



GOOD NEWS

January 2014

Volume 27

Number 1

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.

Cluster Leaders to Meet

It is a Women of the ELCA synod tradition that the cluster leaders are invited to our January synod board meeting. We want to provide an opportunity for open communication with both new and old cluster chairs about how the women have been involved in their cluster and their thoughts on we can be of help to them. This January 18 meeting will be an especially important one as we must follow up with them on the issues surrounding the cluster changes that were voted on at the synod assembly last June at Luther College. We will have further discussion on:

1. Naming our clusters
2. Regrouping current cluster treasuries
3. Handle new cluster treasuries
4. Share cluster activities/events that are being planned

We will be sharing with your cluster leaders the input we received at the four fall rallies to help them in moving forward with the necessary changes. If you have further thoughts that you would like to share with your cluster leader, please contact her or your shepherdess (see reverse for lists) before this meeting. Pray for them as they make these decisions. *Gloria Tollefson, WELCA Synod President*

2013-2014 Cluster

Shepherdesses

A/Waters of Life—Ruth Hilgerson

B/Shepherd of the Hills—Ruth Hilgerson

C/Cedar River—Mary Jane Averhoff

D/Upper Iowa River—Vicky Jaeger

E/Wartburg—Sheryl Moeller

F/Lake—Cindy Pogge

G/Riverside—Carolyn Loftaas

H/Bethany—Judy Kelly

I/Shechem—Nancy Miller

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

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

Apr. 12 LWR Ingathering, St. Peter's LC, Greene, Clusters C, E, H

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

Lutheran World Relief—in the Philippines

We can be proud of all LWR is doing to help the victims of Typhoon Haiyan. Our missionaries report that LWR was one of the first responders to provide clean water, shelter and sanitation. Lutheran World Relief is providing

- Shelter Repair Kits—tools and materials bought locally if possible to rebuild homes.
- Safe and clean water—providing high capacity water filters refillable water tanks holding 12 gal. of water.
- Debris removal—paying cash to people who have lost jobs.
- World Food Program—providing food and pots, pans and utensils for preparing food.

- **Shipping QUILTS, BABY CARE KITS, SCHOOL KITS** to help 26,000 families in need.

Needs continue for more kits and quilts, cash donations and prayers. Our ELCA has committed one million dollars and plans to be there two years. *Gloria Tollefson, WELCA Synod President*

GODS WORK!!! OUR HANDS!!!

On November 2, Conferences B, D and I (formerly Clusters 8, 9 and 10) loaded our LWR donations into a semi donated by Olson Explosives in Decorah. Last May we nearly filled the semi but not as many ladies meet in the summer so our fall collection is always smaller. However, we were able to send 1,071 quilts, 1,302 school kits, 391 personal care kits and 685 baby care kits plus fabric kits and soap. We did have some really busy beavers that we should say WOW!! to: Zion Lutheran in West Union sent a total of 475 quilts in our 2013 shipments. St. Peters in Eldorado gave 207 school kits. Ossian Lutheran gave 102 school kits and Washington Prairie in Decorah sent 91 this November.

We also want to say “thank you!” to Greg Hamm, Youth Director at St. Paul’s in Postville for bringing his strong young men to help us “old folk” in lifting all those heavy boxes and the adults who stepped up to help that morning. *Submitted by Shirley Steggall, Calmar Lutheran Church, Conference D Mission Action Representative*

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.)

NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

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