

East St Olaf WELCA Meeting

The East WELCA met on Saturday, January 14. We started with a brunch (hosted by Circle 4) and short fellowship followed by the meeting. Jane Williams called the meeting to order, Sarah President Amy Jorgenson-Schwarz read the scripture, and Acting Circle 4 President Marylin Carlson led us in prayer.

- East decided to keep the two circles (Sarah and Circle 4)
- WELCA Officers will be a combination of the two circles
 - WELCA will have co-presidents (the current presidents of Sarah and Circle 4)
 - WELCA Treasurer: Diane Severson
 - WELCA Secretary will be shared with Sarah Circle
 - (So Sarah secretary will be WELCA secretary this year)
 - WELCA Bible Study Leader will be shared with Circle 4
 - (So the Bible Study Leader of Circle 4 will be the WELCA Bible Study Leader too)
- WELCA (All Women of East St Olaf) will have 5 meetings per year, and on the second Saturday of the month so those working can attend, 10:00AM seemed to work well.
 - January 14
 - March 11
 - May 13
 - July (Skip this month)
 - September 9
 - November 7
- The alternate months will be used to meet within Circles
- Fellowship Hours after church will continue, the current schedule works well. It was noted that all members need to get connected again, and that circle officers will be calling to request support for this program.
- The Funeral Committee that was formed over the Pandemic will remain intact, as it is a “nonpartisan” committee, with members from both circles. Marylin Carlson is the chair, and the Pastor will continue to contact her first. If you would like to serve on this committee, please contact Marylin or call the church and leave a message, she’ll connect to you.
- The updating of all contact information including email addresses and working phone numbers are needed by your circle officers. The church is struggling to share timely information on funerals and changes in calendar dates. No information will be sold or given to any other entity. This is only for WELCA/Church use. Please email Jane Williams to get your information updated. Janew123@charter.net
- The brainstorming discussion of what to do with all the china at church included...
 1. First allowing the members of the church to purchase sets at a discounted rate.
 2. Donate to places that provide housing for those in need
 3. Sell on Marketplace

*More discussion and planning on this will happen at the next meeting.

March 11 Meeting will include:

1. Updating WELCA Contact List
2. Counting and organizing the china for sale to the members
3. Creating the calendar of events for the upcoming year
 - (Dinners, Special Occasions, Fundraisers, Supporting other Groups (Heritage Days, etc...))
4. Looking at the Newsletter Addresses and organizing ways to update the current member list
5. Other New Business/Ideas to survive and thrive shared

Submitted by Jane Williams

Janew123@charter.net



East St Olaf WELCA Meeting

March 11, 2023

10:00 AM – 11:00AM with Plate Project Following
Basement of East St Olaf Lutheran Church

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| Call to Order | 10:00 Rolls and coffee provided. | |
| Officers | CoPresidents: Rosie Schwanke and Amy Schwanz Treasurer: Diane Severson Secretary: Jane Williams Funeral Chair: Marylin Carlson | |
| Attendance | Rosie Schwanke, Amy Schwanz, Dawn Evjen, Kayla Jorgenson, Rita Distad, Orillie Iverson, Deb DeCook, Amanda Pyfferoen, Marylin Carlson, Jane Williams | |
| Bible Study Opening Prayer | Jane Williams (March) President Amy (March) | Volunteer |
| Officers Report Treasurer | Diane Severson was absent, but sent the financial update. As of March 11, 2023 Checking-\$76,104.19 Savings- \$14,317.29 | Treasurer |
| Officers Report Secretary | Jane Williams passed out a copy of the secretary's report from January 14, and the minutes were summarized outloud. | Secretary |
| UNFINISHED BUSINESS WELCA Book Drafted | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A list of circle members were provided to the co-presidents based on the 2018 book. Known updates were made by presidents Amy and Rosie after the meeting. ● Calendar of Events was updated and Mothers' Day, Father's Day, and Baking Days for a November Fundraiser were added. ● Mission Events for June, September, and December were read and approved. <p>These items were added to the basic calendar list of months and Sundays, and will be submitted to Gina to create the East St Olaf WELCA book.</p> | Jane will send this infor to Gina |
| Mission Discussion | <p>June Mission of the Month: Food Drive for the Kasson Food Shelf. Specifically items that kids can make on their own. Many children lose their free breakfast and dinners that they got in school during the summer time. These easy to fix items allow kids to make their own food.</p> <p>September Mission of the Month: School Supplies Drive for Byron, Kasson, Hayfield, and Stewartville. Schools need pencils, EXPO markers, wide lined paper notebooks, erasers, glue sticks, kid safety scissors, backpacks, children's sweat pants and t-shirts in various children's sizes (S, M, L). Schools also requested earphones for iPads or funding for them.</p> <p>December Mission of the Month: All things Cozy for the Women's Shelter. This was a huge hit for the congregation, and wonderful gifts to meet the needs.</p> | Rhonda Leighty |

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| <p>Activating our Church Enrichment Activities</p> | <p>Continue to brainstorm activities for men, women, and family members. Ideas included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Host a Community Education Class ● Building Class (Like birdhouses) ● Music Lessons ● Family Nights ● DayCare Nights (Mom and Dad's night out) ● Car Show ● Old Tractor Show ● Etc... <p>Rosie Schwanke volunteered to teach a sewing/quilting class. More information to come.</p> | <p>All WELCA Members</p> |
| <p>Kitchen China Donations/Sales</p> | <p>The WELCA attendees were welcomed to unwrap the china plates and cups, itemize them, and get them ready. Give-Aways will go to East Members first. This will be in the Newsletter in April. After that, they will be donated to an organization that supports public good.</p> <p>It was noted that the china plates have not been used for almost 30 years. This is partially because of changes in how china plates must be cleaned in a commercial dishwasher if serving the public. Our dishwasher cannot keep up with a Lutefisk Dinner, and our ladies are having difficulty handling the heavy china plates. Plastic plates allow sterile serving surfaces, easy storage, and clean up.</p> | <p>Marilyn Carlson Lead</p> |
| <p>Update Contact Information</p> | <p>Presidents Rosie and Amy went over the list of Circle Members from the 2018 book and made corrections and deletions. The new list will be included in the WELCA Booklet. Any women who are not members of East St Olaf but would like to take part in activities here are welcome!</p> | <p>Brenda Exe Rosie Schwanke Amy Schwarz</p> |
| <p>NEW BUSINESS Donation to Good Earth Village</p> | <p>Marilyn Carlson shared a letter from Good Earth Village requesting donations. They had to raise their rates and requests for funding so they can increase the pay for qualified camp counselors. A motion was made by Rita Distad to send \$250, it was amended by Marilyn Carlson to \$500. Motion was seconded by Rosie and approved.</p> <p>Amy made a motion to support individual campers from East St Olaf if they intend to go. Jane amended the motion to advertise it as a "scholarship" and we will see how many want to go, then we can decide how much to fund each child. Amanda looked up the cost: Depending on the program, \$450 - \$590 per camper.</p> | <p>Diane Severson will send a check to GEV for \$500 from WELCA</p> |
| <p>Technology in the Sanctuary</p> | <p>Greg Brandt from West agreed to provide consultation for possible technology in the East Sanctuary. Kurt Koehler volunteered to assist him as well. A meeting will happen before the next WELCA meeting.</p> <p>At Easter Service Greg was suggesting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 2 80inch flat screen TVs facing the congregation ● 1 smaller feedback screen on the balcony for Pastor Paul to view ● 1 lap top computer to run the Power Point presentation ● Clicker (Bluetooth?) so a person can advance the slide from the sanctuary floor. ● Cable to hook it altogether, along with electrical wiring to power the TVs <p>Greg will work with Kurt, and he will put a price sheet together for us.</p> | <p>Amy Schwarz Lead</p> <p>Jane Williams Contact with Greg and Kurt</p> |

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| Lutefisk Dinner Update | <p>Dawn Evjen is looking into ways to start up the Lutefisk Dinner again. It will take an organized planning list, dates for getting ready, and materials list.</p> <p>Mostly, we need to know WHO will commit to helping that day. She is gathering information from different churches, and looking for a way to make it work at East St Olaf. It was agreed that this will be a planning year, and we will look at getting this dinner going in 2024 if we have the staffing to do it.</p> <p>Deb stated that the financial gain from this should go to the general fund and not WELCA, as ALL members work at the dinner. This was an issue with the proceeds from the Lutefisk Dinner, and now is the time to make the change. All agreed.</p> | Dawn Evjen |
| Baking Days and Bake Sale | <p>Dawn also reported that one church brought in \$12,000 with a Norwegian Baking Sale. This might be the fundraiser to start with. WELCA agreed and dates were put on the calendar. We have two freezers in the kitchen that can hold the items until the sale.</p> <p>On baking days, members are asked to bring lefsa grills and all items needed to bake the lefsa. All baking days start at 10:00AM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Saturday, June 24. ● Saturday, Aug. 5 ● Saturday, Sept. 9 ● Saturday, Oct. 7 (Possible Youth/LL Day) ● Saturday, Oct. 28 (Possible Apprentice Day) ● Bake Sale NOV. 4 (Possibly connected to Quilt Sale) <p><i>**Note to bring up at May WELCA meeting: Will WELCA pay for the food to make the lefsa with, thinking WELCA funds can purchase the materials, WELCA members can volunteer the cooking utensils and the labor.</i></p> | Dawn Evjen |
| <p>Mother's Day Celebration</p> <p>May 14</p> | <p>Marylin Carlson brought up a Mother's Day Brunch. Discussion followed. A motion was made by Jane Williams to have Hy-Vee cater a Mother's Day Brunch at the church, with the men serving on Sunday, May 14. 10:00AM.</p> <p>The motion was seconded, and approved. The men will be contacted by Jane to see if they would be willing to serve that day.</p> <p>It was suggested that we serve two egg bakes, muffins, fruit, and juice. The WELCA will pay for it, and the men will serve and help with clean up.</p> | Jane Williams will order the breakfast and contact the men to serve. |
| <p>Father's Day Celebration</p> <p>June 11 (one week early)</p> | <p>Rosie and Amy suggested we do the same for Father's Day, and cater from Hy-Vee as well. Father's Day will be celebrated one week early, June 11 at East, as June 18 is outdoor service at West (real Father's Day on calendar).</p> <p>Lunch will be served at 11:00AM that day.</p> <p>WELCA will pay for it. The women will serve the meal and clean up. Motion made, seconded, and approved.</p> | Jane Williams will order the breakfast from HyVee Quilting Sisters and Helpers serve. |
| Graduates | <p>It was noted we have 5 graduates this year. It will be on Sunday, May 21.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Allison Meier ● Hazley Pyfferoen ● Emma Pyfferoen ● Triston Koehler ● Anna Myhre <p><i>**Note to bring up at May WELCA meeting: We need to order cake for these members and have a "Graduation Sunday" chosen for them.</i></p> | <p>Quilting Sisters present Quilts</p> <p>Scholarship Fund/Quilters serve</p> |
| Upcoming Meetings | <p>May 13, July (Skip this month), September 9, November 7</p> <p>All WELCA meetings are at 10:00 in the East St Olaf Basement. All women who are members of ESO are included and invited to attend.</p> | |

Respectfully submitted: Jane Williams janew123@charter.net



East St Olaf WELCA Meeting
 May 13, 2023
 10:00 AM – 11:00AM
 Basement of East St Olaf Lutheran Church
 Secretary's Report

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| Call to Order | 10:00 Cookies and coffee provided. | |
| Officers | CoPresidents: Rosie Schwanke and Amy Schwanz Treasurer: Diane Severson Secretary: Jane Williams Funeral Chair: Marylin Carlson | |
| Attendance | Amy Schwanz, Dawn Evjen, Rita Distad, Orillie Iverson, Jane Williams | |
| Bible Study Opening Prayer | March: Jane Williams September: Rita Distad November: Amy Schwarz January: Dawn Evjen | Volunteers |
| Officers Report Treasurer | Diane Severson was absent, but sent the financial update. | Treasurer Diane Severson |
| Officer's Report Secretary | The secretary's report was handed out and summarized. Rita motioned to approve the minutes, and Orillie seconded. | Secretary Jane Williams |
| May 13 Meeting Minutes | | |
| UNFINISHED BUSINESS | <p>Mother's Day Banquet for May 14. HyVee Catering and CostCo Fruit was paid for by Jane Williams. She will hand in the receipts to Diane Severson when they are all in. There are 7 men who volunteered to serve and help with clean up; Eric Herness, Mel Schultz, Danny Ziemann, Bruce Peterson, Andy Distad, Dan Williams, Mark Brandt.</p> <p>Graduation Day, May 21 There are two of the five graduates coming at this time. It was decided that we go ahead and have the event. Dawn will order the cake, and save the receipt for Gary Kearns (Thrivent will refund the money). The quilts that are given by the Quilting Sisters will be passed out as kids come to church this summer. Amy will purchase the food needed to make sandwiches and the WELCA members who can come early will put it together on Sunday morning. Plan on being there at 8:00AM.</p> <p>Father's Day, June 11 (one week early, outdoor worship at West is on Fathers Day) It was decided to make our meal at church. Everyone is to save their receipts and turn them in for reimbursement. Dinner will be after church at 11:00AM. Jane: BBQ and buns Orillie: Chips Dawn: Potato Salad and Ordering the Cake/Bringing it to church Amy: Bow Tie Salad Rita: Sliced Pickles Marylin and Audrey: Punch/Coffee</p> | <p>Jane Williams</p> <p>Dawn Evjen Amy Schwarz Quilting Sisters</p> <p>All WELCA Members</p> |

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| <p>UNFINISHED BUSINESS Cont.</p> | <p>WELCA BOOKLET</p> <p>The WELCA group voted to mail out the WELCA booklet, as handing them out in church would only get us to a small number of our members. The presidents will also take this mailing opportunity to send a letter inviting women to take part in WELCA and church events. Our goal is to get them out by June 1, and include the baking days calendar. It was noted that the WELCA book is late this year, but understandably so, due to COVID closure of our church, and all the work that needed to be done early on as WELCA started up again.</p> <p>Amy suggested that we start our calendar and book earlier, and possibly have it ready for Gina at the end of November or December so it could be done by Jan.</p> <p>Kitchen China</p> <p>The china will stay on the back table until Graduation Celebration is done. College bound students may want to take a few plates with them for school. After May 21, They will be put on Market Place for sale.</p> <p>Dinner Plates: \$3.00 each or a dozen for \$30.00 Pie Plates: \$2.00 each, or a dozen for \$20.00 Coffee Cups: \$1.00 each, a dozen for \$12.00 (already a great deal)</p> <p>Jane will contact Tim Boldt, who works for SYSCO to see if he knows of any upstart restaurant that may be interested in our plates.</p> | <p>WELCA Presidents and Secretary</p> <p>Marylin Carlson</p> |
| <p>Mission Discussions</p> | <p>June Mission of the Month: Local Food Bank</p> <p>Amy made a motion to send a check for \$500 to the food bank. Dawn stated that food banks can purchase more food per dollar than we can when it comes to donations. Jane will contact Rhonda and find out where to send the check and she will contact Diane Severson to issue the check.</p> <p>Good Earth Village Donation</p> <p>Jane will check with Diane to see if a check for \$500 was issued to GEV as a donation from WELCA.</p> <p>Good Earth Village Scholarships</p> <p>Information on the scholarships was emailed to Sunday Schoolers, Luther Leaguers, and Graduates, plus it was put in the May newsletter. There have been no children who have come forward requesting scholarships. The due date was May 13, as that was our last meeting of the summer. If anyone should ask about scholarships, we can discuss them at our first baking day on June 24, or the presidents can contact Diane Severson to issue a check directly to the family.</p> | <p>Rhonda Leighty</p> <p>Jane Williams</p> <p>Amy Schwarz</p> |
| <p>Fundraising Baking Days</p> <p>Fundraising Lutefisk Dinner</p> | <p>Baking Day will be Saturday, June 24.</p> <p>Amy will purchase the ingredients for lefsa making and a Tucker Tote to put the dry ingredients in to keep them safe. WELCA will pay for the ingredients. We will make the Potato Flakes recipe, and those who can help mix the dough on Friday night (June 23) can contact Amy and Dawn.</p> <p>Jane will put this in the newsletter again in June.</p> <p>Orillie will provide 3 grills Amy and Dawn will provide 3 grills Rita will provide 1 grill</p> <p>Dawn has been checking churches in the area who are starting up again. One church is working at 50%, and selling tickets. There is some seating, and some drive through. She is gathering information from these churches and WELCA will use this in deciding how to proceed for a dinner next year, 2024.</p> | <p>Dawn Evjen Amy Schwarz</p> <p>Dawn Evjen</p> |

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| <p>NEW BUSINESS</p> <p>Technology in the Sanctuary</p> | <p>Greg Brandt from West and Kurt Koehler met with Jane Williams and discussed the items needed to put two screens up on the church walls, one feedback monitor for the pastor, and possibly new audio for the church.</p> <p>It was decided that Greg and Kurt will come up with three proposals; All the bells and whistles plan, a strong basic plan, and a bare bolts plan. These will be submitted to WELCA. It was also noted that the current sound system for the microphones/receiver/sound mixer does not meet FCC compliance. This may be something that the Council may address as it has to do with preaching. Jane will bring it before the council as possibly sharing the cost of the upgrade on this part.</p> | <p>Jane Williams Kurt Koehler Greg Brandt</p> |
| <p>Officer's Job Descriptions</p> | <p>As this is the "restart" of the WELCA after three years, and because there are new people holding offices, it was decided to create a "basic" list of duties for each position.</p> <p>Presidents of WELCA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Communicate information to circle members ● Be responsible for members serving Fellowship on assigned weeks ● Contact each other in case of issues or emergencies ● Make agenda for WELCA meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send info/agenda to WELCA Secretary for printing ● Support activities and strive to increase participation in church activities <p>Treasurer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be responsible for accounts receivable ● Be responsible for accounts payable ● Provide updated financial reports at WECLA meetings <p>Secretary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide updated minutes for each meeting ● Provide WELCA newsletter entries ● Assist in the production of the WELCA Booklet | <p>WELCA Members</p> |
| <p>Voting for Officers</p> | <p>The timeline for voting for WELCA officers:</p> <p>October: Announce openings in the newsletter, nominations taken</p> <p>November: Voting for the officers for the following year</p> <p>December: New officers are announced</p> <p>January: New officers are installed at the Annual Meeting/Church Service</p> | <p>Amy Schwarz</p> |
| <p>Next Year Meetings</p> | <p>The need for more meetings has become apparent as we are doing a lot of work at each meeting, and they are lasting a long time. So a proposal from Amy was to meet Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, and May... take June, July, August off, and then meet again in Sept, Oct, Nov, and Dec next year. All agreed as there are many things going on monthly at the church.</p> | <p>Amy Schwarz</p> |
| <p>Changing of a Title</p> | <p>There is a "Funeral Committee" that takes charge of the kitchen and who is working in it for funerals (and possibly weddings, etc...). It was suggested that the name of this committee be changed to "Serving Committee". As Marilyn was not here, it was decided that we need to talk with her, as she is the current head of the Funeral Committee. The name would expand the job.</p> | <p>WELCA Members</p> |
| <p>Upcoming Meetings</p> | <p>September 9, November 7</p> <p>All WELCA meetings are at 10:00 in the East St Olaf Basement. All women who are members of ESO are included and invited to attend.</p> | |

Respectfully submitted: Jane Williams jane123@charter.net