



October 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

I must share a small but mind blowing event in my life. The church I grew up in, St. John Buck Creek rural Sumner, has a tradition that I have not found in other churches. They stand around the altar making “tables” for communion. (there is no rail). After communion they return to their pews and stand in their spot for a few seconds in silence. I do this still, take a moment to breathe and reflect. In August of 2026, I returned to my pew and prayed. Dear God Help Me... Relax in your Grace. The words blew my mind. I went home and wrote this:

Dear God,

Help me:

- Be Brave in small things
 - Just a Touch, A word, A smile, Food, Clothing, Service to others
- See You in all things
 - Inside our lives, Outside in nature, In the community, In conversation with others
- Relax In Your Grace
 - We are not responsible for everything, Its ok to rest, You love us, I am worthy: In all things, To all people, everywhere

Thank you for all you give us. You are Wondrous and Mighty. AMEN

*Jesus and all his Jazz!
Christine Schmitt*

Justice Committee

Advocating for justice includes many actions. One very timely justice action involves voting in the election of our governmental officials. They deal directly with so many justice issues that can have more than one solution: socially, economically, racially, climatologically, and more. Here is what our church says regarding the election process.

“Healthy civic engagement depends on clear distinctions between fact and all forms of falsehood, ranging from partial misstatements to intentional disinformation to outright lies. ... Our church, then, encourages us all to ask, in every personal interaction and on social media, whether our words or those we repeat represent the best possible understanding of our neighbor.”

— ELCA social statement “Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All” (p. 62)

I invite you to take faithful steps this election year:

- Register to vote if you have not already done so and check your registration to make sure it is current.
- Learn about the issues, ballot measures, and candidates that will shape your community. Participate in respectful conversations.
- Check sources of information before sharing it in conversations or online.
- Pray for those who serve in public office, for election workers and for all who will exercise the right of voting. Create spaces for faithful, open conversation with voters, candidates or neighbors in your community.
- Encourage your family members, friends and neighbors to take part in the democratic process.

“Be faithful, informed and engaged as disciples of Jesus seeking the well-being of our neighbors and the common good of the communities God has entrusted to our care. Every act of informed participation, every conversation marked by grace and every vote cast with prayerful discernment is an opportunity to bear witness to God’s love in the world.” -Bishop Curry.

Submitted by Chris VanDeventer



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

Thank Offering Time

Thanksgiving is coming and so is Thankoffering time. You can celebrate with thankoffering in many ways. Some say a prayer, some hold a full service and some receive offerings during a church service. Share how you celebrate thanksgiving and Thank offerings so we can share with others. Resources are available at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/thankofferings> .

You can watch the 2026 Thankoffering Service livestream on October 15 at 9:50 am. (CDT) from Concordia College Campus Ministry, Moorehead, Minn. You can also download a copy of the service for your congregation:

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/2026-thankoffering-service.pdf>

CALENDAR

- Oct 10 *LWR ingathering Nazareth Lutheran, Cedar Falls
- Oct 15 *Thank Offering Service from Concordia
- Oct 17 *Fall Field Trip, Black Hawk County
- Nov 7 *LWR In-Gathering @ Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- Nov 14 *Board meeting @ synod office

2027

- Feb 19-20*Retreat @ Stone Center Strawberry Point (snow date Feb. 26-27)
- Mar 6 *Board Meeting @ synod office
- Apr 10 *LWR In-Gathering @ Nazareth, Cedar Falls
- Apr 17 *Cluster G Gathering, Salem in Lake Mills
- May 1 *Board Meeting @ synod office
- Jun 25 *Board meeting/ party set up, St. Peter's Garnavillo
- Jun 26 *Sharing party, St. Peter's, Garnavillo
- Oct 9 *LWR In-Gathering @ Nazareth, Cedar Falls

2028:

- Jun 28 *Convention, Zion in West Union

NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

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Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA: [NEIA Women of the ELCA | Northeastern Iowa Sy](#)

Travel Fun Fall field trip with NE IA Women of ELCA

Saturday October 17, 2026

Come Join us on an Adventure.

Exploring Waterloo/ Cedar Falls in Black Hawk County

WHO: Anyone can come. Bring a friend, spouse, Children and grandchildren

RSVP by Oct. 1 (for reservations at Barn Happy)

10am Sullivan Brothers Iowa Veterans Museum & Grout Museum of History & Science

(enter top of the hill)

Museum Only Cost: \$15 Adults, \$8 Veterans & Children 4-13, 3 & Under & Museum Members Free

Or add the planetarium show

Museum & Norris Corson Family Planetarium Cost: \$20 Adults, \$13 Veterans & Children 4-13, 3 & Under & Museum Members Free



1 pm

Lunch at Barn Happy 11310 Univ. Ave. Cedar Falls, IA

They have a gift shop of antiques and Iowa made products (pay your own way)

2:30 pm

ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministries 2422 College St, Cedar Falls, IA (free learning about campus ministries at UNI)

We end our day together here.



Optional on your own:

John Deere Tractor & Engine Museum

500 Westfield Ave, Waterloo, IA 50701

(free admittance) They are open until 5pm.



RSVP by Oct. 1 so we can put reservations in at Barn Happy

RSVP TO: Chris VanDeventer cdvandeven@gmail.com 515-320-2877

Note all activities are pay as you go.

If you have a carpool location, let us know so we can share with others.