

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

Who is the BOLDEST woman you know?? Your mother, grandmother, a friend, a member of your church? Are they BOLD because they speak their mind, or always have something wise to say, or have they always loved you know matter what? On January 29th we celebrated Katie Luther's birthday. She was definitely a BOLD woman who lived a life full of faith and service. What about Leymah Gwobee, from Liberia? Certainly she was a very bold woman who stood up to violence and injustice and changed her country forever. Or maybe closer to home, what about Mary Jo Mettler, from NE Minnesota, who heard about the Lutheran Hospital in Phoebe, Liberia, and how they did not have consistent electric power? Through prayer and persistence, she worked with Women of the ELCA, her local electric coop and many other groups to bring to reality solar power for the hospital! Sounds like a bold woman to me! On February 24th we will celebrate BOLD WOMEN'S Sunday in the ELCA. I have been blessed to be part of many congregations in my life and have had the opportunity to witness many BOLD women in the pews, kitchen and SS classrooms. I encourage all of you to make plans to name the BOLD women among you and thank them for all they have done for you, their churches, their communities and even the world!

Be BOLD, Diane Wills

PS: Want to hear more about Mary Jo Mettler's story? She will be at our gathering, June 22, @ Wartburg College. Mark it on your calendars and get your registrations in!

Discipleship Committee

VOLUNTEERING AT GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES (GHM), by Pastor Jane A. Granzow, retired

Some folks go south in cold weather, I went north. Guess I am more directionally challenged than

previously thought. My goal was to deliver many boxes to the Lutheran World Relief (St. Paul, MN) and Global Health Ministries (Minneapolis) warehouses, which I did, and attend a performance of "A Christmas Carol" at the Guthrie Theater with my niece, which I did. I then spent 11 days with my sister and her family in New Brighton, MN over the Thanksgiving holiday. Since my sister and brother-in-law's schedules were full during the day I took GHM up on their offer to welcome volunteers. And welcomed I was.

Upon my arrival, John, the warehouse manager, put me right to work. He brought out a very large cardboard box labeled "disinfectants." My job was to sort the many and varied articles into like piles, then check each item for the expiration date. Sounds simple, right? This project took me four days (I volunteered from 9:30-4:30). I thought I must be a slow worker, and told John that. He said my task was one of the most time-consuming tasks in the warehouse, which made me feel a lot better.

I packed boxes of disinfectants, i.e., bars of soap, betadine swabs, sterile packages of surgical cleansers, alcohol wipes (yes, some wipes have an expiration date) among many others. John said, "fill the boxes full", meaning, cloth is stuck/pushed tightly around the items. Each box is measured—height, width and depth, weighed, description of, and how many items in a box—all this on a computer, then the printer spits out a label with the above info as well as the exact location where to put or find it. Placing the boxes in the exact location is how I learned that the warehouse made sense.

I volunteered 5½ days and felt every minute was worth my time and energy. (Global Health Ministries was one of the stops on the NEIA Synod WELCA's outing in June.) GHM delivers medical products, small items like boxes of soap, and large items, like x-ray machines and hospital beds, to Lutheran hospitals around the world where requested. GHM has requested more hospice kits as they are in demand and often do not have stock in supply. For more info contact GHM: 763-586-9590 or <http://www.ghm.org>.

CALENDAR

Mar. 2	SWO Board meeting at Synod Office 9–12:30 (Mar. 9 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 nd Annual NE IA Women of the ELCA Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
Nov. 9	LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver

Justice Committee

Dogs, cats, big cats, horses, mules, zoo animals. What do these animals have to do with Justice? If you're an animal lover, you might already know. Many of you have seen the commercial put out by the ASPCA featuring dogs and cats outside suffering from the cold, without food or water, or frozen if they have any. These are bleak pictures, but happen more often than we realize. There are many dogs and cats dropped off or thrown in rivers to drown. How do those who survive live? Don't animals deserve to be treated with kindness? Where is the justice for these animals? Some of you may feel that they're just animals, and "can take of themselves." I feel that these animals deserve justice from uncaring owners. And there are laws on the books that provide for the arrest for some of these uncaring or uneducated owners.

Luckily there are organizations that rescue

animals, provide no-kill places where animals can live out their days, and provide adoption services. According to animal rescue, there are 124 rescue/no-kill/adoption groups in Iowa. And they don't limit themselves to dogs and cats. There are habitats for horses, mules, blind cats, greyhounds, zoo animals, wildlife and almost any kind of animal you can think of. Justice for animals? Of course! Why not? There are many people trying to do just that, and you can find a list of them by putting in the address, "[Rescue animals in the U.S.](#) (or in Iowa) Submitted by Jane Godson

Stewardship Committee

What are your giving beliefs? Have you shared your beliefs with those closest to you? How and when should you start a conversation about charitable giving with your family?

Currently on the Women of the ELCA website there is a downloadable article that can help you start this conversation. The article; "[Kitchen Table Philanthropy](#)," written by Emily Hansen (Copyright © 2010 Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) gives the reader a chance to really discover the many ways they steward and how that can shape their family's generosity both monetarily and in how you share your time and talents. It offers guiding questions to help your family find its path and commitment to charitable giving. By encouraging your children to be part of charitable decisions for the family, you are encouraging them to be faithful givers throughout their life. It is fun to give. Knowing that you are helping in some way, make life better for someone else, is a great feeling. There are always ways to give. Stewardship is a lifelong gift of sharing and giving. Start the conversation today on how your family would like to share their charitable generosity. You can find more stewardship related resources at womenoftheelca.org. Submitted by Deb Jacobsen.

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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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