



# The Communicator



**"Leadership Event" was held Saturday, August 27, 2022  
at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls.**

**Theme was "BEAUTIFUL FEET".**

**Romans 10:15 NRSV**

**And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent?**

**As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"**

**It was talked about how beautiful everyone's feet are,**

**and some said "NO"**

**but in God's eyes, YES, they are beautiful,**

**because they go and do God's work.**

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## "A Word from Your Synodical President"

I want to start this article with a favorite poem, by Helen Steiner Rice.

### "GOOD MORNING, GOD!"

You are ushering in another day  
Untouched and freshly new  
So here I come to ask You, God,  
If you'll renew me, too,  
Forgive the many errors  
That I made yesterday  
And let me try again, dear, God,  
To walk closer in THY WAY...  
But, Father, I am well aware  
I can't make it on my own  
So, TAKE MY HAND and HOLD IT TIGHT  
For I can't WALK ALONE!

As I sit here at my computer, and contemplate what I am going to say in this article, as I have never written one before. I am so full of LOVE for our LORD JESUS CHRIST. I look out my window and see the wonder of what HE has done for me. The sun is shining, the birds are singing, the grass is growing, the flowers are blooming, the garden is plenty full and GOD IS GOOD!

I have had so many good wishes and congratulations from our good women of the SWMN women, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. It has been so wonderful to see the many faces that I know and love. I had to take a step back from being active in our women's organizations, because of my dear husband, who needed me more, at that time, he has since passed away and now my heart belongs to the SWMN women again, because this is where I need to be. God has led me here through prayer and thanksgiving.

We just had the Conference Officers "Training Event" Saturday, August 27, 2022. We met at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls. Our theme was "BEAUTIFUL FEET". The bible verse was from Romans 10:15. We talked about how beautiful everyone's feet were, and some said "NO" but in God's eyes, yes, they are beautiful, because they go and do God's work. The number of women present, were down, but I challenged them, as I do you, to use your Beautiful Feet to work hard to get out lost friends, in Christ, to come back to the Women of the ELCA. Reach across the isle and say "Come with me"!

The bible study in the "Gather" magazine is on the website, ready to download. The study was written by Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. We will be studying from John 15. The first lesson is called

"Trees". There is a video to watch, where Rev. Sara talks about God's wonderful world, with trees, plants and birds and bugs. It is a great introduction to the study.

It is an exciting time for us as Women of the ELCA. The churchwide executive board authorizing a \$1 million dollar campaign to further support the Katharina von Bora Luther Endowment ("Katie's Fund"), to begin in 2022. Katie's Fund supports ministry in three areas: leadership, global connections and living theology. The first campaign was in 1997.

This is an exciting time for the conferences. The Fall Gatherings are being planned and new officers are being voted on. Yes, I understand some of you officers have been on the board for 5, 9 or even 13 years. I pray you will find some new women to come with their "Beautiful Feet" to help carry on the traditions of our women. Remember to say, "Come and Help", and also pray for them.

In 2023, the Women of the ELCA Gathering, will be held in Phoenix, AZ. The theme is "JUST LOVE", and the dates are September 21-24. Let's get excited and talk to your friends, families and your sisters in Christ, and let's make this a time to remember. Your SWMN Triennial Promotor is Betty Brandt and you can contact her by phone or email, 208-244-5219 or [cookingbetty@gmail.com](mailto:cookingbetty@gmail.com). As more information comes out, Betty will let us know. She will be at most of the Conference Gatherings and will have sign up sheets for you to sign up.

The SW MN Synod Convention will be Friday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We will be meeting at Shetek Ministries. The board will be meeting October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and will be picking a theme and bible verse. The board and I are excited to have as many of you there as possible, as I said before, ask your sisters in Christ and say "Come with me". More information to come soon.

Joan Iverson, your past, SW MN President, said that the women of SWMN are "BOLD", and BOLD you are. When projects need doing, you come through with great numbers. The focus for the 2023 Convention, will be school kits. The board felt that is where the greatest need is. I do want to emphasize that when your units finish projects and send or take to Lutheran World Relief, please send those numbers to you Mission Action synod board members, so they may be counted in the numbers at convention. You do so much during the year, and we want to make sure you are commended for that work. Some of the numbers are falling through the cracks. So, ladies keep count on your projects. Thank you for all you do!

## "A Word from Your Synodical President"—Cont'd

I ask you to join me in keeping our board member Carmen Maus, in our prayers, as her father, Larry Dean Lindquist, passed away on August 27, 2022. His funeral was August 31<sup>st</sup> at Kerkhoven Lutheran Church, Kerkhoven, MN. This poem was printed in his bulletin:

Life is not a race, but indeed a journey.  
Be honest. Work hard.  
Be choosy. Say "thank you". "I love you",  
and "great job" to someone each day.  
Go to church, take time for prayer.  
The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh.  
Let your handshake mean more than pen and paper.  
Love your life and what you've been given,  
It is not accidental –  
Search for your purpose and do it as best you can.  
Dreaming does matter.  
It allows you to become that which you aspire to be.  
Laugh Often.  
Appreciate the little things in life and enjoy them.  
Some of the best things really are free.  
Do not worry, less wrinkles are more becoming.  
Forgive, it frees the soul.  
Take time for yourself – plan for longevity.  
Recognize the special people you've been  
blessed to know.  
Live for today, enjoy the moment.

These words could be for all of us.  
Read them and ponder them, I did...  
I will close for now, until next time. Go out and do God's  
Word and Work with your "BEAUTIFUL FEET" and  
spread the Gospel.

*Ilene Penk, your SWMN Synodical President*



### EDITORS CORNER:

I would like to introduce myself, I am Jane Tongen.  
I have been involved in many different things within my  
home Church (Grace Lutheran @ Brownton), Minnesota  
Valley Conference and was privileged to serve as a Board  
Member at Large on the SWMN Women's  
Organization, not wanting to miss out on all the things that  
go on through the Synod I thought that as being the edi-  
tor of the "Communicator" I would be able to keep up with  
what goes on and be able to contribute back to the organ-  
ization. I would also like to pass on a personal thank  
you to Christina Nelson our former editor for all she has  
done over the past years. I just hope I can make her  
proud, and I will try my best to live up to her example.  
I also want to pass on an invitation for Units and Confer-  
ences to send me special Items that may be of interest to  
others in our Synod. I do not guarantee to be able to  
make room in the Communicator or on the Website but I  
will try to put out there what I can. Also as you plan Your  
Spring and Fall Gatherings always remember to get the  
details of the event to your Liaisons or send direct to  
swmnwelca@gmail.com

## A Message from Pastor Heather

As I write this article, the seasons are changing. We are  
in the middle of the MN State Fair, that often signals the  
end of summer and the beginning of fall. Schools are  
beginning a new year and students are heading back into  
classes. A few trees are already beginning to change the  
colors of their leaves. During this seasonal time, I keep  
returning to the words of Ecclesiastes chapter 3.

*"There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity under the heavens:  
a time to be born and a time to die,  
a time to plant and a time to uproot,  
a time to kill and a time to heal,  
a time to tear down and a time to build,  
a time to weep and a time to laugh,  
a time to mourn and a time to dance,  
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,  
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,  
a time to search and a time to give up,  
a time to keep and a time to throw away,  
a time to tear and a time to mend,  
a time to be silent and a time to speak,  
a time to love and a time to hate,  
a time for war and a time for peace."*

As these seasons change around us, what beauty do  
you find in the changes? Do you love the colors of the  
leaves? Do you long for pumpkin spiced coffee  
season? Are you looking forward to harvest? Our lives  
also have seasons, as this passage from Ecclesiastes  
reminds us. What season are you in in your life right  
now, a season of building or planting? Are you in a  
season of finding your voice and speaking? Do you find  
yourself in a season of mending and healing? Are you  
in a time of searching or a time of mourning? Our  
congregations also find themselves living through sea-  
sons together. Perhaps in your own congregation this is  
a season of gathering back together and embrac-  
ing. Maybe this is a season of searching for where God is  
leading your congregation next. Perhaps this is a time  
when you find yourselves wondering about what it is we  
keep and what it is we let go of in your congregation's  
ministry. This may be a season of re-building and planting  
seeds that will grow into the future in ways we can never  
imagine or predict. Women of the ELCA here in SW MN  
Synod, know that whatever season you find yourself in,  
God is with you as your companion and guide. In your  
WELCA unit, in your congregation, in your personal life,  
God promises to walk with us and be present to us in all  
the seasons of our lives.

**~Submitted by Pastor Heather Culuris  
SW MN Synod Minister for Engaging Leaders  
& SWMN WELCA Liason**





# Mission Community/Justice

As I sat down to write this, I realized it is one of our Mission Groups that I know very little about. I do know what Community is and I also looked up the meaning and it was broken down into four categories. Schools, workplaces, neighborhoods and religious centers. There are also three different settings. Urban, suburban, and rural.

When Covid-19 started all the different settings were given the same set of rules. Wear masks, stay six feet apart, and isolate if possible. The Covid swept through very fast and soon we were more isolated than we thought we would be. The vaccine was introduced and things did start to get better. However not everyone was not vaccinated, so here we are three years out and we still have cases of covid breaking out. Does that mean we will have to live with covid forever?

The article I read did mention linking Community with Justice. That puts a whole new light on Community, as I always thought when you are a Community you look out for those in your Community or helped them if you could. This article I read had a comment on George Floyd and his death. It has been two years since he died and there have been many others who have died needlessly since then.

Another look at things that have happened in the past. Who ever heard of people storming the Capital in Washington DC just because they did not like the vote that took place the past November. What was going on was uncalled for.

## Where was our Community and Justice on that day?

What about the senseless killing of children in our schools, shopping malls and other crowded areas. Maybe it is time for people to become Community. Go back to their churches and get to know more about God. See what a caring, loving God he is. Open your Bibles and read what he has to tell us. In the Gospels he tells us how his son was born, how he lived and how he died and rose from the dead on Easter Sunday. Put God back in our schools and other places in our Community.

Yes we have had Covid and people getting killed. The last I knew we are still a God fearing, God loving, In God We Trust Country and we need to take it back from those who are sinful and do not believe in God.

We need to go from being political correct to go back to the roots of this Country (Community) and get back to In God We Trust. The Bible does not say black lives matter, it says all lives matter. No matter red, yellow, black and white. Let's put God back where he belongs. In Community and Justice.

## Mission Community/Justice Committee

Marcella Chapman & Connie Dallmann



## CONFERENCE LIAISON'S 2022-2023

CROW RIVER (CR): Connie Dallmann

GLACIAL RIDGE (GLR): Gwen Degner

GREAT RIVER (GRV): Noreen Berarek

LAC QUI PARLE (LQP): Dianne Doscher

LAKELAND (LL): Carmen Maus

MINNESOTA VALLEY (MV): Brenda Danielson

PRAIRIE (PR): Carolyn Enstad

SCENIC VALLEY (SV): Janet Hagen

**SHETEK (SK):** Marcella Chapman

WATONWAN RIVER (WR): Maria Lakensgard  
Ilene Penk

## Mission Growth/Discipleship

As I sit under the canopy on our deck in our back yard enjoying the warm of the August sunshine and the gentle breezes, I have noticed and have become aware of the "Change of the Season" that will soon be upon us. It's been a lovely and enjoyable summer and now I am looking forward to the engaging colors of fall. It's in the air . . . the fall season. The Fall Season, which is a beautiful season, with the leaves changing their colors to yellows and reds and yet there remains, the color of green in the midst of yellows and reds. The green of an evergreen tree, that is forever green in the midst of all of those gorgeous colors. So, it is with all of us, we are created in all colors & nationalities. We are created in His image. God, the creator of steadfastness, hope and love . . . the GREEN color in our lives. Even though, the seasons change and our lives sometimes are changed by various happenings, we know that God's son **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Hebrews 13:8**

The ancient Christian doctrine of God's immutability states that God doesn't change, has never changed, and will never change. **Isaiah 46:9-11 . . . "Remember your long and rich history, I am God, the only God you've had or ever will have . . . incomparable, irreplaceable."**

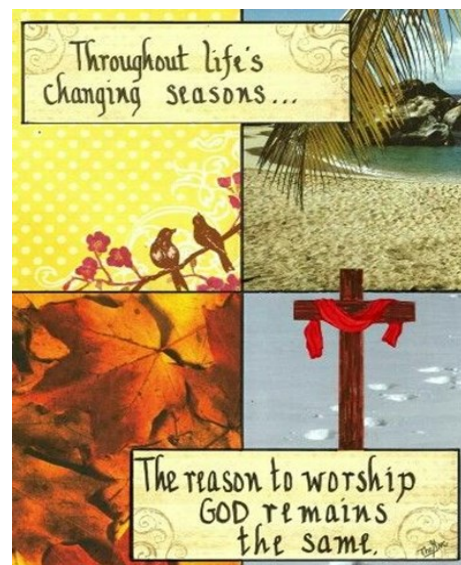
It is a certainty for us to know that God is there for us at all times. Times of happiness, times of joyfulness and times of thankfulness, He is there! He is there for us in times of trial and tribulations. Even walking in darkness and loneliness, Jesus is there. We just need to reach out to him, asking for His help and guidance. In **Deuteronomy 31:6 . . . "Be strong. Take courage. Don't be intimidated. Don't give them a second thought because God, your God is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you."**

As a member of the Altar Guild at my church, I am fully aware of the Changing of the Seasons. Currently, we are in the Sundays following Pentecost and the liturgical color is *Green*. The color *Green* begins after "Holy Trinity" Sunday and continues to the *Red* of Reformation Sunday. *White* is the color for "All Saints" Sunday and "Christ the King" Sunday. The Season of Advent is celebrated with a beautiful *Blue* . . . and then the liturgical color changes to *White* for Christmas . . . the time of celebrating Christ's birth. **Galatians 4:4 . . . "But when the right time came, God sent his Son, born of a woman, subject to the law."**

In conclusion, there are numerous "**Seasons of Change**" in our daily living. Every time there is a change in our life, we embark on a new journey. Where will it lead us? What will be our reaction? Sometimes, there so many questions to draw on or set into motion. If we see change as a natural thing in our life, we can Embrace it. . . Celebrate it . . . Enjoy it . . . or Change it. Change is inevitable. Prayer and communicating with God are steps that we can follow to acknowledging the change. Riding the waves of change with God's help, we can have absolute security in knowing that His love is there for us at all times and in all places and in the "Season of Change".

### Mission Growth/Discipleship Committee

Dianne Doscher & Brenda Danielson



# Mission Action/Stewardship

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the gospel of peace,  
and bring glad tidings of good things! Romans 10:15.  
This was the inspiration for our Leadership Training on Aug. 27, 2020.

A song from the Cantata "The Shadow of the Cross" came to my mind.  
*How beautiful the hands that served the wine and the bread and children of earth.*  
*How beautiful the feet that walked the long dusty roads and the hill to the cross.*  
*How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.*  
*How beautiful the heart that bled, that took all my sin and bore it instead.*  
*How beautiful the tender eyes that chose to forgive and never despise.*  
*How beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful, how beautiful is the body of Christ.*

## The Three Missions:

Think of the Mission Growth as your head. You have been given a brain to learn.  
Study the Bible. Grow in faith. Encourage one another.

Now think of Mission Action as your feet. Hit the ground running so to speak.  
This is the hands-on mission. Make quilts and kits and take action to make this a better world.

Now think of Mission Community as your arms. Hold them out to work with the fellow missions to take a stand against hunger, violence, social issues and whatever the cause. This can be local or worldwide. With one heart in the middle, we can move mountains.

Three missions, but they all have to work together to get the job done. We are God's hands, heart, and feet. Our work is never done. We need everyone to make a difference.

Remember the cross. Head at the top for Growth. Feet at the bottom for Action and arms outstretched to embrace the Community.

This year, our Mission Action focus on School Kits. Go to <https://lwr.org/kits/school-kits> for kit information and instructions. We also encourage Personal Care Kits, Fabric Kits, Baby Kits, and quilts.

*Take my life and let it be  
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise*

*Take my hands and let them move  
At the impulse of Thy love  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.*

Mission Action/Stewardship Committee

Noreen Beranek, Carmen Maus, Carolyn Enstad

## Words to Consider, from Ilene

LIVING TO GIVE: (by Joyce Meyer)

*Do not neglect to do good, to contribute  
(to the needy of the church as an expression of fellowship),  
for such sacrifices are always pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16*

It can be a healthy exercise to ask ourselves, "What am I doing to help someone else?" Can you think of the last person you helped?

Of course, we usually help our families during our daily activities, or we give gifts at Christmas, but I'm talking about something beyond that. I'm talking about living to give. A joyous and meaningful lift not found in what we get but in what we give.

How many people do we know who need help, and yet we have even considered being the one to help them? When we start asking these difficult questions, we can find our answers disappointing. However, we can always get reappointed and begin doing the right thing.

I want to encourage you to purposely help people in need. Look for them and find some way to help.  
Today's thought:

*In your quiet time with God, ask Him to show you who you can help today and how you can bless their lives.*





# Leadership Conference Photo



Learning



Fun



FELLOWSHIP



OUR 2022-2023  
SYNODICAL  
BOARD

# DATES TO REMEMBER

## CHURCHWIDE THANKOFFERING SERVICE

Join with women from across our organization in worship and praise using the 2022 Thankoffering service. Learn about Thankofferings and their important role as an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

3:00 pm

Online register

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_bpABIDjwSPaSx81ueB68bg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bpABIDjwSPaSx81ueB68bg)

We look forward to seeing  
you at our

**2023 SW MN SWO**

**Convention**

**Friday, May 5, 2023**

**Shetek Lutheran Ministries**

14 Keely Island Drive

Slayton, Minnesota

Theme: "RENEW, REDO, REJOICE"

Bible Verse: Zephaniah 3:17b

"he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love; he will  
exult over you with loud singing as  
on a day of festival."

**Bold Women's Day**  
**Sunday,**  
**Feb. 26, 2023**

Leadership Training

Saturday, Sept. 9, 2023

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

Redwood Falls, MN



**The Twelfth Triennial  
Convention**

September 19-21, 2023,  
Phoenix, AZ.

**Women of the ELCA  
Gathering**

Theme "Just Love"  
September 21-24, 2023  
Phoenix, AZ.



# 2022 Fall Conference Gatherings

Please reach out to your Conference Officers if you would like more information about Gatherings.

Conference	Date/Time	Location	Program
Crow River	Saturday September 24 8:30-11:30am	Stockholm Lutheran Church Rural Cokato, MN	Katie Koplin “Created, Sustained, Placed”
Glacial Ridge	Monday, September 19 4:00 pm	Our Savior’s Lutheran Church Chokio, MN	
Great River	Saturday, October 8	Atonement Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, MN	
Lac Qui Parle	Tuesday October 18 9:00am	MN Valley Lutheran Church, Louisburg, MN	Vicar Sarah Larson “Border Encuentro” <i>Vicar Larson’s story of mission work at the Texas Border</i>
Lakeland			
Minnesota Valley	Saturday September 10 11:30am	Trinity Lutheran Church St. Peter, MN	Noon luncheon w/ Gathering to follow Speaker: Kris Langworthy
Prairie	Saturday, October 8, 8:30 am,	Christ Lutheran Church, Cottonwood, MN	
Scenic Valley	Saturday, September 24, 9:00 am	First Lutheran Church, Renville, MN	
Shetek	Saturday September 17 8:30am-noon	Shetek Lutheran Ministries Slayton, MN	
Watonwan River	Saturday October 1 9:30 am	Augustana Lutheran Church St. James, MN	

# SYNODICAL BOARD 2022-2023

## **President:**

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## **SWMN Synod Staff Liaison:**

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**MISSION ACTION (Stewardship)** Noreen Beranek, Carolyn Estad,  
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**MISSION GROWTH (Discipleship)** Dianne Doscher, Branda Danielson

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**ADMINISTRATION/FINANCE** Ilene Penk, Janet Hagen, Gwen Degner,  
Maria Lokensgard