

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."

Katie Luther, what an amazing woman—wife, mother, friend, servant, brew-master, teacher, Martin-organizer, cook, disciple, financial planner, musician. She was also compassionate, thoughtful, wise, intelligent, and, let's face it, full of never-ending energy! And for most Lutheran women, she should be our role model! It is sad, however, how many do not know about her or how she came to have such an important place in the history of the Lutheran church. I want to take just a moment to let you know about Katie's Fund, a Women of the ELCA endowment fund named after Katie Luther. This endowment fund, established in 1997, is one of three designated charities that we will support with our Gathering/Convention offerings in June. The goals of the fund are leadership development, global sharing, and living theology. In the past 15 years, money from the fund has been used for travel of various women representatives to India, Israel, Liberia and numerous places in the US. It has also funded scholarships for Triennial participants, investment in the improvement of the WELCA website, *Gather* magazine and *Bold Cafe*, purchase of various DVDs for use by staff and others, training in advocacy issues, and grants for the Gbowee Foundation in Liberia. That is pretty amazing for just 15 years. Imagine how much more of a legacy Women of the ELCA can leave if we continue to grow this fund! And definitely true to its namesake! GO AND BE LIKE KATIE!!!

Be A-new BOLD, Diane Wills

Justice Committee

1 Corinthians 3:16&17

"Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the spirit of God dwells in you? If

anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."

I think of this often not only in reference to my own body, but also of other people's bodies. The refugees whose bodies are the temple of God, and the poor and homeless, they are temples of God. As Christians, are we not called to treat them as God's holy temples too? Aren't we called to ensure their bodies and souls are nurtured as well as our own? Sitting in Northeast Iowa, I sometimes feel there isn't much I can do about some of these things, however, that's not true. We have the ELCA e Advocacy which allows us to be actively involved with these issues, even if we can't be there physically. We can make our voices heard as we stand in solidarity with all God's people doing our best to care for all the temples of God and trying to ensure none are defiled. You can become an ELCA Advocate by going to www.elca.org/Advocacy then scroll down to where the blue print says "sign up for the ELCA e Advocacy network now." Tap on that and sign up, and become an active member working to ensure all God's temples are cared for and not defiled. I encourage everyone to check out this site as there are many different levels of involvement. Often you can merely sign your name in support of different issues and concerns. It is one way we can be God's hands, doing God's work here on earth. *Submitted by Nancy Miller*

Discipleship Committee

SPRING is here. It is playing hide and seek for awhile, but the evidence is clear in the frost boils, the greening of the grass, etc. As we welcome this new season, let us remember our discipleship and reach out to those around us. Which of the people populating the earth were created by God? Which societal group of the population will be the only one in heaven? To which of these groups are we instructed to reach out? As we become disgruntled by a neighbor whose efforts are lacking on keeping the appearance of the neighborhood on a par with

CALENDAR

Apr. 30	Deadline for nominations for officers (2) and board members (3), Nominating Committee members (6)
May 1	<i>Good News</i> deadline
May 4	LWR Ingathering, Cluster D, Olson's Explosives, Decorah
May 15	Deadline for Convention Scholarship application
May 15	Deadline for Motions/Resolutions
May 15	Deadline for Education Scholarship applications (3 available)
May 15	Deadline for Voting Members to the 11 th Triennial Convention nominations (6 needed)
May 18	SWO Board meeting at Wartburg College 9–12:30
May 25	Early registration deadline
June 13	<i>Good News</i> 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
Nov. 1	Deadline for Triennial Gathering Scholarship

all, do we ask is there maybe a reason? Possibly physical illness, lack of employment, trying to earn money repairing some of the items found lying in disrepair on the property? I wonder if, rather than freeze food we have over-prepared, perhaps, we shared it with someone and thus began an acquaintance. It's my observation, we are happier when we can help someone and are interactive with others. Sometimes, it seems, we go to some lengths to keep the undesirable from 'our' area. We put arms on park benches and airport seats, so 'those undesirables' won't hang out in 'our' area. Is it possible if we offered a blanket, etc., the person co-habiting the earth with us would also help clean up this, their, area also? This may be way beyond what we are willing to do. Offering smaller tokens of thought and consideration are excellent examples of discipleship. What is

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discipleship? Is it doing for others what we would like done for us? We are all in this world together.

Please God, Thank you for your many blessings and bring us many more. Guide us with your hand as we carry out your work. Keep us from evil that we may cause no pain. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.
Submitted by LaVonne Teem

Stewardship Committee

We are quickly approaching our Annual NEIA Synodical Women's Organization Convention on Saturday, June 22nd. In conjunction with the theme "A-New Bold", one could ask how this may apply to stewardship?

This year, in addition to our regular offering and in-kind gifts, we have three "New" opportunities to show "Bold" stewardship to others.

Crafty Girls Faithful Finds is an opportunity for us to support those among us with a crafty side. We are offering display tables for anyone interested in selling their craft items. Some items should be faith based. Profits are yours to keep, but we ask for a donation for our door prize drawing at lunchtime. For more information or an application form, go to:

<https://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/>

The second opportunity is the Book Exchange/Book Sale table. Bring a gently used book to donate to the table. See something you like? Swap it out. Books will also be available for purchase. Books remaining at the end of the day will be donated.

This brings us to our "Busy Session" following lunch. At this time, attendees will have the opportunity to actively steward by rolling bandages for Global Health Ministries or by writing an advocacy card for AMMPARO and other ELCA-supported organizations. You can even do both!

Together, we do more than we could ever do apart. This year's Convention is a celebration of stewardship! Are you ready for "A-New Bold"? See you there! *Submitted by Deb Jacobson*

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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