

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."*

Have you ever wondered if you are good enough? Worthy enough? Special enough? I spent most of my early life trying to get my mother and father's attention. I excelled at almost everything (except basketball) that I tried, but still it was not enough. They just did not know how to tell me they loved me. Now you are probably thinking, how sad is that, but it taught me a few very important things. First, Jesus loves us, no matter what we have done or who we are. He paid the ultimate price that we might live and He loves us unconditionally. And second, grace is an amazing gift. We can NEVER do enough to earn forgiveness or love. It is a gift freely given to all who believe.

You are probably wondering why I bring this all up? I never thought that being on the Synodical Women of the ELCA board was something I could do, but I said yes when I was asked and have not regretted it. In fact, I have made life long friendships, enjoyed many fun-filled mornings and afternoons with fascinating women and learned of many new and unique ways to serve our amazing Lord Jesus. I encourage you to consider being a part of the board, try something NEW, be BOLD in your faith! If you have an interest or have questions, please contact me (wills.dianes@gmail.com or 641-425-8628) or Jan Harbaugh (jan.harbaugh@gmail.com or 563-

412-8906) *Be A-
new BOLD, Diane
Wills*



Justice Committee

100 miles from the nearest shelter. The story of domestic violence in rural Iowa.

On average, nearly 20 people per minute are physically abused by an intimate partner in the US, according to National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. That equates to 10 million women and men being abused in one year. In many cases, domestic violence victims need help to either stay safe in their situations or separate themselves from their abusers—help that is often available in Iowa's metropolitan areas, but not as easily accessed in the state's rural counties.

Domestic violence doesn't always appear in the form of bruises or broken bones, or other signs of physical abuse. Domestic violence can be in the form of verbal abuse, isolation and control. Control of your money or who you can speak to or spend time with.

So what can we do? Prayers can always help. If there is a center in your area, contact them and ask how you can help. Sometimes they need volunteers to assist, other times, they need resources, money, or supplies. At the end of the article is a list of centers and advocacy contacts all across Iowa. Reference to article from Kat Russel at *The Gazette* published February 24, 2019 3:00 pm (www.thegazette.com) Submitted by Anna Jetson

Discipleship Committee

Luke 5.11: "When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him."

You might know my friend, Cindy Pogge. She's been around the synod for quite a few years now, and preceded me in the position of SWO Board Vice President. I believe Cindy has a special gift. She is able to see the gifts in others, and to encourage them to use them. In fact, she is the reason I am here writing this article today.

Now, we are not asking that you drop everything

CALENDAR

Apr. 1	Good News deadline
Apr. 6	Cluster F Riverside Spring Gathering, St. John's, rural 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, Prayer Labyrinth, Good Shepherd, Decorah
May 1	Good News deadline
May 4	LWR Ingathering, Cluster D, Olson's Explosives, Decorah
May 18	SWO Board meeting at Wartburg College 9–12:30
June 13	Good News deadline (July/August edition)
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

to traipse around Iowa (well, maybe a little). But our Nominating Committee, Cindy Pogge, Margaret Okland, Carol Burnikel, and Pastor Jane Granzow, are seeking out people with the gifts to carry the mission of the NEIA SWO for the coming two years, and they will be reaching out to you. In June, we need to elect: president, secretary, 3 board members, and 6 Triennial voting members (to represent us in Phoenix), as well as a new Nominating Committee.

Please do prayerfully consider joining us in this ministry. It's challenging, it's (some) hard work (not a lot), and it's fun! Nomination forms are available [online](#), from your shepherdess, or from [Anna Jetson](#). See you in June! *Submitted by Jan Harbaugh*

NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

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Stewardship Committee

Greetings! Spring is here and we are busy planning our 32nd Annual Gathering on June 22 at Wartburg College. Our theme this year is "A-New Bold." We will be having inter-active tables available, including bandage rolling. Our in-kind offering will be personal hygiene items for Bremwood and rolled bandages for Global Health Ministries. Our regular offering will be divided between church-wide, Katie's Fund and AMMPARO.

Registration forms for the Gathering will be available at your Cluster Spring gatherings or from your Cluster president. If you are a first-time attendee (and not a delegate from your church) you can apply for a convention scholarship. This is a nice way to experience the day and I am sure you will enjoy it and want to come back next year. We are also looking for women to serve on our Synod board. This year we are looking for someone to serve as president, as secretary or as a board member. It is a nice way to meet new people and experience WELCA at the next level. If you would like experience on the National level, our Triennial Gathering will be held July 16–19, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona. This is one of the most phenomenal events you will attend with other Christian women. Scholarship forms are available as well as applications to be a voting member to the Triennial convention on July 14–15, 2020, before the Gathering begins. All of these forms are available on our website at www.neiasynod.org/women.

I hope to see you at one of our many activities that we have scheduled. *Submitted by Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer*

A blessed Easter to you all!

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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