

Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation

Lutheran Campus Ministry can change lives

by Marcia Hahn

Albie Nicol is set to begin seminary studies this fall thanks to the friendships he made through Lutheran Campus Ministry and ThreeHouse Collaborative Ministries at the University of Northern Iowa.

“Campus ministry is a necessary lifeboat for a lot of students,” says Nicol, who graduated from UNI in May and is a candidate for ministry through the Northeastern Iowa Synod. “These past four years have been exponentially better because of the support I received from Lutheran Campus Ministry and ThreeHouse.”

Lutheran Campus Ministry is part of the collaborative ministries offered at ThreeHouse on College Street in Cedar Falls, across from the UNI campus. Ecumenical ministries offered by the United Methodists, Episcopalians, Presbyterians and Disciples of Christ are also housed there.

“It’s like a tossed salad,” says Robin Kime, campus ministry associate for ThreeHouse and Lutheran Campus Ministry. “Every denomination is still recognized individually, even though they operate as one under the ThreeHouse collaborative ministry name.”

ThreeHouse is open daily for students and young adults to visit, have a cup of coffee, play music or start a game. Wednesday worship services



Albie Nicol grills burgers for a cookout at the former Lutheran Student Center in Cedar Falls.

are offered at 9 p.m. in person and live on Facebook. An intentional living community, Bible study, service projects, and student-led small groups are also offered.

ALL ARE WELCOME

Kime emphasizes that ThreeHouse is a welcoming place for all young adults, no matter who they are or where they come from. They don’t have to be students or part of any denomination, or they can be from any denomination. International students needing a place to pray are welcome.

“All are beloved children of God, and all are welcome,” Kime says.

“Campus ministry is a necessary lifeboat for a lot of students.”

—Albie Nicol

“People can come ask questions, explore their faith and vocation, have a cup of coffee, engage with someone new and be themselves,” Kime says. “There are no strings attached. We want them there for who they are.”

Nicol, who grew up attending St. John in Cedar Falls, was active in Lutheran Campus Ministry and ThreeHouse throughout his four years at UNI. He participated in worship services, often led craft-

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ing sessions, and started a “Past Apologetics” group for LGBTQ students to talk about their faith and vocation and how it intersected with their identity.

“ThreeHouse was a place to literally hang out all the time, and it became a study spot as well,” Nicol says.

Conversations at ThreeHouse convinced Nicol to switch his major from English literature to religion. “Having a community that supported my faith and my studies helped me realize that my passion was not just for any literature—it was specifically for literature that changed the way people lived their lives,” Nicol says. “The best way I found to study that was through religion.”

During his sophomore year, Nicol learned from the Lutheran campus minister about a retreat in Berkeley,



Calif., sponsored by the LGBTQ Proclaim community affiliated with Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries. “There I learned about what a call to ministry feels like and what you can do with that,” Nicol says. “I discerned it was my time to go to seminary.”

Kime says she hears other stories from alumni and even board members about the impact campus ministry at UNI has had on them.

“Having a space to build community and explore and grow in faith has led to some young adults answering the call to ministry and moving on to seminary,” Kime says. “Experiences they had while at ThreeHouse or at the former Lutheran Student Center changed their lives, and friendships from there are still going strong.”

COLLABORATIVE MINISTRIES

Lutheran Campus Ministry joined ThreeHouse in January 2020. The Lutheran Campus Ministry Board, made up of rostered and lay members from St. John and Bethlehem Lutheran Churches in Cedar Falls, uses funds from the sale of the 100-year-old building where the Lutheran Student Center had been located to fund half of Kime’s position and a portion of an administrative support position, and to collaborate with ThreeHouse ministries.

After a year of campus-wide modifications due to COVID-19, Pastor Brian Julin-McCleary of St. John says this year is a transitional moment in the life of Lutheran Campus Ministry.

“After decades of being rooted in its own location, we can now highlight the possibilities from being established with ThreeHouse,” he says. “We have more opportunity to ask Bethlehem, St. John and other congregations how they would like to collaborate and be involved.”

Members from Bethlehem and St. John joined the ThreeHouse staff and partner congregations in August to welcome students and other young adults back to campus with a block party, which included a cook-



Campus ministry associate Robin Kime, right, greets UNI students and mascots at the ThreeHouse Collaborative Ministries table at this year’s UNI Now Student Organizations Fair.

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Excited and Energized for the Next Six Years

Some days it feels like June 12, and the Synod Assembly was just a couple weeks ago. Yet, when I think about all the things that were added to my summer calendar as bishop-elect, I can't imagine how it all took place in less than three months.

My orientation to serving as Bishop has included in-person and Zoom meetings with ministry partners, churchwide offices in Chicago, synod staff, the Iowa bishops, Synod Council, conference deans and chaplains, and more. I also attended a three-day "Bishop's Formation 1" online to learn from other bishops in the ELCA. "Bishop's Formation 2" is scheduled for September and I even have a mentor bishop!

Through it all I have experienced tremendous support and encouragement. I have been constantly reminded that I am not alone in this call. The sheer number of people who have shared that they are praying for me and for the synod is humbling. I am truly grateful beyond words, but want to try to express my thanks just the same.

Interim Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl has blessed me with hours of conversation, laughter, and counsel. She has given advice without telling me what to do. Thank you, Bishop Andrea, for your care for the pastors, deacons, congregations and people of Northeastern Iowa. Your presence has helped all of us in this transition.

Thank you to the Synod Council and Executive Committee who have continued to provide steadfast leadership to the synod. And to my colleagues in ministry, the rostered leaders (deacons and pastors) of the synod who show up to preach, teach, and care for God's people through so much—thank you.

I wish I could say the synod staff worked tirelessly through the transition. The truth is, they are exhausted and for good reason. They have been carrying the load through an extra-long transition period. Due to staff health issues, retirements, and the delayed election, the synod staff has been functioning for over two years minus a full-time staff position. Still, they show up day after day to keep the synod going—supporting congregations, rostered leaders, and ministry

"The sheer number of people who have shared that they are praying for me and for the synod is humbling."



Kevin Jones

partners to the best of their ability. I am deeply grateful for their continued presence and dedication.

All of this leads to what is next as I step into the role of your Bishop. The first priority will be getting out to meet more of you. My weekend preaching schedule is already booked into November. I'll be meeting some of you online for scheduled meetings. There will also be more orientation for all the responsibilities that come with the office.

Another thing that is on the agenda for the fall is reviewing synod staff roles and assignments. The ELCA is restructuring the role of the Director for Evangelical Mission (DEM), the position to which Pastor Colville-Hanson has been called. This change, along with upcoming staff retirements, will allow us to restructure many of the job descriptions in the synod office. I plan to invite some individuals onto the staff and to open other positions to a wider search both inside and outside the Northeastern Iowa Synod.

One of the things I won't be doing this fall is moving to Waverly. My wife, Amy, and I have decided, for a number of reasons, to continue living in Mason City for the time being. I will be commuting to Waverly several days each week as well as working remotely when I can.

I am excited and energized to be walking with you for the next six years, sharing celebrations and challenges. I pray that God's Spirit fills us with strength and peace to be the Body of Christ in Northeastern Iowa and around the world.

With a Peace of the Spirit

— *Bishop Kevin Jones*

COVID variant is Zoom topic

Sept. 15, 2021

Rostered members and congregational leaders are invited to a special Zoom presentation about COVID-19 variants and how they impact congregations. The Northeastern Iowa Synod will host the free online event Wednesday, Sept. 15, 3-3:45 p.m.

Dr. Michael Osterholm, director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy of the University of Minnesota, will share his thoughts about ways congregation leaders can navigate the continuing COVID-19 situation in their congregations and communities.

The Zoom link to attend has been emailed to rostered members. Others interested in attending can request the link by calling the synod office, 319-352-1414.

A recording of the presentation will be available following the event.

Fall Conference changed to online only event

Sept. 20-21, 2021

Due to rising rates of positive COVID-19 cases and community spread in Iowa, the Tri-Synodical Fall Conference planning team, in consultation with the Iowa bishops, has changed the Fall Conference to an online-only event. The live Zoom event will take place Monday, Sept. 20, and Tuesday, Sept. 21. A revised schedule for the event will be shared soon.

Those who have already registered will automatically be switched to online attendance. Those who have booked a hotel room for the conference at the Sheraton in West Des Moines will need to cancel the booking with the hotel directly by calling 515-223-1800.

The conference will focus on leadership in difficult times, with three keynote speakers: the Rev. Eric Barreto, the Rev. Jack Shitama and the Rev. Phil Hirsch, executive director of the ELCA Domestic Mission Unit.

REGISTER ONLINE

Rostered members can register online at seiasynod.org/fall-theological-conference. The registration fee is \$65 per person. Links for the online meeting and a detailed schedule will be sent to all registrants a few days prior to the event.

Register for Men's Retreat

One Year to Live
Nov. 5-7, 2021

Men of all ages are invited to the "One Year to Live" in-person men's retreat set for Nov. 5-7 at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point.



This 45-hour spiritual boot camp is an opportunity for men to gather in person to reexamine their life and priorities, make decisions for their future, and discover together how God has equipped them to live.

REGISTER EARLY!

The fee to attend is \$150 if registered by Wednesday, Oct. 20. After that date the fee is \$175. The final day to register is Oct. 27.

Download the registration brochure at www.neiasynod.org/ministries/mens-ministry.

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.

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



You are invited to the installation of
The Rev. Kevin T. Jones
as Bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod

Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021,
2 - 4 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Church
213 N Pennsylvania Ave, Mason City, Iowa

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, Presiding Bishop
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, will preside.

A reception will immediately follow the service.

Clergy are invited to vest and process.
Please arrive by 1:30 p.m. The color of the day is red.

Masks will be required.

Please RSVP by Sept. 13.
319-352-1414 or liddlek@neiasynod.org.

Online Viewing Option

The installation service will be livestreamed
on the Northeastern Iowa Synod Facebook page.
Those not attending in person are encouraged to form
watch parties in their congregations to view the service online
together. Those gathering with a pastor are invited to celebrate
communion as part of the installation service.

www.neiasynod.org

Youth have a WIYLDE time at Ewalu



After a year off during the pandemic in 2020, WIYLDE—the Wholly Iowa Youth Leadership Discipling Event for high school youth—returned in July to a new location with more opportunities for outdoor activities. Sixteen high school youth attended a weekend version of WIYLDE at Camp Ewalu. They learned leadership skills, shared camp-style worship services, and bonded over campfires and group activities.

“It was a great event, and we were able to try some new things,” says Deb Bachman, WIYLDE coordinator. “The different environment helped the group to bond more, be more cohesive and learn more about leading a group dynamic. It was a great way to restart the program, and the kids really enjoyed it.”

Young Adults in Global Mission to resume

Applications begin Nov. 1, 2021

The ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission program will begin accepting applications on Nov. 1 for the 2022-2023 service year. Young adults aged 21 to 29 will be able to apply for a year of volunteer service with ELCA companion churches and partner organizations in various parts of the world. Applications will close Feb. 1, 2022.

The ELCA did not send YAGM vol-

unteers for the 2021-22 program year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Plans are for the program to resume in 2022, with opportunities to serve in nine country programs: Central Europe, Argentina/Uruguay, Jerusalem/West Bank, Madagascar, Mexico, Cambodia, Rwanda, Senegal, and the United Kingdom.

Learn more at www.elca.org/Our-Work/Global-Mission/Young-Adults-in-Global-Mission.

Employer News

ANNUAL ENROLLMENT

With 2022 annual enrollment beginning soon, Portico Benefit Services offers these reminders:

The window for employers to make their selections for Portico health benefits will be earlier and shorter, Oct. 4 – 15, 2021. Be sure to schedule any benefit discussions ahead of this window. Custom Comparison Reports are available for all EmployerLink users.

Starting last year, the ELCA recommends both the Silver+ A and Gold+ health benefit options. Congregational councils wanting more information about the differences in these plans can contact Jennifer Prinz, Portico regional representative, at JPrinz@porticobenefits.org.

EMPLOYER NEWSLETTER

ELCA church leaders are invited to subscribe to *Administration Matters*, a free bimonthly electronic newsletter that addresses issues such as finance, governance, risk management, tax and legal concerns, and other topics relating to daily operations and management in church settings.

To subscribe, visit blogs.elca.org/adminmatters.

POSITION OPENING

Camp Ewalu is in the search process for a new executive director. Application materials and job description can be found at ewalu.org/executive-director. Applications should be sent to ewalu.director.search@gmail.com by October 1, 2021.

out, music and games. Congregation members also help stock and maintain the Little Free Pantry set up earlier this year at ThreeHouse.

“We are blessed at Bethlehem to be able to partner with ThreeHouse to support both students and faculty on campus, says Pastor Amy Eisenmann. “Bethlehem enjoys supporting the ministries that ThreeHouse is doing, including the treat trike, worship on Wednesdays and helping students know that they are loved and are cared for, even if they aren’t our students in tangible ways.”

The block party marked the start of a celebration of 100 years of campus ministry for both Lutheran Campus Ministry and the Wesley Foundation, which later became ThreeHouse. Celebration events for both ministries are planned in the coming months.

“We plan to explore the growth that has happened in ministry and how it has all been rooted in our faith and desire to live as Jesus did to love all people,” Kime says. “Students are invited to all of it because our ministry is not possible without them. We want to involve them and let donors and alumni know this ministry is alive and well.”

ThreeHouse reaches out to students with a “treat trike” that goes around campus throughout the semester—especially during midterms and finals week—to hand out notes of encouragement, snacks and breakfast items. This year, Kime and volunteers will set up listening posts on campus to engage with students and listen to those who have a need. Kime explains that a volunteer may set up in the library to work on a jigsaw puzzle and ask students walk-

ing by if they would like to help find a piece.

“This is an opportunity to ask about their day or what they are struggling with,” Kime says. “It’s a way to engage students in conversations and let them know we as a ministry are there for them, where we are located and what we do.”

CONNECTING WITH YOUTH

Lutheran Campus Ministry reaches out beyond UNI to offer programming for youth groups, such as the Three Tough Talks online series and the annual Middle School Lock-in, set for Oct. 22-23. Middle school and junior high youth will gather at

“It’s important to have a place like ThreeHouse to ask questions, have deep and meaningful conversations, feel supported, build community and grow in faith.”

—Robin Kime

the UNI Wellness and Recreation Center for games, activities and worship, with the theme “I wonder.”

“The idea is to rediscover our faith and passion and our love for connecting with each other,” Kime says.

Last fall’s “Three Tough Talks” online series featured interactive conversations with people who shared personal stories about their

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Register for Middle School Lock-In

Oct. 22-23, 2021
UNI Wellness Center, Cedar Falls

Junior high and middle school students are invited to the annual Middle School Lock-In set for Oct. 22-23 at the UNI Wellness Center in Cedar Falls.

The lock-in will feature the theme “I wonder,” as a way for the students to reinvigorate their faith, reconnect with one another, and rediscover how they look at the world.

The schedule will include recreational activities, games, prayer, worship, and mealtimes. The event will follow university guidelines relating to COVID-19.

This event is sponsored in partnership with Lutheran Campus Ministry Student Center at the University of Northern Iowa.

EARLY REGISTRATION IS OPEN!

The fee to attend is \$40 per youth, if registered by Friday, Oct. 1. After that date the fee is \$50. There is no fee for adult chaperones. Registrations will not be accepted after Oct. 15.

Registration materials can be downloaded at www.neiasynod.org/youth-ministry. For more information, contact Robin Kime, campus ministry associate, at 319-266-4071.

2022 Youth Gathering Registration

Registration begins Sept. 22

Early bird registration for the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering will be Sept. 22 to Nov. 21, 2021. Congregations can register online during that time for \$350 per person. The regular registration rate is \$390. Congregations that register during the early bird period will be entered to win prizes.

A "Registration Webinar" recording can be viewed at www.elca.org/YouthGathering/About/Webinars.

SAFETY WEBINAR

The Gathering will take place July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis. Gathering leadership is in continuous conversations with the city of Minneapolis and medical profes-



sionals about the COVID-19 pandemic.

A "Safety & Security Webinar" will take place Wednesday, Sept. 8, at 7 p.m. to discuss safety measure plans and to ask questions. To sign up for the live presentation, visit <http://ow.ly/vWEN50FTCHD>. A follow-up recording will be available.

Registration materials and more information about the Gathering are available at elca.org/YouthGathering.

OBITUARY

Pastor Phil Olson died on July 21, 2021, at the age of 73. He was ordained on Sept. 12, 1976. He served as a missionary/evangelist in Senegal, Africa; as pastor for Immanuel, Delaware; Immanuel, Earlville; Palestine, Dolliver, Iowa; Union State Line, Jackson, Minn.; Madison, Orleans and Peace, Ridgeway, Iowa; and as interim pastor at Redeemer, Waverly and Calmar/Springfield, Calmar, Iowa. He retired on July 17, 2017. He also served West Clermont, Clermont, following his retirement.

Funeral services took place July 26 at St. Peter, Eldorado. He is survived by his wife, Pastor Ginny Olson, and five children. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to Pastor Ginny Olson, 30696 Juniper Rd., Ossian IA 52161-7518. For a complete obituary, visit www.schluterbalikfuneralhome.com/obituary/rev-phillip-olson.

Lutheran Campus Ministry can change lives
<< Continued from page 7

experiences with racism, mental health or poverty, and how their faith guided them through it. Kime says that a number of youth and youth leaders joined in the live broadcasts, and some congregations are using the follow-up videos of the events for their confirmation groups and adult Bible studies.

"A couple months after the event, a youth worker said that one of her students was still thinking about the message that was shared and wanted to reach out to the speaker for advice and to learn more about their journey," Kime says. "Another student who was impacted by a story wanted to use it in a speech contest."

Kime attends monthly meetings of the synod's Youth Ministry Network to stay connected with youth leaders, learn about their ministries and share ideas. In addition, Kime lets the youth leaders know that she would love to connect with students who plan to attend UNI or who are interested in campus ministry.

In recent years, Kime and United Methodist Pastor David Glenn-Burns, who serves as ThreeHouse campus director, have brought UNI students to area congregations for special Sundays where they preach, share about the ThreeHouse ministry and connect with young people in the congregations. Prior to COVID, they also brought supplies to host pancake breakfasts for

fellowship following worship. Kime is not sure if offering breakfast will still be practical, but she says ThreeHouse would like the opportunity to visit congregations again.

Kime invites high school students who are considering attending UNI to visit ThreeHouse to meet the community and learn how campus ministry can fit in with their life.

"College is a time of learning, growth and exploration of yourself and your calling," Kime says. "It's important to have a place like ThreeHouse to ask questions, have deep and meaningful conversations, feel supported, build community and grow in faith."

Visit www.threehouse.org.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 2 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 2 Youth Ministry Network, Zoom, 10 a.m.
- 2 Rostered Clergy Lunch and Learn, Zoom, 12 noon
- 6 Office Closed, Labor Day
- 7 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m. |
- 11 Synod Council Meeting, 9 a.m.-12 noon
- 12 "God's Work. Our Hands." ELCA Day of Service
- 15 COVID-19 Presentation with Dr. Mike Osterholm, Zoom, 3 p.m.
- 20-21 Tri-Synodical Fall Conference, Zoom
- 21 Women Clergy, Zoom, 1 p.m.
- 21 Church Council Presidents, Zoom, 6:30 p.m.
- 25 Bishop Installation, Trinity Lutheran, Mason City, & Facebook Live, 2-4 p.m.

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 5 Colleague Leaders Group, Synod Office, 12 Noon
- 7 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 7 Youth Ministry Network, Immanuel, Independence, 10 a.m.
- 22-23 Middle School Lock-In, UNI Wellness Center, Cedar Falls

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 4 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 4 Youth Ministry Network, First, Northwood, 10 a.m.
- 5-7 "One Year to Live" Men's Retreat, Ewalu, Strawberry Point
- 13 Synodical Women's Organization, Zoom, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon
- 25-26 Office Closed, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 2 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 2 Youth Ministry Network, St. John, Charles City, 10 a.m.
- 24 Synod Office Closed, Christmas Day

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

SEPTEMBER 12, 2021

www.elca.org/dayofservice.

THANK YOU FOR GOING PAPERLESS

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

INSTALLING

Rev. Melissa Bills, Luther College, pending
 Rev. Beth Olson, St. John (Bennington), Waterloo, pending
 Rev. Joel Nye and Rev. Sarah Nye, Cross Roads Parish, Osage, Oct. 10

INTERVIEWING

Allison, St. James
 Decorah, First, Rev. Dennis Niezwaag, contract interim
 Dysart, Zion
 Elma, St. Paul (Maple Leaf)
 Grundy Center, American
 Iowa Falls, Bethany, Rev. Darby Lawrence, interim
 Ridgeway, Peace, Orleans and Madison (Ridgeway Parish), Rev. Jim Scaife, contract interim
 Ryan, Peace and Dundee, St. John (Unity of the Cross Lutheran Parish), Rev. Rhea Evanson, contract interim
Waterloo, Our Savior's*
 Waterloo, Zion

SELF-STUDY

Chester, United*
 Decorah, Big Canoe & Highland, Rev. Waldemar Gies, contract interim
 Denver, St. Peter, Rev. Scot McCluskey, interim
 Frederika, St. John
Hawkeye, Trinity*
 Hudson, St. Timothy
Janesville, Messiah, Rev. Dave Powers, contract interim*
 Jewell, Bethesda, Rev. Adam Starrett, interim
 Leland, Our Savior and Garner, Faith (Miller)
Mason City, St. Paul, Rev. Matthew Muters, contract*
 Mason City, Trinity (staff)
 Shell Rock, Faith
Waterloo, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*
Waterloo, St. Ansgar, Rev. Erika Breddin, contract interim*
Waterloo, Trinity*
 West Union, Zion, Rev. Duane Miller, interim

ROSTER CHANGES

Rev. Kimberly Swenson, transferred to East Central Synod of Wisconsin
 Rev. Megan Graves, transferred to Northwest Minnesota Synod
 Rev. Dave Nerdig, transferred to South Dakota Synod
 Rev. Elizabeth Albertson, Vice President for Admissions and Student Services, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, transferred from Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod
 Rev. Anita Nuetzman, visitation pastor, St. John, Charles City

**Part-time Call*

SEPTEMBER 2021						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders St. Paul, Maynard 1	First, McGregor 2	Rev. Robert A. Scheurer, Rockford 3	St. Paul, Monona 4
St. John, Nashua 5	Amy B. Wrightsman, Decorah 6	Marcia Hahn, Cedar Falls Edna Kamper, Algona 7	Trinity, New Hampton 8	Rev. O. Paul Hougen, Decorah 9	Rev. Selmer G. Hernes, Forest City 10	St. Luke, Nora Springs 11
First, Northwood 12	Silver Lake, Northwood 13	Zion, Oelwein 14	Rev. Nathan H. Clements, La Porte City Rev. James E. Klosterboer, McGregor 15	Rev. Katie Pals, Belmond 16	Middle East Peace Rev. Joshua L. Schunk, Oelwein 17	Alice M. Martin, Asbury 18
Rev. Hillary E. Burns-Kite, Garnavillo Rev. David R. Nelson, Decorah 19	Rev. Elizabeth Albertson, Dubuque 20	St. Peter, Oran 21	Faith, Mitchell 22	Our Savior, Osage 23	Rev. Erika J. Lentz, Monona 24	Kathy Liddle, Tripoli 25
Rev. Paul C. Nelson, Waverly 26	Rock Creek, Osage 27	Rev. Vincent C. Fricke, Waverly Deacon Susan A. Garbes, Nashua 28	St. John (Rock Twp.), Osage 29	Rev. Michael G. Ashman, Guttenberg Rev. James H. Carpenter, Waverly Rev. Kathryn H. Wicks, West St. Paul, Minn. 30		

How to take part in the Bishop installation

Saturday, Sept. 25, 2021 Trinity Lutheran, Mason City

Everyone is invited to join in the installation of the Rev. Kevin Jones as Bishop of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. The celebration is set for 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 25, at Trinity Lutheran, Mason City. Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton will preside and preach, with a reception immediately following the service.

Clergy are invited to vest and arrive by 1:30 p.m. to process. The color of the day will be red. Those planning to attend are asked to RSVP by Monday, Sept. 13, to 319-352-1414 or liddlek@neiasynod.org. Masks will be required.

ONLINE VIEWING OPTION

The installation service will be livestreamed on the synod's Facebook page and on Trinity's Facebook and YouTube pages. Links for the live broadcasts of the installation will be posted on the synod website, www.neiasynod.org, and on the Trinity website, www.trinity-mc.org.

Those not attending in person are encouraged to consider

forming watch parties in their congregations to view the service together online. Those gathering with a pastor will be invited to celebrate communion in their context as part of the installation service.

VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED

The planning committee is seeking volunteers from across the synod to serve as ushers for the installation service, servers for the reception, or mass choir members who will join the Wartburg Choir for a piece during the service. A rehearsal will take place prior to the service, and music will be provided beforehand.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact the synod office by Sept. 10 — call 319-352-1414 or email liddlek@neiasynod.org.





Good News

September 2021
Volume 34
Number 9

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

I can't believe it is September already. Where has the year gone? The new board has met and begun its work. The virtual triennial convention was concluded and we now have a new churchwide board.

Highlights include a call for help "as an offering interpreter, helping others understand how the churchwide mission and ministries are funded through the faithful gifts of women in our church. Go to welca.org/stewardship for more information." There was also a request for "your strong and faithful financial support, so that you may lead by example."

Seventeen memorials were submitted and nine were passed. The topics include fighting human trafficking, support for solar power in Liberia; Thursdays in Black; the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women; reusable bags; assistance with diapers and female hygiene products; immigration reform; school violence; and #METOO. The original memorials can be found in the Eleventh Triennial Convention Program and Reports. www.womenoftheelca.org/convention.

There are several proposed changes to the Constitution that passed. You will be able to find the latest version of the constitutions at www.womenoftheelca.org/tools for leaders. I encourage all groups to review their constitutions and update them with the most recent changes.

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Introducing

Hello, my name is Alice Greimann. I am from Hampton and was elected Vice President of the NE IA SWO Board. I became a member of Zion St. John, Sheffield, IA (Three River Cluster) after my husband, Donald, and I were married in 1980. We have two daughters: Julie and her three children live nearby, in Hampton, and Angela lives in Grimes with her husband, Ben. I have been semi-retired for 12 years after teaching in Iowa Falls for 35 years. I still am often called to substitute teach.

I have been an active member by teaching Sunday school and Bible school, playing bells, singing in the choir, being an officer for our WELCA organization, attending WELCA Bible study, serving on the church council, assisting on altar guild, and serving on our congregation's Legacy/Memorial

Committee. I am honored to serve on the SWO Board and hope to continue to make a difference.

Stewardship Committee

To me, stewardship simply means that you care; that something is important to you. God created us and gave the world to us. He cared so much for us, He sent us His Son who sacrificed Himself so that we would have eternal life. Sometimes, stewardship take us out of our own comfort zone.

In 2017, I attended the Triennial in Minneapolis. During one of the plenary sessions the speaker posed a couple of questions; "What led you to participate in the Triennial? Why are you sitting in this plenary session? What is God calling you to do?" The first two questions were easy, but the last question was tough. What was God calling me to do? Honestly, I did not know exactly. The speaker then spoke about stewardship and the opportunities that present themselves to each of us. Some opportunities are easy and come naturally, others more difficult. They take us out of our comfort zone and challenge us. Things we would probably say "no" to if asked.

So, when I got the call from the NEIA Synodical Women's nominating committee months later and was asked if I would consider being a board member, my immediate thought was "NO; I am too busy". Then that question popped into my head: What was God calling me to do? I said Yes!

My life is no different than anyone else. We all have busy lives. That "yes" has led to a wonderful opportunity to steward. It has led to beautiful friendships. So as my role shifts and my time on the board ends, I pose the question; "What is God calling you to do?"

Submitted by Deb Jacobsen

LSI Challenge Update

Total so far is \$2800, on our way to \$5000, including gifts from 14 churches and ½ of the offering collected from the SWO Gathering. 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.

Discipleship Committee

How much training does a person need to become a disciple of Christ? Whether you were raised in a Christian home or have just come to know Christ, we all have the same call, to love others, and reach out in the this hurting world.

To do that we need to remember to, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:5 We show through our lives that God lives in us. Then we can share this love with others. And, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39 If we do not love God completely we cannot lead others to God.

Then, we are told to **GO**. This can be difficult at times. Leave our comfort zone. Can't we just show we live good lives and they should to? It isn't that easy. Think of Christ and how he suffered by threats, insults and finally the cross. People then didn't change immediately then or now.. We need to work to bring others to Christ. In Matthew 28:19-20, Christ gives these instructions, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age." So let's get busy disciples of Christ.

Submitted by Bonnie Dralle

Justice Committee

Justice. Seems like these days, that is a loaded statement. What is Justice? What do the Women of the ELCA mean when they talk about Ministry and Action, Discipleship, Justice, and Stewardship? Does it mean writing letters to legislators? Does it mean protesting injustices? Does it mean taking action to stop an injustice from occurring? Yup! AND it can be as simple as including someone who is not just like you. AND it can be seeing a need and taking action to resolve it. Sometimes Justice can seem overwhelming, like ending all human trafficking/slavery. Or is can be doing something good in another part of the world, like helping to build solar power in Liberia. It can be wearing a specific color on a certain day, Thursdays in black. Maybe your way looks like using reusable bags when you go to the grocery store, or even just bringing your own bags, so that new plastic bags are not put out in circulation. Did it ever occur to you that justice might mean making diapers, wipes and female hygiene products part of the items you collect and donate to food pantries, shelters, or even simply make them available for those in need at public restrooms (like a group in Dubuque has done). I challenge you to do 1 thing this month, out of your comfort zone, in the name of Justice.

Submitted by Anna Jetson

Cluster G, Living Water Gathering

Cluster G will gather on September 18, 8:30 am @ St James in Mason City. Our featured speaker will be **Kim Dickey** from **Global Health Ministries (GHM)**. During the gathering time we will have a few minutes to roll bandages. We will have some rollers available to try it out. If your group already does rolled bandages, feel free to bring them along and Kim will transport them back to GHM.

Did you know that GHM also makes **Newborn Kits**? They are similar to the LWR Baby Care Kits, but designed to give to women when they deliver their babies. So everything is 0 to 3 month or newborn size. Would you join me in assembling some to send with **Kim Dickey**? See the Facebook Page for More information. Thank you for your help in these projects!

Submitted by Lea Norlinger

CALENDAR

- Sep 18 Cluster G, St James, Mason City, 8:30
- Oct 16 Ingathering, CEH, New Hampton, 8-11
- Oct 18 Ingathering, Mason City, 8:30-10:30
- Nov 6 Ingathering, BDI, Decorah, 7:30-10:30
- Jun 18 2022 NE IA SWO Gathering

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*Articles are due by 1st of the preceding month e.g.
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Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA

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

Living Faith @



Happy Fall! The summer activities are a memory, the kids are headed back to school, the evenings are getting chilly and darkness is coming sooner - but, wow! the setting sun has been quite a sight lately ... such beautiful colors of red!

Fall also means a new year begins at church. There are first communion, confirmation, and Sunday School classes being planned.

One challenge within every family is finding time, especially time to spend together. It was when I was a kid, when my kids were kids, and is even more of a challenge these days. Faith formation takes time - family time - together. Because faith is nurtured and practiced, not taught, it takes time, effort, and is not just a one shot deal. Faith is a gift that flows through the waters of baptism and is activated by the Holy Spirit. It springs from a relationship with God and from living among faithful people, also known as the faith community that begins in a trusted relationship usually at home but not always. This relationship continues as the Body of Christ gathers for weekly worship and fellowship. Faith Formation is not the same as physical and mental development and it has nothing to do with age, but everything to do with the mystery of the Holy Spirit. Have fun on your faith formation journey!

Praying Through the Crayon Box

This is a prayer for parents and grand-parents to use as a guide when praying for and with their children. It uses the colors in a crayon box.

Red: Pray for safety of all in the school day.

Orange: Pray for safe social communication & good attitudes

Yellow: Pray for your child to remember that God is always with them and never leaves them.

Green: Pray for your child's growth

Blue: Ask God to give your child a sense of peace no matter where they are in their day.

Purple: Thank God for your child's imagination

Brown: Ask God to give your child a strong work ethic

Black: Pray for your child's teachers, the staff and

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

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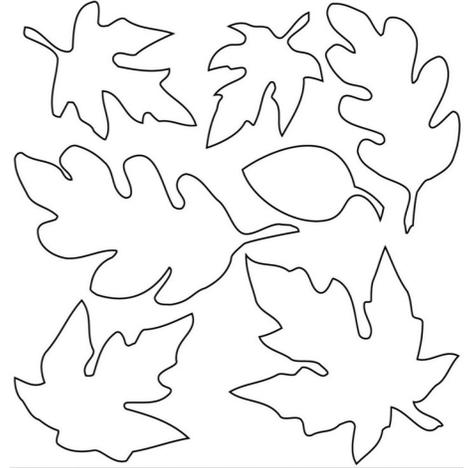
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Fall brings ...

school and time with friends
 colored leaves to walk through
 times of chilliness in the evening
 pictures of leaves to color
 football game
 apples, zucchini, pumpkins
 more cups of coffee
 staying warm with a blanket



Here's a Kindness Calendar for you to experience ... at school, home, or in the community!

Hug a family member	Pick up litter	Start a gratitude journal	Do an extra chore	Feed birds and wildlife	Give some compliments	Write a thank-you note
Make a get well card	Smile at everyone you see	Make a craft to give	Let someone go ahead of you in line	Hold the door for a stranger	Give out "Happy" cards	Make your bed
Donate-canned goods to the local food bank	Tell a funny story	Help clean up after dinner	Remember to use your manners	Read a book to a family member	Clean up a mess you didn't make	Write a letter of appreciation
Ask "how may I help you?"	Color a picture for someone	Stick up for a friend	Encourage your friends to do acts of kindness	Donate your old books to the library	Teach a friend or sibling one of your skills	Make a craft to decorate your home

Of course, there are many more ... if you think of something that would be helpful and kind for someone else, just go ahead and do it!! Know that the love of Jesus is within you and you can let it out to spread love and kindness throughout the world you live in ... your home, your church family, your community!

Serve the Lord --- and, have fun doing it!!