

Northeastern Iowa Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

# On Earth as in Heaven:

## The Holy Spirit at Work In, Around, and Through Us



By Bishop Kevin Jones

Question: Is the Lord's prayer a list of individual petitions, or is it a unified prayer asking for one thing?

I have long believed that it is the latter. When we pray, 'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven,' I hear the remaining petitions describing what the reign of God looks like here on earth:

God's kingdom here on earth is a place where everyone has enough for their daily needs. It is a community in which forgiveness from God and forgiveness for others is recognized, valued, proclaimed, and shared. It is a way of living in which we are aware of God's saving presence even in the midst of temptations and the presence of evil.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer in worship, at meetings, or at home in our personal devotions, do we ever think about the ways the Holy Spirit is at work to answer this prayer in us, around us, and through us?

This will be the focus of the Northeastern Iowa Synod Council this year leading up to the 2027 Synod Assembly. At each of our meetings we will dwell in the Word, reflecting on the kingdom of heaven that Jesus assures us, "has come near". We will explore the ways that the Holy Spirit is making that nearness a reality by working in us, around us, and through us individually and in our Northeastern Iowa congregations.

In what ways is the Holy Spirit at work in you and in your congregation right now? How are you being blessed, enlivened, challenged, and healed?

Can you name where the Holy Spirit is at work in the wider community in which you live? What other people, groups, or organizations care for those at the margins and meeting the needs of all people? How is community being built and strengthened where you live?

Identifying the ways the Holy Spirit is at work in us and around us can easily lead to understanding how the Spirit is at work through us. How are you and/or your congregation being called to connect gifts and passions to opportunities in which we bear God's creative and redeeming Word to all the world?

I invite you to join us on this meditation journey. Share your stories of God at work on social media with the hashtag #HolySpiritInAroundThrough to see how this prayer is being answered in NE Iowa.



## Connected in Christ, Growing Leaders for God's World

By Rev. Jennifer Thomas

The Northeastern Iowa Synod makes Christ known by strengthening the witness and service of the whole church. Synod ministries support and develop leaders, focus on mission, and network the effective ministries of our congregations.

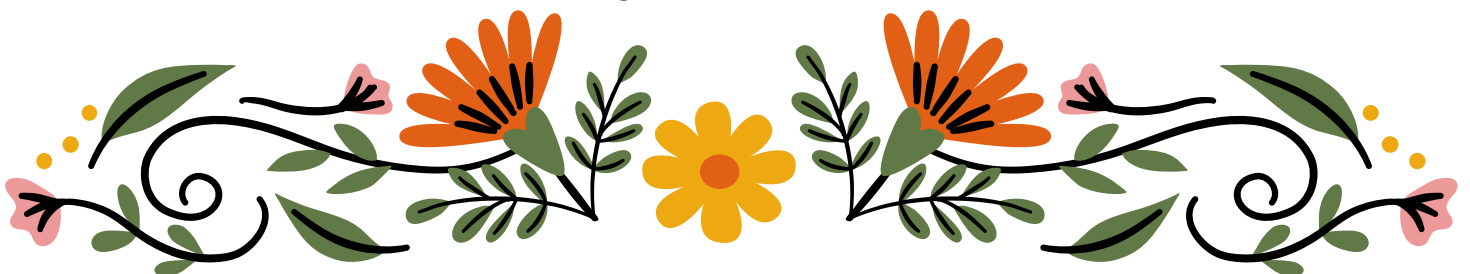
Through our Care for Creation, Global Church Together, and Racial Justice networks, congregations learn from one another, deepen their faith, and engage God's mission in their communities. These networks help congregations connect gospel values with real-world action—caring for God's creation, building relationships across cultures and borders, and seeking justice and reconciliation for all God's people.

The impact extends far beyond individual ministries. As people participate in these networks, they discover and develop gifts for leadership. Lay leaders gain confidence and skills to serve their congregations more effectively. Others begin to discern a call to rostered ministry, exploring seminary education and pathways to become pastors and deacons.

This is what synod ministry makes possible: congregations strengthened through shared learning, leaders equipped for faithful service, and new generations raised up to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ.

Your support helps sustain these connections and opportunities. Together, we are cultivating leaders, strengthening congregations, and partnering in God's work for the sake of our neighbors, our communities, and the world. Thank you for making this ministry possible.

You're welcome to get involved in the ministry networks of the synod.  
Please contact me: [thomasj@neiasynod.org](mailto:thomasj@neiasynod.org)



# Postville Fire Response

## Resources & Information from the Synod

### Letter from Bishop Kevin

It was over a week ago that we awoke to the news of the fire at AgriStar processors in Postville. Since that time many of you have reached out wondering how you and your congregation can help our neighbors and siblings in Christ. On Monday, August 3, I met with Pr. Lynn Noel of St. Paul Lutheran in Postville, Pr. Daryl Schultz of Zion Lutheran, Castalia, and several community care coordinators to learn how we can accompany them in the days and months ahead. We are keenly aware of the impact this will have, not only on those who are now unemployed, but on the business owners, school system, local beef and chicken producers, truck drivers, congregations, and more. The community care coordinators informed us of work other organizations are doing and asked that we help in the following ways:

The Northeastern Iowa Synod will collect a monetary offering that will be used to provide food, hygiene products, household supplies, rent and utility assistance, and other goods and services as directed by congregational and community care coordinators. This allows the local care team to determine what is most needed and when. 100% of the money received will go directly to those affected by this disaster.

The Northeastern Iowa Synod is connecting the care team in Postville with Lutheran Disaster Response. LDR has offered to meet with leaders in the Postville area to discern how LDR can provide assistance that will work best in that community.

LDR brings expertise in grant funding, emotional care, spiritual care, and stress response programs, care for the caregivers, and training in these programs.

A list of immediate need items was shared with ELCA congregations in the Shepherd of the Hills and Upper Iowa River Conferences. Each congregation will coordinate delivery to Postville. We were requested to limit this ask to nearby congregations as there is limited storage space to collect these items.

Thank you for the prayers you have included in worship and for those you will lift up in the weeks ahead. Our neighbors in Postville are resilient, strong, and are providing incredible care and assistance to a very diverse community. Thank you for supporting them in this time of need.

### How to Stay Informed

To help you stay informed with the most current information on how you can help, we have created a landing spot on the front page of the synod website. This spot will house important communications, bulletins, and how to give. We also invite you to follow us on Facebook, or sign up for our weekly e-news for information as it becomes available.

**Website:** <https://www.neiasynod.org/>

**Facebook:** [Northeastern Iowa Synod, ELCA](#)

**Weekly E-News:** [Sign Up Here](#) or visit:  
<https://www.neiasynod.org>

## NEIA Synod Energy Reduction Grant

ELCA congregations in the Northeastern Iowa Synod are eligible to receive Energy Reduction Grants to help pay for materials and installation of a variety of energy saving projects including renewable energy sources (wind/solar) and upgrades to lighting, appliances, HVAC, windows, and doors.

In response to a resolution passed at the 2023 Synod Assembly calling for the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, the Synod office in Waverly was tasked to “further conserve energy (e.g., by installing energy efficient HVAC and lighting systems)” and “to utilize renewable energy resources (e.g., by installing solar panels). The HVAC system was upgraded in 2020 and in 2025 new LED lighting and energy efficient doors and windows were installed. This was all paid for by savings in a depreciation account that was established over 30 years ago. Due to relatively low energy use at the Synod office and Waverly utility regulations, it was determined that we could make a larger impact by helping congregations reduce their purchased energy consumption.

Earlier this year, the Synod Council approved disbursing up to \$80,000 in Energy Reduction Grants from this depreciation account to congregations taking steps to reduce their energy consumption and utility costs. Qualified projects are eligible for up to \$10,000 in matching fund assistance (smaller grants can be requested). Grants can also be applied to recently completed projects if the total amount of the project has not been raised. Application deadlines will be September 1st and March 1st every year until all the funds have been disbursed.

For more information see the Energy Reduction Grant policy and ERG application at the Northeastern Iowa Synod website.

## Lay Training Retreat



The Lay Training Retreat will take place on Saturday, September 5 at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Iowa, from 9:30am to 4:00pm.

This retreat will focus on a new guidebook called “An Everyday God for an Everyday Church and Everyday People,” which can be utilized to help congregation members feel better equipped to talk about how they live out their faith in their daily lives. Participants from the Lay Ministry Training Programs in Northeastern Iowa, Southeastern Iowa, Western Iowa, and South Central Synod of Wisconsin will experience the sessions and activities in the guidebook and learn how to lead them in their congregations. This retreat will also include contemplative spiritual practices led by the Being New Spirituality Center, which is hosted at Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines.

**The cost of the retreat will be \$25.**

There will not be any Friday evening programming, although participants are welcome to drive to Des Moines on Friday afternoon/evening and stay in a hotel. There is not a hotel block, but we recommend [AmericInn Johnston on Merle Hay Road.](#)



## The Fall Theological Conference



Rostered leaders, SAMs, CLAMs, and ministry partners across Northeastern Iowa are invited to gather for the 2026 Fall Theological Conference, held October 4–6, 2026, in Cedar Falls at St. John's Lutheran Church. This year's conference centers on the theme "Bridges and Tables," inviting us to explore how God forms community through story, relationship, and shared life—especially across difference.

Mark your calendar and plan to join us this fall in Cedar Falls as we gather to learn, worship, and practice building community together. Registration is open on our website or by clicking [here](#).

## Region 5 Boundaries Education

REGION 5  
COLLABORATIVE  
**Boundaries  
Education**

Thursday, November 5

The synods of Region 5 (the synods in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan) are collaborating to present annual boundaries education for active rostered ministers and SAMs. The purpose of this collaboration is, in part, to show a shared commitment to boundaries education across the region, to create and sustain professional ministry leadership in our synods, for safety in our communities of faith, and to pool our resources to offer high-quality educational events.

## Boundaries Education Continued...

The collaborative boundaries education follows a three-year cycle covering Professional Boundaries, Gender Justice, and Racial Justice. This year's focus is Racial Justice.

Participants are expected to be present for the entire event and to engage with the material presented as fully as they are able.

Participants may attend the training at a site outside of their home synod, if desired due to proximity or other reasons. Please register with your HOME SYNOD, who will then contact the synod where you will be attending.

### Our Instructor

We are thrilled to welcome Rhonda Hill as our facilitator. Rhonda Hill is the Founder and Executive Director of Race & Faith, where she equips leaders and communities to engage race, identity, and justice through theological reflection, racial identity development, and embodied spiritual practice. She is the creator of the Race & Faith Quadrants which guides learners toward courageous, embodied, anti-racist discipleship rooted in the Imago Dei. Rhonda teaches nationally on anti-racism, restorative leadership, and faith-based community transformation. Her presentation, "The Stories We Tell," will serve as the guiding framework for our time together. The day will include a live opening session with Rhonda Hill, followed by pre-recorded video sessions for the remainder of the workshop.

Register is open on our website or clicking [here](#).

# Gathering Expedition

**Friday October 30 (6:00 pm) to Sunday November 1 (10:30 am), 2026 at Ewalu.**

Gathering Expedition is a weekend retreat where youth and their adult leaders step away from the noise to explore faith, purpose, and leadership. It's a time to pause, listen, and prepare for what God is doing next.

Young people are invited to discover their voice and practice leading alongside others. Through worship, service and shared learning, they will grow skills and confidence to live their faith boldly in daily life. This retreat will also serve as a stepping stone on the faith formation journey—building connection and momentum before the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering, where the shared experience peaks in a powerful churchwide celebration of faith.

Together we will learn from Lyle Griner (Relational Leadership Collaborative), Chaplain Maggie Falenschek (Wartburg College), Pastor Melissa Bills (Luther College), Bishop Kevin Jones (Northeastern Iowa Synod), and more! We invite youth to bring Halloween costumes for a dance and hayride on Saturday. There will also be time for adult leaders to ask Gathering questions and get help with registration.

Adults who are not bringing youth are invited to join us for "How to Empower Youth Leadership" with Lyle Griner on Saturday, 2:15–4:00pm. The cost is \$20 to attend. This workshop is included for adults attending the Expedition.

**In addition**, this year Augustana University will be bringing a mobile recording studio (The God Pod) made possible through their Sacred Discoveries Initiative. This initiative is supported through a 5-year Lilly grant that was awarded to Augustana University in January 2026. The intent is to gather stories from youth on how God is showing up in their lives. Learn more about The God Pod and Sacred Discoveries at <https://ausacreddiscoveries.org/>.

Register [here](#). You can also go to the events page on the Northeastern Iowa Synod website.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## August 2026

- **August 13, 2026** –Global Church Together Network
  - Zoom @ 1:30 p.m.
- **August 13, 2026** – Racial Justice Advocacy Network
  - Zoom @ 3:00 p.m.
- **August 17, 2026** – The Gathering Webinar: What is Serve?
  - Zoom @ 7:00 p.m.
- **August 18, 2026** – Substance Abuse Network
  - Zoom @ 1:30 p.m.
- **August 18, 2026** – Hunger Network
  - Zoom @ 2:30 p.m.
- **August 20, 2026** – Youth Ministry Consultants: Supporting Youth Mental Health Webinar
  - Zoom @ 11:00 a.m. [Register Here](https://youthministryconsultants.regfox.com/support-youth-mental-health) or <https://youthministryconsultants.regfox.com/support-youth-mental-health>



## September 2026

- **September 10, 2026** –Global Church Together Network
  - Zoom @ 1:30 p.m.
- **September 10, 2026** – Racial Justice Advocacy Network
  - Zoom @ 3:00 p.m.

## October 2026

- **October 4–6, 2026** –Fall Theological Conference
  - St. John's Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
- **October 8, 2026** –Global Church Together Network
  - Zoom @ 1:30 p.m.
- **October 8, 2026** – Racial Justice Advocacy Network
  - Zoom @ 3:00 p.m.
- **October 30–November 1** – Gathering Expedition
  - Camp Ewalu – Strawberry Point

## November 2026

- **November 12, 2026** –Global Church Together Network
  - Zoom @ 1:30 p.m.
- **November 12, 2026** – Racial Justice Advocacy Network
  - Zoom @ 3:00 p.m.

# Congregations

## Interviewing:

- Allison, St. James
- Arlington, St. John; Elkader, Hope (Littleport); Strawberry Point, St. Sebald; Volga, St. Paul (One in Faith Lutheran Parish)
- Cedar Falls, St. John's (staff)
- Clarion, First & Congregational UCC
- Decorah, Glenwood & Canoe Ridge
- Dows, First (part-time call)
- Dysart, Zion
- Garnavillo, St. Paul & McGregor, First – Rev David Tielbar, interim
- Janesville, Messiah (part-time call)
- Jesup, American, Rev. Susan Friedrich, interim
- Joice, Bethany; Lake Mills, Winnebago; Northwood, Silver Lake; Albert Lea, Minn., Lunder (One in Christ Lutheran Parish)
- La Porte City, Zion (Jubilee)
- Lake Mills, Salem
- Leland, Our Savior & Garner, Faith (Miller) (part-time call)
- Mason City, Our Saviour's & St. Paul (part-time call)
- New Hampton, Trinity
- Roland, Bergen
- Sheffield, Zion St. John
- Thornton, St. Paul (part-time call)
- Toeterville, St. Peter & Carpenter, Deer Creek
- Waterloo, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd (part-time call)
- Waterloo, Zion & Cedar Falls NewAldaya Lifescapes (full-time)

## Self-Study:

- Charles City, St. John
- Decorah, St. John's & Hauge (part-time call)
- Dubuque, St. John's
- Hawkeye, Trinity (part-time call)
- Oelwein, Zion
- Washburn, Redeemer (part-time call)
- Waterloo, St. Ansgar (part-time call)
- Waterloo, Trinity (part-time call)
- Waukon, St. John, Rev. Mark Oehlert, interim

## Roster Changes:

- Rev. Russell Leeper, retired
- Rev. Rodney Bluml, transferred from Southeastern Iowa
- Rev. Ronald Poe, transferred from Central / Southern Illinois
- Rev. Steven Ullestad, deceased

## Installations:

- August 2 – Rev. Rodney Bluml, Lord of Life, Asbury
- August 9– Rev. Ron Poe, Bethlehem, Cedar Falls
- August 30– Rev. Beth Hurt, St. Peter, Eldorado & Ossian, Ossian
- Pending – Rev. Jonathon Dolan, Jewell, Bethesda



**Northeastern Iowa Synod**

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



# Prayers

Please join in praying for the following leaders and ministries of the Northeastern Iowa Synod and ELCA:

## July 1–7, 2026

- H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders
- Rev. Gregory Friedrich
- Rev. Joelle Colville-Hanson
- Rev. Jerry Laehn
- Rev. Audrey Lukasak
- Rev. Wayne Hagen
- Rev. Alan Wicks
- Rev. Lance Kittleson
- Rev. Kim Smith
- Lutheran Retirement Home, Northwood
- Gerry Lee

## July 8–14, 2026

- Rev. Charis Combs-Lay
- Rev. Linda Prestholt
- Rev. Patricia Mohr-Kelly
- Rev. John D. Sorenson
- Lutheran Lakeside Camp, Spirit Lake
- Ingham/Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, Milford
- Rev. John H. Sorenson
- Rev. Isaiah Stansbery

## July 15–21, 2026

- Middle East Peace
- Judy Reiter
- Rev. Matthew Muters
- University of Iowa Campus Ministry, Iowa City
- Iowa State University Campus Ministry, Ames
- Threehouse Colaborative Campus Ministry, Cedar Falls
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls

## July 22–31, 2026

- St. John American Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
- Rev. Jason Davis
- St. John Lutheran Church, Charles City
- Rev. Jeremy Wolfe
- Messiah Lutheran Church, Charles City
- Rev. Susan Friedrich
- First Lutheran Church, Clarion
- St. John Lutheran Church, Clarksville
- Rev. Jennifer Thomas
- Galilean Lutheran Church, Clear Lake

## August 1–7, 2026

- H. George Anderson Fund for Leaders
- Rev. Jack Gannett
- Rev. Brad Hanson
- Rev. Becky Sogge
- Riverside Bible Camp, Story City
- Rev. Martin Lohrmann
- Rev. Dan Christensen
- Rev. Ann Fritschel

## August 8–14, 2026

- Rev. Charlie Underwood
- Rev. Randy Nielsen
- Rev. Brian Julin-McCleary
- Rev. Nancy Solomonson
- Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL
- Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, OH
- Rev. Jared McLey

## August 15–21, 2026

- Middle East Peace
- Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque
- East Clermont Lutheran Church, Clermont
- Rev. Daryl Schultz
- West Clermont Lutheran Church, Clermont
- Rev. Tom Jones
- First Lutheran Church, Cresco
- Rev. David Severtson

## August 22–31, 2026

- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Cresco
- Rev. Dean Williams
- Canoe Ridge Lutheran Church, Decorah
- Glenwood Lutheran Church, Decorah
- Mallory Jensen
- Highland Lutheran Church, Decorah
- Hauge Lutheran Church, Decorah
- Rev. Sid Bohls
- St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Decorah
- Washington Prairie Lutheran Church, Decorah



*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.*

## President's Sparks

The 37th Convention is in the books. We have a new Board, but there is plenty of room for more voices. We have 3 vacant board seats and we still **need** a Vice President. I am more than happy to appoint people. The 1st Board Meeting is set for August 22 @ the Synod office in Waverly, 9 am. Walk-ins are welcome.



I look forward to seeing all the people at the Triennial gathering in Des Moines July 16-19. Make note of the All-Iowa Luncheon for Gathering participants, freewill offering, @ Buzzard Billy's on Thursday, July 16, 11 am-1 pm. You do need to RSVP to me ASAP! Come and get a gift and things to give away! I am still looking for a list of people going to the Triennial gathering. We have not been given a list of those attending but we would love to connect with you. Share your name with us! If you are attending the Des Moines event, we would like to build a network to help with hotel room and carpooling.



*Christine Schmitt*

## Gathering/ Convention Highlights

We gathered on Saturday, June 20 @ Our Saviour's in Mason City for our 37<sup>th</sup> annual gathering. The ladies of Our Saviour's did an awesome job of providing us with coffee, morning treats and a beautiful luncheon.



And it was a special treat to have their bell choir play for worship!



Thank you Karen Weltzin for playing piano!



Christine and Anna did a good job of keeping the business meeting on time.



We were also treated to 4 learning sessions. Chris VanDeventer led us in creating our own prayer



journals and then a second session on how to use them. It was lots of fun to do a hands-on project and take it home and use it!





Due to a mix up, Beacon Lights was unable to join us, but Mike Knipp from LSI did a wonderful job filling in at the last minute! Jesse from Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless did an amazing presentation about his work at the local homeless shelters in Mason City. Check out this website for more information on how you can help! [Northern Lights Alliance for the Homeless Shelters](#)



We said thank you to five ladies who will be leaving the board after the August meeting. Alice Greimann, Carolyn Loftass, Nancy Poppe, Karen Weltzin and JoAnn

Brunsvold served with great perseverance during the COVID years!

Newly elected to the board are Chris VanDeventer, Darlene Emery, Mary Wemark, Becky Pahl, Janice Nelson and Christine Schmitt. Not pictured, Christina Koth.



Our monetary gifts were \$1700.00, and we collected over 10 boxes of in-kind gifts for Northern Lights Alliance of Homeless Shelters.



Thank you to our board and Our Saviour's for a wonderful, relaxing and fellowship-filled day!!!



Check out our FB page for more pictures and videos!



NE IA Women of the ELCA- Check us out and give a like or post about your church's activities!

## CALENDAR

Jul 13-14 \*Triennial Convention by Zoom

Jul 16-19 \*Triennial Gathering, Des Moines

Jul 16 \*All Iowa Luncheon, Buzzard Billy's, DM

Aug 22 \*SWO Transitional Meeting-Waverly

Sep 26 \*Cluster D Gathering, Springfield, Decorah

Oct 10 \*LWR ingathering Nazareth Lutheran, Cedar Falls

Oct 17 \*Fall Field Trip, Black Hawk County

Nov 7 \*LWR In-Gathering @ Olson's Explosives, Decorah

## NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

### Christine Schmitt, President

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### Alice Greimann, Vice President

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### Chris VanDeventer, Secretary

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### Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA:

[neiasynod.org/women-of-the -ELCA-](http://neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA-)





August 2026

*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.*

### President's Sparks

Well lots of exciting things happened this last month. The Triennial in Des Moines was a new adventure for me and my daughter. We had about 80 people attend the Iowa lunch at Buzzard Billy's with a free will offering. We had some extra that went to Dorothy House.

There is a low price, just \$295, to register for the next Triennial, July 12-15, 2029, located in Louisville KY. This price is available until Sept 1st and is transferable to someone else (even from a different synod) if you are unable to attend. Sign up for the 2029 Gathering (registrations will start again July 12, 2028)

### [Pre-Register for the 2029 Triennial Gathering](#)

We have a new Board, but there is plenty of room for more voices. We have 3 vacant board seats and we still **need** a Vice President. I am more than happy to appoint people. The 1st Board Meeting is set for 9 am August 22 @ the Synod office in Waverly. Questions? Let me know. On to exciting new things, come and join us!

*Blessings and Peace*  
*Christine Schmitt*

### Triennial Highlights

The 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial, held July 16-19 in Des Moines, was a busy, fun-filled long weekend! Our theme was "I am Worthy", based on Psalm 139:14, *I am fearfully and wonderfully made*. Over 1000 women



from all over our country and the world gathered to celebrate, learn and worship. Thursday began with opening worship with an energizing

message from SE IA Bishop Amy Current, lots of great music and of course communion. Friday's highlights included two Bible studies from Pastor Sara Olson-Smith, a frequent Bible study author for Gather

Magazine. She reminded us that God determines our worth, not this world. She also gave us a new perspective on the story of Eve and a reminder that we should not "flatten" a person's story to change a narrative in our favor. Go here to learn more: [the danger of a single story ted talk - Search](#)



The rest of Friday was spent learning in the interactive center, shopping in the exhibit hall and more in depth learning in workshop sessions.

Saturday started with the Run, Walk and Roll. Even though the temperatures were already in the 80's, a good time was had by all. The morning Bible study by Pastor Sara was completed with the story of Zaccheus. She reminded us that we live in community, Ubuntu, a word that Desmond Tutu reminded us of @ the St Louis National Youth Gathering. Because Jesus SAW Zaccheus, he gave him



a new story, a chance to restore and re-story his life. After more keynotes, we spent the afternoon in workshop sessions. Some of us even got to make



our own earrings from art crafted by Ryan, a young man

who helped tell the story of Mosaic. Learn more about their ministry here: [Home - Mosaic](#)

We also want to share some of the huge impacts of our Gathering:

Participants Registered: 1078

Exhibitors and Vendors: 50

Sponsors: 13

In Kind Gifts: Over \$16,000 in gift cards and personal care items for the Food Bank of Iowa, DMARC Food Bank, and Dorothy House

Silent Auction Proceeds: Women of the ELCA, over \$7,000



Vintage Store Proceeds: Women of the ELCA, over \$7,000

Raising up Healthy Women and Girls: Over \$8,000

### Triennial Gathering Offering: over \$42,000

You can still give to the Offering until September 1<sup>st</sup>

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/triennial-gathering-offering>

25% Lutheran World Relief

25% DMARC Food Bank

50% Women of the ELCA

### Discipleship Committee

*Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

Mark 11:24

The use of prayer is a direct way to communicate with God, aligning our desires with His will and trusting in His timing and power.

This summer one of the group sessions at the NEIA SWO gathering was "How to Make Prayer Journals and Use Them" led by Chris VanDeventer. Has anyone started writing in theirs? Has anyone shown other women/men in their church how to make them?

Here is another good idea for how to divide out your journal into categories. Be sure to go back monthly and look to see if any of your prayers have been answered, maybe highlight these to keep track.

1. Prayers for Yourself
2. Prayers for Others
3. Prayers for Family & Friends
4. Scripture that Speaks to Me

The fourth section of your journal can be reserved for Bible verses that speak to you as you read your Bible. Compare your chosen verse to different versions of the Bible and write them down. Circle, underline or highlight the differences between the two, adding notes on how they speak to you. Maybe there is a history behind the verse, use your commentary or computer to research. Did the verse bring up questions you need to get answers for later? Write them down.

There are so many ways you can personalize your Prayer Journal and make it work for you. We hope this project stimulates your group and helps bind you as Women of the ELCA.

*Becky Pahl*

NE IA Women of the ELCA- Check us out and give a like or post about your church's activities!



**HERE WE GO AGAIN!**

Contact Nancy Rockman at 641-530-5081

**Thursday August 6, 2026**

**Global Health Ministries & Lutheran World Relief Tour**

Bus leaves Trinity at 7 AM

Snacks will be provided  
Bring your own drink.  
**MEN ARE WELCOME TOO!**

|                             |                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Global Health Ministries | 10 AM - 12 Noon |
| 2. Lunch at                 | Noon            |
| 3. Lutheran World           | 1:30 - 2:30 PM  |
| 4. Leave for home           | 2:30 - 5 PM     |

*Bus Fair Cost is \$45/person.  
Lunch is on your own.*

### CALENDAR

- Aug 6 \*LWR Bus Trip from Trinity, Mason City
- Aug 22 \*SWO Transitional Meeting-Waverly
- Sep 26 \*Cluster D Gathering, Springfield, Decorah
- Oct 10 \*LWR ingathering Nazareth Lutheran, Cedar Falls
- Oct 17 \*Fall Field Trip, Black Hawk County
- Nov 7 \*LWR In-Gathering @ Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- 2027**
- Apr 17 \*Cluster G Gathering, Salem Lutheran, Lake Mills
- Jun 27 \*Sharing party, St. Peter's, Garnavillo

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