



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,

Are you ready for winter to be gone and spring to be here? I sure am! And, our Spring Convention on April 26, 2025, at St Stephen's Lutheran in Camp Douglas will be a great time to celebrate spring!

Our keynote speaker will be Pastor Karyn Bodenschatz, Associate Pastor at First Lutheran in Onalaska, WI. Pastor Karyn will talk with us about how Natural Family Systems can help us live more deeply into our calling to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.

We'll also have a speaker from churchwide with us at the convention. She will tell us about Katie's Fund.

This is a "must-attend" Spring Convention! You have to see St Stephen's women's bathroom. I've never seen one like it before; it is one-of-a-kind that you don't want to miss visiting!

See you in April!

Peace & Love,  
Mona Van Riper, Crosswinds Editor

#### On a sad note:

Carol Leopold passed away on 02/17/2025. Carol was part of the La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Board as Treasurer, Vice President, President, and Triennial Coordinator.

You can find her obituary online at [www.harefuneralhome.com/obituary/Carol-Leopold](http://www.harefuneralhome.com/obituary/Carol-Leopold)

Sympathy, prayers, and love go out to her family and friends.

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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Greetings and Lenten blessings to all women of the La Crosse Area Synod!

A journey that began rather reluctantly four years ago is about to come to a screeching end. Being president of the La Crosse Area Synod WELCA has been quite a learning experience, and one that I rejoice in having. Yes, REJOICE!! As in, "Thank you God for allowing me to work with an amazing group of women to help do your work here in this little corner of the world called the La Crosse Area Synod." Now it's time for another woman out there to be called by the Holy Spirit and step out boldly to serve as your president.

The opportunity to present robust speakers who will challenge and inform us has always been one of our goals. If you have attended Spring Convention or Fall Renewal during these past four years, you've felt the pain inflicted on Native Americans during Pastor Ben Morris's presentation, and the struggles and hope of their descendants on the Pine Ridge Reservation as told by Bonnie Anderson and Sarah Nesting. Pastor Joanne Richmond enlightened us on Christian nationalism and Alice Holstein amazed us as a survivor of a mental health crisis. Creation care, mission trips to Peru, Family Promise helping the homeless, Salvation Army supporting the needy, surprises of a jail chaplain, Pastor Libby personalizing LGBTQ+ issues, the list goes on and on. Your WELCA board strives to bring you the best!

Save the date...**April 26** for our up-coming **Spring Convention**. Though speakers are not finalized yet, we will strive to score a 10 once again! Programming is one thing, but we need people! We need candidates for **North and South Conference Rep**

positions, Terms for **president** and **treasurer** are up, and we have NO **Conference Coordinators**. The nominating committee will be making many calls, so please prayerfully consider joining an amazing group of women who will continue to do God's work here on earth. Many hands make light work, and our intent is to have two people on each ballot, so consenting to run doesn't mean you will be automatically elected! You will run and be willing to serve! Please say "Yes!" when you get that call!

Last year the Board decided to distribute the Katie's fund money we received from church wide to the 29 WELCA groups who do LWR mission work to support their continued efforts. Mission support has always been an important aspect of WELCA, and will certainly continue to be so, despite cuts to many agencies in response to government action.

"Let's get together, yah. yah. yah!" Those joyful words from Leslie Gore are meant to inform you that the board is planning a **synod wide WELCA river cruise** on the La Crosse Queen for **Sept. 20**. More details will be announced as they become available, but we want you to **SAVE THE DATE!**

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED

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Besides the afore mentioned vacancies, **three delegates** are needed for the **13th Triennial** which will be in **DES MOINES, 2026**. In an effort to reduce costs, the

Convention (business part) will be held **via Zoom on July 13 & 14**. The **in-person (Gathering) will be on July 16-19** in Des Moines. Google Maps says Des Moines is just 4 hours away, so I hope that many ladies will be excited to attend. Speakers and workshops feature world class presenters, so it's a wonderful opportunity to learn, grow, and make new friends.

A p.s. before we end: **in-kind offering** at Spring Convention will be **personal hygiene items** for the Camp Douglas food pantry.

It has been an honor and a privilege serving as your president these past four years. God is with us we go forth to serve Him and ALL his children. Thanks be to God!

In God's amazing grace,

Anita M. Jensen

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### TRIENNIAL CONVENTION VOTING MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

The Triennial Convention is the highest legislative authority in Women of the ELCA. Voting members, elected in the 64 synod women's organizations, conduct the business of the organization. They will elect leaders for the 2026-2029 triennium, consider proposed constitutional changes, act on memorials from synod organizations, act on resolutions from the floor, approve a budget, and much more.

Among the benefits of participating in Women of the ELCA, is the opportunity to have a voice in determining the activities and direction of the organization. Where we go and what we do as a churchwide organization will be shaped, in part, by the voting members.

The Triennial Convention will be via Zoom July 13, 2026 - July 14, 2026, which are just a couple days before the Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa on July 16 - July 19, 2026.

***The Triennial Convention Delegate (Voting Member) Nomination Form is on page 9 of this Crosswinds. Please prayerfully consider nominating someone (yourself maybe?) from your women's unit.***



**Fill out registration form & send it in!**

**La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA**

**SPRING CONVENTION**

**Saturday, April 26, 2025**

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church**

**215 Douglas St., Camp Douglas**

The registration form is on page 5 of this issue.



### **Spring Convention In-Kind Offering**

**Our In-Kind Offering for this year's Spring Convention will go to the Camp Douglas Food Pantry.**

**Even though it is called a food pantry, other personal care items are also greatly needed. Please bring Personal Care Items, such as pads/tampons, deodorant, body lotion, soap/body wash, shampoo, toothbrush & paste, lip balm, hand/baby wipes, hairbrushes, toilet paper...**



**La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA**

**FALL RENEWAL**

**Saturday, October 18, 2025**

**Location Needed: *If your church is in La Crosse or very near La Crosse, and your church women would like to host the Fall Renewal, please contact a board member.***

## 2025 Spring Convention Registration Form

April 26, 2025

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

215 Douglas Street Camp Douglas, WI 608-427-6592

8:00 am Registration & Fellowship

9:00 am Worship

2:30 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 14, 2025**.

**After April 14**, registration may be made by telephone 608-857-3550 (please leave a message) or email jodidusty@gmail.com, payable at the convention.

**This year, Nominees are needed** for the offices of President, Treasurer, North Conference Representative, and South Conference Representative for full two-year terms. Elections will be held at Spring Convention on April 26, 2025. Below and on page 8 are the job descriptions.

### **Officers in General**

1. The officers or leaders of each synodical women's organization may be a president, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer, a representative from each of the four conferences (North, South, East, and West), and a Board Member-at-Large, herein referred to as SWO leaders. Each shall be a voting member of an ELCA congregation and shall strive to be a participant in a unit.
2. These SWO leaders shall be elected by the convention to a term of two years. All shall be eligible for one reelection to the same position.
3. Upon completion of her term(s) as president, the president shall be ineligible for election as a SWO leader for two years.
4. No elected person shall serve as a SWO leader for more than seven consecutive years.
5. Should a vacancy occur among the SWO leaders, the board of the synodical women's organization shall fill the same until the next regular convention. The election by the convention shall be for the remainder of the unexpired term.
6. The terms of the SWO leaders shall begin immediately following installation, except that of the treasurer, which shall begin February 1 following election.
7. There shall be an executive committee consisting of the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, which shall act between meetings of the board of the synodical women's organization.

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### **THE CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVES SHALL**

1. Act as presiding officer of the Conference Committee
2. Attend Synodical Women's Board meetings as a voting member.
3. Act as a liaison between the individual units and the Synodical Women's Board
4. Work with the Synodical Women's Board and Conference Committee to plan the Fall Renewals.
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.

**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. Elections will be held at the Spring Convention on April 26, 2025. Job descriptions are on pages 6 & 8.

Nomination for the office of \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Church Participation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Community Participation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Completed nomination forms must be received by April 10, 2025, to be included in our convention booklet; however, nomination will also be taken from the floor at the convention.

**Return nomination forms to Vice President JoAnn Salava, N5963 Davies Road, New Lisbon, WI 53950, or by email to [jams@mwt.net](mailto:jams@mwt.net)**

*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.*



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

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**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**
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**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**



**LACROSSE AREA SYNODICAL WOMEN’S  
Triennial Convention Delegate Nomination Form  
Theme: “I Am Worthy”**

**Delegate to the 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention *via Zoom*  
July 13, 2026 - July 14, 2026**

Check as many as apply:

Under 35\_\_\_\_\_ Over 35 \_\_\_\_\_ First time delegate \_\_\_\_\_

Woman of Color or Primary Language other than English \_\_\_\_\_

The La Crosse Area Synod Women’s Organization has been allocated three delegates to the Triennial Convention. The President of the Synod Women’s Organization shall be a delegate to the convention by virtue of office; for a total of four delegates.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name & City of congregation she is a member of \_\_\_\_\_

Name of congregation unit submitting her name \_\_\_\_\_

Her involvement with the Women of the ELCA: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please ask the applicant to answer the following question and sign the application.

Why would you like to serve as a delegate to the Triennial Convention? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

The nominating committee will review this application.

**Please return this form by April 9, 2025, to:**

**Anita Jenson, 520 Central Avenue, Sparta, WI 54656**



## COOKIES ON CAMPUS NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

The tradition continues!!  
of bringing hundreds of  
cookies to UW-La Crosse  
each week throughout the  
school year.

Five hundred (about 42 dozen) cookies are needed  
each week.

Our synod congregations have lovingly provided  
home-baked goodies so students can have a little  
taste of home.

There are still cookie days available from  
March - May.

***The W-ELCA Triennial Gathering  
is scheduled for July 16-19,  
2026, in Des Moines, Iowa.***



july 16-19, 2026 ✨ des moines, iowa



**Your Synod Women's Board is planning an exciting, fun,  
delicious, and relaxing Synod-wide Summer Event.**

There will be a Special Edition Crosswinds coming out  
sometime after the Spring Convention with all the  
details.

**Mark your calendar and save September 20, 2025!**

Fellowship, food, fun!

### MARCH 15, 2025 IS NATIONAL QUILTING DAY!

At Lutheran World Relief, we have a LOT to celebrate!

For 80 years, compassionate people just like you have put  
their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around  
the world. And not just a few quilts — nearly 28 MILLION  
QUILTS!

These gifts of love make life brighter, softer, and a bit more  
comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with  
chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster and conflict.  
THANK YOU.

"Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love."

THANK YOU so much for all you do to make life better for  
others.

Every stitch created, every square chosen, from the batting to  
the ties - is a demonstration  
of God's love. We value and  
appreciate the love you have  
sewn and the generosity you  
have shown to our neighbors  
in need around the world.

Taken from: Celebrate National  
Quilting Day! | Lutheran World  
Relief <https://lwr.org/nqd>



Our Savior's Lutheran in La Crosse supports a  
consistent flow of individuals experiencing  
homelessness, with some attending Come for  
Supper, others seeking refuge from the rain, and  
some finding rest near our entrance. Our Savior's  
offers assistance within their means and  
capabilities. The most common request they  
receive is for blankets, and while they have some  
available, their supply of fleece blankets is  
dwindling. Therefore, **Our Savior's is reaching  
out for donations of new or gently used fleece  
blankets.** These blankets are primarily **needed by  
adults**, so they kindly ask that donations exclude  
children's blankets or prints.

Fleece Blankets  
Needed  
at Our Savior's in La Crosse, WI



*The Women's Clothes Closet,  
also at Our Savior's, is now  
accepting spring and summer  
clothing and accessories.*

## La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Board Members

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PRESIDENT</u></b></p> <p>Anita Jensen 520 Central Avenue Sparta, WI 54656 608-269-2325 pconrth@yahoo.com <b>Trinity, Sparta</b> Term through Spring 2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u></b></p> <p>JoAnn Salava N5963 Davies Road New Lisbon, WI 53950 608-542-0652 jams@mwt.net <b>St Stephen's, Camp Douglas</b> Term through Spring 2026</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SECRETARY</u></b></p> <p>Leslie Peterson N9692 2nd Ave Camp Douglas, WI 54618 608-542-0245 Lpete1994@hotmail.com <b>St. Peter's Shennington</b> Term through Spring 2026</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>TREASURER</u></b></p> <p>Jodi Anderson W2875 Anderson Road Mindoro, WI 54644 608-857-3550 jodidusty@gmail.com <b>Mindoro Lutheran</b> Term through Spring 2025</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EAST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></b></p> <p>Louise Buchholz 25847 Minoan Avenue Wilton, WI 54670 608-435-6435 rlbuchholz@hotmail.com <b>St Paul's, Wilton</b> Term through Spring 2026</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>WEST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></b></p> <p>Brenda Skittone 1025 Oak Ave S Onalaska, WI 54650 847-744-8757 brendaskittone@gmail.com <b>Our Savior's, West Salem</b> Term through Spring 2026</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NORTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></b></p> <p>Representative Needed  Term through Spring 2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></b></p> <p>Mary Connelly 306 E Park Street Westby, WI 54667 608-632-9125 duckconnelly@gmail.com <b>Westby-Coon Prairie, Westby</b> Term through Spring 2025</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>EAST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></b></p> <p>Alice Olson 621 Kent Street Sparta, WI 54656 608-487-5409 avon.alice@hotmail.com <b>Trinity, Sparta</b> Term through Fall 2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>WEST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></b></p> <p>Kay Snuggerud 5474 County 21 La Crescent, MN 55947 snugvale@acegroup.cc <b>Prince of Peace, La Crescent</b> Term through Fall 2025</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>NORTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></b></p> <p>Coordinator Needed  Term through Fall 2026</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></b></p> <p>Coordinator Needed  Term through Fall 2026</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>BOARD MEMBER-AT - LARGE</u></b></p> <p>Jacqueline Joanis W21676 Red Fox Lane Trempealeau, WI 54661 608-797-4089 jjoanis@centurytel.net <b>Zion, Galesville</b> Term through Spring 2026</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>LIAISON TO SYNOD ELCA</u></b></p> <p>JoAnn Salava N5963 Davies Road New Lisbon, WI 53950 608-542-0652 jams@mwt.net <b>St Stephen's, Camp Douglas</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>CROSSWINDS EDITOR</u></b></p> <p>Mona Van Riper W5598 County Road D Holmen, WI 54636 608-526-2284 monavanriper@gmail.com <b>Lewis Valley, Holmen</b></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](mailto: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/Info:	Emailing to W-ELCA:
<b>08/15/2025</b>	<b>09/01/2025</b>
<b>02/15/2026</b>	<b>03/01/2026</b>

With the Crosswinds being published only two times a year, please watch for important emails that may be sent/ received between Crosswinds. It may be a short email, with or without an attachment, but know that it is important. Please let all the Women of the ELCA know what is happening.

## Crosswinds Newsletter

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**Mona Van Ripper, Editor**

W5598 County Road D  
Holmen, WI 54636

**E-mail:** [monavanriper@gmail.com](mailto:monavanriper@gmail.com)

To: