



Good News

Sept/ Oct
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 everybody. My name is Christine Schmitt and I am the new president of the NEIA Women of the ELCA Board. We have an exciting year ahead!! I'm just sparkling everywhere!

We are going on the Mary and Martha theme. Talkers, listeners, and doers. I know a lot of you are Do-ers! We have such a great group of Ladies that give and serve their churches and the organizations that they support like Lutheran World Relief, Global Health Ministries, local food pantries and charity shops, prayer shawl ministries, Bible studies and many other things. As a group of women we can do more together than separately. Share your events with the women's synod board and you may have a couple of people from a different area come to visit.

Our Board goals this year are to have 3 events/parties and tell you all about them and to work hard and have fun. So get your calendar out and save the dates.

1. Our first BIG party is a field trip! We are heading to West Bend to see the Grotto of the Redemption. Then to Algona to see the POW museum and nativity scene. Let us know if you are coming!!
2. Our winter retreat at the Stone Center in Strawberry Point is scheduled for Feb. 22 and 23. Come and spend the night or just come for the day! More details to come!
3. And we will have a party, June 14, where we plan on having a bunch of things to hear about and learn.

*Sparkling with Jesus,
Christine Schmitt*

Justice Committee

Where has 2024 gone? It is now fall and our women's groups are busy starting to think of Fall Bazaars, Fall Breakfasts, etc. My church ladies started quilting after taking 3 months off. It is also

time for us to be thinking of the Thankoffering service, LWR quilt/kit drop offs, and Thanksgiving meals or services at the church. Stewardship always makes me think about Thankoffering. We give thanks for all the blessings we have received. As Women of the ELCA, we are so grateful for what God has given us. We have generously given Thankofferings to help support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide organization. Almost 50 years ago I learned about Thankoffering boxes, a box placed somewhere in the home, where small amounts of are deposited throughout the year. I remember placing money each Sunday for the new week God had planned for me. Then I bring my gifts to the Thankoffering service. This was and is a great way to celebrate the ministries of the women in our churches. A Thankoffering service does not have to be a once-a-year event. Hopefully we are grateful more than once a year! Why not start a monthly event, having people share what they are grateful for that month. [Thankofferings - Women of the ELCA](#)

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

Stewardship Committee

As many of you know, LSI no longer has a residential children's facility in Waverly. The mission now is to help welcome and settle LEGAL immigrant families to our state from around the globe. So the offerings of money and inkind gifts have a new focus. The kits have now changed to Meal Service, Meal Prep, Cleaning, Adult Bedding, Child Bedding, and Baby. These supplies will help get a family started in their new surroundings, many in the Waterloo/ Cedar Falls area. At our June gathering, we gathered gifts and completed kits. For more information you can go to [Home main - Lutheran Services in Iowa \(lsiowa.org\)](#) or contact Mike Knipp @ 319-610-3202 or Michael.Knipp@lsiowa.org. Mike is very prompt to answer messages and emails. Donations of kits, kit items or money can be delivered or mailed to the Waterloo office @ 3460 University Ave. They estimate the total cost of most kits is around \$100.

Jesus reminds us in Matthew 25:40, *Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.*

Submitted by Nancy Poppe

Discipleship Committee

What does discipleship mean to you? Discipleship is a noun that means • a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and • disciples are followers of Jesus who are intent on carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.”) and the Great Command (Acts 1:8: “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”). In WELCA, we practice seven marks of discipleship: praying, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving, and giving. We pray, study the Bible, and worship together. We make quilts and health and school kits for Lutheran World Relief. We grow in faith and share what we've learned with friends and neighbors. Whether it is at home or in a different country, when we share our faith and talents we are being disciples of Christ.

Submitted by Karen Weltzin

Fall Field Trip to West Bend Grotto

When: **October 19, 2024**
Where: **Meet @ Our Savior's Mason City, 8:15 am**
St Paul, Lime Springs, 7:05 am
Salem, Lake Mills, 8:20 am
Cost: **\$5, POW Museum**
Free will, Grotto & Nativity
Lunch, on your own
Schedule: **10 Grotto, West Bend**
11 :15 Lunch, Wagon Wheel
1:15 POW Museum, Algona
2:30 Nativity, Algona

RSVP to Chris VanDeventer @ 515-320-2877 or cdvandeven@gmail.com by Oct 14
[grotto-trip-33.pdf \(neiasynod.org\)](http://grotto-trip-33.pdf)



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

Cluster B Gathering

The fall gathering of Little Flock Cluster B will be Saturday, October 26, 2024 at 1st Lutheran in McGregor. The theme will be "Plentiful, Bountiful Harvest". Key scriptures are Leviticus 26:3-5 and Leviticus 19: 9-10. Speakers will be Adelyn Helle trip to Europe, Utioni Ruff from Clayton County Food Shelf and Heather Hagaman, Shepherd of the Hills. Contact Betty Schweitert, 563-873-2031 or Donna Staples, 563-534-7663.

CALENDAR

Oct 5	Cluster D Gathering @ St Paul, Lime Springs
Oct 12	C/E/H LWR Ingathering, LaPorte City
Oct 19	Grotto Field Trip, West Bend
Oct 26	Cluster B Gathering @ 1 st , McGregor
Nov 2	LWR In-gathering @ Decorah

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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-