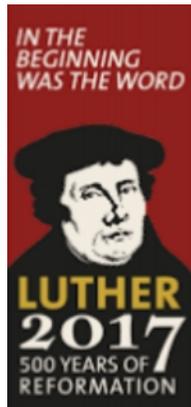


As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

From the President

Are YOU Ready?

It's almost here! The official 500th anniversary of the Reformation! I am going to guess that your churches have been preparing as much as mine. There have been skits and walls, festivals and parties, bulletin inserts and special worship services. All special events to celebrate the past. It is a wonderful thing to learn about our past and all that has gone into making us "Lutheran." But I would like to suggest to you that our celebrations also need to be about the future. What does being "Lutheran" look like in the year 2017 and beyond? Does it mean growing or dying? Is it about the last 500 years or the next 500 years? Does it exist because "we have always done it that way before?" Or is it more about how we can CHANGE our view so we can change the world? Is it about opening our eyes and ears and hearts to serve a God and Savior who has given all for each of us, even though we did not deserve it? I challenge each of you to think and pray about how YOU can be renewed to see the future of being "Lutheran!" *Happy Reformation Day to all, Diane Wills*



Mission Area: Discipleship

Interested in a skit about Katie Luther to get more of the word out on her? Here are a couple of web sites to help you with projects you may be interested in and have some fun along the way.

The best way to pass along the WORD is to engage people in what you are doing. I feel it makes you feel like an important part of what is going on. It also helps for us to remember what happened to pass the information along to others.

Basking in the memories of our Triennial Gathering and all of the information and interest sessions provided, as well as the phenomenal speakers that inspired and urged us on to be bold women of our organizations, let's keep the spirit going and get women enthused.

Here are the web links to help you in the future.

<http://synodresourcecenter.org/wma/worship/sermons/drama/MartinLutherSkits/Skit%205/index.html> If you want fun with very few facts. Or

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/stewardship/>

[Katie's Fund Skit Updated 2014.pdf](#) Submitted by Cindy Pogge, SWO Vice President

Mission Area: Justice

Time for you to think:

- A political community is reflected in the justice it hands out.
- We have better tools to communicate and demand justice than any generation before us.
- Stability or justice is more important than freedom.
- There will never be security without peace or peace without justice.
- Justice is an essential element of reconciliation.
- Our words about justice are never matched by our deeds.
- Only true justice can guarantee peace for all of us.
- As moral creatures, we are driven to enforce justice.

Think about these statements. Discuss them with friends, then DO something. That's the only way justice will be done.

"Does our law judge a man without first giving him a hearing and learning what he does?" John 7:51 Submitted by Jane Godson

Mission Area: Stewardship

What started out as one person's idea to honor the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation turned into two small country churches joining together for their God's Work, Our Hands project day on Sunday October 29th: to assemble 500 kits and quilts, and gather bars of soap for Lutheran World Relief. Ok, I will be a bit realistic here. The quilts will probably be completed ahead of time. And maybe some of the kits (like the Baby Care Kits), but we are going to be doing some tied polar fleece blankets that day, having lunch, and putting together School Kits, Fabric Kits, Personal Care Kits and lots of counting to make sure we reach our goal! And since our usual LWR donations are in the 50 to 150 (kits and quilts) range, we did give ourselves the option to fill out our 500 count with bars of soap. We have a few Thrivent members who used their Thrivent Action Kits to help us with purchasing items to reach our goal this time.

Having been blessed with the opportunity to see the South St. Paul Warehouse on my way to the Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, I know the team there will be happy with our part of the shipment gathered on Saturday, November 4 at Olson's Explosives in Decorah IA.

Submitted by Anna Jetson, Highland Lutheran Church,

CALENDAR

Oct. 1	Nov. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Oct. 14	Shechem Cluster I Fall Retreat, Zion, West Union, 8:30 a.m.
Oct. 28	Little Flock Cluster Fall Gathering, Emmanuel, Strawberry Point
Nov. 1	Dec. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Nov. 4	SWO Board Meeting 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Synod office
Nov. 4	LWR Ingathering, Zion-St. John, Sheffield, 8-11 a.m.
Nov. 4	LWR Ingathering, Olson's Explosives, Decorah, 7:30-10:30 a.m.
Nov. 11	SWO Board (snow date)
Nov. 18	Living Waters Cluster G Fall Gathering, 9 a.m., Elk Creek, Kensett
Dec. 1	Jan. <i>Good News</i> deadline
2018	
Jan. 1	Feb. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Jan. 20	SWO Board and Cluster Leaders 9:00-3:00, Synod office (snow date 1-27)
Feb. 1	March <i>Good News</i> deadline
Mar. 1	April <i>Good News</i> deadline
Mar. 3	SWO Board, 9-12:30, Synod office (snow date Mar. 10)
May 19	SWO Board, 9-12:30, McCoy Room, Wartburg College
Apr. 1	May <i>Good News</i> deadline
Apr. 28	Upper Iowa Cluster Spring Gathering
May 1	June <i>Good News</i> deadline
May 4	LWR Truck Loading, First Lutheran, Decorah
Jun. 15	SWO Board 7 p.m.-9 p.m., McCoy Room, Wartburg College
Jun. 16	31 st Annual NE IA Synod Women of the ELCA Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly
Nov. 3	LWR Truck Loading, Decorah

along with Big Canoe Lutheran Church, joint parish served by Pastor Kurt Bockoven (the one with the big idea!)

Around the Synod

UPPER IOWA RIVER CLUSTER D

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from your new cluster president! My name is

NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Diane Wills, President

641-425-8628 wills.dianes@gmail.com

Cindy Pogge, Vice President

515-571-2827 jpogge@comm1net.net

Anna Jetson, Secretary

952-240-9569 amjetson@yahoo.com

Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer

563-382-9025 sherida701@gmail.com

701 Serenity Drive
Decorah, IA 52101

Sonia Bockoven and I am excited to be involved and serving in our cluster. My husband is pastor at Big Canoe and Highland Lutheran Churches. We have three children ages 1, 3, and 12. I assist my husband in being a Cub Scout leader and am exploring being a leader in this capacity with his support!

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

LWR Truck loading will be at Olson Explosives on Saturday, November 4, 2017 from 7:30-10:30 a.m. (Note earlier time). Decorah First Lutheran will help load! Bring your youth group to help! Greg Hamm from Postville and his youth group are willing to help load if we let him know in advance.

If you wish to donate to the cost of shipping quilts and kits overseas, send donation to Lutheran World Relief, Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, P.O. Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21298-9832.

The Cluster voted to continue having two collections for the LWR truck, one the first Saturday in May and the second the first Saturday in November. The Mission Action Chairmen want to remind everyone to keep bringing your quilts and other articles for LWR. Let's help fill the truck!
Sandy Gavle and Dee Wyatt

LSI \$5000 CHALLENGE

The NEIA Synod of the W/ELCA has taken on a \$5,000 CHALLENGE from Lutheran Social Services of Iowa (LSI). This was started at the June Gathering in Waverly. The goal is to raise \$5,000 to help support the spiritual aspect of their ministry, which receives no Federal funds. The Synod is asking all units and clusters to consider sending money to LSI (with the WELCA Challenge in the memo line) sometime during the 2017 year. Please join us in this great challenge to a very worthy organization that is certainly doing God's work in our broken world.

Please get this information in the newsletter to the WELCA ladies in your church. If it is too late for your meeting, enclose it in your church bulletin or newsletter.

Submitted by Carol Burnikel, Secretary

Good News

Editor Jan Harbaugh

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563-412-8906 jan.harbaugh@gmail.com

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.)

Contact Women of the ELCA at:

773.380.2730 or 800.638.3522, ext. 2730

<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>

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NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/women-of-the-ELCA