



## **WELCA (Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America)**

### **Purpose Statement**

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.

All women who are members of West St. Olaf are members of the larger organization known as Women of the ELCA or WELCA. West WELCA is part of the Zumbro River Conference in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. WELCA at West St. Olaf has been a very active group over the years.

WELCA meets once a month, on the second Wednesday of each month. The meetings include a business portion and a Bible study. There are special outings in the months of June and July, and also a Christmas program and luncheon for the December WELCA meeting. Some of the larger community events they organize throughout the year include: an annual spring Holy Hot Dish event, an annual Fall Bazaar and brunch, and an Advent By Candlelight event in December. They also serve lunches for funerals at West St. Olaf church.

WELCA also participates in many outreach programs. During the winter months they make quilts which are given to Lutheran World Relief, to local charities, to our graduates, and to needy people. Each year, health kits, school kits and sewing kits are assembled and sent to Lutheran World Relief organizations. Monetary support is given to numerous local organizations and to missions. Each year, many dollars are contributed to the church budget. The list of items which have been purchased for the church by our ladies is nearly unending and includes light fixtures, furnaces, dishes, silverware, tablecloths, flooring, drapes and curtains, appliances, and yes, even a kitchen sink. This continuous support by WELCA is a very important part of West St. Olaf church.