



The Western Whirlwind

Western North Dakota Women of the ELCA

September 2026

From the President's Desk

by Michelle Lauckner

What a joy it has been to witness the Spirit moving through Women of the ELCA in 2026. This summer brought two significant churchwide moments: the Thirteenth Triennial Convention and the Thirteenth Triennial Gathering. Together, they reminded us that we are part of something much larger than our own congregations, circles, clusters, and synodical organization. We are connected across the church by faith, purpose, service, and the promise that God continues to call women into bold ministry.

The 2026 Triennial Convention held virtually July 13–14, carried out the important business of church-wide Women of the ELCA. Voting members from synodical women's regions across the church gathered to elect leaders for the 2026–2029 triennium, consider memorials and resolutions, review proposed constitutional changes, and approve budget priorities for the years ahead. Though the convention took place online, its work was deeply rooted in community. It gave voting members the opportunity to help shape the future direction of our churchwide women's organization and to strengthen the ministries that support faith formation, leadership, advocacy, and service. More specifics to be shared in upcoming newsletters, via Facebook and through our webpage on the WND Synod website:

<https://www.wndsynod.org/synod-women-of-the-elca>

Just a few days later, women gathered in Des Moines, Iowa, July 16–19, for the 2026 Triennial Gathering under the theme “I Am Worthy,” based on Psalm 139:14: “I am fearfully and wonderfully made.” That theme offered a powerful reminder of God's promise to be with us in times of devastation, division, healing, and hope. Through worship, Bible study, speakers, workshops, service projects, advocacy, fellowship, the exhibit hall, and shared meals and conversations, participants were invited to claim their worth in Christ and celebrate the worth of every neighbor.

The message of “I Am Worthy” is one we carry home with us. It is not a slogan for one weekend only; it is a faith practice. When we remember that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, we are better able to encourage one another, welcome those who feel unseen, and step forward in service with courage. The Gathering reminded us that healing and wholeness begin with God's love for us and then extend outward through our relationships, our congregations, our communities, and the world.

Now we have the opportunity to bring that same energy, faith, and sisterhood into our own synodical life. I encourage you to make plans now to attend our 2026 WND WELCA Biennial Convention/Camp of the Cross Women's Retreat combined event. This gathering will be a special time to conduct the business of our



synodical organization, renew friendships, welcome new women, worship together, and rest in God's creation. Combining convention and retreat gives us space not only to make decisions, but also to be refreshed for the ministry God places before us.

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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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USEFUL WEB ADDRESSES:

WND SWO WELCA
www.wnd.org/synod-women-of-the-elca

ELCA www.elca.org

Gather Magazine
www.gathermagazine.org

Café (e-zine) www.boldcafe.org

Lutheran World Relief
www.lwr.org

WND SWO WELCA Facebook page
www.facebook.com/WELCAWND

THE WESTERN WHIRLWIND NEWSLETTER

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Views from the Vice President

By Shirley Teske

I need to address how people will say that God is to blame for natural disaster. God is not punishing his beloved children. God does not send his wrath upon people that are dealing with a natural disaster like earthquakes, volcanoes, blizzards, tornado, and floods.

Whenever there is a natural or human-made disaster, there are those who claim to know that God is punishing the victims for some real or imagined evil. The ironic thing is that these people claim to be Christians; they claim to speak for God; but instead of bringing the comfort of God to the hurting victims of disaster, they bring more pain to these people. I get so angry when people make a wild statement like: God is punishing them.

In the middle of any disaster whether natural or man-made; I know without a doubt that God loves the people and does not desert them in the midst of their trials. God and God's love is present in the midst of any disaster.

Have you ever heard someone say, "How could God let something like this happen?" or "Where was God when this earthquake, or this hurricane, or this tornado, or this flood, or this bombing, or this shooting took place?" Have you ever heard someone say, "I don't believe there is a God, because if there were he wouldn't let something like this happen?" I have heard these things said many times.

Everyone is so quick to blame God for the bad things that happen; but they also blame God for not stopping a tragedy from happening. How many times do you hear these people "blame" God for all the good things that happen or for when everything is going along just fine?

Do people thank God for the good times or do they chalk it up to being lucky.

Where is God love in all these disasters: he is in all the rescue teams that are helping to save people, God's love is in all the doctors, nurses and medics that respond to disasters, God's love is in the volunteers from around the world who descend on a country to help the victims. God's love is in the rescue dogs that are able to sniff out survivors and those who have died. God's love is in the prayers of people all around the world. God's love is in the donations of people of faith, who give what they have to help those who are suffering.

When disaster occurs, God does not forget his children; God embraces his children and walks with his children through all their pain and all their suffering. Listen to what the Psalmist said in the 121st Psalm:

God knows the sufferings and pains we have in life. God knows the pain that comes as a result of natural disasters. God knows and understands, because God has experienced it—personally. When a natural or man-made disaster happens people die, people lose loved ones, parents have lost children, children have lost parents, whole families have been lost.

And yet there will be those who ask, "Where was God?" "Doesn't God care?" "Doesn't God understand?"

And the answers are all so apparent to those who have faith in our loving God:

- God was right there!
- God cares more than you can imagine!
- God understands as only a parent can understand!

Vice President,
Shirley Teske



"I will lift up my eyes to the hills.
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from Lord,
who made heaven and earth.
He will not allow you to stumble.
He who keeps you will not slumber.
Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
The Lord himself watches over you,
The Lord is your shade on your right hand.
The sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
The Lord will keep you from all evil.
He will keep your soul.
The Lord keep watch over you as you
come and go, both now and forever."

Secretary's Notes



"Jesus Loves Me"

By Helen Grant

Remember our songs we learned in Sunday School – I think "Jesus Loves Me" brings the most satisfaction then and now. It's a song all ages know and how fun it is to hear and sing it!

Love means kindness, caring, and enjoying life and people. Not always do we agree or think alike but love shows us how to respect and to get along. We were asked a question during our SWO Triennial Voting Delegate Session – (the Theme was "I Am Worthy") to describe someone in your life that taught you worthiness and how. I thought of my Mom; she taught us Jesus Loves Me & Beautiful Savior and songs that showed Love. I was reminded of her and her friends getting together and doing Bible Studies together, having coffee parties, doing mission work for Madagascar, and our nightly devotions read from Little Visits With God. It all showed us that we are Worthy and Loved. What wonderful gifts!

Our theme for our WND SWO Biennial Convention is: "What a Gift: To Love One Another". It makes me think of the verse from 1st Corinthians 13: Faith, Hope & Love – and the greatest of these is Love! Mark your calendar for the WND SWO Biennial at the Camp of the Cross in Garrison Oct 23 and 24. Come and join us – the Camp will have activities, lodging if desired, food and fun. We have wonderful speakers, singing, prayers, and best of all the fellowship. It will cost \$100 for both days and \$60 for Saturday only. Scholarships are available. The love, caring and laughter remind us of our greatest gift that Jesus Loves Us and we need to Love One Another!

The WND SWO Secretary position is on the Election Ballot at the convention, and I will not be running again. Thanks for the all the love, prayers and caring I received doing this job and God's blessings to the new Secretary!

Enjoy Every Day – Jesus Loves YOU! 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**

WesternND Synodical Womens Organization -

Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this note.

Thank you very much for the generous contribution to my education. It is scary to start something new at this stage of life but I will follow where I am led.

*Thanks Again
Sharon Schen*

Treasurer's Reflections

"Languages"

By Linda Hanson

I grew up in a household where the only language that was spoken was English. I didn't take a second language in high school or college. Occasionally I would hear a word or phrase in Norwegian or German, but that was it.

The exception to this was singing in Norwegian. My sister and I were taught "Jeg Er Sa Glav Hver Julekveld" (I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve) when we were young. We sang it at many Christmas Eve services as we grew up. I still remember the words and enjoy singing that song as an adult. We also sang "Paul Pa Haugen" (Paul on the Hillside), and "Nicolina" at many county Farmer's Union conventions. There are a few other Norwegian songs that I heard growing up. I didn't learn the words, but the melodies are certainly familiar. Being a Sons of Norway member has taught me the Norwegian national anthem and the Norwegian Table Prayer as well.

I am sure some of us, if not most of us learned the German "O Tannenbaum" (Oh Christmas Tree) in school when we were growing up. "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night) in German is familiar to many of us as well.

The Tower of Babel story in Genesis 11 tells of people learning different languages, resulting in them disbursing into many different parts of the world. Act 2 tells us of Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit. Jews from many lands heard the story of God's love being told in their native language. The situation must have been confusing and scary to some at first. When the people realized they were hearing someone they didn't know speaking in a language they understood, the confusion must have lessened and the learning and listening must have begun.

I have had the opportunity to participate in worship services that were not in English. I attended a Catholic worship in France. The worship setting was beautiful, but the liturgy was unfamiliar. While in Germany, I attended a Lutheran worship service. I couldn't understand what was being said but the liturgy and the songs were very familiar. I knew where we were in the service and somehow, I found that comforting. I have been at worship services at other denominations where I understood the words but there wasn't a set order of worship. I found that somewhat strange. I can't imagine going to worship on a regular basis where I could understand what was being said but I couldn't understand where I was in the service.

Traveling broadens your knowledge of the world. It is fun and interesting to hear people speak different languages, but it is comforting to hear the language you know and understand. We learn much more fully when we understand what is presented in a language we are familiar with.

Our communities have changed in the past few years and will continue to change. As **BOLD Women** we need to welcome people who have grown up using a different language and help them feel a part of our church family. We may even learn some of their songs and traditions. Let us all learn and grow in the language of love and faith.



*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



*Greetings from
East Missouri Cluster!*

Have you ever had a word pop out at you and stay on your mind constantly? That word for me is **PERSEVERANCE**. I know its meaning is: continued effort to do or achieve something – despite difficulties, failure or opposition.

There are times when I want to say, “Enough already”. We see so many struggling with natural disasters – floods, drought, hail, tornados; addictions of various sorts, and so many things we can’t control – political violence, wars, hatred...

So, I researched some Biblical references to this word. Here’s a few: James 1:2-4; Galatians 6:9; Philippians 3:13-14 and probably my favorite is Hebrews 12:1. The author asks us to run with endurance the race set before us. Even though I don’t run anymore, I know that I can endure trials with faith that can lead to spiritual growth and maturity.

But how do I accomplish this?

Maybe through daily reflection. Take time to think about my challenges and how they could strengthen my faith. Journal my experiences and lessons learned. Then share these experiences with others to inspire them on their life’s journey.

Memorize the scripture that speaks to me. This can remind me of God’s promises during tough times.

Reflect and think about all those saints that have persevered in their lives. And most of all being thankful for God’s guidance and love. Then we can navigate life’s challenges with hope and confidence that our efforts are never in vain.

Then I can keep pressing on!

**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 will be combined into
one inspirational event
October 23-24.***

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

Registration Form page 15

Dear Michelle and all those
a part of the WND SWO,
I thank you once again for the
generous contribution that your
organization has made to my
seminary education at Luther.
I am so fortunate to
receive support from my home
Synod in North Dakota and I
greatly appreciate the freedom
it allows me to focus on
my studies. As you may know,
I transferred from Pacific

Lutheran Theological Seminary in
California to Luther last fall
and it has been so wonderful
to be closer to home. My
classes at Luther have been
rigorous and rewarding so far.
This summer, I will complete
my Clinical Pastoral Education
requirements at St. Mary's in
Duluth, MN! Thank you again
for the continued support and
prayers as I journey.
In Christ,
Karin Seland

***Thank you Western ND SWO for the Triennial
Gathering Scholarship! Mercy Carkuff***

From the Cluster Presidents/Reps

Western Prairie

By Judy Jarmin

The Western Prairie Cluster held their Spring Gathering on May 16, 2026, at Christ Lutheran Church in Minot. The theme of this year's gathering was, "Christ is our Light", based on the Bible verse John 8:12; "When Jesus spoke again to the people he said, "I am the light of the world / Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life".

The day began with registration and 16 Units were in attendance, with 64 members and 6 guests, making for a total of 70 ladies present. Rose Valley Church provided us with a coffee bar that included fruit, muffins, bread, juice and coffee. The Unit Roll Call Offering went to Path Family Healing. Gifts and money were donated by the ladies of each church as their name was called, totaling \$940.00. The Love offering was given to the Domestic Violence Center and included \$850.00 in gifts and money. In the spring our worship offering goes half to the Western North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization and the other half is shared by both Camp of the Cross and Camp Metigoshe, which is a total of \$1,940.00. We are so grateful to all the women who make these donations possible, thank you.



Beautiful music was provided by Pauline and Linda, with Becky on piano, along with Kathy on her flute. What a blessing! Sandy Horob, CLCW President, had a great contribution too, welcoming us and giving away a wonderful door prize. To start our day, Pastor Emily of Christ Lutheran lead us in prayer, then all the SWO board reports were given along with door prizes. We enjoyed speakers from the camps as well as our truly informative main speaker from Nexus-PATH Family Healing, Nia Miller.

Later, a fabulous lunch was served by the women of Christ Lutheran Church, along with a shopping opportunity from Koslig of downtown Minot. Janet and Jean, two ladies in attendance, filled in with a skit encouraging women to attend the upcoming CWO Triennial Gathering and Western ND SWO Biennial Convention. What a performance! Afterwards, the election of officers was conducted as we are looking for someone to take over the position of Mission Stewardship. Unfortunately, at this time no one has volunteered to take that position. I continue to ask you to prayerfully consider helping your community and stepping up to the role. Moving on, another skit was done by the WPC board.

Pastor Emily's message was, "Jesus is our Morning Star and provided us with communion".

We closed the day out by drawing names to take home beautiful centerpieces made by Leann of Christ Lutheran Church and singing "This Little Light of Mine", while holding our little electric candles. To finish off, afternoon coffee was available thanks to Christ Lutheran and Rose Valley Churches. Many thanks to all the attendees as well as everyone who puts in the work to make these Gatherings possible!

I would like to take this time to share my experience at the recent Triennial Gathering of the WELCA in July at Des Moines, Iowa. I had never been to one before, and I had gotten the opportunity to attend. It was a wonderful experience, and I couldn't have enjoyed it more. Meeting women from all over the United States was amazing, and the workshops were so educational and inspiring. We will meet again in three years in Louisville, Kentucky, and I encourage you all to consider attending and being uplifted.

Finally, our Western North Dakota Biennial convention is coming up on the 23rd and 24th of October at the Camp of the Cross by Garrison, and I want to encourage each one of you to attend. Get your registration sent in soon. Hope to see you there!

Facebook users check out the Western Prairie Cluster Facebook page: www.facebook.com/westernprairiecluster
&

Western ND SWO WELCA Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WELCAWND



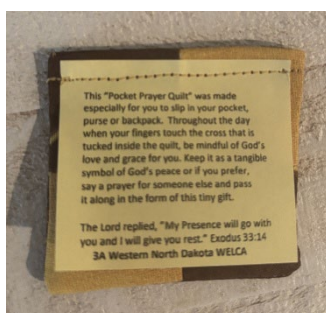
Some of the Western North Dakota Attendees



SWO president Michelle with Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry

“Pocket
Quilts”
for trading
with new
friends

made by
Cheryl Lacey



Winner of the
“I Am Worthy”
Quilt
Challenge



The Western Whirlwind

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From the Cluster Presidents/Reps

Heart River

By Valerie Sayler



I am writing this on a forecasted 100 degree day once again. How are your flowers doing in this heat? Mine are still fine but I was able to water them every day. I hope your gardens are producing!

I attended the Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, Iowa. It never disappoints me; the theme "I Am Worthy" was the subject for all the

workshops. The workshops were overflowing with women (and one man from Western ND!). I registered for the 2029 Triennial Gathering for half price. The worship was inspiring and full of the Holy Spirit.

Then back to ND and our lives. Writing this article was my first item to check off my list. I held my first meeting with the Heart River Cluster Board. They are all committed to bring faith filled gatherings.

Our Fall Gathering will be at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Elgin on Saturday, September 19, 2026, beginning at 8:30 AM Mountain Time, 9:30 AM Central Time. Our theme verse in Proverbs 31:8 "Speak up for the people who have no voice." (The Message)

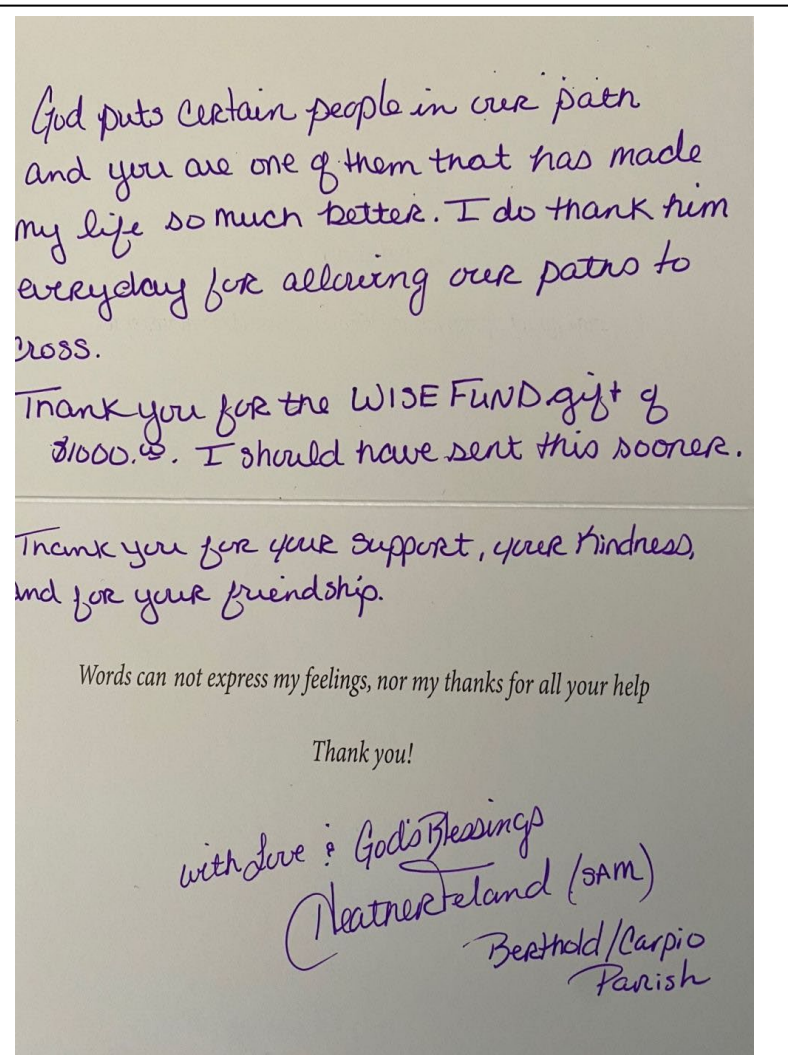
Our speakers will be from **31:8 Project**. The mission of 31:8 Project is to equip and challenge our communities to recognize and respond to human trafficking. We do this through education, advocacy, and services that support survivors.

To register contact Robin Bentz 701-390-3697. Flyers will be sent to all Heart River Cluster Churches.

Our **love offering** will be items for their **Restore and Renew Kits**.

Items needed are:
Shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion (travel size.)
Hand Sanitizer, washcloth, ChapStick, toothbrush, toothpaste,
Floss, deodorant, Menstrual items, Makeup wipes,
Comb, scrunchies, tissues, Q-tips, Band aid, Pens, journals.

Stay cool and stay committed to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



From the Cluster Presidents/Reps



Upper Missouri

By Brenda Ekness
& Nina Williams



Dear Sisters in Christ,

As the leaves change color and the air turns crisp, we enter into a glorious new season of God's creation. Fall is a reminder that change can be beautiful! Ecclesiastics 3:1 tells us, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven."

After a busy summer, we are so excited to gather again. This fall, our focus is on slowing down, opening His word, taking time to share the good news with others, and building a stronger circle of support and prayer.

Your Upper Missouri WELCA board welcomes you to our **2026 Fall Cluster Gathering** to be held on **Saturday, October 3rd**, at **Springbrook Bible Camp** (near Epping), to enjoy our theme for the day **"Spread the Good News....When Something's this Good, you just Wanna Share it!"**.

The Bible verse chosen for our gathering is **Isaiah 52:7 "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings."**

Registration will begin at 9:30; the event at 10:00. Our **Love Offering will be items to share with the Bible Camp**, (a list of needed supplies for the camp will be sent to each unit). **Our offering for the day will be directed to both SWO and the Eckert Youth Home in Williston.** A rep from the Youth Home will join us as well.

We, your UM WELCA board, are encouraging all units to come and support us as we strive to make our time together enriching, enlightening, and enjoyable !

Whether you are new to our cluster or have been with us for years, you have a special place here! Let us ever walk together in faith, love, and service this autumn. We look forward to seeing you, and sharing in a day of fellowship, worship, activities, and more! Please reach out to any of our board members if you have any questions or suggestions for the day.



Also, please note that our Cluster has many scholarships available for our upcoming Western ND WELCA biennial convention, to be held at Camp of the Cross, near Garrison, on Saturday, Oct. 24th, with an optional evening of fellowship at the camp on Friday evening, the 23rd. More detailed information about the convention can be found elsewhere in this publication. More discussion on our available scholarship program will be discussed at our Cluster gathering.

God's love to all, Brenda and Nina

(President's article continued from page 1)

Whether you attended the Triennial events, joined by Zoom, followed updates from home, or are simply curious about WELCA, you are invited. Come as you are. Bring a friend. Bring your questions, your gifts, your prayers, and your willingness to be part of what God is doing among women in our synod. The wider church has reminded us that we are worthy, called, and connected. Now let us gather locally to live that truth boldly, joyfully, and faithfully together.

**WESTERN ND WOMEN OF THE ELCA
2026 BIENNIAL CONVENTION and
CAMP OF THE CROSS WOMEN'S RETREAT
OCTOBER 23-24, 2026
CAMP OF THE CROSS, GARRISON
"WHAT A GIFT: TO LOVE ONE ANOTHER"**

OCTOBER 23, 2026 FRIDAY **All times listed are Central Time***

- 6:30 Snacks/Hors d'oeuvres & Registration
- 7:00 Painting Class with Carla Hodenfield (Cost \$5)
Limited to 20 people / pre-registration required
- After class: Campfire & Singing
- Lodging provided by Camp of the Cross

OCTOBER 24, 2026 SATURDAY ***All times listed are Central Time***

- 8:00 Registration
- 9:00 Opening WELCA SWO Meeting
Speakers including Bishop Lisa Lewton
Coffee, Bible study
- 11:30 Lunch
- 1:00 Camp activities including nature walks, soap carving,
coloring mandalas and creating finger labyrinths
Additional project with Carla Hodenfield
- 3:15 SWO Business Meeting & Elections (SWO Sec & Treas)
- 4:00 Worship & Communion
- 5:00 Adjourn

To-go suppers will be available for guests to take home!

ROLL CALL: Needs for Camp of the Cross including office & cleaning supplies, canned goods, cake & brownie mixes, see full list <https://www.campofthecross.com/mother-the-camp-1>

WORSHIP OFFERING: ½ to SWO & ½ FirstLink Suicide & Crisis Hotline
SWO SCHOLARSHIP FUND DONATIONS: Attach cash/check to donation tree

COST: Friday and Saturday \$ 100
Saturday Only \$ 60

Everyone Welcome to Attend! SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

Stewardship (Mission Action)

By Judy Jarmin

The WELCA website is full of information. Do you ever go there? I found out there is a monthly Stewardship devotion. These Devotions vary each month and they can focus either on your personal gifts or away your community can support the ministry of the Women of the ELCA.

The last devotion is written by Rev. Dr. Becca Ehrlich and uses Psalm 39: 4-5 as its base. "Lord, let me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting my life is. You have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing in your sight. Surely everyone stands as a mere breath."

This makes me think about how I use my time. So much time can be wasted on my phone or on the TV. Surely, I can do better with my time before it's all used up. Let's make the most of each day following the path God are laid out for us rather than our own path.

Justice (Mission Community)

By Michelle Lauckner

The Women of the ELCA have a long and courageous history of standing with those who have been exploited—and of leading the church to speak truth about human trafficking. That commitment grew out of real encounters, real stories, and real courage.

Some of this work began in 1989, when a small group of women from a Lutheran congregation in Minnesota visited an inner-city ministry and listened to stories that forever changed them. They heard directly from survivors of exploitation and realized that trafficking was not a distant problem—it was happening in their communities and even within the church.

Those women took what they learned back to the Women of the ELCA, opening conversations that had long been avoided. Through conventions, workshops, and survivor-led trainings, awareness spread across synods. Survivors found their voices. Church women discovered the power of listening, believing, and responding with compassion.

Out of these efforts grew a strong partnership with what is now known as Adults Saving Kids. Together, they supported education programs for youth, training for adults, and national advocacy. This collaboration helped shape churchwide responses to commercial sexual exploitation and positioned the ELCA as a leader among denominations addressing human trafficking.

Today, that legacy continues. The call to protect young people, to care for survivors, and to work for justice remains just as urgent.

Take the Next Step.

Women of the ELCA are encouraged to learn from this history and continue the work today by exploring current human trafficking resources available through Women of the ELCA. These faith-based tools offer education, action ideas, and ways to engage congregations and communities. Visit: womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/justice/human-trafficking.

Pastor Al Erickson, founder of Adults Saving Kids, is offering virtual learning sessions on how we can work together to save our kids, grandkids, and impressionable youth. Please reach out to him on the official website to request more information about this opportunity: info.adultssavingkids@gmail.com Together, grounded in faith and informed by experience, women of the church can continue to be a powerful force for justice, healing, and hope.

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. (This may or may not be the same person)

Each congregational unit may present only one nominee to serve on the SWO Board.

Please type or print all information and **complete both sides of this form**. This form must be **postmarked no later than September 15, 2026**, to be considered by the Nominating Committee:

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

THE NOMINEE IS WILLING TO SERVE AS:

- Synodical Women's Board Member (Please check one position below)
 - President
 - Vice President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - Cluster Representative**
- 2029 Triennial Convention Voting Member

**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.

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

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

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

My name is being submitted for Triennial Convention voting member. **I HAVE** or **HAVE NOT** previously been a voting member 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
7853 139th Ave NW
Zahl, ND 58856

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



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September 2026 Issue

Cheryl Lacey
4111 85th 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.