

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

Let's get our bold on!

Bold Women's Day is Feb. 25. Bold Women's Day—observed annually on the fourth Sunday of February—celebrates all Lutheran women who have acted or are acting boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. In 2018, the day set aside to observe Bold Women's Day is Sunday, Feb. 25, but you can plan it on any day that works best for you and your congregation.

How are you celebrating Bold Women's Day? You can start by visiting welca.org/bwd and downloading the updated resources.

It is important to realize that women are bold in different ways. Some women are bold in their unceasing prayers. Other women are bold in their service to those in need. Still other women are bold in their advocacy or through their hospitality.

If you want to celebrate the day in your congregation, start with the section, "When you gather in community," which offers several ideas for observing Bold Women's Day. If you want to celebrate the day in quiet contemplation and study, look at the section, "Ways to celebrate on your own."

Other resources on the BW website suitable for observing Bold Women's Day are "Finding Your Bold: An Icebreaker," "A Bold Life of Faith: Katharina von Bora Luther," and two three-session Bible studies: "Act Boldly for Mission" and "Act Boldly for Health." The website also offers free downloadable certificates, promotional posters, bulletin ads and a Facebook cover photo.

Whether we live out our bold story of faith in the workplace, family home or community, our faith compels us to make a difference in the lives of others, it's all about living out our baptismal call — about being a disciple of Christ. (From winter 2018 *Interchange*)

Acting Boldly,
Diane Wills

Mission Area: Discipleship

The saying "practice makes perfect" might work for piano lessons, but when it comes to faith, it's not that easy. But, practice makes permanent. And we are called to live out our baptismal vocation daily.

Women ELCA's purpose statement names us as women created in the image of God, called to discipleship. One way we can live out that discipleship is by learning more about the ELCA's new Life of Faith Initiative. This grassroots effort builds on the ELCA's Book of Faith initiative (elca.org/bookoffaith) and advocates equipping all God's saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4:12).

The Life of Faith website describes it as a "grassroots initiative to stir up a culture change that frees us to make the service by the baptized in the arenas of daily life the central focus in the church's mission." Women of the ELCA will join this effort and encourage women to engage the Life of Faith Initiative by:

- Reflecting on how you live out your baptismal vocation in daily life.
- Starting a conversation with people in your life or in your congregation.
- Incorporating ministry in daily life discussion in your Bible conversations.
- Praying for all who will be all anew through this process.

For more about the Life of Faith visit lifeoffaith.info for action steps and downloadable resources. (From winter 2018 *Interchange*)

Submitted by Valora Starr, CW staff

CALENDAR

- Feb. 1 March Good News deadline
Mar. 1 April Good News deadline
Mar. 3 SWO Board, 9–12:30, Synod office
(snow date March 10)
Apr. 1 May Good News deadline
Apr. 28 Upper Iowa Cluster Spring Gathering,
Big Canoe LC
April 28 Little Flock Cluster Spring Gathering,
St. Sebald, Strawberry Point
May 1 June Good News deadline
May 4 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 31st Annual NE IA Synod Women of the
ELCA Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
Nov. 3 LWR Truck Loading, Decorah
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Mission Area: Justice

Are you familiar with the ELCA Good Gifts? It's a way to show you care by "buying" a life-sustaining gift, such as \$10 - \$500 to help a person who needs a way to earn money, \$300 for someone who is disabled, \$140 - \$2,000 to sponsor books or tuition for a seminarian, or \$25 for farming tools, along with seeds and training.

There is a piglet for \$30, a chick for \$10 and a rooster for \$5, a cow for \$500 or a share for \$50, a fish farm for \$250, honeybees for \$20, a water filter for \$30, a latrine for \$150, an opportunity to send a girl to school for \$40, a warm blanket for \$10, and Bibles for a grow-

ing church for \$12. There are many more ways to help in the catalog, which you can get from your pastor. This is a way for you to grow while helping others.

My husband and I gave our grandchildren fish farms last year, and school supplies for one classroom this year. You can do the same. You can provide food for many families, as the Lord has commanded us to do.

Submitted by Jane Godson

Mission Area: Stewardship

Bloom Where You Are Planted

Old gardeners never die ... they just slowly go to pot ... in the Garden of Eating. Yes, that season is just right around the corner for us and we will be blessed with warmer temps and longer days of sunshine -- something we can all look forward to, young or old.

You might consider giving a gift to LWR to honor a loved one for a birthday, Valentine's Day or Easter, or perhaps your Sunday school children may be interested in gifting. The LWR gift list makes it simple and can be found online at lwrgifts.org or call 800-597-5972 to place an order.

Help a farmer bloom this year with a gift of a fruit tree or seeds. Worms are also a good gift for the soil. There is much need for these things in Tanzania, Bolivia, Nepal, and the Philippines. Groves of fruit trees provide better food for families and also shade.

Working in the dirt is good for our souls. It helps keep us grounded in our faith as God provides the soil, water, and sunshine for growth.

Submitted by Della Benson

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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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