

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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## IS THIS DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR?

I hope you have JUNE 21 circled on your calendar with a special note—

*Attend our Women of the ELCA synodical convention at Wartburg College, Waverly*

## IF IT IS NOT, IT IS TIME TO GET REGISTERED!

Registration forms are available from your unit president, or go to our synod website.

(Ten scholarships are available for first timers if you are not a delegate.)

Come to Saemann Auditorium at Wartburg before 8:30 a.m., where we will begin with coffee and treats.

Worship together with Holy Communion,

Take care of business,

Enjoy a delicious luncheon,

Attend two interest groups of your choice,

And best of all, come to enjoy good fellowship!

Hope to see you there!

## Convention Interest Groups (Select two)

**Quilts—Our Father's Arms on Earth**, Marie Weber, Bethany Lutheran, Elkader

**School Bullying—What Can Be Done?** Emilee Miller and Dunkerton HS students

**Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach at U of Iowa Hospitals**, Rev. Victoria Shepherd, U of Iowa Hospitals

**Godly Legacy for the Future**, Jackie Wilson, Churchwide representative

**Your Legacy: Family, Church, Charity**, Danny Cook, Thrivent Representative

Our Convention Offerings will be shared with

- Women of the ELCA Churchwide ministries 50%
- Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach, U of Iowa Hospitals 25%
- Lutheran World Relief Shipping 25%
- In-Kind Offering: Prayer Shawls and Fleece Prayer Blankets for U of Iowa Chaplaincy Outreach

### *Guidelines for Prayer Shawls and Fleece*

*Prayer Blankets:* There is a great need by the chaplains at the U of Iowa Hospitals for prayer shawls and fleece blankets which are given to adult patients and their grieving families in times of serious illness and death. We have been asked to join this caring and loving ministry.

Prayer Shawls can be knitted or crocheted and suggested size is between 26–30" wide and 60" long not including the fringe for a rectangular shawl. Triangular prayer shawls are also welcomed. You might want to go to [shawlministry.com](http://shawlministry.com) for more information.

Fleece Prayer Blankets can be two pieces of 1½ yards of fleece that are hand tied together. For instructions you might go to this website, [projectlinus.org](http://projectlinus.org). Please choose prints and patterns that are calm and peaceful and not juvenile.

They are not accepting purchased shawls/fleece blankets because the prayerful intentions of this ministry are lost on purchased items. Bring them to the convention and help us fill Pastor Shepherd's car on her return to Iowa City!

## **Introduction to Our 2014–15 Bible Study**

You have three opportunities to spend time with the author of our Gather Bible study as she presents our Sept.-May 2014–15 Bible study, "Transforming Life and Faith." (See February's *Good News* for information on the study and the author.)

- May 21–22, Wednesday 10 a.m. through Thursday at 2 p.m. at Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque. Go to their [website](#) (Continued on [page 2](#))

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## CALENDAR

2014

- May 3 Spring LWR pickup at Olson's Explosives, Decorah
- May 17 Board Meeting, Wartburg College, 9-noon
- May 21-22 Bible Study Seminar, Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque
- June 20 Board Meeting 4 pm-8 p.m
- June 21 NEIA SWO Convention, Wartburg College, 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. 6-7 Fall Retreat, Three River/H at Ewalu
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website and click on Lifelong Learner events for a registration form, schedule, room rates etc. Registration is \$55 for both days before May 1 and \$60 after May 1.

- During our Triennial in Charlotte, NC she will lead a session.
- August 16, Saturday 9-3 at Grandview University in Des Moines sponsored by the SE Iowa Women of the ELCA. Registration is \$40, which includes lunch.

Choose one of these opportunities and go! You will find that each month's Bible study will be more meaningful to you. *Gloria Tollefson, NEIA Synod president*

### **Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering Charlotte, NC July 24-27, 2014**

#### **Not able to attend? You can still participate!**

Thousands of women will participate in Learning Opportunities and get creative while getting energized at the Ninth Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering. This interactive time will help them grow in faith, experience new trends in ministry and know the



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#### **Good News**

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. (You can also send paper copies by "snail" mail.)

awesomeness of working together in community. Not able to attend? You can still

- Pray for participants and presenters attending the triennial.
- Participate in the quilt challenge using the theme "Of Many Generations." It must be 40" square, include challenge fabric available from the Churchwide office and be quilted (not tied). Entry fee is \$10 which covers return postage. Must be sent to our Churchwide office by June 15. Specific directions are on our website.
- Make a prayer shawl for display which will be given to NC Synod ministries
- Gather in-kind gifts—gift cards, phone cards, hygiene items, socks and underwear. Inexpensive (about 4½" x 8" size) journals with plain covers purchased at "dollar stores" are needed for young girls to decorate and journal in while at the Triennial.
- Send with our delegates quilt kits to be assembled during the Triennial and distributed by Lutheran World Relief (over 80 quilts were made during the last Triennial). Fill a gallon size re-sealable plastic bag with one of the following:

Twelve 21" squares of cotton fabric, one spool of Coats and Clark Dual Duty thread to match the fabric and one piece of cotton fabric for backing—2 ½ yds. of 60" wide OR 5 yds of 35-45" wide fabric. OR

Two pieces of fabric (2 ½ yds. of 60" fabric or 5 yds. of 35-45" wide fabric and one spool of Coats and Clark Dual Duty thread to match fabric.

Prayer shawls, quilt kits and in-kind gifts can be sent with someone you know who is attending or sent to Women of the ELCA, In-kind Gifts, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631-4101 prior to June 15. Additional information can be found on our Synod website or our Churchwide website.

*Please note* shipping costs LWR about \$2.25 per quilt. Encourage individuals and units to send \$2.25 with the kits to support the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, which pays for the shipping of donated Quilts and Kits. *Gloria Tollefson, Your NE Iowa Synod president*

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#### **NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer**

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