

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.

OUR CONVENTION WILL BE SPECIAL THIS YEAR

June 19–20 will be here before we know it! Please put on your calendar—

*TRI-SYNODICAL WOMEN of the ELCA
CONVENTION*

*IOWA CENTRAL COMMUNITY
COLLEGE, Fort Dodge*

*FRIDAY, JUNE 19 (1:00 pm) through
SATURDAY, JUNE 20 (4:00 pm)*

Some of you remember the 2000 Tri-Synodical convention hosted by SE Iowa Synod women at Iowa State (Ames) and when our synod hosted the 2006 Tri-Synodical convention at Wartburg College (Waverly). This year the Western Iowa Synod is hosting us in Fort Dodge.

If you have attended either of the other Tri-Synodical conventions, you know how special they can be!

Because of larger numbers of women attending, we are able to plan beyond our “usual” convention.

- Rev. Wyvetta Bullock from our ELCA churchwide office will be our keynote speaker.
- All three synod bishops will lead Bible studies
- There will be more interest session topics to choose from.
- Each synod will conduct their own business meeting at 3:45 Friday afternoon, but in different locations.
- And what an opportunity to worship with 300 Lutheran women (our goal)!

PLEASE HELP US WITH OUR PLANS!

Every active unit contact person will receive a packet of materials:

- Registration forms for delegates, alternate delegates, others

- Synod Convention Scholarships
- Motion/Resolution form
- Nomination Form—Synod Board Positions
- Nomination Form—2016 nominating committee member

These forms can also be found on our website, <http://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/>

Who Will Your Delegate and Alternate Delegate Be?

Every **active** unit should be represented by a delegate, who could be your president, vice-president, contact person or another interested leader. Use **the registration form** and support your delegate and alternate by paying their expenses. It is important that you register your delegate by the date provided so that delegate information can be sent to them prior to the convention. What makes you an active unit? This past year your congregational unit must have a leadership team, regular meetings/events and share offerings with our W-ELCA synod and churchwide.

How Can You Encourage More Women to Attend?

Start early! Be excited about the opportunity to attend this larger convention. Encourage women who have never attended to use **the convention scholarships** available. Have copies of both the registration and scholarship forms with you to hand to anyone who shows interest. Organize carpooling and sharing motel rooms. It is a great way for women to get better acquainted. Of course, one-day registration will be available too.

Are There Issues/Actions That You Would Like Addressed?

It is time we bring issues and propose actions to resolve concerns that you would like to have addressed by the synod board, resolutions committee and convention. This is your opportunity to make changes in our organization. Please put this on your board agenda, spend time

CALENDAR

- Apr. 11 Spring LWR In-Gathering for Clusters C (Jubilee), E (Tree of Life) and H (Three Rivers) at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
- Apr. 11 Riverside Cluster Spring Retreat, St. Olaf LC, Belmond
- Apr 25 Upper Iowa River Cluster D Spring Gathering, Hauge & St. John, Decorah
- May 2 LWR Pickup, Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- Jun 19-20 Iowa Tri-Synodical W-ELCA Convention, Iowa Central Community College, Ft. Dodge
- Nov. 7 Fall LWR In-Gathering for Clusters C (Jubilee), E (Tree of Life) and H (Three Rivers) at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
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discussing this using **the Motion-resolution form**. Since we have had no resolutions for several years, let's get serious about coming up with changes in our synod policies, stewardship projects, or operational changes that come from the grass roots.

Will You Encourage Leaders in Your Unit to Serve at the Synod Level?

We need interested unit leaders to move into **positions on our synod board**. The positions of president, secretary and several board positions will need to be filled at our convention. They are elected for a two-year term and can be re-elected for two additional years. We hold six meetings a year on Saturday mornings at the synod office in Waverly. Serving during our convention is also an expectation. Mileage and expenses are reimbursed through our synod budget. It is an opportunity to learn so much about our organization and make lifelong friendships with women we would never know otherwise. (I speak from my experiences!) As a unit, you will also benefit as you will have a person who is readily available to answer your questions. Personally ask

NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA

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.)

someone whom you would like to see on our board. With her permission, submit her information using the nomination form. Or provide her with a nomination form and keep reminding her that you will be disappointed if she does not complete it.

We also need five women who are willing to be elected to **our nominating committee**. This is a short-term commitment to filling the 2016 ballot with interested, committed women. It involves an organizational meeting and contacting women who have been suggested to you. Use the nominating committee form to let us know you would be interested.

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR HELP!

Submitted by Gloria Tollefson, NE IA W-ELCA synod president

You are invited

To a reception honoring Rev. Darrel Gerriets for over 45 years of active ministry. It will be held on February 22, 2015 from 2-4 pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Waverly. A brief program will begin at 3 pm. You might want to consider a gift to "NE Iowa Synod Fund for Leaders" in his honor. Letters of appreciation can be sent to Linda Hudgins at the synod office, who will include them in a book of memories. *From Rev. Steven Ullestad, Bishop, NE Iowa Synod, ELCA*

From Lutheran Services in Iowa

We were so pleased to receive your generous contribution of \$900. Your gift will help Iowa children, families and adults access resources to achieve their goals and improve their lives, such as parenting education therapy, English as a Second Language classes or family crisis support, to simply name a few. Thank you for being LSI's partner as we respond together in Christ's love through compassionate service! *Chris Andersen, Vice-President of Advancement and Church Relations*

NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

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