



Newsletter of the La Crosse Area Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Dear Women of the ELCA,

I apologize for this Crosswinds being so late. I have no excuses, just lots of Good News happening in my life! My oldest daughter and my 5 year old and 6 year old grandsons will be moving in with us this weekend and my middle daughter is due to have her first baby, a girl, on July 4th. We have been rearranging the house (emptying a bedroom that I have filled up with all my "projects"), going to baby showers, and traveling to New Berlin, WI on weekends to watch our beautiful daughter grow as God creates a perfect little daughter for her to hold and to love.

Thank you for waiting patiently. I will update you in the September Crosswinds of all my blessings. ~Mona

W-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.

Upcoming La Crosse W-ELCA

Synodical Board Dates

August 5, 2019	Synodical Board Meeting, Synod Annex, 5:00pm
August 15, 2019	Crosswinds Articles Deadline
September 1, 2019	Crosswinds Mailed Out



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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings from your "new" president, probably better defined as a repeat, as I served as your president from 2006-2008 at the end of my first stint on the WELCA synodical board.

I'm looking forward to what the next two years has in store for the WELCA of the La Crosse Area. The churchwide expression has set up an "exploratory committee" centering it's work on investigating the organization's current business model, including the constitutional structure to ensure the life and vitality of the organization. Visibility is key to getting new women involved (not only new younger women). I will try to keep our units informed regarding the progress of this committee in future issues of the Crosswind.

For those off you who were unable to attend the Spring convention, I want to commend the planning committee and our hosts, Bethany and East Lemonweir WELCA units for an outstanding event. The evaluation forms noted so many positive comments.

As a board we will be diving into plans for the Fall Renewal/workshop in October and the Spring convention next April when we meet in August. Blessings for a relaxing and enjoyable summer. These are the days that the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad.

Jo Ann Salava

The article below was taken from

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/news/be-bold-do-justice-wisconsin-women-grow-into-advocacy>

Be bold! Do justice! Wisconsin women grow in advocacy

How did a bunch of modest Lutheran women grow into bold advocates who are helping to end human trafficking in Wisconsin?

“Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God” (Micah 6:8).

It was a journey of faith and calling. We started from a place where many did not believe that sex trafficking was a problem in our state. And hardly any of us felt comfortable talking about anything that had to do with sex (shhhh!).

Now, a few short years later, we have grown to be some of the loudest voices in support of three bills we hope our legislature will pass this session.

The more we learned about this horrible crime, the bolder we got. We followed a pattern championed by Cherish All Children, a Lutheran organization that works to prevent child sexual exploitation and trafficking. Their model suggests we **Pray, Educate, Connect, and Act**.

The first two were easy. **We’re Lutheran women, after all.** Praying and educating are as natural as breathing for us. But connecting and acting were a different story.

PRAY

After learning about the problem of human trafficking, we prayed for the victims and listened to hear what God was calling us to do. We encouraged others to engage the power of prayer by proposing a resolution—**A Time of Prayer to End Human Trafficking**—at our synod assembly in 2016, the churchwide assembly in New Orleans in 2016, and Women of the ELCA’s triennial convention in Minneapolis in 2017. We compiled prayer petitions for each day from January 11 through Super Bowl weekend and shared the prayers via church and synod newsletters.

EDUCATE

We felt God calling us to organize an event to educate ourselves and others about human trafficking. **More than 300 people attended**, and they were so generous in their offerings. We were able to use the money we budgeted for our event to offer seed grants to Women of the ELCA groups to hold trafficking awareness events.

We continued to raise awareness through articles in our newsletter. We recommended books such as *In Our Backyard: Human Trafficking in America and What We Can Do to Stop It* by Nita Belles. We also recommended the video *Chosen* (Shared Hope International) and resources like the ELCA’s Justice for Women’s six-part learning series on Human Trafficking, and Cherish All Children’s *My Neighbor is Not for Sale*.

CONNECT

Connecting with others helped us grow as advocates. **We were venturing out of our comfort zones** but soon connected with two Catholic nuns. They helped us plan our first awareness event, and they became our friends. They taught us about other groups such as Eye Heart World, Damascus Road, and 5-stones, all begun by **bold people passionate about helping victims** and addressing the root causes of human trafficking.



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At a fundraiser for Eye Heart World's facility to help trafficking victims heal, we met a state representative interested in legislation to end human trafficking. He asked us to testify before a hearing on a bill to increase the penalties on those convicted of buying sex. **Testimony like this was a first for us, and definitely on the scary side.** But since, we have testified at several other hearings.

One of the best connections we made is with our Lutheran Office of Public Policy in Madison, Wis. Director and pastor Cindy Crane has become our mentor and point person for advocacy at the state capitol. She provides us with updates on bills and notifies us when it is time to contact legislators. When we get the word, we email our newsletter lists and other groups we have connected with including Women of the ELCA from other synods.

ACT

We became bolder in our advocacy, acting to end human trafficking in more ways. We serve on a workgroup of Wisconsin's Anti Human Trafficking Task Force. We make recommendations for resources to educate young people about the dangers of trafficking. We sponsored an advocacy training event with a state representative talking about civic engagement and workshops on how to help with specific issues.

We featured speakers on human trafficking at our convention and conference events. **We joined with women from other synods and sent hundreds of postcards** identifying ourselves as Women of the ELCA and asking our legislators to support anti-trafficking bills. We arranged carpools to get women to the capitol to attend a committee hearing on the Safe Harbor for Trafficked Youth bill and filled the hearing room.

One of the most satisfying things we did was attend a Human Trafficking Advocacy Day at the capitol. There, we visited our state senators and representatives to convince them to co-sponsor the Safe Harbor bill. One woman was persistent. When she didn't get to talk with her representative in his office, she stopped him in the hall. She made such a convincing argument about why he should co-sponsor the legislation, that he did it. He told the bill's author he was co-sponsoring because he had heard from his constituents.

So how did women in our synod grow from concerned but shy Christians into strong advocates to end human trafficking? We did what we felt God was calling us to do, one step at a time, one act leading to another, using what we had learned and the connections we had made.

We will continue to grow in being bold and doing justice. And you can too!

Shirley Paulson is president of the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin women's organization.

Feature photo: Women from the East-Central Synod of Wisconsin who attended Human Trafficking Advocacy Day in Washington, D.C., are (l-r) Nancy Becker-Nagan, Gloria Jaeger, Shirley Paulson, Phyllis Christie, Wanda Fischer, Pam Schuelke

THRIVENT FINANCIAL SPEAKER/LEADER AVAILABLE TO MEET WITH YOUR UNIT.

A message from our Thrivent Financial Community Engagement Leader:

Thank you for your ongoing collaboration and partnership with Thrivent Financial!

I am writing this afternoon to introduce myself. My name is Sarah Siefkes and I'm the Community Engagement Leader for the greater La Crosse area, and can serve as a resource to you and your congregation for the "Generosity Side" of Thrivent. This includes: Action Teams, Choice Dollars, Partnership with Habitat for Humanity, Financial workshops, etc. I welcome the opportunity to meet with you and/or your team to brainstorm ways to continue utilizing these programs to help advance your ministries. If you'd like to schedule a time for us to connect, please let me know.

I look forward to hearing from you soon! 😊

Peace and blessings,
Sarah

Sarah Siefkes
Community Engagement Leader
Wisconsin Region
Thrivent Financial®

931 Riders Club Rd, Onalaska, WI 54650
Mobile: 608-304-6518
Email: sarah.siefkes@thrivent.com



The following information is from the W-ELCA Churchwide in Chicago.

WHAT IS AN ACTIVE UNIT?

A unit must commit to four items in order to be recognized as active:

1. Come together for study, support, and action.
2. Participate in the ministry of W-ELCA beyond the congregation.
3. Support financially the total program of W-ELCA.
4. Designate leadership that shall be in communication with the synodical and Churchwide women's organization.

**WELCA PROJECTS COMPLETED
NOVEMBER 2017 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2018**

Congregation	Quilts to LWR	Personal Care Kits	School Kits	Baby Care Kits	Sewing Kits	Quilts to other orgs.	Soap (Pounds)
Blair Lutheran	95	0	25	0	0	0	0
Christ, Arcadia	67	75	75	407	0	18	0
Coon Valley	33	11	42	0	2	31	0
Fish Creek Ridge, Cashton (in Rockland)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Freeman Lutheran, Ferryville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
French Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Halfway Creek, Holmen	47	300	0	0	0	0	0
Hardies Creek	35	6	10	0	0	54	14
Kickapoo United	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lewis Valley	0	20	36	0	57	25	0
Living Hope, Ettrick	30	21	39	0	0	47	0
Mindoro	0	9	39	0	0	49	30
North Beaver Creek	100	39	102	132	0	4	0
North Coon Prairie, Cashton	0	220	650	72	0	0	0
Our Redeemer, La Crosse	0	26	30	0	0	0	0
Our Savior, LaCrosse	161	88	108	208	0	0	0
Our Savior's, West Salem	222	0	352	0	0	232	0
Peace, Readstown	30	20	50	0	3	0	10
St. Stephen's, Camp Douglas	110	49	48	42	0	0	0
St. Paul's, La Crosse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Paul's, Wilton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Peter - Prairie dCh	91	28	20	0	0	5	0
St. Peter's--Shennington	11	82	21	32	0	10	0
Trinity, Sparta	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Westby Coon Prairie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wilmington	30	91	157	43	0	0	0
Zion, Galesville	0	56	78	50	20	277	0
Good Shepherd, Viroqua	33	173	83	54	31	40	0
Good Shepherd, LaCrosse	8	31	43	14	0	250	0
Totals	1103	1345	2008	1054	113	1042	54

Another addition to the Projects Completed List has come in since the March Crosswinds:

Immanuel Lutheran, Caledonia sent 80 Quilts, 70 School Kits, 78 Personal Care Kits, and 87 Baby Care Kits to LWR. They also sent 73 lbs of pop tabs to the Ronald McDonald House, 5 quilts and 7 baby care kits to their local SEMCAC, and 28 totes to Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota consisting of coats, fabric, sewing items, clothing, blankets, and sheets. And, they made 8 quilts for their 2018 high school graduates.



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

This is a website with wonderful devotions:

<http://www.juliabettencourt.com/dev>

Check it out!



Wanted:

Church plates to decorate the walls of the Synod Annex.

If you, someone you know, or your church has a plate of your church, please consider donating it to the La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA to hang in the Synod Annex.

Dress yourself in Just Love wear

Order quality clothing from Lands' End with the Women of the ELCA and 2020 Triennial Gathering logo at:

<https://business.landsend.com/store/womenoftheelca/>



Upcoming Events

Please make copies of the attached flyers to use in your church newsletters, website, bulletins, bulletin boards, etc. to promote one another's events.

Submit your upcoming events to monavanriper@gmail.com so they can be in future Crosswinds.

Mindoro Lutheran Church



Saturday, June 22, 2019

8:00am to 1:00pm

W3879 County Road DE
Mindoro WI



All proceeds from this sale will go to replenish and build up the Mindoro Youth Needs Fund which supports Sugar Creek Bible Camp campers and other youth activities.





**Bethel Lutheran Church
Shrimp Boil**

June 30, 2019
Serving at:
4:00 PM *or* 5:15 PM
Rain or Shine

Served Family Style – Beverage Included

Shrimp Boil includes:
Shrimp, Assorted Sausages, Potatoes, Corn & Onions
There are a limited number of tickets available
Adults: \$15.00
Kids: \$6.00

Come for Great Food, Music, & Fun!

Bethel Lutheran Church, 1931 Loomis St., La Crosse, WI 54603 Phone: 781-0129

North Conference Summer Event will be at
Zion Lutheran in Galesville on
Thursday, June 13,
2019.

Bishop
the

Arends will be
guest speaker.



St. John Lutheran Salad Luncheon and Bake Sale

July 12, 2019

11:00a.m.-1:00p.m.

*St. John Lutheran Church
Alma, WI*

2019 Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Rummage Sale

RUMMAGE

SALE

FOR CHARITY

4141 Mormon Coulee Road, La Crosse, WI 54601

Saturday, July 27, 2019 in the Mattes Center

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Don't have enough stuff to hold a garage sale? Join your friends and rent a space at church for \$10.

Sell with others for a day of rummage fun.

We are looking for sellers. You keep 100% of your own sales money.

Please complete an application (forms available in the concourse, or by email: Sally@gslacrosse.org).

Spaces will not be considered reserved until the application and monies are received- we do expect spaces to fill up fast. If you have any questions about this event or if you would like to volunteer, please contact:

Sally Lindahl @ 799-0263

Set up Friday 1-3:30 p.m. and

Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

We'll even offer lunch and yummy desserts!



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Rummage Sale, Saturday, July 27, 2019, 9-2

The sale will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2019. We are offering tables for rent. You rent the table from us for \$10 ea. You can sell anything that fits on the table or under it and you keep all the money you make selling your items. We get only the table rent. Nothing may be dumped at church. If you bring it, you take it back home if it doesn't sell. Chairs will be provided. Early takedown is not allowed. The sale will be in the Mattes Center rain or shine. A hot sandwich and chips lunch will be offered. Large bars for \$1 will also be offered again. Tables will be reserved on a first come, first served basis. Monies must be received in order for a table to be reserved. Set up will be from 1-3:30 p.m. Friday and 8-9 a.m. Saturday. Please contact Sally Lindahl at 608-799-0263 with any questions, or contact us by email at: sally@gslacrosse.org Monies raised are used towards the Holiday Raffle Basket costs.

DETACH AND RETURN LOWER PORTION ONLY

	YES! I plan to participate.
	Number of spaces desired. (\$10 per space, about 8')
	Number of chairs needed.

*Please complete all information

Name:	<input style="width: 75%;" type="text"/>
Address:	<input style="width: 75%;" type="text"/>
City, State, Zip:	<input style="width: 75%;" type="text"/>
Cell Phone:	<input style="width: 75%;" type="text"/>
Other Phone:	<input style="width: 75%;" type="text"/>
Email Address:	<input style="width: 75%;" type="text"/>

Make checks payable to: **Sally Lindahl**, in the memo put: "for church rummage sale". Mail to: E2154 Hamburg Ridge Road, Stoddard, WI 54658, or drop at church in an envelope with Sally's name on it. **Monies are non-refundable in the event of seller cancellation.**



Mark your calendars:
La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA
Fall Renewal
Saturday, October 26, 2019
Bethel Lutheran, La Crosse

Look for more information in the September Crosswinds.

Mark your calendars:
La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA
Spring Convention
Saturday, April 18, 2020
Trinity Lutheran, Cashton

Look for more information
in upcoming Crosswinds.



Looking forward to the 11th Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, Arizona!
Theme: "Just Love"



More exciting information coming in each new Crosswinds!

Below are a couple different ways to purchase LWR School Kit Bags.
You can choose from these, make them, or purchase from any vendor you prefer.



LWR SIZE SCHOOL KIT BAGS

Fair Trade Made
in Bangladesh

100% cotton

20pcs = \$55*



With fair trade income earned at Motif, women are educating their own children and others' since 1998. When told of the LWR School Kit Bag Project Nasma said,

"You mean the bags we make are given to needy children for their school books? ... I can't think of any better work we can do!"

Feedback on the School Kit Bags:

- The cord is such good quality!
- The seams inside are finished so well!
- It's great to know we're helping kids with the kits and mothers with the bags!



Nasma & Rani with
their great kids!

- * + S & H
(USPS at cost)
- Blank for VBS,
crafts & more!

For details contact Jackie Corlett
motif@motifltd.com 217 552 0537

LWR SCHOOL KIT BAGS

Is anyone in need of schoolbags?

Please contact Sue Staples at:
stap@centurytel.net, or 608-788-8249.
608-786-0684.



Have Ideas for future Crosswinds?

W-ELCA history from your
congregation?
Recipes?
Jokes/Humor?
News to share?
Upcoming Events?

If you have something you would
like to share, please send it to
Mona so she can put it in
Crosswinds.

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Board Members

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>PRESIDENT</u></p> <p>JoAnn Salava N5963 Davies Road New Lisbon, WI 53950 608-542-0652 jams@mwt.net St Stephen's, Camp Douglas Term through Spring 2021</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>VICE-PRESIDENT</u></p> <p>Bette Keehner 1920 E. Brunson St. Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 608-326-0572 rkeehner@centurytel.com St Peter, Prairie du Chien Term through Spring 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SECRETARY</u></p> <p>Pr. Joanne Richmond 1711 Lakeshore Drive La Crosse, WI 54603 608-792-2954 richmondjoanne @hotmail.com Our Savior's, La Crosse Term through Spring 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>TREASURER</u></p> <p>Mona Van Riper W5598 County Road D Holmen, WI 54636 608-526-2284 monavanriper@gmail.com Lewis Valley, Holmen Term through Spring 2021</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>EAST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Leslie Peterson N9692 2nd Ave Camp Douglas, WI 54618 608-542-0245 Lpete1994@hotmail.com St. Peter's Shennington Term through Spring 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEST CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Gretchen Jacobson 2510 Hass Street La Crosse, WI 54601 608-788-2080 gretchenspj@gmail.com Our Redeemer, La Crosse Term through Spring 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NORTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Jacqueline Joanis W21676 Red Fox Lane Trempealeau, WI 54661 608-534-6728 jjoanis@centurytel.net Zion, Galesville Term through Spring 2021</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE REPRESENTATIVE</u></p> <p>Mary Connelly 306 E Park Street Westby, WI 54667 608-632-9125 duckconnelly@gmail.com Westby-Coon Prairie, Westby Term through Spring 2021</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>EAST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Anita Jensen 520 Central Avenue Sparta, WI 54656 608-269-2325 pconrth@yahoo.com Trinity, Sparta Term through Fall 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>WEST CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Sue Staples W5549 Southdale Drive La Crosse, WI 54601 608-788-8249 stap@centurytel.net Our Saviors, La Crosse Term through Fall 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>NORTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Deb Sveen N24431 Lunde Coulee Ettrick, WI 54627 608-525-3000 cmsveen@hotmail.com Living Hope, Ettrick Term through Fall 2019</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>SOUTH CONFERENCE COORDINATOR</u></p> <p>Ellie Brye E5622 Jore Road Westby, WI 54667 608-452-3549 Ellie.brye@silicoonvalley.net Coon Valley Lutheran Term through Fall 2019</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>BOARD MEMBER AT LARGE</u></p> <p>Alice Olson 621 Kent Street Sparta, WI 54656 608-487-5409 Avon.alice@hotmail.com Trinity, Sparta Term through Spring 2020</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>LIAISON TO SYNOD ELCA</u></p> <p>JoAnn Salava N5963 Davies Road New Lisbon, WI 53950 608-542-0652 jams@mwt.net St Stephen's, Camp Douglas</p>		

About the Newsletter....

The Crosswinds is published by the La Crosse Area Synod – Women of the ELCA. The President (or contact person) and the Treasurer (or financial recorder) of each unit should receive an emailed copy. Please include any other interested parties’ email addresses so they may receive an electronic copy of the Crosswinds. Send email addresses to monavanriper@gmail.com

Please report your officer list yearly so that we can maintain a correct emailing list.

Subscription of printed Crosswinds are available for \$5.00 per year. Checks payable to La Crosse Area Synod WELCA and sent to Mona Van Riper, Treasurer, W5598 County Road D, Holmen, WI 54636.

Submission/Mailing dates for future Crosswind publications:

Submission of Articles:	Emailing to Patrons:
08/15/2019	09/01/2019
11/15/2019	12/01/2019
02/15/2020	03/01/2020
05/15/2020	06/01/2020

Crosswinds Newsletter

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