



# Good News

March  
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***

The board held a very productive meeting with our cluster leadership and we learned much together. We updated the cluster guidelines and the SWO policies and procedures for 2023. The major change was that to be an active unit, only one meeting a year will be required. The other changes were mainly in the wordings.

We spent a great deal of time on our June 17 gathering at Trinity Lutheran Church in Belmond. We need to finalize a few more details but the packets are being mailed, emailed or distributed at cluster gatherings. Also if you are in need of LWR supplies from Nazareth in Cedar Falls, they supplied us with an order form to be filled out and sent back to them so they can just fill orders and not have to bring all the supplies. You can pick up on the 17<sup>th</sup> by paying with cash or check. We will post the order forms on the Facebook page and the webpage.

We are still confirming where monetary and in kind offerings will be going and will notify everyone by email, Facebook and the webpage. Committee assignments were also determined. Without the help of our cluster leadership and members like you, we could not make the gathering a special day for all!

I am so thankful for the women who make a choice to serve our synodical organization and for the support of our cluster leaders! We shared great fellowship, business, laughs and a good lunch at Pizza Ranch. I look forward to getting to know all of you better!

May you all have a wonderful rest of March. Spring is coming and the joy of Easter will soon be with us again! God's blessings to you all.

*Cindy Pogge, President*

## ***Stewardship Committee***

Stewardship in the Bible is one of the essential topics that you learn as a disciple of Christ. The role of stewardship was common during biblical times and is often used as an example of the Christian's relationship to God. That is, everything belongs to God and we are to manage it and treat it not as our own, but as His. It is the role or responsibility of managing something for someone else. The Bible calls us Christians to be good stewards of the resources God has entrusted to His people - including time, talents and possessions, using the resources He has blessed us with for His glory.

A story that was told to me about stewardship. Imagine that you are invited to a friend's house. While you are there, your friend is called about an emergency. Your friend asks you to watch her young puppy while they are gone. You agree. Now even though the puppy is not yours, you are responsible for taking care of it while your friend is away. You are its steward.

So, what are your thoughts when you hear the word "stewardship?" Do you mainly think about your finances? Does taking care of the environment enter your mind? Do you answer the call to use your time, talents and abilities and make the most of every opportunity to share your blessings? These ideas and much more are parts of what it means to be a steward. Stewardship is one of the ways that we are called by Christ to live our lives, for the glory of God.

*Submitted by Alice Greimann*

## ***Introducing Carolyn Looftas***

I am a new member of the NE IA SWO board. I belong to Bethany Lutheran Church in Kensett. I am currently the WELCA president. I have been a member of the church council, serving as secretary and president. I have taught VBS and Sunday School and I was the adult Sunday School facilitator. I currently facilitate the Gather Bible Study at circle. I am hoping to learn more about the SWO board and how I can help with its mission.

*Welcome to the Board, Carolyn!*



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

## ***Discipleship Committee***

Justice is not easy to understand in this world where there is so much unrest. There is no set of rules telling us what justice is. Justice challenges us to do more. It makes us take a look at the barriers that can keep people from flourishing. We need to be reminded of Micah's call "to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God". (6:8)

Justice can look very different. It includes serving God in ways that will help bring healing to our church, our community, our country, and the world. It can include praying for others, not just the people you know personally. As Women of the ELCA, we need to act boldly for justice so that others can follow our examples. So, during this month of Lent, I challenge you to look for ways you can help to fight the injustices of this world and follow Isaiah's command to "seek justice, correct oppression, bring justice to the fatherless, (and) plead the widow's cause". (1:17)

*Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold*

## ***Justice Committee***

What do you think of when you hear the term "Discipleship?" Jesus told the disciples that they must deny themselves and follow Him: "in the same way, those of you who do not give up everything you have cannot be my disciples," Luke 14:33 What are you willing to give up? How do you show discipleship in your church and your community?

One way of showing discipleship is participating. I see facilitating the Bible Study from the Gather magazine as a way of showing discipleship. Maybe you are in a circle where some of the women don't want to "take a turn" giving the Bible Study. Try to find ways to include as many people as you can and maybe some will feel more at ease in leading. Sharing information about the articles from the Gather magazine and sharing what you have learned from the lesson may help others in their faith journey.

What can you do? Maybe in your church you teach Sunday School, give children's sermons, make quilts for Lutheran World Relief, or help with local food pantries. By sharing the gifts of time and talent, you become Jesus' disciples in your community and the world.

*Submitted by Carolyn Loofias*

- Mar 11 SWO Board Meeting, Waverly, 9 am-12 pm
- 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

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April 1 for May issue)*

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## **CALENDAR**