoyed being the editor and working with all of you wonderful women; but, after much prayerful thought, the September issue will be my last issue. I'm not able to meet the deadlines and the time I'm able to work on the Crosswinds is between 10pm and 2am. Sometimes I think I can keep being editor as it is very rewarding. But, as I'm finishing up this issue after midnight, 22 days after it should have been sent, I know realistically, I can't be the editor any longer. Thank you for all the support and kind words I have received these past four years.
 With peace and love, Mona*

Upcoming La Crosse W-ELCA

Synodical Board Dates

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| August 5, 2020 | Board Meeting, Annex, 5:00pm |
| August 15, 2020 | Crosswinds Articles Deadline |
| September 1, 2020 | Crosswinds Mailed Out |



To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear ladies across the region of the La Crosse Area Synod

Here it is, June. The date planned for the 2019 WELCA Spring convention has past, synod assembly scheduled for this month postponed until some unknown time, circles and conference gatherings and events cancelled, triennial convention and gathering scheduled for July has been postponed, and yet we continue to follow recommendations for respectful distancing from one another, embracing social mediums for worship, Bible studies, meetings, etc., looking forward to a time when these postponed events can occur.

The La Crosse Area Women of the ELCA are planning for the 2021 convention to be held on April 17th at Our Savior's in La Crosse. An important matter to be thinking about will be the election of board members – 1 year terms for Vice President, Secretary, East, West & at Large Representatives; 2 year terms for President, Treasurer, South & North Representatives. I am addressing this now with a plea that if any of you know of someone you would like to nominate (with that person's permission) or if you yourself would consider serving in this capacity, let any of the current board members know now.

Hopefully the board will be able to meet in person for our August 5th meeting and since our convention will be covering 2 years, the current board will need to start revamping plans for a "new" convention.

At this time, the Fall Renewal and Workshop event is not being planned. Things may change after our August 5th board meeting. If so, I will send out a note, but also watch for any WELCA changes or updates on the weekly synod update. If you don't receive this email update, contact Melanie at the synod office, 608-788-5000, to be put on the emailing list.

One last thing - regarding the Triennial Gathering: It has been postponed until August 5-8, 2021. If you were registered for the 2020 Gathering and are able to attend in 2021, no actions needed. Registrations are open for the 2021 Gathering. See a flyer included in this issue. If you were registered for 2020 and are unable to attend, your registration can be transferred to someone else as a donation or reimbursement between each other, or refund less \$20 processing fee by email info@frameworkmeetings.com or call 208-502-1150 leaving a detailed message. Must be taken care of by June 30th. If you have difficulty regarding the registration process, call or message me at 608-542-0652.

These have been tumultuous times for us social creatures, but by the Grace of our loving God, we can look forward with hope and joy for the dawn of new days. Love and God's peace.

Jo Ann

HERE'S WHAT SOME OF OUR SYNODICAL BOARD MEMBERS HAVE BEEN KEEPING BUSY WITH DURING THIS SAFE-AT-HOME COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

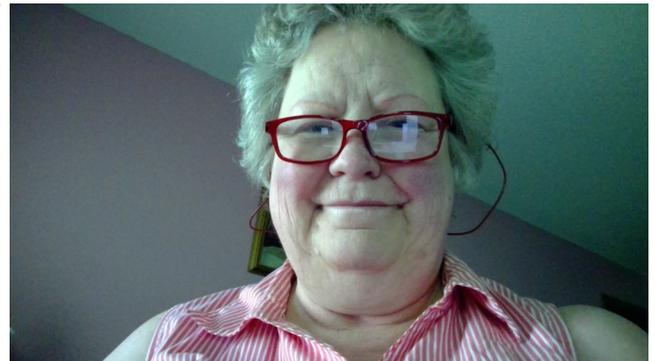
Our Synodical VP, Bette Keehner shared, “My husband and I have been trying to call a couple different people every day, especially those that are alone and have no one to talk to on a daily basis. Our church also formed a Caring Committee, which I am a member of. Each of us on the committee call 10 - 12 members about every 2 weeks to visit, see how they are doing, if they need anything we can help them with, or just to listen to them. Very nice way to keep in touch with our members.”

Bette also wrote, “I thought of something else I have gotten accomplished during this pandemic. I have written a book. I have been thinking about this for a long time, and the pandemic gave me the opportunity to really work on it. It will go to the printer soon.”

Our Synodical Board Secretary, Pastor Joanne Richmond (below left) shared, “Here’s a photo of me creating a prayer picture. I color the picture. As I color, I pray for the person I intend to mail the picture to. Then I mail the picture with a note telling them all of the different things I prayed for them as I colored. I have been sending these to my nieces and nephews and their spouses and children. They all love getting them.”



Our Synodical Board West Conference Coordinator, Sue Staples (below right) shared, “Something I have done is to take a pot of coffee to a friend’s house. We are to sure to mask up, social distance so neither is downwind, drink coffee and talk. (In my case with Bunco, it’s usually eat, drink and talk smart. But we haven’t been able to do that either). My photo is wear red for Pentecost, May31, at church, livestream of course. I sure do miss being with my church family! Of course people know that we eat at OSLC, I miss that, too.”



The following information is from the W-ELCA Churchwide in Chicago.

WHAT IS AN ACTIVE UNIT?

A unit must commit to four items in order to be recognized as active:

1. Come together for study, support, and action.
2. Participate in the ministry of W-ELCA beyond the congregation.
3. Support financially the total program of W-ELCA.
4. Designate leadership that shall be in communication with the synodical and Churchwide women’s organization.

DEAR FRIEND IN CHRIST

Want to sustain the community that is a hallmark of Women of the ELCA? Then join Dear Friend in Christ, a unique letter-exchange project to which all participants are invited.



How does it work?

1. Write a letter. Use the "Dear Friend in Christ" salutation. Fill a page or two, however you are inspired. Among other things, please share your thoughts on these questions: How is your faith in Jesus Christ sustaining you during the global pandemic? What words of encouragement can you offer the person who receives your letter?
2. You can handwrite or type the letter.
3. You could include a drawing, a photo, or a recipe, anything that fits into an envelope.
4. Offer up a prayer for the recipient.
5. You may include your mailing address in the letter if you do not wish to remain anonymous.
6. Print and sign the Dear Friend in Christ release form. If you don't have access to a printer, please use our online form. We cannot exchange letters without a release.
7. Mail your letter and signed release form to Dear Friend in Christ, Women of the ELCA, 8765 W Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631. Deadline for mailing letters to the churchwide organization is October 15, 2020.

What else do I need to know?

When you write to Dear Friend in Christ, your letter will be swapped with a letter from another writer. They will get your letter; you will get their letter. The exchange is anonymous (unless you provide your contact information), so you can share as little or as much information about yourself as you like. Dear Friend in Christ is open to all participants, although writers under 18 must have parental consent. Download the release form.

Letters are paired at random, and we will try to match participants with someone in a different geographical part of the ELCA. Women of the ELCA staff read all letters before the exchange happens. Letters will be mailed to participants on a rolling basis, beginning in June 2020. We will continue exchanging letters received through All Saints Day, November 1, 2020.

Have you seen the W-ELCA Banner?

Our La Crosse Area Synodical Women of the ELCA banner has been missing for the past four years or so. It is most likely folded up and put away for good keeping at one of the Spring Convention or Fall Renewal locations, but then forgotten. If your church has hosted the Spring Convention or the Fall Renewal in the past 5 or 6 years, please take a look in your church closets/storage areas. It would be wonderful to be able to show the banner off once again. Please call or email a board member if you find it.

Dress yourself in Just Love wear

Order quality clothing from Lands' End with the Women of the ELCA and Triennial Gathering logo at:

<https://business.landsend.com/store/womenoftheelca/>



Still Wanted:



**Church plates to decorate the walls of the Synod Annex.
If you, someone you know, or your church has a plate of your church, please consider donating it to the La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA to hang in the Synod Annex.**

Upcoming Events

Please make copies of the attached flyers to use in your church newsletters, website, bulletins, bulletin boards, etc. to promote one another's events.

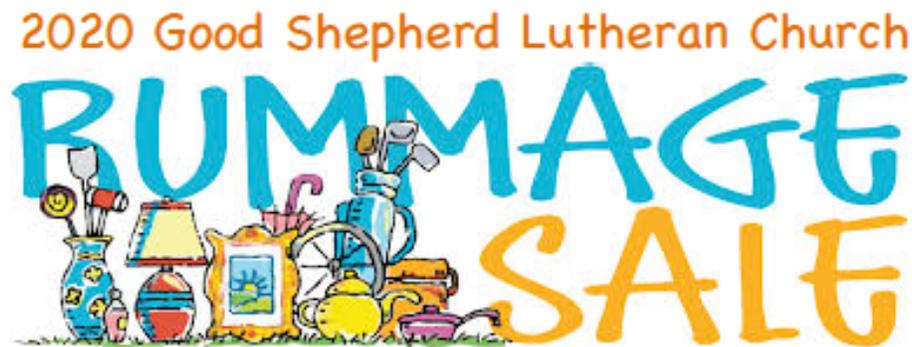
Submit your upcoming events to monavanriper@gmail.com so they can be in future Crosswinds.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH, LA CROSSE, IS AGAIN OFFERING THEIR ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE ON SATURDAY, JULY 25, FROM 9-2 IN THE MATTES CENTER, RAIN OR SHINE. A delicious lunch will be offered for \$5. It includes: a hot beef sandwich, chips, drink and dessert. Additional desserts are \$1. There will be the usual baked sale offered too. Rent a table for only \$10. You keep all your profits from your sale. Come shop all the deals, bring friends, have lunch and make a day of it. Please support us.

Sally Lindahl

Rummage Sale Chairman, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

sally@gslacrosse.org



4141 Mormon Coulee Road, La Crosse, WI 54601
Saturday, July 25, 2020 in the Mattes Center
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Join us and Shop with friends for a day of rummage fun! We are even offering a yummy lunch with:
A Homemade Hot Beef sandwich, chips a beverage and dessert for only \$5. Additional Desserts \$1.

SET-UP

Friday 1-6 p.m. and
Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

Contact: Sally Lindahl 608-799-0263



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Rummage Sale, Saturday, July 25, 2020, 9-2

The sale will be held on Saturday, July 25, 2020. We are offering tables for rent. You rent the table from us for \$10 ea. You can sell anything that fits on the table or under it and you keep all the money you make selling your items. We get only the table rent. Nothing may be dumped at church. If you bring it, you take it back home if it doesn't sell. Chairs will be provided. Early takedown is not allowed. The sale will be in the Mattes Center rain or shine. A hot sandwich, drink, dessert and chips lunch will be offered for \$5 Large bars for \$1 will also be offered again. Tables will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. Monies must be received in order for a table to be reserved. Set up will be from 1-6 p.m. Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday. Please contact Sally Lindahl at 608-799-0263 with any questions, or contact us by email at: sally@gslacrosse.org Monies raised are used towards the Holiday Raffle Basket costs.

DETACH AND RETURN LOWER PORTION ONLY

	YES! I plan to participate.
	Number of spaces desired. (\$10 per space, about 8')
	Number of chairs needed.

*Please complete all information

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Cell Phone:	
Other Phone:	
Email Address:	

Make checks payable to: **Sally Lindahl**, in the memo put: "for church rummage sale". Mail to: E2154 Hamburg Ridge Road, Stoddard, WI 54658, or drop at church in an envelope with Sally's name on it. **Monies are non-refundable in the event of seller cancellation.**

WE'VE MOVED



(DATES, NOT LOCATION)

We are moving this life-changing event to **August 5-8, 2021!** Join your sisters of faith in Phoenix for the Gathering 2021. Then begin living out your faith in new and invigorating ways.

August 5-8, 2021
Phoenix, Arizona

Visit welcatg.org for details and registration.



By now, you've probably heard the news. **The Just Love Triennial Gathering has been postponed to August 5-8, 2021**, due to the global coronavirus pandemic.

What do you need to do about your event registration? If you plan on joining your Lutheran sisters at the Just Love gathering at its rescheduled dates, August 5-8, 2021, no action is required. All tours and options will also be automatically transferred to the 2021 dates.

To make one of the following actions, email info@frameworkmeetings.com or leave a detailed message at 208-502-1150 and our registration provider will assist you.

1. If you can't make the 2021 event, you can transfer your registration to a friend.
2. If you can't make the 2021 event, you can donate your registration fee and any purchases you made, providing a gift to Women of the ELCA.
3. You can request a refund, less a \$20.00 processing to help cover fixed costs.

What do you need to do about your hotel reservations? Our two gathering hotels, the Sheraton and Hyatt Regency, have cancelled all 2020 room reservations and will be refunding deposits. We will provide you with the new links and the reservation phone numbers via email, as you will need to make new hotel reservations for the August 2021 dates.

What do you do about your airline reservation? Because of the coronavirus most airlines are offering travel credits for future flights. Contact your airline directly for assistance with flight changes or refunds.

While the gathering is postponed, our ministry continues. We're still mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Visit welcatg.org for updates. Stay tuned for a virtual gathering experience this July; more details to follow. Support the churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA with a gift today by donating here.

Thank you,

Lisa Plorin, President,
2017-2020 Triennium

Linda Post Bushkofsky,
Executive Director



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
AUGUST 5-8, 2021 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

**As of this printing, the Fall Renewal is not being planned,
BUT Save-the-Date, with hope:**



La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA

Fall Renewal

Saturday, October 17, 2020

First Lutheran, Onalaska

Updates will be sent via email and in the La Crosse Synod weekly updates email as soon as they have been decided.

Faithful Friends of Women of the ELCA,

Churchwide does a lot for us: bible studies, magazines, daily prayers, grants, and programs. They need our support to continue to make things happen. We are fortunate to have a Churchwide organization that saw at its conception, the importance of staying in touch with women from all of our Synods. Our by-laws require we hold a Triennial Convention and Gathering that costs \$1,000,000 alone.

They have created **Faithful Friends**. This is a recurring gift (\$10 or more) to them, either through your checking account or charged (\$10 or more) to your credit card. By this they hope to be able to meet all the requirements and missions that they do for us.

If you desire to be a part of Faithful Friends, you can do so by joining online at <https://community.elca.org/faithfulfriends> or contacting Mona for the paper form to join.

Thank you for your help.

Mark your calendars:

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA

Spring Convention

Saturday, April 17, 2021

Our Savior's, La Crosse

Look for more information in future Crosswinds.



NEW LWR FLEECE AND BULK SOAP POLICIES: WHAT KIT-MAKERS NEED TO KNOW

By: Janel Johnson-Momanyi, Feb 20, 2020

Taken from: https://lwr.org/blog/2020/new-lwr-fleece-and-bulk-soap-policies-what-kit-makers-need-know?utm_source=activecampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=qkmg_2020&utm_content=button

Lutheran World Relief recently released its 2020 Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide, which outlined changes to our guidelines regarding fleece blankets and bulk soap donations.

As of March 1, 2020, LWR will no longer accept bulk soap donations. As of May 1, 2020, we will no longer accept full-sized fleece blankets.

We realize you may have some questions about how these changes impact the work that you are doing, especially in light of the spring ingathering season. Here are some frequently asked questions we've received so far. If you have any questions that are not included below, please feel free to contact us.

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are some questions we've received about the changes in these guidelines. If you have a question that isn't listed here, feel free to contact us!

Why will LWR stop accepting bulk donations of soap after March 1, 2020? Recently there have been fewer requests for bulk soap donations by our partners. In 2019 there were no requests for bulk soap donations. Many partners are sourcing soap within their own country, which is good for local economies. Considering the reduced requests, we will stop collecting bulk donations of soap.

What is considered a bulk soap donation? A bulk donation of soap would be more than four bars of soap that are donated separately from kits. Bars of soap are still included in Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits.

Is soap still needed for Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits? Yes. Baby Care Kits & Personal Care Kits still need 2-3 bars of soap. This change only relates to the bulk donation of soap.

I have a bulk soap donation, what should I do with it? Please donate your bulk soap donation to a local shelter or another organization that can use it immediately. Also, if there is a group making Baby Care Kits or Personal Care Kits, they may welcome your contribution of soap.

Why will LWR stop accepting full-sized fleece blankets starting May 1, 2020? Our goal is to reduce the use of fleece as quickly as possible because of its effect on the environment.

Why is fleece bad for the environment? When fleece is washed, microfibers are released into the environment. The older fleece gets, the more it sheds. This can have a negative impact – particularly on water sources – in the places where we work.

Why donate the fleece blankets in the U.S. after May 1, but stop shipping to other countries?

In the United States we have wastewater treatment plants that aid in reducing the amount of microfiber buildup in our water sources, but we still find a buildup of microfibers here in the U.S.

Many of the communities we serve, however, don't have the same resources to assist with cleaning the water, so the microfibers are continuing to accumulate.

What if there's a fleece square on a quilt or a fleece liner inside a quilt—will those still be accepted? At this time, quilts that contain a few fleece patches or fleece liners will still be accepted, but we encourage using a different material in the future.

What if there's a baby cape or baby sweater made from fleece—will those still be accepted?

At this time, baby capes and baby sweaters made of fleece will still be accepted, but we encourage using a different material in the future. The receiving blankets in Baby Care Kits should always be made using cotton, flannel or lightweight yarn.

Will my fleece blankets be thrown in the trash after May 1st? No! We will continue shipping items until all items received before May 1st are processed. Items not shipped will be donated to local organizations.

What about the 60 x 80 store bought blankets—will those still be accepted? Yes! Hand-made quilts are still preferred because of the love that goes into them, but store-bought blankets measuring approximately 60" X 80" will still be accepted. Please pack blankets separate from Mission Quilts when shipping to Lutheran World Relief.

These changes are outlined in the 2020 LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry Guidelines. You can download a copy of or request a copy to be mailed to you by calling 800.597.5972.

THANK YOU! Your dedication, kindness, generosity and *hard work* are deeply appreciated. Thank you for working with us to ensure our gifts of love do the most good possible around the world.

Below are a couple different ways to purchase LWR School Kit Bags. You can choose from these, make them, or purchase from any vendor you prefer.



LWR SIZE SCHOOL KIT BAGS

Fair Trade Made in Bangladesh

100% cotton

20pcs = \$55*



With fair trade income earned at Motif, women are educating their own children and others' since 1998. When told of the LWR School Kit Bag Project Nasma said,

"You mean the bags we make are given to needy children for their school books? ... I can't think of any better work we can do!"

Feedback on the School Kit Bags:

- The cord is such good quality!
- The seams inside are finished so well!
- It's great to know we're helping kids with the kits and mothers with the bags!



Nasma & Rani with their great kids!

- * + S & H (USPS at cost)
- Blank for VBS, crafts & more!

For details contact Jackie Corlett
motif@motifltd.com 217 552 0537

LWR SCHOOL KIT BAGS

Is anyone in need of schoolbags?
Please contact Sue Staples at:
stap@centurytel.net, or 608-788-8249.



Have Ideas for future Crosswinds?

- W-ELCA history from your congregation?
- Recipes?
- Jokes/Humor?
- News to share?
- Upcoming Events?

If you have something you would like to share, please send it to Mona so she can put it in Crosswinds.

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Board Members

<p><u>PRESIDENT</u></p> <p>JoAnn Salava N5963 Davies Road New Lisbon, WI 53950 608-542-0652 jams@mwt.net St Stephen's, Camp Douglas Term through Spring 2021</p>	<p><u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u></p> <p>Bette Keehner 1920 E. Brunson St. Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 608-326-0572 rkeehner@centurytel.com St Peter, Prairie du Chien Term through Spring 2020</p>	<p><u>SECRETARY</u></p> <p>Pr. Joanne Richmond 1711 Lakeshore Drive La Crosse, WI 54603 608- 782-3468 pastor@oursaviors lutheranchurch.net Our Savior's, La Crosse Term through Spring 2020</p>	<p><u>TREASURER</u></p> <p>Mona Van Riper W5598 County Road D Holmen, WI 54636 608-526-2284 monavanriper@gmail.com Lewis Valley, Holmen Term through Spring 2021</p>
<p><u>EAST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Leslie Peterson N9692 2nd Ave Camp Douglas, WI 54618 608-542-0245 Lpete1994@hotmail.com St. Peter's Shennington Term through Spring 2020</p>	<p><u>WEST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Gretchen Jacobson 2510 Hass Street La Crosse, WI 54601 608-788-2080 gretchenspj@gmail.com Our Redeemer, La Crosse Term through Spring 2020</p>	<p><u>NORTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Jacqueline Joanis W21676 Red Fox Lane Trempealeau, WI 54661 608-534-6728 jjoanis@centurytel.net Zion, Galesville Term through Spring 2021</p>	<p><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Mary Connelly 306 E Park Street Westby, WI 54667 608-632-9125 duckconnelly@gmail.com Westby-Coon Prairie, Westby Term through Spring 2021</p>
<p><u>EAST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Anita Jensen 520 Central Avenue Sparta, WI 54656 608-269-2325 pconrth@yahoo.com Trinity, Sparta Term through Fall 2020</p>	<p><u>WEST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Sue Staples W5549 Southdale Drive La Crosse, WI 54601 608-788-8249 stap@centurytel.net Our Saviors, La Crosse Term through Fall 2020</p>	<p><u>NORTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Andrea Baxter 940 Linden Dr. #102 Holmen, WI 54636 608-788-3896 baxtera@gmail.com Halfway Creek, Holmen Term through Fall 2021</p>	<p><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Pat Fisher 54303A N. Elk Run Road Viola, WI 54664 563-580-7418 elkrun2@gmail.com Good Shepherd, Viroqua Term through Fall 2021</p>
<p><u>BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE</u></p> <p>Alice Olson 621 Kent Street Sparta, WI 54656 608-487-5409 Avon.alice@hotmail.com Trinity, Sparta Term through Spring 2020</p>	<p><u>LIAISON TO SYNOD ELCA</u></p> <p>JoAnn Salava N5963 Davies Road New Lisbon, WI 53950 608-542-0652 jams@mwt.net St Stephen's, Camp Douglas</p>		

About the Newsletter....

The Crosswinds is published by the La Crosse Area Synod – Women of the ELCA. The President (or contact person) and the Treasurer (or financial recorder) of each unit should receive an emailed copy. Please include any other interested parties' email addresses so they may receive an electronic copy of the Crosswinds. Send email addresses to monavanriper@gmail.com

Submission/Mailing dates for future Crosswind publications:

Submission of	Emailing to
Articles:	W-ELCA:
08/15/2020	09/01/2020
11/15/2020	12/01/2020
02/15/2021	03/01/2021
05/15/2021	06/01/2021

Please report your officer list yearly so that we can maintain a correct emailing list.

Subscription of printed Crosswinds are available for \$5.00 per year. Checks payable to La Crosse Area Synod WELCA and sent to Mona Van Riper, Treasurer, W5598 County Road D, Holmen, WI 54636.

Crosswinds Newsletter

stamp

Mona Van Riper, Editor

W5598 County Road D

Holmen, WI 54636

E-mail: monavanriper@gmail.com

To: