

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***

January is National Prevent Human Trafficking month. Did you know that is because during the weeks leading to the Super Bowl (Feb 3, 2019), there is always a marked increase in human trafficking? As many of you know, the Women of the ELCA have been working to remove this blight from our nation and our world, through education of youth and adults, and donations to local and national organizations, among other things. Your SWO board supplied all those who attended the 2018 Gathering in June with magnets to distribute with the hotline number on it.

I wanted to share with you about an organization I learned about a few months ago. This organization is Teens Against Human Trafficking. It is an organization that educates teens on how to help other teens recognize the signs of trafficking, and possibly prevent it from happening. In Iowa, Youth Support Services (YSS) sponsors these groups, which have been forming in many high schools. If you would like more information, please go to <https://www.yss.org/program/teens-against-human-trafficking/> or <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/mission>. And don't forget to put the Trafficking hotline number in your phone, 888-373-7888 and remember, if you see something, SAY SOMETHING!  
*Work for change, Diane Wills*

## ***Discipleship Committee Reaching Out***

It has been my privilege over the years to have been joined by someone in need of assistance. In each case, putting our thoughts and resources together, we were able to provide different immediate needs—for instance, a night or some lodging, laundry (so as to be presentable for job interview), food, small car repair assistance, encouragement. This is discipleship without going

to the effort of investigating needs, the needs were brought to us. It was gratifying. And even more so seeing the success come in the follow-up contact.

Also, most of us join with the Giving Tree at Christmas, LWR quilts, school kits, etc., and in helping to keep our local food pantry supplied. Currently, the SWO is busy seeking additional funding for Katie's Fund. This is named after Martin Luther's wife, Katie.

Our local WELCA group's current efforts are to resupply the Winter Flood Bucket project of the Northeastern Iowa Synod's Disaster Response Network. Because of the over-sufficient supply of water earlier this fall, 200 buckets were used in flood cleanup in just Sumner and Mason City. Even a donation of one or two needed items for those buckets by several people can add up in a hurry. Again, all of these are people coming to us for aid, making it easy to help.

I believe in the discipleship Jesus speaks of: we are to look around, aid where we see the need. Many times it requires our most prized commodity, time. Have a cup of coffee, soft drink, with someone whom you haven't seen in church recently; write a card of encouragement, thoughtfulness; call someone. Reference an article in the 2018 *Guidepost* magazine by Linda Lawrence Hunt about Sather Gowdy and his campaign to #Heal Spokane and how it MAKES PEOPLE FEEL BETTER about themselves and their lives who are doing one act of kindness a day to improve their community. The article documents turning negative energy in to positive energy, ridding anger from their lives. Can we not all use that?

**Last note:** As you receive your 2019 calendars and begin to mark the coming events, PLEASE turn to November, make a note to choose a recipe for a special cake to serve next CHRISTMAS EVE—a BIRTHDAY CAKE for JESUS. *Submitted by Lavonne Teem*

## ***Justice Committee***

An epiphany is an experience of sudden or striking realization. I hope during Advent we were all struck with

---

## CALENDAR

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, Clusters H, C, E, St. Peter, Denver
- Apr. 13 Spring Salad Luncheon, Cluster G, Living Waters, Bethlehem, Manly, 8:30–12:30
- Apr. 15 LWR Ingathering, 9–11, South Port Mall (old Sears area)
- Apr. 27 Little Flock Cluster B Spring Fling, Bethany, Elkader
- April 27 Cluster D Upper Iowa River Cluster Spring Gathering, Good Shepherd, Decorah
- May 4 LWR Ingathering, Cluster D, Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- 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<sup>nd</sup> Annual NE IA Women of the ELCA Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
- Nov. 9 LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver
- 

an epiphany of God's love for us. As we enter the season of Epiphany, I would like to recall what [Pope Benedict XVI in his prayer on December 19, 2007](#) said, "Let us ask God to grant that violence be overcome by the power of love, that opposition give way to reconciliation and that the desire to oppress be transformed into the desire for forgiveness, justice and peace." This is my hope and prayer for our future. However, it is not enough only to pray. We are taught that faith without works is dead. Therefore, let us commit to act out our faith in the year to come by caring for those in need, doing what we can to combat human trafficking, helping the stranger in our midst, the immigrant and the homeless, those struggling with mental illness, etc.

We as Christians know that God is always with

---

### NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

**Diane Wills, President**

641-425-8628 [wills.dianes@gmail.com](mailto:wills.dianes@gmail.com)

**Jan Harbaugh, Vice President**

563-412-8906 [jan.harbaugh@gmail.com](mailto:jan.harbaugh@gmail.com)

**Anna Jetson, Secretary**

952-240-9569 [amjetson@yahoo.com](mailto:amjetson@yahoo.com)

**Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer**

563-382-9025 [sherida701@gmail.com](mailto:sherida701@gmail.com)  
701 Serenity Drive  
Decorah, IA 52101

us even in our darkest hours. Let us share God's love with those going through "dark times," that they may also know and feel God's love. May our New Year be filled with us being God's hands at work in a troubled world. *Submitted by Nancy Miller*

### **Stewardship Committee**

As the end of the year approaches, now is the time to spend down your cluster and congregational unit accounts. Keep what is needed to start the new year and disburse the remainder. Your donations to the NE IA Synod Women help us provide scholarships for Triennial Gathering participants, for women theological students and for those continuing their education; and to support Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief, Riverside and EWALU Bible camps and the churchwide organization. Thank you for your help. *Submitted by Beverly Sheridan*

### **Meet Your New Board Members**

*Lavonne Klammer Teem*

Typical Iowa farm girl. Oldest of six. Grew up doing farm chores, good student. Graduated high school, had fun as part of successful basketball program. Two and one-half years in the USAF. Married, now 57 years. Raised five children, two of whom were foster children who both came to live with us when they were 11. Both still part of our family, one 57 years old, the other 33. Now have 9 grandchildren. Worked for small factory; door to door sales; 22 plus years for AAL/Thrivent Financial. Stay-at-home mom, gardener, fence fixer, goat milker, hay harvester, etc., while the kids were in school. Cub Scout leader, several offices at church—Zion in Oelwein. Enjoy reading, playing guitar, bass, singing with a group, traveling stateside and overseas. Have participated with several Habitat for Humanity projects locally and overseas. Like working with people.

---

### **Good News**

Editor Jan Harbaugh

112 W. Wilbur St., Hawkeye, IA 52147

563-412-8906 [jan.harbaugh@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA)