



Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation

Candidacy affirms and guides the call to rostered ministry

by Marcia Hahn

Daniel Grainger recalls how nervous he was during his first interview with the Northeastern Iowa Synod Candidacy Committee.

"I thought their function was to drill and keep people out that weren't good enough for ministry," says Grainger, who is a third-year student at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque. "I walked away relieved that I made it to entrance and felt these are people who care, and who want to see me grow and understand my sense of call."

The Northeastern Iowa Synod Candidacy Committee works in partner-

"Folks on the committee feel called to shape leaders for Christ's church. That's a real gift and a ministry of its own."

— Pastor Chad Huebner

ship with candidates, congregations and seminaries to support and mentor those who feel a sense of call to serve in a rostered ministry of the ELCA. The committee guides and mentors candidates through each step as they begin theological seminary study, complete their clinical pastoral education, receive

endorsement for an internship, and achieve approval of readiness to assume a leadership role in the ELCA.



Chad Huebner

"This is a really wonderfully committed group that takes the weight and joy of their work seriously," says Pastor Chad Huebner, who serves at First Lutheran, Decorah, and as candidacy committee chair. "Folks on the committee feel called to shape leaders for Christ's church. That's a real gift and a ministry of its own."

Those interested in pursuing a call to ministry generally begin by talking to their home pastor and

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Members of the Northeastern Iowa Synod Candidacy Committee and candidates for ministry join in a small group mixer activity at the Candidacy Retreat in February.

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contacting Pastor Steve Brackett at the synod office to learn about candidacy. The home congregation submits paperwork to begin the candidacy process, and a member of the candidacy committee follows up to meet with the potential candidate in person. Applicants must write an entrance essay about their church background and their understanding of their call to ministry. They must also complete a psych evaluation and background check.

Twenty-two people are currently entered in the synod's candidacy program, and another eight have begun the application process. The candidacy committee, made up of a dozen lay members and rostered ministers, walks alongside each candidate through entrance into formal discernment with the candidacy committee, endorsement recognizing the candidate's readiness to complete the candidacy process, and approval that a candidate is qualified and suited to serve as an ELCA rostered minister.

"Each milestone has criteria outlined in the *ELCA Candidacy Manual*, and is updated and streamlined for the alternative pathways," Huebner says. "We have great resources from our Region 5 candidacy coordinator for what needs to happen for each step, and we do our best to work the process that is outlined for us."

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PATHS

The traditional path to ministry has been to attend on-campus classes for three years at a seminary, with one-year away to complete an internship. In recent years, however, more candidates are choosing alternative education paths to ordained ministry.

"The ELCA is working really hard to create pathways for many places and stages of life for folks who can't necessarily move into residential or traditional pathways," Huebner says. "It's a wonderful piece of work the church is doing."

Alternative pathways for a master's

of divinity degree include distributed learning through online classes with one on-campus seminary class each semester; collaborative learning through online classes while getting hands-on experience working four years in a congregation; and an accelerated pathway to earn undergraduate and graduate degrees in six years, rather than eight, through a partnership offered by Wartburg College in Waverly and Wartburg Seminary. Candidates age 40 or older can pursue a three-year certificate program while working in the congregation that will become the ordained pastor's first call.

Keeping up with the alternative paths to ministry can mean a lot of reading and studying for the committee members. Kurt Kuenzel, a member of St. Peter, Garnavillo, who has served on the committee for nearly 10 years, says there is a continual learning curve to be up-to-date on the different pathways to ministry and lots of reading of essays, evaluations and other paperwork. But one thing that doesn't



Candidates, candidacy committee members and presenters gather for the synod's annual Candidacy Retreat in February.

Ministry partners are gifts to this synod

One of the life-changing and life-giving ministries in our synod is Lutheran Services in Iowa's Bremwood Lutheran Children's Home. We have partnered with them in several ways over the years. Here are a couple of examples.

The Men in Mission group met on their campus. After some time to get acquainted, one of the residents asked one of the men, "Will you teach me how to play catch?" No one had ever taught him how

to do something that basic.

Our Lutheran Youth Organization met on campus. There was a resident who was from the same town as a member of the LYO. Again, after some trust was built, a resident asked the LYO student from the same town, "Will you say 'Hi' to me in the hallway at school?" "Yes." "Will you sit with me at lunch?" This is the ultimate question in high school. "Yes," said our youth. Both were blessed.

When you view the institutional ministries that are located in our synod, you realize what remarkable gifts we have. Your support is well deserved.



— Steven L. Ullestad
Bishop, Northeastern Iowa Synod

change is the high quality of candidates Kuenzel has met over the years.

"We sit back and see the quality of our candidates and we shake our heads and ask, 'Are we that blessed in the Northeastern Iowa Synod that we have such strong candidates?' These people are going to be wonderful pastors."

As a lay member, Kuenzel brings a perspective from outside rostered life and looks for traits that he believes are needed in a pastor: a willingness to serve, kindness and understanding, and strength. Kuenzel says he has seen a lot of people with those traits come to the candidacy process and discover that they were being called without realizing it.

"All of a sudden it evolves to a point that the only thing that makes sense for them is to go to seminary, stay in it and come out the other side as a rostered minister," Kuenzel says.

CALLED IN A NEW DIRECTION

Grainger says his first choice for a career was to be a math teacher, but

a summer working as a counselor at Camp Ewalu while attending Luther College led him to consider ministry.



Daniel Grainger

"That first summer at Ewalu threw me for a loop," Grainger says. "At camp I took a risk and found a lot of joy and worship-centered community. I worked five summers at Ewalu, which was pretty formative in my experience."

Grainger thought outdoor ministry would be his calling, but after talking to his home pastor from Good Shepherd, Decorah, and working as an administrative assistant at the Luther College Ministries office, Grainger felt called toward rostered ministry. He says that working nine-to-five with the chaplains at Luther turned out to be a great decision because he was able to focus on his discernment and see firsthand what it was like to be a pastor.

"I worked with pastors who were very open about the joys and heartaches that come with being a pastor and ministering in today's church," Grainger says. "I got to see for myself, in a real and authentic way, what being a minister is about, and that gave me a lot of courage and hope."

Katie Rodriguez' path to ministry was also a second career choice. Rodriguez graduated from Waldorf University in 2013 with a degree in graphic design, and a few months later she landed her first job as a graphic designer.

"I knew right away it wasn't what I wanted to do," she says. "It was a good job, just not a good fit for me."

Rodriguez spent the next several months working temporary jobs, not sure what she was supposed to be doing with her life. Her mother encouraged her to talk to the pastor from her home church of Zion (Jubilee), La Porte City. Pastor Mark Anderson, assistant to the Bishop,

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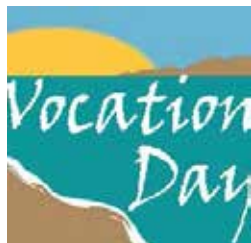
Youth can explore ministry careers at Vocation Day

Tuesday, April 28, 2020
Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa
9:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Middle school and high school youth are invited to join their pastor, deacon, or youth worker for “Vocation Day” at Wartburg College to learn about ministry career opportunities in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This day of discernment, set for Tuesday, April 28, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., will include worship, workshops, lunch, college tour and time to talk to college students.

Pastors and congregation leaders are encouraged to invite one or two youth who they feel should consider ministry. Cost is just \$25 per congregation

To register, call Kathy Liddle at the synod office, 319-352-1414, or email her at liddlek@neiasynod.org.



WIYLDE to include session for middle school youth

June 14-17, 2020
Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa

High school and middle school youth from ELCA congregations are invited to attend the 2020 Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event (WIYLDE) set for June 14-17 at Wartburg College in Waverly.

High school students can attend all four days to delve deeper into their faith and practice hands-on leadership skills. Activities include large group sessions, small group discussions, daily Bible studies, devotions, free time, meals, and campfires.

Middle school students are invited to join “Junior WIYLDE” on Wednesday, June 17, 1-4 p.m., at the Wartburg Chapel. High school youth will lead this half-day session to give middle school students a first-hand introduction to WIYLDE activities. This group-building session will also give the high school students an opportunity to practice the ministry leadership skills they learned at WIYLDE.

Registration for high school youth is due Friday, May 1. Junior WIYLDE registration is due Monday, June 1. Registration forms for both events can be downloaded at www.neiasynod.org/wiylde. To learn more, contact Deb Bachman at dbachman72@gmail.com.

Rostered Ministers Gathering

July 20-23, 2020
Phoenix, Arizona

All rostered ministers of the ELCA are invited to join their colleagues for the Rostered Ministers Gathering set for July 20-23 in Phoenix. The event will feature the theme “Rekindle the gift within you,” based on 2 Timothy 1:6.

Gathering activities include Bible studies, keynote speakers, workshops, evening activities, and a banquet celebrating the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women.

Early registration is open until May 20, with a discounted rate of \$245 per person. The rate for regular registration from May 21 – July 6 is \$295. Pre-gathering events are priced at an additional \$50.

To learn more and to register, visit www.elca.org/rmg.

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Send news for the April 2020 issue to Marcia Hahn by March 16. We welcome story ideas related to the 2020 theme, “Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation.”

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www.neiasynod.org

happened to be a guest at worship that Sunday, so the three of them talked about what steps Rodriguez could take to discern a call to ministry. Rodriguez decided to visit Wartburg Seminary for a “Consider Your Call” weekend, and she says the pieces then fell into place.



Katie Rodriguez

“My apartment lease was going to be up and a Greek class was starting at Wartburg in July,” Rodriguez says. “I felt this overwhelming sense of peace this was where I needed to be.”

Rodriguez entered candidacy the following August with a goal to be a parish pastor. This time, she had the entire candidacy committee supporting and guiding her through seminary and affirming that she was on the right path.

TAKING A BREAK CAN LEAD TO SUCCESS

Making the transition from graphic design to theology was challenging and harder than Rodriguez anticipated. With support from the seminary and the candidacy committee, Rodriguez decided to wait a year before doing her internship.

“What I found throughout candidacy was that everyone involved cares for your wellbeing, mental health and how to take care of yourself,” says Rodriguez, who is serving her first call at St. John (Maxfield), Denver, and Messiah, Janesville. “They want you to do what you need to be healthy.”

Sometimes stepping back and taking a break can be the best advice the candidacy committee can give. The committee may advise a potential candidate to wait a few years to pay down undergraduate debt before beginning candidacy. The committee may affirm a candidate’s decision to switch to a different ministry goal, such as word and sacrament rather than word and service. Committee members may offer spiritual direction to help candidates address their personal growth areas and hone their skills and passion for ministry.

“We all have areas we need to work on at various points because the job of being a pastor is so all encompassing,” Huebner says. “We can’t be lone rangers. We need colleagues to help us through challenges and to share prayers with us.”

Huebner and Kuenzel credit seminary scholarships offered through the synod’s H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders with making candidacy more accessible for people.

“Students know they won’t be saddled with a phenomenal amount of debt, but paying that back in some way is on a lot of people’s minds,” Kuenzel says. “They often pay it back by going to a smaller congregation that can’t afford as much salary for a pastor.”

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ADVOCATE AND MENTOR

Every committee member works with two or three candidates to check on how the candidates are doing and talk to them about any challenges they may be facing.

Committee members also connect

with the candidates at the annual candidacy retreats, which include workshops and opportunities for candidates and committee members to socialize in an informal setting and worship together. Candidates learn skills that can help them in their first call, such as “Safeguarding God’s Children,” managing a classroom of youth, and taking time for self-care.

“That was sort of a revolutionary idea for me that to take care of other people, I have to take care of myself first,” Rodriguez says. “I joined a bowling league with my husband and a couple members of the church and that’s been a huge outlet for me. I love it, it’s fun and it’s a reminder that God created us to have things that make us happy as well.”

CANDIDACY IS FOR ANY AGE

Huebner says that anyone can point someone toward candidacy. He suggests paying attention to congregation members, of any age, who have leadership skills and who show a passion for ministry, and forward their name to the synod office.

“We have second and third career folks and newly retired folks who are engaging in this process,” Huebner says. “They perhaps always felt a sense of call, and now can be their opportunity. There are lots of pathways to make it happen. With the Fund for Leaders scholarships, pursuing ministry is more affordable and accessible than ever.”

One of the biggest hurdles to candidacy can be making that first

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Iowans help Hungarian students practice English skills

by Marcia Hahn

Debbi Shoopman served three months last year as an English language volunteer for a Lutheran school in Hungary, and she can't wait to go back. In fact, she plans to return this coming fall and stay for the entire academic year.

"It was the most amazing experience I have ever had," says Shoopman, a retired social worker who lives in Waterloo. "I was stunned with how loving, warm and welcoming everyone was. There are not enough positive adjectives in my vocabulary to describe how wonderful the experience was."

Shoopman heard about the English volunteer opportunity from a friend who had attended a seminar at the 2019 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly about the synod's Companion Synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary. ELCA Global Mission was seeking volunteers to help students and adults in Hungary practice their English conversation skills. People could volunteer for up to three months, with no visa required. Shoopman, her friend, and another acquaintance from Waterloo signed up.

"This opportunity was custom made for me," says Shoopman, who had always wanted to take a return trip to Europe.

The synod office in Hungary matched Shoopman with a Lutheran school in Albertirsa — a village of 12,000 about 50 miles from Budapest — where she worked with students in first through eighth grade. She assisted the Hungarian English teachers and followed their

curriculum to help students practice their vocabulary, sentence structure, verb usage, and more. Shoopman also did half-hour lessons with preschool children and led adult language conversation groups in the evenings. Once a week, she participated in an English language conversation group at the synod office in Budapest.

"None of it was beyond the skill level of an average native English speaker," Shoopman says.

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED

Global Mission is seeking more people to join the English volunteer program. Hungary is the only nation in the world that speaks Hungarian, so to be competitive in the global market, their citizens need to be bilingual. The schools offer English and German as second languages.

Shoopman says she never experienced any behavior problems or discipline issues with the students. Most of the students and adults had never personally met an American or listened to their speech, so Shoopman says she served as a goodwill ambassador to them.

"The students were so excited about us being there. They were like sponges soaking up everything we could give to them."



Debbi Shoopman leads a Hungarian student in a game of "pin the tail on the pig" as part of an English class activity to learn about Iowa.

Volunteers are responsible for their travel expenses, local travel and food, but housing is provided. Shoopman's commute to the school was just a 10-minute walk, but she was given a bicycle to use during her stay.

"Bicycles are the main form of transportation for about half the population," Shoopman says. "The weather is 10 to 30 degrees warmer than here and the land reminded me a lot of Iowa."

Shoopman says the staff, students and their families "adopted her" by welcoming her into their homes and taking her on sightseeing trips. She learned to cook Hungarian meals and was able to see and experience what family life is like in Hungary.

Shoopman also had time to travel with her Iowa companions for a five-day trip to Paris and a long weekend in Bavaria, Germany. She says that traveling in Hungary is affordable — a 50-minute train ride to Budapest cost \$3.50 — and

Plans are set for the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

June 12-14, 2020
Wartburg College, Waverly

The 2020 Synod Assembly will gather at Wartburg College, Waverly, June 12 - 14, for business surrounded by word and sacrament. The election of a Bishop will be the primary business on Friday and Saturday.

In honor of 50 years of women being ordained in the ELCA, Sunday morning will include small group study on the ordination of women and its implications, an open mic during the plenary session about the impact of the ordination of women on the ministry of the church, and a worship service that honors this breakthrough.

KEYNOTE — The keynote address will be presented by the Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann, associate professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage for Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque.

CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE — Lori Fedyk, treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will preside over the election of the Bishop.



*Celebrating Renewal:
Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor
of the Reformation*

FORUMS and SEMINARS — Saturday afternoon forums and seminars will focus on “Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation,” the year-long synod emphasis.

ASSEMBLY FACTS —

- **Theme/Emphasis** — “Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation”
- **Elections** — Voting members will elect a synod bishop, synod secretary, synod council members and nominating committee.
- **Forms** — General information and registration forms are inserted in this issue of the *Star*.
- **Fees** — Fee categories are non-commuter (meals, housing), commuter (meals, no housing), and visitor (no meals, no housing). Early bird registration fees will be available until Tuesday,

May 12. An additional fee of \$25 will be added after May 12.



- **Information** — A pre-assembly notebook will be mailed or a digital copy emailed to registered voting members on May 12.
- **Youth** — Congregations are encouraged to elect a youth voting member.
- **Voting Requirement** — Voting members must be voting members of their congregation.
- **Resolutions** — Business is presented in resolution form. Resolutions may be submitted to the Resolutions Committee by a voting member of a congregation in the Northeastern Iowa Synod, a congregation, or a conference.
- **Visitors** — Both adults and youth are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Learn more at www.neiasynod.org/synod-assembly-2020.

— Linda J. Hudgins
Assistant to the Bishop

is made easier by signs and menus that are printed in Hungarian, English and German.

“I encourage anybody who likes other people, who enjoys spending time with kids, and who wants to travel, to consider this golden opportunity,” Shoopman says. “The people I connected with and spent time with were incredibly kind and

accepting, and so appreciative of the slightest thing I did. They often thanked me for being there, and I thanked them for inviting me.”

Anyone interested in learning more about this volunteer opportunity should contact Pastor Mark Anderson, assistant to the Bishop, at 319-352-1414 or andersonm@neiasynod.org.



How Mission Support is Used for Synod Ministries

As we get ready for the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, it is the time of year again when people ask “What is a Synod? What does a Synod do? How does the Synod spend our Mission Support?”

This is too short a space to review all the synodical ministries or narrate the budget, but here is a summary of what I think readers will care about the most.

SHARING JESUS AND SUPPORTING CONGREGATIONS

- Use a strong social media presence to proclaim the Word, call the church to prayer, and lift up and encourage congregations’ witness.
- Consult with congregations who request assistance in renewal, stewardship, and evangelism.
- Accompany our worshipping community in Parkersburg.

PASSING ON THE FAITH FROM OUR GENERATION TO THE NEXT

- Provide help for parents to

- teach the faith to their children.
- Support youth workers and youth ministry.
- Offer Christian leadership training for high school students.
- Support campus ministry

ENSURING THERE ARE PASTORS AND DEACONS FOR OUR CONGREGATIONS

- Walk with candidates through the process of becoming pastors and deacons.
- Secure funding to support seminary education.
- Train and coach new pastors.
- Guide congregations through the call process.
- Provide continuing education opportunities for rostered ministers.
- Help rostered ministers to prepare to retire.

FEEDING OTHERS AND GIVING EVERYONE A FAIR CHANCE TO SUCCEED

- Domestic Hunger Grants help fund a homeless shelter ministry, community meals, and com-

- munity and church gardens to grow food for food shelves, food banks and community meals.
- Funds help support the Little Free Pantries food project and the collection and distribution of flood recovery buckets.
- Support for Barnabas Uplift provides job training for the unemployed.
- Funding for Lutheran Services in Iowa supports the care of children, families, the elderly, and people with special needs.

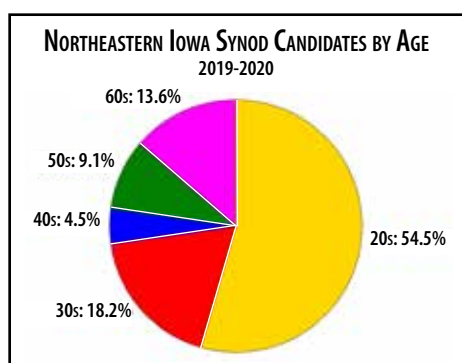
We give thanks for all those people and congregations who give to support the wider church and for all the ministries these gifts make possible.

— Pastor Mark A.
Anderson
Assistant to the
Bishop



To download this article and other stewardship resources, visit www.neiasynod.org/stewardship.

Candidacy affirms and guides the call to rostered ministry
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step. For those who do navigate the paperwork and make their way to the entrance interview with the full committee, Kuenzel promises it’s not as bad as people might imagine.

“To walk into a room with a dozen or so people sitting around a u-shape table looking back at you for an hour-long interview, asking questions about your application,

essay and background, can be an intimidating part of the candidacy process, but it sounds worse than it is,” Kuenzel says. “I’ve only seen one person cry, and that’s because he was so happy.”

Anyone interested in learning more about candidacy should contact Pastor Steve Brackett, assistant to the Bishop for Leadership, at 319-352-1414.

MARCH EVENTS

- 1-3 Event**, Rural Ministry Conference, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque
- 3 Meeting**, Executive Committee, synod office, 9 a.m.
- 5 Meeting**, Interim Ministry Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 5 Meeting**, Youth Ministry Network, Bethesda, Jewell, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 7 Meeting**, Synodical Women's Organization Board, Synod Office, 8 a.m.-12 noon
- 8 Meeting**, WIYLDE Video Chat, 7-8 p.m.
- 14 Meeting**, (snow date) Synodical Women's Organization Board
- 15-17 Event**, Rostered Women's Gathering, Camp Ewalu Stone Center
- 21 Workshop**, Safeguarding God's Children, 9 a.m.-12 noon, St. James, Mason City
- 21 Meeting**, Synod Council, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 29 Meeting**, WIYLDE Video Chat, 7-8 p.m.

APRIL EVENTS

- 2 Event**, Day of Renewal, Nazareth, Cedar Falls, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
- 2 Meeting**, Interim Ministry Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 2 Meeting**, Youth Ministry Network, Trinity, Mason City, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 10 Office Closed**, Good Friday
- 21 Meeting**, Assembly Planning Committee, Wartburg, Waverly, 4-6 p.m.
- 23-24 Event**, Youth Ministry Network Retreat, Ewalu, Strawberry Point
- 26 Meeting**, WIYLDE, Location and Time TBD
- 26-28 Event**, First Call Theological Education Retreat, Ewalu (Stone Center), Strawberry Point
- 28 Event**, Vocation Day, Wartburg, Waverly, 9:30 a.m.-2:15 p.m.

MAY EVENTS

- 1 Meeting**, Candidacy Committee, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 7 Meeting**, Interim Ministry Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 17 Meeting**, WIYLDE Video Chat, 7-8 p.m.
- 25 Office Closed-Memorial Day**

JUNE EVENTS

- 4 Meeting**, Interim Ministry Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 6 Meeting**, Youth Ministry Network, St. Paul's, Waverly, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

INTERVIEWING

- Belmond**, Trinity
- Cedar Falls**, St. John
- Decorah**, Decorah
- Dubuque**, St. Matthew and Luther Manor
- Independence**, Immanuel (staff)
- Nashua**, St. John, Rev. Charis Combs-Lay, interim
- Northwood**, First, Rev. Burton Everist, co-interim and Rev. John Gannett, contract co-interim
- Tripoli**, Grace, Rev. Dennis Niezwaag, contract interim
- Tripoli**, St. John (Crane Creek)

SELF-STUDY

- Calmar**, Calmar and **Decorah**, Springfield
- Charles City**, Messiah
- Chester**, United
- Clear Lake**, Galilean
- Clermont**, West Clermont
- Cresco**, Immanuel
- Decorah**, Burr Oak and Hesper
- Decorah**, Luther College
- Dubuque**, St. Peter (staff)
- Elma**, St. Paul (Maple Leaf)
- Frederika**, St. John, Rev. Megan Graves, interim
- Guttenberg**, St. John's and St. Paul, Rev. Jim Harbaugh, interim
- Hawkeye**, Trinity
- Luana**, St. John and **Farmersburg**, St. John
- Mason City**, St. Paul, Rev. Matthew Muters, contract
- Mitchell**, Faith; **Nora Springs**, St. Luke; **Osage**, Rock Creek and St. John (Cross Roads Lutheran Parish)
- Ridgeway**, Peace, Orleans and Madison (Ridgeway Parish), Rev. Jim Scaife, contract interim
- Story City**, St. Petri, Rev. Scot McCluskey, interim
- Sumner**, St. Peter (Richfield) and **Waucoma**, St. John (Stapleton)
- Waterloo**, Our Savior's, Rev. Ruth Ann Shriver, contract interim

- 12-14 Event**, Synod Assembly, Wartburg College, Waverly
- 14-17 Event**, WIYLDE (Wholly Iowa Leadership Discipling Event), Wartburg College, Waverly
- 15-16 Office Closed**
- 19 Meeting**, Synodical Women's Organization Board, Wartburg College, Waverly
- 20 Event**, Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Convention, Wartburg College, Waverly

MARCH 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Julie Nordstrom, Cedar Falls 1	St. John, Charles City 2	Rev. Norman L. Bauer, Charles City 3	Ruth E. Groth, Chassell, Mich. Rev. David L. Lenth, Ossian 4	Aase Haugen Senior Services, Decorah 5	Rev. Kent Mechler, Mason City 6	United, Chester 7
Luther Manor, Dubuque 8	First, Clarion 9	Rev. Dr. H. George Anderson, Green Valley, Ariz. 10	Good Neighbor Home, Manchester 11	Rev. Virginia A. Olson, Ossian 12	Rev. Robert F. Lehmann, Dubuque 13	St. John, Clarksville 14
Good Shepherd, Mason City 15	Rev. Roger L. Buhr, Decorah Rev. Kristen Briner Wipperman, Cedar Falls 16	Middle East Peace Galilean, Clear Lake 17	Lutheran Retirement Home, Northwood 18	East Clermont, Clermont 19	Faith Lutheran Home, Osage 20	West Clermont, Clermont 21
Rev. Laurel J. Meester, Dows Rev. Ronald L. Roberts, Clermont 22	Good Samaritan Center, Postville 23	First, Cresco 24	Good Samaritan Center, St. Ansgar 25	Immanuel, Cresco 26	Beverly Ager, Strawberry Point Rev. Gary K. Lee, Decorah 27	Rev. Harold R. McMillin Jr., Garnaville 28
Rev. Dennis E. Bauer, Cedar Falls Rev. Dave A. Nerdig, Jewell 29	Sarah Andersen, Decorah Rev. H. Allen Vik, Decorah 30	Rev. Karen R. Grandall, Spring Valley, Minn. Rev. Kimberly A. Swenson, Dysart 31				

Safeguarding God's Children

Saturday, March 21, 2020

A "Safeguarding God's Children" workshop will be offered Saturday, March 21, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, at St. James, Mason City. This training provides information to help church staff and volunteers learn

how to protect the children they know and care for in their personal lives and in their church ministries.

The training is offered free for rostered ministers and lay leaders. To register, call St. James at 641-423-4702.

OBITUARY

Pastor Don Feuerhak died Feb. 13, 2020, at the age of 72. He was ordained on June 24, 1973, and served as pastor at Zion, Wyoming, and St. John, Clarksville, Iowa. He served as chaplain at Bremwood Children's Home, Waverly, and Covenant Medical Center, Waterloo; as interim pastor at St. Timothy, Hudson; and as pastor at Fredsville, Cedar Falls. He retired on May 10, 2010. Following his retirement, he served as staff pastor at St. John American, Cedar Falls.

A memorial service took place Feb. 18 at St. John American. Pastor Feuerhak is survived by his wife, Barbara Feuerhak, and two daughters. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Mrs. Barbara Feuerhak, 1520 Springbrook Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

Visit www.richardsonfuneralservice.com/obituaries/Donald-Feuerhak/#!/Obituary.

Register for Day of Renewal

Thursday, April 2, 2020

Rostered ministers are invited to take a break from their Lenten schedules to attend a "Day of Renewal" Thursday, April 2, at Nazareth, Cedar Falls.

Dr. Kurt K. Hendel, Westberg Distinguished Ministry Professor Emeritus of Reformation History at the Lutheran School of Theology at

Chicago, will present on "Celebrating Renewal: Congregational Pastors — Johannes Bugenhagen."

This free event is from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and includes fellowship, Holy Communion and lunch. To register by Thursday, March 10, call Linda Sue Hamilton at the synod office at 319-352-1414 or send an email to hamiltonl@neiasynod.org.



Good News

March 2020
Volume 33
Number 3

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

Ever have one of those days, or weeks, or maybe even months where it just seems like you have one too many things to accomplish and everyone seems to think you have plenty of time to do theirs first? I just finished one of those times. And it took me until almost the end to realize, "Life is messy. It's not always going to go the way you planned." Sometimes it doesn't happen in the timing we want. In the end, the sooner we let go of trying to control it and just do what needs to be done, right there in front of us, suddenly the list is done. OK, maybe not totally done. The house is still a mess, and since I live alone and don't have any guests scheduled to visit for a while, I can focus on that next. Domestic goddess I am not. But the bosses are happy as all the work got caught up, I have a plan to stay caught up, so won't get so far behind again with documentation. The annual reports got done and the books passed the audit and church money all accounted for. The board meeting with cluster leaders happened. OK, we used the snow date, but still it happened and we accomplished what was needed. So the birthday celebration is delayed, but at this time in our lives, some of us prefer to stop counting. Mostly, I say it is just a number. It tells how long we have been here doing what we do. It only means something if you make it mean something.

Sometimes, I think we need reminding we are not alone. We are surrounded by others who are willing to be with us and our mess. Some are Marys who just sit and be, others are the Marthas who jump in and do what needs to be done. We are all needed in the body of Christ. We are all uniquely made in God's image and have specific gifts and talents to share with others. What are your gifts and talents? How are you uniquely made?

Blessings on your "lived in" life! Anna J.

Discipleship Committee

In my community, we have a volunteer

organization that sews items for 'special' people. We call ourselves Charity Sew Day volunteers and meet two Thursdays a month. It is open to anyone of all faiths and gender who want to donate their time, talents, food, etc. We started in January 2019, with four people and by the time the year ended, 18 people donated their time to sew, iron and bring lunch.

In this year we made 147 pillowcases. Forty-five were distributed to adults in two care centers and juvenile prints will be used later. The following items were sent to Haiti: 236 flannel diapers, 124 moisture-proof pad holders for hygiene kits used by girls and women, plus 2 pads per holder, cloth shopping bags (using recycled t-shirts). We assembled many hospice quilt tops, 77 Christmas stockings, stuffed with goodies, of which 20 were mailed to local active service men & women. The remainder of the stockings were given to patients in the mental care & recovering addiction units at the VA in Des Moines. Mercy Cancer Center in Mason City received 54 "Breast friend" pillows used by mastectomy patients.

This example of discipleship has touched so many lives. People who donated their time to sew and iron, friends and community members who donated fabrics, money from various sources to help defray costs of stocking goodies & supplies, our sewing machines, scissors and threads. We also shared fellowship with apartment residents as they passed by the door, listening to us laughing and smelling the aromas of our delicious meals. Lastly, the people who received our projects of love were shown God's love through these gifts. *Submitted by LuAnn Brunes*

Justice Committee

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8) <https://youtu.be/pbthchrOU>

The prophet Micah saw how sick their religion had become and he puts forth a rhetorical question, listing all the kinds of sacrifices people used—burnt offerings, calves, thousands of rams, rivers of olive oil, even one's firstborn. So, Micah makes this great statement:

CALENDAR

Registration for the Triennial Gathering is now open

Mar. 1	Deadline for April <i>Good News</i>
Mar. 7	Board Meeting @ Synod Office 9am–12:30pm (Mar. 14 Snow Date)
Apr. 1	Deadline for May <i>Good News</i>
Apr. 6	LWR truck, 9–11 a.m., South Port Mall, Mason City
Apr. 6	Clusters C,E,H LWR Ingathering and salad luncheon, St. Timothy's, Hudson
Apr. 18	Spring Salad Luncheon, St. James LC, Mason City
Apr. 25	Upper Iowa River Cluster Spring Gathering, Immanuel LC, Cresco
Apr. 25	Spring Gathering, Little Flock Cluster B, St. Peter, Garnaville
May 1	Deadline for June <i>Good News</i>
May 2	Board Meeting @ Wartburg College 9am– 12:30pm
May 2	LWR Ingathering at Olson's Explosives, Decorah
June 16	Deadline for July-August <i>Good News</i>
June 19	Board Meeting at Wartburg College, 7–9pm
June 20	SWO Convention, 8:30am–4:00pm, Wartburg College
July 16–19	<i>Just Love</i> , Women of the ELCA Gathering, Phoenix, AZ
Aug. 1	Deadline for September <i>Good News</i>

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" That's what God wants of us. And that's how Jesus lived and it's what Jesus taught—justice and kindness and humility before God.

Lord, help me to be just and kind in all of my relationships and to walk humbly with you. Amen.
(posted by Pastor Wayland Middendorf).
Submitted by Jan Harbaugh

Stewardship Committee

It is that time of year when many units will be changing officers. The treasurer is the person who distributes the monies from the unit. It seems like we have many forms for this, but I will try to help

you find your way through them.

Your regular offerings are given whenever women gather. These gifts are the backbone of our ministries. You send a portion of your offerings, or some units have designated a specific amount in their budgets, to send to the SWO, to the Synodical Women's Organization treasurer (that's me right now). With your offerings we send 60% to the Churchwide organization. The remaining 40% we use to provide scholarships for Triennial Gathering participants, for women theological students and for those continuing their education, and to support Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief, Riverside and EWALU Bible camps. For these offerings along with your convention and cluster offerings use the Offering Form A. Make the check out to Women of the ELCA (WELCA) and mail to the SWO treasurer (me).

Designated gifts, such as Thankofferings, Katie's Fund, ELCA World Hunger, LWR freight for quilts, support the ministries of the churchwide organization. Every cent of your designated gift is used for the ministry you designate. These gifts can be sent to the WELCA Gift Processing Center in Merrifield, VA using form B with a check made out to WELCA with your designated ministry on the memo line.

These forms can be found at our website <https://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/> and printed off. We will also have the forms available at your spring cluster meetings. If you have questions, please give me a call. *Submitted by Beverly Sheridan, SWO treasurer*

Just Love

Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect. We are one body in Christ.

Interested in Triennial?

Already registered, but need a roommate?

Have questions??

Contact Diane Wills, 641-425-8628 or

wills.dianes@gmail.com

*Looking forward to JUST LOVE,
Diane Wills*

NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Anna Jetson, President

952-240-9569 amjetson@yahoo.com

Jan Harbaugh, Vice President

563-412-8906 jan.harbaugh@gmail.com

JoAnn Brunsvold, Secretary

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

Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer

563-382-9025 sherida701@gmail.com

701 Serenity Drive

Decorah, IA 52101

NEIA Women of the ELCA Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NEIASWO/>

Good News

Editor Jan Harbaugh

P. O. Box 236, Guttenberg, IA 52052

563-412-8906 jan.harbaugh@gmail.com

Articles are due the 1st of the month for the next month's newsletter (e.g. April 1 for May issue). Please put WELCA in your subject line. (You can also send paper copies by "snail" mail.)

Contact Women of the ELCA at:

773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>

8765 W. Higgins Road

Chicago, IL 60631-4189

NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

[neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA](https://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA)

Living Faith @



Dear Faith-Shapers,

We have arrived at the season of Lent. The forty days began on Ash Wednesday and ends next month on Maundy Thursday. These forty days allow reflection and preparation for the celebrations of Easter. During Lent, many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial, and spiritual discipline. This time can serve as a time of renewed focus on how we pray and what we pray for. The dust of the cross of ashes marked on our foreheads denotes our journey.



During this dusty journey of time, we ask God to make our hearts clean and, in returning to our baptismal call, we can be turned again into the flow of righteousness and make our words and actions reflect God's redeeming work. I pray your pilgrimage has productive results.

Student Pastor Sue Cira

Lent starts this year at the end of February and, with Palm Sunday being the first Sunday of April, that puts the whole month of March in the season of Lent. The good news is that means spring is a little bit closer. Spring means warmer weather and the chance to go outside and play. It also means that we have more days of inside play ahead. So, there is a need to gather the kids, grandkids, or some friends and make some crafty items, color some pictures, put together some puzzles or whatever fits the ages of your kids. Most of all spend time with them - even read a book. They grow up so fast! Take time to be there and show them the love of Jesus during this time of Lent.

This information is prepared for you by the **Northeastern Iowa Synod-Home Life**



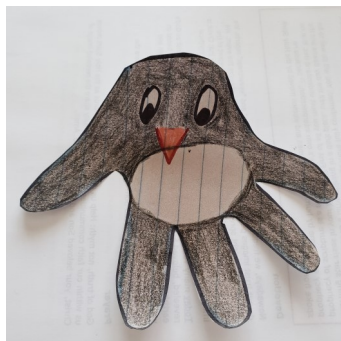
Network for use by families and local congregations. Like our page on Facebook and our posted resources will appear in your newsfeed. Our page is [Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life Network ELCA](#)

Quality time with kids during Lent ...

Here are some craft ideas -

- Make an animal from their handprint. My grandson likes penguins. Start by tracing around their hand.

With fingers positioned down, color eyes, nose, and legs/arms. We left the belly white to be more real. Then we laughed because of how funny it looked!



There are other animals you can make, too. Owls, monkeys, chicken, polar bear, and others if you use your imagination. Have fun!

Another craft that we did together was a family of snowmen. This is another simple one because he is three and I am artistically challenged. First, decide how many are in the family. Draw 5 circles for the adult snowdad and snowmom. Then the number of circles needed for the height you want the snowchildren to be. We made 1 with 4 and 1 with 2 circles. Then we colored eyes, hair, buttons, hats, mittens - oh, we made a cool looking family of snowpeople. And, once



more we laughed and laughed! Yes, we do have good times. We also read books. And, we put puzzles together. The boys like to hang out

here with grandma and grandpa. Crafts, books, and puzzles. Such fun!

Ashes on Ash Wednesday - Why?

It can be difficult for adults to figure out why we wear ashes on our foreheads at the beginning of Lent. So, how is a child supposed to understand unless you explain. Plus, it helps to understand yourself before you try to explain.

1. The ashes are to remind people of their sinfulness. By receiving ashes, people admit they are sinners in need of salvation. The ashes serve as a tangible and visible sign of our failure to love God as much as God loves us.

2. The ashes remind people of their mortality. Ashes serve as a reminder that the price of sin is death. Man cannot escape death. People don't like to think or talk about death - it is an uncomfortable topic. We need the ashes to remind us God created us from dust and that one day we will return to dust. In this way, we are reminded to remember that we are mortal and that God alone is sovereign and reigns for all eternity.

3. The ashes remind people that they have been redeemed - they tell us the good news of the Gospel!

The ashes are in the shape of a cross to remind us that Jesus was crucified on a cross for us. Then, Jesus conquered death through His resurrection. Jesus was resurrected for us, created in us new life, which allows us to live forever in God's presence. Through the cross of Christ, the power of death has been destroyed. Through the cross there is life. I hope you were able to worship on Ash Wednesday and are walking the dusty path of Lent towards Easter.

2020 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly



*Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen,
Parish Pastor of the Reformation*

Wartburg College—Waverly, Iowa
June 12~14, 2020

Registration Materials

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE AVAILABLE UNTIL MAY 12

After this date, an additional fee of \$25 per person will be added.
This fee cannot be waived. No exceptions.

Every person attending must register.

Please copy the attached information
for each voting member and visitor.



2020 NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation

DATES Friday-Sunday, June 12-14, 2020. Registration begins on Friday at 4:30 p.m., opening worship at 7:00 p.m. The Synod Assembly will close with the noon meal on Sunday.

PLACE Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa

BUSINESS Resolutions and elections. The Synod Assembly will elect a synod bishop, synod secretary, synod council members, and nominating committee.

KEYNOTE The keynote address will be presented by the Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann, Associate Professor of Lutheran Confessions and Heritage at Wartburg Theological Seminary.

CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE Lori Fedyk, Treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

COST EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEES, UNTIL MAY 12:

- Voting member registration: \$190 for those staying on campus, \$140 for commuters
- Visitor registration: \$160 for those staying on campus, \$110 for commuters
- Visitor registration: \$60 (no meals, no housing)

AFTER MAY 12: An additional fee of \$25 per person is added

Please make checks payable to the *Northeastern Iowa Synod* and send with registration forms to: Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly
PO Box 804
Waverly, IA 50677-0804.

WHO MAY REGISTER?

Voting members to the Synod Assembly will be the following:

1. All rostered individuals under call on the roster of the synod.
2. The formula for congregational representation for the Synod Assembly follows:
 - The total lay delegation from any congregation be as nearly as possible 50% male and 50% female.
 - Two voting members elected by each congregation,
 - plus one youth voting member elected by each congregation (must be eligible to vote in their congregation),
 - plus an additional lay voting member for every 750 baptized members, i.e., 750=1 additional, 1500=2 additional, 2250=3, etc.

- continued

3. Members of the Synod Council.
4. All ministers of Word and Sacrament on the retired roster of this Synod shall elect 10 percent of their number to be voting members of the Synod Assembly; all other retired ministers of Word and Sacrament shall be advisory members with voice but not vote.
5. All ministers of Word and Sacrament on leave from call for reasons of disability shall elect 10 percent of their number to be voting members to the Synod Assembly. There shall be a minimum of one (1) such person provided both voice and vote.

VISITORS

Any interested person may register as a visitor to the Synod Assembly; visitors do not have voice or vote. Rostered persons-not under call and retired clergy-not elected to represent retired clergy are permitted voice but not vote.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Housing will be assigned on a first-registered, first-assigned basis in college residence halls. All rooms are air conditioned. Most rooms are double occupancy and have single beds, none are bunks. Sheets, blanket, and pillow are provided.

You will need to bring your own **towel, washcloth, and toiletries**, such as soap and shampoo. For your personal comfort, you may wish to bring an additional pillow or blanket.

Bathroom and shower facilities are shared, but designated as Men's or Women's.

MEALS

Registration fees include the following meals: (no meals on Friday, June 12)
Saturday, June 13: breakfast, lunch and dinner.
Sunday, June 14: breakfast and lunch.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Questions concerning registration and campus facilities may be directed to the Northeastern Iowa Synod office, 319/352-1414.

On May 12, a pre-assembly notebook will be mailed/or a digital copy emailed to registered voting members.



2020 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

Wartburg College – Waverly, Iowa

June 12-14, 2020

Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation

Voting Member Registration Form

Please type or print.

Name _____ Telephone No. _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Congregation/Institution _____

Address _____

Pre-Assembly Report:

Please send me a printed copy ___ **OR** ___ Digital copy to: Email _____

Please check one (1) in each Category:

Category A:

___ Minister of Word & Sacrament
(under call)

___ Minister of Word & Service
(under call)

___ Lay Adult

___ Youth

___ Retired Minister of Word &
Sacrament (elected)

___ Minister of Word & Sacrament
On-Leave from Call for
Disability (elected)

___ Synod Council

Category B:

___ Male

___ Female

Category C:

Early Bird Registration *UNTIL May 12*

___ Commuter: \$140
(meals, no housing)

___ Non-Commuter: \$190
(meals, housing)

AFTER May 12

___ Add \$25 Fee

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Housing: Most rooms are double occupancy, all beds are single. If you do not indicate a roommate, one will be assigned.

I would like to room with: Name _____

Address _____

Handicap Accessible needed _____ Children Accompanying _____ Age/s _____

Dietary: Special needs: _____

Please include payment with this registration form. Make checks payable to Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA and mail to: Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

PO Box 804

Waverly, IA 50677-0804

REGISTRATION FEES will be refunded for cancellations received by May 12.

PHOTO CONSENT: Photos will be taken during the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly. By registering for this event, you hereby give permission that photos containing your image/likeness may be used for publicity or general information purposes. The synod will not seek any further permission nor provide any notification before using such photos.



2020 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

Wartburg College – Waverly, Iowa

June 12-14, 2020

Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation

Visitor Registration Form

Please type or print.

Name _____ Telephone No. _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Congregation/Institution _____

Address _____

Please check one (1) in each Category:

Category A:

☐ Minister of Word & Sacrament
(on leave, on disability, retired)

☐ Minister of Word & Service
(on leave, on disability, retired)

☐ Lay Adult

☐ Youth

Category B:

☐ Male

☐ Female

Category C:

Early Bird Registration UNTIL May 12

☐ Commuter: \$110

(meals, no housing)

☐ Non-Commuter: \$160

(meals, housing)

☐ Visitor: \$60

(no meals, no housing)

AFTER May 12

☐ Add \$25 Fee

Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Housing: Most rooms are double occupancy, all beds are single. If you do not indicate a roommate, one will be assigned.

I would like to room with: Name _____

Address _____

Handicap Accessible needed _____ Children Accompanying _____ Age/s _____

Dietary: Special needs: _____

Please include payment with this registration.

Make checks payable to **Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA.**

Send to: Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly

PO Box 804

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