



CROSSWINDS

Save the Date!

You are invited to attend a Summer Convention for all Women of the ELCA of the La Crosse Area Synod!



When: Saturday July 31, times TBD

Where: Village Park in Cashton

Hosts: Trinity Lutheran in Cashton

Details: This event will include worship, elections for all synod-wide positions, lunch, and more.

After a year apart from one another, plan to attend to worship, collaborate, and learn with other women from our synod. Whether you attend every year or this would be your first time, you are welcome!

Plan to bring a lawn chair to help us practice social distancing. Watch for more information in the next issue of Crosswinds!

Our next Spring Event will be held at Our Savior's in La Crosse in 2022. This will allow us to continue our rotation of host conferences.

Lutheran World Relief Affinity Pin

For three generations, you've extended God's mercy through the warmth of nearly 27 million mission quilts and countless kits of care. Each quilt sewn and each kit packed is a statement of faith, hope, and love.



Inspired by the love you share with our neighbors in need around the world, Lutheran World Relief created the Quilt and Kit Affinity Pin to say "Thank you" for your love and generosity. The pin is pictured above.

Sign up to receive the pin at lwr.org/qkpin or call 800-597-5972. They are shipping in batches this spring.



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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.

Dear La Crosse Area Women of the ELCA

Happy April to all the women of the La Crosse Area Women of the ELCA!

I write this greeting on a blustery February day with temps finally above freezing. Looking forward to an end to the worst of winter in Wisconsin. But, “these days are the Lord’s doing. Rejoice and be glad in it.” (Psalm 23 and 24). Every new day presents opportunities to rejoice with thanksgiving! The past week kept me busy with a board meeting on Tuesday and President’s Conference via zoom Thursday, Friday and Saturday. So as I sift through notes from both events, I bring you the latest “news.”

First, from the La Crosse Area Women of the ELCA board meeting. As we arrived at the synod office annex for our meeting, we admired a quilt that had been displayed at the synods WELCA constituting convention in 1989. Embroidered or fabric painted quilt blocks representative of congregations in the synod surrounds the Lily Pad logo in the center. Look for a picture elsewhere in the newsletter. The important issues addressed, both related to the Covid pandemic. From a previous meeting of the board it was necessary to approve a revised budget. Now, the hard part at this February 16th meeting our treasurer shared a giving report indicating that many units have not sent any offerings since the pandemic began almost one year ago. We realize that many circles and units are not meeting, but we also need to continue supporting our synod who in turn supports the churchwide expression.

We learned at the weekend conference that churchwide has severely cut their budget with the biggest cut in staff from 10 full time staff to 8 half time. The only continuing full time positions are the editor of the Gather magazine and the Executive Director, Linda Bushkofsky. At this time, as things are, churchwide can continue through August with their current revised budget. I am suggesting that if your unit budgeted an offering for our convention (that was cancelled) that you still send it on to Mona as that would boost our synod treasury plus sending the required half to churchwide. Some units have already done this,

Now, to the exciting board meeting decision. At this point in time, we are looking to have an outdoor convention on Saturday, July 31st at the park in Cashton, hosted by Trinity Lutheran, hosts of the cancelled 2020 convention. More details will be forthcoming as plans are worked out. In 2022, plans are to meet at Our Savior’s in La Crosse on April 16th, our customary Saturday date.

Know that I pray for all of you; that, you, my friends are staying connected, continuing Bible study however possible, enjoying the Gather magazine or other readings, and checking in with each other. Looking forward to a “new” convention!

Wishing you blessings as we navigate this ongoing pandemic.
We have Christ Jesus walking with us. “Rejoice and be glad...”

Peace and love, JoAnn



This quilt was recently uncovered in the Synod Offices. It was made to commemorate the constituting convention on August 19, 1987. Do you see your church represented here?
 As we celebrate our history, how are we living into God's call for our future?



As a community of women created in the image of God, called into 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 community and the world.

Can we bend? Can we forgive?

We are living with several generations now. Women in their 90's, who remember horses on the farm, and women who have used computers all their life. All are looking at our mission statement. All wanting to support and be supported as they see fit. That 'fit' may not be the same for all of us. To make our synod, our units reflect our missions we all need to Bend and Forgive simultaneously. All of us need to be cognizant that there are generational differences and we must accept and work together. We need each other. How much do we have to bend? As much as you need to, sometime you might feel like a contortionist. How much do I have to forgive? Continually.

Our mission statement, what the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America will do, was written in 1988. It was written in such a way it will reflect the women of any generation moved by the Holy Spirit.

The La Crosse Area Synod of the Women of the ELCA did not have a convention in 2020. The women who were due to go off of the Board agreed to stay on and continue to share their gifts. Before I go any further, **Thank you ladies!** You are awesome.

It is time to move on. We have a plan, and we pray you will see the beauty of it. Almost all of our officers are going to be elected this year. Some will have a real short term (our next convention will be in April of 2022). Some will have a little longer. So, you ask what are the jobs and they do they do? A very good question. I am going to give you a very brief description of the job of each board member. Please read them, pray and consider using your gifts in new way.

First here are some basics, all board members and officers (who also are Board Members) must be a member of a unit in the territory of the La Crosse Area Synod and a member of the ELCA. All board members must come from different units, except for the Board-member-at large (she could be in another board members' unit).

The **President** presides over the conventions, board meetings and Administrative Committee meetings. She submits a report of her activities at each regular convention. She is a liaison to Churchwide women's organization, and is on or appoints a representative to Inter-Lutheran and Ecumenical associations and to the La Crosse Synod Council. Two year term 2021-2023.

The **Vice President** acts in the absence, disability or resignation of the president until the position is filled by the board or next scheduled meeting. She performs such other duties requested by the President or Board. One-half year term from 2021-2022.

The **Secretary** acts as such to the board and Admin Committee of the Synodical Board. She is responsible for recording and distributing minutes of the Synodical convention, the Board and the Admin Committee. She will give notification of a regular convention at least three months

prior to and special convention one month prior to. She will keep a correct register of the roll call of congregational units along with the names of officers of the units. She will secure from the units such reports as required and perform other duties the board may direct. She will provide for gathering and preserving historical records and documents. Two year term 2021-2023.

The **Treasurer** will provide for keeping of all records and accountable for all funds. She will be responsible for disbursing funds in accordance with financial policies of the Women of the ELCA and budget of the synodical women's organization. She will present a complete report, including audit to Synodical Women's Convention and interim reports to each Board and Amin Committee meeting. One-half year term from 2021-2022.

Conference Rep Board members There are five board members elected by convention to the board. Each for a two year term, four board members shall be elected, each to represent a conference of the La Crosse Area Synod: East, South, West and North. One, Board-Member-at-large can come from any of the four conferences. At this time: Two year term 2021-2023 North and South; One year term for East, West and Member-at-large 2021-2022.

Board members shall transact necessary business and programs and decisions between conventions, set policies when required, and supervise all committees. They will determine time and place of convention, prepare agenda, and rules and program for Convention.

Board member-at-large duty beyond the above items, is to collect data from the units pertaining to what they present to LWR, and report results to convention.

[These job descriptions are condensed, to read them word for word they are published in our by-laws. Which can be made available to you.]

Respectfully submitted by, Kathleen Sumrall, Chair of Nominating Committee

Faithful Friends

The prophet Isaiah tells us that God says, "I am about to do a new thing" (43:19a). And "Faithful Friends" is one way you can help Women of the ELCA be ready for whatever new thing God has in store.

"Faithful Friends" is a way to give a monthly gift to the Women of the ELCA. You can start giving online right away. Or, if you prefer, download the form, print it out, fill it in, and mail it to Women of the ELCA Faithful Friends.

When you sign up for "Faithful Friends," you choose the amount to be charged to your credit card or automatically withdrawn from your checking account. You can change your monthly gift at any time.

Learn more or sign up today at womenoftheelca.org/faithfulfriends Thank you!

Does your church 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 love to share where your quilts and kits have gone, along with stories about LWR's work in those countries. Email your information to Crosswinds editor Gloria Stubitsch at gstubitsch@gmail.com

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.

2020 Quilt and Kit Donation Totals—Updated!

Some Congregational Information was omitted from the December Issue of Crosswinds. We apologize for the error and have included the full list here:

Bells Coulee, Bangor: 15 quilts Tomah VA, 85 Children's Vision Int., 4 Graduates, 89 quilts LWR

Bethany, Mauston: 140 Personal Care Kits LWR, 54 School Kits LWR, 12 Baby Care Kits LWR

Christ, Arcadia: 67 Quilts LWR, 10 Quilts to Luther Park Bible Camp, Graduates, or sold as fundraiser, 105 Personal Care Kits LWR, 120 School Kits LWR, 463 Baby Care Kits LWR

Coon Valley: School Supplies for local elementary school

De Soto: 20 Quilts Salvation Army, 3 Emergency Quilts, 33 Quilts LWR, 17 Personal Care Kits LWR, 10 School Kits Local Schools, 7 Baby Care Kits LWR

French Creek, Ettrick: \$100 shipping costs

Good Shepherd, Viroqua: 36 Quilts LWR, 175 Personal Care Kits LWR, 87 School Kits LWR, 39 Baby Care Kits LWR, 7 Fabric Kits LWR

Immanuel, Caledonia: 9 Quilts to Seniors, 114 Quilts LWR, 86 Personal Care Kits LWR, 100+ School Supplies SEMCAC, 108 School Kits LWR, 100 Baby Care Kits LWR, 1 Baby Care Kit Care and Share, 145 Baby Items for Bundles of Love, 12 School Backpacks SEMCAC, several hundred face masks

Lewis Valley, Holmen: 25 Quilts to Tomah VA, 16 Quilts to RSVP, 4 Quilts to Family House Fire, 16 Quilts to Homebound, 90 Quilt tops w/ thread to LWR, 20 Personal Care Kits LWR, 30 School Kits LWR, 180 Fabric Kits LWR

Mindoro: 9 Quilts Salvation Army, 12 Quilts RSVP, 8 & 4 Quilts Family & Children's Center, 22 Quilts LWR, 9 Personal Care Kits LWR, 23 School Kits LWR

Our Redeemer, La Crosse: 11 Quilts New Horizons, 21 Quilts Boys and Girls Club, 18 Quilts LWR, 3 Totes of School Kits for local schools, 25 School Kits LWR

Peace, Readstown: 1 Graduate Quilt, 23 Personal Care Kits LWR, 31 School Kits LWR, 3 Fabric Kits LWR



St. Paul's, Wilton: 35 quilts LWR, 185 Personal Care Kits LWR, 224 School Kits LWR

St. Peter, Prairie du Chien: 55 quilts LWR, 25 Personal Care Kits LWR,
25 School Kits LWR

St. Peter's, Camp Douglas: 34 Quilts LWR, 38 Personal Care Kits LWR,
40 School Kits LWR, 21 Baby Care Kits LWR, 36 Foster Care
Bags, 19 Little Dresses for Africa

St. Stephen, Camp Douglas: 80 Quilts LWR, 25 Personal Care Kits LWR, 63 School Kits LWR, 20 Baby
Care Kits LWR

Trinity, Sparta: 12 Quilts for Graduates, 83 Quilts LWR, 50 Baby Care Kits LWR, 15 Prayer Shawls for
local needs, 12 chemo caps for local needs, school supplies for 8 local families, Christmas
gifts for 15 local families, 310 pillow case dresses for Children's Vision International, 12 doll
totes for Children's Vision International

Wilmington, Spring Grove: 40 Quilts LWR, 73 Personal Care Kits LWR, 83 School Kits LWR, 49 Baby
Care Kits LWR, 219 Bandage Rolls Global Health Ministries, 2 tied fleece blankets to local fire
survivors

Zion, Big Flats: 100 Quilts LWR, 15 Personal Care Kits LWR, 15 School Kits LWR, 15 Baby Care Kits
LWR, 6 Fabric Kits LWR

Zion, Galesville: 14 Youth Quilts Western Dairyland, 10 full Quilts Food Pantry, 43 Quilts Blankets for
Comfort, 11 Quilts Salvation Army, 308 Quilts LWR, 47 Personal Care Kits LWR, 12 School Kits
LWR, 13 Baby Care Kits LWR, 12 Fabric Kits LWR, 8 tied fleece blankets Amy's Closet

Using the Quilt and Kit Tracker, we know that the quilts donated by Trinity Lutheran Church in
Sparta went the country of Lebanon. From the LWR website, we can learn more about the work
LWR is doing in Lebanon. Lebanon is the home to the largest number of Syrian refugees. LWR is
training refugee and very poor Lebanese families in agricultural skills, including irrigation and
utilizing greenhouses to provide crops both for income and for food security.

Lebanon is also experiencing an economic crisis in addition to the challenges related to the Covid-
19 pandemic. The country is facing a nation debt 150% of their GDP. The Lebanese pound has lost
85% of its value, causing the banking system to collapse. Lebanon also faces one of the largest gen-
der gaps in the world. Only 1 out of 4 women are employed, as opposed to 3 out of 4 men. Only 3
percent of bank loans go to women.

In Lebanon, LWR is working with USAID to boost the resilience and capabilities of Lebanese
women entrepreneurs and to improve the environment for women's entrepreneurship by providing
microfinance and social lending alternative to the nation's banking system.

LWR is also providing training in conflict resolution and prevention and is working with the Biden
administration to advocate for fairer labor laws, especially preventing sexual harassment and for
maternity leave.

Your gifts are a tangible sign of our support and prayers!

What We're Reading

Pastor Glenn Borreson has written to let us know about a book he has written that would work well as a study for women's circles. A number of women's groups and circles have used this book for study purposes with positive response.

The book is *Water for your Soul: Living in Baptism Every Day*. The book has thirty-one short chapters. Three chapters could be studied each month. The new second edition has questions and scripture references for each chapter to guide discussion.

This book could also make a good gift for parents and/or sponsors of the newly baptized.

You can find more information on Pastor Borreson's Amazon author page: www.amazon.com/author/glennborreson

Pastor Borreson is also a contributor to The Last Chapter Blog:
<https://thelastchapterdotblog.wordpress.com/>
The poem shared below comes from that blog.

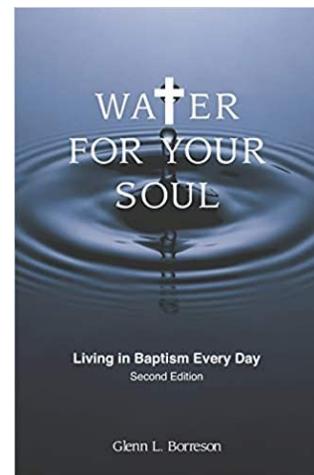
Choices

I remember the silly story.
The bride was saying her vows:
Do you take this man
"for better for worse, for richer for poorer ..."
She interrupted, "I choose richer."

A long-married couple retired early
because she had early onset Alzheimer's.
The small signs too soon became
major debilitations:
from memory losses to speech difficulties,
from physical weakness to a wheel chair
to becoming bed-ridden.

Her husband was beside her
from halting steps to no steps,
always engaging her fully,
drawing her into conversations
when a half smile was her best reply,
feeding her when a bite swallowed
was a major victory.
He was where he chose to be.

Forty years ago they spoke their vows:
Do you take this woman "for better for worse ..."
He did not interrupt;
He lived his answer every day.
"Yes."



Our own Bette Keehner believes that everyone has a book within them, and she decided to use her time during the Covid-19 quarantine to tell the story on her heart. Bette self-published the book *Shut In but Not Shut Off: Remembering an Extraordinary Aunt*. The book tells the story of her aunt, Cleva Hilma Bertha Schultz, who lived most of her life in her home, as it is believed she lived with agoraphobia.

Cleva was a devoted caregiver for her parents and was a loving and thoughtful neighbor, daughter, sister, and aunt. She kept beautiful gardens. Most of all, this book shares her exquisite poetry. Cleva's writings provide a glimpse into how she saw the world, most often with awe for creation, abiding faith, and love for family. Her imagination had no bounds!

The book is available for \$20 from Bette. Her contact information is listed on the Board contact page at the end of this newsletter.

For a taste of the poetry included, we share Cleva's poem "Amaryllis" from the book.

Amaryllis

I stood by my window today
Admiring my two amaryllis I had on display
Both plant have only one stem
One bore four blooms, the other two
Neither stem has much girth
It ceases to amaze me, the miracle of birth



Do you have a book, movie, recipe, or pattern that you would like to share with the Women of the ELCA?

Feel free to send your suggestions to gstubitsch@gmail.com for consideration for the next issue of Crosswinds!

This newsletter is intended to be a source of connection, encouragement, and growth by and for

the Women of the ELCA of the
La Crosse Area Synod!

Plate Display Update

The shelves for the church plates display are ready and installed! Plates decorate the walls, as tangible reminders of decades of faith and service in Christ throughout the region. We are part of a mission that began long before us and will continue long after us. When we gather for meetings or projects, we will have visual reminders of our unity and history watching over and blessing us. Thank you to all the churches who have donated one (or more) anniversary plates. There is room for more! If you or your church has a plate of your church, please consider donating it to the La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA display. Thank you!



LWR School Bags

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

Share the Love

Dress yourself and your friends in quality clothing from Lands' End with the Women of the ELCA and Triennial Gathering logo at: <https://business.landsend.com/store/womenoftheelca/>

Here you'll be able to:

- Shop for quality Lands' End apparel
- Select from a variety of styles and colors
- Apply our Women of the ELCA or Triennial Gathering 2021 logo!

Even if you've never shopped on the Web before, you'll find this site easy to use and convenient. Just select a category and start shopping.

When you've found something you like click on the image and select

size, color, and quantity. Make sure to add a logo if you want by clicking the blue "Add logo button".



April 20, 2021

Synodical Board Meeting, Synod Annex, 5:00 pm

May 15, 2021

Crosswinds Articles Due to gstubitsch@gmail.com

June 1, 2021

Crosswinds distributed

July 31, 2021

La Crosse Area Synod Summer Convention @ Veteran's Park, Cashton

August 3-5, 2021

11th Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA, held digitally

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All Terms have been
extended until elections
can be held safely due
to the COVID-19
pandemic.

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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 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!

