



Reflections...

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

September 2019

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

Dear Sisters in Christ;

This summer has just flown by for us in the Jacobson Household. It seems that every day we were getting ready for the next event that was coming and they just seem to run into each other. Bill's mother took a turn for the worse just before Christmas and left us on Easter morning. And two days after that my cousin's son, Matthew age 20, left us after suffering from years of dealing with a TBI and brain tumors. Then we rushed into May with graduations and synod assembly, not mentioning the time putting together the May Reflections, printing, mailing and making sure copies got to the Synod office to be included in the synod assembly packets. We thought we might catch a breather in June but then we realized that there was a family wedding in Omaha, an annual Bluegrass Service in the Park and VBS coming in July (oh and we slipped in a 43rd anniversary somewhere there). The Bluegrass Service had a nice revision to it, reservations were jumbled, and we ended up sharing the pavilion with our Methodists brothers and sisters. We had our service first, then ate lunch together and they had their service following. Many positive comments were heard so we might try it again next year. Oh yes, then came the time to start finalizing things for the September Reflections and the annual Convention and Retreat with receiving registrations and sorting that out. Now it comes time to work on the Reflections and the Convention Booklet. And in the midst of that my annual family reunion will be on the Sunday before Labor Day in Marshalltown, Iowa.

This year at our Convention and Retreat we will be joined by Angela Bell our churchwide representative. Earlier Sara Larson was going to join us but because of her seminary class schedule she asked that a replacement be found, so Angela will be coming from Texas to join us. Sarah Carson, who is the Assistant to the Editor of the Gather Magazine at the Women of the ELCA in Chicago will be joining for the convention. At the Conference of Presidents in February I met Kristen McMasters from the Maryland/Delaware Synod, which is our partner synod. We thought we would like to do something fun with the two synods so Kristen is coming to our convention and retreat this fall and I will make plans to attend their convention in May 2020.

Our Host Group for the retreat have been working diligently to get everything organized. I want to thank Kathy Magnuson, Rose Larson, Mavis Wiirtenan and Pastor Stacy Pechtke for taking this project on. You will find a schedule of the events that will be taking place at the end of this article. At the time of this writing we have 50 registrations for the retreat. They wanted to return to the basics of the retreat (as it was prior to the last 5 or 6 years). A change of pace per se.

This year there will be displays for Lutheran World Relief Kits, Mkuza School, Churchwide, Quilts for the Fine Arts Auction, SWO information just to name a few. We will again have the Used Book Table, so if you have some Christian Books you would like to donate please bring them along. We will have items for purchase that will help with raising funds for the Mkuza School. The Sisters of the Cloth will be collecting items for the Fine Arts Festival so remember to bring your items with the information sheet (there will be information sheets to complete available), and Allison Lamb with Trades of Hope will be bringing items for sale that help artisans in third world countries to be able to support themselves and their families. (See her article in this newsletter).

It has been a busy year for all of us in one way or another, but I am thankful for each and everyone that takes the time to set aside a portion of their lives to live out our mission in this organization.

Thank you all so much for everything that you do.

SEE YOU AT CONVENTION AND RETREAT

Women's Fall Retreat Schedule

Friday: 4:00-5:15 Registration- Dining Hall

5:30 Dinner
6:30 Mixer - Chapel
7:00 Bible Study I
8:00 Evening Vespers - Gazebo (weather permitting)
Goodnight

Saturday: 7:45 Morning Devotions - Gazebo

8:00 Breakfast
9:15 Music & Gathering
9:30 Bible Study II
10:45-Noon Free time
Noon Lunch
1:00-1:45 Workshop
2:00-2:45 Workshop
2:45-4:00 Free time
Prayer Walk, Labyrinth, Choir, Nursing Home visit, coffee, naptime
4:00 Music & Gathering
4:15-5:15 Bible Study III
5:30 Dinner
7:00 Healing Service - Chapel
8:00 Fellowship, Music, Snacks - Emanuel Lodge
Goodnight

Sunday: 8:45 Morning Devotions - Gazebo

9:00 Brunch
10:30 Closing Worship
On our way REJOICING!!

Make sure to bring your Bible, water botte/coffee mug (if desired), flashlight (it gets dark)

Trades of Hope

Allison Lamb will be providing items for purchase at this year's convention and retreat from Trades of Hope.

Trades of Hope is changing Lives!

Women in impoverished communities around the world are forced to give up their children to orphanages to avoid starvation or send them off, unknowingly placing them into human trafficking. We are committed to preventing these atrocities by creating dignified jobs for women....and to stop human trafficking. Human trafficking is a global issue, even in our own backyard. We give women a sustainable job in a healthy, supportive environment, with access to healthcare and education, decreasing their chances of falling back into the trade.

Artisans are paid 100% up front of their asking price. They make 3 to 6 times more than the normal wage. They are paid what it costs in their culture to provide their family shelter, clothing, food and importantly an education! Education helps break the cycle of poverty!

Artisans hand make ethically crafted accessories unique to their region.

Compassionate entrepreneurs serve as the artisan's voice sharing their talents and story. Alison is a Compassionate Entrepreneur with Trades of Hope.

Each purchase works towards ending poverty and human trafficking. Purchase with purpose. Each piece helps a mom feed her family.

Share with purpose! Throw a party/event and help spread the news of Trades of Hope!

Pursue with a purpose. One Compassionate Entrepreneur empowers 4 Artisans to earn an income.

A message from...Synod Women's Organization Vice President Pam

"I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers." L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables

I too am glad for Octobers! Fall brings so much excitement. Children are back to school, Friday night football games, Sunday school, and a more scheduled day. Gone are those lazy hazy days of summer. My friends and I like to hike, so whenever we have free schedules we hop into the car with day packs and good walking shoes. The Upper Peninsula has so much to offer! Beautiful trails along the shores of Lake Superior, the smell of pines along the trails through the forest, how can anyone not believe there is a God when you look at what lies outside our doors. John 1:3 says "Through him all things were made". Nature is one of God's beautiful creations. Through nature, God is able to teach us, speak to us, and provide for us. So make time to go out for a walk this October.

Just a friendly reminder, please send any changes that occur in your Women of the ELCA at your home congregation. Concerning changes in leadership, address change, phone number change, or anything else you would like us to know about. Thank you to all of those who have sent us updates we really appreciate it. We try to keep an accurate list but without your help it's impossible. Feel free to express your ideas and thoughts to us at anytime! We welcome any ideas to improve our communications throughout our entire synod.

Fall Clusters: when you have set your date/place/time for your fall cluster, please let me know as soon as possible so I can mark our calendar! Our cluster meetings give us the opportunity to gather with others and share in fellowship, worship and prayer.

As women; we value the friendship, fellowship and support we receive by being a part of a community. Through Women of the ELCA we can grow, be inspired, find a purpose and best of all be connected to the most faithful girlfriends ever! As stated in our Purpose "We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts and support one another in our callings." God Bless

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

When I think about being a bold woman of faith, I think about the habits, places, and people who helped to form my faith, whether overtly or more subtly.

I do not remember when I learned to pray, but I do remember learning table grace from my mom as a child. The simple words and rhyming format were perfect for cutting my faith teeth upon. And what better thing to learn than that invitation, "Come Lord Jesus, be our guest." When we had our children, we taught them the same grace, and we take turns saying it--and adlibbing as appropriate--every night at dinner. Dinner table faith.

The following presentation from Bold Women's Day at Bethany Lutheran is Shared/Published with permission from: Amber Schilz.

When I was a little girl, I attended Sunday school. We had all the requisite church programs, and for the most part, I was contented to wear angel wings and sing my little heart out. But one year, we did a program that had a section all about the mustard seed. I remember being enthralled by this particular Bible story, and by the idea that my little girl faith, regardless of its size, was strong enough to move mountains. I still remind myself of this parable as an adult when I need to remember that all it takes is one tiny thing to accomplish great things. Mustard seed faith.

My faith was strengthened immeasurably by someone some of you may have had the privilege to know. Pastor Cy Warmanen was the pastor at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp when I was a youth. The grace and care with which he handled our striving adolescent faith was a gift. He shared his time, talents, heart, and faith with hundreds of us--and each and every one of us felt God's love for us in his actions. He taught us that faith just required us to show up, and that God would take us as we were, whether a teen, a convict, an elderly person, or anything in between. This was solace indeed during those turbulent teen years. Inclusion faith.

I learned more about faith when Pastor Cy was diagnosed with cancer. He continued to share his faith and gifts with us, even when I am sure it would have been easier for him to keep this part of his life more private. My last memory of him was at a winter retreat. He sat on the hearth of the fireplace in the dining hall and led us in song and worship on his 12 string guitar. This is the only time I can ever remember him sitting to teach us anything at all--only in his illness did he give himself the grace to rest--but still, he shared his faith. Grace-filled faith.

The sweetest moments of my faith so far revolve around my children. There was a moment when each of my babies were first placed into my arms, that I became more certain of God's presence in my life than I had ever been before. These fearfully and wonderfully made little people had been entrusted to my care, and I will spend my life praying without ceasing for them, and putting my faith in God to see them through all that life has to throw at them. Mama faith.

When each of my children were just a little bit older, I was privileged to grow my faith by teaching them about mine. The first way I remember doing this with my own children was by teaching them The Lord's Prayer, and practicing it at bedtime. There was such an earnest sweetness in hearing those words in their mouths in the

darkness, and such utter delight at hearing them eventually master the prayer, that my faith grew stronger just from eavesdropping on their conversations with God. Bedtime faith.

As an adult, my faith has, of course, been tested by loss. When my grandma passed away, we were charged with choosing verses for her funeral. There are standard passages we've all heard preached in times of loss. But my grandma was different, and the verses said for her needed to be different. Eventually, my mom arrived on Psalm 118 verse 24: "This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." In our loss, our faith reminded us that even this day, this very saddest of days, was still made by Him. And that even in was still made by Him. And that even in our sorrow, we could rejoice in His love and comfort. Grieving faith.

The dinner table. A mustard seed. Inclusion. Grace. Motherhood. Bedtime. Grief. I find and grow my faith in my daily life. And I guess to me, that is what it is to be a bold woman of faith. It is faith, daily. Overtly, subtly, and everything in between. But faith, daily.

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

Greetings, Dear Sisters in Christ

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as I serve as your treasurer.

I'm also the liaison to the Four Rivers Cluster. Their spring meeting was part of a "double header" Fortune Lake weekend, along with Cluster 1. (See the Cluster article for more information).

Thank you again for your generosity throughout the year with your Regular (Form A) Offerings, as well as Convention and Retreat offerings. A portion goes to support Churchwide programs and missions and a portion stays in our Synod for the work of the Synodical Women's Organization to help support scholarships and other programs here in our Synod. Your cluster offerings support the work of the SWO and aid agencies helping our neighbors in need.

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", entitling your church to have a voting member at the SWO convention in September; and also, impacts the number of delegates we can send to future national gatherings. 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, 2019**

NOTE

If you have a CPAP or BiPAP machine that you are no longer using around the house and are wondering what to do with it, we have found a place that is happy to take it off your hands. Global Health Ministries, 7831 Hickory Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432, 763.586.9580, e-mail office@ghm.org, Hours: M-F 9 am-5pm. They will refurbish and ship where needed to Third World Countries.

A Message from... Synod Women's Organization Board Members

A Message from Sue Hill

I have heard the word reflections frequently over this summer and it has made me stop in my tracks several times.

I've seen the reflection of the sun on the lake, myself in the mirror, my joy of being in church when a five year old told me that I was the nice lady from church and when our son reflected on his upbringing.

It was not only the physical part of what we did to keep him healthy but also that we recognized his need to get exercise, not only the physical part of exercise and the mental part.

He included his need to know what the Christian part of him is.

This made me think about how I look at people and how they look at me. I'm not really into the physical part of the reflection. I've begun to wonder about the Christian reflection.

While going to Lay School we had to learn how to "do" a sermon. One of my classmates told me that when she listens to me she understands that what I say is what you get.

As I have been serving on the SWO board I hope that the message from me continues to be that you hear that not only are you loved but Jesus but that I share that love.

Sue Hill

A Message from Elaine Kuhlmann

Discipleship What Discipleship is Not!

This is an article from the Northwester, the newsletter for the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Submitted by Gloria Rolstad, Apple River Conference Representative.

Discipleship is a popular word, often used vaguely and ambiguously and gets thrown around at church. People have described classes, courses, programs, Bible studies, accountability groups, mission trips and even fellowship as discipleship.

Some people think making disciples is a specific call or spiritual gift, something only meant for the pastors, missionaries and "super-Christians." This thinking is wrong!

Discipleship is not an optional course. It is not a twelve-step program. It is not intended for only a select few to carry out. Christ's mandate to make disciples is meant for every one of His followers.

So, what is Discipleship?

It is quite simple. Discipleship is the relationships between a teacher (disciple-r) and student (disciple). "Disciple" comes from the Greek word that means, "to learn." Historically, the word recognizes a pupil-teacher relationship. This should be a cyclical process-meaning once we are discipled, we are to disciple others, and so on.

One of the most important characteristics of being a disciple (a student or pupil), is to develop an intimate relationship with God through Christ rather than just learning about Him. Discipleship equips the Christian with God's Word, prayer, doctrine, worship, encouragement, and service.

Why We Should Disciple?

Word, Relationship and Ministry work together to model discipleship principles taught by Jesus. The goal of discipleship is to develop healthy believers that walk by faith, share their faith, and multiply their faith.

To walk by faith means to be living as a Christian in obedience to Jesus.

To share faith means retelling God's story and how He has worked in your life and in redemptive history.

To multiply faith means to bring others into God's fold and make disciples of their own.

Why should we make disciples? For starters, it is a direct command from Jesus (Mathew 28:18-20). Also, it is because we, as Christians, are the sent people of God. As the Father sent Jesus, so Jesus is sending us (John 20:21). We are sent by Him to continue as His representatives on earth and participate in the narrative of redemptive history that He authors. Jesus told us that the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few (Luke 10:2). He has made us laborers.

Every Christian should be helping unbelievers become believers by showing them Christ. And every Christian should be helping other believers grow to more and more maturity. Both of these are making disciples. And every Christian should be seeking to get help for themselves from others to keep on growing. That is our discipleship.

Thank you, Gloria Rolstad, for you wisdom.

A Message from Fran Voyce

It is hard to believe that already one year has gone by since I was elected to serve on the board. I decided that I am not able to run for another term, as my schedule has become very busy and I need to cut down on activities.

I have enjoyed serving on the board again. This time I was the Liaison for Cluster III. Hopefully we will have the date set for the fall cluster meeting scheduled soon. A planning meeting is scheduled for September.

I have also served as the Justice Representative. I hope my eyes have been opened even wider and becoming more aware of the injustices done in our country. I have become more aware of the problems we have even in our small rural communities with Sexual Trafficking. As my grandchildren are all college age or starting in their careers in larger cities, I have become more aware of the problems they are facing that I never have had to face.

I have been able to do more traveling in the past year. I saw firsthand the many changes in what a small farming community was when my husband was teaching in Cypress, CA over 50 years ago. I no longer found the large fields of strawberries and other crops. A small LCA church we attended with a large parking lot changed to an activity area. A new much larger church was built on the same lot. It is now a building that serves both an ELCA Lutheran Congregation, and an Episcopalian Congregation. Also, a church service held for the Islam in the area.

I had the opportunity to visit the GLIDE church in San Francisco that has a congregation that displayed God's love in its vast diversity. They offer many special programs and have help available to the individuals suffering with AIDS. It was an experience unlike any that we encounter in our own synod and I thank God for it! Let us all become more aware of the people we can reach out to in our own communities.

May God Bless each one of us and help us to welcome everyone in our community into our churches. Invite a friend to attend the next service or circle meeting in your church.

A Message from the FLLC Board Liaison

FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP

fortunelake.org/calendar

Fall Fest 2019: Quilt & Fine Arts Auction Fundraiser

October 5, 2009 9 am – 2 pm
Quilt and Art Viewing opens at 9 am
Brunch 9-10:30 am (\$10 donation suggested)
Auction: Begins promptly at 11 am

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

Draffle: Smaller gift and art items.
Market: Selling homemade breads and pies.
Corner Country Store: Featuring smaller handcrafted items, gifts and artwork.
Fall Fest Auction Preview

The 2019 Facebook Album of Quilts will be posted in September.
Can't be there in person? Proxy bidding information and instructions will be available in September

Fall Retreat for Youths Grades 3-6

Start: October 11 @ 6 pm End: October 12 @ 3 pm
Cost \$50.00
Ages: 3rd – 6th Grade

Adoptive & Foster Families Retreat

Start: November 1 @ 6 pm End: November 3 @ 11 am
Cost: Check pricing table
Ages: All

UFO (Unfinished Object Crafter's Retreat

Do you have an arts or crafts project that has been tucked away for years, waiting for your attention? Commit to finishing it on this fantastic weekend away with other crafters!

Start: November 15 @ 6 pm End: November 17 @ 11 am
Cost \$90.00

Winter Wonderland Retreat

Start: Jan 17, 2020 @ 6 pm End: Jan 10, 2020 at 6 pm
Cost: See Pricing Table
Ages: All

Copper Country Cluster 2 Submitted by...Cluster Liaison Elaine Kuhlmann

The rally was held on April 27, 2019 at United Lutheran Church in L'Anse, Mi.

27 people attended from 6 churches, United Lutheran, L'Anse - Holy Cross, Baraga -Mission United, Pelkie - Siloa, Ontonagon - St. Paul, Mass City and Zion, Skaney.

We were welcomed with a great coffee hour before the meeting. We gathered with Music and invocation by Margo Jentoff from United Lutheran, L'Anse. We continued with our Purpose Statement and prayer. The theme of the meeting was Planting the Seed. Ruth Ann Connor from United, L'Anse presented the Bible Study based on the parable mustard Seed and how it was cultivated in bible times as the smallest seed to represent faith. Special music was provided by Mary Ellen Perkins from St. Paul, Mass City. A presentation by Melissa Treadeau from Holy Cross, Baraga on Seed Saving Library Keweenaw Bay, Ojibwa Community College in L'Anse, Mi. She talked about community benefits to provide a Place in the community where people can receive free seed, provide information on growing and collecting seed and provide a place that will house local heirloom seeds. Preserving our heritage, one seed at a time. A mixer presented by Gloria Niemisto, Holy Cross, Baraga was a great opener to the business meeting. Roll call and minutes of previous meeting were approved and Elaine Kuhlmann, SWO Board member gave a report from the NGLSWO. The fall rally will be hosted by Mission United, Pelkie on September 27th, 2019.

Submitted by

Elaine Kuhlmann SWO Board Member

Four Rivers Cluster 4-Four Rivers and Cluster 1-IGO Kris Carlson

It was a "double-header" weekend for Fortune Lake as Cluster 4 met on Saturday, April 27th at First in Iron River and Cluster 1 met on Sunday, April 28th at All Saints in Wakefield. On Saturday, Amanda Rasner, the new camp director at Fortune Lake gave a presentation and virtual camp tour to the ladies of Cluster 4. Following the service in the sanctuary, we all enjoyed a camp style lunch prepared by the ladies from First. The offering was split between the SWO and programming for Fortune Lake. There were also a number of pillowcase dresses brought in as well. On Sunday, the 28th, the ladies from Cluster 1 gathered at All Saints in Wakefield to hear a presentation from Sharon Ylkanen about the "Sisters of the Cloth" These are a group of ladies who work diligently throughout the year to create beautiful quilts for the Fine Arts Auction; a major Fundraiser for Fortune Lake. Light lunch was served by the ladies from All Saints.

The offering was split between the SWO and the "Sisters" to use for any incidentals they need for making those beautiful quilts.

Kris Carlson, Cluster 4 Liaison & SWO Treasurer

Superior Central Cluster 8 Submitted by...Cluster Liaison Pam Chouinard

Spring Cluster, April 28, 2019

The Superior Central WELCA Spring Program and Meeting were held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Harvey, MI. It was a beautiful spring day with 31 in attendance.

The women came together to celebrate the love of Christ and to support each other as Women of the ELCA. Mary Lou Stefanski shared the opening devotions and prayer. Michelle Johnson introduced their new Pastor Don Ludemann. Special music was Cathy Moilanen on the cello. Guest Speaker was Marlene Mottes. Marlene works with the Community Outreach as a Victim Advocate, with Human Trafficking. Human Trafficking is modern-day slavery and involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act. Marlene shared a short video entitled "Manasseh Project." This video focused on the human trafficking around the Grand Rapids area. Trafficking victims can be any age, race, gender or nationality. Traffickers prey

on victims with little or no social safety net. If you suspect that a person may be a victim of human trafficking, please call the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Homeland Security Investigations tip line at 1-866-347-2423. You can also report online at www.ice.gov/tips. Our thoughts and prayers go to all the victims in trafficking, as well as those wonderful individuals who do everything they can to help them get out.

We ended the gathering with a business meeting. Michelle called the meeting to order followed by roll call. Eight churches from Superior Central were represented. The discussion of where to distribute the other half of today's offering was brought to the table and decided unanimously to send the \$159.50 to the Upper Peninsula Human Trafficking Task Force.

The women of Prince of Peace provided a wonderful "Salad Luncheon." It was a wonderful time spent together. Thank you to the 2019 Cluster Planning Committee: Michelle Johnson, Cheryl Ulvila, Mary Lou Stefanski and Chris Mitchell. The Fall Cluster will be held at Grace Lutheran Church, Gwinn, MI.

Northern Great Lakes Synod Report

Representatives from the Northern Great Lakes Synod gathered in Milwaukee, August 5-10 at the ELCA churchwide Assembly under the theme "We Are Church," joining around 900 voting delegates from across the country. In his sermon during Monday's opening worship, Rev. William "Chris" Boerger, secretary of the ELCA, emphasized how the assembly theme is central to the assembly's purpose. "We are church," said Boerger. "We gather here in Milwaukee with this theme. We are church. But we do not say, 'We are the church.' We know the church of Jesus Christ is much larger than the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. But we are part of it. "We are the church because of what is happening here among us ... the gospel is being preached, the sacraments are the center of what's happening here this week. ... We are the church because of what God is doing." Go to: www.elca.org/churchwidewayassembly to read more and see selected videos from the assembly. Representing the Northern Great Lakes Synod were: Mary Lou Blomquist, Bishop Katherine Finegan, Rev. Terry Frankenstein, Rev. Doug Johnson, Rick Pink, Evan Rein, and Chuck Thomas. Some Highlights of the Churchwide Assembly included...

- Re-election of Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to a second 6-year term on the first ballot!
- Election of Deacon Sue Rothmeyer to serve as the new Secretary of the ELCA
- Approved a declaration of apology to our siblings of African descent, which was received by the African Descent Lutheran Association with thanks and a call for accountability and living into the words shared.
- Adopted a new social statement, "Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action," and its implementing resolutions. For further reading go to: <https://www.elca.org/womenandjustice>
- Deacons (rostered ministers of word and service) will now be "ordained"—a change from the previous practice of "consecration."
- There were celebrations of the milestones of 50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGBTQIA+ clergy.
- For more background information and perspectives on the assembly vote to declare the ELCA a "sanctuary church body", please see Bishop Finegan's pastoral and congregational letter about this topic at: <https://www.nglsynod.org/newsletter-articles/>
- For a full summary of all the Churchwide Assembly actions go to: <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/Recent-News-Stories>

The ELCA Triennial, August 2019

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of “God’s work. Our hands.,” the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA’s roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

A Declaration to People of African Descent was presented to representatives of the African Descent Lutheran Association. The declaration was offered by members of the working group established by the ELCA Church Council to develop a document that expresses a confession of this church’s bondage to the sins of slavery, racism, discrimination, white supremacy and quietism, and begins the work of repentance, which this church confesses to be “the chief topic of Christian teaching.”

“This apology is a recommitment to the process of right and equitable relations within this church, and the flourishing of Christ’s church universal,” Eaton said after the declaration was read. “This recommitment means working toward a deeper understanding of slavery and its legacy, of institutional and structural racism, of white privilege, and of attitudes and foundations of white supremacy. It means praying for the renewal of this church as disciples of the living Christ.”

In reply, the Rev. Lamont Wells, president of the African Descent Lutheran Association, said, “We must abandon our lust for oppressive power, wealth and even our own comfort for the sake of fulfilling God’s fulfillment to love others. Throughout history, people have been hurt by this very particular sin. Therefore, we the people of African descent of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America can receive this apology as a divine mark of repentance that serves as a catalyst for change.”

Eaton said the ELCA will name an annual Day of Repentance for congregations, synods and the churchwide organization.

Chris Boerger, secretary of the ELCA, gave his report to the assembly Boerger also gave updates on actions that were taken during the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, including that the denomination has made “little progress” in moving toward the commitment of authentic diversity. He reported that at the end of 2015, the ELCA was 92% white and at the end of 2018, it was 94% white.

“Until it really is a commitment for the congregations of this church, the prospects of this change are very dim,” he said. “As a white church we say the right words. We, the majority population of this church, need to do more than talk.”

Boerger’s report also included statistics on baptized membership, which continues to decline. There was a 2.8% decrease from 2017, which he said is consistent with the trend the church has seen since its formation.

We the women of the Northern Great Lakes Synodical Women’s Organization have to be more welcoming of all people in our community regardless of their race, color or gender.

**A Pastoral Letter Regarding
the Churchwide Assembly Vote
to Become a Sanctuary Churchbody**

Dear friends in Christ,

In the middle of last week, the Churchwide Assembly voted to designate the ELCA a "sanctuary churchbody." Over the next several days, news organizations picked up the story; the coverage was mostly vague.

When I returned home from worship this afternoon, I learned that Fox News aired a short panel discussion on the Churchwide Assembly's decision. I assume that this piece will make the usual social media rounds over the coming days, and I write to you today in hopes of addressing any concerns that might be raised by the segment.

After repeated viewings of the panel, I can state definitively that Fox News misrepresented the facts both about the ELCA's position and about undocumented immigrants. Fox News did not have a representative from the ELCA on the panel and implied that ELCA congregations would simply ignore US law. This is not true. One of their guests also implied that undocumented migrants carry disease and pose a public health risk. This is also not true.

The ELCA's designation as a "sanctuary churchbody" means that our denomination will continue to support refugees as they are resettled in the US through our partnership with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, provide legal assistance to immigrants pursuing their legally-protected right to seek asylum, and ensuring that undocumented immigrants are aware of their rights under US law. Moreover, it means that the ELCA will continue to advocate for just and humane treatment of detained immigrants, such as calling for adequate housing at detention centers and accompanying minors through immigration court as part of the ELCA's AMMPARO program. Congregations that have the resources to do so may provide food, shelter, and financial assistance to migrants in need. Finally, it also means that the ELCA will speak out against xenophobia, racism, and fear-mongering against all people.

You may notice that these are long-standing ELCA practices. As I have mentioned many times before, ours is an immigrant faith: transplanted from Europe into the US and Caribbean by wandering Germans, Swedes, Norwegians, and Danes. These immigrant communities maintained their customs in this new country and shaped the ELCA as it is today. After World War II, one in six Lutherans was either displaced or a refugee. And over the years, our faith has become more diverse, made up of Lutherans from Central and South America, Africa, India, the Middle East, and every corner of the map. On a typical Sunday, Lutherans in the ELCA worship in more than thirty different languages. Because we are the spiritual heirs to a wandering Aramean, roving Germans and Danes, and displaced Christians from across the globe, our denomination has long been committed to welcoming the stranger. We do so in the belief that what we do unto the least of these, our sisters and brothers, we do unto Christ himself.

The Churchwide Assembly's actions, then, re-commit us to this long tradition.

If you have further questions or concerns about what it means to be a "sanctuary churchbody," please do not hesitate to ask me directly. I will gladly set aside time in my week to meet with you in person for extended conversation.

Grace and Peace,

Pr. Andrew+

SOME GUIDELINES FOR WRITING RESOLUTIONS

Don't be intimidated at the idea of writing a resolution. It isn't that difficult. Follow along for some tips in resolution writing. The goal of a resolution is to inform and educate the readers so that they are inspired to take action and approve the resolution. Therefore, every resolution should:

- have a clear and concise title.
- address only one issue—call attention to a need for action on something in particular. • call Women of the NGLSWO to action on something it can influence.
- address concerns relevant to NGLSWO that relate to our mission, purpose, ongoing activities or governance.
- propose an action or a solution to a problem (or multiple actions or solutions).
- be based on sufficient background and analysis ... you have to persuasively back up the call to action.
- provide enough background to give someone with little knowledge of the subject sufficient information to make an intelligent and informed decision.
- be a source of direction, an instrument in planning. A successful resolution does two things. It identifies and explains what you want addressed.

This is the WHEREAS portion. Write as many WHEREAS sentences as needed to fully explain the issue.

It also proposes a solution or a plan of action. This is the RESOLVED portion. Multiple RESOLVED sentences are appropriate, with each sentence addressing either a different solution or audience. The "Whereases" This first portion of a resolution is a sort of preamble. It consists of declarations of fact that you can support and back up. Opinions are not expressed in this portion of the resolution. Each fact should be listed as a separate sentence or paragraph that begins with WHEREAS, followed by a semi-colon. The final WHEREAS ends with a semi-colon followed by "therefore be it." This second portion of the resolution states the action that you propose in order to address what you identified in the WHEREAS portion. When writing the RESOLVED section, a guide to keep in mind is that this section ought to be able to stand on its own—you shouldn't have to refer back to the WHEREAS section to understand what is being asked for. This is the portion of the resolution that includes calls to action.

The calls to action can be directed at participants in NGLSWO, congregational units, synodical organizations or the whole churchwide organization. The calls to action can involve a single item or they can involve ongoing activities. The RESOLVEDS can only obligate women within our organization.

When a resolution contains multiple "RESOLVED" statements, they are linked by the phrase "and be it further" at the end of each RESOLVED statement, except for the last one.

A RESOLUTION TEMPLATE WHEREAS, ... (this is the part of the resolution that explains the issue or problem);
and WHEREAS, ... (each resolution should address only one issue or problem);
and WHEREAS, ... (each "Whereas" statement should address only one fact, idea or supporting argument related to the issue or problem);
therefore, be it RESOLVED, that ... (this is the part of the resolution that restates the basic issue or problem and proposes a solution to the issue or problem identified in the "Whereas" statements);
and be it further RESOLVED, that ... (each "Resolved" statement should address a separate action to be taken or solution proposed to resolve the issue or problem);
and be it further RESOLVED, that ... (the "Resolved" statement should stand alone and the action proposed therein should be clearly understood by the reader without having to refer back to the "Whereas" statements).

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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 _____
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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.

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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

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	Deadline
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortune Lake Camp Women and Kids Week (Adult Only)	\$ 100 each	May 1, 2020
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortune Lake Camp Grand (moms) parents-Kids Week (Adult Only)	\$ 80 each	May 1, 2020
<input type="checkbox"/> Synodical Women's Organization Convention	\$ 25 each	July 31, 2020
<input type="checkbox"/> Fortune Lake Camp Women's Fall Retreat	\$ 75 each	July 31, 2020
<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 1764
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
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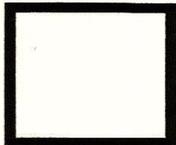
Sue Hill (2018-2020)
609 N Chicago Mine Road
Wakefield, MI 49968
(906) 364-4584
news@wnbpa.net
Cluster 7 Three Lakes Board Liaison

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
527 E Margaret Street
Ironwood, MI 49938

REFLECTIONS Newsletter – September 2019



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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.