



WOMEN OF THE ELCA GATHERING
AUGUST 5-8, 2021 | PHOENIX
WELCATG.ORG

Good News

February 2021
Volume 34
Number 1

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

Welcome to a New Year!!!! I am hoping it is nothing like the last one. I am also hoping this finds you healthy and well. My co-worker said to me the other day, “you take care of you.” (I wish I could.) I asked for her to explain. She responded, “when you are tired you rest or read or relax.” (I can’t do that. I need to finish things or my mom, sister, brother wants...) Then I understood. I started thinking. What motivates me (you) to do what I (you) do? I admit, sometimes I am a bit jealous or envious of my co-worker’s life. She doesn’t live alone. When she comes home there are numerous greetings from her pets and husband. I come home to an empty house. I think we each envy parts of the other’s life. Envy is usually not a good thing, but sometimes the positive is that what I envy in her, are sometimes, the places I struggle. Her skills help me to become a better co-worker, friend, woman and Christian.

I have never been good at accomplishing resolutions or goals. My personal focus for 2021 is to be healthier by creating healthy habits throughout my day. Instead of going to the fridge/kitchen for a snack, walk the loop in my house. Put the junk mail directly into the trash. Collect my good notes/ideas for when my brain is focusing on the negative. Seek understanding, before jumping to conclusions. What challenges are you facing this year? How do we as an organization become healthier? How do we shift our focus to encourage one another during these times? Can we try something new or different? There have been many changes at our Churchwide organization. More changes to the Triennial Gathering may be coming. Please pray for those making these difficult decisions. And “you take care of you”, as we continue to weather this storm together.

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Justice Committee

The fall 2020 Bible studies written by Meghan Johnston Aelabonuni and published in *Gather* magazine seem to be written pointedly for *times such as these*. There were three sessions with the theme of “Holy Time”. Session 3: Holy time: Reimagining the Future, brought some peace to me personally as I look ahead to the future. At the beginning of the study I could not answer the question “What are you looking forward to”? It has been almost like I have been scared to look forward to something for fear that it would fall apart or it would be cancelled like so many things lately. The Bible study was a reminder that scripture tells us that there is a future and God will be with us. (Isaiah 55, Revelation 21-22)

How do we faithfully look to the future? What does it mean to reimagine the future in light of the promises of God’s reign? How do we live now in hope and active expectation, and how does this open us (individuals, churches, communities) to transformation? Answer these questions with an eye towards justice. Justice is faith in action; it addresses inequities in political, economic and social systems. Justice is equity and impartiality, mercy and compassion. Justice includes serving God in ways that bring healing and wholeness to the church, the society and the world. The future will be **HOLY!** Thanks be to God! **Looking for the videos that accompany this study? Find them on Gather’s resources page.**

Submitted by Jen Larson

Discipleship Committee

The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) helps us to understand our calling as Christians and to use what God has given us to honor and glorify Him. Jesus tells us that we have been given talents, gifts, and abilities that we should use for the kingdom of heaven. He cares

more about us trying than how perfect or imperfect the results are. He probably is not pleased when we do nothing with what he has given us.

He wants us to take risks by using our talents, even if we are unsure of ourselves and how it turns out. Maybe volunteer to serve in our Synodical Woman's Organization. You might be surprised on what skills and abilities you do have to share with other women or how you can grow as a Christian. Join your church sewing group and help with projects; maybe thread needles, organize projects or learn to sew on various stages of quilts and backpacks. Do your best and try your best.

Choose to not lose hope; take a risk by using your God given talents, gifts and abilities to honor and glorify Him.

Submitted by LuAnn Brunnes

Stewardship Committee

Well here we are in 2021! We have turned into a virtual group but hopefully we will be able to meet in person this year. I want to thank you for contributing to our convention offering. We collected \$1,620.00. One half (\$810.00) will go to the Churchwide Women's Organization and the remainder will be divided between the five groups that we support – Wartburg Seminary scholarship for female students, LSI, LWR, Riverside and EWALU Bible camps (\$162.00 each).

This has been a trying year for us as we cannot see each other face to face as we would like but give thanks in the ways in which we can connect. As we travel forward into 2021, let us be resilient women. We can stay connected via the many internet opportunities, by phone and by writing letters. I know that I have come to look forward to attending my church services, circle meetings and even NEIA SWO board meetings from my dining room table. I also enjoy the little notes that are sent with your church offerings and the visits I have had with unit treasurers who have given me a call. Continue to be good stewards of our time, talents and resources in this trying time. Stay connected as we start the new year.

Submitted by Bev Sheridan

LWR Update

Our LWR shipping/ Ingathering day, November 9, 2020 in Mason City, had awesome results of 17 local churches participating. We are blessed with continued dedication to this complex mission. Thank you again for all that each of you do for people around the world. Our next gathering is planned for Spring 2021, Old Sears Mall, Mason City, 8:30-10:30 am.

Totals were:

992 Quilts	173 Baby Kits
376 School Kits	402 Personal Care Kits
11 Fabric Kits	3 Blankets

Submitted by Lea Norlinger

CALENDAR

Mar 13 SWO Board Meeting, 9-12, Zoom
May 1 SWO Board Meeting, 9-12, Wartburg
Jun 18 SWO Board Meeting, 7-9, Wartburg
Jun 19 SWO Gathering @ Wartburg College
Aug 2-5 Triennial Convention, Phoenix
Aug 5-8 Triennial Gathering, Phoenix

NE IA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Anna Jetson, President

952-240-9569, amjetson@yahoo.com

Alice Greimann, Vice President

641-456-2973, algreimann@wbfrec.com

JoAnn Brunsvold, Secretary

641-512-4236, jobvold76@yahoo.com or
sjbruns@wctatel.net

Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer

563-382-9025, sherida701@gmail.com
701 Serenity Drive, Decorah, IA
52101

Checks payable to Women of the ELCA

Good News, Editor Diane Wills

641-425-8628, wills.dianes@gmail.com
1399 Beeds Lake Drive, Hampton IA 50441

Articles are due the 1st of the month for the next month's newsletter (e.g. April 1 for May issue)

Contact Women of the ELCA:

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>

773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

Contact NEIA Women of the ELCA:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA