



# CONNECTIONS



EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWSLETTER

Volume 26 No. 1

<http://eandwelca.net/>

November 2022-March 2023

The Twelfth Triennial Convention is scheduled for  
September 19-21, 2023, Phoenix, AZ.

The 2023 Gathering is scheduled for September 21-24, 2023.

Voting members were chosen at the SWO conventions to represent each SWO at the Triennial. Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization members elected as voting members are: First time attendees—Corrina Olson (McVille), Jennifer Hayes (Medina), and Sharon Syrdal (Fargo). Also elected are: Marilee Eikom (Tolna), Mary Jo Kinzler (Kulm), Joan Huso (Aneta), Renae Olson (Medina), and Pam Neumiller (Fargo). Karen Retzlaff, SWO President, is automatically a member of the delegation which will be asked to elect a Churchwide Board and act on resolutions brought to the Triennial Convention that takes place the 19th-21st of September 2023.

The Gathering begins on the evening of September 21st and continues through September 24th. Registration is now open. [Womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) website will be posting more information as it becomes available. A direct link is [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org) or subscribe to **BOLD CONNECTIONS** at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/publications>

## Quilters: Here's a Challenge

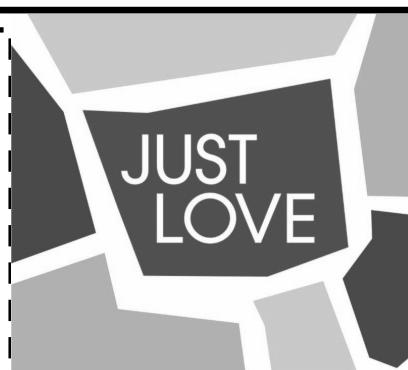
Quilters of all abilities are invited to create a quilt interpreting the Just Love Gathering theme. The challenge comes not only in interpreting the gathering theme but also in working within certain rules. A new twist this year is that the quilt can be rendered in any shape, as long as the finished perimeter is within 60 to 100 inches. Round, rectangular, triangular? The possibilities are many!

The challenge is open to all women who are members of ELCA congregations. The quilt must be the work of a single individual; no group or two person quilts will be accepted. The quilt must be constructed and quilted by the person named on the entry blank. The quilter need not be planning to attend the Just Love Gathering to participate in the quilt challenge, but why not join the fun in Phoenix too?

Want some inspiration? Or maybe you just enjoy looking at the creativity found in past quilt challenges? Take a look at the [Black&White+One challenge](#), from our last gathering in 2017.

Quilts with the completed form and payment must arrive in the churchwide office by August 4, 2023.

Go to [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org) for more information about this challenge. Scroll down to find the Quilt Challenge Fact Sheet. There is a downloadable registration form with all the rules for the challenge. Happy Stitching!



Registration for the 2023 Triennial Gathering is now open.

*Early Bird discounts are available through April 30, 2023.*

*Registration materials are online only.*  
[welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org)

## REGISTRATION FEES AND OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ADD-ONS

All registration categories include all gathering activities scheduled for September 21–24, except optional activities and add-ons below.

### REGISTRATION CATEGORIES

**MARCH 1 TO APRIL 30, 2023/ AFTER APRIL 30, 2023**

Adult Registration \$375 /\$425

Adult Friday Registration (one day only) \$200/ \$225

Adult Saturday Registration (one day only) \$200/ \$225

Digital Streaming (all plenaries) \$225/ \$250

Girls 13-18 \$125/ \$125

Child under 13 FREE/FREE

### OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ADD-ONS

Late Night Bold Cafe Event, September 21 \$35

Run, Walk and Roll, September 23 \$40

Commemorative Communion Ware \$150

“Just Love” T-shirt (red w/white lettering) \$30

S M L XL 2XL 3XL

(Deadline to order shirts is Tuesday, July 27, 2023)



**2022-2023 EaND 3-B Synodical Women's Organization Board**

**Please keep this list for your future reference.**

(indicates the end of term & # of terms)

**PRESIDENT**

Karen Retzlaff-24-1  
11995 19th St NE  
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701-326-4235  
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[retzlaff@polarcomm.com](mailto:retzlaff@polarcomm.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT**

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[mrswob@gmail.com](mailto:mrswob@gmail.com)

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**SPIRIT LAKE CLUSTER REP.**

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[fomoth@outlook.com](mailto:fomoth@outlook.com)

**GRAFTON CLUSTER REP.**

**TO BE APPOINTED**

**PRairie ROSE CLUSTER REP.**

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(W) 701-789-1537  
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**FARGO CLUSTER REP.**

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**GRAND FORKS CLUSTER REP.**

Joan Huso-23-1  
11870 County Road 2  
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[ibhuso@hotmail.com](mailto:ibhuso@hotmail.com)

**MAYVILLE CLUSTER REP.**

**TO BE APPOINTED**

**JAMESTOWN CLUSTER REP.**

Renae Olson-23-1  
106 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave NE  
P.O. Box 774  
Medina ND 58467  
701-320-7567  
[sunshinerko@yahoo.com](mailto:sunshinerko@yahoo.com)

**WAHPETON CLUSTER REP.**

**TO BE APPOINTED**

**CONNECTIONS**

Karen Retzlaff (Appointed)  
11995 19th St NE, Aneta ND 58212  
H: 701-326-4235 C: 701-270-0355  
[retzlaff@polarcomm.com](mailto:retzlaff@polarcomm.com)

Greetings!

First and foremost. I must apologize for the long wait for this issue of Connections. My brother, Tom, died on January 1st followed by my daughter Katherine's death, January 14th. While I know that they are safe in the arms of God, it has been a difficult 2 months. Your kind words and prayers have made all the difference. Thank you.

It is time for Cluster Gatherings and five have been set. Grand Forks will meet April 15, Grafton and Mayville on April 29, and Prairie Rose and Jamestownon May 6. Fargo, Wahpeton and Spirit Lake have not been scheduled.

**At the risk of sounding like a broken record, we still need to have someone from Grafton, Mayville, and Wahpeton Clusters volunteer to accept the role of Cluster Representative. Spirit Lake will also need to have someone to take on that role, since Frances Omoth-Salle's term will end in September.**

Blessings as you complete your Lenten journey and prepare for Easter and Pentecost by studying God's Word and prayer.

He is Risen!

Karen Retzlaff,  
EaND SWO President

**Remember...**

We no longer pay registration fees for Cluster Gatherings or Conventions. We have opted for Sponsorships to pay for these events.

Sponsorships in the amount of \$80-\$100 will help cover expenses of putting on a Cluster Gathering or convention. The only expense would be for any meals at the event.

To that end, we are encouraging Units to consider helping with the expenses as we move forward.

**NOTE: Please send this to our Treasurer:**

**Jeanne Wobbema  
EaND SWO Treasurer  
1053 E. Main #409  
Valley City, ND 58072**

## **Treasurers:**

**Thankofferings** can be sent to Women of the ELCA at any time. You **DO NOT** need to send them to Jeanne Wobbema, instead use **Offering Form B** and send to:

**Women of the ELCA, ELCA Gift Processing Center, PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009.**

**Use Form A for Regular, Convention, and Cluster Offerings and send to:**

**Jeanne Wobbema, EaND SWO Treasurer 1053 E. Main #409 Valley City, ND 58072**

## Cluster Gathering News

**April 15, 2023**  
**Grand Forks Cluster**  
Reynolds Lutheran Church  
503 6th Ave  
Reynolds, ND

8:00-11:30AM

### *Wedding at Cana*

Reynolds WELCA requests your presence to experience the best and worst of times in our journey through faith. Help us unpack Jesus' first miracle into God's promise of love, hope, truth, and strength while facing one of life's hardest challenges.

**Registration and Breakfast 8-9:00 \$10.00**  
*(Make checks to: Reynolds Lutheran WELCA  
Susie Kuster, Pres. 313 7<sup>th</sup> Ave Reynolds, ND 58275)*

**Bible Study and Communion with offering**  
Pastor Rachael Puttbres

**Wedding Dress Review**

**Reflection on Grief** Nancy Newcomb  
**In-kind donations:** Thompson Food Pantry

**Call, text, or email to register**  
Joan Huso, GF Cluster Rep. 701-371-0303  
jbhuso@hotmail.com

**April 29, 2023**  
**Grafton Cluster**

### **GOD RESTORES**

**“Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;  
and uphold me with Thy free spirit.” Psalm 51:12**

**Skjeberg Lutheran Church, rural Drayton, MN**

**Registration begins at 9:00 AM  
with coffee and rolls served.**

**A program will follow in the Sanctuary 9:30.  
Lunch will be served following the program for  
\$12.00.**

**In-Kind gifts: paper and hygiene products such as  
tissues, paper towels, cleaning supplies, laundry supplies,  
soaps, lotions, and feminine products.**

**Please mail the preregistration form  
and check made out to “Skjeberg WELCA” to:**

**Cherie Kjelland, Registration/Secretary  
Box 23  
Drayton, ND 58225**

**Deadline: April 19, 2023**

**April 29, 2023**  
**Mayville Cluster**  
**The Gift of Another Chance**  
Christy's Lakeview Restaurant (Lake Tobiason)  
13602 16th St NE rural Hatton, ND

**Registration with Brunch 8:30-9:15 am**  
**Program 9:30**

**featuring Mark Ostgarden,**

**Lighthouse Ministries and Genesis House, Fargo, ND**

**Preregistration for Brunch (\$15.00)**

**Please mail your check  
made out to “Bethany Lutheran WELCA” to:**

**Judy Stensland  
520 Jersey Ave  
Hatton, ND 58240  
Deadline: April 19, 2023**

**May 6, 2023**  
**Jamestown Cluster**  
**(Postponed from March 25)**

**English Lutheran Church  
210 Water Street E  
Medina, ND**

**“Think Spring” a Day of Focusing on Our  
Thoughts and Interactions**

**9:00 am-1:30 pm**

**Lindsey Voeltz  
Guest Presenter**

**Project Ignite**

**In-kind donations:  
Children's items for Project Ignite recipients**

**May 6, 2023**  
**Prairie Rose Cluster**

**Hosted by Morning Star Parish  
at  
American Lutheran Church  
Tolna, ND**

**Watch for information mailing**



**Connections**  
**11995 19th St. NE**  
**Aneta, ND 58212**

**Please Note: Update your Unit Mailing Address. If you are no longer president, please pass this on to her. If you are a subscriber, your expiration date is coded with your name, e.g., Jane Doe JA/16 (expires January 2016).**

**Frequency of Publication Information**  
**CONNECTIONS** is published quarterly in February, May, August, and November. Subscription rates are four (4) issues for \$3.00. Subscription requests and address changes should be sent to :

**Karen Retzlaff  
11995 19th St. NE  
Aneta, ND 58212-9271**

**Please share the information in this newsletter. Photocopy as needed for your unit members, your bulletin boards, and church newsletters. Don't file this away! It's your message about what is happening in the Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization!**

**What's Inside?**  
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**Unit Presidents Information**  
**(See page 3 for more details!!!!)**

**Grand Forks Cluster Reynolds Lutheran, Reynolds April 15  
Grafton Cluster Skjeberg Lutheran, Rural Drayton April 29  
Mayville Cluster Christy's Lakeview Restaurant, Hatton April 29  
Jamestown Cluster English Lutheran, Medina May 6  
Prairie Rose American Lutheran, Tolna May 6**

**The Triennial Convention and Gathering**

**The Twelfth Triennial Convention is currently scheduled for September 19-21, 2023, Phoenix, AZ. The 2023 Triennial Gathering is currently scheduled for September 21-24, 2023.**

**Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women's Organization Convention will be held on Saturday, September 30, 2023 at Messiah Lutheran Church, Fargo. This is an opportunity to hear about the Triennial which will have concluded on September 24, 2023.**