



# Good News

April 2022

*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.*

## **From the President**

For such a time as this..... 400 women gathered virtually together during the leadership event in February. We studied the book of Esther and used the workbook created for the event to start making plans for the future of our organization. If this interests you, please check out the information online at [womenoftheelca.org/for-such-a-time-as-this](http://womenoftheelca.org/for-such-a-time-as-this) I will admit, I miss my weekend away trip to Chicago, but don't miss traveling in February with questionable weather.

Do you ever wonder what the roles and responsibilities are for synodical officers, board members, and cluster or conference leaders are? Do you hear a little voice that says "yes" or "tell me more" when the subject comes up? Women of the ELCA have created the opportunities for hour long discussions on what that looks like. The first one in April 23 at 1 pm central time. Advanced registration is needed. You can get more details and register at [womenoftheelca.org/events](http://womenoftheelca.org/events)

Please keep the Women of the ELCA, your synodical board, and the nominating committee in your prayers as we finalize our plans for the June Synodical Gathering and looking for nominations for the synodical board officers and members.

*Blessings, Anna Jetson*

## **2022 LWR Ingathering Dates**

April 9 @	Immanuel, Independence
April 11 @	Southport Mall, Mason City
May 7 @	Olson's Explosives, Decorah
Oct 8 @	Immanuel, Independence
Oct 10 @	Southport Mall, Mason City
Nov 5 @	Olson's Explosives, Decorah

**Lea Norlinger 641-494-7614**, Mason City, IA  
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**Save a tree and get your Star by email!** Email [webadmin@neiasynod.org](mailto:webadmin@neiasynod.org) to request the change!

## **LSI Challenge Update**

We are nearing the \$4000 mark, on our way to \$5000. We are almost there!!!! To contribute to the LSI Spiritual Life Challenge, please send donations directly to LSI, 106 16<sup>th</sup> St SW, PO Box 848, Waverly IA 50677. Please include Spiritual Life Challenge on the memo line.

## **Cluster events have returned!**

**Clusters A/B** -- April 23, 2022 Little Flock Spring "HoneyBee" Fling at St. Peter's Lutheran Church-Garnavillo, IA; 9-9:30am registration, business mtg to follow with presentation by Johnson's Honey Farm. In kind offering: Clayton County Food Shelf.

**Clusters C/E/H** -- April 9, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Independence IA, registration/coffee/ LWR truck loading begins at 8:30. Speaker from the Women's Correctional Facility in Waterloo.

**Cluster D** - April 23, at Washington Prairie Lutheran Church, Decorah, starts at 8:30/9:00. Speakers are Days for Girls kit group from Cresco.

**Cluster G** - April 23, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason City 8:30 to noon salad luncheon, speaker LSI - focus on refugees; there will be special music and a brief business meeting with elections. For reservations, please call Lea Norlinger 671-494-7614.

## **Discipleship Committee**

I looked up discipleship in the dictionary and it means "the condition or situation of being a disciple, a follower, or a student of some philosophy, especially a follower of Christ". Then I looked up follower which means "a person who imitates or copies". This got me to thinking. Do I strive to imitate or copy Christ? Do others see Christ in me? Ephesians 5:1-2 says "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." As disciples or followers of Christ, we ought to put others needs before our own and be willing to give of ourselves using our time, energy, and resources. During this Lenten season, as we reflect on what Jesus gave up for us, let's be willing to be there for our neighbors, to give of our time and energy in serving others, and to support those in need with our resources. Let's be thankful for what we have been blessed with and use those blessings as faithful disciples of Jesus imitating what our Lord would have done.

*Submitted by Karen Weltzin*



NE IA Women of the ELCA- Check us out and give a like or post about your church's activities!

## ***Justice Committee***

As I started out to write my first article for the Good News, I found myself looking up the meaning of justice. My thoughts go to hearing about communities having peaceful conversations and gatherings centering on issues that just need to be talked about. It is about respecting each other and knowing that important sensitive issues can and need to be discussed. It is about turning uncomfortable conversations in our communities or at work into meaningful ones which can turn into long lasting change.

Justice can mean speaking up on moral rightness or gathering to create better understanding of what others may be experiencing. We can use our voices for change, moving our communities forward in a positive direction for all, by focusing on what we have in common instead of our differences. Justice can mean having genuine respect for people, for fairness in employment, in housing, in health care.

What can we do for each other in the world of justice? We can raise awareness of human trafficking or roll bandages or donate food. Just DO SOMETHING! "When justice is practiced, it is a joy for those who have walked in its ways." Proverbs 21:15

*Submitted by Vickie Grube*

## ***Stewardship Committee***

Our Annual SWO Gathering will be on Saturday, June 18 @ St John Lutheran in Nashua, 8 am - 1 pm and a luncheon is included. Our theme is *One Body in Christ* and our theme verse is I Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it." The focus will be on how each of us has a very important part in the function of the Body as a whole. We are still working out the specific details, but you will enjoy the fellowship and learning, whether you choose in person or a virtual experience. Registration forms are available @ [www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca](http://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca). Along with our normal business, we will also be electing Triennial voting members. If you are interested in serving as a Triennial voting member, or on the SWO board or on the nominating committee, you can also find those forms on the website as well. And lastly, there are educational scholarships available for women wanting to improve their employment status.

The designated In Kind Offerings for June 18 Gathering are for Friends of the Family. They serve 27 counties in Northeast Iowa.

### **Items needed most:**

Bath towels and washcloths, twin XL sheets  
Notebooks, mop, broom  
baby wipes and diapers (especially sizes 4 & 5)  
baby formula and food  
new bras, underwear and socks (any size)  
toilet paper, paper towels  
hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes  
laundry soap, dish soap, all-purpose cleaner  
shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion.

If you are not a shopper, we also accept cash or gift cards from major retailers. If you are an Amazon shopper they do have an Amazon Wish list that delivers it directly to them. (check out their website: [Domestic & Sexual Abuse Victim Advocacy | Friends of the Family \(fofia.org\)](http://Domestic&SexualAbuseVictimAdvocacy.FriendsOfTheFamily.org)) Thank you for your generosity!

Our monetary offerings will be split between the CW WELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response-Ukraine. See you in June!

*Submitted by SWO Board*

## **CALENDAR**

- Apr 9 LWR Ingathering & Cluster C/E/H Gathering @ Immanuel, Independence, 8:30-noon
- Apr 11 LWR Ingathering @ Southport Mall, Mason City
- Apr 23 Cluster A/B @ St Peter, Garnavillo, 8:30-noon  
Cluster D @ Washington Prairie, Decorah, 8:30  
Cluster G @ Trinity, Mason City, 8:30-noon
- May 7 LWR Ingathering @ Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- May 14 SWO Board @ St John, Nashua, 8:30-noon
- Jun 17 SWO Board @ St John, Nashua, 8 am- 1 pm
- Jun 18 NE IA SWO Gathering @ St John, Nashua
- Oct 8 LWR Ingathering @ Immanuel, Independence
- Oct 10 LWR Ingathering @ Southport Mall, Mason City
- Nov 5 LWR Ingathering @ Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- Sept 18 2023 Triennial Convention & Gathering

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*Articles are due by 1st of the preceding month e.g.  
April 1 for May issue)*

### **Contact Women of the ELCA:**

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773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

### **Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA:**

[neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA](http://neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA)