

News from the Northeastern Iowa Synodical Women's Organization

Statement of 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.

NEIA SWO Convention

June 18, 2011 -- We began our day at the Convention with Morning Prayer led by Syd Brinkman. Pastor Ginny Olson fed us with her Bible Study on our theme - *Renew, Respond, Rejoice*. Cynthia Tompkins provided wonderful music for our day. There were five interest groups, displays, a delicious luncheon and business sessions. The *World's Window* display was a popular spot to stop and buy Fair Trade items. Melanie Gibbons presented good information and answered our questions about the new Lutheran World Relief Booklet on quilts and kits. Marie Tesch, our Churchwide Representative shared her story and gave an interesting report.

Congratulations to the following women who were elected to the NE Iowa SWO Board for 2 year terms:

President	Gloria Tollefson
Secretary	Sue Ollman
Board	Carol Andersen
	Ruth Hilgerson
	Anna Jetson
	Cynthia Pogge

Thank you to everyone who brought kits for LWR and items for the Northeastern Iowa Food Bank.

submitted by Cecil Maureen Johnson

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From Your President

Greetings from your NEW president—Gloria Tollefson. During the convention of the NE IA Women of the ELCA last June, I was elected your president for the next two years. Even though I have served on the synod board for four years, been cluster leader for too many years and president of the Women of the ELCA in my own congregation, I am beginning this new position with lots of prayer and requested advice from Cecil Maureen Johnson, my predecessor. I am a lifelong Lutheran having been baptized, confirmed and married at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (Inwood) in NW Iowa. I have been a member of Nazareth Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls for 52 years. Upon joining Nazareth, I was “assigned” to a circle and have been involved ever since. The loving friendships I have made with other women and the many opportunities for spiritual growth are some of God’s many gifts to me.

I spent my professional life as an elementary teacher for 10 years, special education consultant for 25 years and ended my career teaching at UNI. So it was natural that I taught Sunday school, Bethel Bible Series, Bible school and led the Bible study in my circle. Some of you may know me from sessions I have led at our conventions or the Bible Study seminars at Wartburg Seminary.

My other interests are international travel, reading, scrapbooking and baking. I serve on boards for the American Ass’n. of University Women, Cedar Falls Historical Society (Little Red School House), and Cedar Valley United Nations Ass’n. (I lead Great Decisions).

I am looking forward to getting to know you and the women in your congregation. I can be reached at 4614 Whispering Pines Circle, Cedar Falls, IA 50613 or 319-266-4075 or gtollefson@cfu.net

submitted by Gloria Tollefson, NEIA SWO President

Upcoming Events



A New Name

Lutheran Woman Today has changed its name! The September issue has maybe already arrived at your house with *gather* on the cover (yes with a small g, as the graphic artists felt it was more attractive that way). The inside will remain the same with our Bible study and many articles that correlate with it. Some of us remember when it was named *Scope* and it has only improved over time. The editors hope that with the name change, women's Bible study groups other than Lutheran will subscribe increasing their circulation. I think we would all agree that it is a high quality magazine with quality paper, beautiful colored pictures and graphics with a scripturally based monthly Bible study all for just \$12 a year! It is a magazine that the Women of the ELCA can be very proud.

submitted by Gloria Tollefson, NEIA SWO President

Sept 10	SWO Board Mtg @ Synod Office
Sept 24	Fall Pep Rally @ Our Savior's, Osage
Sept 27	Fall Pep Rally @ Nazareth, CF
Oct 1	Fall Pep Rally @ St. James, Allison
Nov 12	SWO Board Mtg @ Synod Office
Jan 21, 2012	SWO Board Mtg @ Synod Office w/ Cluster Co-ordinators
Jan 28	SWO Board Mtg snow date
Mar 24	SWO Board Mtg @ Synod Office
Mar 31	SWO Board Mtg snow date
May 5	SWO Board Mtg @ Wartburg College
June 15	SWO Board Mtg
June 16	NE IA SWO Convention



Rally and Rejoice With Us

We are looking forward to having ALL the Women of the ELCA (We are all leaders!) at one of the rallies your synod team has planned for you:

Sat., September 24 8:30-11:30am @ Our Savior's, Osage

Tue., September 27 6:00-9:00pm @ Nazareth, Cedar Falls

Sat., October 1 8:30-11:30am @ St. James, Allison

The first half hour is registration and coffee time.

Is it "same old, same old, lost your spark" in your unit? Then this pep rally is for you!

During our Fall Rally we will be;

- raising the roof with joyful hymns;
- sharing Triennial highlights;
- sharing ideas for revitalizing your unit leadership;
- introducing program ideas from church wide;
- receiving additional information on LWR project changes; and
- asking you to share ideas that have worked in your unit (small groups)

So choose the best date and place for you, fill a car with women from your congregation and join us for our fall "pep" rally! This is for **every woman** interested in reviving your unit! More information will soon be in the mail. See you there!

submitted by Gloria Tollefson, NEIA SWO President

Bible Study

To Follow and to Serve - The Gospel of Mark will be a very traditional Bible study taking us through the gospel of Mark chapter by chapter. This text brings us God's news for every time and place. From beginning to end, the Gospel of Mark relays the urgent beckoning call of Christ for each of us to come and follow. It is the oldest of the gospels beginning with the study of Christ's baptism in September and leading us to his resurrection in May. The author, Patricia Lull, a Lutheran pastor, has promised that it will appeal to women who enjoy a deeper study and those who have felt that recent Bible studies were too difficult. I strongly encourage every Women of the ELCA Bible study group to use this year's Bible study.

submitted by Gloria Tollefson, NEIA SWO President

Good News for Mary, Martha, and Mary Magdalene

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Articles are due the 1st of the month for the next months newsletter.

NE IA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

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