

Greetings Northeast Minnesota Women of the ELCA!

Welcome back to the beautiful Grand Rapids area for the 2024 Northeast Minnesota Synod of Women of the ELCA Summer Gathering/Convention. Your Synod Women's Board has been working hard to make this year a safe, uplifting, informative and joyful gathering!

We are focusing our 2024 theme of "Until All Are Fed" on the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ELCA World Hunger. Matthew 25:35 "I Was Hungry And You Fed Me" is our theme verse and we are excited to have our NE MN Synod Hunger Representative Vicki Schmidt speaking for ELCA World Hunger. The logo of Chalice and Cross with bread and fish was designed by Sara Swenson of the Laurentian Conference. Churchwide President, Myrna Wells-Ulland will be with us both days and host a Discovery time session on Tuesday. Zion's Community "Open Closet" Ministry will be included in the workshop offerings.

Highlights for this year are:

- Location - Zion Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids will again host Convention/Gathering.
- Length – Synod Women's Convention/Gathering 2-day summer event June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.
- Discovery Time for all on Monday. Tuesday features a variety of interesting and informative speakers which include:
  - Pastor Karen Bockelman – The Palestine/Israeli Crisis in Context
  - Sue Estee – Retired Exec. Director Second Harvest - Hunger in Minnesota's Northland
  - Joy Hensel – Wellness
  - Matt Cobb – Together Here
  - Sylvia Olson – Open Closet(Community Clothes Closet onsite at Zion)
  - Conley Jansen – Personal Safety
  - Myrna Wells-Ulland - Financial Information for Congregational Units
- Bible studies and reflection times are planned and the Prayer Room will be in the Chapel at Zion.
- Local hotels/inns/motels are being made available to choose your overnight accommodations.
- During free time, the resource tables and exhibits will be open in the Christian Life Center, speakers will be available and opportunities will be available for exploring the beautiful Grand Rapids area!

Any questions and more are answered in the FAQ information sheet included in this mailing. Your Synod Women's Board is working to continue to provide ways to engage in ministry and action and to promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

"We are the church together! Because we have been called to love our neighbors. . ." your Synod Board is recommending all participants be fully vaccinated and boosted for COVID-19. We are following the most current CDC and Minnesota Department of Health recommendations for large gatherings. Mask use is at your own discretion.

NE MN Synod Women of the ELCA Summer Convention/Gathering

Dates: June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Theme: Until All Are Fed

Verse: Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you fed me."

Color: Blue

In-kind: School kits for Lutheran World Relief

The Synod Board is looking forward to a great Convention! Please join us as we work together to find ways to address hunger in our churches, our communities and the World. "Until All Are Fed."

Bonnie Stevens, Convention Chair