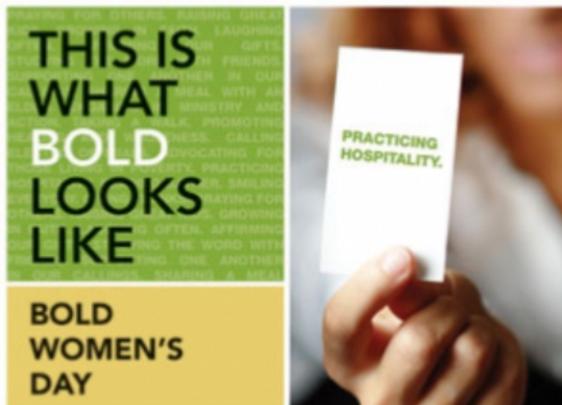


AS A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD, CALLED TO DISCIPLESHIP IN JESUS CHRIST, AND EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO GROW IN FAITH, AFFIRM OUR GIFTS, SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER IN OUR CALLINGS, ENGAGE IN MINISTRY AND ACTION, AND PROMOTE HEALING AND WHOLENESS IN THE CHURCH, THE SOCIETY, AND THE WORLD.

Celebrating Bold Women's Day— Sunday, February 23

Bold Women's Day is observed on the fourth Sunday in February (or another day that works in your church) to celebrate all Lutheran women who



have acted on their faith in Jesus Christ. Our boldness might show in the workplace, church, community; anywhere your faith makes a difference in the lives of others. Go to our website, www.womenoftheelca.org and under News and Events you will find a very comprehensive guide to planning activities that will bring out the **BOLD** in your women's organization! You will find promotional flyers, graphics, related litanies, Bible studies, programs for retreats/general meetings, making a bookmark and certificates to honor women in your congregation! There are also ways you might observe **Bold Women's Day** as an individual. **BE BOLD** and try at least one of these ideas such as the Thanks for Bold Women litany at your circle meeting. It goes so well with our Bible study this year. Please share with us in this newsletter how your congregation observed **Bold Women's Day**.

Martin Luther wrote "Be bold, take risks on account of the gospel, but believe more boldly still in Jesus Christ." And that is what the Women of the ELCA celebrate on **Bold Women's Day**; women who are bold and take risks on account of the gospel; women who believe more boldly still in Jesus Christ. *Gloria Tollefson, NE Iowa Women of the ELCA synod president*

Please Note

In the January *Star* synod newsletter the Lutheran World Relief vice president, Pr. Daniel Lee, made a special request that we "Stop being so humble so we can thank you."

Pr. Lee says he wants to make sure that the people who make and send the thousands of quilts and kits are properly thanked. Often when the boxes arrive at the warehouses, they are not marked with the names and addresses of the congregations that sent them. If we properly label the boxes we send, we can now track them to see where they go by going to lwr.org/tracker. The tracker provides the congregation with an ID number and a bar code you can download and paste on your boxes. Once the boxes arrive (in about 2–6 months), the partners at the receiving sites post pictures and stories about the people who have received the quilts and kits.

"There are great needs in the world—always more need than we can fill," says Pr. Lee. "It is an act of faith every year that gifts show up, and they do. I want to reiterate our extreme thanks to the congregations and the ways they put their faith in action to support this ministry." *From the Star Newsletter of the NE IA Synod, Marcia Hahn, reporter. Vol. 27, No. 1, January 2014.*

Ed. Note: As we go to press this month, our president, Gloria Tollefson, and her family wait at the bedside of her sister, who entered hospice shortly after Christmas. Please keep the family in your prayers.

CALENDAR

2014

- Feb. 23 **Bold Women's Day**
Mar. 22 Board Meeting, Synod Office 9-noon
Apr. 12 LWR Ingathering, St. Peter's LC,
Greene, Clusters C, E, H
May 17 Board Meeting, Wartburg College,
9-noon
May 21-22 Bible Study Seminar, Wartburg
Seminary, Dubuque
June 20 Board Meeting 4 pm-8 p.m
June 21 NEIA SWO Convention, Wartburg
College, Waverly
July 22-24 Ninth Triennial Convention,
Charlotte, NC
July 24-27 Ninth Triennial Gathering,
Charlotte, NC
-

2014 Bible Study for Gather Magazine

Title: Transforming Life and Faith

A new life partner, a new child, a new home, a new job or retirement: most of us recognize how our lives are changed by these experiences. In this year's Bible study we will consider how our lives and our faith journeys are transformed by the events and people we meet. In both testaments, and especially in the Acts of the Apostles, we will read about people who have life-changing experiences: Paul on the road to Damascus, Moses in the wilderness of Midian, Lydia praying by a river in Macedonia, an Ethiopian man traveling from Jerusalem to Gaza. We will watch them turn to and with God as their minds, hearts, and daily lives are altered. And we will reflect on the ways we, too, have been and will be transformed by life encounters and are called by God to serve God's mission in the world.

Good News

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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.)

Theme verse: "...be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect."
Romans 12:2b

About the author:

Carol Schersten LaHurd is a lifelong teacher: Red Cross swimming lessons, high school English, parish education, and, for the past 30 years, biblical studies, Islam, and interfaith relations in colleges, seminaries, the church, and the wider community. After degrees from Augustana College (Ill.) and the University of Chicago, she received the Ph.D. in New Testament from University of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Theological Seminary.

Carol has published many scholarly articles and book chapters on biblical and interfaith topics and has extensive experience in inter-religious and ecumenical relations. With her family she has lived in Damascus, Syria, and Sana'a, Yemen, where she taught and did research on women in Islam.

She is author of *Luke's Vision: The People of God*, the 1998 Bible study for the Women of the ELCA. From 2006–2010 she was coordinator of the Middle East peace-making campaign of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Currently she teaches part-time at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago and is educational outreach consultant for the seminary's Center for Christian-Muslim Engagement for Peace and Justice.

For her own personal transformations, Carol credits close reading of the Bible, a lifetime in a dozen Lutheran congregations, a host of inspiring students and teachers, travel and living abroad, friends of all religions and no religion, her extended family, and especially her husband, Ryan LaHurd; son, Jeremy, and his wife, Maria; daughter, Kristin; and grandchildren Adila and Tecún. From womenoftheelca.org. Submitted by Gloria Tollefson

NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

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