

The Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana (NT-NL) Synodical Women's Organization (SWO) Newsletter

December 2, 2025

Churchwide News:

WELCA Triennial Convention will be held online from July 13-15, 2026. Thanks to our NT-NL SWO Voting Delegates elected at our SWO Convention on October 10, 2025:







Lupita Escamilla, PLM

Cate Berridge

Renea Tucker

WELCA Triennial Gathering will be held in Des Moines, Iowa from July 16-19, 2026 with worship, workshops and service projects. Early bird registration ends January 5 at https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page

WELCA Strategic Plan Updates:

- Celebrated the close of the 2122 capital campaign for Katie's Fund, which has raised \$850,000 in
 donations and pledges since it launched the campaign in 2022. Katie's Fund provides grants to
 fund programs, resources and opportunities in leadership development, global connections and
 living theology at https://www.elca.org/our-work/grants/welca-grants-scholarships by Sept. 1st and
 Nov. 1st.
- Participated in the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix.



- Hosted a mission trip to Tanzania. Two staff members, Eva James Yeo and Valora Starr, and one WELCA participant, Nola Smith, traveled to the Meru Diocese to meet with girls and women involved in the African Girls Scholarship and Mentorship program (AGSMP), which has received three seed grants from Women of the ELCA.
- Established the S.A.L.T. (Share Abundance, Love, and Thanks!) appeal aimed at closing WELCA's 2024 funding gap of \$250,000. Gifts given to S.A.L.T. by January 31, 2026, at https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/salt-appeal will be matched up to \$50,000.
- Producing new resources on the topics of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and gun violence prevention.
- Launching WELCA Campus Ambassadors, a program designed to connect young women on college campuses with peers, raise awareness of WELCA's ministry, and introduce young women to authentic intergenerational community at https://www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/intergenerational-2



Blue Christmas on December 21

Our Blue Christmas Service offers a safe place to bring your grief, fear, and loss. Brief readings. Quiet and reflective music. Prayers. All are welcome. Spanish translation provided.

Date: Sunday, December 21, 2025

Time: 7:00-8:00pm CT

Register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN T O-

DI4iTtGEtNaV1SFMsg#/registration

Synodical News

NT-NL SWO \$500 Continuing Education Scholarship Awarded

Congrats to Tricia Huston whose application was approved for a \$500 scholarship to further her seminary education as a Deaconess. Applicants must be a participant in a WELCA unit and a voting member of the ELCA. Course of study may have a ministry job component, or it may be for continuing education in job training or updating vocational training. Deadlines for application are **May 15 and November 15.** To apply, click on https://ntnllutheranwomen.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Application.pdf



Dallas Area Metro North Spring Retreat on April 18



Don't miss an opportunity to join with other members of the Dallas Area MetroPlex North Conference! We have great speakers, interesting and fun breakout sessions, and always great food and conversation!

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026 Place: Trinity Lutheran Church

> 1515 N. Travis St Sherman TX 75092

Speaker: Rev. Cheryl Herreid

Theme: Each of you shuld use whatever gift you have

received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms. 1 Peter 4:10

NT-NL SWO Fall Retreat Save the Date!

Save the date for our NT-NL SWO Fall Retreat and more information will be coming!

Date: October 9-10, 2026

Place: St. Matthew Lutheran Church

800 N New Road Waco TX 76710



Goal #1 is to improve communication with several methods:



- Join our FaceBook NT-NL SWO Group at https://www.facebook.com/groups/748717508538531 where this page features local events within our NT-NL Synodical Women's Organization.
- Join our FaceBook NT-NL SWO Page at https://www.facebook.com/ntnlswo where this page features Synodical Women's Groups from around the ELCA
- Check out our website at https://ntnllutheranwomen.com/

Peace, Jane Winge NT-NL SWO President