

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.....

So many things to see, do and learn about at this year's synodical Gathering on June 16. Our keynote speaker will be Pastor Kevin Doely, who will entertain us with his ventriloquism. Bishop Ullestad will be with us to share and

listen, Bremwood students will delight us with their worship and testimonies, Pastor Mark Anderson will educate us on being prepared in emergencies at church and home, Sister Jax will teach us about mandalas, and there will be information about the foster care process, Native American traditions, gift planning and even more! Along with amazing fellowship and uplifting worship, we will have shopping experiences, and refresh with morning treats and a tasty lunch. All in one day! Talk about being weary, but also refreshed and renewed in the grace and love of our awesome Savior, Jesus Christ! You can find registration forms and information on our website,

<http://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/>, and mailings were also sent to every church. I invite you to join us and bring a friend! (there are scholarships available for first time attendees) *Blessed to be weary,*
Diane Wills

THIS JUST IN!!

The Wartburg bookstore will be open, 10-1, during our Gathering on June 16th!! See you there!

Mission Area: Discipleship

Come and join some amazing disciples of the Women of the ELCA and consider putting your name in nomination as a board member or as part of next year's nominating committee. As a board member for 3 years and outgoing vice president, let me tell you this is an awesome opportunity to meet other women in our synod and also from the church as a whole. It affords an opportunity for you to share your time and talent with others. We have found 1 nominee for vice president and 1 board member and our treasurer is up for re-election. But we need 4 more board members this next year and would like a person on the nominating committee from each cluster. A girl can dream RIGHT?

There are six meetings a year, plus our convention in Waverly. And of course, the awesome Triennial

Conventions—the next one occurring in Phoenix. We have a wonderful time at all of our functions. So if you think you would be interested please contact me, any board member or your unit president, who should have received all the necessary paperwork for you. You can also visit the Women of the ELCA [website](#). Please give this your prayerful consideration. *Submitted by Cindy Pogge, V.P. NEIA Synod WELCA*

Mission Area: Justice

Sing to the Lord, and praise him! Proclaim every day the good news that he has saved us.” (Psalm 96:2)

Billy Graham loved hymns. Here is a quote: “Not many people know that the greatest Christian hymns and songs have often come out of the deep wells of life: wells of adversity, of suffering, of tragedy. It is inspiring to know that when events have turned dark and somber these men and women have been able to tune their souls to a pitch unheard apart from the mind of Christ. The result has been a blessing to all of mankind.”

The hymn that captured Graham to respond to a call to convert in 1937 was “Just as I Am, Without One Plea.” He could not resist the words, “O Lamb of God, I come.” In his own crusades which followed, he used this hymn by Charlotte Elliott who was from Brighton, England.

In 1834 at the age of 45, Elliott had been an invalid for much of her life and the words for this hymn were written to express her victory over spiritual doubt.

To quote Graham: “When I come to present my credentials at the gate of heaven, it will mean nothing that I have traveled around the world preaching the gospel. Then as when I was first converted, I will say:

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!”

Submitted by Millie Dieter

Mission Area: Stewardship

This year our in-kind offering at the June SWO convention will be rolled bandages for Global Health Ministries (www.ghm.org) and bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief (www.lwr.org). We are also planning a trip to Minneapolis to tour both Global Health Ministries as well as the LWR warehouse in St. Paul on July 30 & 31, 2018, when we will deliver these in-kind gifts. We are requesting bath-size bars 4

CALENDAR

Apr. 1	May <i>Good News</i> deadline
Apr. 7	Cluster I Shechem Spring Gathering, St. Peter's, El Dorado
Apr. 14	Spring Gathering, Clusters C, E, H, Fredsville LC, rural Cedar Falls Riverside Cluster gathering at Our Savior, Radcliff, 8:30–noon.
Apr. 21	Living Waters Cluster Spring Salad Luncheon, Trinity, Mason City, 10 a.m.
Apr. 28	Upper Iowa Cluster Spring Gathering, Big Canoe LC Little Flock Cluster Spring Gathering, St. Sebald, Strawberry Point Living Waters Cluster LWR In-gathering, Bethlehem LC, Manly, 8–11
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
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
Nov. 3	LWR Truck Loading, Decorah Ingathering for C, E and H, Fredsville Lutheran, rural Cedar Falls

to 5 ounces of any brand in its original wrapping. Here are the details for rolled bandages: Simple rolled bandages can be made from used white cotton or cotton-blend bed sheets (we ask for white only because the dye in colored sheets is not suitable for wound care). Pre-wash material, cut or rip into strips 2 to 4 inches wide and ideally about 6 feet long. If using more than one strip, sew strips together end-to-end for a continuous roll. Bandages can also be made from just one strip the length of a bed sheet. Assemble strips into rolls about 1 to 2 inches in diameter, roll tightly and evenly and pull or cut off loose threads. Secure each bandage with masking tape to keep from unrolling. There are instructions to make a bandage-rolling machine at www.ghm.org/hands-on-projects (one tip, make sure your base is wider than the strips you will be rolling.) *Submitted by Anna Jetson*

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Around the Synod

**Lutheran World Relief 2018 Spring In-Gathering
Fredsville Lutheran Church
2756 150th Street, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
319-989-2065**

Saturday, April 14, 2018

This year's spring in-gathering for Cluster C (Jubilee), E (Tree of Life) and H (Three Rivers) will be held at Fredsville Lutheran Church in rural Cedar Falls from 8–11 am on Saturday, April 14, 2018. A semi truck will be parked in the parking area next to the street in front of the church. There will be help available to move the boxes. Do not bring any items before that morning. **Reminder: LWR no longer accepts clothing.**

Please follow LWR guidelines when packing your items:

- Only one type of article per box. Blankets & quilts are considered separate items.
- No religious, patriotic or military symbols on any articles.
- Do not put your congregation name on any item.
- Use strong boxes and fill them completely. Do not exceed 40 lbs. per box.
- Secure boxes with heavy packing tape, no masking tape or string. Plastic and paper bags will not be accepted.
- Print the contents of each box in large block letters on the outside of the box and include the name and address of your church.

Please use the summary sheet available on the NEIS WELCA web site to record **ALL** the items and number of boxes you will bring for the truck. We also ask for a \$30.00 check payable to **Fredsville WELCA** to cover the cost of the shipping. There will be a table set up near the truck to handle any questions and to take money and summary sheets (or these can be brought into the church). There will be coffee and morning treats, provided by Fredsville Lutheran in the fellowship hall starting at 8:00 am. All information concerning the In-gathering is also on our church website: www.fredsvill Lutheran.org or contact Sharon Hemmen at 319-269-8471 with any questions. *Submitted by Audrey Stefan*

Good News

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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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NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA