

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 Your President--

Our synodical board has been busy planning your 25th annual convention and we are looking forward to seeing you there. We will be “Gathered for Faith and Action” Saturday, June 16, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Wartburg College in Waverly. We have planned a day filled with **Hospitality**—As you arrive, coffee and treats will greet you, and a delicious luncheon will be beautifully served by Wartburg students. The menu includes pecan-crusted grilled chicken breast, fruit salad, garden rice, julienne carrots with lime butter and brownie à la mode for dessert.

Worship—Pastor Nancy Larson will lead us in worship with holy communion. Hymns such as “Shall We Gather at the River” will add liveliness to the service. The presentation to our educational scholarship recipient and installation of new synod officers will also be part of the service.

Learning—Five interest sessions have been planned for you. You will want to select two of the following:

- Lutheran World Relief Kits and Challenges
- Shepherd of the Hills
- Real Money Talk for Women
- The Faces of Grief
- Recycling Items for Yourself/Fundraising.

Each session will be 50 minutes long.

Business—Delegates will elect new board members, next year’s nominating committee and approve our 2013 budget. Each active congregational unit should have a delegate representing their unit. All women are encouraged to attend as visitors. You will gain an appreciation for how your synod and churchwide support you in promoting the mission of the Women of the ELCA.

I hope if you have not already registered that you will take care of it right now! If you need a registration form, call me (319)266-4075 or Shirley Retz (563)927-3824. Or go to our synod website and you will find it there neiasynod.org, then go to the link Women of the ELCA. It is also possible to register that day. Fill a car with

women from your church and you will go home talking about how you might revive your congregational unit!

SOME IMPORTANT DETAILS

Checking in—Name badges and convention materials may be picked up in the McCaskey Lyceum foyer in the Saemann Student Center between 7:30 and 8:30 Saturday morning. Coffee and treats will be available in the Den during that time. The emergency telephone number is (319) 352-8200. Notify the operator that the call is for a member of the Synodical Women’s convention.

Where to go—When you turn north on Wartburg Blvd., you will be on the east side of the campus. Curve to the right and you will see Neumann Auditorium. Saemann Student Center is right next door. Signs will direct you to the lobby.

Parking—Park in the lots next to Neumann Auditorium. Handicapped parking is available in designated spots near Saemann Student Center. This is all guest parking.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES AT CONVENTION

Our convention offerings: 50% will go to churchwide missions, 25% to Lutheran World Relief for Project Comfort, 25% to Shepherd of the Hills.

In-Kind offering will go to Shepherd of the Hills. Items needed are new, larger book bags (not LWR bags), school supplies, socks and underwear for 3-year-old–high school sizes.

Lutheran World Relief kit supplies will be sold at wholesale prices by the Nazareth Kits and Quilts presenters between sessions. Prices are: combs 10 for \$1, nail clippers 2 for \$1, toothbrushes 10 for \$1, pencil sharpeners 10 for \$1, backpack ropes for 1 backpack \$1 and rope pullers 1 for \$1.

GATHER LEADERS’ GUIDES and companion Bibles for the 2012-2013 Bible study, “Gathered by God,” will be available for purchase at the convention.

OUR SUMMER BIBLE STUDY: "ALONG THE WAY"

Have you ever taken a summer road trip with your family or friends? If so, you know the conversations you have along the way are an important part of the journey. Your spiritual life can change and grow as you travel. What began as road trip might become a pilgrimage.

In this study you will meet some biblical travelers, enter into conversation with them and explore your own journeys of faith. In June we will "Travel with Joseph," in July, "Food for the Journey" (Exodus) and August, "Meeting Jesus Along the Way." The author, Rev. Julie Kanarr, an ELCA pastor from Port Townsend, WA, will be our guide. This student of the Bible has journeyed extensively by foot, car, bicycle, kayak, boat and airplane.

From Women of the ELCA Interchange, March 2012

PLAN NOW FOR A SUMMER RETREAT

While many of us gather monthly for Bible study, some Bible study groups choose not to meet in the summer. Why not plan a day-long retreat using this summer's Bible study? Invite all women in your congregation. Choose a scenic spot—a park or garden with a shelter. Lessons can be downloaded from the website or found in the *Gather* magazine. You might ask someone different to lead each of the three sessions. Ask others to lead the suggested hymns and read the prayers. Ask a few others to arrange for healthy refreshments. A picnic lunch would fit the theme. Decorate your meeting place with road maps or homemade road signs. Please let us know how it went!

From Women of the ELCA Interchange, March 2012

NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

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Good News

Newsletter Editor Jan Harbaugh
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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. Or, if you don't have e-mail, send a paper copy, and I will scan it in.

WELCOME TO OUR CHURCHWIDE REPRESENTATIVE

Barbara Martz

**Executive board treasurer,
2011-2014**

**Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America**



Barbara Martz was elected to be the churchwide treasurer of the Women of the ELCA in July 2011. She serves on the Budget and Finance

Committee.

Barbara most recently served on her synodical board from 2006-2010, where she was the chairperson for the Southwestern Pennsylvania women's convention in 2010.

As a member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church in New Kensington, PA, Barbara is the financial secretary and an assisting minister. She also is on the greeter and usher committees, and serves in the prayer shawl ministry.

Barbara is single and works for Clearview Federal Credit Union, assisting members with their financial needs. Barbara got her undergraduate degree from Penn State University in 1996 and got an MBA from Seton Hill University in 2010.

Barbara loves to travel and by the age of 45 had traveled to all 50 states. She has also been to Germany, Greece, Peru, Mexico, Canada, and North and South Korea.

I met Barb last February at the Presidents' Leadership Training in Chicago and enjoyed getting acquainted with her. I'm sure you will, too. *Submitted by Gloria Tollefson*

Contact Women of the ELCA at:

773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA

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CALENDAR

June 15	SWO Board Mtg
June 16	WELCA Synod Convention, Wartburg College, Waverly