



Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Annual Convention September 18 & 19, 2026

Convention Call: The 38th Convention of the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization will be held Friday, September 18 and Saturday, September 19, 2026 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN. The theme for this year's convention is: ***"Button Up Your Faith."*** The keynote speaker will be Gaye Lindfors, inspirational Christian speaker and author.

Trinity Lutheran Church is located at 205 S Broadway in Crookston, MN. It is a large facility on several floors and has an elevator. Attendees will use the parking lot on the east side of the church and enter the church through the east door.

At this time, this is a tentative schedule. All presenters listed have been confirmed but we know that life sometimes gets in the way! Please consult the website at nwmnsynod.org for any schedule changes.

Friday, September 18

1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Registration with coffee/water & cookies provided
2:00 - 4:30 Business Meeting
4:45 Devotions
5:00 Dinner (included in your registration fee)
6:00 - 7:00 Entertainment: Songfest, Led by Pastor Michele Jensen

Saturday, September 19

Mary Magdalene Awards Presentation will be on Saturday (specific time yet to be determined)
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Registration with coffee/water & muffins provided
9:00 Welcome and Opening Devotions
9:30 - 10:30 Bible Study: Pastor Rebel Hurd
10:30 - 10:45 Break with coffee/water & muffins or cookies provided
10:45 - 12:00 Keynote Speaker: Gaye Lindfors
12:00 - 1:00 Lunch (included in your registration fee)
1:00 - 1:45 Breakout Sessions
1:45 - 2:00 Break with coffee/water & muffins or cookies provided
2:00 - 2:45 Repeat of Breakout Sessions
3:00 Closing Worship with Bishop Bill Tesch

Breakout Sessions:

3 Sessions are scheduled and will be repeated once. You will be able to choose 2 of 3 sessions.

Dana Johnson & Silas: Victim/Witness Coordinator, Facility Dog Handler
Polk County Attorney's Office

Carolina Diaz: Executive Director
Care & Share of Crookston

Camp Knutson, Crosslake, MN

A year-round, medically-sound camp and retreat center for children and adults with identified needs, such as disabilities, medical conditions, and homelessness, run by Lutheran Social Services of Minnesota.

Button Up Wall Hanging Project: An interactive project that attendees will participate in during the convention. We ask that each of you bring a button to the convention. Each person will have the opportunity to attach that button to a wall hanging. This will "button up" our faith throughout the synod.

Registration Forms: Please make copies of the one in this packet. This form is for anyone who will be attending the convention either day. Each individual will need to mail in the registration form, along with related costs, to the registrar. To receive the reduced early registration fee, the form and payment must be postmarked before August 22, 2026. All registrations must be received by September 1, 2026. A First Timer's Grant is available for persons that have not previously attended a convention. See the application form in this mailing or on the website at <https://www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/swo-forms>.

Hotel/Lodging Information: You must make your own lodging arrangements. There is a block of rooms at the AmericInn in Crookston (phone 218-281-7800) under NW MN Women of the ELCA, until August 20, 2026. Book online or call for reservations.

There is also the AmeriVu Inn and Suites (phone 218-470-1111) in Crookston. You are able to book online or by calling. No block of rooms is reserved.

Convention Resolutions: See the website at <https://www.nwmnsynod.org/pages/swo-forms> for guidelines on writing resolutions.

Convention Offering: Please use the form included to specify your convention offerings. These gifts are the backbone of our ministries together.

Silent Auction: We encourage units to provide items for the silent auction. Money raised helps to cover expenses for those attending the next Triennial Gathering. A silent auction basket may be prepared around any theme. This has been a fun event with extraordinary participation by units!

Questions about any of the information provided in this mailing may be referred to any of the SWO Board Members. As it becomes available, information can be found at <https://www.nwmnsynod.org>. The enclosed poster may be used as a bulletin or newsletter insert.

Please join the Norwest Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Board at the convention 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!

Pamela Bowman, Secretary
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