



By God's Grace, We are Called!

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

When: Saturday July 31

8:00 AM—Registration

9:00 AM—Worship, Rev. Libby Howe preaching

3:30 PM—Closing of Convention

Lunch Included

Where: Trinity Lutheran Church in Cashton
539 South Street, Cashton

Program: Guest Speaker, Rev. Benjamin Morris,
from Lutheran Campus Ministry, La Crosse

Registration: Registration cost is \$20 per person. Make checks payable to La Crosse Area Synod WELCA. Please send registration forms (found at the end of this newsletter) and payment to Mona Van Riper, W5598 County Road D, Holmen WI 54636, by July 23, 2021.

After July 23, registration may be made by calling 608-526-2284 or emailing monavanriper@gmail.com.

Payment due day of the convention.

In-Kind Offering: Please bring non-perishable food items or hygiene products for the Cashton Cupboard and Closet Food Pantry.

Details: Plan to wear a mask and practice social distancing for the health and safety of all.

Whether you attend every year or this would be your first time, you are welcome!

Our next Spring Event will be held at Our Savior's in La Crosse in 2022.



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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

Greetings Ladies,

The Lord be with you! As we begin to enjoy the long days of summer we are so blessed with God's creation; the beauty of the summer flowers, gentle rains, refreshing breezes, singing birds, new birth in the pastures and so many wonders of our world.

It seems as the Covid 19 virus is waning and we jubilantly have experienced a feeling of protection and peacefulness having received one of the vaccines. Thank our God for being with us through all these months. I personally enjoyed the blessing of slowing down, enjoying my gardens and my home, trying new recipes, getting used to zoom meetings (even my Zumba class), and frequent chats with folks from my congregation (actually, checking on them) – just a slower pace to “stop and smell the roses.”

Now as we return to in-person gatherings, it has changed how we go forward in our churches, meetings, etc. Which brings me to the “2021 Spring Convention” that is now a “Summer Convention” to be held on July 31st at Trinity Lutheran in Cashton as originally planned; with worship, Pastor Libby's comments and Pastor Ben's keynote address presented inside the church, lunch and afternoon business (elections) is planned to be held outside in a tent erected on the grounds at Trinity. At this point, the exec. board is updating the booklet that was almost ready for the printers March of 2020, preparing a budget for 2022 and checking all the “boxes” to be ready for the convention.

The registration form is in this issue of the Crosswinds. We look forward to a good turn-out and ladies ready to accept a position on the board. *Note: as liaison with the bishop, I will still be attending board meetings and can offer guidance, as we begin a new year.

My prayer is that God has good works in store for our organization. Have a talk with God about what you can give to keep our organization vibrant.

JoAnn

**The in-kind gift for this convention is items for the Food Pantry in Cashton, especially cereal and personal care items.



6 Helpful Ways to Tend to our Souls

By Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director for Women of the ELCA
May 17, 2021

AS AN AVID GARDENER, I was so happy to come across a local garden group on Facebook early in the pandemic last year. What a blessing to have a like-minded group where I can ask questions, offer advice, and share garden joys. These days the Facebook feed is filled with folks anxious to get seedlings and plants into the ground and gardeners willing to share plants, cuttings, tools, and more.

One such post stopped me short.

“Totally overestimated my soul needs. This is half and half compost/garden soil, already mixed. Help yourself [address listed].” A photo of a big pile of compost/garden soil accompanied the post.

You’ve figured it out. The original post included a typo. The gardener meant to write “soil,” but “soul” appeared instead. That got me thinking about our soul needs. What are they? Do we ever overestimate our soul needs? Given human nature, I’m guessing we’re more likely to underestimate them.

TEND TO YOUR SOUL

As Christian women, we can tend to our souls by

- communicating regularly with God, the Creator, in prayer,
- living in community with other Christians,
- regularly worshipping God,
- immersing ourselves in God’s Word,
- spending time in God’s good creation, and
- recharging our soul through quiet contemplation and meditation.

These are the basics, the foundations of our faith. They are essential to our life of faith, and yet sometimes we just get so caught up in other things that we don’t attend to these. What does your soul need these days as we live into the second year of this pandemic?

Given our circumstances, we might have other soul needs. We may need the support of our community when going through a difficult medical situation. We might need members of the community to remind us to keep the Sabbath. Others in the community may need to offer prayers for us when we cannot do that ourselves.

As you work in your gardens this spring, don’t forget to consider your soul needs too. They need tending as much as the flowers and vegetables you’re planting.

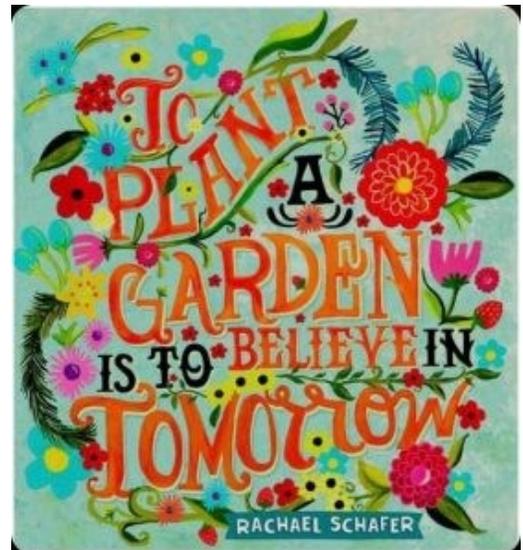


Plate Display at the Synod Office Annex

As soon as you step into the La Crosse Area Synod Office Annex, where the Women of the ELCA hold their meetings, I immediately feel drawn into decades of ministry. I can hear conversation and laughter as women of all ages roll out lefse for Lutefisk suppers, crack eggs for Easter breakfast, cut bars and make sandwiches for funeral lunches, and serve oh so many potlucks!

The shelves of the Annex display church plates commemorating anniversaries from many area churches. These plates serve as tangible reminders of decades of faith and service in Christ throughout the region.

For me, they also serve as a reminder that we are stewards of this moment in time. We are part of a mission that began long before us and will continue long after us. Our call is to faithfully tend this moment in time and mentor those who will come after us. When we gather for meetings or projects, we will have visual reminders of our unity and history watching over and blessing our work.



Thank you to all the churches who have donated one (or more) anniversary plates!

Many thanks to those who imagined, designed, and created this beautiful display.

We have room for more! If you or your church has a plate, please consider donating it to the La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA display. Thank you!

Submitted by Gloria Stubitsch



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.

Lutheran World Relief News

Restoring Hope:

We are Investing in the recovery and future of Central America

Across Central America, a host of factors are driving high levels of Migration, especially among youth. Research indicates that grinding poverty and lack of economic opportunities are the major push factors, but violence and political instability are also key drivers of migration. The back-to-back hurricane systems Eta and Iota that followed similar destructive paths across the region in November 2020 as well as the heavy toll of the COVID-19 pandemic have only further exacerbated the dire situation for many Central Americans.

But that's not the whole story.

In El Salvador, Williams, a 30-year-old father of two, took the opportunity to earn a diploma in cocoa production and has started his own chocolate business.

In Honduras, Dilcia, 21, learned the basics of coffee cultivation and is working on her family's farm, hoping to become part of the next generation of agricultural entrepreneurs.

In Guatemala, Guisela, 26, has not only learned and applied agricultural best practices and improved health and nutrition habits within her own family, but she has also become an example and promoter of such trainings in her larger community.

Each of these young people felt compelled to leave everything they had and knew in search of a better life, but development and humanitarian investments in these countries are restoring their hope for a future where they are now — a future where migration isn't their only option.

Lutheran World Relief is working with dozens of local partners to help those affected by disasters recover and to strengthen the economies of communities in Central America — specifically the Northern Triangle — to build food security, resilience and stability. These investments include vocational and business training programs for youth, as well as efforts to help coffee and cocoa farmers increase the productivity and quality of their crops and connect to markets that will bring them better income.

Lutheran World Relief has partnered with the U.S. government,

national, regional and municipal governments in Central America, international and local organizations, foundations, the private sector, U.S. churches, agricultural cooperatives and the people themselves to invest in this future. Through these partnerships, we have seen the social fabric of communities strengthened and thousands of people earning enough income to support their families, providing for immediate needs and setting aside savings for what is to come.

Over the long run, we believe these investments in the people and communities of Central America and beyond are the best measures for addressing high levels of migration and their root causes. Lutheran World Relief is committed to walking alongside these communities as they work to build better lives for their families.

This story is shared from the Lutheran World Relief website:
lwr.org/we-are-investing-recovery-and-future-central-america



2021 Summer Matching Gift Challenge

Thanks to the gifts of generous donors, your gifts to Lutheran World Relief this summer will double! That means your gifts will have twice the impact in providing relief, training, and investment as we work to break cycles of poverty for lasting change!

Mail checks to:
Lutheran World Relief
PO Box 17061
Baltimore MD 21297-1061
or call: 800-597-5972 or visit: lwr.org/ways-to-give



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.

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

Mrs. Millar's Rhubarb Pie — submitted by JoAnn Salava

This recipe is from my college days in the 60's. The lady who owned the off-campus house where myself 5 other graduating girls lived. Before our graduation she had us to her farm for lunch and served this pie. Her recipe is the best

3 ½ - 4 cups sliced rhubarb	½ teaspoon cinnamon
3 egg whites	1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
2 cups sugar	3 Tablespoons flour (or tapioca)
½ teaspoon salt	

Beat egg whites until foamy. Add rest of ingredients and mix together, coat the rhubarb. Pour into prepared crust in 9" pie pan, cover with top crust. Cut vents!
Bake at 450 for 10 minutes, then at 350 for an additional 50 minutes.
You might like to place something under the pie while it bakes to catch the drips.

What I Learned From My Mother Preacher. by Julia Kasdorf

I learned from my mother how to love the living, to have plenty of vases on hand in case you have to rush to the hospital with peonies cut from the lawn, black ants still stuck to the buds. I learned to save jars large enough to hold fruit salad for a whole grieving household, to cube home-canned pears and peaches, to slice through maroon grape skins and flick out the sexual seeds with a knife point. I learned to attend viewing even if I didn't know the deceased, to press the moist hands of the living, to look in their eyes and offer sympathy, as though I understood loss even then. I learned that whatever we say means nothing, what anyone will remember is that we came. I learned to believe I had the power to ease awful pains materially like an angel. Like a doctor, I learned to create from another's suffering my own usefulness, and once you know how to do this, you can never refuse. To every house you enter, you must offer healing: a chocolate cake you baked yourself,

Reprinted from *Sleeping*

Copyright © 1992 Julia Kasdorf



Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One.
 Blessed be these hands that have touched life.
 Blessed be these hands that have nurtured creativity.
 Blessed be these hands that have held pain.
 Blessed be these hands that have embraced with passion.
 Blessed be these hands that have tended gardens.
 Blessed be these hands that have closed in anger.
 Blessed be these hands that have planted new seeds.
 Blessed be these hands that have harvested ripe fields.
 Blessed be these hands that have cleaned, washed,
 mopped, and scrubbed.
 Blessed be these hands that have become knotty with age.
 Blessed be these hands that are wrinkled
 and scarred from doing justice.
 Blessed be these hands that have reached out and been received.
 Blessed be these hands that hold the promise of the future.
 Blessed be the works of your hands, O Holy One.

By Diann Neu Reprinted from *Soul Weavings: A Gathering of Women's Prayers*
 Edited by Lyn Klug Copyright © 1996 Augsburg Fortress

My Dad had his first stroke two weeks before I graduated from seminary. After his recovery, he started experimenting with cooking. Most of his projects involved using whatever was growing in the garden. Most don't have recipes so much as suggestions. This is one of my favorites.

Asparagus & Gruyere Quiche — submitted by Gloria Stubitsch

18 ounce sheet puff pastry, thawed	fresh asparagus
1 cup gruyere cheese, grated (swiss makes a good substitution)	8-10 large eggs
1 cup heavy cream (can substitute half & half)	2-3 Tbs. Dijon mustard
salt & pepper to taste	Other items as desired—such as shallots, ham, bacon, mushrooms, etc.)
	a dash of nutmeg

Preheat oven to 400°. Unfold thawed dough. Roll to fit into greased 9x13 inch baking pan. Place dough in pan, pressing pastry into corners and up sides. Trim excess. Spread mustard on to pastry. Lay asparagus across pastry evenly. Top with half of the cheese. (If adding other fillings, feel free to add them here.) In a medium bowl, whisk together eggs, cream, salt & pepper. Pour into pan. Top with remaining cheese and nutmeg. Bake on center rack for 25-30 minutes, until pastry is golden brown and center of quiche is slightly wobbly but edges are set. Remove from oven and cool at least 5 minutes. Garnish with parsley or other fresh herbs. Serve with a fresh salad for a delicious meal!

P.S. I'll never forget the day my Mom told me that she never realized the ability to cook is such an attractive quality in a man!

LWR School Bags



If you need school bags, please contact Sue Staples at:
stap@centurytel.net or 608-788-8249!
Bags will be available for purchase at summer convention.
Thank you, Sue!

“Share the Love” & WELCA Apparel, Totes, Hats, Aprons, and More!

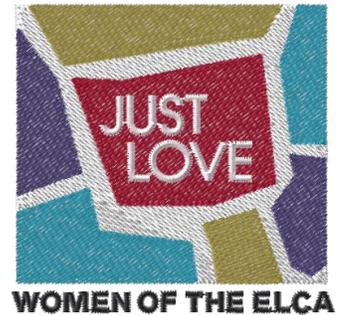
Dress yourself and your friends in quality clothing from Lands' End with the Women of the ELCA and Triennial Gathering logo at:
<https://business.landsend.com/store/womenoftheelca/>

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! (as shown on the right)

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".

Check out using a credit card or Paypal. Your items will arrive on your doorstep!



Important Dates!

July 31, 2021—8:00 AM-3:30 PM La Crosse Area Synod Summer Convention @ Trinity, Cashton
August 3-5, 2021 11th Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA, held digitally
August 17, 2021—5:00 PM Transitional WELCA Board Meeting @ the Annex



SUGAR CREEK
BIBLE CAMP

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 whole Circle!

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

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

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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!

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!

*What could happen if women of
faith built each other up?
We are more powerful together
than divided.*

