

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

Blessed are the weary.....

Weary is more than just being tired. It is when you have hit your breaking point. You just feel empty. For most of us, this is not a constant feeling (thank goodness), but one that comes and goes with the busy-ness of our lives. Sometimes it just sneaks up from behind and other times it is like a 2 x 4 to the head. Regardless, there comes a point when we all need to recharge, refill, get a new perspective. This year's

Gathering on June 16 at Wartburg College can do just that! We will start the day at 8:15 with worship and fellowship, a little shopping, interest sessions, a great lunch, an amazing keynote speaker and I promise, a short business meeting.

Consider joining us for your re-fill of the Spirit, your re-charge of worship, and your new perspective on our service in the name of the true and risen Lord, Jesus Christ. I am looking forward to seeing all of you and finding Jesus at the center of all we do together as Women of the ELCA in Northeastern Iowa!

Blessed to be weary,
Diane Wills

Some favorites will be with us! The bookstore will be open from 10-1, and World's Windows will be joining us as well!

Mission Area: Discipleship

"There are different spiritual gifts but the same Spirit; and there are different ministries and the same Lord; and there are different activities but the same God who produces all of them in everyone. A demonstration of the Spirit is given to each person for the common good." I Cor. 12:4-7

Have you ever thought that the pastor is not the only person called to your church? In fact, the Holy Spirit has called each and every member to be a part of the community of the church, and, as

St. Paul says, has equipped each one of us with special gifts for the common good.

When we join together in our circles, at Cluster meetings or Synod Assemblies or our annual Gathering, we have the opportunity to share those gifts with others, and to learn from them. It is a joy to witness the many friendships that are renewed every year at the Gathering, and to meet and welcome newcomers to our ministry. We come away renewed and strengthened for our journey, and the church continues to grow. Join us on June 16 in Waverly! *Submitted by Jan Harbaugh*

Mission Area: Justice

EQUAL EXCHANGE: A JUSTICE ISSUE
At the 31st Annual Gathering at Wartburg College, June 16, 2018, there will be an opportunity to purchase Equal Exchange coffee, tea and chocolate. What is Equal Exchange? Equal Exchange is a cooperative; an organization based on democratic principles. As a worker cooperative it is a way that food can be traded in a way that is honest and fair, a way that empowers both farmers and consumers. The goal is not to maximize profits nor enhance the pockets of investors. Rather the goal is to bring about fair trade; farmers receive a fair portion of their time, energy and capital invested in their product and consumers receive a high-quality product.

In 1986 the Equal Exchange founders took a big risk with fairly-traded coffee from Nicaragua. After overcoming numerous obstacles, the venture was successful. Three decades later Equal Exchange remains viable, despite many challenges.

According to their website: "As consumers, we have been over-loaded with labels and certifications, while the Fair Trade movement has been watered down in favor of corporate interests. The whole food industry has continued to consolidate into the hands of just a few big players, allowing concentrated

CALENDAR

May 1	June <i>Good News</i> deadline
May 5	LWR Truck Loading, First Lutheran, Decorah
May 19	SWO Board, 9–12:30, McCoy Room, Wartburg College
May 15	Deadline for 1 st time attendee scholarship and education scholarship applications
June 1	Deadline for convention early registration
Jun. 15	SWO Board 7 p.m.–9 p.m., McCoy Room, Wartburg College
Jun. 16	31 st Annual NE IA Synod Women of the ELCA Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
June 20	Deadline for reservations for Global Health Ministries and Lutheran World Relief tour visit
July 30–31	Tour visit to Global Health Ministries and Lutheran World Relief in St. Paul
Nov. 3	LWR Truck Loading, Decorah Ingathering for C, E and H, Fredsville Lutheran, rural Cedar Falls

encourage participation from the women of your church units and clusters.

We need to focus on our future and set goals and share ideas. We are so appreciative of your feedback! You are our strength. You are not only a caretaker of your family but also of God's family as we are all sisters in Christ and share a bond of faith!

If your church unit is not sending a delegate, alternate, or guest, your unit may want to consider mailing an offering to our treasurer, Bev Sheridan, in support of our SWO Convention. Half of the offering is designated to the LSI \$5,000 Spirituality Challenge and the other half goes to Churchwide. We hope to meet LSI's challenge as it will be ending soon. We appreciate your support of our mission.

I encourage those planning to attend the convention to bring bars of soap or rolled bandages in support of our tour visit to Global Health Ministries & Lutheran World Relief in July. You may also want to consider joining us for this overnight trip. More info will be available at the convention or you can contact Diane Wills with your questions.

Convention Reminders: 1st time attendee scholarship applications for convention are due by May 15. Also, if your unit has a motion/resolution that they wish to submit for our event the due date is May 15.

May God bless you on your faith journey,
Submitted by Della Benson

[Tour visit to Global Health Ministries & Lutheran World Relief in July. Cost \\$125/person includes hotel. Optional Twins baseball game Monday night is \\$25](#)

power and deception of choice.”

Purchasing a bag of Equal Exchange coffee, tea or chocolate is an act of justice. As you savor your morning cup, or delight in that chocolate bar, know that the farmer who planted, weeded, picked, bagged and shipped your purchase was given a fair wage. By receiving a fair wage for his/her labor justice has been served. Contact Equal Exchange at shop.equalexchange.coop and 1-774-776-7366. *Submitted by pastor Jane A Granzow, retired.*

Mission Area: Stewardship

June 2018 – Celebrating 31 years of the Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)

In faith we rely on God to guide us; but we also rely on you for your interest, support, and attendance. We are excited and look forward to sharing our event with you on Saturday, June 16! Please remember to pray for those who attend and

NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Diane Wills, President

641-425-8628 wills.dianes@gmail.com

Cindy Pogge, Vice President

515-571-2827 cpogge1233@gmail.com

Anna Jetson, Secretary

952-240-9569 amjetson@yahoo.com

Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer

563-382-9025 sherida701@gmail.com

701 Serenity Drive
Decorah, IA 52101

Good News

Editor Jan Harbaugh

112 W. Wilbur St., Hawkeye, IA 52147

563-412-8906 jan.harbaugh@gmail.com

Articles are due the 1st of the month for the next month's newsletter (e.g. April 1 for May issue). Please put WELCA in your subject line. (You can also send paper copies by "snail" mail.)

Contact Women of the ELCA at:

773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>

8765 W. Higgins Road

Chicago, IL 60631-4189

NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA