



Good News

March 2021
Volume 34
Number 3

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.... March?!?!?! It has been almost a year now, since they first started closing things down due to the pandemic. I hope that you and your family have weathered the storm ok. I sometimes say things, like I can't wait until things get back to normal. I wish I could just do what I want. However, I do realize that I have learned a couple of things this year. Not being able to go, go, go, means I was able to be home and get some projects done. I realized what is important to me, family, friends, church, not just work and the families I work with.

Now I want to extend a Challenge to you.... LSI has approached the Synodical Women's Organization and asked that each of the Iowa synods raise \$5,000 toward the funding gap for the Spiritual Life Program. Now before you start to worry, I want to reassure you that we have exceeded this goal in the past. Last time LSI asked us to raise \$5,000, we raised over \$7,000. You might say, but that was before. So, let me break it down in this way, there are 144 congregations in NE IA Synod, if each congregation contributed an extra \$35 designated for "SPIRITUAL LIFE CHALLENGE" we would be done with that goal, no big deal. Now you might think, you are a small group and that is still a big deal. Maybe during one of your "meetings" or gathering, be it socially distanced or virtual, you pass the hat and see what turns up. I personally am trying to plan an appropriate socially distanced or "take it with you" coffee hour after church, where the donations go to the challenge. I do know that LSI and especially Bremwood are very near and dear to people's hearts. Please pray that LSI is able to reach their goals and Make Spiritual Life Dreams a Reality.

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Justice Committee

Justice. What does that mean to you? To me it means fairness. That one person does not take advantage of another. That all have equal opportunities.

So how do I lead a life of justice? How do I go about my day working with families involved in the court systems due to child abuse or child neglect? Does every family get equal time? Does every child get the same "stuff?" The answer is no. I try to give what the family and child needs. An infant's needs are way different than a teenager. A child who has gone to bed hungry acts differently than a child who has access to everything. A child who struggles with their racial or gender identity has needs that others can't even begin to comprehend. The child doesn't need fixing, the adults need to change! The child just needs to be loved, cared for and protected.

I have a co-worker whose heritage is "Mexican" (her description). She was born in LA and moved to Iowa, because her husband wanted to be closer to his family and it is "cheaper" to live here. She talks about being treated differently. I listen and wonder. I often forget that she is "Mexican", I just see her as my friend and co-worker. Is that bad? Am I doing something wrong? I like to get to know others and know them as individuals, not a stereotype. I feel that always generalizing others causes "trouble". Where I live is becoming more culturally diverse, but it is a slow process and living in a town that boasts of being the first Norwegian settlement in Minnesota, including the traditional town festival celebrated on Norway's Independence Day, can also provide challenges. I can't change my heritage. I can choose how I interact with others. I can choose to be fair. I can choose to be kind, considerate, forgiving, and welcoming.

Submitted by Anna Jetson

Women of the ELCA Gathering postponed to 2023

The Just Love Gathering, scheduled for August 5-8, 2021, has been postponed to 2023 and registration refunds will be offered. Staff is looking for other ways to build community and bring women together virtually in 2021 and 2022. Suggestions? Send your ideas. Additional details available @ WomenoftheELCA.org.

Discipleship Committee

In the Gather Winter 2021 Bible Study, the Rev. Christa von Zychlin presents the four-part study "Journeys with Angels" in which she shakes those biblical branches, watches for angels and listens for God's calls to action.

The Bible features numerous encounters with angels who show up on an array of missions, from wielding a sword (Genesis 3:24), to rescuing a child (Genesis 22:11-12), to a mass choir singing, "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14).

Angels are not a major focus of Holy Scripture, nor are they ever mentioned in our Christian creeds. Yet they show up with frequency and at pivotal moments in both Old and New Testaments. Church Reformer Martin Luther is quoted as saying, "If you picture the Bible to be a mighty tree and every word a little branch, I have shaken every one of these branches because I wanted to know what it was and what it meant."

From Gather website

Stewardship Committee

Lent is a wonderful time to reflect on our stewardship. I have always thought of stewardship in the holistic sense of the word. Stewardship is not just giving financially, but also includes being generous with all our God given blessings.

In the article, *Holistic Stewardship for Lent* written Rev. Rob Blezard, he suggests we focus on our **FAITH** blessings:

Family and Friends- nurturing relationships.
Abundance- finance & material possessions.
Intelligence- your mind & special talents.
Time- living fully 24/7.
Health- physical & emotional wellness.

If we prayerfully reflect about **FAITH**, you can find more meaning and purpose as a steward of Jesus. Seeing how all our blessings relate and interlock with each other offers balance in our lives and the opportunity to freely share what we have been given. Thanks be to God for all our FAITH blessings that allow us to be good stewards of our many blessings!

<https://www.stpeterslutheran.org/2019/03/holistic-stewardship-for-lent/>

Submitted by Deb Jacobsen

LWR Update

The pandemic of 2020 has had a profound impact on LWR's Quilt & Kit Ministry. Since groups have not been able to meet and many 2020 Ingatherings were cancelled, the shelves of our

warehouses are nearly empty. We know the passion for this ministry continues to run deep in our beloved quilters and kit makers, and we are grateful beyond words for your faithful service. In these extraordinary times, we're asking you to consider taking an additional step and ship your loving gifts to one of our warehouses. Even a partial shipment would make a huge difference. Your precious handmade gifts can be shipped to:

Lutheran World Relief, 398 East Richmond Street,
South St. Paul, MN 651-457-9009

We are in urgent need of personal care kits and would appreciate any that can be made and sent ASAP. LWR is truly blessed by your partnership, global compassion and loving support.

Submitted by Lea Norlinger

CALENDAR

- Mar 13 SWO Board Meeting, 9-12, Zoom
- Apr 10 Ingathering, CEH, New Hampton, 8-11
- Apr 12 Ingathering, Mason City, 8:30-10:30
- May 1 SWO Board Meeting, 9-12, Wartburg Ingathering, BDI, Decorah, 7:30-10:30
- Jun 18 SWO Board Meeting, 7-9, Wartburg
- Jun 19 SWO Gathering @ Wartburg College
- Aug 2-5 Triennial Convention
- Oct 16 Ingathering, CEH, New Hampton, 8-11
- Oct 18 Ingathering, Mason City, 8:30-10:30
- Nov 6 Ingathering, BDI, Decorah, 7:30-10:30

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