

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

Southwestern



Minnesota Synod

DATE February 2015

TO: Congregational Unit Presidents
Women of the ELCA

FROM: Kristy Henriksen, President
SW MN Women of the ELCA

Winter greetings to you as we see the time fast approaching for the 28th annual Convention of the SW MN Synodical Women of the ELCA. Your publicity packet is enclosed and I hope you'll read it carefully and pass on the information to **all the women** in your congregational unit. **Begin praying** now for God's Spirit to inspire those who will strengthen our faith and challenge us to spread our wings as Christ's servants.

DATE: **Friday and Saturday, June 19 & 20, 2015**
Registration begins at 11:30 a.m.
Orientation for Voting Members 12:30 p.m.
Convention Opening 12:45 pm (immediately following voting member orientation)

Place: **University of MN, Morris**
600 East Fourth Street
Morris, MN 56267
*a map will be sent to all registrants

Theme: **"Repair, Rebuild, Restore"**

Theme Verse: "Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." Isaiah 58:12 NRSV

Publicity: The convention is open to ALL WOMEN not only voting members, so please promote it in your local congregation. As president, encourage your women to attend and enjoy the fellowship of their Lutheran sisters. Included is a publicity poster and some bulletin blurbs to use as you wish.

Registration: A registration form and a scholarship form are included in this packet. Anyone who is not a voting member is considered a visitor on the registration form. **All registrations are due June 5, 2015.** Please make as many copies of the registration and scholarship forms as needed for your unit.

Voting Member: Each unit is allowed, and strongly encouraged, to have one voting member at the convention. Your voting member will be seated with all the other voting members from your conference. Your unit is expected to pay the expenses for your voting member. **Voting Member orientation will be at 12:30 pm.** Voting member registration is due **June 5, 2015.** If that voting member is unable to attend the convention,

you may send someone else in her place. Voting members will be electing a vice president, secretary, and 5 board members.

Scholarships: Ten scholarships are available for those who have never attended a synodical convention. There is no age limit for these scholarships. The deadline to apply for a scholarship is **May 20, 2015**. The selected will be notified by **June 1, 2015**. Our scholarship mentors will be Maria Lokensgard from St. Peter and Kathy Bergs from Hutchinson.

Speakers: We're excited to have **Ren Fuglestad, a potter, who will be with us during our opening worship with "He Didn't Throw the Clay Away."** Afternoon speaker will be Dennis Herschbach on Human Trafficking. He is an author of poetry and books on trafficking in Minnesota. On Day Two, you will have 2 workshop times. Six options are available. Closing Worship on Saturday will be led by the 3 Campus Ministers in our SW Synod—Revs. Michael Vinson, Linda Lagergren, and Jeff Greathouse. **Dawn Smith** from Michigan will be our churchwide representative. Of course there will be inspiring music!!!

Offerings: Convention Offering:

- 50% to Churchwide Women of the ELCA
- 25% to Heartland Ranch
- 25% to SW MN Campus Ministries

In Kind Offering:

- All Lutheran World Relief Kits, except School Kits (crayons will melt!)
- Christian Literature

I am looking forward to seeing you at convention! Please call with any questions: 507-825-3122 or e-mail me at henriksen7@mchsi.com

Blessings to each of you,

Kristy Henriksen

Bulletin Blurbs for Publicizing the Convention

May 3 SW MN Synodical Convention of Women of the ELCA is June 19 & 20 at the University of MN, Morris. Make plans now to attend and explore **"Repair, Rebuild, Restore"**

May 10 Take some time for yourself and be inspired and refreshed at the Synodical Church Women's convention. Special Presenters: Ren Fuglestad, potter; Dennis Herschbach on Human Trafficking, and 3 Campus Ministers at Closing Worship. For registration information, contact _____ (local person).

May 31 **"Repair, Rebuild, Restore"** is the theme of the 28th annual SW MN Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention, June 19 & 20 at the University of MN, Morris. Plan now to attend! For registration information, contact _____ (local person). Registrations are due June 5, 2015.

June 7 There's still time to register for the SW MN Synodical Convention of Women of the ELCA June 19 & 20 at the University of MN, Morris. Join hundreds of other Lutheran women to praise the Lord with singing and join in exploring **"Repair, Rebuild, Restore."** **Be part of the team!** Registration deadline is June 5, but registrations are taken at the door. See _____ (local person) to register now!

Opening Worship

Ren Fuglestad

**He Didn't Throw
The Clay Away**

*A visual
demonstration
of man's
relationship
with God
through the
art of pottery*

*"Oh Lord, you are our father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand."
- Isaiah 64:8 -*

Ren Fuglestad
1103 Lyndon Ave. S.
Glyndon, MN 56547
701-388-7773
judyfuglestad406@hotmail.com

Ren grew up in Moorhead, MN, graduated from Oak Grove Lutheran High School (his grandfather, T.T. Fuglestad was one of the founders of Oak Grove) and Concordia College (his father was a biology professor there for 43 years). He also served honorably in the US Navy. He attended graduate school in ceramics and photography at Montana State University in Bozeman and Utah State University in Logan, Utah.

He and his wife, Judy, attend Triumph Lutheran Brethren Church in Moorhead, MN. They live in Glyndon where he has a pottery showroom as well as a pottery studio in his home. You're most

welcome to visit him there if you call ahead (he's not always home).

He teaches ceramics classes currently at The Plains Art Museum in Fargo. He also teaches privately out of his home studio, mostly to high school home schoolers. His intention is to retire from teaching classes at The Plains at the end of May due to how it interferes with his passion: being outdoor active with his daughters (who live in Idaho).

Beside his passion for hiking and biking with his grown daughters, he also has a passion for Glacier National Park, the state of Montana, and cross country skiing. He 'works out' most days to keep fit for racing on his cross country skis. The weather has not cooperated with his passion the past 10 years: it has either been too cold (he doesn't ski if it's below 10 below) or there has not been sufficient snow.

He also has a passion for sharing how the Holy Spirit can center our lives (from the inside as well as the outside) if we allow ourselves, our 'clay', to be moldable, to be in His hands and His control.

2015 Convention Speaker



Dennis Herschbach is an award winning author and poet whose memoir, *Brown Sugar Syrup and Jack Pine Sand*, won the North East Minnesota Book Award in 2011. He is currently the president of the League of MN Poets. His poetry has been read on MPR station KAXE and has won several national awards through the National Federation of State Poetry Societies. Herschbach's first book was a chronology of his struggles after the death of his first wife. Titled *Grief Journey*, it takes an honest look at his grieving process.

He began writing a mystery series about Two Harbors, a small town on the shores of Lake Superior, in 2012 and has penned four works of fiction involving Deidre Johnson, the fictional first woman sheriff of Lake County. Having lived there for forty-five years, Herschbach is familiar with the area north of Two Harbors, its lakes, its trails, its forests. The places in his books where the action occurs are real.

Herschbach molds his plots around actual societal problems. Titles of his mystery series include: *Convergence at Two Harbors*; *Seven Graves, Two Harbors*; *A River Through Two Harbors*; and *Preying in Two Harbors*. Although his books are fiction, they are meant raise the reader's awareness to real issues such as human trafficking.

Herschbach is a retired school teacher and Synod Authorized Minister of the ELCA. He resides with his wife, Vicky, in Sartell, Minnesota. He is an avid golfer (duffer), enjoys travel, and reading. Currently, he is working on a fifth book in his mystery series.

Churchwide Guest

Dawn Smith

Dawn Smith
Executive board member, 2011-2017
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Dawn Smith was appointed to the executive board in 2011 and elected to the board in July 2014. She serves as chair of the program and communication committee.

Dawn previously served as president and boardmember for the Northwest Lower Michigan Synodical Women's Organization. She has served on the synod's earthkeeping team and has worked with Lutheran camps in Michigan to provide nature walking trails. She has been a voting member at several synod assemblies.



Dawn is a member of St. Timothy Lutheran Church in Midland, Michigan. She has served as her congregational unit as president. She has twice served on the St. Peter pastoral call committee, including once as chair, and currently teaches Sunday School. Dawn also serves as a Stephen Minister and works with a hospice spiritual care team.

Dawn and her husband Greg have four children. Dawn works as an aide to an elementary student with special needs.

Dawn enjoys baking, gardening, exercising, and running with her son. She also enjoys a challenging game of Scrabble or a good book.

Dawn is excited to be elected to the churchwide board. She says, "We are called to love and serve our neighbors and this is a wonderful chance to truly serve them."

Workshop Options for Saturday, June 20, 2015

* **Campus Ministries:** Find out what is new in Campus Ministries in Southwestern Minnesota. Pastors Michael Vinson, Linda Lagergren, and Jeff Greathouse are here to give you the latest. Gather ideas on how to help this important work of the church.

* **Church Kitchen Protocol:** You have heard all kinds of things about what you can and can't do in your church kitchen. Stainless steel is not a requirement, but it might be nice! Questions must be submitted by May 15 to Kristy Henriksen, so that the speaker can answer most of them or touch on common concerns of our synodical women. Chris Lee from Countryside Public Health in Benson is the presenter.

* **Healing Oils of Ancient Scripture:** Jane Sassenfeld and Jean Dukes, health professionals and aromatherapists, will tell of the ancient practice of healing oils and how they can be of use today. Remember, Jesus was given gifts of frankincense and myrrh. What oils should we be trying, and why?

* **Heartland Girls' Ranch:** Heartland Girls' Ranch with its new Hearts for Freedom Program provides a safe place for female minor victims of sexual exploitation to heal while receiving critical services. Come and hear Jennifer Fox tell of the important work of Heartland Girls' Ranch.

* **Laughter Yoga:** Yoga means "breathe" not "bending the body into a pretzel shape in a tight leotard." Come and experience laughter yoga with Pastor Jennifer Thul from, Tyler, MN, to help you relax and recharge. Life can be rigorous at times. Let "laughter yoga" help you. You- and your family- will be glad you did!

* **Native American Boarding School History:** The University of MN, Morris was home to a Native American Boarding School in its beginning. Two of the buildings are still standing. Join Stephen Gross, Associate Professor of History and Archivist to learn more about this interesting history of the University of MN, Morris.

**Be sure to check out the University Gardens during your stay at the University of MN, Morris.

CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Southwestern Minnesota Synodical Women’s Organization of
Women of the ELCA

Friday and Saturday, June 19 & 20, 2015
University of MN at Morris
Morris, MN

*NOTE: There is only ONE registration form being used for voting members and visitors with one registration form per person. Please check the appropriate identification if you will be registering as a **Voting Member** or **Visitor**. Thank you for abiding by the due dates listed.

Please type or print clearly

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ **STATE** _____ **ZIP** _____

PHONE _____ **E-MAIL** _____

CONGREGATION & CITY _____

CONFERENCE _____

Please check the one that applies to you: _____ Voting Member _____ VISITOR

Voting member registration is due **June 5, 2015** Visitor registrations is due **June 5, 2015**

Do you have any special needs? _____

Convention cost for both voting members and visitors includes registration, lunch, and coffee breaks

Registration Fee--\$75.00 for one or both days

I will be attending _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____ Both

TRANSFERABLE BUT NOT REFUNDABLE

Make checks payable to **SW MN WOMEN OF ELCA**

Send complete form and check to:

Please contact Algene Larson with registration questions

Algene Larson, Convention Registrar

dolarson@runestone.net or 320-246-3459

53904—120th Street, Donnelly, MN 56235

2015 Convention Offering

Mail your unit convention offering to:

Algene Larson, Treasurer
53904 120th St.
Donnelly, MN 56235

2015 Synodical Convention- Friday & Saturday, June 19&20, 2015 University of MN at Morris Morris, MN

2015 Offering Objectives are:

- 50% to Churchwide Women of the ELCA
- 25% to Heartland Ranch
- 25% to SW MN Campus Ministries

Cans for “Katie’s Fund” loose change will be on the tables.

In Kind Offerings:

- Any project for Lutheran World Relief- except School Kits
- Christian Literature

Please return the bottom portion of this sheet to Algene by June 5, 2015, along with your unit convention offering

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2015 Convention Offering- Please return form by June 5, 2015

Congregation Name and City_____

Congregation Number_____

Conference_____

Treasurer’s Name_____

Treasurer’s Address_____

Offering Amount \$_____ Make check to “SW MN Women of the ELCA”

Tentative Convention Schedule

Friday & Saturday, June 19 & 20, 2015 University of MN Morris at Morris

Friday, June 19, 2015 LUNCH IS ON YOUR OWN

11:30 a.m. Registration Also-- **Visit the College Gardens on your Own**

12:30 p.m. Orientation of Voting Members

12:45 p.m. Opening of Plenary Session - Business Session I

1:15 p.m. Hymn Sing

1:30 p.m. Opening Worship with pastor Ren Fuglestad, –message and Pastor Linda Pedersen-presiding; Offering received

2:30 p.m. Welcome/ Introductions (Mayor, College Rep, Churchwide Rep, Scholarship Recipients, etc)

2:45 p.m. Bible Study by Pastor Chris Richards, 2015 Seminary Grad

3:15 p.m. Business Session II Election Results / Break

3:45 p.m. Gathering Music

4:00 p.m. Dennis Herschbach, speaker, “Human Trafficking”

4:45 p.m. Stretch Break

5:00 p.m. Dawn Smith, Churchwide Representative

5:45 p.m. Break for evening

6:00 p.m. Dinner

7:00 p.m. Evening Programming

9:00 p.m. Rest of evening free

Sweet Dreams!!

Saturday, June 20, 2015

8:00 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Registration/ Business Session III, if needed

9:00 a.m. Gathering Music and Bible Study

9:45 a.m. Break

10:00 a.m. Workshop I (50 minutes)

11:00 a.m. Workshop II (50 minutes)

12:15 p.m. Lunch: Box Lunch with Mr. Poppe “Gardening” presentation

1:00 p.m. Gathering Music

1:15 p.m. Installation of New Board and Closing of Convention

1:30 p.m. Closing Worship with Communion by 3 Campus Ministers serving SW
MN

2:30 p.m. On Your Way Home!

Housing Options

University of MN, Morris see flyer in packet

Morris Grandstay to be completed in May 2015 (call Algene if interested)

Morris Super 8 320-589-8888

Best Northland Prairie Inn 320-589-3030

We welcome the Southwest Minnesota ELCA Synod's conference to the University of Minnesota, Morris on June 19 and 20. We are pleased to offer on-campus housing for conference participants in the following accommodations:

Green Prairie Residence Hall
newly opened 2013; LEED certified; fully air-conditioned

Room options:

- **Four-Person Double Bedroom Suite with common living area and bath:** \$20 per day per person
Two beds in each bedroom; The living area and bathroom are shared spaces. Community kitchen on the floor.
- **Four-Person Single Bedroom Suite with common living area and bath:** \$30 per day per person
Suite with four bedrooms; one bed in each bedroom. The living area and bathroom are shared spaces. Community kitchen on the floor.
- **Single bedroom with bath:** \$40 per day per person
Single room bedroom with attached bathroom

On-Campus Apartments
\$49 per night per apartment

Up to four people can share one apartment which includes:

- *Two bedrooms with two single beds in each (sleeps up to four)
- *Bathroom, Living Room and Kitchenette;
- *Air-conditioned (window unit)

Linens are included with each room and include: sheets, blanket, pillow/pillow case, towel/washcloth and soap.

Fill out and return to the address below with your payment.

Name _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell-Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Housing Request (rank your preferences, #1 being first) :

- Green Prairie Residence Hall**
- _____ Four-Person Double (\$20 per person)
 - _____ Four-Person Single Bedroom (\$30 per person)
 - _____ Single Bedroom (\$40 per person)

- Apartments:**
- _____ Two-Person Apartment (\$24.50 per person)
 - _____ Four-Person Apartment (\$12.25 per person)

List name(s) of requested room- or suite-mates:

I have no room-mate preference, please assign me a room-mate.

Please return with your payment to:

Karen Ellis
Conferences and Special Events
University of Minnesota Morris
600 E 4th St
Morris MN 56267

Make checks payable to: U.M.M.

- **NOTE:** Housing requests will be filled as received; *because of room configurations and numbers, it may not be possible to honor all room preferences.*
- Reservations must be made by June 12.
- Questions? Contact T.J. Ross, Office of Residential Life, U.M.M. (320) 589-6472

SYNODICAL CONVENTION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Women who would be **first time** convention visitors (not voting members) and who wish to learn about the Women of the ELCA are encouraged to apply for this scholarship. Those selected must be willing to attend all sessions of the Women's Synodical Convention to be held **Friday & Saturday, June 19 & 20, 2015** at the University of MN, Morris at Morris, MN. The recipients of the scholarship will be asked to evaluate their experience and share impressions with the convention participants. The two-day convention costs (registration, meals, and housing, if necessary) will be paid by the synodical women's organization with the exception of travel expenses.

PLEASE RETURN THIS APPLICATION BY May 20, 2015

Those selected will be notified by June 1, 2015 or sooner.

Please type or print all information

NAME _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME CONGREGATION _____

CONFERENCE _____

Tell why you would like to participate in the Scholarship Program: _____

(feel free to use the back of this form or additional paper if you need more space)

The group of scholarship participants and their mentors will be seated together throughout the convention.

If selected, I will participate according to the scholarship provisions.

Applicant's signature _____

Signature of Congregation Sponsor _____

(form must be signed by a member of your congregation)

**Return this application by May 20, 2015 to: Kristy Henriksen
907 5th Ave, SE
Pipestone, MN 56164**

RESOLUTIONS

A resolution is your opportunity to address problems, situations, or concerns that affect the church wide, synodical or local organization of Women of the ELCA and possibly its partners and global affiliates. Here's your chance! If your unit has a special concern, now is the time to address it. Resolutions should be presented at the Southwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention, June 19 & 20, 2015 at the University of MN Morris at Morris, Minnesota. Here are some guidelines for submitting a resolution.

1. **What is a resolution?** A resolution is a main motion, presented in written form by a voting member – a proposal that a convention takes action on, or expresses itself as holding certain views.
2. **Who prepares and presents Resolutions?** Every Congregational Unit has the right and privilege to prepare and present, through its voting member, a Resolution to the convention. The Resolution must be signed by five (5) voting members presenting five (5) congregational units of the SW MN Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA.
3. **Why do we use Resolution forms?** The form helps the secretary and president accurately report the business and action taken, it helps you think through your motion and it helps the convention move forward in an orderly manner.
4. **Resolutions are your voice.** If you want to speak up and be heard, this is one way of expressing yourself. Resolutions provide for the vision and direction of our organization. If you have an area of concern that you feel needs to be addressed, a resolution is a way of requesting action and beginning discussion and deliberation. The beginning portion of the resolution (the WHEREAS) states the issue of concern and should list factual background information to help the reader understand why this resolution is being presented. The conclusion (the RESOLVED) states the proposed action or actions. It tells what you think we should do about this issue.

Ask yourself these questions before submitting a Resolution:

1. Is the concern something our SW MN Synodical Women's Organization can address?
2. Is the proposed action consistent with the positions and policies of the ELCA?
2. What is the outcome desired if the action is taken?
3. In what other ways might congregational units of our Synodical Women's Organization deal with the concerns?
4. What are the costs in terms of time, talent, and money in implementing this action?

If after reviewing the guidelines, you wish to submit a Resolution, write it on the official form that is included in this special mailing to your congregational unit. (see reverse side)

CONGREGATIONAL/INTERCONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT PLEASE GIVE THE FORM PERTAINING TO RESOLUTIONS TO YOUR Voting Member, MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS

require the signature of (5) voting members, representing (5) congregational/intercongregational units. These voting members must all be members of a congregation belonging to the Southwest Minnesota Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This motion/resolution must be in the hands of the Resolution Committee No later than 12:00 noon, Friday, June 19, 2015. The committee would prefer that resolutions be mailed prior to convention by June 5, 2015 so the committee could act on them and have copies ready for the delegates. Mail resolutions to: Kristy Henriksen, 907 5th Ave SE, Pipestone MN 56164

OFFICIAL FORM FOR SUBMITTING RESOLUTIONS TO THE SW MN SYNODICAL WOMEN’S ORGANIZATION, June 19, 2015.

I submit the following motion/resolution related to:

_____ (indicate topic)

Whereas:

Be it resolved:

(use reverse side if additional space is needed)

1. _____ Congregation _____
Name of originator –voting member
2. _____ Congregation _____
3. _____ Congregation _____
4. _____ Congregation _____
5. _____ Congregation _____

28th Synodical Women's Convention

of the Southwestern Minnesota Synodical
Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA



June 19-20, 2015

PROGRAM FEATURES

OPENING WORSHIP SERVICE: Pastor Linda Pedersen and Ren Fuglestad, potter - "He Didn't Throw the Clay Away."

AFTERNOON SPEAKER: Dennis Herschbach - "Human Trafficking"

CLOSING WORSHIP: SW MN Campus Ministers- Michael Vinson, Linda Lagergren, and Jeff Greathouse

GOAL: Equip & support women in their faith journey, as they strive to repair, rebuild, and restore

THEME: "Repair, Rebuild, Restore"

THEME VERSE: And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets to dwell in. **Isaiah 58:12 NRSV**

Offering: 50% Churchwide,
25% Heartland Ranch
25% SW MN Campus Ministry

In Kind Offering: All Lutheran World Relief Kits-except School Kits
Christian Literature

Friday Evening Entertainment
After Dinner on Campus

6 Workshop Topics

Heartland Girls Ranch
Native American School History
Campus Ministry
Healing Oils of Ancient Scripture
Laughter Yoga
Church Kitchen Protocol

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JUNE 19 & 20, 2015
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA, MORRIS AT MORRIS, MINNESOTA

REGISTRATION 11:30 A.M. FRIDAY

FEE \$75