

Reflections . . . A

**Newsletter of the Women of the ELCA + Northern Great
Lakes Synod
*December 2017***

A Message from... *Melzee, Synod Women's Organization President*

It is my pleasure to report that the Fall Convention and Retreat in 2017 had the largest member of attendees that we have had in the past several years. It is exciting to see that women in our churches are seeking information about what the Women of the ELCA are and have been doing. I want to say a Big Thank You to the Women of the Delta Cluster that came together to host the weekend and to Karen Carter of the Headwaters Cluster for all she did working with the Pastors Kay Richter and Christine Forsythe for the worship services for the convention and retreat. We are anxiously awaiting a decision from a group of ladies as to whether they will be hosting the retreat in 2018; however, if there is any other group out there thinking about it let us know. It would be wonderful if two groups would step up one for 2018 and one for 2019. We already have a confirmation for a Chaplain for the 2018 retreat but you will have to wait to see who that is.

We are excited to be able to have the project "Britches for Boys" this year as our In-Kind. We will be making britches (shorts) for boys out of T-shirts or pillowcases. Patterns may be found in this newsletter and also on our NGLS Synod Web Page. If you use T-shirts that have designs on the front, please make sure that there are no offensive words or pictures used, no patriotic designs, and no holiday signs. The designs can be turned to the inside, but as we all know it does not take much to turn the shorts inside out and wear them also so just beware. Same with the pillowcases. I remember when the Kid's Club at Sharon Lutheran in Bessemer were making the dresses, the boys asked if they would be making something for the boys in the future. Yep we are.

For those of you that would like to continue making pillow case dresses for the girls and plastic bag sleeping mats, you keep on going as we still have a need for those and a place for them to go. I want to thank each and everyone of you who are working on all these projects. Your talents are greatly appreciated by all.

We had our first board meeting with the new board in October and we are on our way to enhancing communications and learning new things that are coming our way. It is exciting to see the energy that flows out of these ladies on your behalf. A listing of board members is also included in the back of this newsletter. Make sure that you keep that list handy so you can contact us at any time with any questions you may have.

We have been talking for the last year as to how we would reach out to clusters that are not very active. Last year at the retreat we had a number of ladies from cluster five who came as their new pastor was the chaplain. Either they had never been there or they had not been in a long time. Then one Sunday, I received a call from Pastor Jim Wendt of Immanuel Lutheran in Marinette asking if we would come to meet with the ladies at their Fireside Chat on Sundays and explain what the Synodical Women's Organization is and what we do. Talk about God knocking at the door inviting us to share!. So Ladies from Cluster 5 (Menominee) and Cluster 7 (Three Lakes) we will be in contact with you to make arrangements to meet in the near future.

There were changes made to the constitution of the Women of the ELCA at the Triennial in July. We have now received those from Churchwide and the Board will be updating the constitution for NGLSWO at the February Board Meeting. When final approval comes back from Churchwide we will post the newest Constitution for both Churchwide and our Local Synod on the Northern Great Lakes Synod Web Page for your convenience. There were also resolutions that were past and we will review this at that same board meeting and post our decisions on the website also.

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year. **Melzee Jacobson**

A Message from... Pam, Synod Women's Organization Vice President

Report of the Vice President: It truly has been a blessing belonging to such a marvelous organization. The camaraderie of the board members is something I thank the Lord for. I had the privilege of being the Cluster Liaison for Cluster 8 and enjoyed the fellowship with those ladies just north from me. The Fall Cluster was held at Bethany Lutheran Church in Negaunee. It was a gorgeous afternoon with 37 in attendance; the offering was divided by SWO, Love' Inc and the Hurricane Disaster Relief. Their WELCA President, Marilyn Warren, opened up the gathering with a welcome followed by devotions. Special Music was Kim Lenten, who sang and played the guitar, he was terrific. Dr. Brian Anderson and his wife Danielle gave a presentation on their recent trip to Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania where they worked at a local Dental Clinic. Within 5 days, along with other volunteers, they saw 410 patients. In order to see as many patients as possible, one of the volunteers would be outside in the waiting area trying to triage which patients were most urgent. Most of them waited over a day to have a chance to be seen by a dentist. The volunteer group brought with them over \$2000 worth of dental supplies which was donated by a local dentist in Marquette who was retiring. Their goal is to have a Dental Mission every two years coming from our synod. Our recently retired Bishop Skrenes and his wife were among those who traveled to Tanzania; their mission was to distribute mosquito netting. Our time together ended with a delicious dinner. I look forward to being with them again in the spring at Immanuel, Negaunee. We continue updating the cluster information. This is an ongoing project with many of our congregations struggling to keep their WELCA alive and active. I have been told by many different churches, even if they don't have an active WELCA program, the women in their congregation participate in many areas of the church. They have active quilting groups, serving groups, bible studies, altar guilds and many more responsibilities in their home congregations. Another goal is to create a Facebook page for our SWO, which can be easily accessed by several women across the UP and northern Wisconsin. What a better way to display all the activities that our congregations are doing all over our synod. I want to thank you for giving me this opportunity to serve, and I pray for God's continued blessing on the work of the Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women's Organization.

A Message from ... Barb, Synod Women's Organization Secretary SSecretary

As we approach the season of Advent, the beginning of a new church year, I cannot believe how time has flown! SWO had a very successful Convention back in September and we saw the end of the terms of some wonderful board members. But God called new women to fill their chairs and I know that our new board members will become new eyes, ears, and hands in planning and executing the work of our sisterhood. Our first board meeting in October was meaningful and productive. We are blessed!

Following the Convention, a wonderful Fall Retreat was shared with friends old and new. Thank you, Delta Cluster for wonderful planning and Karen Carter and Pastor Christina Forsythe for amazing worship experiences!

My suggestion for you this New Year is to help every women in your congregation have access to this SWO Reflections newsletter so that they, too, can become part of this great organization and understand what the women in the NGLS are doing in the mission fields. I ask that you send me email addresses of these women (with their permission, of course) so I can mail a digital copy of Reflections to them. I look forward to hearing from you!

Here's to an Advent of hope and promise!

Barb Rice, Secretary

barb.strong.rice@gmail.com

A Message From... Synodical Women's Organization Board

A Message From... Kris, Synod Women's Organization Treasurer

I want to thank you for your generosity throughout the year with your Regular (Form A) Offerings, as well as Convention and Retreat offerings. A more detailed report of the convention and retreat offerings will be included in the next newsletter.

As treasurer, I am the one who should receive any offerings that you are passing along to Churchwide and the Synod. My address is 304 Lake Street, Ironwood MI 49938.

A Regular Offering (on Form A) makes you a "giving unit". If you need additional copies of Form A, they are available on the Women of the ELCA website; or, I will be happy to send you additional copies. You can call me at 906-932-0476 (leave a message if I'm not there) or you can e-mail me kriskarin@sbcglobal.net.

Please note that any offerings that you wish to be included in this fiscal year MUST BE RECEIVED BY DECEMBER 31, 2017.

Blessings for the Christmas season.

Elaine Kuhlmann, Synodical Women's Organization Board Member

I am married to a wonderful man Larry and we have two married children Lyle (wife) Dawnzy and Rhonda (husband) Rodney. We have 2 granddaughters and they have given us four great-grand son's and three great-grand daughters. Our pet is Purdy the cat.

We attend Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Sayner, WI. My activities include volunteering with the quilting group, lectionary reader, head of fundraiser for outreach mission. I am an active member of the women's Bible Study and Tech Study at Shepherd. My activities in the community include blood drives, Via de Christo, graduate of Lay School for Ministry. I am a retired Pharmacy Tech and part-time Walmart employee.

I have the pleasure of being the Cluster #2 Liaison for Copper Country.

I am blessed to be elected to the board and look forward to working with everyone.

God Bless All

Elaine Kuhlmann, Board Member

Lucy Korhonen: I am a member of United Lutheran in Crystal Falls, where I serve on the church council as treasurer. I am also a greeter and lector. Many of you probably remember me from Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp as cook for many years and office manager. I am currently cooking at the Crystal Falls Senior/Community center. I have three children, Jessica, James and Jonathon. I also have a wonderful grandson, Edward. He brings so much joy to my life!! I am excited to serve on the board. I have served in the past as vice-president and board member. I will be board liaison for Headwaters Cluster 3.

Gail Schmidt: I am one of your newly elected board members. While at the Triennial Convention in July, I felt a nudge to become more involved in the church and asked Melzee what was involved in being a board member. I decided it was time to get out of my comfort zone and take the leap.

I am a true Yooper, having been born and raised in Menominee, MI. I was raised catholic, as was my husband. We have 4 fur babies, and see the power of love daily with these beauties.

After many years of not attending church, he decided we needed to get back to worshipping the Lord. We settled at St. Stephen's here in Stephenson, MI. I was introduced to The women's retreat at Fortune Lake about 5 years ago, and this year also attended the convention as a voting member. I have met so many wonderful women, whom I call friends.

For a short time I was involved in fund raising for our Kids for Camp program. That first year we sent 7 children to experience the goodness of the Lord at Fortune Lake. It made my heart happy. I am also a WELCA member here, and enjoy the fellowship of these ladies as we work for a common good. I look forward to expanding my knowledge and doing God's work, as he has blessed me bountifully, daily. I can be reached at 715-923-4186 or at gmschmidt@sbcglobal.net. I am excited to embark on this new chapter in my life, and look forward to meeting many of you soon.

May God bless you all, Gail Schmidt.

Sue Hill I am serving my second year on the SWO Board and my second year as the historian. Melzee tells me that we have located some of our missing photo albums, that makes me smile. This women's group has been very active and I am not a happy camper if there is not a history of their activities.

I have filed all the material given for year 2017 and am hoping for some pictures of the our new board. There was a small glitch in our camera work, please help us if you can.

My prayers to end this year is that Christmas is a blessed and happy time for everyone.

Cluster Corner News and Sharing of Ideas

We had a wonderful turnout, although we did miss some familiar faces. The Retreat Theme of “A

Godly Touch” was used for the meeting and the Interim for Christ Lutheran Parish, Pr Lisa Ubbelohde led a healing service. A discussion was held about the possibility of holding a gathering in the Spring such as a fellowship event so that members of the cluster would be able to meet for a second time throughout the year. Since All Saints Women of the ELCA are planning on hosting a Baby Shower for Dove in the Spring, it was felt that all churches from the cluster would join in on the event. During the sharing time, each church group was asked to share what ministries were happening in their churches. We all do so much and it has become such a constant in our activities that we forget how much our ministry reaches outward. Things talked about were making prayer shawls for those within the congregations and organizations outside the church such as Veteran’s affairs and police departments, care meals program that provides meals to families or individuals during the death of a loved one or an illness; making quilts for Lutheran World Relief, Community Concerns, nursing homes, dignity quilts, lap quilts, quilts for baptismal gifts, collecting box tops for schools, pull tabs from soda, beer and food cans for cancer victims, canceled stamps, book clubs, Bible studies, circle meetings, matching funds projects, Altar guild, Crop Walk, Making school, layette, personal care and fabric kits, maintaining a food pantry, new clothing for foster children, salad luncheons, serving funerals, making caps and booties for newborns, fall bazaars, coat collection and sharing of items, Christmas caroling, Pre-Thanksgiving meal inviting the public and having youth serve as helpers, Wednesday evening meals, homeless sleeping mats, prayer beads, pocket prayer cloths and plastic canvas crosses in a pocket for the hospital waiting rooms, card ministries, and I am sure there are some others that were not even mentioned. Take a look at what the women in your congregations do and understand that your ministries are many and are important and you should be pleased with what you do, I know God is.

Superior Central Cluster 3 - Lucy Korhonen

I attended the Cluster 3 fall rally at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church in Sayner, WI. It was a beautiful fall day for a drive. On the way, I saw a donkey, three different groups of turkeys, five eagles. There were a lot of dead deer as well.

There were about 12 people in attendance. We heard about Vital Links which is a mission team to Vietnam. They supply healthcare, education, orphan sponsors and bible study to the youth there. They teach nurses so they are able to carry on the medical help when the mission team returns home. They also bring reading glasses to the people of Vietnam. It was a very informative session.

In the business meeting, the different churches shared what they were doing in their churches. Backpacks for children was the thing the churches were helping with. This is a program where children pick up a backpack on Fridays that has food in it for the weekend. This is a great program available so children do not go hungry for the weekend. Of course, quilting was also a big project.

We were treated to a soup and sandwich lunch.

Superior Cluster 4 Cluster Meeting - Melzee Jacobson

I attended the fall cluster meeting at Bethany Lutheran in Norway which was hosted by the Ladies from Calvary Lutheran Church in Quinnesec with the help of their sisters from Bethany (a combined two-point ministry sharing). It was wonderful, they had a Spudtacular theme. That’s right SPUD (potatoes). We learned about the different colors of potatoes, and then we heard about the Tatar buds and their family who included Dick-tator, Agi-tator, Hesi-tator, Partissi-tator, Imi-tator, just to name a few. We also had the opportunity to dress up that Mr. Potato Head and have our picture taken. Marsha Waino was the presenter and talked to us about diversity in the church. She has a wonderful presentation and is willing to talk to other groups. If interested, contact Barb Rice our Secretary of the Board for more information. It was a treat to have Pr. Linda Forray be the chaplain for the day and her presentation on the Tatar family was such a

delight and such a learning and thinking experience for each of us. They are planning a fellowship get-together in the Spring just so they can keep in contact with one another.

Superior Cluster 6 Cluster Meeting - Melzee Jacobson

My goal last year was to attend each of the fall cluster meetings, but I was unable to attend the Delta Cluster meeting both in the fall and in the spring. So, I unexpectedly arrived on Saturday morning to join them and our Board Liaison Janet Penhale. They had a great turnout 30-plus attendees. Jackie Woodrich presented a talk about her trip to Tanzania this summer with the other teens that traveled there. She displayed many of the items that she was able to bring back with her. I especially had a treat as we were serving Faith Lutheran in Rock and Bethany Lutheran in Perkins when we were first called to the Upper Peninsula and Jackie was just a little tike when we were there. Her sister, Erin, came also with her and we had a nice visit. This cluster also had the Spudtacular Theme for their gathering. They presented a skit about that Tatar Buds and their family which was very enjoyable. It was fun to be so warmly welcomed and to see friends from Rock that came to the meeting also. Delta will be having a Spring Cluster meeting in 2018.

NGLSWO T-SHIRTS / SWEATSHIRTS

FOR SALE! You may purchase a T-shirt / Sweatshirt with the Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women’s Organization logo. A local printing shop is happy to help us out! Orders may be placed by sending them to Kris Carlson, SWO Treasurer.

	T-Shirts	Quantity	Long Sleeve T	Quantity	
Sweatshirts	Quantity				
Small	\$10.00	_____	\$14.00	_____	\$16.00
Medium	\$10.00	_____	\$14.00	_____	\$16.00
Large	\$10.00	_____	\$14.00	_____	\$16.00
X-Large (1XL)	\$10.00	_____	\$14.00	_____	\$16.00
2 XL	\$10.00	_____	\$17.00	_____	\$22.00

You may order individually, as a small group, or as a WELCA group. Orders will be shipped to one address for each order.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____(Home) _____(Cell)

E-MAIL: _____

Please note the Board Members will have shirts with Black Lettering (to designate they are Board Members). All other shirts for NGLSWO will have White Lettering. T-Shirts are available in teal or sapphire blue. Long Sleeve T-Shirts and Sweatshirts are available in sapphire blue.

Mail check and orders to: Kris Carlson, SWO Treasurer, 304 Lake St., Ironwood MI 49938

NGLSWO Record Only: Check # _____

Order received date: _____ Order mailed:

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Northern Great Lakes Synodical Woman's Organization

You must be a member of an NGLS/ELCA Congregation. Complete this form, mail by deadline.

Event for which you are Requesting a Scholarship: (check only one)	Amount
_____ Fortune Lake Camp Women and Kids Week (Adult Only) May 1, 2018	\$100 each
_____ Fortune Lake Camp Grand(moms)parents-Kids Week (Adult Only) May 1, 2018	\$ 80 each
_____ Synodical Women's Organization Convention July 31, 2018	\$ 25 each
_____ Fortune Lake Camp Women's Fall Retreat July 31, 2018	\$ 75 each
_____ Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering Jan 1, 2020	\$300 each

Please remit the required \$25 with each application; made payable to SWO (Synodical Women's Organization).

This will be refunded after you attend the event and may not be used as part of your registration monies.

If you do not receive a scholarship, it will be refunded after the participants have been chosen.

Name

Address

City, State,

Zip, _____

Telephone: Home (____) _____ Work/Cell (____) _____ E-mail _____

Church Name and

City _____

Please state your involvement with Women of the ELCA as well as other church activities _____

What are your reasons for requesting scholarship support?

Why is attending this event important to you?

Your age group: 18-24 _____ 25-34 _____ 35-44 _____ 45-64 _____ 65+

Are you participating in this event for the first time? Yes _____ No _____

If no, have you ever received a SWO Scholarship for this event before? Yes _____

No _____

If yes, when?

How will you use this experience when you return home?

Signature of Applicant _____ Date

Mail this application to: Kris Carlson, 304 Lake Street, Ironwood, MI 49938
kriskarin@sbcglobal.net

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If you have an e-mail address and would like to receive the Reflections digitally, please let us know by contacting Barb Rice at barb.strong.rice@gmail.com. In the subject line please state Digital Reflections Interest.

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SAVE THE DATE

2018 ANNUAL SWO CONVENTION
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

2018 ANNUAL SWO RETREAT
FRIDAY-SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 14-16

FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

WATCH FOR THE MAY NEWSLETTER FOR ALL DETAILS

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE

http://fortunelake.org/files/IMG_0694-2-845x321.jpg

THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)

I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)

I am united with the Lord (1 Cor. 6 :17)

I am bought with a price (1 Cor 6:19-20)

I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)

I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)

I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt 5:13-14)

I am a member of the body of Christ (1 Cor 12:27)

I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8:1-2)

I am a citizen of Heaven, I am significant (Phil 3:20)

I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)

I am a minister of reconciliation for God (2 Cor 5:17-21)

I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)

I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)

I cannot be separated from the love of God (Rom 8:35-39)

I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor 1:21-22)

I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8:28)

I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)

I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3:12)

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)

I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15:1-5)

I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3:16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2:10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3... I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's coworker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1), I am God's workmanship (Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil. 1:5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child (Eph.
1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
Who you are?

Merry Christmas to one and all.....
And have a Blessed New Year

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Reflections Newsletter December 2017

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Our Purpose

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

Our Mission

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