


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,

It has been awhile. We are trying to decide how many Crosswinds we should publish a year. It used to be four but there just isn't enough information that comes in to make four worthwhile.

Two are definitely needed so you have the Spring Convention information and registration and the Fall Renewal information and registration.

Maybe three a year? If information is sent to me about upcoming events, I'll be glad to do a third one. But, when? March and September are the ones for Spring Convention and Fall Renewal. Maybe October/November with all of the Christmas events or May/June with all of the summer events?

Let me know what you think—and please send me your upcoming events to put in the September Crosswinds.

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 12.



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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Warm spring greetings to Women of the La Crosse Area ELCA!

Spring is knocking on our door even though it's only March 11! Today's temperatures are AGAIN predicted to be record breaking highs! For anyone out there doubting global warming, please note this: The year 2023 was the warmest year since global records began in 1850 at 1.18°C (2.12°F) above the 20th-century average of 13.9°C (57.0°F). This value is 0.15°C (0.27°F) more than the previous record set in 2016. The 10 warmest years in the 174-year record have all occurred during the last decade (2014–2023). (Source: climate.gov.)

It saddens me to consider how we are treating God's magnificent creation. At the 2023 Fall Renewal Brittany Michalski eloquently talked about "Creation Care." She reminded us that God saw all that he had created and found it to be "good," and that God put the man "in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it." The care we are currently giving the Earth seems to be sorely lacking. What will future generations, (our grandchildren, great-grandchildren and beyond) have to contend with? God only knows and She's not telling!

Through it ALL, God is calling us to JUST LOVE! JUST LOVE was the theme of the 2023 Triennial Gathering in Phoenix. Please come to the October 19 Fall Renewal at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in Prairie du Chien and you will be wowed by a slide show giving you a thorough insight as to just what a triennial is all about. We tried to do a presentation last fall, but ran into technical difficulties and then in our enthusiasm over-booked the Spring Convention agenda. Mona and I have committed to sharing our experiences for your enjoyment in October. We may even serve popcorn!

But what about SPRING CONVENTION? Mark your calendars for April 20, 2024! Go to Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in La Crosse; do not pass go, do not collect \$200! Registration and fellowship begins at 8 a.m. Worship begins at 9 a.m and Bishop Felix Malpica will be preaching. In support of the synod, we have adopted "Cultivating Life Giving Relationships" as our theme.

Your WELCA board feels you will be energized and challenged by our speakers. Pastor Libby Howe will give our keynote address speaking about issues surrounding the LGTBQ+ community, a topic often fraught with misinformation. We feel she will be able to lend a great deal of clarity and understanding to this situation. Ann Wales will be sharing her experiences as a chaplain for the La Crosse County Jail. If you attended the Fall Renewal last year, you may recall that Ann was on our program, but was not able to speak because of an accident. We are grateful that she is able to join us this year instead.

As always, we are looking for new ladies to be on the board. This year we need new Conference Reps from the East and West Conferences. Please consider stepping forward or nominating a friend. Nomination forms are within this newsletter. A strong board is a benefit to all, and believe it or not, it's wonderful to work with such a wonderful group of women.

Though our current secretary and vice president are willing to run again, we wouldn't mind having an actual slate of candidates. Think about challenging yourself!

Hoping to see many of you at Spring Convention on April 20!

In God's peace!
Anita Jensen

Mark your calendars:

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA

Spring Convention

April 20, 2024

Our Redeemer - La Crosse, WI



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

Spring Convention In-Kind Offering

Our In-Kind Offering for this year's Spring Convention will go to our local food pantries and to WAFER (empty egg cartons).

Please make sure the non-perishable food items have expiration dates that are a ways out so they are able to be used at the pantries; expired foods can't be used. The

pantries also need diapers, feminine products, toilet paper, household cleaners, etc.

Items that don't require a can opener and don't need added milk, eggs, and/or butter are most useful.

We are also asking for clean, empty egg cartons. WAFER receives eggs in cases so they need cartons to put the eggs in to give.



Our keynote speaker at the Spring Convention will be Pastor Libby Howe (picture to the left).

Our afternoon speaker at the Spring Convention will be Chaplain Ann Wales from La Crosse Jail Ministry.



2024 Spring Convention Registration Form

April 20, 2024

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

2135 Weston Street La Crosse, WI 608-788-0242

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 8, 2024**.

After April 8, registration may be made by telephone 608-857-3550 (please leave a message) or email jodidusty@gmail.com, payable at the convention.

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. Elections will be held at the Spring Convention on April 20, 2024. 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 April 1, 2024, 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 Holly Anderson, 1111 E. Olson Street, Blair, WI 54616, or by email to hmanderson0507@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.

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. Elections will be held at Spring Convention on April 20, 2024. Below 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.**

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 synodical women's organization at its next regularly scheduled meeting; and**
- b. perform such other duties as requested by the president of the board.**

The Secretary shall

- a. be the secretary of the board and the executive committee of the synodical women's organization;**
- b. be responsible for recording and distributing minutes of the synodical 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; and**
- g. provide for the gathering and preserving of historical records and documents.**

The Conference Representatives shall

- a. **Act as presiding officer of the Conference Committee**
 - b. **Attend Synodical Women's Board meetings as a voting member.**
 - c. **Act as a liaison between the individual units and the Synodical Women's Board.**
 - d. **Work with the Synodical Women's Board and Conference Committee to plan the Fall Renewals.**
 - 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 Renewal 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.**
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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.

2023 LWR Quilt and Kit Donations

North Conference	Quilts	Personal Care	School	Baby	Sewing
Blair Lutheran, Blair	22		24		16
Christ Lutheran, Arcadia	145	100	120	532	7
Hardies Creek Lutheran, Ettrick	20		4		
Lewis Valley Lutheran, Mindoro		20	40		12
Living Hope Lutheran, Ettrick		90	100		
Mindoro Lutheran, Mindoro	37	6	10		
North Beaver Creek, Ettrick	132	29	70		
South Beaver Creek, Ettrick	8				
Zion Lutheran, Galesville	313	47	64	44	14
Bells Coulee, Bangor	147		11		
East Conference					
East Lemonweir, New Lisbon		6	14		
Grace Lutheran, Elroy	104				
St. Paul's Lutheran, Wilton	23	115	84		
St. Peter's Lutheran, Camp Douglas	30	31	75	40	
St. Stephen's Lutheran, Camp Douglas	90	15	32	21	
Zion Lutheran of Big Flats	100	15	15	15	6
South Conference					
Coon Valley Lutheran, Coon Valley		16	86		3
De Soto Lutheran, De Soto	34	20			
Good Shepherd Lutheran, Viroqua	69	118	135	48	6
North Coon Prairie, Cashton	15	532	560	126	6
Peace, Kickapoo, Our Saviors, Luth. Mem	40 by Luth. Mem	145	87		2
St. Peter Lutheran, Prairie du Chien	73	24	25		
Westby Coon Prairie Luth., Westby	21	101	108		7
West Conference					
Good Shepherd Lutheran, La Crosse	19	8	38		
Immanuel Lutheran, Caledonia, MN	147	120	100	121	
Our Savior's Lutheran, La Crosse	135	160	54	57	
Our Savior's Lutheran, West Salem	310		110		
Prince of Peace, LaCrescent, MN	83				
Total:	2,117	1,718	1,966	1,004	79

Area churches also donated countless items to schools, graduates, baptisms, confirmations, quilt benefits, Veterans, Linus children project, food pantries, and other organizations serving those in need.

Thank you for your dedication and generosity!



Mark your calendars:
La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA
Fall Renewal
Saturday, October 19, 2024
St Peter Lutheran, Prairie du Chien
Look for registration and more information in
upcoming issues of Crosswinds.

Triennial Gathering
Des Moines, Iowa
July 16-19, 2026



The next W-ELCA Triennial
Gathering will be in
Des Moines, Iowa, July 16-19, 2026!

No airplane needed; this is an easy
4.5 hour (about 275 miles) drive.

Maybe we can take a bus?

For the most up-to-date info about
the Gathering, go to [https://
www.womenoftheelca.org/new-
triennial-event-page](https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page)

Dress yourself in W-ELCA
Just Love wear

Order quality clothing from Lands' End
with the 2023 Gathering Logo while they
still have them, the Women of the ELCA
logo, or the new 2026 Gathering logo
once it comes out at:



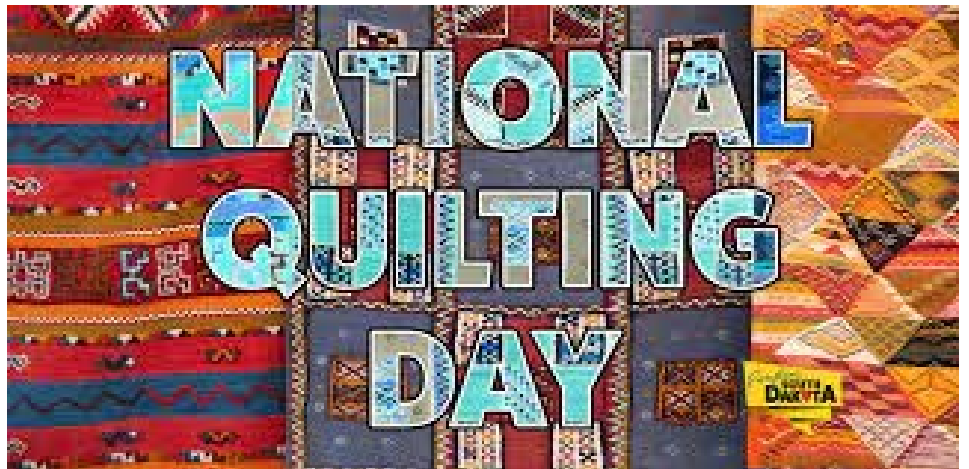


LWR SCHOOL KIT BAGS

SUE STAPLES WILL HAVE ORDER FORMS FOR SCHOOL KIT BAGS AT THE SPRING CONVENTION ON APRIL 20.

March 16, 2024 was National Quilting Day!

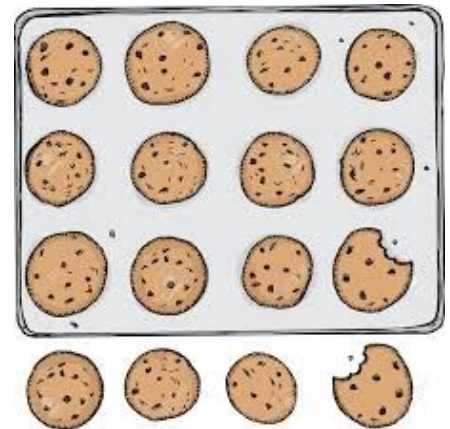
Thank you to all of our quilting women for the quilts that are made with love, laughter,



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

COOKIES ON CAMPUS

LuMin's Pastor Paul Drees is carrying on the tradition of Free Cookie Wednesday that Pastor Ben Morris started. From the online cookie sign-up calendar, it looks like all the slots are filled for this Spring semester; but the Fall semester will be here in no time.



Thank you to all the "Grandmas" that are baking 400 cookies each week. Campus Ministry and the students on campus on Wednesdays greatly appreciate the cookies we bake for them.

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 2025</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 2025</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>Sue Staples W5549 Southdale Dr. La Crosse, WI 54601 608-780-0022 stap@centurytel.net Our Savior's, La Crosse Term through Spring 2024</p>	<p><u>NORTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Jacqueline Joanis W21676 Red Fox Lane Trempealeau, WI 54661 608-797-4089 jackierae19@icloud.com Zion, Galesville Term through Spring 2025</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 2025</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 2025</p>	<p><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Coordinator Needed</p> <p>Term through Fall 2025</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:
05/15/2024	06/01/2024
08/15/2024	09/01/2024
11/15/2024	12/01/2024
02/15/2025	03/01/2025

The dates above are all tentative.

Crosswinds Newsletter

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Holmen, WI 54636

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To: