



# The Scribe

Western Iowa Synod Women of the ELCA



Sue Boblit, Editor

November 2023

Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Newsletter  
Published Three times.

## Calendar of Upcoming Event

June 15, 2024

Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Convention  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 300 E Bow Dr, Cherokee IA

Fall Retreat  
October 2024

More information to come.

July 2026

Women of the ELCA Thirteenth Triennial Convention and Gathering  
Des Moines Iowa



### Our Purpose

*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.*



*As Thanksgiving approaches, I am reminded of the many things I am thankful for, family and friends are at the top of my list. I look forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas, creating memories with my family and friends. Advent will be here soon, a time to reflect on how we can prepare our hearts and homes for Christ's birth in the world we live in today. At church we use the Holden Evening Prayer, a wonderful way to end the evening and reflect. As the verse in the Magnificent says: "My soul proclaims your greatness, O God, and my spirit rejoices in you." Remember to take time to step away from all the busy times and reflect.*

I want to take this time to thank the outgoing board members for all their work. President, Nancy Peters, board members Pam Jondal, Connie Mohn and Carolyn Biere.

The board is currently working on the 2024 convention, Billie Jo Shahan is taking the lead on this, and is preparing a cross generational event. Be watching for more information in the spring, as ideas come together.

The end of September, Linda Nase, Linda Clarke, Kim Kacmarynski, and I attended the Twelfth Triennial Convention of the Women of the ELCA in Phoenix, as voting members. It is interesting to learn the inner workings of WELCA. Several of us also attended the Gathering, we participated in joyful worship services and heard from several speakers. It was announced at the Gathering that the Thirteenth Triennial Convention and Gathering will be held in Des Moines, Iowa!! We were so excited to hear this and look forward to sharing more information with you as it becomes available. Early registration is going on right now for the Gathering, there is a discounted registration fee of \$315.00 until December 31<sup>st</sup>. The information can be found at [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org) At our 2025 convention we will elect voting members for the convention. We hope to see a large turnout in Des Moines, start spreading the word and planning now, it is never too early.

Please contact me at any time with questions or ideas you would like to share. We welcome your input; we are here to serve you.

*Let this sacred season of Advent in your life create new promises, new dreams, and new hopes.*

Sue Boblit  
WISWO President

### **WISWO Outreach**

As WISWO Vice president and outreach coordinator, I am traveling to different congregations within the Western Iowa Synod. So far, I have traveled to St. John Lutheran in Woden and St Paul Evangelical Lutheran in Holstein with plans to travel to Our Savior's Lutheran in Humboldt on November 12<sup>th</sup>. During my visits I have been blessed with some wonderful hospitality.

It has been a joy to worship and visit with members across our synod. I love learning about the heritage and culture of each congregation. If you would like me to visit your congregation next, please send me an email at [WISWO-Outreach@outlook.com](mailto:WISWO-Outreach@outlook.com) . While visiting I share a very brief overview of the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization and invite all women of the western Iowa synod to attend our yearly convention and retreats. I am then available after worship to answer any questions or just enjoy good conversation.

I would love to hear of your experiences with your women's group or the overall women's synodical organization. Please feel free to share your stories or send your cares and concerns to my email address [WISWO-Outreach@outlook.com](mailto:WISWO-Outreach@outlook.com) .

Billie Jo Shahan, Vice President/WISWO-Outreach Coordinator

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**MISSION STATEMENT OF WOMEN OF THE ELCA**  
*TO MOBILIZE WOMEN TO ACT BOLDLY ON THEIR FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST*  
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**NEWS FROM YOUR WISWO TREASURER**

The Women of the ELCA has all of the information you need as Unit Treasurers on their website. [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org), Tools for Leaders, Congregational Unit Treasurers. You will find current guidelines and the necessary forms which can be printed as needed.

One half of all congregational and cluster meeting offerings for the year should be sent to me, as Synod Treasurer, by the end of the year.

Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.

Linda Clarke, Treasurer  
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*From our standing committees:*

## DISCIPLESHIP

### **WISWO Discipleship Report**

The last Scribe article gave a definition of what discipleship is. It was stated that discipleship is a lifelong journey of living out and spreading the good news of Jesus Christ, and we who are baptized are to carry the Great Commission: that of making disciples of all nations. Several resources were listed as ways to work on the results of that command.

Below are seven faith practices that provide a roadmap for the disciples as we comprehend the basic moves or activities that comprise the life of discipleship.

1. **PRAY ...Prayer...Prayer Frequently**  
*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).*
2. **Study...Christian Education...Study Scripture Diligently**  
*Your words are a lamp to my feet and a light to my path (Psalm 119:150).*
3. **Worship...Worship...Worship Regularly**  
*I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the LORD; let the humble hear and be glad. O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together (Psalm 34:1-3).*
4. **Invite...Evangelism...Invite Others Often**  
*But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent out? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news?" (Romans 10:14-15).*
5. **Encourage...Teaching/Mentoring...Pass on the Faith**  
*Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action (1 John 3:18).*
6. **Serve...Social and Justice Ministry...Serve for the Sake of Others**  
*For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).*
7. **Give...Stewardship...Give Freely**  
*...give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back (Luke 6:38).*

Which of these activities do you practice? Which of these activities are provided by your church community? Remember the journey of discipleship is a lifelong journey for all who follow Jesus. It takes time to learn how to be a disciple, to learn new information, and to practice new skills and habits. Pray for results. Be persistent. Source: Call to Discipleship Congregation Planning Guide

Marge Tindall, Jan Grell, Ladonna Schaffer Discipleship Committee

## JUSTICE

Scribe Nov. 2023 **Mission Justice**

“**Just Love**” has been a recurring theme of our Women of the ELCA conventions, programs, and Bible studies. **Justice is all about LOVE**. If you explore the Women of the ELCA website, you will see the following descriptions of Justice:

- Justice is faith in action; it addresses inequities in political, economic, and social systems.
- Justice is equity and impartiality, mercy, and compassion.
- justice includes serving God in ways that bring healing and wholeness to the church, the society, and the world.

Tackling the subject of Justice/” Just Love” can seem overwhelming to many of us in rural Iowa. But simply turn on the news- it is impossible to avoid the need for “Just Love” in our broken society. Violence against women and girls remains the most pervasive human rights violation around the world and that includes the US and Iowa. The US statistics are staggering:

**1 in 3**

More than 1 in 3 women experience gender-based violence during their lifetime.

**5**

More than 5 women or girls are killed every hour by someone in their own family.

**40%**

Less than 40 per cent of women who experience violence seek help of any sort.

I was at a Women’s Retreat at Okoboji a few years ago and we discussed this issue. In my small group of 10 women, four of them opened up and shared their story of gender-based violence, some as a child and others as adults. Those were the few women who felt safe enough to talk about that trauma. My guess is that there were others holding back their stories. These are women that share our pews on Sunday morning. No one would have any idea!

In every country, gender-based violence is a tragic reality. This violence is frequently hidden, and victims are often silent, fearing stigma and further violence. It is an uncomfortable topic, but a very present violation of justice on all levels of society. We as Christian women should ask ourselves “Is there anything our congregational units can do to bring attention to the local and global issue of gender-based violence?” The answer is **“YES!”**

The “**16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence**” is an international campaign which works alongside the United Nations and World Council of Churches. It takes place every year from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day). The period includes Universal Children’s Day and World AIDS Day. The Lutheran World Federation and the ELCA are participants in this campaign. Bishops from our churches write devotions and encourage prayer during the sixteen days.

This year WIS through the Companion Synod Network (CSN) of Global Mission is suggesting that our congregations “speak” against violence in two visible ways:

1. Participate with others during these 16 days by wearing “**Black on Thursdays**”- wear a ribbon or a pin (oldlutheran.com has several options) or dress in black to declare you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence. In this campaign, black is used as a color of resistance and resilience. Show your respect for women who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence. Encourage others to join you. We all have a responsibility to speak out against violence, to ensure that women and girls, men and boys are safe from rape and violence in homes, schools, work, streets– in all places in our societies.
2. WIS-CSN is also encouraging you to participate in **UNiTE “Orange the World” Day** which calls upon activists, governments, and UN partners to mobilize people and highlight issues relevant to preventing and ending violence

against women and girls on November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. As a bright and optimistic color, orange represents a future free from violence against women and girls. Perhaps hand out orange ribbons. We encourage your entire congregation to wear orange on Sunday, Nov. 26.

Let's put our faith into action, with mercy and compassion, in ways that bring healing and wholeness to the church, society and the world. Even something as simple as wearing a special color can raise awareness of our responsibility to make the globe a safer place for the human family and begin a conversation to empower our members to make this world a more just place to live- "Just Love!"

Mission Justice – submitted by Jan Rosdail-Aegerter

Resources:

<https://oldlutheran.com/search?q=Thursdays+in+Black> for buttons, stickers, and apparel

A video explaining the Thursdays in Black [https://youtu.be/kOPq2e\\_Ph10](https://youtu.be/kOPq2e_Ph10)

Join digital activists globally! Access the [Orange the World/UNiTE Toolkit](#) and become an activist today.





## Stewardship

Taylor and Tori Cellan, members of Wallingford Lutheran Church, have been involved with mission projects at the church. Each year during the month of February the entire church collects items for the Emmet County Food Pantry. Taylor and Tori helped deliver the items to the food pantry.

This spring they decided they wanted to make quilts to be given to LWR. Luckily, their grandmother is an accomplished quilter and provided encouragement and help with the project. Besides working on this quilt, Taylor entered a quilt in the Emmet County Fair where she received a blue ribbon and Considered for State Fair ribbon.

We are so thankful that many among us are willing to give to those who are less fortunate. Thank you, Taylor and Tori, for sharing your time and talents with others.

Jeanne Handeland and Natalie Passow, Stewardship



Taylor with Quilt Squares



Taylor with county fair entry



Tori laying her quilt out

## Fall Cluster Events

Martha Cluster met October 14 at Augustana Lutheran Church in Sioux City. Twenty-five people enjoyed refreshments and devotions. The speaker, Pr. Del Oliver, made a presentation about the Sleep in Heavenly Peace organization in Sioux City.



Twelfth Triennial Convention in Phoenix, September 19-21, 2023.

Left to right: Linda Nase, Sue Boblit, Linda Clarke And Kim Kacmarynski.

## Lutherans Restoring Creation

It was a true joy and honor to be able to represent Lutherans Restoring Creation at the Western Iowa Synodical Women's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention held at Grace Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge, Iowa on June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023. I appreciated those of you who engaged further in conversation about Caring for Creation after my presentation. I have learned so much by going through the Lutheran Restoring Creation ambassador training and look forward to future conversations.

For your reference here are the links to the video's I shared during my presentation:

1. <https://youtu.be/TrbeuJRPM0o?si=0iHktsoHncVYGwSP>
2. <https://youtu.be/flU-AfQ0cBM?si=r2N5ilbla9amkkXE>

I also spoke about the negative impact of plastic on the environment. I strongly believe we need to dramatically reduce our plastic usage. Each article I write will contain information on the negative impact of plastic on God's creation and simple ways to reduce plastic. The first step is educating yourself about plastic. The next step would be to take note of how you use plastic in your home, at work, and at church. Then you can



start looking for plastic alternatives that fit your lifestyle. Below are some of the simple first steps I have taken to help reduce my plastic usage. Many of you might already do these.

1. Buy butter in stick form. Stop buying butter in plastic containers.
2. Find alternatives to zip lock plastic bags.
3. When shopping, ask for paper bags or bring your own reusable bag.
4. Find alternatives for plastic garbage bags. I have not bought a plastic garbage bag in 2 years. I reuse my livestock feed bags, dog food bags, and cat food bags. You could also use birdseed bags or softener salt bags. I understand this will not work for everyone.

For more information on plastic watch this video:

<https://youtu.be/flu-AfQ0cBM?si=r2N5ilbla9amkkXE>

I realize that these topics can bring about strong emotions and can make us feel uncomfortable. Following Jesus can be uncomfortable. It can be hard. But we can do hard things. We are Bold women and together we can make a difference.

~Billie Jo Shahan

**WELCA EVENTS** – [www.womenoftheelca.org](http://www.womenoftheelca.org)

## **GATHER ADVENT DEVOTIONAL: TOPSY-TURVY ADVENT**

**December 3 @ 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

This fun, spirit-filled Advent devotional event will take place Sunday, December 3 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. CST. You'll meet our Advent 2023 devotional writer and host, the Rev. Hannah Hawkinson, as she welcomes you to join us from wherever you are most comfortable—favorite armchairs, church fellowship rooms or together with family and friends. Pastor Hannah will help us understand the season of Advent and Mary's song of praise (see Luke 1:46b-55) to God for turning the world upside-

down—or perhaps, right-side-up! Participants will also have opportunities to discuss faith questions with others in online small groups.

Closed captioning and Spanish language translation will be provided. You do not need to read the devotions ahead of time to participate.

## **REGISTER**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpce2vrjorGNI6sK5kJEbiv5EjdAjUuoYJ#/registration>

## **A VIRTUAL BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE**

**December 21 @ 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm**

Our Blue Christmas Service offers a safe place to bring your grief, fear, and loss. Brief readings.

Quiet and reflective music. Prayers. All are welcome. Spanish translation provided. The service takes place at 7 p.m.

### **Register**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rTF8LCrsSTeMnfEUplmk4w#/registration](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rTF8LCrsSTeMnfEUplmk4w#/registration)



**A virtual Blue Christmas Service**

**December 21 at 7pm CST**

## Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Directory 2023-2024

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Billie Jo Shahan

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Diane Ohrtman

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Marge Tindall  
Jan Grell  
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**ATTENTION:** Please send all your articles and pictures via e-mail (if possible) to [sdboblit@gmail.com](mailto:sdboblit@gmail.com) or mail to Sue Boblit 104 E 1<sup>st</sup> St Spencer IA 51301

**THE NEXT DEADLINE March 1,2024.**

**If you know a woman who would like to subscribe,  
encourage her to send her email to Sue Boblit ([sdboblit@gmail.com](mailto:sdboblit@gmail.com).)**



**Please don't throw me away or stick me in a file! Instead, take me apart, copy me! Share me with the women of your church.**

**Thank You!!**