



Good News

Nov/ Dec
2024

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

Hello all Mary and Martha people! We had a grand time on our Mary & Martha travel day. 24 people meet at the Grotto (including 2 men) Lots of rocks. On to Algona with an interesting POW museum and nativity scene. We are looking forward to planning a trip next fall.

We have 2 additional fun events planned for this year. 1. Our winter retreat at the Stone Center in Strawberry Point is scheduled for Feb. 22-3. Come and spend the night or just come for the day! More details to come! 2. We will have a party, June 14, where we plan on having a bunch of things to hear about and learn. If you have a group you would like people to know about, let us know and we will try to get them there.

On March 22 your SWO board will have a meeting in Waverly with all interested/cluster leaders invited. We will be finalizing June party gathering activities. Make plans to join us at one or all the fun events!

*Sparkling with Jesus,
Christine Schmitt*

Justice Committee

Biblical justice involves making individuals, communities, and cosmos whole by upholding both goodness and impartiality. In our Bibles we read: *Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world*, James 1:27, or *The righteous care about justice for the poor, but the wicked have no such concern*, Proverbs 29:7. Justice flows from God's heart and character. On September 11, our church held its annual church bazaar. It is a great event that shows how the people share God's great love by purchasing items at a greater value, knowing that the money raised will be given as Love Gifts to those not as fortunate. It is also a great time to have fellowship and show love for one another. Our church also

participates by making care kits and quilts for LWR that will be brought to the warehouse in Minnesota to be distributed to those in need. As God's people, justified by faith, by a God of all justice, we can experience the love of sharing and as our Pastor Dave says, "and have fun doing it." We ask the Holy Spirit to lead us to opportunities to bless others.

Submitted by Darlene Emery

Stewardship Committee

At this time of the year we especially think of what we have been given and show appreciation for the blessings we have received. One way to give is to bring Thankofferings in support of the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. These offerings support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women's emotional, physical, and spiritual health. We also have members that work together to prepare quilts and kits or roll bandages to be sent to LWR. This "work" brings hope & comfort to neighbors worldwide. Proverbs 16:3 *Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.*

We are asking **each unit** to share the number of kits/quilts being sent to LWR, as well as other contributions that your unit may have sent, by contacting:

JoAnn Brunsvold or Alice Greimann
sjbruns@wctatel.net alice.greimann71@gmail.com
(641) 512-4236 (641) 430- 7527

Submitted by Alice Greimann

The Cluster D Spring Gathering will be at Highland Lutheran Church, rural Decorah on April 5, 2025 coffee 8:30am and Gathering at 9:30 am.



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

Discipleship Committee

What does discipleship mean to you? As Women of the ELCA we practice seven marks of discipleship: praying, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving, and giving. Whether it be making quilts or kits for Lutheran World Relief or other charities – local or international or assisting in worship, we grow in faith and share what we've learned with friends and neighbors. Email our NE IA SWO discipleship committee members with your group's ideas. We'd love to share them with others!

To give you a start, I'll share a few things we have done at Our Saviour's and St. Paul in Mason City: the Lily Bag Project for women who need clothing immediately at the hospital or the women's crisis center after escaping abuse; the Little Food Pantry that is always open to anyone to not only take food items, but to also give food items they may have to share. We also connect through Bible study groups (with and without the men in our congregations). Our present Bible study is based on the video series, "The Chosen", where we are developing a better understanding of life during Jesus' time and what it was like for him and his followers.

We look forward to hearing from each of you so that we may share your ideas and expand our discipleship activities. Join me in prayer: *Dear Lord, may we be good disciples by worshipping you, studying your word, doing your works, and encouraging others to do the same. In your Son's name we pray. Amen*

*Chris VanDeventer, Karen Weltzin
Becky Pahl, Donna Busch*



Mary and Martha fun for all

Friday Feb 21 and Sat. Feb. 22, 2025

YOU and your friends are invited to a retreat to Celebrate all the Marys and Marthas! This is a Celebration of YOU!

Who is welcome? Any woman who belongs to the ELCA and their friends.

A Woman, a Christian, a helper, a doer, a listener, a learner.

Activities: bible board games, mixer game, puzzle, *bring your own crafting projects*
(everything is welcome including: Quilting, bandage rolling, knit/crochet, etc)

Celebrating and learning and doing.



Friday Feb 21st arrive anytime after 4pm

join soup supper, hymn sing, game, puzzle and crafting time.

Stay overnight and meals for \$35

Beds, bedding, and towels included (Share a room)

What to bring: comfortable clothes, craft projects opt, yourself with a joyful heart

Saturday Feb. 22nd: come for the day,

breakfast/ coffee @ 8am; Noon meal, bible study, hymn sing, bible study, crafting time and lots of fellowship

Welcome @ 9am, Day ends @ 3pm

Day only rate for meals and building usage \$15

Registration deadline: Monday Feb 19th

EWALU Stone Center, 35124 Hwy 13, Strawberry Point, IA
which is 2.5 miles north of Strawberry Point. Handicap accessible facility.

hosted by Your NE IA Women of the ELCA Synod Board and Katie's Fund

Snow dates Feb. 28- March 1

questions ? contact: Christine Schmitt candcschmitt@gmail.com
641-397-2572 or cell 641-220-5361

CALENDAR

Feb 22-3	EWALU Winter Retreat
Mar 22	SWO/ Cluster Meeting in Waverly
Apr 5	Cluster D Spring Gathering @ Highland Lutheran
Jun 14	M & M Sharing Party, TBD

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2026 Triennial Gathering in Des Moines

www.WELCAtg.org

Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA

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