



CONNECTIONS

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWSLETTER
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EaND SWO Board Installed at 31st Annual Convention held at Red Willow Bible Camp



(L-R) Freddie Jordan, Connie Radcliffe, Marlene Arneson, Pam Neumiller, Linda Monge, Patricia Groven, Jan Maurstad, Camilla Stover, Marilee Eikom, Karen Lesliel, Mary Jo Johnson, Frances Omoth-Sallee. (not pictured; Julie Hudson)

Following the election and re-election of members to the Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization, Churchwide Executive Secretary, Freddie Jordan, installed the 2018-19 Board members. Board members are: President Jan Maurstad, Vice President Julie Hudson, Secretary Pam Neumiller, Treasurer Connie Radcliffe, Devils Lake Cluster Rep Frances Omoth-Sallee, Fargo Cluster Rep. Linda Monge, Grafton Cluster Rep Marlene Arneson, Grand Forks Cluster Rep Camilla Stover, Jamestown Cluster Rep Mary Jo Johnson, Mayville Cluster Rep Karen Leslie, Prairie Rose Cluster Rep Marilee Eikom, and Wahpeton Cluster Rep Patricia Groven.

Dr. Jordan also commended the outgoing members of the board for their service. They were Past President Karen Retzlaff, Devils Lake Cluster Rep Darla Thiele, and Wahpeton Cluster Rep Kathy Johnson.



(L-R) Karen Retzlaff, Freddie Jordan, Kathy Johnson, and Darla Thiele

Resolution 1 regarding Cluster Gatherings voted upon at the 31st Annual SWO Convention:
Final vote was 26-21 in favor;
However, the SWO constitution requires 2/3 majority to pass.
Number of votes needed to pass is 32 of 47 votes.

Therefore, the resolution DID NOT pass.

ARTICLE X—BYLAWS AND AMENDMENTS

SECTION 2. Amendments

Item 4. Other amendments to these bylaws shall be submitted to the churchwide Executive Board prior to February 15 or September 15 for review and action. Upon approval, said amendments may be voted on at any duly called regular or special convention by a two-thirds vote of all voting members present, provided that a written notice of the proposed amendment has been given at the previous meeting.

Podium Cover



The EaND SWO podium cover used at the convention was unique. It was a gift from the Central African Republic women a few years ago. It was printed with the theme verse, "Here I Am, Lord" Isaiah 6:8 in Sango, one of the official languages of CAR. This piece of fabric is part of the SWO Board's historical collection, preserved for use at conventions and other SWO events.

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)

PRESIDENT

Jan Maurstad (2020 — 1)
509 Almeron #112
Drayton, ND 58225
Cell 701-331-4814
janykoester@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Julie Hudson (2019 —1))
5551 58th St S
Fargo, ND 58104
701-460-1190
jhschenfi@gmail.com

TREASURER

Connie Radcliffe (2019 —1)
785 Oakridge Dr
Lisbon ND 58054
701-683-4759
(c) 701-678-3334
(w) 701-683-6219
caradcliffe@bremer.com

SECRETARY

Pam Neumiller (2020 —2)
513 Santa Cruz Dr.
Fargo, ND 58103
701-282-7058
(c) 701-200-6035
pknsoft@msn.com

PRAIRIE ROSE CLUSTER REP.

Marilee Eikom (2019—1)
2439 92nd Ave NE
Tolna ND 58380
701-262-4566
(c) 701-270-1909
marilee@gondtc.com

DEVILS LAKE CLUSTER REP.

Frances Omoth-Salle (2020—1)
511 Chapman St/PO Box 65
Lawton, ND 58340
701-240-2429
fomoth@outlook.com

FARGO CLUSTER REP.

Linda Monge (2019 —1)
2309 Evergreen Rd N
Fargo, ND 58102
701-293-9861
(c) 701-2615452
lmonge@msn.com

GRAFTON CLUSTER REP.

Marlene Arneson (2020—2)
10299 Bush Road
Walhalla, ND 58282-0513
(c) 701-520-4652

GRAND FORKS CLUSTER REP.

Camilla Stover (2019—1)
3377 23rd Ave NE
Larimore, ND 58251
(c) 218-791-2678
robcamst@invisimax.com

JAMESTOWN CLUSTER REP.

Mary Jo Johnson (2019 —1)
2513rd St. NE #9
Valley City, ND 58072
701-680-8845
Mary.jo.johnson42@gmail.com

MAYVILLE CLUSTER REP.

Karen Leslie- (2020—2)
12995 11th St NE
Finley, ND 58230
701-524-1276
(c) 701-430-2322
jeromekaren@msn.com

WAHPETON CLUSTER REP.

Patricia Groven (2020—1)
PO Box 275
Hankinson ND 58041-0275
(c) 701-793-5647
patricia.groven46@gmail.com

WINTER for Karen Leslie

10936 E Apache #1111
Apache Junction AZ 85120

CONNECTIONS

Karen Retzlaff (appointed)
retzlaff@polarcomm.com

President's Message

As I write this report, the snow is falling very gently. Just two days before Thanksgiving, and as women we are thinking about the Thanksgiving feast that we will prepare! In scripture, we read again and again to praise God and give thanks. Psalm 61:8 says: I will sing praises to your name, as I pay my offering day after day.

The Synodical Convention was held at Red Willow Bible Camp. It was a beautiful day and we were blessed in song, scripture and testimony. It was a little chilly inside, but we made it through!

The resolution before the convention to combine four clusters together for the spring meeting did NOT pass. At the transitional meeting, we looked at the constitution and the resolution required a two thirds vote to pass.

A big thank you to outgoing President, Karen Retzlaff. She did a wonderful job and I appreciate all her help.

Prayers are needed for our Grafton Cluster Rep., Marlene Arneson. Marlene had a stroke and is now in rehab at Altru Rehab Center, 4500 S Washington, Grand Forks, ND.

Soon Advent will be upon us. May we spend time in scripture and prayer as we wait for the newborn Savior!

Jan Maurstad
Synodical President

Here's an idea for a fast stocking stuffer or meal time favor !

(Borrowed from a Facebook post)

***"As you hold these candies in your hand
and turn them, you will see:***

The M becomes a W, an E, and then a 3.

They tell the Christmas Story, it's one I sure you know.

It took place in a stable a long, long time ago.

The E is for the East where the star shone so bright.

The M is for the Manger where baby Jesus slept that night.

The 3 is for the Wisemen bearing gifts when they came.

W is for Worship. Hallelujah, Praise His Name.

So as you eat these candies or share with your friends.

Remember the meaning of Christmas.

It's a love story that never ends."

As I write the final message as your immediate Past President, I want to thank you for your support during my presidency. Your work as God's Hands in this time and place makes an impact throughout the world. I have enjoyed the past 4 years of getting meet many of you and seeing what you do. God has been so very good and I thank Him for the opportunities that have helped me grow in faith, support you in your callings, and serve others throughout the Eastern North Dakota Synod. I shall continue as editor for Connections and ask that you support your new president Jan as she begins her term of office.

God bless you in the new year!

Karen Retzlaff, Editor



A Chilly. But Inspirational Day

While the day spent at Red Willow Bible Camp turned out to be chillier than expected, those attending received information and a warm glow of knowledge from speakers who shared their stories of responding to God's call with, "Here I am. Lord!"

Pastor Larry Thiele, who presided jointly with Pastor Sherri Frederikson at the opening worship service in the RWBC Chapel, shared his faith story of work at Dakota O'yate Lutheran Church at Spirit Lake. He spoke of his partnership with Pastor Frederikson as they work to build bridges of understanding between their communities. Pastor Frederikson serves in Tri-County Parish which borders Spirit Lake Conference. A retreat was held last spring for teens and parents at RWBC to foster community in Christ's church. Future retreats are under consideration.



A communion service was part of the opening worship service of the EaND SWO annual convention. A welcome was offered by RWBC director, Rick Frederick, representing the host organization, who thanked the women for their support of the outdoor ministry to campers.



The official convention began with a recitation of the purpose statement and call to order by President Karen Retzlaff. She introduced Dr. Freddie Jordan, Churchwide Secretary to the Executive Board. Freddie spoke of various actions by the CWO Board since the Triennial and encouraged those attending to work for justice and to continue to act on behalf of those who have no voice. She com-



mended those who support Lutheran World Relief through quilting, school kits, personal care kits, and all the other projects sponsored.

Katie's Fund was emphasized as well as **Faithful Friends** by Freddie in her talk. She spoke of good stewardship of one's resources whether it is time, talent, or finances. She explained the purpose of each type of stewardship available through Women of the ELCA. (see pages 6-7 for more information).

Pastor Jessica Darty led the Bible study based on the theme verse. She spoke of God's call and where she was led as a result of answering. She encouraged her listeners to hear and respond whenever they are called to act.



Northlands Rescue Mission Director Sue Shirek, keynote speaker, shared stories of homelessness in Grand Forks and the work done on behalf of those who come for shelter and support. She spoke of the number who have been assisted in finding housing, jobs, mental health and physical health support. The success rate has been higher than at any time in the past few years. She thanked the group for their tangible and intangible gifts over the years.



31st Annual Convention In-kind Report



In-kind offerings at the 31st Annual Convention were overwhelming in amounts and uniqueness. Red Willow Bible Camp Chapel areas had piles of items shared generously by EaND congregational units. RWBC received paper products, art supplies, and soaps. Below is a photo of Deanna Fredericks beside a pew laden with supplies for the 2019 camping season.



Pictured to the right are Deanna & Rick Fredericks, Red Willow Bible Camp directors and hosts for the convention. Deanna prepared the registration coffee and the noon luncheon served to the attendees.



Other in-kind recipients included: Dakotah O'yate Lutheran Church, which received many packages of diapers and baby supplies; Northlands Rescue Mission, which received personal care supplies, quilts, and other supplies; and James River Correctional Center, which received many large bags of yarn for the Prison Ministry Yarn Project.

Each of these groups was extremely grateful for these in-kind donations that are so needed for the people they serve.

Chaplain Mark Haines, JRCC, expressed his thanks by telephone and apologized that he had not been able attend the convention. "I'm blown away by the generosity of your women who donated skeins and skeins of yarn for our inmates to create scarves, caps, and mittens for the homeless in our area. They will also make items for infants and children who live in other parts of the world. Your contributions give our men an opportunity to help others by creating items needed," stated Chaplain Haines.

Share the gift of Boldcafe

by Elizabeth McBride, editor of Boldcafe

There's something pretty awesome about going to a cafe. Of course, there's coffee, but besides that, it's a welcoming space whether you are alone or with friends. It's comfortable. It's casual. It's a place for everyone.

Since 2003, Café (<http://boldcafe.org>), Women of the ELCA's on-line space for and with young adult women, has been not only a way for young women of faith to gather with other Lutheran women, it has also been a space for emerging women writers of faith to share their wisdom about life, relationships and more with the world.

As a result of this ministry, young women of faith have formed *Café* groups and joined the Women of the ELCA groups in their congregations. I've even heard of non-Lutheran women joining the church because of their involvement in a *Café* group. *Café* and its writers touch women's minds and spirits in a way nothing else does.

Last month, I was able to connect with the Young Women's Bible study on the campus of Clemson University. I met with Paula Sommerville who leads this group of bold women. She helps arrange weekly meetups. Every Monday evening they connect and share some laughs while discussing articles in *Café*. They especially like the articles on the topic of vocation. My visit with this group taught me two things. For one, Women of the ELCA provides opportunities for young women of faith to connect where they are. And second, students on college campuses and beyond are looking for community and that is something women's groups can help support.

Your generous gift today will help make it possible for *Café* to include an even wider variety of rising women writers. You can **donate** here: boldcafe.org

Let us rejoice by sharing the gift of *Café* with all the women in our lives – with a sampling of some of *Café*'s most popular articles, on the website boldcafe.org this month.

(Share this information with the young women in your congregation—All women are welcome to become a part of this e-magazine group!)

Yarn is still being collected for Prison Ministry at JRCC. If you have yarn piled in a bag or box or closet and have no use for it, please contact your Cluster Representative or any member of your SWO Board. We'll make arrangements to get it to Chaplain Haines. All types of yarn in any amount can be used!

“Walk Humbly with Your God” Sixth Annual Women’s Retreat Held



Welcome from Sister Marlys



***Greetings from Mary Johnson,
Jamestown Cluster Representative***



Connie Radcliffe led the group in a series of yoga type exercises during break times.



***Retreat coordinators,
Connie Radcliffe, Mary
Johnson, Kathy Johnson***



***Delicious luncheon served by staff at
Maryvale.***



Camilla Stover



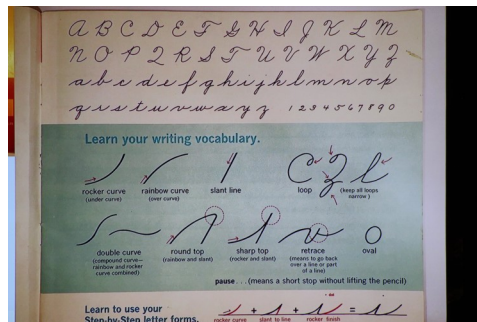
***Songs of inspiration accompanied by Camilla
Stover.***



***Bible study led by Pastor Tammy
Jacobson.***



***Terese Rotenberger, guest speaker, shared her life journey and growth in faith. She
shared her hobby/business of creating beautiful calligraphy.***



KATIE'S FUND : Raising up bold women of faith

Katharina von Bora Luther was a practical and bold woman of faith. Through Katie's Fund, Women of the ELCA honors her life by supporting global connections, leadership development and living theology. Will you help continue Katie's legacy?

Katie's Fund is now more than \$1 million. Women of the ELCA established Katie's Fund in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, raise up bold leaders for the churchwide women's organization, and support bold and creative ministry for generations to come.



The income earned by the *Katie's Fund Endowment*, along with *Katie's Fund Current*, supports ministry in three key areas.

1. *Leadership Development*: providing opportunities for current and future leaders to participate in and further the mission of Women of the ELCA.
2. *Global Connections*: building global partnerships that increase multicultural awareness and promote service.
3. *Living Theology*: nurturing faith through Bible studies, worship experiences and educational theological forums.

These three areas are central to the life of Women of the ELCA. They represent ministries that prepare, nurture and sustain participants as they further the mission of Women of the ELCA: mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Gifts of any size are welcome. Individuals, congregational units and synodical women's organizations are all invited to support Katie's Fund. Options for giving:

Katie's Fund Current — Put your gift to work today. Support active ministry.

Katie's Fund Endowment — Invest for the future. Support the next generation of bold women.

Give today Online at welca.org/katiesfund

By mail ***Women of the ELCA ELCA Gift Processing Center P.O. Box 1809 Merrifield VA 22116-8009***

Katie's Fund is an endowment that supports ministry in three areas: leadership development, global connections, and living theology.

Your gifts to "Katie's Fund" go to the endowment, generating income each year to support ministry. You can also give to "Katie's Fund Current," to support current ministry projects. Your generosity makes a real difference in women's lives. Thank you! Learn more at welca.org/katiesfund

Stewardship on the Synodical Level

Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization is your organization for area and local stewardship opportunities. There are many stewardship ideas available. Some are in-kind—quilting, school kits, health kits, yarn for prison ministry projects, and local projects. Some are monetary—Thankofferings, general offerings, Sponsorships to support SWO events (conventions & cluster gatherings), and other opportunities.

Treasurers are encouraged to submit monetary offerings using forms provided by Connie Radcliffe, EaND SWO Treasurer, to make record-keeping less confusing.

Form A is used for *Regular Offerings, SWO Convention Offering, and Cluster Gathering Offering*. These offerings (as well as *Sponsorships*) are sent to:

Connie Radcliffe, SWO Treasurer
PO Box 1022
Liabon, ND 58054

Form B is used for *Thankofferings* and is sent directly to Churchwide at this address:

Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gifts Processing Center
PO Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Thankofferings

Thankofferings 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 **Thankofferings**.

Your generous Thankofferings help support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization, including our triennial conventions, the work of your elected churchwide board, the annual conference of synodical presidents, our communications ministries, justice and advocacy work, and so much more. See the fall 2018 issue of *Interchange* for more details. You can download the **2018-19 Thankoffering service** now in PDF. It is also available in **Word**.

How Thankofferings work

Many women set aside small amounts at home throughout the year and then bring together their gifts with those of other women at the end of the year. Others organize a Thankoffering service with the whole congregation, using our envelopes and bulletin covers to celebrate the ministries of women in a bold, exciting way. It's all up to you. Order online by clicking the links or call 800-638-3522.

An organized annual service 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 Thankofferings any time the spirit moves us. Download the 2018-19 Thankoffering service as **PDF** or **Word**.

Individuals giving online

Individuals may make Thankofferings online with a credit card.

Individuals giving by mail

Please make out your check to Women of the ELCA and write Thankoffering on the memo line. Then mail it to:

*Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield VA 22116-8009*

Congregational units giving by mail

Please make out your check to Women of the ELCA and write Thankoffering on the memo line. Download and print out a copy of Form B in English or Spanish and fill it out according to the directions on the form. Then mail the check and form to:

*Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield VA 22116-8009*

THANK YOU!

It's been shown time and again that gratitude is good for us – spiritually, mentally, and even physically. Making a Thankoffering is gratitude in action. And Women of the ELCA is grateful to you for taking that action. Thank you.

FAITHFUL FRIENDS

Do you know someone who gives regularly to Women of the ELCA, rain or shine, no matter what? Someone who's a faithful friend and steadfast supporter of the organization we all love? What does the Bible say about people like that?

“Faithful friends are a sturdy shelter; whoever finds one has found a treasure. Faithful friends are beyond price; no amount can balance their worth. Faithful friends are life-saving medicine; and those who fear the Lord will find them.” (Ecclesiasticus 6:14-16)

Sturdy shelter. Beyond price. Life-saving medicine.

Yes, we thought, those phrases certainly describe the many steadfast supporters of Women of the ELCA. So that's what we've named our new giving program: “Faithful Friends.”

“Faithful Friends” is an easy way for you (or your congregational unit or your synodical organization) to give monthly to Women of the ELCA by automatic withdrawal from your checking account or by automatic charge to your credit card.

The “Faithful Friends” program supports the Women of the ELCA General Fund, which makes it possible for your churchwide organization to act quickly and flexibly in response to any need that may arise.

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.



Connections

11995 19th St. NE

Aneta, ND 58212

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).

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*Karen Retzlaff
11995 19th St. NE
Aneta, ND 58212-9271*

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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	
Devils Lake	??	North Viking Lutheran	Maddock
Fargo	??	Norman Lutheran	Davenport
Grafton	April 27, 2019	Our Savior's Lutheran	Park River
Grand Forks	??	??	??
Jamestown	April 6, 2019	First Lutheran	Litchville
Mayville	??	Our Savior's Lutheran	Hillsboro
Prairie Rose	??	??	??
Wahpeton	??	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 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