



# SWMN WOMEN OF THE ELCA SPEAKER LIST

Fall 2017 edition

## SUMMARY

Please use these contacts for your future Spring Gatherings, special events or any other speaker needs. We have vetted all speakers, and they agree to be on this list for the 2017-2018 year.

**SWMN WELCA Board**  
2017

**Daniel Bowman**

Pastor of Hawk Creek and Rock Valley churches

Main Phone: 3207652547

Cell Phone: 4026994972

Email: dbowman@hcinet.net

**Multiple Programs Available**

1. Lefse Catechism: Lessons from Lefse - a review of the Lefse Catechism that ties together a presentation of the Gospel as seen through lefse.

2. Lefse Days - instructions on how to make lefse (beginner and advanced classes available). Get the church people together for a fun afternoon of making lefse and selling it for some charity determined by the church.

3. Lefse Liturgy - a complete worship service that utilizes parts of the Lefse Catechism to share the Good News. Option: May celebrate communion using lefse.

4. Program utilizing the sounds of the musical saw incorporating hymns and classical tunes. Lent and Advent are two favorite times for a program. I will often tie in my experiences on the mission field sharing the remarkable story of how God called my father and mother to missionary service in Japan and used them to bring the hope of Christ to the people there. (Can use the Lefse Catechism as a part of this program)

5. Mission program on our partnership with the Southeastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. Traveled to SA with a group of SWMN Deans in October 2012.

6. The story of Hawk Creek Lutheran Church. In 2016, tragedy struck the congregation of Hawk Creek resulting in a total loss of their church. They have gone through the stages of loss and grief together and have worked to rebuild.

*Cost: Mileage, plus optional donation*

*Musical program option*

**Kari Beran**

Pro Kinship for Kids  
1400 S State St  
New Ulm, MN 56073  
Main Phone: 5073592445  
www.prokinship.org

**Kinship Mentoring**

Pro Kinship for Kids is a non-profit organization established in 1988. The main goal of Pro Kinship is to help a young person who has lost a parent, needs help improving self esteem or help improving their socialization skills. Learn more about Pro Kinship for Kids mission and values and how you can find ways to help the young people in your life.

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**Lenae Bulthuis**

Prinsburg, MN  
Main Phone: 3208944975  
Email: lenaebulthuis@gmail.com  
lenae@gemsgc.org

**Multiple Topics Available**

Lenae writes The Back Porch, musings about faith, family and farming from the back porch of her corn, bean and sugar beet farm in west central MN. In addition to writing her column, Lenae is the curriculum writer and training manager for GEMS Girls' Clubs.

She was the guest speaker for the 2016 SWMN WELCA Conventions where she spoke on the theme "Gathered in Grace"

*Cost: Negotiable*

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**Carol & Lavern Christianson**

685 Verona Ave  
Windom, MN 56101  
Main Phone: 5078314549  
Email: christil@windomnet.com

**Creating a Liturgical Environment with Banners**

American Lutheran Church of Windom has a strong banner ministry. Usually 5 different banners are displayed for each season of the church year. In addition, banners are hung for many of the festival Sundays. Through a powerpoint presentation and showing several of the church's banners, the presenters will explain the banner ministry at ALC. Carol has led the banner ministry for 35 years. She was a teacher at Windom Schools ECFE. Lavern was a teacher at Windom High School and a trained lay minister through the SW MN Synod Faith Builders program.

**Lavern Christianson**

685 Verona Ave

Windom, MN 56101

Main Phone: 5078314549

Email: [christil@windomnet.com](mailto:christil@windomnet.com)

**The Star of Bethlehem**

The Star of Bethlehem is an important element in the visit of the wise men to the Christ child. But what was it? Three possible explanations have been made. 1) A divine act of God; 2) an unusual astronomical event; or 3) a literary device by the author of Matthew to place emphasis on the importance of this event. Noted astronomer, Karlis Kaufmanis, starting with the Bible story of the star, searched the star maps for the Middle East at the time that Christ was born for any astronomical events that would fit with the scriptural story. Kaufmanis shared his lecture on this topic thousands of times. This presentation utilizes the Biblical story, the lecture of Kaufmanis, and documented historical facts to tell the story of the Star of Bethlehem. This program offers ideas to ponder, but the actual story remains for you to interpret as you believe it to be.

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**Tera Elness**

Windom, MN 56101

Main Phone: 5078223377

Email: [ktelness@windomnet.com](mailto:ktelness@windomnet.com)

<http://www.teraelness.com>

**One Girl's Faith Journey**

What Tera will bring to your event:

- Hope and encouragement for today's woman
- Teachings and truths that transform hearts and lives
- Humor and excitement for the journey
- God's grace and love abundant

Tera's Topics:

- The Value of a Story
- A Woman, a Well, and a Wealth of Worth
- Rest, Refresh and Renew
- What are You Hungry For?
- God, Grace and Girlfriends
- Mary, Martha and My Time with Jesus
- Facing Forgiveness
- Facebook, Twitter and the Approval Trap
- Purposeful Pouring - Filling up to Pour Out
- Customized talk for your event!

*Cost: Varies depending on length of talk, number of sessions and duration of event, plus mileage*

**Deb Hadley**

KT Inspirations

Alexandria, MN

Main Phone: 5072274220

Email: kthumblehearts@gmail.com

www.debhadley.com

**Faith, Hope and Encouragement**

My Amazing Life is Deb's most sought after keynote. Everyone has or will have adversity in their life at one time or another. It is how we handle our adversity that defines who we are. Deb will share with you her journey of losing two children, and how she is able to handle these tragedies with grace and humility and bring good from her hardships. Deb believes that despite your circumstances you can still have an amazing life. She will make you cry, laugh, and give you hope for and amazing future...

*Cost: \$500, but can be negotiated*

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**Trudy Hartman**

Hallelujah Hooligans

Baltic, SD

Main Phone: 6052612360

Email: olebuster@alliancecom.net

**Multiple Programs Available**

Beauty in Pieces - Our own unique gifts all put together in a beautiful tapestry showing Christ's love

Be a DUCK - Discover unique Christian kindness

Musical Program - We are a praise band made up of members from a variety of area churches. We love to sing our praises to our Lord. Instrumentally, we have several guitars, base, mandolin, banjo, variety of percussion. And a lot of voices! We play some original, old time gospel, contemporary. We are so blessed to be able to do what we do. Also do some ministry and some pulpit supply as called upon.

Why Hallelujah? It's obvious - we love to sing praise and make a joyful noise for our Lord!

Why Hooligans? Like the disciples, we come from a variety of un-assuming backgrounds. We get carried away, once in awhile! If you ever saw us practice!

*Cost: Free-will donation or offering*

*Musical program option*

**Marie Henriksen**

101 E Laurel St

Arco, MN 56113

Main Phone: 5074875727

Email: mhenriksen@frontiernet.net

**Multiple Topics Available**

1. Joy and Laughter: Physical and Mental Health - Joy is one of the gifts of the spirit. Besides being a part of our relationship to God, joy is important for our own health and well-being. We learn about humor, laughter and joy and how they are different. We'll also have some good laughs.

2. Walking Thru the Bible with 12 Remarkable Women - Using a quilt I made as a guide, we will learn about 12 remarkable women; 6 Old Testament and 6 New Testament women. The symbolism of each block tells the story of their lives of faith in God.

3. Time in a Bottle - Our lives are ruled by time. We will take a look at how this happens and think about some ways we can use time to our advantage: to meet goals we presently may not be reaching.

*Cost: \$25.00 plus mileage*

*Time: 30-45 minutes*

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**Glenn Henriksen**

Spirit Lake Iowa

Armstrong, IA

Main Phone: 7128982413

[www.pianoglenn.com](http://www.pianoglenn.com)

**Musical Program**

Glenn is an accomplished, versatile pianist and organist. At age thirteen he became the organist at his hometown church. Glenn has played at a wide variety of events including church services and other social activities. Included in Glenn's repertoire are gospel and sacred music. Glenn's lifetime experience in many musical genres has enabled him to develop a unique musical style, resulting in one-of-a-kind improvised arrangements.

*Cost: Fee Negotiable*

*Musical program option*

**Sandy Jerstad**  
Sioux Falls, SD  
Main Phone: 6052611044  
Email: [sij@sio.midco.net](mailto:sij@sio.midco.net)

## **Letters of Love: Sermons & Reflections by Mark and Sandy Jerstad**

Sandy Jerstad, former lawmaker and college softball coach, lost the love of her life 20 years ago. But Pastor Mark Jerstad left behind quite a legacy of words, words that his wife has now penned into a book. While Pastor Mark served a campus pastor at Augustana, his sermons were so popular he intended to compile them into a book. However, in 1997 he lost his battle with colon cancer.

In 2011, Sandy went through each of Mark's sermons and transcribed them. During the process, she says an amazing thing happened. She felt Mark close to her, as if he was in the room. And then Sandy's editor asked her to add her own voice to the book and write a reflection about each of the sermons.

In 2013, Sandy spoke at the spring gathering of Shetek Conference.

*Cost: Fee is negotiable*

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**Bryant Kaden**  
Pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
301 N Lincoln St  
Redwood Falls, MN 56283  
Main Phone: 5076372592  
Email: [gloriadei@gloriadeilutheran.org](mailto:gloriadei@gloriadeilutheran.org)

## **Intergenerational Faith Building**

Using personal stories as a pastor kid and his own pastor kids, Pastor Bryant Kaden shares the powerful influence adults in the church can be in the lives of children. Though parents are important, an adult taking a sincere interest in the life of a child can build meaningful, spirit-led relationships.

**Linda Lagergren**  
New London, MN  
Main Phone: 3202127823  
Email: llagergr@tds.net  
www.patchworkblessings.com

## **Multiple Programs on Quilts and Faith**

1. Patchwork Journey of Faith - This is mostly my journey of faith depicted in my favorite quilts and quilt blocks, but this may also be a part of your journey of faith as well.
2. The Underground Railroad Journey - A sampler quilt tells the story of those who helped slaves escape on the Underground Railroad.
3. Journey to Christmas - This presentation is about the Christmas story, the symbols and colors that tell the story shown to you in quilts and story.
4. Design Your Own - I have been doing presentations, bible studies and retreats for many years; if you have a topic you would like me to talk about, I am open to the opportunity.

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**Gaye Lindfors**  
St. Paul, MN  
Main Phone: 6514909550  
Email: gaye@gayelindfors.com

## **God, Girlfriends, and Chocolate**

Gaye is a speaker, author and blogger who isn't afraid to laugh at her own mishaps. Her connection with the hearts of women is engaging and authentic. She high-fives you when you do your happy dance and whispers "You are not alone" when the messiness comes. She is the author of God, Girlfriends and Chocolate and Learning to Move from Messy Moments to Happy Places.

*Cost: Negotiable, plus mileage*

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**Cindy McKittrick**  
Hope Harbor  
Marshall, MN 56258  
Main Phone: 5075374525  
Email: office@hopeharbormn.org  
www.hopeharbormn.org

## **Hope Harbor**

This home was established over 10 years ago in response to troubled girls. They have helped more than 50 girls who were hurting. The girls live in the home and get all their needs met there while their parents visit weekly and participate in therapy and parenting classes.



**Harvey Nelson**

702 Monongalia Ave SW

Willmar, MN 56201

Main Phone: 3202226185

Cell Phone: 3202958854

Email: harvey.marie.nelson@gmail.com

**Being Companions with  
Lutherans of South Africa**

Our synod and conferences are in a companion relationship with the South Eastern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran church in Southern Africa and each of its 10 circuits. People in South Africa face the terrible HIV/AIDS pandemic with an infection rate of 35%. Many orphans suffer as a result. We have ways to help; we can understand what is going on, help poor children go to school, work with our companions to do AIDS education and prevention, help infected people live as well as possible, and work with churches to provide care and hospice services. We also have much to learn from them about racism, resilience and faith.

*Cost: No fees or mileage requested. Any offering would be donated to our South African Companion relationships.*

*Time: One hour, more or less*

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**Jon Nelson**

Pastor of Ebenezer and Tripolis Lutheran churches

905 Meadow Ln

Willmar, MN 56201

Main Phone: 3202958861

Email: rev.jon.nelson@gmail.com

**Reach Out and Welcome**

We all want to call ourselves a welcoming church, but what does that mean? Are we really ready for that sacrifice? Pastor Jon Nelson examines the current demographics of the ELCA and how we are in dire need to refocus our attention to welcoming all to our church. He will also examine just what it takes to accept someone new that may end up changing you!

*Cost: Mileage plus appropriate honorarium*

*Time: 30-45 minutes*

**Reneé Rongen**

The Reneé Rongen Experience  
10601 390th St SE  
Fertile, MN 56540  
Main Phone: 8883332802  
Cell Phone: 2185742655  
Email: renee@reneerongen.com  
www.reneerongen.com

**Inspirational Motivator**

Reneé Rongen is a wise and witty mom, award winning entrepreneur, author and friend to many. Media has dubbed her "the mother of motivation" and a combination of "Oprah, Lilli Tomlin and Mother Teresa." From board rooms to 5th grade classrooms, to packing convention centers, she is the International Speaker who has inspired thousands of individuals to "Live Life from the Inside Out." Since 1990, Reneé has delivered humorous, powerful, life-changing messages, encouraging her audiences to identify and use their unique gifts to make positive differences in their work, families and communities. She has many different presentations. Check out her website.

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**Shalom Hill Farm**

42194 County Road 3  
Windom, MN 56101  
Main Phone: 5078312232  
Email: llagergr@tds.net

**Multiple Programs Available**

1. What's Up at Shalom Hill Farm - Starting with a brief (2min) video, I'll update you on the mission and ministry of Shalom Hill Farm and the ways you can participate.
2. Intro to the Mark Bible Study - Using a brief powerpoint presentation I will introduce you to the Gospel of Mark, when and why it was written and what are some ways to go about studying it.
3. Our South African Partnership - Using a 10 minute DVD production to introduce the topic, I will share with you how the partnership between the Shetek Conference and the Ondini Circuit in South Africa is going and what are some of the projects you can partner in as well as perhaps, travel to see!

**Judy Siegle**

Main Phone: 7013886315

Email: judy.siegle@gmail.com

www.judysiegle.com

**iSucceed: Success Doesn't Just Happen**

We all have the power to be successful-it doesn't just happen. Judy openly shares how the choices we make everyday affect our lives and those around us in powerful ways. We can set ourselves up for success. Drawing on her experiences as a world-class athlete, healthcare professional and other life events, Judy provides tips that lead us to success.

Other messages include:

Living without Limits: Keys to Unlock Your Full Potential

A Winner for Life: Giving Your All When Others are Giving Up

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**John Sterner**

Cell Phone: 6123452008

Email: melauha@gmail.com

JohnSterner@lakeview2167.com

**Multiple Topics Available**

Topics for discussion include Native American spirituality and heritage, Sports Psychology, Becoming Lutheran, Connecting with God through Art and Nature, and Being a Person of Color in Southwest Minnesota

**Jeannie Thompson**

Heartland Girls' Ranch  
185 Hwy 9 NE  
Benson, MN 56215  
Main Phone: 3208434815  
Email: office@heartlandgirlsranh.org  
<http://www.heartlandgirlsranh.org/request-a-speaker/>

**The Heartland Girls' Ranch**

The Heartland Girls' Ranch is a non-profit founded in June 1992 to provide a service to at-risk-female juveniles. It was developed with the commitment to provide a unique and effective approach to working with girls to build healthy lives through experiencing success. Heartland provides a supportive, structured environment in which girls ages 12-21 learn to make responsible choice and become mature young women. Heartland is a working ranch which utilizes horses to bring about the healing in girls' lives. We work with girls who are struggling with emotional, behavioral and mental health issues.

**Hoofprints of Hope**

Will utilize Equine Assisted Learning Therapy to address social, emotional, behavioral and mental health issues of children in the community. These issues would include, but not be limited to family crises, running away, abuse (emotional, physical, sexual), self injurious behaviors, attachment disorders, Fetal Alcohol Effect and mood disorders.

*Cost: Free will donation to the Ranch*

*Time: 45 minutes to one hour*

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**Orville Trettin**

401 Martha St  
Stewart, MN 55385  
Main Phone: 3202126186  
Email: trettoe@gmail.com

**Vision Honduras**

During a humanitarian trip by local people to Honduras, they realized that few Hondurans wore eyeglasses. So began the process of acquiring eyeglasses & planning for another trip to Honduras. Since its beginning, Vision Honduras has fitted 17,000 pairs of perscription eyeglasses, reading glasses & sunglasses. I would love to tell our story as to how you too can help these people who live without & what a strong faith they have in our Lord and Saviour. Everyone who receives perscription eyeglasses also received a New Testament Scripture, Spanish copy.

**Jan Turner**

3781 County Road 27 NW  
Willmar, MN 56201  
Main Phone: 3202202214  
Email: jtsetter@willmar.com

**Focus on Faith**

Jan is a quadruple amputee who speaks on faith issues. She is a teacher & author of an article for Guideposts, "Don't Let Them Hate Me." It tells of her family's struggle during the illness that caused her to lose her limbs.

*Cost: Negotiable. Will travel 100-150 miles.*

*Time: 30-60 minutes.*

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**Eunice Woodberry**

Pastor of Winds of the Prairie Ministry  
Ivanhoe, MN 56142  
Main Phone: 3202905775  
Email: windstaff2@gmail.com

**White Privilege**

People of European descent have special advantages that people of color do not. Our knowledge of those differences helps us to seek justice for our brothers & sisters of color.

*Cost: Mileage, cost of handouts and meal*

*Time: 1-2 hours*

**Janice Zimmerman**

111 Custer Ave N

Canby, MN 56220

Main Phone: 5072237722

Cell Phone: 5074012029

Email: jgzimmerman@frontier.com

**Multiple Programs Available  
(April-Oct)**

1. Tails, Tales, and More Tales - I share my family aprons and others I have collected. They all have a story to tell. I share a little history of aprons and how the use of aprons has changed over the years.

2. Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread - This program is adopted from a program put out by the church-wide women. We look at the 4th petition and the feeding of the 5,000 and 4,000. We may even bake bread. Can we learn about our faith baking bread? Let's see.

3. The Story of Naomi - I relate to the biblical character, Naomi and compare our lives to hers using the book of Ruth.

4. Friendship - I talk about being a friend and having friends. We are reminded that even Jesus had friends.

5. Good Grief - I tell about different ways we can deal with grief. Life is full of good and bad changes in our lives, and we can use help dealing with change. I have conducted Good Grief sessions.

*Cost: Mileage*

*Time: 30-45 minutes*