



Good News

March/ April 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

The February winter retreat was great fun. We enjoyed fellowship, food and learning about mental health. Thank you to all who attended and helped!



Instead of our annual gathering in June, we are having a sharing party on June 14, 2025 @ Zion

Lutheran Church in Oelwein. This is for everyone and will include interest sessions and “new” circle sessions. There is no business meeting, only lively discussion, fun, and fellowship. Watch for more information as the time draws closer. We are giving out educational scholarships again this year. Each church will be sent sharing party registration forms, fliers, and scholarship forms. Again, this fun is for everyone!

*Sparkling with Jesus,
Christine Schmitt*

2026 Triennial Update

The next Triennial for the Women of the ELCA will be July 16-19, 2026, in Des Moines!! This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us, especially those who have not had been, to experience this national event, in our own backyard! Because it is so close, it makes it more affordable, even if you want to attend for just one day! The theme is *I am Worthy* and one of the speakers will be Martha Ambarangu, who is a Pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and a New Testament PhD Candidate at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago. Registration opens on July 15, 2025. You can find more information at [New Triennial Event Page - Women of the ELCA](#). Don't miss this once in a lifetime chance!!

Discipleship Committee

Get ready to put a little song in your soul...

Go make disciples, baptizing them teaching them
Go make disciples,

for I am with you 'til the end of time

Go be the salt of the earth

Go be the light for the world

Go be the city on a hill

So all can see that you're serving me

Go make disciples!

ELW #540

Christian discipleship is all of this and more. We not only learn to follow Jesus' examples of love and life, but we are called to lead others to the same. One way to carry this out is to purposefully seek out discipleship relationships. Some seek mentors or become mentors to others. From the Great Commission in Matthew 28:16-20, we read: *Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

So, go “be the salt of the earth, the light for the world, and the city on a hill.” “Go, make disciples.”

Submitted by Donna Busch



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

Justice Committee

Check out these resources available on the Women of the ELCA website:

Called to be Political Bible Study: [Calledtobepolitical.pdf](#)
Human Trafficking [Social Justice in Religion, Ending Trafficking | Women of the ELCA](#)
Racial Justice Bible Study [Racial Justice Advocacy Network resources - Women of the ELCA](#)
Domestic Violence [Domestic Violence - Women of the ELCA](#)

Stewardship Committee

As our faith journey continues toward Easter, how can we be good stewards of God's gifts?

Years ago, I clipped an article about being a good steward. The article listed one of the qualities as "generous: willing to share and to give what you have." This isn't just giving our weekly monetary offerings. It includes being generous with our talents that we can share with others. This could be volunteering to be a Sunday School teacher, joining the church choir, being an usher, volunteering to be on the church council or women's SWO board, offering to be a share-a-ride driver, etc. We can also give our time to visit shut-ins. What qualities would you include to define a good steward? I would add, being humble, grateful and prayerful.

When thinking of stewardship, this verse comes to mind. *So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.* (1Corinthians 10:31) Sharing our time, money, talents, and faith with others is being a good steward of gifts God has blessed you with!

Submitted by Jo Ann Brunsvold

LWR – 2024 Fall - In - Gathering

Saturday, November 2, 2024, was the LWR Fall In-Gathering at Olson's Explosives in Decorah. Along with donations from Upper Iowa River and Shepherds Of The Hills clusters, we also received donations from West Paint Creek, Waukon; Trinity and Black Hammer, Spring Grove, MN; Scheie, Mabel, MN; and St. Peter, Dubuque.

Thank you to workers from Postville, Calmer, Springfield, Burr Oak, and Hesper churches for unloading and stacking 930 boxes in the truck.

Donation Totals: 1650 Quilts, 762 Personal Care Kits, 1755 School Kits, 595 Baby Care Kits, 63 Fabric Kits & 7 Blankets. We CAN make a difference.....We DO make a difference. Next gathering will be Saturday, May 3.

*Submitted by
Carol Maki & Sue Darling*

CALENDAR

Apr 5	Cluster D Spring Gathering @ Highland Lutheran
Apr 12	LWR In-Gathering, St John Sumner
Apr 26	Cluster B Spring Gathering @ St John, Arlington Cluster G Spring Gathering @ Rock Creek, Osage
May 3	LWR In-Gathering, Decorah
May 17	LWR In-Gathering, Albert Lea
Jun 14	M & M Sharing Party @ Zion, Oelwein
Jul 15	2026 Triennial Registration opens
Oct 11	LWR In-Gathering, Albert Lea

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2026 Triennial Gathering in Des Moines:

www.WELCAtg.org

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neiasynod.org/women-of-the_-ELCA-