



# Good News

April 2017  
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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.

## **From the President:**

*Taste and see that the Lord is good. Ps. 34:8*

Lately I have been doing a great deal of reflection on my personal faith life. I think as bold women, we spend a great deal of time worrying about serving others, which is very important work! But, it is so easy to get caught up in the busy life we all lead and lose a part of ourselves. I need to be reminded from time to time that I must be right with the Lord first before I can truly be of service to others. That is a wonderful part of the Easter message! God always has a way of nudging me—an unexpected day with the grandchildren, a beautiful soft breeze, or just a quiet moment meant just for prayer, or even better, a girl's day, just for me! That is what we are hoping for at our SWO gathering on June 17 @ Wartburg College. Take time to come and join us and even more important, find your moment of renewal! *Renewed to serve our Living Lord, Diane Wills*

## **Mission Area: Discipleship Be Connected**

Do you want to be more connected with your daughters and granddaughters? Try downloading *Café* and *Daily Grace*, both on-line and free devotionals from Women of the ELCA. *Café* is an on-line magazine for young adult women (including the young at heart). It incorporates a Lutheran perspective for women of Christian faith or simply for any woman who is interested in how faith relates to the issues that women face today. *Café* has wonderful, short and concise Bible studies that really apply

to everyday life.

*Daily Grace* offers brief reflections every day in which you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. Be comforted, challenged, inspired, consoled and confronted. And they come to your portable device every day after you download the app. These are both wonderful ways to share your faith life with the younger and the older generation!

*Submitted by Diane Wills*



## **Mission Area: Justice**

According to the prophet Micah, God requires three things: "to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God." *Micah 6:8b*

If we walk humbly with God

we are capable of loving kindness and doing justice. But doing justice is sometimes too big for us; what can one person do in a chaotic world?

Doing justice is what Edwina Gateley, a Roman Catholic lay missionary did. In 1983, after years of study and prayer, she opened Genesis House in Chicago, a place for prostitutes to feel safe. According to Gateley, Genesis House would provide a place for prostitutes "to cry, spill their guts, drink a cup of coffee and work on their recovery, within rules, but at their own pace."

Genesis House was the place one of our Triennial speakers, Brenda Myers-Powell, spent two years in recovery. After recovery Brenda, along with Stephanie Daniels-Wilson, went on to found the [Dreamcatcher Foundation](#). The focus of this foundation was girls and women caught in the cycle of prostitution and human trafficking. Since both women had been prostitutes themselves they were able to give hope to others because of their

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## CALENDAR

Apr. 2	Spring Women's Event, St. Paul's Lutheran, Waverly, 2 p.m.
Apr. 8	LWR Ingathering, Zion-St. John, Sheffield
Apr. 22	Shechem Cluster Spring Gathering, St. Peter's - Richfield, 24124 220 St., Sumner
Apr. 22	Living Waters Spring Salad Luncheon, 10-noon, Faith Lutheran, Miller
Apr. 29	Upper Iowa River Cluster Spring Event, St. Paul's LC, Lime Springs
May 20	SWO Board, Wartburg College, 9-12
June 16	SWO Board, Wartburg College, TBD
Jun. 17	NEI Synod WELCA Convention
Jul. 11-16	Triennial Convention and Gathering, Minneapolis, MN ( <a href="http://welcatg.org">welcatg.org</a> )
Sep. 23	Jubilee Cluster C event at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls

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activity "in the life." Both Daniels-Wilson and Myers-Powell were instrumental in making the documentary, *Dreamcatcher*, which will be shown during the upcoming Triennial. This documentary reveals the work-a-day activities of prostitutes and victims of human trafficking, how that work affects their lives, and how recovery is possible.

The Triennial has paved the way for attendees to have their hearts and minds opened to many things, including how and why justice has been done through the work of Gateley, Daniels-Wilson and Myers-Powell. See you at the Triennial Gathering, July 13-16, 2017, Minneapolis, MN. *Submitted by Jane Granzow, retired pastor*

### **Mission Area: Stewardship**

As I am taking over the responsibilities of treasurer for the WELCA synod organization, I

have become aware that some of the old Offering Forms A and B are still being used. New form B will have the Merrifield, VA address and be used for Thankofferings, Katie's Fund, Special Offerings and other Designated Gifts. Regular offerings and SWO convention offerings will be sent to me and will use Form A. Printable forms can be found at [neiasynod.org@women-of-the-elca](http://neiasynod.org@women-of-the-elca). Just go about halfway down the page and click on the forms and hit print. This website also has information about the NEI Synod Convention in Waverly and the Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis.

I hope many of you are planning on attending the Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis on July 13-16. Giving in-kind gifts at the gathering is a tradition that positively impacts the host city. You will have a chance to meet the 2017 in-kind gift recipients in the exhibit hall where they will lead servant events. In-kind gifts this year will include Quilt Kits, Days for Girls Kits, gift cards, hygiene items and clothing. Quilts from the kits will be completed on-site and distributed by LWR. Gathering participants will assemble Days for Girls feminine hygiene kits that will help girls around the world miss fewer days of school. The kits will include eight liners and two reusable pads that should last for three years (more details can be found at [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org)). Gift cards, hygiene items and clothing (socks, underwear and white t-shirts in all sizes) will also be collected. Thank you for your in-kind gifts and looking forward to seeing you at the Triennial Gathering.

*Submitted by Beverly Sheridan, treasurer*

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### **NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board**

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Articles are due the 1st of the month for the next month's newsletter (e.g. April 1 for May issue). Please put WELCA in your subject line. (You can also send paper copies by "snail" mail.)

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