



DIRECTIONS

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization
WINTER 2022 Issue



Treasurers Message:
Please be sure all treasurers see this message!

As your outgoing treasurer I would like to thank all the treasurers of the church women's groups and Clusters in our Southeastern Iowa Women's Synodical for your contributions of your finances and support. It has been a pleasure to serve as treasurer on the SWO Board. My term will end January 31, 2023. Our new treasurer, Dianne Strickler will take over the duties starting February 1, 2023. Here is her contact information:

Dianne Strickler
401 ½ South 2nd Street
Bellevue, IA 52031
Phone: 563-422-8099
Email: Diann3stick@hotmail.com

Please make note of this for your records and continue to support your Southeastern Iowa Women's Board.

Blessings,
Lynda Miller



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From your President Carol Gruhn

Hello Women of the ELCA,

Let's get in gear and increase the number of Women in our Circles, Units and Clusters. We have to GROW! Invite someone in your congregation to join you to come to your Circle. If they say "no" tell them what you do and that you're sure that they would enjoy it. If they say not right now remember to ask them again and again. Look at the women in your congregation and try to decide which circle they would fit into. (Age, work, just retired and empty nesters!) If you get them involved they will become involved more and more. Eventually let them know of all the possibilities there are in the WELCA.

Hope all of you have done or will do a Thankoffering service in some form. Hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving and you have a Blessed Christmas.

God be in my head, And in my understanding

God be in my mouth. And in my speaking

God be in my heart, And in my thinking

Happy Holidays Carol Gruhn

Mission Justice

Speak out for those who cannot
Speak For the right of the Destitute

Speak out, judge righteously,

Defend the rights of the poor And Needy

Proverbs 31:8-9

There are any poor and needy in our communities. Some of those have no one to speak out for them. We as Women of the ELCA, can step up and defend their rights. We need to be advocates for the poor, the needy, those who are a different race than us or those from the LGBT Community.

WELCA continues to emphasize anti-racism and educate and support awareness about Human Trafficking. Several churches have had speakers discussing Human Trafficking, if there is one near you go and see what can be done to stop this horrible crime.

Continue to check the churchwide www.womenoftheelca.org, seia.welca@gmail.com and the Southeast Iowa Synod www.seiasynod.org, to find out what is going on in our organization.

Sisters in Christ,

Judy Munger
Kris Elgin

INFORMATION ON OUR 35th CONVENTION/GATHERING
June 9 and 10, 2023

The 35th Annual Convention and Gathering Committee is busy working on the 35th Convention and Gathering, and we hope you will put it on your calendar now and plan to attend.

Spread the word and bring another woman from your church or bring your mother, your sister, your daughter, a friend, or a cousin!

Here is important information about the 2023 Convention and Gathering of the Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA: Dates: June 9 and 10, 2023

Location:

Stoney Creek Hotel Des Moines - Johnston
5291 Stoney Creek Court
Johnston, Iowa

Make your room reservations by calling (515) 334-9000.

Let them know the group code is 2306LUTHERAN – Rate is \$130 per night.

Final date for making reservations under the block rate is May 9, 2023.

Theme Bible Verse: Joshua 24:15b

“As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

Registration: \$80 for 2 days

\$65 for 1 day

Registration Form is attached – send it in today so you don’t forget! You will have a great 2 days. You may also register on-line using the following link and then sending your payment to the address provided on the form <https://forms.gle/S3XQUH42nrxSwxPP7>

Charitable Organization – IMPACT Community Action Partnership, serving people in Boone, Polk, Jasper, Warren, and Marion Counties.

We have several Women of the ELCA items that will be placed into a silent auction. Each Cluster is encouraged to bring one item to add to the silent auction. Proceeds from the auction will help defray the costs of the Gathering.

Watch for more information in upcoming issues of Directions and in your email.

If you are not on the SEIA WELCA email list and would like to be, send an email to seia.welca@gmail.com and include your name, email address, mailing address, congregation of which you are a member, and Cluster number.

If you have questions about the Gathering and Convention or would like to help with planning, please contact Julie Leeper at julieleeper@yahoo.com

WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
SOUTHEASTERN IOWA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
35th ANNUAL CONVENTION / GATHERING – JUNE 9 and 10, 2023

REGISTRATION FORM

First Name: _____
Last Name: _____
Address: _____
Street _____
City _____
State _____
ZIP _____

Telephone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Check One

I currently receive E-Mail updates from the SEIA SWO: _____
Add my E-Mail to the list to receive updates from the SEIA SWO: _____
I do not want to receive E-Mail updates from the SEIA SWO: _____

Congregation: _____
Name _____
City _____

I will service as Delegate for this Congregation Yes: _____ No: _____

Cluster Number: _____

My Age Range: Select One by placing an "X" next to the category.

10 to 30	_____	51 to 60	_____
31 to 40	_____	61 to 70	_____
41 to 50	_____	71 & Up	_____

Check One

I will attend Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10, 2023 – Fee \$80. _____
I will attend only Friday, June 9, 2023 – Fee \$65. _____
I will attend only Saturday, June 10, 2023 – Fee \$65. _____

CONVENTION / GATHERING PAYMENT INFORMATION

Make checks payable to SEIA Synodical Women's Organization
Mail checks to: Roberta Jurgensen, 3828 North 3rd Street, Clinton, IA 52732

HOTEL INFORMATION – STONEY CREEK HOTEL

Please make your room reservation by calling (515) 334-9000.
The block rate is provided under the following group code: 2306LUTHERAN
The rate for hotel rooms is \$130 per night.
The final date for making reservations under the block is Tuesday, May 9, 2023.



TRIENNIAL CHALLENGE

The Twelfth Triennial Convention/Gathering will be held in Phoenix, AZ during the week of September 18, 2023.

Your Southeastern Iowa Women's Synodical Board is putting to all women of Southeastern Iowa Synod a \$500.00 Triennial Challenge to help your board with expenses to purchase/make items for ladies going to the Triennial to give out to other women from other places. Along with other expenses that may occur.

Please consider part of your Cluster, Church Women's Meetings offering to go towards this challenge. Or even a special offering. This will continue through our June 2023 Gathering being held in Des Moines.

Money can be sent to your SWO Treasurer, Dianne Strickler.



Fall Lutheran World Relief Pickup Report
 October 2022
 Reported by Jan Grannes of Des Moines

- After several changes, our kits were ready to ship. A sincere thank you to all of the people who assembled the kits, boxed them and loaded the truck twice!
- Everyone who helped made the project a BIG success. We had 20 plus people bringing boxes from the gym to the truck. A 26 foot Penske truck was rented for 2 days.
- This pickup we had 84 churches, 59 ELCA and 22 LCM and 3 other churches collect items from their churches in the Southeastern Iowa Synod/congregations.
- Thank you to everyone who worked so hard through out the year making the quilts, health kits, school kits, baby kits and donating fabric.

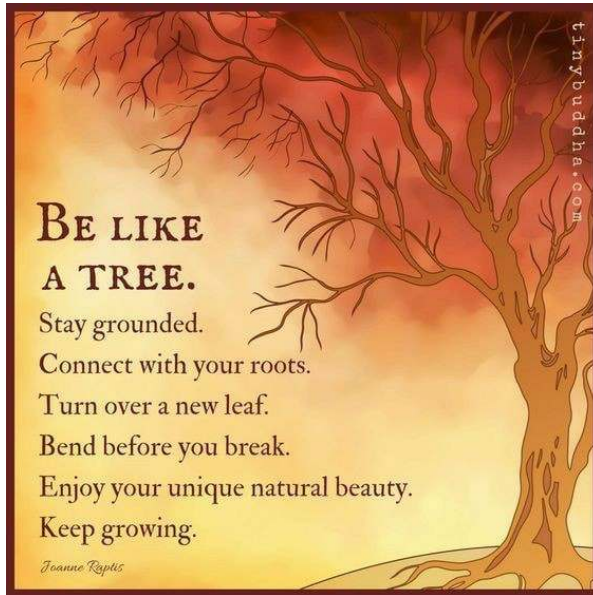
Breakdown of Items boxed

	Cedar Rapids	Des Moines	Total
Quilts	2597	1449	4046
Health Kits	886	186	1072
School Kits	3077	1713	4790
School Kits	105	7	112
Baby Kits	496	462	958
		GRAND TOTAL	10,978

Money Taken In for LWR Shipping:

Cedar Rapids: \$4,6140.00
 Des Moines \$2465.00

Truck Expense \$1,170.57



Directions Subscription Form

Cost is \$8 annually payable to:

Make check out to: SEIA Synod Women of the ELCA

Mail to: Lynda Miller

1808 S. 11th Avenue, Eldridge, IA 52748

If you are sending in a subscription for more than one person; **or** if you are a board or Cluster Leader renewing or new subscriber please put the information on a separate sheet of paper, with names and addresses

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip + 4 _____

Phone _____ Church and Town _____

E-mail Address _____ Cluster _____

Spring ISSUE

Deadline: March 10, 2023



Publication and Deadline Dates

Issue Date	Deadline	Mailing
Spring.....	Feb. 10..... March 1st
Summer.....	April 10..... May 1st
Fall.....	August 10..... September 1st
Winter.....	November 10... December 1st

TRIENNIAL CONVENTION AND GATHERING IN 2023

TRIENNIAL CONVENTION & GATHERING

The 12th Triennial Convention, “Just Love,” will be held the week of September 18, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Many have asked what the difference is between the Convention and Gathering....

The Convention precedes the Gathering. The Convention conducts the business of the organization such as electing new officers, approving the budget, passing resolutions and other business that concerns the WELCA. This is done by voting members from the Synods worldwide. Each Synodical Women's Organization is able to send a set number of voting members (determined by the Churchwide Organization) to the Convention. We are allowed 3 voting delegates from our Synod who were elected at our Gathering/Convention in June, 2022. There air fare, hotel, and some meals from September 18 — 21 paid by churchwide.

Expenses for the Gathering from September 22 — 24, is paid for by the person themselves, not Churchwide, During the Convention, you will hear guest speakers and you will have free time in the evening to relax and explore.

The Gathering will be held Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, September 22 — 24. This event is open to every woman of the ELCA and will consist of guest speakers, Bible studies, worship, workshops, and much more. You could help sew quilts, sort and fix Health Kits. Workshops will include topics that affect women and girls today, such as human trafficking, world hunger, building up your church units or circles, and vendors selling items. Usually, everyone is housed in the same hotel. It is recommended to register as soon as possible once the hotel information comes out in September.

What to expect for cost — registration fee, travel to and from Phoenix, hotel, food, and any site seeing tours you would like to do before or after the Gathering. They usually organize a tour of the hosting city, which is very enjoyable

Both events are a learning experience and fun, and spouses are also welcome!



Fall Cluster News

Cluster 1 Fall Gathering was held on October 8 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Madrid. There were 28 attendees. Two hymns were sung by all, "Here in this Place" and "All are Welcome". Barbar Jotzke-Tollierr from LSI spoke of resettlement of refugees that come to Iowa. Following the business meeting refreshments were provided. Donations were made to the synod and LSI.

Cluster 5 Fall Gathering was held October 1st at Faith Lutheran in Andover. Morning refreshments were provided during registration along with some good fellowship. Following a welcome and hymn sing led by the Faith Lutheran women the Bible study, based on Colossians 3, 14-15, was led by Dianne Strickler. After a short break, Tom Bley of Camp Shalom, gave a wonderful presentation about the Camp. It is a wonderful resource located in Jackson County by the Maquoketa Caves. Several hundred come each summer for a Christian based camp experience.

A short business meeting was held with reports from the Justice and Discipleship chairs, elections for Coordinator and Justice will be on the May agenda with the Spring Gathering to be held on APRIL 22 at Zion Lutheran in Clinton. Offerings went to Camp Shalom with Love offering going to the Food Pantries as divided by Faith Lutheran in local area.

Dianne Strickler

On October 8th twenty-four women met at St. James in Bettendorf for the Cluster 6 Fall workday. A light breakfast was served by the ladies of St. James. After short business meeting where nominations were requested for officers, we tied quilts for Lutheran World Relief, rolled bandages for Global Health Ministries and had instruction to learn to knit or crochet. Our aim was to learn those skills in order to make pocket prayer squares for the Triennial. We hope to make 250 throughout the year and turn them in at our spring meeting at The Vault restaurant in Eldridge, April 22, 2023. We enjoyed fellowship while learning new skills. Donations were made to the Synod and St. James Food Pantry.

Cluster 8 met Saturday 4/3/2022 at Peace Lutheran Church in West Burlington. Deb Whitford gave an interesting update on what LSI is doing. We plan to meet again next spring.

CLUSTER CALENDAR	
Spring 2023 Cluster Gatherings	
Cluster 1.....	
Cluster 2.....	
Cluster 4.....	
Cluster 5.....	April 22, Zion Lutheran, Clinton
Cluster 6.....	April 22, The Vault, Eldridge
Cluster 8.....	
Cluster 9.....	
Cluster 10/11.....	

Report from Discipleship

Our community of women called to discipleship in Jesus Christ is built on a foundation of friendship, faithfulness, and hope for our future together. You can help firm up our foundation of faith and hope by joining WELCA's monthly giving program called "Faithful Friends".

Faithful Friends is an easy way for you to support Women of the ELCA – automatically!

HOW DOES IT WORK?

When you sign up for "Faithful Friends" you choose the amount to be automatically charged to your credit card or automatically withdrawn from your checking account.

HOW TO GET STARTED?

Go online at <https://community.elca.org/faithfulfriends> to complete your online giving or download the form, print it out, fill it in, and mail it to:

Women of the ELCA Faithful Friends
c/o ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield VA 22116-8009

"Faithful Friends" supports the Women of the ELCA general fund, which makes it possible for your churchwide organization to act quickly and be flexible in response to any need that may arise.

The prophet Isaiah tells us that God says, "I am about to do a new thing" (43:19a). And "Faithful Friends" is one way you can help Women of the ELCA be ready for whatever new thing God has in store.

Sisters in Christ,
Heidi Hotvedt
Julie Leeper

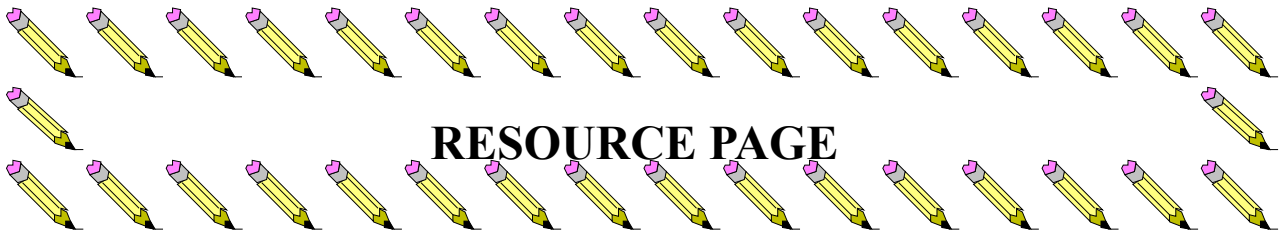
Stewardship Committee
Roberta Juergersen
Teresa Ziegenmeyer

Women's Gathering in June 2023 – Iowa Veterans Home – Many of the residents at Iowa Veterans Home rely on the generosity of individuals and organizations who graciously donate to them. The Iowa Veterans Home in Marshalltown currently has over 500 residents with a variety of needs in Marshalltown facility. Help our veterans and heroes! Through your Monetary donation to the Iowa Veterans Home, you are letting our heroes know you are thinking of them and care about their well-being. Tell your ladies groups about putting together a collection for either the Recreation Fund or Christmas Fund and bring to the Gathering in June. The Stewardship Committee ladies will forward your donations to the Iowa Veterans Home. The Recreation Fund is used for recreational costs and resident niceties. All funds in this account directly benefit individual and group resident needs. Some ways funds in this account are used: 1. Admission for off-campus recreational outings (zoos, movies, sporting events, museums) 2. Bowling program 3. Gardening program, On-campus entertainment (hypnotists, magicians and comedians) 5. Resident niceties(stamps, clothing, and phone cards). The Christmas Fund is to make every resident feel cared about and included. Every year the Iowa Veterans Home purchases Christmas gifts for each of our residents with contributions received from this fund. Each resident is given a list of gift choices, and they are able to create their very own Christmas wish list. Once the lists are gathered, the I.V.H. elves do their magic, and gifts are presented to the residents at their unit holiday parties. It brings a little more holiday spirit to the residents, especially those who may not have family or regular visitors.



Iowa Veterans Home

Integrity | Service | Honor



RESOURCE PAGE

HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMITTEE

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chantimm1@netzero.net
Cell-641-485-0360

Kathryn Bly
kblyiowa@gmail.com
Phone-319-366-1201

Southeast Iowa Synod Website

<http://seiasynod.org/>

To get to our web page-click on About-then click Southeastern Women's Organization to get to our page

2023 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Virginia Eggers, Sue Mangels, and Ardy Proehl

SWO Vice President Glory Reynolds is board liaison for this committee. If you are willing to volunteer to have your name put on the ballot please contact her and she will get your information to the Nominating Committee. Her info can be found on page 14 in this issue.

If someone from this committee contacts you please pray-fully say yes.



CONTACT PERSONS

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Deb Husak
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rdhusak@iowatelecom.net

CLUSTER LEADERS

(Note: only the Chairperson receives a free subscription to the Directions. If a Cluster wishes the Board to receive it, they should send in subscription forms with payment). I need to be informed when the Chairperson changes.

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SOUTHEASTERN IOWA WELCA BOARD 2022-2023



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NOTE TO CHURCH'S

PLEASE NOTE ON YOUR MAILING LABEL THAT THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO GO TO ALL WOMEN OF YOUR CHURCH, IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A

WOMEN'S GROUP, PLEASE PUT IT OUT FOR ALL WOMEN OF YOUR CHURCH TO SEE. THANK YOU

SUBSCRIBERS

CHECK TO SEE IF YOU HAVE AN EXPIRATION DATE NEXT TO YOUR NAME. IF IN DOUBT WHEN YOUR SUBSCRIPTION IS UP FOR RENEWAL CONTACT ME. THANK YOU

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The SWO 35th Gathering will be held June 9 and 10 2023 in Des Moines