



Workshops to highlight Saturday's Synod Assembly agenda

by Marcia Hahn

Twelve educational sessions will be offered at this year's Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly June 10-11, giving voting members and visitors an opportunity to return to their congregations with information and materials to support their ministries and administrative operations.

Presenters will share about sabbaticals, smart giving, campus ministry, jazz and faith, energy efficiency, and more during workshop sessions on Saturday.

IOWA NICE? ... SAYS WHO?

In Iowa, Black residents are more than nine times more likely to be incarcerated than white residents. Though only 3.6 percent of the state's population is Black, more than 25 percent of Iowans in a federal or state correctional facility are Black.



Lisa Nelson

Statistics like those helped place Iowa as the third worst state for Black Americans, according to a special report from 24/7 Wall St., LLC. Presenter Lisa Nelson, a former adjunct professor for Wartburg College and member of Bethlehem Lutheran, Cedar Falls, and the synod's Racial Justice

Advocacy Network, will discuss the disparities in Iowa for people of color and what it means for Christians and how they might choose to respond.

"This has to compel us as people who are followers of the guy who hung out with the underprivileged to take action in some way," Nelson says.

In her workshop, Nelson plans to share resources that congregations can use to engage members in conversations centered on racial justice. She will also share ways that the Racial Justice Advocacy Network can support pastors and congregations in this work. Those attending the workshop will be encouraged to share stories of their own efforts on behalf of racial justice.

"We hope people will want to think about and talk about racial justice. We have resources to share and people from the network who are ready and eager to go out to congregations to speak about it."

SMART GIVING FOR SENIORS

Mike Klinefelter, regional gift planner for the ELCA Foundation, will share ways that retired individuals and families can avoid or lessen taxes when making a charitable gift or passing money to the next generation.

For example, IRA assets and 401K accounts are highly taxable when

passed on to the next generation, but Klinefelter says there are ways that retirees can give to their congregations now through their IRAs and avoid taxes.

People who own individual stocks or mutual funds that have highly appreciated will be hit with capital gains taxes when selling those assets, but Klinefelter says they can avoid that tax by gifting the stock directly to a nonprofit. In addition, people wanting to gift a house or farmland to their church or other ministry may be able to do so in a



Mike Klinefelter

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way that allows them to remain in the house, or creates an income stream for them today.

"Taxes are an important part of a civilized society, but we can try to lessen that tax burden for a lot of people," Klinefelter says.

Klinefelter has been working with families and congregations from the three ELCA synods in Iowa for the past 10 years to help with family gift planning and congregational endowment needs. These gift planning services are confidential and are offered with no cost or obligation.

"A lot of gift planning is education," Klinefelter says. "A will doesn't cover as much as people think it does. With gift planning, we look at what assets people have and how best to transfer those to their children and to ministries at their death."

Learn more at www.elcafoundation.org or contact Klinefelter directly at 402-943-7272.

JAZZ, FAITH AND WORSHIP

Five musicians will be part of the Jazz, Faith and Worship workshop, but the real message will be about servant leadership and bringing out the best in others.

"What makes jazz compelling is the interplay and communication amongst individuals, the expecta-

tion of originality, and a commitment to group expression," explains Jon Ailabouni, trumpeter, composer and educator who will lead the jazz workshop and worship service music.

Ailabouni says the ways that jazz musicians play together and communicate with one another in real time is a metaphor for servant leadership in the Christian community. In jazz or in the church, each member has an important role and leads using their strengths, perspectives, and talents. Those gifts and efforts are used to serve the whole.

When he works with student musicians, Ailabouni tells them to play in such a way that they make the other people around them sound better. He plans to demonstrate in the workshop how that same approach can work within congregations, where people are called to use their leadership abilities and strengths to serve others and to bring their best to their roles and self-expression.

"I hope people will consider that there isn't one person that has all the gifts. We need many people, all with different strengths and perspectives, to bring their best and bring out the best in others."

ELCA WORLD HUNGER

The Rev. Robin Brown, director of Congregational Generosity for the ELCA and churchwide representative for the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, will lead the World Hunger workshop to give updates about how ELCA World Hunger is responding to current challenges in the world and reaching out to fight hunger and poverty in 67 countries.

ELCA World Hunger's programs include educational services, vocational training and housing initiatives.

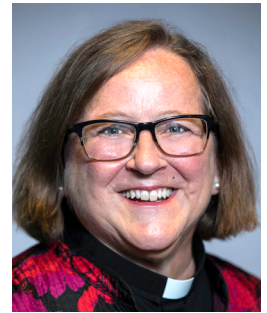
Women and girls are more vulnerable to hunger and poverty than men are, so World Hunger helps provide education for girls, invests in women's businesses and works for gender justice. World Hunger is supporting companion churches in eastern Europe with their grassroots efforts to provide donations, transportation and housing for Ukrainian refugees.

In Africa, World Hunger helps connect farmers to climate-smart agricultural practices, such as a new variety of sorghum used by farmers in Zimbabwe to grow sufficient food for their families. In Milwaukee, a two-acre urban farm and community garden teaches families to grow their own food and build their own businesses.

"Gifts to ELCA World Hunger support programs that help people facing hunger, homelessness and other challenges to get jobs, increase their earning potential and break the cycle of poverty for good," Brown says.

WELCOMING THE STRANGER

In his 15 years with Lutheran Services in Iowa, Nick Wuertz says he has never before seen anything like the recent need to resettle so



Robin Brown



Jon Ailabouni

Time to 'Re-member' at the Synod Assembly

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

—1 Corinthians 12:12-13

What do you think of when you hear the word “remember?” I normally use that word to mean bringing something to mind or recalling something from the past.

Remembering is an act of putting things back together that have become separated. Two or more thoughts can be brought back together in our minds when we remember. When we recall a memory from our past, we are reunited with sensations, emotions, and relationships from that previous time.

On June 10-11 we will “re-member” the ELCA expression of the Body of Christ in Northeastern Iowa at our Synod Assembly. In a very literal way, we will bring the members of this

body back together after an extended time apart.

If you have ever temporarily lost the use of a limb or one of your senses, you know how disorienting it can be. You may also know how difficult life can be as you gradually heal. Then, when you regain the use of that limb or that sense, you might be surprised by things that you once took for granted.

Our synod has been through a lot of change since we were last together in 2019. We quietly said goodbye to the longest serving bishop in the ELCA and several synod staff members. We were blessed by Bishop Andrea's interim leadership before moving into a second year of transition. We have experienced new ways of worship with awkward yet affirming funerals, weddings, baptisms, and confirmations. Life transitions that we rarely notice because of their gradual nature have surprised us when we run into people we haven't seen for several years.

Re-membering the Body of Christ can be an awkward, difficult, painful, joyful, healing, experience.

When we share the bread and wine of communion, we re-member Jesus and his life, teachings, death, and resur-

rection. If we are honest, that can be an awkward, difficult, painful, joyful, healing, experience, too. But Jesus commands us to do it because he knows the gift of God's grace that is present in these actions.

I invite you to be praying for our Synod Assembly, the voting members, guests, visitors, leaders, and planning team. Pray for the spirit of unity in the midst of our diversity. If you are not a voting member of the Assembly, be part of the re-membering by joining us online through the synod Facebook page.

I am grateful that you are a part of this eclectic Body of Christ, each taking part in our own ways to make the whole function as one.

— Bishop Kevin Jones



BOUNDLESS GATHERING UPDATE

Some 240 people are registered for the Boundless Gathering, including a few youth groups from Idaho and Montana! This youth gathering event, sponsored by the Northeastern Iowa Synod, is set for July 24-27 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn.

Registered groups will receive their service project assignments in early July. Bishop Kevin Jones will preach and preside at the closing worship on Wednesday.

To learn more, contact Alison Pettit, pettita@neiasynod.org or Adrian Walter, adrian@firstlutheran-decorah.org.



See you at Assembly!

Some 285 voting members and visitors are registered for the 2022 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly set for June 10-11 at Wartburg College, Waverly.

The Assembly officially kicks off Friday, June 10, with the opening worship service with Bishop Kevin Jones preaching. An orientation and social time will follow, with musical entertainment by Tom and Betsy Kirby of Mason City.

All plenary sessions will take place Saturday at Neumann Auditorium. Registration check-in begins at 7:30 a.m. and the opening prayer service will be at 8:30 a.m. Two break-out sessions will be offered for people to attend workshops. There will be no walk-in registrations.

The event will center on the theme “Better Together,” based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-13. The Rev. Robin Brown, director of Congregational Generosity for the ELCA, will share a message from the churchwide organization, present a workshop on ELCA World Hunger, and preach at Saturday’s closing worship service, which will feature jazz music.

OFFERINGS & WELCOME KITS

Deposit stations will be set up in Neumann Auditorium lobby for offerings. This year’s Assembly offering will support the H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service. Donations can also be made online at neiasynod.org/give.

A truck will be parked out front to accept “welcome kits” for Lutheran Services in Iowa to support refugee families.

LIVE STREAMING

The Assembly worship services and plenary sessions will be live streamed on the synod’s Facebook page, facebook.com/neiasynod. For the complete schedule, resources and other updates, visit neiasynod.org.

BISHOP’S VIRTUAL SERMON

Bishop Kevin Jones will record a video sermon for congregations to use in their worship services on Sunday, June 12, if they wish. The video sermon, based on the Assembly’s “Better Together” theme, is being offered to give rostered ministers and worship leaders a week of respite following the Synod Assembly. The video will be available to download from the synod’s Video Library and on the synod’s YouTube page. Links to both pages can be found at neiasynod.org/download-category/worship-resources.

Building a Culture of Generosity Update

Seven Northeastern Iowa congregations participated in the informational Zoom for “Building a Culture of Generosity,” the six-session stewardship program beginning this fall.

Participating congregations will actively create a home-grown stewardship program featuring inspiring stories demonstrating how their ministry impacts members of their congregation and community. The program is tailor-made with sample templates, suggested timelines, and short video resources.

On average, this stewardship program helps congregations increase their giving by 10 percent and become more excited about the ministry God is already doing with them. Congregations learn to share who they are and what they are about with each other, and then they are able to share that with the community.

“Good stewardship is great evangelism,” explained Mike Ward, fund-raising consultant.

A few spots are still available for congregations interested in joining the fall 2022 cohort. Recordings of the informational session are also available. Contact Pastor Liz Albertson, assistant to the Bishop, at albertsonl@neiasynod.org to learn more.

NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

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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

Pastor Corr Rod to serve as Director for Evangelical Mission

After serving nearly 10 years as a parish pastor, Kristen Corr Rod began serving May 31 as the new Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM) for the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Her areas of responsibility include congregational vitality, new ministry development, justice issues, and youth and young adult ministries.

"I was excited that I would work with youth, families, camping ministries and college ministries because those are things I'm really passionate about and have shaped my own faith life," Rod says.

Rod grew up in Andover, Iowa, where she attended Faith Lutheran and was active in Sunday school, vacation Bible school and youth activities, including attending two national youth gatherings as a freshman and senior in high school. But it was Rod's summers spent at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point as a camper, counselor and then coordinator that sealed her call to rostered ministry.

"I was told I should look into being a camp director because I loved camping ministry so much, but I realized what I loved was what the counselors did, not what the director did."

With encouragement from pastors she met while working at Ewalu and support from her Luther College roommate and friends, Rod began to discern a call to ministry. "That helped me realize I could continue the parts of camping ministry I loved the most."

Rod graduated in 2004 from Luther with a degree in psychology. She then spent a year with Youth Encounter, an organization that sent music ministry teams of young adults to congregations across the U.S. to lead vacation Bible schools, lock-ins, concerts and other events.



Kristen Corr Rod

Rod returned to Iowa where she worked a couple years as a para-educator for a preschool in Iowa City while she prepared to enter candidacy and begin her studies at Wartburg Theological Seminary. Rod served her internship at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Cedar Rapids and graduated from seminary in 2011, at a time when new seminary graduates outnumbered open calls.

"I graduated in a weird time in the church," Rod recalls. "I was told there would be a pastor shortage, but the 2008 financial crisis hit, so a lot of pastors stayed on instead of retiring. Several of us awaited a call for quite a while."

Rod began working part-time as a chaplain for the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics while waiting for her first call. It turned out to be the right place at the right time for her.

"I found out I was pregnant with my son, and it was a high-risk pregnancy that required weekly ultrasounds at Iowa City," Rod says. "My son spent a few weeks in the neonatal intensive care unit there, so I got on the receiving end of pastoral care as well."

After taking a break from the call process to stay near the medical services in Iowa City and to care for her toddler daughter and infant son, Rod resumed the call process and accepted her first call in 2013 to serve at Calvary Lutheran in Buffalo, Iowa. After three and a half years she accepted her second call in 2016 to serve American Lutheran, Jesup. In 2021, she also began serving Zion (Jubilee), La Porte City, through a contract with American Lutheran.

Rod says she has enjoyed being part of the Jesup Ministerial Alliance, in which the community's churches work together on a number of projects, including a summer lunch program, community-wide vacation Bible school, and community worship services.

"One of my favorite things in Jesup has been the ecumenical Maundy Thursday worship services with the Presbyterian and United Methodist churches," Rod says. "We incorporated traditions from each congregation into the service and we celebrated Holy Communion together, since both denominations are full communion partners with the ELCA."

Rod serves on the Board of the Independence Area Food Pantry and served the past year on the Northeastern Iowa Synod Council. She is enrolled in Grand View University's Moses Project—a leadership program for rural pastors—and she has been active with the Young Clergy Women International organization. Rod and her husband, Charlie, who works from home as a data scientist, plan to move to Waverly with their three children, ages 11, nine and two.

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Church Together — with Hungary!

On Thursday, May 12, 2022, Bishop Tamás Fabiny warmly greeted me and one of my favorite traveling buddies, Pastor Cindy Johnson, for coffee and conversation in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary's (ELCH) offices in Budapest, Hungary.

On the day of our visit, the voices of children doing art projects, playing, and learning could be heard in the hallways. These children recently came from neighboring war-torn Ukraine. One of the teachers, a young Urkanian woman, shared that many of these children came with grandparents, aunts, or their mothers, leaving the fathers to fight the Russian invaders.

Bishop Tamás explained that the ELCH recognized that they had the space to share and connected with these refugees to provide a space for day school—a place for children to safely gather, learn and play while their adults might have time to adjust to living in Budapest.

The Lutheran Church in Hungary has a long legacy of service to children and the most vulnerable. Bishop Tamás shared the story of Lutheran Pastor Gabor Sztéhlo who opened a children's home for Jewish children whose parents were murdered by the Nazis. When World War II ended, Pastor Sztéhlo made room for children of Nazi leaders who were convicted and imprisoned for their crimes. During the communist era, Pastor Sztéhlo, with the continued help of the Hungarian Lutherans, turned this children's home into a democratically run community where the youth learned leadership, service, and how to organize. After being shut down, the Hungarian Lutherans with Pastor Sztéhlo began serving children and youth with disabilities.

Today, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary has 500 congregations with a total of 176,000 members engaged in worship, service and witness. It is a gift to the Northeastern Iowa Synod to be "sister churches" or Global Companions with the ELCH. Over the last several decades Lutherans from Hungary have visited us, including Bishop Tamás, and we have sent members to visit our siblings in Hungary. My visit in May was not an official visit, but a bonus visit during my vacation. I'm thankful for Bishop Tamás' hospitality and time spent.

If you are interested in learning more about the ELCH and its ministry with Ukrainian refugees, or you would



Bishop Tamás Fabiny welcomes Pastor Liz Albertson to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary's offices in Budapest, Hungary, during in May.



Pastor Liz Albertson and her traveling companion, Pastor Cindy Johnson, visit a day school that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary set up in Budapest for refugee children from Ukraine.

like to be part of the Hungary Companion Synod Network, please contact me at albertsonl@neiasynod.org.

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

many families from Afghanistan so quickly across the country.

"This is unprecedented," says Wuertz, who serves as director of Immigrant and Refugee Community Services for Lutheran Services in Iowa. "We're trying to anticipate as best we can. The support with in-kind donations has been incredibly helpful."



Nick Wuertz

Wuertz will present an update about LSI's efforts to help Afghan families resettle in Iowa and anticipate needs to help families coming from Ukraine and other areas in the months ahead. So far, some 170 people from Afghanistan have settled into new homes in the Des Moines and Sioux City areas. Wuertz says the welcome kits prepared by congregations have helped set up apartments for the newly arrived families as they move out of temporary housing and into long-term housing.

"There are a lot of uncertainties for how fast the families can become self-sufficient," Wuertz said. "Financial contributions help support housing costs and staff support, and advocacy at the state and federal level can be impactful."

Wuertz will suggest ways that congregations can continue to share their gifts to welcome refugee families and he will share about what kind of services may be available in the future to welcome refugees to communities in the Northeastern

Iowa Synod.

Learn more about LSI Immigrant and Refugee Community Services at <https://lsiowa.org/ircs>.

FAITH, SEXISM AND JUSTICE: CALL TO ACTION

It's been three years since the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly adopted the social statement, "Faith,

Sexism and Justice: A Lutheran Call to Action." The Rev. Dr. Kristin J. Wendland, assistant professor of Religion at Wartburg College, will share an update about the social statement's content, examples of how sexism continues to be part of congregation life, and what kinds of actions congregations can take in response.

"The statement acknowledges that sexism and patriarchy continue to exist, and it uses the word 'sinful' to describe these things," says Wendland, who consulted in developing the social statement. "This is our confession, so now what? How do we address the problem?"

Wendland says that sexism can show up in the language used in worship, in who is asked to serve in different roles in the congregation, and in viewpoints for calling rostered ministers. She has presented numerous workshops on this topic. A video guide is available on the ELCA website for congregations to



Kristin Wendland

use as part of a small group study.

"God created all people wondrously with the intent that we all flourish, and God continues to work through us as advocates."

ARE YOU CALLED TO BE A ROSTERED MINISTER IN THE ELCA?

Do you see in yourself the gifts and call to serve as a rostered minister? Have others encouraged you to become a pastor or deacon? Or have you seen gifts for ministry in someone else?

Pastor Margaret Yackel-Juleen, Candidacy Committee chair, will lead a conversation about seminary and Candidacy to help with your own discernment or to learn how to encourage others to explore rostered ministry.

SABBATICAL PANEL

Pastor Steve Brackett, assistant to the Bishop, will lead a panel discussion about the benefits of sabbaticals for rostered ministers and ministry sites to nurture long-term relationships. Panelists will share their sabbatical experiences, suggest ideas for developing a congregation's sabbatical policy, and discuss how the sabbatical helped in their current ministries.

Brackett says that many pastors delayed sabbaticals during the pandemic and are weary from doing ministry in a different way, so it would be good to plan for a sabbatical. The synod still has some \$1,000 scholarships available to help reimburse sabbatical costs.

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"In addition to providing rest and sabbath time, a sabbatical can help a pastor come up with new ideas, help reinvigorate a pastor's call to ministry and help ensure that the pastor stays longer in that call, Brackett says."

CAMPUS MINISTRY: WHAT THE HECK FOR?

How can congregations walk alongside college students and young adults as they explore who they are and who they want to be?

Presenters from ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries in Cedar Falls—Robin Kime, campus ministry associate, and the Rev. David Glenn-Burns, director,—will share why campus ministry is so important and ways that congregations can get involved to support college students. Their presentation will be based in part on teachings from the book *Campus Ministry: Empowering Congregations to Support Students at Colleges and University*.

Congregation members can support college students by being present at different activities and events, engaging in conversations, offering service opportunities, and more. St. John Lutheran in Cedar Falls has invited students to join in ELCA service day activities and led worship services at ThreeHouse.

Glenn-Burns points out that congregations can support students at other campuses in similar ways. He and Kime will share an example of a discernment process that can help congregations build those connections and relationship opportunities in their congregations.



Robin Kime and David Glenn-Burns

"I would be happy if congregations began thinking about what they have to offer to their own students and students at campuses near them," Glenn-Burns said.

A CONGREGATION'S PATH TO CARBON NEUTRALITY

Jim Fritz is passionate about energy efficiency and sustainable living. He drives an electric car, designed and built a net-zero house for his mother-in-law, and equipped his own home with solar panels, Tesla Powerwalls and a dual fuel heat pump HVAC system.

His passion has extended to his congregation, Good Shepherd, Decorah. Since 2012, he has helped the congregation install insulation and weather stripping, replace light bulbs with LED lighting, and swap out three aging gas furnaces for heat pumps with a geothermal field. A new proposal would add a new air purification system and equipment upgrades to replace the remaining five furnaces. In addition, solar panels on the roof and a waterproof solar awning over a courtyard pergola would enable the congregation to create their own energy.

Fritz will describe the process and steps the congregation has taken over the past 10 years toward im-

proved energy efficiency and a lower carbon footprint. He will share about the equipment that was selected and talk about future aspirations for a Net Zero use of grid energy.

PRAYER STATIONS

Five unique prayer stations will be set up during the Synod Assembly, and everyone attending is invited to take time to visit them at their own pace.

"Our desire is that these stations create space for people to be, listen and respond to what God is doing in their lives," says Kristin Sauerbrei, College/Young Adult Ministry director for Nazareth, Cedar Falls. "We want people to walk away feeling refreshed and encouraged by how God's presence is with them right now."

Each station will feature a unique theme:

- **Bring it Home** — Take home a prompt card to help connect with God in a variety of ways.
- **Be Still** — Create, play or listen to music to channel your child-like faith.
- **Washed Away** — Write down what is weighing on your heart, mind or soul and watch the water wash it away.
- **Reminders All Around** — Leave with your own reminder note to help you take time throughout the day for God.
- **Sending Encouragement** — Use one of two templates to write a note of appreciation to those who have encouraged you in your life.

EVENTS

JUNE EVENTS

- 2 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 7 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 10-11 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, Wartburg College, Waverly
- 13 Synod Office Closed
- 16 Youth Ministry Network, St. Paul's, Waverly, 10 a.m.
- 17 SWO Board, St. John, Nashua, 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 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.

AUGUST EVENTS

- 2 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 4 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 4 Candidacy Committee Meeting, Synod Office, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 8-12 Churchwide Assembly, Columbus, Ohio
- 16 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 1 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 6 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 11 "God's work. Our hands." ELCA Day of Service
- 17 Synod Council Meeting, Synod Office, 9 a.m.
- 20 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.

Pastor Corr Rod to serve as Director for Evangelical Mission
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"The creativity that this position calls for was very intriguing to me because I think as the church grows and changes, we need to be creative in what we do and how we do it, and explore new ministries and new ways to connect with people," Rod says. "I'm excited to work with all those pieces."

To contact Rod, call the synod office 319-352-1414 or email rod@neiasynod.org.

CONGREGATIONS

INSTALLING

Rev. Joy Ridge Edeker, Bethesda, Jewell, June 19
 Rev. Nathan Wicks, Peace, Orleans, & Madison, Ridgeway (Ridgeway Parish), June 26
 Evan Meester, St. John, Frederika, pending
 Rev. Kristen Briner Wipperman, American, Grundy Center, pending

INTERVIEWING

Allison, St. James, Rev. Norman Bauer, contract interim
 Decorah, Glenwood & Canoe Ridge, Rev. Adam Starrett, interim
 Denver, St. Peter
 Elma, St. Paul (Maple Leaf)
 Hudson, St. Timothy, Rev. John White, contract interim
 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
 Decorah, Big Canoe & Highland, Rev. Waldemar Gies, contract interim
 Decorah, St. John's & Hauge*
 Denver, St. John (Maxfield) & Tripoli, St. John (Crane Creek)
 Dubuque, St. John's
 Dubuque, St. Matthew*
 Eldorado, St. Peter*
 Elkader, Bethany & Strawberry Point, Emanuel
 Garnavillo, St. Peter & Clayton, Peace
 Greene, St. Peter
 Hampton, St. Paul
 Hawkeye, Trinity*
 Janesville, Messiah, Rev. Dave Powers, contract interim*
 Jesup, American & La Porte City, Zion (Jubilee)
 Leland, Our Savior & Garner, Faith (Miller)*
 Mason City, Our Saviour's & St. Paul
 Sumner, St. John (Buck Creek) & Oran, St. Peter
 Toeterville, St. Peter & Carpenter, Deer Creek
 Washburn, Redeemer
 Waterloo, St. Ansgar, Rev. Erika Breddin, contract interim*
 Waterloo, Trinity*
 Waverly, St. Paul's, Rev. Mark Anderson, interim

ROSTER CHANGES

Deacon Patricia Gjere, retired
 Rev. Jay Ilten, retired
 Rev. Joelle Colville-Hanson, retired
 Rev. Lynn Banderob, transferred to Southeastern Iowa Synod
 Rev. Daniel Flucke, transferred to Greater Milwaukee Synod

*Part-time Call

PRAYER CALENDAR

JUNE 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders St. Matthew, Dubuque 1	Rev. Roy J. Ott, Osage 2	Rev. Gloria J. Friedrich, Waverly 3	Rev. Howard W. Wolfgram, Maynard 4
St. Peter, Dubuque 5	Rev. Wayne T. Ellingson, Decorah 6	Trinity, Hawkeye 7	Rev. Brian C. King, Cedar Falls 8	Rev. Kyle Barton, Waverly 9	1517 Media/ Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, Minn. 10	Rev. Thomas E. Martin, Garner 11
Rev. Daniel W. Hanson, Hampton Rev. G. Kim Wills, Hampton Rev. Melissa Bills, Decorah 12	St. John, Dundee 13	St. Peter, Eldorado 14	Rev. Conrad E. Rolland, Story City 15	Christian Crusaders Radio, Cedar Falls 16	Middle East Peace Rev. Katherine E. Rodriguez, Denver 17	Rev. Jay R. Ilten, Holy Cross 18
Deacon Lisa Kammerer, Cresco 19	Elgin, Elgin 20	ELC Republic of Namibia 21	Michelle Van Riper, Waterloo 22	Highland, Elgin 23	Rev. Joel R. Dahlen, Mason City 24	Rev. David A. Anderson, Lakeville, Minn. Rev. Irving L. Sandberg, Roseville, Minn. Rev. Michael A. Last, Mason City 25
Rev. Robert R. Hetrick, Waterloo 26	Zion, Elkader 27	Bethany, Elkader 28	Rev. Dennis E. Frank, Maynard 29	Lutheran World Relief, Baltimore, Md. 30		

JULY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Rev. Clarence H. Baalson, Clear Lake 1	Rev. Joelle Colville-Hanson, Waterloo 2
Rev. Jerry L. Laehn, Grinnell Rev. Audrey A. Lukasak, Circleville 3	Rev. Dr. Alan T. Wicks, West St. Paul Rev. Wayne H. Hagen, Owatonna Rev. Lance Kittleson, Saint Ansgar 4	E. Ann Philippi, Dubuque 5	Hope (Littleport), Elkader 6	Mrs. F. Geraldine Lee, Decorah 7	St. Paul (Maple Leaf), Elma 8	Rev. Edgar A. Zelle, Waverly Rev. Charis Combs-Lay, Cresco Rev. Kim W. Smith, Shell Rock Rev. Linda A. Johnson Prestholt, Manly 9
St. John, Farmersburg 10	Rev. John D. Sorenson, Dubuque 11	St. John, Frederika 12	St. Paul, Garnavillo 13	Rev. John H. Sorenson, Sumner 14	Evangelical Lutheran Church of Peace (Clayton), Garnavillo 15	Marietta G. Norris, Lake Mills 16
Middle East Peace Rev. Matthew G. Muters, Dysart 17	St. Peter, Garnavillo 18	Lutheran Deaconess Association, Valparaiso, Ind. 19	Faith (Miller), Garner 20	St. Peter, Greene 21	Portico Benefit Services, Minneapolis 22	American, Grundy Center 23
St. John's American, Guttenberg 24	Grace, Hanlontown 25	St. Paul, Guttenberg 26	Rev. Susan L. Friedrich, West Union 27	Lutheran Services in America, Washington, D.C. 28	St. John, Hampton 29	St. Paul, Hampton 30
Region 5, Cambridge, Wis. 31						



Good News

June 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

What does it mean to be part of the Women of the ELCA? How do we get back to normal? When can we get back to normal? What does the Women of the ELCA do for me? I'm just not into quilting or serving funerals. I get these questions and others quite often.

- 1) First, let me say, I don't think we can go back to normal. I say we need to focus on the future and what works for you and your group. For example, the board meetings will continue to use zoom or some type of video conferencing. Partially due to expense savings for travel and partially because it allows those who may not feel comfortable to be in person to continue to participate from their location.
- 2) There is way more to the Women of the ELCA, than just quilting and serving funerals. There are stewardship and learning opportunities, doing for others, and advocating to ensure all have what they need.
- 3) When women join together to accomplish a task, we can succeed.

Please join us for our June 18 Gathering at St. John in Nashua to find out more!

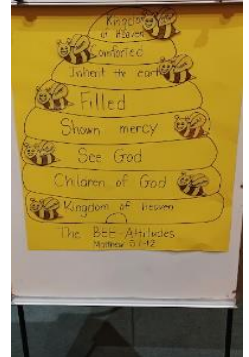
Blessings, Anna Jetson

Gathering Information

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. The designated In Kind Offerings for June 18 Gathering are for Friends of the Family. They serve 27 counties in Northeast Iowa. Our monetary offerings will be split between the CW WELCA and Lutheran Disaster Response-Ukraine. See you in June!

Cluster B Gathering

Little Flock Cluster B, held their Spring Fling at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Garnavillo April 23. Our Rejoice and BEE glad devotion and program was attended by 11 churches in our flock. Bill Johnson was our guest speaker from the Honey Farm in Guttenberg, sharing his interpretation about the land of milk and honey through nutrition and purity.



Discipleship Committee

A disciple is to be an imitator, living our lives like the leader. You can pick out whose child it is as you watch them. They imitate a parent. A boy may walk like his dad and a girl may giggle like her mom. When did you and I become disciples? At our baptism, whether infant, child or adult. I remember my baptism as I was a young girl. There was no Lutheran church in the town where we lived. My parents and others in the community organized and went through the steps necessary to belong to the synod. The Sunday it was official my brother 7, sister 3 and myself 5 were baptized along with other children. So began my journey as a disciple of Christ. Can others tell that I (you) imitate my (your) leader, Christ? Can you (we) recognize Christ in me (us)? Our leader and king Jesus Christ has left us thousands of examples showing compassion. A smile, pat on a back, hug or any form of love will show that you and I have a great King we love and imitate. In all the loving things we do others will know you and I are disciples of the one who loves the entire world enough to give his life for all. Jesus Christ our Lord and King.

Submitted by Bonnie Dralle

CALENDAR

Jun 17 SWO Board @ St John, Nashua, 8 am- 1 pm
Jun 18 NE IA SWO Gathering @ St John, Nashua
Oct 1 Cluster D Fall Gathering @ Burr Oak
Oct 8 LWR Ingathering @Immanuel, Independence
Oct 10 LWR Ingathering @Southport Mall, Mason City
Oct 22 Cluster B Fall Gathering, St John, Guttenberg
Nov 5 LWR Ingathering @Olson's Explosives, Decorah
Sept 18 2023 Triennial Convention & Gathering

LSI Challenge Update

We are over 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.

Justice Committee

How do I model justice for others in the world? Justice can be making donations to food pantries, so that those in need have the necessities to survive. Justice can be joining peaceful rallies to ensure everyone has the same privileges. Justice can be reading books, magazines, listening to podcasts, to educate yourself on a topic, then sharing the information with others. Justice can be aware of your surroundings and reporting things that don't seem quite right to law enforcement or Polaris foundation. Justice can be donating to a reliable organization providing for the needs of others. How will you model Justice to your friends, family and neighbors?

Submitted by Anna Jetson

Stewardship Committee

When we think about our health holistically, including our financial health makes sense. When we consider health in mind, body, and spirit, pondering how financial health and *giving* may be integral to our wellbeing. Many women are motivated to make choices that create a better world. This can be accomplished by giving back based on their blessings, particularly to help those who have less or as a sense of stewardship for God's creation. God calls us as people of faith to take care of one another. We can do good in "our church, society, and the world."

In Kind gifts are collected at our annual SWO. This year 'Friends of the Family' was chosen

as the recipient of these gifts. Their website is: fofia.org. Let's shower them with our generosity!

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.

Submitted by Alice Greimann

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*Articles are due by 1st of the preceding month e.g.
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



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!

Living Faith @



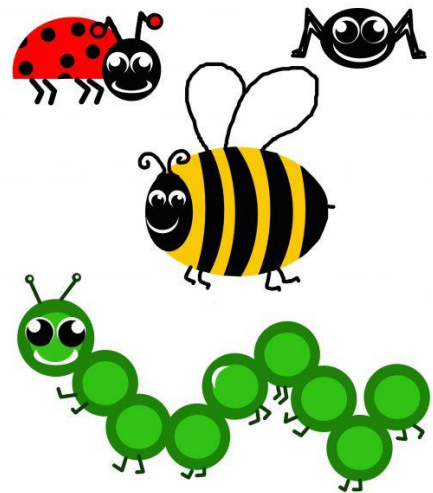
Welcome to June and SUMMERTIME!

Sometimes summer can seem almost as busy as the school year. Often the busyness of school is exchanged for summer sports, bible camps, family vacations, vacation bible school, and family reunions. Hopefully you will have a little time to put your feet up and relax too.

There's nothing wrong with children having some "down time" too – not *everyday* has to be filled with activities. Just like adults, children can benefit from quiet time. Try to schedule some quiet/down-time now and then for everyone in the family. This is the time when laptops, television, smartphones, and video games are set aside. Even if it's just for 15 minutes a day, it gives kids (and adults) time to dream, invent, pray, imagine, and create - all on their own. Just as physical exercise is important to the body, it's important to exercise our mind and our imaginations now and then too!

June can also be a great time to experience God's creation – June is beautiful in Iowa – it is so green, and everything seems so new and fresh. It's the perfect time to take walks in nature – June (usually) isn't quite as hot and humid as July and August – and (usually) the mosquitoes aren't in full force yet (but it might be a good idea to have some bug repellent with you on your walks – just in case!)

ABC's of Creation: On your walk, take a sheet of paper and a pen with you, and on it, list all the letters of the alphabet and a space for writing after each letter. Then tell the children to come up with something that God has created that corresponds to that letter. Example: A: Ants, B: Bumble Bee, C: Clouds, D: Dandelions, and so on. When you get back home, look up the creation story in Genesis. End with a prayer and thanking God for creating everything on your list!



Garden of Faith



Gardening is a fantastic summertime activity for adults and kids alike! Growing your own vegetables and flowers can teach us so much about creation and life, and the Bible is full of gardening stories and illustrations. It's a perfect way to teach children the responsibilities of caring for life, *and* the benefits of gardens – especially when those yummy green beans, tomatoes and cucumbers are harvested and enjoyed at dinnertime! If you don't have space for a garden, you can use large pots or buckets.

Here are some ways to teach God's Word along with gardening:

Good Soil: Matthew 13:23: *But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.* Kids love digging in the dirt!

Matthew 13:1-23 is the "Parable of the Sower." As you are preparing the soil in your garden, talk about the different kinds of soil, and how God wants us to have hearts like good soil – ready to receive God's Word and God's love.

Planting Seeds: Matthew 13:31: *"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field."* As you plant your seeds, talk about how tiny they are to start with and how big they will eventually get. It's a lot like our faith! Read the "Parable of the Mustard Seed." (Matthew 13:31-32)

Weeds: The "Parable of the Sower" can be referenced here as well. (Matthew 13:1-23) As the kids help you pull weeds out of the garden talk about how distractions in our life can sometimes keep us from following God's word or seeing that God wants the best for us.

Watering: John 4:14 *"...whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst."*

Water is important to us – Jesus tells us he is the "living water." Watering time is also a great time to talk about how fortunate we are to have running water – and countries where water is scarce. What can we do to protect our water resources?

Harvest: Psalm 67:6 *"The earth has yielded its harvest. God blesses us—our God blesses us!"* As you are harvesting your produce, talk about how God provides. Have the children think about all of the ways that God blesses us!

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 [Home Life « NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD \(neiasynod.org\)](https://www.facebook.com/NEIASYNOD)

