

Today's Offering: Katie's Fund

<https://community.elca.org/welca>

Your presence today will enter you into a drawing to win: A year of *Gather* magazine, a Just Love gift box (coffee mug, long sleeve t-shirt, note cards, and a few other items), a set of Katie's ale beer mugs, and a registration to the Triennial!



Welcome!

This annual and constitutionally-mandated training shares information from the churchwide level of Women of the ELCA (WELCA), executive board leadership and staff, and provides tools for living out one's call as synodical leaders in this organization.

Today's agenda will include:

- Bible study by the Rev. Minna Bothwell
- State of the Ministry report by churchwide executive board president, Myrna Wells-Ulland
- 2025 Strategic Plan, presented by churchwide interim executive director, Dr. Jennifer Hockenbery

CONTINUED: Today's agenda will include:

- A review of communication resources by Elizabeth McBride, staff
- A review of Membership and SWO President contacts, by Eva James Yeo, staff
- An explanation about upcoming Global Engagement trips, by Valora K Starr, staff
- An update from *Gather* magazine by Elizabeth Hunter and Cindy Novak, staff
- 2122: Campaign to fund Katie's Fund challenge, presented by Rebecca Sundquist
- Regional meet ups, breakout rooms
- 12th Triennial Convention Memorials and Resolutions, Myrna Wells-Ulland
- 2026 Triennial Convention preparation, Myrna Wells-Ulland
- How to submit Memorials and Resolutions to the 2026 Convention, Valora K Starr, staff
- 2026 Triennial Gathering theme and promotion ideas, Gabriela Contreras, staff
- Learning sessions
- Commissioning of Leaders and closing prayer, the Rev. Minna Bothwell

Land Acknowledgement

The churchwide office of Women of the ELCA is located on the original and ancestral lands of the Kickapoo, Peoria, Potawatomi, Miami, Ho-Chunk, and Sioux people.

We give thanks for these tribal nations, and we acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of the various regions represented by those gathered here. We recognize and honor all Indigenous siblings, supporting the resilience and strength they have shown worldwide.

For help in learning about the native tribes upon whose land you currently reside, please visit: <http://www.native-land.ca>

Please enter the territories where you live in the chat.

Our 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.”

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STATE OF THE
MINISTRY

EXECUTIVE
BOARD

Myrna Wells-Ulland

BOARD/COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Interim Executive Director	Strategic Planning for 2024-2026
Budget for FY 2025	Thanked donors every month
2023 FY Audit	Conference of Presidents Event: Updated the Synodical Leaders Guide
Debt Payback Plan for FY 2024-2025	2026 Triennial Convention: virtual
12th Triennial Elections Task Force: Apology to women impacted and suggestions to improve future election processes	2026 Triennial Gathering Des Moines: In-person Theme being announced today!
LGBTQIA2S+ Task Force formed	Virtual service of remembrance for Jennifer Ackerman

12TH TRIENNIAL

MEMORIALS &
RESOLUTIONS

Myrna Wells-Ulland

INSERT SLIDES



2026 TRIENNIAL CONVENTION

PREPARATION

Myrna Wells-Ulland

ATTENTION AREAS

- **RANK ORDER PROCESS TO ELECT VOTING MEMBERS**
- **ALLOCATION OF VOTING MEMBERS**
- **FINAL 2026 VOTING BLOCK**
- **ANTICIPATE DEADLINES**
- **LEADING YOUR SWO DELEGATION**
- **CONVENTION COMMITTEES**
- **MEMORIAL VS RESOLUTION**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMING EVENTS/DATES
ONLINE EVALUATION
THANK YOU

COMING EVENTS

**March 2 Bold Women's
Sunday**

**March 15 SWO
Treasurer's Training**

**Date: April 5
Leadership Event**

- **May 4 MMIW
Awareness Day**

COMMISSIONING OF LEADERS

2025 Strategic Plan

Presented by Dr. Jennifer Hockenbery

2025 STRATEGIC PLAN
CONNECT, CREATE, COMPLEMENT,
CONTINUE, AND CELEBRATE



Communication tools: welca.org & more

Check out tools for you, as leaders, to increase the visibility of the organization and encourage engagement that leads to growth!




Communication tools: welca.org & more

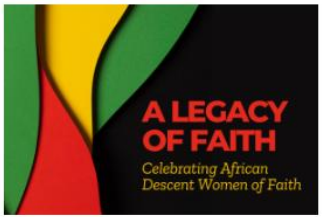
Follow, Like, and Share @womenoftheelca

February 2025

bold
connections

Women of the **ELCA** 

Celebrate Black History Month with Women of the ELCA!



Join us as we celebrate Black History Month this February and Bold Women's Day during Women's History Month in March. Scroll down to access articles and resources to share with your congregation and community this month.

A Legacy of Faith: Celebrating African Descent Women of Faith blog series: Follow the **Women of the ELCA blog every Monday** throughout February. This blog series written by Valora K Starr, director for discipleship, will introduce you to "women of great faith." Starr writes, "What we know about most African-descent 'sheroes' is not written in American history, but their stories have been passed from generation to generation and new learnings are surfacing every day." [Visit the Women of the ELCA blog](#) this month to learn more.

[A link for prayers and a devotion for Black History Month.](#)

Smithsonian Institution
The [Smithsonian Institution website](#) features a list of events to participate in during the month of February in celebration of Black History Month.

Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH) As founders of Black History Month, the [ASALH website](#) features information about the theme for the 2025 celebration.

Café



boldcafe.org

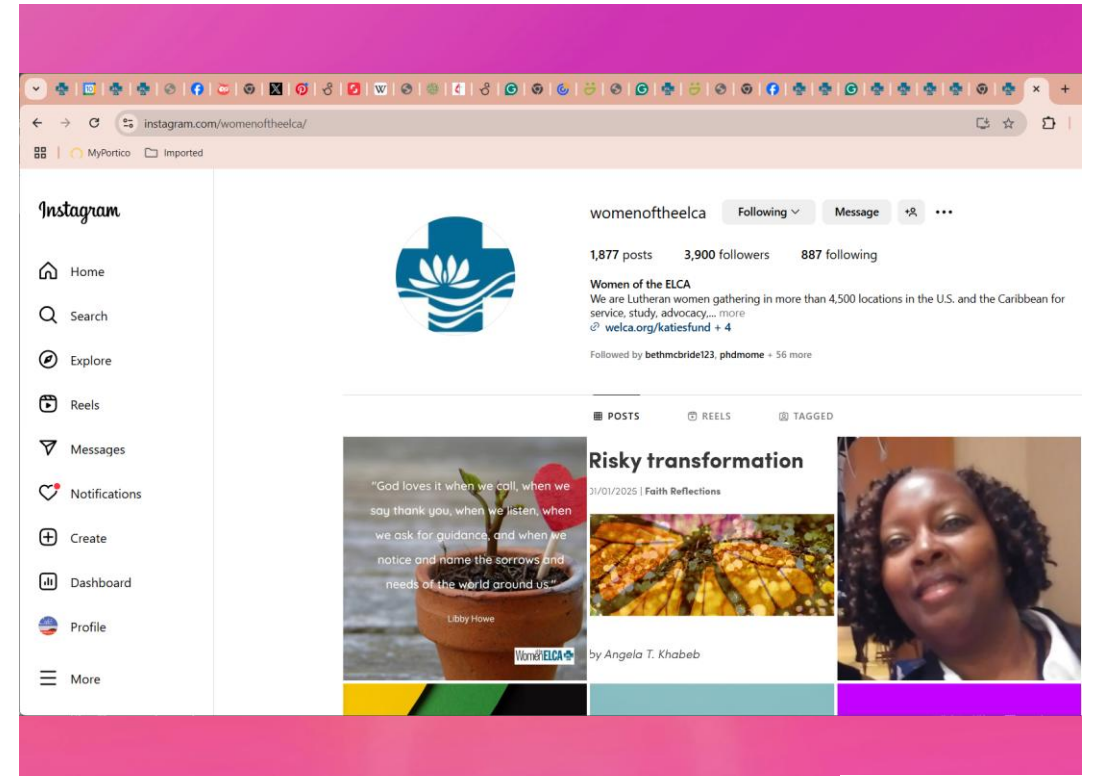
Monthly dinner with Boldcafe writers + friends (B.Y.O.D.)



**March 6,
@ 7 pm (CST)**

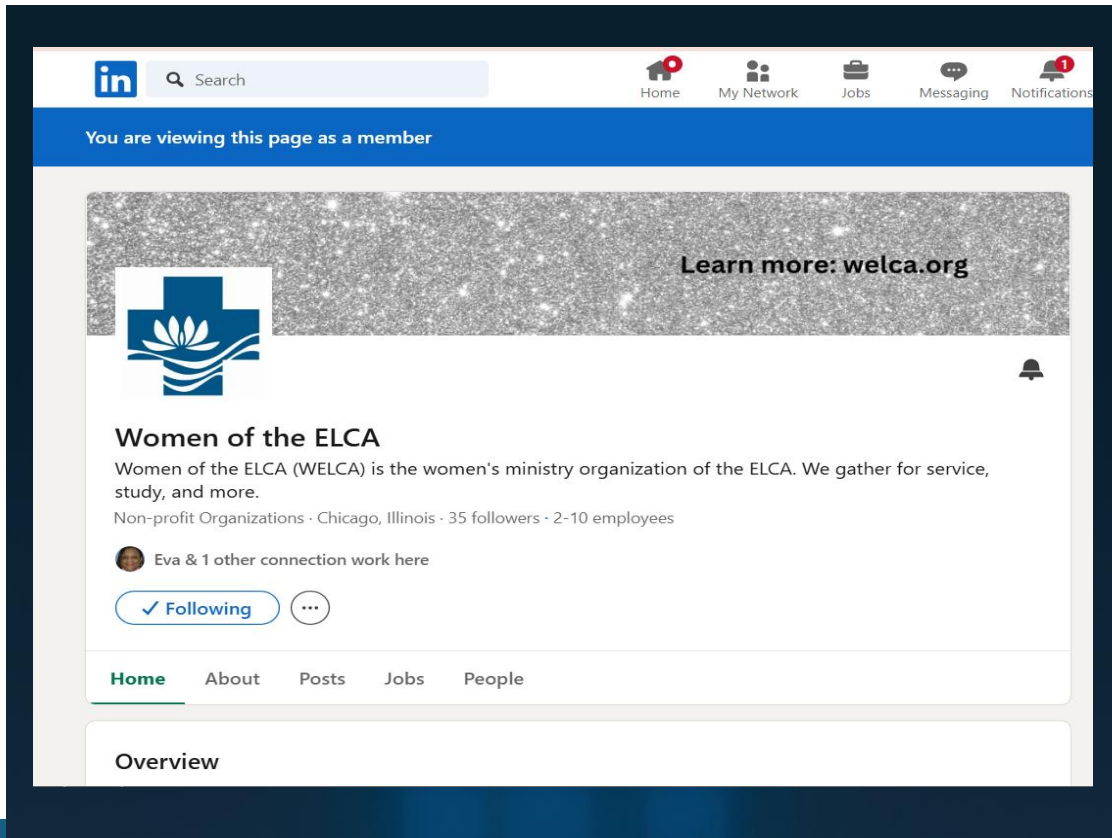
Communication tools: welca.org & more (continued)

Follow, Like, and Share @womenoftheelca on Facebook and Instagram



Communication tools: welca.org & more (continued)

Follow, Like, and Share @womenoftheelca on LinkedIn and Bluesky!



Changes are coming to *Gather* in 2025

We have made much-needed production changes, and we are excited to share this update with you.

The **March/April/May issue** will include the last two sessions of the “Faithfulness” Bible study by Denise Rector, as well as the May devotional, “Receiving the Spirit’s flame: Spiritual gifts in the life of the church” by Cara Strickland.



The **June/July/August issue** will include all three sessions of the Summer 2025 Bible study, “Healthy Relationships” by the Rev. Brooke Petersen.



The **September/October/November issue** will feature all three sessions of the Fall 2025 Bible study, “Money, Stewardship and Generosity” by the Rev. Christa von Zychlin.



The **December 2025 issue** includes the Advent devotional, "Practicing Advent imagination: Matthew's dreamers and Isaiah's visions" by the Rev. Sara Olson-Smith. *This issue may include the January and February 2026 Bible study as well.*



Making these changes provides us with the additional production and mailing time that has long been needed. Because of this, beginning with the June/July/August issue, you can anticipate your magazine arriving by the first week of the previous month.

Katie's Fund Board Challenge!

The 2122 Capital Campaign for \$1 Million ends in 4 months!

A churchwide executive board member gave \$25,000 to Katie's Fund this September and challenged the rest of the Board and the staff to match. Together, the members of the executive board and staff gave \$25,000.

They now challenge the SWO Presidents boards to match that amount! Together, can the 64 SWO presidents and their boards give \$50,000 to Katie's Fund in 2025?

12th Triennial Convention Memorials and resolution, Myrna Wells-Ulland

Memorial 1: For Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. Fostering attitudes, behaviors, practice, and knowledge that promote and habituate DEI in our gatherings, and that DEI be reflected in the organization at all levels: in the culture, in behavior and actions of individuals; in the actions and perspectives of the board and individual board members.

Memorial 2: Calling for Peace and Unity. We, as Women of the ELCA, commit to strive for peace and unity in all that we day and say. That we be a light filled with compassion and kindness for all in the midst of hatred, dissension, conflict, and violence that engulfs our world. That we, through our bond of sisterhood in Christ Jesus, encourage and promote harmony, unity and peace within our homes, churches, workplaces, schools, communities, and the country. That we, as Women of the ELCA, hold our local and national leaders in prayer asking the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts, that they may become more open-minded, reaching across the aisles to work together for the good of the nation and all its citizens.

Memorial 3: Calling for the Safety and Protection of Our Children. That we, as Women of the ELCA, work to protect our children from abuse, exploitation and discrimination. That we, as Women of the ELCA, work to bring attention to our children's well-being, in order that they may grow and develop in a safe, nurturing, and non-threatening environment. That We, as Women of the ELCA, be educated to recognize signs of abuse and neglect and how to respond appropriately to bring such awareness to those in authority. That we, as Women of the ELCA, will work with community partners to provide resources for positive parenting to parents, caregivers, clergy, and lay leaders. That we, as Women of the ELCA, partner with agencies to assist in the prevention of all aspects of child abuse and, even further, to help families heal, and to restore childhood hope.

Memorial 7: A Resolution on Suicide and Mental Health Issues in Youth and Young

Adults. That the Women of the ELCA lift up an awareness of this national crisis by publicizing various resources already available (listed on original document). Women of the ELCA further engage in advocating the passage of pending legislation HR 3548/S 1700; HR 3498/S 1720; HR 3451/S1665. That all expressions of Women of the ELCA work to educate the public about currently available resources to aid in suicide prevention, to advocate for the passage of pending legislation with their state legislatures to improve the care of the mentally ill, and to advocate for better mental health resources for our children to aid in suicide prevention at not only the national level, but also at the state and local levels.

Memorial 8. Dignity and Accessibility for All. That we commit to supporting all participants regardless of differing abilities of speech, language, hearing, physical difference, gender identity, or sexual orientation. That the planning committee of any Women of the ELCA event at all expression levels would consult with diverse individuals to ensure that content is welcoming and inclusive to all. That the planning of any Women of the ELCA event at all expression levels would exercise all due diligence to seek out facilities and accommodations, such as translation and ADA accessibility, that honor the personal dignity of all participants. That all communication for Women of the ELCA events and activities include the list of available accessibility accommodations.

Resolution 2023.01. End Racism by Participating in Study such as Now is the Time: Study of the Declaration of the ELCA to People of African Descent.

That Women of the ELCA organizations encourage their participants and groups to study the problem of racism using resources such as Now is the Time study, and if possible offer online or other sessions of the study. That Synodical Women's Organizations report to the 2025 Conference of Presidents or similar gathering concerning actions taken by the SWO or individual congregations in their synod to learn more about racism and its ongoing effects on people of African descent.

Resolution 2023.02. Participation in Truth and Healing Movement.

That all Synodical Women's Organizations encourage women participants to use Truth and Health resources and encourage all congregations in their synod, who do not already have one, to create their own land acknowledgements for use across their synod. That all Synodical Women's Organizations report to the 2025 Conference of Presidents or similar gathering concerning actions taken by the SWO or individual congregations in their synod for the sake of celebrating these first steps toward truth and healing in our church.

THINGS THAT SWO'S HAVE DONE:

4 Part Zoom Webinars

Synod-wide workshops

Created their SWO land acknowledgement statement

Helped units create land acknowledgement statements

Did a study of Custer Died for Our Sins

Spent time in individual study with Now is the Time

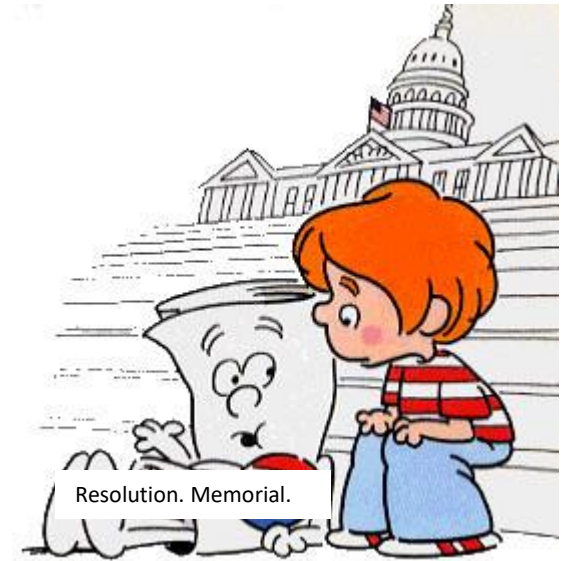
Did a Board Study of Now is the Time

Memorials and Resolutions to 2026 Triennial Convention

- Quick Review
- 'How to'
- Tip for Submitting

Quick Review

What is a memorial and resolution? And what do they do?

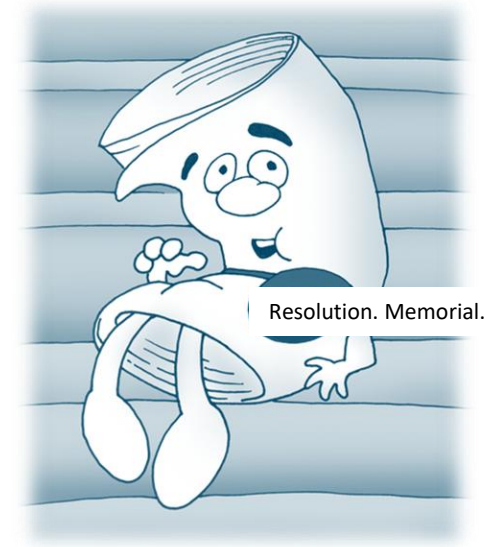


- **Memorial**— a statement of facts presented to a legislative body that is the basis for a petition or request for action; the way in which one organization formally makes a request of another.
- **Resolution**— the formal vehicle by which voting members bring a matter to a convention for action, consistent with the rules of procedure established by that convention.

Memorials and resolutions enable the organization to collectively address broad policy issues or issues important to God’s mission in the church, society and world.

How to...

How to? What to do?



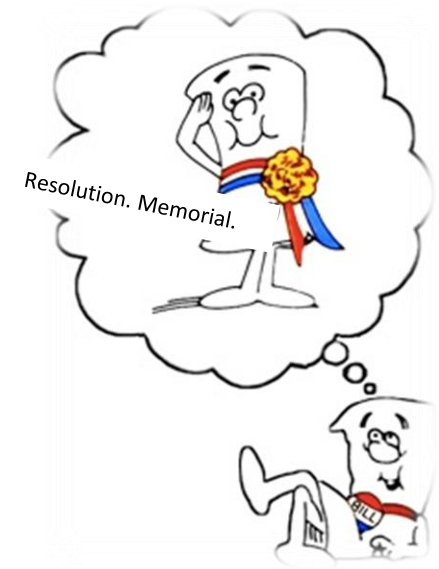
- Review.
- Investigate.
- Get busy.

Among the benefits of participating in Women of the ELCA is the opportunity to have a voice in determining the activities and direction of the organization. Where we go and what we do as a churchwide organization and as synodical organizations is very much up to you. That is why we meet in conventions... , and at those conventions, we conduct business via resolutions.

Submitting ...

Tips for an impactful memorial or resolution

- Is it relevant?
- Is it energizing?
- Is it impactful?
- Will it “promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world”?



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2026 triennial gathering



july 16-19, 2026 ✝ des moines, iowa

2026 triennial gathering | Ideas for promoting & attending



july 16-19, 2026 ✝ des moines, iowa

1. **Invite broadly and make a goal: Commit to bringing an intergenerational community with you:**
 - College students
 - Moms with young kids
 - Granddaughters/nieces/etc.
 - Create SWO scholarships
2. **Promote at events: What events (Assembly, retreats, etc.) can you add information about 2026 TG?**
3. **HOST Fundraising events at all levels: Consult welcatg.org for fundraising ideas and resources**
4. **Stay connected to WELCA publications Follow, Like and Share: *Bold Connections*, Facebook/IG/Linkedin, etc.**
5. **WORD OF MOUTH**

MEGHAN TRAINOR
BETTER WHEN I'M DANCIN'

Blue Sky
PRESENTS
**THE
PEANUTS
MOVIE**
by SCHULZ