

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

“For the Lord is good and his love endures forever....” Psalm 100:5a

This Psalm has been the basis for many a hymn and praise song. I find such comfort in the words “endures forever.” There is NOTHING that God’s love cannot overcome. Not cancer or divorce or earthquakes or hurricanes. And not the roadblocks and mountains we create in our own lives. I was reminded in a sermon not too many weeks ago that as long as you focus on Jesus, you can overcome any challenges that this world can throw in our way! It seems that when I focus on Jesus, the problem I see is not so overwhelming. Remember, don’t tell your big problem to God, tell your problem that you have a BIG GOD! *Focusing on Jesus today and tomorrow, Diane Wills*

Mission Area: Discipleship

“At WELCA, participants practice seven marks of discipleship: praying, studying, worshiping, inviting, encouraging, serving, and giving. Whether it be making quilts and health and school kits for Lutheran World Relief or studying the Bible together, or assisting in worship, they grow in faith and share what they’ve learned with friends and neighbors.”

(<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/ministry-action/discipleship>)

Luther tells us, “In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say:

‘In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

‘Then, kneeling or standing, repeat the Creed and the Lord’s Prayer. If you choose, you may also say this little prayer:

‘I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Then go joyfully to your work, singing a hymn, like that of the Ten Commandments, or whatever your devotion may suggest.” Luther’s suggestions for prayer through the day are found here, in an easily-printed format: <http://catechism.cph.org/en/daily-prayers.html> Try them! You’ll like it. *Submitted by Jan Harbaugh*

Mission Area: Justice

As we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year, I am mindful that Luther in posting his 95 theses was trying to correct what he saw as an injustice in the church. Luther was moved to take action to correct the injustice.

Today, we as Christians are faced with many injustices in our society. There are the issues of immigration and the burdens being placed on many of these individuals who are struggling to care for their families. There are also the issues of sex trafficking and human trafficking/slave labor, care for the earth, domestic abuse, corporal punishment of children, and the unmet needs of people facing natural disasters.

As Christians we are called to be God’s hands and God’s voice in the world. When we hear of these things, do we ask what we can do to help alleviate and correct the injustice, and are we moved to action, not to judge or turn away, but to reach out and work to help those in need? In the book of Revelation it says, “And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, ‘These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of The creation of God. I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold or hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, ‘I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing.’” This would suggest that God does not look favorably on complacency: we are to be busy doing God’s work, doing what we can to help those in need and those suffering due to the injustices in our world.

Micah 6:8 says, “He has shown you, O man, what is good; And what does the Lord require of you But to do justly, To love mercy, And to walk humbly with your God?” As we live into our All Anew theme, may we

CALENDAR

Nov. 1	Dec. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Nov. 4	SWO Board Meeting 9 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Synod office (snow date Nov. 11)
Nov. 4	LWR Ingathering, Zion-St. John, Sheffield, 8–11 a.m.
Nov. 4	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
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 1	Jan. <i>Good News</i> deadline
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Jan. 1	Feb. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Jan. 20	SWO Board and Cluster Leaders 9:00–3:00, Synod office (snow date 1/27)
Feb. 1	March <i>Good News</i> deadline
Mar. 1	April <i>Good News</i> deadline
Mar. 3	SWO Board, 9–12:30, Synod office (snow date Mar. 10)
May 19	SWO Board, 9–12:30, McCoy Room, Wartburg College
Apr. 1	May <i>Good News</i> deadline
Apr. 28	Upper Iowa Cluster Spring Gathering, Big Canoe LC
May 1	June <i>Good News</i> deadline
May 4	LWR Truck Loading, First Lutheran, Decorah
Jun. 15	SWO Board 7 p.m.–9 p.m., McCoy Room, Wartburg College
Jun. 16	31 st Annual NE IA Synod Women of the ELCA Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
Nov. 3	LWR Truck Loading, Decorah

each seek to do what we can, by voting for candidates who are committed to helping those in need, etc. May we also each become actively involved in working to alleviate pain and injustices in our church and society. *Submitted by Nancy Miller*

Mission Area: Stewardship

Thankoffering: Gratitude for God’s Blessings
Stewardship encompasses so much more than just money. It is about how we use all that God has

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entrusted to our care.

For many of us, November is a time when we focus on Thankofferings. The busy season of summer

has come to an end with the arrival of fall. Fall is a time when we gather our harvest—a time of reflection with thankfulness for our many blessings—an opportunity to share the gifts God has blessed us with.

For over 100 years Lutheran women have gathered their Thankofferings at their circle meetings or Sunday church services. 100% of the offering goes to the Churchwide organization for the support of ministries of the women’s organization.

Encourage everyone to give a gift so that we may continue the ministry efforts of women. Invite the entire congregation to participate in this service and host a brunch or a dinner as part of your event. *Submitted by Della Benson*

Around the Synod/September

From Avis Johnson, chair of Riverside Cluster F: We had a Spirit-filled day with a remarkable ride on the Empress riverboat with a delicious box lunch. We had 28 ladies attend. We went back to the church and had music, a skit, interaction with the women, time to share their faith. Thank God for the women of Cluster F and the leadership of all women of WELCA.

From Audrey Lowin from Cluster C, Jubilee: 31 ladies attended the Cluster C fall gathering at St. Paul Lutheran, Cedar Falls, plus Sadie the dog, a future Retrieving Freedom Dog. We shared devotions and after the program Iris Hagen talked about pillow case dresses and offered patterns and cases to whomever might want some. Others shared about WELCA’s various activities. We are still searching for a leader, but we will continue to meet and share as a cluster.



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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