



Good News

November 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

We had such a wonderful adventure touring around the Guttenberg area in October. Thank to everyone who joined in on the fun! We are received this thank you from the Pioneer Rock Church Association:

On behalf of the Pioneer Rock Church Association, I want to thank your group and you for the generous collection of \$80.00 that was received on Saturday. I hope that your group enjoyed the visit to the Pioneer Rock Church. We who make up the Association very much appreciate any financial support that is received.

Sincerely, Kevin Clefish



Coming up in November, the Wartburg community is welcoming us to their Thank Offering service on Sunday November 9 @ 6:30 pm. The worship will be held in the

Wartburg College Chapel, a beautiful setting for rejoicing in our blessings! Hope everyone can make it! If you haven't already celebrated with a thank offering service in your own congregation, there is still time and don't forget to share your thank offerings!

Also coming up is the deadline for scholarship applications for 2026 Triennial Gathering that will be held in Des Moines. Complete the form at this link [2025](#)

[Triennial Gathering](#)

[Scholarship Application.docx](#)

and email to Christine Schmitt @ candschmitt@gmail.com

ASAP!



*Sparkling with Jesus,
Christine Schmitt*

Discipleship Committee

In WELCA, we practice seven types of discipleship: praying, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving, and giving. If our minds and bodies are not fit, then practice is hard, almost impossible. We are not ready for the game.

A volleyball player works out in the weight room, in the classroom studying plays and, on the courts, putting her body through drills. She eats nutritious meals giving her body the energy it needs to endure a day long tournament. She basically eats, sleeps and breathes volleyball.

Do we do that with God? Do we focus our lives on him and then let it shine in our daily work? Or are we a *benched*, not bench, player who is just along for the ride hoping no one notices that we are not really participating.

How do we get into the game? Let's start with opening our dusty Bibles and reading daily devotions from sources like *Daily Grace* or *Bold Café* on the **Women of the ELCA** website. Then start with a three-word prayer, *Thank you God*, adding more words every time you say it. Google the ABC's of prayer to give yourself ideas for jumpstarting your daily prayer routine. Remember, a prayer doesn't have to be on a set schedule or even in a quiet room. You can talk with God anytime, anywhere! After re-energizing your focus on the Word and prayer it's time to let the joy in your heart be seen by others.

Have you felt the excitement at a game when your team is close to winning and they ask the crowd to be the "6th man"? Your voice is what brings on the players' adrenaline to push them for the win. The "6th man" spirit at church is what you need to jump start your soul, whether it is the sermon, songs or Bible readings that motivate you. Invite others to come and experience what you do. And don't be afraid to extend your talents to others in the church or community. You can control the time/ways you have to give. By now

you're a starting member of the "God squad" and others can see that light shining within you. You are ready mentally and physically to give of yourself so others may jump start their lights also. And that's how we do it with God's love once we experience it.

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its
glowing;

That's how it is with God's love,
Once you've experienced it,
Your spread the love to everyone
You want to pass it on.
It Only Takes a Spark - Kurt Kaiser

Submitted by Becky Paul

Justice Committee

The world thinks of justice in the "eye for an eye" mentality. God's justice is not punishment, but instead the healing of hearts and restoration of humanity. We can take confidence that God's justice will prevail. No matter what our situation might be, God makes the best decision.

In September, Burr Oak Lutheran held a WELCA Bazaar. Because of the generosity of so many, we were able to give love gifts to 26 charitable groups and 5 groups within our church. We were able to share God's love with so many. Other projects included tied quilts and school kits for LWR and sack lunches for our local farmers to say thank you for all their hard work.

On November 9th, our church will have a Thank Offering service, a visual opportunity for us to give thanks for our many gifts and blessings. We need to say thank you God for time with our family and friends, the peace and the beauty around us, the freedom to worship, food and shelter and all that God has given us. **THANK YOU, LORD! THANK YOU!** Rejoice and be glad in the light of God's love and share it with others.

Submitted by Darlene Emery

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* registration opened 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!!

2026 Triennial Gathering in Des Moines:

www.WELCAtg.org

CALENDAR

- Nov 8 Triennial Scholarship App Due
LWR In-Gathering, Decorah
- Nov 9 Thank Offering Worship @ Wartburg
Chapel, 6:30 pm
- Feb 20-1 M & M Retreat @ EWALU Stone Center

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

