

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.



THANKOFFERINGS: Gifts of Gratitude

Thankofferings are gifts from individuals in gratitude for blessings throughout the year given during a special Thankoffering service. Lutheran women have been carrying out this tradition for over 100 years, usually at Thanksgiving time, but it can be held anytime of the year. Some units have started to make their Thankoffering service part of their Sunday morning service.

It is so important that the women understand that every dollar they give goes to support the ministries of the Women of the ELCA. It needs to be a SPECIAL service, not hurriedly done.

Many of us remember using special Thankoffering boxes throughout the year. Cost keeps us from providing them now, but using Thankoffering envelopes available from churchwide make it special. They are available in packages of 100 by calling 800-638-3522 (Ext. 2580) at no cost other than shipping costs.

You will want to use the stewardship guide you recently received in the mail. If you haven't seen it, it is worth searching for! You will find in it a Thankoffering service for you to use. It has lots of information that would help you promote the service.

Thankofferings should be sent directly to the churchwide office using Form B (also found in the guide/website) rather than to our synod treasurer. *Gloria Tollefson, Synod President*

At Our Recent ELCA Churchwide Assembly

Jennifer Michael, churchwide president of Women of the ELCA, brought greetings. Her message stirred the voting members to applause after they learned that in the past 25 years, Women of the ELCA

- Supported and sustained over 7,000 congregational units.
- Won over 150 awards for program resources, Bible studies, programing and publications.
- Provided over \$500,000 in scholarships to Lutheran women.
- Gave over \$3.5 million in grants to women's ministries here and abroad.
- Contributed more than \$16 million toward ministries of the ELCA.

As reported in Bold Connections, a free monthly e-newsletter of the Women of the ELCA

Are you an active unit of Women of the ELCA?

Our constitution says that your unit must commit to four things:

1. Come together for study, support and action.
Are you using the Bible study found in Gather?
2. Participate in the ministry of Women of the ELCA beyond the congregation.
Were you represented at our June synodical convention and October fall rallies?
3. Support financially the TOTAL program of the Women of the ELCA?
Do you send on a generous portion of your monthly offerings to our synod treasurer? Send your Thankofferings on to churchwide?
4. Designate leadership that is in contact with your synod board and churchwide office.
Please keep us informed with names and address changes.

Please take time at your next Board meeting to evaluate your unit. *Gloria Tollefson, Your synod president*

CALENDAR

Nov. 2 LWR pickups, Olson Explosives,
Decorah and Redeemer, Waverly
Nov. 16 Board Meeting, Synod Office, 9-noon
2014
Jan. 18 Board Meeting, Synod Office, hosting
Cluster Leaders, 9-3
Jan. 25 *Snow Date*
Mar. 22 Board Meeting, Synod Office 9-noon
May 17 Board Meeting, Wartburg College, 9-
noon
June 20 Board Meeting 4 pm-8 p.m
June 21 NEIA SWO Convention, Wartburg
College, Waverly

2013-2014 Cluster Shepherdesses

A/Waters of Life—Ruth Hilgerson
B/Shepherd of the Hills—Ruth Hilgerson
C/Cedar River—Mary Jane Averhoff
D/Upper Iowa River—Vicky Jaeger
E/Wartburg—Sheryl Moeller
F/Riverside—Carolyn Loftess
G/Lake—Cindy Pogge
H/Bethany—Judy Kelly
I/Shechem—Nancy Miller

Triennial gathering learning opportunities abound

Learning opportunities take multiple forms at “Of Many Generations,” the Ninth Triennial Gathering, July 24-27, 2014, in Charlotte, N.C. Whether you attend a workshop, view a film or engage in a servant project,



Good News

Editor Jan Harbaugh
P. O. Box 68
Renwick, IA 50577
515-825-8068
jan.harbaugh@gmail.com

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.)

these learning opportunities allow you to grow your faith, explore new possibilities and connect with other women.

Ten workshops offered

- “1,000 days: the foundation for life”
- “Experience the joy of giving”
- “Better understand mental illness”
- “Bullying: teaching our children the new rules of engagement”
- “Streets to live in: a WELCA model”
- “Creating intergenerational space with Café groups”
- “Make global connections”
- “Building an inclusive church”
- “Generations: the quilt of our lives”
- “Moving forward on your own” for widows, wives and friends

Three films screened

- “I BELIEVE YOU: Faiths’ Response To Intimate Partner Violence”
- “Harvest of Empire: A History of Latinos in the United States”
- “Miss Representation”

Servant events planned

You can serve others locally, domestically and globally through servant opportunities at Of Many Generations. All servant events will take place on-site in the convention center during the Friday and Saturday afternoon learning sessions. Servant events will include projects like sewing quilts, knitting caps and assembling school and health kits.

For more information about workshops, films or servant events, visit welcatg.org. Adapted from welcatg.org.

NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

Nancy Poppe
2656 Gilmore Ave
Ionia, IA 50645
641-435-2231
popcan@myclearwave.net

Contact Women of the ELCA at:

773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730
<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 60631-4189