

Northwest Intermountain Women of the ELCA

October 2025

BITS AND PIECES

Purpose Statement:

As a community of Women, **CREATED** in the image of God, **CALLED** to discipleship in Jesus Christ and **EMPOWERED** by the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to **GROW** in faith, **AFFIRM** our gifts, **SUPPORT** one another in our callings, **ENGAGE** in ministry and action, **PROMOTE** healing and wholeness in the church the society and the world.

Mission Statement:

To mobilize women to act boldly on their Faith in Jesus Christ

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Gathering/Convention in Kennewick, WA
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“God is not afraid of change.” Pope Francis 2015

“October is the month for the often obvious and beautiful changes of seasons. It’s also the time that we celebrate Reformation Sunday, remembering the event which changed the way we understand our salvation which does not come from our works but is by Grace alone thru Faith alone.”

These words were written by my Pastor for our Trinity October 2025 Newsletter. I thought that Pastor Hinderlie’s words were a good lead-in to talk about some of the changes we are facing in the NWIM Women of the ELCA.

At our last board meeting we decided to change the board designations to Coordinator instead of president. And Co-Coordinator for vice president. Communicator for Secretary and Treasurer will still be Treasurer. With such a small board the changes seemed more fitting because we really work as a group on everything and with

no hierarchy, just information and idea providers. We elected one new board member, Carla Lich from Lord of Life, Kennewick, WA and appointed Janet Boyer from Cameron Emmanuel in Kendrick, ID. Janet was appointed because constitutionally we can only have two women from one church elected. Janet and Carla are big pluses for our board. You can read a little bit about them on Page 10. We are excited to have these two new women on our board.

As you will read in this newsletter we have been blessed with money from the sale of Faith Lutheran, Toppenish, WA. The committee at that church who decided where best to give the proceeds of the sale had a lot of options of where the money would do the best and we are grateful that we were chosen to be one of the options even though it is sad they had to close their doors. We will try our best to use it in ways to lift our synodical women up as we profess in our Purpose Statement (on the first page). The Triennial scholarships will give these women opportunities to be empowered and to empower others to Grow, Affirm, Support, Engage and Promote.

As Pope Francis said “God is not afraid of change” and neither should we. We need to look with Joy at the opportunities that lie ahead.

SYNODICAL GATHERING
& CONVENTION

NEW NWIM
WELCA BOARD



PASTOR LIV LARSON ANDREWS

&

PASTOR GAIL HART

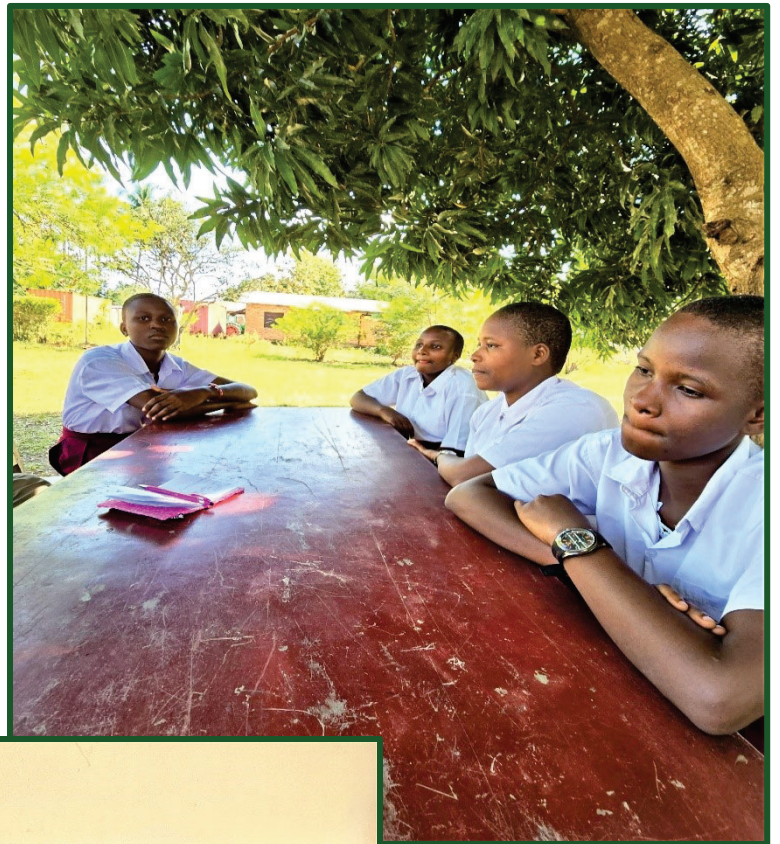


DEACON HEIDI CRYER



ULANGA KILOMBERO
TANZANIA, AFRICA

FOUR OF THE GIRL'S
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



LITTLE GIRLS
IN PURPLE DRESSES
POSSIBLE FUTURE
SCHOLARSHIP
RECIPIENTS

The Silent Auction at LOL was a success. I thought I would put 4 or 5 tables out for the items to be auctioned. By the time all the women had brought their items, we had 8 tables, full of wonderful items. I always love to see and be a part of "upping a bid" on something that we want. We all know it is for the Tumaia Girls School Scholarships which we give every year. The total at the end of the Gathering was \$522.00. Thank you for all who brought items and who bid on them. It would not be a success without you.

Vickie Witt, NWIM Board Member



Sent to Serve

Sent to Serve is the organization selected to receive half of the offerings from our NWIM Synodical Women's Organization gathering and convention held August 8-9, 2025 at Lord of Life Lutheran in Kennewick, Washington. They also were the recipient of half of the adult socks we collected as a physical offering.

Sent to Serve is a mission started in the Tri-Cities to serve the unhoused population in the area. The organization owns a trailer with 4 private shower rooms. They park the trailer in various locations twice a month during the late spring through early fall. Kennewick First Lutheran has been hosting the shower trailer once monthly. A grant given to Sent to Serve by Ben Franklin Transit allows them to give out free bus passes to homeless people so they can travel to where the shower trailer is parked. When a homeless person comes to take a shower, he/she also receives a new set of clothing and hygiene items. Free haircuts are offered, and a potluck hot meal is served. At the September 6th event, 80 people were the recipients of a new pair of socks! The rest of the socks will be distributed during the October 4th event.

Sent to Serve also serves hot meals in Kennewick every Sunday. At those events, volunteers help people with filling out paperwork for social services, wound care, and pretty much anything else that is needed. Approximately 150 people are served at each of these Sunday meals.

Recently, Sent to Serve was able to obtain a trailer with only 2 shower rooms. This one is able to be towed with a smaller vehicle and will be able to be parked in smaller locations.

Sent to Serve would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all the ladies who donated socks and/or money to this vital ministry!

SENT TO SERVE SHOWER TRAILER



Christmas Stocking Gifts

Have you ever received fun, warm socks for Christmas? Many youngsters in the Tri-Cities, WA will be receiving them this Christmas because of your generosity. The children and young adult sized socks collected at the August Gathering and Convention of the NWIM Synodical Women's Organization have been donated to Kennewick First Lutheran Church to help fill stockings which are given to Lutheran Community Services to distribute to deserving kids and teenagers in the community. Last year, KFLC filled over 500 stockings to be given out by LCS in the Tri-Cities. Your donated socks will be a welcome addition to the stockings being prepared for Christmas giving this year.



NWIM Women of the ELCA
Scholarships for 2026 Triennial Gathering



JULY 16-19, 2026 ✨ **Des Moines, Iowa**

The theme for the 2026 Triennial Gathering is "I Am Worthy," based on Psalm 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." This statement serves as a reminder of God's promise to be with us, even in times of devastation and division. By repeating the phrase "I am worthy," we can recognize the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in our lives. This practice of self-affirmation opens up opportunities for healing and restoration within ourselves, our church, society, and the world. When we declare, "I am worthy," we align ourselves with God's promises. There is great power in our resolve.

When Faith Lutheran in Toppenish, WA closed its doors and sold the building, they generously gifted our SWO with some of the money. We want to pass some of it on to six of you that would like to attend this event. Because "YOU ARE WORTHY", we are offering \$500 scholarships. Following the guidance of churchwide we will give a preference to a first time to Gathering woman, a woman under 40, a woman of Color or primary language other than English and a woman of the LGBTQ+ community. We do this to emphasize that all are welcome and to uphold the purpose statement of the Women of the ELCA. This money will be a reimbursement so that we know that each person who is chosen actually goes. Please, if you are wanting to go, send the attached form to Carole Dinning, Treasurer, NWIM SWO, 6703 Cody Street, Bonners Ferry, ID 83805 or email to caroledinning@gmail.com.

I will need your request by May 31, 2026.

Application form
Scholarship for 2026 Triennial
"I Am Worthy"

Name _____

Church and City _____

Check any that apply to you:

First time Triennial attender _____

Under 40 years old _____

Person of color _____

Primary language other than English _____

A woman of the LGBTQ+ community _____

Please don't hesitate to apply if none of the above apply to you.

Send this form to: Carole Dinning
6703 Cody Street
Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805

Or

Email to: caroledinning@gmail.com

Deadline: May 31, 2026

Early Bird Registration
available until January 5, 2026

Adult Registration -- \$475

Registration after
January 6, 2026

Adult Registration -- \$525

Our New Board Members

A little bit about Janet Boyer

I was born in Decorah, Iowa, and grew up in Northern Minnesota. After High School graduation I moved to Alaska. I lived in Alaska for over 30 years (with a brief stay in Washington) I married Doug Boyer in 1987. I have two boys and three grandsons. I have been a lifelong Lutheran, partly being the fact that my dad was a Lutheran Pastor for 25 years. I am retired from the State of Alaska where I worked for Child Support and the Division of Elections. I am an avid quilter and am loving retirement in Idaho. I was blessed to be chosen to go to Tanzania in 2024 and was able to take my oldest grandson, Wesley (who was 10 at the time). I have also been chosen to be one of two leaders for the 2026 trip. It was an eye opening, and heartwarming experience to visit and come to know our sisters and brothers in Tanzania. I am also thrilled to have the two visitors from Tanzania stay at my home for a week while they are here visiting.

Thank you for encouraging me to be a part of WELCA. I hope this is a long friendship with you all.

A little bit about Carla Lich

Prior to moving to the Tri-cities, I worked on the Navajo Indian Reservation in Shiprock, New Mexico as a Family and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner for a number of years until I retired in 2008. Then I started teaching at San Juan Community College in Farmington, NM where I taught Pharmacology for six years, and then retired in 2014. In July of 2014 I moved to Pasco, WA, where I found Lord of Life in Kennewick and became a member. I soon began teaching Elementary Faith Formation and continue to do so now. I am currently taking a Lay Ministry Course through the Montana Synod and our Northwest Intermountain Synod. I have been preaching intermittently over the last two years. Pastor Kirsten Sauey-Hofmann, our pastor has given several of us instruction and guidance prior to the LMA course. I, also, serve on the Stewardship Committee and the Children, Youth and Family Committee. Last July, 2024, I traveled to Tanzania to visit out UKD brothers and sisters. Now, I sit on the Companion Synod Team with my travel companions and Deacon Heidi Cryer as our chair person. My faith, and my practice of my faith is very important to me. I try to be available for any way I can be helpful to my faith community.

Northwest Intermountain Synodical Board 2025-2027

Coordinator – Jone Stout

9312 Richardson Rd

Pasco, WA 99301

509-551-6322

Jksmusic54@gmail.com

Church: First Lutheran church

Kennewick, WA

Treasurer – Carole Dinning

6703 Cody Street

Bonn timers Ferry, ID 83805

208-610-4885

caroledinning@gmail.com

Church: Trinity Lutheran

Bonn timers Ferry, ID

Co-Coordinator - Rosanna Lantz

446 6th Ave. SE

Ephrata, WA 98823

425-286-4801

Lantzr156@gmail.com

Church: Holy Trinity Lutheran

Ephrata, WA

Communications – Vickie Witt

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Juliaetta , ID 83535

208-276-4071 (home)

208-790-9158 (cell)

2016veejay@gmail.com

Church: Cameron Emmanuel

Kendrick, ID

Board Member – Connie Reid

P.O. Box 521

Juliaetta, ID 83535

208-276-3191 (home)

208-791-7993 (cell)

Yamaha.1964.mama@gmail.com

Church: Cameron Emmanuel

Kendrick, ID

Board Member – Leslie Mason

6703 Cody Street

Bonnors Ferry, ID 83805

208-267-5105

lesliem1976@gmail.com

Church – Trinity Lutheran

Bonnors Ferry, ID

Board Member - Carla Lich

P.O. Box 1646

Richland, WA 99352

509-987-2125

Jeepermom62@msn.com

Church: Lord of Life

Kennewick, WA

Board Member- Janet Boyer

38896 Sunnyside Bench Rd.

Lenore, ID 83541

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Church: Cameron Emmanuel

Kendrick, ID