

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.

Are you planning to attend?

Women from our three Iowa ELCA synods will meet together for our conventions and so much more at the Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, June 19–20.

We begin at 1:00 pm on Friday and will be busy with scheduled events until 4 pm on Saturday, but you can register for one day only.

- Rev. Wyvetta Bullock from our churchwide office will be our keynote speaker.
- All three bishops will lead in worship and Bible studies.
- Our new churchwide president of Women of the ELCA, Patti Austin, will be with us.
- More interest sessions to choose from—at least nine;
- If you are NOT a delegate there will be interest sessions for you to attend OR you are most welcome to come to our business meeting.
- Each synod will hold their business meeting at 3:45 Friday afternoon.
- We will be electing a new synod president, secretary and board members.
- Luncheon, evening meal with entertainment, worship services;
- Time to spend with old friends and make new ones, too.

So make plans to fill a van—but also

- Ask your president/unit leader for a registration form.
- Call to reserve a room at one of the many motels there

Scholarships of \$50 will be applied to five First Timer registration fees. They are available for women who are not delegates and have never attended the convention. A very simple form explaining why you would like to attend must accompany your registration form. The first five to apply will receive it. Ask your unit leader or go to our website.

Packets of information—registration forms, lists of hotels, schedules of events can be found on our website.

Come to worship, learn and enjoy yourself!

Think lime green—our synod color code is lime green. Our booklets and nametags will tell others we are from Northeast Iowa!

We're looking forward to seeing you there!
Gloria Tollefson and the convention committee

Do You Know Someone Who Could Use an Educational Scholarship?

At our January board meeting, it was decided to increase our three scholarships to \$600 each to help women who seek further education to advance/get into the work force. The deadline for application is May 15. The application form can be found on our website/ask the unit leader at your church.

Recipients are encouraged to accept their scholarship at our convention. *Your Synod Board*

The Need is the Call: Human Trafficking in Iowa

is the title for the annual spring women's event at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Waverly. This event

CALENDAR

May 2	LWR Pickup, Olson's Explosives, Decorah
May 3	Spring Women's Event, St. Paul's Lutheran, Waverly, 3 pm
May 16	SWO Board Meeting 8:30-noon, Synod Office
Jun 19-20	Iowa Tri-Synodical W-ELCA Convention, Iowa Central Community College, Ft. Dodge
Oct. 24	Little Flock Cluster B Fall Gathering, St. Paul LC, Monona
Nov. 7	Fall LWR In-Gathering for Clusters C (Jubilee), E (Tree of Life) and H (Three Rivers) at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls

will be held on Sunday, May 3 at 3 pm. The speaker is Joy Fopma, developmental director and caregiver for Wings of Refuge shelter in Iowa Falls. *Submitted by Krismar Ramker, Women's Task Force at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Waverly*

Always Being Made New—Our Gather Bible Studies

In 2015–16, *Gather* is offering Bible study in a different way, and we think you will like it. *Gather* will offer more, shorter Bible studies (summer, fall, winter, spring and an Advent devotional).

This summer—“No Catchy Slogans” will focus on stewardship. Three sessions: “Give in Secret,” “Be Like the Widow” and “God Loves a Cheerful Giver” can be used in monthly studies or during a planned retreat.

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 (e.g. April 1 for May issue). Please put WELCA in your subject line. (You can also send paper copies by “snail” mail.)

In the fall—“Slow Faith” brings us “Sabbath Keeping” in September, “Make Haste O Lord” (October) and ends in November with “*Tempo Gusto!*”

In December—You will find an Advent devotional to use for your W-ELCA events in your unit.

In the winter—We will explore the book of Philippians (January-April), “Christian Citizenship 101.”

Why the change? It was becoming more difficult to get writers who were available to write more extensive Bible studies and we think it will encourage new women to join our Bible study groups. *From a new poster available from our Gather magazine*

WELCA Bible Study Seminar

at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque will be held on May 20–21. The program will include “Christian Citizenship 101—A Study of Philippians, An Exploration of Christian Citizenship.” Its authors, Phyllis Kersten and E. Louise Williams, will present their study along with “Go in Peace, Serve the Lord,” a look at what Christian service looks like in our everyday lives.

Early bird registration ends May 1 with regular registration ending May 13, 2015. More information can be found on the Wartburg website www.wartburgseminary.edu in the Lifelong Learning Section or by contacting Amanda Yarolim at Wartburg Seminary (563-589-0220) for more information and reservations. *Sheryl Moeller, Synod Board Member*

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