



# Good News

April  
2023

*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***

*And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.* Luke 1:45

As I and your board are working hard to plan a wonderful convention for you in June, be aware that the nominating committee will be seeking some new members for the board. It sounds like a daunting idea to be a board member but ask anyone who has served and you usually will find great feedback. You find out the workings of our organization and make new lifelong connections. The whole process really doesn't take much of your time. Pray on it and be ready to take a bold leap if you get a call or, even better, don't wait to be asked, just volunteer.

We have already arranged for some very interesting speakers. Soon you will be getting information on the In-kind gift recipients and a list of needed items. These are well deserving charities in Wright County that are a real asset to helping our community. So please open your hearts and show them that Women of the ELCA are caring, compassionate and generous.

*May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rains fall soft upon your fields. Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.*

*Cindy Pogge, President*

## ***Discipleship Committee***

Is God still creating women in God's image and calling them to discipleship today? The answer is yes! True, mainline denominations and their women's organizations are experiencing declines in membership. And that is even more reason to practice discipleship.

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the*

*Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age"*

Matthew 28:18–20

Many women know they should be disciples, but they are unclear what to do, or if they're already doing it. Jesus' words are still the blueprint for discipleship today, yet many might say, "I'm not a teacher, and on most days I'm not sure I understand what God has commanded me." Each disciple must establish her own practice of carrying out Jesus' command. A doctor may be part of a practice with a team of doctors, but each physician brings her own gifts and skills to the group.

You can do that, too, as disciples. Here's how to start:

1. Claim your identity. Read Matthew 28:19–20.
2. Examine the instructions. Read Women of the ELCA's purpose statement. There you will find Matthew 28:19–20 in greater details.
3. Ask the Lutheran question: "What does this mean in my daily life?" Discipleship is daily practice.
4. Journal. This will help you to be intentional and assess how you are practicing.

*From Women of the ELCA website,  
written by Valora K Starr  
([valora.starr@elca.org](mailto:valora.starr@elca.org))  
Director for Discipleship*

## ***Stewardship Committee***

Maybe you saw it in the last issue of The Star, our bishop is going to participate in RAGBRAI this summer. It is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary bike ride across Iowa, and he pledges to ride at least 50 miles every day. In fact, all three bishops in Iowa are doing this together. Their intention is to raise \$50,000 and donate it to ELCA World Hunger. ELCA World Hunger works both domestically and globally with companion churches around the world, and other

Lutheran partners such as Lutheran World Federation and Church World Service. These organizations aim to address hunger at its root causes, working in the areas of healthcare, income generation, food security, clean water and education. At our January 28<sup>th</sup> board meeting, we chose to support the bishop and voted to donate one half of the offering from the June Convention to ELCA World Hunger. Keep this in mind when bringing your offerings to the convention. Stay tuned for the news of in-kind offering that day.

*Submitted by Nancy Poppe*

### ***Justice Committee***

“**Make Today Count**” is the message on a new magnet on my refrigerator. My heart is directing me to share thoughts of how and why we get involved, plus some great updates on the International Day For Girls. My friend, Marge who volunteers and has a passion co-leading the Cresco group was so excited to share some great news for the foundation that is helping break the cycle of poverty and assist girls and women to live with dignity. For someone who may not be aware of this cause, it was started back in 2008, by Celeste Mergens. While working in Kenya she learned that the girls manage their menstrual cycle by sitting on cardboard for days. The foundation has volunteers coming together assembling female hygiene kits. The exciting news is that Day For Girls International has now reached over 2.8 million women and girls supplying these hygiene kits and providing educational material to more than 144 countries. More good news, the foundation is reaching out right here in the US to prisons and shelters.

To make change it's important to listen, be courteous to what others are thinking and feeling, be open to a different point of view and keep calm to foster good communication. Most importantly, TRY!! Remember the words of our Lord, encouraging and loving us then we can do amazing work helping others in the world of so many hurts and unfairness. God is a God of Justice wishing us to serve him by serving others. “**Make Today Count**”

*Submitted by Vickie Grube*

### ***Gathering Information***

Information and forms for the June gathering have been posted on the WELCA webpage @ [neiasynod.org](http://neiasynod.org) and on our Facebook page! Each church has also received email or hard copies-check with your pastor or secretary!

## **CALENDAR**

- Apr 15 C/E/H LWR Ingathering @ Redeemer, Waverly
- Apr 17 LWR Ingathering @ Southport Mall, Mason City
- Apr 22 Upper Iowa Gathering @ Big Canoe, Decorah
- Apr 23 Little Flock Gathering @ Elgin
- May 6 SWO Board Meeting, Waverly, 9 am-12 pm  
Decorah LWR Ingathering, Olson's Explosives
- June 16 SWO Board Meeting @ gathering site @  
Trinity, Belmond
- June 17 35th Annual NE IA WELCA Gathering @  
Trinity, Belmond
- Sept 18 2023 Triennial Convention & Gathering
- Oct 14 C/E/H LWR Ingathering @ Redeemer, Waverly
- Oct 16 LWR Ingathering @ Southport Mall, Mason City

### **NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board**

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

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

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



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