



Good News

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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

Serving the Lord...what does that mean exactly and when do we get to stop? I was very blessed to have many wonderful role models for serving the Lord in my life, but my Grandma, Edith Shindley, was the best. After her second husband died and both of her sons had moved away with their families, she found herself with lots of time on her hands. She was “retired” and well into her 70's, but she had a job to do. She lived in an older neighborhood in Waterloo and she spent many of her waking hours taking her friends to the doctor, getting them groceries, cleaning their houses, or just visiting with them. When the day was “done,” she always prayed for each of them and each of her family members by name! After she left the neighborhood and moved to be closer to her sons and grandchildren (when she was closer to 90), she made new friends and went about doing for them as well. She always seemed to have boundless energy and a passion for living out the Gospel. She never let a little thing like age get in her way! Whenever I feel discouraged or just plain worn out, I remember my grandma and her Spirit for Serving and Love of the Lord. She taught me and all who knew her and loved her that age has nothing to do with showing the Love of Jesus to all we meet!

Diane Wills

Mission Area: Stewardship

Will we be seeing YOU at our Synod convention in Waverly June 16th? Never been there? Don't know what it entails? Not sure you can afford it? The NEIA Synod offers five “first-timer” scholarships of \$50 for women to attend and we encourage you to apply or invite someone in your congregation to apply! The registration forms will

be sent to your church offices soon, or you can download one at www.neiasynod.org. Try it—you will find some new friends, learn more about what the women of the ELCA are doing and go home with a full heart.

Are you thinking of going back to school to further your education so that you can advance in the work force but money is a factor? The women of the ELCA give 3 scholarships of \$600 each year to qualified individuals and this year it COULD BE YOU! But you won't know unless you apply! Download the application form at www.neiasynod.org. *Submitted by Vicky Jaeger*

Mission Area: Justice

Justice—what does that really mean to me, to us? The other day I was reading my bible and read these verses:

Proverbs 31:8–9

⁸Speak out for those who cannot speak, for the rights of all the destitute.

⁹Speak out, judge righteously,
defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Then I went to the Women of the ELCA website (<http://www.womenoftheelca.org>) and under Our Works it has a section for Justice. There it gives us the definition of Justice along with the initiatives that we are focusing on as members of the Women of the ELCA and lists some of the resources that the Women of the ELCA has created to promote our work for Justice. Take a moment to check it out. You may be surprised at what you find and what you are already taking action on. *Submitted by Anna Jetson*

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Twenty-six years ago the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a landmark global treaty establishing binding commitments to uphold children's health, education,

CALENDAR

2016

- Mar. 5 SWO Board, Waverly 9–12 (snow date Mar. 19)
- Apr. 30 Cluster B Spring Gathering, Zion, Oelwein
- May 7 LWR Ingathering, Olson Explosives, Decorah
- May 14 SWO Board at Wartburg 9–12
- Jun. 17 Pre-convention SWO Board meeting at Wartburg, 5pm
- Jun. 18 NEIA Women's Synodical Convention, Wartburg College, Waverly
- Sep. 9–10 Three Rivers Fall Retreat, Camp Ewalu

and equal opportunities. Please, go to the two links below to become more informed about this.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-jody-heyman/on-child-rights-treatys-2_b_8611396.html

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporal_punishment_in_the_home

Within two years (1991), the convention had been ratified by 99 countries around the globe, making it one of the most quickly ratified international human rights treaties in history. This year Somalia ratified it, leaving the United States standing alone, as the sole global exception, as the United States has still not ratified it! Ratifying the CRC would signal to both the US population and the rest of the world that we are committed to investing in all our children's futures. It would lay the foundation for further reforms to reduce disparities in children's health, education, and

NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA

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well-being, and it would bring the US back into the global community when it comes to improving the conditions children face around the world.

I hope we will all become more informed on these issues, pray about them, and talk to our elected officials about them, to work for positive change in the lives of our children and grandchildren, but also for all the children of the world. *Submitted by Nancy Miller*

Mission Area: Discipleship

Want to get your unit involved in a community event or start something different for the Lenten season? Consider this: a community women's Lenten service. The churches in our town of Belmond, IA have a community women's Lenten service every Wednesday morning at 9:30. The program lasts about a half hour, followed by a cake and coffee fellowship time. We have 12 churches in our community, not all participate, but those that do rotate through Lent. Each church presents its own program.

So put your BOLD on and explore this option in your community. The time, of course, is optional. Ours has always been the morning, but maybe the majority of the ladies in your unit work. The programs are diverse and always inspirational. This gives you a chance to meet other ladies in the community as well as engage people from the other churches in your area.

What better time to try something new than the Lenten season? It is not all about giving up something—add something this year and be a bold leader for the girls and women in your church. *Submitted by Cindy Pogge, VP, NEIA Synod WELCA*

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