



Good News

May/ June 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

Hello all Mary and Martha people. It's time to party!

A sharing party on June 14, 2025 @. Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein is for everyone. There will be interest sessions from EWALU, LSI, Synod programs and Shepherd of the Hills in St. Olaf. and "new" circle sessions where you can talk with others about what is working and to share blessings for your congregations.



There is no business meeting this year. Instead, we look forward to lively discussion and fun. We are giving out educational scholarships again this year. Each church was emailed a registration form, flier, and scholarship form. These forms are also available on the WELCA webpage and the Facebook page.

I have been thinking of the basketful of blessings we are all given. It is shown in all the work you have been doing in LWR and other work you do for others. You are a Blessing!

*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 in

Chicago. Registration opens on July 15, 2025. You can find more information at [New Triennial Event Page - Women of the ELCA](#) . Our SWO offers a scholarship if you need help to offset the cost of registration. You can find the form on the Facebook page or the WELCA webpage. Don't miss this once in a lifetime chance!!

Discipleship Committee

Christian discipleship is the process by which disciples grow in the Lord Jesus Christ and are equipped by the Holy Spirit to overcome the pressures and trials of this present life and become more and more Christlike. This process requires believers to respond to the Holy Spirit's prompt to examine their thoughts, words, and actions. I was recently prompted by the Holy Spirit to answer the call to go on a Wheels for the World mission outreach to Nepal. We took wheelchairs to adults and children who had a disability. In Nepal, a disability is considered a curse or punishment for a past sin. It was a humbling and rewarding experience to serve the people of Nepal in this way. Hinduism is the main religion in Nepal and Christianity is discouraged. It is the first time I traveled to a country where we couldn't give out Bibles. Despite that, the people were very open to hearing about Jesus and allowing us to pray with them. This trip was way out of my comfort zone, but I am so glad I answered the call to go. This trip reminded me that Jesus is with us always and will be right beside us wherever He calls us to share the Good News, whether it is with our neighbors here at home or across the ocean.

Submitted by Karen Weltzin



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

Justice Committee

Justice is equity and impartiality, mercy and compassion. Justice includes serving God in ways that brings healing and wholeness to the church, the society and the world. Justice is integral to the practice of faith. Micah 6:8 states, *What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and walk humbly with your God?* In Jeremiah 31:15-17, Rachel wept. She did not shed just a few tears, she wept bitterly, uncontrollably, loud, nonstop and unforgettably. Rachel refused to be comforted for herself and her children. On the first Sunday in May, Rachel's Day is observed by Women of the ELCA. It is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear. Much has been done to make us aware of gun violence, but it doesn't seem to be enough. In all 50 states, gun laws have expanded for gun owners making it legal for qualified individuals to carry guns—even automatic weapons. This means more children are exposed to gun violence and the trauma, physical, mental, and emotional harm and even death than ever before. Scripture can help us find common ground and we must always remember—when we ask for help in this chaotic world – that God is always listening when we ask.

Submitted by Darlene Emery

Stewardship Committee

As we move away from the Easter season, we are so thankful that Jesus was the one to save us from our sins. We move into spring, receiving the much-needed rain for the anticipated crops in the fields and gardens, and we are very thankful. We should be good stewards of all that we have received, just as we read in this poem by Catherine Pulsifer.

God gives us many blessings,
Many we cannot see
But if we didn't have them
Oh, where would we be?

God gives us many blessings,
Many we take for granted
Everyday things like
The garden that we planted.

God gives us many blessings,
Which gratitude we should show
His blessings are many
Through which his love is shown.

Submitted by Alice Greimann

Spring Gathering

55 ladies attended the program hosted by the women of St. John Lutheran in Arlington. Claudine Zoughbi shared her faith journey with us, "Answering God's Calling", a testimony from a Palestine woman. Karen Martin from the Fayette County Food Shelf shared how many they have served in Fayette County. In 2004 they helped 523 people/families and in 2024, 2,408. Bring spring cleaning items to this location to help raise funds for their food shelf. The ladies from St. John presented our speakers with quilts that they made.

CALENDAR

- Jun 14 M & M Sharing Party @ Zion, Oelwein
- Jul 15 2026 Triennial Registration opens
- Oct 4 Cluster D Fall Gathering, Zion, West Union
- Oct 11 LWR In-Gathering, Albert Lea
LWR In-Gathering, St John, Sumner
- Oct 25 Cluster B Fall Gathering, Zion, Oelwein
- Nov 1 Triennial Scholarship App Due

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2026 Triennial Gathering in Des Moines:

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