



# Good News

Jan/ Feb  
2025

*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.*

## **President's Sparks**

Our winter retreat at the Stone Center in Strawberry Point is scheduled for Feb. 21 and 22. Come and spend the night or just come for the day! See Discipleship article for more information.

On March 22 the women's synod board will have a meeting in Waverly @ the synod office @ 9am with all *interested people /cluster leaders invited*. We will be finalizing June party gathering activities.

We are having a sharing party on June 14, 2025 @. Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein. This fun is for everyone. There will be a few interest sessions and "new" circle sessions. Circle sessions are a chance to share the good things happening in your church community. Ideas might be: Food needs, clothing and home needs, school needs for kids, different ways to worship, supporting your members. We look forward to lively discussion and fun.

We are giving out educational scholarships again this year, so look for the forms on the webpage [Women of the ELCA - Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA](#) and each church will receive a registration form, flier, and scholarship form.

*Sparkling with Jesus,  
Christine Schmitt*

## **Justice Committee**

Lily Bags are given out to Crisis Intervention and hospitals for women in crisis. Many times, women need to surrender their clothing as evidence in hospital emergency rooms. This program has been going on for approximately four years and over 365 bags have been distributed. It started in a nine-county area and has now increased to 15 counties. Each bag contains essential items such as a shirt, pants, underwear, socks and sports bra. In each bag there is a card with a lily on the front and an explanation of the lily. In part it says, "*you are beautiful like the lily and you can draw strength from deep within you – your core.*" These bags are distributed by St. Paul Lutheran Church, Mason City, with assistance from Our

Saviour's Lutheran Church. This is one of our missions for justice. Psalm 101:1 "*I will sing of your love and justice to you, Lord, I will sing praise.*"

*Submitted by Janice Nelson*

## **Stewardship Committee**

Katharina von Bora Luther was a practical and bold woman of faith. Through Katie's Fund, Women of the ELCA honors her life by supporting global connections, leadership development and living theology. Our churchwide organization has started a special campaign to honor Katharina's legacy to us today. 2122 is a \$1 million campaign for Katie's Fund that is designed to support the organization into the next 100 years of mission and ministry. Please consider giving to continue Women of the ELCA into the next 100 years. [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) or call **800-638-3522**.

## **Discipleship Committee**

The women at St. Paul in Lime Springs are getting ready to lead a once-a-month Community Free Soup Supper, January - March. It is open to our whole community. Last year it was very well attended and people enjoyed socializing in the middle of winter. What is your women's group doing during the long winter months?

The Board is excited for everyone to join us for our Mary and Martha retreat at EWALU Stone Center, Strawberry Point on Friday, Feb. 21, 4 pm and Saturday, Feb. 22 till 3pm. If you are unable to come on Friday please join us on Saturday for all the fun activites! There will be Bible study, hymn sing, games, time to work on your own craft projects or watch and learn a new one. On Saturday, Pastor Susan & Norman Friedrich will speak to us about the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) "Bridges of Hope." Registration is due Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$35.00 for both days or \$15.00 for just Saturday.

*O God, your Son, Jesus Christ enjoyed rest and refreshment in the home of Mary and Martha of Bethany: Give us the will to love you, open our hearts to hear you, and strengthen our hands to serve you in others for his sake; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

*Submitted by Becky Paul*

Go to [Women of the ELCA - Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA](#) to get registration forms!



Mary and Martha fun for all

Friday Feb 21 and Sat. Feb. 22, 2025

YOU and your friends are invited to a retreat to Celebrate all the Marys and Marthas! This is a Celebration of YOU! Who is welcome? Any woman who belongs to the ELCA and their friends. A Woman, a Christian, a helper, a doer, a listener, a learner.

Activities: bible board games, mixer game, puzzle, bring your own crafting projects (everything is welcome including: Quilting, bandage rolling, knit/crochet, etc)

*Celebrating and learning and doing.*



**Friday Feb 21st** arrive anytime after 4pm join soup supper, hymn sing, game, puzzle and crafting time. Stay overnight and meals for \$35

Beds, bedding, and towels included (Share a room) **What to bring:** comfortable clothes, craft projects opt, yourself with a joyful heart

**Saturday Feb. 22nd:** come for the day, breakfast/ coffee @ 8am; Noon meal, bible study, hymn sing, crafting time and lots of fellowship Afternoon speakers: Pastor Susan & Norman Friedrich from the National Alliance on Mental Illness "Bridges of Hope"

Welcome @ 9am, Day ends @ 3pm

Day only rate for meals and building usage \$15

Registration deadline: Monday Feb 19th

EWALU Stone Center, 35124 Hwy 13, Strawberry Point, IA which is 2.5 miles north of Strawberry Point. Handicap accessible facility.

hosted by Your NE IA Women of the ELCA Synod Board and Katie's Fund  
Snow dates Feb. 28- March 1  
questions ? contact: Christine Schmitt [candcschmitt@gmail.com](mailto:candcschmitt@gmail.com)  
641-397-2572 or cell 641-220-5361

#### Event plan:

##### Friday night:

4-6pm Coffee/ drinks/ mixer/ settling in/ visiting  
6-7pm meal: soup and sandwiches(devotional reading)  
7pm hymn sing followed by activities (bring your own projects, games, puzzles, coloring/crafts)

##### Saturday:

8-9am: Coffee/ breakfast: egg bake, breakfast potatoes  
check-in for day people  
9am: Welcome, Hymn Sing  
9:30: Bible Study  
10am: Local project showcase "What do you do to help in your area?" discussion  
11am: project/crafting time and visiting, sharing and/or learning a new skill  
Noon meal: hot beef/hot turkey, mashed potatoes, green beans  
1pm: speakers: Pastor Susan & Norman Friedrich from the National Alliance on Mental Illness "Bridges of Hope"  
2pm share your crafts/projects  
2:30pm Hymn sing top 10 count down, send off

Bold Women's Day will be observed on Sunday, February 23. On this day we celebrate all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. For more information on planning a celebration at your church, go to [Bold Women's Day - Women of the ELCA](#)

## CALENDAR

Feb 21-2	EWALU Winter Retreat
Feb 23	Bold Women's Sunday
Mar 22	SWO/ Cluster Meeting in Waverly
Apr 5	Cluster D Spring Gathering @ Highland Lutheran
Jun 14	M & M Sharing Party, TBD

## NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

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### Contact Women of the ELCA:

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>

773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

### 2026 Triennial Gathering in Des Moines:

[www.WELCATg.org](http://www.WELCATg.org)

### 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!