



# GOOD NEWS

May 2013

Volume 26

Number 5

**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.**

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## **“CREATED, CALLED AND EMPOWERED—CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MINISTRY”**

HAVE YOU MADE PLANS TO ATTEND OUR CONVENTION?

### **WHO** should come?

Every unit of the Women of the ELCA should send a delegate. An alternate should also be registered, along with other active women in your church who are interested in promoting the Women of the ELCA. Last year 150 women attended. We hope there are many more in attendance this year!

### **WHAT** is its purpose?

Our convention is the annual business meeting of our synod Women of the ELCA. We will elect/reelect our synod board president, secretary, four board members and five members to the 2014 nominating committee. Six delegates to the Triennial Convention in Charlotte, NC will be elected. Resolutions may be brought to the floor (See Jan. *Good News*) and our 2014 budget will be adopted.

*Convention offerings?* This year our offerings will go to the Anniversary Appeal (Churchwide Missions and Malaria Fund) and Triennial Guest from Namibia. Self-care items will be given to Bremwood students.

**WHEN?** Our convention will be held Saturday, June 15, 8:30am-3:30 pm

**WHERE?** Come to the Student Center at Wartburg College in Waverly. It is fully handicapped accessible and parking is close by and very available.

**WHY?** First, come to celebrate our accomplishments during the past 25 years and take a

look into the future of the next 25 years. We will honor our past with a candlelight service. You will also enjoy a lovely served luncheon, seeing old friends and learning more about your organization. There are also five interest sessions planned from which you can choose.

Enjoy shopping?

- Leadership guides and companion Bibles for our 2013-14 *Gather* Bible study
- World’s Window products
- Low-cost items for your Lutheran World Relief kits

### **HOW** do I register?

Your unit president has registration forms or you can go to our synod website ([neiasynod.org](http://neiasynod.org)) where you will find Women of the ELCA and our forms. IF you are a “first timer” and not a delegate you will want to submit a form for a first timer repayment of your registration fee. The first ten “first timers” to register will be our guests! Forms along with fees of \$35 before May 15 (later \$45) are to be sent to our treasurer (See back side of this newsletter). Please try to register early. It helps our planning.

**YOUR SYNOD BOARD IS LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!**

### ***Our In-Kind Offering***

at the convention this year will be self-care items for young people at Bremwood. Because they are serving more students for shorter stays, their supply is completely depleted. Please bring any of these items and they will be delivered by your synod board. Thank you very much.

- Bath towels/washcloths
- Body wash
- Shampoo & conditioner
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Solid deodorant

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## CALENDAR

- May 4 LWR Pickup, Olson Explosives, Decorah  
May 8 SWO Board meeting at convention site  
May 22 - 23 Women of the ELCA Bible Study Seminar with Dr. Kay Ward, Wartburg Sem.  
June 14 SWO Board Pre-convention meeting at convention site  
June 15 SWO Convention, Wartburg College  
Aug. 17 Women of the ELCA Bible Study Seminar with Dr. Kay Ward, Grand View University, Des Moines  
Nov. 2 LWR pickups, Olson Explosives, Decorah and Redeemer, Waverly
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### Hosting a Triennial Guest from Namibia

At the presidential conference held in Chicago in February, each synod was asked to co-host a woman from their companion church in their synod and at the Triennial being held in Charlotte, NC, July, 2014. The companion church program was developed by ELCA Global Mission. Our synod's companion church is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia, Africa. I presented this to the Synod Council and was strongly encouraged to proceed. At our synod Women of the ELCA board meeting in March, we boldly voted to partner with Churchwide Women of the ELCA in sponsoring a woman from Namibia. She would visit our synod prior to attending the Triennial. We will be responsible for her travel expenses and while she is visiting within our synod. Churchwide will be responsible for her on-site costs in Charlotte. We are asking for your support in this opportunity. *Gloria Tollefson, your SWO president*

### Be "In good company"

Are you ready to "be in good company?" You'll get your chance soon by attending one of the events across the country introducing the 2013-14 *Gather* Bible study, "In Good Company: Stories of Biblical Women." Kay Ward, author of the study, will be giving you insight to the Bible study, how to teach it and how to learn from it. She has "invited nine women from the

Old Testament, several from the New Testament and a handful of women I know to stop in for a visit. They will be companions with us each month, long enough for us to get to know them and also to get to know ourselves a bit better. Their stories will draw us into Bible study, invite us to worship with the Psalms and give us opportunities to tell our own stories," Ward said. She comes highly recommended by her friend and our current Bible study author, Audrey West.

In our area, Bible study introduction events are scheduled for:

- Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, May 22-23
- Southeastern Iowa Synod, Grand View University, Des Moines, Aug. 17

For more information about the study or to find out how you can register for an event, visit

[gathermagazine.org/biblestudy](http://gathermagazine.org/biblestudy).

*Submitted by Gloria Tollefson using an article written by Terry Lackey, managing editor of Gather magazine for April Interchange.*

### Triennial

"Of Many Generations" is the theme for the Ninth Triennial Gathering in 2014. Which generation are you? I consider myself third generation Women of the

ELCA, as both my grandmother and mother have been active members of Women of the ELCA. I am now working on how many generations I can bring with me to Charlotte, July 24-27, 2014. I am talking to my mom, sister, sisters-in-law,



JULY 24-27, 2014  
Ninth Triennial  
Gathering

of many  
generations

nieces, aunts and cousins. Registration fees have been announced. Early Bird (September to December) \$325, Late (January to July) \$350, spouse or partner \$100, girls between 13-18 \$50 and children under 13 are FREE! How many generations have you invited to join you in Charlotte, NC 2014? *Submitted by Anna Jetson, Triennial Gathering Representative*

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### 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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