



Good News

September 2021
Volume 34
Number 9

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 September already. Where has the year gone? The new board has met and begun its work. The virtual triennial convention was concluded and we now have a new churchwide board.

Highlights include a call for help "as an offering interpreter, helping others understand how the churchwide mission and ministries are funded through the faithful gifts of women in our church. Go to welca.org/stewardship for more information." There was also a request for "your strong and faithful financial support, so that you may lead by example."

Seventeen memorials were submitted and nine were passed. The topics include fighting human trafficking, support for solar power in Liberia; Thursdays in Black; the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women; reusable bags; assistance with diapers and female hygiene products; immigration reform; school violence; and #METOO. The original memorials can be found in the Eleventh Triennial Convention Program and Reports. www.womenoftheelca.org/convention.

There are several proposed changes to the Constitution that passed. You will be able to find the latest version of the constitutions at www.womenoftheelca.org/tools for leaders. I encourage all groups to review their constitutions and update them with the most recent changes.

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Introducing

Hello, my name is Alice Greimann. I am from Hampton and was elected Vice President of the NE IA SWO Board. I became a member of Zion St. John, Sheffield, IA (Three River Cluster) after my husband, Donald, and I were married in 1980. We have two daughters: Julie and her three children live nearby, in Hampton, and Angela lives in Grimes with her husband, Ben. I have been semi-retired for 12 years after teaching in Iowa Falls for 35 years. I still am often called to substitute teach.

I have been an active member by teaching Sunday school and Bible school, playing bells, singing in the choir, being an officer for our WELCA organization, attending WELCA Bible study, serving on the church council, assisting on altar guild, and serving on our congregation's Legacy/Memorial

Committee. I am honored to serve on the SWO Board and hope to continue to make a difference.

Stewardship Committee

To me, stewardship simply means that you care; that something is important to you. God created us and gave the world to us. He cared so much for us, He sent us His Son who sacrificed Himself so that we would have eternal life. Sometimes, stewardship take us out of our own comfort zone.

In 2017, I attended the Triennial in Minneapolis. During one of the plenary sessions the speaker posed a couple of questions; "What led you to participate in the Triennial? Why are you sitting in this plenary session? What is God calling you to do?" The first two questions were easy, but the last question was tough. What was God calling me to do? Honestly, I did not know exactly. The speaker then spoke about stewardship and the opportunities that present themselves to each of us. Some opportunities are easy and come naturally, others more difficult. They take us out of our comfort zone and challenge us. Things we would probably say "no" to if asked.

So, when I got the call from the NEIA Synodical Women's nominating committee months later and was asked if I would consider being a board member, my immediate thought was "NO; I am too busy". Then that question popped into my head: What was God calling me to do? I said Yes!

My life is no different than anyone else. We all have busy lives. That "yes" has led to a wonderful opportunity to steward. It has led to beautiful friendships. So as my role shifts and my time on the board ends, I pose the question; "What is God calling you to do?"

Submitted by Deb Jacobsen

LSI Challenge Update

Total so far is \$2800, on our way to \$5000, including gifts from 14 churches and ½ of the offering collected from the SWO Gathering. To contribute to the LSI Spiritual Life Challenge, please send donations directly to LSI, 106 16th St SW, PO Box 848, Waverly IA 50677. Please include Spiritual Life Challenge on the memo line. Thank you for all you have done for LSI and the Women of the ELCA.

Discipleship Committee

How much training does a person need to become a disciple of Christ? Whether you were raised in a Christian home or have just come to know Christ, we all have the same call, to love others, and reach out in the this hurting world.

To do that we need to remember to, "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." Deuteronomy 6:5 We show through our lives that God lives in us. Then we can share this love with others. And, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:39 If we do not love God completely we cannot lead others to God.

Then, we are told to **GO**. This can be difficult at times. Leave our comfort zone. Can't we just show we live good lives and they should to? It isn't that easy. Think of Christ and how he suffered by threats, insults and finally the cross. People then didn't change immediately then or now.. We need to work to bring others to Christ. In Matthew 28:19-20, Christ gives these instructions, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always to the end of the age." So let's get busy disciples of Christ.

Submitted by Bonnie Dralle

Justice Committee

Justice. Seems like these days, that is a loaded statement. What is Justice? What do the Women of the ELCA mean when they talk about Ministry and Action, Discipleship, Justice, and Stewardship? Does it mean writing letters to legislators? Does it mean protesting injustices? Does it mean taking action to stop an injustice from occurring? Yup! AND it can be as simple as including someone who is not just like you. AND it can be seeing a need and taking action to resolve it. Sometimes Justice can seem overwhelming, like ending all human trafficking/slavery. Or is can be doing something good in another part of the world, like helping to build solar power in Liberia. It can be wearing a specific color on a certain day, Thursdays in black. Maybe your way looks like using reusable bags when you go to the grocery store, or even just bringing your own bags, so that new plastic bags are not put out in circulation. Did it ever occur to you that justice might mean making diapers, wipes and female hygiene products part of the items you collect and donate to food pantries, shelters, or even simply make them available for those in need at public restrooms (like a group in Dubuque has done). I challenge you to do 1 thing this month, out of your comfort zone, in the name of Justice.

Submitted by Anna Jetson

Cluster G, Living Water Gathering

Cluster G will gather on September 18, 8:30 am @ St James in Mason City. Our featured speaker will be **Kim Dickey** from **Global Health Ministries (GHM)**. During the gathering time we will have a few minutes to roll bandages. We will have some rollers available to try it out. If your group already does rolled bandages, feel free to bring them along and Kim will transport them back to GHM.

Did you know that GHM also makes **Newborn Kits**? They are similar to the LWR Baby Care Kits, but designed to give to women when they deliver their babies. So everything is 0 to 3 month or newborn size. Would you join me in assembling some to send with **Kim Dickey**? See the Facebook Page for More information. Thank you for your help in these projects!

Submitted by Lea Norlinger

CALENDAR

- 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

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 by 1st of the preceding month 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

Save a tree and get your Star by email! Email webadmin@neiasynod.org, to request the change!