



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:

Taste and See that the Lord is good. Ps. 34:8

What a wonderful invitation to find whatever it is you might be yearning for! Maybe you feel a desire to study your Bible in a new way or open your heart to give God's love more freely. Or is your spirit thirsty to be re-filled, re-newed, re-oriented? Maybe we have just what you need at our gathering on June 17th at Wartburg College. We have a large variety of sessions that cover a wide range of topics, including quilting, Bible Journaling, Young Adults in Global Mission, Human Trafficking, LSI Refugee Services, and Food Banks. Some of our special guests will include Pastor Stephen Brackett (assistant to the Bishop) and Pastor Melissa Bills (known for her Triennial Coloring Devotionals). Come, learn, laugh, worship, share, and renew with us! If you are a first-time attendee, we have scholarships available to cover your registration. You can find the forms and more information on our website,

<http://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/>.

“Come and See” and experience the same invitation to faith that Jesus offers all his disciples every day!
Hungering to be renewed, just like you, Diane Wills

Mission Area: Discipleship

Faith refreshes our inner self and builds our self-esteem. It transforms us from the inside out. Have faith to chase your dreams—it will bless your success!

Fear holds us back, but faith opens doors. How many times have we failed to open the door with our fear of commitment holding us back? Have we heard ourselves say, “I can't do that?” Are we letting our fear in? Think of fear as the fruit of the devil.

Be Bold!

Open that door and say, “With God's help **I can!**” Let your faith THRIVE! Build it up—making it the cornerstone of your integrity. Make it your SUPERPOWER!

Is your soul hungering for renewal? Take advantage of all that your church offers to grow in

your faith. Attend local events and then build on that by attending churchwide events.

Listen to God calling and when he blesses you with courage—open that door and say, “I can!”

Be an Inspiration!

God has blessed us with many gifts. Let us bless him with faith within ourselves and service to others. Come to his table and share the joy! *Submitted by Della Benson*

Mission Area: Justice

The Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, a national leader in areas of poverty and immigration, is a keynote speaker at Women of the ELCA's Tenth



Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, July 13–16. She is speaking during the Saturday morning plenary.

An ELCA pastor with more than 35 years of experience in community ministry, Salvatierra of Los Angeles, Calif., is co-author with Peter Heltzel of Faith-Rooted Organization: Mobilizing the Church in Service to the World.

Organizing is bringing people together to create systemic change, Salvatierra says in a video on the InterVarsity Press website where her book is published.

Faith-rooted organization is (creating systemic change) in a way that is completely shaped and guided by our Christian faith and is designed to enable us as Christians to contribute our unique gifts to the broader movement for social and economic justice, she said.

“Christians know they are called to do justice but they are confused about how to go about it,” she said.

Salvatierra is founder of the Faith-Rooted Organizing UnNetwork. She also co-founded the national Evangelical Immigration Table (a broad coalition of evangelical leaders and institutions advocating for immigration reform).

CALENDAR

May 20	SWO Board, Wartburg College, 9-12
June 16	SWO Board, Wartburg College, TBD
Jun. 17	NEI Synod WELCA Convention
Jul. 11-16	Triennial Convention and Gathering, Minneapolis, MN (welcatg.org)
Sep. 23	Jubilee Cluster C event at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls

She serves as a consultant (training, facilitating, organizing and leading strategic planning) for a variety of national/international organizations, including World Vision USA/World Vision International/Women of Vision, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and the Christian Community Development Association. *Downloaded from <http://www.welcatg.org/news/keynote-speaker-helps-create-change/>*

Mission Area: Stewardship

“Another dreary, drizzly day.” “I’m so tired of all this rain.” How often did we hear that last fall when our land was being soaked and flooded or in the past month as the skies were gray and the moisture was falling? Three-quarters of the earth’s surface is covered with water and yet less than one percent of it is fresh water that is available for human consumption!

Water is such a powerful symbol to the Christian church. We are baptized by water and it is through the water and the Word that we are made children of God. God parted the Red Sea and produced water out of a rock for the Hebrews in Exodus. And yet today the world faces water scarcity.

Are we good stewards of the water in Northeast Iowa? Do we let water run down the drain while we wait for it to get hot or cold? Do we wash our clothes after one time of wearing? Do we reuse towels in hotels or in our homes? Do we let the water run while

we brush our teeth? Do we wash produce under running water?

How are there ways YOU can be a good steward? Here are some helpful suggestions, and we would love to hear more from you!

- Use a watering can to capture that running water as you wait for it to get hot/cold. Use it to water your plants, pets or even water the garden! Have cold water at hand by keeping a pitcher in the refrigerator.
- Set your water heater a little lower and wrap it in an insulating blanket
- Wash your produce in a pan and then use the water on your plants or garden.
- Take shorter showers. No one even says you have to shower every day!
- Eat more fruits and vegetables. For example, if everyone were to adopt the Western meat-based diet, our earth would require 75% more water.

We encourage everyone to think about the choices they make. As you prepare to attend the Triennial or convention in June, be creative in how you can be a good steward of the earth—carpool, bring your own water bottle/coffee mug, bring your laptop or iPad to save paper, and don’t simply take all the freebies out there—if you really aren’t going to find them useful later, leave them! *Submitted by Vicky Jaeger*

Around the Synod

The women of the Nazareth Lutheran Kits and Quilts ministry will be selling the following supplies at the NEISWO convention June 17th: toothbrushes .10 ea, nail clippers 3/\$1, pencil sharpeners .10 ea, sturdy combs .10 ea, rope pullers \$1 ea, and rope for the school bags .50 ea (2 ropes required for each school bag). There will be bags of fitted white sheets and pillowcases to GIVE AWAY. These can be used for filler or cutting squares for quilt tops.

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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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