



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
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WELCA.ORG

Good News

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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

While I was making other plans..... the Spirit moved you!!!

Have you ever played the game "Around this room I draw the magic circle, when the spirit moves you, get up and leave the room?" It was a game we played at camp in the early 90s. The how of the game is not as important as the thought of the spirit moving you to action. I am reminded of all the times I was making plans and God had other ideas and redirected me. Like when I arrived at college and said, I don't need to attend worship weekly and Sunday morning I felt like I was the only one up and remembered reading about when and where to go to worship. It was my first experience of a contemporary worship service. I really liked it and decided I could handle that kind of service at 11 a.m. Have you felt the spirit move you? Please share your stories.

I am truly honored by your trust, faith and confidence in my leadership. I request you continue praying for your Synodical Women's Organization board, all Women of the ELCA, the ministries we participate in, and the future of the organization. I look forward to serving with the awesome and amazing women you have selected as your board. I can't wait to meet those of you in the synod I haven't met yet and get to know more of you.

I hope you all are willing to be open to ideas. Some may be new to you. Others may be old news, tried and true for your group. Please be sure to share your ideas, suggestions or concerns with us (<https://www.facebook.com/NEIASWO>, your cluster leadership, cluster shepherdess, or any of the board members).

I'd like to thank everyone for attending the convention in June and for voting for me as your president. Another thing about me personally. I am a very honest and open-minded person willing and able to take suggestions to make us a better organization. I welcome anyone and you can talk to me anytime. *Your President, Anna J.*

Stewardship Committee

The definition of stewardship on Wikipedia is; "*the job of supervising or taking care of something.*" When God created the world, He chose us as stewards over all His creation.

One of the largest days of organized stewardship within the ELCA takes place this year on Sunday, September 8th. "**God's work. Our Hands**" Sunday is an ELCA day of service. Congregations do a wide range of service projects on this day. Many take this day to get

their whole congregation involved in ongoing projects such as making quilts & blankets or putting together LWR kits. Others organize a church or community clean up. Bake sales or freewill dinners, with the profits going toward a cause, is another popular choice. Even if your congregation has not organized an event, you can do your own stewardship. Go visit that person you haven't seen in church. Buy some LWR kit supplies. Attend another church's fundraiser or donate to a charity. We steward in some way each day.

Stewardship shows that we care about the people around us, about animals and plants, and all the other resources that have been given to us by God. Stewardship is the way we share our God-given talents with others. When we come together and share talents, we accomplish many things that are not possible alone. *Submitted by Deb Jacobsen.*

NB: LWR is especially in need of school kits this year.

Discipleship Committee

Some of you may remember that just a year ago we spent two days learning about and sharing in the ministries of LWR, Global Health Ministries, and Mary's Place in the Twin Cities. I think everybody agreed it was a heartening, enjoyable, and worthwhile trip which encouraged our own endeavors in ministry, and taught us a lot.

We have another adventure available this year, sponsored by the SE Iowa Synod, and open to all three synods. The Tri-Synodical Fall Retreat will be held October 4 & 5 in Ames. A registration form is available at neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca. Diane Wills is arranging transport from the west end of the synod for people who are interested. Contact her at wills.dianes@gmail.com. Hope to see you in October! *Submitted by Jan Harbaugh*

Justice Committee

I recently watched the movie *Instant Family*. The plot involves a successful couple who decide to adopt a child. They go through the foster parent training and then meet children and express interest in a teenager. The couple then finds out she is part of a sibling group of three. The movie shows some of the ups and downs and adjustments everyone goes through. There comes a time when it looks like the children will be returned to their biological parent, but in the end the parent doesn't follow through, so the children are adopted by the couple. It reminds me of all the children that I have encountered as part of my job. Most do stay with their parents; however, these families do have needs that most of us have never experienced. There are things we can do to help them. Most of us do what we can to donate to our local community services.

What you may not realize is that social organizations also

CALENDAR

- Sep. 6 & 7 Ecumenical Conference, Bethany, Kensett
Sep. 28 Upper Iowa Cluster D Fall Gathering, St. John's LC, Waukon
Oct. 4–5 Tri-Synod Fall Retreat, Bethesda LC, Ames
Oct. 19 Living Waters Cluster G Fall Gathering, 8:30–11:30, St. Paul, Mason City
Nov. 1 **Deadline** for Triennial Gathering Scholarship applications
Nov. 9 LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver
Nov. 11 LWR Ingathering, South Port Mall (old Sears area) 9–11
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need us to advocate for them by contacting your state representatives and representatives in Congress, in Des Moines and Washington D.C., to ensure that laws continue to protect and provide the services these children need to ensure they are safe and cared for. If you want to know more, there is Lutheran Day on The Hill in Des Moines when Lutheran Services in Iowa and the three Iowa Synods of the ELCA gather together to meet with state representatives, more details can be found at lsiowa.org.

You can also pray for families in need, the Department of Human Services and the other social organizations that do what they can to help the families deal with addiction, domestic violence, sexual abuse, homelessness and many other issues. You can also contact the local social organization and volunteer your skills. They have a variety of needs. Sometimes they need hands-on assistance, and sometimes it is the little extras you can help with, like school supplies, or Christmas presents for children who might not receive any, or their very own quilt to take with them as they move from place to place, or maybe it is clothes that fit after a growth spurt, or loss of everything they owned in a fire, or because they had to leave everything behind when they were removed from an unsafe environment. *Submitted by Anna Jetson*

Around the Synod

Details about your newly elected President:

Name: Anna Marie Jetson

Member of Highland Lutheran Church, Decorah, Iowa, Upper Iowa River Cluster.

Employment: Lutheran Services in Iowa, Family, Safety, Risk and Permanency in the Decorah location. (However, I must say, I spend more time in my 4 wheeled office, than the actual office) It may sound confusing, but a simple explanation is I am an in home worker for the Iowa

Department of Human Services.

Family: I live near my Mom on the “other farm” my parents bought after I graduated from high school. I have three brothers and one sister, 4 in-laws, 2 nieces (twins), 2 nephews, 2 great nephews. For all of you who have seen my address or license plate, yes, I am from Minnesota, but I can see Iowa from my living room.

Here is my inheritance from my Dad, being a story teller. Here is the story of how I arrived here with you all. I had recently returned to my home town and was living in my parents' basement. One day in the mail, my mother received the brochure for the Triennial Gathering that was going to be in Salt Lake City, Utah. A friend of mine had said if you ever get a chance to go to Utah, be sure to check out the national parks. So, I asked my mom if she wanted to go with me. She said no. Then I asked if she thought any of the ladies from church might go with. She didn't know but suggested I ask them. So, I asked at the next meeting. No one wanted to go, but then the fall cluster meeting happened and someone brought me back a scholarship application. I submitted it and received the scholarship. For my birthday, my parents gave me money for the train ticket. (That was the year the train flooded out in southern Iowa, so about two weeks before the trip, they refunded my ticket. I was able to get an airplane ticket and ended up going out a couple days earlier and had my cousin show me around the area.) I knew one name and saw one other person I knew before I came to Salt Lake City. I did attend the brunch the NE IA group had organized and met my pastor's cousin and a bunch of other ladies from NE IA.

When the fall leadership happened that year, I was asked to share one thing about the Triennial. I had so many things I had learned. Bless Cecil Maureen, who asked me to share last. As all the other participants shared things, I eliminated some of the many things I had been thinking about. In the end I shared about the people and all the connections they had with each other—sisters, friends, couples, etc. It was only a couple of minutes. The next June I arrived at the SWO gathering and was greeted by some of those many women from NE IA. One said, “The last time I saw you, you were walking off alone to your hotel room and I have been wondering if you made it. I am glad you did and glad to see you here.”

Now I'm hooked. What's your story? Do you share how you got here? Do you share why you participate? What do you get out of coming to gatherings and doing the work you do? Feel free to share with all of us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com). If you are not a Facebook user, perhaps you would be willing to write a letter or email and send it with a picture or two to Jan Harbaugh, our newsletter editor, and she could share it with us on Facebook.

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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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