

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.



Fall Gathering 2026

*Theme: "I am Worthy
She is Worthy"*

*(following our "I am Worthy"
2026 Triennial Theme)*

Saturday, October 17, 2026

*Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, La Crescent MN
Fellowship, Coffee, Treats, & Registration begin at 8am*

Hello Wonderful Women of the ELCA,

Our Fall Gathering is quickly approaching – less than 3 weeks away! Call your registration in to me (Mona) at 608-857-3474 or email me at

monavanriper@gmail.com. Please register by Friday, 10/09/2026. You can pay the registration fee of \$20 when you check in the day of the event. But, we need you to call/email & register so the women can prepare enough food for fellowship and for lunch.

Peace & Love, Mona Van Riper, Crosswinds Editor

President's Greeting September 2026

Greeting from your President

Oh, where did Summer go? All of a sudden it has switched to Fall with cool nights; the leaves are beginning to turn, the Farmer's Markets are featuring a plentiful crop of pumpkins and squash, and the orchards their apples. We are certainly blessed with God's abundance.

Mark your calendars for the Fall Gathering of the Women of the ELCA that will be held on October 17th at Prince of Peace in La Crescent beginning with registration at 8:00 am. The program is planned to raise awareness for our Missing and Murdered Indigenous sisters. A powerful topic that you don't want to miss.

We will also gather by conferences to select coordinators, to suggest the offering designation, to select a nominating committee for the Spring Convention 2027 elections, and to discuss a summer event for 2027.

I want to tell a bit about our experiences of the 13th Triennial Gathering held in Des Moines last July. The worship services were wonderful, accompaniment by a lively all-girl band, packed workshops, hearing Bishop Curry among other great speakers, shopping in the exhibit hall, meeting old acquaintances, exchanging "swag", and much, much more. It was disappointing that more women from our synod weren't able to attend. So plan now to attend the Gathering in 2029 in Louisville, Kentucky. I suggest setting aside \$\$ over the next 30 months and it's affordable.

Wishing everyone many blessings during these fall days.

JoAnn



**Fill out registration form, call
Mona, and bring the form with you
on the 17th!**

**La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA
Fall Gathering**

Saturday, October 17, 2026

**Prince of Peace Lutheran Church
21 N Hill Street
La Crescent, MN 55947**

The registration form is on page 5 of this issue.

Fall Gathering In-Kind Offering

Our In-Kind Offering for this year's Fall Gathering will be bras, brassieres, and brassières! New ones only please; any and all sizes. The Women's Clothes Closet is in need and I think we can fill the need.



Quilt Parade

We'll have a Quilt Parade again this year at the Fall Gathering. Bring your favorite quilt to show!

Fair Trade items will be for sale at the Fall Gathering. Bring your shopping list!

Effective Immediately

Please send all offerings to our new **Treasurer:**

Helen York
808 W. Bridge Street
New Lisbon, WI 53950

608-678-0248
mrsyorkcookies@yahoo.com



Treasurer

Helen is a member at Bethany - New Lisbon.
Her term as treasurer is through Spring 2027 (01/31/2028) – and
then she is eligible for a second term. 😊



Mark your calendar!

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA
Spring Convention
Saturday, April 24, 2027
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
La Crosse

2026 Fall Gathering Registration Form

October 17, 2026

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

21 North Hill Street La Crescent MN 55947 (507) 895-4440

8:00 am Registration ~ 1:00 pm Closing

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 _____

\$20 per person registration fee **payable at the Gathering**

Make checks payable to **La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA**.

Bring checks/cash with you to the Fall Gathering.

By October 9, 2026, (so we have a good fellowship & lunch count) call your registration in to Mona at (608) 857-3550, or email the registration information/form to monavanriper@gmail.com



Lutheran World Relief Semi-Trailer Ingathering 2026

Join us for the annual La Crosse area Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Semi-Trailer Loading Ingathering! Your generous donations make a direct impact in communities around the globe, providing critical aid, school supplies, personal care items, and comfort to neighbors in need.

Event Details

- **Date:** Saturday, October 10, 2026
- **Time:** 7:00 AM – 11:00 AM
- **Location:** Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church
4141 Mormon Coulee Road, La Crosse, WI 54601
(Loading area is located in the large parking lot directly across Birch Street from the main church building.)

Get Involved & Stay Connected

Volunteers are welcome to help load quilts, kits, and supplies onto the semi-trailers. Whether you are dropping off donations from your congregation or lending a hand to pack the trucks, your support is deeply appreciated!

- **Latest Updates:** Follow our La Crosse LWR Ingathering Facebook Page for announcements and loading day updates.
- **Questions or Information:** Contact Jim Balow at **608-788-8408**.

Thank you for your partnership and continuous help in making this year's ingathering a success!

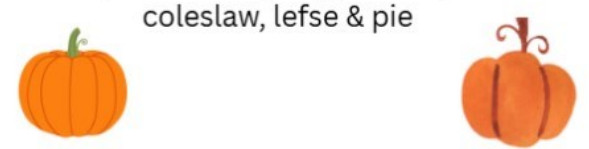


**SKOGDALEN
DRIVE-THRU
MEATBALL DINNER**

**SUNDAY,
OCTOBER 4, 2026**

11:00 a.m to 1:00 p.m
Cost: \$15.00.

Serving meatballs, mashed
potatoes & gravy, carrots,
coleslaw, lefse & pie




Take a scenic ride in the country to the

PIE & ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Sunday, October 4th, 2026

11–3 pm



** Pie
** Ice Cream
** Light Lunch Items

Shop at the

Country Store & Bake Sale

Bells Coulee Lutheran Church
N7289 CTH Road E
Bangor, WI 54614



All proceeds go to WELCA ministries.

Fall Bazaar

**Peace Lutheran Church
Readstown**

**Sat., October 10, 2026
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**

Raffle drawing for quilt & 3 gift certificates at 1:00 pm

Need not be present to win

Sponsored in part by Thrivent Financial

Lutefisk Meal

Saturday, October 17, 2026

11:00 AM 4:00 PM

Utica Lutheran Church

14974 Wisconsin 27

Ferryville, Wisconsin, 54628



Scrap and Craft Retreat

October 16 & 17, 2026
9AM - 9PM both days
Halfway Creek Lutheran Church
W6016 County Rd W, Holmen
Hosts: Shari Ireland & Jodi Anderson

Join us for two days of
 creativity and connection.
 Bring your own crafting projects & snacks.
 We'll provide the table and lunch on **Saturday!**

Cost: \$30
 Payable to Shari Ireland
 (mail to church)
 or **VENMO @Shari-Ireland-1**

RSVP by October 14
 608-397-9928
 stampwithshari44@gmail.com



OCT 18

AFTERNOON OF MUSIC

French Creek Lutheran Church
 N23007 County RD T
 Ettrick, WI. 54627

OCTOBER 18, 2026 - 2:00 PM
 Fellowship/Coffee Reception

Lewis Valley Lutheran Church
 W5402 County Road V, Holmen (Stevenstown), WI 54636

Mission Fest Sunday **November 1, 2026**

10:00am Worship Guest Speaker:
 from WAFER Food Pantry. WAFER's mission is:
 Responding to God's love, WAFER provides food and
 works to eliminate hunger.

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

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

Pre-order for all Carry-Outs by
October 26, 2026.



All proceeds will go to local and global missions.

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

A special Thanks to Thrivent, Kwik Trip, and Festival Foods for their continued support.



Holiday Marketplace at Good Shepherd

Kick off your holiday season with shopping, prizes, and community!

Join us at **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church** for our annual WELCA Holiday Marketplace. Whether you're looking for the perfect handmade gift, a treat for your holiday table, or a chance to win exclusive prizes, there is something for everyone!

Event Information

- **When:** Saturday, November 14, 2026
- **Time:** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- **Where:** 4141 Mormon Coulee Road, La Crosse, WI



Highlights & Attractions

- **Local Craft & Gift Vendors:** Find unique, high-quality items for everyone on your list.
- **Famous Norwegian Lefse:** Get it while it lasts! Our local favorite is a holiday must-have.
- **Yummy Baked Goods:** Freshly prepared treats to satisfy any sweet tooth.
- **Signed Packer Football Raffle:** A rare chance for sports fans to take home a piece of Green Bay history!
- **Door Prizes:** Lucky winners will be drawn throughout the day.

Lunch is Served

Take a break from the festivities and enjoy a delicious lunch, served from **10:00 AM to 1:30 PM**.


WINTER WARMTH
Needed

COOL WEATHER IS HERE, AND WE'RE IN NEED OF WINTER COATS AND JACKETS (ALL SIZES, ESPECIALLY PLUS SIZES)

ITEMS NEEDED

COATS	JACKETS	HATS
GLOVES	MITTENS	SCARVES

THESE ESSENTIALS MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE IN KEEPING OUR COMMUNITY WARM AND CARED FOR THIS WINTER.



ANNUAL “POINT OF CONTACTS” REPORT FORM

In order for your unit to receive timely correspondence from a La Crosse Area Synod Women of the ELCA Board Member, please submit this form annually or immediately after changes are completed. PLEASE PRINT

NAME OF CHURCH: _____

CHURCH ADDRESS: _____

DATE THIS FORM WAS COMPLETED: _____

Main Point of Contact:

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Treasurer/Financial Coordinator:

NAME: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Additional Contacts of those who would like to receive email updates

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

NAME: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Please list as many as preferred; use additional sheet if needed.

After your congregational unit's change of team members each year, return this completed form to the La Crosse Area Synod Crosswinds editor, via postal mail or email.

She will share the information with Women of the ELCA board as needed.

Mona Van Riper
W5598 County Road D
Holmen WI 54636
monavanriper@gmail.com

W-ELCA Units'**Projects Completed from November 2025 through September 2026**

Item made	Number made	Donated to	Season most items are made
Quilts			
Personal Care Kits			
School Kits			
Baby Care Kits			
Fabric Kits			
Other: _____ _____ _____ _____	_____ _____ _____ _____	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 10/17/2026, 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 Sue Bugge, 3314 Rosehill Place, La Crosse, WI 54601 or to suebugge@hotmail.com

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La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Board Members

<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	<u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u> Leslie Peterson N9692 2nd Ave Camp Douglas, WI 54618 608-542-0245 Lpete1994@hotmail.com St. Peter's Shennington Term through Spring 2028	<u>SECRETARY</u> Ilene Pavelko 357 Lincoln Ave N West Salem, WI 54669 608-797-6759 ilenepav1@aol.com Our Savior's West Salem Term through Spring 2028	<u>TREASURER</u> Helen York 808 W. Bridge Street New Lisbon, WI 53950 608-678-0248 mrsyorkcookies@yahoo.com Bethany New Lisbon Term through Spring 2027 (01/31/2028)
<u>EAST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u> Jennifer Sarnow PO Box 477 Mauston, WI 53948 608-547-9826 Jsarnow59@gmail.com East Lemonweir Elroy Term through Spring 2028	<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 2028	<u>NORTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u> Cindy Tracey W4387 County Road D Mindoro, WI 54644 608-857-3261 ctracey1210@gmail.com Mindoro Lutheran Mindoro Term through Spring 2027	<u>SOUTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u> Mary Connelly 306 E Park Street Westby, WI 54667 608-632-9125 duckconnelly@gmail.com Westby Coon Prairie Westby Term through Spring 2027
<u>BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE</u> Sue Bugge 3314 Rosehill Place La Crosse, WI 54601 641-751-7586 suebugge@hotmail.com Good Shepherd La Crosse Term through Spring 2028	<u>LIAISON TO PASTORS</u> Pastor Joanne Richmond PO Box 97 La Crosse, WI 54601 608-782-3468 pastor@ oursaviorslutheranchurch.net Our Savior's, La Crosse	<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	<u>CROSSWINDS EDITOR</u> Mona Van Riper W5598 County Road D Holmen, WI 54636 608-797-3352 monavanriper@gmail.com Lewis Valley, Holmen
<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	<u>WEST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u> NEEDED Term through Fall 2027	<u>NORTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u> NEEDED Term through Fall 2026	<u>SOUTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u> NEEDED Term through Fall 2026

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:

02/15/2027

03/01/2027

08/15/2027

09/01/2027

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: