



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
JULY 16-19, 2020 | PHOENIX
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

Jesus Christ is risen! Jesus Christ is risen indeed! I hope you attended or will be attending your spring cluster gathering. I love getting together with other women and hearing all the different things we are up to.

I was just in Chicago with the other synodical presidents. It was a busy, information-packed weekend. One thing most of you will be interested in is the changes LWR is making. They no longer need bulk soap. As much as we in the northern hemisphere love fleece, fleece is not so good for the environment. LWR is no longer accepting fleece tied blankets after May 1. Please use any soap you have collected for your kits. Any fleece blankets can be donated locally. If you already have it packed in the boxes to load on the truck this spring, they will find appropriate places to use them.

The board is finalizing the details for our June Gathering in Waverly. I hope you will join us for a day of community, learning, and laughter. Our theme is Just Love. We have lots of things packed in our schedule for June 20. Then in July is the Triennial Gathering in Phoenix. I look forward to attending every three years. My mother is going with me for the week. I hope if you can't join us in person, that you will follow the activities at welcatg.org or your favorite social media for Women of the ELCA.
Blessing, Anna J.

Discipleship Committee

As we near this Easter season, what are we thinking in the way of discipleship? Are we continuing the LWR projects, reaching out to others, inviting them to see what we are accomplishing and join our efforts? Have we made the extra effort of encouraging them to

join our families at worship services? It's something I work on a lot in my head as I go through the day. My guilt grows as I read my devotionals. Prayers to the Holy Spirit waft heavenward. Yet, the words haven't been spoken, nor the phone invitation made. Accomplishing goals is said to be easier if they are spoken and shared with others. So this is me, speaking and sharing with you. I can enumerate discipleship efforts of mentoring, setting up benefit/funeral details, leading Bible study and completing LWR projects. Those are simple, though time consuming, efforts on behalf of others. However, carrying through on the decision to share the Gospel, the Love of Christ and the invitation to speak of faith with others I care about is a task I have set for myself this Lenten season. May God's Love and Guidance support you in your discipleship efforts. *Submitted by Lavonne Teem*

Justice Committee

Creation Justice Ministries

The April 2019 issue of *Living Lutheran* magazine included a news article from the ELCA Advocacy staff about Creation Justice Ministries (CJM). CJM partners with the ELCA and other denominations, congregations and individuals to do justice for God's planet and God's people. This year their focus is on youth leading environmental justice efforts. They have a resource available at www.creationjustice.org called "Next Generation Rising" for congregations to use. A story from this resource is about the twenty-one youth who have filed a landmark case called "Juliana v. United States," which maintains that the government has had a role in causing climate change and has, therefore, violated the rights to life, liberty and property, and failed to protect essential public resources.

Everyday is Earth Day. Ways to take action:

~ Write letters to elected members of Congress expressing commitment to care of God's creation for

CALENDAR

Registration for the Triennial Gathering is now open

- Apr. 1 Deadline for May *Good News*
Apr. 4 Clusters C,E,H LWR Ingathering and salad luncheon, St. Timothy's, Hudson
Apr. 6 LWR truck, 9–11 a.m., South Port Mall, Mason City
Apr. 18 Cluster G, Living Waters, Spring Salad Luncheon, St. James LC, Mason City
Apr. 18 Spring Gathering, Cluster I, Shechem, St. John's Arlington
Apr. 25 Upper Iowa River Cluster Spring Gathering, Immanuel LC, Cresco
Apr. 25 Spring Gathering, Little Flock Cluster B, St. Peter, Garnavillo
Apr. 25 Cluster F Riverside Spring Meeting, Immanuel Lutheran, Story City
Apr. 30 **Deadline** for SWO Board, Officers and Nominating Committee nominations to Jan Harbaugh (address below)
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 19 Board Meeting at Wartburg College, 7–9pm
June 20 SWO Convention, 8:30am–4:00pm, Wartburg College
June 25 Deadline for July-August *Good News*
July 16–19 *Just Love*, Women of the ELCA Gathering, Phoenix, AZ
Aug. 1 Deadline for September *Good News*
Sep. 1 Deadline for October *Good News*
Sep. 19 Cluster G Living Waters Fall Gathering TBA

today and future generations.

~ Plant a tree to encourage stewardship of creation.

~ Send a kid to camp. A place for youth to cultivate a relationship with the land and the Creator.

Submitted by Jennifer Larson

Stewardship Committee

As we draw closer to Holy Week and the joy that

Easter brings, I thought this prayer was helpful in reminding us of our greatest teacher and steward—Jesus.

A Steward's Prayer

O Lord, we pray that as we be,
People of God chosen by thee,

That you give us strength and guidance every day,
For our role as stewards to portray.

That our voice and works may proclaim,
The ministry of Christ is our aim.

That our actions will speak louder than what we
say,

Where the security in our life is God's way.

That we generously respond to what you first gave,
Your Son, a Savior, our lives to save.

And when we have decisions to make,
To thee, O Lord, our prayers we take.

Keith A. Mundy, 1998

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/A_Stewards_Prayer.pdf?_ga=2.9466806.281813009.1582829404-1638734836.1562866116

Jesus died for all our sins and opened the gates of heaven so we might live with God forever. There is no greater example of stewardship. Blessings to you this Easter season. Submitted by Deb Jacobsen.

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

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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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