

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,

It's only a month until the Fall Gathering! Yes, that's correct, the Fall Gathering. The board has changed the name from a Renewal to a Gathering! There will be different activities and break-out sessions. (Well, it was a month when I originally wrote this; now it's only 18 days away!)

Our keynote speaker will be Pastor Al Erickson, who will talk about Adults Saving Kids.

When we break into our conferences at the Gathering, East Conference and West Conference will need to pick/find/ volunteer women to the Conference Coordinator positions. (And I think both North and West are in need of Conference Reps too!) A job description is on page 6 of this newsletter.

And, we will try our best to provide ample time for fellowship and interaction to share ideas, etc.

Peace & Love,
Mona Van Riper, Crosswinds Editor



If you haven't registered already for the Triennial Gathering in 2026, register now at:
<https://community.elca.org/women-of-the-elca-13th-triennial-gathering>

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Women of the ELCA
La Crosse Area Synod

Attached you will find the flyer introducing the Fall Gathering (Workshop/Renewal.)

We will be meeting at Trinity Lutheran, 1010 Sill St. in La Crosse on October 18th. The board (planning committee) are striving for an upbeat gathering with singing, current information, singing, a message from Pastor Al Erickson, Director of Adults Saving Kids with “new” ways that congregations can care for our kids, a quilt parade, lunch and more singing

Regarding the quilt parade – hopefully you that are sending quilts out on the 11th will have a few left over for “seed” (that’s what we call that few that won’t fit in the box); in any case, some quilts to show in a parade, one for each person, kind of like a style show, on our way to lunch. (Note: You will be taking them back home with you.)

“In Kind” for Trinity - They are requesting cereal and mac & cheese for their food pantry, and plastic grocery or store bags for the 100 or so Monday night “to go” meals provided for the families in their neighborhood. Please fold the bags if possible (that could be a God’s Work Our Hands little project.)

Be sure to bring your quilt and kits giving form to the Gathering.

Looking forward to seeing my “sisters” from North and South, East and West!

May we share the blessings in our service,
With a grateful heart,
Jo Ann

Fall Gathering

La Crosse Area Synod Women of the ELCA

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church

1010 Sill Street, La Crosse WI 54603

8:00am Registration & Fellowship

Hymn Sings throughout the day

Conference Meetings

Quilt Parade

Lunch

Book Exchange

Keynote Speaker Pr Al Erickson:

"Adults Saving Kids"

In-Kind Offering: Cereal, Mac & Cheese, and plastic grocery bags

Register by calling, texting, or emailing

Jodi Anderson: 608-386-6187 or

jodidusty@gmail.com

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Fill out registration form & send it in!

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA

FALL GATHERING

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church

1010 Sill Street, La Crosse, WI

The registration form on page 7 of this issue.

Fall Gathering In-Kind Offering

Our in-kind offering on the 18th will be macaroni & cheese, breakfast cereal, and plastic bags (from Menards, Farm & Fleet, Festival, Woodman's, etc., not the super thin ones from Dollar Tree, Dollar General, Walmart, etc.) for Trinity Lutheran's Food Pantry.



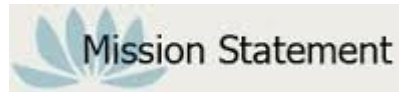
La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA

SPRING CONVENTION

2025

**You'll find out more information on this at the
Fall Gathering.**





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

Mona's version of the Job Description for a Conference Coordinator:

1. Is the Liaison between the W-ELCA board and the conference;
 2. Is not a voting member on the board; but, is encouraged to attend board meetings;
 3. Organizes conference events (example: Summer Luncheon);
 4. Works the Registration Desk at the Spring Convention and the Fall Gathering; and
 5. Possibly make a monthly or quarterly newsletter for the units in the conference
-

The Conference Representatives shall:

- a. Act as presiding officer of the Conference Committee
 - b. Attend Synod Women's Board meetings as a voting member.
 - c. Act as a liaison between the individual units and the Synod Women's Board.
 - d. Work with the Synod Women's Board and Conference Committee to plan the Fall Gatherings.
 - e. Plan with the Conference Committee, a special event for conference members. Conference programs could include retreats, a Bible study, a day trip, etc.
 - f. Insure any necessary business of the conference is conducted at the Fall Gathering and/or special event.
 - g. Submit articles to the synod newsletter, "Crosswinds" as appropriate.
 - h. Chair the nominating committee for conference officers.
 - i. Compile a notebook of minutes and events to give to your successor at the transition meeting.
-

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.

2025 Fall Gathering Registration Form

October 18, 2025

Trinity Lutheran Church

1010 Sill Street La Crosse, WI 54603 (608) 782-6200

8:30 am Registration - 2:00 pm Closing of Convention

Congregation Name_____ **Conference**_____

1) Name_____

Unit Officer? Y/N Title_____ Special Diet &/or Childcare _____

2) Name_____

Unit Officer? Y/N Title_____ Special Diet &/or Childcare _____

3) Name_____

Unit Officer? Y/N Title_____ Special Diet &/or Childcare _____

4) Name_____

Unit Officer? Y/N Title_____ Special Diet &/or Childcare _____

5)Name_____

Unit Officer? Y/N Title_____ Special Diet &/or Childcare _____

Mailed registration with \$15 per person must reach the treasurer by **October 10, 2025**.
Make checks payable to **La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA**. Send forms and funds to
Jodi Anderson, W2875 Anderson Road, Mindoro WI 54644.

After October 10, registration **MUST** be made by phone, (608) 857-3550. The fee
remains \$15 per person with monies **payable at the convention**. The U.S. mail is not
dependable enough to guarantee funds being received in a timely manner. Checks should
be still be **payable to La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA**.

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W-ELCA Units'

Projects Completed from November 2024 through September 2025

Item made	Number made	Donated to	Season most items are made
Quilts			
Personal Care Kits			
School Kits			
Baby Care Kits			
Fabric Kits			
Other: _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Number made	Other than LWR (which are above) who were they donated to?	

Church Name _____ Conference _____

Contact Name _____ Phone _____

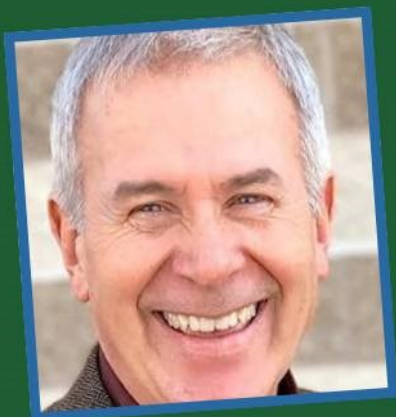
Please bring this completed form to the Fall Gathering on 10/18/2025, and hand it in at the registration table. If you won't be attending the Fall Gathering, please send this completed form of projects (quilts, kits, other... for Lutheran World Relief and/or other missions) to Jackie Joanis, W21676 Red Fox Lane Trempealeau, WI 54661

I thought this sounded interesting; it's already happening on Monday, 10/06/2025, so call Sugar Creek ASAP to let them know you'll be there.

YESTERDAY'S YOUTH

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM



Speaker: Chris Hardie,
local author.

Music: Tom Baker

\$15 include Coffee, Pastry, and Lunch
Registration helpful.



13141 Sugar Creek Bible Camp Rd, Ferryville, WI 54628
www.SugarCreekBibleCamp.org
(608)724-3113 office@sgrcreek.org

Please don't forget to fill out the form on the front of
this page and bring it along on the 18th.

The Power of the Red Dress: Honoring Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives

by
Prairie Rose Seminole, Nation of North Dakota

Prayer by Prairie Rose

Creator, hear our voices. We gather with heavy hearts, calling for justice, for truth, and for the return of all missing and murdered relatives.

Hold us in the weight of this grief, but do not let us stay there. Give us the courage to face the truth of stolen lives, broken systems, and a world that has long deemed people expendable. Let the truth break open what must be broken so that something just and whole can be built in its place.

The red dress is more than fabric – it is an indictment, a prayer, and a promise. We will not stop speaking the names of those taken. We will not stop demanding justice from systems built to erase us. We will not stop until every relative is accounted for until every loss acknowledged until every life is honored.

Creator, move us beyond words and into action. Let accountability be our offering. Let truth-telling be our worship. Let justice be the path until every stolen relative is home. Amen.

As the prayer above tells, the red dress has great significance in honoring missing and murdered ingenious persons. You are encouraged to wear red to the Fall Gathering on 10/18/2025. Or, if you have a red dress, please bring it (with a hanger) so it can be displayed as a reminder to all of us of the Power of the Red Dress.



**SKOGDALEN
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Drive -Thru
MEATBALL DINNER**

Sunday, October 5, 2025

County P & Oakdale Avenue, Rural Westby
(6.5 Miles Northeast of Coon Valley on County P)

Serving from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(Or until sold out)

**MEATBALLS,
MASHED POTATOES & GRAVY,
CARROTS, COLE SLAW,
LEFSE & PIE**



**Cost: \$15.00
CARRY-OUTS ONLY**



Bells Coulee WELCA is sponsoring a

Pie and Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2025 12pm-3pm

Bells Coulee Lutheran Church

Then Shop at the Country Store and Bake Sale

SAVE THE DATE

**Wilmington Lutheran Church
Meatball Dinner**

Sunday, October 12

Serving 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Drive Through Only

From the Fest Building in Spring Grove, MN

Announcing...

**Meatball
Dinner**



Sunday, October 12th

Drive-thru only

At Spring Grove Fest Building

Serving 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Menu:

Meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn,
country coleslaw, lefse, dinner roll, and bar.

\$15 per meal

Everyone welcome!

**Sponsored by Wilmington Lutheran Church
with support from Thrivent Financial**

Fall
Bazaar



**Peace Lutheran Church
Readstown**

Sat., October 11, 2025

10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Dinner Menu

Homemade Creamed Chicken & Biscuits

Baked Beans ~ Cole Slaw ~ Cranberries

Dessert ~ Beverage

Adults \$14.00 - 12 & Under \$6.00



Carry out meals will be available

Holiday Items



Crafts



Bake Sale

Sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial



**The Lutheran World Relief
Semi-Trailer Load will be in La Crosse on
Saturday, October 11, 2025, from
7:00am to 11:00am, at
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
4141 Mormon Coulee Road.**

The Semi-Trailer will be in La Crosse to load all LWR Quilts, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, Fabric Kits, AND School Kits that have been made and gathered in our synod.

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.

The cookie slots are all full up
through 11/12/2025, but there will be openings to sign up in November –May.

A promotional graphic for "Cookies on Campus". It features a collage of various cookies, including chocolate chip, M&M's, and chocolate cookies. The text is centered and reads: "Sign Up to bake cookies for LuMin to provide Cookies on Campus". Below this, it says "You love baking. Students love cookies. It's a win win." and provides the URL "tinyurl.com/LuMinCookieSignUp". At the bottom center is the LuMin logo, which is a stylized lantern with rays emanating from it. The entire graphic is framed by a border of cookies.

HISTORY ALIVE PROJECT
presents:
Edvard Grieg Chorus

Place: *Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Westby*

Date: *October 18*

Time: *1 p.m.*

FREE ADMISSION



Refreshments served afterward

South Beaver Creek Lutheran Church

Fall Dinner

Sunday, October 19, 2025

W16679 County Hwy D—Ettrick
Between Melrose & Ettrick **All are Welcome**



menu

Meatballs & Mashed
Potatoes with Gravy
Corn
Lefse, Dinner Rolls
Cranberries, Coleslaw
Coffee, Milk
Dessert
*All you care to eat
in house!*

Serving from
11:30 AM—1:30 PM

\$15 Adults
\$8 Kids 6-12
Kids 5 and under -FREE

Purchase Tickets at the door

Carry-Outs are Available

Note: Tickets sold after 1:15 PM will be Carry-Out Only

Bake Sale and Raffle, too!



Coon Valley Lutheran Church

MEN'S CLUB MEATBALL DINNER

Dine-in or Carry Out



Every bite supports Coon Valley Lutheran. Menu: Meatballs mashed potatoes & Gravy, Corn, Coleslaw, lefse and desserts. Come for the meatballs, stay for the fellowship!

Sunday, Oct. 19 11am until gone

Cost: \$15.00 per meal

608-452-3772 www.coonvalleylutheranchurch.org 1005 Central Ave.

Norwegian Dinner & Bake Sale



November 1, 2025

3:30-6:30 pm

Ticket sales start at 3:00 pm

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
359 N. Leonard St.
West Salem, WI 54669

Plated meal serving lutefisk, meatballs, lefse, boiled potatoes, rutabagas, cranberry sauce, sweet treats, coffee, milk, and water

Pricing:

Lutefisk & Meatballs - \$22

Meatballs Only - \$18

Children ages 4-12 - \$10

Under 4 - Free

All proceeds given to missions

Lewis Valley Lutheran Church

W5402 County Road V, Holmen (Stevenstown), WI 54636

Mission Fest Sunday November 2, 2025

10:00am Worship Guest Speaker:
Ben Hein, Executive Director for Shelter Development, the nonprofit organization that houses theExchange La Crosse Area Furniture Bank Program

Mission Fest Dinner Menu:
Meatballs, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Lefse, Rutabagas, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Cranberries, Buns, Apple Pie, Pumpkin Pie

11:00am - 1:00pm
Carry-Outs Only
\$15.00 ~ Pre-orders Only

*Pre-order for all Carry-Outs by
October 24, 2025.*

*Thank you to Thrivent, Festival, and Kwik Trip for
their generous donations.*

All proceeds will go to local and global missions.

Call Mona at 608-857-3474 to reserve your dinner.

A festive border featuring various Christmas decorations including stars, snowflakes, pine branches, a nutcracker, a gingerbread man, a mug with a snowflake, a candy cane, and wrapped gifts.

EVERYTHING CHRISTMAS SALE

Fri., Nov. 7th - 7:30 am to 5 pm
Sat., Nov. 8th - 7:30 am to 12 pm

St. Paul's Church Basement
401 Mill St., Wilton, WI 54670

We'll have a variety of gently used Christmas decorations available for purchase. Proceeds from the sale benefit St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

BAKE SALE

Proceeds benefit the
N-O-W School District Safety Patrol.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

307 W Warren Street, Tomah 608-343-7322

10th Annual *Time & Talent* Marketplace

Craft & Bake Sale | Quilt Raffle

Friday, November 7, 2025
8 am - 5 pm
Saturday, November 8, 2025
8 am - 1 pm

*A celebration of handcrafted treasures
perfect for your holiday shopping!*

Quilted & Sewn Items
Unique Packer & Badger Gifts
Homemade Bags
Baby & Toddler Items
Christmas Decorations
Wood Creations

Quilt raffle tickets & lunch will be available.



THANK OFFERING SERVICE



SUN. NOV. 9TH

6:30 PM

Wartburg College Chapel

100 Wartburg Blvd.

Waverly, Iowa



Visit

www.welca/thankofferings
to download the liturgy ,
learn how you can watch
the service online and order
Thankoffering Envelopes

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



 **La Crosse Area Synod**
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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 2027</p>	<p><u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u></p> <p>NEEDED Term through Spring 2026</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 2026</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 2025 (01/31/2026)</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 2026</p>	<p><u>WEST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Representative Needed</p> <p>Term through Spring 2026</p>	<p><u>NORTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Representative Needed</p> <p>Term through Spring 2027</p>	<p><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Debra Clark 214 N Washington Ave Viroqua, WI 54665 608-637-3882 email Immanuel, Viroqua Term through Spring 2027</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 2025</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 2025</p>	<p><u>NORTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Coordinator Needed</p> <p>Term through Fall 2026</p>	<p><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Coordinator Needed</p> <p>Term through Fall 2026</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 2026</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>	<p><u>TREASURER</u></p> <p>Alice Olson Address City, state zip phone email church Term through Spring 2027 (02/01/2026- 01/31/2028)</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/Info:	Emailing to W-ELCA:
02/15/2025	03/01/2025
08/15/2025	09/01/2025

With the Crosswinds being published only two times a year now, 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

Mona Van Ripper, Editor

W5598 County Road D
Holmen, WI 54636

E-mail: monavanriper@gmail.com

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To: