



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

As I sit here in my office on a rainy drizzly morning, wondering what inspiring words I can share to encourage myself and others to focus not only on meeting today's needs but also keep an eye to the future. I go to the Women of the ELCA webpage to see if the constitutional changes voted on during the 11th Triennial Convention have been added to the templates. Not yet. I begin to scroll the website. I find a Café article on the spirituality of tension. I see and read our purpose statement. I am reminded of the decisions made during the triennial convention. I see information regarding the Daily Grace app and am reminded of the power of faithful friends. Then comes the PowerPoint of *A place for you* and the welcome flyer I want to share with the discussion group I will be leading in a few weeks about how our neighboring women's group might want to work together to support one another. Then comes the reminder that all Lutheran women are invited to come together in "Prayer Every Tuesday" @ noon. Towards the end of the page is a devotion/blog about the 5 seasons in our lives that require planning and prayer. Wow that's a lot and it is only just the "first" page. I have heard the question/the statement: What does churchwide do for us/me? This is just a small portion of what the churchwide staff of the Women of the ELCA has done for me, for us!

Then there is the Facebook page. I see almost all the posts from the Women of the ELCA and try to share them on the NE IA Women of the ELCA Facebook page. The other day the post was about the last day for three of the staff members, Audrey, Deanna, and Terri. Wishing them all the best in their next adventures!

These are just a few of the things that inspire me to continue doing what I do in my life. I am looking forward to attending fall cluster gatherings. I have two already on my calendar! I am hoping to hear about more. What inspires you?

Blessings, Anna Jetson

Introducing

My name is Jo Ann Brunsvold and I am your SWO Board Secretary. I have been a member of Elk Creek Lutheran Church of rural Kensett since 1976.

My husband Steven and I have two children and 3 grandchildren.

I am active in my church by being the WELCA president, church board Vice President, Board of Education representative and Lions Club coordinator. I have previously served as Sunday School superintendent, music leader for Sunday School and the church choir director. This has been a great experience serving on the SWO Board. I hope and pray that others will volunteer to help continue God's work in the Women of the ELCA.

Stewardship Committee

Staff from **Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health**, both of the Corus International family, are assessing damage from the Aug. 14 Haiti earthquake, urgent needs and how to most efficiently respond.

Lutheran World Relief and IMA World Health have committed an initial \$100,000 to the emergency response, which will likely focus on providing support for essential health services, as most of Corus' programs in Haiti are focused on health. As critical needs are being determined, the organizations are exploring the possibility of a joint response with other INGOs; coordination with international organizations and the government is central to response planning. "There are huge medical needs, people who are wounded and in need of care," said Glen Bouchard, IMA World Health country director in Haiti. "Already, the food situation was tenuous. Markets and the infrastructure have been badly damaged. Even getting clean water is a challenge. The full impact on many of the earthquake-affected areas is yet to be determined as they remain inaccessible. Most of the urgent needs will multiply as they become more visible and tangible," he said. "Unfortunately, this disaster is not getting due attention and international media has focused on concurrent major humanitarian crises in other parts of the world. We are far from getting the commitments of resources that the 2010 earthquake received, though the needs are dire." Thank you for all that you are doing to help.

Submitted by Lea Norlinger

Discipleship Committee

When we train for jobs, there are many textbooks. Our training as a disciple has only one textbook, the Bible. Nothing ever changes with the Bible. God's word remains constant and the training we receive when reading the Bible will never change. Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

As we have been told you are in this world but not of this world. The world today lives in a "me" focus. As disciples, of Christ we are to live a life for him, which means serving others. That is the way the word is spread, showing our love for Christ by loving others. Our training in God's word will hold us up when things get tough.

Being a disciple should not just be exemplified on Sunday or the day you worship. It is the mission of a disciple to be at work constantly. There is a need to share God's love 24/7.

Keep sharing God's love.

Submitted by Bonnie Dralle

Justice Committee

I am a little apprehensive in writing this. I think I am like a lot of women who look at the word "justice" and think "What do I know about that?!" I have found that it can mean a lot of things for all of us. For one person it may mean working to right global injustices happening in war-torn countries; for another it may be making others aware of the increase in the human trafficking/slavery; to another it may be helping the people who are recovering from an abusive relationship; or for another it may be helping to dig wells in an African country.

We don't have to be protesting social injustices, we can be behind the scenes making a small difference by helping to resolve an issue. During this next year, I hope to help you understand more about Justice and how we as Women of the ELCA can do our part to help.

Submitted by JoAnn Brunsvold

LSI Challenge Update

We are nearing the \$3000 mark, on our way to \$5000. 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.

CALENDAR

- Oct 16 Ingathering, CEH, New Hampton, 8-11
Upper Iowa River Cluster D Gathering,
8:30 am, Good Shepherd, Decorah
- Oct 18 Ingathering, Mason City, 8:30-10:30
- Nov 6 Ingathering, BDI, Decorah, 7:30-10:30
- Nov 13 SWO Board via Zoom, 8:30-noon
- Jan 15 SWO Board @ Synod Office, 8:30-4
- Mar 12 SWO Board via Zoom, 8:30-noon
- May 14 SWO Board via Zoom, 8:30-noon
- Jun 17 SWO Board @ Gathering site (TBD)
- Jun 18 2022 NE IA SWO Gathering (TBD)

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