

**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.**

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## **YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR FALL PEP RALLY!**

Have you and your team made plans for your 2013–2014 program year? Are you wondering, “Who will coach our team?”, “How can we get more women involved?” and “How can we best work together as bold



women to grow in the faith?” If so, fill your car with women from your church and head to one of the four fall pep rallies we have planned for you—

- Saturday, October 12, 9:00-11:30 AM, Emanuel Lutheran in Strawberry Point
- Tuesday, October 15, 6:30- 9:00 PM, St. Peter in Rockwell
- Saturday, October 19, 9:00-11:30 AM, St. Peter in Denver
- Sunday, October 20, 2:00-4:30 PM First Lutheran in Decorah

(The first half hour will be registration, coffee and treats and time for table talk.)

We will discuss together how our Churchwide staff and board, your synod board and the clusters can work together to support you in activating your unit. As our units become smaller, clusters can bring units together, making it possible to plan events and do stewardship projects we would not be able to do alone. We are planning for lots of time in huddles—sharing ideas at the tables.

Many of you are aware that at our Synod Assembly held at Luther College in Decorah,

the delegates voted to reduce the number of conferences/clusters from eleven to nine. (In the July/August *Northeastern Star* newsletter, the congregations within the new clusters/conferences were listed.) Because of this change, we in our women’s organization need to be forming new cluster leadership teams, sharing ideas and planning cluster events and determining cluster finances. So this is a VERY important meeting for you and your unit members to attend. An agenda and registration form will be in the mail soon. *From Your Synod Board*

## **WE CAN BE PROUD!**

During 2012, our synod congregations under the leadership of the Women of the ELCA were able to assemble:

- 10,967 quilts!
- 282 blankets
- 486 sewing kits
- 80 fabric kits
- 2,584 baby care kits
- 4,561 school kits
- 3,373 personal care kits
- And 10,004 pounds of soap!

What an impact we have made as Lutheran World Relief has shipped these much-needed items around the world where they have experienced earthquakes, famine and drought. They also find their way to orphanages (I have seen our baby kits in Tanzania!), hospitals and refugee camps. I know we are all working hard to increase the number of quilts this year as they are desperately needed. Thank you so much! *Gloria Tollefson, Synod President*

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## CALENDAR

- Sep. 5-6 Cluster 5 Retreat at EWALU  
Sep. 7 SWO Board Meeting, 9am-2pm, Synod Office, Waverly  
Oct. 12 LWR Ingathering, Albert Lea  
Oct. 12 Fall Rally, 9-11:30 a.m., Emanuel, Strawberry Point  
Oct. 15 Fall Rally, 6:30-9 p.m., St. Peter, Rockwell  
Oct. 19 Fall Rally, 9-11:30 a.m., St. Peter Ev., Denver  
Oct. 20 Fall Rally, 2-4:30 p.m., 1st Lutheran Decorah  
Nov. 2 LWR pickups, Olson Explosives, Decorah and Redeemer, Waverly

### 2014

- June 21 NEIA SWO Convention, Wartburg College, Waverly
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*Cluster 5 retreat is Sept 5 & 6 at Ewalu Stone Center. If interested please contact Yvonne Bertram, 319-824-6494 by August 23.*

### Are you excited yet?

I am! The Triennial Gathering is less than a year away now. And Churchwide has just announced who two of the main speakers will be, so we can check them out and read some of their works: Susan Sparks and Becca Stevens. Featured speakers, preachers and workshop leaders will bring the Gathering theme to life, exploring the theme verse from Isaiah 58:12, "Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in." The Early Bird Registration opens September 16 until January 6. Complete information about the Gathering and all its varied offerings will be found at [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org), a brand new website being built for the Gathering that we plan to have available beginning September 4. Registration materials will be sent to past



participants in late August. Here are two additional resources available online: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/ninth-triennial-convention-pages-137.php> and <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/excitement-builds-as-registration-opening-nears-news-204.php>

I will have more details to share as we gather together for our Fall Rallies. For those interested in taking a bus from NE Iowa to Charlotte, I will have the details available and need at least 35 committed riders with payments in by November 1. I am working out the final details so They are ready for our Fall Rallies. See you at our next event! *Anna Jetson, NE Iowa SWO TGP* (please use my code 5F-TGP when completing your registration for the Ninth Triennial Gathering).

### ATTEND!

*Global Mission Festival. Cedar Falls, Iowa, Sunday, September 29, 2-5 PM, Nazareth Lutheran Church*

It is a real opportunity so close to home—

- Mission projects from around the world
- Praise band from Redeemer Lutheran in Waverly

Presentations and workshops:

- Young Adult Global Mission Program
- Companion Synod Program
- Lutheran World Relief
- Church World Service
- Lutheran Disaster Relief
- Food Resource Bank, etc.
- Youth activities include assembling health kits for Syria
- Keynote speaker Mark Newsome from Wartburg College will emphasize the power one person has to affect others positively around the world.

Sponsored by our synod, the cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per student. Refreshments will be served.

The Women of the ELCA have three scholarships available of \$100 each that would cover mileage at 39 cents a mile and the enrollment fee. Contact our treasurer, Nancy Poppe, whose contact information can be found below. *Gloria Tollefson, Synod President*

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### Good News

Editor Jan Harbaugh  
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*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.)*

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### NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

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