



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:

1 Timothy 4:12 "Let no one despise your age, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith and in purity."

I can remember back a few years when I was still young enough to not know any better. I hated to be told I could not do something. In fact, on many occasions my Dad would intentionally tell me I couldn't, knowing full well I would be more inspired to prove him wrong. Some people called that stubborn, but my Dad always said I was determined. As I have gotten older (and wiser, I hope), I have discovered that these challenges are so much easier when I rely not just on my talents, but turn to my God and ask constantly for His help. It continues to amaze me how God sends me just the right person or message or experience to reach for my goals. The trick comes with being open to the journey and willing to be led by the Spirit. As we continue to prepare for our Gathering in June, the board and I are trying to stay open to all the possibilities of serving the Lord in every way, place and time, no matter what challenges lie before us! Make sure to come and join us and see where the Spirit might be leading you!!

Blessings on your journey!

Diane Wills

Mission Area: Stewardship

We are committed by our purpose statement to "promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the world." In 2015, the women of the ELCA awarded almost \$50,000 in grants that were dedicated to education and advocacy, empowering women and girls to lead healthier lives. The Women of the ELCA are now seeking proposals from not-for-profit organizations that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women's emotional, physical and spiritual health. Your gifts make these grants possible. Please consider including the Women of the ELCA in your memorials and estate planning. *Submitted by Vicky Jaeger*

Mission Area: Discipleship

More than half a century ago, World War II left an estimated one-fifth of the world's Lutherans homeless. Here in the United States, Lutheran churches in at least 20 states mobilized to help in Europe through a new agency called Lutheran World Relief.

The recipients of LWR's aid have changed—as has much of our operations—but in thousands of parishes, in millions of offerings, and in uncounted prayers, U.S. Lutherans have supported LWR's work ever since.

Initially prompted by sending aid to their German and Scandinavian kin, American Lutherans soon realized that aid could be shared fairly only on the basis of need. Hungry refugees all over Europe cried out for help. Service to all suffering people became a vital part of Christian witness. Local partners were responsible for using the shipments wisely.

A growing expertise, the will to help, and ties to overseas missions soon called LWR farther afield. In the late 1940's, 800,000 Palestinians were forced from their homes by the creation of the state of Israel. From the early 1950's in Hong Kong, Korea and Bangladesh, Asia was a continent of considerable strife. During the 1970's and '80's, civil wars and drought made Africa the new concern.

With 100 local partners, LWR works to improve harvests, health, and education in some 35 countries each year. LWR partners train local women and men to produce local foods, dig low-cost wells, and protect and restore their local environments. Some partners are small village groups on the edge of the Sahara. Others are nationwide programs that may reach across the Andes.

We have learned that the future in health, agriculture, and education often lies with the hearts and hands of women. We have learned that disaster can sometimes be prevented or withstood by effective development programs and that, when disasters do

CALENDAR

May 7	LWR Ingathering, Cluster B, Little Flock, Olson Explosives, Decorah
May 14	SWO Board at Wartburg 9–12
Jun. 17	Pre-Gathering SWO Board meeting at Wartburg, 5 pm
Jun. 18	NEIA Women's Synodical Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
Sep. 9–10	Three River Fall Retreat, Camp Ewalu
Oct. 22	Little Flock Fall Festival St. Paul, Postville

occur, LWR partners may be on the spot well before the world notices and still needed long after the crisis no longer commands front-page headlines.

In a survey on the eve of LWR's 50th anniversary, a sample of U.S. Lutherans told LWR that they saw the agency as a reliable and efficient way to put their Christian faith into action. They said they trust LWR overseas to express their Christian love for neighbors and that its way of working through those neighbors instills confidence in the organization. Check out LWR.org for more information! *Submitted by Diane Wills*

Mission Area: Justice

April was National Child Abuse Prevention month, and we all need to do our part to help end this abuse. I have a couple of links that address concerns dealing with this issue. The first link is www.cdc.gov/features/healthychildren/index.html, which addresses the issue of child abuse.

At our Tri-Synodical Convention, Curt Henderson, the Iowa State Patrol Liaison to the Attorney General's Office on Human Trafficking, stated the average age girls are when they get into trafficking is 12–14, and

most of these are children who are running away from abuse and neglect in their homes. He said 4,200 youth are missing in Iowa each year. Three-fourths of these children will end up in sex trafficking.

The other link is https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporal_punishment_in_the_home. This article states that in many cultures, parents have historically been regarded as having the right, if not the duty, to physically punish misbehaving children in order to teach appropriate conduct. Researchers point out that corporal punishment typically has the opposite effect, leading to more aggressive behavior and less long-term obedience.

International human rights and treaty bodies such as the Committee on the Rights of the Child (195 countries, including Somalia, have signed this, making it the most ratified human rights treaty in history. However, the United States has not yet signed it.), the Council of Europe, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights have advocated an end of all forms of corporal punishment, arguing that it violates children's dignity and right to physical integrity.

I hope during the month of May you will each take the time to read these articles in full, and give them each your prayerful consideration as we work together to raise healthy children filled with Jesus' love and peace in their hearts and souls. *Submitted by Nancy Miller*

Have You Made Your Reservations?

Saturday, June 18, we will gather for our annual worship, learning, and business meeting at Wartburg College. We have some really wonderful workshops scheduled, the usual delicious lunch, and a fair amount of business to transact. Please encourage as many women as possible from your unit to participate! (Remember, there are scholarships for first-timers!) Contact [Anna Jetson](#) for forms, or download them from the [website](#).

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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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