



Good News

July-August
2017
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Number 7

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: Many Thanks!

Thank you so much for sharing the day with us at the June gathering! Even though the room temperatures were a little too cold, you never let it dampen your spirits or determination to learn, fellowship, and worship! I am always amazed at the comments that are shared on the evaluation forms. They are almost always full of grace and appreciation, but also constructive and valuable suggestions for the future! You are truly a forgiving, gifted and loving group! Most appreciated worship with communion and especially enjoyed Pastor Melissa Bills' sermon and afternoon Bible study. Others found Vicky Jaeger's hand massage session very relaxing and down-right fun! And still others learned many new things about Madagascar and Spain, Human Trafficking, Food Insecurity, quilting, LSI Refugee services and the Candidacy process in our synod. And then some found exciting new challenges with Bible Journaling and using your "Holy Imagination."

I also want to thank Vicky Jaeger and Melissa Miller for their amazing service to the board. You will be missed! Thank you for taking the time to share your comments and suggestions! *Diane Wills*



YOUR BOARD: Della Benson, Jane Godson, Millie Dieter, Jan Harbaugh, Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer (2nd row), Vicky Jaeger, Melissa Miller, Cindy Pogge, Churchwide Rep, Cindy Arnett, Diane Wills, President, Anna Jetson, Secretary, Nancy Miller (1st row)

Mission Area: Discipleship What exactly is a Disciple?

How do we define "Disciple?" Servant, follower, learner, student? I like to think of disciple as being equipped to grow and become a leader or a teacher. If we think of Jesus' disciples, they spent time learning from him and then they were sent into the world to become the teachers. That is also what coming to the annual SWO gathering is like. We come

together to learn and grow and then come home and teach and share with others. So many opportunities to experience something new, Bible Journaling, Holy Imagination, Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM), Walking the El Camino, Hand and Arm massage and NE IA Candidacy process; something familiar, but just as important, LSI, NE IA Food Bank, Human Trafficking, and quilting. Don't forget that part of YOUR journey as a disciple is to also grow into a teacher. Share what you have learned! That will also help you grow as a disciple of Christ! *Submitted by Diane Wills*

Mission Area: Justice

There are 643,067 homeless on any given night in America. This is unconscionable for a country so rich in resources.

- 238,110 of those people are in families
- 25% suffer from mental illness, including schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and depression
- 17% are considered chronically homeless
- 13% are fleeing domestic violence
- 12% are veterans ([Green Doors](#) 2017)

Although all these numbers are shameful, I'm going to focus on veterans, those young people who have served our country. Why are these veterans homeless? Even though they receive compensation or pension, it is not enough for affordable housing. Even if they worked 40 hours at minimum wage a week, they still wouldn't be able to afford housing in a safe environment. Add the extreme shortage of affordable housing, and access to mental health care, and the skills they learned in the military aren't transferable to civilian life, and you have a recipe for homelessness ([National Coalition For Homeless Veterans](#)).

Lest you think Iowa doesn't have a problem, let me enlighten you. Iowa has 3,064 homeless, 324 of whom are veterans <https://www.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/>. While our numbers aren't as high as California (118,140 with 9,612 veterans) or New York (86,352 with 9,612 vets), we still have a problem. How can we say that justice is a part of our lives, when we allow so many people to live and sleep on the streets?

There are organizations that help with the problem of homelessness. A good one to check out is National Coalition for Homeless Veterans. Maybe we can't go out on the street, but we can learn the facts and volunteer with organizations like the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans, [organizations for mental health](#), or [Green Doors](#). Google homelessness and you will get a wealth of information. "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I

CALENDAR

Jul. 10–13	10 th Triennial Convention
Jul. 13–16	Triennial Gathering, “All Anew,” Minneapolis, MN (welcatg.org)
Aug. 1	Sep. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Sep. 1	Oct. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Sep. 23	Jubilee Cluster C event at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls
Sep. 30	Upper Iowa Cluster D meeting
Oct. 1	Nov. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Oct. 28	Little Flock Cluster Fall Gathering, Emmanuel, Strawberry Point
Nov. 1	Dec. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Nov. 4	LWR Ingathering, Zion-St. John, Sheffield, 8–11 a.m. LWR Ingathering, Olson’s Explosives, Decorah, 7:30–10:30 a.m.
Nov. 18	Living Waters Cluster G Fall Gathering, 9 a.m., Elk Creek, Kensett
Dec. 1	Jan. <i>Good News</i> deadline
2018	
Jun 16	31 st Annual NE IA Synod Women of the ELCA Gathering

needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ The King will reply, ‘I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:36–40. *Submitted by Jane Godson*

Mission Area: Stewardship

At our recent Northeast Iowa Synodical WELCA gathering, we collected \$3,932.50 in monetary offering. The SWO Board designated that this offering be distributed in the following manner: 50% to Women of the ELCA-Church-wide, 25% to NE IA Synod Leadership Fund and 25% to LSI WELCA Challenge, spiritual component. Thank you to everyone for your generous donations. Contributions can still be made by sending them to your SWO Synodical treasurer: Beverly Sheridan 701 Serenity Drive, Decorah, IA 52101. Please use form A and designate SWO convention offering. We also collected 3 large barrels of personal care items for the NE IA Food Bank. Thank you again for your generosity.

In the spirit of stewardship for our earth, the SWO stewardship committee also submitted the following resolutions:

NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Diane Wills, President

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Cindy Pogge, Vice President

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- Resolution #1 Taking care of the earth: Be it resolved that the NEIA Synodical Board encourages all participants to carpool, walk or bike to the convention whenever possible.
- Resolution #2 Recycling at the synod office: Be it resolved that the NEIA Synodical Board requests the placement of recycling bins in each of the meeting rooms and kitchen area of the NE IA synod office to enable all users of the facility to participate in caring for God’s earth.

We are hoping that these resolutions will also transfer into our personal lives and that we will carpool, bike, or walk whenever possible, and also that we will be more responsible in our effort to recycle in all areas. *Submitted by Beverly Sheridan, Stewardship Committee*

Around the Synod

Dear NE IA Women of the ELCA:

I want to thank you, your staff and all who were able to help by donating personal care items. Let all the ladies know that we have over 712 pounds contributed from this drive. That is very awesome.

It is estimated that for every three pounds, you help a small family. So, with that, you are helping over 200 families with the most basic necessities of cleanliness. Imagine not having access to soap, shampoo, toothbrushes and toothpaste. I can’t. So, thank you again.

I really enjoyed meeting all of you. Thank you for inviting us to participate in your conference. I hope the ladies who attended were able to walk away with a better understanding of just how big a problem hunger is in Northeast Iowa. It’s real.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and thank you again.

Mike Knipp

NE IA Food Bank

Clusters D, B, I Spring In-Gathering

Early on Saturday, May 6, at Olson’s Explosives in Decorah, donations from many area churches came rolling in. In all, 600 boxes were loaded, carrying 1,545 quilts, 693 personal care kits, 273 school kits, 471 baby care kits, 87 fabric kits, 59 blankets and 69# of soap.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped load the truck. All three clusters were represented among the workers. WELL DONE!! *Submitted by Dee Wyatt and Sandy Gavle*

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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neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA