



Good News

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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:

What is a Triennial?

Such a great question! Every three years the Women of the ELCA gather together from across the church with life-changing workshops, worship, Bible study and more. I have been blessed to attend the last five gatherings and it is an uplifting, renewing experience that I think everyone in our organization should attend! At the Tenth Triennial Gathering, July 13–16, 2017, women will gather in Minneapolis, MN, under the theme “All Anew.” Featured speakers, preachers and workshop leaders will bring the Gathering themes to life. Devotions exploring the themes will be posted on the website in mid summer. “Because the Tenth Triennial Gathering falls during the observance of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation in 2017, the theme resonates with reformation and transformation images. At the gathering, participants will explore ways in which the Holy Spirit changes us, acknowledging that reformation and transformation have happened and continue to happen within the community of women known as Women of the ELCA” (from the welcatg.org website). Registration opens September 6. Early-bird registration, through January 6, 2017, is \$310; after that registration is \$350. Day registrations are \$175. You can register at the website. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any board member by phone or email. I can’t think of a better way to spend 4 days of next summer! Come and join me!

Diane Wills

Mission Area: Discipleship

Rooted in faith and discipleship—a family tradition

On Sunday, May 22, 2016, Immanuel Lutheran Church of Scarville, IA, had the honor of hosting the ordination of our pastor’s son, Daniel Baldwin. Our church is small, so it was awesome to see it filled with pastors and witnesses of Christ’s family.

Daniel, his wife Aleese, and his father have all graduated from seminary: Daniel & Aleese, Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque; Daniel’s father, Luther Northwestern Seminary, St. Paul—seems to be a family tradition!

Daniel’s dad, Randy Baldwin, has served as a pastor for over 30 years. He is well known for his pastoral care & hugs. Daniel decided to follow in his footsteps at the

age of seven. Daniel and his wife recently traveled to the Holy Land with some of the seminary students and walked on the footpath of Jesus’ travels.

It took more than a village to raise Daniel. His life has been blessed with teachings from several congregations, school, friends, synod leadership, Luther College, seminary, travels to Germany and the Holy Land, but most of all, the love of his family.

Daniel’s ordination was filled with God’s power and love and we wish him the best. We are proud to be a part of raising him up in faith! His wife, Aleese, will be ordained in June at her home church in Rothschild, WI, and both will serve as pastors at churches in Muscatine, IA. She has received a call to Shepherd of the Cross Lutheran Church and Daniel is called to Grace Lutheran Church. *Submitted by Della Benson*

Mission Area: Justice

Justice and the environment. How do we “do justice” to the planet, our home? One way is to plant trees. One organization, Living Lands & Waters, has planted 1,000,000 trees. After nine years of hard work, LL&W reached its goal. There are 11 reasons to plant trees.

- Trees produce oxygen; a mature leafy tree produces as much oxygen in a season as ten people inhale in a year.
- Trees clean the soil by absorbing chemicals and other pollutants.
- Trees control noise pollution by muffling urban noise.
- Trees slow storm water runoff; flash flooding can be dramatically reduced by a forest or even one tree.
- Trees are carbon sinks; to produce its food, a tree absorbs and locks away carbon dioxide in the wood, roots and leaves.
- Trees clean the air; forests act as a giant filter that cleans the air we breath.
- Trees shade and cool; shade reduces the need for air conditioning in summer and breaks the force of winter winds, lowering heating costs.
- Trees act as windbreaks; windbreaks can lower home heating bills and reduce snow drifts.

CALENDAR

Sep. 9–10 Three River Fall Retreat, Camp Ewalu
Oct. 22 Little Flock Fall Festival, St. Paul, Postville
2017
Jul. 13–16 Triennial Convention

- Trees fight soil erosion; tree roots bind the soil and their leaves break the force of wind and rain on soil.
- Trees increase property values; real estate values increase when trees beautify a property or neighborhood.
- Fruits grow and mature on trees; apples, pears, and cherries, yum!

Trees are essential to human life. Martin Luther once stated that if he knew the world would end tomorrow, he would plant a tree today. Plant a tree and watch it grow!

Submitted by Pastor Jane A. Granzow, retired

Mission Area: Stewardship

Triennial: I Can't Afford That!

Perhaps this is a thought you have had! One of the wonderful things your SWO board does every three years is offer scholarships for those who would like to attend, but may need a little assistance with the cost. According to our board policies, we allot a total of \$1,500.00, up to 5 recipients of \$300 each. First consideration is given to first-time attendees. The application form can be found on the NE IA WELCA website. They are due by November 1, 2016, so get your application in soon!! *Submitted by Diane Wills*

Little Flock Cluster (B) Spring Gathering

Little Flock Cluster gathered for the Spring Gathering at Zion Lutheran Church, Oelwein, on April 30, 2016.

Following a welcoming greeting, Lynda introduced Maxine Losen from the local food bank, Oelwein Area Kitchen Cupboard. Six churches in Oelwein and one church in Maynard sponsor the cupboard. Maxine thanked the group for the cluster donations today and answered a few questions.

The theme hymn, "Have No Fear, Little Flock," was

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sung and we read the Purpose and Mission Statement.

Marjorie Lewis, Cluster Shepherdess, brought greetings from the NE Iowa Synod Board. Jane Godson and Linda McMillin have filled out nomination papers from our cluster. Marjorie reported the board is thinking about having the convention in some of the larger churches in the Synod. When she asked for a show of hands supporting that idea, 13 voted in favor of the plan.

The Triennial Convention will be in Minneapolis July 13–16, 2017. Pick up a brochure or visit the website and make plans to go. It will never be any closer, and scholarships are also available. Pauline Rieck also encouraged all to plan to attend.

We read Psalm 150 in unison. Denise Lindeman led devotions. Rosetta Anderson welcomed all to Zion and introduced Carol Schnorr with assistant Shanita Johnson. Carol opened with a word of prayer, shared her testimony, and explained how flags enhance worship. Shanita showed each set of flags as Carol explained their meaning. Her performance was absolutely beautiful as she moved the flags to Christian music.

Sixteen churches, two pastors and one guest, for a total of 48, were present. Ideas and upcoming events were shared. A decision will be made this fall about what to do with the cluster quilt. An offering was taken before the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and Table Prayer. A delicious luncheon by our hosts, followed with door prizes, bags of mints and survival packets for pastors were awarded.

Submitted by Cluster B Secretary, Elaine Diers

We Did It Again!

Upper Iowa River Cluster D, Little Flock Cluster B and Shechem Cluster I brought a total of 1,746 quilts, 754 personal care kits, 186 school kits, 613 baby care kits and 125# of soap for our spring LWR collection. We had a great group of young men from Zion Lutheran, West Union, and St. Paul's Lutheran, Postville, who helped us load everyone's donations on the semi. THANKS, GUYS—YOUR HELP WAS GREATLY APPRECIATED!!! *Submitted by Shirley Steggall, Mission Action Chair, Upper Iowa River Cluster D*

Good News

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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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