


Crosswinds



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

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.



Hello Wonderful Women of the ELCA,

I do believe that March came in like a lion this year! So it should go out like a lamb, right? I'm not sure where that saying came from, but I do know that Spring is on it's way - at least on the calendar.

A huge **THANK YOU to Pastor Gloria** for creating/editing the Crosswinds these past three years. You made the Crosswinds beautiful, alive, and full of information - with a woman pastor's gifted touch.

I was the Crosswinds editor from March 2016 - September 2020. And, I'm back. ☺ The break was much needed for me and Pastor Gloria very graciously took it over.

We've missed a couple issues in the transition, but this issue is full of updates and information! For those who pay to have a paper copy mailed to you, we're adjusting your subscription time so you won't pay for missed issues.

Peace & Love,
Mona Van Riper

Has it been a while since your church has hosted a Spring Convention or a Fall Renewal?

Please let our President, Anita Jensen, know if you are willing to host a future Convention or Renewal. Anita's contact information is on page 14.



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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings to all ladies in the La Crosse Area Synod!

Crosswinds is back! Hallelujah! Thanks be to God! Read it, enjoy, and respond!

Within the pages of this issue of Crosswinds you'll see the results of this year's mission work reflecting some of the numerous ways we care for our neighbors with the making of: quilts, health kits, personal care kits, baby kits and sewing kits. Additionally, meals are served, food pantries are manned, cookies are baked, and people are clothed; and the list goes on and on. THANK YOU for all the acts of kindness, compassion, and generosity you exhibit on a daily basis. I'm reminded of a Bing Crosby song that concludes, "It's not the things you do at Christmas time, but the Christmas things you do all year through." Women of the ELCA personify "God's work; our hands."

We'd like to thank everyone who attended Fall Renewal on Oct. 15 at First Lutheran in Onalaska. If you weren't there, you missed an amazing day. Though we muddled through some early glitches and had last minute changes (lunch in the narthex instead of downstairs), the day progressed with nary a hiccup. Many thanks to the ladies on the board who worked diligently to bring you the best we could offer. Here's what you missed.

Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz began our day with an interactive devotion which helped set the tone for the day: communicate and let the Spirit guide us. The ladies at First Lutheran were gracious, welcoming, and very hospitable, serving up a scrumptious luncheon.

Isaiah Thomas and Willow Pecha from the Salvation Army reminded us of the many good works performed across various spectrums of society by the army of volunteers and professionals ready to assist people in their time of need. Isaiah reminded us that the average Salvation Army organization score on Charity Navigator is 87%, which means that 87% of the money it receives goes directly into programs to benefit the needy. That is an awesome score!

Equally motivating was our afternoon speaker, Alice Holstein, who took us on the journey of her life, remarkable in its convoluted pathways and exceptional in its complexity. She led us from the halls of academia to the alleys of homelessness, mental illness, prison, and slowly into recovery. The standing ovation she received as she concluded her presentation was testament to her affect on the audience; she is a rock star in overcoming adversity. We thank her so much for sharing her story with us.

Sandwiched between those outstanding speakers was an update by Krishna Battista on the progress of Family Promise of Monroe County, whose mission is to help children and their families achieve sustainable independence. In December 2021, Tia Hewuse, a new executive director was hired; a Day Center was opened

PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED

in June of 2022, and a case worker, Jesse Todd, came on board in September. (February up-date: Tia has resigned, Jesse has become the executive director, and a new office administrator has been hired. Two families are currently in the program.) Within this structure, Family Promise is able to more efficiently attack homelessness in Monroe County.

During our group meetings, everyone seemed to enjoy the opportunity to share exciting, (and sometimes not so exciting) things that are going on at their churches. The theme of “building back” was in the air as congregations struggle to welcome people and programs back into existence after two years of covid-19 seclusion. Resilience, creativity, and persistence are just some of the characteristics being utilized by area WELCAs. “Show me your ways, O God. Guide me in your truth and teach me,” Psalm 25: 4-5. Ladies agreed that more time for conversations was needed!

Our Fall Renewal hosted 50 women, which was wonderful considering that 12 days before we had zero! Mark your calendars because on **April 29, 2023**, we will convene our **Spring Convention** at Blair Lutheran in Blair. Encourage ladies in your churches and community (WE WELCOME ALL!) to give themselves a present: a day of relaxation, education, good food, and fellowship. We want YOU to be there!

Also, within your WELCA groups please discuss the possibility of your church hosting an upcoming event. We currently need a Fall Renewal host, and of course locations for our two gatherings in 2024 as well. Let's look to the future! God is calling us, and it's up to us to answer that call. I'd be happy to answer any questions!
608-269-2325

Speaking of the future, this September 19 - 21, 2023, the 12th Triennial Convention and **this September 21-24, 2023, the 12th Triennial Gathering will be held in Phoenix, Arizona**. Are you planning to go? If you've never gone, but always wanted to, this might be the year to immerse yourself in a truly awesome experience of worship, fellowship, and growth.

The mission of Crosswinds is to communicate and educate. To this end, I'd invite everyone to access the La Crosse Area Synod website for Nov. 2, 2022, and read Bishop Felix Malpica's press release titled “Political But Not Partisan.” On the same page you can watch a video by Bishop Elizabeth Eaton regarding the same topic. This subject will be more fully explored by Pastor Joanne Richmond during our Spring Convention. I am proud that the ELCA has taken a strong stand against racism.

Hope to see you on April 29th! God's peace be with you all!

Anita M. Jensen

La Crosse Area Synod WELCA President

Mark your calendars:
La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA
Spring Convention
April 29, 2023
Blair Lutheran - Blair, WI



The registration form and other Convention information is in this Crosswinds.

We would love to have you mark your calendars for the 2023 Fall Renewal and the 2024 Spring Convention; BUT, **we need locations!**

If your women's group & church would like to host the 2023 Fall Renewal or the 2024 Spring Convention, please call or email our Synod W-ELCA President Anita Jensen. Her contact information is on page 14 of this newsletter.

Spring Convention In-Kind Offering

Our In-Kind Offering for this year's Spring Convention will go to the Salvation Army.

Please bring a quilt (one quilt per church) made by your church's quilting group. If you don't have a quilt to bring, a blanket would be great also.



One of our keynote speakers at the Spring Convention will be Pastor Joanne Richmond. Pastor Joanne, who is the pastor at Ours Saviors in La Crosse and is part of the Synod's Church in Society Committee, will be discussing "Being Lutheran and Being a Citizen."

Summary: Pastor Joanne will address the relationship between faith and citizenship, as lived by Lutherans in the United States. This relationship between faith and nation, church and state, exists in each of us while simultaneously being lived "out" in our daily lives. Current societal pressures, coming from all facets of political and religious life, confuse our thinking about faith and nation, church and state.

The purpose of this presentation: to engage in a conversation about citizenship in the context of Lutheran thought, most specifically a Lutheran understanding of baptism, with the hope of relieving any confusion we experience as we live as both baptized children of God and citizens.

Registration Form 2023 Spring Convention

April 29, 2023

Blair Lutheran Church

419 Urberg Avenue S Blair, WI 608-989-2818

8:00 am Registration

9:00 am Worship

3:30 pm Closing of Convention

Congregation Name _____ **Conference** _____

1) Name _____

Unit Officer? Y/N Title _____ Voting Member? Y/N

Food Allergies? Y/N If yes, which food(s)? _____

2) Name _____

Unit Officer? Y/N Title _____ Voting Member? Y/N

Food Allergies? Y/N If yes, which food(s)? _____

3) Name _____

Unit Officer? Y/N Title _____ Voting Member? Y/N

Food Allergies? Y/N If yes, which food(s)? _____

4) Name _____

Unit Officer? Y/N Title _____ Voting Member? Y/N

Food Allergies? Y/N If yes, which food(s)? _____

5) Name _____

Unit Officer? Y/N Title _____ Voting Member? Y/N

Food Allergies? Y/N If yes, which food(s)? _____

Daycare Needed? Y/N If yes, what age(s), are the children? _____

Registration cost is \$20 per person. Make checks payable to **La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA**. Send forms and funds to Jodi Anderson, W2875 Anderson Road, Mindoro, WI 54644 **by April 22, 2023**.

After April 22, registration may be made by telephone 608-857-3550 (please leave a message) or email jodidusty@gmail.com, payable at the convention.

BOARD OF THE SYNOD WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

There shall be a board of this synod women's organization consisting of four elected officers together with five elected members, four members elected from the territory of each conference and one elected at large. All board members shall be participants in a congregational unit and members of the ELCA.

Members of the board shall be elected by the convention for a term of two years with one consecutive re-election and may not serve on the board in any capacity for more than seven consecutive years.

The board shall be legislative authority between conventions of this synod women's organizations and shall carry forward the work of the synod women's organization, act for it and report its actions to subsequent conventions.

Board members shall attend all board meetings and all meetings of committees to which they have been assigned. They shall read and become familiar with all board and committee mailings prior to the meetings and be familiar with the budget. Board members shall attend synod conventions and workshops and shall perform the duties as assigned by the president or executive board.

Nominees are needed for the offices of President, Treasurer, North Conference Representative, and South Conference Representative for full two-year terms. A West Conference Representative is needed to fill a one-year term. Elections will be held at the Spring Convention on April 29, 2023.

LA CROSSE AREA SYNOD W-ELCA NOMINATION FORM FOR SYNOD BOARD

Nominees are needed for the offices of President, Treasurer, North Conference Representative, and South Conference Representative, for full two-year terms. Nominees are needed for the office of West Conference Representative for a partial one-year term. Elections will be held at Spring Convention on April 29, 2023. Job descriptions are on the following pages.

Nomination for the office of: _____

Name _____ **Church** _____

Home Address _____

Occupation _____ **Phone** _____

Church Participation:

Community Participation:

Completed nomination forms must be received by March 25, 2023, to be included in our convention booklet; however, nomination will be taken from the floor at convention.

Return nomination forms to Vice President Holly Anderson, 1111 E. Olson Street, Blair, WI 54616, or by email to hmanderson@gmail.com

1 Peter 4:10: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

THE PRESIDENT SHALL

1. Preside at all conventions of the synod women's organization and at meetings of the board and administrative committee;
 2. Ensure that the constitution and bylaws of the synod women's organization are duly observed and that the actions thereof are carried into effect, and appoint all committees not otherwise provided for;
 3. Be an ex-officio member of all committees of the synod women's organization except the Nominating Committee;
 4. Submit a report to each regular convention of the synod women's organization concerning her work, with observation and recommendations affecting the synod women's organization as she may deem important;
 5. Serve as liaison with churchwide women's organization and attend the meetings of the Conference of Synod Presidents;
 6. Represent the synod women's organization at or appoint representatives to inter-Lutheran and ecumenical associations and councils in which the organization participates; and
 7. Serve as representative to the Synod Council, or appoint a representative.
 8. Two-year term with one (1) re-election
-

THE TREASURER SHALL

1. Provide for the keeping of all records and be accountable for all funds;
2. Be responsible for disbursing funds in accordance with the financial policies of Women of the ELCA and the budget of the synod women's organizations;
3. Present a complete report, including an audit, to the synod women's organization convention and an interim report to each board and administrative committee meeting;
4. Attend Synod Women's Board meetings as a voting member; as well as Spring Convention and Fall Renewal;
5. Two-year term with one (1) re-election

THE CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES SHALL

- 1. Act as presiding officer of the Conference Committee**
 - 2. Attend Synod Women's Board meetings as a non-voting member. Four meetings per year held in La Crosse.**
 - 3. Act as a liaison between the individual units and the Synod Women's Board.**
 - 4. Work with the Synod Women's Board and Conference Committee to plan the Fall Renewal.**
 - 5. Plan with the Conference Committee, a special event for conference members. Conference programs could include retreats, a Bible study, a day trip, etc.**
 - 6. Insure any necessary business of the conference is conducted at the Fall Renewal and/or special event.**
 - 7. Submit articles to the synod newsletter, "Crosswinds" as appropriate.**
 - 8. Chair the nominating committee for conference officers.**
 - 9. Compile a notebook of minutes and events to give to your successor at the transition meeting.**
 - 10. Two year term with one (1) re-election.**
-

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.

2022 LWR Quilt and Kit Donations

North Conference	Quilts	Personal Care	School	Baby	Sewing
Bells Coulee Lutheran, Bangor	90		12		
Blair Lutheran, Blair	20	24		16	8
Christ Lutheran, Arcadia	98	100	115	500	15
French Creek Lutheran, Ettrick	16	30	33		
Hardies Creek Lutheran, Ettrick	34	15	26		
Lewis Valley Lutheran, Holmen		20	14		25
Living Hope Lutheran, Ettrick		89	80		
Mindoro Lutheran, Mindoro	50	12			
North Beaver Creek Lutheran, Ettrick	115	26			
Zion Lutheran, Galesville	280	43	47	54	25
(North Conference #)	703	339	313	570	48
East Conference					
St. Paul's Lutheran, Wilton	18	268	196		
St. Peter's Lutheran, Camp Douglas	26	35	28	18	
St. Stephen's Luth., Camp Douglas	100	23	32	45	
Zion Lutheran- Big Falls, Nekoosa	102	16	16	16	6
(East Conference #)	246	342	272	79	6
South Conference					
Brush Creek Lutheran, Cashton		17	37		
Good Shepherd Lutheran, Viroqua	50	281	142	37	7
Kickapoo United Lutheran, S. Grove		14	7		
North Coon Prairie Luth., Cashton		360	170	200	
Peace Lutheran, Readstown		35	26		2
Portland Lutheran, Cashton	9				
St. Peter Ev. Luth., Prairie du Chien	75	35	36		
Westby Coon Prairie Luth., Westby	23	68	100		
(South Conference #)	157	810	518	237	9
West Conference					
Good Shepherd Lutheran, La Crosse	28	35	38		
Immanuel Lutheran, Caledonia, MN	142	94	150	131	
Our Redeemer Lutheran, La Crosse	26		30		
Our Savior's Lutheran, West Salem	300	218	101		
Prince of Peace Luth., La Crescent, MN	109				
(West Conference #)	605	347	319	131	0
TOTAL:	1,711	1,838	1,422	1,017	63

Area churches also donated countless items to schools, graduates, food pantries, and other organizations serving those in need.

Thank you for your dedication and generosity!

March 2023

bold
connections

Women ^{of the} **ELCA** 

Excitement builds as registration opens for the Just Love gathering in Phoenix!



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
SEPTEMBER 21-24, 2023 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

Excitement is building for the **Just Love gathering** as we finally meet in person with our sisters.

Registration for the **Just Love gathering** scheduled for September 21-24, 2023, in Phoenix, Ariz. opens **March 1**.

This special in-person gathering is an opportunity to live out the message that the Rev. Angela Khabeb left us with in Minneapolis in 2017 and virtually in 2021, "Christianity is not comfortable. If you are comfortable in Jesus, you are doing it wrong."

We are different from the people we were in 2017 and 2021. Yet we know that as people of faith, we are still called to justice and love. It is up to us to carry this work forward.

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

Registration opens March 1.

Planning to attend the Triennial Gathering in September?

Please let one of the board members know so we can make plans as a group. Also, let them know your transportation preference - plane? (in air less than 4 hours); train? (almost 4 days); bus? (about 2 days); or private vehicle? (drive time 26 hours).

Registration for the Gathering is open!

Dress yourself in Just Love wear

Order quality clothing from Lands' End with the Women of the ELCA and 2023 Triennial Gathering logo at:

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



BOLD
WOMEN'S
DAY 2023

Celebrate Bold Women

Sunday, March 5



CELEBRATE THE BOLD WOMEN IN YOUR LIFE

Bold Women's Day—observed the first Sunday of March—celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their

service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality. Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others. It's all about living out our baptismal call, about being a disciple of Christ. Are you bold?

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY IS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2023

International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating gender parity. Significant activity is witnessed worldwide as groups come together to celebrate women's achievements or rally for women's equality. The 2023 theme is "Embrace Equity."



IWD is one of the most important days of the year to: celebrate women's achievements, educate and raise awareness for women's equality, call for positive change advancing women, lobby for accelerated gender parity, and fundraise for female-focused charities.



LWR SCHOOL KIT BAGS

THERE WILL BE SCHOOL KIT BAGS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE SPRING CONVENTION ON APRIL 29.

March 18, 2023 is National Quilting Day!

Thank you to all of our quilting women for the quilts that are made with love, laughter,



and great fellowship. You have kept 1000's and 1000's of people warm through the years.

Have Ideas for future Crosswinds?

W-ELCA history from your congregation?

Recipes?

Jokes/Humor?

News to share?

Upcoming Events?

If you have an event and/or something to share, please send it to Mona so she can put it in Crosswinds.

Upcoming Events??

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

Upcoming Events

Please advertise the events below 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.



St. Stephen's in Camp Douglas
Church
ANNIVERSARY
will be celebrating 150 years (plus 1 day)
as a congregation on July 16th.

On March 11th, we are having a
Spaghetti Dinner serving 4-7,
with proceeds going toward the celebration.
Tickets available by calling
JoAnn Salava, 608-542-0652.

Does your congregation have a food ministry?

WAFER food pantry, in La Crosse, gets more donations of bread and desserts than they can give away. If your congregation could use bread and desserts for a feeding ministry happening in your community, call WAFER (608-782-6003) to set up a time to pick up bread and desserts.

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Board Members

<p><u>PRESIDENT</u></p> <p>Anita Jensen 520 Central Avenue Sparta, WI 54656 608-269-2325 pconrth@yahoo.com Trinity, Sparta Term through Spring 2023</p>	<p><u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u></p> <p>Holly Anderson 1111 E. Olson Street Blair, WI 54616 608-864-1340 hmanderson0507@gmail.com Blair Lutheran Term through Spring 2024</p>	<p><u>SECRETARY</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 2024</p>	<p><u>TREASURER</u></p> <p>Jodi Anderson W2875 Anderson Road Mindoro, WI 54644 608-857-3550 jodidusty@gmail.com Mindoro Lutheran Term through Spring 2023</p>
<p><u>EAST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Louise Buchholz 25847 Minoan Avenue Wilton, WI 54670 608-435-6435 rlbuchholz@hotmail.com St Paul's, Wilton Term through Spring 2024</p>	<p><u>WEST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Representative Needed to fill the Term through Spring 2024</p>	<p><u>NORTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Dena Daffinson N22544 McConnell Lane Ettrick, WI 54627 608-525-5026 ddaffinson@aol.com North Beaver Creek, Ettrick Term through Spring 2023</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 2023</p>
<p><u>EAST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Alice Olson 621 Kent Street Sparta, WI 54656 608-487-5409 avon.alice@hotmail.com Trinity, Sparta Term through Fall 2024</p>	<p><u>WEST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Kay Snuggerud 5474 County 21 La Crescent, MN 55947 snugvale@acegroup.cc Prince of Peace, La Crescent Term through Fall 2024</p>	<p><u>NORTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Coordinator Needed</p> <p>Term through Fall 2023</p>	<p><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Coordinator Needed</p> <p>Term through Fall 2023</p>
<p><u>BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE</u></p> <p>Jacqueline Joanis W21676 Red Fox Lane Trempealeau, WI 54661 608-797-4089 jjoanis@centurytel.net Zion, Galesville Term through Spring 2024</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>	<p><u>CROSSWINDS EDITOR</u></p> <p>Mona Van Riper W5598 County Road D Holmen, WI 54636 608-526-2284 monavanriper@gmail.com Lewis Valley, Holmen</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 electronic copy. Please include any other interested parties' email addresses so they may receive an electronic copy of the Crosswinds also. Send email addresses to monavanriper@gmail.com

Please report your officer list yearly so that we can maintain an up-to-date email list.

Subscription of printed Crosswinds are available for \$5.00 per year. Checks payable to La Crosse Area Synod WELCA and sent to Jodi Anderson, Treasurer, W2875 Anderson Road, Mindoro, WI 54644.

Submission/Mailing dates for future Crosswind publications:

Submission of Articles:	Emailing to W-ELCA:
05/15/2023	06/01/2023
08/15/2023	09/01/2023
11/15/2023	12/01/2023
02/15/2024	03/01/2024

Crosswinds Newsletter

Mona Van Ripper, Editor

W5598 County Road D

Holmen, WI 54636

E-mail: monavanriper@gmail.com

stamp

To: