

# The Communicator

# 2022 SW MN SWO Convention



FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2022

### **OUR REDEEMER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

800-10TH Street South, Benson MN 56215

Theme Verse: Psalm 149:1

Theme Hymn: "We All Are One in Mission"

To celebrate the 35th anniversary of the forming of Women of the ELCA

Opening Worship with Bishop Dee Pederson, officiating

Guest Speaker: Rev. Heather Culuris, Synod Minister

Come, join your sisters in Christ for worship, singing, sharing, learning, business, fellowship

Convention Offerings Objectives: 50% Churchwide; 25% Heartland Girls' Ranch; 25% Swift County Food Shelf

Registration Fee: \$50.00 (registration/noon luncheon/coffee times)

Katie's Cans available—bring your loose change for Katie's Fund

In-Kind Offerings being accepted: LWR Quilts and All LWR Kits

Items for Eagle's Healing Nest (Sauk Centre) & Project Turnabout (Granite Falls)



7:30—10:00 a.m. 8:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. 9:15 a.m. In-Kind offering drop off Registration/Coffee/Displays Voting Member Orientation Convention Opens with Worship Convention Closes

For more information on the 2022 Convention including how to register, please download the publicity packet at the following address:

http://www.swmnwelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2022PublicityPacket.pdf





#### Inside this issue

A Word From Your President2
Mission Community/Justice4
Mission Growth/Discipleship5
Mission Action/Stewardship6
Looking Out My Window by Joan7
2022 Convention Schedule8
More Info on In Kind Offerings9
Convention Speaker and Worship Leaders10
2022 Spring Gatherings11
<u>Lac Qui Parle Spring Gathering</u> 12
2020-22 Synodical Board

### Special points of interest

- 2022 Convention In Kind Offerings
- Trainings on Rules and Responsibilities
- More Happenings around the Synod

### A Word from Your President

Greetings to all you beautiful women of the Southwestern Minnesota Synodical Organization! As our winter season is winding down, may you all be encouraged to spend more time outside soaking up the sun!

The Churchwide Organization held the virtual **Leadership Event on February 18th & 19th.** This year they opened up the event to not only the churchwide board members, synod presidents, and synod boards, but to the Conference and Cluster leaders. We had a few from our synod attending. The event's theme this year was "For such a time as this: Spirit Fed, Spirit Led." The two-day sessions ran from 1 pm to 5 pm each day with approximately 250 in attendance throughout the sessions.

The theme was drawn from the Old Testament book of Esther, whose particular story speaks to God's love and care for God's people when the people can't free themselves from their present situation. We, like Esther, don't have to close our eyes and wait for the worst to blow over in the midst of this pandemic. We can follow Esther's lead by listening for God, following the Holy Spirit, and discerning a plan and strategy to reboot and rebuild each synodical organization with a unique ministry plan. This event called our leader-full community together to re-member who we are as servant leaders, our purpose in this organization, and what God is calling us to do for such a time as this.

Thursday evening, the  $17^{\text{th}}$  about 28 participants were involved in the virtual Region 3 Caucus meeting led by CW board member, Lorie Garcia. In the  $1\frac{1}{2}$  session we learnt more about the next two days events from CW staff and were able to hold a couple break-out sessions with time to share ideas and discuss new ways we can lead the women of the church.

Friday's session brought greetings from CW President, Joy Michalicek; Linda Post-Bushkofsky, CW Ex. Director and Bishop Eaton. Bishop Wilma Kucharaek from the Slovak Zion Synod led the opening worship. We heard a report from Christine Mangale, ELCA/LWF and a great Bible study led by Rev. Heidi Neumark on the book of Esther. We were all divided into several break-out sessions throughout the afternoon and had a chance to discuss the Bible study and also share the happenings in our different synods. Bishop Wilma closed out the afternoon with another wonderful closing to the day.

Saturday's sessions brought us more reports from churchwide staff after an opening worship again by Bishop Wilma Kucharek. After dealing with 20 to 25 years of declining offerings, a feasibility study was conducted last year and it is announced that the Katie's Fund Campaign to raise \$1 million will begin this coming summer. We live out our missions in our communities and each synod will look different and we were asked how God is calling us to reach out to women in our community. Raeann Purcell, CW Treasurer spoke on finances. We are dealing with an approximate \$1.6 million current budget. CW President Joy shared more and after a question/answer time with staff,

the group was again put into break-out sessions to discuss issues at hand. Valora Starr from CW Staff spoke on Servant Leadership and Camille Trott led us through a process of discerning a plan and strategy to reboot and rebuild each synodical organization with a unique ministry plan as we indulged in the Spirit-led plan to mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ for such a time as this! We all can see things that we need to change within our organizations and the strategy and secure issues were addressed in this process.

For the Strategy of a mission (where we are and where we want to go)

 Listen for God
 Follow the guidance & nudging of the Holy Spirit
 Discern a plan (embrace the process)

Secure - Spirit-led process of a mission

State all your situations;
 Examine all your actions;
 Remove all your non-essentials;
 Embrace all your challenges

Linda Post-Bushkofsky spoke briefly on the 2023 Triennial to be held the week of September 18, 2023 in Phoenix, AZ. The dates changed from previous years due to the renegotiating that had to be done with the facilities contracts in the Phoenix area. September was the first opening! This may be a blessing in disguise – the temps will be more tolerable in September versus July!!! The staff is presently working to secure a theme and secure presenters and once that is finalized more information on the 12th Triennial will be forthcoming.

Bishop Wilma led the closing worship service where we were reminded and encouraged to listen for the Holy Spirit. We might fail at trying something new within our organizations, but that should not stop us. We just re-group and try something different. We are all gifted and Spirit-fed to be active Women of the ELCA. Christ unites us and sends us out for such a time as this!

The 35th annual **Synod Women's Convention** is coming up Friday, 13th at **Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church in Benson MN.** I sure hope you will all be able to join together on the 13th with your sisters in Christ. Our theme is **CELEBRATE!** We will be gathering to celebrate the 35th anniversary of the forming of the Women of the ELCA. The synod board is looking forward to finally meeting in-person after two years of no convention. Please find information about the one-day convention throughout this issue of The Communicator. A few highlights are that we are honored and excited to have our new Bishop Dee Pederson join us to lead the opening worship. Rev. Heather Culuris, the new synod minister will join us in the afternoon as our speaker. Please come to convention to open your hearts to these two women of our synod and also show them your support!

With an in-person event planned the synod board is still going to try and be as careful as we can knowing that Covid is still out there. Communion during the opening worship service will be administered by pre-pkg. cup/wafer and the

### A Word from Your President—Cont'd

offering plates will remain at the door upon entrance and exiting to leave your offerings. The noon luncheon will be a pre-packaged box lunch for you to enjoy. There will be coffee and a snack upon arrival. We are encouraging women to bring their own water bottle to fill during the day.

The synod board is in the process of lining up some kind of truck to offer our women to bring their LWR quilts and any and all LWR Kits. There will be some other in-kind offerings being collected, so please check out that information in this issue.

The Convention Publicity Packet will be available on-line the first week of March. Check out the synod website <a href="www.swmnwelca.org">www.swmnwelca.org</a> and the SW MN Women Facebook page. We are very aware that not everyone in the synod has access to the internet, so if you know of someone that would rather have a paper copy of the Convention Packet, please print off some copies and distribute to those that you know would appreciate a copy!

Pay attention to all the deadlines for the different forms due. There's the Triennial Voting Member form due March 31st. The Resolution Form due April 13th. The Convention Registration form due April 18th and the Convention Offering Form due April 18th.

A reminder to all Conference Presidents.....we still need your registration forms turned in but you do not pay any registration fee – that is taken care of by the synod board. Please read carefully as you fill out the registration form.

Due to the fact of declining participants of the Scholarship Program in the past few years, the program was turned over to the Conferences this year in hopes that we could possibly get one participant from each conference (or more) to increase our representation. If you are a first-time attendee of the convention (and are not a voting member from your unit), you are eligible to apply for this program. The units have to nominate the scholarship participants. So, if you are interested in this program and you haven't heard about it or have questions, please contact your Conference President and she'll get the information to you. The scholarship program applicants form is due **APRIL 9th**. There is also a need for two Mentors for this scholarship program (your conference president has that information as well). Those 2 mentors will be chosen on a first-come basis.

The main business at the synod convention this year is to elect a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and nine board members. There will be various terms of these different positions due to the fact that several of our board members and officers have been so gracious to stay on in their position during the past two years. If you are interested in any of these board positions, please contact the synod nominating committee.

It is time again to elect about 9 Triennial Voting Members and Alternates to serve at the 2023 Triennial in Phoenix AZ

the week of September 18, 2023. The synod nominating committee sent out letters and nomination forms to all the unit's last fall. The nominating form and letter will be published in the Convention Publicity packet. Again, any nominations need to come from a Unit and sent to the Synod Nominating Committee.

The **Speaker's List** has been updated and copies of this will be available at the Convention in May and will eventually be posted on the synod website. Thank you to the three board members for the time put into that project!

Conference Spring Gatherings to date are three that we know of. Shetek Conference is April 21st at First Lutheran in Pipestone beginning at 5:30 with Renee DeGroot speaking on her ministry in Haiti. Crow River Conference will be meeting April 23 at Beckville Lutheran with Scott Gottschalk speaking about Angels. Prairie Conference is meeting April 23 at First Lutheran in Marshall. If any other Conference is planning a Spring Gathering, please notify the Synod Secretary and Synod President with your information.

There is some information posted in this issue of The Communicator about some upcoming ZOOM Training on Rules and Responsibilities for synod and conference leaders. Look for that page in this issue.

We have gone a few months without a synod liaison to the synod women's board after Kathryn Skoglund retired. I am happy to announce that our new **SYNOD LIAISON** is Rev. Heather Culuris! The synod board looks forward to her joining our meetings and conventions serving in this role!

The date and place of the 2023 SW MN Synod Women's Convention is planned already. Mark your calendars! **FRIDAY, MAY 5, 2023 AT SHETEK LUTHERAN MINISTRIES,** 14 Keeley Island Drive, Slayton MN 56172.

Looking forward to seeing you all at the 2022 Convention in Benson! May the sunshine warm your hearts and may the Holy Spirit move your hearts to serve the Lord!!!



### Mission Community/Justice



When I was a teenager, growing up in rural northwest Iowa, I learned firsthand what "community" meant through my senior high church group, which was called Koinonia. During my formative years at St. John's Lutheran Church,

this community of koinonia helped me share my common faith, goals for service, and Christian fellowship with my high school peers.

The Greek word, koinonia means Christian fellowship among believers; its root "koinos" means common, mutual, public. Koinonia is used nineteen times in the New Testament and in addition to being translated as "fellowship" it is also translated by the words, contribution, sharing and participation.

In considering what to write for Mission Community/Justice, I started thinking about the word "community." Although I have been part of a variety of communities during my lifetime, it was in recalling the Koinonia youth group that reminded me of the importance of doing God's will together. This early experience was not just about the typical teenage hang time, or being together all for the sake of being together, it was about "doing" together. It helped to develop mutual cooperation in God's worship, God's work, and God's will. As youth, we united to form a worship group, called Light & Power Company, which involved hitting the road and traveling to area churches on Sundays. We worked together to organize groups to help out the elders in our congregation, and collected items for the needy. The group held a common partnership with Christ to fulfill God's will.



I believe our connection, as Women of the ELCA and Women of Southwestern Minnesota is koinonia. Our relationship and communion with one another describes the spirit that comes from our shared beliefs, convictions and behaviors in Christ. It is our stated purpose to commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, and support one another in our callings. This type of fellowship stirs within us the ability and desire to exercise our faith in love, and

good works, all to God's glory. It's modeling the love Jesus extends to us. As Jesus told the disciples in John 13:34, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another." We can serve each other in our community with our spiritual gifts as a form of love, and we can also offer more practical concrete love such as hospitality, togetherness, acceptance, encouragement, service, and sharing our abundance.

Serving one another with our spiritual gifts is a good example of how we can be in unity with Christ. As Peter wrote, "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms." (1 Peter 4:10) Sometimes we feel like we don't even know what our true gifts are, but often by having an open heart and digging in where you have a natural ability is the best place to start. Some of us are good at serving, encouraging, giving, leading, as well as many more ways to reach out to others. (as read in Romans 12: 6-8)

As Women of the ELCA, we can find ways to offer hospitality to those experiencing food insecurities, or helping to find safe shelter for those who are experiencing displacement in our congregations and communities. In our mutual participation, we can organize the making of personal care kits that can make a difference in restoring dignity and health to others.

The mission of community certainly encourages us to engage in worship together, to join a Bible Study or small group where we can offer service to others. True christian fellowship sharpens one another's faith. It is our mission to include those on the margins into our partnership with Christ. Doing justice is important work and is needed to hold each other accountable when necessary.

I realize the women of this organization already know many, if not all these ways to serve. But doesn't it feel good to know we all share a likemindedness in our willingness and desire to serve, in accomplishing God's purpose for the church? We truly are living out the best definition of koinonia.

Kim Christianson, Louise Ferry, Jane Tongen



### Mission Growth/Discipleship



The Lenten Season begins with Ash Wednesday and this journey will take us through 40 days of Lent. The 40 days of Lent correspond to the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness to pray, to fast, and to endure the temptation of the Devil. This then culminates with the passion of our Lord during Holy Week. On the Journey of 40 Days, let us be mindful of what this means to us. It is a Time of Prayer, a Time of Fasting and a Time for Works of Love.

### The words of Pope Francis:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words
Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude
Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope
Fast from worries and have trust in God
Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity
Fast from pressures and be prayerful
Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy
Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others
Fast from grudges and be reconciled
Fast from words and be silent so you can listen

### 40 DAYS - 40 ITEMS - WORKS OF LOVE

Instead of giving up something for Lent this year...

### EMBRACE THE 40 DAYS - 40 ITEMS CHALLENGE?

Each day of Lent, remove one item from your house, which you don't use or wear anymore and place it in a bag. At the end of Lent, donate these items to a charity or to a homeless shelter. They'll be shared with those who really need them!

Ponder these things and be thankful for the message God leaves with us...that his love is so great, and that he sent His Son to save us from our sins. That Jesus endured the pain and suffering for us that we may have an eternal home with Our Lord and Savior. Share in your bounty to others, pray for His guidance in showing love to your neighbor.

### LENTEN HYMN – LORD, WHO THROUGHOUT THESE FORTY DAYS

(Claudia Frances Hernaman 91873)

Lord, who throughout these forty days,
For us did fast and pray,
Teach us with you to mourn our sins,
And close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend, And did the victory win, O give us strength in you to fight, In you to conquer sin.

As you did hunger bear and thirst, So teach us, gracious Lord, To die to self, and always live By your most holy word.

And through these days of penitence, And through your Passiontide, Forevermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us that when this life Of suffering is past, An Easter of unending joy We may attain at last!

Heavenly Father, be with us in this Time of Prayer, Time of Fasting and Time for Works of Love, help us with strength to do your will, pray quietly to you, fast so that we are aware of others' needs and act lovingly toward our fellow human beings. We pray this in your Holy Name...Amen

As the 40 days of Lent come to a close and we realize the Passion of Jesus during Holy Week, we can rejoice in the knowledge that with God's infinite love and mercy sent his Son to die for us so that we may enjoy eternal life. Help me to focus on you and hear you more clearly and to be open to the task set before me.

Dianne Doscher, Janet Hagen, Betty Brandt

### Mission Action/Stewardship

2022 Convention In-Kind Offerings

## **Lutheran World Relief:** www.lwr.org

- Quilts
- All LWR Kits

# Global Health Ministries: www.ghm.org/hands-on-projects

- Completed rolled bandages
- Hospice Kits
- Newborn Kits

## **Eagle's Healing Nest:** eagleshealingnest.org/

- Bleach
- Toilet cleaning supplies
- Dishwasher/dish soap
- Lysol
- Laundry soap
- Garden seeds
- Ziploc bags—every size

# Project Turnabout: www.projectturnabout.org/

## <u>Personal Care Items (all genders)</u>

- Shampoo (alcohol-free & 2 in 1 preferred)
- Body Wash (alcohol free)
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Combs/Hairbrushes
- Razors (disposable)
- Tampons/Maxi Pads
- Suitcases/Duffle Bags

### Clothing Needs (all genders)

- Socks
- Underwear (cotton briefs or boxers)
- Bras
- Jogging pants
- T-Shirts
- Sweatshirts
- Tennis Shoes

Recently a member of the LWR Quilters & Kit Makers Community (<a href="www.facebook.com/groups/lwrquilters">www.facebook.com/groups/lwrquilters</a>) asked other members to weigh in on why they made quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Interesting question.

Although I didn't actually respond to the post - I could write way more than appropriate for a Facebook comment - the question has become a running dialogue in my mind over the past weeks. Here is a summary of how I would respond.

- History and Community: I come from a background with many generations of quilters. My grandmother and mother were active in their church quilting groups. My mom was one of the founders of my home church's quilting and sewing groups in the early 70's, which they continue to refer to as Love Days. I remember Mom bringing home examples of outfits sewn for Vietnamese orphans, sometimes made from fabrics left from outfits she had sewn for me. On Quilt and Kit Blessing Sundays, even my dad could point out which quilts my mom had a hand in creating, based on their style and color combinations. In my current congregation, gathering to quilt with others links me to generations of dearly loved church mothers who have passed on. I feel their presence and remember departed friends, and others I did not know personally, whenever we gather together.
- **Personal:** My involvement in my local church quilting group started about 15 years ago. I rather timidly asked some of the guilters if I could join them when I was able to take days, or partial days, off from work. They enthusiastically accepted me and have taught me so much about quilt making, but also about faith, friendship, and life. With coworkers, I only half-jokingly referred to quilting with the ladies at church as my "therapy", a respite from a stressful, and often draining and unfulfilling job in the corporate sector. Quilting gave me purpose and made me feel like I was doing something to make the world a better place. And now, a segue into the

- most important reason I quilt and compile kits for Lutheran World Relief and other charitable organizations.
- Ministry and Outreach: Especially now that I am retired, I consider quilting and kit making to be one of my primary vocations. According to author and theologian Jacqueline A. Bussie, the keynote speaker for our 2018 SWO synod convention, vocation is, "Anything you commit to in life that presents you with the chance to give someone's humanity back to them." A quilt is a gift from one human to another. The recipient receives not only something that will meet their physical needs, but a part of the quilt maker as well. A quilt is the gift of the makers' time, energy, and love, touched with the quilt makers' prayers and soul.
- **Care for Creation and Sustainability:** Although it may seem mundane, using resources judiciously is also very important to me. I love the challenge of taking something destined for a landfill and repurposing or recreating it to make something useful, and hopefully at least a little bit beautiful. Seldom or never-worn t -shirts become diapers; pieces of worn sheets are tucked into the centers of quilts in Baby Care kits, and small scraps of fabric jump out of the wastebasket and into the block of a string or crazy quilt. Quilt making provides a small, but colorful, protest against the excess and waste in our society. It demonstrates respect for the resources, both in materials and human energy, used in creating the original product.

Many of the readers who responded to the LWR Quilters & Kit Makers Community Facebook post touched on at least one of my responses to the question of why they made quilts. In closing, I am thankful for the privilege of serving on the Mission Action team of the SWO Board and am so grateful I was able to meet such committed and faithful women. God's blessings to all of you as you spread comfort and peace through your ministry of sharing pieces of yourselves.

Karla Conrad, Noreen Beranek, Katherine Claussen

### Looking Out My Window by Joan



After participating in the 2022 Leadership Event in February with other women from across the United States, I'd like to share a few thoughts for you to ponder on the Book of Esther. This was the Bible Study presented at the Leadership Event. Take time from your busy schedules to sit down and read the book of Esther and see what stands out for you. There is a lot to behold from reading this book in the Bible!

As you read the book of Esther you will find a young woman, chosen by the king for her beauty. She is also Jewish. One of the king's officials hates the Jews and makes it his mission to destroy God's people.

Esther's story seems hopeless. Why would God allow such a wicked man to triumph? Keep reading. God is at work in Esther's life. He has carefully orchestrated each moment in Esther's life so that she is in the perfect place at exactly the right moment: "for such a time as this" (4:14).

God works in miraculous ways through Esther's story to deliver His people. It is her story, but also God's. And so, it is with us. When our lives seem grim and it appears our story has taken a terrible turn, remember God is still at work. There is more to our stories. From the beginning to the end, our God reigns.

Esther was a beautiful, humble girl who saved a generation through her bravery. God can use anyone for His plan and how we, especially women, can fight our fears and bring glory to God!

Believe in your hidden powers! Esther's name means 'hidden'!

Let your beauty shine!



### Trainings on Rules and Responsibilities

The Churchwide staff is opening up some ZOOM meetings in April and May for a one-hour training session. If you are interested in joining in on the event you do need to pre-register. Follow the instructions below and enjoy!



### Go to www.womenoftheelca.org

Click on "EVENTS" (top bar)

Scroll down to "Training on Rules and Responsibilities"

Find your specific area and click on "Register"

The events are for the synodical officers and board members and for the conference leaders

Saturday, April 23 at 1 pm for Synodical President's and Vice President's

Saturday, April 30 at 1 pm for Synodical Secretary's

Saturday, May 7 at 1 pm for Synodical Treasurer's

Saturday, May 14 at 1 pm for Synodical Board Members

Saturday, May 21 at 1 pm for Conference Leaders

### 2022 Convention Schedule (subject to change)

### Friday, May 13, 2022

7:30 – 10:00 am In-Kind Offering Collection (trailer in parking lot)

8:00 am Registration/Coffee/Displays

9:00 am Voting Member Orientation

9:15 am Worship with Bishop Dee Pederson & Pr. Heather Culuris, officiating

Worship with Holy Communion (pre-pkg. cup/wafer)

10:15 am Plenary Session 1

**Credential Report** 

**Greetings/Introductions** 

Churchwide Representative

Stretch Break

Plenary Session 2

Table Prayer

12 noon Luncheon (pre-pkg. box lunch)

1:15 pm Gathering Music

Speaker, Rev. Heather Culuris, Synod Minister

Stretch Break

2:30 pm Plenary Session 3

Scholarship Report

**Committee Reports** 

Installation

Announcements

Closing

3:30 pm On Our Way Rejoicing!



### More Information on In Kind Offerings

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTS AND ALL KITS: www.lwr.org

- Weight of boxes should not exceed 40 pounds
- Boxes with handles are easier to handle think banana, apple, other produce boxes
- One type of kit (or quilts) per box
- Make a label template and print several on a page with your church's name, town, conference, and the type of kit or quilt. Leave a blank so you can fill in the number of quits/kits as you pack. Tape a label to each box.
- SHIPPING MONETARY GIFTS ARE ALSO WELCOME at Convention

There will be a collection point to unload your boxes of quilts and kits. (7:30 am to 10:00 am). An In-Kind offering form is in the Convention Publicity Packet for you to fill out and bring with your items.

**EAGLE'S HEALING NEST** is a non-profit organization committed to meeting the needs of our veterans, service members and their families who suffer from the invisible wounds of war. Main campus is at Sauk Centre, MN.

BRING YOUR ITEMS TO THE CHURCH the day of convention. There will be signs or greeters to direct you to the area where you can leave your donations.

### GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES: www.ghm.org

GHM will be at convention to provide information and answer questions.

**Bring your items to the display table area**. It would be helpful if these items are boxed and labeled. To find the instructions for kits – Go to the website – Click on Get Involved – Click on Download Project Instructions

**PROJECT TURNABOUT** Centers for Addiction Recovery since 1970 with the main campus in Granite Falls, MN. A new center for Women in Recovery is also open in Willmar MN.

**Bring your items to the display table area** the day of convention.

**NO INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN LITERATURE DISTRIBUTORS.** ICLD will NOT BE PRESENT at our convention this year due to the global shipping crisis. Because of shipping snarls and returned items filling their garage, they just cannot accept items right now. ICLD is grateful for our past support and we are all hopeful that in the near future we will be able to partner with ICLD once again. ICLD gave the contact information of other outlets to possibly send your literature: LOVE PACKAGES – located in Illinois (www.lovepackages.org) and EAST WEST INTERKNIT in St. Paul MN (https://ew-interknit.org/project/library-development)

### Convention Speaker and Worship Leaders



### **Rev. Heather Culuris**

Pastor Heather will be our main speaker at convention as well as assisting Bishop Dee with the opening worship and serving as our Convention Chaplain.

Pr. Heather writes, "I am honored to be stepping into this role of Engaging Leaders synod minister! Through almost 20 years of rural ministry, I bring a deep commitment to strengthening our congregations and leaders who serve them! My husband and I went through candidacy in the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, and I am eager to begin building relationships again with the people and congregations of the synod!"

Bishop Dee Pederson will be present at our convention to lead our opening worship service.

Bishop Dee was elected the first woman bishop of Southwestern Minnesota Synod in 2021.



### More happenings around the Synod



**April 14 Maundy Thursday** 

**April 15 Good Friday** 

**April 17 Easter Sunday** 

April 19 Lac Qui Parle Spring Gathering (Our Savior's, Montevideo)

**April 21 Shetek Spring Gathering (First Lutheran, Pipestone)** 

April 23 Crow River Spring Gathering (Beckville Lutheran, Litchfield)

Prairie Spring Gathering (First Lutheran, Marshall)

May 8 Mother's Day

May 13 35th Annual SW MN SWO Convention (Our Redeemer's Lutheran, Benson)



### **2022 Spring Conference Gatherings**

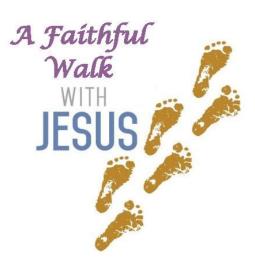
Thank you for your patience as several conferences are still discerning whether to gather in the spring. We will send more information as it becomes available. Please reach out to your conference president for more information in the meantime.

Conference	Date/Time	Location	Program
Crow River	April 23, 2022	Beckville Lutheran Church Rural Litchfield, MN	Scott Gottschalk "Angels"
Glacial Ridge	April 25, 2022	Our Redeemers Lutheran Church Benson, MN	
Great River	April 2, 2022 8:30am	Celebration Lutheran Church Sartell, MN	Kim Kan "Sparkle On, Women Aging in Gratitude"
Lac Qui Parle	April 19, 2022 1:00pm	Our Savior's Lutheran Church Montevideo, MN	Jeri Popma "A Faithful Walk with Jesus"
Lakeland	To Be Determined		
Minnesota Valley	To Be Determined		
Prairie	April 23, 2022	First Lutheran Church Marshall, MN	
Scenic Valley	To Be Determined		
Shetek	April 21, 2022 5:30pm (snow date April	First Lutheran Church Pipestone, MN	Renee DeGroot "Ministry in Haiti"
Watonwan River	To Be Determined		



## Our Savior's Lutheran Church Montevideo

Registration at 1:00pm



# Speaker: Jeri Popma

**Dialogue and Song** 

Send \$5 registration fee by April 4<sup>th</sup> to:
Bernice Oellien
2570 280<sup>th</sup> Street Madison MN 56256
320-752-4757

Upcoming Dates to note:

Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup>: SW Synod WELCA at Benson (Scholarship Application due April 9<sup>th</sup>)

### SYNODICAL BOARD 2020-2021

### **President:**

### Ioan Iverson\*

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