



# Good News

January 2017  
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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:**

Be alert, be present. I'm about to do something brand-new. It's bursting out! Don't you see it? Isaiah 43:19 (*The Message*)

It was no coincidence that God sent Jesus to us during the "darkest" time of the year. The nights are the longest of the year starting the end of December. But once January comes, the daylight begins to increase until we reach the longest days in early summer. We have been in the darkness and now it is time for the light to burst forth and start a new thing in us! No wonder we call this season Epiphany, the season of LIGHT! Time for a brand new year, brand new habits, brand new ideas, brand new Children of the Light, born anew in Jesus!

Find time to search out the Light in your life. Jesus is always there, waiting only for us to search Him out. Pray, Sing, Quilt, Collect, Share, Shine! Try something new..... Maybe a circle or cluster meeting or attending Convention in June or Triennial in July. Be bold in your faith and let the light of Christ shine through you to those in need!

*All anew, Diane Wills*

## **Mission Area: Discipleship**

November 5, 2016 found us set up at Olson's Explosives in Decorah. Donations from Upper Iowa River Cluster D, Little Flock, and Shechem soon began rolling in. We were blessed with fine weather and plenty of great help.

Totals: 1,101 quilts, 478 personal care kits, 1,880 school kits, 469 baby care kits, 39 fabric kits, 34 blankets, and 60# of soap.

A sincere thank you to the pastor and youth group from Big Canoe Lutheran Church and to volunteers from Zion Lutheran church in Oelwein and Luther College in Decorah for helping load the semi truck. WELL DONE. Thanks to all. *Submitted by Dee Wyatt & Sandy Gavle, Big Canoe Lutheran Church, Decorah, IA*

## **Mission Area: Justice**

Doing what is right for another person. Micah 6:8 had a prescription for right living: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your GOD." Nothing we do can make us right with GOD. Paul taught, "By Grace are you saved through

faith; and that is not of yourselves, it is a gift of GOD." (Ephesians 2:8)

So, to let GOD'S justice flow through us, I have selected several hymns from the Evangelical Lutheran Book of Worship which support justice:

#704 "When Pain of the World Surrounds Us" with darkness and despair, when searching just confounds us with false hopes everywhere, when lives are starved for meaning and destiny is bare, we are called to follow Jesus and let GOD'S healing flow through us.

We see with fear and trembling our aching world in need, confessing to each other our wastefulness and greed.

May we with steadfast caring the hungry children feed.

We are called to follow Jesus and let GOD'S justice flow through us.

#715 (st. 2,3,4) "Christ, Be Our Light"

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has power to save us. Make us your living voice.

*Refrain:* Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed. (Refrain)

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone. (Refrain)

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another, signs of your kingdom come. (Refrain)

Other suitable hymns that I like are #s 716, 717, 720, 725. *Submitted by Millie Dieter*

The SWO Board will be meeting with cluster leadership on January 14 (snow date 21) to begin plans for our next gathering in June. If you are a cluster president (or her representative), we invite you to attend from 9-3 at the synod office. Bring your own coffee mug and reusable water bottle! We look forward to sharing lots of new information with you! Please pray for safe travels and wisdom to abound!

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## CALENDAR

2017

- Jan. 14 SWO Board with Cluster Leaders, Synod office, Waverly, 9-3 (snow date 1/21)
- 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 ([welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org))
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### Mission Area: Stewardship

"I AM ABOUT TO DO A NEW THING!"

In Isaiah 43:18-19a, the prophet reports God's word: "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing!"

It's a new year. We can take that as a reminder that we can do a new thing too—a new thing for our beloved community of women.

What might that be?

One of the principles enshrined in our constitution is **interdependence**. That means we're not in this alone; we have each other. We need each other. That goes not just for individuals or for circles or congregational units; it means the same thing for synodical women's organizations and the churchwide expression of the organization, too. Our three expressions (congregational, synodical and churchwide organizations) depend on each other.

How do we live that out? We receive from each other, but do we support each other in equal measure? Do we support the three expressions of our own organization as generously as we support other organizations and ministries? Why wouldn't we?

So there's the new thing we can do. We can give to support our own community of women in all its expressions as generously as we give to other ministries. We can give Regular Offerings whenever we gather, and share them between our congregational unit and our synodical women's

organization. We can give Thankofferings and undesignated gifts marked "where needed most" whenever the Spirit moves us, and send them to our churchwide women's organization. In Isaiah 43:18-19a, God says: "Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing!" We are created in God's image. Let's thank God for the opportunity for us to do a new thing, too! *Reprinted from [www.womenoftheelca.org-pages-216.php](http://www.womenoftheelca.org-pages-216.php)*

### Congratulations to our Triennial Scholarship recipients:

Linda McMillin, Jane Godson, Sonia Bockhoven, Carol Holtz, Deb Jacobsen, Becky Fuelling, Betty Zumbach, Jennifer Larson, Nancy Miller, Vicky Jaeger, Carol Burnikel, Sue Easler and Cindy Pogge!

### Triennial:

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*

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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)