



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

If GOD had a ringtone on your phone.....

So I've been thinking about this for a while. It started with one of my board members telling me I had a special ringtone on her phone, so if I called she would know and not miss my call. My co-worker has given me the ringtone "Baby Shark," so when I call her during work, all the kids start to sing the song. Then during the course of one weekend, three different women shared devotions with me from Jesus is calling. It made me think back to the song, "If GOD had a name what would it be? And would you call it to his face? If you were faced with Him in all His glory. What would you ask if you had just one question?" by Joan Osborne. It was on pop radio and I thought it was great. So other people in my life disagreed. They felt it was taking away the sacred. I still feel it makes GOD more human. Jesus walked the earth. How do we know that GOD doesn't stop by for a visit once in a while? So I ask you, if GOD was calling would you want to know and give GOD a special ringtone, so as to not miss the call? Or would you give the special ringtone so that you could avoid that conversation? I admit, I have considered giving certain people special ringtones, so I can decide if I have the time and space for that call. I've never done it, but I'll admit I'm tempted. Are you ready to hear what Jesus is Calling for you? *Your President, Anna J.*

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

Discipleship Committee

Gather magazine is a publication of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. In the July/August issue of the magazine we were introduced to the lesson studies in the future issues.

During September, October and November the lessons are written by Anna Madsen. They will explore selections of Old Testament poetry from

Job, Psalms and Lamentations. By drawing from the experiences of the ancient writers of these books of the Bible, we will learn how they used language to share a range of emotions with God and each other.

The December study is a walk through the seasons with Vonda Drees, a visual artist. She will help us contemplate the true meaning of this season using some creative, artistic exercises, using the words of the prophet Isaiah.

In the January through April, 2020 studies, by Kathryn A. Kleinhans, we will be focusing on vocation and calling, with a look at how God calls us to be faithful, fruitful workers. These studies are the kick off to the new year and the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the ELCA.

Gather magazine publishes three multi-session Bible studies and two devotionals through the year. When you subscribe to *Gather* you have free access to the digital edition, also. The print subscription cost is \$19.95 per year, which includes 10 issues (combined issues in January/February and July/August). An intro offer for new subscribers to *Gather* is \$9.95 for one year. *Submitted by Alice Greimann*

Justice Committee

Skip the Grid

MaryJo Mettler of the NE MN Women of the ELCA was an invited guest to our NE IA Women of the ELCA 's annual gathering at Wartburg College this past June. She shared her story and mission to raise funds to provide reliable energy by building a solar-micro grid for Curran Hospital, a Lutheran hospital located in Northern Liberia. This cause is important to her because she feels called by God to care for creation and by Jesus to care for brothers and sisters who suffer in poverty.

Liberia is one of the poorest countries in the world. Curran Lutheran Hospital has been supported in a small way by the Women of the ELCA for nearly 100 years. It only has electricity for less than half a day.

While Mary Jo was with us this summer, she was in the middle of a Go Fund Me campaign to raise \$30,000 in 30 days. I am happy to announce that goal

CALENDAR

- 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
Oct. 19 Little Flock Cluster Fall Gathering, St. John
LC, Farmersburg, IA 9-noon
Nov. 1 **Deadline** for Triennial Gathering Scholarship
applications
Nov. 2 Board Meeting @ Synod Office 9-12;30
(Nov. 9 Snow Date)
Nov. 9 LWR Ingathering, St. Peter LC, Denver
Nov. 11 LWR Ingathering, South Port Mall (old Sears
area) 9–11

2020

- Jan. 18 Board Meets with Cluster Leaders @ Synod
Office, 9am-3pm (Jan. 25 Snow Date)
Mar. 7 Board Meeting @ Synod Office 9am-
12:30pm (Mar. 14 Snow Date)
May 2 Board Meeting @ Wartburg College 9am-
12:30pm
June 19 Board Meeting at Wartburg College, 7-9pm
June 20 SWO Convention, 8:30am-4:00pm, Wartburg
College

was exceeded and \$30,250 was raised. Follow Skip the Grid on facebook or via their website to share and read more about the power of solar in fighting energy poverty. www.skipthegrid.org

Submitted by Jennifer Larson

Stewardship Committee

The Joy of Serving ...

Interest sessions 22 June 2019 at NE IA SWO convention. A huge thank you to Nancy Neilson, Marilyn Martell and Jan Nelson from Our Saviour's, Mason City. They were inspired to take action from the Kim Dickey, Global Health Ministries presentation, when she shared the need for Health Care Kits to provide a continuing supply for our impoverished brothers and sisters in other parts of the world.

They shared the plea with a few fellow churches in our Mason City area to join them in assembling more than 60 plus Health Care Kits and roll

bandages on September 17th. Our Saviour's applied for grants from GHM and Thrivent to defray the initial cost of supplies..

Our praise goes to these wonderful gals for the courage to take action and make a difference.

Submitted by Lea Norlinger

Meet Your New Board

Hello, my name is Lea Norlinger, wife of Ron, Mason City, IA. My WELCA devotion began in the mid-80s with Bible studies and serving on church boards. Our involvement was highlighted by making hundreds of batches of lefse and Norwegian pastries. The students I taught had great fun in Sunday School as we learned to love Jesus as our friend and savior. While serving as WELCA president two different times, I became intrigued by the Synod Board. My continued interest was sparked by the dedication of those around me and the causes that make our positions necessary. We carry a spiritual torch for others worldwide, and the needs that can be met if we share our resources with love to the less fortunate than ourselves. Lutheran World Relief and Global Health Ministries are to be commended for their service to meet the needs of others. Our small giving pooled together makes a huge difference.

Around the Synod

Special Welcome to the new Abigail circle from Big Canoe Church in Decorah. The young women are organizing a circle that meets their needs. Please pray for all women, guide us to include each woman where they are, and to give them the freedom of choice.

St. John's Ministry WELCA invites you to the Little Flock Cluster Fall Gathering, Saturday, October 19, 2019. Registration & refreshments at 9, Program at 9:30, Lunch at noon (\$10).

The program is "Seeing Is Believing" by Charlene Sauer, FNP-BC, relating her experiences in Honduras improving children's vision with eye surgery.

In Kind Offering: Items for Clayton County Food Shelf. RSVP by October 14 to 563-880-0657 or

bifuelling@netel.net

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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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