

# Youth gather to learn about God's boundless love

by Bishop Kevin Jones, Northeastern Iowa Synod

Last fall, just hours after it was announced that the 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering was being cancelled, I received a phone call from one of the synod's youth directors asking for permission to hold a Synod Youth Gathering in the Twin Cities. I remarked that it would be quite an undertaking to get everything in place. That's when I was told that most of it was already planned, and they were waiting for official word that the Gathering was cancelled.

That dedication by the Youth Ministry Network to the youth of our congregations was blessed by the Holy Spirit at the Boundless Gathering 2022, July 24-27. Young people from Northeastern Iowa were joined by a handful of youth groups from other synods at St. Thomas University in St. Paul. I was fortunate enough to be invited along.



The kids and their leaders arrived on Sunday afternoon. That evening they worshiped together and heard from Tiger McLuen, one of the most respected teachers and mentors of Christian youth workers in the United States.

On Monday, each group had free time to explore the Twin Cities. Some did service projects. Others visited learning sites. Some added



Bishop Kevin Jones joins youth from St. Peter, Dubuque, for their service day at Global Health ministries.

a visit to the Mall of America, the Midtown Global Market, or the Como Zoo to round out their day.

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Members from First Lutheran and Good Shepherd, Decorah, share their music ministry as the house band for worship services at the Boundless Gathering at St. Paul, Minn.

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I joined up with the Gathering at supper Monday evening and sat in on a seminar with the adult leaders and Tiger McLuen before worship. Aisha Cox brought a powerful teaching on the Good Samaritan, reminding us who Jesus believes our neighbor is. I didn't stay up for the late-night entertainment (starting at 10 p.m.!) but I heard fun reviews the next day.

Tuesday was a service/work day and we spread out across the Twin Cities to help and to learn. I joined groups from St. Peter, Dubuque, and St. Olaf, Austin, Minn., at Global Health Ministries in Fridley. They take donated medical supplies and send them to hospitals in places like Liberia, Cameroon, Tanzania and nine other countries. We then helped process more

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Youth from Zion, Oelwein, head to closing worship service.



Youth from St. Paul, Monona, process radishes for the Loaves & Fishes organization.



The group from Trinity, Mason City, enjoys lunch at the Midtown Global Market.



More than 220 youth and adults from 20 congregations and four synods participated in the Boundless Gathering at St. Paul, Minn. The Northeastern Iowa Synod sponsored the event

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Youth from Grace, Tripoli, volunteer at The Food Group.



Youth at the Boundless Gathering enjoy a silent disco.



Above, youth from Redeemer, Waverly, volunteer at The Teacher Resource Center. Left, Bishop Kevin Jones preaches at the Gathering's closing worship service.

than 400 boxes of supplies for the warehouse.

In the afternoon I met groups from St. Paul, Monona, and St. John, Waukon, at one of the Loaves & Fishes kitchens. This kitchen serves 2,500-3,000 meals per week, many to families that have two full-time wage earners but still struggle to make ends meet. We packed lunches for school programs and crackers for preschool snacks, and cut radishes for snacks and for salads. So many radishes. Much of the food is donated from grocery stores in the area.

On Wednesday we closed the Gathering with worship and communion. The youth provided all the rest of the leadership in worship, including music, speaking, and serving communion. It was a great way to end the Gathering. I was the preacher for worship and experienced one of the things pastors have nightmares about. (You'll have to ask someone who was there to explain what happened.)

Thanks to all the people who helped plan and lead the Gathering. Thanks go to all the pastors and other adults who led youth from their congregations. My thanks, too, for the youth who took time to gather and experience, learn about, and give praise for God's boundless love, forgiveness, and promise given to us in Christ Jesus. What a great witness to how we as a Synod are Better Together!

# Fall Conference to focus on courage and leadership

Oct. 17-18, 2022

Best Western Plus, Dubuque

The Northeastern Iowa Synod Fall Theological Conference is set for Oct. 17-18 at the Best Western Plus Dubuque Hotel and Conference Center. The conference will include presentations, worship service, devotions, and time with the Bishop.



Sarah Ciavarrri

This year's theme is "Dare to Lead," with the Rev. Sarah Ciavarrri presenting. Ciavarrri is the founder and president of Level Up Leadership, LLC, a coaching, leadership consulting, and curriculum design firm. She is a professional certified coach through the International Coaching Federation and is a regular keynote speaker on leadership topics. Ciavarrri is also the author of *Finding our Way to the TRUTH: Seven Lies Leaders Believe and How to Let Them Go*, published by Fortress Press.

Ciavarrri will lead six sessions of the Dare to Lead program,

based on research by Dr. Brené Brown. The program focuses on helping people become braver in their leadership and personal life using four skill sets of courage.

All active rostered ministers of the Northeastern Iowa Synod are invited to attend, as well as interns, CL, TEEM, and SAM students serving in the synod. The conference registration fee is \$80, which includes two lunches. Registration will open mid-August and close Sept. 15. A registration link and information for reserving hotel rooms for a special rate will be emailed mid-August.

## Generosity program to start

Congregations interested in joining the "Building a Culture of Generosity" stewardship training program can still enroll. The program will offer six Zoom training sessions beginning Thursday, Aug. 18, along with resources and opportunities for one-on-one guidance from a professional fund-raising consultant.

Congregations will receive a special \$200 discount from the ELCA, so the total cost for the congregations is \$250.

To learn more or to sign up, contact the synod office, 319-352-1414.

## Register for Men's Retreat

Nov. 11-13, 2022

Registration is open for the "One Year to Live" men's retreat set for Nov. 11-13 at Ewalu Camp & Retreat Center, Strawberry Point. The retreat offers an opportunity for men to rethink how they set their priorities and discover how God has equipped them to live. It is presented by Lutheran Men in Mission, in partnership with the Northeastern Iowa Synod and Camp Ewalu.



The weekend retreat starts at 5:30 p.m. on Friday and ends 3 p.m. Sunday. Those who register by Oct. 21 receive the discounted rate of \$175. Standard registration is due by Nov. 2 for \$200.

To download the brochure/registration form or to register online, visit [www.lutheranmeninmission.org/events/one-year-to-live](http://www.lutheranmeninmission.org/events/one-year-to-live).

## NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD

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Send news for the September 2022 issue to Marcia Hahn by Aug. 15.

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[www.neiasynod.org](http://www.neiasynod.org)

# Synod Assembly lives up to 'Better Together' theme

Some 287 voting members and visitors gathered June 10-11 at Wartburg College in Waverly for the 2022 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly, with the theme "Better Together." Seventy-three percent of the voting members were laity and 27 percent were rostered ministers.

Voting members adopted four resolutions and two memorials, including a resolution and memorial on substance abuse and the addiction crisis, and a memorial calling for the ELCA to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent by 2030. In addition, voting members elected new committee members and Synod Council members, including Kris Meyer as Synod Council vice president. (See inserts.)

Around 120 people attended the optional Friday night activities, which included opening worship service, orientation and hospitality. Darrel Colson, president of Wartburg, greeted the Assembly for the last time before his retirement in July. Tom and Betsy Kirby of Mason City provided acoustic music for Friday's worship service and social time.

## SATURDAY SESSIONS

Saturday's agenda opened with a morning prayer service followed by a plenary session with reports and introductions.

In his first synod assembly report, Bishop Kevin Jones outlined some priorities for how the synod can continue to be better together, including supporting pastors, women clergy and small congregations; paying attention to diversity, inclusion and belonging; and getting to know one another together. He also shared a video greeting from the synod staff



and thanked everyone for their patience during his first year as Bishop.

Pastor Robin Brown, director of Congregational Generosity for the ELCA, brought greetings from the churchwide organization and a video message from Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. Pastor Brown shared ways that the synod and congregations are doing ELCA ministries together and thanked the "saints of the congregations of the Northeastern Iowa Synod" for their support, including \$357,653 given to Mission Support, \$318,711 for ELCA World Hunger and \$139,998 for Lutheran Disaster Response.

The morning plenary session concluded with video greetings from Portico Benefit Services, Lutheran Men in Mission and Lutheran Immigration



Churchwide representative Pastor Robin Brown, right, visits with members attending the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly in June.



Bishop Kevin Jones addresses the 2022 Northeastern Iowa Assembly.

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Synod Assembly lives up to 'Better Together' theme

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and Refugee Service (LIRS).

Assembly members had the opportunity to visit ministry exhibits and attend two sessions of workshops before the afternoon plenary session, which focused on elections and resolutions. John Twardos, president of Lutheran Services in Iowa, shared greetings from LSI. Congregations brought 200 welcome kits to the Assembly to support LSI's efforts to help refugees resettle in Iowa.

Recognitions included ordination and congregation anniversaries, and a welcome to ministers and full communion partners who began serving in the synod since 2019. Outgoing Synod Council members were also recognized, including Syd Brinkman for her service as vice president during the last few years of transition.

The Assembly concluded with Pastor Brown preaching at the closing worship service, which featured jazz music led by Jon Ailabouni.

## ASSEMBLY OFFERING

This year's Assembly offering supports the H. George Anderson Northeastern Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders to provide scholarships for seminary students from this synod and LIRS to support newly arrived refugees in America. So far, the offering has brought in more than \$8,300. Offering gifts can be made online at <https://neiasynod.org/give> or send a check to: Northeastern Iowa Synod, 201 20th St. SW, P.O. Box 804, Waverly, IA 50677-0804.

To download reports, voting results and other resources, and to view live stream videos, visit <https://neiasynod.org/2022/06/synod-assembly-recap>.

## Kris Meyer elected Synod Council VP

Kris Meyer of Waverly was elected Synod Council vice president at the 2022 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly. Meyer has been involved in education since 1989, serving as a teacher, counselor, administrator, storyteller and motivational speaker. She served five years as school principal for St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Waverly. She retired from that position in 2020 and currently serves as a part-time faculty member in the graduate program for professional school counseling for Buena Vista University in Storm Lake.



Kris Meyer

In previous positions, Meyer served as the director of School and Mental Health Counseling Graduate Studies for Buena Vista University, adjunct professor for the University of Northern Iowa, counselor for North Iowa Area Community College, and school counselor for Forest City Elementary School. She was selected as a 2020 National Distinguished Principal by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) and was a 2020 recipient of the Alumni Distinguished Service Award for Waldorf University.

Meyer received her bachelor's degree in elementary education and master's degree in professional school counseling from Buena Vista University. She later earned a doctorate in educational leadership and policy studies from Iowa State University.

Meyer is a member of St. Paul's, Waverly. She serves on the synod's First Call Theological Education Committee and served as registrar for the 2018 Synod Assembly. She has also served on the Western Iowa Synod WELCA Board in the 1990's. In addition, Meyer serves on the Board of Trustees for Waldorf University, the Waverly Health Center Foundation Board, and the Bremer County Critical Incident Stress Management team.

## View Churchwide Assembly Online

The 2022 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will meet Aug. 8-12 in Columbus, Ohio, with the theme, Embody the Word.

The assembly meets every three years and is the highest legislative body of the denomination. More than 900 voting members will attend, including 14 voting members representing the Northeastern Iowa Synod. This year's assembly will commemorate the 35th anniversary of the ELCA.

Over the course of the assembly, voting members will hear reports; consider proposals from synod assemblies; elect officers, board members and other leaders; establish ELCA churchwide policy; worship together; adopt a budget; and conduct other business related to the ELCA churchwide organization.

Live streaming of the plenary sessions will be available at [ELCA.org/cwa-2022](https://ELCA.org/cwa-2022).

## AUGUST EVENTS

- 4 Transitional/Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 4 Candidacy Committee Meeting, Synod Office, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
- 8-12 Churchwide Assembly, Columbus, Ohio
- 20 Synodical Women's Board Meeting, Synod Office, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 1 Transitional/Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 5 Office Closed, Labor Day
- 8 Executive Committee, Zoom 4 p.m.
- 11 "God's work. Our hands." ELCA Day of Service
- 14 Care for Creation Network Meeting, Synod Office, 1 p.m.
- 15 Youth Ministry Network, First, Decorah, 10 a.m.
- 17 Synod Council Retreat, Nazareth, Cedar Falls, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

## OCTOBER EVENTS

- 6 New to the Synod, Synod Office, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 6 Transitional/Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 17-18 Fall Theological Conference, Dubuque
- 20 Youth Ministry Network, Immanuel, Independence, 10 a.m.
- 21-22 Middle School Lock-In, UNI Wellness Center, Cedar Falls

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 3 Transitional/Interim Ministry Colleague Group, Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 11-13 Men's Ministry Retreat, Ewalu, Strawberry Point
- 17 Youth Ministry Network, Threehouse, Cedar Falls, 10 a.m.
- 19 Synod Council Meeting, Zoom, 9 a.m.
- 24-25 Office Closed, Thanksgiving

## Star Newsletter PDF

This issue of the *Star* newsletter is being distributed as a PDF version only. We encourage anyone who wants a paper version to download and print the PDF, or you may contact the synod office to request a printed copy be mailed to you.

PDF versions of the *Star* can be downloaded at <https://neiasynod.org/blog/newsletter>.

## INSTALLING

Evan Meester, St. John, Frederika, installed July 24  
Rev. Kristen Briner Wipperman, American, Grundy Center, pending

## INTERVIEWING

Allison, St. James, Rev. Norman Bauer, contract interim  
Carpenter, Deer Creek & Toeterville, St. Peter  
Decorah, Glenwood & Canoe Ridge, Rev. Adam Starrett, interim  
Denver, St. Peter  
Elma, St. Paul (Maple Leaf)  
Hudson, St. Timothy, Rev. John White, contract interim  
Ryan, Peace and Dundee, St. John (Unity of the Cross Lutheran Parish), Rev. Rhea Evanson, contract interim  
Toeterville, St. Peter & Carpenter, Deer Creek  
Waterloo, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd\*  
Waterloo, Our Savior's, Pastor Lisa Kruse, contract synodically authorized minister\*  
Waterloo, Zion

## SELF-STUDY

Cedar Falls, Fredsville  
Decorah, Big Canoe & Highland, Rev. Waldemar Gies, contract interim  
Decorah, St. John's & Hauge\*  
Denver, St. John (Maxfield) & Tripoli, St. John (Crane Creek)  
Dubuque, Holy Trinity  
Dubuque, St. John's  
Dubuque, St. Matthew, Rev. Karla Wildberger, interim\*  
Eldorado, St. Peter\*  
Elkader, Bethany & Strawberry Point, Emanuel, Rev. Katherine Longtin Johnson, interim  
Garnavillo, St. Peter & Clayton, Peace  
Greene, St. Peter  
Hampton, St. Paul  
Hawkeye, Trinity\*  
Janesville, Messiah, Rev. Dave Powers, contract interim\*  
Jesup, American & La Porte City, Zion (Jubilee)  
La Porte City, American  
Leland, Our Savior & Garner, Faith (Miller)\*  
Mason City, Our Saviour's & St. Paul  
Sumner, St. John (Buck Creek) & Oran, St. Peter  
Washburn, Redeemer  
Waterloo, St. Ansgar, Rev. Erika Breddin, contract interim\*  
Waterloo, Trinity\*  
Waverly, St. Paul's, Rev. Mark Anderson, interim

## ROSTER CHANGES

Rev. Kathleen Graves, retired  
Rev. Dennis Frank, retired  
Rev. Joyce Sandberg, transferred to St. Paul Area Synod  
Rev. Irving Sandberg, transferred to St. Paul Area Synod  
Rev. Katherine Rodriguez, transferred to Western North Dakota Synod  
Rev. Kristen Corr Rod, new call as Director for Evangelical Mission, ELCA  
Rev. Vincent Fricke, deceased  
Rev. Ann Fritschel, retired, transferred from East Central Wisconsin Synod

\*Part-time Call

# PRAYER CALENDAR

AUGUST 2022						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders Rev. John W. Gannett, Mason City <b>1</b>	Rev. Bradley C. Hanson, Decorah Rev. Rebecca M. Sogge, Northwood <b>2</b>	St. Timothy Lutheran, Hudson <b>3</b>	Immanuel Lutheran, Independence <b>4</b>	Rev. Dr. Martin J. Lohrmann, Dubuque <b>5</b>	Rev. Daniel R. Christensen, Lime Springs <b>6</b>
Bethany Lutheran, Iowa Falls <b>7</b>	Rev. Charles R. Underwood, Clarksville <b>8</b>	Messiah Lutheran, Janesville <b>9</b>	American Lutheran, Jesup <b>10</b>	Rev. Brian T. Julin-McCleary, Cedar Falls Rev. Nancy Solomonson, Decorah Rev. Randy S. Nielsen, Mason City <b>11</b>	Bethesda Lutheran, Jewell <b>12</b>	Bethany Lutheran, Joice <b>13</b>
Bethany Lutheran, Kensett <b>14</b>	Rev. James F. Harbaugh, Roseville <b>15</b>	Elk Creek Lutheran, Kensett <b>16</b>	Middle East Peace Zion Lutheran (Jubilee), La Porte City <b>17</b>	American Lutheran, La Porte City <b>18</b>	Rev. Thomas C. Jones, Independence <b>19</b>	Winnebago Lutheran, Lake Mills <b>20</b>
Salem Lutheran, Lake Mills <b>21</b>	Our Savior's Lutheran, Lansing <b>22</b>	Rev. A. Dean Williams, West Des Moines <b>23</b>	Our Savior Lutheran, Leland <b>24</b>	St. Paul Lutheran, Lime Springs <b>25</b>	St. John Lutheran, Luana <b>26</b>	Bethlehem Lutheran, Manly <b>27</b>
St. Paul Lutheran, Marble Rock <b>28</b>	Rev. Sidney W. Bohls, Mason City <b>29</b>	St. James Lutheran, Mason City <b>30</b>	Trinity Lutheran, Mason City <b>31</b>			

## OBITUARY

**Rev. Vincent (Vince) Charles Fricke** passed away June 25 at Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community in Waverly at the age of 86. He was ordained on May 28, 1961. He and his spouse, Barbara, served as missionaries in Papua New Guinea. Vince also served in Milford, IA, Gilbert, IA, Janesville, IA, and several interim positions around the Northeastern Iowa Synod. He retired on July 1, 1998. A memorial service took place July 2 at St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School, Waverly.

Vince is survived by his spouse, Barbara; brother, Roger; children Randall (Carrie), Jeffery and Kristen; and grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday



Sept. 11, 2022

[WWW.ELCA.ORG/DAYOFSERVICE](http://WWW.ELCA.ORG/DAYOFSERVICE)

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**ThreeHouse Hosts the**  
**Jr. High Lock-In!**  
 (Formerly LSC)  
**October 21-22, 2022**  
**Where: UNI Wellness/Recreation Center, Cedar Falls**  
 Swimming, Rock Wall, Worship, Music, and More!  
 We can't wait to welcome you back!  
 Registration opens September 1st.  
 Stay tuned for registration forms and more info soon!  
 Questions? Email [robin@threehouse.org](mailto:robin@threehouse.org)



# Good News

July/ August  
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**

I feel so BLESSED right now! I am writing this the day after our Gathering in Nashua. We had a beautiful day! We had the perfect Churchwide board representative, Angela Bell. We had over 70 people at the gathering. We did have a few hiccups. In the end we have a new NE IA SWO President Cindy Pogge and a full slate of board members! I can't thank you all enough for volunteering to make a difference for the Women of the ELCA and your life. During these past seven years, I can't tell you all the ways you have blessed me. I heard from women at the Synod Assembly, I read your articles every time! Others want me to continue on the board. I do love what I have been doing for the Women of the ELCA and NE Iowa Synod. However, we have a constitution for a reason. Three years ago, I was making other plans when you asked me to step up as a leader. Do not worry, I'm not going to disappear. However, I do need to focus a bit more on my personal and professional life in the short-term. After that, we will see what God has in store for me and for you. You will have one more article from me in the Good News, then Cindy will take the lead and we will see where the NE IA SWO will take us next. Please know that you are loved and treasured! Even if I have not met you in person, I feel that I have gotten to know so many more of you. I want to encourage each of you, to look to the future to see what is possible and where we might go from here.

*Blessings, Anna Jetson*

## **Spring In Gathering**

May 7, 2022 was a beautiful day, and as usual, the L W R Truck was set up at Olson's Explosive in Decorah and prepared to receive donations from Upper Iowa River Cluster D, Little Flock Cluster B, and Shechem Cluster I. We also received donations from St. John - Plainfield, Old East Paint Creek - Waukon, and Old West Paint Creek - Waukon. Willing workers from Big Canoe, Glenwood, Ridgeway - Madison, Stavanger, Burr Oak, St. Peter - Garnavillo and 1st Lutheran Churches were busy loading and stacking the boxes (616 total) into the truck. Donation Totals: 1596 Quilts, 828 Personal Care Kits, 113 School Kits, 471 Baby Care Kits, 14 Fabric Kits, and 11 Blankets.

Many thanks to all who helped with the "heavy lifting", to Olson's Explosives for their continued support,

and especially to each and every individual for the countless hours spent quilting, organizing, and assembling various kits, as well as collecting blankets. We CAN make a difference....We DO make a difference.

Susan Darling, [suedarling9@yahoo.com](mailto:suedarling9@yahoo.com) and Carol Maki, [camaki44@gmail.com](mailto:camaki44@gmail.com) are replacing Sandy Gavle and Dee Wyatt as Mission Action Co-Chairpersons for Upper Iowa River Cluster D. November 9, 2022 is the next date for Lutheran World Relief In Gathering.

*Submitted by Carol Maki*

## **Discipleship Committee**

This year's Synodical Women's Organization, SWO, Gathering has come to an end but the fellowship will continue thru out our faith journey of life. We've made new friends and acquaintances in those short hours. What we learned from Bishop Kevin Jones' sermon, the Interest Sessions of Angela Bell and Friends of the Family will resonate in our minds. We will repeat what we learned, just as Jesus taught his disciples. They will go to teach others and so will we. I see God's love in the act of our WELCA ladies donating household, personal and baby items to



Friends of the Family (in-kind-gifts). They showed the kindness in their hearts for our sisters and brothers in need. And a special thank you to the ladies who volunteered to serve on the SWO board. A sacrifice of their time to serve others. It is so greatly appreciated by all of us. It was a good 2022 SWO Gathering.

*Submitted by LuAnn Brunes*

## **LSI Challenge Update**

We are over 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 16<sup>th</sup> St SW, PO Box 848, Waverly IA 50677. Please include Spiritual Life Challenge on the memo line.

## CALENDAR

- Aug 20 SWO Transitional Meeting
- Sep 10 Cluster G Gathering, Our Savior's, Osage
- Oct 1 Cluster D Fall Gathering @ Burr Oak
- Oct 8 LWR Ingathering @Immanuel, Independence
- Oct 10 LWR Ingathering @Southport Mall, Mason City
- Oct 22 Cluster B Fall Gathering, St John, Guttenberg
- Nov 1 2023 Triennial Scholarship Applications Due
- Nov 5 LWR Ingathering @Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- Apr 15 C/E/H LWR Ingathering @ Redeemer, Waverly
- Apr 17 LWR Ingathering @Southport Mall, Mason City
- June 35th Annual NE IA WELCA Gathering @ TBD
- Sept 18 2023 Triennial Convention & Gathering
- Oct 14 C/E/H LWR Ingathering @ Redeemer, Waverly
- Oct 16 LWR Ingathering @Southport Mall, Mason City

### **Justice Committee**

Have you heard of Days For Girls? There are many different reasons that can cause negative impacts on a girl or women's ability to access sanitary products which also impacts their ability to attend school or work. Days for Girls was started back in 2008 by Celeste Mergens. When she had visited an orphanage in Kenya she was shocked to learn that the girls had to manage their menstrual cycles by sitting on cardboard for days. She leapt into action and today there is a network of volunteers that together make up Days for Girls International. They created kits containing 1 bag, 2 shields, 3 liners, 2 pair of underpants, a washcloth, a small bar of soap and a carrying pouch. Like our Gathering scripture from Romans 12:5-8, *For just as each of us has one body with member and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If it is serving, then serve, if it is teaching, then teach, if it is giving, then give generously, if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.*

The Cresco, IA DFG team meets monthly the third Tuesday in the Cresco United Methodist Church from 9:30-3:30 and welcomes you to come when you can. For more information you can visit [www.daysforgirls.org](http://www.daysforgirls.org) or for the DFG in Cresco, you may contact: Gaye Pederson 563-203-0289, [gaypedersen67@gmail.com](mailto:gaypedersen67@gmail.com) or Marge Johnson 563-380-0962, [m8k12j@gmail.com](mailto:m8k12j@gmail.com)

*Submitted by Vickie Grube*

### **Stewardship Committee**

As your Synodical WELCA treasurer, I am privileged to see firsthand the giving hearts of the Northeastern Iowa Women. You have a wide range of projects and causes that you support financially, both near your communities and around the globe.

The recent June 18<sup>th</sup> Gathering is one example. The offering (as of June 22, 2022) totaled \$2,652.00. One half goes to the Churchwide Organization for WELCA. The other half goes to Lutheran Disaster Response, specifically to the "Eastern Europe Crisis Response". This money will fund both short and long term goals in helping

the refugees fleeing from Ukraine. The In-kind offering collected the same day, went to Friends of the Family in Waverly. Nikki, the representative from there had to come back on Monday to retrieve the rest of the donations that didn't fit in her van on Saturday. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!!!

On another subject, the budget for our Northeastern Iowa Synod Women includes money set aside for scholarships to those who want to attend the Triennial Gathering in Phoenix in September of 2023. These scholarships help defray the costs that come with that trip. If you have an inclination to look into going to Triennial, please apply for these funds. Deadline for the application is November 1, 2022. You can find the application on the web page @ [neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca](http://neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca). The Triennial is a wonderful opportunity to hear great speakers and music and rub shoulders with WELCA from across the country. Please consider it!

*Submitted by Nancy Poppe*

### **NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board**

#### **Anna Jetson, President**

952-240-9569, [amjetson@yahoo.com](mailto:amjetson@yahoo.com)

#### **Alice Greimann, Vice President**

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#### **JoAnn Brunsvold, Secretary**

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#### **Nancy Poppe, Treasurer**

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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](http://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!

**Save a tree and get your Star by email!** Email [webadmin@neiasynod.org](mailto:webadmin@neiasynod.org) to request the change!

# Living Faith @



Dear Faith-Shapers,

As I write this on a very warm evening, it's difficult to imagine that in only a few months we will be watching the weather channel for the amount of snowfall to expect along with the possibility of blizzard warnings. Hopefully between now and then you have the opportunity to spend time with the "littles" in your life and help them catch some faith. Those of us who makeup the Home Life Network believe that faith is caught rather than taught ... how do you demonstrate your faith so you can be observed and allow it to be caught by others?

Others, especially children, watch **you** to see how faith is done and expressed in your life ...

- ✦ Time spent reading and studying the Bible - which includes continued learning to grow our faith
- ✦ Volunteering to help at functions, for activities & events
- ✦ Helping others in whatever way they need help - whether physically, mentally, or spiritually.

Faith is an important expression of hope for something better. It is more than a wish as it includes the assurance that the Lord is working, even though we cannot see it. Faith is the anchor that keeps us secure in our awareness of God's presence. Knowing God is within and all around through all the challenges, messes, and turmoil in life - like choppy waters in high winds - God is with us providing calm beneath the surface.



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](#)



Find us on  
**Facebook**



**Fall in Iowa is a great time to spend with family doing activities that you cannot do in the heat of summer ... nor in the coldness of winter. Even though there are many activities and events on this list, just as was suggested in the last newsletter, there's nothing wrong with some relaxation/downtime! Taking time to read for 20 minutes a day - or read to someone - can be a refreshing time to relax while learning or rev up your imagination or just to read for pure enjoyment. Here are some suggestions for outside activities:**

- **Go apple picking.** There are many apple orchards to visit ... near and far away
- **Get lost in a corn maze.** Maybe only get lost if you really know your way out
- **Play a game of touch football.** You don't need a whole team but have fun
- **Plant bulbs in your garden for next spring's growing season.**
- **Collect some colorful leaves.** There may be some in your own yard 😊
- **Go on an excursion.** To the mountains, a lake, or somewhere special
- **Visit a pumpkin patch.** There are usually some fairly close to you
- **Pitch a tent in the backyard for a camping adventure.** Notice the stars
- **Visit the farmers market for vegetables now in season.**
- **Go on a scavenger hunt for acorns, pinecones, leaves, rocks, etc.**
- **Make s'mores by a backyard fire.**
- **Write down all the things and people you're thankful for.**
- **Pray for all the things and people you put on your list. Remember that when we pray, we don't have to be fancy. It doesn't matter when we pray. God just wants us to ask our questions and voice our needs ... seeking truth and wisdom and strength. No magic words. No rules to follow. Just pray. God is listening.**

**2022 Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly  
RESOLUTIONS**

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**2023 MINIMUM SALARY GUIDELINES**

*Resolution No. 2-22, Adopted with amendments*

**RESOLVED**, that the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopt the Proposed Minimum Salary Guidelines for 2023.

**Additions are underlined. Deletions are ~~struck through~~ in the text.**

4. Parenting Leave

The church places a high value on family, therefore a need for guidelines relating to maternity, adoptive and family leave are appropriate. These guidelines are offered to help congregations approach such situations in a caring manner. During any parenting leave period, supply ministers are to be paid by the congregation.

a. ~~Maternity leave~~ Parental Leave

A period of six (6) weeks leave is to be offered with full pay and benefits for each rostered parent (with the exception of car allowance). The decision regarding prenatal and postnatal time should be determined on an individual basis at the discretion of the rostered minister and the church council. ~~If both parents are in the employ of the congregation, the six weeks may be split between them. Two (2) weeks of paid adoptive or birth leave may be given to the secondary care giver.~~ Accrued vacation may also be used in conjunction with the leave. A rostered minister desiring additional leave, either prior to, or following birth or adoption, may negotiate for unpaid leave.

b. Adoptive leave

Six (6) weeks of paid adoptive leave is available to an ~~adoptive mother or an adoptive father (whoever is the primary care giver)~~ rostered parent(s), following the adoption of a child. ~~If both parents are in the employ of the congregation, the six weeks may be split between them. Two (2) weeks of paid adoptive or birth leave may be given to the secondary care giver.~~ Accrued vacation may also be used in conjunction with the leave. A rostered minister desiring additional leave, either prior to, or following birth or adoption, may negotiate for unpaid leave.

c. Family leave

- i. Congregations should be sensitive to family needs, such as ~~paternity~~ family leave or extraordinary illness of children or parents of the rostered minister and arrange proper leave time for these circumstances.
- ii. In the event of a death in his or her immediate family (to include spouse, children, parents, stepchildren, stepparents, brother, sister, grandparents, step grandparents, grandchildren, step grandchildren, mother-in-law, father-in-law, or legal guardian), a rostered minister will normally be allowed three (3) days, with pay, to attend the funeral and to deal with family affairs.
- iii. In cases where there is a special need related to circumstances, generally assumed to be the sudden death of an immediate family member, or cases requiring extensive travel, up to a total of five (5) working days may be granted in consultation with the church council. A rostered minister desiring additional leave may negotiate for unpaid leave or vacation.

**2023 NORTHEASTERN IOWA SYNOD MISSION GOALS**

*Resolution No. 3-22, Adopted*

**RESOLVED**, that the Northeastern Iowa Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America adopt the Proposed 2023 Mission Goals (synod budget).

## **A RESOLUTION ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND THE ADDICTION CRISIS**

*Resolution No. 4-22, Adopted*

**RESOLVED,** That the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly respond to the substance abuse crisis by creating a Network on Substance Abuse which will advise how our leaders and congregations can collaborate and form effective partnerships with state and local authorities and nongovernmental organizations like Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Al-Anon, the Center of Addiction and Faith, and Fellowship of Recovering Lutheran Clergy; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the Network on Substance Abuse encourages and promotes ways that Synod staff, rostered leaders and congregations can bring hope and healing to those affected by substance abuse [see the “Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships” with its Opioid Epidemic Practical Toolkit].

## **A MEMORIAL ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND THE ADDICTION CRISIS**

*Memorial No. 1-22, Adopted*

**RESOLVED,** that the Northeastern Iowa Synod in Assembly memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly to explore the formation of a churchwide task force on substance abuse and addiction that will provide information, support, educational materials, and networking for ministries dedicated to combating this crisis.

## **A MEMORIAL CALLING THE ELCA TO REDUCE ITS GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS 50% BY 2030**

*Memorial No. 2-22, Adopted*

**RESOLVED,** that the Northeastern Iowa Synod Assembly memorialize the 2022 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America that the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, across all three expressions, to “walk the talk” and set the goal of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that in partnership with ELCA colleges and universities that have carbon neutrality goals, the Churchwide Organization will create a tool to calculate the total greenhouse gas emissions from both ELCA Churchwide headquarters as well as the other expressions of the ELCA; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that ELCA Churchwide Organization will reduce its greenhouse gasses 50 percent by 2030, or sooner, by making the necessary energy efficiency improvements to buildings, reducing travel, sourcing electricity from renewable sources, incentivizing remote participation and collaboration when possible, and working on partnerships to offset emissions generated from flights and vehicles through certified sources; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the Churchwide Organization will incentivize congregations and synods in reducing their greenhouse gas emissions by creating an Energy Stewardship Loan Fund that will provide very low-interest loans to congregations and synods to invest in energy efficiency improvements, electrifying gas-powered equipment, and installing solar panels; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the Churchwide Organization will support congregations in communities of color, communities impacted by poverty, and communities that have historically borne the brunt of pollution and climate change by creating an Energy Stewardship Grant Fund that will provide grants to these congregations so they can reduce their greenhouse gas emissions by making energy efficiency improvements, electrifying gas-powered equipment, and installing solar panels; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the ELCA Churchwide Organization will provide staffing and other resources to assist congregations and synods on how to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions; and be it further

**RESOLVED,** that the ELCA Churchwide Organization will provide a report to the 2025 Churchwide Assembly and subsequent assemblies, assessing the progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and evaluating if a more aggressive greenhouse gas reduction target should be set.

# 2022 Northeastern Iowa Synod Election Results

## SYNOD COUNCIL

Vice President

**Kris Meyer**

Lay Woman:

**Deb Tidwell**

Lay man:

**David Voigts**

Minster of Word & Sacrament (3-year term):

**Rev. Matthew Agee**

Minister of Word & Sacrament (2-year term):

**Rev. Rebecca Sogge**

Young Adult:

**Natalie Koepke**

**Sawyer Loger**

**Miranda Hoey**

Person of Color or Whose Primary Language is  
not English:

**Open Nomination**

## CONSULTATION COMMITTEE

Lay Man:

**Rich Corfman**

**Paul Flint**

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Lay Woman:

**Kira Ellingson**

**Open Nomination**

**Open Nomination**

Lay Man:

**Lonnie Upton**

**Lynn Schulte**

**Gregg Ellingson**

Minister of Word & Sacrament:

**Rev. Erika Lenth**

**Rev. Peter Kowitz**

**Open Nomination**

Person of Color or Whose Primary Language is  
not English:

**Open Nomination**

## COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE

Lay Man:

**Open Nomination**

Lay Woman:

**Mandy Koch**

Male Minister of Word & Sacrament:

**Rev. Ron Roberts**