



Good News

November
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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:

Blessed to be a Blessing

I don't know about you, but I constantly need to remind myself of how blessed I am each and every day by a loving, transforming God. It is so easy to get caught up in the day to day struggles of life and then I find myself complaining or pouting. But then I pick up my Bible or read my Daily Grace or *Café* or my *Gather* magazine Bible study and I find a sense of peace that only God's word can transform in me. That transformation is such a daily blessing that I can then pay forward, to be a blessing to someone else in need of God's transforming love. Imagine feeling that transformation in the company of 3,000 other Lutheran women of faith! That is what we all have to look forward to at the 10th Triennial next summer! I hope you will consider coming to the Triennial, so you might also share this unique experience, to be Blessed to be a Blessing.....

Transformed by Christ, Diane Wills

Mission Area: Discipleship

Do you like to color? Devotionals?

Next year is a year of "All Anew" for the Women of the ELCA. A new logo, a new theme for the Triennial, and a new "craze"—coloring—are all part of the celebration. On the web page www.welcatg.org you will find five new devotionals for your groups or your own personal use. Each devotional is based around a theme verse:

- Renewal of Creation (Psalm 104:30)
- Renewal of Sight (Isaiah 43:19)
- Renewal of Spirit (Romans 12:2)
- Renewal of Hope (2 Corinthians 4:16)
- Renewal of Life (Titus 3:4–5)

Each of the devotions has its own coloring design. You can either do the devotion first and then meditate

on it while you color, or get yourself prepared for the devotion by coloring first. Whichever you choose, you are sure to be inspired. *Submitted by Cindy Pogge*

Mission Area: Justice

The board recommends to those who register for Triennial that they choose the Hilton Hotel.

Defining justice is easy; it's simply doing the right thing. DOING the right thing isn't easy. How do you start doing the right thing when the world is so full of people who have no justice? As Job answered his three friends,

"Even when I cry out, 'Violence' I am not answered; I call aloud, but there is no justice." (Job 19:7), we cry out for justice.

In November of 2013, a service man and his dog were put off an airplane because the the dog did not fit under the seat, like a carry-on bag. This was a service dog who was not supposed to leave his handler for any reason. As the man and his dog left the plane, several people got off with them. These people did the right thing—a silent protest for justice. The airline later did change their policy after the story hit the media.

We can all do the right thing every day of our lives. Little things make a difference. Whether we give money to our favorite charity, give items for different kits, make quilts, or simply educate ourselves about one or more of the injustices in this world, we are doing the right thing—bringing a little more justice to this world that needs it so much. I challenge you to do the right thing. *Submitted by Jane Godson*

Mission Area: Stewardship

From WELCA's 2016 Thankoffering booklet:
<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/thankoffering-pages-93.php>

CALENDAR

- Nov. 5 SWO Board (snow date 11/12) Synod office, Waverly, 9–12
- Nov. 5 LWR Ingathering, Olson Explosives, Decorah
- Nov. 19 Living Waters Cluster Fall Gathering, 9 a.m., Salem LC, Lake Mills
- 2017**
- Jan. 14 SWO Board with Cluster Leaders, Synod office, Waverly, 9–3 (snow date 1/21)
- Mar. 4 SWO Board, Synod office, 9–12 (snow date 3/18)
- Apr. 22 Shechem Cluster Spring Gathering, St. Peter's, Richfield
- May 20 SWO Board, Wartburg College, 9–12
- June 16 SWO Board, Wartburg College, TBD
- Jun. 17 NEI Synod WELCA Convention
- Jul. 13–16 Triennial Convention and Gathering, Minneapolis, MN (welcatg.org)
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“Be creative with offering collection. Think creatively about how to collect the offering. For instance, you might invite individuals with their own Thankoffering containers to place them on the altar. This visually highlights an important part of the Thankoffering tradition—the daily practice of making gifts and gratitude for blessings and bringing those gifts together during the Thanksgiving service. Include a fellowship time before or after the service. Some units host breakfast before worship, lunch after, or a special coffee hour. This could include a craft table for making Thankoffering containers and a display area for viewing photos and materials about Women of the ELCA.” *Submitted by Melissa Miller*

Meet the Board

I am *Millie Schulz Dieter*. My ancestry is Germans from Bessarabia, Russia, who settled in ND and homesteaded in northern SD. I was born at home on a farm with the help of a midwife. Music was always part of my home life and in school. Wartburg was our

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church college where I majored in music and sang in the choir. I taught school in Kalona, IA, then married Lowell Dieter from Oelwein. We moved to Rapid City, SD, and had three children. In 1972 my husband and youngest daughter died in the Rapid City flood.

I was active in the ALC “Ladies Aid.” When the two eldest attended St. Olaf College, I went to Princeton, NJ to get my Master's in Church Music at Westminster Choir College. There I sang with the Symphonic Choir accompanied by the NY Symphonic Orchestra. I have served as a church musician since 1949 and am presently serving Redeemer Lutheran in Washburn and New Aldaya in Cedar Falls.

For 30 years I have been an Associate in Ministry of the ELCA (now called a Deacon of the ELCA). I served churches in McLaughlin and Rapid City, SD; Faribault, MN; Green Bay, WI; and Waterloo, IA.

I've attended Woman of the Church conventions on the national level in Mpls in 1978 and later in Detroit, MI and plan to attend the 10th Triennial Gathering July 13–16, 2017 in Mpls and encourage others to attend, also.

Cluster Fall Events

We had a pleasant meeting for the **Jubilee Cluster** at St. Ansgar Lutheran, Waterloo, on Sat. Sept. 17. There was enjoyable fellowship and a lovely speaker who referenced bible verses on how to “fill our cup.”

Shechem Cluster gathered at Beulahland Christian Camp on Oct. 8 around the theme, “Gather at the Cross.” Presenters were Tina Anderson, Pastor Margaret Yackel Juleen, and Valerie Boleyn. Scrumptious pastries and lunch were provided by by Kristi Meyer. *Submitted by Jan Harbaugh*

NB: Bev Sheridan doesn't take up her full duties as treasurer until January 2017. Until then, please send your gifts, etc. to Nancy Poppe, 2775 Durham Ave., Nashua, IA 50658, 641-257-8199 popcan1952@gmail.com

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.)

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neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA