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**Easter joy and blessings!**

from your New England WELCA Synodical Board 2024-26



New England  
of the  
Women **ELCA** 

Happy Easter!

MAY THE MIRACLE  
OF EASTER  
BRING YOU  
RENEWED JOY,  
LOVE AND FAITH.

New England  
Synodical Women's Board

## Message from the President of New England WELCA

As we all raise our voices in “Hosanna” we rejoice in the new life Jesus has given us. We are free to worship and serve our Lord every day. We are His daughters ready to ACT BOLDLY on our faith in Jesus Christ!

New England Women of the ELCA is an active and thriving community of dedicated women *created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We are committed 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.*

These words are taken from our Mission and Purpose Statements. Powerful and strong they guide us in our daily life and work. You may have heard them many times before, but they continue to impact our hearts and lives.

This newsletter is filled with important updates and encouraging news from across New England and from Churchwide WELCA. We are active in our local units, our Synodical Women's Board and within the churchwide women's organization. Only a small amount of news reaches beyond our congregations – there are so many significant ministries happening in every corner of our New England Synod. We rely on this community to encourage us in our work, so we don't give up and know that we are doing *God's work. Our Hands!*

**Jeanne**

Jeanne P. Minasian

President, New England Synodical Board 2024-'26

jeannesfj@gmail.com tel. 781-534-8312



**The Treasurer's Corner**

Fawn DeMello – treasurer

St Luke, Gales Ferry, CT

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**New England WELCA Financial Report – February 2025**

**Cash and Bank Accounts**

Interest for Feb 2025

Checking (TD Bank)	\$5,478.36	
Gifts in Tribute Scholarships	\$3,311.12	\$1.01
Reserve Fund Savings	\$3,411.15	\$1.05
Triennial Gathering Scholarship	\$5,349.74	\$1.63
MIF Demand Account	<u>\$5,045.84</u>	<u>\$1.54</u>
<b>Total Cash and Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$22,596.21</b>	<b>\$ 5.77</b>

Two checks received and deposited on April 1, 2025 for total of \$300.00

St. Andrew Lutheran Church	\$100.00
Charlestown, RI (Hope Circle – Donation)	
Gethsemane Lutheran Church	\$200.00
Manchester, NH (Congregational Unit)	

Income vs. Expenses for Feb 2024 – Jan 2025: Actuals

	Actual
Income	\$20,657.88
Expenses	<u>(\$18,625.01)</u>
	\$ 2,032.87

Respectfully submitted,  
Fawn R DeMello, treasurer



## Congregational Unit—

at Saint Stephen Lutheran Church,  
Marlborough, MA.

**We rejoice in your commitment to New  
England WELCA ministries.**

Unit Contact: Melanie Whapham  
[mwhapham@comcast.net](mailto:mwhapham@comcast.net)



April 5 – Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Foxboro, MA  
Rhode Island & Southeast MA  
“Be still and Know”

May 3 – Bethesda Lutheran Church, New Haven, CT  
Retreat-“Women’s Wisdom through Generations”  
Marietta Meyer 203-219-0144

May 10 – Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Brookfield, CT  
Naugatuck Valley, CT  
“Bloom Where You are Planted”  
Paula Rosenbeck 860-485-5321

**Naugatuck Valley - Register today**

More information and a PDF of the May 10th registration form is available [here](#)

**May 30-31, 2025**



**Come say hello at Synod Assembly!**

WELCA will be hosting our information table throughout the event.

**We would love to see you.**



I was honored to take part in the recent Conference of Presidents via Zoom Meeting. I participated not only as the President from New England 7B (our synodical #) but also as a workshop presenter. Our Interim Executive Director, Dr. Jennifer Hockenbery heard about our wonderful work for our Fall Convention sponsors. She invited me to share the how and why we had outside sponsorship support for our event.

Presidents from around the country could choose which workshop they were interested in, and we joined over Zoom that afternoon. It was wonderful to join a spirited group of leaders seeking new ideas and a combined enthusiasm for women's ministry. [submitted by Jeanne Minasian.]

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**Meet your New England Synodical Women's Organization Leaders**

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**President of the New England Synodical Women's Organization**

the Boston Public Schools and pursued my degrees in Early Childhood Education and a BA in Business Management.

I have two grown sons, Carl and Dan, with their own families—which have blessed me with four grandchildren! I am widow and currently live with my son, Carl and his family on the South Shore Massachusetts

I moved to Orange, New Hampshire in 2004 with my second husband. There I worked for Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center in training personnel later as an administrator for General Surgery. I continued my local interest in children and education through elected positions to the SAU 62.

I returned to the South Shore after my husband's death in 2016. I'm enjoying life back at my home church in Quincy where I am still very active with Council, and choir etc. My family keeps me involved with lots of activities.

I'm passionate about the work WELCA does locally and its influence churchwide in the ELCA. I'm excited to share the good news of the working hands of women making a difference in our world!

Jeanne



**Jeanne Minasian,**

2024-2026 — President,  
New England Women of the  
ELCA Synodical Women's  
Organization.

Reach out to Jeanne at  
[jeannesfj@gmail.com](mailto:jeannesfj@gmail.com)  
phone- (781) 534-8312

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### **Treasurer of the New England Synodical Women's Organization**

Fawn R DeMello

I have worked in the Accounting field for over 40 years. I have an Associates in Accounting, my undergraduate degree is in Industrial/Organizational Psychology for Leaders (research side) and my Masters is in Business Administration for Leadership. I have worked from mom and pop shops, nonprofits and up to Fortune 500 companies.

I have one daughter, Dayna, and two grandsons, Jamison and Mason. I have lived all over the country with my dad being in the Navy.

I enjoy sports, being creative, and DIY projects. I have been at my current church, St. Luke Lutheran Church in Gales Ferry, CT for the past 50 years.



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### **Board Members of the New England Synodical Women's Organization**

I am happily married 37 years this September to my high school sweetheart Bill. We have three beautiful daughters Victoria, Christina and Julia.

We are anxiously awaiting engagements, weddings and God willing, grandbabies!

I have worshipped at Faith Lutheran Church, Quincy, MA since 1998. Previously worshipped at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Easton. I was raised Catholic and joined the Lutheran church when we married at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Dorchester in 1988.

Currently employed full-time as an Office Manager at Means Precast Company.

Previously I worked in the Quincy Public School system.



Board member Sandy Cichon is a member of St Matthew Trinity Lutheran Church in Pawtucket, RI. She is a life-long Lutheran and has been a Sunday School Superintendent, has served 20+ years on the ELCA/Hammonasset Youth Gathering planning committee, and several years as a Calumet Family Camp summer staff person.

Her latest role is as Treasurer for her church.

Being a parent of three adults and a grandmother to three grandchildren is a blessing and joy. She holds a B.A. in Fine Arts from Western Illinois University, where she met her husband, Frank. Sandy enjoys gardening, singing, camping, weaving and spending time with friends and nature.



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## **2026 Triennial Gathering Theme Announced**



i am  
worthy

## 2026 TRIENNIAL GATHERING THEME

july 16-19, 2026 ✝ des moines, iowa

In 2017, Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, challenged gathering participants to reclaim space and place for women and girls. Finding our voice and using it gives way to the light we possess. The world has worn women thin by defining for us who we are, what we can do and be. We use these two words to introduce ourselves and establish our identity in the public square. “I am” is how disciples proclaim their identity, intent, and actions.

**I AM WORTHY** continues our journey with Jesus through the lingering effects of the brokenness this **community of women created in the image of God— called to discipleship** and the world have endured.

Acknowledging what we have been through is the beginning of healing. These words are both an affirmation for the community of women as disciples. This proclamation reminds us of God’s promise to always be with us, and God is always with us, through devastation and division that will surely be present. God is a gifted power in claiming who we are and whose we are.

**I AM WORTHY** is the very basis of our spiritual nature. Repeating “I AM WORTHY” can reprogram our subconscious mind by reminding us of who God is and the Holy Spirit’s continual work at challenging negative daily chatter. The practice of this self-affirmation creates pathways for the opportunity to repair and bring healing to us, the church, society, and the world.

The ancient Japanese art of kintsugi embraces brokenness and restoring what is broken as gift—the opportunity to repair. The art of kintsugi uses gold to repair broken pottery. Using gold, the very best to beautify and strengthen redeeming the pot to better than it was. This symbolism of healing and resilience is exactly what Christ did for us on the cross.

When we say, “**I AM WORTHY,**” we align ourselves with God’s promises. And there is power in our resolve—

“In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” **John 1:4-5.**



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## OUR MISSION

*Mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.*

## 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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Our mailing address is:

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