

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.

Newly-Formed Clusters Hold Spring Gatherings

Riverside (Cluster F) held their spring retreat on April 8 at Bethany Lutheran in Iowa Falls with 55 women in attendance. A program given by Marc and Michelle Murray portrayed Martin and Katie Luther. We were served a wonderful lunch and given a bird seed ornament to take home. It was the first meeting of two different clusters, each with their own traditions and style, now a newly formed cluster. Detailed minutes are available to interested cluster leaders. *Cindy Pogge, Shepherdess*

Jubilee (C), Tree of Life (E) along with host cluster Three River (H)'s spring gathering took place at St. Peter Lutheran in Greene on Saturday, April 12. Our speaker was David Smolik-Hagen from Waverly, who shared his experiences in Haiti on a Carter Project for Habitat for Humanity building new homes for people still living in refugee camps there. Each of the three clusters held a brief meeting after a delicious soup luncheon served by women of St. Peter. *Sheryl Moeller, Shepherdess*

Shechem Cluster (I) spring gathering was held at St. John's Lutheran Church, Stapleton on Saturday, April 26 with 42 attending. The theme was "Rejoice in the Lord, Rejoice in Spring." Pastor Nancy Larson spoke on the "Joys in Ministry," which was a wonderful presentation. Karen Martin from the Fayette County Food Shelf informed us on the losses suffered in a recent fire and the help they have since received. The offering was given to the Food Shelf. *Nancy Miller, Shepherdess*

Upper Iowa Cluster (D) also held their spring gathering on Saturday, April 26 at at Orleans Lutheran in rural Ridgway. Their speaker was from Camp Noah, a Lutheran Social Services

program that holds camps for children to help them process, play and heal in their own communities following disasters such as tornados or floods. The offering was then given to Camp Noah. *Vicky Jaeger, Shepherdess*

Little Flock Cluster (B) met Sunday afternoon, April 27, at 1:30 p.m. at St. John Lutheran, Luana, for their spring gathering with about 45 women in attendance. The theme was "Getting to Know You, Katarina Von Bora Luther, 1499–1552." The cluster board provided a personal interview with Katarina Von Bora. A sing-along to Katie's songs followed. Marie Weber showed her slide presentation, "Quilts Travel," using slides of her recent trip to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul. *Ruth Hilgersen, Shepherdess*

Fall Cluster Events Being Planned

Your synod board will not be presenting fall rallies as we have in the past. We feel it will help our new clusters become stronger if they plan and promote their own fall events. Please plan as a cluster board, rather than letting one church host and do all the planning. This defeats the purpose. Please include your shepherdess. This could be a program very much like your spring event or entirely different, like a service project. Many of our clusters have already set dates and are making plans—

Three River Cluster (H) is planning a Fall Retreat at EWALU, September 5 and 6.

Upper Iowa Cluster (D) have made plans to visit the Norman Borlaug Foundation in rural Cresco, September 27.

Jubilee Cluster (C) will hold their fall event at Trinity Lutheran in Waterloo on October 4.

Little Flock Cluster (B) Fall Gathering October 25. *Please use this newsletter to promote your fall event.*

CALENDAR

- July 20 Bremwood Anniversary Ice Cream Social,
2-4:30 p.m., Waverly
- July 22-24 Ninth Triennial Convention,
Charlotte, NC
- July 24-27 Ninth Triennial Gathering, Charlotte, NC
- Aug. 16 Bible Study Seminar, 9-3, Grandview
University, Des Moines
- Sep. 5-6 Fall Retreat, Three River/H at Ewalu
- Sep. 27 Cluster D/Upper Iowa River Fall Gathering,
Norman Borlaug Foundation, Rural Cresco
- Oct. 4 Jubilee Cluster Fall Gathering, Trinity,
Waterloo
- Oct. 25 Little Flock Cluster (B) Fall Gathering,
- Nov. 1 LWR Ingathering, Olson Explosives, Decorah
- 2015**
- Jun 19-20 Iowa Tri-Synodical W-ELCA Convention,
Iowa Central Community College, Ft. Dodge
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ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY

Did you miss the *Gather* Bible Study Seminar held at the seminary in Dubuque in May? If so, **on August 16** you may want to head to **Grandview University**, Krumm Business Center, in Des Moines for a full day with the author of our **2014-15 "Transforming Life and Faith" *Gather* Bible Study**. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and activities last through 3:00 p.m. Registration of \$40 includes lunch. You can send your name, address, telephone #, e-mail address, name of your congregation and its city along with the registration fee to Laura Kuehl, 609 Tower Rd, Clinton, IA 52732. You can find a registration form on our website neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA that you might prefer to use. Those of us who were able to be with the author as she reviewed each of the monthly Bible studies came away with a real appreciation of next year's study. *Submitted by Gloria Tollefson, President*

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.)

GODS WORK!!! OUR HANDS!!!

On May 3, 2014 Little Flock Cluster B, Upper Iowa River Cluster D and Shechem Cluster I loaded our LWR donations into a semi donated by Olson Explosives in Decorah. We were able to send a total of 1,471 quilts, 158 school kits, 705 personal care kits, 436 baby care kits, 60 fabric kits and 76# of soap. Our WOW champs this time were Zion of West Union with 199 quilts, Old West Paint Church with 95 baby care kits, Trinity of Hawkeye with 68 school kits, Canoe Ridge with 72# of soap and Calmar Lutheran with 128 personal care kits and 22 fabric kits.

We had wonderful loading help from Hope Lutheran of Littleport and Greg Hamm's youth from St. Paul's in Postville. THANKS to all who contributed! *Shirley Steggall, Calmar Lutheran Church, Upper Iowa River Cluster D*

LSI's 150th Anniversary Ice Cream Social

On Sunday, July 20, LSI's Bremwood Campus in Waverly will host an Ice Cream Social to mark the 150th anniversary of Lutheran Services in Iowa and we hope you will come and join us! We will begin with devotions at 2 p.m., with ice cream, cake and festivities to follow at 2:30. The program will include time to browse a historical display, guest speakers, anniversary video and, of course, great fellowship. You are welcome to drop in as you please, but we will only guarantee dessert for the first 150! The event, held indoors at the Spiritual Life Center, should wrap by 4:30. The address is 106 16 St. SW in Waverly.

There is no cost to attend. Ice cream will be donated by Blue Bunny and we are asking for volunteers to donate home-made cake or pie. If you would be willing to do so, please contact Joyce Williams at joyce.williams@lsiowa.org or (319) 859-3558. You may also contact Joyce to RSVP, although doing so is optional. We hope to see you there!

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