

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.



Wishing You a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas

Advent is a busy time in our churches and hopefully in our congregational WELCA units as well. Special events should be planned apart from “circle” time as it will entice younger and inactive women to come. Women from other congregations might be invited too. Women will come when it is one occasion with “no ties attached.” It might be an Advent candlelight service, a program for a special group within your congregation or for the women at a nursing home. It puts the Women of the ELCA in front of the congregation which is important.

Special programs are available for you on our website: *Advent: A Season for all Generations* (perfect for this year as we celebrate generations of women at our Triennial) and *The Colors of Christmas: A Reflection on Preparing for Christmas*. You might want to use only parts of these programs. To download at no cost to you, go to <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/resources-pages-5.php>

And in the business of the season we encourage you to take time for the the real “Reason for the Season” with daily prayer and devotions. *From your synod board*

Hope You Were There—

208 women representing 71 congregations attended our Fall Rallies. We began with a pep talk on how churchwide, your synodical board and clusters can work together as a team to support your congregational unit. After half time, we met as new clusters and shared our thoughts on how the women of our synod can best go forward within the new cluster/conference boundaries. Decisions need to be made on our names and how old and new cluster treasuries will be handled. New leadership teams were formed. I have summarized the information submitted from each attendee and it will be shared with each cluster chair at our annual January synod board meeting. Guidelines will be developed at that time. Please contact your cluster shepherdes and cluster chair with additional thoughts you might have before that meeting. Change is hard for some of us and others don’t care, but we must move forward as this change passed with no concerns voiced last June at our synod assembly at Luther College. It was to go into effect September 15, but we will take our time in getting it implemented so that it work for all the women within our new clusters.

A Special Thank You to—

The women of our hostess churches, Emanuel Lutheran in Strawberry Point, St. Peter in Rockwell, St. Peter in Denver and First Lutheran in Decorah. Your hospitality was SO appreciated.

Each of you who attended and so generously gave to our total offering of \$1,331.75. It will be used to enable a woman leader from our companion synod Lutheran church in Namibia, Africa to attend our Triennial next July. *Submitted by Gloria Tollefson, your synod president*

CALENDAR

2014

- Jan. 18 Board Meeting, Synod Office,
hosting Cluster Leaders, 9-3
Jan. 25 *Snow Date*
Mar. 22 Board Meeting, Synod Office
9-noon
May 17 Board Meeting, Wartburg
College, 9-noon
June 20 Board Meeting 4 pm-8 p.m
June 21 NEIA SWO Convention,
Wartburg College, Waverly
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NE Iowa Cluster Leaders

- Cluster A: OPEN
Cluster B: Lorna Christeleit, 403 Butler St., Volga,
IA 52077, 563-767-4182
Cluster C: Donna Kirschenmann, 906 6th St.,
Waverly, IA 50677, 319-483-1994
Cluster D: Joanne Jurs, 1996 185th Ave., Decorah,
IA 52101, 563-382-5525
Cluster E: OPEN
Cluster F: Shirley Knudsen, Box 174, Coulter, IA
50431, 641-866-6862
Cluster G: Sue Ollman, 15 Charlestown Square,
Mason City, IA 50401, 641-425-7164
Cluster H: Bonnie Dralle, 19168 Hwy 14, Allison,
IA 50602, 319-276-4429
Cluster I: Lois Amundson, 505 Mill St., P.O. Box
34, Clermont, IA 52135, 563-423-5531
*(Our apologies to Carolyn Loftaas, whose name
was misspelled in the shepherdess list last month!)*

Are you ready to get on the BUS????????????????

I have reserved one Hawkeyes Stages Bus to travel
from the Waverly/Waterloo area to Charlotte, NC

July 23-July 28. The bus will seat 56 people + the
driver. Current itinerary is departing Waverly/Waterloo
at 7 AM July 23, overnighing in Dayton OH, departing
Dayton at 6 AM July 24 to arrive in Charlotte by 4 PM
to allow time for checking in
before Opening Worship at 7
PM (Film Screening 5 PM). The
bus will depart about noon, or as
soon as everyone is on the bus
after Closing Worship on
Sunday, driving back to Dayton,
OH for an overnight, then



returning to the starting point on Monday evening. I
estimate the cost, which includes 2 nights (double
occupancy) in Dayton, will be (if there are 36 on the
bus) \$450, (44 on the bus) \$375, (maxed out 56) \$320.
Yes, I can get a second bus and then can have 2 starting
points. Please send \$200 deposit per person to Nancy
Poppe by Jan 15, 2014. Please make checks to Women
of the ELCA, memo line to read TGP Bus Deposit
2014. If we do not have enough riders, your deposit
will be returned. Please notify me if you are traveling
with someone or have bunking requests for the
overnights in Dayton. (I already have a few).

Contact Info:

Nancy Poppe 2656 Gilmore Ave, Ionia, IA 50645
Anna Jetson 21249 Viking Dr, Spring Grove MN
55974 ne_iowa_tgp_2014@yahoo.com or 507-498-
3209 home

Have you registered for the Triennial Gathering
yet? Don't forget Early Bird Registration ends January
6, 2014. Save some dough and do it now. Don't forget
to book your rooms for the Gathering @
www.WELCATG.org. I have some outstanding
roommate requests, so let me know if you are looking
for 1, 2, or 3 roommates. Anna Jetson, 21249 Viking
Dr., Spring Grove, MN 55974
ne_iowa_tgp_2014@yahoo.com or 507-498-3209
(home)

Good News

Editor Jan Harbaugh
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jan.harbaugh@gmail.com

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.)

NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

Nancy Poppe
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641-435-2231
Popcan@exede.net

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