



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

So, I am writing this on June 20, 2020—the day we would have had our SWO Gathering. Last night I did social time via Zoom, as I had realized that what I miss is the time we sit and chat after everything is all set up or the times in-between. I don't know about you, but I am tired of this roller coaster. I am tired of the finger pointing and the arguments over what I should or should not be doing. Who should or should not be working? Then bam, the focus changes, and now there is a new debate. Every day, there are people who die, every day, there are people who do things they shouldn't do. We cannot continue this way.

I have seen a lot of posts on social media about how because children were not spanked, they do not know how to behave. I disagree with that. Physical punishment that leaves marks on a child is not ok. Parents are able to discipline and teach children right from wrong without physical discipline. There are other forms of discipline that are just as, if not more effective, than what was done back when I was young. In my work, I work with families that are at risk. Too many times, the parents themselves don't know what structure and organization is or how beneficial it is to them. Most times they are just rebelling against their past. Children need structure. Adults need to learn how to problem solve and take responsibility for their own actions, or lack of action. We all need to be more loving and accepting of each other.

Back to the roller coaster of life: How are you keeping in communication with your world? Are you out and about? Or are you keeping it cautious? I hope you are all able to keep connections that feed your soul and keep you safe and secure.

God's Blessing, Anna J.

Discipleship Committee

Covid-19, what a challenge it has presented to all of the peoples of the world—negativity, depression and possibly death. But out of this darkness discipleship shines:

So many people sewing face masks for their local hospitals, family, friends and LWR; the volunteer nurses who joined hospital staff in hot spots of our nation; the long hours nurses and doctors are working to save as many lives as possible, including their own. Churches are inventing new ways of sharing God's word. We learned how important fellowship can be.

We have been forced to slow down and reexamine our priorities—eating meals together, working together in our homes, loving our children and grandchildren from afar.

As we work through this complicated situation, I pray we come back with a greater understanding and appreciation for each other—maybe show a little more kindness. *Submitted by LuAnn Bruner*

Justice Committee

Peace

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.
(John 14:27)

At the memorial service for George Floyd in Minneapolis, Rev. Al Sharpton delivered the eulogy. He said many people are asking for peace. Do they want "peace" or do they want "peace and quiet"? When our pastors give the benediction at the end of worship "The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord's face shine upon you, and give you peace," what kind of peace is this referring to? When Jesus says that peacemakers are blessed and become children of God, what kind of peace is he speaking about?

The ELCA's social policy resolution,

CALENDAR

- Aug. 1 Deadline for September *Good News*
Aug. 22 SWO Board Meeting 9–11, ZOOM
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
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"Condemnation of White Supremacy and Racist Rhetoric," adopted by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, states: "As persons called to love one another as God has loved us, we therefore proclaim our commitment to speak with one voice against racism and white supremacy. We stand with those who are targets of racist ideologies and actions." As church, together we must work to condemn white supremacy in all forms and recommit ourselves to confront and exorcize the sins of injustice, racism and white supremacy in church and society and within ourselves as individuals and households.

Peace is about action and not about quiet.
Submitted by Jen Larson

Stewardship Committee

Greetings all! In a normal year I would be reporting about the wonderful Convention that we just had, but this is not a normal year. Due to the pandemic we have had to postpone our convention until next year. Many of you have been asking if we were still accepting Convention offerings—the answer is YES! At our recent Board meeting (via Zoom) we decided that our offering this year would go 50% to the church-wide offering (as we have done every year) and the remaining 50% would be divided between our Synodical

obligations—LWR, LSI, Riverside Bible Camp, EWALU Bible Camp and Wartburg Seminary for a female theological student. Please use your Offering Form A to send in your offering. If you do not have one, these forms can be found at www.womenoftheelca.org under "Tools for Leaders, Stewardship Resources, Offerings". We ask that you print off copies for future use as the carbon copies are no longer available. Your offering checks should be made out to WELCA (with convention offering in the memo line) and mailed to me, Beverly Sheridan, 701 Serenity Drive, Decorah, IA 52101. Thank you for your support. Hopefully next year we will be able to meet in person. Stay healthy everyone. *Submitted by Bev Sheridan*

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>

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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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