



Good News

July/ August
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.

President

It is hard to believe another year has passed by and I will be stepping down as your president. I want to thank all of you that supported me during this past year. Being a newbie, there was a huge learning curve.

Our conferences have had several programs and LWR in gatherings around the synod. We are so thankful for all your efforts. LWR totals are: quilts-8203; school kits-4604; Personal care kits-3624; Baby kits-1524; Fabric bundles-159; Blankets-66. Thank you WELCA groups for all your serving throughout our synod.

Rejoice and Renew was the theme for the women's retreat that took place on February 23-24 at the Stone Center EWALU, Strawberry Point. It was a great opportunity to connect with other people in NE IA.

This year's NE IA SWO Convention was held June 15th at Redeemer Lutheran in Waverly, with a total of 53 attendees. Total offering was \$2,235.

Interest sessions were Mike Knipp LSI, Kim Dickey GHM, Karen Weltzin Joni and Friends. We had bandage rolling during the business meeting, for those who are not voting members. Displays: Joni and Friends, Our Savior of Mason City- Lily Bags; Kim Dickey-GHM fliers and pictures; LSI; Care for Creation-Donna Busch.

2024-26 SWO Board Members elected were Christine Schmitt, President; Chris VanDeventer, Secretary; Board Members: Jo Ann Brunsvold, Donna Busch, Darlene Emery, Carolyn Loftaas, Janice Nelson, Becky Pahl, Karen Weltzin. Continuing Board Members (per resolution) Alice Greimann, Vice President, Nancy Poppe, Treasurer, Darlene Emery.

2023/2024 Board Goals

1. Rejoice with the women of NEIA ELCA.
2. Rejoice in all God's gifts revealed in women of the ELCA and renew their commitment.
3. Renew communication and rejoice in those contacts.

The 13th Triennial Convention and Gathering will take place in Des Moines, IA on July 14-16, 2026, with the Gathering following from July 17-19. The web address is www.WELCAtg.org. You will be able to get information and register at this site.

Blessings to all, Sondra Nelson

Justice Committee

What a wonderful gathering held by the NE IA SWO! Interest sessions shared so much information about three of the charitable organizations in our region: Lutheran Services in Iowa, Joni and Friends, and Global Ministries. What was learned and shared in each session should make each of us reflect on what we can do for those who need help: the immigrants and refugees, the mobility challenged, and those needing medical care. But there are also others: prisoners, the hungry, homeless, and others living with chronic afflictions or mental issues.

We simply need to open our eyes, hearts, and minds to know where to share our resources with those in need and to educate others. Rolling bandages, making quilts and care kits, donating unused wheelchairs, canes, and walkers are just the start. Treating the marginalized among us should be a daily part of our lives.

Jesus said: "Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these, my brethren, you did it to me."

Matthew 25:40

But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him?

1 John 3:17

Submitted by Chris VanDeventer

Stewardship Committee

Our annual gathering was held on Saturday, June 15, at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly. The offering collected that day was \$1,705. An additional amount of \$530 had been sent in earlier. The total offering collected was \$2,235.00. \$1,117.50 was given to Churchwide, \$558.75 to ELCA World Hunger, and \$558.75 to Joni and Friends. Kim Dickey from Global Health Ministries collected rolled bandages that were rolled by participants. One wheelchair was donated for use by Joni and Friends Chair Corp. In kind donations for LSI included 10 tubs of kits for new immigrants, \$150 cash donation, \$250 in Walmart gift cards, and one Kwik Star gas card for \$25. Other donations to LSI included eighteen towels, eighteen

kitchen towels, twelve toothpaste, twelve tooth brushes, seventeen bars of soap, thirteen shampoo, thirteen combs, ten body wash, two fitted sheets, two flat bed sheets, two pillows with pillow cases, sixteen small quilts, sixteen large quilts, twenty disinfectant wipes, miscellaneous kids' games, and lots of clothes hangers. The SWO board thanks everyone for their generosity.

Submitted by Karen Weltzin

Discipleship Committee

Our 2024 gathering was June 15th. We had very good interest sessions full of discipleship. Joni and friends collects manual wheelchairs and parts. The chairs are refurbished and given to people who don't have access to wheelchairs. Volunteers go and outfit the chairs for each individual. You can learn more @ [Wheels for the World™](#) [Joni and Friends](#). Global Health Ministry collects supplies for hospitals and clinics in rural areas. We rolled bandages for them and collected suitcases for transport. You can learn more @ [Global Health Ministries \(ghm.org\)](#) . LSI/Lutheran Services in Iowa explained that even though the Bremwood residential facility is now closed, the LSI ministry is still strong! They continue with programming for families throughout Iowa. One of their newer focus areas is working with legally immigrated families in Iowa. They have starter kits you can build to help families starting over. Our in-kind offering was gathered for LSI. We were able to give them bathroom supplies, bedding kits, wipes, clothes hangers, and games for kids. Also \$425 in gift cards and cash donations were given to LSI. You can learn more @ [Home main - Lutheran Services in Iowa \(lsiowa.org\)](#)

Submitted by Christine Schmitt

Decorah LWR Spring In-gathering

Saturday, May 4, 2024, was the LWR Spring- In-Gathering at Olson's Explosives in Decorah. Donations were received from Upper Iowa River and Shepherd of The Hills. We also received donations from West Paint Creek, Waukon, IA; Trinity Lutheran Church, Spring Grove, MN; and St. Peter Lutheran, Dubuque, IA. A total of 41 churches, with 705 boxes, brought donations for workers from Postville, Elgin, Elkader, Limes Springs, and Cresco to unload and stack. Many thanks to all who helped with the "heavy lifting", to Olson's Explosives for their continued support, and especially to every individual for the countless hours spent quilting, organizing, and assembling various kits. We CAN make a difference.....We DO make a difference. Saturday, November 2, 2024, is the next date for LWR Fall In - Gathering.

1686 Quilts	1102 Per. Care Kits
119 School Kits	524 Baby Care Kits
27 Fabric Kits	3 Blankets

Submitted by Carol Maki

CALENDAR

Aug 3	SWO Transitional Meeting
Oct 5	Cluster D Gathering @ St Paul, Lime Springs
Oct 12	C/E/H LWR Ingathering, LaPorte City
Nov 2	LWR In-gathering @ Decorah

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2026 Triennial Gathering in Des Moines:

www.WELCATg.org

Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA:

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!