

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.

TRI-SYNODICAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS, JUNE 19-20, 2015

I promised you it would be special and it was—from the opening worship service with Holy Communion on Friday afternoon to the hugs and good-byes before leaving on Saturday afternoon.

208 women, pastors and presenters (80 women from our synod) gathered at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge for worship, special speakers, interest sessions, good food and fellowship.

Rev. Minna Quint (grew up in Ryan) and Bishop Rodger Prois (Western synod) led us in opening worship, followed by keynote speaker, Rev. Wynetta Bullock, assistant to Bishop Eaton in our Churchwide office. Our offerings were distributed to Women of the Churchwide Organization, Lutheran Disaster Response/Iowa and Lutheran Chaplaincy Outreach at University Hospitals in Iowa City.

Our Bishop Ullestad and Rev. Paul Ostrem (SE Iowa Synod) led us in Bible studies following the theme, GENERATIONS OF FAITH. We especially appreciated having our bishop and his wife with us.

Rev. Cindy Breed shared her work as chaplain at the U of Iowa Hospitals and thanked us for our offerings and the MANY prayer shawls that were given to them at this gathering. Rev. Jeff Ungs, who works with Lutheran Disaster Response in Western Iowa also thanked us for our offerings. There was also a large outpouring of items brought for the recovery homes in Fort Dodge.

Our interest sessions, “Music through the Ages,” “Recording Family Stories” and scrapbooking, were choices related to the theme. Interest sessions on Human Trafficking, recovery program for women who suffer from drug and alcohol addictions, domestic abuse, and identity theft made an impression on all of us. Non-delegates joined together to hear and share stories across generations. All of these sessions, along with the Bible studies, received excellent evaluations.

It was special, too, to have three Churchwide board members with us—Patti Austin, president of our Churchwide Board from Atlanta, GA, Jackie Wilson from Hot Springs, AR and our representative, Cindy

Arnett from Cupertino, CA. They spoke to us on stewardship, resources available on the website and their board’s responsibilities. They also had an interest session on use of the Women of the ELCA website.

We all enjoyed a lively banquet with “Jive for Five,” a brass quintet, playing for us after dinner and more good food at our Saturday luncheon. And let’s not forget shopping! The room adjoining the dining room was filled with displays and vendors.

So all the planning that took place for over a year came together for a very special gathering. Next year we will be back at Wartburg College on Saturday, June 18. Hope to see you there!

I want to especially thank our own Syd Brinkman for her leadership and Western Iowa Synod for being our gracious hostesses. THEY MADE IT SPECIAL FOR ALL OF US!
Gloria Tollefson

REVIEWING OUR BUSINESS MEETINGS

Each synod held their own business meetings. In spite of cramped and warm quarters, we did:

*Adopt our 2016 proposed budget

*Pass three resolutions submitted by synod board committees

1. We encourage use of our NE Iowa Synod website by having all written communication included on our website.
2. We promote the use of our Gather magazine and its’ Bible study by purchasing additional subscriptions for new members of our churches, family members and friends
3. Clusters and congregational units will use speakers, films, books etc. to help prevent human trafficking through increased awareness, political action and prayer.

*Elect and install a new president, secretary and two new board members and re-elected two:

President: Diane Wills, Zion-St. John, Sheffield, Three Rivers Cluster H

Secretary: Anna Jetson, Highland Lutheran, Spring Grove, MN, Upper Iowa River Cluster D

New Board Members:

Lisa Bahe, Zion Lutheran, Oelwein, Little Flock Cluster B

CALENDAR

- Sep. 4 Three Rivers Cluster H Fall Gathering, EWALU, Stone Center, Strawberry Point
- Sep. 15 Riverside Cluster F Fall Gathering, Learning Center, Carlson Tree Farm, Coulter
- Sep. 16 Free-will supper and bazaar/auction, St. Olaf Lutheran, Belmond, 5:30 pm
- Sep. 16 Graduates from Magdalene Home/Thistle Farms of Nashville, TN will be at St. Paul's Postville, 7 pm
- Sep. 17 See above, Upper Iowa University, Fayette, 6-9
- Sep. 18 See above, Zion, Oelwein, 1 pm Fellowship Tea, program 7 pm
- Oct. 17 Jubilee Cluster C Event, Zion-Jubilee LC, rural LaPorte City, 9:30 am
- Oct. 24 Little Flock Cluster B Fall Gathering, St. Paul LC, Monona
- Nov. 7 Fall LWR In-Gathering for Clusters C (Jubilee), E (Tree of Life) and H (Three Rivers) at Nazareth Lutheran Church, Cedar Falls
- Nov. 14 Living Waters Cluster G Fall Gathering, Bethlehem, Manley
- Jun 18, 2016 NEIA Women's Synodical Convention
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Della Benson, Immanuel Lutheran, Scarville,
Living Waters Cluster G
Re-elected Board Members:
Vicky Jaeger, First Lutheran, Decorah, Upper
Iowa River Cluster D
Melissa Miller, Redeemer Lutheran, Waverly,
Tree of Life Cluster E
*Elect next year's nominating committee:
*Present three Educational Scholarships
Lora Ann Tabbert, St. John's Rock Township, Osage
Kristi Anderson, St. James, Allison
Kelli Hanken, Zion, Castalia
THANKS TO OUR DELEGATES—WE APPRECIATE
YOU! *Gloria Tollefson*

BOLD SERVICE

At our July Immanuel WELCA general meeting we asked Jennifer Peterschmidt to share with us her experiences on the Mercy Ship docked in Madagascar in Western Africa

NEIA Women of the ELCA website:

neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA

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.)

this past year. Jennifer is a daughter of Immanuel Lutheran in Independence. She is a surgical nurse serving with many surgical doctors and nurses. She and the entire staff feel the call from their Lord. Their response to His call, "Here I am, Lord; I will go, Lord." Jennifer has served 6 years on the Mercy ship. They perform many types of surgeries and the people are so appreciative of the help and healing they are able to bring to them. They too are richer for the experience. Jennifer has decided to remain with the ship another year. After spending June and July with her parents and friends, she will leave in August to sail back to Madagascar in Western Africa for next year's outreach with a major surgical emphasis on women's health issues. She is very thankful for our love, prayers and support given to her. *Submitted by Marie Bushkovsky, WELCA Immanuel, Independence*

UPCOMING HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAMS

Two graduates of Thistle Farms of Nashville, TN will be in Northeastern Iowa in September! Graduates of Thistle Farms are survivors of prostitution, trafficking, addictions, and homelessness. We welcome them to share their stories of being victimized into prostitution and the success they achieved when they went through the Thistle Farms program in Nashville.

Thistle Farms proudly uses "Love Heals" as their motto—because love is the biggest force in getting women off the streets and into the life that was intended for them by their creator! Please come and listen to their amazing stories. They will inspire you to look at the issues hidden under our noses in our own communities.

Human trafficking is not a "big city issue." It is here, and we are BOLD women who can make a HUGE change.

Sep. 16 Graduates from Magdalene Home/Thistle Farms of Nashville, TN will be at St. Paul's Postville, 7pm

Sep. 17 Upper Iowa University, Fayette, 6-9

Sep. 18 Zion, Oelwein, 1 pm Fellowship Tea, 7 pm Program

Submitted by Lisa Bahe.

NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

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