



## This is your Electronic Convention Publicity Packet

Read and share with all those interested in attending the

## 2024 Southwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Convention

at

**Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
301 N. Lincoln St.  
Redwood Falls, Minnesota  
Saturday, May 4, 2024**

**Make as many copies of the convention documents as you need.**

*If you know of someone  
without a computer, offer to  
print a copy for them!*

Questions can be directed to:

Ilene Penk,  
SW MN SWO President  
320-510-1261  
[ilenepenk45@gmail.com](mailto:ilenepenk45@gmail.com)



# WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Southwestern Minnesota Synod



**DATE:** March 2024

**TO:** Congregational Unit Presidents, Women of the ELCA, Guests

**FROM:** Ilene Penk, SW MN SWO President and the Synodical Women's Board

**SUBJECT:** Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) Convention – "Be the Light"  
Saturday, May 4, 2024 – Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, MN

Greetings from your Synodical Women's Board. This electronic mailing is your **publicity packet** for the 2024 SWO Convention. It is the only mailing you will receive. Please read all the information carefully and pass it on to all women in your congregation. Make as many copies as you need. If you know of someone without a computer, please print a copy for them. They will appreciate your time and effort.

This one-day convention will be held on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 301 North Lincoln Street, Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Our theme is "**Be the Light**" and our theme verse is Psalm 82:4: "Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked." NRSV

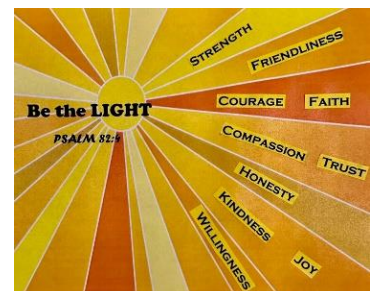
Coffee and a snack will be furnished as you arrive, and a noon lunch will be served. We suggest you bring your own water bottle to use during the day.

**Each congregational unit is allowed one voting member** at the convention. Voting members will be seated toward the front of the room and grouped by conferences. ***Your unit is strongly encouraged to pay the registration expense for your voting member.*** Voting members should be registered by 8:30 a.m. and must be seated by 8:45. If a voting member is unable to attend the convention, you may send someone else in her place, but the change must be made by 8:30 a.m. on the day of the convention.

The business sessions are for the Voting Members, but all women and visitors are welcome to sit in on the business of the day. Displays will be open during business sessions as well. We are planning to have two workshops during the day.

I am excited to see you all at our Convention in May! If you have any questions, you are welcome to contact me.

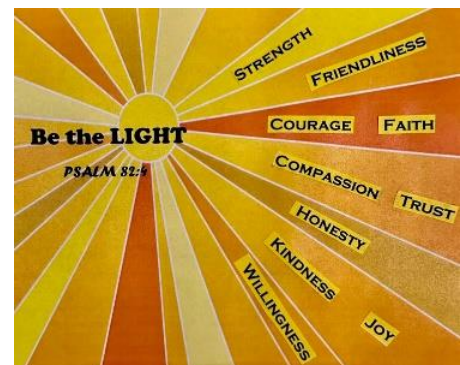
Ilene Penk  
320-510-1261  
[ilenepenk45@gmail.com](mailto:ilenepenk45@gmail.com)



# Tentative Convention Schedule

## Saturday, May 4, 2024

7:30 a.m.	In-Kind Offering Truck Opens
8:00	Registration/Coffee/Displays
8:30	Deadline for changes to voting members
8:45	Welcome/Opening/Voting Member Orientation All voting members must be seated by this time.
9:00	Worship with Holy Communion, Rev. Heather Culuris officiating Convention Offering will be taken.
10:00	Plenary Session, Installation of New Board, CWO Representative - Maria Lokensgard, Table Prayer
12:00 Noon	Lunch
1:00 p.m.	Gathering Music
1:15	Keynote Speaker – Aliyah Ewing, Terebinth Refuge
2:00	In-Kind Offering Report
2:15 - 2:45	Workshop 1
3:00 – 3:30	Workshop 2
3:45	Announcements, Closing



# Convention Worship Leader and Speaker

## Rev. Heather Culuris



Rev. Heather Culuris will lead our opening worship and serve as our Convention Chaplain. She is the Southwestern Minnesota Synod Staff Liaison to our Synodical Board.

Pastor Heather writes, “I am honored to be serving as Synod minister for Engaging Leaders! Through almost 20 years of rural ministry, I bring a deep commitment to strengthening our congregations and leaders who serve them! I am enjoying the work of working with congregations in the call process, as well as candidates attending seminary and preparing for ministry as deacons and pastors. This past year has been full of many adventures learning about the congregations and people of our synod!”

## Aliyah Ewing

Our keynote speaker will be Aliyah Ewing of Terebinth Refuge.

She writes, “My name is Aliyah Ewing and I have been working as a resident/speaker advocate at Terebinth Refuge for two years. My passion for survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking began when I was 17 years old, sitting in a church, learning about trafficking for the first time. I’ve spent the past ten years learning as much as I can from survivors, and professionals in the field, speaking about trafficking and teaching people of all ages about healthy relationships. I have a husband who fully supports and encourages my heart for survivors, and we welcomed a son into our family in 2022.



## **Bulletin Blurbs – Publicizing for the Convention**

Use these blurbs in your church newsletters and bulletins to encourage all women to attend the 2024 Convention of the Southwestern Minnesota Synodical Women’s Organization.

### **Newsletters - April:**

The SW MN Synodical Convention of Women of the ELCA will be Saturday, May 4, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minnesota. Make plans now to attend and join your sisters in Christ as we gather to “Be the Light.” Come to the one-day convention for worship, speakers, displays and fellowship!

### **Bulletins – March 31, April 7, 14, and 21:**

Women of the Church: Do you need some time for yourself? Come to the 2024 Synodical Women’s Convention for some inspiration and refreshment. You will not be disappointed by the experience of worship, speakers, displays, and a little bit of business! The convention will take place on Saturday, May 4, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls.

For registration information, contact \_\_\_\_\_ (*name of local person*). Registrations are due April 22nd.

### **Bulletin - April 28:**

All women are invited to come to the SW MN Synodical Women’s Convention on Saturday, May 4, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls. Although the registration deadline was April 22, walk-ins are welcome. Consider joining many other Lutheran women for a day of renewal, reflection, and celebration as we consider how to “Be the Light!” Please contact

\_\_\_\_\_ (*local contact person*) for all the details.

## Lodging for 2024 SWO Convention

Below is a list of hotels in and near Redwood Falls.

Travelodge by Wyndham  
1305 East Bridge Street  
Redwood Falls, MN  
507-637-3456.

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OYO Hotel  
410 West Park Road  
Redwood Falls, MN  
507-201-6000

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Redwood Lodge  
1382 E Bridge Street  
Redwood Falls, MN  
507-644-5700

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The Vintage Inn  
103 E 2nd St  
Redwood Falls, MN  
507-627-1875

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Morton Inn  
400 Kokesch Drive  
Morton, MN (9 miles from Redwood Falls)  
507-697-6205

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Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel  
39375 County Road 24  
Morton, MN  
800-946-2274