

## From the President's Desk

by Michelle Lauckner

### Triennial Convention 2026: "I Am Worthy"

When the theme "*I Am Worthy*" was introduced for the 2026 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering, it sparked thoughtful conversation and faithful reflection. In that spirit, I want to share insights drawn from a compelling reflection by Pastor Al Erickson, a longtime ELCA pastor whose writing combines theological depth with pastoral wisdom.

Pastor Erickson begins by naming a tension familiar to many Lutherans. Our faith teaches that worthiness is not something we earn, but a gift granted through God's grace in Jesus Christ. Rather than rejecting the language of worthiness altogether, he invites us to understand it differently—not as self-merit, but as the confidence to respond when God calls, trusting that God has already named and equipped us for the work at hand.

He brings this insight to life through the story of his mother-in-law, Estelle. Later in life, Estelle felt called to travel to New Guinea with his family when they served as missionaries, even as fear and self-doubt whispered that she might be a burden or no longer useful. When she stepped forward in faith, she discovered instead that she was deeply needed and valued. Her story becomes a living witness to what it means to claim the identity God has already given us.

Pastor Erickson recognizes the present reality of the ELCA, a church facing significant challenges and decline. Rather than responding with resignation, he offers a hopeful and courageous call—especially to Women of the ELCA. He believes women are uniquely positioned in this moment to lead with faith, creativity, and initiative, rather than quietly accepting institutional fading. This is not a call to do more to prove our worth, but to trust that God is already at work through us.

Drawing on the biblical story of Lydia in Acts 16, Pastor Erickson lifts up a model of leadership grounded in baptismal identity. When God opens Lydia's heart, she responds decisively, offering hospitality and leadership that help shape the early church. Lydia's example calls us beyond hesitation and self-doubt into faithful action rooted in who God says we already are.

With humility, Pastor Erickson also reflects on his own years in ministry, acknowledging that pastors have not always fully trusted the priesthood of all believers—especially within families. He argues that true renewal of the church begins in homes, where faith is prayed, taught, and modeled across generations. This conviction led him to found **Adults Saving Kids (ASK)**, a ministry dedicated to



equipping parents and grandparents to pass on faith and wisdom.

<https://adultssavingkids.org/>

God has already declared Women of the ELCA worthy to be agents of renewal. The question that remains is whether we will claim that identity and respond with faith and courage.

*(continued page 6)*

### **Mission Statement of the Western North Dakota Synodical Women of the ELCA Newsletter "The Western Whirlwind"**

*To inform Women of the  
ELCA in Western North  
Dakota about happenings  
within their Churchwide  
and Synodical organization  
and Clusters, and to  
provide readers with  
stories and articles that  
interest, inspire, and  
encourage them in their  
faith lives.*

*Adopted March 1999*

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**NOTE:** The unit President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer receive a free copy of the *Whirlwind* **IF** we have correct addresses. Please submit your Unit Update Form annually or whenever there is an officer change.

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[www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

## USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES:

WND SWO WELCA  
[www.wnd.org/synod-women-of-the-elca](http://www.wnd.org/synod-women-of-the-elca)

ELCA [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org)

Gather Magazine  
[www.gathermagazine.org](http://www.gathermagazine.org)

Café (e-zine) [www.boldcafe.org](http://www.boldcafe.org)

Lutheran World Relief  
[www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org)

WND SWO WELCA Facebook page  
[www.facebook.com/WELCAWND](http://www.facebook.com/WELCAWND)

## THE WESTERN WHIRLWIND NEWSLETTER

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# Views from the Vice President

By Shirley Teske

I saw a man in a coffee shop one morning, being very rude to the young woman who was helping him with his order. He was demanding and disrespectful. He said mean things to her, continually telling her to “hurry up” until she was almost in tears.

Then I saw something wonderful happen. The rude man left the store and the woman who was next in line talked to the young woman with words of comfort. When she paid for her coffee, she gave the young woman an extra \$10. This was something she didn’t have to do, but something she wanted to do.

Then another happy thing happened. The man who followed the kind woman had also seen the rude man’s bad behavior and he also tried to comfort the young woman. When he paid for his coffee, he gave her an extra \$20. This was something he didn’t have to do, but something he wanted to do. When I got my coffee, I gave her extra money also and told her that there are people in this world that are unkind and do not consider other people feelings. I told her there is a wonderful thing called grace—a gift freely given by God and that man apparently doesn’t know about it. I told her to have a wonderful day.

This is called grace – a gift freely given. Think of it as kindness. When was the last time you were kind to someone; a total stranger?

The Bible teaches us about God’s grace. By God’s grace we live in a world of remarkable beauty and each one of us is offered God’s love. This love and kindness are God’s choice – A gift freely given. This is grace. How can we be anything but thankful for God’s gifts so freely given?

The word “grace” makes it clear that grace is *“God’s unmerited favor toward humanity and especially his people, realized through the covenant and fulfilled through Jesus Christ”* We are *“justified freely by his (God’s) grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus”* (Romans 3:24). God justifies even the ungodly (Romans 4:5). Grace is a “free gift” (Romans 5:15). Grace abounds so that it “might reign” over abundant trespasses (Romans 5:21). Our faith, then, does not save us but simply permits us access to the gift of saving grace.

Be gracious and kind to everyone you meet always.



Bless You  
FOR YOUR  
Kindness

*Thank you so much for your generosity, it really means a lot! I am really loving my education process and the things I'm learning and the contacts I am making!*

*Every day I give thanks to God for showering me with blessings far more than I can imagine! This is an amazing journey and I appreciate your prayers and support! Thank you and God's Blessings to you all!* *Shirley Teske*

# Secretary's Notes



## "Spring Cleaning"

By Helen Grant

*Psalm 51:10 "Create in me a Clean Heart O God and renew a right spirit within me!"*

Remember when spring cleaning and fall cleaning were two big jobs every year – the whole house was thoroughly cleaned. Uffda – walls, windows, floors, curtains, oh my. Not that we still don't clean, just that we do it differently.

Our hearts, minds and bodies can use a good spring cleaning too – learn to rest – God is in control! Clear out negative thoughts, focus on happy times and plans. Don't let the behavior of others destroy your inner peace. Stop wasting energy trying to control or change other people. LET THEM show who they really are and then you can choose what you do next. LET THEM do whatever it is that they want to do; this creates more control and emotional peace for you and a better relationship with the people in your life.

I've been getting the Unit Officer Update Lists – thank you. Still need quite a few so Unit Secretary's consider this a reminder to get this done! Also, Cluster Secretaries please submit your Spring Gathering Reports and Officer Updates.

Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering is in Iowa this July 16-19 – hopefully many of you have plans to attend.

Mark your calendar for the SWO Biennial Convention at the Camp of the Cross in Garrison on October 24 and 25. Scholarships are available. Please consider becoming the Western ND SWO Secretary as I will not be running for this position again.

Sharon Heilman, God Bless You and your family in your move. We are so blessed we got to become friends and work and play together – thank you for all you have done for Heart River Cluster and Western ND WELCA; you are special and we will miss you.

Enjoy Every Day – Thank You God!

\*\*\*\*\*

Throughout this issue you will see "Thank You notes" from the Seminary Students and First Call Pastors from Western North Dakota that received a gift from the W.I.S.E. Fund.

**Women In Seminary Education**

Dear WND Women of the ELCA,  
Thank you so kindly for the gift of money. It certainly was well-timed! I appreciate all of the support you have given me throughout Seminary and now in my new call. I will have my 2 year anniversary of my call in Bottineau in August! Time flies!  
Peace to you all! Anne Nies

# Treasurer's Reflections

## "And Sarah Laughed"

By Linda Hanson

I love to listen to little children laugh. Their laughter is so genuine, it's full of joy, it's sincere, and it's all encompassing. Their pleasure brings a smile to my face; it brings happiness to my heart and sunshine to daily life.

Many years ago, I had a record with the title "The Holy Bible" and one of the songs on that record was entitled, "And Sarah Laughed." This song comes from Genesis 18 and tells of Sarah's reaction to hearing that she would have a son. Her initial reaction is disbelief. What she hears is so unbelievable that she laughs, not the belly laugh of a child, but she laughs to herself. Yes, Sarah laughs, but Sarah isn't the only one that laughs in this story. Earlier in Genesis 17, Abraham also laughed when he was told that Sarah would have a child. What they heard couldn't be true...but it was. Their laughter later became joy as God fulfilled his promise to them.

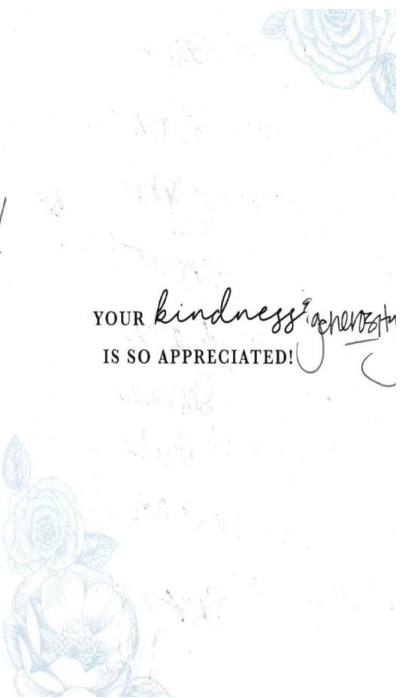
What makes you laugh? A joke? A funny story? A program you see on TV? Something you read? What about the things you hear or read about the plan God has for your life?

We read and hear that God loves us, prepares a place for us, and is always with us. We wonder if we deserve all God's riches and if it can really be true. At times, we may be like Sarah and laugh.

Let's laugh with joy, trusting in God's promises and embracing all of the riches that God gives to us each and every day.



Michelle & the WNDSONO -  
Thank you so much for the incredible generous gift of financial support for Seminary! What a surprise and such a blessing! Seminary has been a beautiful challenge & the prayers & support are so appreciated!  
Blessings  
Michelle Huntz



**A reminder for all who receive the Whirlwind by mail.**

If your mailing address changes, please notify Cheryl Lacey, the Whirlwind editor. (contact info on page 2). Once the time limit for forwarding to the new address has been reached the Post Office will send a notice of *Forwarding Expired* and charge us \$ .90 for each piece of mail.

You may also request to change to free email delivery of the Whirlwind (for all issues or only the winter months for our "snowbirds") by contacting Cheryl.

# From the Cluster Presidents/Reps

## East Missouri

By Connie Isaak



This spring's weather has brought lots of wind again and again. Many days I felt like we should have an anchor when going outside to keep from blowing away or else we just need to stay inside. Staying inside is not what we want after the long winter.

Anchoring a boat provides a strong holding of the boat in place against the waves. Who is my anchor against our overwhelming life struggles? Psalm 62:5 comes to mind: "Rest in God alone, for hope comes from him." How do we rest when there is so much pressure to get tasks completed? For me, I find if I can just stop, take a few deep breaths and concentrate on a verse like this one from the Psalm, it helps me to center myself. Then I can analyze which task needs my attention first. Another anchoring verse is Psalm 46:10 – "Be still and know that I am God". God is my refuge and strength. This is comforting to know that God is in control --- not me.

East Missouri Cluster women were invited to Steele by Trinity Lutheran Women for a Community Fun Day. We began with a lunch and then chose to participate in one of the 3 following events: singing and visiting at Golden Manor Nursing Home; filling backpacks at their food pantry or working on a quilt at their church. Over 20 women joined in this great way to give back to our communities. It was decided to do this again next spring. Hopefully, we can share God's love within another community in our Cluster. Instead of a separate fall meeting, encouragement will be made for all to attend the Biennial gathering at the Camp of the Cross near Garrison October 23-24.

*(President's article continued from page 1)*

There is no better place to live into this calling together than at the [2026 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering](#), July 16–19 in Des Moines, Iowa. Centered on the theme "*I Am Worthy*," the Triennial offers worship, biblical study, storytelling, and powerful connections that affirm the truth Pastor Erickson names: worthiness is not an individual achievement, but a communal identity lived out in faith and action.

To support participation, scholarships are available through the WND Synodical Women's Organization and many local clusters, (find SWO scholarship form on page 11). Optional travel by bus as a group is available, making the journey itself part of the shared experience of encouragement and community, please reach out to me for more information. Attending the Triennial is more than participating in an event—it is a faithful response to God's invitation to step forward and help shape renewal in the church we love.

Follow this link to read Pastor Erickson's interpretation of the Triennial theme in its entirety: <https://adultssavingkids.org/2026/05/07/here-is-my-interpretation-of-i-am-worthy/>

**Attention Western North  
Dakota Women of the ELCA!**

***ARE YOU READY FOR  
SOMETHING NEW?***

***This fall instead a Women's  
Retreat at Camp of the Cross  
and a separate SWO (Synodical  
Women's Organization)  
convention both events will be  
combined into one inspirational  
event October 23-24.***

***Please come and enjoy the best  
of both events!***

***Registration Form page 15***

# From the Cluster Presidents/Reps

## Western Prairie

By Judy Jarmin

The Western Prairie Cluster Spring Gathering will take place at Christ Lutheran Church in Minot on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Due to the publication deadline for the Whirlwind being prior to the event, my report on the Gathering will have to wait until my next article.

Christ Lutheran Church in Minot is my home church. I see things happening there all of the time. We recently held the annual Swedish Meatball Dinner and Rice Pudding Supper and the Spring Bouquet. The Men in Mission do the Meatball Supper but several women of the

congregation pitch in to help them get it all ready. The Women of Christ Lutheran Church put on this very large Bazaar, but several men help get it all ready. I have been thinking of that and how we all help each other. That's a good thing.

Galatians 5:13b "But through love be servants of one another." It can be a lot of fun to reach out and help and there are so many places where we can give our help. In our church, in our community and within our family. I encourage you to reach out this summer and help you neighbor, near and far.

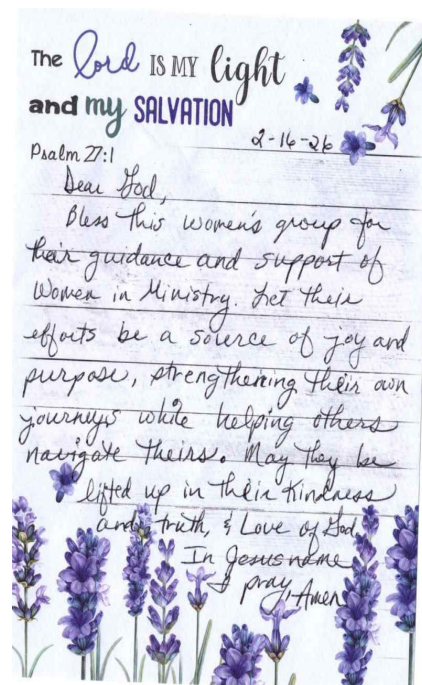
Make sure you read all the information in this newsletter about the upcoming Western ND Women of the ELCA Biennial Convention & Women's Retreat at Camp of the Cross near Garrison October 23-24 and the WELCA Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA in July. Maybe I'll see you there.

Facebook users check out the Western Prairie Cluster Facebook page. [www.facebook.com/westernprairiecluster](http://www.facebook.com/westernprairiecluster)



Dear WND Synod Women,  
With a huge Thank-You,  
for the recent financial  
gift to Support my work/service  
as a Deacon! I am so  
grateful for you, who  
recognize Women in ministry.  
I will use the funds in my  
travel to Metzgoshe Camp  
in April, for the "1st Call  
Gathering" in our Synod.  
Your generous support  
is appreciated, and how

it surprised me, again,  
to receive your gift in  
the mail. I give thanks  
for you! Someday, I hope  
to pay it forward to another  
woman in ministry. May  
God bless you! With thanks,  
Deacon Cheryl Lentz



# From the Cluster Presidents/Reps

## Turtle Mountain

By Taryce Olson



Turtle Mountain Cluster had a Spring Gathering on April 18<sup>th</sup> at Norwich Lutheran Church. We had a good representation from many area churches. Chris Fredrickson was our speaker for the day, and I incorporated her talk to bring awareness for serving as our chairman for the cluster. We have not been successful on getting anyone to volunteer their time to this commitment, but our women do not want us to lose the Turtle Mountain Cluster so we will still hold our Spring meetings, and we have Teresa Loftesness who will be a contact person for our area. Baby steps.

**“TOOLS FOR GOD”** what does this mean: God has provided us with physical tools, skills, and resources to carry out His purposes. Spiritually, “tools” often refer to the gifts, abilities, and spiritual disciplines God equips us with to serve Him and others. I am hoping that someone will step up to lead us with their abilities and gifts.

So many people have “tools for God”. These include:

- \* **Prayer**- a direct line to God for guidance and strength (James 1:5).
  - \* **Scripture**- the living Word that sharpens our knowledge and equips us for good works (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Hebrews 4:12).
  - \* **Fellowship**-community support that strengthens faith and encourages growth (Colossians 3:16).
  - \* **Faith and Obedience**- trusting God’s plan and working diligently as if serving Him directly (Colossians 3:23).
  - \* **Love, Forgiveness, and Kindness**- relational tools that build unity and compassion (Proverbs 27:17; 1 Peter 4:10).
- These “tools” are not just for personal benefit; they are meant to be used in service to God and others, reflecting His character.

**Modern Tools for Sharing the Gospel:** In today’s world, technology can be a “tool” for God’s purposes. Apps on your phone or laptop can help people prepare and have meaningful conversations about Jesus, offering lessons, language support, and resources. These apps are designed to remove barriers like fear and enable believers to share the gospel more effectively. Try the **God Tools app** for ideas and suggestions.

### *The Western Whirlwind*

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# From the Cluster Presidents/Reps

## Heart River

By Valerie Saylor



Hi! Many of you might remember me. I have been on SWO when I was president of Heart River Cluster, and I was SWO president also. So, I am back again-a surprise to me!

I am a retired Special Education teacher from Stanton ND. I have always been a strong supporter and participant in Women of ELCA. It was through WELCA that I learned leadership and preaching skills. The

Organization helped me know my abilities. I also am a Lay Preacher, and it looks like May/June will be a busy month for that also.

Thank you for trusting me to lead Heart River Cluster.

### Cluster Gathering Report

By Connie Rossow, secretary

The Heart River Cluster Spring Gathering was held on April 25<sup>th</sup> at House of Prayer in Bismarck, ND. There were 29 ladies in attendance. Registration, coffee and goodies were served at 9:30. We started the day at 10:00.

Devotions based on Genesis 1:27 were led by the Disciple Minister from House of Prayer Michelle Hintz. Kim Wood from Heavens Helpers Closet (701) was the Guest Speaker, Anne Vargas a board member of Heaven's Helpers, presented an interview style presentation of Closet 701. Anne asked Kim questions and

Kim furnished information about the Closet 701.

For the Love Offering we could choose to make a monetary donation to Closet 701 or bring items from a list Kim provided to all the churches. There were many items brought as well as money given. A lovely lunch was served. For lunch our name tags were color coded to match something on the table so we had lunch with ladies we might not have otherwise visited with. In the afternoon we had a short business meeting, sang a few hymns and ended the day with Communion service by Pastor Joel Samuelson.

Sharon Heilman resigned as Coordinator as they are moving to San Tan Valley, Arizona. Valerie Saylor from Our Savior's Lutheran Church at Stanton, ND stepped up to the plate to fill the position. Valerie will be attending the Triennial convention in July. We want to thank Sharon for all she done as the Coordinator and wish her happiness in her new home and new area.

Michelle and WND WELCA-

I am so grateful for the support you have shown my fellow seminarians and me through the WISE fund.

I am currently enrolled in the TEEM Classic Program at Wartburg Seminary. I anticipate graduating in the spring of 2027 (God-willing). As a TEEM student, I serve at NWULP in Divide and Williams County, working with 6 churches alongside 4 SAMs and an interim pastor. I have submitted paperwork for endorsement in the ELCA and am awaiting my candidacy interview, which I hope will bring me closer to God's call to serve in my parish.

I continue to pray for God to guide me through all the hoops and the intense coursework required to become a minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. Your gift was God's way of saying, "Keep going, Becky!" Please continue to pray for my upcoming internship and candidacy interview, as your ongoing support means the world to me.

Blessings on all the good work you do for WND SWO.

Peace,  
Becky Knudson  
TEEM Candidate, Wartburg Seminary  
NWULP, Crosby ND

# From the Cluster Presidents/Reps



## Upper Missouri

By Brenda Ekness  
& Nina Williams



Dear ladies of Upper Missouri,

“A sweet Friendship refreshes  
**THE SOUL**” Proverbs 27:9

The date was April 25<sup>th</sup>, the setting was Immanuel Lutheran in Westby, MT, the event was our Spring Cluster Gathering, the theme was “Thank You for Being My Friend”, and the day was **inspirational!**

Thank you to the nearly 70 women who gave their time to attend and join in on the camaraderie of sisterhood in Christ Jesus. “What a Friend We Have in Jesus”. Jesus is our #1 friend, and Jean Nygaard SAM, Crosby, spoke on the topic of friendship and the many ways our being a friend, and having friends, enrich our lives mentally, physically, and emotionally. The day had snippets of *The Golden Girls* thrown in as well, just for fun! Marsha Meyer, Immanuel-Westby, was our first-ever coloring contest winner. We hand crafted a card for our new individual friend that we made that day. The generosity of attendees bringing love offerings of non-perishable food items for Westby’s food pantry was very appreciated. Thank you! The women of Immanuel did an outstanding job of hosting: the food was delicious, the church was decoration were so pretty, and their amazing teamwork of nearly twenty unit members participating that day was undeniably a testament to their ability to work together for the glory of God. Thank you, Immanuel!

*\*\*\*One of our attendee’s black jacket was taken by mistake, and a black Columbia jacket left behind.*

*Please contact us if you have her jacket. Thank you!\*\*\**

Our offering for the day was split between the Synodical Women’s Organization and UM scholarships to attend the SWO Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA in July, and/or the Biennial Convention/Retreat at Camp of the Cross, by Garrison, on October 23-24. Come to the camp for both Friday and Saturday (\$100), or Saturday only (\$60). All unit presidents received a copy of each scholarship. If you do not have a copy already and wish to attend, please reach out to your president, or either of us, for an application.

During our business meeting, discussion was held on holding all future FALL Cluster gatherings at Springbrook Bible Camp by Epping, with our SPRING Cluster gatherings still being held at a host church. This will allow us to spend time at our beautiful camp, and still enjoy a host church each year! More details will be shared with unit presidents as plans are being made by your UM Board. All ideas/suggestions are very welcome and encouraged.

It is soon summer, ladies! Let us go forth in friendship and grace as we enjoy our nice weather and all the events that go along with it. Take your friend Jesus with you wherever you go. We hope we see many of you at our Fall Cluster gathering at Springbrook camp in September!

In love and friendship, Brenda Ekness (701.641.6050) and Nina Williams (308.539.3313)



**SYNOCDICAL CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM  
WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

**WHEN:** OCTOBER 23 - 24 (Friday and Saturday)

**WHERE:** Camp of the Cross - Garrison, ND

**RESERVATIONS for LODGING:**

Your registration form will be passed on to the camp to reserve your room.

*The WND Synodical Board will award up to 14 scholarships. Scholarships will be in the amount of \$100.00 for those attending both days of the 2026 synodical convention. The board is also awarding \$60.00 scholarships for those attending only on Saturday. Scholarships are open to ALL women, and first-time attendees are especially encouraged to apply. All applications must be received by September 15, 2026, with scholarships being awarded equally among the seven clusters, if possible.*

I am applying for the following scholarship: \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 for both days  
\_\_\_\_\_ (arriving and staying at the camp Friday night)  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$60.00 Saturday only

**Scholarships will be issued as a voucher for the convention registration. Room reservations will be made at Camp of the Cross when you register for the convention. Recipients are required to register for the convention by October 1, 2026. When registering, please include the voucher confirmation with the registration form when you mail the registration to Linda Hanson, Registrar.**

*In the event a recipient cannot attend the convention, please contact the scholarship chairperson listed below so that the scholarship can be awarded to someone else.*

**-PLEASE PRINT-**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-Mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cluster Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Congregation/Unit:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ **Is this your first convention? YES NO** Are you the Delegate for your unit? **YES NO**

**Your age group (circle one) Under 30 30-44 45-59 64-74 75+**

**Have you ever received a synodical scholarship for an SWO Convention? YES NO Please tell why you would like to attend this synodical convention:**

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

**Return to: Connie Isaak, Scholarship Chair  
5300 Plainsman Road  
Bismarck, ND 58503 [iisaak@bis.midco.net](mailto:iisaak@bis.midco.net)  
701-391-2825(cell)**

# **Discipleship (Mission Growth)** by Brenda Ekness



## Will You Be My Disciple?

By Maureen Levins

Will you be my disciple? I want to know.  
Will you go where others will not go?  
Will you go to the poor, the oppressed and the sick?  
I could send another, but it's you I pick.

Will you be my disciple? I'm asking you.  
Will you serve those in need, just as I do?  
Will you care for the sick, the lepers, the poor?  
For I've called upon you to knock on their door.

Will you be my disciple for the rest of your days?  
Will you give from your heart and not for man's praise?  
Will you give of your talents, your time and your wealth?  
For I've called upon you to give of yourself.

Will you be my disciple? I ask this of you.  
Though many I've called, those who've answered are few.  
It will cost you a lot, but it's well worth your loss.  
My blessings and life await you at my cross.



“By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” John 13:35  
Summer is the perfect time to share the love of Jesus, and to offer hope to people in need.

God's work, our hands. What an honor to be in partnership with Jesus.



Brenda Ekness

# NOMINATION FORM for the SWO BOARD

## WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

This form shall be filled out by the nominee or by her unit president with the nominee's consent to serve if elected. Each congregational unit may present one nominee to serve on the SWO board. (This may or may not be the same person)

Please type or print all information and **complete both sides of this form.** This form must be **postmarked no later than September 1, 2026,** to be considered by the Nominating Committee.

<b>Send completed form to:</b>	<b>Judy Jarmin</b>	<b>or</b>	<b>Linda Hanson</b>
	<b>3010 46<sup>th</sup> Ave NW</b>		<b>7853 139<sup>th</sup> Ave NW</b>
	<b>Minot, ND 58703</b>		<b>Zahl, ND 58856</b>
	<b>jjarmin@yahoo.com</b>		<b>linmart@ncray.net</b>

### *THE NOMINEE IS WILLING TO SERVE AS:*

- **Synodical Women's Board Member (Please only check one position below)**

- President**
- Vice President**
- Secretary**
- Treasurer**
- Cluster Representative\*\***

\*\*The Cluster Representative must be nominated by her cluster at a cluster business meeting. Additional nominations for this position cannot be made from the floor during the convention. This form needs to be completed and sent to the Nominations Chair following the Spring Cluster Gathering

### *NOMINEE'S BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION - PLEASE PRINT*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Cluster Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Congregation/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Is the nominee differently abled? (Y/N) If yes, how? \_\_\_\_\_

Age – circle one: Under 30   30-44   45-59   60-74   75 or older

**\*\*Please Complete Reverse Side – Use additional paper if necessary\*\***

**NOMINATION FORM** (continued from previous side)

Please list **Women of the ELCA experience**; include congregational unit, cluster, synodical women's organization and church wide women's organization experiences.

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Please list **ELCA experience**; including congregation, synod, and churchwide ELCA experience.

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Please list examples of **community participation**; including offices, volunteer services, and other responsibilities for local, state, national or international organizations.

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Please describe full time or part time **professional, vocational and occupational experience**.

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My name is being submitted for Triennial Delegate. **I HAVE** or **HAVE NOT** been a delegate before. (Circle one, if applicable)

**NOMINATED BY (Unit President's signature):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Congregation/Unit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\*\*Please PRINT the following information\*\*\*\***

**Unit President:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone :** \_\_\_\_\_

# What A Gift - To Love One Another

Western North Dakota Women of the ELCA Synodical Convention October 23-24, 2026

Camp of the Cross\*\*\*\*\*Garrison, ND

Registration Form

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET OR PO BOX \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE & ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CONGREGATIONAL UNIT/CITY \_\_\_\_\_

CLUSTER (circle): Badlands\*\*\*East Missouri\*\*\*Heart River\*\*\*Lonetree  
Turtle Mountain\*\*\*Upper Missouri\*\*\*Western Prairie

CHECK ONE:  **VOTING MEMBER** (Each unit may have ONE voting member at business sessions)  
 **PARTICIPANT** (Each unit may have an UNLIMITED number of participants)

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:  **FIRST-TIME ATTENDEE** to WND Synodical Women's Convention

**SCHOLARSHIP Recipient**  
CIRCLE if scholarship is from: Unit Cluster Synodical

**CLUSTER BOARD MEMBER**

**SYNODICAL BOARD MEMBER**

**DIETARY RESTRICTIONS, please specify:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Fee: \$100.00** for Friday night and Saturday. Fee includes hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, and Friday night lodging and Saturday activities and meals.

**\$60.00** Fee for all events on Saturday including breakfast and lunch.

**\$ 5.00** Optional Early Bird Craft Session with Carla Hodenfield-limit 20 people.

ATTENDING ENTIRE CONVENTION \_\_\_\_\_ (Staying Friday night) ATTENDING SATURDAY ONLY \_\_\_\_\_

Fee INCLUDES sleeping accommodations on site.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE:** Paid and postmarked no later than October 1, 2026.

**CANCELLATIONS:** for a full refund; requests must be postmarked before Monday, October 12, 2026.

**ON-SITE REGISTRATIONS:** Friday 5-6 pm and Saturday 8-8:30 am at Camp of the Cross (Central Time)

**I am interested in having childcare available:** Yes No

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO :** Women of the ELCA. Keep a copy of this registration for your records.

Mail check and form to: **Linda Hanson**  
**7853139<sup>th</sup> Ave NW**  
**Zahl, ND 58856**

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Linda Hanson by phone, 701-705-0065, or email linmart@nccray.net



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**June 2026 Issue**

Cheryl Lacey  
4111 85<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
New Town, ND 58763

**Change Service  
Requested**

**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.**

Please pass along (or copy) to the leadership of the Women of the  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in your church.