



Good News

October
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

My name is Cindy Pogge and I am your newly elected president of the NEIA Women's Synod Organization. I attend St. Olaf Lutheran Church in rural Belmond, Iowa. Yes, I am excited and a little scared at the same time as I assume this new position.

We must all take a **BOLD** step and help our leaders out by taking part in your unit or cluster in any way you can. Watch the Good News for dates, time and location of your Cluster events. Some of the discussion at our transitional meeting was how to get our younger women excited and let them know that we are not just about quilts and kits. We can make our units be an afternoon tea or an evening of fellowship with a Bible study. If you are doing something different in your unit that is working, please feel free to share your ideas with any of us on the board or pass on to your cluster leader. The future of our organization is really on the line. We will also be planning on how use the gift of \$1000 given to us by our church-wide organization. If you have ideas of suggestions, please feel free to contact any board member. I am looking forward to meeting some of you for the first time and reconnecting with some I already know.

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

Justice Committee

I recently received a "thought starter" on Justice. It began with "What does justice mean to you? Women of the ELCA participants are active disciples in many ways". I love that phrase 'active disciples'! Does that describe you? Think about this definition of justice: justice is equity and impartiality, mercy and compassion.

How do you, your women's group, and/or your church show equity and impartiality? It is sometimes very hard to show mercy to someone that you feel doesn't deserve it. Compassion is such an all-encompassing word. Showing compassion to other races, ethnic groups, different religions, the elderly, the mentally/physically challenged and so many more, is a big task. We think it is easy to show compassion to someone who has cancer or who has lost everything to a tornado, but how easy is it to be compassionate for those we have nothing in common with. Human trafficking and racial injustice are two areas some may find it hard to relate to.

So, how can you be 'an active disciple'?

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

Discipleship Committee

My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in truth. 1 John 3:18

Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another. We ask ourselves how can I share Jesus' love not just in word but in deed and truth? After the isolation of 2020 I realized how much I missed human in-person contact, shaking hands at church and the occasional hug. Being a human being himself, Jesus knew what loneliness felt like and he knew the hurting in the world. Jesus' touch gave comfort and healing and hope.

Jesus is not on earth anymore in body. But we are. We are the body of Christ. The writing below is attributed to St. Teresa of Avila. (St. Teresa died in 1585 and is commemorated on October 15)

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which He looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which He blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are His body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Submitted by Lynda Akers

Little Flock Fall Fling

Little Flock cluster will be gathering @ St John's in Guttenberg on Saturday October 22. The theme is "Squeeze the Day and the verse is Psalm 18:24, *The Lord has rewarded me according to my righteousness, according to the cleanness of my hands in his sight.* Make plans to attend!

Congratulations to our new board members: Cindy Pogge, Linda Seely, Donna Busch, Shirley Retz and Carolyn Looftas; returning members, Alice Greimann, Karen Weltzin, JoAnn Brunsvold, Nancy Poppe, Vickie Grube, and Lynda Akers. Special thanks and blessings to our retiring members, Anna Jetson, Luann Bruns, Lea Norlinger and Bonnie Dralle!

Stewardship Committee

I would like to share a poem with you written by
Susan Williams

I need to find time -
a scrap of time
unnoticed
by the demands of everyday life
that chews up every morsel of time it can find.

I want to meditate on these stray birds of thought -
I want to know that my life
was more than washing dishes
and waiting for the phone to ring
bearing news of joy or sorrow.

What can we do to be better stewards of time?
Submitted by Nancy Poppe

CALENDAR

Oct 1 Cluster D Fall Gathering @ Burr Oak
Oct 8 LWR Ingathering @Immanuel, Independence
Oct 9 Cluster F Fall Gathering @ Hampton
Oct 10 LWR Ingathering @Southport Mall, Mason City
Oct 22 Cluster B Fall Gathering, St John, Guttenberg
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
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

Introducing Alice Greimann

I live near Hampton, IA. I am serving as Vice President of the NE IA Synod Women's Organization. I became a member of Zion St. John Lutheran Church, Sheffield, IA (Three River Cluster) after my husband, Donald, and I were married in 1980. This is the congregation in which he grew up. We have two daughters: our oldest, Julie, and her three children live nearby, in Hampton, and the youngest, Angela, lives in Grimes with her husband, Ben. I have been semi-retired for 13 years



after teaching in Iowa Falls for 35 years. I am often called to substitute teach.

I have been an active member @ ZSJ by teaching Sunday school and Bible school, playing in the bell choir, singing in the choir, being an officer for our WELCA organization, being part of our circle Bible study group, serving on the church board, assisting with altar guild, and being a member of our congregation's Legacy/Memorial Committee. My continued interest is sparked by the dedication of those around me and the causes that make our participation necessary. I am very happy to be part of this church family.

NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Cindy Pogge, President

515-571-2827, Cynthia.pogge@gmail.com

Alice Greimann, Vice President

641-456-2973, algreimann@wbfreq.com

JoAnn Brunsvold, Secretary

641-512-4236, jobvold76@yahoo.com or
sjbruns@wctatel.net

Nancy Poppe, Treasurer

641-257-8199, popcan1952@gmail.com
2775 Durham Avenue, Nashua, IA 50658
Checks payable to NE IA SWO, include Form A

***Good News*, Editor Diane Wills**

641-425-8628, wills.dianes@gmail.com
1399 Beeds Lake Drive, Hampton IA 50441
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Contact Women of the ELCA:

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>
773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

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!