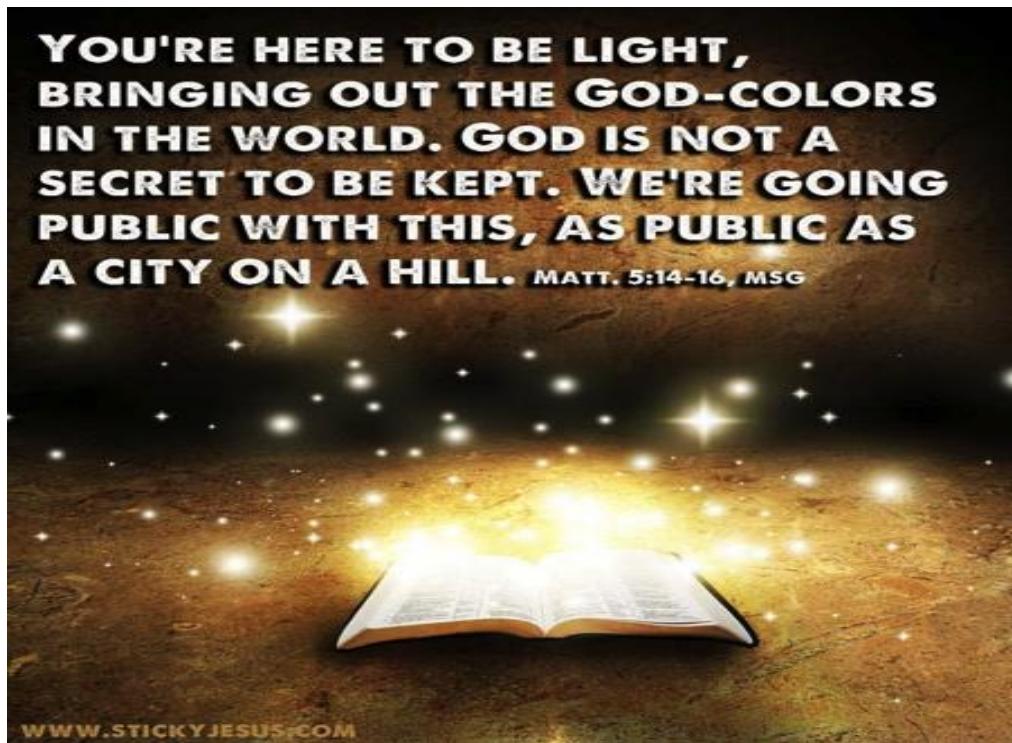


The 30th Annual Convention of
Eastern North Dakota
Synodical
Women of the ELCA

Saturday, September 16, 2017
Faith Lutheran Church
309 4th St NE
Valley City, North Dakota

Be a Light...No Matter What!



¹⁴ "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden.¹⁵ Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)

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Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization Convention

Faith Lutheran Church Valley City, North Dakota ***Saturday, September 16, 2017*** ***Tentative Agenda***

8:45-9:30 am	Registration and Coffee
9:20-9:30 am	Gathering Music
9:30-10:00 am	Opening Welcome & Devotions "The Story of Faith" Cheryl Foell
10:00-10:10 am	Vendor announcements, Request for Vitas to be submitted by 10:30 am
10:10-10:30 am	Break (Visit vendors, Stretch, etc.)
10:30-11:30 am	Plenary I Business meeting Credentials Report Appointment of Parliamentarian Appointment of Business Committees 1) Credentials; 2) Elections; 3) Nominations Adoption of Rules of Procedure Adoption of Agenda Report of Churchwide Representative--Karen Voris "What's happening at Women of the ELCA Churchwide"
11:30-12:00 noon	Bible Study Pastor Jolene Knudson-Hanse
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch (Visit vendors, fellowship, etc)
1:00-1:45 pm	Plenary II Business meeting Report of the Nominating Committee Election & Call for first ballot New Business Introduction of Synodical Board Report of the Elections Committee Report of the President Report of the Treasurer Adoption of the Budget Report of Resolutions Committee Report of the Offerings Committee Other Business (Invitation to 2018 SWO Convention)
1:45-2:15 pm	Speaker: Who are "Millennials" and how do we connect? -- Pastor Ryan Jerome
2:15-2:30 pm	Round Table discussion OR Treasurers' Workshop (led by Nadine Olson, SWO Treasurer)
2:30-3:30 pm	Closing Worship with Communion Installation of SWO Board members by CWO Rep. Karen Voris Adjourn

****Post-Convention Board meeting for Current (outgoing) & newly elected Board Members****

Women of the ELCA

Purpose Statement

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.

Mission Statement

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



Blessings to my faithful sisters in Christ,

What a wonderful community of women has gathered together in the name of Christ! My prayers are overflowing with thanksgiving for your faithful service and ministry. May this time together inspire you, fulfill you and encourage you to continue to live out our purpose statement.

This organization has done some amazing things over the years. As a community of women we have provided services such as anti-racism training, addressing issues involving domestic violence and commercial sexual exploitation and human trafficking. We also support families with special needs. And we do this not only in our churches and communities, but all over the world. What a testament of discipleship in Jesus Christ!

During your time together I would like you to consider these two questions: why am I a member of Women of the ELCA? What can I do to ensure the ministry of this amazing organization will continue on to the next generation? We have accomplished so much, but there is still much work that needs to be done.

My representative who is attending your convention is excited and looks forward to speaking with each of you. She would love to hear about what is happening in your congregational units and your synodical organization. Please feel free to share your joys and your concerns with her as well.

The churchwide board and staff are here for you and are willing to assist in anything you need. You are bold and faithful women of the ELCA and I thank God for each and every one of you!

Blessings to you!

Lisa Plorin
President, 2017-2020 triennium
Women of the ELCA

Greetings to Eastern North Dakota Women of the ELCA,

As your President, I have spent this past year attending Cluster Gatherings (7 of 8 clusters), Synod Assembly, visiting churches, going to the Triennial Convention and Gathering, attending conferences, being a part of our EaND Synod Council, and seeing how this Body of Christ is alive and well in Eastern North Dakota.

Your hands have made quilts to cover the homeless, the grief-stricken, the lonely, and the hurting. You have given quilts to your congregations' confirmands and graduates. You have provided prayer shawls as a ministry to the ill and elderly. You have done much for education, health, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in our nation and throughout the world. You have been God's Hands in our world.

As we gather for this 30th annual convention of Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization, I am again reminded that our world is getting smaller. Many of our ancestors fled unrest and poverty to build a new life in the New World. Many were brought here as slaves; many lost their homelands through greed and deceit. These facts cannot be changed, but we are called to deeds of justice, mercy, and caring—whatever form it takes: food pantries, quilts, shelters, or visiting those in prison to show God's love.

Our theme verse, "*You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 (NIV)*" challenges us to take action.

Yes, we are to be a light showing God's love and bringing peace and justice to this weary, suffering world. We may not always agree on issues, we may not always agree on the best course of action; but we do agree that God calls us to be His lights in the world around us!

I am reminded of the song we learned as children, "This Little Light of Mine, I'm Gonna let it Shine!" When children sing this song, they really "get into it"! Let's sing that song and get into it as we go into the world to do God's work with our hands!!!

We are called to make God's love known by our actions and words. We must be informed as we act to do what we need to do to help those affected by social and economic unrest. We are called to be aware of what is going on, not only in the world, our state, and in our own communities. I hope that each one of you will take this message back to your congregations, use the information you have learned today to make a difference locally and globally.

Thank you for being with us today. Thank you for being the instruments of hope to each other and the world around us.

May God continue to bless you and your work in His name!



Karen Voris**Executive Board Member 2014-2020****Women of the Lutheran Evangelical Church in America**

Karen Voris was elected to the churchwide executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2014. She was re-elected to the executive board at the Tenth Triennial Convention in July 2017. She has served on the program and communication committee.

Previously, Karen served as president and vice president of the Alaska Synodical Women's Organization. As part of her work with the ASWO and the Alaska Synod council, Karen had the privilege of joining Inupiat (Eskimo) Lutherans in their ministries in the villages of Nome, Shishmaref, and Brevig Mission on the Seward Peninsula.



A resident of Eagle River near Anchorage, Karen has been an active member of Central Lutheran Church in Anchorage for many years. She sings in the church choir, is an assisting minister, and a eucharistic minister for homebound members. She worked with the high school youth group for many years, teaching Sunday School and taking teens to gatherings and a mission trip to Guatemala. Karen has also served on her church council as a member and as president of her congregation.

Karen grew up and began her teaching career in Montana. She visited Alaska on vacation and has never left, saying that she's "on an extended vacation." She is now retired after teaching special education at all grade levels and working as an early interventionist for families with young children who have disabilities.

Karen and her husband Bob have two sons. In her free time, Karen enjoys spending time with friends and family, baking, and exploring the outdoors.

Pastor Ryan Jerome

Serves Zoar and St. Ansgar Lutheran Churches at LaMoure, ND.

PROPOSED STANDING RULES OF PROCEDURE

2017 EaND Women of the ELCA Synodical Convention

- 1. Delegate (Voting) Body** – The voting members to be seated at the convention shall include synodical board officers, the churchwide representative, and one woman from each congregational unit.
- 2. Seating of Delegates** – Delegates must register before being seated in the section reserved for them. The roll of delegates may not change after 10:00 a.m. September 16, 2017. If a delegate must be absent, she shall report to the Credentials Committee Chair.
- 3. Quorum** – A majority of the delegates in attendance at the convention from the units shall constitute a quorum.
- 4. Privilege of the Floor** – Seat and Voice shall be granted to the Bishop of EaND Synod, representative of Church wide Women of the ELCA, SWO Board members, Chair of committees in connection with their reports.
- 5. Appointment of Convention Committees** – The presiding chair, at the opening of the business meeting shall announce the appointment of the following committees: Report of the President, Credentials, Offerings, Nominating, Elections, Resolutions, and Minutes.
- 6. Voting and Parliamentary Procedure** – To be eligible to vote, a delegate must be seated in the designated area. No proxy or absentee voting is permitted. Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall be the governing parliamentary law of this Synodical Women's Organization, except as otherwise provided in the synodical constitution and bylaws. This convention shall follow the Women of the ELCA Policy of Electioneering.
- 7. Conduct of Elections** – The nominating committee shall nominate two persons for each vacancy. Additional nominations may be made from the floor for all elections for which nominations have been made. All elections shall be by ballot. In all elections, a majority of votes cast shall elect, except in the election of delegates to the Triennial Convention.
- 8. Motions/Resolutions** – Any delegate may make a motion to present a resolution from the floor. If a delegate chooses to add any item of new business, she shall: a) Write the resolution on the appropriate form; b) Submit the form to the Resolutions Committee. The Resolutions Committee shall report to the Convention its recommendation regarding the new business. A two-thirds vote of the voting body is required to add a new item of business to the agenda.
- 9. Speeches** – All speeches in general discussion, unless otherwise determined by a two-thirds vote, shall be limited to two (2) minutes. No person shall speak more than twice on the same issue without the consent of the voting body and only after all others have spoken; speakers shall identify themselves by name, congregational unit, and city to be recognized by the chair.
- 10. Convention Business Agenda** – The president of the synodical women's organization shall be granted the privilege of adjusting the agenda and the items of business deemed necessary.
- 11. Incomplete Business** – Any business that cannot be completed by the scheduled hour of closing shall be referred to the synodical board for action at a regularly scheduled SWO business meeting.

29th EaND Synodical 3B Convention
United Lutheran Church, Cavalier
ND September 17, 2016

9:00 AM Registration, coffee, and vendors.

9:30 AM Opening Worship and Communion Service led by Pastor Beth Peterson

10:45 AM Deb Stark, President of United Lutheran WELCA extended a warm welcome to all present. Karen Retzlaff, President of Synodical Women's Board announced the opening of the 29th Annual EaND Synodical Convention open. Theme: "Strangers Among Us" . Bible Verse: Matthew 25: 35-36.

Nadine Olson gave the credentials report. As of 10:05 AM Present were 24 delegates, 4 officers, total voting delegation = 28. Total present = 77.

Karen introduced the EaND Synodical Women's Board. Jessica Miller, Promoter for the Triennial Convention spoke about the Convention to be held in Minneapolis on July 13-16, 2017. Julie Garrett, EaND promoter spoke about the bus that will be going to Triennial. Stops are in Jamestown, Devils Lake and Fargo. They will need 55 people for each bus costing \$100 each. Rooms are a block away from the Convention Center. Julie has the form to sign up for the bus. Char Gumke gave greetings from the Office of the Bishop. Mitch Devillea, a Haitian Missionary spoke.

11:10 AM Joan Iverson, Churchwide Representative spoke. Joan shared her life history on her role in the church. She gave her report from Churchwide. We need to send in regular offering to the SWO Treasurer. The Churchwide went over their budget by 2%. The CWO depends on volunteer support. The Thankoffering and regular offering can be given on the online website. You can also give to the Faithful Friends and plan on giving a Legacy to CWO. We gave \$7000 less on regular offering, but our Thanksgiving offering was \$14,000 more. Joan suggested we attend the Triennial Convention from July 13-16, 2017, even if we are not delegates to see how it's run. The website is WELCATG.ORG.

11:45 AM Our guest speaker, Betty Gronneberg, is founder and Executive Director of uCodeGirl, a non-profit organization with a vision to inspire, educate, and empower young girls to choose technology careers. Betty's advocacy extends to advancing literacy in early childhood in her native country, Ethiopia. Betty has written a children's book entitled "The Alphabet Takes A Journey: Destination Ethiopia!"

The table prayer was sung and a delicious lunch was served by the ladies of United Lutheran Church

1 PM The first plenary was called to order by President Karen Retzlaff with the reciting of the Purpose Statement. Karen Retzlaff explained non-voting members may go to vendor displays or stay for the plenary. The proposed Standing Rules of Procedure on page 7 of the convention

book were reviewed. Vote by showing of hands is acceptable. The Standing Rules were adapted. A motion was made for the adoption of the agenda with changes as necessary for the purpose of this convention. Motion carried. Agenda adopted.

The Convention committees were introduced. Nancy Kainz reported we have one resolution. Whereas: The United Lutheran Church WELCA has so graciously hosted this 29th Annual Eastern North Dakota 3-B Synodical Convention, and Whereas: the goal of this group is "to reach out without fear: and Whereas: we are celebrating our theme "Stranger's Among Us" today; therefore, be it resolved that we lift up in prayers of thanks to the United Lutheran WELCA for giving his this day of nourishment for out body, soul and spirit knowing that at the center of this convention is our Lord, Jesus Christ; therefore, be it further resolved that we give a round of applause to the women of the United Lutheran Church for their hard work, love and hospitality. Karen Retzlaff moved the adoption of this resolution. Vote taken and Resolution #1 was adopted.

Karen Retzlaff went over the ELCA Policy of Electioneering on page 21 of our Convention book. Joan Iverson led us in prayer.

Nancy Kainz presented the nominations for President, Karen Retzlaff. There were no nominations from the floor. Vote taken. Nancy Kainz reported that there were no nominations for Secretary. There were no nominations from the floor. After discussion, Pam Neumiller accepted the position. Joan Iverson led us in prayer. Vote taken. We have an election for President, Karen Retzlaff, and Secretary, Pam Neumiller, each for a 2-year term.

Nancy Kainz presented the nominations for Cluster Representatives: Grafton Cluster, Crystal Anderson; Wahpeton Cluster, Kathleen "Kathy" Johnson. There were no nominations for Prairie Rose Cluster or Jamestown Cluster. After discussion, Julie Garrett accepted the position of Fargo Cluster Representative to replace Pam Neumiller. Joan Iverson led us in prayer. Vote taken. We have an election for Grafton Cluster representative, Crystal Anderson; Wahpeton Cluster representative , Kathy Johnson; Fargo Cluster representative, Julie Garrett.

Nancy Kainz presented the nominations for Triennial delegates. Mary G(Gay) Frojen, Julie Garrett, Janet Hughes, Nancy Kainz, Nadine Olson, Dil Rai, Patricia J Schutt, and Kristi Houska. Joan Iverson led us in prayer. Vote taken. We have an election for Triennial Delegates.

Nadine Olson gave the credentials report. As 12:50 PM, present were 24 delegates, 4 officers. Total voting delegation = 28. Total present were 78. The offering was \$2025.09 and the money will be dispersed as follows: 1/2 to churchwide = \$1013.04; 1/4 to EaND SWO = \$506.52; and 1/4 to Cavalier County Violence and Abuse Center = \$506.53. Nadine move the report of the Finance and Budget report on pages 12 and 13 of the Convention book be adapted. Vote taken. The report adopted as printed.

Nancy Kainz moved the adoption of the minutes on page 10 and 11 of the convention book. Vote taken and report adopted as printed. Sharon Rostad moved the adoption of the President's report on pages 8 and 9 be adopted. Vote taken and President report adopted.

There were no invitations to host the 2017 SWO Convention.

The SWO Women's Retreat for next year will be held August 19, 2017 at Maryvale in Valley City.

Karen Retzlaff presented Joan Iverson with a beautiful painting. The SWO Board presented the United Lutheran Church WELCA with a quilted wall hanging.

Joan Iverson, CWO Representative, expressed her thanks to the outgoing board members and installed the new EaNDSWO officers, board members and Triennial delegates.

We closed with the Lord's prayer.

President Karen Retzlaff adjourned the convention.

Nancy Kainz

SWO Secretary

**Eastern ND Synodical Women's Organization
Treasurer's Report for Year Ending January 31, 2017**

<u>Income</u>		<u>Projected</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Regular Offering		16,000.00	16,068.95
Sponsorships		16,000.00	7,705.00
Synodical Convention	Offering	2,000.00	2,501.09
	Lunch Money		860.00
Cluster Offerings			1,730.00
Mission Areas		1,000.00	
	Action		
	CAR	375.00	
	CAR Girls Scholarship	200.00	
Newsletter	Subscriptions		261.50
Triennial Convention	Travelships	125.00	
	Triennial Offering	25.00	
	Transfer From Savings	2,349.20	
Miscellaneous	Non-Budget	250.00	822.55
	Cash Box		600.00
	Savings Interest		0.82
Women's Retreat	Registrations		3,029.56
	Transfer From Savings		995.96
Total Income		35,250.00	37,649.63
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Regular Offering 1/2 to Churchwide	Women of ELCA	8,000.00	7,926.79
Synodical Convention	Offering to Women of the ELCA (50% of total offering)	800.00	1,085.54
	Guest Honorariums	2,000.00	950.00
	Travel, Room/board	1,500.00	1,868.05
	Printing, postage	1,000.00	832.61
	Supplies, misc.	1,000.00	632.59
	Lunch Expense		400.00
Cluster Gatherings	Women of ELCA (50% of total offering)	500.00	690.00
	Reimbursements to Host Units		1,513.80
	Misc		73.34
Mission Areas	Action, Community	8,000.00	6,277.72
	Growth - Women's Retreat Expenses		4,600.52
Administrative	Travel/room/board	5,500.00	4,183.33
	Printing, postage	1,000.00	2,123.36
	Supplies, phone, misc	1,450.00	667.27
	Audit	600.00	
	Website		194.00
	Synod Assembly		150.00
Newsletter	Printing	1,000.00	589.17
Triennial	Printing/Postage		169.20
	Registrations		2,180.00
Total Expenditures		<u>32,350.00</u>	<u>37,107.29</u>
Net Income/Loss			<u>542.34</u>

Eastern ND Synodical Women's Organization

Budget for February 1, 2017 Through January 31, 2018

Projected Income

Regular Offering	20,000.00
Sponsorships	14,000.00
Synodical Convention Offering	7,500.00
Cluster Meetings Offering	2,000.00
Mission Action, Growth, Community Donations	6,000.00
Non-Budget Income	1,000.00
Triennial Convention	4,300.00
Transfer from Savings Triennial Fund	4,000.00
Transfer from Savings Travelship Fund	300.00
Total Projected Income	54,800.00

Projected Expenses

Regular Offering to Churchwide	50% of offering	10,000.00
Mission Action, Growth, Community (Includes CAR)		12,000.00
Cluster Offering to Churchwide	50% of offering	1,000.00
		12,800.00
Triennial Convention		12,800.00
Travel, Room, Board for 2017 Triennial	5,500.00	
Travelships for 2017 Triennial	300.00	
Miscellaneous 2017 Triennial Expenses	3,000.00	
Savings for 2020 Triennial	4,000.00	
		7,000.00
Synodical Convention		7,000.00
Offering to Churchwide	50% of offering	1,400.00
Offering to designated benevolence	25% of offering	700.00
Travel, Room, Board		1,900.00
Printing, Postage		1,000.00
Supplies, Guest Honorariums, Misc.		2,000.00
		11,000.00
Administrative		11,000.00
Printing, Postage		2,500.00
Travel, Mileage, Room, Board		5,500.00
Supplies, Phone, Misc.		3,000.00
		1,000.00
Newsletter Printing		1,000.00
Total Projected Expenses		54,800.00

Mission Action, Growth, Community, Prison Ministry, and Young Women's Outreach

This report continues the tradition of sharing what has been happening in Eastern North Dakota as a result of WELCA activities. This past year a WELCA Ministry survey was sent to all congregational units. Of 194 active units in Eastern North Dakota, 33 surveys were returned. While this result was disappointing, I learned the following:

- Memorials 4
- Resources used (mostly GATHER magazine) 62
- Quilts made 2700
- Baby Care Kits 571
- Personal Care kits 975
- Fabric Kits 178
- Fleece Blankets 100
- Soap 85 lbs.
- School kits 228
- LWR support (financial) \$3826.45
- Churchwide/Global support \$28,808.54
- In-kind local (financial) \$19,754.00
- Synod/local (financial) \$92,781.75
- Thankofferings (services) 81 (financial) \$5285.77

Units have sponsored mission trips to various places in the world. They have helped with Global Mission projects in the Central African Republic as our companion synod faces the chaos of civil war. Units go to a variety of locations to serve meals for the homeless in shelters across our Synod. They offer clothing, bedding, and kitchen supplies for refugees who hope to resettle in North Dakota. Lutheran Social Services has provided the means for giving assistance to new Americans.

Our fifth annual Women's Retreat was held in August—with great success. These retreats provide a chance for women to “check out” of their daily lives to be renewed, refreshed, and ready to take on the challenges of life. The site at Maryvale offers a quiet, restful atmosphere for those who attend for a day.

The bassinette bedding is an on-going project for Sanford Hospital and hospitals that care for NICU infants. Julie Garrett began this project and continues to encourage women to help whenever possible. Baby quilts and children's quilts are always appreciated by emergency rooms in hospitals. Check with your local hospitals to see if there is a current need. If there is, please consider donating smaller quilts to those places.

With the increase of trafficking in our state, we became involved in helping victims of trafficking as they were located and brought to recovery programs. Our women can help in many ways. Victims of domestic abuse also need our help. Community intervention centers are always in need of personal care items, pajamas, clothing, blankets, etc. Check with your local centers for a needs list. Often women (and children) who leave an abusive situation, have nothing but the clothes on their backs as they arrive at a shelter. It is a horrific time and the comfort of a blanket or stuffed animal may make the difference in the life of a child who has seen what no child should ever see or experience!

Our prison ministry is still accepting yarn for the Jamestown Correctional Center. The inmates are still crocheting and knitting caps, sweaters, mittens, afghans, and scarves for those in need in this country and worldwide. This helps the inmates look beyond themselves to places they have never been and to provide help to the unknown recipients. They make a difference and feel better about themselves—lives are changed! Contact Chaplain Mark Haines at the Jamestown Correctional facility for more information.

As the apostle Paul once said, “Never cease in doing good!”

May God Bless all your efforts! Karen Retzlaff, President, EaND SWO 3B

**Report of the Editor of *CONNECTIONS*:
Newsletter of Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization
*September 16, 2017***

The newsletter of the Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization is currently in its 20th year of publication with Karen Retzlaff as editor. A variety of previous newsletters were composed by others intermittently for various purposes. At one time, only the SWO Board received regular updates of events in the Synod. This was expanded to newsletters for church units and later subscriptions for individuals were added. The publication is usually 4 pages long with the larger edition following the Synodical convention. The larger edition includes photos and information about the convention held in September every year.

The editor uses Microsoft Publisher to prepare the issue prior to printing. The copy is converted to PDF and sent to Ness Press of Fordville, ND, for printing and distribution. The editor maintains the mailing list and continues to update it regularly. Subscriptions are sent to the editor and money transferred to the Treasurer. There is often a time lag, since the money is often held until a SWO Board meeting when it is turned over to the treasurer. (That may be the reason for checks not clearing on a monthly basis. Do not worry—it will be deposited!) Your subscription label includes a “code” to let you know when your subscription expires. It looks like this: “Jane Lutheran JL/18”; this means “Your Name” “month/ year of expiration of the subscription.”

Speaking of subscriptions, it is becoming more costly for the editor to retrieve and resend newsletters. This happens when churches and subscribers fail to update addresses when churches close or go from PO boxes to 911 addresses (and vice versa) OR move to another location. The mail is not forwarded, but rather is returned to the editor who has to pay postage due (\$0.49) and resend (\$0.49 paid again) therefore adding \$.98 to the original cost of mailing the newsletter. Please take a few seconds to drop an email (retzlaff@polarcomm.com) or snail mail (address below) to continue your subscriptions.

The editor is often looking for news from Congregational units, or WELCAs, to include in the issues. A possibility could be a story about programs held by the WELCAs. So often program chairmen are at a loss when Cluster Gatherings are planned. If we share information, many more can benefit from successful programs held in Eastern North Dakota's congregational units.

We are more than Bible Studies, Church Dinners, Quilters, and so on—Let us share our BOLD WOMEN's activities and efforts. Send an email retzlaff@polarcomm.com or send your story by “snail-mail” to:

Karen Retzlaff, Editor
11995 19th St NE
Aneta, ND 58212

Help spread the Good News that Women of the ELCA are involved in many activities to benefit the world around us and to spread the Gospel in word and deed.

Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality
Racial Justice Team Report
2017

“Today’s Dream, Tomorrow’s Reality” (TD-TR) is the title used for the anti-racism program of the Women of the ELCA. With the 2011-2014 Triennial Convention action, the focus has changed to Racial Justice Advocacy. The goals are still the same, but the title has changed. With the retirement of Inez Torres-Davis this past spring, the Women of the ELCA staff is being reassigned to continue this important program.

The program materials have been revised to reflect some of the changes from the first programs of the group with a focus on advocacy for justice for all people. While program materials have been used with great effectiveness, there is always room for improvement.

The TD-TR materials have been rewritten and updated with the assistance of a team of women from the network. Karen Retzlaff was one of those team members. The result of the process is a number of programs on the WELCA website that are downloadable for use.

The in-depth trainings give participants the opportunity to study God’s Word to discern His Will in the work of racial justice. Karen Retzlaff and Darla Thiele of the Racial Justice team members from Eastern North Dakota, have taken part in these trainings and are available to speak to groups about this important program.

The Ninth Triennial Convention delegates passed a resolution to advocate for children in crisis who are coming to the United States by the hundreds for safety from the violence in their home countries. This is a justice issue for the children who need to escape the murder and violence in Central America. Members of TD-TR formulated and introduced the resolution to the convention delegates. It was passed by a vote of 318 ayes to 30 nays for a total of 348 votes cast.

The current unrest in the United States has brought racial tension to the forefront of issues. With the violence occurring in many areas, it is time to talk about race and how to combat the hatred expressed by numerous groups. It begins by immersing ourselves in God’s Word to be His voice in bringing justice.

Please consider prayerfully, hosting a program in your congregational unit or your congregation to learn more about Racial Justice.

Your TD-TR trainers,

Karen Retzlaff & Darla Thiele

Women's Retreat 2017

Jeanne Wobbema

The 5th Annual Women's Retreat was held on August 19, 2017 at Maryvale Provincial Center at Valley City.

The theme of the retreat was

**"You are not here to bring light into the world,
You are the light..... There is a difference".**

The guest speakers were Kathy Fick, who led us in a bible study based on Matthew 5:14-16, and Amanda Brumfield with a talk entitled, "If I Could Say Just One Thing". Her talk centered on life choices and her walk with her faith.

We had a group workshop that involved putting women's health kits together for the Abused Person's Outreach Center of Valley City. The group packed 68 total kits and about 2 dozen miscellaneous items.

This year we chose to have Mary and Martha and Paparazzi with us as two vendors for guests to shop at.

Lunch was served by Maryvale and consisted of cold meat sandwiches, potato salad, vegetable and dessert.

The committee for the 2017 retreat was, Kathy Johnson, Nadine Olson and Jeanne Wobbema.

Maryvale has been reserved for August 18, 2018 for the 6th Annual Retreat.

Darla K. Thiele
Dacotah Oyate Lutheran Church
Spirit Lake Cluster Representative
September 12, 2017

We, met on the morning of April 8, 2017, at the Dacotah Oyate Lutheran Church We hosted the Spring Cluster meeting. We have not hosted before, so we thought, we would set it up as a tea party and just have a little fun too. We decorated with teapots and the ladies brought their teapots and told their stories of the teapots and how they acquired them, a lot of them were handed down thru the generations. The Ladies wore their tea hats, we had a tea hat contest and it was fun.

We had a total of 30 women who attended for the day, our bible verse was from, 2 Corinthians 12:9, my grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me.

Our offering was for the Red Willow Bible Camp, (\$190.00) we love the bible camp and use it every fall for a family retreat. Karen Retzlaff, President gave the latest news on WELCA and the Triennial Conference. Amaris Makes Good and Derikah Whiteshield did some special music for us, singing in Dakota. Pastor Larry Thiele, gave devotions and also did the closing prayer.

In Christ, Darla Thiele

Fargo Cluster Report

I started planning what my program would be the Sunday sermon the day after I was elected to take Pam's place as the Fargo Cluster Rep. Pastor Paul had as his sermon "The Parable of the Good Samaritan" Luke 10:25-37.

The gathering was held in the Chapel of South Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo. Not very many came, about 38, but those that did had a great example of Good Samaritan real stories to tell their WELCA groups when they gave reports.

Judy Siegle welcomed everyone to Hope and made us all feel comfortable in this beautiful chapel and then gave devotions. Mary Ann Hansen lead us in the Purpose Statement.

Karen Retzlaff, EaND SWO President, told what is on the calendar for the summer and fall. We have the Synod Assembly, Triennial Gathering, Retreat at Maryvale and the EaND SWO Fall Convention in Valley City in September. She hopes to see everyone at these important and exciting events.

Pastor Mike Toomey was our featured speaker for the program. Pastor Mike had a way of bringing each of us in with him as he talked about "The Good Samaritan" people he did for a person. It was what I had hoped for from the very day I started planning the Cluster Gathering.

Miki Ronning gave her story. How a young lady can completely change her life and now live free and be able to tell us about what she had gone through.

We had as the in-kind offering hygiene items for the YWCA. We got many items for Tami Rust to bring back to the Y for them to give to women who need them.

Jessica Miller, the Triennial Promoter, gave information on the "All Anew" Women of the ELCA 10th Triennial Gathering, July 13-16, 2017, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Many of the ladies in Eastern North Dakota have been to all of these—I am still hoping to have a bus full of women and many cars there.

Offering for the day was \$282.00. This was divided between the YWCA and the EaND SWO.

The lunch was salads, which the Circles of Hope Lutheran brought. The place settings each had a wooden cross, which men of the church make and carve the words Faith, Hope, and Love into them. The following script was given with it: "Healing cross help me in body and soul, strengthen my Spiritual and physical weakness, and help me to find inner strength and peace. Grant me the courage and grace to endure the crosses I must bear. Keep me ever mindful of your presence in my life."

I pray that the Fargo Cluster had a good day and more will come and take part in the rest of the events we have planned for the next 5 months. With all the extra I have going on, like state track, graduations, baseball and getting the riders on the bus—I can't wait.

Julie Garrett, Fargo Cluster Rep

The Grafton Cluster Gathering Report

"The Miracle of Faith"

47 women gathered at Christ Lutheran in Neche, ND on Saturday April 29th. An offering of \$447 was collected. One half went to EaND SWO the second half went to Katie's Care.

During registration the ladies enjoyed homemade muffins, juice and coffee.

The meeting started promptly at 10:00 am with the welcome by co-chairman Carol Peters. She introduced the Lay Minister: Ron Thompson who led us in a Bible Study based on 2nd Corinthians 12:1-10.

This was followed by the women standing and reciting the Purpose Statement. I handed out the packets to anyone who was willing to deliver them. I was thankful that all but three were taken. I was thankful that those were left as I was short of material for two.

Karen Retzlaff, EaND SWO president gave an informative talk on the material in the packet.

This was followed by a duet by Donna Karel and Charlene Snustad. They sang the song "Faithful".

Lay Pastor Ron Thompson served communion to all who could come to the communion railing and then he served a few who had remained in their pews.

I asked if anyone would host the 2018 Cluster gathering. Adam-Mountain Lutheran Church offered. They do not even have an active WELCA, but they have women.

A most delicious lunch was served, Lasagna with seven different salads. After the main meal, angel food cake with cool whip and strawberries was served.

The speaker after lunch was Ruth Reimer from Winkler, Manitoba. She shared about her daughter and her love for others. She had a dream about a cottage for people to stay when they had family in the hospital. After Katie's death at the age of 15, her family has made this dream come true. And they still collect stuffed animals to give to sick children.

One sad note was that the co-chairman of Christ Lutheran WELCA was unable to be with us as it had been discovered that she has a cancerous tumor on her pancreas. Please keep Audrey Hartje in your prayers.

The Grafton Cluster Rep: Marlene Arneson

Grand Forks Cluster No cluster meeting was held.

Jamestown Cluster Meeting May 6, 2017

Trinity Lutheran Church Jamestown ND

Valuing the Vulnerable: Reflecting God's Love Micah 6:8

The morning started with registration at 8:30, after which the ladies enjoyed coffee, juice, tea and an assortment of yummy muffins and sweet breads served by the ladies of Atonement Lutheran in Jamestown.

The meeting started at 9:30 with a welcome and devotions by Pastor Susan Haukaas. Karen Retzlaff and Mary Johnson explained the packet information.

Mitch Devalier then explained her job in the Multi Ethnic Mission of the EaND Synod. She shared her life and the hopes for ethnic diversity in our congregations. The Synod hopes to partner with congregations in the EaND Synod to enhance and encourage multi-ethnic congregational growth.

We then heard from Elissa Rosin about the Orphan Grain Train. This was started in Nebraska and spread to many regions of the US. They ship needed items to foreign countries as well as needy people here in the States. A very interesting presentation in that several of us had never heard of this. Tours can be arranged also. Their mission is to share Christ's love with others.

Pastor Susan then led us in a Bible study about how to do justice. We need to see what others can use not just what we think they should use.

After a delicious lunch of tater-tot hotdish, salad and bars, the ladies could wrap bandages with Diane Billey, read or stretch with Nici Flann.

At 1 p.m. we gathered again in the sanctuary to hear Joan Halveson, an FBI Victim Specialist, talk about human trafficking. It is a real problem here in ND and was here before the oil boom, although that brought the situation to public awareness.

At 1:45, Adie Hobart from the Anne Carlson Center for Children presented information about the work of the school. Pastor Susan then closed the day with worship and communion.

34 ladies registered. \$455 offering with 1/2 going to the EaND SWO and the other half to the EaND Synod Multi-Ethnic Mission.

Mary Johnson, Jamestown Cluster Rep.

Mayville Cluster Report

April 22, 2017

The Mayville Cluster Gathering was held Saturday, April 22, 2017, at Finley Lutheran Church, Finley, ND, hosted by Finley Lutheran WELCA and Ostervold WELCA. The theme for the gathering was “Let Us Make A Difference” based on Matthew 25:35-36: “For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you took me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me. I was sick and you looked after me. I was in prison and you visited me.”

The day started at 8:15 a.m with a delicious breakfast of a fruit cup, oven baked breakfast dish, rolls, coffee and juice provided by Finley WELCA. At 9:15, the gathering was opened by Karen Leslie with welcome and accompanied by organist Donna Smith. Keynote speaker was Pastor Sue Koesterman, Executive Director of Churches United for the Homeless of Fargo-Moorhead area. She shared with us information on Churches United and what niche they fill in finding homes for the homeless. She explained the various dorms they have and the demographics of the people they help. She also shared some of the current needs of the shelter.

Musical selections were provided by Lilly Nahansen, a 78th grade vocal student in Finley-Sharon School. Bobbi Ostrom sang “The Lord’s Prayer” and communion was served.

Karen Retzlaff, President of the EaND SWO and Karen Leslie distributed the WELCA packets and reviewed the information in them. There were 10 units represented of the 22 in our Mayville Cluster. Several took their neighbor’s packets so we would not have to mail them as the postage adds up.

The door prizes were 2 begonia plants and 2 garden spikes. Names drawn were Pam Montag, Wilma Nelson, Carolyn Paulsen and Delores Pittenger.

There were 43 registered participants. The offering was divide between Churches United for the Homeless and EaND SWO, each received \$257.50 and there was a \$20 check made out to Churches United. In-kind offering for Churches United were paper products, soaps and shampoo. Many items were received, plus quilts from Finley and Ostervold WELCA’s.

A table in the entryway was set up displaying some mission projects, plastic bag sleeping mats, school bag and contents, pillowcase dresses for Haiti, preemie hats for NICU babies. Instructions were available.

We closed with a sending prayer and the hymn “Now Thank We All Our God”.

Karen Leslie, Mayville Cluster rep

Prairie Rose Cluster Gathering Report
Grace Lutheran Church Grace City, North Dakota
9:30am-3:00 pm April 1, 2017

The Prairie Rose Cluster met at Grace Lutheran Church in Grace City on Saturday, April 1, 2017 with 44 participants. They were welcomed with coffee and fellowship time during registration from 9:30-10:00 am.

Laura Kulsrud welcomed everyone to Grace Lutheran and shared a bit of the history of the church. The original building burned in 1981 and was rebuilt in 1982. In 1992 the congregation became part of the Tri-County Ministry.

Pastor Sherri Fredrickson opened the time of devotion with a prayer and shared information about Amparo, a program also referred to as “Opening Borders”. She recalled a trip to Juarez, Mexico, where she experienced the life of those attempting to cross into the United States. She visited those imprisoned near the border and shared her stories of God’s presence among those prisoners. She spoke of injustices faced by those in Mexico, where jobs are hard to find, drug lords are powerful, and children have no future. She challenged the women to work for justice.

Because two of the speakers were unable to be part of the day’s program, Laura Kulsrud, the third speaker, was able to tell her story of “A Family’s Journey with PKAN” in its entirety. Pantothenate kinase-associated neurodegeneration is a genetic, neurological disorder which is quite rare. Laura explained that her oldest son was diagnosed in 2011 at the age of 11 and that her second son has also been diagnosed with the disease which causes an accumulation of iron deposits in the brain resulting in physical degeneration. Most PKAN patients do not survive past their twenties.

She told of the efforts to have her children put into a variety of drug studies to give them a chance at life. Since PKAN is very rare, there are few drug companies working on medications to slow or halt the progression of the disorder. She related that her faith has been a source of strength through this journey.

A noon meal was provided by Grace Lutheran WELCA. In-kind offering was items for Sacred Journey Lodge in Woodworth, ND.

March 25, 2017
Wahpeton Cluster Gathering
Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church Gwinner, North Dakota 58040

We enjoyed a wonderful, friendship filled day at our 2017 Cluster Gathering. Our morning began by sharing rolls and coffee at 8:30 AM. WELCA President Michelle Goettle welcomed us to Gustaf Adolph and we than shared fellowship with a song.

Pastor Ivy Schulz shared a sermon surrounding the story of Horatio Spafford, a prominent American lawyer and Presbyterian church leader. Pastor Ivy spoke on Spafford’s life which included many very sad events, including the death of his 4-year-old son from scarlet fever.

Women of the ELCA Policy of Electioneering

There are a variety of gifts, but the same Spirit AND
there are a variety of services, but the same Lord AND
there are a variety of activities, but the same God
who activates them in everyone.

Women of the ELCA affirms and believes
all women should have equal opportunity
for involvement and leadership in the organization.

Women of the ELCA further believes that
the Spirit that binds all through baptism
is the guiding factor for each delegate
prayerfully to review and consider
each nominee's biographical information
prior to the synodical women's convention.

Each participant further understands that
Promoting one candidate over another through campaigning
is in fact interfering with God's plan and actions
for participants of the Women of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Nominations for the Executive Board for 2017-2018

Nominations for Synodical Vice President

POSITION I'M RUNNING FOR: Vice President

Cluster Fargo

Church Unit Hope Lutheran (South Campus) Home Phone same as cell phone

Name JULIE HUDSON

Cell Phone 701-460-1190

Address 5551 58th St. S, Fargo, ND

E-Mail

58104 City/St/Zip Fargo, ND 58104

jhschenfi@gmail.com

Community Involvement:

1. Former McLean County Commissioner (10 years)
2. Former Washburn ND school board member (9 years)
3. Washburn Area Dollars for Scholars, scout merit badge counselor, 4-H Leader

Church Involvement:

1. Church Council Secretary
2. Former Church Woman Co-chair
3. Coordinated SS Christmas Programs
4. Church choir, hospitality committee, decorating committee,

FAITH STATEMENT: I believe that I am saved by grace through faith. Because that is my belief, it is my calling to share my faith through works in my church and in my community. All are welcome in God's family and I believe my actions will encourage people to become part of Gods family through my life choices and how others see me act. I believe that making opportunities for others to learn about God and his salvation is key to welcoming all saints and sinners into Gods hands.

Name: Jeanne Wobbema
Address: 855 12th St NW
Valley City ND 58072
701-490-3324 (H) 701-351-1203 (C)

E-mail: mrswob@gmail.com

Congregational Unit: Trinity Lutheran , Valley City, ND

Cluster: Jamestown

Church Involvement: WELCA treasurer, stewardship committee, pastoral care reorganization

Community Involvement: None.

Faith Statement:

As a woman of faith in the ELCA Lutheran Church, I am dedicated to the mission of women in our churches. As the Bible has many women featured in its covers, it does not take long to realize that women are important in not only caring for people, but also for carrying the mission of Christianity into the world. As our purpose statement states, “we are a community of women created in the image of God, called to his 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 calling, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.” I believe that times are changing and I hear a voice calling to be help in that change. I believe as Tabitha, formerly known as Dorcas, that I have good deeds, organization skills and much to offer in regards to a changing WELCA. I believe my walk in faith has drawn me to WELCA and with God’s help I can continue to be an asset to our mission as women of faith.

Nominations for Synodical Treasurer

POSITION I'M RUNNING FOR: Treasurer Cluster: Wahpeton

Church Unit : Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisbon, ND

Name: Connie Radcliffe

Address: 785 Oakridge Dr. City/St/Zip: Lisbon, ND 58054

E-Mail: caradcliffe@bremer.com

Home Phone: 701-683-4759 Work Phone: 701-683-6219 Cell Phone: 701-678-3334

Community Involvement:

- 1. General Federation of Womens Clubs__ Past State President/ State Board Member**
- 2. Sheyenne Fine Arts Association__Currently President**
- 3. Lisbon Opera House Past Director**

Church Involvement:

- 1. I serve on the church Council.**
- 2. I am a member of WELCA.**
- 3. I am a Sunday School teacher and help with vacation bible school each year.**
- 4. I participate in Bible Study Fellowship which meets weekly at our church.**
- 5. I also lead an exercise group weekly at Trinity called Stretch and Support Your Soul .**

FAITH STATEMENT:

I was born and raised Lutheran. I've been a member of Trinity Lutheran church in Lisbon, ND for 53 years. My parents, husband and two grown daughters, their husbands and 6 children all attend Trinity and our family is very active in our congregation. Our goal is to live out our faith in our everyday lives hoping that the light of Jesus shines through us all.

Nominations for Fargo Cluster Representative

Name: Linda Monge

Address: 2309 Evergreen Rd N
Fargo ND 58102

Phone: 701-293-9861 (H) 701-261-5452 (C)

E-Mail: lmonge@msn.com

Age: Over 55

Church Involvement: Active in WELCA, serve on Hour of Worship Board, serve Holy Communion to Messiah homebound members, play in hand bell choir.

Community Involvement: Rosewood nursing home volunteer chapel and auxiliary.

Faith Statement: I believe I am saved in faith by Jesus Christ as my Savior by God's grace and forgiveness. That His grace is free and available to all people regardless of who they are or what they've done; that I am called to live my life with purpose in serving Him with the talents and gifts I have received.

Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization Board

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RESOLUTION FOR EaND 2017 SYNODEICAL CONVENTION

Resolution for Joint Cluster Gatherings

1. Whereas EaND Synodical Women of the ELCA (EaND SWO) currently has eight clusters/conferences;
2. Whereas each EaND SWO cluster/conference has its own EaND SWO representative;
3. Whereas each EaND SWO cluster/conference meets at one meeting each spring in a gathering;
4. Whereas each EaND SWO cluster/conference has normally less than 30 -35 participants;
5. Whereas it can cost each EaND SWO cluster/conference approximately \$400; and
6. Whereas it also costs each EaND SWO cluster/conference mileage at the rate of .50 per mile for board representation; now therefore, be it

Resolved that we

1. recognize that EaND Synodical Women of the ELCA (EaND SWO) has eight cluster/conferences;
2. urges that each EaND SWO cluster/conference representative could come together in groups of four (Grand Forks, Grafton, Devils Lake, Prairie Rose) & (Fargo, Jamestown, Mayville, Wahpeton);
3. urges that two groups of four clusters join together each spring (Grand Forks, Grafton, Devils Lake, Prairie Rose) & (Fargo, Jamestown, Mayville, Wahpeton);
4. recognizes that attendance may increase per event

5. recognizes that what was approximately \$1600 to host would now cap off at approximately \$600 to \$800

and recognizes that mileage for EaND SWO members attending would be lessened with only two events to attend; and

6. urges the consideration to restructure the spring EaND SWO gatherings (Grand Forks, Grafton, Devils Lake, Prairie Rose) & (Fargo, Jamestown, Mayville, Wahpeton) to this format.

Authors: Starr Braaten 701-789-0811

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