



CONNECTIONS

EASTERN NORTH DAKOTA WOMEN OF THE ELCA NEWSLETTER

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March-June 2019



EaND SWO Prison Ministry

Yarn Project Information



Eastern North Dakota SWO is continuing to collect yarn of many types for the Jamestown Regional Correction Center. The above photo is of yarn collected at Cluster Gatherings of the Synodical Women's Organization this past spring.

Chaplain Mark Haines expressed his gratitude for all the donations and told Karen Retzlaff, who delivered more yarn to JRCC, that he will cheerfully take as much yarn as is donated by WELCAs in Eastern North Dakota.

Karen's car was crammed with yarn—trunk, back seat, and part of the front seat when she delivered it at the end of May. Please continue to collect any and all yarn—It will be greatly appreciated and delivery guaranteed.

Contact your Cluster Representative for more information or call Karen Retzlaff (701) 326-4235.



NOTE: A baby blanket created by one of the inmates will be a door prize at the EaND SWO Convention to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Valley City, ND, September 21, 2019. (President Jan Maurstad is pictured to the left holding the baby blanket.)

Triennial Voting Members to be elected at EaND SWO Convention in September

The 11th Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, July 14-16, 2020, with the Gathering taking place from July 16-19, 2020.

Voting members to the Convention are being selected at SWO Conventions nationwide. Eastern North Dakota will be electing its delegates at the SWO Convention on September 21 at Valley City. **A Vita form can be found on page 3 of this publication. You are encouraged to submit a vita form if you would like to run for this position.**



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX

EaND SWO Board positions to be filled at the Convention

There are several positions on the Synodical Women's Organization Board that need to be filled at the convention in September. Openings include:

- ⇒ Vice President
 - ⇒ Treasurer
 - ⇒ Cluster Representatives for the following:
Prairie Rose Fargo Grand Forks Jamestown
- Each of these terms is for two years with the opportunity to serve a second two year term.**

If you know of someone who might be interested or if you are interested in running for any of these positions, please consider submitting a Vita Form. It can be found on page 3 of this issue.

Serving on the SWO Board gives you an opportunity to share in the mission of the Synodical organization which is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith.

Is God calling you to be a part of His plan for the church? Has God spoken through the scriptures, other women, Bible studies, asking you to take up this challenge? Listen carefully as you pray and worship. What is God asking you to do?

2018-2019 EaND 3-B Synodical Women's Organization Board

Please keep this list for your future reference.

(indicates the end of term & # of terms)

PRESIDENT

Jan Maurstad (2020 — 1)
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TREASURER

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JAMESTOWN

Mary Jo Johnson (2019 —1)
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SPIRIT LAKE

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CONNECTIONS

Karen Retzlaff (appointed)
retzlaff@polarcomm.com

President's Message

Summer is here—special times with family, beautiful flowers, amazing fields of ripening grain, campfires, swimming, and enjoying beautiful sunsets. God's gift to us! Life is good. That doesn't mean there aren't bumps in the road every day.

"I'm so blessed to be stressed" is a quote I try to remind myself of each day. This past month has had many stress filled days, it is only when I pray and focus on God's word that He keeps me grounded.

Exciting events are happening with the Eastern North Dakota Synodical Women! The 7th Annual Women's Retreat, "Be Ye Transformed," is August 17, 2019 at Maryvale; cost is \$45 after August 1st or at the door.

Our Synodical Convention is September 21st in Valley City at Trinity Lutheran. The "Confident Women in Christ" is our theme. *Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it, 1Corinthians 12:27* is our theme verse. The guest speaker is Rev. Shirley Teske.

Voting delegates for the Triennial will be elected at Valley City. Please pray about being a delegate, it is a wonderful opportunity to see how the Holy Spirit leads us in decision making.

The soap bars and stickers have been ordered to help stop human trafficking of our young girls. There will be more information about that at our convention in Valley City.

Blessings to you,
Jan Maurstad
EaND Synodical President

Heads Up

Gathering 2020 registration opens September 30.

Visit welca.org for more information and welca.org/shop to order Gathering 2020 logo items.

Take a look online.

EaND SWO Women's Retreat Update

Due to unforeseen circumstances, one of the speakers at our 7th annual Retreat has had to cancel. Her replacement will be Julie Hudson, SWO vice President, who is originally from a farm outside of Walcott, ND. She grew up going to Our Saviors Lutheran Church in Colfax, ND, where the foundations of faith were developed.

She is a NDSU graduate and University of Mary. She worked for NDSU for 25 years, was an elected official in McLean County ND. She owned and operated a floral shop for a time and is currently a substitute teacher in the Fargo area.



Five years ago the love of her life and she divorced. They have 3 children. She wants to share her faith journey through the frustrations and disappointments in her life and how Christ brought renewal into her life.

2019 VITA FORM

POSITION I'M RUNNING FOR: **Vice President** **Treasurer**
Cluster Rep: **Prairie Rose** **Fargo** **Grand Forks**
Triennial Voting Member

Cluster: _____ **Work Phone** _____

Church: _____ **Home Phone** _____

Name _____ **Cell Phone** _____

Address: _____ **E-Mail** _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Community Involvement:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Church Involvement:

FAITH STATEMENT:

Please send Vita Form to: EaND SWO Secretary, Pam Neumiller, 513 Santa Cruz Drive, Fargo, ND 58103 by August 15th. Thank you.



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

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Karen Retzlaff

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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!

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Unit Presidents Information

Save the Date:

7th Annual Women's Retreat

Maryvale rural Valley City

August 17, 2019

EaND SWO 32nd Annual Convention

Trinity Lutheran Valley City

September 21, 2019

Please remember to send your Sponsorship to Connie Radcliffe, SWO Treasurer, in order to help with Cluster Gathering and Convention expenses on an annual basis. Make it a part of your annual budget.

Remember you can send your Thankoffering money to Churchwide using the forms sent to you at any time during the year.

Your regular offerings may also be sent at any time during the year.

Thank you for being good stewards of God's gifts.

Really Looking Ahead—start planning & saving NOW!!!!

11th Triennial Convention (Voting members elected in 2019) Phoenix, AZ

July 14-16, 2020

11th Triennial Gathering (All Women of the ELCA) Phoenix, AZ

July 16-15, 2020