

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.

Meet our newly-elected Board members: Melissa Miller, serving a second term; Anna Jetson, Secretary; Lisa Bahe; Della Benson; and Diane Wills, President



From the president:

I am so honored and awed to be your new SWO president. As some of you already know, I have served as president of the SE IA synod and as a board member there as well. Although I have learned that every synod has its “quirks” and special ways of doing things, one thing always remains the same. Whenever I meet Women of the ELCA, I always see and hear their passion for the Lord and all that God has given us! Whether it is the number of quilts that are tied and packaged for LWR or the learning in a women's Bible study or the sharing of prayer, love and compassion, the true love of Jesus always shines through our eyes.

Perhaps it is because I am a little older and wiser (I like to think), I find myself yearning to share all I have learned with my children and now my grandchildren. And even more so now, as I have been researching and discovering as much as I can about our family history. But not only the details of our ancestry but also the stories that make this family members so unique. And so it is with our units and circles and churches. As we talk and listen and learn, we find out so many details of the past that make each of these groups so special and unique.

My prayer for you this month is that as you meet in your circles, small groups, Bible studies and clusters, you will find time to listen and share the

stories, happy and sad, funny and serious, that make us all unique in the eyes of God our creator. Peace be with you all! *Diane Wills, NE IA SWO president*

A little personal information about Diane:

I was born in Waterloo, but graduated from HS in Indianola, Ia. After graduating from Wartburg with one of the first degrees in Music Education and Music Therapy, I married Kim Wills and began a long journey that has brought us thru most of the Midwest and back to Iowa again (a total of 19 moves). My husband Kim is a second career pastor, graduating from Wartburg Seminary in 1999. His first call was in Pella and for the last 6 years we have served the Zion St. John congregation in Sheffield. Although I have held many jobs in the last 32 years of our marriage, I am currently the accompanist for the Hampton Dumont HS and MS choirs, the handbell choir director at our church, and I was just hired as the church secretary last week. We share three amazing children, Christopher, who is a lawyer in the St. Cloud, MN area and married to Molly; Amanda, who is a chaplain and insurance agent and married to Matthew, also an ELCA pastor, and living in Michigan; and Nicholas, who is currently a graduate student in horn performance at the Jacobs School of Music at Indiana University in Bloomington and newly married to Emily. We have been blessed with three (soon to be four) beautiful grandchildren, Liam, Charlotte and Gabriel.

Introducing Della Benson:

I am from the Living Waters cluster and have lived in Lake Mills my entire life. I married a Norwegian 41 years ago and converted to the Lutheran faith. I have two children and two grandchildren. I was employed as an industrial lab technician for 42 years, until Cummins closed last year. I am presently babysitting my seven-month-old granddaughter and working part-time as a cook. I am a member of Immanuel Lutheran in Scarville. We are a five-point parish called “One In Christ” and have two pastors. I have a quiet personality, but have learned to be BOLD in

CALENDAR

- Oct. 17 Jubilee Cluster C Event, Zion-Jubilee LC, rural LaPorte City, 9:30 am
- Oct. 17 Tree of Life Cluster E Fall Festival, featuring the Double J's and Wranglers 8:30 am, St. John, Sumner
- Oct. 24 Little Flock Cluster B Fall Gathering, St. Paul LC, Monona
- Nov. 7 Fall LWR In-Gathering for Clusters C (Jubilee), E (Tree of Life) and H (Three Rivers) at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
- Nov. 7 LWR Ingathering for Clusters B, D, & I, Decorah, Olson Explosives
- Nov. 14 Living Waters Cluster G Fall Gathering, Bethlehem, Manley
- Nov. 21 SWO Meeting, 9-12, Waverly
- 2016**
- Jan. 16 SWO & Cluster Leaders, Waverly, 9-3 (snow date Jan. 23)
- Mar. 5 SWO, Waverly 9-12 (snow date Mar. 19)
- May 14 SWO at Wartburg 9-12
- Jun. 17 Pre-convention SWO meeting at Wartburg, 5pm
- Jun. 18 NEIA Women's Synodical Convention
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serving the Lord. My passions include Lutheran World Relief projects, card making, scrap-booking, sewing, reading, cake decorating and baking. I have even mastered the art of making lefse. I am currently serving my church on Altar Guild, doing bulletin boards and love serving fellowship. I especially enjoy participating in our "Tour of Tables" event decorating themed tables and inviting the community to a home cooked meal with dessert! I have made many new friends in the past serving on a cluster board, and look forward to serving on the NE Iowa Synod women's board.

Your Shepherdesses:

- Water of Life Cluster A & Shepherd of the Hills Cluster B: Marjorie Lewis
- Jubilee Cluster C: Melissa Miller
- Upper Iowa Cluster D: Vicky Jaeger

NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA

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.)

- Tree of Life Cluster E: Unassigned
- Riverside Cluster F: Jane Granzow
- Living Waters Cluster G: Della Benson
- Three River Cluster H: Nancy Poppe
- Shechem Cluster I: Nancy Miller

Mission Area Assignments:

- Discipleship: Della Benson, Cindy Pogge, Melissa Miller, Marjorie Lewis
- Stewardship: Vicky Jaeger, Nancy Poppe, Diane Wills
- Justice: Anna Jetson, Nancy Miller, Jane Granzow

If you are interested in these topics, need information, or would like help setting up a program, please contact one of the team for resources

From the SWO Justice Committee:

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Lime Springs, IA is having a Stewards of Children, child sexual abuse prevention training for their Sunday School teachers and for the community day care providers and any other interested people in the community.

If your WELCA is interested in having this FREE training, check out darknesstolight.org. Let's all work together to prevent child sexual abuse!

Tenth Triennial Gathering Women of the ELCA, July 13-16, 2017

"All Anew" is the theme for this Gathering. The theme is supported by several biblical texts that speak of renewal. Because the Tenth Triennial Gathering falls during the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017, the theme resonates with reformation and transformation images. At the Gathering, participants will explore ways in which the Holy Spirit changes us, acknowledging that reformation and transformation have happened and continue to happen within the community of women known as Women of the ELCA!! Put this date on your 2017 calendar!! *Borrowed from the Swatch, the SW WA SWO newsletter*

NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

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