

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.

Our Synod Women Celebrate “Of Many Generations” at our Convention

On Saturday, June 21, 125 women met for our synod convention at Wartburg College in Waverly. The day began with a communion service led by Pastor Joelle Colville-Hanson. Six interest sessions gave choices of school bullying, quilting, women and justice, Lutheran chaplaincy outreach, and passing on your legacy to future generations in your family, church and community.



During the business meeting, Cindy Pogge was elected vice president and Pastor Jane Granzow, Marjorie Lewis and Melissa Miller were elected to the board. Educational scholarships were awarded to Anita Nuetzman, Kelli Hanken and Justinia Spree. A beautiful luncheon and fellowship throughout the day were enjoyed by all.

Offerings were divided between Churchwide missions, Lutheran World Relief shipping and University of Iowa Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach. Units donated 115 prayer shawls and fleece blankets for patients and their families at the U of Iowa Hospitals.

Next year’s convention will be special. Plans are being made for a Friday-Saturday Tri-Synodical Convention to be held in Fort Dodge, June 19–20, at the community college there. Planning is underway. Put it on your calendar. *Gloria Tollefson, SWO president*

A Big Thank You

To our retiring board members: Judy Kelly, our vice president the past four years, and board members Mary Jane Averhoff and Carolyn Loftaas, who have also served

the past four years. We will miss seeing and working with them on our board. I’m sure they will continue to serve in their units and clusters. *Gloria Tollefson, SWO president*

Meet the Board

Pastor Jane A. Granzow

I was born and raised on a farm in Hardin County, Iowa, attended a one-room school house for eight years and graduated from Eldora High School. I received an RN certificate from Addenbrookes Hospital, Cambridge, England, a BA from Hamline University, St. Paul, MN and an M.Div. from Garrett Evangelical Seminary, Evanston, IL. I attended Wartburg Seminary for one year and was ordained in 1991 at Bethany Lutheran, Iowa Falls, IA. My first and only parish was Calvary Lutheran, Buffalo, IA., where I served for 21 years. I retired two years ago, moving in with my mom in Eldora, who celebrated her 99th birthday in July, 2014. I have traveled extensively both abroad and in the US, with my latest jaunt to Charlotte, NC, where I attended the WELCA Triennial. What an awesome experience! I am looking forward to becoming acquainted with the women of the NEIA Synod. God’s blessings!

Marjorie Lewis is returning to our board—she previously served as synod board secretary. She is an active member at St. Sebald Lutheran at Strawberry Point where she has been their unit president,

Mission Action chair and cluster president. Marjorie is retired from the civil service and US Army Reserves and has a home business of hand quilting and quilt repair.



Hi! I’m *Melissa Miller*. I grew up in Davenport and Ankeny, IA. I enjoyed living in Waverly while attending Wartburg College. So when I was looking for a new job, I was drawn back to Waverly. I have taught for 16 years, mostly kindergarten. I am single with no children, but I enjoy spending time with my two young nieces. In the past, I was involved with the *(Continued on [page 2](#))*

CALENDAR

- Oct. 4 Jubilee Cluster Fall Gathering, Trinity,
Waterloo
Oct. 25 Little Flock Cluster (B) Fall Gathering
Nov. 1 LWR Ingathering, Olson Explosives, Decorah
LWR Ingathering, St. Peter Lutheran Church,
Greene

2015

- Apr 25 Cluster VIII Spring Gathering, Hauge & St.
John, Decorah
May 2 LWR Pickup, Olson's Explosives, Decorah
Jun 19-20 Iowa Tri-Synodical W-ELCA Convention,
Iowa Central Community College, Ft. Dodge
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Southeastern Iowa SWO as their young women's advocate. I have attended six Triennials, including Charlotte this summer as a delegate. I'm excited to serve the Northeastern Iowa SWO on the board!

Shepherdess Appointments

Your shepherdess is your communication link to your synod board. Please keep her informed of cluster events and concerns.

Cluster A/Water of Life	Ruth Hilgerson
Cluster B/ Shepherd of the Hills	Ruth Hilgerson
Cluster C/Jubilee	Melissa Miller
Cluster D/ Upper Iowa River	Vicky Jaeger
Cluster E/ Tree of Life	Sheryl Moeller
Cluster F/Riverside	Jane Granzow
Cluster G/Living Waters	Nancy Miller
Cluster H/Three River	Nancy Poppe
Cluster I/ Shechem	Marjorie Lewis

Take Time to Read

Please find time to read "Repair, rebuild, restore" in the September issue of *The Lutheran* magazine. On pages 24–26 you will find a great summary of all that took place at the Ninth Triennial of the Women of the ELCA. Whether you were able to be in Charlotte, NC or not, you will get a feel for the energy of the 2,300 women who were! *Submitted by Gloria Tollefson, your president*

NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA

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.)

Can You Help Us Please?

At our recent convention in Charlotte, we decided that each synodical board should convene a committee made up of board members and congregational members to make our congregations and communities aware of worldwide human trafficking, bullying, harassment and related violence, and to work at preventing it through prayer, ministry and political action.

We will begin with reviewing resources that help us to inform, educate and mobilize the women in our units. I think we can be most helpful by forming a listing of available resources; organizations, speakers, programs/discussion prompts we might use with the hope that every unit might use these resources within their congregations, either at general or special meetings. Women of the ELCA has films available through the Lutheran Resource Center in Clear Lake

Will you please e-mail me with names of organizations, speakers, books you have read and discussed that would help inform the women in our congregations on these issues? *Gloria Tollefson* gltollefson@cfu.net

When Will You Collect Your Thankofferings?

Through the Thankoffering service, Women of the ELCA connect worship to action in the world. Your Thankoffering dollars support the ministries of Women of the ELCA that are impacting women around the world, including racial justice advocacy, administering grants for organizations serving women and children and participation in the 1,000 Days movement. *Emma Crossen, Director for stewardship and development, our Churchwide office*

You will find this year's Thankoffering service on the Women of the ELCA website. Feel free to make changes so that it works for you—at your circle, general meeting or a congregational service. This special offering is to be sent directly to our Churchwide office or our synod treasurer will forward it for you. *Gloria Tollefson, Your SWO president*

World Day of Prayer

The theme for the 2015 World Day of Prayer service is "Do you understand what I have done for you?" written by the women of the Bahamas. World Day of Prayer is held the first Friday in March—March 6, 2015 next year. I encourage you to use this opportunity to host this worship service, inviting other congregations in your community. If you would like to know more about World Day of Prayer and are interested in ordering the worship materials when they become available, please go to <http://www.wdp-usa.org/2015-materials/>.

NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

Nancy Poppe
2656 Gilmore Ave
Ionia, IA 50645
641-435-2231
Popcan@exede.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