

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 Thankful!

so easy to say I am thankful for... Right? But I want to share with you some incredible, wonderful and (I think) altogether AMAZING news. First let me say, I was so blessed and thankful to join the ladies from Riverside Cluster and their awesome leader, Avis Johnson, on a Friday in September, as they toured the Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) facilities at the Bremwood campus in Waverly. We were honored to hear the personal stories of three of the young people staying there and then talk with some of the staff who spend countless hours and patience with these teenagers. I am thankful, for this is a place that has been caring for the neglected and forgotten children of Iowa since before 1900. And they are still going strong and have never forgotten their calling from God to minister to these children. If you have not had the opportunity to see these facilities or hear about the kids there, I encourage you to make time to do so. You can contact Christopher Caswell at LSI to make arrangements.

But now to my news! Remember that WELCA challenge issued by LSI just a little over a year ago? We were challenged to raise \$5,000 for LSI, and your board decided to designate it to the spiritual ministry of LSI. Well, in that short year we managed to reach our goal AND then some. After the June gathering, we learned that we had raised over \$7,700!! I am so thankful for all of you and for your caring and compassion for the LSI ministry. I am also thankful to the board for accepting this challenge!

God is truly doing amazing things in NE IA and in the Women of the ELCA! May we continue to be God's hands in this hurting world!

Blessed and thankful! Diane Wills

Discipleship Committee

"For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45(NRSV)

Serving is at the heart of Jesus' ministry. Making the connection between Jesus feeding the five thousand and setting up a food pantry is easy. God serves others through us. Jesus calls us to be more than good waitstaff. The ministry of feeding is commendable, but there is more to serving.

To follow the example of Jesus and serve all people requires us to get involved in the lives of others. Jesus valued relationships. Jesus' conversation with the Samaritan woman, making time for children, or comforting his friends Martha and Mary serves as a blueprint for moving us beyond projects and anonymous charitable activities to relationships.

Following the life of Jesus leads us into the mess of life where lives are transformed and Christ is made known.

Serving as Jesus served brings us closer to Jesus, the one who did not come to be served but to serve.

As we serve, the following are just a few examples of how we can do this: Visit the sick and imprisoned; Feed the hungry and Respond to disasters. *Submitted by Bonnie Dralle*

Justice Committee

Support Migrant Children and Their Families

The Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, a national leader in areas of poverty and immigration, was a keynote speaker at the Women of the ELCA'S Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, July 2017. During her presentation she posed this question to the women gathered: "What is it in the world that breaks your heart?" It is from pondering this question that I became aware of and have desired to learn more about Ammparo. AMMPARO is a holistic whole church commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany children today and in the future. To learn about the ELCA AMMPARO initiative: www.elca.org/ammparo

Salvatierra said, "Christians know they are called to do justice but they are confused about how to go about it."

Here are some ideas about how to get involved:

- Pray for the safety of migrant children and families on the journey and for justice as they reach their destinations.
- Become a Welcoming Congregation to accompany these children and families through their transition to life in the U.S. www.elca.org/Resources/AMMPARO
- Advocate for justice for migrant children and families. www.elca.org/Advocacy
- Accompany migrant children and families through the Guardian Angel Program as the physical presence of the church in the courtroom. <https://Vimeo.com/157458987>
- Give to AMMPARO to provide opportunities for children and families in Central America and in the U.S. <https://community.elca.org/donations/ammparo-donate>

Submitted by Jennifer Larson

Stewardship Committee

The devotional in the Stewardship section of the Women of the ELCA website for the month is: "Act on your gratitude to change the world." The way we show gratitude and act on it are the ways we actually do make a difference in the world. The devotion then asks, "How can you make a difference in the world?"

Two on-going stewardship efforts for Women of the ELCA can help in answering this question. They are Thankofferings and Katie's Fund.

Thankofferings are a long-standing custom among Lutheran women. We give in thanksgiving for blessings received. Your generous Thankofferings help support the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization. Women can set aside small monetary amounts throughout the year. I use one of the free banks

CALENDAR

Nov. 1	Deadline for Dec. <i>Good News</i>
Nov. 3	LWR Truck Loading, Olson's Explosives, Decorah, 7:30–10:30 a.m.
Nov. 3	Ingathering for C, E and H, Fredsville Lutheran, rural Cedar Falls, 8:30–11:00 a.m.
Nov. 3	SWO Board Meeting at Synod Office 9–12:30 (Nov. 10 snow date)
Nov. 6	Cluster G Living Waters LWR Ingathering, Southport Mall, Mason City, 9am–11am
Dec. 1	Deadline for January <i>Good News</i>
2019	
Jan. 12	SWO Board meeting with Cluster Leaders at Synod Office, 9–3 (Jan. 19 snow date)
Mar. 9	SWO Board meeting at Synod Office 9–12:30 (Mar. 16 snow date)
Apr. 13	LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver
May 18	SWO Board meeting at Wartburg College 9–12:30
June 21	SWO Board meeting at Wartburg College, 7–9 p.m.
June 22	32 nd Annual NE IA Women of the ELCA Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
Nov. 9	LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver

available on the ELCA Good Gifts website and drop my spare change into it at the end of each week. Many congregations organize a Thankoffering service in the month of November around Thanksgiving to give thanks and gratitude for the blessings we have received throughout the past year.

Katie's Fund is an endowment that supports ministry in three areas: leadership development, global connections, and living theology. Last fall, your churchwide board approved an initiative called the "All Anew Campaign for Katie's Fund." This initiative's goal is to triple the Katie's Fund Endowment by the 2020 Triennial. Women of the ELCA established Katie's Fund in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, raise up bold leaders for the churchwide women's organization, and support bold and creative ministry for generations to come. Your generosity makes a real difference in women's lives. *Submitted by Deb Jacobsen*

For additional information on Thankofferings and Katie's Fund, please go to www.womenoftheelca.org/thankofferings or www.womenoftheelca.org/katiesfund

Meet Your New Board Members
Introducing Me

NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Diane Wills, President

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Hello Everyone! My name is Deb Jacobsen and I am one of the newly-elected Synodical Board Members for NEIA's Women of the ELCA. I am excited to be a part of this organization full of faithful women! I am looking forward to meeting, sharing, and learning from the women of our synod so we can grow in faith together.

I thought I'd share just a little about myself. I was raised in the Catholic faith and became a member of the ELCA in August of 2014. My family attends West Clermont Lutheran Church in Clermont, Iowa, which is part of Cluster I (Shechem). I have a bachelor's degree in Psychology, with a business minor and am currently working as the secretary for our congregation. My husband, Bob, and I will celebrate our 25th wedding anniversary on November 13th. We have 4 beautiful daughters, Alycia (24), Ericka (22), Haley (18) and Nicole (14) and a little Chiweenie dog, Oscar (2).

Around the Synod
Lutheran World Relief 2018 Fall Ingathering
Saturday, November 3, 2018
Fredsville Lutheran Church
32756 150th Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
319-989-2065

This year's Fall ingathering for Cluster C (Jubilee), E (Tree of Life) and H (Three Rivers) will be held at Fredsville Lutheran Church in rural Cedar Falls from 8–11 a.m. on Saturday, November 3rd. A semi-truck will be parked in the parking area next to the street in front of the church. There will be help available to move the boxes. Do not bring any items before that morning. Reminder: LWR no longer accepts clothing.

Please follow LWR guidelines when packing your items. <https://applications.lwr.org/giving-category/resources/quilt-kit/qk-leader-guides>

Please use a summary sheet (found on our website) to record **ALL** the items and number of boxes you will bring for the truck. We also ask for a \$30.00 check payable to **Fredsville WELCA** to cover the cost of the shipping. There will be a table set up near the truck (weather permitting) to handle any questions and to take money and summary sheets (or these can be brought into the church). There will be coffee and morning treats available in the fellowship hall starting at 8:00 a.m.

All information concerning the ingathering is also on our church website: www.fredsvill Lutheran.org or contact Sharon Hemmen at 319-269-8471 with any questions.

The 2019 Spring Ingathering will be held at St. Peter's in Denver, Iowa. More details will be forthcoming.

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.)

Contact Women of the ELCA at:

773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

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

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NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA