



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

Timing is everything. I've been struggling lately with.... (left blank on purpose). Yesterday's mail brought me the March Gather Magazine. This morning, I took the opportunity I had to open the magazine and start to read. My habit is to read all the articles, cover to cover, skipping over the bible study, then returning to the bible study. Each article spoke directly to my struggles.

I want to talk about struggles. Not in the specifics of who has it worse, or better. But in the how do we face them, how do we deal with them, who do we talk to about them. Look around your world, your family, your friends, your neighbors, your community, your state, your country. Everyone has challenges, this past year has given some of us quite a few. Ever notice how some people are always optimistic about it? Then there are the gloom and doomers, who feel like the world is about to end. No matter where you are on the spectrum, we are all there somewhere. And we need to be able to talk about it and be heard and taken seriously and cared for by our people.

During this year's leadership event, Pivot, don't Panic, the participants received the outline of a tool kit. 1 Purpose, 2 Prayer 3 Praise 4 Plan. Now since the event is for the Women of the ELCA the purpose is the purpose statement. We read it together at the beginning of every board meeting, cluster meeting, SWO gathering and Churchwide event. Some units may even read it at the beginning of their meetings. It is a pretty powerful and profound statement of faith.

Thank you for entrusting me with this role and continue to pray we practice our pivots till the next time.

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Discipleship Committee

The COVID has taken its toll on everyone this past year and will no doubt continue in 2021. How does that affect the call as a disciple? Perhaps COVID has taught us to be more caring. Think of the families out of work for over a year, children not being able to play with friends or be in sports. The world of so many has been affected. How can we as disciples of Christ help. Remember what Christ said, "If you want to be my disciple you must first count the cost. It will cost you." Christ showed the world the cost of his gift. It cost him His life. We are not asked too often to actually give our lives to follow Christ, but there is a cost. Some things we can give: Take care of small children so mom can go get food or to the doctor; take someone to get their COVID vaccine; how about a meal to a family that is struggling. These are just a few suggestions and I am sure you can or have thought of more. And all will cost us something, but you will share the love God has for them. God bless everyone and continue on your journey as a disciple.

Submitted by Bonnie Dralle

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 @ WomnoftheELCA.org.



Justice Committee

“God’s work. Our hands”. We know these words well as members of the ELCA. All the work that we do is for good. Some of us have a passion for WELCA projects with *Lutheran World Relief*, others lead bible studies, and many lend a hand whenever and wherever they see a need. One such faithful woman leading the charge in the Upper Iowa Conference is Leslie Sand, Decorah, IA. Leslie is the team leader for the local *Citizens Climate Lobby*. She has a passion for taking action on climate change solutions. In her words:

“As members of the ELCA, we are called to care for God's creation. Climate change is threatening our earthly home, our health, and our economy on a global scale. ELCA Advocacy gives us guidance on how we can be good stewards and advocates for creation. Recently, ELCA Advocacy published a primer on Carbon Pricing Basics. Carbon pricing is a very effective way to reduce the combustion of fossil fuels, which are the leading cause of climate change. Citizens Climate Lobby is a strong champion of a form of carbon pricing called the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act. There is no fee. You are invited to put your faith into action by joining the new Lutheran faith action team at

*Citizens' Climate Lobby @
<https://citizensclimatelobby.org>”*

*Or contact Leslie Sand @
lessand52@gmail.com for more information.*

Thank you, Leslie, and all faithful women who take action.

“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” Micah 6:8

Submitted by Jen Larson

Stewardship Committee

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

- 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

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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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