

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

2017 Triennial “All Anew”

We were reminded at the 2017 Triennial in Minneapolis that to be “born anew” we must first die to our old self! I have heard this before, but it did not sink in until I heard it again from our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton. She reminded us that all seeds when planted in the ground must surrender, die, in order to grow into the plant they are meant to be. I wonder how many of us think of the millions of seeds that our farmers plant every year as dying in order to grow and thrive? For me this was an “eye-opener.” I have heard and sung of the analogy of Jesus’ resurrection and the seed, but never got it until now! Bishop Eaton pushed us to think outside the box, reinvent ourselves, our churches, our communities, our world. Don’t just accept the status quo! Try something new! Be creative! Don’t be afraid! Take a leap of faith! Pray for God to lead, but make sure you follow, even if you are uncertain! This is what it means to be made “All Anew!”

We were blessed to have over 60 women from our synod attend the Triennial and all have returned with exciting new ideas and stories to share. I hope you will take the time to ask them to share about their experiences in your churches and clusters! Remember that when we work together with women from across our country and around the world, we can do awesome things for the Lord! Many of us have returned renewed, energized and ready to change our part of the world even more! All Renewed,
Diane Wills

Mission Area: Discipleship

Reaching Across the Generations

There are currently six generations celebrating life on Earth today. Imagine that! What generation are you? Each generation has experienced different influences and life events. As a result, each generation has different needs, priorities and expectations.

One of the needs of all of us can help bridge the gap. Do you know what it is? FELLOWSHIP! Yes, we can touch the lives of other generations by communicating. The best form of communication is a smile or hug and conversation. A genuine smile or hug will make your day sparkle!

Promote fellowship at your church. It is worth the time and effort. It encourages our self-worth and binds the generational gaps. It also heals our soul. A happy soul is important to our health and well-being.

God gave us the gift to LISTEN. Talk to others and listen to their stories and needs. Offer your assistance or ask them for their help. Make them feel needed. Even if your group is small, visiting over a cup of coffee will promote wellness and unity in your congregation. *Submitted by Della Benson*

Mission Area: Justice

One of the plenary speakers at the 10th WELCA Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis, July 13–17, was Kelly Fryer. Hopefully you and your group studied Ms. Fryer’s three-session Bible study in the *Gather* magazine, June, July/August, 2017.

I sat up and paid attention when Ms Fryer said that as Lutherans we need to “stop being nice and start being good.” There is/was, in my mind, a fine line between the two. I investigated. Webster’s Dictionary defines both as adjectives.

NICE. The Middle English definition was foolish; the Old French *nice/niche*, was stupid or foolish, and the Latin *nescius* was ignorant, not knowing. The first definition of nice is: difficult to please; very careful; fastidious; refined.

GOOD. The Middle English, *gode*; Anglo-Saxon *god*; akin to German *gut*; Indo-European base *ghadh*—to unite, be associated, suitable. First definition is: suitable to a purpose; effective; efficient.

The difference between “nice” and “good” is in our actions. Some examples: If a person, face to face, tells an off-colored joke, a nice person would smile and say nothing. A good person would say, “that offends me.” If our government passes a law that unjustly affects the poor or the vulnerable, the nice person would shrug and say, “That’s what they do. There is nothing I can do about it.” A good person would write to his/her senator, representative, even the President, stating how the law would adversely affect the poor and vulnerable.

After arriving home from the Gathering, I reread Ms Fryer’s Bible studies in the June, July/August *Gather* and understand more fully the difference between being “nice” and being “good.” The questions she asks give a strong hint regarding the action we should or could do. Why not reread those Bible studies and be a “good” Lutheran woman and take action? Contact information or further studies are listed in the *Gather*. *Submitted by Jane A. Granzow, retired pastor*

Mission Area: Stewardship

Wow! What a wonderful Triennial it was!!! At the Thursday evening Thankoffering service, \$49,094 was given and nearly \$64,000 was collected during the Sunday Holy Communion

CALENDAR

Sep. 1	Oct. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Sep. 23	Jubilee Cluster C event at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Cedar Falls
Sep. 30	Upper Iowa Cluster D meeting
Oct. 1	Nov. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Oct. 28	Little Flock Cluster Fall Gathering, Emmanuel, Strawberry Point
Nov. 1	Dec. <i>Good News</i> deadline
Nov. 4	LWR Ingathering, Zion-St. John, Sheffield, 8–11 a.m. LWR Ingathering, Olson's Explosives, Decorah, 7:30–10:30 a.m.
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	<i>Good News</i> deadline
Jun. 16	31 st Annual NE IA Synod Women of the ELCA Gathering, Wartburg College, Waverly

service. Out of 3,400 participants, that is a lot of giving by thankful hearts! The Sunday offering was shared among PV for Phebe (25%), Cherish All Children (25%) and Women of the ELCA (50%).

There was a Run, Walk and Roll event on Friday morning where there were 404 participants and \$19,116 was raised for seed grants to support Women of the ELCA's health initiative, Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls.

The in-kind gifts included more than \$19,000 in gift cards, more than 27,000 items of hygiene products, clothing, quilt kits, and Days for Girls kits.

In addition, there was a blood donation drive that drew 97 people giving 81 good units of blood. Each unit is separated into red cells, platelets and plasma, which could potentially help 243 people!

I want to say it again, WOW!!! What a wonderful, giving community the women were and I'm so thankful I was able to be a part. The stats came from an email I received from Linda Post Bushkofsky, Executive Director. If you would still like to be a part of the giving, please

look at the ELCA website. We CAN make a difference!!!!
Submitted by Vicky Jaeger

"All Anew"

Women of the ELCA 10th Triennial Gathering, Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 13–16, 2017

This July I had the privilege of attending the Triennial Gathering as a recipient of a scholarship from the NE Iowa Synod to a first-time participant. There were over 1,200 women attending the Gathering for the first time and over 3,400 women total in attendance. The theme song, "Come Holy Spirit, Come," called to us each day. From the opening worship service, full of the visual symbolism of new life (butterflies) and rebirth through baptism and water (I have been sprinkled by Bishop Eaton!), through thought-provoking speakers who challenged my views, to the 5K run, walk and roll to raise money for healthy women, back to the final worship service, I was immersed in the experience. Over the four days of the Gathering we heard speakers like Leymah Gbowee from Liberia, a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize; Kelly Fryer, author of the summer *Gather* Bible Study, "Say Good-bye to Nice," and Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, a national leader in immigration who spoke of upending the tables and having compassion. At workshops, we had the opportunity to experience a liturgy developed for the dying and their families, "Peace at the Last," listen to the author of next year's *Gather* Bible studies, Rev. Dr. Mark Allen Powell, experience walking in the shoes of a migrating mother, hear about human trafficking, take part in servant activities such as sewing quilts, and check out the vendors. We were uplifted by an organ recital Friday and a concert by the National Lutheran Choir Saturday at Central Lutheran Church next to the convention center. A highlight of the Gathering was the chance to meet and talk with other women of faith from all over the country.

In July 2020, the 11th Triennial Gathering will be held in Phoenix. Start making your plans to attend! *Submitted by Betty Zumbach, Peace, Ryan*

Ed. Note: To see pictures, click here

<http://www.neiasynod.org/women-of-the-elca/nggallery/slideshow>

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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.)

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