



# Good News

June 2017  
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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:**

*Taste and see that the Lord is good.*

*Ps. 34:8*

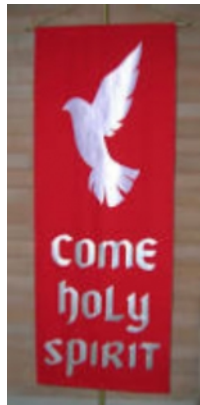
Are you hungering to serve in new and different ways? I have a few challenges for you! In Kind gifts for our upcoming gathering on June 17 will include any health and beauty aid items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, body gels, shaving cream, etc.) for the NE IA Food Bank. 50 % of our monetary donations will be sent to the Churchwide WELCA, 25% given to the synod's new leadership scholarship fund, for assisting seminarians with tuition expenses, and 25% to the new LSI WELCA challenge. This year-long challenge was accepted by your SWO board to raise \$5,000 to support the spiritual component of the LSI mission. Any unit or cluster can contribute at any time throughout the year and we will be starting with 25% of our gathering offerings. You can find more information on the challenge and gathering registration forms on our website, <http://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/>. "Come and See" and serve the Lord in new and different ways!

Hungering to serve, just like you, *Diane Wills*

## **Mission Area: Discipleship**

*Hungering to Bible Study in a new way?*

It is such a gift to have the Bible as a tool, a guide to how to live out our faith in this broken world. But sometimes figuring out what it actually says can be a challenge! At our gathering on June 17, we will have the opportunity to do just that, but in some new and creative ways. Pastor Melissa Bills will join us for worship and Bible study. She is best known for her simple, beautiful coloring devotionals for our Triennial in July. Another opportunity to study the Bible in a unique way is Bible Journaling. This session will be presented by Brigid Christianson and Caitlin Retz from Zion St. John in Sheffield. This is a creative way to explore Biblical passages using your artistic



side.

There is still time to register for the gathering! Just go to the NE IA WELCA website, download a registration form and send it in. Come, "Taste and See that the Lord is Good!" *Submitted by Diane Wills*

## **Mission Area: Justice**

Can you imagine ... not being allowed to go to school just because you have your period? If not you, what about your daughters or granddaughters? We know we just have to make a trip to the store to take care of it, but there are places where there is no store just down the road, and even if there is, there may not be the \$ to purchase feminine products that we are used to. One of the Servant Events available at the Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis this year is making "Days for girls kits." This is what is included in the kit for Triennial Participants to make the kits to be distributed by Days for Girls organization.

Fill a gallon-size Ziploc freezer bag (they are the most durable; non-zipper/slider type) with:

- One piece of ½ yard of 45" bright print fabric for the bag.
- 2½ yards 45" – 60" 100% cotton medium to dark print flannel fabric for the liners.
- One piece of ½ yard and one piece of ¼ yard 45" 100% cotton fabric in a complementary color for the pads.
- Two pairs of underwear (girls' sizes 10–14 or women's size 5). Both should be the same size.
- One washcloth.
- One additional gallon-size Ziploc brand freezer bag, non-slider.

For more details or other in-kind offerings being accepted for the Tenth Triennial please go to:

<http://www.welcatg.org/filebin/PDF/InKindGifts2017.pdf>

Or for more information regarding the Days for Girls organization, here is their website: [Days for Girls International | Sustainable Feminine Hygiene](http://www.daysforgirls.org) *Submitted by Anna Jetson*

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## CALENDAR

June 16	SWO Board, Wartburg College, TBD
Jun. 17	NEI Synod WELCA Convention
Jul. 11–16	Triennial Convention and Gathering, Minneapolis, MN ( <a href="http://welcatg.org">welcatg.org</a> )
Sep. 23	Jubilee Cluster C event at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls

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### **Mission Area: Stewardship**

Are you looking for another way to be a good steward to show God's love in your life? There are many ways we can show acts of kindness, including the ideas below (taken from [faithfully committed.com](http://faithfullycommitted.com)).

- Make a list of the needs you see around you and start praying over them daily.
- If you have an elderly neighbor, check in to see how you can help him or her: Chores, food, lifting heavy things, yard work, conversation. Maybe take them a cup of coffee and settle in for a nice chat!
- Give your spouse and kids extra hugs and kisses, tell them you love them and are thankful for them.
- Leave your spouse love notes all over the house, just a few words on a post-it to let him know you're thankful for him.
- Take dinner to a friend or neighbor. This is especially helpful for someone who is having difficulty cooking for themselves or is just overwhelmed at the moment.
- Send or drop off flowers for a friend along with a note telling her you appreciate her.
- Send out a few "thinking of you" cards to friends or family members.
- Mow your neighbor's lawn.
- When you get your morning coffee, pick up an extra for a coworker, friend, or neighbor. I have a sweet friend who offers to do this for me, and it always makes my day!
- Put together a few "blessing bags" with toiletries,

nonperishable food items, and a small Bible. Include in each bag a handwritten note describing God's love for us. Put them in your car and be ready to give them out when you see someone with an immediate need.

- Leave the server at a restaurant an extra-large tip and a sweet "thank you" message.
- Choose an encouraging Bible verse and share it on social media.
- Pay for the people behind you in the drive-thru.
- Donate food to a local homeless shelter or food pantry.
- Make cookies for your (or your spouse's) coworkers.
- Make your husband his favorite dinner and have the kids help you with making a yummy dessert.
- Send a care package to a long-distance friend.
- Take care of a chore that you know your spouse doesn't like doing.
- Babysit for a friend for free.
- Donate to a charity: Clothes, household items, or money.

*Submitted by Melissa Miller*

### **Around the Synod**

#### **Spring 2017 Ingathering**

The Spring in-gathering for Clusters C, E and H was held at Zion St. John Lutheran in Sheffield on April 8. Nearly 90 people attended a presentation on Sukup Safe-T homes by Brett Nelson, one of the creators of the innovative homes used in hurricane-devastated Haiti. An offering of \$572 will go to Go Serve Global to be used for the purchase of more Safe-T homes. The LWR totals were 3,032 quilts, 38 blankets, 417 school kits, 738 personal care kits, 443 baby care kits, 100 fabric kits and 37 lbs of soap. A total of 799 boxes was placed on the truck to be sent to the St. Paul, MN LWR warehouse. Thank you to all the hostesses, youth and staff at Zion St. John for a morning full of learning and fellowship!

*Submitted by Diane Wills*

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### **NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board**

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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](http://neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA)