

□ *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.*

***“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”
Matthew 18:20***

Ninety-seven people from Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa attended the Bible Study Seminar at Wartburg Seminary in Dubuque May 21-22. Our synod was well-represented, as you can see by the picture. We came home excited about our new Bible study which will begin in the September issue of *Gather* magazine. Dr. Audrey West, who was the author of our award-winning 2004-05 Bible study on “The Parables of Jesus,” presented the highlights of each of the lessons, which focus on the many ways that we are “Gathered by God.” She will also be leading a one-day seminar at Grand View University in Des Moines on Saturday, July 21. It is sponsored by the Southeastern Iowa Women of the ELCA synod. (Contact seiawelca@yahoo.com for additional information.)

I encourage you to subscribe to this great magazine. We are Women of the ELCA. It is our Bible study, written for us. Each issue of *Gather* brings you thoughtful articles that support the Bible study and regular articles on prayer and family encourage, comfort, challenge and inspire the members of your Bible study. Many of our churches give it as a gift to new members, encouraging them to join one of their Women of the ELCA Bible study groups. It also makes a great birthday/graduation gift!

Call 800-328-4648 ext .2580 to subscribe. For one year/10 issues the fee is \$15, two years \$28. We were told that it may take several months for your subscription to begin. You may ask that copies be sent directly to your home from our churchwide office in the meantime. *Submitted by Gloria Tollefson, president*

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Women from our Synod at the 2012 Bible Seminar
Dr. Audrey West, the author, is on the far right



Past and present Synod Board Members

CALENDAR

July 12-13	Bible Study Seminar, Luther Seminary, Minneapolis
July 21	Bible Study Seminar, Grand View University, Des Moines
Aug. 10-11	Synod Board Retreat, EWALU Retreat Center
June 15, 2013	NE IA Synod Women of the ELCA Convention, Wartburg College

Thank You to All Who Attended the Spring Gathering at Trinity Lutheran, Waterloo

Thank you for your offering gift of \$442.50 to our ELCA Synod Malaria Fund. Every penny will be used to purchase and distribute mosquito nets and educate the people in sub-Saharan Africa on how to use the nets. It will also be used to purchase medicine to prevent malaria in pregnant women and children as well as purify the water where mosquitoes breed. Because malaria prevents farmers and other workers from working, defeating malaria is also a step toward defeating hunger. Your gift to the ELCA Malaria Campaign is certainly a big step in the right direction. Best of all, this work will be done as a bold witness to our faith in the Master of all healing, Jesus Christ. Again, Thank You! *Pastor Mark Anderson, Assistant to the Bishop, (April 20, 2012)*

NEIA Women of the ELCA Treasurer

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Good News

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THANKS TO ALL OF YOU

What an impact the Women of the ELCA have made as we work together on Lutheran World Relief kits and quilts! As we gather to work on these mission projects, we are truly making a difference in the lives of people around the world! Pencils, soap, needles and thread, fabric scraps.... These ordinary things become extraordinary when they are assembled into handmade quilts and kits and shared as gifts of love and comfort. We can be proud of all the trucks filled with kits and quilts that we have sent on to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul every spring and fall. From there they are shipped to places around the world where they have experienced earthquakes, famine and drought. All of you have also contributed to LWR shipping (Project Comfort) as it is costly to transport our gifts.

During 2011, our synod women contributed

- 9,768 quilts
- 253 blankets
- 509 sewing kits
- 4,659 school kits
- 2,456 baby/infant kits
- 4,550 personal care kits
- 57 fabric kits
- Well over 950 lbs. of soap

Wow! Shouldn't we be proud? We must remember this is a mission we could not do without the guidance and organization of the Lutheran World Relief organization and our Churchwide office. The Lutheran World Relief office tells us they have requests for 25% more than they can provide. *Gloria Tollefson, Synod President*

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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