



Good News

March 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

Ever have one of those days, or weeks, or maybe even months where it just seems like you have one too many things to accomplish and everyone seems to think you have plenty of time to do theirs first? I just finished one of those times. And it took me until almost the end to realize, "Life is messy. It's not always going to go the way you planned." Sometimes it doesn't happen in the timing we want. In the end, the sooner we let go of trying to control it and just do what needs to be done, right there in front of us, suddenly the list is done. OK, maybe not totally done. The house is still a mess, and since I live alone and don't have any guests scheduled to visit for a while, I can focus on that next. Domestic goddess I am not. But the bosses are happy as all the work got caught up, I have a plan to stay caught up, so won't get so far behind again with documentation. The annual reports got done and the books passed the audit and church money all accounted for. The board meeting with cluster leaders happened. OK, we used the snow date, but still it happened and we accomplished what was needed. So the birthday celebration is delayed, but at this time in our lives, some of us prefer to stop counting. Mostly, I say it is just a number. It tells how long we have been here doing what we do. It only means something if you make it mean something.

Sometimes, I think we need reminding we are not alone. We are surrounded by others who are willing to be with us and our mess. Some are Marys who just sit and be, others are the Marthas who jump in and do what needs to be done. We are all needed in the body of Christ. We are all uniquely made in God's image and have specific gifts and talents to share with others. What are your gifts and talents? How are you uniquely made?

Blessings on your "lived in" life! Anna J.

Discipleship Committee

In my community, we have a volunteer

organization that sews items for 'special' people. We call ourselves Charity Sew Day volunteers and meet two Thursdays a month. It is open to anyone of all faiths and gender who want to donate their time, talents, food, etc. We started in January 2019, with four people and by the time the year ended, 18 people donated their time to sew, iron and bring lunch.

In this year we made 147 pillowcases. Forty-five were distributed to adults in two care centers and juvenile prints will be used later. The following items were sent to Haiti: 236 flannel diapers, 124 moisture-proof pad holders for hygiene kits used by girls and women, plus 2 pads per holder, cloth shopping bags (using recycled t-shirts). We assembled many hospice quilt tops, 77 Christmas stockings, stuffed with goodies, of which 20 were mailed to local active service men & women. The remainder of the stockings were given to patients in the mental care & recovering addiction units at the VA in Des Moines. Mercy Cancer Center in Mason City received 54 "Breast friend" pillows used by mastectomy patients.

This example of discipleship has touched so many lives. People who donated their time to sew and iron, friends and community members who donated fabrics, money from various sources to help defray costs of stocking goodies & supplies, our sewing machines, scissors and threads. We also shared fellowship with apartment residents as they passed by the door, listening to us laughing and smelling the aromas of our delicious meals. Lastly, the people who received our projects of love were shown God's love through these gifts. *Submitted by LuAnn Brunen*

Justice Committee

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8) <https://youtu.be/pbthchrOU>

The prophet Micah saw how sick their religion had become and he puts forth a rhetorical question, listing all the kinds of sacrifices people used—burnt offerings, calves, thousands of rams, rivers of olive oil, even one's firstborn. So, Micah makes this great statement:

CALENDAR

Registration for the Triennial Gathering is now open

- Mar. 1 Deadline for April *Good News*
Mar. 7 Board Meeting @ Synod Office 9am–12:30pm
(Mar. 14 Snow Date)
Apr. 1 Deadline for May *Good News*
Apr. 6 LWR truck, 9–11 a.m., South Port Mall,
Mason City
Apr. 6 Clusters C,E,H LWR Ingathering and salad
luncheon, St. Timothy's, Hudson
Apr. 18 Spring Salad Luncheon, St. James LC, Mason
City
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 *Good News*
May 2 Board Meeting @ Wartburg College 9am–
12:30pm
May 2 LWR Ingathering at Olson's Explosives,
Decorah
June 16 Deadline for July-August *Good News*
June 19 Board Meeting at Wartburg College, 7–9pm
June 20 SWO Convention, 8:30am–4:00pm, Wartburg
College
July 16–19 *Just Love*, Women of the ELCA
Gathering, Phoenix, AZ
Aug. 1 ~~Deadline for September *Good News*~~
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"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" That's what God wants of us. And that's how Jesus lived and it's what Jesus taught—justice and kindness and humility before God.

Lord, help me to be just and kind in all of my relationships and to walk humbly with you. Amen.
(posted by Pastor Wayland Middendorf).
Submitted by Jan Harbaugh

Stewardship Committee

It is that time of year when many units will be changing officers. The treasurer is the person who distributes the monies from the unit. It seems like we have many forms for this, but I will try to help

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

you find your way through them.

Your regular offerings are given whenever women gather. These gifts are the backbone of our ministries. You send a portion of your offerings, or some units have designated a specific amount in their budgets, to send to the SWO, to the Synodical Women's Organization treasurer (that's me right now). With your offerings we send 60% to the Churchwide organization. The remaining 40% we use to provide scholarships for Triennial Gathering participants, for women theological students and for those continuing their education, and to support Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief, Riverside and EWALU Bible camps. For these offerings along with your convention and cluster offerings use the Offering Form A. Make the check out to Women of the ELCA (WELCA) and mail to the SWO treasurer (me).

Designated gifts, such as Thankofferings, Katie's Fund, ELCA World Hunger, LWR freight for quilts, support the ministries of the churchwide organization. Every cent of your designated gift is used for the ministry you designate. These gifts can be sent to the WELCA Gift Processing Center in Merrifield, VA using form B with a check made out to WELCA with your designated ministry on the memo line.

These forms can be found at our website <https://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/> and printed off. We will also have the forms available at your spring cluster meetings. If you have questions, please give me a call. *Submitted by Beverly Sheridan, SWO treasurer*

Just Love

Following Jesus is messy. Loving one another is justice. We are not perfect. We are one body in Christ.

Interested in Triennial?

Already registered, but need a roommate?

Have questions??

Contact Diane Wills, 641-425-8628 or

wills.dianes@gmail.com

Looking forward to JUST LOVE,
Diane Wills

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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