



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.*

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## **From the President**

Hello from the other side.... I hope by the time you read this we are on the other side. We find ourselves in a place we have never been before. How are you? I find myself isolated and alone. I am considered essential, so getting papers that state that. Which means, I don't get to stay home and do??? Facebook shows posts of new working-from-home arrangements and cute interactions with the new "co-workers" (could be kids or pets, or spouses). All those things we had planned are in limbo, wondering if and when "normal" returns. I am realizing I am not a stay-at-home person. I am surrounded by "projects" that I bemoan not having time to do in my normal busy schedule. But now meetings are by phone or video call instead of commuting to them. And although, currently, you can still shop for essentials, going shopping for the day is no longer a good or acceptable entertainment. And even though I do enjoy cooking and baking, doing it for one is not as fun as doing it for potlucks, family meals for the holiday, or even being spontaneous and grab items from the store then stop at friend's house on the way home to throw something together.

How are you coping? Are you like my mom, making progress on her basement of projects—nine more quilt tops for LWR, and calling and writing letters to family and friends? Are you a DIY person and getting a jump start on your summer project list? Are you an introvert and enjoying the peace and quiet of not having to show up at places and events that you feel expected to support? Or are you an extrovert who has no idea how to navigate the isolation? Me, I am napping, watching movies and creating my own personal concerts watching music videos on You Tube. Making plans for doing things when we are once again able to come and go at will—doing the road trips to check out the little towns around me that are filled with shops that look intriguing, and actually stopping to take time to shop; actually going to see the people in my life who are important to me; and not waiting for the perfect time. *Blessings and peace, Anna*

## **Discipleship Committee**

In the book of Acts we are told of a woman whose name was Tabitha (or in Greek Dorcas). I remember my first time being introduced to circles at St. James (60 years ago) and one of the circles' name was Dorcas. At that time there were three circles at St. James and now we have just one and really don't have a specific name. We just call ourselves a Bible Study group. Things have really changed since Tabitha's time and our own time since 1958.

One thing that has not changed is Discipleship. Discipleship has stood the test of time and will continue to do so. As God has said, "My word will not return to me void."

There were many women who followed and worked for Christ. But Tabitha had one thing that made her stand out from all the others. She was the only woman specifically called a disciple. She being given this title takes nothing away from all the work the other women did for Christ. We are not told why she received this special title and it really doesn't matter. What matters is all the work she and so many others did for Christ and his ministry. *Submitted by Bonnie Dralle*

## **Justice Committee**

What does Justice look like in a time of crisis? Is it helping your neighbor who is homebound due to age or health issues? Is it buying up all the supplies you can to ensure you and your family have everything you could possibly need for 10 times longer than the crisis is expected to last? The internet has been flooded with what to do or not do and who is to blame for this crisis. I want to focus on how we can all survive this together, learning the new social etiquette of social distancing and preparing for your needs, with regard for others, who may be at a higher risk and need those supplies also. Justice is faith in action, like having a Facebook page to enable needs and assistance to be met for your town/neighborhood; calling your neighbor or family member when you are making a trip to the store to see if they have a need you can pick up for them. Justice includes serving God in ways that bring healing and wholeness to the church, the society and the world—listening to the neighboring church's radio broadcast of their service; churches sharing their network time and

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## CALENDAR

### Registration for the Triennial Gathering is now open

PLEASE NOTE: All spring LWR gatherings have been postponed. We will notify you when we are able to reschedule them.

- May 1 Deadline for June *Good News*  
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  
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  
Oct. 1 Deadline for November *Good News*
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technology so that other churches in their town can share their worship in this time of crisis; praying for all people to be healed and protected, not just the ones we know personally; sharing the extras we have with others in need. Let us not forget our pastors, who not only deal with the everyday things we deal with, but are now learning how to worship at a distance and ensure their congregation's faith is fed. How do they deal with the added stress of this crisis and continue to share God's Grace and Forgiveness for us all? *Submitted by Anna Jetson*

### Stewardship Committee

As I begin to type this, I am 'sheltering-in'—only going for groceries, farm parts, vet medicine and fuel for pickup and car. My thoughts now go to missed Lenten services, Palm Sunday and then...Easter!!!

God called us to serve and love our neighbors, but how can we do that during this crisis? Usually during a crisis, we surround each other with love and support, but now we are to keep six feet away. I hope we all learn from this crisis, that we **can** serve and love our neighbors in new ways. I recently heard about a doctor who was sharing his gift of singing. Hearing his wonderful voice took me away from thinking about the virus. Think of what you have

done or can do to help others during times of crisis.

How can we bring that ray of hope to others? I hear every day of new ways people are stepping up and helping others: volunteering to give rides, to sew masks, to help at food pantries, to prepare food, and to call elderly people who are alone. Electronic media is filled with ways people are helping others during this time. Instagram, Twitter, Pinterest, electronic church services and blogs are sharing stories of everyday people helping to make this crisis a little easier to deal with. Delivering food or contacting members of your church or neighborhood may not seem like much, but your communication with others helps keep our Christian family united.

I pray that by the time this is published, we will have been able to start attending church services again and that we continue to grow in our faith, thus continuing to serve and love our neighbors as God called us to do.

*Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold*

### Just Love

Women of the ELCA's churchwide president, Lisa Plorin, and its executive director, Linda Post Bushkofsky, are closely monitoring the COVID-19 virus and its implications for the upcoming convention (July 14–16) and Gathering (July 16–19).

"To be honest, the virus is preoccupying my thoughts these days," Bushkofsky said. "With circumstances changing rapidly and with attendant uncertainties, the considerations are many. Of course, the health and safety of our participants is a priority."

At this time, Plorin and Bushkofsky agree that the best approach is "to proceed with both events, to engage vendors and service providers in conversations about the 'what ifs' and to consider alternate plans, should they become necessary." The churchwide executive board will discuss the issue when it meets via Zoom April 25. (Downloaded from <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/news/triennial-convention-2020/leadership-closely-monitoring-covid-19-virus-and-implications>)

In the meantime, if you need assistance in planning, please contact Diane Wills, 641-425-8628, [wills.dianes@gmail.com](mailto:wills.dianes@gmail.com)

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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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