



Reflections...

A Newsletter of the Women of the ELCA + Northern Great Lakes Synod

March 2019

A message from...Synod Women's Organization President Melzee Jacobson

Greetings to one and all,

Welcome to 2019. There are many things happening this year in the world of the Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women's Organization. We have a Host Committee from the Ishpeming area for the fall retreat. They have already had their first organizing meeting and have a Chaplain that is working with them. At our SWO Board meeting this February we began the process of planning the 2019 Convention. Our Women of the ELCA representative will be from Marshall, Minnesota (which by the way is only 30 minutes south of where my husband grew up in Canby, Minnesota).

At this year's convention, we will not only be electing a Vice President, Secretary and Board Members; we will also be electing two voting members to attend the Triennial convention to be held in Phoenix, Arizona. The Eleventh Triennial Convention runs from July 14-16, 2020 followed by the Gathering July 16-19, 2020. All are welcome to attend the Gathering. You can also attend the Convention as a guest. There are scholarships available to help for the Gathering. More information will be available in the May Reflections.

On May 16-18, 2019, the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly will be held in Escanaba/Gladstone ELCA Lutheran Churches and Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba, Michigan. NGLSWO will be hosting a display. All registration information and forms can be found on the NGLS Web Page <https://www.nglsynod.org/assembly/>. You can register as a guest and sit in on the assembly (with no voice or vote), everyone can come to the workshops on Saturday afternoon, May 18 (\$5.00 registration is required with the exception of the making of Prayer Beads which is \$22.00 for materials). You can also register for the Banquet but you need to register and select your meal (you need not be registered for Synod Assembly business).

Watch for your copy of the May Reflections. If you attend the Synod Assembly as a voting member or a guest, you will receive a copy in your folder. Otherwise you will receive it either by hard copy or e-mail. This is the Newsletter that will contain all the information pertinent to the Fall Convention and Retreat scheduled for September 20-22, 2019. There will be nomination papers to be filled out for positions on the board and/or to be a voting member at Triennial in 2020, along with job descriptions. Please read all the information as there are a few changes this year.

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have traveled to and from Chicago, Illinois to attend the annual Conference of Presidents. I am looking forward to bringing back information from the wider church organization to share with you all. I will be presenting a short talk on our 2018 efforts to help fund the needs requested of the Mkuza Girl's school. You should all be very pleased with what was accomplished and Thank you Jesus for all the help you provided in this venture.

I want to express my thanks for all the women of this synod and organization do within their churches, communities and the wider church. You may be the only Jesus that some people see with clothes on. We never know how what we do in our daily walk will touch the lives of others, but just imagine what happens when a

small pebble is dropped into a pond how it creates ripples that continue to roll outward into larger circles.....that happens when you allow God to use you as his vessel.

God loves each and every one of you and so do I!!!!



NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD ASSEMBLY 2019

Escanaba/Gladstone ELCA Lutheran Churches and Bay de Noc Community College in Escanaba, Michigan
May 16-18, 2019

EARLY VOTER REGISTRATION — In Synod Office By April 5, 2019 – \$120.00

LATE VOTER REGISTRATION — In Synod Office after April 5, 2019 – \$145.00

VISITOR REGISTRATION – \$25.00

FRIDAY BREAKFAST at Immanuel, Escanaba: (limited seating 125) 7:00-8:15 a.m. – \$7.00

SATURDAY BREAKFAST at First, Gladstone: (limited seating 100) 7:00-8:15 a.m. – \$7.00

FRIDAY BANQUET – \$20.00 Dinners include house salad, assorted breads, green beans almandine, and baked rosemary redskin potatoes.

Menus: Herbal Roasted Top Sirloin with shallot bordelaise, Italian Herb Chicken with red wine marinara, Baked Eggplant Parmesan (Vegetarian/Gluten Free)

- **PRE-ASSEMBLY BINDER** – Please provide your own 1” diameter 3-ring binder for your pre-assembly materials. Pre-Assembly materials will be available online by April 16th for you to download.
- **REFUND POLICY:** If requested by April 5th—full amount less \$15 handling fee. After April 6th—determined on an individual basis. Make requests in writing to the synod office, by phone 906-228-2300, or email to louise@nglsynod.org.
- **WORKSHOPS:** offered Saturday afternoon following the assembly. Fee for Registered Synod Assembly Attendee – \$ Fee covered (except Prayer Bead Supplies (if attending)). Fee for Workshops Only Attendees – \$5.00 Additional Fee for Prayer Bead Supplies (All Prayer Bead Workshop Attendees) – \$22.00

Our sympathies go out to the family of Priscilla Estola, a longtime contact for St. Paul Lutheran Church in Ironwood, MI (Cluster 1) who went home to be with Jesus shortly after Christmas. Priscilla represented St. Paul as the voting member at conventions for many years; and to the family of Larry Kuhlmann, husband of SNO Board Member, Elaine Kuhlmann. Larry went home to be with Jesus on January 25 while they were spending time in Alabama. Larry was a very active member of his congregation at Shepherd of the Lakes in Sawyer, Wisconsin (Cluster 3)



Colossians 3:2

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

Our schools have come up with a new idea to fight bullying! It's showing kindness and compassion to one another. Bulletin boards are decorated with themes like this one "*Spread Kindness like Confetti!*" Apparently over the last few decades kindness and compassion have gone to the wayside.

Dictionary Definition: compassion. If someone shows kindness, caring, and a willingness to help others, they're showing compassion. This is a word for a very positive emotion that has to do with being thoughtful and decent. Giving to a charity takes compassion. ... When you feel compassion for someone, you really want to help out.

Research from Health Direct shows that people who are *compassionate and kind* are more satisfied with their lives, have better physical and mental health, and have stronger relationships.

All that is wonderful, but putting aside the personal benefits, compassion and kindness should be second nature to us. When I was growing up; my parents, grandparents, school teachers, Sunday school teachers and neighboring adults lead by example on how to treat others. We did have some bullies even then, but they were few and far between. It was automatic to help a neighbor in need. And we knew all of our neighbors. Life today seems to be more isolated. Everyone stays in their own home, not visiting with their neighbors. Families are living miles apart from each other, so it's harder to get that family support. So the theme of 2019 becomes Compassion and Kindness Matter!

There is a lot of information available giving us ideas on how to incorporate compassion and kindness into our daily lives. Here are 10 random acts of kindness I have collected and want to share with all of our readers:

- Send someone a handwritten thank you note.
- Bake cookies for a senior's center gathering.
- Put coins in someone else's parking meter.
- Offer to walk someone's dog.
- Smile a lot more.
- Pay it forward, the next time you are standing in line for a coffee, pay for the person behind you.
- Give someone a compliment.
- Say "Thank-you" more often.
- Let someone know that you are thinking about them.
- And don't forget to volunteer more.

As we prepare for the upcoming Lenten Season I would like to challenge each one of us to check off at least 5 of these suggestions in the months of March and April. God Bless all of you Beautiful Lutheran Women!

A message from...Synod Women's Organization Secretary, Barb Rice

A "Minute" with Your Secretary

Looking out at the piles of snow here in Kingsford and reflecting both at its beauty and the power it has in controlling some of our decisions, I am reminded that we are truly not in control and we need to learn that God ultimately has a plan that will work out in His time. The snowfall this past Tuesday caused me to re-plan a week of bittersweet activities that surrounded the sale of my deceased mother's house and moving her furniture and other belongings that remained there to our home. Rescheduling lodging, U-Haul rental, and moving helpers on both ends of the move seemed insurmountable. But just when I thought nothing would fall into place on such short notice, everything did work out and I rejoice that God granted me the ability to calm down and achieve that which seemed impossible.

But enough about me! I want to share the exciting things that have been happening in my home congregation, Bethany Lutheran Church of Norway, MI. Our ladies group has been working on and planning two really exciting things for our whole congregation. On Feb. 24, we will be sharing in Bold Women's Day with a worship service celebrating bold Christian women of today and yesterday.

The other activity that we have been preparing for is making prayer beads to give to all of our congregation members as our pastor focuses on the theme of prayer during the month of March. Several of our women have been meeting together and working at home to put these beads together accompanied with prayer cards. This has been a great opportunity for fellowship with each other and we are excited to pass these on to the community in which we worship.

Finally, as this is my last term as secretary due to term limits in our constitution, I would ask each of you to prayerfully consider joining the SWO board in this capacity. If you find that this is an opportunity to which you are called, please contact any of the current SWO board members and we will help you with the application process. I hope to see many of you at the SWO 2019 Convention in September and at Women's Fall Retreat.

A Message from...Synod Women's Organization Treasurer, Kris Carlson

Greetings Dear Sisters in Christ, as I'm writing this, the snow is falling and falling and falling. Definitely looks like winter and not heading into spring in about five weeks. Summer at Fortune Lake sounds pretty nice right now. There are scholarships available for various programs at the camp. The deadline for Women and Kids Week and Grandparents (mothers) Week is May 1, 2019. There are also scholarships available for SWO Convention and Retreat (due July 31, 2019). It's not too early to be thinking about the Triennial in 2020. There is a scholarship application available in the newsletter and on the Northern Great Lakes Synod web page. Wishing everyone blessings for the Lenten and Easter season.

A message from Frances H Voyce

I am so happy that I had the opportunity to spend over two weeks in Sunny California during the end of January and February reminiscing about the places that my husband and I lived over 50 years ago. So much has changed. I had the opportunity to see the church we attended, apartment we lived in and a much newer, bigger school that Tom taught at. I was able to share this with my two daughters and to visit with a classmate after my family flew back to the cold Midwest.

I was able to see the magnificent Crystal Cathedral and to remember when Robert Schuller was preaching in a drive-in theater close to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church we attended, to a different church that my friend attends in San Francisco. GLIDE Methodist Memorial Church. "GLIDE's mission is to create a radically inclusive, just and loving community mobilized to alleviate suffering and break the cycles of poverty and marginalization. Our Core Values emerge from GLIDE as a spiritual movement. They are rooted in empowerment, recovery and personal transformation. Our values inspire and guide our behaviors. They are the ground we stand on." I experienced so many different emotions and I want to share just a little with you as I talk about Social Justice in the Women of the ELCA. I have attended workshops and read about social justice, but never experienced it as I did that Sunday morning. Joan took me to GLIDE where she has volunteered to help with those suffering from AIDS. As we left the motel, Joan told me to check in my luggage at the motel until we leave to her home, as it was not the most desirable place to park. We parked next to a small bright red pop up tent that people take shelter from the cold and rain. These are the fortunate individuals who live on the street. Others of many different races both male and female were huddled next to the store fronts to protect themselves from the rain that was falling. As I looked around the congregation, I saw men and women elegantly dressed next to someone who was very poorly dressed. Individuals that were LGBT mingled among them being accepted as one of them. The service started with a bang. Gospel singers that were singing and swaying with very upbeat music all praising the Lord. People hugging one another continued holding their neighbors' hands. Every race was there hugging someone very different than themselves. At first, I admit I was taken back as they came to us shaking our hands and asking politely if they could give us a hug also. Very respectful what we felt comfortable with but wanted us to feel included and wanted. What a joy to experience. During announcements they said to my surprise that Michael Franti would be doing music next Sunday. Wish I could have stayed. Many people in the Ontonagon county area are familiar with his roots as well as those attending Chequamegon Theater in the Bay Field Area and who have seen him perform.

This was followed by Professor Betty Parent from San Francisco State speaking about her commitment to Social Justice and a member of GLIDE for over 30 years because of their standards. She spoke to us about her Spiritual Experience in Gods Love by accepting everyone even if their roots are different than hers. That diversity matters, earth matters, equality matters, compassion matters, justice matters and access to one another matters.

The young man who was also a member of GLIDE did the sermon this morning. He is an author and a poet also and spoke that every one of us have a story. Do we miss another person's story because his roots and beliefs are different? What are we missing because the individual may be homeless, a different color skin or sexual preferences? What about the individual who has experienced trauma or violence in their lives? What about the service man/woman who protected our families in time of war and are now experiencing post traumatic stress syndrome and needing to share their story? Do not let others tell your story, set the scene of your story, or lessen the significance of what we have accomplished or dictate the ending of our story. We must understand we all have a gift of poetry or an untold story. We are all valuable and so are the others regardless if they are black, white, Asian or any different heritage.

Our story is important, and all should experience a different person's story even if they have no home, live in a tent on a busy street, on drugs, prefer a mate of the same sex, or live a life of leisure in an expensive home, work at a prestigious job or work at a job that pays minimum wages. Remember God spoke a word and it was so. Our story starts with a story and ends with a story. Each one of us is someone and we need to experience the stories of others. Can we live by what GLIDE United Methodist Church prides themselves on; Radically Inclusive-Welcome everyone. Value their differences and respect them. Truth in Telling- We each tell

our story, we need to speak the truth and we need to listen to one another. Loving and Hopeful – We are all in recovery, we all need a healing community, we need to love unconditionally. For the People – We break through barriers. We serve each other and we can change our world. Celebration – We sing, we dance, we laugh together, and we need to celebrate life. Can we Women of the ELCA of the Northern Great Lakes Synod do this?; our stories can change women’s organizations, churches and the communities we live in.

A Message From Holly Geurin



By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. --John 3:16-17

Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. The biblical witness is found in the opening epic of the human story: "you are dust and to dust you shall return" (Gen 3:19). In the tenth century the use of ashes was employed in visibly reminding worshippers of their mortality as they began their Lenten "watch by the cross."

This first day of Lent reminds us that two things are involved in genuine repentance: "the dying of the old self and the coming to life of the new." New life with Christ involves a daily surrendering of the old life. The first step of this Lenten journey invites us to acknowledge our mortality and our sinfulness by the imposition of ashes.

"Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.

A Message From Sue Hill

It hardly seems time to be doing a Reflections writing. After all, we just got done with most of the information dealing with the 2018 meeting and retreat. Past experience tells me that this SWO Board meeting will be dealing with plans for the 2019 annual meeting and retreat!

As I have become more knowledgeable about the different clusters and some of the problems we share, I want to encourage all of us to open our women’s ministry to others that we may only see in church or dropping off their kids for Sunday or Wednesday school or Confirmation.

As a young mother I would often have one of the kids with me at a meeting. The “older ladies” were very welcoming and helpful and I felt privileged to have them as friends and mentors.

Life gets busy and all of us need to take time to grow in our faith.

Copper Country Cluster 2 Elaine Kuhlmann

The planning meeting will be March 23, 2019 at United Lutheran in L'Anse, MI at 10am eastern time. the Rally will be April 27th at the same place. I am trying to get back into things since my husband past in January this year.

Four Rivers Cluster 4-Kris Carlson

Cluster 4 - Four Rivers met on October 20, 2018 at Grace Lutheran in Pembine WI. There were 27 in attendance. Bobbie Samme presented a program on the "Palmisano Care Package Project" to send packages to the troops for the holidays. The offering collected was divided between the SWO and the Palmisano Project to help defray mailing costs. The spring meeting for Cluster 4 is scheduled for Saturday, April 27th at First Lutheran in Iron River MI.

PARTNER SYNODS

Since 2002, partner synods have existed, providing ways in which synods from different locations can work together to form community and partnership within our church. Women of the ELCA has mirrored these partner synods. We hope this leads to many conversations about forming and maintaining community and partnership with your partner synod. The Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women's Organization is partnered with the Delaware-Maryland Synodical Women's Organization.

How have synodical women's organizations chosen to live out these relationships? Here are some examples.

- Members of synodical boards in the two synods become prayer partners with one another.
- Synodical presidents of the two synods could send written greetings to the other's convention.
- Attendees at one synodical convention wrote words of greeting on note cards which were gathered up and sent to the partner synod for distribution at their synodical convention. The intent was that the writer and recipient might become prayer partners or pen pals of sort.
- Groups from the partner synods attending the triennial gathering got together for fellowship.

Here are other ideas on how partner synods can live out these partner relationships. We could create a committee (perhaps incorporating non-board members too) to plan and carry out activities with our partner synod.

- We could challenge each other on a project (i.e.; who can gather the most new subscriptions to Gather, who can raise the most money in a given period of time for Katie's Fund or who can have the most synodical members sign up for Faithful Friends).
- When we gather at synodical convention or cluster retreats, we could pray for our partner synod/
- We could provide each other with a physical offering (i.e.; cross or banner) which could be present when we gather and serve as a physical reminder of our partnership.
- We could produce a joint devotional resource for a liturgical season, such as Advent or Lent, with devotions written by members from both partner synodical organizations.

Reflections Newsletter Subscription Form One YEAR (3-4 Issues) \$5.00

Subscriber's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Cell) _____ (Work) _____

Church Affiliation: _____

E-Mail: _____

Are you a contact person for your Congregation? _____ what position: _____ No _____

Number of years you would like to subscribe:

_____ 1 year (\$5) _____ 2 yrs \$10 _____ 3 yrs (\$15) _____ 4 yrs (\$20)

Gift subscriptions are welcome! Gift is from _____

Make check payable to: NGL/SWO-Reflections:

**Mail to: Kris Carlson
304 Lake Street
Ironwood, MI 49938**

If you would like to receive a digital copy you may send your name and e-mail to Melzee Jacobson
imlizrd@yahoo.com.

DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE:

CHECK # _____ **CASH** _____

DATE RECEIVED _____ **DATE EXPIRES** _____

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 _____ 14.00 _____ 16.00 _____

3 XL 11.00 _____ 15.00 _____ 18.00 _____

4 XL 12.00 _____ 16.00 _____ 20.00 _____

5 XL 13.00 _____ 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

NGLSOW Record Only: Check #: _____

Order received date: _____ Order Mailed: _____

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

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	Deadline
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortune Lake Camp Women and Kids Week (Adult Only)	\$ 100 each	May 1, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortune Lake Camp Grand (moms) parents-Kids Week (Adult Only)	\$ 80 each	May 1, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/> Synodical Women's Organization Convention	\$ 25 each	July 31, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortune Lake Camp Women's Fall Retreat	\$ 75 each	July 31, 2019
<input type="checkbox"/> Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering	\$ 300 each	Jan 1, 2020

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

Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women's Organization Board 2018-2019

Melzee Jacobson, President (2018-2020)
527 E. Margaret Street
Ironwood, MI 49938
(906) 364-7184
Cell (906) 282-0169
imlizrd@yahoo.com

Pam Chouinard (2017-2019)
8530 Weswood 0.6 Dr
Gladstone, MI 49837
(906) 428-2442
Cell (906) 280-2918
pam@chouinards.com
Cluster 8 Superior Central Board Liaison

Barbara Rice, Secretary (2017-2019)
725 Hamilton Avenue
Kingsford, MI 49802
(906) 774-3742
Cell (906) 396-3742
barb.strong.rice@gmail.com
Cluster 6 Delta Board Liaison

Kristine Carlson (2020-2018)
304 Lake Street
Ironwood, MI 49938
(906) 932-0476
kriskarin@sbcglobal.net
Cluster 4 Four Rivers Board Liaison

Board Members

Holly Guerin (2018-2020)
4540 Loggers Run Rd
Eagle River, WI 54521
(715) 891-2690
holly94@gmail.com
Cluster 1 IGO Board Liaison

Elaine Kuhlmann (2017-2019)
P O Box 2029
Arbor Vitae, WI 54568
(715) 356-6441
ecampercat@aol.com
Cluster 2 Copper Country Board Liaison

Frances Voyce (2018-2019)
E4845 N Star Rd
Ironwood, MI 49938
(906) 932-4505
tfvoyce@hotmail.com
Cluster 3 Headwaters Board Liaison

Sue Hill (2018-2020)
609 N Chicago Mine Road
Wakefield, MI 49968
(906) 364-4584
news@wnbpa.net
Cluster 7 Three Lakes Board Liaison

NON-BOARD REFLECTIONS EDITOR

Elsie Leffel
1107 Pierce Street
Wakefield, MI 49968
Home (906) 224-1233
elsiegles@outlook.com

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD
WOMEN OF THE ELCA
C/O CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH
333 E Aurora Street
Ironwood, MI 49938

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
IRONWOOD, MI 49938
PERMIT NO. 5

REFLECTIONS Newsletter – March 2019

)



If this box has an X in it your subscription time is up! Please help support the Women of the ELCA by renewing your subscription today!



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.