

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

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.





Hello Wonderful Women of the ELCA,

It's less than a month until the Fall Renewal! This year has flown by! The Fall Renewal is on October 19, at St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in Prairie du Chien.

Our keynote speaker will be Chaplain Ann Wales from the La Crosse County Jail Ministry.

We'll have the BOOK SWAP table for all the book lovers out there.

When we break into our conferences at the Renewal, North Conference and South Conference will need to pick/find/ volunteer women to the Conference Coordinator positions. (Both North and South are in need of Conference Reps too!) A job description is on page 4 of this newsletter.

And, we will try our best to provide ample time for fellowship and interaction to share ideas, etc.

Peace & Love, Mona Van Riper, Crosswinds Editor

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

God's blessings, Women of the La Crosse Area Synod!

If you're like me, I've been looking forward to fall; however, this week summer showed us it's still too early to get out our sweaters, and put away those pedal pushers. We shouldn't be surprised! When I was teaching, the first couple weeks in September usually managed to climb into the 90's, so why should it be any different now that I've retired? Summer clings on, just as winter does in the spring. But...**Fall Renewal is around the corner!**

The ladies on your WELCA board have been busy putting together a day of learning, devotion, and fellowship that will call you into renewed ministry. Ann Wales, chaplain at the La Crosse County Jail, will share her experiences and insight into the workings of our local justice system. A speaker from Lutheran World Relief is penciled in but not yet confirmed. Missy Erickson, who was part of the synod delegation to Peru this summer, jumped at the chance to speak to our gathering. I think you will enjoy her energy and enthusiasm. We are also in the process of confirming a presentation from the new LuMin Campus Minister as well as a representative from Sugar Creek Bible Camp.

North and South Conferences are in need of Representatives and Coordinators. Representatives attend board meetings with a voice and vote, and help plan our Spring Convention and Fall Renewal. Coordinators are not required to attend board meetings; however, if they attend, they have a voice, but no vote. They help with registration at Spring Convention and may plan a conference social gathering. Please prayerfully consider whether you or someone in your conference might be able and willing to fill these positions.

God is calling us to gather at **St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church in Prairie du Chien on Oct. 19, 2024**. Registration and fellowship will begin at 8 a.m. and we'll adjourn about 2 p.m. Whichever route you decide to travel, it's bound to be a pleasant journey. There's a Great River Road on both sides of the Mississippi River, or maybe you'll travel over hill and dale. Whichever way you choose, I'm hoping for a brilliant autumn display of fall's finest colors, courtesy of God, our Creator.

Though it feels as though I'm still processing the 2023 Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, I'm also looking forward to the **13th WELCA Triennial Gathering that will be in Des Moines, Iowa from July 16-19. 2026**. A Mapquest search reveals that Des Moines is only about four hours away, a very doable bus ride or car trip. Registration doesn't begin until July 2025, but we can put it on our calendar, because we all know that anticipation is definitely part of the joy of any event! No theme has been announced yet, but when Joy Michalski spoke at our Spring Convention this year, she told me that she was on the committee that chose Des Moines. One of the deciding factors was how many bathrooms a site had. Interesting; very interesting!

Within the pages of this Crosswinds, be sure to find the **LWR form** telling how many quilts, etc. your congregation has donated this past year. **Bring the form with you to Fall Renewal.** Also, if you put your milkweed seeds away in a safe spot, now might be the time to sow them in your garden. We'll have another reminder about that at Fall Renewal also.

The Book Swap table will be set up, so please bring books to trade. Bring some; take some.

The Board is planning a special event that will be announced at Fall Renewal, so hope you can come and join the fun! The ladies at St. Peter are ready to welcome you!

In God's amazing grace! Anita M. Jensen President, La Crosse Area Synod WELCA

2024 Fall Renewal Registration Form

October 19, 2024

St. Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

201 S. Michigan Street Prairie du Chien, WI 53821 (608) 326-6411

8:30 am Registration - 2:00 pm Closing of Convention

Congregation Name_____ Conference_____

	1) Nam	e		
Unit Officer?		Title	Special Diet &/or Childcare	
	2) Na	ame		
Unit Officer?		Title	Special Diet &/or Childcare	
	3) N	ame		
Unit Officer?		Title	Special Diet &/or Childcare	
	4) Na	ime		
Unit Officer?		Title	Special Diet &/or Childcare	
	5)N	ame		
Unit Officer?		Title	Special Diet &/or Childcare	

Mailed registration with \$15 per person must reach the treasurer by **October 10, 2024.** Make checks payable to **La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA**. Send forms and funds to Jodi Anderson, W2875 Anderson Road, Mindoro WI 54644.

After October 10, registration **MUST** be made by phone, (608) 857-3550. The fee remains \$15 per person with monies **payable at the convention**. The U.S. mail is not timely enough to guarantee funds being received in a timely manner. Checks should be still be **payable to La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA**.

Mission Statement

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

Mona's version of the Job Description for a Conference Coordinator:

- 1. Is the Liaison between the W-ELCA board and the conference;
- 2. Is not a voting member on the board; but, is encouraged to attend board meetings;
- 3. Organizes conference events (example would be a Summer Luncheon);
- 4. Works the Registration Desk at the Spring Convention and the Fall Renewal; and
- 5. Possibly make a monthly or quarterly newsletter for the units in the conference

The Conference Representatives shall

- a. Act as presiding officer of the Conference Committee
- b. Attend Synodical Women's Board meetings as a voting member.
- c. Act as a liaison between the individual units and the Synodical Women's Board.
- d. Work with the Synodical Women's Board and Conference Committee to plan the Fall Renewals.
- e. Plan with the Conference Committee, a special event for conference members. Conference programs could include retreats, a Bible study, a day trip, etc.
- f. Insure any necessary business of the conference is conducted at the Fall Renewal and/or special event.
- g. Submit articles to the synod newsletter, "Crosswinds" as appropriate.
- h. Chair the nominating committee for conference officers.
- i. Compile a notebook of minutes and events to give to your successor at the transition meeting.

The following information is from the W-ELCA Churchwide in Chicago.

WHAT IS AN ACTIVE UNIT?

A unit must commit to four items in order to be recognized as active:

- 1. Come together for study, support, and action.
- 2. Participate in the ministry of W-ELCA beyond the congregation.
- 3. Support financially the total program of W-ELCA.
- 4. Designate leadership that shall be in communication with the synodical and Churchwide women's organization.

W-ELCA Units'

Projects Completed from November 2023 through September 2024

Item made	Number made	Donated to	Season most items are made
Quilts			
Personal Care Kits			
School Kits			
Baby Care Kits			
Fabric Kits			
Other:	Number made	Other than LWR (which is above) who were they donated to	

Church Name	Conference
Contact Name	Phone

Please bring this completed form to the Fall Renewal on 10/19/2024, and hand it in at the registration table. If you won't be attending the Fall Renewal, please mail the completed form to send this completed form of projects (quilts, kits, other... for Lutheran World Relief and/or other missions) to Leslie Peterson N9692 2nd Ave, Camp Douglas, WI 54618.

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Message from Bishop Eaton

As we prepare for the upcoming election season, I commend this guide to you and your congregation. This church understands government as a means through which God works to preserve creation and build a more peaceful and just social order in a broken world.

WE ARE CHURCH. Centered on the cross, nourished by word and sacraments, we find our life and strength. The ELCA social statement The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective guides our public speech and ethical actions as the church in the world. In it we commit to "work with and on behalf of the poor, the powerless, and those who suffer, using [this church's] power and influence with political and economic design making bedies to develop and educate policies that each to add



decision-making bodies to develop and advocate policies that seek to advance justice, peace, and the care of creation."

WE ARE LUTHERAN. As Lutherans, we affirm God's presence in all realms of life, including political life. When we pray to God to give us our daily bread, Luther reminds us, this includes "everything that pertains to the regulation of our domestic and our civil or political affairs." We understand that Christians are called to be stewards of our common life through serving as faithful and active citizens.

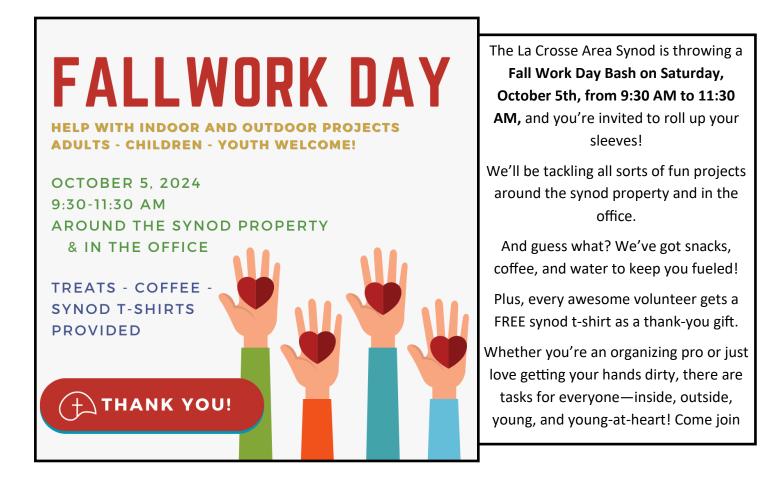
WE ARE CHURCH TOGETHER. As church together the ELCAvotes initiative serves to educate, equip and encourage discipleship through participating together in the electoral process. Casting our ballots is one way in which we live out our affirmation of baptism to "serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus." We strive for justice and peace in all the earth and serve our neighbor by securing and expanding voting rights to ensure that all voices are valued, and every voice is heard.

WE ARE CHURCH FOR THE SAKE OF THE WORLD. The ELCA is a church called by Jesus Christ to be a public witness to the love of God poured out for all. In 2013, the ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted a social policy resolution titled "Voting Rights to All Citizens." This resolution calls on members, congregations and synods of the church to "promote public life worthy of the name" by speaking out as advocates, engaging in local efforts such as voter registration and supporting legislation to "guarantee the right to vote to all citizens." We live out our mutual responsibility for one another by guaranteeing our neighbor's right to vote and participate freely and fully in society. This guide will be a useful tool for you and your ministries as you wrestle with faithful responses to difficult issues in this election cycle and those to come. Remember that voting is only one action toward faithful civic participation; many more opportunities to use your voice on behalf of those in need are available at www.elca.org/advocacy.

May the Holy Spirit guide you as you consider how to use the voice given to you by God and the vote given to you by this country.

God's peace, Elizabeth A. Eaton Presiding Bishop Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Hurry! Read these quickly!! The events are happening THIS weekend, October 5 & 6:



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH MISSION FEST DINNER SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024 <u>DRIVE-UP ONLY</u> 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM **\$15.00** <u>ADVANCE TICKET SALES ONLY</u> MEATBALLS, MASHED POTATOES & GRAVEY, CORN, COLE SLAW, CRANBERRY SALAD, DINNER ROLL NEED A TICKET? CALL NALANI BEVER (608-387-2311) LORI BRUEGGEN (608-435-6512) EMAIL <u>wiltonchurch@gmail.com</u> Facebook: St Paul's Lutheran Church Wilton WI ST. PAUL'S MEMBERS ALSO HAVE TICKETS

Pie and Ice Cream Social

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024

12pm-3pm

Bells Coulee Lutheran Church



We will be serving . . .

Pie with ice cream and a beverage*	\$5.00
Pie and a beverage*	\$4.00

Light lunch items—BBQ and Hot Dogs for additional cost

*<u>beverages</u> include coffee or lemonade Then Shop at the Country Store and Bake Sale

and the second

All proceeds go to WELCA ministries.

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA SPRING CONVENTION 2025

Would your church like to host the Spring Convention. If so, let a W-ELCA Synod Board Member know.



Fall Renewal 2024 In-Kind Offering

Our in-kind offering on the 19th will be adult sized new and/or used fleece blankets.

Please see information on page 16 of this Crosswinds.





The Lutheran World Relief Semi-Trailer Load will be in La Crosse on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 7:00am to 11:00am, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 4141 Mormon Coulee Road.

The Semi-Trailer will be in La Crosse to load all LWR Quilts, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, Fabric Kits, AND School Kits that have been made and gathered in our synod.

Looking for a new idea for your W-ELCA group? Brianna Iverson suggested this:

Here is a new curriculum through Illustrated Ministries.

It has a curriculum focused on Women of the Bible. It says it's a youth curriculum, but some WELCA groups might be interested in it or interested in using something from it in a crossgenerational manner to connect with young ladies in their congregations.

https://

www.illustratedministry.com/ youth?fbclid=IwY2xjawE8U-5leHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHRpWuHVtPU6I15uaQ1azzXZyByIm 2kSI3KFI7NbkiqY8uEtJPqONV7tV Rw aem gwsIax1wsdkQwrmQW 5lyMg

COOKIES ON CAMPUS NEEDS YOUR HELP!!

The tradition continues!! of bringing hundreds of cookies to UW-La Crosse each week throughout the school year.

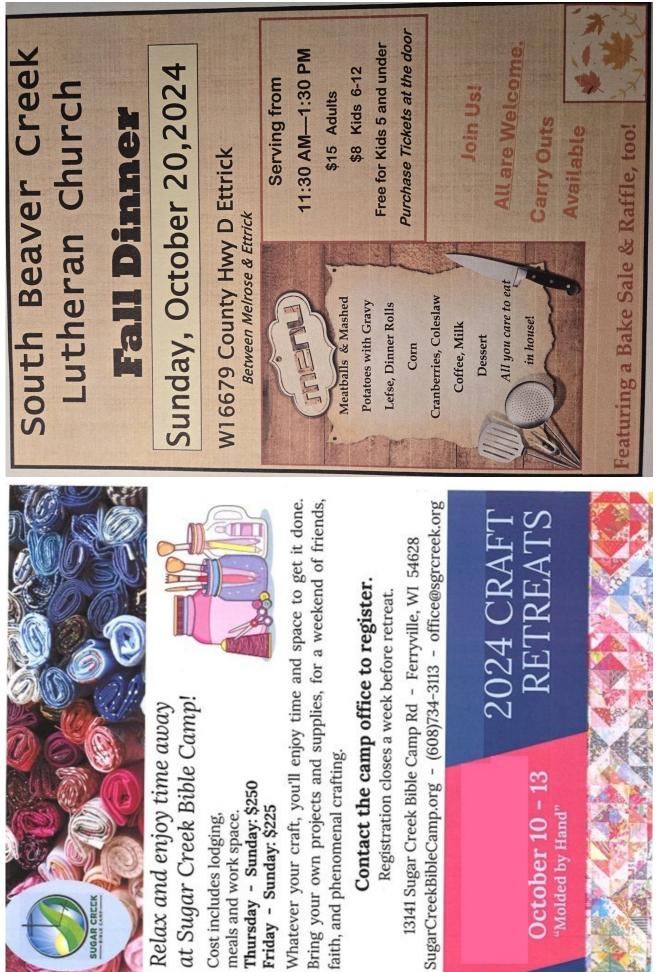
Five hundred (about 42 dozen!) cookies are needed each week.

Our synod congregations have lovingly provided home-baked goodies so students Can have a little taste of home.

The cookie slots are all full for

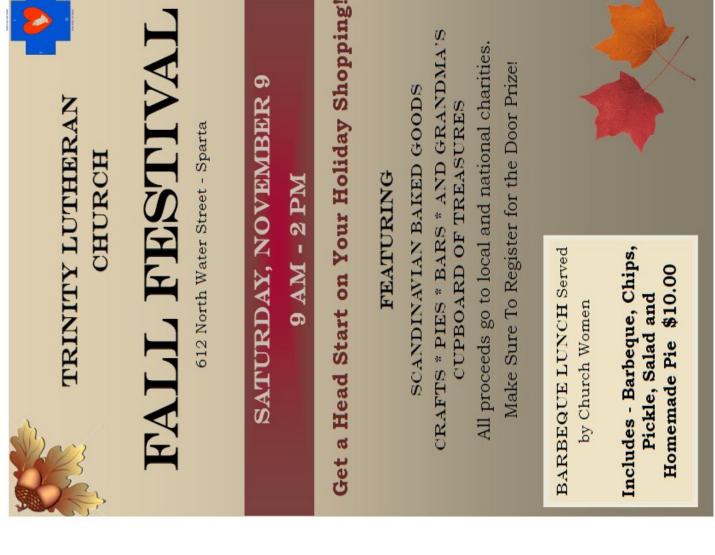


October but there will be openings to sign up in November – May.



Lewis Valley Lutheran Church W5402 County Road V, Holmen (Stevenstown), WI 54636	Mission Fest Sunday October 20, 2024 10:00am Worship Guest Speaker, Kathryn Thompson from Lutheran Campus Ministry - La Crosse	Mission Fest Dinner Menu: Meatballs, Gravy, Mashed Potatoes, Lefse, Rutabagas, Green Beans, Coleslaw, Cranberries, Buns, Apple Pie, Pumpkin Pie, Milk, Coffee	11:00am - 1:00pm Dine-In, Drive-Thru, and Carry-Outs \$15.00	Pre-orders Only <i>Pre-order for all Dine-In,</i> <i>Drive-Thru, and Carry-Outs by October 13, 2024.</i>	All proceeds will go to local and global missions. Call Mona at 608-857-3474 to reserve your dinner.
Come and Eat!	Wilmington Church Dinner Sunday, October 20th 10:30 - 1:00 pm @ Spring Grove Fest Building Drive through only	Beef Tips in Gravy Mashed Potatoes Corn	Dinner Roll & Lefse Cranberry Relish & Apple dessert \$15 per meal	Sponsored by Wilmington Lutheran Church with support from Thrivent Financial Proceeds go toward local and worldwide charities and church improvements.	We hope to see you there!







LWR SCHOOL KIT BAGS

THERE WILL BE SCHOOL KIT BAGS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE AT THE FALL RENEWAL ON 10/19/2024 AND AT THE 2025 SPRING **CONVENTION.**

EASY DIRECTIONS TO ST. PETER FALL RENEWAL:

There are three round-abouts in a row in Prairie. On the second round-about,

take the first right onto East Wisconsin, go two blocks and turn left onto

North Michigan. Go one block and you're there!

Our Savior's Lutheran in La Crosse supports a consistent flow of individuals experiencing homelessness, with some attending Come for Supper, others seeking refuge from the rain, and some finding rest near our entrance. Our Savior's offers assistance within their means and capabilities. The most



Fleece Blankets

Needed

at Our Savior's in La Crosse, WI

common request they receive is for blankets, and while they have some available, their supply of fleece blankets is dwindling. Therefore, **Our Savior's is reaching out for donations of new or gently used fleece blankets.** These blankets are primarily **needed by adults,** so they kindly ask that donations exclude children's blankets or prints

The Women's Clothes Closet, also at Our Savior's, is in need of like-new women's scrubs in all sizes.

The Quilts and Kits that we make for Lutheran World Relief mostly go overseas, but they also stay right here in the USA. Below is an article from LWR.

The Rev. Joshua Messick, an Episcopalian minister and chaplain, is the executive director of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center. The center welcomes, supports and advocates for crews at the port every day during normal circumstances. Following the Key Bridge collapse, they became the primary point of contact for aid and support — making them an ideal partner for managing the distribution of your LWR Quilts & Kits.

And these supplies were a big hit. Rev. Messick explained, "Most seafarers are men. They tend to have [one] towel, and they tend to not be able to wash them as much as they want to, because fresh water is quite the commodity when you're surrounded by saltwater. So, their towels get really grungy. **You'd think we've handed them a bar of gold when we give them these Personal Care Kits.** Because it's got everything they don't think about needing until they don't have it. And the towels in particular have been an incredible gift."

COMFORT AND SUPPORT FOR SEAFARERS FAR FROM HOME

In total, more than 150 quilts and Personal Care Kits were distributed across seven ships.

One was the JY River, a coal carrier whose crew hasn't been home since July 2023.

"A seaman's life is very difficult," says Zhu Cong Xiang, 59, the ship's crew master. "It's a long time away from family."

The JY River arrived in Baltimore on March 23 and was scheduled to depart for Singapore on March 26. The crew awoke that morning to chaos in the port and news that their departure was delayed indefinitely.

The 19-person crew was thrilled to receive their LWR Quilts & Kits on delivery day. On the same day, they also welcomed a fresh shipment of drinking water and a cake to celebrate the birthday of one of the crew members. In addition to the supplies, they also expressed gratitude that strangers would offer them kindness and a friendly face after so many weeks of waiting and uncertainty.

Hu Xin Peng, 37, the ship's chief officer says he's looking forward to returning home to China later this summer because he misses his wife and baby. His son was born last May and was only two months old when Peng embarked on this trip. The Key Bridge disaster added an extra six weeks to his journey, and **he is looking forward to wrapping his son in his new quilt when he gets home.**

Rev. Messick says, "On behalf of the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center, and all of the seafarers that we have been able to serve over this last month, **thank you for your generous donation**. It has meant so **much to the men who have been stuck here this whole time**. They have been so thankful and appreciative of everything that you've done."

Until your love reaches every neighbor.

La Crosse Area Synod W-ELCA Board Members

	~	
VICE-PRESIDENT	SECRETARY	TREASURER
Holly Anderson 1111 E. Olson Street Blair, WI 54616 608-864-1340 hmanderson0507@ gmail.com Blair Lutheran Term through Spring 2026	Leslie Peterson N9692 2nd Ave Camp Douglas, WI 54618 608-542-0245 Lpete1994@hotmail.com St. Peter's Shennington Term through Spring 2026	Jodi Anderson W2875 Anderson Road Mindoro, WI 54644 608-857-3550 jodidusty@gmail.com Mindoro Lutheran Term through Spring 2025
West Conference <u>Representative</u>	<u>North Conference</u> <u>Representative</u>	<u>South Conference</u> <u>Representative</u>
Representative Needed Term through Spring 2026	Representative Needed Term through Spring 2025	Mary Connelly 306 E Park Street Westby, WI 54667 608-632-9125 duckconnelly@gmail.com Westby-Coon Prairie, Westby Term through Spring 2025
<u>West Conference</u> <u>Coordinator</u>	<u>North Conference</u> <u>Coordinator</u>	<u>South Conference</u> <u>Coordinator</u>
Kay Snuggerud 5474 County 21 La Crescent, MN 55947 snugvale@acegroup.cc Prince of Peace, La Crescent Term through Fall 2025	Coordinator Needed Term through Fall 2026	Coordinator Needed Term through Fall 2026
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	1111 É. Olson Street Blair, WI 54616 608-864-1340 hmanderson0507@ gmail.com Blair Lutheran Term through Spring 2026 West Conference Representative Needed Term through Spring 2026 West Conference Coordinator Kay Snuggerud 5474 County 21 La Crescent, MN 55947 snugvale@acegroup.cc Prince of Peace, La Crescent Term through Fall 2025 LIAISON TO SYNOD ELCA JoAnn Salava N5963 Davies Road New Lisbon, WI 53950 608-542-0652 jams@mwt.net St Stephen's,	Holly AndersonLessie Peterson1111 E. Olson StreetBlair, WI 54616608-864-1340N9692 2nd Avehmanderson0507@gmail.comgmail.comBlair LutheranTerm through Spring 2026ShenningtonWest ConferenceNorth ConferenceRepresentativeRepresentativeNeededTerm throughSpring 2026Spring 2025West ConferenceRepresentativeRepresentativeNeededSpring 2026Spring 2025West ConferenceCoordinatorKay SnuggerudSpring 2025Kay SnuggerudCoordinatorSt74 County 21La Crescent, MN 55947La Crescent, MN 55947Snugvale@acegroup.ccPrince of Peace, La CrescentCoordinatorFall 2025Secont Spring 2026JoAnn Salava Ns963 Davies RoadMona Van RiperW5963 Davies Road New Lisbon, WI 53950 608-542-0652Mona Van RiperNew Lisbon, WI 53950 jams@mwt.netMona Van RiperSt Stephen's,Lewis Valley,

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 an electronic copy. Please include any other interested parties' email addresses so they may receive an electronic copy of the Crosswinds also. Send email addresses to monavanriper@gmail.com

Please report your officer list yearly so that we can maintain an up-to-date email list.

Subscription of printed Crosswinds are available for \$5.00 per year. Checks payable to La Crosse Area Synod WELCA and sent to Jodi Anderson, Treasurer, W2875 Anderson Road, Mindoro, WI 54644.

Submission/Mailing dates for future Crosswind publications:

Submission of	Emailing to
Articles/Info:	W-ELCA:
02/15/2025	03/01/2025
08/15/2025	09/01/2025

With the Crosswinds being published only two times a year now, please watch for important emails that may be sent/received between Crosswinds. It may be a short email, with or without an attachment, but know that it is important. Please let all the Women of the ELCA know what is happening.

Crosswinds Newsletter

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To:

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