



Shared ministry opportunities are sprouting

by Marcia Hahn

Spring is in the air, bringing a sense of renewal, awakening and new beginnings for doing ministry together.

“It is great to see renewed energy emerging around the synod in a variety of ministries,” Bishop Kevin Jones said. “We never stopped doing ministry, of course, but it feels a bit like coming out of hibernation.”

NEW CARE FOR CREATION NETWORK TAKES ROOT

After a seven-year hiatus, the Northeastern Iowa Synod’s Care for Creation Network is ready to offer ideas, resources and opportunities to help congregations be dedicated stewards of the earth and environment.

Seventeen people participated in a Zoom meeting in February to discuss care for creation goals and plan activities for the coming year. This was the first meeting since the 2021 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly adopted a resolution to rededicate the synod to care for creation through the Care for Creation Network and resources available through the ELCA, Lutherans Restoring Creation, and other environmental and ecumenical partners.

Donna Rasmussen, who was a member of the synod’s original Care for Creation Network, believes that interest in reviving the



Pollinator gardens, such as this Gateway Prairie at Luther College in Decorah, provide food and habitat for bees and butterflies. The Northeastern Iowa Synod’s Care for Creation Network offers ideas and resources to help congregations implement their own care for creation projects and conservation practices. (Photo courtesy of Luther College.)

network locally is due to increased awareness and participation in nationwide groups, such as Lutherans Restoring Creation, a grassroots movement to promote care for creation in the ELCA.

“I think there has been so much more activity around climate change and the climate lobby recently, and the general population is getting more in tune with that issue,” Rasmussen said.

The impetus to revive the Care for Creation Network in this synod came from congregations in the Decorah area, where the Winneshiek Energy District has been active helping businesses, churches, organizations and others understand and reduce their energy consumption.

“There is a lot of interest in energy in our area,” said Rasmussen, who is a member of Hesper Lutheran, Decorah. “Our small congregation

>> Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Shared ministry opportunities are sprouting
- 3 Mindful of the Past as We Work Together in New Ways
- 5 Assembly Update
- 6 Generosity
- 7 Congregations
- 8 Prayer Calendar

has done an energy audit and we went through the process of changing light bulbs in the sanctuary to LEDs.”

Rasmussen says that the February meeting focused on ideas to help congregations throughout the synod get involved in care for creation projects. Butterfly gardens and pollinator gardens can reduce mowing and create an inviting environment for butterflies and bees. Congregations can implement conservation practices, such as reducing the use of plastic bags, evaluating their lighting and insulation around windows, and using energy efficient appliances.

Carol Tack, a member of First Lutheran, Decorah, brought ideas from the Lutheran congregation she and her family attend during their summers in northern Minnesota. That congregation has had an active creation care team for years and has implemented several environmental projects, including using grant money to install a solar panel to help with heating and convert an overflow parking lot into raised bed gardens.

“Every year they have 56 sunny garden spots that are rented to anyone in the community,” Tack said.

Network members also shared ideas for celebrating Earth Day in April. First Lutheran members plan to meet at a couple different places in Decorah and walk to church together. Another congregation plans to hand out tree saplings.

Rasmussen says the group will look at what types of information and resources would be most useful for

individuals or congregations to care for creation. “We talked about offering a list of ‘green tips’ that could go in Sunday bulletins, with care for creation ideas about composting and recycling, reducing energy use and landfill waste, and starting a pollinator garden.”

The Network will continue to meet through Zoom and will share resources for congregations through newsletters, social media, the synod website, and possibly a workshop at the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly in June. In April, the Network plans to offer links to an online care for creation training series developed by the Ecofaith Network of the Northeastern Minnesota Synod.

To learn more about the Care for Creation Network and to find resources, visit neiasynod.org/care-for-creation. Anyone interested in joining the synod’s Care for Creation Network should contact the synod office at 319-352-1414.

IOWA SYNODS ARE GROWING IDEAS TOGETHER

Bishop Kevin Jones and the two other ELCA bishops from Iowa meet monthly through Zoom to check in, support one another and explore ways to share ministries. When discussion turned to the upcoming ELCA Churchwide Assembly and how to prepare for it, they realized that none of them had ever attended a churchwide assembly orientation — let alone lead one.

“I asked if they would be interested in doing an orientation together and having someone from the church-wide organization clue us in, and

Earth Day Virtual Worship Service



Congregations are welcome to join an Earth Day virtual worship service hosted by Lutherans Restoring Creation on Sunday, April 24. The Rev. Dr. Carmelo Santos will preach according to the texts for the day.

Those who want to incorporate the message into their own worship service can request materials to download ahead of time. The files will be available by April 9. The service will be available via the Lutherans Restoring Creation YouTube channel and Facebook live starting Friday, April 22.

To learn more and to request materials, visit <https://lutheransrestoringcreation.org/register-for-the-2022-earth-day-worship>.

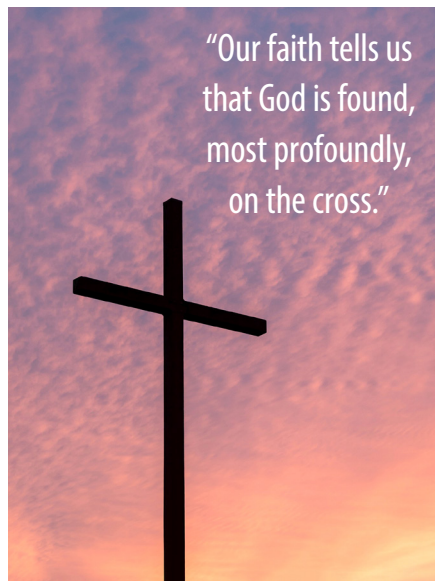
they thought that was a good idea,” Jones said.

The three bishops hosted a joint churchwide orientation in March for the Iowa voting members, including 13 from the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Bishop Lorna Halaas from the Western Iowa Synod led the opening devotion, Bishop Amy Current from the Southeastern

>> Continued on page 6

Mindful of the Past as We Work Together in New Ways

A month ago, when we chose the theme of “New Beginnings” for this newsletter, I was thinking about spring, and Easter, and the promise of new life. “What a great time to talk about some of the new ministries springing up in the synod and in the state!” I thought.



There are some great new things beginning to emerge in our midst. The trouble is, I’m not always mindful of the “deaths” that take place that make new life both necessary and possible. Like so many people in our world, I want to avoid the difficult part of life and get right to the satisfying bits in seven (or fewer) easy steps. I want to skip from Palm Sunday to Easter.

Our faith doesn’t let us. In fact, our faith tells us that God is found, most profoundly, on the cross. It is only from there that God walks with us through suffering and death to new life.

So, when I think about the new ways that the three synods in Iowa are working together, I need to be mindful of the ways those relationships suffered over the years. When I think about the Care for Creation Network, I must be aware of the ways that the earth

is suffering and in crisis. When I am grateful for the ministries our companion Synod in Hungary have started, caring for refugees from Ukraine, I need to face the devastating effects of war that are visited upon ordinary people all over the world.



But it is more than just mindfulness and awareness. I have to admit that some suffer more than others, even though we all suffer because of the brokenness. When food and gas prices soar because of pandemic, war, or inflation, those of us who are poor suffer more than those of us who have wealth. When racism and sexism are so ingrained in our culture that we struggle to even see it, we all suffer. But some of us suffer more.

I don’t believe that God is immune to our sinfulness. I believe that God suffers because of our sin. But we suffer more. In Christ, God enters our deeper suffering, dies, and emerges from the tomb on Easter. But there are scars. The risen Christ is shaped forever by the wounds that Jesus endured.

As the Body of Christ (church) we are shaped by the brokenness and sin that have been part of our histories. During Holy Week we enter into the suffering of Good Friday, encounter God at the cross, and dwell in death through Saturday. Then, and only then, can we be raised to new life.

God is at work. New things are emerging. Easter will come.

— Bishop Kevin Jones

Synod can receive gifts through AmazonSmile

Did you know that if you make an online purchase through Amazon, you can select the Northeastern Iowa Synod to receive a donation for no extra cost? Shoppers just need to log in through smile.amazon.com or through the Amazon shopping app, select the

Northeastern Iowa Synod as their charity of choice, and continue shopping. AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases on Amazon to the charity selected by the shopper.

Application process begins for ELCA World Hunger Grants

DOMESTIC HUNGER GRANTS

Registration to apply for ELCA World Hunger's 2023 Domestic Hunger Grants is now open. The annual domestic hunger grants support ELCA congregations, social ministry organizations and community-based nonprofits working to address poverty, hunger and related social justice issues.

Organizations applying for an ELCA Domestic Hunger Grant for the first time must register to create an account in ELCA GrantMaker no later than May 6, 2022. Organizations already registered may want to log in to confirm their current information.

Starting April 11, all registrants can log in to complete the Domestic Hunger Grant application, which will be open through May 20. Award recommendations will be shared with applicants and synods in November 2022.

ELCA World Hunger will host a Zoom webinar April 6 at 12 noon to review granting priorities and cover the basics of applying. A recording of the webinar will also be available.

To get started on the application process and to learn more about the Domestic Hunger Grants, webinar and frequently asked questions, visit <https://elca.org/domestichungergrants>.

DAILY BREAD MATCHING GRANTS

ELCA congregations with feeding ministries are eligible to apply for ELCA World Hunger's Daily Bread Matching Grants. These grants support congregations and their partners as they work toward a just world where all are fed.

Approved participants can invite their congregation, networks and friends to donate, and the funds raised are matched by ELCA World Hunger with a grant of \$500.

Applications for the next grant cycle open April 25, 2022. All previous recipients of a Daily Bread Matching Grant are eligible to apply this year in addition to first-time applicants.

To learn more, email hunger@elca.org or visit [ELCA.org/dailybread](https://elca.org/dailybread).

'Now is the Time' Study Guide

The ELCA offers *Now Is the Time: A Study Guide for ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent* to help congregations wrestle with the meaning of the declaration, adopted at the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, and its accompanying explanation.



In the declaration, the ELCA "apologizes to people of African descent for its historical complicity in slavery and its enduring legacy of racism in the United States and globally. We lament the white church's failure to work for the abolition of slavery and the perpetuation of racism in this church."

"Now Is the Time" stresses realism, self-examination and accountability as the church acknowledges and apologizes for the history and impact of slavery and systemic racism. The study guide focuses on deepening understanding of this history as participants engage in often-difficult conversation and reflection to move the church toward racial healing and justice.

The five-part study resource, with a guide and participant materials, is available at elca.org/Resources/Racial-Justice.

NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

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Send news for the May 2022 issue to Marcia Hahn by April 11.

Articles in this newsletter may be duplicated for use in synod congregations and organizations, with credit to the *Star* newsletter.

Please notify the synod office with name and address changes. To receive an electronic version of the *Star*, rather than paper, send your request to hahnm@neiasynod.org.



www.neiasynod.org

Register by May 1 for Synod Assembly early-bird rate

BETTER TOGETHER

June 10-11, 2022

Wartburg College, Waverly

Registration is underway for the 2022 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, with early-bird registration available through May 1. The two-day synod assembly will meet at Wartburg College in Waverly June 10-11 with the theme "Better Together," based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. Portions of the assembly will be available to stream online.

The assembly will begin Friday at 7 p.m. with Bishop Kevin Jones preaching for the opening worship service, followed by orientation and social hour. Saturday's schedule begins at 8:30 a.m. and will include plenary sessions, workshops, ministry exhibits, lunch and worship, concluding around 5 p.m.

The synod staff will lead a "Getting to Know You" session on Saturday. Synod business during the plenary sessions will include resolutions and elections for a synod vice president, synod council members, nominating committee and other committee members.

CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

The Rev. Robin Brown, director of Congregational Generosity for the ELCA, will attend as the churchwide representative and will preach at Saturday's worship service and present a workshop. Brown works with ELCA congregations to help end hunger, respond to disasters, spread the gospel globally and support the path to rostered leadership.

Brown earned her M.Div. and D.Min. in Preaching from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago (LSTC) and served congregations in Northeastern Iowa and Metro Chicago before joining the ELCA World Hunger team in 2014. Before discerning a call to rostered ministry, Brown served as VP National Accounts for a food service division of an apparel firm.

Brown's first call was to serve Grace and St. John (Crane Creek), Tripoli. "The dear, dear folks from Crane Creek drove the six hours to Chicago on a really hot day and unloaded my third-floor apartment, then drove all the way back — absolutely amazing!" Brown recalled.

Brown started at Tripoli in June 2003 and has fond memories serving as co-pastor with the Rev. Miles Renaas. "He and I were about the same age; he had 20-plus years of ministry and I had 20-plus years of corporate America," Brown said. "We brought different gifts and we worked really well together."



Robin Brown

ASSEMBLY OFFERING AND IN-KIND GIFTS

This year's synod assembly offering is designated to support the H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders to provide scholarships for seminarians from the Northeastern Iowa Synod, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service to support newly arrived refugees in America. Gift envelopes will be available at the synod assembly for checks. Donations can also be made online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/YJN9/home>.

Congregations are reminded that they can bring "welcome boxes" to the assembly to help Lutheran Services in Iowa support refugee families from Afghanistan as they resettle in Iowa. Instructions to prepare the welcome boxes can be downloaded at <https://neiasynod.org/2021/11/personal-care-kit>.

SUNDAY VIRTUAL SERMON

A video sermon by Bishop Jones will be available for congregations to use on Sunday, June 12, if they wish. The sermon is being offered to give rostered ministers and worship leaders a week of respite following the synod assembly. The sermon will be based on the assembly theme "Better Together."

ONLINE REGISTRATION

Voting members and visitors can register online at www.neiasynod.org through May 15. The registration fee increases by \$25 after May 1. Pdf registration forms are also available to download.

Check for more updates about the synod assembly at www.neiasynod.org.

Planted by Water

Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. — Jeremiah 17: 7-8a

"Is it time to plant yet?" she asked expectantly.

"Not yet," they replied, "but soon ..."

After a long winter, it is hard to not start planting as soon as the days get longer and the air warmer. Good gardeners have learned (often the hard way) that planting too soon doesn't work.

It has been a long season of change and upheaval, wild creativity and adventure, unknowns and unknowing. As congregations and followers of Jesus, I invite you to consider what season it is for you — might this be a time to rest, observe, and learn? A time to get ready for what God has planted these last two years by giving space for our roots to grow and water to nourish?

The time to dig in and plant will come. In the meantime, be generous with yourself — many of us are not built for waiting and are eager to act. It takes faith and trust

to stay in the time of learning and waiting — faith that this time is not wasted or wasteful, but actually is a fruitful time to prepare and be made ready for what is to come.

This is a time to soak up the sustaining waters of worship and wonder, devotion and rest in God's bottomless well of patience, kindness, and mercy. Be generous with you and be generous with your church and one another. May we be like trees planted by the water, deepening our roots and trusting in God.

Thank you for calling me to serve with you as an assistant to the bishop. I look forward to opportunities to learn with you, to talk about God's generosity and to explore how each one of us might be faithful managers (stewards) of all that God has given us!



— **Pastor Liz Albertson**
Assistant to the Bishop for Shared Ministry

*Shared ministry opportunities are sprouting
<< Continued from page 2*

Iowa Synod spoke about COVID safety guidelines, and Bishop Jones did the closing prayer.

"I liked seeing and hearing from all three bishops," said Pastor Kristen Wipperman, who will be attending her first churchwide assembly with her husband. "You could tell that none of us are used to gathering in person, so there were questions about how to safely do that — and rightly so."

Over the course of the churchwide assembly, voting members will hear reports, consider proposals from synod assemblies, elect officers and board members, adopt a budget, worship together and conduct other business related to the ELCA.

"Increasing cooperation and building on those relationships is going to continue to be beneficial for all of us."

— **Bishop Kevin Jones**

"Participating in a combined orientation with the Western and Southeastern synods in Iowa was a great way to begin our work as voting members," Jones noted. "It reminds us that we are representing the whole ELCA and not just our synod at the Churchwide Assembly."

Two representatives from the

churchwide organization talked to the voting members about the assembly's schedule, travel arrangements, lodging, registration and other logistics. They encouraged everyone to plan on using a tablet or iPad during the assembly to keep track of hundreds of pages of documents. They also answered lots of questions, which they said they would take back to their staff for similar orientations.

Syd Brinkman, vice president of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, said she appreciates the partnership that made this joint introduction with the other bishops possible. "The

>> *Continued on page 8*

APRIL EVENTS

- 5 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 7 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom,
9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 7 Youth Ministry Network, St. Paul, Postville,
10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 7 Synod Council Meeting, Zoom, 7 p.m.
- 15 Office Closed, Good Friday
- 19 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 26 First Call Theological Continuing Education
Event, Ewalu

MAY EVENTS

- 1 Early Bird Registration Deadline for Northeastern
Iowa Synod Assembly
- 3 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 5 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom,
9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 5-6 Youth Ministry Network Retreat, Ewalu
- 6 Candidacy Committee Meeting, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 10 Church Council Presidents, Zoom, 6:30-8 p.m.
- 14 Synodical Women's Organization, Zoom,
8:30 a.m.-12 noon
- 15 Registration Deadline for Northeastern Iowa
Synod Assembly
- 17 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 19 Deans & Chaplains, Synod Office, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 21 Synod Council Meeting, Synod Office, 9 a.m.
- 30 Office Closed, Memorial Day

JUNE EVENTS

- 2 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom,
9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 2 Youth Ministry Network, St. Paul's, Waverly,
10 a.m.
- 7 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 10-11 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, Wartburg
College, Waverly
- 13 Synod Office Closed
- 18 Synodical Women's Organization Gathering,
St. John, Nashua & Online, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 21 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.

JULY EVENTS

- 4 Office Closed, Independence Day
- 5 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 7 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom,
9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 16 Synod Council Meeting, Synod Office, 9 a.m.
- 19 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 24-27 Synod Youth Gathering "Boundless
Gathering," St. Paul, Minn.

INSTALLING

Evan Meester, St. John, Frederika, pending
 Rev. Joel Becker, Faith, Shell Rock, pending
 Rev. Daniel Hanson, Trinity, Mason City, pending

INTERVIEWING

Allison, St. James, Rev. Norman Bauer, contract interim
 Denver, St. Peter, Rev. Scot McCluskey, interim
 Elma, St. Paul (Maple Leaf)
 Grundy Center, American
 Jewell, Bethesda
 Ridgeway, Peace, Orleans and Madison (Ridgeway
 Parish)
 Ryan, Peace and Dundee, St. John (Unity of the Cross
 Lutheran Parish), Rev. Rhea Evanson, contract interim
 Waterloo, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*
 Waterloo, Our Savior's, Pastor Lisa Kruse, contract
 synodically authorized minister*
 Waterloo, Zion

SELF-STUDY

Cedar Falls, Fredsville
 Chester, United
 Decorah, Big Canoe & Highland, Rev. Waldemar Gies,
 contract interim
 Decorah, Glenwood & Canoe Ridge, Rev. Adam Starrett,
 interim
 Decorah, St. John's & Hauge*
 Dubuque, St. John's
 Elkader, Bethany & Strawberry Point, Emanuel
 Garnavillo, St. Peter & Clayton, Peace
 Hampton, St. Paul
 Hawkeye, Trinity*
 Hudson, St. Timothy, Rev. John White, contract interim
 Janesville, Messiah, Rev. Dave Powers, contract interim*
 Leland, Our Savior and Garner, Faith (Miller)*
 Mason City, Our Saviour's & St. Paul
 Sumner, St. John (Buck Creek) & Oran, St. Peter
 Toeterville, St. Peter & Carpenter, Deer Creek
 Waterloo, St. Ansgar, Rev. Erika Breddin, contract interim*
 Waterloo, Trinity*
 Waverly, St. Paul's, Rev. Mark Anderson, interim

ROSTER CHANGES

Rev. Lisa Dietrich, transferred to Central/Southern
 Illinois Synod
 Rev. Duane Miller, on leave from call
 Rev. Susan Friedrich, on leave from call

*Part-time Call

APRIL 2022						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Rev. Steven M. Jacobsen, Decorah 1	Good Samaritan Society, West Union 2
Rev. Allen L. Bidne, Waverly 3	Immanuel, Cresco 4	Bethany Life Communities, Story City 5	Rev. Bryan T. Odeen, Osage Mrs. Janice D. Schumacher, Waterloo 6	Mrs. Martha G. Deines, Cedar Falls 7	Rev. Amy Strydom, Cambridge, Minn. 8	Canoe Ridge, Decorah 9
Rev. Keith A. Tomlinson, Waverly 10	Rev. Daniel W. Gerriets, Mason City 11	Rev. Marion Pruitt-Jefferson, Decorah 12	Strawberry Point Lutheran Home, Strawberry Point 13	Rev. James Gardner, Waterloo 14	Ms. Jenine Jordahl, Decorah 15	Glenwood, Decorah 16
Middle East Peace Big Canoe, Decorah 17	Jane Hoppenworth, Charles City Rev. Grant J. Woodley, Clarion 18	Rev. Margo O. Fohs, Deloit Pres. Kristin Johnston Largen, Dubuque 19	Rev. Jerome G. Godson, Volga 20	Mrs. Judy Wogsland, Johnston 21	Good Samaritan Center, Waukon 22	Rev. Jane S. Keel, Charles City 23
Highland, Decorah 24	Rev. Ernest Elzey, La Porte City Rev. Henrik Engebretson, Decorah 25	Rev. Scott R. Duffus, Owatonna, Minn. Rev. Duane E. Miller, Des Moines 26	Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community, Waverly 27	Hauge, Decorah 28	St. John's, Decorah 29	Rev. Matthew Agee, Dubuque Rev. Kristi V. H. Grieder, Waterloo 30

How to support Ukrainian refugees

Lutheran Disaster Response is accompanying companion churches and ecumenical partners as they respond to the crisis in Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Lutheran World Federation, Church World Service and other partners are working to provide refugees with immediate support and supplies, such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. Lutheran World Relief has begun shipping quilts and kits to assist families being affected by the conflict.

Nearly 4 million people have fled Ukraine and are seeking refuge in neighboring countries, including Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and Moldova. The Northeastern Iowa

Synod has a companion synod relationship with the Lutheran Church in Hungary, and ELCA Pastors Rachel and Zach, who serve in Hungary, have shared a video message about the refugee situation and how people can respond through prayers and financial gifts.

LDR has a bulletin insert and worship resources available for congregations to use. Gifts designated for the LDR "Eastern Europe Crisis Response" will be used entirely (100%) to provide support for people impacted by conflict in the region.

Links to the video, bulletin insert, worship resources and more can be found at www.neiasynod.org.

*Shared ministry opportunities are sprouting
<< Continued from page 6*

bishops encouraged us to call our bishop's office with questions —to make that our first call."

Wipperman added, "There is a lot of excitement that we can come together this summer and form a new normal. We have a lot to learn, so I am glad they are getting us started on it now."

Jones says the three bishops will continue to look at additional opportunities to share ministries and resources. A campus ministry summit is planned in May for representatives and campus pastors from the three state universities and the ELCA-affiliated colleges in Iowa.

"Increasing cooperation and building on those relationships is going to continue to be beneficial for all of us," Jones said.



Good News

April 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

For such a time as this..... 400 women gathered virtually together during the leadership event in February. We studied the book of Esther and used the workbook created for the event to start making plans for the future of our organization. If this interests you, please check out the information online at womenoftheelca.org/for-such-a-time-as-this I will admit, I miss my weekend away trip to Chicago, but don't miss traveling in February with questionable weather.

Do you ever wonder what the roles and responsibilities are for synodical officers, board members, and cluster or conference leaders are? Do you hear a little voice that says "yes" or "tell me more" when the subject comes up? Women of the ELCA have created the opportunities for hour long discussions on what that looks like. The first one in April 23 at 1 pm central time. Advanced registration is needed. You can get more details and register at womenoftheelca.org/events

Please keep the Women of the ELCA, your synodical board, and the nominating committee in your prayers as we finalize our plans for the June Synodical Gathering and looking for nominations for the synodical board officers and members.

Blessings, Anna Jetson

2022 LWR Ingathering Dates

April 9 @	Immanuel, Independence
April 11 @	Southport Mall, Mason City
May 7 @	Olson's Explosives, Decorah
Oct 8 @	Immanuel, Independence
Oct 10 @	Southport Mall, Mason City
Nov 5 @	Olson's Explosives, Decorah

Lea Norlinger 641-494-7614, Mason City, IA
Lrprk0@gmail.com NE IA SWO board & LWR contact

Save a tree and get your Star by email! Email webadmin@neiasynod.org to request the change!

LSI Challenge Update

We are nearing the \$4000 mark, on our way to \$5000. We are almost there!!!! To contribute to the LSI Spiritual Life Challenge, please send donations directly to LSI, 106 16th St SW, PO Box 848, Waverly IA 50677. Please include Spiritual Life Challenge on the memo line.

Cluster events have returned!

Clusters A/B -- April 23, 2022 Little Flock Spring "HoneyBee" Fling at St. Peter's Lutheran Church-Garnavillo, IA; 9-9:30am registration, business mtg to follow with presentation by Johnson's Honey Farm. In kind offering: Clayton County Food Shelf.

Clusters C/E/H -- April 9, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Independence IA, registration/coffee/ LWR truck loading begins at 8:30. Speaker from the Women's Correctional Facility in Waterloo.

Cluster D - April 23, at Washington Prairie Lutheran Church, Decorah, starts at 8:30/9:00. Speakers are Days for Girls kit group from Cresco.

Cluster G - April 23, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Mason City 8:30 to noon salad luncheon, speaker LSI - focus on refugees; there will be special music and a brief business meeting with elections. For reservations, please call Lea Norlinger 671-494-7614.

Discipleship Committee

I looked up discipleship in the dictionary and it means "the condition or situation of being a disciple, a follower, or a student of some philosophy, especially a follower of Christ". Then I looked up follower which means "a person who imitates or copies". This got me to thinking. Do I strive to imitate or copy Christ? Do others see Christ in me? Ephesians 5:1-2 says "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God." As disciples or followers of Christ, we ought to put others needs before our own and be willing to give of ourselves using our time, energy, and resources. During this Lenten season, as we reflect on what Jesus gave up for us, let's be willing to be there for our neighbors, to give of our time and energy in serving others, and to support those in need with our resources. Let's be thankful for what we have been blessed with and use those blessings as faithful disciples of Jesus imitating what our Lord would have done.

Submitted by Karen Weltzin



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

Justice Committee

As I started out to write my first article for the Good News, I found myself looking up the meaning of justice. My thoughts go to hearing about communities having peaceful conversations and gatherings centering on issues that just need to be talked about. It is about respecting each other and knowing that important sensitive issues can and need to be discussed. It is about turning uncomfortable conversations in our communities or at work into meaningful ones which can turn into long lasting change.

Justice can mean speaking up on moral rightness or gathering to create better understanding of what others may be experiencing. We can use our voices for change, moving our communities forward in a positive direction for all, by focusing on what we have in common instead of our differences. Justice can mean having genuine respect for people, for fairness in employment, in housing, in health care.

What can we do for each other in the world of justice? We can raise awareness of human trafficking or roll bandages or donate food. Just DO SOMETHING! "When justice is practiced, it is a joy for those who have walked in its ways." Proverbs 21:15

Submitted by Vickie Grube

Stewardship Committee

Our Annual SWO Gathering will be on Saturday, June 18 @ St John Lutheran in Nashua, 8 am - 1 pm and a luncheon is included. Our theme is *One Body in Christ* and our theme verse is I Corinthians 12:27, "Now you are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it." The focus will be on how each of us has a very important part in the function of the Body as a whole. We are still working out the specific details, but you will enjoy the fellowship and learning, whether you choose in person or a virtual experience. Registration forms are available @ www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca. Along with our normal business, we will also be electing Triennial voting members. If you are interested in serving as a Triennial voting member, or on the SWO board or on the nominating committee, you can also find those forms on the website as well. And lastly, there are educational scholarships available for women wanting to improve their employment status.

The designated In Kind Offerings for June 18 Gathering are for Friends of the Family. They serve 27 counties in Northeast Iowa.

Items needed most:

Bath towels and washcloths, twin XL sheets
Notebooks, mop, broom
baby wipes and diapers (especially sizes 4 & 5)
baby formula and food
new bras, underwear and socks (any size)
toilet paper, paper towels
hand sanitizer, Clorox wipes
laundry soap, dish soap, all-purpose cleaner
shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion.

If you are not a shopper, we also accept cash or gift cards from major retailers. If you are an Amazon shopper they do have an Amazon Wish list that delivers it directly to them. (check out their website: [Domestic & Sexual Abuse Victim Advocacy | Friends of the Family \(fofia.org\)](http://Domestic&SexualAbuseVictimAdvocacy.FriendsOfTheFamily.fofia.org))
Thank you for your generosity!

Our monetary offerings will be split between the CW WELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response-Ukraine. See you in June!

Submitted by SWO Board

CALENDAR

- Apr 9 LWR Ingathering & Cluster C/E/H Gathering @ Immanuel, Independence, 8:30-noon
- Apr 11 LWR Ingathering @ Southport Mall, Mason City
- Apr 23 Cluster A/B @ St Peter, Garnavillo, 8:30-noon
Cluster D @ Washington Prairie, Decorah, 8:30
Cluster G @ Trinity, Mason City, 8:30-noon
- May 7 LWR Ingathering @ Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- May 14 SWO Board @ St John, Nashua, 8:30-noon
- Jun 17 SWO Board @ St John, Nashua, 8 am- 1 pm
- Jun 18 NE IA SWO Gathering @ St John, Nashua
- Oct 8 LWR Ingathering @ Immanuel, Independence
- Oct 10 LWR Ingathering @ Southport Mall, Mason City
- Nov 5 LWR Ingathering @ Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- Sept 18 2023 Triennial Convention & Gathering

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April 1 for May issue)*

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773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA

Living Faith @

Dear Faith Shapers,

Spring is here! Now is the time to start thinking about summer. I hope summer camp is on your list. We have exceptional Lutheran Camps here in Iowa. There are so many reasons to send your kids to camp. I've brought you 6 reasons, but there are so many more! Did you know many of our clergy had camping ministry experience (either as campers or counselors or both)? Camping ministry is God filled, fun and faith shaping!

If you are unable to afford sending your kids to camp, please speak to your church or call camp. There are scholarships available so that every child who wants to attend church camp will get the chance.

I wish you all a very blessed Holy Week and Easter! I pray that your Easter is filled with the Good News of Jesus' Resurrection and that you share that news with others!

Deacon Lisa Kammerer



6 Surprising Things Kids Learn at Camp

My 30 years of camping experience and youth ministry

work have shaped my long held opinion that camp experiences benefit kids in profound ways. Here's a little of what I learned from church campers.

1. **How to Be Happy.** Campers say they learned how to have fun and not worry so much. In a time where many kids struggle with anxiety and depression, it is so refreshing to hear that camp is their happy place!
2. **How to Be Myself.** Campers say they learned to be happy in their own skin, gained confidence in their abilities, learned to speak up for things they believe in, and worried less about what others think. One camper told me, "At camp, I am the best version of myself."
3. **Meet New People & Make Friends.** One camper told me that camp made her more open & caring. Another told me they experienced a sense of belonging that they did not feel at school.
4. **Take Risks & Conquer Fears.** Camp takes students out of their comfort zones and offers new challenging experiences. It's ok even if you fail because you are surrounded by people who care for you, no matter the outcome. It's a great way to build grit!
5. **Unplug and Have a Passion for Nature.** Students need time away from their phones and the chance to experience nature. Experiences and relationships are more vibrant and real when you are able to connect face to face.
6. **Experience God.** Campers tell me they learned to pray, see the holy spirit at work and to serve others. There is nothing cooler than a student learning how much God loves them and that they have God given gifts to share with the world!

This information is prepared for you by the Northeastern Iowa Synod-Home Life Network for use by families and local congregations.

Like our page on Facebook and our posted resources will appear in your newsfeed. Our page is [Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life Network ELCA](#)



Find us on
Facebook



He is Risen! He is Risen, Indeed!

FUN WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE EASTER SEASON

- ⇒ DECORATE A POSTER FOR YOUR WINDOW. TRY ONE OF THESE PHRASES.
"HE IS RISEN!" "MY REDEEMER LIVES" " ALLELUIA"
- ⇒ GARDEN PRAYER. VISIT A GARDEN AND PRAY AND READ LUKE 22: 39-46.
- ⇒ YOU'VE BEEN EGGED. GET A DOZEN EGGS AND FILL 11 OF THEM WITH TREATS AND LEAVE ONE EMPTY. HIDE THE EGGS IN SOMEONE'S YARD AND LEAVE A NOTE SAYING THE EMPTY EGG IS A REMINDER OF THE EMPTY TOMB!
- ⇒ CHALK MESSAGES. WRITE CHALK MESSAGES ON SOMEONE'S DRIVEWAY. "JESUS THINKS YOU ARE EGG-CEPTIONAL" OR "NO BUNNY LOVES YOU LIKE JESUS!"
- ⇒ BAKE RESURRECTION ROLLS OR MAKE RESURRECTION COOKIES. RECIPES ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE.
- ⇒ PUT TRICK CANDLES ON A DESSERT.. WHEN THE CANDLES RELIGHT THEMSELVES, TALK ABOUT HOW EVERYONE THOUGHT JESUS' LIGHT HAD DISAPPEARED, BUT IT HADN'T. JESUS IS RISEN AND IS ALIVE!
- ⇒ RETELL THE EASTER STORY WITH RESURRECTION EGGS. YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN RESURRECTION EGGS- SEARCH THE INTERNET TO FIND OUT HOW.