

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 **Gathering Planning 2019?**

What a magnificent day we had in June when we gathered to laugh, learn and love the Lord! I wanted to share with you some of the wonderful and insightful comments you shared with us on the evaluation forms. As a board, we always spend some time with these evaluations, because it is the way we have to improve and make the next gathering even better! Some really liked the worship service, but would like to have had music to help with the singing. Many were inspired by Pastor Anita's sermon.

We always struggle with allowing enough time between things for shopping, bathroom breaks and just getting from place to place. Some want more time, others less. Some of you enjoyed the smaller portioned and healthier options for the luncheon, others not so much.... In the past, voting members have asked for shorter business sessions, but then we receive comments that voters feel as if what they are doing is unimportant. Nothing could be farther from the truth! Without you we would have no board members, nominating committee and no budget!

You appreciated the variety of interest sessions this year and a few expressed sorrow at having to choose. The Bremwood students who shared their worship experiences with you were definitely one of the favorites, but Pastor Mark Anderson and the Bishop also received very positive comments. Quite a few appreciated the creative experience of making their first mandalas with Sister Bernadine and others learned new things about life on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, LSI foster parenting and planned giving in the ELCA. Overwhelmingly, Pastor Kevin Doely, musical ventriloquist, brought down the house! Some even mused "how we could possibly top that next year!" I am not sure, but with the guidance of the Spirit we are going to try! Thank you for sharing with us!

Blessed to be a Woman of the ELCA, *Diane Wills*

Stewardship Committee **Staying Connected**

Faith is like wi-fi. It's invisible, but has the power to connect you to what you need!

Viewing things online has allowed me to de-clutter and simplify my life. I no longer receive paper copies of

stuff in my mail box, including most of the bills and newsletters. I have chosen to go paperless in most instances and eliminate the need to shred and recycle. I also like that I no longer misplace them. I can easily find things—especially my favorite recipes! I can keep track of my appointments, payments and records.

My message to you—"Let your Faith be Bigger than Your Fear! Sing to the Lord a New Song!"

Check It Out!

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca neiasynod.org Global Health Ministries at <https://www.ghm.org/hands-on-projects> LWR at <https://lwr.org/get-involved/build-kits-of-care>

Monthly publications of newsletters can be sent to your email inbox or accessed through neiasynod.org website. *Star* e-newsletter; *Good News* e-newsletter; *Youth Ministry* e-newsletter; *Living Faith at Home*; *God's Work. Our Blog*; *Bold Connections*; *Café*.

View YouTube channel from [neiasynod](https://neiasynod.org) for videos about Mission Support, Malaria Campaign, Social Media and more. Learn about Disaster Response, Generosity, articles on Stewardship, Ministry Support and Congregational Giving.

Promote your church and synod with photos—Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, Flickr, new—
<https://m.facebook.com/neiaswo> NE IA Women of the ELCA
Be sure to like us to promote our purpose and faith.

Make today the day to learn something new!

Submitted by Della Benson

Justice Committee

Why is there so much evil in the world? We see it in the newspapers, on television, radio and hear it from neighbors and acquaintances. We hear about sex trafficking, abducted persons, lack of care for children, lack of faithfulness in family relationships, missing persons, mass murders, careless use of guns. One might ask, "Where is the God of justice?" What can WE do? We can put our efforts into prayer.

The women of the ELCA have had a summer Bible Study series on "Prayer." It is important for us to take all concerns to God in prayer. We can pray that all may get to know Christ and follow his example in how we should live. We can be watchful within our neighborhoods. We can be charitable givers to the poor and needy, the hungry, the sick and the maimed. Our faith needs to be filled with love. Faith requires

FOUND

a pair of glasses with neck chain in name tag box after the gathering. Please call or email Diane Wills for their return.

CALENDAR

- Sept. 1 Deadline for Oct. *Good News*
Sept. 14 Riverside Cluster F Fall Gathering, Synod office,
10:30 am, Wild Carrot Tearoom, noon,
Bremwood, 1 pm
Sept. 29 Upper Iowa River Cluster D Gathering @ Decorah
Lutheran, 9 a.m.
Oct. 1 Deadline for Nov. *Good News*
Oct. 20 Living Waters Cluster G Gathering, Rock Creek
Church, Osage, 8:30–11:30 a.m.
Nov. 1 Deadline for Dec. *Good News*
Nov. 3 LWR Truck Loading, Olson's Explosives,
Decorah, 7:30–10:30 a.m.
Ingathering for C, E and H, Fredsville Lutheran,
rural Cedar Falls, 8:30–11:00 a.m.
Dec. 1 Deadline for January *Good News*
2019
Apr. 13 LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver
June 22 32nd Annual NE IA Women of the ELCA
Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
Nov. 9 LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver
-

deeds to be authentic. (Faith without works is dead.) We need to be doers of the word and not hearers only.

At Bartels Retirement Community, Pastor Sandra Burroughs has been doing sessions on the letter of James. We all need to be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to anger. Anger gets many into trouble and sometimes they use destructive weapons. Be patient, kind, peaceful, charitable and just. Always be JOYFUL and LOVE one another. GOD IS LOVE! *Submitted by Millie Dieter*

Discipleship Committee

What Does Our Logo Mean?

Our logo—with the cross, water and a white lily—identifies women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as children of God; baptized, forgiven, adopted into God's family, full of grace and hope in eternal life. It is a reminder of the growth, beauty, and vitality that rises out of that life-giving baptismal water. It is also a reminder of the mission of the church to "Go, therefore, make disciples of all nations; baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/tools-for-leaders>
Submitted by Jan Harbaugh

NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Diane Wills, President

641-425-8628 wills.dianes@gmail.com

Jan Harbaugh, Vice President

563-412-8906 jan.harbaugh@gmail.com

Anna Jetson, Secretary

952-240-9569 amjetson@yahoo.com

Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer

563-382-9025 sherida701@gmail.com
701 Serenity Drive
Decorah, IA 52101

Around the Synod What a wonderful trip

On July 30 & 31, 34 Women of the ELCA from the NE Iowa Synod went on a visit to



Minneapolis/St. Paul to deliver the in-kind gifts you all brought to the Gathering in June. We had a van full of soap and bandages, and three vans full of excited ladies. You will find pictures of our adventures at www.facebook.com/NEIASWO/, as well as at neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca.

Monday we started with a terrific tour of the LWR warehouse <https://lwr.org/>. Some of those quilts & kits bundles were from you all. Then we made a visit to the Hmong Village Center. After checking into our motel, about 20 of us went to the ball game at Target Field. It was a great game—a pitchers' battle right up to the bottom of the ninth, when the "good guys" pulled the win off with some very interesting strategy.

Tuesday we began the day at Global Health Ministries <https://www.ghm.org/>. Did you know that every institution that applies for materials from GHM has to be certified by the local Lutheran bishop? I didn't. They do all their work with over 1,000 volunteers, sending a shipping container once a month, and they're working on growing. They also take quilts and baby kits, but all for hospitals in 13 countries across the world. We got to do some of the sorting and rough packing while we were there.

Finally, it was off to Mary's Place, an amazing center just around the corner from the stadium. They offer interim housing, care for 500 children, and feed about 500 people a day. At Mary's place we brought socks and coloring books. To find out more, go to www.sharingandcaringhands.org

If there is interest, we could plan another of these field trips. It's worth it! *Submitted by Jan Harbaugh*

Good News

Editor Jan Harbaugh

112 W. Wilbur St., Hawkeye, IA 52147

563-412-8906 jan.harbaugh@gmail.com

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.)

Contact Women of the ELCA at:

773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>

8765 W. Higgins Road

Chicago, IL 60631-4189

NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA