

# Northern Highlights

Fall 2019  
Volume 22, Number 3

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**The joy  
of the  
Lord is  
your  
strength.**

**Nehemiah  
8:10**

Northern Illinois Synod WELCA

## President's Message

Dear NIS Women of the ELCA,

It is hard to believe the summer is half over and fall is approaching. 16 people will soon be on their way to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation in Montana. They will host our NIS WELCA Servant/Immersion group August 24 - 31. We have plans to do some gardening and painting and, thanks to Dave Soltwisch, a plumber going on the trip, some plumbing projects Pastor Linda has in mind. We will interact with the Native Indians learning bead work and attending a drum concert. There is also a parade expected on Friday celebrating the Native American Indians. We are all looking forward to the trip!

I hope many of you will join us for the NIS WELCA Convention on September 21, at Trinity in Moline, with a focus on immigration. The theme is "New Horizons." We will be electing a president, secretary, four conference representatives, five voting members and five alternate voting members to go to Triennial 2020 Convention. With the NIS WELCA President, NIS will be represented by a total of six voting members. Women of the ELCA does good work for our communities and we need committed leaders to represent our Synod. If you know of someone who would be a good candidate for any of these positions, please pass on their contact information to any Board member who will give them to the nominating committee.

The Triennial 2020 theme is "Just Love." Triennials are a two-part meeting. The first 2 ½ days, July 14-16, 2020, are a business meeting called the Convention, and the last 3 ½ days, July 16-19, is the celebration called the Gathering. All voting members will have all their expenses covered to go to Arizona for the Convention. This includes airfare, housing and meals. If voting members want to stay for the Gathering, the air-

fare reservation can be extended to the end of the Gathering. For the Gathering, no expenses are covered. The cost of the Gathering itself covers the programs, worship and servant activities. Registration for the Triennial Gathering opens in September for the "Early Bird" Gathering fee of \$325. In January the fee will go to \$375. A one-day fee can be purchased for \$200. The workshops are being organized now and suggestions can be submitted to Linda Bushkofsky. Marketing materials for Triennial 2020 are available now and can be found on the Women of the ELCA website. 2020 is the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women pastors, so there will be some special celebration honoring women pastors.

Even though my term on the Board is complete, I plan to continue working on Women of the ELCA missions in the Northeast Conference and beyond. Human Trafficking, Bullying, Homelessness and Immigration have been our Convention themes the last four years. They are all ongoing issues that need to be addressed, and acted on. To advocate for the reduction and eventually elimination of these social crimes, we need to get involved with our communities and law makers to make effective changes.

I want to thank all of you, Women of the Northern Illinois Synod, for your support of our women's group and the entire Northern Illinois Synod while I've been President. It has been a wonderful experience working with you all. My prayer is that our work pleases our Triune God and that we continue in His name to uphold His teachings.

Blessed to be a blessing,

Kim Choin, NIS WELCA President

# TREASURER'S REPORT

Pennie Miller

## TREASURER'S 2/1/2019-7/31/2019 REPORT

### Beginning Balance (2-1-2019)

### INCOME / RECEIPTS

	Budget	Carry-over 43497.00	Income	12708.64 Total	PROPOSED BUDGET 2/1/2020 -- 1/31/2021
Regular-Conference Offerings	21800.00		7006.93	7006.93	22000
Convention Offerings	3500.00		0.00	0.00	3250
Convention Registrations	2500.00		40.00	40.00	2900
Convention Booklet	300.00		0.00	0.00	
Retreat Registrations	3100.00		2820.00	2820.00	3100
Retreat Offering	0.00		392.00	392.00	450
"Northern Highlights" subscriptions	350.00		130.00	130.00	200
Triennial Scholarships		1200.00	0.00	0.00	
Triennial Offerings	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Computer Fund		1146.89	0.00	0.00	
Coffee/Tea/Chocolate	50.00		0.00	0.00	
NISWO Prison Ministry & LSSI Story Book	200.00		0.00	0.00	200
Rocky Boy	300.00		150.00	150.00	300
Tanzania Women - crafts	0.00	987.15	0.00	0.00	
Tanzania North Central Diocese Woman's Dept	2700.00		2574.00	2574.00	2700
India-Arcot Women's Desk	2000.00		0.00	0.00	1500
NIU Campus Ministry	300.00		0.00	0.00	300
Katie's Fund	0.00		0.00	0.00	
World Hunger	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Justice	0.00	540.40	0.00	0.00	
Triennial India Guest	1200.00		0.00	0.00	
Donations - board expenses	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Ruth Fairchild Zion Lutheran Project	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Rooms- Convention Expense	0.00		0.00	0.00	
India Craft Purchased to Sale	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Tanzania Nursing School	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Harvard Food Pantry	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Convention Scholarship	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Convention Expense	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Thank Offering	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Interest	0.00		0.00	0.00	
Balance from old checking account closing	0.00		4520.56	4520.56	
Triennial International Guest FY20-21					3500
Triennial NIS Delegate FY20-21					2500
<b>Total Income / RECEIPTS</b>	<b>38300.00</b>	<b>3874.44</b>	<b>17633.49</b>	<b>17633.49</b>	<b>42900</b>

<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Carry-over</b>	<b>Disbursed</b>	<b>Total</b>	
Regular Offerings to CWO (78%)	17000.00		0.00		16380
Convention Offerings to CWO (50%)	1800.00		0.00		1625
Convention Expenses	3500.00		0.00		3500
Convention Scholarships	100.00		0.00		100
Retreat Expenses	2500.00		1660.67		2595
Retreat Scholarships	100.00		0.00		100
Retreat Offering	0.00		0.00		
Leadership - Units	200.00		0.00		200
Nominating Committee	100.00		0.00		100
Board Expenses	3350.00		394.64		3100
India Craft Purchased to sell	0.00		0.00		
Financial Records	100.00		7.32		100
ELCA Insurance	100.00		0.00		100
Communications	200.00		0.00		200
<i>Northern Highlights</i>	1200.00		897.98		1000
Triennial Scholarships	400.00		0.00		800
Triennial Offerings	100.00		0.00		100
Triennial Promoter	50.00		0.00		50
Triennial Gathering	0.00		0.00		
Triennial Guest	1200.00		0.00		
<i>Triennial International Guest FY20-21</i>					3500
<i>Triennial NIS Delegate FY20-21</i>					2500
Discipleship	50.00		0.00		50
Justice	100.00		0.00		100
Stewardship	50.00		0.00		50
Church Women United	50.00		0.00		50
Computer Fund	200.00		0.00		200
Coffee/Tea/Chocolate	50.00		0.00		
Prison Ministry & LSSI Story Book	200.00		0.00		200
Rocky Boy	300.00		0.00		300
Tanzania Women - crafts & <i>Global Missions</i>	300.00		0.00		300
<i>Tanzania North Central Diocese Woman's Dept</i>	2500.00		0.00		2700
India-Arcot Women's Desk	2000.00		0.00		2000
NIU Campus Ministry / <i>Grace Place Ministry</i>	300.00		0.00		300
NIS Assembly Annual Offering	100.00		0.00		100
WELCA Presidents' Meeting Offering	100.00		0.00		100
NIS Assembly Exp.-President's Registration	0.00		354.48		400
<b>Total Disbursements</b>	<b>38300.00</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3315.09</b>	<b>3315.09</b>	<b>42900</b>
<b>Total Income less Disbursements</b>				<b>14318.40</b>	
Special Funds Holding Account					
Triennial Scholarships	1200.00		1200.00		
Computer Fund	1146.89		1146.89		
Justice	540.40		540.40		
Tanzania Women - crafts	987.15		987.15		
Triennial Guest	0.00		0.00		
Triennial Offering	0.00		0.00		
Total Special Funds	3874.44	0.00	3874.44		
Balance in Account					<b>27027.04</b>
Less \$ Allocated for Special Funds					<b>3874.44</b>
<b>Ending Balance 7/31/2019</b>					<b>23152.60</b>
<b>Pennie Miller, Treasurer</b>					

## BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

*Carol Sauter, Secretary*

The NISWO Board met at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois, on August 3, 2019. President, Kim Choin, called the meeting to order. Opening devotions were led by Connie Seavey, Central Conference Representative.

### Old Business:

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the NISWO Board Meeting of May 4, 2019, were distributed. The minutes were approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented by Treasurer Pennie Miller, with a balance of \$27,027.04. The Treasurer's Report was approved and placed on file.

### New Business:

President's Report: President Kim Choin presented the President's Report. The report was approved.

Convention: Karen Anderson, Parish Administrator at Trinity, Moline, gave the Board a tour of the church. Cindy Wildermuth, West Conference, reported that plans are progressing nicely and Ann Terry, South Conference, gave a summary of the breakout sessions that will be presented that day. Trinity, Moline will be printing the Convention booklets.

Nomination: Joan Soltwisch, East Conference, reported two nominations for Triennial delegates and a nominee for South Conference representative. Nominees are still needed for Triennial delegates, President, and North, Northeast, East, and Northwest Conference Representatives.

Please read the Justice and Stewardship reports found in this issue of *Northern Highlights*.

*Our next meeting will be held November 3, 2019*

## STEWARDSHIP

*Ann Terry, South Representative*

Hello sisters in Christ in the Northern Illinois Synod. I didn't plan to write a Stewardship article until my term as South Conference Representative was over after the September Convention. At our Board meeting in Moline, however, God laid it on my heart to write this first article for our fall *Northern Highlights* publication. I want to start by quoting two Bible verses: Matthew 25:29 "For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have more than enough." 1 Peter 4:10 "As each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good managers of the varied grace of God."

Money is probably the last thing people like to hear about in connection to the church. All of our churches and organizations are stretched financially, and budgets have been cut more and more in the last few years. At our August Board meeting, we voted to add two items to our 2020 - 2021 proposed NISWO budget. These are \$2,500 for a delegate to attend the Triennial Gathering, and \$3,500 for an international guest to attend Triennial from our sister synod in Tanzania. Wow, that's a whopping \$6,000! Interestingly enough, when divided by all the churches in our Syn-

od, it comes to only \$45 per congregation. I know many of you don't have active units. However, I challenge you to come up with innovative ways to think about setting aside funds to help with our 2020 Triennial fund. I saw several of our Board members write a check on Saturday for their Convention registration, which is normally covered by the NISWO, and they donated that amount to the Triennial guest/delegate fund. You don't have to have an active unit to donate to the NISWO. Giving any kind of donation through your church is much appreciated. The Triennial Gathering experience is one that I was fortunate enough to experience five times with my daughter. This broadened my horizons and appreciation of our Women of the ELCA. Somewhere out there, is a woman wanting to be a delegate and a woman in Tanzania wanting to attend and you, ladies of the Northern Illinois Synod, can make this possible! I am praying that our women have it in their hearts at Convention to approve this in our budget and we will show that we are generous in the NISWO. With God's help, and your help, we can send 2 more people to our 2020 Triennial, "JUST LOVE."

## JUSTICE

Joan Soltwisch, NISWO Justice Advocate

### Great Reads For Summer and Fall; Book Reviews and More

Our WELCA women have been reading Social Justice Selections from our lending library this Summer, and we will continue into Fall. It has been fun to come to WELCA Board meetings and share what we have read. Some of us attended the breakout session on racism at C.R.E. at Kiswaukee College, and could share with the larger group, selections from our library. Here are some of the reviews to stimulate your reading. Most of the selections listed here pertain to current **hot** topics.

On the topic of Racism: Many of these selections were suggestions from Ruthie Dell Fairchild. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, by Michelle Alexander, with a new Foreword by Cornel West. Alexander argues, in this book that, "we have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it. By targeting black men through the War on Drugs and decimating communities of color, the U.S. criminal justice system functions as a contemporary system of racial control, relegating millions to a permanent second-class status."

*Tears We Cannot Stop: A Sermon to White America*, by Michael Eric Dyson This is a book that Ruthie shared selections from to the Women of Color Committee, during the Triennial business meeting. She said after reading this, "if you are Black this is what happens and if you are White, you need to know this."

*The Color Compromise: The Truth about the American Church's Complicity in Racism*, by Jemar Tisby, is a book new this year that I read this summer. The book describes how people of faith have historically, and to the present day, worked against racial justice. The book is a call for urgent action by all Christians in response to this. What I liked most about the book was the last chapter that describes what all of us can do to work towards racial justice. We can broaden our social interactions to include more people of diversity, we can choose social media sites that feature posts that educate us on other cultural differences, and we can visit a church, synagogue or mosque that has cultural events different to our own, with our families.

On the topic of Native American Studies: *Holding Our World Together: Ojibwe Women and the Survival of Community*, by Brenda J. Child. This book traces the influence of native women across hundreds of years,

from the development of agricultural economy, to the larger Indian communities in cities throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan, and their influence on tribal identity and community survival. It is a book that will be added to our lending library and was of interest as we get ready for our servant trip to Rocky Boy.

Speaking of Rocky Boy, the destination of our Servant Trip to Montana later this month, and our homework to do before we head West, we are watching lectures on Goggle, "Mennonites Central Committee Doctrine of Discovery." This Doctrine of Discovery allowed European nations to colonize any land not ruled by Christians and would see Native people as less than human and their lands as free for the taking. These lectures are very comparable to the reading described in the books on racism highlighted here.

On the topic of Human Trafficking: I continue to work with the Jewish women, JCAST from North Shore Chicago, focusing on Human Trafficking. They are partnering with the Illinois Women Religious Against Human Trafficking, and are in the planning stage of the showing of *The True Cost, Chicago Presentation*. Kathy Kelly, global activist for peace, and three-time Nobel Peace Prize Nominee, states, "[this] project will do a great service by educating the North American audiences about the prevalence of human trafficking at home and around the world, by providing information as to how to make responsible choices as consumers and politically engaged citizens, in efforts to reduce the demand for human slavery." The performance will show the magnitude of the problem and that the International Labor Organization estimates that there are currently 40.3 million victims of human trafficking globally, serving a \$150 billion industry worldwide, including sex trafficking, and various kinds of forced labor. This will be a breathtaking play, using the true stories of trafficking survivors, obtained through interviews with anonymous volunteer participants. I am working with this group to bring the film to Bicentennial Theater, in Joliet.

We can all read together, we can all do this together -  
- with God's work, our hands!!



**God's work.**  
**Our hands.**

## CENTRAL CONFERENCE

*Connie Seavey, Central Representative*

It's late summer now and many of us are ready for the fall programs to begin — or at least get serious about planning them! Hopefully many of our units in the Central Conference were able to gather together during the summer — our *Gather* Bible study was great! I certainly learned more about Esther than I thought I would. We are looking forward to gathering back in September to study poetry of the Old Testament.

Fall is also the time when many of the Central Conference churches gather all their LWR quilts and other kits to send to Maryland. I would love it if each church in our conference would email me their total number of quilts, school kits, baby kits, personal care kits, etc. I will tally each and report the number back in our next newsletter!

**Please gather as many women as possible to attend our Convention in Moline on September 21!**

Now a few updates from some of the churches in our conference. Please know that I always think of WELCA as all the women of our churches.

**St. Paul's, Dixon** is planning a church-wide rummage sale, August 16 and 17. The money from this event will benefit their LYO. What an undertaking this is!

**Immanuel, Rock Falls** always reminds the women of their church that their "sewing servant" group has many projects that do not require sewing. This should be emphasized at many of our quilting groups! They will have their August Bible Study at a restaurant in Fulton — and they are combining with another group from their church — a good idea to get as many women as possible together.

**All Saints, Byron** quilting group reminds us that LOMC (Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center) is having a quilt auction in October and would like each quilting group to send in a quilt — these can be tied as well as long arm quilted. Please call LOMC in Oregon if you have any questions about this. Their next WELCA meeting will be on Saturday, September 14, with a potluck breakfast followed by their meeting — that sounds delicious, as well as a great way to get more women involved!

**Trinity, Mt. Morris** is planning a WELCA picnic on the church lawn — that sounds like fun for sure. I bet many of us have memories of picnics on the church lawn!

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SEND ME YOUR LWR STATISTICS! THANKS IN ADVANCE.**

## EAST CONFERENCE

*Joan Soltwisch, East Representative*

**Faith, Joliet** continues to enjoy *Gather* Bible study together. They are currently collecting for Health kits and School kits.

**Plattville, Minooka** held a brunch to honor and support Lutherdale Bible Camp and it's quilt auction. The women continue to quilt for Lutheran World Relief and collect for school kits. They will also be collecting for Personal kits and Baby kits.

**Resurrection, Channahon** continue to meet for *Gather* Bible study and lunch. They recently met to watch a movie based on the book of Esther, after the summer *Gather* Bible study theme. The church collects items for schools in the Channahon area.

*God didn't ask if you were ready....*

*Only if you were willing.*

## NORTH CONFERENCE

*Janice Forrest, North Representative*

**Our Savior's, Rockford** Families and babies are our theme on Thursday, September 19, at 6:30 p.m., at Our Savior's, 3300 Rural St., Rockford. You are invited to attend "Friends of Jesus Throw a Baby Shower!" A program will be presented by two ladies of very different family heritage. They melded the two into Bella Luna Bakery, located in Rockford. Lorie Parker-Weinrich of Scandinavian descent and Polly Happach of Italian descent, will describe how they developed

their business and how their products reflect their ancestors. Lorie also directs the handbell choir that will perform for you. Desserts will be served. There is no cost for the event. Donations of new or gently-used baby items are welcomed for Lutheran World Relief. Reservations are appreciated with Pam Shaver, by email to shaverpam@gmail.com or by phone (815) 399-0459. Deadline is September 9.

## NORTHEAST CONFERENCE

**Representative Needed**

**First Lutheran, DeKalb** is presently working on programs for Naomi Circle's 2019-2020 season. The local community service groups are invited to present a program to help Naomi women be aware and possibly involved in their ministries. Prelude Bible Study meets twice monthly utilizing the *Gather* Bible study, with the offering going to NISWO. In April, First Lutheran's Annual Garage Sale is a benefit to donors needing to clear away STUFF, especially those moving or downsizing. The teamwork of men and women making this happen is a gift of fellowship and getting to know some 'newer' members. The money earned has been donated to NISWO for the Tanzanian women and children's ministry for several years.

**Nativity, Wonder Lake** will host the Northeast Conference Fall meeting on October 19. The meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m., followed by lunch and the 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Afternoon Tea. The Tea is open anyone who would like to attend, including the community, and will begin at 1:00 p.m. Please call (815) 728-1064 to reserve a spot.

**Northeast Conference Rep** is needed for the 2019-2021 term on the NIS Women of the ELCA Board. If you know of someone who would be a good representative, please contact Pennie Miller or Joan Soltwisch on the nominating committee.

## SOUTH CONFERENCE

*Ann Terry, South Representative*

Greetings to all my sisters in Christ in the South Conference and throughout the Synod. I hope you have all had a nice summer and some of you are planning on attending our NISWO Convention on Saturday, September 21, in Moline. Our theme for the day, "New Horizons," will focus on the timely topic of immigration and refugees. We are delighted to have the President of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services with us that day to present a forum for non-voting members and a breakout session for all who are interested in the afternoon.

I was so happy to hear that many of our congregations carry their Bible studies through the summer, and many churches are busy quilting and collecting Lutheran World Relief items all summer. I will give my annual tally of Lutheran World Relief projects in the winter issue. That will be my final

*Northern Highlights* article as South Conference Representative. We will be electing a new person in September, and I will be taking on the Stewardship role.

**Immanuel, Marseilles** and **Our Savior's, Seneca** will be forming a two-point parish under the title of Illinois River Valley Parish. They plan to do some joint activities with their women. **First, Granville** and **Emmaus, McNabb** have participated in joint activities for some time, including Bible study, sponsoring a summer breakfast for community churches, and spearheading a school supply collection for needy children in area schools. I encourage all our churches to consider cooperative ventures with neighboring churches to build friendships, strengthen faith connections and support one another's ministries.

## SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

*Mary Shull, Southwest Representative*

We will have our annual Fall Assembly in October. Since the WELCA Synod Convention is at Trinity, Moline, I hope several from our Southwest groups will be able to attend. Usually it's about 2 - 3 hours away, so this is a great chance for many of you to come.

**Bethany, Woodhull** continues to quilt once a week. We make quilts and lap robes for Lutheran World Relief, Safe Harbor, veteran and nursing homes, and members of our congregation. We are collecting fabric, school supplies and personal care items for LWR. They will be packed on *God's Work our Hands Day*. We have Bible study from the *Gather Magazine* once a month, and we are planning our annual Christmas luncheon.

**Calvary, New Windsor** ladies are active serving our monthly breakfast for the community since we don't have a restaurant in town that serves breakfast anymore, this once-a-month breakfast has filled that

void. It's good attendance by the community, not only for our church. It's always a delicious breakfast, but the conversation is enjoyed as much as the breakfast. We have several ongoing projects such as collecting school supplies, food pantry items, candy for Trunk-or-Treat at Halloween, making baby quilts for hospitals, prayer shawls, and we have a team for Relay for Life. Our church tent at the New Windsor Rodeo takes many hands baking countless pies, cookies, etc.

**Zion, North Henderson** are still quilting on Thursday afternoons and will gather school supplies for LWR School Kits in August and September, to send to the local ingathering in October.

## WEST CONFERENCE

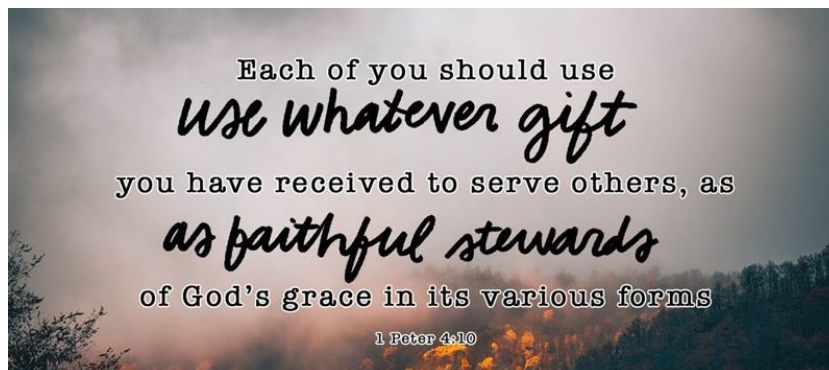
*Cindy Wildermuth, West Representative*

**Calvary, Moline** The Sewing/Craft group continues to meet. We had five Lenten lunches, hosted the West Conference Spring Assembly on May 4, and will end our monthly meeting in June by going out to eat. In July, a Ladies Night Out is planned. Our meetings start again in September.

**Cambridge** hosted the Lenten suppers through March and April. Our First Sunday Dinners for the community will continue, and we will be hosting the West Conference service on May 5. In June, we will celebrate by traveling to Bishop Hill for lunch and will visit our shut-in for her 80th birthday. Our Bible Studies this Fall will be in Genesis.

**Trinity, Moline** Our Circles continue to meet. Most of them will go out to eat in May or June. We are doing some new things this year, including a Fondue and Flower activity, and are trying to do things for all the women of Trinity four times a year. In September, we will be hosting the WELCA Convention. We would like to see you all, so please mark that on your calendar. Have a nice Fall.

**Trinity welcomes you all to the WELCA Convention September 20, for a meet and greet on Friday night from 7-9, and again on Saturday for the Convention.**





## NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

*Twila Simler* , Northwest Representative

Greetings to everyone from the Northwest Conference. I hope you are having a safe and healthy summer, in spite of all the rain earlier in the season and the recent heat wave. This will be my last message in the *Northern Highlights* as your Northwest Conference Representative, as my term ends in September. I will be available to help wherever I can in the future but someone else will be taking the reigns as your conference representative. Thank you for allowing me to serve in this position! I will keep each of you in my prayers as we continue to do God's work and to spread the good news.

**First Lutheran, Freeport** Through the summer months, the Lady Circles group have had some fun days! The Rebecca Circle had a picnic at one of the member's home and the Mary Circle had breakfast out in June. In July, the WELCA ladies met in the fellowship hall for a salad luncheon and then played bingo with white elephant prizes. They had a great time with all the laughter over taking away prizes from one another during bingo. They also went on a Mystery Trip, with one person planning it with questions that you have to guess the answers to while you are driving to destination. This is the second year for this event, and everyone looks forward to going. They also gathered items for school kits for LWR and assembled them at the Project workdays in July. Three ladies are planning on going to Convention in Moline in September. In December, we are planning a day to bake Christmas cutout cookies and packaging them to sell to our congregation as a fund raiser for WELCA. We continue meeting every month for a game day playing Bunko. Our knitters continue to meet twice a month at our local yarn store to knit on their projects, as well as knitting prayer shawls, baby afghans for babies baptized at our church, neck scarves for our high school grads, children and baby hats, and children sweaters. The reading group meets once a month to discuss the book of the month that they choose. Our WELCA ladies also prepare and serve all funeral luncheons at the church. We are so blessed at First for all the active WELCA ladies in our congregation!

**Trinity, Lanark** Trinity WELCA is planning Blanket Sunday on September 8. With additional support from the congregation, supplies gathered will be delivered to Rockford. The quilts they have made will be

displayed that day, as well. They are also planning an event to feature a speaker from the Rockford Rescue Mission; date is to be determined. During their regular meeting in October, they will use the *Gather* Bible study. They will take part in Thankoffering Sunday on November 10. And, in December, all ladies are invited to lunch at a local restaurant, and then have the regular meeting at Church .

**St. Johns, Pearl City** Greetings from the Women of the ELCA at St. John's Lutheran Church in Pearl City! We do not meet as a group during the summer, but planned and conducted the worship service while Pastor was on vacation. We also held a brunch and Bible study at a member's home in July, and enjoyed the beautiful weather outside. Our annual meeting will be held the end of August, with a catered meal and a program, including the election of officers and planning for the new year. This month, we are starting our monthly Bible studies from *Gather Magazine*, either at church with coffee and a snack or eating out after the Bible study at different local restaurants. In addition, an Oregon River boat ride to enjoy the fall colors along the Rock River is planned in October. In December, a bus trip to the Palace Theatre at Wisconsin Dells for the concert of Blackwood Quartet and Elvis will get us in the Christmas Spirit. May we all count our many blessings and thank the Lord for all that he has given us. Many blessings to all.

**Lord of Love, Galena** Our Spring rip was such a success that we are planning another one this fall. Please join us for a Fall Mystery trip! All passengers should submit a chocolate recipe or all members of Lord of Love should submit a chocolate recipe (a surprise is planned for all the recipes). The day will include -- Mystery Lunch (scrumptious, all you can eat, your choice) --Mystery Wine (wine tasting, with special surprises) -- Mystery Chocolate (not telling) -- Mystery Fall Colors (truly God's Gift and in his Hands) -- and last but not least, Mystery Apple Pie! (What a way to finish the day) -- It is going to be so mysteriously amazing! We currently have a 56- passenger, handi-cap bus reserved, and the price is \$65 on or before September 9, after \$75. Please contact Cheryl Barr at (563) 599-2063 or [clb2233@yahoo.com](mailto:clb2233@yahoo.com) to register.

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Women  
of the  
**EVANGELICAL  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH  
IN AMERICA**

## New Horizons

So you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

-Ephesians 2:19

## Northern Illinois Synod Women of the ELCA 31st Annual Convention

Trinity Lutheran Church, 1330 13th Street, Moline  
Saturday, September 21, 2019 • 9:00 a.m.

Morning Message by  
Bishop Jeffrey Clements



[nisynod.org/women](http://nisynod.org/women)

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