



Celebrating Renewal: St. Elizabeth of Hungary — Service

Young adults begin a new year in Global Mission

The Northeastern Iowa Synod to sponsor nine young adults serving in the YAGM program.

by Marcia Hahn

Congregations, youth groups, families and others are invited to join the Northeastern Iowa Synod in supporting the newest group serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program.

Some 85 young adults completed orientation in August and have departed for their YAGM assignments in 11 country groups for a year of service. The Northeastern Iowa Synod has committed to sponsor the seven YAGM volunteers serving in Hungary as part of the companion synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hungary. In addition, this synod will

"After my YAGM year in Hungary, I plan to pursue a master's of divinity at one of the ELCA seminaries."

— Rebekah Swygert

also support two young adults who grew up in the Northeastern Iowa Synod and will serve in Madagascar.

The seven young adults serving in Hungary are based at Hungarian Lutheran congregations and their associated ministries. The volunteers will serve at schools, day-care centers, long-term care facilities,

homeless shelters, and organizations that support the Roma community, including the Roma College program.

Meet the YAGMs in Hungary

Miriam Bohlmann Kunz
St. Louis, Mo.



Miriam graduated from Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., with a degree in chemistry and a minor in German. She served as a leader at the Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern

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The Northeastern Iowa Synod will support these seven volunteers who have begun a year of service in Hungary through the Young Adults in Global Mission program.

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and was a student manager for the school's varsity women's soccer team.

In Hungary, Miriam will serve in Nyíregyháza with a network of diaconal ministries for Roma and non-Roma Hungarians. These ministries provide multiple services for the homeless, including a day and night shelter, a soup kitchen, and a day center for people living with drug/alcohol addictions. Miriam will also serve at a women/family shelter where she will lead after-school activities and tutor the children.

"I am very much looking forward to my year in mission, and I am excited to share in it with all the churches of the Northeastern Iowa Synod."

Shannon Brice
Chapel Hill, N.C.



Shannon graduated from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia with a fine arts degree in animation. Shannon completed the Disney College Program and says she has always had a strong connection to the arts and Disney. She plans to one day work in an animation studio.

In Hungary, Shannon will serve in a new ministry partnership between the Lutheran Church in Debrecen and the Real Pearl Foundation in the nearby village of Berettyóújfalu. Shannon will assist in the Foundation's art school for the primarily Roma children of 12 villages. She will also serve the Roma communities by helping with the Foundation's social services,

which include job training, new-mother classes, cooking classes, and food growing/farming classes. On weekends, she will engage with the Lutheran Church of Debrecen and its new outreach/mission to nearby communities

"I love art, but I love people more, and I believe that one of my talents is helping people do the best that they can."

Dennis Brink
Manahawkin, N.J.



Dennis graduated from Arcadia University in Glenside, Pa., with a global legal studies degree and a minor in international studies. He also has a certificate in a Peace Corps prep program. His studies and volunteer work have taken him to several countries, including Great Britain, Scotland, Belgium and Mexico.

Dennis will serve in Budapest with Phiren Amenca, an organization that brings together Roma and non-Roma young people in dialogue and service in order to challenge stereotypes and racism. He will assist in classrooms of English language teachers at Deák Tér Lutheran High School and he will also facilitate a weekly English conversation class at the Integration Services Center, a new ministry of the Lutheran Church in Hungary's Diaconal Office for refugees and other people in transition.

"I love to do community service, and have worked on numerous week-long projects across the United States. Throughout my time

at Arcadia University I had the opportunity to travel the globe and become educated through my experiences in other cultures."

Elaina Johnson
Hudson, Wis.



Elaina graduated from Winona State University in Winona, Minn., with a degree in therapeutic recreation. She has been serving as a therapeutic recreation assistant at a Christian-based nursing home in Hudson, Wis.

In Hungary, Elaina will serve with the Lutheran Parish and the Lutheran diaconal ministries in Békéscsaba. She will serve with the Lutheran residential care facility for seniors and with youth ministries of the Lutheran congregations. In addition, she will be active in the ministry of a Roma and non-Roma independent youth mission in nearby Békés.

"A fun fact about me is that my brother is a participant in the Young Adults in Global Mission program this upcoming year, as well."

Rebekah Swygert
West Columbia, S.C.



Rebekah graduated from Clemson University with a degree in production studies in performing arts, with a concentration in theatre. She worked at Lutheridge Camp and Conference Center and, as director of the center's SummerShine program, she

Grateful for Churchwide Assembly, voting members

Thank you for the privilege to serve as a churchwide assembly voting member.

This triennial event is an opportunity to participate in inspiring worship, to study scripture, to learn more about the faith, to be immersed in the depth and breadth of the mission of the church, and to listen to the voices of our church that live throughout the United States and the Caribbean.

I also want to thank the voting members of our synod. Most gave up precious and limited vacation time to attend. Each prepared care-

"I am joyfully grateful to be a part of a church like ours."

fully (the notebook was over three inches in paper form) and attended sessions faithfully.

In fact, one of our voting members had to arise at 1:30 a.m. to reach the airport to catch a flight that would get him to the assembly on time. The final session of the day ended at 9:30 p.m., and he was still in his chair and awake! That is but one example of the dedication of

those whom you called to attend the assembly.

I am filled with gratitude. I am joyfully grateful to be a part of a church like ours. I am grateful for the dedication of the leaders of our synod.

And I am grateful to be your bishop. Thank you.

— Steven L. Ullestad
Bishop, Northeastern Iowa Synod



ELCA Churchwide Assembly approves key actions

Voting members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America approved a number of key actions during the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. The assembly gathered Aug. 8-13 in New Orleans, with 945 voting members, including 17 from the Northeastern Iowa Synod.

The voting members elected a new vice president of the ELCA; accepted the "Declaration on the Way," an ecumenical document for greater unity between Catholics and Lutherans; approved AMMPARO — the ELCA's strategy to Accompany Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities; and approved the Ministry of Word and Service roster.

Various memorials from synods were approved, including the memorial from the Northeastern Iowa Synod for observation of National Donor Sabbath to support organ and tissue donation.

The assembly also approved deepening relationships with historic Black churches; moving toward a re-



The 18 voting members from the Northeastern Iowa Synod at a plenary session of the 2016 ELCA Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans.

sponsible energy future; repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery; peace with justice in the Holy Land; justice for the Holy Land through responsible investment; African Descent Lutherans; call to discernment on U.S. foreign and military policy; welcoming refugees; and supporting military personnel, veterans and their families.

View videos and download the legislative updates at www.neiasynod.org/event/#CWA.

Christ-like Stewardship

Saint Elizabeth of Hungary was generous with her wealth. When she was cast out of the Wartburg Castle, she remained generous in her poverty.



In this issue of the *Star* newsletter we raise up the Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGMs) who, just out of college, have very little to their name except debt; and yet, because of their love for Jesus, they give their first year out of school to the church to do mission work.

In the same way, this synod gratefully receives generous gifts of Mission Support, funding for YAGMs, gifts to ELCA World Hunger, and contributions to the Fund for Leaders from congregations that have trouble making their own budgets. It is good stewardship to be generous out of our plenty, but it is Christ-like stewardship to give out of scarcity.

The verse below is from the hymn “The Poor Ones,” which was used in worship at the recent Churchwide Assembly in New Orleans. The words remind us how God’s love and presence is felt through truly generous giving.

*When the poor who have nothing,
Still are giving;
When the thirsty pass the cup,
Water to share;
When the wounded offer others
Strength and healing:*

*We see God, here by our side, walking our way.
We see God, here by our side, walking our way.*

This hymn By J. A. Olivar/M. Manzano can be heard on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YYt8jeBin50>.

— Pastor Mark A. Anderson
Assistant to the Bishop

To download this article or other stewardship resources, visit www.neiasynod.org/stewardship.

Middle School Lock-In

Oct. 14-15, 2016
UNI Wellness Center, Cedar Falls

Junior high and middle school students are invited to the Middle School Lock-In Oct. 14-15 at the UNI Wellness Center in Cedar Falls.



With the theme “Loving Our Neighbors,” this event will focus on loving our neighbor and how we serve those around us. The schedule includes devotions, worship, a large group activity, pizza, snacks and lots of recreational activities.

This annual event is sponsored by the partnership of the Lutheran Student Center at the University of Northern Iowa and the Northeastern Iowa Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Network.

Check-in and games begin at 8 p.m. Friday. The lock-in ends at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday. The registration fee is \$35 per youth, if registered before Sept. 30; \$45 after. Participants are asked to bring non-perishable food items to the lock-in to support the UNI Student Food Pantry.

Registration materials, a poster and schedule can be downloaded at www.neiasynod.org/youth-ministry.

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Send news for the October issue to Marcia Hahn by Sept. 9. We welcome story ideas related to the 2016 theme, “Celebrating Renewal: St. Elizabeth of Hungary – Service.”

Articles in this newsletter may be duplicated for use in synod congregations and organizations, with credit to the *Star* newsletter.

Please notify the synod office with name and address changes. To receive an electronic version of the *Star*, rather than paper, send your request to hahn@neiasynod.org.



www.neiasynod.org

served campers with developmental delays.

As a YAGM, Rebekah will serve in Nyíregyháza with the Lutheran Church-run Roma College program, which supports 25 Roma university students each year socially, spiritually, educationally, and financially toward the pursuit of higher education. She will also use her skills, training, and musical and theatrical talents to serve at a home for women living with disabilities.

“I love to worship through art, especially music. After my YAGM year in Hungary, I plan to pursue a master’s of divinity at one of the ELCA seminaries.”

Miles Tyler
Northfield, Minn.



Miles graduated from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., with a degree in environmental studies and a concentration in Asian studies. He has been active in mission work around the U.S. and has spent a month of service in Guatemala. His studies have also taken him to several countries in Europe and Asia.

In Hungary, Miles will serve with the Lutheran congregation of Nyírtelek and their Roma mission ministries in the neighboring village of Görögshalas. He will serve primarily with two ministries of the congregation: a farm cooperative and a day center that provides care and activities for the local Roma community.

“I have developed a passion for traveling and experiencing new cul-

How to Support Young Adults in Global Mission

Congregations and individuals are invited to support YAGM volunteers by following their blogs, subscribing to their newsletters, writing them letters, praying for them, and sponsoring them with financial assistance.

Pastor Rachel Eskesen, country coordinator for YAGM-Central Europe, encourages people to read the blogs on the YAGM Central Europe Facebook page and share their stories with others. Another great way to support the YAGMs is to commit to pray for them.

“We have seven YAGMs serving in Central Europe, so you could pray individually for one of them each day of the week,” she suggests.

The full cost to support a YAGM volunteer for one year of service is approximately \$13,000, which includes training, airfare, a small living allowance, health insurance, and simple room and board. Each volunteer commits to raising \$4,000, with

the remainder of the costs provided through the ELCA.

The Northeastern Iowa Synod has set a goal to sponsor the remaining costs of \$81,000 for the seven YAGMs serving in Hungary and for the two young adults from Iowa serving in Madagascar.

In addition, the synod is sponsoring the ELCA’s Global Teach position at Aszod, Hungary. This year’s volunteer teacher is Annie Skivington, who has committed to teach English conversation for one academic year at a secondary Lutheran school. Global Teach volunteers are self-funded, with a cost of \$4,800.

Gifts of support for these young adults can be sent to the synod office. Checks should be made out to the Northeastern Iowa Synod with the memo designating the Hungary YAGM/Mission.

Donations can also be made online at www.neiasynod.org/ministries/stewardship/#Donate.

tures, but I also highly value service work. I am looking forward to this awesome opportunity that YAGM has presented me with, and I am very appreciative of your support.”

Elizabeth Zimmermann
Austin, Texas



Elizabeth graduated from the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park, New York, with a degree in baking and pastry arts manage-

ment. She most recently worked as a cake decorator for Whole Foods in Dedham, Mass.

Elizabeth will serve in a new ministry site in Piliscsaba with the FÉbé, a social and rehabilitation ministry of the Lutheran Church in Hungary that provides people with disabilities a place to live and work. Elizabeth will live on site and work alongside community members in their wood-working, art, farming,

>> Continued on page 6

"I am excited to participate in the Young Adults in Global Mission program and I appreciate your support."

— Ellen Friedrich

and painting projects. She will also tutor in an afterschool program for Roma students.

Meet the YAGMs from Iowa

This synod also supports and encourages two young adults who grew up in the Northeastern Iowa Synod and serve in Madagascar.

Morghen Philippi

Dubuque, Iowa



Morghen is a graduate of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn. She is a member of Holy Trinity Lutheran, Dubuque, which she says has accompanied her throughout her childhood and her faith journey. Morghen's parents are Dan and Denise Philippi.

"I will look to form relationships with the Malagasy people. God's family is global, and I am excited to share in stories, joys and challenges."

Ellen Friedrich

West Union, Iowa



Ellen has been a life-long member of the Northeastern Iowa Synod, living near West Union. She graduated from Iowa State

University with a degree in anthropology and environmental studies. Her parents are Pastor Susan and Norman Friedrich.

Ellen will serve in the area of Vohipeno in southeast Madagascar, working with students at a farm school and teaching English at a Lutheran school. She will also help with events for international visitors.

"I am excited to be a participant in the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program and appreciate your support. I am thrilled to be going to Madagascar!"

Six young adults with connections to the Northeastern Iowa Synod are also serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program for the 2016-2017 year. Please keep them in your prayers.

Erik Bay — First Lutheran, Decorah, serving in the United Kingdom.

Tyler Broadwell — Luther College Ministries, Decorah, serving in Jerusalem/West Bank.

Samantha Ea — Luther College Ministries, Decorah, serving in Jerusalem/West Bank.

Kurt Hellman — Luther College Ministries, Decorah, serving in Cambodia.

Carter Johnson — Luther College Ministries, Decorah, serving in Jerusalem/West Bank.

Ashley Rosa — Wartburg College, Waverly, serving in Cambodia.

To learn more about the YAGM volunteers and to download resources, visit www.neiasynod.org/yagm.

Share your photos

"God's work. Our hands."
Sunday, Sept. 11, 2016

Pastors, lay leaders and volunteers are invited to share photos and summaries of the activities their congregations will be doing for the ELCA's "God's work. Our hands." dedicated day of service.

The day is designated as a time for ELCA congregations to reach out to their communities to do service projects as a witness to others. This date also marks the 15-year anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the United States.

Share photos on Facebook and other social media sites and email them to the synod office for possible use in an upcoming issue of the *Star* and on the synod Facebook page. Photos and descriptions can be sent to hahnm@neiasynod.org.

Rachel Kurtz Concert

Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2016
Immanuel, Cresco

Come hear Rachel Kurtz in concert Wednesday, Sept. 7, at Immanuel Lutheran, Cresco. The event is co-sponsored by Immanuel, the Northeastern Iowa Synod and Thrivent Financial.

The evening kicks off with a meal at 5:30 p.m., praise band at 6:15, and the main concert from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. Tickets are free, but a free-will offering will be taken at the concert. A \$5 donation is suggested for the meal. To learn more, contact Immanuel at 563-547-2108.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 1 Meeting, Interim Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 1 Meeting, Youth Ministry Network, Bethlehem, Cedar Falls, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 5 Office Closed, Labor Day
- 7 Event, Rachel Kurtz Concert, Immanuel, Cresco, Meal 5:30 p.m.; Concert 6:30 p.m.
- 11 Event, ELCA Day of Service
- 13 Meeting, Executive Committee, 9 a.m.-12 noon
- 15 Conference Call, First Call Theological Education Executive Committee
- 24 Event, Fall Leadership Day, Redeemer, Waverly, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- 24 Meeting, Synod Council, Redeemer, Waverly, 12:45-4 p.m.

OCTOBER EVENTS

- 4 Meeting, Colleague Group Leaders, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 6 Meeting, Interim Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 6 Meeting, Youth Ministry Network, Trinity, Mason City, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 6 Meeting, First Call Theological Education Orientation, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 9-11 Event, Fall Conference, Best Western Midway, Dubuque
- 14-15 Event, Middle School Lock-In, UNI Wellness Center, Cedar Falls
- 21 Meeting, Tri-Synodical Fall Conference Planning, St. Petri, Story City, 10 a.m.-12 noon

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- 3 Meeting, Interim Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 3 Meeting, Youth Ministry Network, First, Decorah, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 24-25 Office Closed, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER EVENTS

- 1-2 Meeting, Candidacy Committee, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
- 1 Meeting, Interim Colleague Group, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 1 Meeting, Youth Ministry Network, Zion, Waterloo, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- 19-23 Office Closed
- 26 Office Closed

JOIN SOCIAL MEDIA SUNDAY

Join others in bringing your phones, tablets and cameras to church on Sunday, Sept. 25, to share favorite moments on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and more!
#SMS16

INSTALLING

- Rev. Joshua Martyn, Holy Trinity, Dubuque, Sept. 11
- Rev. Anne Edison-Albright, campus pastor, Luther College, Decorah, Sept. 16
- Rev. Dr. Jennifer Edinger, Washington Prairie, Decorah, Oct. 16
- Rev. Megan E. Graves, Our Savior's, Waterloo, Oct. 23
- Rev. Sandra Burroughs, chaplain, Bartels Lutheran Retirement Community, Waverly, pending
- Rev. David Coffin, Elgin, Elgin & Highland, Elkader, pending
- Rev. James F. Harbaugh, Trinity, Hawkeye, pending

INTERVIEWING

- Allison, St. James, Rev. Paul Schaedig, interim
- Clermont, West Clermont
- Cresco, First, Rev. Leo Combs-Lay, interim
- Frederika, St. John
- Jesup, American
- La Porte City, Zion (Jubilee), Rev. Daniel Mixdorf, interim
- Osage, Our Savior's, Rev. Alan Schulz, interim
- Strawberry Point, Emanuel, Rev. Jerome Godson, interim
- Sumner, St. John, Rev. Norman Bauer, interim
- Waverly, St. Paul's

SELF-STUDY

- Alta Vista, Zion and Lawler, Immanuel (Crane Creek), Rev. Vincent Fricke, interim
- Calmar, Calmar and Decorah, Springfield, Rev. Phillip Olson, interim
- Charles City, St. John, Rev. Bill Odermann, interim
- Chester, United
- Coulter, Nazareth; and Hampton, St. John's
- Decorah, Decorah (staff), Rev. Charis Combs-Lay, interim
- Decorah, St. John's and Hauge
- Dubuque, Lord of Life, Rev. Karla Wildberger, interim
- Elma, St. Paul
- La Porte City, American
- Lime Springs, St. Paul
- Mason City, St. Paul, Rev. Michael Last, interim
- Oelwein, Zion
- Roland, Bergen, John Sheahan, interim lay minister
- Ryan, Peace and Dundee, St. John (Unity of the Cross Lutheran Parish)
- Waverly, Redeemer, Rev. Nancy Larson, interim

ROSTER CHANGES

- Rev. Arnold Flater, on leave from call
- Rev. Irving Sandberg, on leave from call
- Rev. Marion Pruitt-Jefferson, on leave from call
- Rev. Lanny Westpahl, transferred to Southeastern Minnesota Synod
- Rev. Dr. Peter Nash, on leave-disability

PRAYER CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2016						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				Our Savior, Leland 1	St. Paul, Lime Springs 2	Rev. Kenneth H. Hatland, Louisville, Col. Rev. James A. Sandvik, Sioux City Rev. Robert A. Scheurer, Rockford 3
St. John, Luana 4	Betty J. Urlaub, Garnavillo 5	Rev. Dr. Walter C. Bouzard, Waverly Amy B. Wrightsman, Decorah 6	Rev. Ronald L. Fretheim, Decorah Edna Kamper, Algona 7	Bethlehem, Manly 8	Rev. O. Paul Hougen, Decorah 9	Rev. Selmer G. Hernes, Forest City Rev. Joseph B. Nesheim, Northfield, Minn. 10
St. Paul, Marble Rock 11	St. Paul, Mason City 12	Our Saviour's, Mason City 13	Trinity, Mason City 14	Rev. James E. Klosterboer, Elkader 15	St. James, Mason City 16	Middle East Rev. James J. Carstensen, Raymond, MS Rev. David A. Nelson, Waverly 17
Alice M. Martin, Dubuque 18	Rev. Hillary E. Burns-Kite, Garnavillo Rev. David R. Nelson, Decorah 19	Rev. Gary A. Hedding, Cedar Falls 20	St. Paul, Maynard 21	First, McGregor 22	Rev. Darryl D. Torrin, Cedar Falls 23	Rev. Erika J. Kielstrup, Monona 24
Rev. Charles D. Ager, Strawberry Point 25	Rev. Paul C. Nelson, Waverly Rev. Dawn L. Pederson, Belmont Rev. Dr. Ralph W. Quere, Dubuque 26	Faith, Mitchell 27	Rev. Vincent C. Fricke, Waverly Susan A. Garbes, Nashua 28	St. Paul, Monona 29	Rev. James H. Carpenter, Waverly Rev. Kathryn H. Wicks, Castalia 30	

Refresh, renew and reunite at these fall events

FALL LEADERSHIP EVENT

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2016

Redeemer, Waverly

Lay and rostered members can learn about synod ministries and networks, join a network, and plan projects for the coming year at the Fall Leadership Event. The event takes place Saturday, Sept. 24, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., at Redeemer Lutheran, Waverly.

Synod networks meeting at the event are Companion Synod-Hungary, Companion Synod-Namibia, Disaster Response, Home Life, Hunger, Men's Ministry and Stewardship. Other committees meeting that day include the Compensation Committee and S.A.F.E. Ministry Team,

followed by a Synod Council meeting.

There is no cost to attend. Lunch is included. To register, call the synod office, 319-352-1414, by **Monday, Sept. 12**, or send an email to Linda Hudgins, hudginsl@neiasynod.org.

FALL THEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Oct. 9-11, 2016

Best Western Midway, Dubuque

Rostered leaders and their spouses are invited to learn about "Renewal in the Gospel of John" at the Fall Theological Conference set for Oct. 9-11 in Dubuque. The Rev. Dr. Karoline M. Lewis of Luther Seminary will speak about the challenges that the Gospel of John presents for

preachers. The conference will also have workshops, worship services, group meals, time with the Bishop, and a spouses breakout session.

The event will take place at the Best Western Midway Hotel and Conference Center. Special room rates are available until **Thursday, Sept. 8**. Call 800-336-4392 or 563-557-8000 to reserve a room, and mention the Northeastern Iowa Synod conference.

Conference registration is due **Thursday, Sept. 29**. Send a check and registration form to the synod office. The \$95 fee includes three meals. Download the registration form/brochure at www.neiasynod.org/event/#Conference.



Good News

September
2016
Volume 29
Number 8

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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Beverly Sheridan, Treasurer

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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*

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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neiasynod.org/womenoftheELCA

Living Faith



Dear Fellow Soul Shapers,

I use to think that all I needed to do as a Christian parent, was bring my children to church, read them a few Bible stories, Pray with them, be a good role model, and bing, bang, boom, I will have raised faithful, contributing, serving, happy, Christians! I quickly found out there was way more to it than that! Faith is nurtured and practiced, not taught. It takes time, effort, and is not a one shot deal. Faith is a gift that flows through the waters of baptism and is activated by the Holy Spirit. It springs from a relationship with God and from living among faithful people, also known as the faith community that begins in a trusted relationship usually at home but not always. This relationship continues as the Body of Christ gathers for weekly worship and fellowship. Faith Formation is not the same as physical and mental development. It has nothing to do with age, but everything to do with the mystery of the Holy Spirit. "Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear" (Anderson & Hill, 2003) is an excellent resource. It has been around for awhile, so there may be a copy lurking around your church building. In it, 5 principals are named: **#1 "Faith is formed by the power of the Holy Spirit, often in our own homes." #2 "The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and the ministry in the home." #3 "When Christ is present in faith, home is church too." #4 "Faith is caught more than taught. And #5 "If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults and parents".**

The Baptismal promises are another great place to start or reclaim faith formation. As parents, sponsors, and congregations we promise to: **"Live among God's faithful people." "Hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper." "To proclaim the good news of God in Christ though word and deed," " to serve all people, following the example of Jesus." And "to strive for justice and peace in all the earth."** (ELW page 236) We have work to do! This issue will provide some insights and ideas for doing faith at home.

Blessings on the Journey,

Elayne Werges, DM

BAPTISMAL PROMISES



TO LIVE AMONG
GOD'S FAITHFUL
PEOPLE....

Faith Development..... What to Expect

Faith is a gift. It does not develop in the same way as mental or physical development does. It happens by grace and is the work of the Holy Spirit. It happens through modeling, sharing relationships, and experiences. Faith is not needed when things are easy, but leaned upon during the darkest of days. There are four styles beginning with:

Experienced Faith- This is the first "style" of faith formation and is the foundation of faith. It is most often experienced by preschoolers through adolescence, but is also true of adults who are new to the faith. This style is modeled by parents, caregivers and trusted models of faith. The young in faith imitate what they see. They gravitate towards the feelings of love and acceptance. They are looking for models and imitate what others are doing. At this style, sharing the stories and helping them see how their story fits into the larger narrative is important.

Affiliative Faith- During this style, persons seek to "belong". They want to be involved in serving and doing. They are looking for activities that will move them such as awe, wonder, and mystery. They like to experience singing, drama, music, dance, painting, and art as these things speak to their faith. Mission Trips and mentoring are meaningful ways to help them grow in faith.

Searching Faith- This "style" usually happens in early adulthood. It looks critically at what has been learned thus far. They are exploring other options and may question what they have been taught. They need 'space' to explore and try options. This is a critical step in faith development and one that can be confusing to parents and leaders. Offering a class about 'Our Neighbor's Faith' would be helpful to them.

Owned Faith- This "style" is a mature faith. Doing for God is no longer an obligation. It is a deep understanding of witness in word and deed. There is an understanding that faith is a process, not a destination. So one with an owned faith continues to practice faith through weekly worship, living generously, studying daily, praying constantly, and inviting others.

You can find more detailed information in the book "Will Our Children Have Faith? By John Westerhoff (1976).

This information has been prepared for you
by the **Northwestern Iowa Synod-
Home Life Network**

for use by families and local congregations. For more
ideas about how you can pass on faith in your homes go
to: <http://www.neiasynod.org> Find us on Facebook!

Ideas to Build Faith ~Use the Practices

Pray



Teach your kids to pray...It is never too late, but start early. Start by teaching them to fold their hands. Teach them your favorite table or bedtime prayers. Later teach them to pray out loud. You can find ideas in past issues of LF@H. and you will find countless ideas on Pinterest!

HERE IS A QUICK ONE~

Pray for fire trucks and ambulances as they drive by. As you cross bridges; Pray for those you with whom you are separated or have a disagreement with. Use prayer cubes and

Serve



USE YOUR GIFTS! Try something new! Think about daily chores not as something that you want to do, but as a sign of love to your family. Service happens when ever we think beyond ourselves.

IDEAS!

Plan a Summer Stretch. Go on a Mission Trip. Learn about life in another place. Visit the local nursing home, spend the afternoon playing cards with the residents. Make cards and care packages for community servants- postal workers, fire fighters, law enforcement, sanitation workers....look for the forgotten.

Study



For some of us just hearing the words "Bible Study" sends us running in the other direction to hide. Perhaps it congers up thoughts of needing to have the RIGHT answer. As people of God, we are hungering for Good News. Strive to study the Word frequently and deeply. Try a few different styles and use the one that works best for you and or your family. **TRY THIS!** Use the "Faith 5" model that has been described in past issues. Begin with sharing your stories from the day using a conversation starter or partaking Highs and Lows. Use the bulletin readings from last Sunday. Read a few verses, Talk about it. Start with words that catch your attention. Do an art or music project that the whole family can do to reinforce the story. Ask questions as you work.

Worship



Bring your children to worship as often as possible. Teach them how to use the hymnal. Encourage them to sing along. Involve them in the process of worship. Let them help gather the offering, be greeters, and when they are old enough, read.

HERE IS AN IDEA~

Practice worshipping at home. Make a home altar. Explain the different parts of worship: How we GATHER, How we hear the WORD, What the MEAL is, and How we are sent into the world to SERVE and LOVE GOD!

Give~Be Generous!

God asks us to give of our **TIME, TALENT, and TREASURES**. God asks us to tithe, which means give 10% to the Church. A owned or mature faith does this, not out of obligation, but out of faith, knowing were the blessings came from in the first place. They can't help but be generous. If 10% is a burden, start smaller. Remember 10% of \$1 dollar is 10 cents. 10% of \$10.00 is \$1.00. Less than a cup of coffee or can of pop. The most obvious way to give is in the offering plate on Sunday Morning.

MORE THINGS TO DO!

Challenge your family to give 3% more to your congregation. Start a relationship with a missionary (YGAM's would be an awesome way to do this!)

Clean out your closets
And donate to your
Favorite ministry



Invite



Your congregation is the best kept secret around. If you love your congregation, is time to tell others and ask them to join you. **WHY NOT?** Have dinners for 8. Use the back yard. Have a summer pot luck, an October Fest or a tailgating party before the game. Have games and play some music. Invite the neighbors to come over. Invite students from the local college to join you. Have the kids make invitations to pass out Have fun! It is contagious!

Encourage



II Corinthians 13:11 reminds us that part of being faithful is to strive for peace and encourage one another. Having a faith community is a blessing and a gift from God. When done right, this is place where we are known loved, and accepted. That does not mean that we have to agree on everything, but we do have to agree to love God, each other, and our neighbors including our enemy's.

Your Challenge: Say one nice thing to 10 people today. **Bigger**

Challenge: Say one nice thing ABOUT 10 people today. Wipe out gossip. All it does is hurt others and destroys the body of Christ.