

CROSSWINDS

Supporting our New Afghan Neighbors

Lutherans in the United States have a long history of supporting refugees. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) has offered welcome to more than half a million refugees since it began its work in 1939.

At the time of this printing, news outlets are reporting that 12,500 Afghans are temporarily housed at Ft. McCoy. Most of these people will be in our area for a few weeks to a few months, until they can be resettled by agencies that specialize in building relationship and equipping our newest neighbors.

Many of our congregations have already donated time, resources, and prayer. Thank you. Small acts of kindness make a big difference! For information on the history of Afghanistan, worship resources, and additional information, visit lacrosseareasynd.org. Catholic Charities of La Crosse and Team Rubicon have websites that include ways to help with immediate needs. Check back often because needs are continually evolving. Understand that financial gifts are most helpful at this time because it takes a lot of volunteer power and space to receive, sort, store, and distribute donated items.

(cont. pg. 8)



Due to high levels of Covid-19 spread through much of the La Crosse Area Synod, the WELCA Board has decided to cancel this year's Fall Renewal Event, which was scheduled for October 16th at First Lutheran in Onalaska.

We continue to pray for all those impacted by this virus and encourage everyone to continue to make choices that protect the health and safety of themselves and those around them.



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Dear La Crosse Area Women of the ELCA

Greetings, Women of the La Crosse Area Synod!

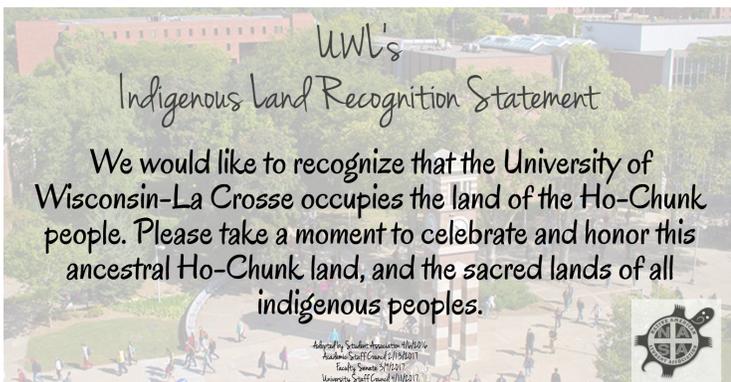
It is with a certain amount of trepidation that I begin my term as W-ELCA president for our synod's ladies organization. While listening to Pastor Libby Howe give the sermon at our July summer convention in Cashton, I felt her opening remarks must have been aimed straight at me. The theme of the convention was "By God's grace, we are called," from 1 Peter 4:10. So, what makes us step forward when we are called? Pastor Libby offered three scenarios: 1.) we feel a sense of duty, 2.) we desire to do it "my way," and 3.) by the fact that no one else will.

My good friend, Kathleen Sumrall (herself a past president) was chair of the nominating committee and she had asked me several times over the course of the summer if I'd accept the nomination. I kept putting her off, but finally, I said I'd run if someone else was on the ballot to run against me. At least that would give me a 50-50 chance. Jo Ann Salava coyly introduced the idea that "someone" was willing to run if she had an opponent; however, the parliamentarian wouldn't let that fly. Candidates had to be announced, so when I nodded my head at Jo Ann, I knew my fate was sealed. Duty...check. My way...check. No one else will...check.

Why am I telling you all this? On the evaluation sheets for the convention, several comments were directed at the election process. "It was too long...people should be asked before hand rather than pleading and putting people on the spot." Believe me, I know how many hours Kathleen and her nominating committee put in trying to persuade people to run. We are busy, feel inadequate, and scared of the task before us, BUT God will provide!

The first thing He provides is a wonderful group of women to work along side you. We're not in this alone; four executive board women, and four conference representatives, plus a representative at large. That's eight other women to help shoulder the burden, and we all know that many hands make light work. So I'd like you to say a little "with God's help we can do it" prayer the next time you're asked to run for a church office, whether at your home church or synod level. God will provide the help you need, and you'll have fun along the way, I guarantee!

On to some highlights of the convention. The Trinity women in Cashton aced it on the luncheon and hospitality scenes. They served an absolutely delicious chicken salad croissant, a bag of chips of your choice as well as a fruit cup and dessert, plus beverage. No one went away hungry and the conversations were pretty good also! Kudos to the Trinity women in Cashton!



Pastor Ben Morris from Common Ground Campus Ministry at UW-La Crosse was the featured speaker. He opened his presentation by showing the Common Ground statement taken from this Indigenous Land Recognition Statement used by UW-L. The turtle in the lower right hand corner is a symbol of the Ho-Chunk people. Pastor Ben proceeded to pummel us with information new to many and eye-opening to all. Here are three

questions posed at the beginning of his talk: 1.) How many indigenous tribes are recognized by the American government? 2.) How many treaties have been signed between the American government and indigenous people? 3.) How many treaties have been honored? The answers to these questions can be found at the bottom of this page.

Did you know that an Indian boarding school was located in Tomah? Neither did I. Did you know that the Nazi Party in Germany and the apartheid government in South Africa sent people to America to study how Americans dealt with Native Tribes and then-called “Negro populations” and patterned their treatment of Jews and Blacks after what they learned here? That one made me cringe.

Pastor Ben asked: “What are we going to do?” And stated: “We have to do better.” Times when we have been less than Christian are difficult to hear, but Pastor Ben’s presentation helped all of us learn and appreciate a side of American history that is often skipped over in our history books. Want to learn more? He recommended The Heartbeat of Wounded Knee and The 1619 Project. (I could add to that, the book 1491.)

Contact information for the newly elected officers and board can be found at the end of this newsletter. Contact any of us if you have questions or input of any sort. We are here to serve you. This organization exists to support your ministry. Please offer your prayers and support as we proceed through these historic times. Lord, keep us all safe, and full of love for You and all of your creation.

With prayers for a more peaceful future, Anita Jensen, La Crosse Area Synod WELCA Board President



We give thanks for the service of the Board Members who prayed, planned, and adapted again and again as they completed their extended terms! Well done!



We give thanks for the newly installed Board members who said “yes” to God’s call to serve! We pray you find joy and a deeper sense of community as you lead us in serving Christ and all God’s people and living the faith we confess.

Answers to Pastor Ben’s Quiz: 1.) 574 2.) 368 3.) None

Notes from National WELCA Convention

ABOUT 260 WOMEN OF THE ELCA voting members approved constitutional changes that reduced the size of its churchwide board from 21 to 15 members while making it more inclusive. They also elected new churchwide officers and an executive board, adopted a 2022 budget, and approved several memorials during an online meeting, Aug. 3-5.

Women of the ELCA's newly revised constitution now reads that the make-up of the executive board *shall* be at least 20 percent women of color or whose primary language is other than English, *and* at least 20 percent will be under 45 and/or members of the LGBTQIA+ community, according to churchwide Executive Director Linda Post Bushkofsky.

The churchwide executive board for the 2017-2020 triennium had a vision of making the organization more welcoming, inclusive, and nimble, said Bushkofsky. "They sought to lead by example." Following the election, "one-third of the new board are women of color or primary language other than English, exceeding the constitutional mandate of 20 percent," she said. "Three women are under 45 and/or members of the LGBTQIA+ community."



NEW OFFICERS AND BOARD

Joy Michalicek of Duluth, Minn. (Northeastern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization), is the churchwide president through August 2023, when the following convention is held in Phoenix, Ariz. Freddie Jordan of Columbus, Ohio (Southern Ohio Synodical Women's Organization), is vice president; Angela Bell of Palos Heights, Ill. (Metro Chicago Synodical Women's Organization), is secretary; and Raeann Purcell of Deland, Fla. (Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization), is treasurer.

"I have had the privilege to serve you over the last four years on the churchwide executive board and executive committee," said Michalicek, who has served on the executive board since 2017. "We will keep working as an organization, and I thank you for your faith in me. This organization is important to us as women," she said. "Jesus is calling and is leading us. We as Women of the ELCA are needed more now than ever."

Other elected board members are (pictured above, l-r; top row) Jean Pishaw (Oregon Synodical Women's Organization), Tracy Williams (Southwest California Synodical Women's Organization), Laura Krueger (Grand Canyon Synodical Women's Organization), Diane Henning (Saint Paul Area Synodical Women's Organization), (2nd row) Miranda Searcy (Arkansas-Oklahoma Synodical Women's Organization), Lorie Garcia (Southwestern Texas Synodical Women's Organization), Dawn Wicklund (Northwest Synodical Women's Organization of Wisconsin), Elizabeth Burgess (New England Synodical Women's Organization), (3rd row) Jennifer Armstrong-Schaefer (Southwestern Pennsylvania Synodical Women's Organization), Lynette Todd (Delaware-Maryland Synodical Women's Organization), and Yma Mulero (Caribbean Synodical Women's Organization).

2022 BUDGET

Voting members approved a fiscal year 2022 budget of \$1,636,250. The budget proposes revenue will come from Thankofferings (\$400,000); Regular Offerings (\$200,000); SWO convention offerings (\$25,000); other offerings (\$151,250); and special offerings (\$5,000). The budget also sets income from *Gather* magazine at \$850,000 and consignment sales at \$5,000.

The budget proposes expenses of programs (\$30,000); communication (\$703,300); administration (\$275,000); salaries and benefits (\$622,950); and governance (\$5,000).

CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES

The convention approved updates to the organization's constitutions and bylaws. Highlights include:

- Participating in a congregational unit is encouraged but no longer required for leadership in either the synodical or churchwide expressions of Women of the ELCA; however, voting membership in an ELCA congregation is required.
- Reducing the number of churchwide executive board members from 21 to 15, including the four officers.
- Creating more flexibility for synodical women's organization boards: The board may number "3 or more" without requiring approval from the churchwide executive board to change the number of SWO board members.
- Allowing two members of the same congregational unit to serve as leaders of an SWO; one as an officer and the other as a board member.
- Offering more flexibility in SWO leaders' titles: leaders may be called presidents and vice-presidents, chairs or co-chairs, conveners or co-conveners, or coordinators.

MEMORIALS ADOPTED

Voting members adopted several memorials that included:

- continuing to fight human trafficking
- continuing to support solar energy in Liberia
- supporting and participating in Thursdays in Black, a global movement initiated by the World Council of Churches for a world without rape and violence
- encouraging the practice of using reusable bags
- encouraging immigration reform
- engaging in education against school violence and mass shootings
- focusing on unjust treatment of women and girls by providing education and prayers for those who have been victimized and giving voice and support to those who willingly acknowledge such treatment by saying #METOO.



Your Crosswinds Editor has several Thursdays in Black pins like the one pictured above available to anyone who would like to support this movement.

Email crosswindseditor@gmail.com to request one.

Additional items are available for purchase at oldlutheran.com

Or start wearing black on Thursdays!

Women ^{of the} ELCA

Bishop's Message

Greetings WELCA!

I am excited to begin my ministry here in the La Crosse Area Synod as Bishop. As I start to take my first few steps, I have been asked many times to describe my vision for the synod and my ministry. Here I want to tread carefully. I am an ideas person, so of course, I have many visions of what could be possible, but before I declare my vision for the Synod I want to do the work necessary for the vision that comes forward to be not just “my” vision, but “our” vision. I need to spend time listening to the joys, the sorrows, the dreams, hopes, hurts, failures, successes, and the many stories which I yet do not know. I need to see how God has been at work here in and through the church and out in the community.

This is where you can help me! You are the bearers of these sacred stories which I need to hear. In the coming year, I hope to have opportunities for you to share these stories with me, so that we can begin to see the beauty of what has been, distill our core values, and begin to look through these stories and values into our future. Together we will have an opportunity to see where the Holy Spirit may be taking us next as the Lutheran Church in the La Crosse Area. Then, I will finally be able to declare our vision for how God will be at work in this place through us.

May Christ show up in our midst once more as we embark in this process, bringing healing, hope, and new life during these difficult and turbulent times.

Bishop Felix Javier Malpica

Rev. Felix J. Malpica, was elected June 13 at our Synod Assembly to serve a six-year term as bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod. Rev. Malpica has served as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Janesville since 2017. Prior to that, he served as associate pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas, from 2014 to 2017. He earned his BA from Luther College in Decorah, IA, in 2009 and his Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, in 2013.

He is also known by many in for his work at Sugar Creek Bible Camp and leading music for Synod Assemblies.

His installation as Bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod will take place on Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 4:00 pm. You are invited to join the celebration via livestream, which can be accessed at: lacrosseareasynod.org



Have you signed up for Daily Grace?

Daily Grace is an on-the-go companion for your journey, offering a faith reflection every day. Encounter God's extravagant, boundless, and often surprising grace by signing up to receive a daily email message at womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace.

You can also download the newly updated app for your IOS and Android devices. Check it out!



It's that time of year again: when quilts cover pews as hands extend prayers of blessing and we commend the fruits of our labor to the work of the Holy Spirit. It is time for quilts and kits to be boxed, labeled and loaded. It is time to watch the work of individuals and small groups come together to fill semi trucks and railroad cars. Even in a year when it has been difficult for many groups to gather, we know the needs are great. Even when our gifts may not reach last year's totals, we know every gift matters to those who receive it. Thank you for your efforts to support the global ministry of Lutheran World Relief.

In-gatherings taking place in our area this October include:

The La Crosse LWR Boxcar Loading will take place
Saturday, October 9th
7-11 AM

Pull into the Boys and Girls Club parking lot at 1260 Clinton Street, La Crosse, and drive straight ahead toward the railroad tracks. You should be able to see the boxcar parked on the railroad tracks. Follow the access road along the tracks to reach it.

Contact Jim Balow at 608-788-8408 with any questions.

The Wisconsin Rapids LWR Semi Loading will take place
Saturday, October 23rd
8:30-11 AM

The Semi will be in the parking lot on the west side of First English Lutheran Church, 440 Garfield Street, Wisconsin Rapids. Masks are required!

**Please email your church's name and LWR donation totals to:
crosswindseditor@gmail.com or send the form at the end of this newsletter to
Gloria Stubitsch 709 W State St Mauston WI 53948
so we can list them in the next issue of Crosswinds!**

Do you use the LWR Quilt and Kit Tracker?

Since its inception in 2013, more than 2,280 congregations have used the LWR Quilt and Kit Tracker to see where their gifts of love go and who they help.

The LWR Quilt and Kit Tracker is one way LWR tries to make the world between us feel a little bit smaller, by connecting the tireless efforts of people who make quilts and assemble kits with the people around the world who receive them with joy and gratitude

If you use the Tracker, Crosswinds would like to share where some of our synod's quilts and kits have gone, along with stories about LWR's work in those countries.

To learn more about the Tracker and how to use it, visit lwr.org/tracker

It is as easy as printing and attaching a shipping label to your boxes when you pack them.

Supporting our New Afghan Neighbors

(cont. from page 1) In Wisconsin, Lutheran Social Services has committed to resettling 100 cases within 100 miles of Milwaukee. Their actual capacity largely depends on the level of financial support received. Many people arrived with very few belongings, and it is expected that it will take six months for them to be able to work in the United States. So, the financial need is great and will last longer than in many other situations.

Lutheran Social Services is looking for churches and other community groups able to co-sponsor refugees. More information about co-sponsorship is available on the La Crosse Area Synod website. LSS also has supply lists available for: Kitchen kits, Linens and Household Supply kits, Toiletries kit, Cleaning Supply kit, and other needed items. This list is available on the synod website through the "Lutheran Social Services Refugee Resettlement FAQs" link. Peace Lutheran Church in Tomah is willing to transport **COMPLETE KITS** to Milwaukee if they are received **by October 24**. Otherwise you are able to make your own travel arrangements. LSS requests only complete kits.

Monetary donations are preferred. Cash donations of any size will help cover the cost of rent, utilities, household items and other basic needs provided during the initial 30-90 day resettlement period. Please visit www.lsswis.org to make an online donation or text LSSREFUGEE to 41444 on your mobile phone and follow the prompts. In addition, checks payable to Lutheran Social Services – Refugee can be mailed to Lutheran Social Services, P.O. Box 88868, Milwaukee, WI 53288.

Thank you for your love, compassion and belief in the infinite worth of every individual!!

19 Must-Read Books About Immigration

Check out this list of inspiring and insightful books about immigration and immigrants, curated by Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. From novels to nonfiction books about migrants and Dreamers, to Young Adult literature about the immigrant experience, there is a great read waiting for every book lover!

For more information about each book visit: lirs.org/books-about-immigration/
To access interviews with the authors of the first 5 books visit: lirs.org/virtual-book-series

1. *Separated: Inside an American Tragedy* by Jacob Soboroff
2. *One Mighty and Irresistible Tide* by Jia Lynn Yang
3. *After the Last Border: Two Families and the Story of Refuge in America*
by Jessica Goudeau
4. *The Next Great Migration* by Sonia Shah
5. *The God Who Sees: Immigrants, The Bible, and the Journey to Belong*
by Karen Gonzalez

Books about Immigration and Dreamers

6. *The Undocumented Americans* by Karla Cronejo Villavicencio
7. *Dear America: Notes of an Undocumented Citizen* by Jose Antonio Vargas

Other Books about Immigration and Immigrants

8. *The Ungrateful Refugee: What Immigrants Never Tell You* by Dina Nayeri
9. *The Good Immigrant: 26 Writers Reflect on America*
edited by Nikesh Shukla and Chimene Suleyman
10. *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*
by Jason de Leon
11. *Once I Was You: A Memoir of Love and Hate in a Torn America* by Maria Hinojosa
12. *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*
by Isabel Wilkerson

Books about Immigration: Novels

13. *The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri
14. *Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
15. *Exit West* by Mohsin Hamid
16. *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen

Young Adult Books About Immigration

17. *American Street* by Ibi Zoboi
18. *The Sun is also a Star* by Nicola Yoon

“When a stranger sojourns with you in your land, you shall not do him wrong. You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you, and you shall love him as yourself, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”

- Leviticus 19:33-34

Accompany your people, O God. Lead us into active ways of love for our neighbors who have no place to call home or to lay their heads this night. Clothe us in the armor of light to serve and tend the needs of refugees and all who flee violence. Strengthen us that we may be balm in a wounded world. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God of abundance, your steadfast love and mighty grace have no limit. You are light and nourishment to your children. Your grace surpasses culture, language, and nationality. Stir in us the spirit of accompaniment and compassion, so we can walk with refugees, immigrants, and all of our brothers and sisters of color. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

* Prayers from LIRS



LWR School Bags

If you need school bags, please contact Sue Staples at: stap@centurytel.net or 608-788-8249!

Thank you, Sue!

Bold Café

September's topic of the month is Rejection. Visit boldcafe.org/monthly-topic/ to read what the Bible says about rejection and what we learn about rejection from Jesus. You can also explore past issues. Every month, Bold Café explores new topics that are relevant to women and how faith relates to those issues.

The next Monthly dinner with Bold Café writers and friends (B.Y.O.D) is Thursday, October 7 at 7:00 PM CT, featuring Rev. Lisa Heffernan. She will lead a conversation about creating authentic community through accessibility. Sign up to join via Zoom at boldcafe.org and receive a cocktail recipe.

Café is a publication of the Women of the Evangelical Church in America for all women, featuring younger writers and intentionally focusing on issues impacting younger women.



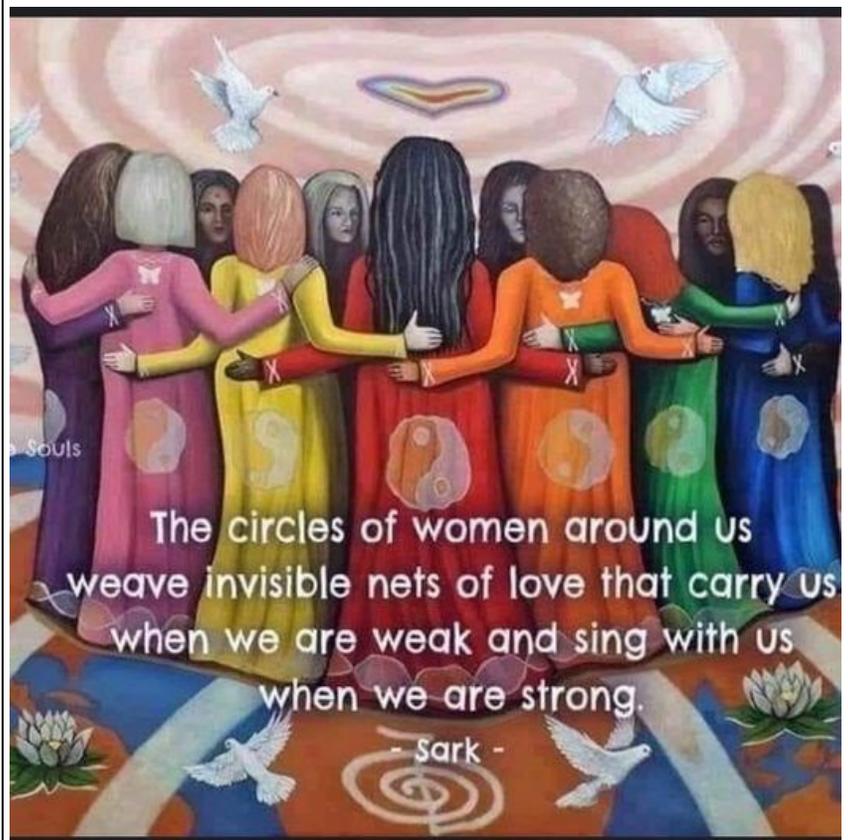
Sugar Creek Women's Craft Retreats!

Looking for a chance to get away to relax and craft to your heart's content? Escape to Sugar Creek for one of their Women's Craft Retreats!

Bring a friend, or several, or your Circle, or your entire women's group!

**Retreats are scheduled for:
September 30-October 3
and November 11-14.**

Contact Sugar Creek for more details or to register: 608-734-3113



La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Board Members

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In the weeks ahead, the Board will be reaching out to invite women to consider being each conference's coordinator. Coordinators assist with the registration process for synod events, facilitate communication between congregational units and the board, and often try to plan an event specifically for their conference. If asked, we hope you say "yes". You can also contact your Conference Rep to volunteer! Thank you!



What are your favorite holiday traditions and recipes? In the next issue of Crosswinds, we would like to include your stories of how you honor your heritage, remember the saints who paved the way for you, and how you are passing those treasures to the next generation!
Thank you!



Women
of the
**EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

Women of the ELCA Thank-Offerings

Thank-Offerings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? And we are so grateful. That's why we give Thank-offerings.

Many women set aside small amounts of money at home throughout the year and then bring together their gifts with those of the other women in their circles or local groups at the end of the year. Others organize a Thank-Offering service with the whole congregation, celebrating the ministries of women in a bold, exciting way. It's all up to you.

An annual service with your circle or your congregation is only one way to take part in this age-old practice among women of faith. Just as we're grateful more than once a year, we can make Thank-Offerings any time the spirit moves us. Visit womenoftheelca.org/thankofferings for more information and for tips on planning your event!

Please remember to submit your regular offerings. These offerings are the primary income source for the La Crosse Area Synod's Women's Organization. These offerings in turn support our synod's seminarians, Sugar Creek Bible Camp, and Lumin Campus Ministry, along with many other ministries!

We know that many groups have not been able to hold their regular meeting and fundraisers this year. So, if your group has been doing something that works to build community and fulfill our ministry purpose, we want to hear about it! Call or email the Crosswinds Editor or any Board Member so we can learn from you!

WELCA 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.**

**Please send "Crosswinds" submissions for the December issue of Crosswinds to
crosswindseditor@gmail.com by November 15, 2021**

**A one-year subscription to have Crosswinds mailed to you is \$5.
Make checks payable to La Crosse Area Synod WELCA and send to:**

**Mona van Riper
W5598 Cty Rd D
Holmen WI 54636**

**Anyone who is interested in receiving Crosswinds via email may do so simply by emailing a
request to crosswindseditor@gmail.com**

Thank you!