



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
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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

Here it is November already. We start the month with All Saints Sunday and end the month with Thanksgiving celebrations and the start of Christmas shopping. November also includes Election Day, Veteran's Day, Remembrance Day (Canada) and Revolution Anniversary (Mexico). I'm sure there are more holidays, birthdays, anniversary dates than the ones listed in my planner. But when I think of November, I think mostly of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving makes me think of all that I am thankful for. All the blessings God has bestowed to us. All the people in my life, I call family and friends. But it also brings to mind a long-standing tradition at my church of having a potluck meal after the Thank Offering Service usually held the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

The Women of the ELCA has taken into account that many of the normal things we have done as a matter of tradition, may not be happening this year. They have published ***Giving Thanks to God, All Day, Every Day*** at the WomenoftheELCA.org. I am very grateful for this organization. I have been a life long Lutheran, but other than knowing my mother and grandmother participating in circle and Ladies Aid meetings, I didn't really know or understand the full scope of this organization until 2008 when I attended my first Triennial Gathering in Salt Lake City. I am still learning and growing in my faith. What are you grateful for? Please join me in supporting our ministry together, not just at our local level in your congregation, but at the cluster, synod and church-wide expression as well. Together we can do great things!

*Anna Jetson
NE IA SWO President*

Stewardship Committee

In the month of November our idea of stewardship turns to our annual Thankofferings. "Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings and give us an important and tangible way to express that gratitude. It is a tradition grounded in our celebration of community, of meeting together to joyfully give thanks for what God has given us.

Thankofferings have always been, and still are, our opportunity to say thank you to God in both significant and ordinary moments."

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/resources/AllAboutThankofferings.n.pdf>

Your thankofferings join you together with all the women of the ELCA to be impactful in fostering change and promoting service and community. As has been said many times; "together, we do more than we could ever do apart".

Deb Jacobsen

Justice Committee

"Mirrors and Windows"

I teach middle school students. Returning to school during this time in our lives was something that brought anxiety to many of us. I knew that a focus in my classroom community was to be for the social and emotional well-being of the students. We began the year with the metaphor of *mirrors* and *windows*. "What does it mean to look at something through a mirror"? "What does it mean to look at something through a window"? Through discussion, students were telling me that they can't yet relate to a time and place when they were ever much different than their peers. In our small town in Iowa, the people they knew all had the same race, the same economic class, similar religious beliefs, and more. They have the self-awareness and social awareness to know that as they expand their horizons beyond their hometown, they will have different lived experiences. As Women of the ELCA, let us come together and use our voices to speak and act boldly with a heart towards justice so that young people will have role models.

"Some of the best and hardest work God calls us to do is to love other people". Lisa-Jo Baker, from the blog post "6 Helpful Ways to Respond to Hard Conversations", July 23, 2015 @ [incourage.me](https://www.incourage.me).

Join Lutheran women across the church every Tuesday at noon to **pray** together.

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/prayer2020fi.pdf>

Jennifer Larson

Discipleship Committee

What is discipleship? It is teaching others Bible truths while living a life that reflects what living for Christ is all about. This is not a one time thing. We are to practice every day. There are some facets to being a disciple we do not always realize. Our hand has appendages to help us do the things for others and ourselves. What are the appendages? They are our fingers, five small bones attached to our hands. But what mighty things we can accomplish with them.

A disciple has appendages too, Justice, Evangelism and Stewardship.

Justice asks us to treat all people with dignity and respect and support them when they need help. Evangelism means praying for others, making kits and quilts and studying the Bible together. These and many other things are the ways we carry out God's great command, service to others. Stewardship is managing and sharing the resources God has given us. We can do this by supporting the Women of the ELCA through the different funds, like Katie's fund, encouraging units to use the Gather for Bible studies and sharing what we have with those in need in our communities and around the world.

As people of God we may not always be of one mind but we are to be of one heart. We are meant to be united in the mission of Christ. May our unity as the family of God bless the world with God's love. (some excerpts from 9-15 Christ In Our Home)

Bonnie Dralle

2020 LWR Ingathering

As you know, our scheduled Spring Ingatherings for LWR were cancelled because the St Paul warehouse had to shut down. Fortunately, with the support and assistance of managers at LWR, we were able to organize an IN-Gathering for September 12. Frankly, we were unsure what to expect, but the response was remarkable!!

Our pick-up began @ 7:30 am in Olson's Explosives' parking lot in Decorah. We had a terrific crew of loaders from Hesper and Big Canoe. Even though it was raining, it did not dampen their enthusiasm! By 10:30 am, they had received a total of 1,030 boxes, considerably more than we have had for a few years! Donations came from Upper Iowa, Little Flock and Shechem clusters as well as donations from Albert Lea MN, Mason City, Elma, Osage, Grafton and Belmond. Totals were:

2178 Quilts	892 Personal Care kits
2317 School kits	533 Masks
456 Baby Care kits	74 Fabric kits
7 Blankets	

This is the only Decorah In-Gathering for this year. We hope to return to our "normal" schedule next year. And the driver who delivered our items reported

that the LWR personnel were extremely excited and appreciative to see the load arrive. The need is great and they have little right now. That means we need to get busy!!!

Dee Wyatt & Sandy Gavle

CALENDAR

- Nov. 7 LWR Ingathering for Clusters CEH, St Timothy Lutheran, Hudson
SWO Board Meeting, 9-noon, Zoom
- Nov. 9 LWR Ingathering, Southport Mall, Mason City, 9-11 am
- Dec 1 Deadline for January *Good News*
- Jan 1 Deadline for February *Good News*
- Jan 9 SWO Board Meeting, 9-3, Synod Office, (by Zoom if weather issues)
- Mar 13 SWO Board Meeting, 9-12, Zoom
- May 1 SWO Board Meeting, 9-12, Wartburg Coll.
- Jun 18 SWO Board Meeting, 7-9, Wartburg Coll.
- Jun 19 SWO Gathering @ Wartburg College
- Aug 2-5 Triennial Convention, Phoenix
- Aug 5-8 Triennial Gathering, Phoenix

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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)

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***** Just a friendly reminder*****

We would appreciate your support and prayers to help your Synodical Women's Organization meet our commitments to LWR, Wartburg Seminary Theological Students, LSI, Riverside and EWALU Bible Camps. Thank you to all who have sent in your regular offering. If you have not sent them in, please send checks, payable to WELCA, to SWO Treasurer, Bev Sheridan. We also want to thank the units that have sent in convention offerings!

NE IA SWO Executive Committee