

**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.**

## ***IT'S CELEBRATION TIME...from your president***

At our Fall Rallies we celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Women of the ELCA with 207 women representing 64 different congregational units within our synod. What a great turn-out! A powerpoint presentation took us back through the years, honoring our past accomplishments as well as all we are doing here at home and around the world. I am happy to share it with you if you would like to present it at a unit meeting. We really want to thank our hostesses, the women of Bethlehem Lutheran in Cedar Falls, St. Paul's in Postville and Trinity in Mason City, for their hospitality. Your generous offerings to the 25th Anniversary Appeal gathered \$1,164. The Board added to that to make \$2,500 as our synod gift. We thank each of you who gave at one of the celebrations. Every dollar goes to support Women of the ELCA (50%) and the ELCA Malaria Campaign (50%). We ask you to continue our mission today by

- Honoring a faithful woman who has served your unit over the years.
- Giving \$25 from your unit offerings noting Anniversary Appeal on the check.
- Making a gift yourself by sending a check to Women of the ELCA, PO Box 71256, Chicago, IL 60694-1256 or make an online gift at [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org).

## ***No Lone Rangers required...***

First ask them to go with you to the Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, NC July 24-27, 2014. And even if you ask everyone you know and they all turn you down, do not be dismayed—you will not be alone. Together we gather as women “Of Many Generations.” Join us at the Cluster events and the SWO Convention; ask others there if they are going or know of someone going. Ask me (Anna Jetson,

your Triennial Gathering Promoter) and I will see if I can locate someone in your area that you can ‘buddy’ up with. Even if your travel plans are different, when we are

together at the Gathering, some of us just naturally buddy up, and some of us are the social butterflies that mingle with all. Surprisingly, some of us are natural-born shepherdesses—we herd the group to events and make suggestions for meeting times for



JULY 24-27, 2014  
Ninth Triennial  
Gathering

**of many  
generations**

breakfast, photo ops and time to just kick back and relax. Some of us are the ones that can't miss out on anything, so we get there early and have our schedules highlighted and mapped out so we don't miss a thing we want to do. I didn't know anyone when I signed up to go to Salt Lake City for the Seventh Triennial, but some amazing things happened: I found out my cousin was living in a suburb of Salt Lake City and got reconnected with her. I knew one name from the NE Iowa SWO (Syd Brinkman) because she had sent me a postcard. I discovered another woman from a neighboring town. I hadn't seen her since I was at 4-H events with her daughters. I met amazing women from all over. First were the three ladies from South Carolina who had an open seat next to them on the optional tour I took. Quite by accident we ended up seeing each other several times during the Gathering. Another was the young woman who came up to me in the café to offer a bracelet from her SWO. If my memory is correct, last time in Spokane she was there again, with her Mom and her new daughter. I can't forget to mention the wonderful women of NE Iowa. Some of you still get your grin on when I start talking. *Submitted by Anna Jetson, Triennial Gathering Promoter*

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## CALENDAR

- Jan. 19 SWO Board Lunch with cluster coordinators  
April 9 Cluster 1 Spring Retreat  
April 13 Clusters 4, 5, 6 and 7 Spring Gathering  
April 20 LWR Pickup, Trinity, Cedar Rapids  
April 27 Cluster 1 and 2, LWR Pick-Up in Manly  
April 27 Cluster 9 Spring Gathering, St. Johns, Guttenberg  
April 27 Cluster 8 Spring Gathering, Location to be determined  
May 4 SWO Board meeting at convention site  
June 14 SWO Board Pre-convention meeting at convention site  
June 15 SWO Convention, Wartburg College  
Nov. 2 LWR Pickup, Olson Explosives, Decorah and Redeemer, Waverly
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### ***Some ideas shared at our recent Fall Celebrations during roundtable discussions...***

- Keep your pastor informed of all the Women of the ELCA's activities.
- Before packing LWR quilts, display on the backs of pews with an envelope pinned to each one. Ask congregational members to select a quilt and put \$3 in its envelope to send the quilt.
- Encourage younger women to be involved in short-term projects.
- Use No-Bake Bake Sales as fundraisers.
- Start a Willing Hearts Group using a talent sheet.
- Start a book club using the "Page turners" program found on our website.

This will be continued each month. There were lots shared!

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### ***NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer***

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### ***Good News***

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## CLUSTER FALL EVENTS

**Little Flock Cluster IX** met for their Fall Gathering at St. Peter Lutheran Church, Garnavillo, Saturday October 27. The theme for the day was "Gathered by God celebrating 25 years." Theme verse was Matthew 18:20. Pastor Hillary Burns-Kite gave the Bible Study and communion service. Twelve churches out of the 17 churches in Cluster IX were represented. Two pastors and five guests also attended. Morning coffee was provided by St. Paul WELCA and noon lunch for \$6 was provided by St. Peter WELCA. Shepherdess Anna Jetson brought greetings from synod women and excited everyone to start planning to attend the 2014 Triennial convention & Gathering in Charlotte, NC. The afternoon speaker was Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director, Women's Churchwide office, Chicago, IL. A wonderful day was enjoyed by all.  
*Submitted by Ruth Hilgerson*

Twenty-four women from **Cluster 5** attended their annual retreat, September 7 & 8, 2012 at Ewalu Stone Retreat Center. It was a great time of renewal with Bible studies, singing, skits and some game playing Friday evening. Next year's host is American Lutheran Church of Grundy Center, September 6 & 7. Please contact them if you are interested in joining in on next year's time of renewal. *Submitted by Carol Andersen, Fredsville Lutheran*



***From your synod board***

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

### ***Contact Women of the ELCA at:***

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