

Newsletter of the La Crosse Area Synod Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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### W-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.

“Of All Generations – Grandma, We’ve Grown Up” was the theme of the 2016 W-ELCA La Crosse Area Synod Spring Convention held April 16th at Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church. The 9:00am call to worship was led by Bishop Jim Arends and Pastor Julie Wollman. This year’s event was called to order by President Kathleen Sumrall. Just under 100 people were in attendance.

The Churchwide President’s Representative was Lisa Plorin, a longtime member of New Hope Lutheran Church in Upham, North Dakota. Lisa gave a stirring talk of how the Women of the ELCA is an exciting organization empowered by the Holy Spirit. She encouraged all to look forward to the 2017 Triennial in the Cities as well as engage in the many activities and opportunities the women of the ELCA provides. For ThankOffering this year, she suggests we all pledge \$30 for our almost 30 years of being the ELCA. She also suggested we all pledge \$30 for our regular W-ELCA offerings.

The Keynote Speaker of the convention was Bishop Emerita April Larson. Bishop Larson and her husband Judd have retired to Decorah, Iowa where they serve as interim pastors. The Bishop shared how she was called to be a pastor back in 1972. Women were first ordained by the

Lutheran church in 1970, and Bishop Larson has truly seen the changes in our church throughout the years since.

A beautiful salad luncheon was served and hosted by the women of Westby Coon Prairie Lutheran Church. Fellowship and various displays were made available to all. Following the luncheon the convention continued with the business of our synod's W-ELCA.

The day's events also included "Speakouts" by Sheila Champlin from Sugar Creek Bible Camp, Pastor Ben Morris from Campus Ministry, Sandra Hooser from La Crosse Task Force to Eradicate Modern Slavery who spoke on Human Trafficking, and Cindy Halverson from Lutheran Social Services.

Submitted by Deb Sveen, North Conference Coordinator and  
Mona Van Riper, La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Secretary

### Have you herd?

#### We are on the mooove to stomp out world hunger!

The offering collected at the Spring Convention is to be shared:  $\frac{1}{2}$  to the ChurchWide Organization W-ELCA and the remaining  $\frac{1}{2}$  to be equally divided between La Crosse Area Women of the ELCA's support of the World Hunger "Cow Project" and the Westby Coon Prairie's W-ELCA, who is also supporting the "Cow Project". A total offering of \$1,636.28 was collected.

Our W-ELCA cow will be in the pasture with all the other cows from our congregations at the Synod Assembly at Luther College on June 10-12, 2016.



### In-Kind Offerings from Spring Convention

Our in-kind offering at the Spring Convention was feminine products. The picture is a portion of what we collected! Thank you to all who donated. The products were divided and distributed to local charities in each of the Conferences.

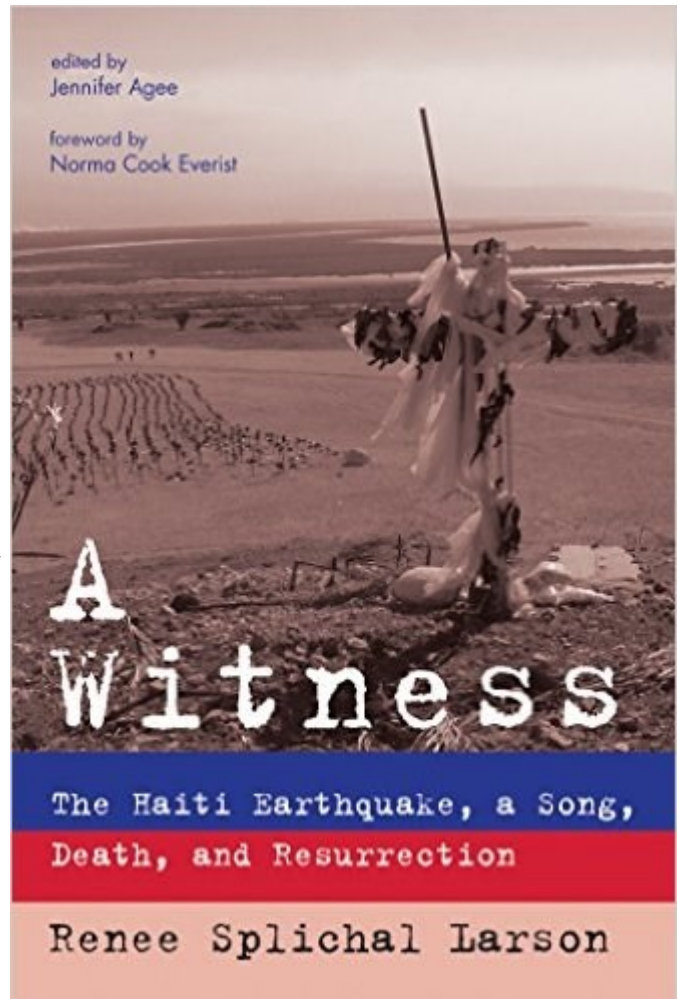
At the Spring Convention, Bishop Emerita April Larson told about her daughter-in-law Renee Splichal Larson's new book that came out in March, [A Witness: The Haiti Earthquake, a Song, Death, and Resurrection.](#)

The 2010 earthquake in Haiti buried Renee Splichal Larson in concrete rubble, killing her husband and leaving her a widow at age 27. Surviving only to be overwhelmed by loss and trauma, she wondered if life was still possible for her. Even as she trained to become a pastor, her faith in a loving God was shaken and battered by the earthquake that devastated Port-au-Prince and took the lives of many thousands.

This is Renee's moving story of love, grief, survival, and new life. It is an account of the lives of three young people, their experience of the challenges, beauty, and hospitality of Haiti, and the tumult that overthrew all they held dear.

After years of struggle and healing, aided by remarkable signs of the love and presence of God, Renee offers us an intimate look at her young romance, her experience of the earthquake, and the journey that followed. Most of all, she proclaims her hard-won witness: that in Christ, love and life conquer death.

The book is available to purchase in paperback or e-book at <http://wipfandstock.com/a-witness.html> or by calling (541) 344-1528 .



## **Mark your calendars:**

**La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Fall Renewal**

**Saturday, October 15, 2016**

**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church**

**La Crosse, WI**

**More information to come in the September issue of Crosswinds**



To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

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### President's Letter

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I pray you are well and that God has blessed all of your activities. Last month we learned about Lydia. An intelligent faithful woman that Paul brought to know Jesus. Today I want to share about Tabitha.

**Acts 9:35-42** Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek means Dorcus); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did. And as it happened at that time she became sick and died; and they washed her body and laid it in an upper room. Since Lydia was near Joppa the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him: "Do not delay in coming to us." So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived they brought him into the upper room, and all the widows stood beside him weeping, and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcus used to make while she was with them. But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes and when she saw Peter, she sat up and he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

I first heard this story in Sunday School and the picture of Tabitha (or Dorcus) was of an old woman. But I do not think she was old, she was a true disciple. Certainly she inspires us all to walk in her footsteps.

Your Sister in Christ,

Kathleen Sumrall



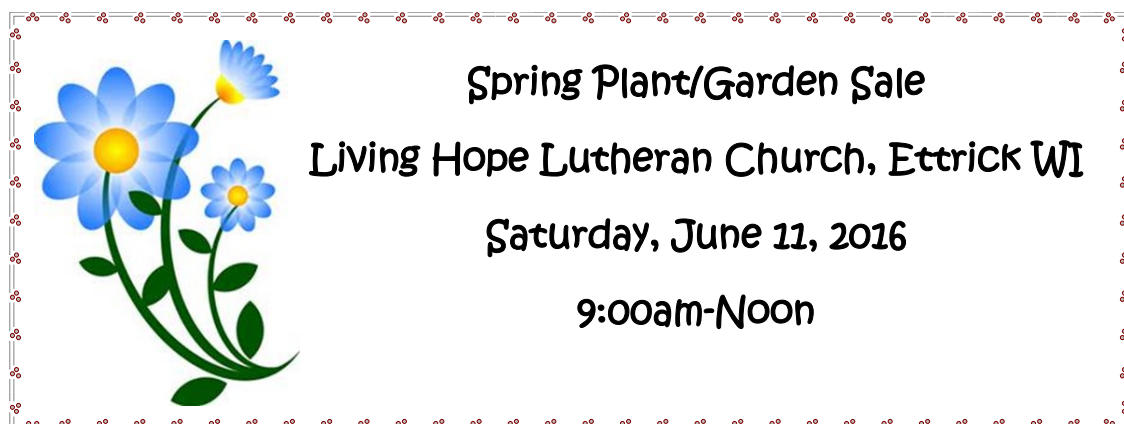
A coloring page to relax and enjoy.



## Upcoming Events

Please make copies of the attached flyers to use in your church newsletters, website, bulletins, bulletin boards, etc. to promote one another's events.

Submit your upcoming events to [monavanriper@gmail.com](mailto:monavanriper@gmail.com) so they can be in future Crosswinds.





**WOMEN OF THE ELCA  
LA CROSSE SYNOD NORTH CONFERENCE  
SUMMER EVENT**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2016

HALFWAY CREEK LUTHERAN CHURCH

W6016 County Rd W, Holmen, WI

8:30 AM Coffee & Registration, \$10.00 covers lunch

9:15 AM Opening Music & Devotion

**Presidential Gardeners Program:**

This presentation will focus on a few of our past U. S. Presidents who were gardeners. You will be surprised at how our country's founding fathers took both pride and pleasure in growing vegetables, herbs, importing exotic plants, and designing elaborate gardens at their homes before and after the time they spent at the White House. Focusing mainly on the efforts of Jefferson, Adams, and Washington, pieces of their personal plant preferences, gardening philosophy, and lasting horticultural legacy will leave you with even more appreciation for these men that formed our country. The session will be led by Carol Labuzzetta, a Bluff Country Master Gardener Volunteer, who has held certification since 2004 and developed a local after-school garden club for students at Evergreen Elementary in Holmen.

**RSVP as soon as possible to Ruth Scholze**

**Call 608-526-3064 or email [escholze@centurytel.net](mailto:escholze@centurytel.net)**

**WEST CONFERENCE SUMMER EVENT**

**POTLUCK SALAD LUNCHEON &**

**HISTORIC HOMES TOUR**

**Wednesday, June 29, 2016**

**11:00am-3:30pm**

Beginning at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

359 N. Leonard Street, West Salem, WI

Purchase tickets at Our Savior's \$5.00; Brochure & Map Available

Please try to carpool from the church

Tour the 2 Octagon Homes 11:00am-Noon

Salad Luncheon Noon-1:30pm; Errol Kindschy will speak on

"Why We're Proud to be from West Salem"

Tour the Hamlin Garland & Thomas Leonard Homesteads 1:30pm-3:00pm

Return to Our Savior's for Strawberry Shortcake

If you don't wish to tour in the afternoon, bring handiwork or join Our Savior's Dorcas ladies in cutting squares and tying mission quilts.

Questions? Call Connie Blunck at 608.786.0684



Salad Luncheon/Bake Sale  
St John's Lutheran Church  
Alma, WI



Friday, July 8, 2016



11:00am ~ 1:00pm  
Everyone Welcome!



Pie and  
Donut  
Sale



Living Hope W-ELCA  
Sunday, August 21, 2016  
during Ettrick Days

## *Hardies Creek Lutheran Church*

invites the women of your church to a presentation by author

*Pastor Kathy Jacobson*

Thursday, July 14, 2016

9:30 a.m.

Hardies Creek Lutheran Church

Pastor Kathy Jacobson recently wrote two books [Noted](#) and [On Another Note](#) and will give a presentation on her work as a female pastor as well as the writing of her books. Books will be available for purchase.

Feel free to invite friends and neighbors in your community to this morning with an author.

[Noted](#): Jillian Johnson has devoted more than two decades of her life to a career in nursing while also being a single mother to her daughter, Marty. Now that Marty is all grown up and pursuing a medical career overseas, Jillian makes the monumental decision to leave her home state of Wisconsin for a new life in Los Angeles. Her true passion is to become a professional writer, and with her mind on that goal, she takes a job as a household helper for the mysterious and reclusive Mr. Romano.

[On Another Note](#): Jillian came within moments of leaving her home, employment and John. He had shown up at the last minute, handing her notes which convinced her to stay and to give love one more chance. Will she be disappointed yet again or has she found the right person to fall in love with this time? And could the one true constant love in Jillian's life throughout the years be in jeopardy?

Kathy J. Jacobson is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa. She has worked counseling troubled youth, has been an at-home Mom, a church youth worker and Christian education coordinator, worked in campus ministry, and for the last twelve years, has served in rural parish ministry. In addition to her work in the church, she volunteers as a hospice chaplain. Kathy resides with her husband in the beautiful "Driftless Area" of southwestern Wisconsin. They are parents of three children, all "twenty-something." Kathy is an avid traveler, having visited forty-nine states and five continents, with most memorable trips to Papua New Guinea, the Holy Land, and Tanzania, East Africa. She enjoys music, theater, reading, biking, walking and hiking, but writing is her passion.

Please RSVP, if possible, to [grvnum@centurytel.net](mailto:grvnum@centurytel.net) or leave a message at 608-582-2381.

# South Conference Summer Event

## Tuesday, August 23, 2016

### at Utica Lutheran Church, rural Ferryville

Registration will begin at 9:00 with coffee and rolls.

Meeting will begin @ 10:00. Campus Ministry Pastor Ben Morris will be our guest speaker. There will be special music after which a lunch will be served.

Plan to attend. Men encouraged to attend also!

Please send checks for \$9.00 to Lois Gardner, 600 Co Hwy B, Viroqua, WI by August 9th. Telephone # (608) 637-2429.

## La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Board Members

<p><b><u>President</u></b></p> <p>Kathleen Sumrall 411 Pearl St. Sparta, WI 54656 608.487.2799 ksumrall@yahoo.com <b>Trinity, Sparta</b> Term Through Spring 2017</p>	<p><b><u>Vice President</u></b></p> <p>JoAnn Salava N5963 Davies Rd. New Lisbon, WI 53950 608.542.0652 jams@mwt.net <b>St. Stephens, Camp Douglas</b> Term Through Spring 2018</p>	<p><b><u>Secretary</u></b></p> <p>Mona Van Riper W5598 County Road D Holmen, WI 54636 608.526.2284 monavanriper@gmail.com <b>Lewis Valley, Holmen</b> Term Through Spring 2018</p>	<p><b><u>Treasurer</u></b></p> <p>Sue Staples W5549 Southdale Dr. La Crosse, WI 54601 608.788.8249 stap@centurytel.net <b>Our Savior's, La Crosse</b> Term Through Spring 2017</p>
<p><b><u>East Conference Representative</u></b></p> <p>Barb Nofsinger 201 Division Street Elroy, WI 53929 608.462.8908 bdelong001@centurytel.net <b>East Lemonweir, Elroy</b> Term Through Spring 2018</p>	<p><b><u>South Conference Representative</u></b></p> <p>Mary Connelly 306 E. Park St. Westby, WI 54667 608.632.9125 duckconnelly@gmail.com <b>Westby-Coon Prairie, Westby</b> Term Through Spring 2017</p>	<p><b><u>North Conference Representative</u></b></p> <p>Ruth Scholze N6692 Johnson Coulee Rd Holmen, WI 54636 608.526.3064 escholze@centurytel.net <b>Halfway Creek, Holmen</b> Term Through Spring 2017</p>	<p><b><u>West Conference Representative</u></b></p> <p>La Verne Ness 106 N. 21<sup>st</sup> Street La Crosse, WI 54601 608.782.1932 lenn@aol.com <b>St. Paul's, La Crosse</b> Term Through Spring 2018</p>
<p><b><u>East Conference Coordinator</u></b></p> <p>Jessica Smith 1528 S Water Street #1 Sparta, WI 54656 608.633.7485 jessparty22@yahoo.com <b>Trinity, Sparta</b> Term Through Fall 2018</p>	<p><b><u>South Conference Co-Coordinators</u></b></p> <p>Ellie Bbye E5622 Jore Road Westby, WI 54667 608.452.3549 Ellie.bbye@silicoonvalley.net <b>Coon Valley Lutheran</b></p> <p>Lois Gardner 600 County Road B Viroqua, WI 54665 608.637.2429 loislane@mwt.net <b>Immanuel, Viroqua</b> Term Through Fall 2017</p>	<p><b><u>North Conference Coordinator</u></b></p> <p>Deb Sveen N24431 Lunde Coulee Etrick, WI 54627 608.525.3000 cmsveen@hotmail.com <b>Living Hope, Etrick</b> Term Through Fall 2017</p>	<p><b><u>West Conference Co-Coordinators</u></b></p> <p>Connie Blunck 104 S. Harmony West Salem, WI 54669 608.786.0684 clcblunck@centurylink.net <b>Our Savior's, West Salem</b></p> <p>Judy Ulland 562 Hickory Lane La Crescent, MN 55947 507.895.2215 jkulland@acegroup.cc <b>Prince of Peace, La Crescent</b> Terms Through Fall 2018</p>
<p><b><u>Synod Office Contact</u></b></p> <p>For updates or requests: Synod Office 2301 South Avenue La Crosse, WI 54691 608.788.500 www.lacrosseareasyndod.org</p>	<p><b><u>Board Member at Large</u></b></p> <p>Joan Gardner W21730 Lisa Lane P.O. Box 663 Galesville, WI 54630 608.582.1151 joangardner142@hotmail.com <b>Zion, Galesville, WI</b> Term Through Spring 2016</p>		<p><b><u>Local Triennial Representative for La Crosse Area Synod 2017</u></b></p> <p>JoAnn Salava N5963 Davies Road New Lisbon, WI 53950 608.542.0652 jams@mwt.net <b>St. Stephens, Camp Douglas</b></p>

## About the Newsletter...

The Crosswinds is published by the La Crosse Area Synod – Women of the ELCA. The President (or contact person) and the Treasurer (or financial recorder) of each unit should receive a copy. Units are encouraged to e-subscribe for the balance of their officers/ members. Please include any other interested parties' email address so that they may receive an electronic copy of the Crosswinds to [monavanriper@gmail.com](mailto:monavanriper@gmail.com)

Please report your officer list yearly so that we can maintain a correct emailing list.

Beginning 2016, subscription of printed Crosswinds will be available for \$5.00 per year. Checks payable to La Crosse Area Synod

WELCA and sent to Sue Staples, Treasurer, W5549 Southdale, La Crosse, WI 54601.

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### Submission/Mailing dates for future Crosswind publications:

Submission of Articles:	Emailing to Patrons:
<b>08/15/2016</b>	<b>09/01/2016</b>
<b>11/15/2016</b>	<b>12/01/2016</b>
<b>02/15/2017</b>	<b>03/01/2017</b>
<b>05/15/2017</b>	<b>06/01/2017</b>

## Crosswinds Newsletter

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To: