

*News from the Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization*

*<http://neiasynod.org/Women/NEIAWomen.asp>*

## *Statement of Purpose*

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.

---

## *Meet Your Board Member*

My name is Carol Anderson and I am a new board member on the SWO.

I am a member of Fredsville Lutheran church where I have been active in many different capacities. I have also served on the NEIA Synod board. I graduated from Wartburg College with a Social Work major and did volunteer work for LSS. We have had many foster children and I have been a "professional" volunteer all my married life.

I married Arlan and we moved off the farm into Dike fifteen years ago. Our son and family are on the farm; we have a daughter & family in Rapid City and a daughter and husband in Madison. We have 4 biological grandchildren and 4 from a foster son. We enjoy and love them all. I am a cancer survivor and thank God everyday that I am.

We have traveled to Australia, Nicaragua, Nova Scotia, Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Denmark and Kenya. We hope to do more traveling but in the U. S.

I am looking forward to my term on the board.

*submitted by Carol Anderson, NEIA SWO Board*

*Contact Women of the ELCA at:*  
773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730  
[www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)  
8765 W. Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631-4189



## *From Your President*

150 Women of the ELCA representing 60 of the congregations in our synod attended our three "Pep Rallies" at three different locations this past week. I want to thank the women of Our Savior's in Osage, Nazareth in Cedar Falls and St. James in Allison for doing such a great job of hosting these fall events.

Women who attended the Eighth Triennial of the Women of the ELCA shared the highlights of the convention and gathering held last July in Spokane, WA. As a synod board, we hope each woman attending went home with new information on programs ready to use that have been developed by our staff at churchwide. (Look for them on their website.)

Women from Nazareth demonstrated how they are making the new schoolbags and shared other tips for assembling the LWR kits as economically as possible. Ways of promoting the ELCA Campaign to eradicate malaria were presented and our offerings at the three rallies came to \$818! That should buy 82 mosquito nets which will protect young children in Africa who are dying at a rate of one child every 45 seconds there from malaria. Thanks to all for your generous giving.

Round table discussions gave participants the opportunity to share ideas and concerns from their home congregations. We sang joyful songs together and enjoyed the fellowship of other Lutheran women from around the synod. We hope to see even more of you next year!

*submitted by Gloria Tollefson, NEIA SWO President*

---

## *Bags for School Kits*

Did you know that you can buy large bright colored back packs for School Kits from *Oriental Trading*? The cost is reasonable, and the bags are sturdy. Check out their web site or catalog for more information.



## Need a Christmas Program?

Our Women of the ELCA website offers a multitude of program resources to help you in planning for your women's Advent programs: candlelight services, luncheons, Bible studies, or retreat. You might want to use only parts of these programs. To download your free copy go to Women of the ELCA website--Program Resources for you and your women's group.

### *Advent: A Season for All Generations*

This two part advent program can be used for groups of all sizes. Explore the biblical figures of Advent-- (Zechariah and Elizabeth, Simeon and Anna, Joseph and Mary and more). Includes narration, hymns, prayer, scripture and discussion.

### *The Colors of Christmas: A Reflection on Preparing for Christmas*

Our celebrations are often sprinkled with seasonal traditions that bring us joy and remind us of time gone by and people who have graced our lives. Do you know where or when your traditions began and the meaning behind them? This resource takes a look at some of the customs around Christmas. These resource takes a look at some of the customs of Christmas.

*submitted by Gloria Tollefson, NEIA SWO President*

---

## *This Is Your Newsletter*

We encourage you to use this newsletter to publicize upcoming events--for ex.-retreats, LWR gatherings and pick-ups. You might also tell us about fundraisers like your bazaars and dinners and other successful events. This newsletter is to be copied and put in the hands of the women in our circles/Bible study groups. Simply e-mail the information to Linda Groe. As suggested at one of the rallies, it will be placed on our website also.

*submitted by Gloria Tollefson, NEIA SWO President*

## *Devotional Helps*

Do you ever cringe when it is your turn to give devotions? Or wonder what topic to use for the program next time you are in charge? Well I have a suggestion for you. Go to [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) and click on the link on the left for Program Resources for You and Your Women's Group. I have used *Out of the Mouths of Babes* for devotions several times. It includes 21 short devotionals on a variety of topics. Now I know some of you may be like my Mother (not interested in new technology), so she just designates the task to me. That's o.k. I bet all of us have someone who is more than willing to help navigate the web if you just ask. And sometimes in the asking you get more than you bargained for. I just counted there are at least 56 free downloads available. Some are short programs, others are multiple session resources that can be used over time or as basis for a retreat. I hope to highlight a variety of them in the coming year. This is a resource that you and your unit support when you sending in your offerings to the synod and churchwide.

*submitted by Anna Jetson, NEIA SWO Board*

---

## *Upcoming Events*

Nov 12	SWO Board Mtg @ Synod Office
Jan 21	SWO Board Mtg @ Synod Office w/Cluster Co-ordinators
Jan 24	SWO Board Mtg snow date
Mar 24	SWO Board Mtg @ Synod Office
Mar 31	SWO Board Mtg snow date
May 5	SWO Board Mtg @ Wartburg
June 15	SWO Board Mtg

---

*Good News for Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene*  
Newsletter Editor, Linda Groe,  
310 7th Ave SE, Waukon, IA 52172  
563-568-3526 [groelclg@gmail.com](mailto:groelclg@gmail.com)

Articles are due the 1st of the month for the next months newsletter.

NE IA Women of the ELCA Treasurer  
Shirley Retz  
1351 207th Street  
Manchester, IA 52057  
Phone: 563-927-3824