



Good News

December/
January
2022-23

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 this morning, I am wondering how many of you have had a chance to do a Thankoffering service. At our church one Sunday in November the women oversee the service and the offering, unless otherwise designated, goes to the WELCA churchwide organization. This service can happen any time of the year and is a great time to let people understand our importance in the church, society and the world. The service is on our web site, just print it, gather your women and you have a Thankoffering service.

As your board gathers this month to continue the planning of our next convention on June 17, 2023, so make sure to mark your calendars and help us make this one a huge success! In the coming weeks, information will be dispersed when we host our cluster presidents in January. Be thinking about the offices that will be becoming vacant, are you up to taking your **BOLD** step. Pray about your gifts of service and think about joining us as the leaders on your synod board. Don't forget to ask your younger women, tell them it is a great way to make a difference, and face it, some of us oldies are pretty fun to be around. Believe me when I say this was a very **bold** leap of faith for me.

As we enter this most holy season, let us be thankful for our lives, let us pray for others in need and know that the one coming, died for our sins, so we could be born anew. May you all enjoy a blessed Christmas season and may the love of Christ shine in your hearts.

*God's Blessing to you all,
Cindy Pogge*

Discipleship Committee

I hear the word of our Lord through Sunday readings at church. I love being a deacon and reading scripture to fellow church members. It makes me feel closer to our Lord. I then tell everyone I know if you can be a deacon at church to try it. It could help strengthen your faith like it has mine. You just begin to want to do more for fellow church members. Your heart opens to want to learn more.

Submitted by Linda Seely

Stewardship Committee

Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms. If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:10-11

Peter, you say it so plainly – use your gifts to serve others, God will provide the strength needed to accomplish your service, so that in all things God may be praised.

Find ways to discern your gifts and don't be afraid to step up when your service is needed. Trust in the strength that our God will provide to accomplish service to each other whether it be individually, in your congregation or in work of the synod women. Plans are being made for the Synodical Gathering in June. You can help by attending, saying yes to the various jobs that need doing and bringing in-kind and monetary gifts. This pep talk applies to everyone reading it – those new to WELCA and those who are currently serving in local congregations and the Synod Women's Board!

**To Him be the glory and the power
for ever and ever. AMEN!**

Submitted by Nancy Poppe

Introducing Donna Busch

I live in Jewell, IA. I grew up on a farm in Hamilton County, IA and still love the smell of fresh turned dirt in the spring and enjoy the hustle and bustle of the farmers as they bring in their crops. Through my working career I have generally held office and administrative positions. Currently, I work part-time in the church office at Bethesda Lutheran in Jewell where I have been “at it” for 12 years. I just experienced great sadness in my life; my husband of 47 years, who was in poor health for many years, passed away on October 27. I know that Bill is in a far better place and now is pain free, confusion free, and enjoying his time with all the saints who have also met their reward. I am learning to make my way through grief by putting one foot in front of the other and carrying on. Reminding myself each day that --- God is good, All the time. --- keeps me on track.

Welcome to the NE IA SWO Board!

Justice Committee

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. John 13:34-35

As I write this, I have just arrived home from a mission trip to the Dominican Republic with Joni and Friends, Wheels for the World. I had the privilege of delivering and adapting wheelchairs for disabled adults and children. As a team, we gave away 183 wheelchairs. The Gospel was shared with each recipient and their families and 100 people received Jesus into their hearts. I saw the above verses lived out in person. Our in-country partners showered us with love and support. We in turn were able to show love to those who came to us for help. The families that brought their loved ones to us for wheelchairs displayed such love and devotion to their disabled family members. It was amazing to see and to feel. And none of us could have shown this love if we hadn't first been loved by our Father in heaven. These trips always inspire me to come back home and continue to seek ways to show God's love and justice. *We love because He first loved us.* 1 John 4:19

Submitted by Karen Weltzin

Little Flock Gathering

33 ladies, representing 11 churches in our flock attended St. John's in Guttenberg on a BEAUTIFUL SUNNY Saturday! Lynda Akers and the ladies of St. John's welcomed us and served up morning refreshments and a soup/salad luncheon. Pastor Mike did an AMAZING job delivering devotions in the spirit of "Squeeze the Day."

His message:

Make it Extraordinary!

Squeeze all you can out of a Day!

Find a way to make a Difference!

Find Joy-Let Joy find You!

Tracy from the Resource Center shared with us the services they offer to the community of Guttenberg/Clayton county. No referral needed, they work with Shepherd of the Hills (St. Olaf) to offer guidance, fuel assistance, SHIPP counseling, shelter, food, and find an advocate to help them. They encountered 3,800 people last year and helped 2,112 households with items from the pantry. [Family Resource Center Services - Guttenberg Hospital](#)



Our Spring Gathering will be April 23, 2023 at Elgin Lutheran Church

CALENDAR

- Jan 28 SWO/Cluster Leadership Meeting, Waverly, 9 am-3 pm
- Mar 11 SWO Board Meeting, Waverly, 9 am-12 pm
- Apr 15 C/E/H LWR Ingathering @ Redeemer, Waverly
- Apr 17 LWR Ingathering @ Southport Mall, Mason City
- Apr 23 Little Flock Gathering @ Elgin
- May 6 SWO Board Meeting, Waverly, 9 am-12 pm
- June 16 SWO Board Meeting @ gathering site (TBD)
- June 17 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

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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- Check us out and give a like or post about your church's activities!