



ECSW Women of the ELCA Report for Synod Assembly - May 2024

“Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your God.” - Micah 6:8

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, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.*

Board Members Women of the ELCA is made up of all women who are members of an ELCA church.

The ECSW Women of the ELCA is led by board members Lynn Beck, president; Lois Hilger, secretary; Carol Grom, treasurer; Kimberly Radtke, Appleton Conference Representative; Sheri Bradshaw, Oshkosh Conference Representative; and Chelsea Bassett, Tomorrow River Conference Representative.

The goal established for 2024-2025 is *By centering creativity and joy, the ECSW Women of the ELCA will engage more women in God’s work; facilitate vibrant and authentic in-person events by connecting to local programming; and amplify and promote social justice learning opportunities and engagement in person and online.*

Priorities identified by both Synod Biennial Convention (October 2024) and Triennial Convention (September 2024):

- 1 - To encourage Women of the ELCA to study the problem of racism by participating in Now is the Time: A Study Guide for the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent.
- 2 - To encourage participation in the ELCA Truth and Healing Movement and to create Land Acknowledgements. Will work with congregations on this.

In June of 2023, WELCA co-sponsored a bus trip to the majority African American Greater Galilee Missionary Baptist Church and to America’s Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee. In September, 26 women attended the churchwide **WELCA Triennial Gathering in Phoenix**. In October, St. John DePere hosted the WELCA Synod Biennial Convention. There was no fall retreat because of the other two events in September and October.

In 2024, conference spring events were held at Christ Our Savior Oshkosh (Appleton and Oshkosh Conferences), Emmanuel Seymour (Green Bay Conference), St. John’s Little Suamico (Shawano Conference), Good Shepherd Plover (Tomorrow River Conference), and Pilgrim Wausau (Wisconsin River Valley Conference). At least one Synod board member attended each of the Spring events.

The fall retreat will be September 14, 2024 at Imago Dei Village

With Gaye Lindfors as the speaker on the theme “Fearfully and Wonderfully Made.”

On April 5 of 2025, WELCA will co-sponsor the Racial Justice Conference at Ascension Green Bay. The next synod WELCA Biennial Convention will be November 8, 2025 at St. Mark’s Neenah.

The WELCA board meets face to face quarterly and via Zoom as needed. The president takes part in regional and churchwide meetings with other synod presidents and sits on the Synod Council.

Respectively,
Lynn Beck
President, ECSW Women of the ELCA