

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 wanted to take leave of writing an article for this month and rather share with you parts of a blog written by Jody Smiley, former vice president of the CW Women of the ELCA. It is entitled “How Do You Feel When You Dance Outside Your Comfort Zone?” You can find the article in total at

www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/post/how-do-you-feel-when-you-dance-outside-your-comfort-zone Jody

writes:

“We all have our comfort zones. These are situations where we feel safe and have little fear of failure. For example, I am comfortable working on expensive scientific equipment, helping my husband install a garage door, leading a Bible study, delivering a sermon or even writing a blog now and then. Our comfort zones don’t form overnight. They are a combination of gaining experience and recognizing and developing some of the gifts God has given us. Occasionally we are asked to step outside our comfort zones. This is what I am facing this year. My son is going to be married in December. The upcoming event will require me to shop for a “fancy dress and shoes.”

If you know me, you know that shopping—especially dress and shoe shopping—is about as much fun for me as going to the dentist, but that’s not the worst of it! I have to learn to dance. This is not even close to my comfort zone. I tell myself that it is just a lack of experience, but I think it may have more to do with the fact that when I complete my spiritual gifts assessment, I literally score close to zero in the musical categories. My son and his fiancée are special to me, and I would do anything in the world for them.

God has a way of asking us to step (and maybe even dance) outside our comfort zones. God has given us all gifts that we need to tap into. But, we need to stretch those comfort zones. And Women of the ELCA is a faithful community that is there to support you. Imagine if you invited a woman that hasn’t attended your congregational unit’s Bible study to come with you. What if you asked the young women in your congregation for ideas of new ministries in the coming year?

Is staying inside your comfort zone keeping you from answering God’s call?”

Come and Answer God's Call!

Diane Wills

FOUND

a pair of glasses with neck chain in name tag box after the gathering. Please call or email Diane Wills for their return.

Stewardship Committee

Katie’s Fund ([from WELCA website](#))

Katie’s Fund is an endowment that supports ministry in three areas: leadership development, global connections, and living theology. Katie’s Fund is now more than \$1 million. Women of the ELCA established Katie’s Fund in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, raise up bold leaders for the churchwide women’s organization, and support bold and creative ministry for generations to come.

Last fall, your churchwide board approved an exciting new initiative—The All Anew Campaign for Katie’s Fund—with the goal of *tripling* our endowed Katie’s Fund by the 2020 Triennial Convention and Gathering. That means tripling the life-changing ministry that Katie’s Fund can make possible!

The total goal of The All Anew Campaign for Katie’s Fund is to grow the fund from its current total of about \$1.5 million to \$4.5 million by July 2020. Your elected board members and other dedicated women from throughout the church are forming a leadership circle—Katie’s Sisters—to get The All Anew Campaign off to a rousing start, with a goal of raising \$1 million in gifts and commitments.

Although this sounds like a tremendous undertaking, if each congregational unit would commit to giving \$100 a year for 3 years to Katie’s Fund we would meet our goal. Checks can be made out to Katie’s Fund—All Anew Campaign. You can send directly to churchwide by using Form B and sending to the Merrifield, Virginia address or send to your WELCA Synod Treasurer and use Form A.

Thank you for continuing to support Katie’s Fund.
Submitted by Beverly Sheridan, NEIA SWO treasurer

Justice Committee

While surfing the Internet, I came across the website “[Justice for Girls](#).” It’s a Canadian nonprofit organization and registered charity that promotes health and well being, social justice, equality and freedom from violence for teen age girls

CALENDAR

Oct. 1	Deadline for Nov. <i>Good News</i>
Oct. 20	Living Waters Cluster G Gathering, Rock Creek Church, Osage, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
Oct. 27	Little Flock Cluster B Fall Fling, St. Paul LC, Volga, 9 a.m. thru lunch.
Nov. 1	Deadline for Dec. <i>Good News</i>
Nov. 3	LWR Truck Loading, Olson's Explosives, Decorah, 7:30–10:30 a.m. Ingathering for C, E and H, Fredsville Lutheran, rural Cedar Falls, 8:30–11:00 a.m.
Nov. 3	SWO Board Meeting at Synod Office 9–12:30 (Nov. 10 snow date)
Nov. 6	Cluster G Living Waters LWR Ingathering, Southport Mall, Mason City, 9am-11am
Dec. 1	Deadline for January <i>Good News</i>
2019	
Jan. 12	SWO Board meeting with Cluster Leaders at Synod Office, 9–3 (Jan. 19 snow date)
Mar. 9	SWO Board meeting at Synod Office 9–12:30 (Mar. 16 snow date)
Apr. 13	LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver
May 18	SWO Board meeting at Wartburg College 9–12:30
June 21	SWO Board meeting at Wartburg College, 7–9 p.m.
June 22	32 nd Annual NE IA Women of the ELCA Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
Nov. 9	LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver

who live in poverty. Since only 77% of all girls globally complete secondary education, this organization works to increase awareness and help as many of those girls as possible.

The World Bank, which measures economics, has determined that nations whose girls do not complete secondary education lose 15 to 30 trillion dollars annually. When girls graduate from secondary school, they earn twice as much income than those who don't graduate from secondary education. Not only do they earn twice as much, but it also leads to ending child marriage, decreases fertility rates, and increases knowledge of STD's, decreases risk of domestic abuse and decreases malnutrition for children.

To help support this organization, the girls themselves help to sell everything from dresses,

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swimsuits, jeans, t-shirts to shoes, backpacks, phone covers, and head phones. They are mainly sold on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Give this website a try and find out more interesting facts. *Blessings, Jane Godson*

Discipleship Committee

A couple of reminders: to find a drop-off location for kits and quilts, go to this site: <https://lwr.org/ingatherings>. To give to LWR, <https://lwr.org/ways-to-give-2018>. For quilts and kits, <https://lwr.org/get-involved/quilts> and <https://lwr.org/get-involved/build-kits-of-care>

Global Health Ministries accepts unused supplies from hospitals. These can be shipped abroad or "bartered" for other equipment or cash. See <https://www.ghm.org/donate-supplies> for more information.

Meet Your New Board Members

My name is Bonnie Dralle. I was elected to the W-ELCA Synodical Board at the June Gathering. I serve as president of St. James Lutheran W-ELCA in Allison, Iowa. Some of the things I have served on at St. James are Luther League Advisor with my husband LeRoy for 10 years, taught Sunday School in about every age group for 43 years. I have been the treasurer or president in W-ELCA for over 35 years and also served one term on the Church Council. I enjoy singing in the church choir and being on Altar Guild.

When I retired as Business Manager of the Allison-Bristow School District after 28 years, I became the secretary of St. James in 1998 to take care of my husband. I quit in 2017 after 19 years. I have two children, Kelly and James, also 3 grandsons, 1 granddaughter and 2 great granddaughters.

I am looking forward to serving all of you as a board member.

Around the Synod

God speaking.... Are you listening?

Little Flock Cluster Fall Fling Ellen Friedrich, former missionary to Madagascar, (Young Adults in Global Mission) will be speaking about this huge island off the southeast of Africa at St. Paul LC, Volga, Oct. 27.

Good News

Editor Jan Harbaugh

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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.)

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neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA