

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.

Clusters Hold Fall Events

“Little Flock” Cluster B met Saturday, October 25 at St. Paul Lutheran, Maynard, for their Fall Gathering. The theme was “Bloom Where You Are Planted,” I Corinthians 3:5–9. Forty-three women enjoyed a morning of devotions & Bible study by Pastor Dennis Frank, the Cluster board shared several readings about flowers, and Pauline Rieck & Gertrude Meyer shared their experiences from the Triennial Convention in July. Another highlight from the day was special music by the “Melody Moms,” St. Paul W-ELCA, Maynard. The morning closed with a wonderful lunch at noon.

Cluster C/Jubilee was hosted by the women of Trinity Lutheran in Waterloo on Saturday, October 4. Twenty-seven women from seven of our cluster congregations attended. We learned more about House of Hope and the Salvation Army and how they help families in need and how we can best help them with their mission.

Upper Iowa River Cluster D held their Fall Service Project Day Saturday morning, September 27. Our Service Project was held at the boyhood farm of Norman Borlaug, a man who saved many people in the world from starving. The project was a Silent Auction with proceeds going to World Hunger. Articles for the auction were brought by the 26 ladies from various W-ELCA church units in the Cluster who attended. Upon arrival they enjoyed coffee and refreshments provided by the Cluster Board. Norman Borlaug Foundation board members Barb Schwamman and Tom Spindler gave a very interesting tour of the farm and talked about the work of Norman and his

boyhood days growing up on the farm. After the tour the ladies were given a chance to bid on the silent auction items followed by a picnic sack lunch. God provided us with a beautiful day, a beautiful setting.

The Fall Gathering of **Tree of Life Cluster E** took place at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly on Saturday, October 25th. The theme of the morning meeting was “Bind Us Together.” Refreshments were provided by members of Redeemer, Waverly; Messiah, Janesville; and St. Peter, Denver. A devotion based on John 15:16, “He Chose You and Me,” was shared by Cluster Leader, Joy Thompson. Approximately 25 women were present to enjoy the program “Quilts Are Father’s Arms on Earth” presented by Marie Weber. Melissa Miller and Sheryl Moeller highlighted activities from the 2014 Triennial Gathering. A sharing table of materials and kit items, as well as LWR items from women of Nazareth Lutheran was available. The beautiful fall morning provided a wonderful opportunity for a time of fellowship for Cluster E members. Blessings to all, *Sheryl Moeller*

Riverside Cluster F Fall Fun Fest was held Wednesday, September 24, 2014 at Fairview Lodge in Story City. Thirty-seven women representing 10 churches in our cluster were in attendance. Rev. Scott Johnson from St. Petri led us in a time of singing. Jan McDermott from Riverside Bible Camp held a very interesting Bible study. Following a delicious catered lunch, we toured the Bartlett House Museum. *Submitted by Donna Ostrem, Cluster Secretary*

CALENDAR—2015

- Jan. 10 SWO Board meets with Cluster Presidents
- Apr 25 Cluster D Spring Gathering, Hauge & St. John, Decorah
- May 2 LWR Pickup, Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- Jun 19-20 Iowa Tri-Synodical WELCA Convention, Iowa Central Community College, Ft. Dodge

Shechem Cluster I met 10-11-2014 in the Country School on Heritage Park grounds North of Clermont on Hwy 18. They had a slide presentation on "Suddenly Africa" by Pat Hunsberger, a talk, "Amish Way of Life," by Neal Lambright and Old school day songs by Gayle Moore. Of course "teacher Harriet" passed out a TEST!! Approximately 35 women and men enjoyed a sack lunch before heading for home. Shechem is made up of 10 WELCA units.

The Three River Cluster held their Annual Retreat on Friday, September 5 and Saturday, September 6 at the EWALU Bible Camp at Strawberry Point. The retreat was hosted by Peace Lutheran Fellowship W-ELCA of Parkersburg. The theme was on chocolate and how it relates to so many verses in scripture. A program book, bag and T-shirt were handed out to the 15 ladies who attended. The book was used from "Café Chocolat." For all who could not attend, you missed two great, relaxing days. At the business meeting we voted to continue the fall retreats the same as they had been held when it was the "Bethany Cluster." The W-ELCA that will host the 2015 retreat is Fredsville Lutheran, rural Cedar Falls. Three River Cluster hopes many more will attend in 2015. *Bonnie Dralle, Three River Cluster Chairperson*

Congratulations, Clusters!
It looks like our clusters have done a great job with planning and hosting their Fall Events. What made each one so successful? Number of attendees is important but not the most important. Numbers will increase when you

1. Plan ahead starting in the summer. Include your shepherds.
2. Involve women from each congregation in the cluster.
3. Include publicity flyers to each contact person who can be copied.
4. Use nametags so it is easy to get acquainted—that is the main purpose!
5. Provide registration sheets to help with next year's planning.
6. Plan programs that will be informative and fun.
7. Add time for sharing what our units/synod board is doing.
9. Take an offering to cover expenses, share with churchwide/mission of your choice.
10. Let others know what they missed so they will come next fall!

Gloria Tollefson, Your Synod President



*A blessed Christmas
and joyous new year to you all!*

NEIA Women of the ELCA website:
neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA

Good News

Editor Jan Harbaugh

P. O. Box 68

Renwick, IA 50577

515-825-8068

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

2656 Gilmore Ave

Ionia, IA 50645

641-435-2231

Popcan@exede.net

Contact Women of the ELCA at:

773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>

8765 W. Higgins Road

Chicago, IL 60631-4189