



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

We did it!!!! Thank you to St. Paul's Lutheran in Waverly for allowing us to use their beautiful church for our Gathering on June 19. Thank you to Pastor Kyle Barton from LSI for leading us in worship. Thank you to Bishop Andrea DeGroot-Nesdahl for leading us in Bible Study. Thank you to Devin, Steve, and Becky for the technical support, music, and on-hand local support. Thank you most of all for attending in person and virtually, without you there would not be a Women of the ELCA Synodical Women's Organization in Northeastern Iowa. I also want to acknowledge our church wide representative for joining us via zoom, all the way from Oregon.

I want to encourage you to start gathering and planning your events again with your local groups. They may not look, like we have always done them, but choose one thing and do what works for your group. Some groups may have been gathering via Zoom, which is great!!! I love the convenience of Zoom, however, I have yet to figure out how to hug via zoom. 😊 Not that we are all huggers, but there are little things I miss when we are not present in each other's company.

I know at least one cluster has a fall event on the calendar for September. I would like to encourage each cluster to consider doing an event this fall, please feel free to use the technology that we have been learning how to use together, to include those who for a variety of reasons are not ready to be gathering in person. But most of all, keep being Women of the ELCA!

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Stewardship Committee

2 Corinthians 9:7 "...for God loves a cheerful giver". Are you cheerful in your giving? I asked myself that question, and I found that sometimes I give out of habit. So, my personal journey is to be more of that thoughtful, cheerful giver. Hopefully, you find joy in sharing your gifts with others. I certainly felt the love and joy at the NEIA SWO Gathering in June, especially in hearing the gratefulness in Pastor Kyle's

voice as he thanked the women and their churches for the generous gifts for LSI.

The Gathering in June had many cheerful givers. The In-Kind gifts were 48 body wash, 63 deodorant, 57 shampoo, 18 conditioner, 2 hair products, 100 toothbrushes, 57 toothpaste, 16 decks of cards, 3 crafts, 9 ear buds, 19 towel bundles, \$176 in cash donations, and \$350 in gift cards. The Gathering offering totaled \$1310, to be split between churchwide and LSI Spiritual Life Challenge.

Challenge yourself to be a cheerful giver in your life. It doesn't have to be money or gifts; it could just be giving your time to someone who needs you.

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

Discipleship Committee

Discipleship is walking our life in the footsteps of God. Learning to carry His faith in our hearts and sharing His love and teachings with people we associate with. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit, God is present to enable us to grow in faith and understanding of God's grace.

Our Christian faith begins with baptism. As young children, dad and mom took us to church and Sunday school to learn the habits and what it is like to live as a Christian. Our Sunday school teachers and pastor taught us God's word through the Bible. Hopefully, we find friends to discuss and exchange Christian thoughts and ideas as we mature in life. Our goal is to bring new people into our Christian life by asking them to attend our church. Asking a friend to join our Bible study group or sewing group.

Discipleship is meant to be shared.

Submitted by LuAnn Brunnes

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. Mark the memo line "Spiritual Life Challenge."

Justice Committee

We are Called! Recently someone mentioned to me that they do not want to get involved in the justice initiatives that the Women of the ELCA have focused on. It makes her uncomfortable to talk about the topics and she was taught that her faith was to be a "personal thing". She went on to tell me that when she sees the church make social statements then it becomes political and not something she is wanting to get involved with.

It would not be hard to imagine that others might feel this way as well. When there is a person or a family that needs some extra special care, they are the ones there with the casserole or an offer to help out but when we see people marching with signs at rallies or sending letters to their senators and members of congress, that is a completely different level of involvement.

The ELCA's statement on economic life, *Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All*, reaffirms Luther's conviction that our calling as Christians is lived out in whatever situations or arenas in which we find ourselves, and that it is through our active involvement in those arenas that we serve as God's hands and feet in the world, seeking justice and wholeness for all.

Luther believed that we Christians have the responsibility to be part of this struggle, not to withdraw from it. In all that we do, we are God's partners in the world, promoting love, justice, and the well-being of all God's creation. God's reign, according to Luther, governs society through both law and gospel. The gospel proclaims God's unconditional love expressed to us through Jesus. When we accept this love, we spontaneously respond by reaching out and showing love to others. Luther says that we are partners with God. What are some ways in which we can be God's partners in promoting love, justice, and the well-being of creation? We can actively do this in ways we are comfortable with. If holding a sign is not your way, bring the casserole, but do not disengage. (Based on a resources from Women of the ELCA, "Called to be Political").

Submitted by Jen Larson

LWR Clusters BDI In-Gathering

At 7:30 am sharp, our spring In-gathering began at Olson's Explosives in Decorah. The weather was warm and sunny and along with donations from the women of Clusters B (Little Flock), D (Upper Iowa River) and I (Shechem) we also received donations from St Peter and St Paul in Elma Iowa. We had a great crew of helpers

from Hesper and Big Canoe Lutheran. In 3 hours they had loaded 620 boxes! Many thanks to this strong group and to Olson's for their continued support. And to each of you who collected and quilted these precious gifts for LWR. Totals for the day were:

Quilts	1595	Baby Care Kits	380
Fabric Kits	63	Personal Care Kits	236
Blankets	6	School Kits	125

Submitted by Dee Wyatt & Sandy Gavle

CALENDAR

Aug 3-5	Triennial Convention SWO Board Transition Meeting
Sep 18	Cluster G, St James, Mason City, 8:30
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
Jun 18	2022 NE IA SWO Gathering

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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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