



Good News

May 2022

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

Happy May! Seems like there are lots of things to celebrate this month: May Day, Mother's Day, Confirmation, Memorial Day, Baccalaureate, and Graduation. I don't know about you, but I enjoy getting together with family and friends to celebrate. I am looking forward to our gathering on June 18 at St. John Nashua. We will have opening worship with Bishop Kevin Jones preaching. We will have business to tend to: electing new officers, board members, nominating committee, triennial voting members, motions and resolutions submitted. We will be having interest sessions: Friends of the Family, Bishop Jones, Stretching with Karen, and a display area with a variety of projects that women of NE IA Synod do. We will be collecting our in-kind offering for Friends of the Family. The morning will end with a luncheon and door-prizes. There will be an option to zoom for those who want to participate virtually. Registration forms, nomination forms, and resolution forms are available at our website (www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca). I look forward to seeing you in June!

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Gathering Information

Our Annual SWO Gathering will be on Saturday, June 18 @ St John Lutheran in Nashua, 8 am - 1 pm and a luncheon is included. Our theme is *One Body in Christ* and our theme verse is I Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it." The focus will be on how each of us has a very important part in the function of the Body as a whole. The designated In Kind Offerings for June 18 Gathering are for Friends of the Family. They serve 27 counties in Northeast Iowa.

Items needed most:

Bath towels and washcloths, twin XL sheets
Notebooks, mop, broom
baby wipes and diapers (especially sizes 4 & 5)
baby formula and food
new bras, underwear and socks (any size)

toilet paper, paper towels
hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes
laundry soap, dish soap, all-purpose cleaner
shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion.

If you are not a shopper, we also accept cash or gift cards from major retailers. If you are an Amazon shopper they do have an Amazon Wish list that delivers it directly to them. (check out their website: [Domestic & Sexual Abuse Victim Advocacy | Friends of the Family \(fofia.org\)](http://Domestic&SexualAbuseVictimAdvocacy|FriendsOfTheFamily(fofia.org))) Thank you for your generosity!

Our monetary offerings will be split between the CW WELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response-Ukraine. See you in June!

Submitted by SWO Board

Discipleship Committee

I always wondered why the WELCA Good News Newsletter had articles about discipleship, justice, and stewardship. Now that I am on the board and writing some of the Discipleship articles I know! Discipleship, Justice, and Stewardship are areas of focus where we take action according to our WELCA Mission Statement. Read the Mission Statement again at the top of the newsletter. WELCA is about getting involved!

So what *is* discipleship and what *are* the articles all about? According to the dictionary, discipleship is a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ or disciples are followers of Jesus who are intent on carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Great Command (Acts 1:8).

At WELCA, participants practice seven marks of discipleship: praying, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving, and giving. Whether it be making quilts and health and school kits for LWR, learning in Bible study, attending our annual gathering or assisting in worship, they grow in faith and share what they've learned with friends and neighbors.

Submitted by Lynda Akers

CALENDAR

May 7 LWR Ingathering @Olson's Explosives, Decorah
May 14 SWO Board @ St John, Nashua, 8:30-noon
Jun 17 SWO Board @ St John, Nashua, 8 am- 1 pm
Jun 18 NE IA SWO Gathering @ St John, Nashua
Oct 8 LWR Ingathering @Immanuel, Independence
Oct 10 LWR Ingathering @Southport Mall, Mason City
Nov 5 LWR Ingathering @Olson's Explosives, Decorah
Sept 18 2023 Triennial Convention & Gathering

LSI Challenge Update

We are nearing the \$4000 mark, on our way to \$5000. We are almost there!!!! To contribute to the LSI Spiritual Life Challenge, please send donations directly to LSI, 106 16th St SW, PO Box 848, Waverly IA 50677. Please include Spiritual Life Challenge on the memo line.

Justice Committee

As I think back to my article in January, I had challenged myself to learn more about the injustices in the world, in the United States, and in our own communities. Have I acted justly and loved mercy and shown mercy, as I walk humbly with God? (Micah 6:8) My answer is that I keep trying and that I keep searching for more information. The first Sunday in May has been recognized as Rachel's Day; it is to make us aware of the violence against children and the actions that address the violence. "Rachel's Day *Women boldly standing for children*" is an excellent resource from the Women of the ELCA website and it includes a litany of lament and hope for the day. While on the website, check out the Eleventh Triennial Convention area. The voting members adopted several memorials that included: engaging in education against school violence and mass shootings, supporting and participating in Thursdays in Black, encouraging the practice of using reusable bags, and continuing to fight human trafficking. My challenge to you is to be more like Rachel and do not be deterred, speak out, take action, and tell others of what you've learned about Rachel's Day.

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

Stewardship Committee

As we really practice "Stewardship" in our lives, our hearts and wills become generous children of God. Stewardship in our lives begins with hearing the Good News of Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit working through the written words in our Bibles. As our hearts are led to study the words printed in our Bibles, every day we begin to unfold the true value of

living for others. Jesus' examples help mold us to become stronger and more loving family members. Sharing our time and talents are necessary for us to become the leaders that our Lord Jesus intended us to be. The practice of stewardship involves the ways we devote our time and energy every day in reverence to God. Being selfish goes against every idea Jesus every quoted. We grow in grace and love only by following His suggestions. Every blessing in our lives is another reason to keep sharing what we have with those around us. Our personal actions speak louder than any words. What have you done today for someone else? My challenge to you is find a new way to share your love with your friends and family this week. Make our Lord Jesus proud.

Submitted by Lea Norlinger

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*Articles are due by 1st of the preceding month e.g.
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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!

Save a tree and get your Star by email! Email webadmin@neiasynod.org to request the change!