

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.

NEW WOMEN'S SYNODICAL COMMITTEES FORMED

As a synodical board, we are leaving the action, growth and community committees behind. Using the Women of the ELCA website, we are moving into what we think are more meaningful committees representing what we as an organization are about.

"Join us as we make a difference in the world."

Respond in JUSTICE—Committee members: Nancy Miller, Jane Granzow, Gloria Tollefson

Justice is faith in action, addressing inequalities in political, economic and social systems.

Justice is equity and impartiality, mercy and compassion.

Justice includes serving God in ways that bring healing and wholeness to the church, society and world, through

- Combatting commercial sexual exploitation
- Combatting human trafficking
- Anti-racism training
- Cross cultural programming
- Supporting families with special needs
- Supporting 1,000 Days Movement, Lutheran World Relief and Women's Funding Network.

Respond with DISCIPLESHIP—Committee members: Sheryl Moeller, Melissa Miller, Marjorie Lewis, Ruth Hilgerson

Discipleship is a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ.

Disciples are followers of Jesus who are intent on carrying out the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20) and the Great Command (Acts 1:8).

- Through praying, studying, worshipping, inviting, encouraging, serving and giving
- Making kits and quilts (LWR)
- Prayer shawl ministry
- Studying the Bible
- Assisting in worship

- Supporting Bold Women's Day, Advent, Lent, Using Spiritual Gifts, Grief, leading Bible study, journaling, art, getting to know Katie Luther, Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls.

Respond with STEWARDSHIP—Committee members: Vicky Jaeger, Cindy Pogge, Sue Ollman, Nancy Poppe
Stewardship is careful and responsible management of money, property and resources God has entrusted to us. Stewardship is providing for the ministries that God has entrusted to our care.

- Through supporting ministries of the Women of the ELCA
- By learning about regular offerings, thankofferings, Katie's Fund Scholarships and grants
- Sharing a monthly stewardship devotion found on the W-ELCA website
- Becoming aware of the annual stewardship guide
- By using our newsletter, *Good News*, planning convention interest sessions and cluster events.

We encourage you to move in this direction also. I remember how long and hard we tried to make action, growth and community work. Many of the synods and units around the country are trying to correlate the new with the old, like Growth/Discipleship, Action/Stewardship and Community/Justice. After studying it carefully we have decided to leave the old behind and make a change. Yes, change is hard, but it seems this one will facilitate what we are about. Think about it and feel free to give us feedback.
Gloria Tollefson, your synod president

Human Trafficking Resources:

At our recent triennial convention we were given a responsibility that we are taking seriously. We want you to do the same. As you are planning cluster, congregation and community events, keep in mind that we have a God-given responsibility to know more about human trafficking. It is happening right here in Iowa. Now we are working to help you with this:

Resolved: that each synodical board convene a committee to review and promote resources that help

CALENDAR

- Jan. 10 SWO Board meeting with Cluster presidents
- Apr. 11 Spring LWR In-Gathering for Clusters C (Jubilee), E (Tree of Life) and H (Three River) at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
- Apr 25 Upper Iowa River Cluster D Spring Gathering, Hauge & St. John, Decorah
- May 2 LWR Pickup, Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- Jun 19-20 Iowa Tri-Synodical W-ELCA Convention, Iowa Central Community College, Ft. Dodge
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units to inform, educate and mobilize their congregations and communities, through prayer, ministry and political action.

We are recommending the following books on this topic. They would be excellent for a book group to discuss or to read for your own background knowledge.

SOLD by Patrick McCormick, a novel about a Nepalese girl sold by her stepfather to a person promising to give her a job in a wealthy household in India. Rather, she was sold into prostitution.

THE SLAVE NEXT DOOR Human Trafficking and Slavery in America Today by Kevin Bales, who weaves together a wealth of voices from slaves to slave holders and traffickers as well as from experts, counselors, law enforcement officers, rescue and support folks and others—a call to action, telling what we, as private citizens, can do to bring an end to this crime.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING by Louise Shelly. Drawn on a wide body of academic research—actual prosecuted cases, diverse reports and fieldwork and interviews, the author covers over 16 years in Asia, Latin America, Africa and Europe. The book concludes that human trafficking will be a defining issue of this century.

RIVER OF INNOCENTS by Terry Lee Wright, a modern-day *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, a book to free the slaves and end human trafficking.

A WALK ACROSS THE SUN by Corban Addison, a novel about two sisters, Ahalya and Sita, who are left orphaned and homeless. A chilling, eye-opening journey into Mumbai's seedy underworld.

HALF THE SKY: TURNING OPPRESSION INTO OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN WORLDWIDE written by Pulitzer Prize authors Nicholas Kristof and his wife Sheryl Wudunn. The book is a call to arms against the oppression of women and girls in developing countries. Issues addressed—maternal mortality, sex trafficking, gender-based violence, economic empowerment and the right to education—are the core issues within the movement sparked by the work of the authors. Discussion guides are available. It was aired on PBS in three segments and is probably available at your public library.

PLEASE HELP DEVELOP THIS RESOURCE LIST. We are especially interested in speakers on this topic. *Jane Granzow and Gloria Tollefson, your synod board*

The Spring LWR In-Gathering

for Clusters C (Jubilee), E (Tree of Life) and H (Three River) will be held on Saturday April 11, 2015 at Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls. Information will be mailed to every church in the three Clusters on March 1st. Be watching for this important mailing. *Donna Kirschenmann, Chair, Jubilee Cluster*

Another Successful Collection Day Under Our Belt!

Upper Iowa River (Cluster D), Little Flock (Cluster B) and Schechem (Cluster I) brought a total of 1,315 quilts, 754 personal care kits, 1,278 school kits, 525 baby care kits, 68 fabric kits, 39# of soap and 45 blankets. We had great loading help from Calmar Lutheran, West Clermont Lutheran and Greg Hamm's youth group from St. Paul's in Postville. It took a lot of warm hearts to get us through a very cold morning. THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MADE THIS A SUCCESS. *Shirley Steggall, Action Chairman, Upper Iowa River (Cluster D)*

NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA

Good News

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Articles are due the 1st of the month for the next month's newsletter. Please put WELCA in your subject line. (You can also send paper copies by "snail" mail.)

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