



Good News

September
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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:

"Lord, send forth your spirit...and renew the face of the earth" Psalm 104:30

So many thoughts are going through my head. Maybe your summer has been like that too. So many things to do, family and friends to reconnect with, surprises of health issues and the day to day things of life. I was thinking about our gathering in June and how much I enjoyed connecting with friends, meeting new people and most of all, sharing of the love of Jesus and thankfulness for all God has blessed us with! There were 120 of us gathering together and sharing that special fellowship that the Women of the ELCA always manage to find. Can you imagine multiplying that feeling by thousands? That is what going to a Triennial Gathering is like. Meeting new friends, reconnecting with past friends, sharing ideas and prayers, worshiping in joy and praise, opening your heart to what God calls us to do, serving others, just to name a few. Psalm 104:30 is one of the theme verses for the Gathering and it calls on God to send the Holy Spirit to renew not just God's people, not just God's church—but all God's earth, the creation that God called good. This verse not only celebrates God's creation but also reminds us of the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and especially the creation of the Lutheran church. Talk about a renewal! Maybe God will be starting another renewal in us, in each of you. Maybe it will begin today or tomorrow or throughout this year as we prepare to gather at the 10th Triennial in Minneapolis in July 2017! Check out the website to get registered starting September 6, www.welcatg.org.

Sisters in Christ and All Anew,
Diane Wills

Mission Area: Discipleship

Consider a subscription to *Gather Magazine* for yourself or as a gift to a friend. It contains stories, articles, and devotions to keep you connected and help you grow in faith.

The *Gather Magazine* now offers a new Bible study format of three sessions per theme, covering the months of September, October, and November 2016, with an Advent devotional for December 2016. A new theme is introduced for winter/spring of 2017. The summer Bible study shares the theme "All Anew" with the 2017 Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, MN.

A digital subscription is offered for view on your tablet, computer, or smart phone. Please note that viewing from digital source does not allow you to print articles. If you subscribe to a printed subscription you are also allowed to view it on a digital source at no extra cost. Digital or print subscriptions are \$15.00 per year. This includes 10 issues per year (with combined issues Jan/Feb & July/Aug).

Access information to the *Gather Magazine*:
gather@elca.org. *Gather Magazine* Customer Service: Call 844-0409-0576 Email: Gather@cambeywest.com Submitted by Della Benson

Mission Area: Justice

One of the many speakers for the 2017 Triennial will be Brenda Myers-Powell, who is co-founder and executive director of the Dreamcatcher Foundation. Born in Chicago, Brenda is a survivor of sexual abuse, drugs and prostitution. Through her work, she delivers high-energy messages that help people break the chains of oppression. Brenda, whose mother died when she was an infant, faced abuse at the hands of trusted family members. At 14, she escaped her abusive home and fell into prostitution. Her experience as a runaway teenager and survivor makes her an advocate to young girls. Brenda's passion is to help young women avoid the trauma she experienced in her 25 years as a teenage and adult prostitute. Get registered now, so you can find out how we can help stop sex trafficking in our

CALENDAR

- Sep. 9–10 Three River Fall Retreat, Camp Ewalu
Sep. 17 Jubilee Cluster © Fall event, at St. Ansgar
Lutheran Church in Waterloo
Oct. 22 Little Flock Fall Festival, St. Paul, Postville
2017
Jun. 17 NEI Synod WELCA Convention
Jul. 13–16 Triennial Convention and Gathering, Minneapolis,
MN (welcatg.org)
-

communities, our nation and the world!

Mission Area: Stewardship

Triennial: How Can I Plan for it?

First things first: Get registered now...early bird registration saves you \$40! Next, ask your church or women's group to support you with a scholarship. Even small amounts make a big difference. Then, apply for the NE IA WELCA Triennial scholarship. You can find the application on the [NE IA SWO website](http://NEIASWOwebsite.com). Then find 3 other roommates to share a room with, or stay with family in the cities! And if you save just \$2 each day, you will have almost \$600 saved by July of 2017!! Even on a limited budget this is a very affordable trip and will benefit you in so many ways!!! Hope to see all of you in Minneapolis July 13, 2017!!

Meet the Board

I am Beverly Sheridan and was recently elected as the treasurer for the Northeastern Iowa Women's Synod Organization. I am originally from the Allison area and was a member of St. James Lutheran Church until I moved to Decorah when I was in my 20's. I am currently a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. We are the small church on the west side of Decorah, close to Luther College. I am currently chairperson of our WELCA group. We are an active group which participates in LWR projects—making personal care kits, school kits and baby care kits. We

NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board

Diane Wills, President

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also bake and sell Krumkake (Norwegian cookies) for our annual Nordic Fest and host a soup luncheon/country store in the Fall. Our WELCA coordinates projects with the whole congregation participating.

I have been employed by Northeast Iowa Community Action for 28 years, currently as the Head Start secretary, and have also worked for the WIC program with this organization. I enjoy meeting people and being able to help them. I have two grown sons. One is married and one will be getting married the end of September. They both live in the Minneapolis area—close enough to get to visit often. I enjoy traveling and learning about different areas in the United States and other countries.

In 2014 I attended the Ninth Triennial Gathering in Charlotte. This was an exciting, faith filled experience for me. I encourage all of you to attend the 10th Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis July 13–16, 2017. Early-bird registration opens on September 6. Registration fee is \$310 until December 31. Register at welcatg.org or women.elca@elca.org for a registration packet. This is the closest the Triennial will ever be for us, let us make our Iowa delegation the largest!

Ed. Note: Bev takes up her duties as treasurer in January 2017. Until then, please continue to submit your donations, etc. to Nancy Poppe, 2775 Durham Ave., Nashua, IA 50658, 641-257-8199 (popcan1952@gmail.com)

Fall Events:

Jubilee Cluster (C) will be holding an event on Saturday September 17 at St. Ansgar Lutheran Church in Waterloo. Registration/coffee at 9:30, with the program at 10 a.m. The speaker will be Janet Schildroth: "My Cup Runneth Over." The church at 1122 W. 11 St. in Waterloo is handicap accessible. *Submitted by Donna Kirschenmann*

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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/womenoftheELCA