



GOOD NEWS

July-August 2013

Volume 26

Number 7

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.

Women of the ELCA Celebrating 25 Years

Created, Called and Empowered

136 women gathered to celebrate and do business at Wartburg College on Saturday, June 15. We sang and worshiped together, enjoyed a delicious luncheon and enjoyed time with new and old friends. We honored past synod presidents and our past 25 years of history.

Five interest groups all received excellent evaluations. Our past synod president, Cecil Maureen Johnson, shared her recent W-ELCA trip to Liberia. Kathy Czerwinski (St. John's, Nashua) and Diane Niezwaag (St. John's, Charles City) shared their experiences on their recent missionary trip to Haiti. Thrivent associates, Deborah Gann and Danny Cooke, taught us how to protect ourselves from identity theft. Hannah Burkle helped make us aware of human trafficking and what needs to be done to combat this form of sexual exploitation. Our church wide board representative, Diane Fredericks, shared how knitting can be a spiritual practice. Each attendee was able to attend two sessions of her choice.

There were 10 "first timers" there and about the same number of women who had been at the first convention! So if you were there, please encourage more women from your church to attend next year. Put the date on your calendar—JUNE 21 at Wartburg College in Waverly.

New Synod Board Members Elected

Two new board members were elected:

Sheryl Moeller, St. Peter Lutheran, Denver
Vicky Jaeger, First Lutheran, Decorah

Board members re-elected were:

President Gloria Tollefson, Nazareth Lutheran, Cedar Falls

Secretary Sue Ollman, St. James Lutheran, Mason City

Cindy Pogge, St. Olaf Lutheran, Belmont

Ruth Hilgerson, St. Paul Lutheran, Postville

A special thank-you to Carol Andersen and Anna Jetson who will be leaving our synod board. They have served you well.

Triennial Delegates Elected

The following were elected to represent us as delegates to the Triennial Convention at Charlotte, NC next summer, July 22-24, 2014.

Karris Golden, Trinity Lutheran, Waterloo
Melissa Miller, Redeemer Lutheran, Waverly
Nancy Poppe, St. John Lutheran, Nashua
Beverly Sheridan, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Decorah
Anna Jetson, Highland Lutheran, Decorah
Cindy Pogge, St. Olaf Lutheran, Belmont
Diane Wills, Zion St. John Lutheran, Sheffield, 1st Alternate

Nominating Committee Elected

Avis Johnson, Bethany Lutheran, Iowa Falls—Cluster 3
Lois Amundson, East Clermont Lutheran, Clermont—

Cluster 10

Cheryl Moore, Nazareth Lutheran, Cedar Falls—Cluster 7

Barbara Zemke, St. Paul's Lutheran, Waverly—Cluster 4

Barb Ogden, St. John Lutheran, Dundee—Cluster 11

Be sure to say "YES" when they call!

Our Offerings—Where do they go?

Offerings collected from attendees and congregational units were \$4,768.33.

We realize that many of the units will be sending their offerings soon. Fifty per cent of our offering will go to church wide W-ELCA, where it will be used in missions supporting women here at home and around the world. The remaining will go to our special Anniversary Appeal and Malaria Fund and our synod's Namibia Fund. We hope to sponsor a woman from our companion synod to attend our Triennial. We also filled a van with personal care items for Bremwood. Looking forward to a vision of what we might become! *Submitted by Gloria*

Tollefson, President

CALENDAR

- Aug. 17 Women of the ELCA Bible Study Seminar with Dr. Kay Ward, Grand View University, Des Moines
- Oct. 12 LWR Ingathering, Albert Lea
- Oct. 12 Fall Gathering, 9-11:30 a.m., Emanuel, Strawberry Point
- Oct. 15 Fall Gathering, 6:30-9 p.m., St. Peter, Rockwell
- Oct. 19 Fall Gathering, 9-11:30 a.m., St. Peter Ev., Denver
- Oct. 20 Fall Gathering, 2-4:30 p.m., 1st Lutheran Decorah
- Nov. 2 LWR pickups, Olson Explosives, Decorah and Redeemer, Waverly

2014

June 21 NEIA SWO Convention, Wartburg College, Waverly

From our Triennial Promoter

Well, we are one year away from the Ninth Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, NC, July 24–27, 2014. I thought I would take a moment and check in to see where we are.

Have you heard about the Triennial? Do you know where it will be? Are you going? Is there someone you know going? Do you have unanswered questions?

These questions are what I think about every time I think about the Triennial Gathering. As the promoter, it is my job to make sure you all know about it, and how to get there and when to get there. I know I talk about it a lot with my friends and family because I so enjoy going and want to be able to continue to go to future triennials.

I set a goal for our NE Iowa SWO to have each congregation represented at the Triennial. So far I have gathered a list of 25 interested individuals, five of whom registered at the last Triennial to attend in Charlotte. Since some of the 25 individuals on my list are in a group attending from one congregation, that means there are several congregations that I don't know about. Would you like me to come visit with you? Or have you already made your arrangements and we will see you there? Maybe you are waiting until you know who the speakers are going to be and what workshops will be offered. I know they will be amazing, as we have an awesome Churchwide staff that is putting it all together for us. They will be sending out registration information in time for Early Bird Registration (September to December 2013) to prior participants. Others can access it online at www.womenoftheelca.org.

If you need information and are, like my Mom, without computer access, please contact me and I will get you the information as soon as I can. House phone is 507-498-3209 or mailing address is 21249 Viking Dr., Spring Grove, MN 55974. If there is anything I can do to encourage you or someone in your group to attend the Triennial, please don't hesitate to ask. I will do the best I can. I am working on the final details of a bus leaving from either Waverly or Waterloo to Charlotte. I need a minimum of 35 riders, but the bus can hold up to 50. The current cost estimate for 35 riders—2 overnights on the way down and 1 overnight on the way back—is \$350. Early Bird Registration fee is \$325.

Submitted by Anna Jetson



JULY 24-27, 2014
Ninth Triennial
Gathering

of many
generations

More quilts for LWR in 2013!

Twenty-five per cent more than last year! Sounds impossible, but we need to try because the need is so great. There are still several months for us to continue to work to meet the challenge. If your congregation hasn't quilted before, maybe this is the year to start, or to join with another group for fellowship and quilting. Here are some tips and ideas that our congregation has used that may be helpful to you.

Let everyone (friends, family, neighbors) know that you are making quilts for LWR and will welcome any fabrics that may be donated. You can use worn curtains and draperies, blankets and sheet blankets to make fillers. People who used to sew probably have leftover fabric which can be cut into squares and strips to make tops. Gently worn sheets make excellent backs and non-working electric blankets are good fillers after the controls and wires are removed. Salvation Army and similar stores, garage sales and household auctions are other sources. A couple of dollars will often buy a large box of sheets or leftover fabrics. Sometimes quilt shops, fabric stores and manufacturers who use fabric may have material for donation or bargain sales.

Now that you have the fabric, what's next? Where will you be able to work to make the quilts? Perhaps there is space at church where you can gather and work together to sort and prepare the materials. Some tasks may be done by people at home, especially cutting squares and strips for tops. We learned from another group to make kits of pieces for sewing together at home. When putting together and tying quilts we find it works well to work on two or three successive days so we don't have to spend time putting away and setting up again.

As the ranks of experienced quilters have decreased with time, we need to involve new people. We added an evening tying time between two successive days. Employed women appreciated the opportunity to be involved. Confirmation students learned about LWR and helped tie quilts as one of their lessons, thought it fun and came back again. We used to tie only in winter, but now we do so in fall also. We've heard of "Quiltathons" and hope to try one this summer. If you've had one, I'd like to know how you did it. I'd also like to hear from others about more ideas.

Making 25% more quilts for LWR this year is a daunting challenge, but we can do it if everyone helps! Submitted by Elaine Dove, St. Peter's, Denver, phone 319-987-2501.

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.)

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