



# Good News

Jan/ Feb  
2024

*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 our President***

Glad Tidings! Winter has arrived and we celebrated Christmas, the arrival of Baby Jesus! Thank you, God, for sending your Son and all the blessings we have enjoyed! We need to remember that God is in control even if it seems like our World seems to be spinning out of control. I was not able to be at our NEIA SWO meeting in November, but Your NEIA Women of the ELCA Synod Board and Katie's Fund will be hosting Rejoice and Renew gathering that will take place on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> at EWALU Stone Center, 35124 Hwy 13, Strawberry Point, IA which is 2.5 miles north of Strawberry Point. Handicap accessible facility. Snow dates March 1, 2 Questions? contact: Christine Schmitt, [candcschmitt@gmail.com](mailto:candcschmitt@gmail.com) 641-397-2572 or check the webpage at [neiasynod.org](http://neiasynod.org) God's Blessings to all of you! Enjoy the miracles of winter!

*Sondra Nelson, President*

## ***Welcome to the Board, Christine Schmitt***

I am married and have 4 children. 3 boys and a girl ages 17- 26. I work as a Hospitality specialist (janitorial/ caterer cook) at Hoover's Hatchery in Rudd. I live just north of Marble Rock and currently a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Rockford. I grew up in Bremer County: St. John's Lutheran Buck Creek where I helped with VBS and Sunday School as soon as I was old enough. After graduating from ISU, I returned home and attended Zion Lutheran in West Union with my parents until moving back to the Buck Creek area where I was active in Christian Ed., WELCA, Church Council, Choir and church janitor. I married and moved to Marble Rock and St. Paul's Lutheran. At St. Paul's, I was active with Christian Ed., pianist for Sunday school and worship, church council, community VBS, and restarting an active WELCA group that remained vibrant to the closing of the church in Oct. 2023. I am continuing the Good News Club, St. Paul's Christian education program. It meets on a weeknight in the Methodist church in Marble Rock. I became active with the synod WELCA around 2018 and am the chair for 3 River



Cluster. I am involved in girl scouts and cub scouts, including cub scout commissioner for the Lakeland district for Winnebago Council organizing day camps and cubmaster for Pack 4034 in Rockford. I hope to be a positive addition to the NEIA SWO organization. It is a joy to meet and make new friends and family.



Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!  
Philippians 4:4

***This is an appreciation event, celebrating all of us, as women, uniquely created by God to serve others!***

***When: Friday & Saturday, Feb 23-24, 1 or 2 days  
(snow date is Mar 1-2)***

***How much: \$35 or overnight, \$15 for one day***

***Includes: Food, games, crafts, Bible study, singing, fellowship, relaxation, renewal***

***Where: The EWALU Stone Retreat Center, near Strawberry Point***

***Registration Deadline is Monday Feb 19, 2024***

***Hosts: NE IA SWO and Katie's Fund***

***Contact: Christine Schmitt, 641-397-2572 or  
[candcschmitt@gmail.com](mailto:candcschmitt@gmail.com)***

***Go to [Women of the ELCA - Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA \(neiasynod.org\)](http://Women of the ELCA - Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA (neiasynod.org)) or NE IA Women of the ELCA Facebook page to find the registration form.***

## ***Stewardship Committee***

Within the Lutheran liturgical offertory prayers there are two phrases that make me think about my stewardship and how I can try to fulfill my life's offering. They are "...we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made..." and "you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time and our possessions..."

I try to fulfill these promises that I have made by being active in my church's activities, the WELCA Bible studies, being on our unit board, and serving on the NEIA SWO board. I was reluctant to make the commitment to the SWO board, but was urged to give it a try, with the assurance that I could count on much help given by the other members of the board. I feel so blessed to have taken the leap of faith and being welcomed by wonderful, helpful women that have served on the board. Even as the members have changed, I have found that the willingness of others being on the board has given me an amazing, larger circle of friends, sharing their offering as part of this organization.

The nominating committee for the SWO met on December 18 to start the search for women who would be willing to serve on the board to keep our service, dedication and stewardship of this organization moving forward. We will be looking for a President, Secretary, and 4 Board members. We are hopeful present members will agree to continue, but we would like others to prayerfully consider being part of this wonderful organization.

*Submitted by Alice Greimann*

## ***Discipleship Committee***

Living our Faith in God and sharing the Good news of Jesus Christ. That is discipleship. As a congregation we make Baptismal promises to the baptized. To teach, to tell, to love. The commitment to these promises are forever. Our church started the Good News Club over 5 years ago, because regular SS wasn't reaching our kids and their parents. We meet on Wednesdays, have a meal, a story, song, activity, and close with the Lord's Prayer. Our church closed in Oct, but the kids and the stories we share live on. The Methodist church in town now hosts the Good News Club. We have 3 families that come regularly and a few more that come occasionally. It is not the amount of people that is important. What is important is the stories and that they go to church. They learn about God and his promises. **AMEN!** Baptism promises: People of God do you promise to support and pray for them in their new life in Christ? To bring them the word of God, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed and the 10 Commandments so that they may learn to trust God? Proclaiming Christ through word and deed, caring for others and the world God made, nurturing them in faith and prayer and giving them the Holy Scriptures—That is truly a promise kept!

*Submitted by Christine Schmitt*

## **CALENDAR**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Feb 23-24 | Rejoice & Renew Retreat @ Ewalu                           |
| Mar 1     | Deadline for Mar/ April <i>Good News</i>                  |
| Mar 9     | SWO Board @ Synod Office                                  |
| May 1     | Deadline for May/ June <i>Good News</i>                   |
| May 4     | SWO Board @ Synod Office                                  |
| Jun 14    | SWO Board @ Redeemer, Waverly                             |
| Jun 15    | SWO 36 <sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering @ Redeemer, Waverly |
| July 1    | Deadline for July/ Aug <i>Good News</i>                   |

## **NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board**

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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!