



DIRECTIONS

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization
WINTER 2021 Issue



Words from our President Carol Gruhn

Hello I am Carol Gruhn your new President. I hope you had a blessed and happy Thanksgiving! Since last year you heard from President Ardy we held the Synodical Gathering at Kirkwood and made a Constitutional change to make our Board (4 officers and 6 Board members) and to make all meetings have the options of being virtual or by Zoom.

I hope by now you have had your "Thank offering" service and it was a success for Churchwide. It is my hope to bring you all the news from Churchwide and keep you on track what is going on in Women of the ELCA.

Our next board meeting is Jan.22nd of 2022 so if there is anything you want the board to discuss let me know. We want to do anything we can to keep all units Alive and Active. In closing I want to wish you all a very Blessed and Happy Merry Christmas. Carol

"Christmas is Remembering"

Christmas is remembering Shy shepherds on a hill
And voices echoing "Peace...and good will"
Christmas is remembering A stable and a star
And wise man journeying From afar.
Christmas is remembering A newborn Baby Boy
And all the world caroling Songs of joy.

Elsie Binnes

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SE IA Women's Synodical Organization Gathering— June 10-11, 2022

Plan now to attend the SEIA Gathering at St. Paul Lutheran in Davenport on Friday, June 10 and Saturday June 11. Stay at the beautiful, historic Blackhawk Hotel in Davenport and enjoy the fellowship of women of faith.

Come and See! Among the events you will not want to miss is a presentation on the **Neighborhood Schools Project** at St. Paul, directed by Dana Welser. This program helps to feed 120 families in its central Davenport neighborhood, and supports the school, its families and staff in many other ways.

Come and Learn! St. Paul member Ann McGlynn founded **Tapestry Farms**, a non-profit, urban farm system that uses the knowledge of, and invests in the lives of refugees in our area. This innovative program is supported by the church and community. Find out about the many gifts these new people to our community offer us, and how we can support them.

Come and Sing! Chris Nelson, Director of Music Ministries and Organist at St. Paul will offer a demonstration of the massive **Bigelow organ** the sanctuary at St. Paul. Sing along to your favorite hymns and hear some of Chris's own compositions on this wonderful instrument. Chris is a member of the American Guild of Organists and is College Organist and Instructor of Organ at Augustana College in Rock Island IL.

Come for Fellowship! The Women of St. Paul and the Board of the SEIA Women of the ELCA are eager to welcome you, to get to know you, and connect with your congregations

The picture below of the Blackhawk Hotel is from the Official Automobile Blue Book Vol. 5 1917!



2020-2021 Stewardship Stamp Project

Roberta and I (Carol Gruhn) got to meet Sara Frank in person when we met her in Iowa City to pick-up our stamps. Here are some of the things Sara told us: no flag stamps because they have little value, you do not need to save the post mark but be sure to leave some of the envelope all around the stamp, (¼ inch) Christmas stamps do not have value so don't send them, stamps that are ordered on line or have a barcode are of no value because their not U.S. postage stamps, BUT commemorative stamps are Valuable. If you have any questions, call her and leave a message and she will get back to you. You can send your church's stamps to:

Sara Frank 710 Arrow Point Dr. Unit 1 Cedar Park, Texas 78613
and her phone # is

512-268-2401. Email address is saralfrank@yahoo.com



Lutheran World Report Fall 2021

Participated Congregations	LCMS	Other	ELCA	DesMoines	Totals
#	21	1	38		60
Quilts	#	866	1820	1424	4110
	Boxes	150	302	339	791
Health Kits	#	396	340	292	1028
	Boxes	48	25	34	107
School Kits	#	419	1300	2187	5824
	Boxes	60	130	264	695
Sewing Kits	#	87	70	44	201
	Boxes	13	10	6	29
Baby care Kits	#	79	219	202	500
	Boxes	15	77	67	159
Mask	#		425		425
	Boxes		2		2

Money Collected \$4025



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2021-2022

Heidi Hotuedt has been a member of First Lutheran Church since moving from Minnesota to Maquoketa Iowa 15 years ago. She started attending monthly circle right away and then came on the First Lutheran Women board in 2015.

Heidi is a RN and works for the Iowa Department of Public Health as the Healthy Child Care Iowa Program Coordinator. She is married to Mark and has 2 grown children Katie (husband Kevin) who live in Denver Colorado and Matt who lives in Des Moines. Hobbies include reading, cross country skiing, biking and her Mary Kay business.

Hello, I'm the incoming secretary for the SWO. This job is a stretch for me, but I firmly believe that *"your superpowers can only be found outside your comfort zone."* I'm a "cradle" Lutheran: baptism, Sunday School, confirmation, Bible camp, circles, Advent and Lenten services, graduate of Luther College. Handy that I married a Lutheran! Later, with daughters in college and high school, I went to community college and got a license in dental hygiene. I am soon to retire from that career.

I witnessed Mom sewing and knitting huge amounts of quilts and baby kits for Lutheran World Relief, re-purposing cast-offs into usable items and making soap of discarded cooking fat. I see this as an analogy to Jesus redeeming us from our sins and making us usable, with the command to love one another as He has loved us. After attending SWO Gatherings and a WELCA Triennial, I have a better appreciation for our organization. The Women of the ELCA has many resources for working toward this mission. The challenge is to refresh, reorganize and revive our women's groups in our congregations.

Anne (Peterson) Pietscher

Dianne Stickler

Lifelong Lutheran. Retired Agriculture Education teacher, mother of 2, grandmother of 4 grand girls, involved with American Legion Auxiliary, FFA volunteer along with on council of my church. I'm a reader, cross stitcher, and like go on drives.

Cont'd on page 6

MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2021-2022

I've been elected to the Southeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Board for a two year term. I've served on the board before and enjoyed every minute of it. I'm married, have four children, and seven grandchildren. I taught elementary school for over 30 years in Ohio and Iowa. My husband and I like to travel, which we hope to be able to do again soon. We also enjoy attending our grandchildren's activities as they all live in Iowa at this time. Listed below are my qualifications for serving on the board.

I am now the Dorcus-Ruth circle leader at First. Have been President of the WELCA in other churches and Sunday School teacher.

Was President of Cluster 9 and spent 6 years on the SWO board, 3 of those years as Vice-President.

Bible Study groups and quilting.

Member of the Friends of the Library Board.

Elementary teacher for over 30 years.

I enjoy cooking, reading, belong to two book clubs, working with people.



Women of the ELCA know how important it is to have a Lutheran Chaplain available when they go to the hospital. Please encourage your congregation to keep this ministry going by funding ½ of 1% of your WELCA/congregation budget to support the Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach Ministry at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics

Contributions of any amount outside of budgeted amounts, big or small, are appreciated. Individuals, WELCA groups, congregations, or other organizations can give on their own, or have special offerings or projects. It is only through these gracious gifts is it possible to have the Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach(LCO) Chaplain Ministry continue.

Contributions can be sent to :
 Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach, 123 E. Market Street, Iowa City, Iowa 52245
 Or through the LCO website at www.lcoiowa.org
 To contact the ELCA chaplain, email her at cindy-breed@uiowa.edu

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: February 10, 2022

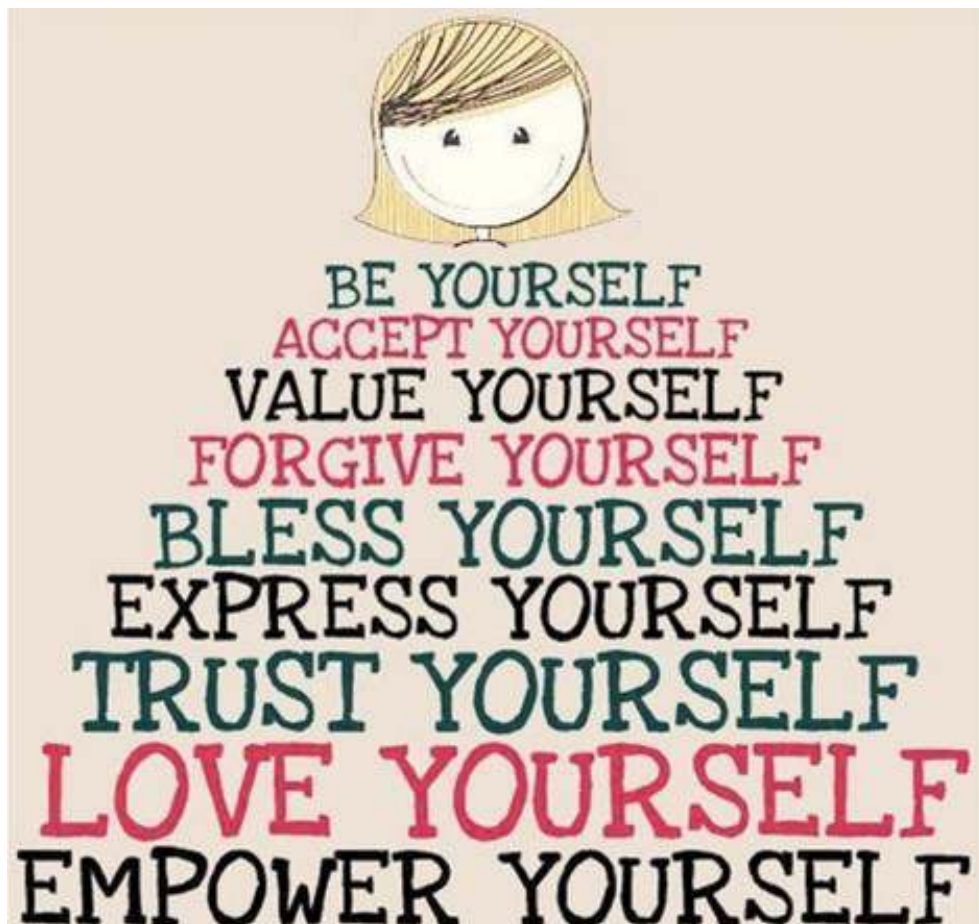


Publication and Deadline Dates

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

Editor's Note:

Usually in this issue the minutes of the Gathering Business Meeting are published. However, due to lack of space, I have mailed the 33rd Gathering Business minutes to the delegates and board members. Along with emailing the 8 pages to Julie Leeper to pass on through our email page and also sent them to the Synod office to put on our web page.



Fall Cluster News

Cluster 2 The Spring meeting will be held April 2, 2022 at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Tama, Iowa

Cluster 5 We held a great Fall Gathering at St. Paul Lutheran in Clinton. Small but mighty turnout with a great luncheon that followed our meeting and program. Program was about the Gateway Area Community Center which has a number of programs for all ages but is focused on the youth of the Clinton area. They have education, activity and food programs and continue to find ways to expand and serve even more needs.

We are still in need of a secretary for the Cluster and ask for our area ladies to continue to consider volunteering for this position.

The Spring Cluster V meeting will be at First Lutheran in Maquoketa on April 23rd. It is hoped for a greater turnout this spring as our lives become more open for gathering in groups.

Dianne Strickler

Cluster 6 Met on October 2, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Pleasant Valley. Meeting was called to order by Cindee Schnekloth, coordinator. Shirley Richlen provided devotion based on First Peter 4-10.

We adjourned our meeting and continued on with the work of putting together personal care kits to be shipped out to Lutheran World Relief. We assembled, packed and labeled for shipping 67 kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief and 60 kits that were given to Tapestry Farms here in the Quad Cities. \$240 was collected for shipping costs and to be donated to SEIA Womens Synod and Tapestry Farms. Shipping cost was \$2.65 per kit.

Spring gathering will be held at Pizza Ranch April 30, 2022. Program will be Pizza Ranch's fund raiser program for charitable organizations.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Spies, Secretary/Treasurer

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Cluster 8 Gathering was held at First Lutheran Church, Keokuk on Saturday October 9, 2021 with 22 in attendance. Pastor Rodney Underwood led the worship service on Mark 12:30-31 "Love the Lord thy God. He had a great message on loving your God, your neighbor and love yourself. The keynote speaker was Susan Sanders from Lydia House, a transitional Women's Home. In Kind Gifts were given to Lydia House. The Spring Gathering will be at Peace Lutheran Church, rural West Burlington in April 2022.
Respectfully Submitted,
Delores Stigge

Cluster 10/11 met at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Martensdale on October 23, 2021. Pastor Tim Jacobsen did opening devotions, via prerecorded video he welcomed us to St. Paul and led us through 2 Chronicles 1:10:12 for the devotions. Lavon Heston led the business meeting, asking if anyone had ideas for programs. Wanda Miller passed out samples of the newsletter Directions.

Jane White, secretary, did the roll call, the secretary's report from the October 2019 and the treasure's report.

Lavon reported on the Gathering held in September in Cedar Rapids and Wanda Miller gave the LWR report from the Cedar Rapids and Windsor Heights pick up locations.

Kim Downs made a presentation on Jesus' Right Hand, the food pantry in New Virginia, which received our Love Offering.

Kathy Bermisdarfer and Carol Hooper did a skit on the The Lord's Prayer, which was followed by the closing and adjournment of the activities.

Carol Hooper volunteered to be the Cluster 10/11 Board Treasurer. She and Peggy Brown will work out the details of transferring the necessary materials and getting the bank account signature changed.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jane White, Secretary

CLUSTER CALENDAR	
Spring 2022 Cluster Gatherings	
Cluster 1.....	
Cluster 2.....	April 2, St. Paul, Tama
Cluster 4.....	
Cluster 5.....	April 23, First Lutheran, Maquoketa
Cluster 6.....	April 30, Pizza Ranch
Cluster 8.....	April 12 Peace Lutheran W. Burlington
Cluster 9.....	
Cluster 10/11.....	

The Candy Cane Legend

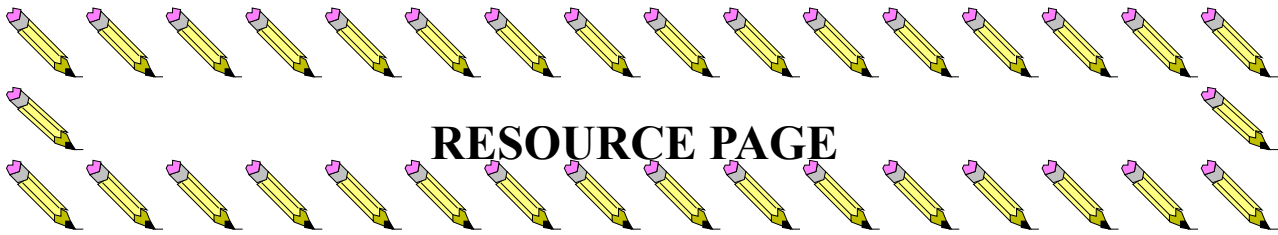


Legend has it that in 1670, the choirmaster at the Cologne Cathedral in Germany handed out sugar sticks among his young singers to keep them quiet during the long Living Creche ceremony. In honor of the occasion, he had the candies bent into shepherds' crooks.

In 1847, a German-Swedish immigrant named August Imgard of Wooster, Ohio, decorated a small blue spruce with paper ornaments and candy canes. It wasn't until the turn of the century that the red and white stripes and peppermint flavors became the norm.

In Indiana, a candy maker wanted to make a candy that could be a reminder of Jesus Christ, so he made the Christmas candy cane. He started off with a stick of pure white hard candy. The white color symbolized the virgin birth and the sinless nature of Jesus, and the hard candy symbolized the solid rock which was the foundation of the church, and firmness of the promises of God.

The candy maker made the candy in the form of a J, which represented the name of Jesus and the staff of the Good Shepherds. He then stained it with three stripes which showed the scourging Jesus received, and symbolized the blood shed by Christ on the cross. When you break the cane, it reminds us that Jesus' body was broken for us.



RESOURCE PAGE

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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

A few pictures of the 33rd Gathering held in Cedar Rapids.



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**Today's Dream Tomorrow's Reality
 Racial Justice Advocate**

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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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The Stewardship Project for 2022

Start saving your change and dollars for our new project, which will be stock a backpack with food. This is our Love Gift, monetary project. This is through ELCA Good Gifts. Bring your monetary donation to the Gathering in June of 2022.

More information in the next Directions.
Roberta Jurgersen and Dianne Stickler

The other Love Gift project will be hosted by the Gathering Chair and St. Paul, this will be for the Madison School Project, that St. Paul is involved with. A list of items that you can bring to the Gathering will be in the next issue of Directions.



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

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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 34th Gathering will be in Davenport, at St. Paul Lutheran Church

June 10-11, 2022