



Good News

November
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

As our fall gatherings start to come together let us enjoy the gift of friendship and working together to make a stronger organization. Does your church enjoy getting together to tie quilts, make school kits, baby kits or LWR projects? Bible studies are another great way for us to share our faith in God and help us grow in our beliefs. Do you know a church where the women's organization is struggling? Ask them to join you in whatever you are doing.

At our next board meeting we will be finalizing some of the items for our June Gathering. Please make plans to attend. Invite a friend or bring a whole carload. Sit in on the business meeting and learn about the women's organization. Plan on attending one of the interest sessions that will give you information or entertain you.

I marvel at God's creation in the form of the crops providing an abundant harvest. Help keep our farm friends safe and please pray for the people of Florida and the coastal states that had any damage from hurricane Ian. Even though we do not understand God's plan for us, the way neighbors help neighbors shows us the goodness of the world, instead of the worst of it.

Watch for more information about our June gathering. In the meantime, attend your cluster events and take care of each other.

*God's Blessing to you all,
Cindy Pogge*

Introducing Linda Seely

My name is Linda Seely and I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington until a whole 18 years and then I got married to my great husband who was in the Navy. We traveled and raised three sons, Philip, Scott, and Michael. In 1990, we had the worst tragedy as we lost our middle boy, Scott, who was ready to go to sea for the first time and he was murdered by another Navy man. It's been 32 years and we are both retired and just celebrated our 56th anniversary in October! Both our other boys are successful in the mortgage business. I hope this tells you all about me and how Our Lord has given me strength to keep us all together!

Welcome to the NE IA SWO Board!

Stewardship Committee

During the month of November many women of the ELCA turn in their thank offerings they have collected through the year. Thank offerings were started back in the late 1800's. We give in thanksgiving for the many blessings received—and we do receive so many blessings, don't we? That is why we give our thank offerings.

Many women set aside small amounts at home throughout the year and then bring together their gifts with those of the other women in their circles or local groups at the end of the year. Others organize a thank offering service with the whole congregation, celebrating their women's ministries. Our thank offerings are then used to support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization.

If your congregation does not have a specific time for the thank offerings, we are able make thank offerings any time the spirit moves us. They can be given online by going to www.womenoftheelca.org. Individuals can also give their offering by mail. Make checks payable to: **Women of the ELCA** and write **Thank offering** on the memo line. **Then mail it to:**

*Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield VA 22116-8009*

It's been shown time and again that gratitude is good for us – spiritually, mentally, and even physically. Making a thank offering is gratitude in action.

Submitted by Alice Greimann

Justice Committee

When this is printed in November, Hurricane Ian will not be in our thoughts as much as it was the first week in October. So, I am trying to see how Justice fits into the disaster from the hurricane. I went back to one of the definitions of Justice. It is equity and impartiality, mercy and compassion. Those last two are such important words for us who may not have loved ones living in the disaster areas. How can we continue to show mercy and compassion for others that we do not know or do not hear about every day? It reminds me of the old phrase, "Out of sight, out of mind". If we aren't seeing or hearing about the

devastation on the news, we suddenly become busy with our own lives and the ups and downs we all experience. It is hard to remember that there are thousands of people still struggling from the damage done by the hurricane. Please continue to pray for those who have lost their homes and loved ones in the hurricane and pray for the continued work to clean up the devastation. It is going to take weeks, months, and possibly longer to recover from this storm. How can you show your compassion, even now a month after the disaster? If you can send funds to the Lutheran Disaster Fund. As always they will be the last boots on the ground, serving those that need help the most. To give online, go to www.elca.org then “Our Work”, then Lutheran Disaster Response.

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

Discipleship Committee

Did you know that that the teenage Michael Jordan did not make the varsity basketball team when he was only 15 years old? He is one of the most celebrated basketball players ever to play the sport. Jordan is philosophical about failure. In a terrific Air Jordan commercial from 2006, he solemnly observes, “I’ve missed more than 9,000 shots in my career. I’ve lost almost 300 games. Twenty-six times, I’ve been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.”

Most of us don’t rise or fall on such a public stage, but even secret failures can knock us to our knees. Most of us can probably relate to the disappointment of not making a team or a business misstep that resulted in problematic consequences or a women’s activity that is no longer thriving.

The question is not whether we fail, but how do we recover? Are we able to harbor the losses and grow stronger because of them, or do we break under the weight of defeat? Can we learn from our mistakes and renew our efforts to succeed? And—perhaps most importantly—why do we forgive star athletes so readily and often for their mistakes but resist forgiving ourselves?

Paul, one of Jesus’ strongest disciples, was also one of His strongest persecutors. He openly admits in his letters how he failed over and over again. But he did not stop. He kept trying and that is where he succeeded in leaving us with a wonderful legacy of faith.

Keep the faith and don’t be afraid to fail!

Summarized from Bold Café, September 8, 2022

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CALENDAR

2022

- Nov 1 2023 Triennial Scholarship Applications Due
- Nov 5 LWR Ingathering @Olson’s Explosives, Decorah
- Nov 12 SWO Board Meeting, Waverly, 9 am-12 pm

2023

- Jan 28 SWO/Cluster Leadership Meeting, Waverly, 9 am-3 pm
- 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
- May 6 SWO Board Meeting, Waverly, 9 am-12 pm
- June 16 SWO Board Meeting @ gathering site (TBD)
- June 17 35th Annual NE IA WELCA Gathering @ TBD
- 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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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!