



# Good News

February 2017  
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Number 2

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.

## **From the President:**

Hunger to be inspired!

A few years ago, I was blessed to hear [Leymah Gbowee](#) speak at the Women of the ELCA Triennial. She is an amazing and dynamic woman of great faith who should be an inspiration to each and every one of us. To hear her witness to the truth of the presence of Jesus Christ in our broken world is something I will never forget and I cannot wait to hear it again!

It reminds me of my Grandma's favorite hymn, "I Love to Tell the Story." I especially like the 3<sup>rd</sup> verse that talks about hearing the story over and over again. When I was younger, I would sometimes think, "not again!" but now I realize that as we get so wrapped up in our lives, we sometimes forget the simpleness of "the story." We all need to be reminded of the gospel and how it broke into our world in Bethlehem all those years ago in a manger. That beautiful baby, who sacrificed for us, so we could spend eternity with our Creator!

What a magnificent story we have to tell!! I pray you will hunger to keep telling it!

Sisters in Christ always, Diane Wills

## **Mission Area: Discipleship**

Going to the Tenth Triennial Gathering? Need a ride or a roommate?

If you are interested in either of the above

options, or both, please contact me as soon as you can. The stops for the bus will depend on the locations I have as I gather your information. Hawkeye Bus Co. tells us a 56-passenger bus would be \$3,796, or about \$85 per person, round trip. A 36-passenger bus would be \$3,448, or about \$115 per

person, round trip. There would be no extra charge for convenience stops along the way.

I will keep your information, so if you are looking for a roommate, I will try and find one for you with the information I have, and try to make it a convenient match in case you would also like to carpool. This offer is not limited to just NEIA Synod women, but includes other areas also.

My contact information is: e-mail: [jpogge1233@gmail.com](mailto:jpogge1233@gmail.com) or my cell number is 515-571-2827.

There is a lot to learn and see at the Triennial, connect with old friends and meet new ones. Also

there will be lots of exciting speakers to hear. Hope to see you there. *Submitted by Cindy Pogge*

## **Mission Area: Justice**

### *Human Trafficking*

Did you know that January is set aside as Human Trafficking Awareness month? I did not until I was reading my January/February *Gather* Magazine. There are a couple of articles with references and resources of what other synods and advocates are doing.

### *Refugee Sunday*

Today, for the first time since World War II, there are more than 60 million people around the world who have been forced to flee their homes

*Bold Woman Sunday is February 26, 2017. Honor and celebrate a bold woman you know in your congregation on this special day! As Martin Luther said, "Be bold, take risks on account of the gospel and believe more boldly still in Jesus!" "I will cling to Christ like a burr to a dress." — Katharina von Bora Luther's last recorded words*

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## CALENDAR

Feb. 26	Bold Women's Day
Mar. 4	SWO Board, Synod office, 9-12 (snow date 3/18)
Apr. 22	Shechem Cluster Spring Gathering, St. Peter's - Richfield, 24124 220 St., Sumner
Apr. 29	Upper Iowa River Cluster Spring Event, St. Paul's LC, Lime Springs
May 20	SWO Board, Wartburg College, 9-12
June 16	SWO Board, Wartburg College, TBD
Jun. 17	NEI Synod WELCA Convention
Jul. 13-16	Triennial Convention and Gathering, Minneapolis, MN ( <a href="http://welcatg.org">welcatg.org</a> )

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due to war, violence, and persecution. Yet Lutherans are not discouraged. We continue to meet refugees and those displaced by violence with God's love. More information about Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services available at [www.lirs.org](http://www.lirs.org).

*March 1—A Day of Mourning* The autistic community joins other disabled groups in a Day of Mourning. They hold vigils and remember the names and stories of those who have died. We need better support systems, but more than that we need to realize that disabled people are people—not burdens or tragedies. (*Gather* magazine, March 2015)

### **Mission Area: Stewardship**

The call for the Women of the ELCA to be

faithful stewards is greater than ever. The organization needs nearly \$900,000 to fund our constitutionally-required Triennial in 2017, and yet the 2016 fiscal year has a deficit of nearly \$1 million below budgeted projections.

Churchwide has cut staff to the bare bones with no salary increases in the past three years and none in the foreseeable future. The board has transferred money from two endowments to help the shortfall, but that move has depleted one of those endowments and the Women of the ELCA is running out of funds to run the programs

necessary to spread God's word. While *GATHER* magazine subscriptions are up and interest in the Triennial is at an all-time high, this isn't enough.

How can YOU help? Encourage your congregational unit to give a \$50 donation to Churchwide beyond your regular budgeted giving. If every ELCA congregation contributes to the Triennial fund, it would go a long way and the Women of the ELCA

can continue to make a difference in so many lives. I would love to see the Northeast Iowa Synod women challenge other synods by going over and above FIRST! Thanks for helping share God's message! *Submitted by Vicky Jaeger*

*Three \$600 Educational Scholarships are available through the SWO board. These are given to women who are seeking to further their education to advance in the work force. The deadline for application is May 15, 2017. The application can be found on the website. Recipients are encouraged to accept their scholarship during the SWO convention in June.*

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### **NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board**

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

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#### **NEIA Women of the ELCA website:**

[neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA](http://neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA)