



Good News

February 2020
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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

I'm doing my "happy" dance! Mom and I are registered for the Triennial Gathering in Phoenix. I am so excited to be going with her again. I was pretty sure once I got her to one Gathering, she would go again. Every three years, I look forward to the gathering of women, usually in a place I haven't been before. I hope you are able to come to Phoenix and join in the fun and excitement to see what the Women of the ELCA have been up to and where we are going next.

Now for something a little closer to home. Our SWO gathering is June 20, 2020 at Wartburg College in Waverly. Your unit leader should have received a mailing with registration forms, nomination forms, etc. These forms will also be available on our website: <https://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/>. Hope you will join us for a day full of fun and learning. I want to remind each cluster that we are looking for two nominations from each cluster, one person willing to serve on the SWO board and one person willing to serve on the nominating committee. If the spirit moves you to participate, please complete the nomination form. If you know someone and think they would be a great leader, make the suggestion to them and request they complete the nomination form.

Does your unit celebrate Bold Women? February 23, 2020 is Bold Women Sunday. Resources, including a liturgy, promotion flyers, and BOLD resources are at www.womenoftheelca.org. We are surrounded by BOLD women. You may not even realize you are the BOLD woman that others look up to. Send stories of BOLD women and how you celebrate them to our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/NEIASWO>.

Justice Committee

What does Justice mean to you? Does it mean

helping someone in need? Does it mean standing up and saying this is not ok? Does it mean sitting with someone while they struggle through the challenge they are facing? I think it means all of these and more. Women have been standing up for others, sitting with others and taking care of others for a long time. Do we recognize the work we are doing? Sometimes I hear, "but that doesn't happen here. What's happening ½ way around the globe doesn't affect me and my town." I think we need to realize the world does impact us in our neighborhoods and in our daily lives. We may have a stable grid that delivers electricity to us daily, but that doesn't mean we can't help our neighbor. I have been noticing more solar panels and solar fields as I travel around the synod. I think it is a benefit to all when we use natural resources that are easily renewed to power our day, wind or sun.

I recently received feedback that hearing about what is happening elsewhere is good, but doesn't help with what I need for here and now. Then I read the article in *Living Lutheran* about what is happening in our campus ministries and what the younger generation is interested in. Sometimes I wonder if we want them to be interested in what we are interested in—doing things the same way we always have done things. Let me ask you this. Do you have the same interests your mother had? Your grandmother? Don't get me wrong, I do a lot of things with my mother, but sometimes we have different ideas of what we want. I don't try to change her and luckily for me she appreciates the things I like to do as well. You just might be surprised at how much Justice work you do. There is an opportunity to join others and learn more ways to make a difference for others on February 25 at Lutheran Day on the Hill. More information is available at: <https://lsiowa.org/get-involved/advocate/> Submitted by Anna Jetson

Just Love

Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice.

CALENDAR

Registration for the Triennial Gathering is now open

Feb. 1	Deadline for March <i>Good News</i>
Mar. 1	Deadline for April <i>Good News</i>
Mar. 7	Board Meeting @ Synod Office 9am–12:30pm (Mar. 14 Snow Date)
Apr. 1	Deadline for May <i>Good News</i>
Apr. 25	Upper Iowa River Cluster Spring Gathering, Immanuel LC, Cresco
Apr. 25	Spring Gathering, Little Flock Cluster B, St. Peter, Garnavillo
May 1	Deadline for June <i>Good News</i>
May 2	Board Meeting @ Wartburg College 9am–12:30pm
May 2	LWR Ingathering at Olson's Explosives, Decorah
June 16	Deadline for July-August <i>Good News</i>
June 19	Board Meeting at Wartburg College, 7–9pm
June 20	SWO Convention, 8:30am–4:00pm, Wartburg College

We are not perfect. We are one body in Christ.

The 2020 Triennial is just around the corner—July 16–19. Imagine a convention center packed with 2,500 Lutheran women filled with energy, love and just plain FUN!!!! There is so much to do and see: learning experiences, worship, keynote speakers, fellowship, friends from near and far, the sights of Phoenix, exhibits, quilts, trips and on and on! This will be my 7th Triennial and I am now sharing the experience with my daughters—a girls' weekend! If you are interested in going, or have already registered, or need help with roommates or travel arrangements, registrations or just have questions, please give me a call, 641-425-8628 or wills.dianes@gmail.com.

Looking forward to JUST LOVE, Diane Wills

Around the Synod **Little Flock Cluster B Fall Gathering**

The leaves were just about to turn in the hills around Farmersburg, a glowing sugar maple outside the

church greeted us all. Sixty of us came together for our Fall Fling October 19, 2019. St. John's Luana ladies served us refreshments before our program started in the sanctuary. Rosetta Anderson, president, opened our meeting by welcoming two new churches to our cluster—Elgin Lutheran, Elgin and Highland, Elkader.

"Seeing is Believing" was our theme for the day brought to us by Becky Fuelling, Pastor Harold McMillian and Charlene Sauer. Pastor asked for a few volunteers and the next thing they knew, they had blindfolds on for 45 minutes. We sang our hymns, held our business meeting and then Pastor McMillian asked them to share with us this blinding experience. Pastor McMillian read a verse from Mark 9:25 and we talked about all kinds of blindness—spiritual, financial, social—and how the world can close in on us. We have our own evil demons that blind us. God gives us a heart of compassion; we need one another to get through life...through faith!

Our guest speaker, Charlene Sauer FNP-BC, shared with us her life-changing experiences of traveling to Honduras. Their mission is to better children's lives by improving their vision, one eye surgery at a time! Each medical volunteer pays for their travel and daily expenses to be there. Children in America who have strabismus (crossed eye) are fixed around the age of 1–2. Unfortunately, in Honduras they don't get that care, have the equipment or money to help themselves. "That is why we travel there to help them, if we didn't, who would?" stated Charlene.

A few announcements were made: **April 25, 2020 Spring Gathering at St. Peter-Garnavillo; May 2, 2020 LWR truck** Decorah 7:30-10:30am, Olson Explosives (St. John's, Farmersburg assist with loading); and need new **2020 board members** from St. Paul, Postville & Emmanuel, Strawberry Point.

Many thanks to the ladies of St. John's Farmersburg for hosting a delicious lunch and handing out door prizes to four lucky ladies! *Submitted by Rosetta Anderson*

NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Anna Jetson, President

952-240-9569 amjetson@yahoo.com

Jan Harbaugh, Vice President

563-412-8906 jan.harbaugh@gmail.com

JoAnn Brunsvold, Secretary

641-512-4236 jobvold76@yahoo.com sjbruns@wctatel.net

Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer

563-382-9025 sherida701@gmail.com

701 Serenity Drive
Decorah, IA 52101

NEIA Women of the ELCA Facebook page:
<https://www.facebook.com/NEIASWO/>

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Editor Jan Harbaugh

P. O. Box 236, Guttenberg, IA 52052

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