



# Good News

October 2016  
Volume 29  
Number 9

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:

### *Renewal or Risk?*

With the time quickly approaching for the 499<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation, I have been thinking a lot about how this event shaped the history of Christianity and especially our Lutheran church. Most people look at this event through the eyes of our world, but in the day of Martin Luther, this daring statement of grievances caused great chaos and danger. Did he know that posting this paper on a church door would lead to strife and even death? If he had, would he have taken the **risk** to **renew** what he thought was broken or simply taken the easier road? Sometimes I wonder if we often face the same dilemma: is the risk of great change worth the renewal of our hearts and minds? Are there things in your life that need renewing? Maybe your attendance at church or involvement in your women's circle or relationship with your magnificent Lord, or (you fill in the blank)? We all have these issues and need to be reminded that even though there is always a RISK, it is almost always worth the RENEWAL that results in the end. So, face your fears, take the risk and live in the renewal that is the grace of our one and only true Lord, Jesus Christ! *Sisters in Christ and All Anew, Diane Wills*

## Mission Area: Discipleship

The October edition of *Gather* magazine just arrived this week. The theme is When God Blesses the Undeserving! This is Session 2 of the fall Bible study by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, which began in September, and will continue through November.

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 at

[gather@elca.org](mailto:gather@elca.org)

*Gather* Magazine Customer Service: Call 844-0409-0576, Email: [Gather@cambeywest.com](mailto:Gather@cambeywest.com) Submitted by Della Benson

The board recommends to those who register for Triennial that they choose the Hilton Hotel.

## Mission Area: Justice

So WHAT is REALLY important to you? Where you live? How you spend your time? What you spend your money on? How you treat other people? How you look?

There is a lot of judgement there.

Sometimes we don't even realize it. I just read a recent blog on [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org) on shaming. I am not in the "game" so to speak, but I realize, I do place judgements, when I ask for volunteers, when people say no to my request, when someone makes a life choice I don't like. I do try not to, but sometimes the reaction is there before I can even realize my response. Shouldn't we all have the option and opportunity to make our own choices and not fear judgement from others?



*I down 4999 to go....* Do you sew? Crochet? Knit? Are you creative in other ways? Here is your chance to contribute to the Triennial Convention and Gathering. Women of the ELCA has a goal of collecting 5,000 prayer labyrinths before

next July. Patterns are available at [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org). You might learn something new—I did.

Women of the ELCA justice initiatives include combating commercial sexual exploitation, human trafficking and supporting families with special needs through our online resources. We advocate for racial and cultural equity through our anti-racism training and our cross-cultural programming.

Women active in Women of the ELCA also work for justice by supporting partner organizations who lift

---

## CALENDAR

- Oct. 8 Shechem Cluster Fall Retreat, 9 a.m.,  
Beulahland Christian Bible Camp, rural Elgin.  
Oct. 22 Little Flock Fall Festival, St. Paul, Postville  
Nov. 5 SWO Board (snow date 11/12) Synod office,  
Waverly, 9-12

### 2017

- Jan. 14 SWO Board with Cluster Leaders, Synod  
office, Waverly, 9-3 (snow date 1/21)  
Mar. 4 SWO Board, Synod office, 9-12 (snow date  
3/18)  
May 20 SWO Board, Wartburg College, 9-12  
June 16 SWO Board, Wartburg College, TBD  
Jun. 17 NEI Synod WELCA Convention  
Jul. 13-16 Triennial Convention and Gathering,  
Minneapolis, MN ([welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org))
- 

up women and children such as the 1,000 Days  
Movement, Lutheran World Relief, and the Women's  
Funding Network. *Submitted by Anna Jetson*

### **Mission Area: Stewardship**

Many women have asked me recently what happens to  
the money from our regular offerings or fundraising.  
The WELCA organizations in your church may keep a  
portion of those offerings to support local ministry  
needs, such as purchasing quilting supplies for relief  
quilts, providing scholarships for the youth, or even  
paying for childcare during a retreat so mothers with  
young children can attend.

Each congregational "unit" sends 50% of their  
offerings to the SWO (synodical women's  
organization). The synod then sends 50% of those gifts  
on to Churchwide to support the ministry of the  
WELCA. The other 50% is used by the synod to  
support leadership development, organize events,  
publish newsletters, train congregational officers, and  
provide scholarships for women to attend conventions,  
retreats, or the Triennial Gathering.

---

### **NEIA Women of the ELCA Executive Board**

#### **Diane Wills, President**

641-425-8626 [wills.dianes@gmail.com](mailto:wills.dianes@gmail.com)

#### **Cindy Pogge, Vice President**

515-571-2827 [jpogge@comm1net.net](mailto:jpogge@comm1net.net)

#### **Anna Jetson, Secretary**

952-240-9569 [amjetson@yahoo.com](mailto:amjetson@yahoo.com)

#### **Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer**

563-382-9025 [jwbsheridan@live.com](mailto:jwbsheridan@live.com)

701 Serenity Drive  
Decorah, IA 52101

Every time your unit gathers, whether it is for  
fellowship over lunch, a Bible study, or quilting,  
encourage the women to collect an offering. Fifty cents or  
five dollars, the practice is important. By collecting a  
regular offering to share with all expressions of Women of  
the ELCA, we connect every local activity to the larger  
mission and ministries. *Submitted by Vicky Jaeger*

### **Meet the Board**

My name is *Jane Godson*. I'm married to a pastor,  
Jerome, and between us we have five children. I have  
three daughters and he has two sons. They're spread out  
over the United States. I retired from floor nursing in 1996  
due to a physical disability, then taught Adult Ed. for  
several years for Northeast Iowa Community College  
when it was still a technical school. Faith in the Lord  
Jesus has always been my anchor, and so I've sought out  
and accepted any opportunity that strengthens that faith.  
I've held offices in our women's group, on church  
council, and am on the Cluster B board. My hobbies are  
reading, writing, knitting, and Adult Coloring. I'm happy  
to be on the SWO board and am looking forward to  
getting to know the other women and growing in my faith.

### **Shechem Cluster Fall Retreat**

will be October 8th, beginning at 9 am at Beulahland  
Christian Bible Camp in rural Elgin. The speaker is Pastor  
Margaret Yackel Juleen; presenter is Tina Anderson, and  
special music by Valerie Boleyn. The theme for the day is  
"Gather at the Cross." The cost of the retreat is \$10, which  
includes registration, supplies and lunch. Please send  
reservations by Oct. 5 to Marcia Wiedenhoff, PO Box  
134, Clermont, IA 52135. *Submitted by Vicky Jaeger*

*Ed. Note: Bev Sheridan 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](mailto:popcan1952@gmail.com))*

---

### **Good News**

Editor Jan Harbaugh

112 W. Wilbur St., Hawkeye, IA 52147

515-825-8068 [jan.harbaugh@gmail.com](mailto: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/>

8765 W. Higgins Road

Chicago, IL 60631-4189

**NEIA Women of the ELCA website:**

[neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA](http://neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA)