



News & Notes



Southwestern Minnesota
Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA
Spring 2024

Women of the ELCA Mission Statement

Mobilizing women to act **boldly**
on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Women of the ELCA 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.

Spring Gatherings

April 6 - Great River Conference
8:30 am, Glendorado

April 13 – MN Valley Conference
11:30 am, Grace, Brownton

April 15 – Glacial Ridge Conference
4 pm, Trinity, Benson

April 16 – Lac Qui Parle Conference
9:30 am, Garfield, Madison

April 20 – Crow River Conference
8:00 am, Peace, Cosmos

April 20 – Prairie Conference
9:00 am, Bethany, Arco

April 20 – Shetek Conference
9:30 am, Jasper Lutheran, Jasper

April 25 – Scenic Valley Conference
5 pm, St. Matthew's, Evan



2024 SW MN SWO Convention

When: Saturday, May 4, 2024

Where: Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
301 North Lincoln Street
Redwood Falls, Minnesota

Theme: "Be the Light!"

Theme Verse: Psalm 82:4:

"Rescue the weak and the
needy; deliver them from the
hand of the wicked." NRSV

Time: Registration begins at 8:00

Cost: \$40.00

Pre-Registration is preferred by April 22,
but walk-ins are welcome.

Who should attend?

--1 voting member from each unit
--All others are welcome!

Speakers:

Rev. Heather Culuris,
Synod Minister
Aliyah Ewing, Terebinth Refuge*

Workshops by Pr. Heather and
Emily and Barb Borth

*For more about Terebinth Refuge
see page 2.

In-Kind Offerings

The LWR Focus for this year is
personal care kits, but there is a
need for all kits and quilts. For
more information see
<https://lwr.org/kits>.

*There will be a truck for the
collection of In-Kind Offerings at
the convention.* It will be open
from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Units are asked to bring their In-
Kind offering forms to the
convention or send them ahead of
time to Noreen Beranek at
naberanek@gmail.com. The form
can be found in the convention
publicity packet.

Remember to keep track of other
donations that your unit has made
since the last convention.

Convention Offerings

Offering forms and checks may be
brought to the convention or
mailed to Karen Quistorff ahead of
time.

Offering Objectives:

--50% to Terebinth Refuge
--50% to Churchwide Women

Gifts cards to Target, Walmart,
CVS, and Walgreens will be
collected for the women served by
Terebinth Refuge.

Katie's Cans

Bring your loose change for Katie's
Fund. Cans will be on our tables at
lunch.

SWO Convention Schedule Saturday, May 4, 2024

7:30 – 10:30

Truck Open for In-Kind Offerings

8:00 a.m.

Registration/Coffee/Displays

8:30

Deadline for voting member changes

8:45

Voting Member Orientation/
Opening

9:00

Worship with Holy Communion,
Rev. Heather Culuris officiating

10:00

Plenary Session,
CWO Representative – Maria
Lokensgard, Installation of
New SWO Board Members

12:00 p.m.

Lunch, Katie's Cans Collection

1:00

Gathering Music

1:15

Speaker – Aliyah Ewing,
Terebinth Refuge

2:00

In-Kind Offering Report

2:15 – Workshop 1

Pr. Heather Culuris –
“A Fabulous, Feisty, Faithful
Woman of the Church” and
Emily & Barb Borth – “Exposure”

3:00 – Workshop 2

(Same as above)

3:45 – Announcements, Closing

The complete convention publicity packet has been emailed to unit contacts and/or churches in the synod and will be posted at www.swmnwelca.org.

Terebinth Refuge

Our keynote speaker, Aliyah Ewing, works as a resident/speaker advocate at Terebinth Refuge in the St. Cloud area. Terebinth Refuge is a Christ-centered shelter for victims of sexual exploitation and trafficking. For more information see <https://www.terebinthrefuge.org>.



Welcome to the Board, Barb Borth!

The SWO Board is pleased to welcome Barb Borth as their newest member. Barb was appointed at the January meeting and serves on the Mission Community Committee. She is a member of Atonement Lutheran Church in St. Cloud. She can be reached at mamaborth@gmail.com.

Board Contact Changes

- President Ilene Penk has a new email address. It is: ilenepenk45@gmail.com.
- Karen Quistorff has assumed her duties as treasurer, but her address has changed to:
10704 Co. 95
Sauk Centre, MN 56378



Resources for Women of the ELCA

Women of the ELCA Website:

(Includes a wealth of resources for ministry, action, programming and study)

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org>

Bold Café (online magazine):

<https://www.boldcafe.org/>

Bold Connections (monthly e-newsletter):

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/publications>

Gather Magazine (subscription needed):

<https://www.gathermagazine.org>

Daily Grace (Daily email devotions):

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace>

SW MN Synod Women (Lots of information including *The Communicator* and an updated Speaker List):

www.swmnwelca.org

Dates to Remember

Please keep these dates in mind when planning your unit and conference events!

SWO Convention

Saturday, May 4, 2024
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Redwood Falls, MN

Leadership Training

Saturday, Sept. 7, 2024
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church
Redwood Falls, MN

2025 SWO Convention

Saturday, May 3, 2025
Vinje Lutheran Church
Willmar, MN