



Good News

February 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

It is a new year! How are things going for you? We are busy getting ready for our gathering in June at St. John Lutheran Church in Nashua. I hope everyone has received the unit mailing that was emailed to your church secretary, pastor, or congregation leader. If not, please contact me or Jo Ann Brunsvold, our secretary and we will make sure you receive a copy of the registration forms for June. The forms are also available on our webpage (neiasynod.org/category/women-of-the-elca) We are seeking two nominations from each cluster, one as a SWO board members or officers and one willing to serve on the nominating committee. We will also be accepting nominations for voting members to the 2023 Triennial Convention. There is also an opportunity for an Educational Scholarship for women going back to school. If you have any ideas or suggestions on ways the Women of the ELCA can make an impact in our community/world, consider submitting a resolution calling the Women of the ELCA to action. Please keep us in your prayers as the SWO board members and cluster leaders participate in the national leadership event, February 17-19, 2022 via Zoom.

Blessings, Anna Jetson

LWR Ingathering Reports

From Waterloo area...Clusters C, E, F, G & H gathered items in New Hampton & Mason City on October 16 & 18.

New Hampton Totals

1584 Quilts; 114 Baby Care Kits; 715 School Kits; 76 Personal Care Kits; 6 Fabric Kits; 40 Blankets.

Mason City Totals

1210 Quilts; 234 Baby Care Kits; 1467 School Kits; 241 Personal Care Kits; 22 Fabric Kits 13 Blankets.

From Decorah...As in the past, our collection process took place on the first Saturday in November at Olson's Explosives' parking lot in Decorah. The truck was set up at 7:30 AM, our work crew was ready, and soon donations began arriving from Clusters D, B, & I. We also received very generous donations from St. Peter in Elma, IA., St Ansgar in Waterloo IA, and a student service organization from Luther College in Decorah. By 10:30 AM, a total of 896 boxes had been received and packed into the semi-truck for shipping. Thank you!

Decorah Totals

1723 Quilts; 959 Personal Care Kits; 2217 School Kits; 545 Baby Care Kits; 77 Fabric Kits; 12 Blankets.

Many thanks to Olson's Explosives, our crew of workers from Big Canoe Lutheran & Zion Lutheran of West Union and to all who spent countless hours working on various projects and preparing them for shipment. Your efforts do make a difference in so many ways. Beginning in May of 2022, Sandy Gavle & Dee Wyatt will be passing the torch to Sue Darling and Carol Maki from Big Canoe Lutheran in rural Decorah. Thank you for your cooperation and support over the last 5 1/2 years. It has been a pleasure to serve - we learned so much and met many amazing people.

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TOTALS from all collections for Fall 2021

4526 Quilts; 893 Baby Care Kits; 4399 School Kits; 1976 Personal Care Kits; 105 Fabric Kits; 65 Blankets.

Thank you and all your awesome gals, Jesus loves you!

Lea Norlinger 641-494-7614, Mason City, IA

Lrprk0@gmail.com NE IA SWO board & LWR contact.

Introducing Vickie Grube

I am a new board member for the NE Iowa Women of the ELCA. I live just south of Cresco and a member at Immanuel Lutheran Church, 'the church with the clock.' My husband of 45 years and I, have three children and two grandchildren. We live in what used to be a one-room schoolhouse (third owners) where his mother taught school. Together we are up in the balcony each Sunday with my husband coordinator of IT services.

I am a Norman Borlaug Heritage board member and together with my husband we enjoy coordinating the NBHF Julenek-wheat project, the Win/Win Julenek what project which is about feeding the birds while feeding hungry people.

I am a retired registered nurse from Mayo Clinic and now work here in Howard County as a supplemental

nurse with our local hospice and home health care. My passion lies with hospice and now I also enjoy being a hospice volunteer. In the past I have served on various church boards, thoroughly enjoyed chaperoning numerous youth trips with the ELCA and working on various activities with social concerns. I am a certified Parish nurse with hopes of someday serving as a health advocate for our parishioners.

It is God's grace that guides and gives all of us strength as we journey through life helping others. The gift of a New Year is one of God's many blessings...I look forward to learning more about us together serving in the Northeast Iowa ELCA synod...and having fun doing it.

Discipleship Committee

Many are still asking, "What does it really mean to be a disciple of Christ?" The ribbons and paper from gifts are now in garbage bags. Gifts are being enjoyed and perhaps some have been put aside, the thrill gone. What kind of gifts were given to those less fortunate during the Christmas season? Maybe cookies given to shut-ins; extra special foods given to a food pantry; personal care items shared with nursing home residents; or perhaps treats sent to prisoners. So many things given to people usually remembered this **one time** of the year, Christmas. Do these tokens of kindness make us feel good? Definitely, but wouldn't be better to extend our generosity more than just at Christmas? The need is not only at Christmas. Christ's love needs to be felt all year. Discipleship is a 24-7 job. I challenge you to reach out throughout the year and show the light of Christ. 1 Peter 1:8, "Though you have not seen Him, you love Him. Though you do not now see Him, you believe in Him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory."

Submitted by Bonnie Dralle

Justice Committee

Justice. What does that word mean for you? One definition is "promoting a just society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity." Ok I get that (maybe), but it really doesn't say what justice would look like. This is my first write-up for the Justice Committee and I found myself struggling to write this. I once heard, "You can't start a conversation about justice anywhere but at the cross of Jesus." So, whether we are talking about the injustices in the world like human trafficking or talking about making health kits for crisis shelters, we need to keep Jesus in the conversation. Micah 6:8, "He has showed you, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Take a moment to ask yourself "Have I acted justly today, have I shown mercy, and have I walked humbly with God?". That was a tough question for me today. One of my fellow board members reminded me once that even using reusable grocery bags is a simple way we can keep plastic out of landfills. That is one small thing most of us can do to help make our world cleaner and safer. I hope you will

join me in researching the area of justice in the ELCA. There is a section called Justice for Women on the elca.org website that is very informational.

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

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

Stewardship Committee

Have you celebrated Bold Women Sunday? Consider doing something special this year, Feb 27, 2022 is Bold Women Sunday. Resources are available at womenoftheelca.org.

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.

CALENDAR

- Mar 12 SWO Board via Zoom, 8:30-noon
- 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
- Sept 18 2023 Triennial Convention & Gathering

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

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NE IA Women of the ELCA