



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.

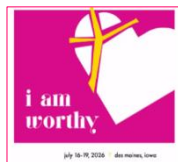
President's Sparks

Hello to all the Women of the Church and others who make things happen. So many exciting things are happening. We had 20 people attend our field trip to Clayton County. Everyone really enjoyed the Froelich museum. We learned a lot about Iowa.

Lutheran World relief trucks have been gathered for the fall. Spring dates are April 11 @ Nazareth Lutheran in Cedar Falls and May 2 @ Olson's Explosives in Decorah.

Now to the future:

- **M&M Retreat** is coming! **Feb 20-21 @ the EWALU Stone Center** just north of Strawberry Point. It is always a good time.
- **Our annual Gathering is June 20 @ Our Saviour's Lutheran** in Mason City.
- We are looking for people to help plan our events during the year.
- We are in need of new **Board members**. All board members are finishing their terms and only 3 can be re-elected. We will need 6 new members to serve for 2 years. The board meets four times a year. If you know anyone who would like to serve, please contact Alice Greimann.
- Don't forget about the Churchwide **Triennial Gathering July 16-19** in Des Moines. Register now @ <https://welcatg.org> There is a one-day option for attending.



*Sparkling with Jesus,
Christine Schmitt*

Justice Committee

Our Saviour's & St. Paul Lutheran Churches of Mason City recently had several study sessions about Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German who lived in the WW II era. For those not familiar with him, he gave us great insights into what should be the next faithful step for a broken and imperfect world. He was imprisoned at Tegel Prison in Berlin, Germany, and later executed at Flossenburg Concentration Camp.

One of our sessions discussed justice and the words we associate with justice. As individuals and in our small groups, the words we found included fairness, equality, compassion, and responsibility.

There are four types of justice:

- a) Retributive – punishment of wrong doing
- b) Distributive – spreading things out equally
- c) Restorative – repairing past wrongs
- d) Procedural – unbiased process in serving justice to perpetrators

According to Bonhoeffer, the main issue is whether we learn to live with others as human beings, practicing fairness, equality, compassion and responsibility.

What can you and your congregations do to learn more and practice justice?

Submitted by Jan Nelson

In-Gatherings, Past and Future

Sat, Nov 1, 2025 was the LWR Fall In-Gathering @ Olson's Explosives in Decorah. Donations began arriving from 42 churches, workers from Postville, Decorah, Arlington, and Calmer were busy unloading and stacking 841 boxes in the truck. It was great having youth and adults from these churches helping.

Donations Totals, 1576 quilts, 445 Personal Care Kits, 1764 School Kits, 566 Baby Care Kits, 48 Fabric Kits, & 8 Blankets.

Additional thanks to Olson's Explosives for their continued support, and especially to each and every individual for the countless hours spent quilting, organizing, and assembling various kits. We CAN make a difference! We DO make a difference!

Sat, May 2, LWR Spring In-Gathering is our next truck. We always have plenty of room on the truck and would encourage any church groups to learn more.

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Information about Nazareth Lutheran, Cedar Falls, 2026 In-Gatherings for C & E clusters. Contact Donna Kirschenmann, 5300 South Main St., Apt. 31, Cedar Falls, IA 50613; dkmann39@yahoo.com; Phone # 319-231-2251.

CALENDAR

Feb 20-1 M & M Retreat @ EWALU Stone Center

Mar 7- SWO Board Meeting @ 9 am

Apr 11-Upper Iowa River Cluster D Spring
Gathering @ St. Peter Lutheran Church,
Eldorado, Ia. Coffee time @ 8:30 am
In-Gathering @ Nazareth, Cedar Falls

May 2-SWO Board Meeting @ 9 am
In-Gathering @ Olson's Explosives, Decorah

Jun 19-SWO Board Meeting, Mason City

Jun 20- Annual SWO Gathering, Our Saviour's,
Mason City

Jul 13-15- Triennial Convention by Zoom

Jul 16-19-Triennial Gathering, Des Moines

Nov 7- In-Gathering @ Olson's Explosives, Decorah

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[neiasynod.org/women-of-the -ELCA-](http://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!



Published by NE IA Women of the ELCA



Mary and Martha fun for all
Friday, Feb 20, and Sat., Feb. 21, 2026

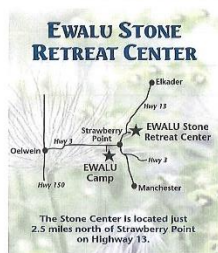
Celebrating and learning and doing.

**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, knitting & crochet, etc.)



Friday, Feb. 20th

Arrive any time after 4 p.m.

Join us for a soup supper, hymn sing, games, puzzle, and
crafting time.

The overnight stay and meals for the two days are \$45.
Beds, bedding, and towels included (You may
have to share a room.)

What to bring: comfortable clothes, craft projects are
optional, and yourself with a joyful heart.

Saturday, Feb. 21st

Come for the day.

Breakfast and coffee at 8 a.m.; noon meal,
Bible study, hymn sing, crafting time and lots of
fellowship

Afternoon speakers: Family Resource center, Guttenburg
Welcome is at 9 a.m., Day ends at 3 p.m.
Day only rate for meals and building usage is \$20

Registration deadline: Monday, Feb. 16th

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

hosted by Your Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Board

Questions? Contact: Christine Schmitt, candeschmitt@gmail.com or call 641-397-2572 or cell 641-220-5361