

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

A-new Bold!

Ez 11:19 *“I will give them a new heart, and put a new spirit within them.”*

This is the theme for our 2019 gathering, June 22 @ Wartburg College. It is a play on words, from our new triennial theme All Anew. We are hoping this theme will inspire everyone to think of new and creative ways to be Women of the ELCA. To help you along the journey, we will be hosting Mary Jo Mettler, former president of the NE Minnesota Women of the ELCA, who had an idea to provide solar power to Phoebe Hospital in Liberia. When you come to the gathering you will hear her story of faith and trust that not only provided solar power to Phoebe hospital, but is now working on a second hospital in Curran.

Also during our time together we will be electing new board members, president and secretary, along with nominating committee members and even more important, Triennial voting members! If you are looking for a new challenge and want to find out more about Women of the ELCA, this is a great way! You can find the nomination forms on the [website](#). We will also be learning more about how we can help with the mission of Global Health Ministries and the AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy Representation and Opportunities). And just for fun, we will be having our first “busy” session, while we roll bandages for Global Health Ministries. Get your registration forms in so you do not miss out on all the fun and fellowship! (look on the website, or check @ your church—each unit should have already received a packet)

See you in June! *Be A-new BOLD,*

Discipleship Committee

What is a disciple? To be a disciple a person needs to be a servant, witness and a worshipper. Jesus showed his 12 disciples what was needed to be his disciple. He knelt in front of them and washed their feet. This did not seem right to Peter until Jesus said “If I do not wash you, you have no share with me” John 13:8. Jesus came to earth not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as the rescue for sinners Mark 10:45.

To be disciples of Jesus we need to be witnesses for and to him. We are given a mission—to spread the Gospel of Christ whenever and wherever we can. There are times when this can be most difficult and takes a lot of courage. But we can because we are His disciples and filled with the Holy Spirit sent for a purpose—to tell the Good News.

Now discipleship means we must worship. Jesus should be our one and only person or thing we worship. This is the heart of Christ’s ministry. We worship him in spirit and in truth. If we follow Jesus we must worship God through Jesus because he is our Mediator and worship Jesus himself because he is God.

So to put it quit plainly: to be a disciple of Jesus means to serve like him, witness for and to him and worship only him, even though this may sometimes go against the social order of our day and its expectations. *Submitted by Bonnie Dralle, Board Member*

Justice Committee

Each midwinter, when days are cold, windy and bleak, the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. are brought before us as we remember and honor him with marches, speeches and assemblies. He reminds us that Jesus came to care for the poor, the oppressed and forgotten. In his sermon to the congregation at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, GA in 1962 he said:

“You died when you failed to stand up for something. You died when you failed to give yourself

CALENDAR

- Mar. 2 SWO Board meeting at Synod Office 9–12:30 (Mar. 9 snow date)
- Apr. 5 Cluster F Riverside Spring Gathering, St. John, Hampton
- 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 32nd Annual NE IA Women of the ELCA Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
- Nov. 9 LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver
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to some great principle. You died when you refused to stand up against segregation. You died when you refused to stand up against some great evil of society. Somebody's calling us this morning, saying, 'Go preach my gospel. You shall be witnesses unto me in Samaria, Judea, and unto every part of the earth.' Carry this gospel into the villages, to the hedges and the highways, and tell about Jesus. And if we will do this, we will make this old world a new world."

These words were spoken again to the congregation of First Lutheran Church, Decorah, IA by Pastor Melissa Bills in her sermon moments before the congregation's annual meeting. The building that has housed the church family for over one hundred years is no longer structurally sound. While much time was spent in the

meeting wondering about the building, we are reminded that the mission of the church is to be God's hands and feet. WE ARE THE CHURCH TOGETHER.

Submitted by Jennifer Larson

Stewardship Committee Introducing Crafty Girl's Faithful Finds

"And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts." 1 Peter 4:10

Come, enjoy the day with us! Save the date—NEIA Women of the ELCA 32nd Annual Gathering held at Wartburg College, Waverly on June 22, 2019.

We are excited about trying something new to entice the crafty spirit in you! A limited number of display tables will be available for use during our Gathering to crafters within our synod who are interested in selling their craft work creations to our attendees.

Yes.... Our ladies love to shop—and we would like to promote the gifts God gave us! We require that some of the items on tables be FAITH based. There is no fee for tables, but we are asking for a donation of a craft item from crafters for our door prize drawing at lunchtime. Crafters are asked to have a person at their table for sales until 2 p.m. A half table space will also be offered for sharing with another crafter for those with smaller items.

Crafty Girl's Faithful Finds Application Form can be found on our website—www.neiawomenoftheelca and will also be available at our spring cluster events. The deadline for applications is May 15, 2019. Boxed lunches from The Den will be available for a cost of \$9.00.

Contact Nancy Miller (507) 273-4036 for details.
Submitted by Della Benson

NE IA 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

Good News

Editor Jan Harbaugh

P. O. Box 18, Castalia, IA 52133

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