



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:

Taste and see that the Lord is good. Ps. 34:8

Our theme for the 2017 NE IA Women's convention and gathering on June 17 will be "Hungering for Renewal," based on the verse Ps. 34:8 and this year's Triennial Gathering theme of renewal. The emphasis will be on seeking out the many ways we as followers of Christ can find new ways to serve him. Perhaps you are hungering for a renewal of spirit, service, fellowship and/or worship. As women, I think we sometimes get bogged down, stuck in a rut, or just need something to remind us of "whose we are." If you are looking for a day to recharge and renew, plan on coming to the Gathering on June 17 at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. We will commune in worship, make business decisions, enjoy fellowship and have lots of opportunities to learn and share. You will find a registration form on the [website](#). The price is very reasonable, only \$45, which includes at least 2 workshops, a muffin and coffee buffet and a great luncheon. I am looking forward to seeing you all there!

Renewing daily in Christ, Diane Wills

Mission Area: Discipleship

Scholarship Money Available

The NE IA SWO board offers three \$600 educational scholarships every year. These scholarships are designated for women who are active in their local units and seeking to improve in the work force through educational opportunities. That could be needed education to get a promotion or education for a job change or a new job. There is no age restriction, but there is an application that must be completed and returned to Diane Wills by May 15th. If you or someone you know is interested, you can find the application on the [SWO website](#). Keep on learning!

Submitted by Diane Wills

Mission Area: Justice

It's Thanksgiving (or Christmas or Easter) and you can't wait for the meal to start. There's turkey or ham or both with mounds of potatoes and boats of gravy.

There are three or more dishes of vegetables. And just when you think you can't eat any more, the pies are brought out—pumpkin, apple, pecan and banana cream. You can't resist the pies, so you have a little of all of them, please.

Sound like any meal you've had? We are a land of plenty—or are we? Hunger still exists in China, Africa, South America and yes, even in America. Still not close enough for you? Go to an inner city and see what you find. But we are RURAL America, and we don't have that problem. Think again.

O.K. you're convinced that there's hunger all around us, so what can we do about it?

First of all, answer this question. Is there any justice in having so much to eat when others have so little?

Following are some ways to help right this wrong. Take a basket of "Welcome" food to someone who's just moved in. Put a list of local places where he/she can get food or volunteer. You may have to do some legwork to find the local agencies that can help you with the list.

Several counties have a drop-off spot where the northeast Iowa food bank drops off food mainly from grocery stores and warehouses. They hand out food to those in need with only their names and addresses needed. This a great place for volunteering; you can see firsthand what hunger looks like.

In larger areas, there are soup kitchens that offer not only a good meal, but companionship and warmth in the winter

If you're like me, you get many letters in the mail asking for money to help the hungry in Africa, China, and places here in the United States like Appalachia. There's never enough money to go around.

There is only one organization that gives ALL the money received to hunger programs and that is the ELCA. Its administrative costs are all covered by the benevolent giving that comes from local churches. So I always give to the World Hunger Fund at church rather than to the appeals from the mail, even if it sounds like a good cause.

CALENDAR

- Mar. 4 SWO Board, Synod office, 9–12 (snow date 3/18)
Mar. 19 Cluster B Little Flock Human Trafficking program, Emanuel, Strawberry Point
Apr. 2 Spring Women's Event, St. Paul's Lutheran, Waverly, 2 p.m.
Apr. 8 LWR Ingathering, Zion-St. John, Sheffield
Apr. 22 Shechem Cluster Spring Gathering, St. Peter's - Richfield, 24124 220 St., Sumner
Apr. 22 Living Waters Spring Salad Luncheon, 10-noon, Faith Lutheran, Miller
Apr. 29 Upper Iowa River Cluster Spring Event, St. Paul's LC, Lime Springs
May 20 SWO Board, Wartburg College, 9–12
June 16 SWO Board, Wartburg College, TBD
Jun. 17 NEI Synod WELCA Convention
Jul. 11–16 Triennial Convention and Gathering, Minneapolis, MN (welcatg.org)
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Jesus told us in Matthew 25:31–46 that we are to feed the hungry, give water to the thirsty, welcome strangers, clothe the naked, take care of the sick, and visit the prisoners. But notice that feeding the hungry is first on Jesus' list. It should be first on our list, too.
Submitted by Jane Godson

Mission Area: Stewardship

Taken from the WELCA website.....

ELCA Resource Centers are like libraries for the church. They loan books, movies, Sunday School curriculum, resources for confirmation class and small group ministry, and so much more. There are approximately 54 resource centers located throughout the country.

ELCA resource centers are important centers of stewardship. They collect resources, take care of those resources, and make them available to congregations. In their care, one copy of one book can reach hundreds of readers. A single DVD can reach multiple congregations. When you borrow a resource, you help continue this cycle of stewardship.

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You care for that gift while it's in your possession, using it to educate and inspire, and you return it to the resource center so it is available for the next user.

As stewards of Katie's Fund, Women of the ELCA use Katie's Fund dollars to purchase films. As stewards of the DVDs, resource center staff now make the films available for others. Upon receiving the DVD in May, Bonnie Weber reminded us that all these acts of stewardship are rooted in gratitude. She wrote:

“As assistant director of the NW Synod of WI Resource Center, located in Eau Claire, I just received the 2 DVD's in the mail. I...am thrilled with this addition to our Center. Thank you, churchwide women, for the thoughtfulness of sharing these timely, touching and soul-searching videos. I will advertise them in our synod, especially at the Assembly coming on June 7 & 8.”

How are you acting as a steward of its gifts?

Our resource center for the NE IA Synod is: Reu Memorial Library in Dubuque, IA (NB: the Clear Lake resource center has closed). *Submitted by Melissa Miller*

Around the Synod

“Women of the Reformation and Lutheran Women Today,” presented by Dr. Kit Kleinhans of Wartburg College, will be the theme of the annual spring women's event at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly. This event will take place on Sunday, April 2, beginning at 2:00 PM, in the narthex. Questions may be referred to the church office at 352-3850.

Cluster B-Little Flock We will be having a program by Johnathan Chambers on Human Trafficking on March 19th, a Sunday afternoon at 2:00 P.M. at Emanuel Lutheran Church in Strawberry Point, IA. He will be bringing two survivors with him to tell their stories. Come and join us as we learn more about Human Trafficking that happens in Iowa.

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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