



CONNECTIONS

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWSLETTER

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EaND SWO Prison Ministry Yarn Project Information



Eastern North Dakota SWO is continuing to collect yarn of many types for the Jamestown Regional Correction Center. The above photo is of yarn collected at the 31st Annual Convention of the Synodical Women's Organization held at Red Willow Bible Camp in September 2018. Since then, FIVE 33-gallon bags full have been delivered to JRCC with three more ready to deliver in March—if the weather “behaves itself”!!!

Chaplain Mark Haines expressed his gratitude for all the donations and told Karen Retzlaff, who delivered more yarn to JRCC, that he will cheerfully take as much yarn as is donated by WELCAs in Eastern North Dakota.

He spoke about the sense of pride each inmate feels as sweaters, mittens, caps, scarves, and throws are completed and provided for distribution. This past Christmas, caps, scarves, and mittens were shared by the Salvation Army to needy people in the Jamestown area as well as the entire region. Homeless shelters also received items to keep people warm.

Contact your Cluster Representative for more information or call Karen Retzlaff (701) 326-4235.

Triennial Logo Revealed



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX

At the triennial gathering 2017 closing worship service, the Rev. Angela Khabeb exclaimed: “News flash! Christianity is not comfortable. If you are comfortable in Jesus, you’re doing it wrong.”

Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect, we are often broken, sometimes we don’t fit. Sometimes our edges are

rough—but we are one body in Christ.

The inspiration for Women of the ELCA Gathering logo came as I walked around downtown Phoenix, the site of the 2020 gathering. I noticed a mural outside of the convention hotel. Its collection of broken mirrors, tiles, shards of plates and painted rocks ebbed and flowed in a kinetic frenzy of color and textures.

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST

The mural reminded me of the body of Christ and how we are all misshapen pieces in one glorious and beautiful work of art.

The palette of deep purple and bright green in the new gathering logo is reflective of the scenery of the valley in the Phoenix area. Along the streets of this city, dusty earth tones are punctuated with bright purple flowers and vibrant green cacti. The turquoise color connects to the history of native cultures in Arizona and the southwest region. Red signifies love. The shade of red in our gathering logo is not one of fire or caution, but rather one of joy.

As we embrace the theme “Just love” we remember the words of the Rev. Alexia Salvatierra at the gathering in 2017 in Minneapolis: “I believe that if we follow mercy all the way, go deep into mercy, we end up at justice.”

The Gathering 2020 will be held in Phoenix, Ariz., July 16-19, 2020.

Watch for information about registration on welcatg.org in late summer.

Elizabeth McBride, director for intergenerational programs and editor of Café, designed the Gathering 2020 logo. She has a bachelor of arts degree from Arizona State University and has designed graphics for Women of the ELCA since 2000.

**2018-2019 EaND 3-B Synodical Women's
Organization Board**

Please keep this list for your future reference.

(indicates the end of term & # of terms)

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CONNECTIONS

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President's Message

When I was elected EaND SWO President last September, I was excited and ready to serve! I believe in our women's organization and plans God has for us working in His Kingdom. Then before I left for Chicago on February 22, my thoughts were: "What have I gotten myself into this time!" Satan likes when we doubt what God has called us to do.

The Council of Presidents was so inspiring. The Bible Study workshops and worship renewed and strengthened me.

Thank you to the units that have sent in their constitutions! Last year, as our unit president at Skjeberg Lutheran, I wondered why the SWO wanted a copy. I am so grateful that we found our constitution. Without the SWO asking, we would have a very outdated constitution. Our old constitution was not who we are now. We needed to do lots of updating. I encourage your unit to send yours in to the EaND SWO. You may find the same thing we did; your constitution is very out of date.

I look forward to the Spring Cluster Gatherings. I will make as many as I can. They are all in April and most of them are half days. A representative from the executive board will be at each Cluster Gathering. Has your congregational unit sent in your sponsorship yet? The sponsorship helps pay for Cluster Gathering expenses and the EaND SWO Convention.

Just a few dates to keep in mind: August 17, 2019—Women's Retreat at Maryvale; September 21, 2019—EaND SWO Convention at Trinity Lutheran in Valley City; July 14-16, 2020—Triennial Gathering in Phoenix AZ.

We will be electing Voting Members for the Triennial Convention in Phoenix at the convention in Valley City.

One of my favorite Bible verses is Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Where is the Holy Spirit leading you?

Jan Maurstad
EaND Synodical President

For your Information:

At the EaND SWO Board meeting in January, the Board updated the name for "Devils Lake" Cluster to reflect action taken by the EaND Synod Assembly in 2016 to rename the conference as "Spirit Lake Conference".

This is a more accurate translation of "mni wak'ąŋ, which separately translate as mni (water) and wak'ąŋ (literally "pure source" but often translated as "spirit" or "sacred")—the Dakota name for Devils Lake.

Cluster Information

Fargo Cluster Gathering

rural Norman Lutheran Church
16803 52nd St. SE
Kindred, ND
April 13, 2019
8:30-12:30
Theme: Claim Your Purpose
Speaker: Natalie Dawn Hanson

Grafton Cluster Gathering

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Park River, ND
April 27, 2019
9:00-12:00
Theme: Grow in God's Love

Grand Forks Cluster Gathering

University Lutheran Church
Grand Forks, ND
April 27, 2019
8:30-12:00

Jamestown Cluster Gathering

First Lutheran Church
Litchville, ND
April 6, 2019
9:00-12:00

Mayville Cluster Gathering

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Hillsboro, ND
April 27, 2019
8:30-12:00

Prairie Rose Cluster Gathering

To be announced—Is there a group that would be willing to host? Contact Merilee Eikom (701)270-1909. Watch your mail for updates.

Spirit Lake Cluster Gathering

North Viking Lutheran Church
Maddock, ND
April 6, 2019
9:00-2:00

Wahpeton Cluster Spring Gathering

Trinity Lutheran Church, Lisbon, ND
April 27, 2019
8:30 – 12:00

Today's
Dream:
Tomorrow's
Reality Network



Racial Justice Advocacy * Women of the ELCA
Filling your spirit with light and learning

TDTR Event Held in Fargo

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 time line 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 centered around divisions.

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.

JOIN US for an AREA-WIDE WOMEN'S EVENT

Fresh Grounded Faith

FEATURING JENNIFER ROTHCHILD

Speaker, Best-selling Author & Bible Study Teacher

FRIDAY October 25/SATURDAY October 26

7:00PM-9:30PM / 9:00AM-12:30PM

Co-hosted by Many Area Churches
at Hope Lutheran Church

3636 25th Street South Fargo, ND 58104

Early Bird Special (through Sept. 30, 2019)

\$44 Groups* of 10+ / \$49 Individual

After Early Bird Date (after Sept. 30, 2019)

\$49 Groups* of 10+ \$54 Individual /At Door (if available) \$64 Individual



Connections

**11995 19th St. NE
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Please Note: Update your Unit Mailing Address. If you are no longer president, please pass this on to her. If you are a subscriber, your expiration date is coded with your name, e.g., Jane Doe JA/16 (expires January 2016).

Frequency of Publication Information
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What's Inside?

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Fordville, ND 58231

Permit No. 8

Return Service Requested

Please share the information in this newsletter. Photocopy as needed for your unit members, your bulletin boards, and church newsletters. Don't file this away! It's your message about what is happening in the Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization!

Unit Presidents Information

Save the Date:

Cluster	Dates	Places	Location
Spirit Lake	April 6, 2019	North Viking Lutheran	Maddock
Fargo	April 13, 2019	Norman Lutheran	Davenport
Grafton	April 27, 2019	Our Savior's Lutheran	Park River
Grand Forks	April 27, 2019	University Lutheran	Grand Forks
Jamestown	April 6, 2019	First Lutheran	Litchville
Mayville	April 27, 2019	Our Savior's Lutheran	Hillsboro
Prairie Rose	??	??	??
Wahpeton	April 27, 2019	Trinity Lutheran	Lisbon

Looking Ahead

EaND Synod Assembly	Holiday Inn, Fargo	June 8-9, 2019
7th Annual Women's Retreat	Maryvale rural Valley City	August 17, 2019
EaND SWO 32nd Annual Convention	Trinity Lutheran Valley City	September 2019

Really Looking Ahead—start saving NOW!!!!

11th Triennial Convention (Voting members elected in 2019) Phoenix, AZ	July 14-16, 2020
11th Triennial Gathering (All Women of the ELCA) Phoenix, AZ	July 16-15, 2020