



Celebrating Renewal: Johannes Bugenhagen, Parish Pastor of the Reformation

LSI partners with synods, congregations in shared ministry

by Marcia Hahn

Deb Whitford loves telling congregations about the ways that Lutheran Services in Iowa makes a difference in people's lives. Occasionally, she will hear back from a pastor about how one of her stories inspired a congregation member to seek help.

"A veteran who was not comfortable about seeing a psychologist or therapist learned that he could get help virtually during COVID," recalled Whitford, who serves as director of Philanthropy and Church Relations for LSI. "That was very successful for that veteran, who said it saved his life."

Three congregation members decided to seek help after hearing Whitford share how LSI had helped a member of her own family. At another worship service, congregation members reached out to LSI staff who were visiting to find out how they could get help for a child they knew was at risk.

These "Shared Ministry Sundays," in which LSI staff members visit congregations to give temple talks, preach and share informal conversations, are part of the many ways that LSI partners with synods and congregations to support vulnerable families in Iowa. LSI's services include care for people with disabilities, early childhood services, behavioral health intervention, mental

"People are really excited to hear the story of LSI and to realize the breadth of our ministry and all the programs we offer."

— The Rev. Kyle Barton

health therapy, family-centered services and other programs for Iowa children, adults and families.

SYNOD PARTNERSHIPS

"LSI has a rich relationship and long history with the three Lutheran synods in Iowa," says Sarah Green, LSI vice president of Philanthropy and Church Relations.

The three Iowa ELCA bishops serve on the LSI Board of Directors to contribute to the LSI mission, serve as spiritual guides and advocates, and help extend the impact and reach of LSI's work. The bishops also recommend and recruit individuals from their synods to serve on the LSI board. Five members from the Northeastern Iowa Synod currently serve on the board: Bishop Kevin Jones, Rev. Brian King, Sherry Becker, Jerry Gallmeyer, and Carol Birkland.

"LSI is thankful for this partner-



The Rev. Kyle Barton, LSI Spiritual Life Leader.

ship, as the board of directors provides strategic insight and support, and serves as a strong representative of LSI in their communities," Green said.

Each year the bishops and representatives from their synods join LSI for Lutheran Day on the Hill to advocate for vulnerable Iowans

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and their families. More than 140 advocates participated in this year's virtual event to speak to lawmakers about funding support for Iowa's mental health system for children, a strong human services workforce, reimbursement parity for teletherapy services, and services that empower refugees and immigrants.

When floods, tornadoes, or other disasters strike anywhere in Iowa, the Lutheran Disaster Response Fund, which is a partnership among LSI and the three Iowa ELCA synods, is activated to help affected families and communities. In the past year, the fund distributed \$10,000 to help families recover from the destructive derecho that affected much of the Southeastern Iowa Synod. Relief projects have also supported immigration communities that have been impacted by COVID or have experienced immigration raids.

CONGREGATIONAL SUPPORT

Congregations, women's groups and individuals support LSI in numerous ways, including prayers, in-kind gifts, offerings, fund-raising events, planned gifts, and funds designated in congregational budgets.



Deb Whitford

"A lot of congregations put it in their budgets to support LSI, which helps us budget and plan ahead," Whitford said.

A number of congregations across Iowa provide office space for LSI

LSI to Welcome Afghan Families

by Sarah Green, LSI Vice President of Philanthropy and Church Relations

We at Lutheran Services in Iowa are devastated by the humanitarian crisis that is ongoing in Afghanistan and our hearts are broken for those who are in danger. LSI has a decades-long legacy of welcoming refugees in Iowa, and we have served individuals and families who have come to the United States from Afghanistan in the past. We consider it a privilege to serve our Afghan neighbors again.

LSI is prepared to welcome, resettle, and extend support services to individuals and families who arrive in Iowa from Afghanistan. In addition to resettlement services, we offer a variety of post-resettlement services, including ESL (English as a Second Language) and citizenship classes, mental health and wellness services, business development and career pathways programs, and financial literacy and matched savings programs. Individuals who come to the U.S. utilizing the SIV (Special Immigrant Visa) are eligible for these services. LSI has served SIV recipients through our community-based programming in the past.

We are communicating frequently with our national partners at Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) to effectively resettle and support our Afghan arrivals. We are prepared to work quickly to ensure our services lift

up and support our new neighbors, but we need your help. LSI will need support from individuals, businesses and congregations in the form of financial contributions, in-kind donations, and volunteer support. If you or your congregation is interested in learning more, please email Nancy.Strutzenberg@LSIowa.org.



Sarah Green

We are also connected and responsive to the unique needs, requests, and dreams of individual refugee populations as they make their homes in Iowa. We design programs that fill gaps in services and empower our new neighbors with education, tools, and resources.

Iowa has an opportunity right now to build upon our state's long history of welcoming refugees. We encourage our local, state, and federal policy makers to continue to stand up and make Iowa a part of the solution for those seeking refuge. We are a better Iowa when we are a welcoming, compassionate, and inclusive Iowa.

staff to make their services more accessible to families. In Northeastern Iowa, congregations that have provided church space for LSI to use for meetings and offices include First Lutheran, Decorah; Messiah, Charles City; Our Saviour's, Mason City; St. Peter, Dubuque; and St.

John's, Waukon.

"No matter the frequency or service lines that use the space, our job would be much less effective and more difficult if we did not have

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Communities benefit from ministry partners like LSI

One of the new opportunities that I have as the Bishop is to represent the people of Northeastern Iowa by serving on boards of directors. In September, I attended my first board meeting for Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI). I join Bishop Halaas from the Western Iowa Synod, and Bishop Current from the Southeastern Iowa Synod on the board, along with several dedicated pastors and lay people from our three synods.

As a parish pastor, I was occasionally asked to help with fund raising for special LSI campaigns through our congregation. I knew about the Bremwood and Beloit treatment centers for youth, and that LSI offered other services as well. Being a member of the board of directors gives me a much more detailed look at the ministry of an organization like LSI.

Like all of us, LSI has had to make monumental changes due to the pandemic. Many of the in-person services had to be cancelled because of the risk of infecting both clients and employees. Online sessions with mental health therapists and counselors have grown. While it's unfortunate that the need for this care has increased, I am thankful that LSI has been able to adapt and find ways to provide needed care.

A trait of a good caregiver is that they can see the need. I believe that one of the issues we face as a caring church is that we can see so much need in our communities and the world; it can be overwhelming. As the Body of Christ together, what we need to keep in mind is that we can't fix it all right now. Even Jesus, who healed and fed so many, didn't

heal or feed everyone who was in need. It is a ministry that we continue to be called to.

I give thanks for our ministry partners like LSI. The care they offer to the people of Iowa is extraordinary. They could use our prayers for their employees, for those who could find meaningful work by being an employee, and for their clients. And if you would like to support their work with a donation, you can visit their website at www.lsiowa.org and click the "Donate Now" button.

THANKING YOU

A word of thanks for all of those who participated in the Bishop installation service on Sept. 25. Whether you were in-person or online, live or taking part at a later time — thank you. Your presence and prayers are what made it a truly inspiring day.

To be honest, it was a bit more attention than I like. In the weeks leading up to the installation I was challenged by one of the synod pastors to think about the over-abundant nature of the event. It brought to mind the time Jesus' feet were anointed by Mary, and Judas scoffed that the perfume could be sold and



Bishop Kevin Jones addresses those gathered at the Sept. 25 bishop installation service at Trinity Lutheran, Mason City.

used to feed the poor instead. Jesus replied that Mary had anointed him (his whole self) for his impending death even though the perfume was put only on his feet.

During the installation worship service, the whole Body of Christ that is the Northeastern Iowa Synod was anointed by the Spirit. I just happen to be the feet of that body in this illustration. I had hands laid on me and accepted the role of Bishop on behalf of all the people of the Northeastern Iowa Synod. The over-abundant nature of such an event is not our day-to-day way of operating. It is, however, a sign of God's abundant grace that prepares us for the ministry that lies ahead.

Special thanks to the Installation Worship Committee, Trinity Lutheran in Mason City, the musicians, worship assistants, and reception volunteers. I know how

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COVID video is available

The best way to protect people from COVID-19 is through vaccination, according to Dr. Michael Osterholm, an epidemiologist who is director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota. Osterholm, who is a Waukon native and graduate of Luther College, shared that information and more in the Sept. 15 Zoom presentation sponsored by the Northeastern Iowa Synod for rostered ministers and congregational leaders.



This do-it-yourself "Corsi box," made with a box fan and four MERV 15 filters, can improve a room's filtration to reduce viruses in the air.

Osterholm spoke about the challenges congregations face with the Delta variant and outlined some mitigation measures, with vaccinations at the top of the list.

"Vaccines are helping tremendously and reducing hospitalizations," Osterholm said. "Ninety-eight percent of the hospitalized are unvaccinated."

He emphasized the importance of improving ventilation in buildings, with five to six air exchanges per hour in each room. To improve filtration, he recommended using HEPA filter systems and Corsi boxes, which can be made by placing MERV 13 air filters on a box fan. Following the six-feet apart guidelines and reducing the number of people in an area means that fewer people will compete for air ventilation. Antigen testing can be helpful if it is done every day. Finally, Osterholm recommended quality masking with properly fitted N95 masks.

Osterholm answered several questions and expressed his appreciation for the pastoral care that is being given during this time of COVID.

"Right now, we need medicine for the body and comfort for the soul," he said. "None of us take for granted how difficult this is ... I have every respect for all you do and how you shepherd us all during these times."

A link to view Osterholm's entire 47-minute Zoom presentation is available at www.neiasynod.org/disaster-response.

Lock-In Postponed

The Middle School Lock-In, which was scheduled for Oct. 22-23, has been postponed until 2022 due to potential risks related to COVID-19. The Lutheran Campus Ministry Board of Directors hopes to be able to host the Lock-In in the spring of 2022 or next fall, when it is safer to do so. Anyone with questions should contact Robin Kime, campus ministry associate, at 319-266-4071 or robin@threehouse.org.

Portico Vision Care Option

A new vision care services option is available for Portico Benefits members to enroll in or to waive during the upcoming annual enrollment. While ELCA-Primary health benefits already covers an annual eye exam, the new 100 percent member-paid vision care services coverage gives sponsored members an affordable way to prepare for additional vision care needs, including prescription frames, contact lenses and laser vision correction.

Annual enrollment gives Portico Benefits members an opportunity to review their options and consider their needs related to health coverage, tax-advantaged accounts, life insurance, pretax retirement contributions and beneficiaries. Portico health plan members will receive an email from Portico later in October announcing when their enrollment selection period will begin. Learn more at myportico.porticobenefits.org.

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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 hahn@neiasynod.org.



World Hunger Online Benefit

Oct. 14, 2021

Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and Rick Steves, travel writer and travel TV host, will host an online benefit for ELCA World Hunger Thursday, Oct. 14, 7:30 p.m. on Zoom.

The event will celebrate World Food Day with the theme “A People of Hope: Until All Are Fed” and will feature interviews with people on the ground who are working to fight hunger around the world. Special musical performances will be given by Rachel Kurt, Peter Mayer and the St. Olaf Choir.

A link to register online can be found at www.neiasynod.org/ministries/hunger.

Youth Gathering Safety Update

Leadership for the ELCA Youth Gathering has decided to require full COVID-19 vaccination or proof of a negative test result — likely 72 hours before arrival — to attend next year’s Gathering. As of now, Gathering leadership has not decided on additional safety measures, but will continue to release updates concerning any additional safety measures or adjustments as they become available.

The Gathering is set for July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis. Early bird registration is underway through Nov. 21.

For more information and a list of frequently asked questions, visit ELCA.org/youthgathering.

Best Wishes to Pastor Mark Anderson

Pastor Mark Anderson will conclude his ministry as assistant to the Bishop for the Northeastern Iowa Synod at the end of October after 20 years.

In addition to his regular duties, Pastor Mark had a role in the synod’s response to the ELCA Malaria Campaign, collection of flood recovery buckets, and creation of the Youth Ministry Network, the Texas Hay Lift, Little Free Pantries, and the H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders.



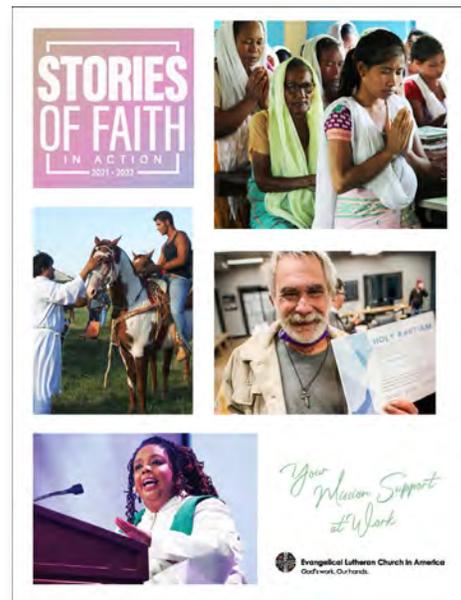
We wish Pastor Mark blessings in his next call. In lieu of a reception due to the pandemic, notes of appreciation can be sent to Mark at the Northeastern Iowa Synod, PO Box 804, Waverly, IA.

‘Stories of Faith in Action’ Available

This year’s edition of the ELCA’s *Stories of Faith in Action* publication is available to view and download online. The 2021-2022 issue includes nine stories from around the country and world, a message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, a story-based devotional for use at Bible studies or committee meetings, and the 2020 financial report on Mission Support.

A printed copy of the publication has traditionally been distributed at the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly. This year, the publication is offered as a digital version that can be viewed in full color online or downloaded as a pdf for congregations to print and use. The nine featured stories can also be downloaded separately for use in

newsletters. The publication can be found at ELCA.org/sofia.



access to these spaces to carry out our work,” Whitford said.

Women of the ELCA from congregations throughout Iowa are some of the most dedicated LSI supporters through their financial gifts, special offerings and in-kind gifts, including school supplies towel bundles, cleaning kits, quilts, Christmas gifts and more. In 2021, women’s groups from all three Iowa synods have accepted LSI’s request to raise \$5,000 to support the LSI Spiritual Life program. In the Northeastern Iowa Synod, that amounts to a donation of about \$35 per congregation to reach that goal.

“Since the Spiritual Life program is faith-based, it does not qualify for state funding support, so these gifts are really important,” Whitford said.

The Bremwood Auxiliary supports the Bremwood Residential Treatment campus in Waverly where youth receive therapy sessions, behavioral health intervention services, education, spiritual care and more in a safe environment. The Auxiliary represents some 50 congregations from the Northeastern Iowa Synod and beyond to support Bremwood through gifts and offerings. This year, the Auxiliary has set a goal to raise \$10,000 to help purchase a new security system for the Bremwood campus.

SPIRITUAL LIFE PROGRAM

LSI expanded its Spiritual Life program in February when the Rev. Kyle Barton joined its team to serve as the Spiritual Life leader. Through this multi-faceted call, Barton serves as chaplain for

youth living at Bremwood and supports the broader LSI organization and staff through devotions, worship and pastoral care. Barton also works with the Philanthropy Team to tell the story of LSI at community and parish-based events, such as the Shared Ministry Sundays at local congregations.

“On occasion I get the privilege to be out and about with various parishes across the state to tell them who we are and what we do, to preach, and to thank them for their partnerships in this ministry,” Barton said. “People are really excited to hear the story of LSI and to realize the breadth of our ministry and all the programs we offer.”

Youth are referred to residential care at Bremwood to help them gain life skills to better manage their impulses and to learn to live within their trauma histories. An average admission in residential care may last three months or longer. Bremwood also houses the Shelter Program, which provides temporary refuge — ideally for up to two weeks — for youth who are in a period of transition in their life.

“My biggest priority is to create relationships with these youth through frequent check-ins so that I



Members of St. Paul, Postville, assemble personal care kits for youth at the Bremwood Campus as part of “God’s work. Our hands.” service day.

can journey with them and support them while they are here,” Barton said.

Barton engages in group and one-on-one conversations with the youth to establish a rapport with them and to nurture a consistent grace-filled relationship with them. In addition to leading worship and youth groups, Barton makes a point to spend informal time with the youth, to have conversations with them over lunch and to join in other activities with them, such as games, hikes, bowling, fishing, and more.

“I think the young people find that having a trusting relationship with someone is most important,” Barton said. “They like to tell me what is going on in their mind and share what is going on in their life. They

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OCTOBER EVENTS

- 5 Colleague Leaders Group, Synod Office, 12 Noon
- 5 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 7 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 7 Youth Ministry Network, Immanuel, Independence, 10 a.m.
- 7 Rostered Clergy Lunch and Learn, Zoom, 12 noon
- 19 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 2 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 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
- 9 New to the Synod, Synod Office, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 13 Synodical Women's Organization, Zoom, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon
- 16 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 20 Synod Council Meeting, Synod Office and Virtual, 9 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.
- 7 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 21 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 24-31 Synod Office Closed, Christmas

JANUARY EVENTS

- 3 Office Closed, New Year's
- 4 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.
- 6 Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom Meeting, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 6 Youth Ministry Network, First, Northwood, 10 a.m.
- 15 Synodical Women's Organization, Synod Office and Virtual, 8:30 a.m.-12 noon
- 15 Synod Council Meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.-12 noon
- 18 Women Clergy, Zoom Meeting, 1 p.m.

Men's Retreat Early Registration

Early bird registration for the "One Year to Live" Men's Retreat is due Tuesday, Oct. 20. This 45-hour retreat will take place the weekend of Nov. 5-7 at Camp Ewalu near Strawberry Point. To download a brochure or to register online, visit www.neiasynod.org/ministries/mens-ministry.

INSTALLING

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

CALL EXTENDED

Dysart, Zion

INTERVIEWING

- Allison, St. James
- Decorah, First, Rev. Dennis Niezwaag, contract interim
- 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
- West Union, Zion, Rev. Duane Miller, interim

SELF-STUDY

- [Chester, United*](#)
- Decorah, Big Canoe & Highland, Rev. Waldemar Gies, contract interim
- Decorah, Glenwood & Canoe Ridge
- 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*](#)
- Mason City, Trinity (staff)
- Shell Rock, Faith, Rev. Gloria Friedrich, interim
- [Waterloo, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd*](#)
- [Waterloo, St. Ansgar, Rev. Erika Breddin, contract interim*](#)
- [Waterloo, Trinity*](#)

ROSTER CHANGES

Rev. Michael Stadie, retired

**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 hahn@mneiasynod.org with the subject: Online Only.

OCTOBER 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Hanna Langholz, Decorah 1	Rev. Bruce L. Hanson, Garnavillo Rev. Dr. James B. Martin-Schramm, Decorah 2
Rev. Joel H. Becker, Waverly Deacon Patricia Gjere, Decorah 3	Rev. James K. Knudson, Waterloo 4	Viola Engelstad, Iowa City 5	Rev. Melinda McVey McCluskey, Clear Lake 6	Rev. Anita Nuetzman, Mason City 7	Ossian, Ossian 8	Stavanger, Ossian 9
Peace Lutheran Fellowship, Parkersburg 10	Carole Nesheim, Northfield, Minn. 11	Rev. Jennifer J. Bohls, Mason City 12	St. Paul, Postville 13	Madison, Ridgeway 14	Carol Hasvold, Decorah 15	Rev. James A. Mattson, Decorah Rev. Mark D. Walker, Kensett 16
Middle East Peace Orleans, Ridgeway 17	Peace, Ridgeway 18	Zion, Rockford 19	St. Peter, Rockwell 20	Rev. Mark A. Anderson, Waverly 21	Rev. Victoria L. Shepherd, Parkersburg 22	Rev. Elizabeth A. Olson, Waverly 23
Rev. Gregory T. Bjornstad, Dubuque Rev. Oliver E. Johnson, Waverly Rev. Amy Zalk Larson, Decorah 24	Bergen, Roland 25	Rev. Larry A. Trachte, Waverly 26	Peace, Ryan 27	St. Peter, Toeterville 28	Immanuel, Scarville 29	Rev. William J. Peters, Lake Mills 30
Rev. Dennis A. Hugdahl, Farmington, Minn. 31						

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Communities benefit from ministry partners
 like LSI
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trust that I will meet them where they are and not pass judgment as I journey with them through their experiences.”

GET INVOLVED

In this year’s report to the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, LSI noted that in 2020 the Northeastern Iowa Synod gave \$10,206, and 85 congregations gave a total of \$126,523 to support LSI’s mission — “to respond to the love of Jesus Christ through compassionate service.” Green added that several congregations have supported LSI through service projects done as part of the annual “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday.

“Whether you give through the synod or gift directly to LSI with an in-kind gift or monetary contribution, you truly are helping make miracles happen,” Green said. “Thank you for your compassion.”

LSI staff are available to join congregations in worship and fellowship for Shared Ministry Sundays, men’s and women’s groups, conference meetings, adult education classes or other settings. To learn more or to schedule a virtual program or in-person presentation, visit lsiowa.org/church-relations, call 866-583-5293 or email churchrelations@LSIowa.org.

hard you worked and appreciate every second of it.

ONE MORE WORD OF THANKS

Pastor Mark Anderson will be concluding his ministry in the synod office this month with some accrued vacation time. I am thankful for his ministry in the synod and for his assistance during the transition. Please take a moment to read the additional article outlining some of the ministries he helped to lead. I invite you to join me in giving thanks and wishing him well.

With a Peace of the Spirit,

— Bishop Kevin Jones



Good News

October 2021
Volume 34
Number 10

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

As I sit here in my office on a rainy drizzly morning, wondering what inspiring words I can share to encourage myself and others to focus not only on meeting today's needs but also keep an eye to the future. I go to the Women of the ELCA webpage to see if the constitutional changes voted on during the 11th Triennial Convention have been added to the templates. Not yet. I begin to scroll the website. I find a Café article on the spirituality of tension. I see and read our purpose statement. I am reminded of the decisions made during the triennial convention. I see information regarding the Daily Grace app and am reminded of the power of faithful friends. Then comes the PowerPoint of *A place for you* and the welcome flyer I want to share with the discussion group I will be leading in a few weeks about how our neighboring women's group might want to work together to support one another. Then comes the reminder that all Lutheran women are invited to come together in "Prayer Every Tuesday" @ noon. Towards the end of the page is a devotion/blog about the 5 seasons in our lives that require planning and prayer. Wow that's a lot and it is only just the "first" page. I have heard the question/the statement: What does churchwide do for us/me? This is just a small portion of what the churchwide staff of the Women of the ELCA has done for me, for us!

Then there is the Facebook page. I see almost all the posts from the Women of the ELCA and try to share them on the NE IA Women of the ELCA Facebook page. The other day the post was about the last day for three of the staff members, Audrey, Deanna, and Terri. Wishing them all the best in their next adventures!

These are just a few of the things that inspire me to continue doing what I do in my life. I am looking forward to attending fall cluster gatherings. I have two already on my calendar! I am hoping to hear about more. What inspires you?

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Introducing

My name is Jo Ann Brunsvold and I am your SWO Board Secretary. I have been a member of Elk Creek Lutheran Church of rural Kensett since 1976.

My husband Steven and I have two children and 3 grandchildren.

I am active in my church by being the WELCA president, church board Vice President, Board of Education representative and Lions Club coordinator. I have previously served as Sunday School superintendent, music leader for Sunday School and the church choir director. This has been a great experience serving on the SWO Board. I hope and pray that others will volunteer to help continue God's work in the Women of the ELCA.

Stewardship Committee

Staff from **Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health**, both of the Corus International family, are assessing damage from the Aug. 14 Haiti earthquake, urgent needs and how to most efficiently respond.

Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health have committed an initial \$100,000 to the emergency response, which will likely focus on providing support for essential health services, as most of Corus' programs in Haiti are focused on health. As critical needs are being determined, the organizations are exploring the possibility of a joint response with other INGOs; coordination with international organizations and the government is central to response planning. "There are huge medical needs, people who are wounded and in need of care," said Glen Bouchard, IMA World Health country director in Haiti. "Already, the food situation was tenuous. Markets and the infrastructure have been badly damaged. Even getting clean water is a challenge. The full impact on many of the earthquake-affected areas is yet to be determined as they remain inaccessible. Most of the urgent needs will multiply as they become more visible and tangible," he said. "Unfortunately, this disaster is not getting due attention and international media has focused on concurrent major humanitarian crises in other parts of the world. We are far from getting the commitments of resources that the 2010 earthquake received, though the needs are dire." Thank you for all that you are doing to help.

Submitted by Lea Norlinger

Discipleship Committee

When we train for jobs, there are many textbooks. Our training as a disciple has only one textbook, the Bible. Nothing ever changes with the Bible. God's word remains constant and the training we receive when reading the Bible will never change. Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

As we have been told you are in this world but not of this world. The world today lives in a "me" focus. As disciples, of Christ we are to live a life for him, which means serving others. That is the way the word is spread, showing our love for Christ by loving others. Our training in God's word will hold us up when things get tough.

Being a disciple should not just be exemplified on Sunday or the day you worship. It is the mission of a disciple to be at work constantly. There is a need to share God's love 24/7.

Keep sharing God's love.

Submitted by Bonnie Dralle

Justice Committee

I am a little apprehensive in writing this. I think I am like a lot of women who look at the word "justice" and think "What do I know about that?!" I have found that it can mean a lot of things for all of us. For one person it may mean working to right global injustices happening in war-torn countries; for another it may be making others aware of the increase in the human trafficking/slavery; to another it may be helping the people who are recovering from an abusive relationship; or for another it may be helping to dig wells in an African country.

We don't have to be protesting social injustices, we can be behind the scenes making a small difference by helping to resolve an issue. During this next year, I hope to help you understand more about Justice and how we as Women of the ELCA can do our part to help.

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

LSI Challenge Update

We are nearing the \$3000 mark, on our way to \$5000. 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.

CALENDAR

- Oct 16 Ingathering, CEH, New Hampton, 8-11
Upper Iowa River Cluster D Gathering,
8:30 am, Good Shepherd, Decorah
- Oct 18 Ingathering, Mason City, 8:30-10:30
- Nov 6 Ingathering, BDI, Decorah, 7:30-10:30
- Nov 13 SWO Board via Zoom, 8:30-noon
- Jan 15 SWO Board @ Synod Office, 8:30-4
- Mar 12 SWO Board via Zoom, 8:30-noon
- May 14 SWO Board via Zoom, 8:30-noon
- Jun 17 SWO Board @ Gathering site (TBD)
- Jun 18 2022 NE IA SWO Gathering (TBD)

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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:

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773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA

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

Living Faith @



October is one of those months that confuses me. The weather is warm one day and chilly the next. I don't know whether to dress in a sweatshirt and jeans or a t-shirt and shorts. This year people have the added stress of trying to deal with the Covid variant and all that it brings. We thought we were through the worst of the pandemic but now find ourselves back into the thick of it. What does this mean for family and faith formation? Fun things to do with people you are close to - some inside and some outside. You could carve pumpkins with cute faces or Christian shapes, collect money for a cause, collect food for the food pantry, make fall decorations, think of some ways to celebrate the reformation, and even bake some apple 🍏 or pumpkin 🎃 goodies ... for your family or to share with others. Enjoy your time together ... Sue Cira, TEEM Student

REFORMATION

One of the popular hymns we sing on
Reformation Sunday:

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God ELW #504

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield
victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor's rod and
wins salvation glorious.

The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to
fight. On earth he has no equal.



Harvest Time

- Corn
- Soybeans
- Slow-moving farm vehicles
- Semi trucks full of grain

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](#)



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Facebook

FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES

BEADED PIPE CLEANER INDIAN CORN DECORATIONS

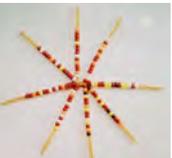
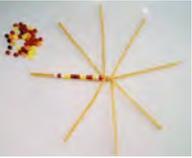
Supplies: 4 pipe cleaners (12 inch)
Plastic Pony Beads (120)

This craft is a fun and easy activity to do in the fall for a decoration. Line up the pipe cleaners and twist them in the middle.

Evenly space each pipe cleaner and spread them into the shape of a star. Start threading the beads onto each pipe cleaner, until all 8 are covered. Be sure to leave a little over an inch of



pipe cleaner showing on each end. About 15 beads per pipe cleaner & mix up the colors of beads. Once you've covered your star in beads — carefully bend each end upward and gather the points together. Take the tops of



all the pipe cleaners and twist them a couple times to secure the beads and form the corn "husks". Be sure to leave some ends free and fan them out a bit. Repeat to make as many mini corns as you need for your decoration. They can even be used to hold a name card on your table.



The month of October has many "National" recognition events; of which some are centered around physical activities, and others emphasize food. For example: Walk to School, Go on a Field Trip, Roller Skating, Cardiac Awareness, Positive Attitude, Bake & Decorate, Apple, Caramel, Chili, Cookie, Dessert, Pasta, and Pizza. There is long list so I've only included a few. It seems like there are many people who say they don't have the time, energy, or resources needed to be active. Here are a few ways to overcome these barriers:

- * Lack of time. Two – three 10 minute short bursts of walking is beneficial. Or, sitting at your desk there are fitness exercises that you can do.
- * Motivation. Make activity a social event. Ask friends or family to join an activity. Encourage each other! Everyone will benefit, both physically and emotionally.
- * Low energy. Many people feel tired after work or doing household chores. Consider whether morning activities could be better.
- * Fear of injury. Visit your health care provider to make sure activity is safe. Chair workouts, stretching & strength training with at-home videos.
- * Cost. Recreation trails are available in many areas. Libraries offer exercise on DVD.



Grab your shoes and have some FUN!!