WELCA SYNOD FALL CONVENTION

"CONFIDENT WOMEN IN CHRIST"

SHIRLEY TESKE

LOIS BYLUND

Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. –1 Cor. 12:27

RUTH

QUEEN ESTHER

DEBORAH

WHERE: TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, VALLEY CITY, ND

WHEN: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Convention Agenda	Page 3
Purpose Statement	Page 4
Greetings from Churchwide Representative	Page 5
Greetings from EaND President, Jan Maurstad	Page 5
Churchwide Rep.	Page 6
Guest Speaker, Shirley Teske	Page 6
Proposed Standing Rules of Procedure	Page 7
Secretary's Report	Pages 8-9
Treasurer's Report	See Handout
Proposed 2019-2020 Budget	See Handout
Missions Report	Page 10
CONNECTIONS Report	Page 11
Racial Justice Advocacy Team Report	Page 12
Devils Lake Cluster Report	Page 13
Fargo Cluster Report	Page 13
Grafton Cluster Report	Page 13
Grand Forks Cluster Report	Page 14
Jamestown Cluster Report	Page 15
Mayville Cluster Report	Page 16
Prairie Rose Cluster Report	Page 13
Wahpeton Cluster Report	Page 17
Women of the ELCA Policy of Electioneering	Page 18
Report of Nominating Committee:	Pages 21-26
* Nominations for Vice President	
* Nominations for Treasuere	
* Nominations for Cluster Representatives	
* Nominations for Triennial Voting Members & Alternates	
EaND SWO Board	Page 25

Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization Convention
Trinity Lutheran Church Valley City, North Dakota
Saturday, September 21, 2019
Agenda

8:00-9:00 am	Registration and Coffee	
8:50-9:00 am	Gathering Music	
9:00-9:15 am	Opening and Welcome	
9:15-10 am	Worship with Communion: Pastor JoAnne Moeller	
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: Howard Oppegard
		Appointment of Business Committees
		1) Credentials; 2) Elections; 3) Nominations
		Adoption of Rules of Procedure
		Adoption of Agenda
		Report of Churchwide Representative--
		"What's happening at Women of the ELCA Churchwide"
11:30-12:00 noon	Shirley Teske: "Confident Women in Christ"	
12:00	Grace for Lunch	
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch (Visit vendors, fellowship, etc)	
1:00-2:15 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 2020 SWO Convention)
2:15-2:30 pm	Installation of SWO Board members by CWO Rep.	
	Song: Go My Children With My Blessing	
	Adjourn	

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

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.

Women of the EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

February 2019

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

All Anew! This theme still brings a rush of energy through my body. My passion for this organization runs deep and I'm excited to see what the future holds for the Women of the ELCA. How about you? Can you vision the future? Can you see your daughter, granddaughter, great granddaughter, niece enjoying the fellowship and mission that we recite in our purpose statement?

During this time together, I'd like to invite you to reflect on the future. Why is the Women of the ELCA important to you? Would you miss this organization if it were to disappear tomorrow? What would you miss? Times are changing, but we don't have to let that affect our mission and purpose! Imagine what we can do as a community of women today, tomorrow, next year, in the next 50 years! Let's leave a legacy. We can become All Anew every day!

It is my prayer that your synodical convention will inspire and challenge you in ways you may never have considered. When you return to your congregational unit please share all that you learned and experienced and invite those who could not attend to your next event. My representative who is attending your convention is there to listen to your joys and concerns, and to engage in everything you have planned. Please make a special point to meet with her and talk with her and let her know if there is something we can do to assist you in your ministry.

You are bold and faithful women and it is an honor to carry out the ministry of the Women of the ELCA with you. My prayer to you is that you continue to serve and mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Peace and blessings to you,

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

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Greetings to Eastern North Dakota Women of the ELCA
As your president I have spent the last year attending Cluster Gatherings, Synod Councils, a Synodical Women's Convention, and seeing how the Body of Christ is alive and well in Eastern North Dakota. This year has been a year of learning, prayer and thanking God for the Synodical Women of Eastern North Dakota. I have learned patience and how to rely on God for the right answers at the right time. As the congregational cards are mailed to me, there was a pattern coming together. Most of our units don't meet monthly anymore. As long as you continue to do God's work, you are the women of the church and a WELCA unit. The replies were we just quit or there are only 2 or 3 of us. God is still using you! Scripture states that where 2 or 3 gather, God is there with us!

My apologies to the women of the Grafton Cluster, Marlene Arneson, your Grafton Cluster Representative, had a stroke and recovered enough to move to Drayton. She was there 40 minutes when she fell and broke her hip! Please pray for Marlene, she wants to get well so she can be active again!

The bars of soap and the stickers have been ordered and as soon as we do the training, will distribute them in Eastern North Dakota. Please pray for our girls that have been caught up in human sex trafficking.

The yarn project for the Jamestown Correctional Prison is on-going. Thank you for continuing to support the yarn project. There was so much yarn gathered, there was barely room for Karen in her car when she went to deliver it. One of the inmates made a baby afghan which will be given away at the convention in Valley City.

I look forward to seeing you at the convention in Valley City! 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!

Jan Maurstad
EaND SWO President

PASTOR SHIRLEY TESKE

My name is Shirley Teske and I grew up on a farm 15 miles north of Drayton, ND. I had 6 brothers and one twin sister. As kids, we often took to the expansive backyard for adventure and adventure is what we had with the burning of a playhouse, riding on a homemade Ferris wheel and putting on carnivals for the neighbors.

I was married in 1968 to Richard Teske and had five children. I was a stay at home Mom. We divorced after 29 years of marriage. When my youngest started school I went back to college and received my BS degree in Elementary Education and Special Education. I taught Special Education for 11 years before God had another plan for my life.

While praying one day God showed me a vision where I was preaching about brokenness in front of a congregation and here I am today a pastor.

I earned my Masters of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN. I have been ministering at First Lutheran Church in Fessenden for 16 years. It has been a wonderful fit for me and the congregation.

God has played a role in my whole life without me even recognizing where He would lead in my later years. I have a love for the Lord that is expressed for my joy and love for Him alone. I know that whatever happens in my life; God and I will handle it together.

I do not know what the future holds at this moment but God will be my guide always through it all.

Lois Bylund
Executive Board Member
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Lois Bylund was elected to the executive board of Women of the ELCA in July 2017 for a second term. She serves on the constitution review committee and as convention coordinator.

Prior to her election to the churchwide executive board, Lois was president of the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization (3D). She also served as an advisory member to the Northwestern Minnesota Synod and as a cluster coordinator.

A resident of Moorhead, Minn., Lois is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in that city. There she is an active member of her circle and served as unit president twice. Lois is currently serving as President of the Trinity Foundation Board at her church. She has also served on the church council and as a voting member of the synod assembly.

Lois has served on the planning committee and worked in the kitchen and dining room for the community Thanksgiving dinner hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church and St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Moorhead. She has also delivered meals to families and shut-ins and served as a United Way representative. Lois is an active member of the Blue and Bold Toastmaster's Club in Fargo, N.D. Lois and her husband, Leon, have three children and 2 grandchildren. She has worked for a hospital services company for many years and now serves as its operations coordinator. Lois enjoys crafts, refinishing and refurbishing furniture. She hopes to learn to quilt when she retires.

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.

Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization Convention
Red Willow Bible Camp, Binford, North Dakota
Saturday, September 22, 2018

Opening Worship lead by Pastor Larry Thiele and Pastor Sherri Frederikson

Welcome from Red Willow Bible Camp Director Rick Frederick

10:45 a.m. **Call to Order**
Plenary I: Business Meeting
Credentials Report: Total in attendance 113
Appointment of Parliamentarian: Ms. Randcliff
Committee chairpersons: Mary Jo Johnson, Credentials Committee
Kathy Johnson, Election Chair
Karen Leslie, Nominations Chair
Adoption of Rules of Procedure
Adoption of Agenda

Report of Churchwide Representative: Freddie Jordan, Exec Sec to WELCA Board spoke on what's happening on the Women of the ELCA Churchwide. She had 3 expressions she explained, which are Congregational, Synodical and Churchwide.

Bible Study: Here I am Lord by Pastor Jessica Darty.

Lunch Break

Speaker: Sue Shirek, Northland Rescue Mission

2 p.m. **Plenary II: Business Meeting**
Report of the Nominating Committee

2:30 p.m. **Call for Election.**

New Business:
Introduction of Synodical Board
Report of the Elections Committee
Election Results:.
President: Jan Maurstad
Vice President: Julie Hudson
Secretary: Pam Neumiller
Cluster Representatives:
Devils Lake: Frances Omoth-Sallee
Grafton: Marlene Arneson
Mayville: Karen Leslie
Wahpeton: Patricia Groven

Report of the President
Report of the Treasurer

Adoption of Budget: Passed

Report of the Resolutions Committee:
Resolution 1: Resolution to merge clusters for cluster meetings; **passed**. This will now be presented to the WELCA Board for approval.
Resolution 2: Whereas Red Willow Bible Camp has demonstrated professional and exceptional service to the EaND Synodical Board and the body in attendance, we extend thanks, appreciation and prayers to Red Willow Bible Camp and wish you continued prosperity in service to the community. **Passed**

Report of the Offerings Committee:

Other Business: 2019 Convention Trinity Lutheran in Valley City ND offered to host this convention, date to be determined; tentatively set for 9/21/19.

Installation of Board Members: Performed by Freddie Jordan

3:55 p.m. **Convention closed.**

Treasurer's Report: See handouts.
Proposed Budget 2019-2020 See handouts.

Mission Report

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

- Resources used (mostly GATHER magazine)
- Quilts made
- Baby Care Kits assembled
- Personal Care Kits assembled
- Fabric Kits assembled
- Fleece Blankets made
- Soap collected
- School kits assembled
- LWR support (financial)
- Churchwide/Global support
- In-kind local (financial) assistance
- Synod/local (financial) assistance
- Thankofferings (services)
- Cancelled stamps collected for Lutheran World Relief

The Women of Eastern North Dakota 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.

With the increase of trafficking we became involved in helping victims of trafficking as they were located and brought to recovery programs. We have ordered small bars of soap with stickers that will be placed in bathroom stalls. There is phone number on them telling the girls if they are being held against their will to call for help.

Our prison ministry is still accepting yarn for the Jamestown Correctional Center. The inmates are still crocheting and knitting caps, sweaters, mittens, and afghans for those in need. They make a difference and feel better about themselves—lives are changed. Please contact Chaplain Mark Haines at the Jamestown Correctional facility for more information.

Let us continue to do "God's work, our hands."

May God bless all your efforts!

Jan Maurstad, President, EaND SWO 3B

Report of the Editor of CONNECTIONS: Newsletter of Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization September 21, 2019

The newsletter of the Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization is currently in its 22nd 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.

This past year has been sporadic in production with only three newsletters being printed instead of four, as the plan states. While the timeline has varied, the newsletter is continuing publication with number 4 following the SWO Convention in 2019.

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/13"; this means "Your Name" "month/ year of expiration of the subscription."

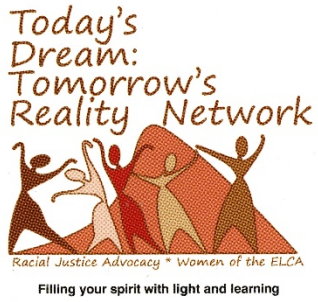
The editor is often looking for news from Congregational units, or WELCAs, to include in the issues. It is suggested that a listing of the number of quilts created by the women for distribution could be of interest to others—perhaps creating a "Quilt Challenge". A "Yarn Challenge" for prison ministries could also be a Mission Action Project.

Another 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 to the editor at 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":
the report of the Racial Justice Team
to the EaND SWO Convention
September 21, 2019

Forty-one Rostered leaders from Eastern North Dakota Synod participated in the first Anti-racism/Racial Justice event held in Fargo, ND, February 25-26. Pastors gathered at the Lutheran Social Services Conference Room for a workshop conducted by the Synodical Women's Organization TDTR trainers, Darla Thiele and Karen Retzlaff.

A worship service led by Pr. Sarah Raymond & Pr. Julie Peterson opened the event. Karen Retzlaff conducted the first session entitled "How We Got Here", which included a timeline of historical events that led to the idea of "race". With the outline from history, participants were able to learn the process by which the idea of race became an established part of modern thinking.

The following day Darla Thiele and Karen led sessions two and three. The second session began with "Where we are now", a PowerPoint presentation that covered current issues of Racism in North America. It included a Bible study that focused on "The Chasm", the divisions that are evidenced in our lives. A performance video by Fairness Works, Canada, "Performance for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women" was included in the discussion that shed light on the plight of Native American women.

Amanda Vivier, spiritual leader for the Native American Christian Ministry, spoke of healing for those experiencing intergenerational trauma as a result of racism. Her work with people in the Fargo Moorhead is on-going and focuses on reconciliation.

The third session included a video, "Making Whiteness Visible," that challenges participants to think about and talk about White Privilege in healthy ways. A Bible study "The Pain of Comparison" also opened discussion of healing between peoples. Managing Resistance and Nine Healthy Ways to have conversations were also used to give ideas of how to talk with others about racism.

The workshop closed with a worship service with communion led by Pr. Larry Thiele and Pr. Sherri Frederikson.

The Racial Justice team of Darla Thiele & Karen Retzlaff is available for any group. The sessions vary from one hour to two days and are held free of charge.

Darla Thiele & Karen Retzlaff
Racial Justice Advocates & Trainers

Devils Lake/Spirit Lake – No cluster gathering

Prairie Rose—No cluster gathering

Fargo Cluster Spring Gathering 2019—Linda Monge, Fargo Cluster Rep

Fargo Cluster 2019 Spring Gathering was held on Saturday, May 4th, (postponed from April 13th due to miserable weather and flooded roads.) It was hosted by Norman-Davenport Parish at Norman Lutheran Church, rural Kindred. There were 30 in attendance.

Following coffee, muffins, and fresh fruit served, Cluster Rep opened the meeting welcoming all in attendance. Pastor Laura Laughlin of the Norman-Davenport Parish led us in prayer.

Coiya Tompkins, Director of Development, Jeremiah Program of Fargo, "A Place for Transformation", presented very interesting information about the program. This included its mission and vision, criteria or qualifications for women who apply to be part of the program, statistics of successes, volunteer opportunities, and funding needs. An in-kind cash offering was given to the Jeremiah Program to be used towards gift cards to the clients for groceries and gas.

Pam Neumiller, Secretary of the SWO Board, brought news regarding the 2019 Convention in September at Trinity Lutheran Church, Valley City, and the soap project for battered women seeking help. Linda Monge, Cluster Rep, briefly went through the 2019 congregation packets with information on the retreat in August, convention in September, and other packet enclosures. Offering collected was $281 divided by Norman-Davenport W.E.L.C.A. and EaND SWO.

Natalie Dawn Hanson was the main speaker. Natalie is a motivational speaker, author, and singer. Her book "Made to Soar: God's Magnificent Design for Motherhood" will soon be out. She is the founder and visionary of "Vital Ignition – an online community of women with hearts for God who seek to unearth wisdom and work to integrate vital necessities into their lifestyles that transforms and inspires them to freely, confidently, and faithfully live out the roles God has given them to play."

A delicious lunch was served by the women of the parish and door prizes of table centerpieces were gifted.

Meeting was adjourned.

Grafton Cluster Gathering – No report filed.

2019 Grand Forks Cluster Report—Camilla Stover, Cluster Rep

This letter will serve as a report for our Grand Forks Cluster Gathering this spring. I thank University Lutheran WELCA for hosting the gathering this spring. It was a nice day on Saturday, April 28, 2019.

Our theme for the cluster gathering was "Precious Crops From the Earth", which was based on this Bible verse, James 5:7. The verse said "Be patient, therefore, beloved until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crops from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains." Registration was from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and the welcome was given by Peggy Klockmann, Vice President of University Lutheran WELCA. Our first musical selection was the hymn "Christ Be Our Light". After this, we had devotions and Bible study given by Pastor Rachel Puttbrese of Reynolds Lutheran Church. Pastor Rachel used to go to University Lutheran Church. The guest speaker, Melissa Sobolik, from the Great Plains Food Band spoke. It was very enlightening that there are two groups the need food he most, and they are children and seniors.

The business meeting was next, with Jan Maurstad, our President, and I speaking to what was in the packets. The packet contained information on WELCA board officers and cluster reps, Triennial, Women's Retreat at Maryvale in August, fall convention, and a letter from our WELCA board President.

We had an offering and half of the offering went to the Great Plains Food Band and the other half to SWO. Our next musical slection was "We Come to the Hungry Feast". We had Holy Communion and Pastor Tom Colenso of University Lutheran presided.

After Holy Communion, we had announcements, which included a door prize and a sending prayer.

We had a lovely lunch served by the University Lutheran WELCA. We had about 40 ladies in attendance, and the offering was $170. At this time, I would also like to thank Patty Olsen for being the contact person. The women that came liked the half day cluster gathering, so, again, we will have it a half day.

Jamestown Cluster Report—Mary Johnson, Cluster Rep 4/6/19

"Love thy neighbor as thyself—Mark 12:31
The Jamestown Cluster met at First Lutheran Church in Litchville ND. We were guest of the Vision of Faith Parish consisting of Litchville, Marion and Griswold churches. We had coffee and ringakaka as we arrived and then began the meeting at 9:30 a.m. We were welcomed by the president of the Marion WELCA and devotions were given. We then sang the opening hymn, "Will You Come and Follow Me?" Pam Neumiller and myself brought greetings from the Synodical Board and went thru the information in their packets. Snice we were done a little early and brunch was not quite ready, we enjoyed fellowship and singing some of the old Sunday School songs. After a delicious brunch of 7 kinds of egg bake with cinnamon bread spread with cream cheese (yummy) we went to the sanctuary and sang some more songs before the program by "The Sisters". They were actually sisters and they presented a humorous by relevant program about respect, caring and sharing, which was then of the gathering (Mark 12:31).

Following the program, we had worship with Holy Communion led by Pastor Marcia Hegna. She shared several scripture verses about love in action and loving as Christ loves us. The offering was gathered for SWO and LSS. The sending hymn was "We Are Called". After the service about 12:30 p.m., we could have coffee, cookies and fellowship or have to "to go" for our trip home. It was a good meeting and inspiring as there were the three churches in the parish that cooperative to host the gathering. It may be a trend for future meetings. We were invited to the Kathryn-Fingal Parish for our 2020 Gathering to be held at Waldheim Church.

Total Attendance: 46. Total offering: $673.
In-Kind: Personal hygiene products for LSS.

Mayville Cluster Report – Karen Leslie, Cluster Representative.
The Mayville Cluster met on April 27th, 2019 at Our Saviors in Hillsboro. There were 42 in attendance. We enjoyed egg bake, muffin, fruit cup, juice and coffee for brunch. The tables were decorated with spring in mind and spring flowers and saucers with coffee beans with Party Lites. They had tables displaying the LWR projects and they were selling the coffee from LWR. They also had a display f their own project from the Prayer Shawl Ministry, Pocket Prayer Cloth and the instructions. The would be giving them out on Mother's Day in their congregation. Dakota Boys and Girls representative was also there with all their materials and the newest publication, The Ranch. Sylvia Hanson had been the coordinator, and she opened the program by showing a video from LSS as they are celebrating 100 years this year. It showed and described all their services.

Pastor Joe Johnson gave a presentation in Invisible Poverty in rural communities. He was mainly focused on youth for this thesis. He interviewed 51 clients, 86% adults are food insecure; 36% children, 27% adults report no eating for a whole day and 71% can't afford to eat a balanced diet. He gave us examples of 4 interviews with these clients as to why and how they got to where they are at. He also stated these people are not starving, but there is food insecurity. They don't always know where their next meal is coming from. They (meaning Our Saviors and Hillsboro community) are teaming with Great Plains Food Bank to try and alleviate some of the issues. The 4 questions were must ask ourselves are:
1) What is going on? 2) Why is this happening? 3) What must we do? 4) How do we help?
The average age for adults was 32 and for youth was 10 years old. Pastor Joe also related several scripture readings pertaining to this subject and he closed with our Communion service. The hope of this project is to not only raise awareness, but also to join God in the community by engaging practices to ensure that all people have the essentials of life, including food, clothing and shelter while avoiding shame and maintaining dignity. The hope is to embody a missional theology of accompaniment shaped and informed by scripture. If you have ideas or are interested in learning more, please contact Pastor Joe at 701-430-3787 or jjohnson007@luthersem.edu.

They gave out 3 door prizes, and I handed out the folders to each WELCA. They were very helpful, and I had none left. They graciously took for those not there, which saved me and us postage! Pam Neumiller, SWO Secretary, was there an informed them about Triennial and the Women's Retreat. Our offering was $469 to be divided between SWO EaND and Social Services of Trail/Steele County.

Wahpeton Cluster Report – **Patricia Groven, Wahpeton Cluster Representative**
April 27, 2019
Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisbon, ND
Sowing Seeds of Peace was the theme of the Wahpeton Cluster Spring Gathering: inspiration taken from James 3:18 *Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness*.
Welcome and the WELCA Purpose Statement were led by Edie Reinke, Trinity Lutheran WELCA president, Joy Venske led devotions and Patricia Groven introduced herself as the new Wahpeton Cluster Representative. Stephanie Johnson continued the opening by having the gathering sing action songs and then Connie Radcliffe warmed all of us up further by leading a group stretching session. The Trinity Lutheran women's choir blessed the gathering with a special hymn.
The main speaker, Susanne Olson from CHI Health and Home, presented an informative session on Hospice and how its further mission assisted both clients and survivors to adjust to loss.
Jamie Urbach Decker gave a summary of how she was led to enter seminary, from her introduction to this as a life mission when she was a teenager at Lutheran Bible Camp to later having Pastor Ivy suggest that this may be the Lord's calling for her. Pastor Tammy Jacobson surprised Jamie with a Blessing Service. Members of the gathering, friends, and relatives participated in an introduction to the ministry for her. All agreed that this service was exceptionally moving, and that they also felt blessed by the spoken words. Theme verses were from 1 John 4:7-*8 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love*. The blessing service concluded with the singing of Here I Am Lord.
Bethel Lutheran WELCA, Wahpeton, volunteered to host the 2020 spring cluster gathering.
Offerings were received for mission work in Haiti and CHI/Hospice. IN-Kind offering was to the Ransom County Food Pantry.
The Wahpeton Cluster Spring Gathering concluded with lunch by Trinity Lutheran Church WELCA and participants received packets of flower seeds for celebration favors.

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 Vice President:

2019 VITA FORM

POSITION I'M RUNNING FOR: Vice President

Cluster: ___Fargo_____ **Work Phone _____NA_____**

Church: ___Hope Lutheran, Fargo **Home Phone ___701-460-1190_____**

Name __Julie Hudson _____ **Cell Phone ____NA_____**

Address: _5551 58th St S _____ **E-Mail jhschenfi@gmail.com_____**

City/St/Zip: __Fargo ND 58104__

Community Involvement:

1. **__NDSU Alumni_____**
2. **__Dollars for Scholars_____**
3. **__Former county commissioner_____**
4. **ND 4-H Agents Association lifetime member**

Church Involvement:

1. **Worship and Praise Choir**
2. **Hospitality Committee**
3. **Funeral committees**
4. **Current Vice President of Synodical church women**

FAITH STATEMENT:

I believe that we receive graft through belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We can face any crisis knowing that the love of Jesus will keep us strong and sustained in any hard time. Faith leads to works and works are one vehicle to show our faith.

Please send Vita Form to: EaND SWO Secretary, Pam Neumiller, 513 Santa Cruz Drive, Fargo, ND 58103

Nominations for Treasurer:

2019 VITA FORM

POSITION I'M RUNNING FOR: Treasurer
Cluster: Wahpeton Work Phone: 701-683-6219
Church: Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisbon, ND Work Phone : 701-683-4759
Name: Connie Radcliffe Cell Phone: 701-678-3334
Address: _785 Oakridge Dr E-Mail: caradcliffe@bremer.com
City/St/Zip: LISBON, ND 58054
Community Involvement:
1. GFWC Lisbon Mothers Club(Past State & local President/International Leadership Chair)
2. Sheyenne Fine Arts Association (Current President)
3. _Lisbon All Class Reunion Committee (Past Chair)
Church Involvement:
Church Council Vice President
ELCW
Vacation Bible School
Lector
Stretch & Support Your Soul Leader
FAITH STATEMENT: I base my faith on a strong foundation in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as my Lord & Savior. I base my actions on the commandment He gave us as his disciples to Love the Lord our God with all our heart & to love our neighbor as ourselves. On this note I do my service so others may see my good works and honor our Father in Heaven.

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Nominations for Cluster Representatives

2019 VITA FORM

POSITION I'M RUNNING FOR: Cluster Rep: Fargo

Cluster: _Fargo_____ **Work Phone ____NA_____**
Church: __Messiah - Fargp_____ **Home Phone _701-293-9861_____**
Name __Linda Monge_____ **Cell Phone _701-261-9861 _____**
Address: __2309 Evergreen Rd N **E-Mail _ljmonge@msn.com_____**
City/St/Zip: _Fargo ND 58102__

Community Involvement:

1. **Volunteer at nursing home**
2. **Volunteer (on occasion) Emergency Food Pantry**

Church Involvement:

Secretary of WELCA, Hour of Worship board, chair of fundraisers, altar committee, usher, communion assistant, homebound communion team, attend Bible study.

FAITH STATEMENT:

I was raised in the Lutheran faith, nurtured by loving parents, family, SS teachers, friends, pastors and congregations. I believe each and every one of us is a child of God, called and chosen to serve and nurture everyone we can whether it's in the church or community. We are each given gifts from God that are to be used to His glory to help and nurture others. I believe in God's forgiveness and I'm grateful for His everlasting and compassionate love and His gift of grace.

Please send Vita Form to: EaND SWO Secretary, Pam Neumiller, 513 Santa Cruz Drive, Fargo, ND 58103

2019 VITA FORM

POSITION I'M RUNNING FOR: Cluster Rep: Grand Forks

Cluster: _Grand Forks_____ **Work Phone __218-791-2678 _____**
Church: _Our Savior's Lutheran___ **Home Phone __218-791-2678 _____**
Name _Camilla Stover _____ **Cell Phone __218-791-2678 _____**
Address: _3377 23rd Ave NE _____ **E-Mail _robcamst@invisimax.com___**
City/St/Zip: _Larimore ND 58251_____

Community Involvement:

1. **President of Larimore Alumni Association**
2. **Help with Crescendo Brass**

Church Involvement:

I play piano and organ for church. I help with the bulletin and inviter. I'm also helping with the record book. President of our WELCA unit. Presently Grand Forks Cluster Rep.

FAITH STATEMENT:

My faith is hands on. What I mean by that is prayer is important in my faith walk. I call it talking to God. Our family has been on our knees, especially when Robert, my husband, was ill, our sister-in-law, Sherry, and when I was with his mother as she passed away.
God has also blessed our family with a gift of music. We try and share this gift when we can. But, most important in my walk of faith is to bring others to Christ and so they have a personal relationship with Him. Praise God!

Please send Vita Form to: EaND SWO Secretary, Pam Neumiller, 513 Santa Cruz Drive, Fargo, ND 58103

Nominations for Triennial Voting Members & Alternates

2019 VITA FORM

POSITION I'M RUNNING FOR: Vice President Treasurer
Cluster Rep: Prairie Rose Fargo Grand Forks Jamestown
X Triennial Voting Member

Cluster: _Grand Forks Cluster Work Phone Retired
Church: _Sundahl Lutheran Church Home Phone 701-326-4235
Name _Karen Retzlaff Cell Phone 701-3-270-0355
Address: 11995 19th St NE E-Mail retzlaff@polarcomm.com
City/St/Zip: _Aneta, ND 58212
Community Involvement:

1. **Member of the Aneta Booster Club**
2. **Volunteer at the Aneta Parkview Health Center**
3. **Work at the Aneta Public Library**

Church Involvement:

1. **Active member of Sundahl Lutheran (served as President of the congregation);**
2. **Serve as Chair of the Call Committee;**
3. **Currently serving as Treasurer of Sundahl WELCA;(have served as president, vice president, and secretary in the past.)**
4. **Have served as church secretary;**
5. **Served as Cluster Representative;**
6. **Served as SWO Secretary and President as well as Editor of CONNECTIONS;**
7. **Serve on the EaND SWO Racial Justice team**

FAITH STATEMENT:

I continue to grow in faith as I study God's word, serve others, and share the Good News of Salvation through Jesus Christ. I strongly believe "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (Philippians 4:13) I know that without Jesus' guidance and love, I would be helpless. As I have learned over the years, every day and every experience gives me new insight into how God works (through others and through my feeble efforts) to grow His kingdom on earth.

Please send Vita Form to: EaND SWO Secretary, Pam Neumiller, 513 Santa Cruz Drive, Fargo, ND 58103

2019 VITA FORM

POSITION I'M RUNNING FOR: Triennial Delegate

Cluster: __Fargo_____
Church: _Peace Lutheran, Fargo__
Name _Pam Neumiller_____
Address: _513 Santa Cruz Dr S __
City/St/Zip: __Fargo ND 58103____

Work Phone ____NA_____
Home Phone __701-282-7058_____
Cell Phone _701-200-6035_____
E-Mail _pknsoft@msn.com _____

Community Involvement:

1. **Former 4-H leader _____**
2. **Retired teacher _____**

Church Involvement: Former funeral coordinator, prior council member, women's group activities, Synodical Secretary, former Fargo Cluster Rep.

FAITH STATEMENT: I believe that when God closes a door, he cracks a window somewhere, we just have to be patient to find it. I also believe that I can speak to my Father anywhere, anytime, doesn't matter where I am or what I may be doing, we can have a private conversation. I have had a few "aha" moments in my life, so I know that He is in my life and is watching over me and helping me with all things that go on in my life.

Please send Vita Form to: EaND SWO Secretary, Pam Neumiller, 513 Santa Cruz Drive, Fargo, ND 58103

2018-2019 Board list

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509 Almeron #112
Drayton, ND 58225
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janykoester@gmail.com

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701-460-1190
jhschenfi@gmail.com

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Lisbon ND 58054
701-683-4759
(c) 701-678-3334
(w) 701-683-6219
caradcliffe@bremer.com

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WAHPETON CLUSTER REP.
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(c) 701-793-5647
patricia.groven46@gmail.com

WINTER for Karen Leslie
10936 E Apache #111
Apache Junction AZ 85120

CONNECTIONS
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retzlaff@polarcomm.com