



Good News

Mar/ Apr
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.

Rejoice and Renew Recap

Rejoice & Renew was the theme for the Women's retreat that took place on Feb 23-24 at the Stone Center EWALU just north of Strawberry Point. It was a great opportunity to connect with other people in Northeast Iowa. Lots of eating, laughing, playing games, coloring, talking, learning and sharing. There were short devotions and Bible study about spreading the word. Did you know that the average Lutheran shares their faith every 67 years?

We also learned about Global Health Ministries and rolled bandages for them. GHM was started in the 60's by Lutheran health workers. They realized the overseas rural hospitals needed help with supplies. They started GHM in their garage, expanded to a storage unit and now have a warehouse in the Twin Cities. They help the medical facilities (most are Lutheran hospitals and clinics) who request items. Items can be anything from x ray machines, ultrasound, to scissors and medicine. Last year they sent cargo containers full of medical supplies to countries in Africa, India and Central America. Many of these clinics serve 10,000 people. Most are large areas with small villages. It is the little things that make the most difference. The rolled bandages that we make out of old sheets are used to tie IVs in place or to hold dressings on wounds. They also have things you can make for newborns, baby hats, quilts. They also have a suitcase ministry. You can donate old suitcases and they use them when they go to different countries to take medical supplies to the clinics they visit. They are packed and then left, so they always need more suitcases. We had 22 women gathered and they rolled enough bandages to fill a suitcase. Many sheets were ripped into strips and 7 bandage rollers were cranking.

Like to help and learn more? Our next gathering is June 15th at Redeemer Lutheran in Waverly.

Submitted by Christine Schmitt

Stewardship Committee

When I think of stewardship, it makes me think of things I did with my mom when I was growing up. I remember we would bring a hot dish to a family that had lost a loved one or had surgery or was ill. Sometimes we would visit someone in the nursing home and at Christmas we would go Christmas caroling. Whenever there was a fund raiser in church, we would prepare a food item to help

raise money for Luther League or other related church projects. These memories are still very fresh in my mind and helped me learn how to help others. This stewardship and hospitality continue today in my adult life. Continuing these traditions is vital and gives us better insight into the current needs of others. In our church, Burr Oak Lutheran, we have a "Be Jesusy" event for all our church members to participate in. One event was to invite someone to attend a Christmas Eve or Christmas Day Worship. We also prepared and sent care packages to our Military in our church and the SS children made cards to be included with the care packages. We also made sack lunches and brought them to the farmers in the fields to tell them "Thank you." Just recently our church had a potluck and then put together birthday kits to be distributed to our local food bank. These kits included a cake pan, cake mix, cake frosting, birthday candles and birthday supplies. We all can benefit from the opportunities for stewardship and service. This is Graceful living. We have a common vision as women of faith to seek renewal and transformation, not just for ourselves but for the greater community. 1 Peter 4:10, *As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.*

Submitted by Darlene Emory

Discipleship Committee

Going back to Biblical times, you may recall that a disciple was someone who studied under a valued teacher. Christians today view it as a follower of Jesus the Christ, who guides and leads us by his example. Jesus says, *"Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."*

I was taught this years ago: A disciple is someone who, by God's grace is learning to:

+Be With Jesus – to know and walk with Him in all of your life.

+Become like Jesus – choose to be more Christ-like in our character.

+Live like Jesus – how would Jesus handle this situation.

Let's continue in your journey "learning by God's grace."

Submitted by Jo Ann Brunsvold

Fall LWR Totals

November 4, 2023 was the LWR - Fall - In - Gathering Day at Olson's Explosives in Decorah. We received donations from Clusters D, B, & I. We also received donations from Trinity Lutheran and Blackhamer Faith; Old West Paint Creek and Old East Paint Creek, Norway, and St. Peter. Thank you to the workers from First in Cresco & St. Paul in Postville. 941 boxes were loaded into the truck filled with 1805 quilts, 571 personal care kits, 1811 school kits, 615 baby kits, 53 fabric kits and 33 blankets. We CAN make a difference...We DO make a difference.

Submitted by Carol Maki & Sue Darling

Justice Committee

"The Biblical role of women is to live in such a way that glorifies God – to obey the teachings of Jesus, to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed, to trust the Lord as Provider and Protector, and to follow Christ." (Paul Maxwell. Thithe.ly.com). This Biblical role fell on the shoulders of so many women in the Bible – Mary, the mother of Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Ruth, Hannah, Rachel, Deborah, Esther, Elizabeth, to name a few. Their situations were difficult. Women who were childless until late in their lives, who lost husbands and status and who worked so hard to care for and save others.

All these women were stretched seemingly beyond limits, yet they persevered, they gave, they survived, and they continued to care and show justice for others. Proverbs 31 tells us, "Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised." This fear is a sense of "wonder" that comes as a result of Christian love and respect for God. A willingness to obey God. And just like those women in the Bible, our "fear" of the Lord finds us caring for our neighbors, making blankets and quilts, rolling bandages, shelving in the food pantry, taking a casserole to a grieving family, and sincerely saying the words, "How can I help you." Just let that "fear", the sense of wonder and respect for God, take over in your life.

Submitted by Donna Busch

Cluster Gatherings

❖ April 13 Living Water Cluster G Spring Salad Luncheon @ Our Savior's, Mason City, 8:30 am to noon. Speaker will be Nancy Jewell from Freedom Inn His Grace Ministry. RSVP to Nancy Nielsen, 641-420-6562 by April 10.

❖ April 27 Little Flock Cluster B Spring Fling @ St. John's - Luana 9a-1p. Themed program starts with 2 Corinthians 5:17, with guest speaker Director Jim Langhus, of the Monona Butterfly Garden & Trail. Please RSVP by April 17 to Betty Handke : handbett@neitel.net, or call the St. John's church at 563-539-2321, stjohnsph@alpinecom.net

CALENDAR

Apr 13	Cluster G Gathering @ Our Savior's, Mason City
Apr 27	Cluster B Gathering @ St John, Luana
May 1	Deadline for May/ June <i>Good News</i>
May 4	SWO Board @ Synod Office LWR Ingathering, Decorah
Jun 14	SWO Board @ Redeemer, Waverly
Jun 15	SWO 36 th Annual Gathering @ Redeemer, Waverly
July 1	Deadline for July/ Aug <i>Good News</i>

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