



Good News

June 2021
Volume 34
Number 6

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 has been almost 2 years since we were together in Waverly at Wartburg College for our SWO Gathering in 2019. I sure hope to see you this year! Things will be different. We will gather for a half day event at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly. We are limited to 50 people in person, but can have many more join us virtually via Zoom. Not so sure about technology? It's ok, maybe you have a friend or family member that can help you out. Or if you are not quite ready to travel the distance but want to gather with us, maybe you or your church would be willing to host a "viewing" party with nearby neighbors. The possibilities are endless. We do however request that you register, voting members will be mailed a packet for the business meeting.

I am so excited to have bible study with Bishop Andrea. She has been a wonderful addition to our synod for the past year. We are also going to hear Pastor Kyle Barton, the new Spiritual Life Leader at Lutheran Service in Iowa, during our worship which will close out the morning. In between we will handle the business meeting. This is where we use our Pivot don't Panic tool kit and focus on what we can do and where we want to go in the future.

Looking forward to seeing you June 19 in Waverly in person or via Zoom!

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Stewardship Committee

We will be holding our 33rd Annual Gathering of the Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women of the ELCA on June 19! I am so excited to see you all again, it has been a long year. Our offering will be divided equally between our Church-wide Women of the ELCA organization and the LSI special appeal for Spiritual life. If you are not able to attend the Gathering, you can send your offering directly to me.

Our in-kind offering will go to Lutheran Services in Iowa (where needed most)

- Hygiene Items (both men's and women's)
Body wash, deodorant-not aerosol, shampoo and conditioner, natural hair products, toothpaste and toothbrushes, towels

- Towel Bundles

Bath towel, washcloth, toothbrush, toothpaste, lip balm/gloss, shampoo and conditioner, solid deodorant, body wash

- School Supplies
- Ear buds
- Board games: Speak Out, Mad Gab, Hedbanz, Pie Face, Yahtzee, Jenga, Card games: UNO, SkipBo, Phase 10
- Acrylic paints & brushes, paper or canvasses
- Craft items or craft kits
- Basketballs
- Walmart Gift Cards (if you prefer not to shop)

Looking forward to seeing you all in June.

Submitted by Bev Sheridan

LSI Challenge

As many of you already know, we are partnering with LSI to raise \$5000 for their Spiritual Life Challenge. To participate in the LSI Spiritual Life Challenge, please send donations directly to Lutheran Services in Iowa PO Box 848, 106 16th St SW, Waverly, IA 50677. Just add a note on the memo line or with your contribution stating it is for the LSI Spiritual Life Challenge.

Discipleship Committee

Summer will soon be upon us with a new hope of more services and activities within the church. A small boy told me he couldn't wait for summer which meant he could go fishing with his Papa. I began thinking of his excitement over fishing for fish and our task to fish for people. My verse for today was Matthew 4:19 *And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people."* Is there a way that you can be that fisherman, trying to fish for people in your community? During this time of Covid19, many people have found themselves isolated from their faith family. What a joy it is to hear of churches setting up outreach services. Using technology to bring services to shut ins and encourage others to view on-line services or Bible studies. A woman told me that she feels she is more faithful now, since she can view various church services on her computer. She loved seeing the churches via Zoom or on YouTube. Jesus was an advocate for outreach and he calls all of his disciples to do the same. So, as you travel on your

faith journey, ask others to walk alongside of you. Be that advocate for Christ.

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

Justice Committee

Can we talk? Can we talk about something that is heavy on my heart? Can we really talk about the hard stuff, occurring in the world? How?

If I use the wrong word. But how do I know a word is wrong, if I can't have an honest conversation with someone who can tell me what that word really says to them.

Lately, I have been reading articles about conversations and racism. First one was from Mayo Clinic about having conversations with your children. The most recent one was a blog from SparkHouse using the acronym FAIR – Factual, Age Appropriate, Interest and Real life.

My friend of another nationality and I have been having conversations about we see on TV. We have noticed the faces have changed. I notice the story lines have changed on the TV shows I like to watch. However, until you and I can sit together and have an open conversation about the questions we have or the things we want to know, I don't know that anything has changed. I can sit at a table with many different shades of color, but unless all can freely ask the questions and give responses how can change occur? How does one measure equality?

I am so thankful for our God, who sees each of us as we are. I pray that we will all be able to see the other as God sees us!

Submitted by Anna Jetson

LWR Update

Lutheran World Relief is working with dozens of local partners to help those affected by disasters recover and to strengthen the economies of communities in Central America – specifically the Northern Triangle – to build food security, resilience and stability. These investments include vocational and business training programs for youth, as well as efforts to help coffee and cocoa farmers increase the productivity and quality of their crops and connect to markets that will bring them better income.

LWR has partnered with the U.S. government, national, regional and municipal governments in Central America, international and local organizations, foundations, the private sector, U.S. churches, agricultural cooperatives and the people themselves to invest in this future. Through these partnerships, we have seen the social fabric of communities strengthened and thousands of people earning enough income to support their families, providing for immediate needs and setting aside savings for what is to come.

LWR is committed to walking alongside these communities as they work to build better lives for their families. Thank you all for working so diligently to provide items and monetary gifts to help hundreds of families within our reach.

Submitted by Lea Norlinger

Would you consider receiving the Star newsletter as a PDF rather than paper **copy**? Switching to the PDF version saves the synod money for other ministries and has a positive impact on the environment. Plus, the PDF version is available on the first of the month in full color with live links to resources, and it is easy to pass on and share with others. If you would like to opt out of the paper mailing and receive only the PDF version, please send your name and email address to webadmin@neiasynod.org, or call the synod office at 319-352-1414.

CALENDAR

- Jun 18 SWO Board Meeting, 7-9, St Paul Waverly
- Jun 19 SWO Gathering @ St Paul, Waverly
- Aug 3-5 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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