



Meet the synod's newest staff members

by Marcia Hahn

Three new members have joined the synod staff over the last couple months, and they are ready to share their talents and expertise with ministers and congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. Please welcome them and give them a call to see how they can help.

JAN GLASPIE

Jan Glaspie has been involved in the business side of the church for 30 years, and now she brings that experience to the Northeastern Iowa Synod to serve as executive assistant for synod administration.

Glaspie served Nazareth Lutheran, Cedar Falls, from 1992 to 2022 as financial secretary for 13 years, and as finance manager for the past 17 years. She grew up in Cedar Falls with Nazareth as her home church, and graduated from the University of Northern Iowa in 1986 with a home economics degree in business. Glaspie worked a few years for Hancock Fabrics and the National Bank of Waterloo before joining the Nazareth staff to work alongside her mother, who served as business manager.

"I got to work with her for 13 years and with a lot of different pastors over the years, and that has been wonderful being able to work with all of them," Glaspie says.

As finance manager, Glaspie was responsible for all of Nazareth's



Jan Glaspie

financial operations, including payroll and benefits, annual budget, and computer systems management. She also assisted with stewardship campaigns, helped start the congregation's Blessed Beginnings daycare, and oversaw implementation of online giving at Nazareth in the 1990s.

"I was surprised that the older, more mature congregation members were the ones who really took to online giving," Glaspie says. "People who went away for the winter wanted to make sure they didn't have to play catch up when they got back with their giving. Now, 50 percent of the congregation members are doing online giving."

Glaspie says that one of her favorite roles has been getting to know

people and matching their gifts with ministries to support.

"We made sure that memorial gifts were used in ways that honored the person's legacy and faith," Glaspie says. "If there was a need in a ministry area, we looked at what resources could make that happen."

Glaspie lives in Cedar Falls with her husband, Jim. They have two adult daughters. Glaspie begins her new role with the synod office on March 1. She will oversee office policies and management, the synod budget, the Synod Assembly planning team, governance documents, and other responsibilities assigned by the Bishop.

"I look forward to seeing where the synod can use my gifts in the office working side by side together and

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how I can use my gifts to support all of the congregations in our synod," Glaspie says.

ALISON PETTIT

Alison Pettit is a familiar name to many in the Northeastern Iowa Synod through her work in youth ministry and with the synod's Hunger Network. Now she takes on a new role as the synod's full-time administrative assistant, providing clerical support and assistance related to the roster, call process, candidacy and committees connected to the Synod Council.

Pettit says she had been feeling a call toward a new type of ministry for some time and, before the pandemic started, she even considered entering seminary. "I spent two years discerning what a new ministry would look like, and now I am excited to follow this call to join the synod staff," Pettit says.

Pettit's involvement in Northeastern Iowa Synod ministries began when she was in high school and a member of Zion Lutheran Church in Oelwein. She attended a synod-sponsored youth assembly and soon after joined the synod's Lutheran Youth Organization Board.

Following high school, Pettit volunteered seven years with the high school faith group from St. John, Arlington. Her first paid job in youth ministry was with Zion St. John, Sheffield.

A couple years later she joined the staff at St. John, Sumner, to be closer to her family in Oelwein. In 2018, she became the director of Faith Formation for Redeemer



Alison Pettit and Sasha

Lutheran, Waverly, where she served until joining the synod staff in February.

Pettit's experience in youth ministry has taken her to many youth gatherings and mission trips. She says she has enjoyed watching the kids grow and to see their growth as persons beyond graduation.

"Many have reached out and said they remember a trip and how it affected them personally," Pettit says. "One told me she is in social work today because of a youth ministry trip."

Pettit says that youth have become involved in more activities today than when she first started, which means church has become less of a priority for them. "Kids are constantly connected through technology and are flooded with different opinions and peer pressure about who they should be. I tried to stay connected with them through social media to give them a positive influence."

Pettit became involved in the

synod's Hunger Network in 2004, and she has served as its facilitator since 2013. Over the years she has helped congregations apply for ELCA Domestic Hunger Grants, set up and maintain Little Free Pantries, and get involved in hunger projects.

Pettit lives in Charles City with her husband, Corey, and four of their six children in their blended family. During the last three years, Pettit's home life has also included fostering Labrador retriever puppies to become service dogs through the Retrieving Freedom organization, which provides service dogs for veterans and children with autism.

"I am looking forward to this new challenge with the synod to get to know the church and our rostered ministers in new ways and to support them in their ministries," Pettit says.

LIZ ALBERTSON

Getting to know the ministers and congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod tops the list of goals Pastor Liz Albertson wants to carry out in her role as Assistant to the Bishop for Shared Ministry.

"I am called to promote how we are together and what God is doing in and through the synod, so I want to get out to the congregations," says Albertson, who joined the synod staff in January. "I hope people will invite me to come preach, do workshops or just show up and be present."

After nearly 15 years of ministry

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Grateful for our ministry ahead together

I hope that you find the introduction of our new synod staff members as exciting as I do. For several years now, the synod staff has served faithfully through transitions and pandemic. I am so grateful for their dedication to the ministry of the synod and our congregations.

I worry, though, that this excitement is akin to Peter's excitement on the mountain when Jesus is transfigured. Seeing Jesus in his glory next to Moses and Elijah, Peter wants to freeze the moment so that he can come back to it over and over. The voice from the cloud admonishes the disciples to listen to Jesus, not just see him, in his glory.

Listen to him when? When he is on the mountain? When they came down from the transfiguration? Whenever Jesus is speaking?

Immediately preceding Peter's ill-timed outburst, Jesus is conversing with Moses and Elijah about his impending death in Jerusalem. Can we just be honest and admit that we don't like to talk about death? We change the subject. We minimize it with comforting phrases. When absolutely forced, we

turn to pastors, funeral directors, and lawyers, to say the words we don't want to speak. Listening to Jesus talk about his death is an invitation to face our own death.

So, what happens if we listen to what Jesus has to say after the cloud-voice speaks? In Luke 9:41 the next thing Jesus says is, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you?" Yikes! He says this in response to his disciples' inability to heal a child's seizures by prayer. Now, I'm willing to say that such an impassioned response is due to Jesus' anxiety about his upcoming death, but that is just a way to avoid listening to what Jesus says. Am I part of this generation that Jesus wants to escape from?

Whether we hear Jesus talk frankly about his death, or hear about our own faithlessness, what arises within us is the fear of being abandoned by Jesus, and therefore by God. But God, in Jesus, doesn't abandon us. Jesus stays with us in

"Jesus is resurrected to new life to be with us always and in all things."



our walk to the cross.

He invites us to be present with him in death. And Jesus is resurrected to new life to be with us always and in all things.

Getting the synod staff in place is a mountain-top type of experience. At the same time, I am mindful of the hard ministry that lies before us. I am dismayed by the faithless and perverse ways we treat each other (even in the church) and refuse to believe in or receive God's abundance and healing. But I also trust that God, in Christ, will not abandon us or leave us. Ever.

May we be blessed by the presence of Christ in our Lenten journey and filled with confidence and hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

— Bishop Kevin Jones

Register online for 'Day of Renewal'

March 31, 2022

Registration for the "Day of Renewal" is due Wednesday, March 16.

Rostered ministers are invited to attend the event Thursday, March 31, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., in person at Bethlehem Lutheran or online.

The Day of Renewal is a time for rostered ministers to worship, learn and reconnect. Bishop Kevin Jones will lead everyone in exploring the theme, "In the Gory and in the Glory — God is With Us." There is no cost to attend. Lunch and refreshments will be provided for those

who attend in person. Those attending online will receive a Zoom link through email closer to the event.

Register online at <https://neiasynod.org/day-of-renewal-registration>.

Register for Synod Assembly

BETTER TOGETHER

June 10-11, 2022

Wartburg College, Waverly

Online registration is now open for the 2022 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly. This two-day event will meet at Wartburg College in Waverly June 10-11.

Both adults and youth are welcome and encouraged to attend. Parts of the assembly will be available for viewing online; however, all voting will take place in person.

The assembly kicks off Friday evening with worship, orientation and social time. Saturday will include synod business, workshops, ministry exhibits and closing worship. This year's theme, "Better Together," is based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-13.

Synod staff members will lead a "Getting to Know You" presentation. The Rev. Robin Brown, director of Congregational Generosity for the ELCA, will attend as the churchwide representative.

Registration

Commuter and non-commuter registration fees are available for both voting members and visitors. Voting members must be voting members of their congregations. Each congregation is encouraged to elect a youth voting member.

People can register individually or someone from the congregation can register everyone at once. Information about who may register and voting member representation for congregations is available in the Synod Assembly insert in this issue of the *Star* and on the synod website.

Early bird registration is available through May 1. After that date, an additional \$25 fee will be added.

Online registration is available on the synod website, www.neiasynod.org. Paper and pdf registration forms are available by request. Call or email the synod office for assistance, 319-352-1414 or liddlek@neiasynod.org.

For more information about the assembly and to register online, visit www.neiasynod.org.

Synod youth gathering set

BOUNDLESS GATHERING

July 24-27, 2022

St. Paul, Minn.

The ELCA announced in February the cancellation of the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering, so the Northeastern Iowa Synod will sponsor its own youth gathering July 24-27 at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. The "Boundless Gathering" event is open to students from this synod who have completed eighth through twelfth grades by summer 2022.

Plans include a day to explore Minneapolis, a service day, special programming and a closing worship service. The cost to attend is \$350 per person, which includes a t-shirt, seven meals and on-campus housing. Each congregation will be in charge of providing their group's transportation, including for the service day.

Congregation registration is available at <https://bit.ly/3p7Hacu>. Individual registration forms will be sent to participating congregations at a later date. Registration is due by Friday, April 1.

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

NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

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

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www.neiasynod.org

in different parts of the country, Albertson returned to the Northeastern Iowa Synod in 2020 to be closer to family. She grew up in Oelwein, attended Zion Lutheran Church, and became involved in nearby Camp Ewalu as a camper and later as a summer counselor and board member. Albertson says that her experiences at Ewalu helped her decide already in high school that she wanted to go into ministry.

"I knew I wanted to be part of that kind of community and to be a servant," Albertson says.

Albertson enrolled at Wartburg College in Waverly and graduated in 2000 with a degree in religion. She then decided to take a couple years to work with the Lutheran Volunteer Corps in Milwaukee before beginning seminary. Albertson lived with six others in an intentional community and worked full-time with a homeless shelter and food pantry.

"It was about living simply, working for justice and engaging our faith," Albertson says.

Albertson returned to Iowa to attend Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque and graduated in 2006. She did her internship at Christ our Shepherd Lutheran Church in Peachtree, Ga.

"It was a big church with five worship services each weekend and lots of choirs," Albertson says. People moved there from all over the country and identified by what state they were from, so it was a different way of being Lutheran."

Albertson's first call took her to



Liz Albertson

North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church in rural Blair, Wis., where she served as pastor for nine years. "It was the opposite of my internship," Albertson says. "This congregation was really connected to its Norwegian roots and some families had been there for 150 years."

After a sabbatical, Albertson heard from a colleague who suggested that if she were up for an adventure, she should apply for the ELCA Director for Evangelical Mission position with the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod. She accepted the call in 2015 and served there for five years.

"I went from being neighbors with a cemetery and cows and looking out over a field to being in Tulsa with a big city skyline," Albertson says.

Albertson was one of four staff members and the only assistant who was a pastor. The synod had just 50 congregations, but they were spread across two states.

"Most of my weekends were out in the congregations preaching, doing

workshops and just being present," she recalls. "I did a lot of traveling from one end of the synod to other, which is nine hours, so I got to know a lot of hotels."

Albertson says her role was to help congregations be the best version of themselves. She worked with a diversity of congregations, including two African descent congregations, a Native American congregation, and new start congregations.

In 2020, Albertson had an opportunity to return to Northeastern Iowa to serve as Vice President for Admissions and Student Services at Wartburg Seminary. A restructuring changed the status of that position, so Albertson accepted the Assistant to the Bishop role at the synod office.

In her new role, Albertson will manage stewardship activities, work with interims and synodically authorized ministers, coordinate educational events for rostered ministers, assist with the call process and help congregations explore ways to work together. She will also serve as the staff facilitator for the synod's Generosity, Home Life, Disaster Response, and Companion Synod networks.

In her free time, Albertson enjoys getting together with friends at her cabin near Potosi, Wis., reading fiction and visiting family.

"I really hope people will consider finding ways to invite me to their congregations," Albertson says. "I love to show up and be a part of things."

Retirement beckons for Joelle Colville-Hanson

If the Rev. Dr. Joelle Colville-Hanson has something to say, she will probably say it — then post about it, Tweet about it, blog about it, email about it ... especially if she can slip in a word or two about Jesus.

Joelle started blogging in 2009 and brought her digital ministry talents to the Northeastern Iowa Synod four years later when she joined the synod staff as the Director for Evangelical Mission. She will be retiring from that call at the end of March.

"I had opinions and I liked to write, so blogging was a way to communicate with others," Joelle says. "Social media is important, but not just to be cool; it is a way to show people Jesus."

Joelle's life as a Christian began in an unconventional way when her Catholic mother baptized her in the kitchen sink behind her father's back. "When I joined the Lutheran church, they said it counted because it was an emergency," Joelle says.

She grew up in the San Fernando Valley in California and didn't have any connection to a church until a friend invited her to Luther League. "The people were nice, and I liked the kids at Luther League. That's why as a pastor I have always encouraged kids to invite their friends."

Joelle became a regular at Luther League and started attending church on her own. She liked it so much that she told the pastor she wanted to marry a pastor so she could lead people like the pastor's wife did. The pastor pointed out to Joelle that she could become a pastor, instead.

Joelle graduated from San Francisco State University with a degree in sociology. She went on to Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley,



Joelle Colville-Hanson

Calif., and graduated in 1985 with a goal to be an urban inner-city pastor. The church assigned her to be an interim pastor in southern Wisconsin, where she met her husband, Loren. She began her first call as an associate pastor for a church in Madison, and then served a parish in Birnamwood, Wis., for nine years. During that time, she earned her Doctor of Ministry in 1998 from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Ready for a change, Joelle, Loren and their two young children moved in 1998 to Cushing, Iowa, where Joelle served at St. John's Lutheran. Just six months later, Loren was killed in a car accident. Joelle stayed at Cushing until 2005 when she was called to Salem Lutheran in Roland, where she served until 2010 when that congregation left the ELCA.

Joelle served as an interim pastor at Ridgeway and worked six months at Staples in Mason City before joining the synod staff in 2013. One of her initial roles was to develop a broader

ministry presence online for the synod and for congregations.

"A lot of churches didn't have websites, so we made a big push to help churches get on Facebook."

Joelle incorporated her interest in photography to create daily prayer posts for congregations to use on their Facebook pages. She wrote the synod's "God's Work, Our Blog" from 2013 to 2021, with some posts receiving as many as 500 to 1,000 views.

Joelle also helped congregations focus on renewal and other ways they could do outreach and mission planning. She worked with synod councils to help them write concise mission statements that could guide them in setting goals.

"Social media was one component, but there were other ways to do communication and be intentional about reaching out," Joelle says.



In retirement, Joelle plans to relax, spend more time in her garden and do some traveling, including a trip to England and Scotland this summer with her son and daughter. She will still be a rostered minister with the synod and says that down the road she hopes to do something again in ministry.

"I will always appreciate working with this synod, which I like to say is the coolest synod in the church," Joelle says. "It has really been a pleasure to work with the talented synod staff through the years. Everything needs to change, and we have good new people and new ideas coming in, so I am happy to see those changes come."

MARCH EVENTS

- 1 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 3 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom,
9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 3 Youth Ministry Network, St. Peter, Greene, 10 a.m.
- 6-8 Rural Ministry Conference, Dubuque
- 10 Lutheran Day on the Hill, online
- 12 Synodical Women's Organization, Zoom,
8:30 a.m.-12 noon
- 15 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 19 Synod Council Meeting, Synod Office and Virtual,
9 a.m.-12 noon
- 31 Day of Renewal, Bethlehem, Cedar Falls

APRIL EVENTS

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

MAY EVENTS

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

JUNE EVENTS

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

INSTALLING

Rev. Maureen Howard, Bethany, Iowa Falls, Feb. 13
Evan Meester, St. John, Frederika, pending

INTERVIEWING

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

SELF-STUDY

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

ROSTER CHANGES

Rev. Hillary Burns-Kite, transferred to South-Central
Synod of Wisconsin

*Part-time Call

THANK YOU FOR GOING PAPERLESS

To receive an electronic version of the *Star* newsletter
instead of a paper version, send an email to hahnmm@neiasynod.org
with the subject: Online Only.

MARCH 2022						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Julie Nordstrom, Cedar Falls 1	Messiah, Charles City 2	Rev. Norman L. Bauer, Charles City 3	Ruth E. Groth, Chassell, Michigan Rev. David L. Lenth, Ossian 4	Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization 5
Rev. Kent Mechler, Mason City 6	St. John, Charles City 7	Aase Haugen Senior Services, Decorah 8	United, Chester 9	Rev. Dr. H. George Anderson, Green Valley, Ariz. 10	Luther Manor, Dubuque 11	Rev. Virginia A. Olson, Ossian 12
Rev. Robert F. Lehmann, Dubuque 13	First, Clarion 14	Good Neighbor Home, Manchester 15	Rev. Kristen Briner Wipperman, Dubuque Rev. Roger L. Buhr, Decorah 16	Middle East Peace St. John, Clarksville 17	Good Shepherd Inc., Mason City 18	Galilean, Clear Lake 19
Lutheran Retirement Home, Northwood 20	East Clermont, Clermont 21	Rev. Laurel J. Meester, Dows Rev. Ronald L. Roberts, Clermont 22	Faith Lutheran Home, Osage 23	West Clermont, Clermont 24	Good Samaritan Center, Postville 25	First, Cresco 26
Beverly Ager, Red Wing, Minn. 27	Rev. Harold R. McMillin Jr., Garnavillo 28	Rev. Dennis E. Bauer, Cedar Falls 29	Mrs. Sarah Andersen, Decorah, Rev. H. Allen Vik, Decorah, Rev. Tyler Hoey, Tripoli 30	Good Samaritan Center, St. Ansgar 31		

Lutheran Day on the Hill goes virtual

Lutheran Day on the Hill, set for Thursday, March 10, will be a virtual event from 9:30-11:30 a.m. Lutheran Services in Iowa hosts the event to focus on advocacy for issues that impact Iowans' health and wellbeing.

The keynote address will focus on issues that impact immigration and refugee policy, including recent

Afghan resettlement efforts. Three virtual break-out sessions will be offered, with topics related to mental health services, human services workforce, and immigrants and refugees.

Registration is open through March 10. To learn more and to register, visit <https://lsiowa.org/ldh>.

Rural Ministry Conference Update

The Rural Ministry Conference, set for March 6-8, will now take place at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, rather than the Best Western Plus Hotel. There will not be a Zoom option.

The registration fee has been reduced to \$150 per person with reg-

istration limited to 70 attendees. There is no limit for those wanting to attend only the Monday workshops. Registration closes March 2 or when 70 people have registered. To learn more, visit www.wartburgseminary.edu/event/41st-annual-rural-ministry-conference.

OBITUARY

The Rev. Edwin A. Schick passed away at Luther Manor, Dubuque, on Feb. 9, 2022, at the age of 100. He was ordained on Aug. 11, 1946. He spent his professional life on the faculties of Wartburg College, Waverly, and Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque. He served as assistant pastor for several years at St. Peter, Dubuque. He retired on July 1, 1987.

A memorial service took place Feb. 21 at St. Peter. Edwin is survived by three children: Linda S. (Dennis Thomann) Liedtke, Coralville; John A. (Renee) Schick, Dubuque; and Robert Schick. Expressions of sympathy can be sent to John and Renee Schick, 1100 Richards Rd, Dubuque, IA 52003.

For a complete obituary, go to: www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/23989131/edwin-a-schick.

2022 NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

General Information

DATE: June 10-11, 2022. This will be a two-day, in-person Synod Assembly.

LOCATION: Wartburg College, Waverly, Iowa.

Portions of the Assembly will be livestreamed, but all voting will take place in person.

THEME: Better Together, based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-13

SCHEDULE:

The Assembly begins Friday evening with worship, orientation and social time. Saturday's schedule will start in the morning and include plenary sessions for synod business, workshops and closing worship. Synod business will include resolutions and elections for a synod vice president, synod council members, nominating committee and other committee members.

SPEAKERS:

The synod staff will lead a "Getting to Know You" presentation. The Rev. Robin Brown, Director of Congregational Generosity for the ELCA, will attend as the churchwide representative.

COST:

Fees listed below are for early bird registration through May 1, 2022.

After May 1, a \$25 fee per person is added.

Voting Members:

\$115 for commuters (includes lunch on Saturday)

\$155 for noncommuters staying on campus Friday night (includes breakfast and lunch Saturday)

Visitors:

\$95 for commuters (includes lunch on Saturday)

\$135 for noncommuters staying on campus (includes breakfast and lunch Saturday)

There will not be a commuter option without meals.

REGISTRATION:

Voting members and visitors can register online at www.neiasynod.org. People can register individually or someone from the congregation can register everyone at once.

Paper and pdf registration forms are available by request. Call or email the synod office for assistance, 319-352-1414 or liddlek@neiasynod.org.

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 must be voting members of their congregations. Each congregation is encouraged to elect a youth voting member.

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.
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.

Pre-assembly materials will be emailed to registered voting members prior to the Assembly.

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.

No registration is necessary to view the live-streamed portions of the Assembly.

ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Housing for Friday night 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, pillow, towel and washcloth are provided. For your personal comfort, you may wish to bring an additional pillow or blanket. You will need to bring your own toiletries, such as soap and shampoo. Bathroom and shower facilities are shared, but designated as men's or women's.

OFFERINGS AND IN-KIND GIFTS

The Synod Assembly offering will be designated for the Northeastern Iowa Fund for Leaders and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service.

Congregations are encouraged to bring "welcome boxes" for Afghan refugees being resettled in Iowa through Lutheran Services in Iowa. Download welcome box instructions at <https://neiasynod.org/2021/11/personal-care-kit>.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For updates about the Synod Assembly, visit the synod website, www.neiasynod.org, or call the synod office, 319-352-1414.



Good News

March 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

Here it is March already! March 2 is Ash Wednesday. What is your Lenten practice? As a child, I was a bit mystified by the giving up of candy, sweets, or chocolate by my cousins. In more recent years, I have been challenged during Lent to “give up” or change a “bad habit.” A quick search of the internet gives a list of options. Or if you are looking for resources, check the Women of the ELCA website. One of my kids was recently challenged by a teacher at school to perform 35 random acts of kindness. Here is my short list of things to choose from: give up candy or soda, take 10 minutes to walk and talk with God, do the 40 ways to love my neighbor found in the Gather magazine, collect items for a food pantry or shelter, make a bunch of personal care kits, or sit quietly and listen for God’s call. What will your list look like during these 40 days of Lent?

Blessings, Anna Jetson

LWR Needs Personal Care Kits

Lent may be a time of reflection, but it need not be one of inaction. Your congregation is invited to share your love with our neighbors around the world by getting your hands busy making Personal Care Kits. You need to gather and assemble kits and invite your congregation to share their generosity with our neighbors around the world. The kits and generous financial gifts your congregation will make deliver hope to our neighbors in need around the world. Give today at LWR.ORG/HOPE.

2022 LWR Ingathering Dates

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

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

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

Discipleship Committee

We all have different talents that work as one body of Christ. Sunday was installation of my church’s 2022 officers. As they stood in front of the congregation, I thought of the many different talents those volunteers possess. As stated in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, “There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served.” A few officers listen better, teach others better, organize better, sew better or serve others better. We all have God given abilities to share God’s word. Act on those talents. Join the SWO Board to help plan the June Convention, volunteer to be part of your church’s council, teach Sunday school, join the choir, help put together LWR kits. Isn’t this part of our Christian journey, sharing with others what God has given us?

Submitted by LuAnn Brunes

Justice Committee

The SWO board is interested in hearing what you and your group or church have done in the last year in the area of justice, including ending human trafficking and racism. Women of the ELCA through the churchwide executive board has committed itself to strengthen our mission and ministry in three key areas of fighting racism: raising awareness, accompaniment and advocacy. We share this work at all levels of our organization, the churches, the synod and our churchwide organization. More information is available at the Women of the ELCA website. Please send me your ideas and projects at amjetson@yahoo.com or snail mail to 21249 Viking Dr, Spring Grove MN 55974. I look forward to hearing from all of you!

Submitted by Anna Jetson

LSI Challenge Update

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

Stewardship Committee

What do the Women of the ELCA do for outreach at your congregation other than making quilts and serving funeral lunches? Here are so of the many outreach activities that the Women of the ELCA in NE IA do. Does your church do something not on this list? Then let us know, we would love to make this list even longer!

Activities

Providing church dinners including anniversary celebrations and Lenten suppers, giving scholarships for education and camp, supporting VBS, giving Baptismal gifts, preparing Heat 'n' Eat meals, creating homemade greeting cards to shut- shut-ins and Care Center residents, wrapping bandage strips for LWS, sewing quilts for Salvation Army, graduating seniors, the Riverside Quilt auction, Beloit and Bremwood children's homes, and homeless shelters, sponsoring a Holiday Food Fair, sharing an Advent By Candlelight program, giving Gather magazine subscriptions given to new members, collecting food for the food pantries, eyeglasses for Lion's clubs, pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House, visiting all shut-ins every two months, sending comfort teddy bears to churches around the country, making gift bags for shut-ins and Care Center residents, assembling Christmas fruit baskets and meeting monthly for Bible study.

Monetary donations given to:

Riverside Bible Camp, New Beginnings Shelter, Bremwood, Francis Lauer Youth Services, Beloit, Hospice, Camp Courageous, UNI Lutheran Center, Comprehensive Systems (Charles City), Opportunity Village (Clear Lake), Friends of the Family, Iowa City Hospital Chaplaincy, Seminary Student at Dubuque, The Corner Closet (clothing and financial help), The Sharing Shoppe, ELCA Leadership Fund, Katie's Fund, Local food pantries, Wings of Refuge, Caring Pregnancy Center, LAMP, LWR, LSI, Northern Lights Shelter, LSI Spiritual Challenge.

Submitted by Alice Greimann

Introducing Karen Weltzin

I recently became a SWO board member so am trying to learn the ins and outs of the organization. I am a member of Zion Lutheran Church-Jubilee of rural LaPorte City. I became a member in February of 1988 when my oldest son was baptized. My husband is a farmer and truck driver and I am a recently retired physical therapist from Central Rivers AEA. We have three children. Our oldest son, Sam, and his wife, Jess, live in Madison, Wisconsin with their two young sons and another on the way. Our second is also a son, Ben. He lives in Columbia, MO. And our daughter, Bethany, lives in Peoria, Illinois. Now that I am retired I am free to visit them more since they all live in neighboring states.

I serve on the Zion worship committee and helping lead worship, playing in the bell choir, directing choirs, helping with Sunday school, serving fellowship, attending Bible studies and WELCA, and playing for worship as organist/pianist when needed. My passion is to serve those less fortunate and I have gone on numerous mission trips to third world countries to take wheelchairs and other equipment to the disabled through an organization called Joni and Friends, Wheels for the World.

CALENDAR

Mar 12 SWO Board via Zoom, 8:30-noon
Apr 9 LWR Ingathering @Immanuel, Independence
Apr 11 LWR Ingathering @Southport Mall, Mason City
May 7 LWR Ingathering @Olson's Explosives, Decorah
May 14 SWO Board via Zoom, 8:30-noon
Jun 17 SWO Board @ St John, Nashua
Jun 18 NE IA SWO Gathering @ St John, Nashua
Oct 8 LWR Ingathering @Immanuel, Independence
Oct 10 LWR Ingathering @Southport Mall, Mason City
Nov 5 LWR Ingathering @Olson's Explosives, Decorah
Sept 18 2023 Triennial Convention & Gathering

NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

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*Articles are due by 1st of the preceding month e.g.
April 1 for May issue)*

Contact Women of the ELCA:

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

Living Faith @



Dear Faith Shapers,

Today is 2-22-22 Tuesday! As I sit and write to you about what is coming in the month of March, the wind is blowing and there is ice and snow outside. I long for the warmer spring temperatures—they can't get here fast enough!!

This is an exciting date with many publicity campaigns happening ... big sales, special deals, twin promotions, activities with two-sies, and now, with the weather they have had to be postponed. March brings Ash Wednesday this year so Lent begins but we also have the hope of Easter and the resurrection just around the corner. Stay the course, my friends—

Sue Cira, TEEM
Candidata

Spring time is coming ...

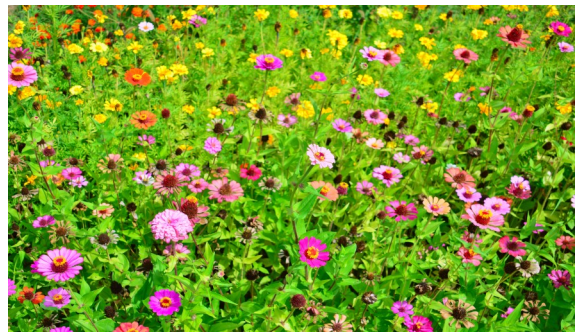
Spring, Spring, Springtime is here!!

Grass is green, and flowers grow.

Birds are singing. Bees are buzzing!

Kites are flying everywhere.

Spring, Spring, Springtime is here!!



**Ash Wednesday
March 2, 2022**



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 news-feed.

Our page is [Northeastern Iowa Synod Home Life Network ELCA](#)



Spring Activity for families to do together —

As many of you who read these pages know, my grandchildren and I like to participate in art projects and crafts. Sometimes we don't have the end result that we anticipate, but we sure have fun trying!! This particular project is a favorite one that we've done. I hope you enjoy it as much as we do.

Yarn wrapped flowers: materials you need

Brightly Colored Cardstock

Yarn

Jumbo Craft Sticks

Buttons

Glue

Scissors



For the pots you will need paper cups and brown shredded paper

Start by cutting out circles from the cardstock paper - it works best for us to use a glass to draw the circles and then cut them out. Cut some yarn to wrap around each circle in different directions - use glue to fasten the ends to the back. Wrap green yarn around the sticks and glue or tape the ends. Glue or tape the stick to the back of the circle. Cut leaves from green cardstock paper and glue to the back of the stick. Glue a button to the center of the flower head. Fill the cup with brown shredded paper and push the stem down into the cup. Enjoy your flowers!!

As we begin the season of Lent, we enter the time of solemnity and preparation.—

- Some Lenten practices include decorating the church in violet, the color of royalty and repentance.
- This period of repentance is marked by a purposeful turning away from our sin and turning toward Christ for mercy and forgiveness.
- Ash Wednesday begins the observance of Lent. Ashes on the forehead is a sign of penitence. It also serves as a reminder of our mortality.
- During Lent, we forgo using the alleluia, which is a joyous expression of faith in God.
- Fasting is giving up eating at particular meal or time in order to devote that time to prayer and meditation.
- Many churches observe Lent by gathering for midweek services. These additional times of worship and gathering around God's Word help us prepare to observe Holy Week and celebrate Easter.
- Easter invites us into the story of Jesus' sacrificial death and His glorious resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus gives proof that our salvation has been completed and that our hope for eternal life with God is secure.