

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.



Women of the ELCA

Spring Convention 2026

Theme: “Love”

(following our “Just Love” 2023 Triennial Theme)

Theme Verse:

John 15:12

*“This is my commandment that you love one another as
I have loved you.”*

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 18, 2026, at Coon Valley Lutheran will be a great time to celebrate spring!

Our keynote speaker will be Bishop Emerita, The Reverend Dr. April Ulring Larson! See you next month! Peace & Love, Mona Van Riper, Crosswinds Editor

President's Greeting March 2026

Dear Women of the La Crosse Area synod, I wish you joy and happiness as we welcome Spring and look forward to a wondrous Women of the ELCA annual convention on April 18.th This year's convention will be held at Coon Valley Lutheran Church (in Coon Valley) beginning with registration, and a time to meet up with friends over coffee and treats at 8:00 am. Worship with communion at 9:00 with Pastor Ben Morris presiding.

Highlights of the convention will be our keynote speaker, former Bishop April Larson and election of board members. Please consider nominations for several positions; 2 year terms for secretary, vice president, East, West and at large conference representatives, 1 year term for North & South conference representatives. I strongly concede that it is difficult and unproductive to do business with vacant positions and representation; so, I am pleading with you, my sisters in Christ to consider nominations!

Triennial Gathering – have you registered for July 16th-19th? Would you like bus accommodations? South Central synod has reserved a bus and invited us to join them (however, meeting in Madison or Platteville). Have you considered attending for one day? Cost to register for one day is \$275. Transportation would be on your own. (or carpool) Please let me know at 608-542-0652 if you are registered, need the bus reservation, or have questions.

It's an exciting time. I am looking forward to seeing many of you at Coon Valley Lutheran.

Give God the Glory!

Jo Ann

Fill out registration form & send it in!

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA

SPRING CONVENTION

Saturday, April 18, 2026

Coon Valley Lutheran Church

1005 Central Avenue, Coon Valley

The registration form is on page 4 of this issue.



Spring Convention In-Kind Offering

Our In-Kind Offering for this year's Spring Convention will be announced soon! Please watch for a special email about the In-Kind Spring Convention offering.



La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA

FALL RENEWAL

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Location Needed: *If your church women would like to host the Fall Renewal, please contact Jo Ann.*

2026 Spring Convention Registration Form

April 18, 2026

Coon Valley Lutheran Church

1005 Central Avenue, Coon Valley, WI 54623 608-452-3772

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 Mona Van Riper, W5598 County Road D, Holmen, WI 54636 **by April 3, 2026**.

After April 3, registration may be made by telephone at 608-857-3474 (M-F, 9am-3pm) or 608-797-3352 (please leave a message) or email monavanriper@gmail.com; pay at convention.

This year, NOMINEES ARE NEEDED for the offices of Vice-President, Secretary, East Conference Representative, West Conference Representative, and Board Member-at-Large for full two-year terms. Nominees are needed for the office of Treasurer effective immediately through 01/31/2028. Nominees are needed for the offices of North Conference Representative and South Conference Representative for one-year terms. Elections will be held at Spring Convention on 04/18/2026. Below are the job descriptions:

Officers in General

- 1. The officers of each synod women’s organization are 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 re-election 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 synod 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 synod women’s organization.**

The Vice-President shall

- a. act in the absence, disability, or resignation of the president. She shall assume the duties of that position until the vacancy is filled by the board of the synod women’s organization at its next regularly scheduled meeting;**
- b. perform such other duties as requested by the president of the board; and**
- c. serve a two-year term with one re-election.**

The Secretary shall

- a. be the secretary of the board and the executive committee of the synod women's organization;
- b. be responsible for recording and distributing minutes of the synod convention, the board, and the executive committee;
- c. give the units notification of the regular convention at least three months in advance and of a special convention at least one month in advance;
- d. keep a correct register of the roll of units, along with the names of the officers or leaders of these units;
- e. secure from the units such reports as from time to time may be required;
- f. perform such other duties as the board may from time to time direct;
- g. provide for the gathering and preserving of historical records and documents; and
- h. serve a two-year term with one re-election.

The Treasurer shall

- a. provide for the keeping of all records and be accountable for all funds;
- b. 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;
- c. present a complete report, including an audit, to the synod women's organization convention and an interim report to each board meeting;
- d. attend synod women's board meetings as a voting member; as well as spring convention and fall gathering;
- e. serve a two-year term with one re-election.

These job descriptions sound way more complicated and time-consuming than the positions are really. Basically, you meet about four times a year for board meetings with some other wonderful women, like yourself, and plan for our yearly spring convention, fall gathering, and triennial.

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 such as 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; and**
- j. serve a two-year term with one re-election.**

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

Nominees are needed for the offices of Vice-President, Secretary, East Conference Representative, West Conference Representative, and Board Member-at-Large for full two-year terms. Nominees are needed for Treasurer, North Conference Representative, and South Conference Representative for partial one-year terms.

Elections will be held at the Spring Convention on April 18, 2026.

Job descriptions are on pages 5-7.

Nomination for the office of _____

Name _____ Church _____

Home Address _____

Occupation _____ Phone _____

Church Participation:

Community Participation:

Completed nomination forms must be received by April 3, 2026, to be included in our convention booklet; however, nominations will also be taken from the floor at the convention.

Return nomination forms to President JoAnn Salava, N5963 Davies Road, New Lisbon, WI 53950, or by email to 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.

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Board Members

<p><u>PRESIDENT</u> 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> NEEDED Term through Spring 2026</p>	<p><u>SECRETARY</u> 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> NEEDED Term through Spring 2027 (01/31/2028)</p>
<p><u>EAST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u> 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> Brenda Skittone 1025 Oak Ave S, D2 Onalaska, WI 54650 847-744-8757 brendaskittone@gmail.com Our Savior's, West Salem Term through Spring 2026</p>	<p><u>NORTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u> NEEDED Term through Spring 2027</p>	<p><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u> NEEDED Term through Spring 2027</p>
<p><u>BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE</u> Jacqueline Joanis W21676 Red Fox Lane Trempealeau, WI 54661 608-797-4089 jackierae19@icloud.com Zion, Galesville Term through Spring 2026</p>	<p><u>EAST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u> Anita Jensen 520 Central Avenue Sparta, WI 54656 608-451-5197 pconrth43@gmail.com Trinity, Sparta Term through Fall 2027</p>	<p><u>WEST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u> NEEDED Term through Fall 2027</p>	<p><u>NORTH AND SOUTH CONFERENCE COORDINATORS</u> NEEDED Term through Fall 2026</p>
	<p><u>LIAISON TO SYNOD ELCA</u> 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> Mona Van Riper W5598 County Road D Holmen, WI 54636 608-797-3352 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 & postal mailed Crosswinds are available for \$5.00 per year. Checks payable to La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA and sent to Mona Van Riper, W5598 County Road D, Holmen WI 54636.

Submission/Mailing dates for future Crosswind publications:

Submission of Articles/Info:	Emailing to W-ELCA:
08/15/2026	09/01/2026
02/15/2027	03/01/2027

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 Riper, Editor
W5598 County Road D
Holmen, WI 54636

stamp

To: