



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
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WELCATG.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

I can't believe it is already June! I hope you have found ways to be together in spirit if not in person. We just had our first ZOOM board meeting and it was nice to see each other in our homes. There was the joy of seeing a grandbaby, some spouses and pets made appearances. At the end of the meeting we had conversations about having some of our regular meetings by ZOOM, especially in the winter months, when the weather can be tricky. It also saves us mileage, as no one traveled. We decided to be open to new ideas!

We made the very tough choice to postpone the June Gathering until 2021, we hope. LSI created an opportunity for giving back to the people who support them. I hope you have all had the opportunity to participate in a ZOOM meeting.

If you haven't heard, the Triennial Convention and Gathering have been postponed until August 2021.

Also, LWR is accepting deliveries. However, you will be unloading your packages. We will keep you posted as to when they are accepting large deliveries again.

I have accomplished some long overdue projects and can't wait to show them off, when we are able to travel safely again.

Blessing, Anna J.

Discipleship Committee

During this past season of Lent and Easter—hearing again the story of Jesus' betrayal, trial, crucifixion, and resurrection—there were often times that we heard that the disciples of Jesus, his other followers, as well as other people that were part of His story, were anxious and frightened. The disciples who were fearful of being connected to Jesus, the army officer and the soldiers at the time of the earthquake were frightened, the women going to the tomb and at the tomb, the disciples behind locked doors—these are just a few examples of times mentioned in the scripture where fear and anxiety were being

felt by the people in Biblical times because they did not know for sure what might happen to them.

At this time in our lives we may be facing fear and anxiety. It is not the fear of being threatened because we are followers of Jesus, but having these feelings because we are not sure of what might happen to us and our loved ones in the future. As disciples of Jesus, we know that his crucifixion has saved us from our sins, so we do not need to fear death. As disciples of Jesus, we know that God is with us. We are special children of His. We are called to be disciples, but sometimes it is hard to show that outwardly in our daily lives. As humans, our reaction to worry can be so deeply engrained within us that at this time in our lives it might take some time to calm our fears and adjust our attitudes.

Jesus shared the Good News. We have heard about God and believe in Him. We have been called to be disciples, but we are also human. As disciples we can believe in the words of Isaiah 41:10 "So don't worry because I am with you. Don't be afraid, because I am your God. I will make you strong and will help you; I will support you with my right hand that saves you."

Submitted by Alice Greimann

Justice Committee

[QUIZ: WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT REFUGEES? The term refugee is often in the news these days, but can you correctly answer these questions about those who flee the unimaginable?](#)

[Test your knowledge!](#)

[Start Quiz \(https://www.lirs.org/quiz-refugees\)](https://www.lirs.org/quiz-refugees)

I got 8 of 13. *Submitted by Jan Harbaugh*

Stewardship Committee

Are YOU able to help us ?? [LWR. Join the 75,000 FACE MASK CHALLENGE!](#)

1. When's the deadline? Please send your face masks as soon as possible so we can start shipping. We hope to have all 75,000 masks before October 1, 2020, though we plan to continue to accept masks after the deadline. You can pledge the number of face masks you will donate at lwr.org.

2. Where and when will the masks be distributed?

CALENDAR

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

June 20 SWO Board, ZOOM, 9 a.m.
June 25 Deadline for July-August *Good News*
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*
Nov. 1 Deadline for December *Good News*
Nov. 7 LWR Ingathering for Clusters CEH, St. Timothy's, Hudson
Nov. 9 LWR truck ingathering, 9–11 a.m., South Port Mall, Mason City

Cloth face masks will be distributed with upcoming international shipments of personal care kits already scheduled for summer and fall. Face masks will be distributed to individuals in vulnerable communities and are not intended to be a replacement for medical grade personal protective equipment.

3. What materials do I need to make a face mask? Tightly woven cotton fabric, pins, and bias tape, elastic or cotton fabric for the ties. Please avoid fabric with religious or patriotic symbols, because we ship to many different countries.

4. I used a different pattern to make masks. Will you accept them? Yes. Please use tightly woven cotton fabric or quilting cotton, enough material to cover the nose and mouth and either bias tape, elastic or cotton ties to secure. The ties and/or elastic should be permanently affixed to the mask. No loose hair ties, please.

5. Do I need to wash the face masks before shipping? Please use new or clean material when making face masks. You may wash your tightly woven cotton material prior to assembly.

6. How do I get my masks to Lutheran World Relief? Please bundle your masks in groups of 25, put your bundles in a box and write "MASKS" on the package. Then ship directly to one of our warehouses.

Another question? We now have LWR items stored. Because we made no connection to get them to the LWR office in South St Paul, MN, can I ask for someone to make a trip up there with a personal van and drop off our 'designated items' in the DROP box outside the building? It would be an awesome task for someone to do for us. Please contact me (Lea LRPRK0@gmail.com) if you would consider a trip up there. I am sure other churches could help with filling up your vehicle.

THANK YOU, to all the gals that have been so reverently sewing quilt tops, working on filling kits and continuing the mission to help LWR.

The June gathering in Waverly is now postponed until 2021. All chairs will hopefully carry over until next year. Please remember to submit your dues to our SWO board treasurer.

We may try to have a Gathering via ZOOM on your phone or computer. *Submitted by Lea Norlinger.*

Just Love

With no Covid-19 vaccine on the horizon, Women of the ELCA's executive board voted to postpone the organization's convention and gathering until August 2021. The executive board met by video on April 25.

"We are postponing not canceling," said Linda Post Bushkofsky, executive director of Women of the ELCA.

The Eleventh Triennial Convention scheduled for July 14–16, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona, is being rescheduled for August 3–5, 2021. And the 2020 "Just Love" Gathering, scheduled for July 16–19, 2020, is being rescheduled for August 5–8, 2021.

"We hope that everyone who is currently registered will come next year," Bushkofsky said. "And if they aren't able to come, they could gift their registration to someone else."

Staff will be working out final arrangements with the Phoenix businesses and communicating directly with all who are voting members-elect for the convention and who have registered for the Gathering.

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

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/>

Good News

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