

interchange

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Bold Woman, Wise Steward

by Audrey Novak Riley

WOULD IT BE TOO MUCH TO SAY that Martin Luther’s ministry would not have been possible without his dear Katie beside him, managing their finances so wisely? That’s for others to decide, but I think we can safely say that her bold and thoughtful stewardship made his work easier. Thanks to Katie’s good work, Martin was able to travel and preach and write and persuade right up to the end of his life, 18 years after marrying the woman he called the Morning Star of Wittenberg.

Good stewardship means striking a balance between ministering to others and taking care of our own ministry. When we send our offerings and gifts to Women of the ELCA, we are taking care of our ministry—just as Katie Luther took good care of the ministry centered at Lutherhaus.

Women of the ELCA offers many ways to take care of our ministry together—including a special fund named after our beloved Katie.

Katie’s Fund supports Women of the ELCA’s initiatives in leadership development, living theology and global connections. Recent Katie’s Fund projects include sending a dozen diverse young women from throughout our church to the Holy Land on a journey of accompaniment and discovery with the ELCA’s Global Mission and Young Adult Ministry program, Peace Not Walls. It changed their lives—and as they share what they learned with the rest of the church, our lives are changed, too.

To learn more about Katie Luther and our Katie’s Fund endowment—and to give online to support it—please see welca.org/katiesfund.

You may also support Katie’s Fund by making out your check to Women of the ELCA, writing “Katie’s Fund” on the memo line, and sending it to:

Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield VA 22116-8009

Thank you!



Audrey Novak Riley (audrey.riley@elca.org) is director for stewardship for Women of the ELCA.

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Stay on top of Tenth Triennial Convention news

BELOW ARE SEVERAL ITEMS OF NEWS about the triennial convention that will be useful to you, your congregational unit, your elected voting members and your synodical women's convention.

Proposed Constitutional Changes

According to the Churchwide Constitution, Article XVIII, Section 1, Item 1: "The executive board may propose an amendment [to the constitution] and send an official notice to the voting members-elect at least six months prior to the next regular Triennial Convention. The adoption of such an amendment shall require a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at the Triennial Convention."

Constitutional changes proposed by the Churchwide Executive Board, 2014–2017 Triennium, that will be considered at the Tenth Triennial Convention were sent to voting members and are available on our website here: <http://bit.ly/2loi5RC>.

Speakers, preacher

The Rev. Jodi Hauge will preach, and the Rev. Brenda Smith will preside at the opening worship of the convention, which is a service of Holy Communion. The Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson, pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, will lead Bible study during the convention. The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, will address the convention and install the newly-elected officers and board members. All Women of the ELCA participants are welcome to attend the convention.



Rev. Jodi Hauge



Rev. Brenda Smith



Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson

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Stay on top of Tenth Triennial Convention news

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Offerings

The churchwide executive board has designated offerings received at the convention to be distributed 50 percent to PV for Phebe Hospital and 50 percent to the ongoing churchwide ministries of Women of the ELCA. These designations were made in response to memorials passed at the Ninth Triennial Convention (2014). Voting members should speak with their synodical president to see how an offering from the synodical organization is being planned. Voting members should encourage their congregational unit to send an offering along with them; envelopes are in this issue of *Interchange*, and your unit can send in its offering in advance. Voting members should also anticipate making a personal offering.

Volunteers

Volunteers are needed for several aspects of the triennial convention: worship, hospitality, general administrative work, pages. If you don't see a specific task listed (like set up, distributing material to voting members or assisting on the convention floor), fill it in under the "other" category. Volunteers with computer skills or language skills are in demand. Interested in volunteering? Visit <http://bit.ly/2jUEgs2> or email vanessa.davis@elca.org.

Convention Program and Report

In June, voting members will receive in the mail the Convention Program and Reports (also referred to as CPR). Voting members should plan to read the CPR before arriving in Minneapolis. It will contain information on nominees, various reports, the proposed agenda, proposed rules of procedure and more.

Schedule and agenda

Voting members will travel to Minneapolis on Monday, July 10. Credentialing will occur that evening from 7–9 p.m. Voting members should have photo identification to show

Use the envelope in this issue to give to Katie's Fund, the triennial gathering Thankoffering, the triennial closing worship offering, or all three! Just write the gift designation on the memo line of your check. And thank you!

at credentialing. Those serving on business committees (and voting members will have been informed of this in advance) will have an orientation to their work at 8 p.m. on Monday. The convention begins on Tuesday morning, July 11, and will conclude by approximately 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 13. The convention agenda can be found here: <http://bit.ly/2loi5RC>.

Travel arrangements

The churchwide women's organization covers the cost of voting members' travel to and from the triennial convention. Voting members should make their air arrangements through Direct Travel by April 30, 2017.

Churchwide welcomes a donation of \$100 per congregational unit to help cover travel, housing and meal costs of voting members. Please make your check out to Women of the ELCA and write "WELCA—where needs most" on the memo line.

Housing

Voting members will be housed at the Hyatt Regency Minneapolis.

Voting members may contact Ann Hightower for more information (ann.hightower@elca.org; 1.800.638.3522, ext. 2746).

The Tenth Triennial Convention is July 11–13 in Minneapolis, Minn.

Your in-kind gifts live out WELCA's purpose statement

I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

OUR TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING THEME, ALL ANEW, calls us to look at life in a new way. Our Women of the ELCA purpose statement calls us to be there for each other. God calls us to make a difference in the world.

Through in-kind gifts, we can do it all: We can see into the lives of our gift recipients in Minneapolis and around the world. We can be there for them in relationship and in partnership, and we can make a difference in the world.

You can focus on one in-kind gift or collect a variety. Make this a congregational unit activity and invite everyone in your congregation to get involved.

The following list was determined in community with the agencies and partners that will receive them. The recipient agencies and organizations will lead the interactive servant events or learning opportunities in the exhibit hall at the gathering.

Quilt Kits

Quilts from these kits will be completed on-site and distributed by Lutheran World Relief.

Fill a gallon-size sealable plastic bag with the following:

- Twelve 21-inch squares of cotton fabric
- One spool of Coats & Clark Dual Duty thread to match fabric
- One piece of cotton fabric for backing: 2½ yards of 60" fabric or 5 yards of 35" – 45" fabric.

Please do not use fabric printed with religious symbols, U.S. flags or military insignia.

Days for Girls Kits

At the gathering, participants will assemble Days for Girls feminine hygiene kits that will help girls around the world miss fewer days of school. (Find more details at welcatg.org.) The bags will include eight liners and two reusable pads that should last for three years.

Please choose medium to dark colored fabric in a print that will not show stains. Please do not use fabric

The Tenth Triennial Gathering is July 13–16 in Minneapolis, Minn.

with religious symbols, weapons, flags, military insignia or camouflage, animals, bugs or glamor faces. Florals, botanicals and geometric prints are preferred.

Fill a gallon-size Ziploc freezer bag (the most durable, not the zipper/slider type) with:

- One piece of ½ yard of 45" bright print fabric for the bag.
- 2½ yards 45" – 60", 100% cotton medium-to-dark print flannel fabric for the liners.
- One piece of ½ yard and one piece of ¼ yard 45" 100% cotton fabric in a complementary color for the pads.
- Two pairs of underwear (girls' sizes 10–14 or women's size 5). Both should be the same size.
- One washcloth.
- One additional gallon-size Ziploc brand freezer bag, non-slider.

Gift Cards

Gift cards (minimum value \$10) may be purchased from the following national retailers: Target, Walmart, T.J. Maxx, Marshalls, Home Depot, Ace Hardware and Lowe's. Visa gift cards are also welcome. Midwest participants additionally may purchase gift cards from Cub Foods and Stein's Garden and Gifts. Participants from the greater Minneapolis area may also purchase gas cards.

Hygiene Items

Several organizations receiving your in-kind gifts serve families. Various products are needed, especially in family size. Items needed include ethnic hair products, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, bar soap, razors and skin lotion for women, children, teens and men. Also needed are hand soap, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene items (tampons and pads), towel sets (bath, hand, washcloth), baby wipes and diapers in all sizes.

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Get Involved In the Tenth Triennial Gathering

IN ADDITION TO COLLECTING IN-KIND GIFTS, we offer other ways for you to get involved in the All Anew gathering theme before you even leave home. You can make a quilt, create a finger labyrinth, color the All Anew coloring sheet and worship with our free downloadable devotionals. More information can be found under the “About” tab at welcatg.org.

Make a finger labyrinth

Fiber artists will unite in making finger labyrinths. Quilted, knitted, embroidered, felted or crocheted, there’s a pattern for everyone. We’re hoping to collect more than 5,000 finger labyrinths. Find patterns and a video on the website.

Participate in the quilt challenge

Quilters of all abilities are invited to create a quilt interpreting the Tenth Triennial Gathering theme, All Anew theme in a black & white + one challenge. Entries will be judged by women from the Minnesota Quilters Guild. The challenge comes not only in interpreting the gathering theme but also in working within certain rules. Find a downloadable fact sheet on the welcatg.org website.

Volunteering is labor of love

Volunteers are needed for many aspects of the triennial gathering: exhibit hall, events, hospitality, workshops, worship and general administrative work. Those with computer skills or language skills are in demand. If you’re interested in volunteering for a few hours at the gathering, use the form at www.welcatg.org/volunteering or wait until you get to the gathering to see how your time looks. Registration discounts are not offered to volunteers. It is a labor of love, and the organization appreciates it!

Run, Walk and Roll forms on welcatg.org



You will have the opportunity to take part in the fourth 5K Run, Walk and Roll in Loring Park just blocks from the gathering hotels. The \$30 registration fee supports our health initiative, Raising Up

Healthy Women and Girls. Visit welcatg.org for more information and pledge forms.

Your in-kind gifts live out Women of the ELCA’s purpose statement

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Clothing

Socks and underwear are needed in every size and color. Also needed are white T-shirts for women, children, teens and men.

Items may be brought to the “In-Kind Gifts” area in the exhibit hall during the gathering where they will be sorted, counted and packed. They can also be mailed to

the following address for arrival between May 15 and June 15, 2017:

Women of the ELCA
In-Kind Gifts
8765 W. Higgins Road
Chicago, IL 6061-4101

A downloadable In-Kind Gift list is on welcatg.org under About/Get Involved.

All Anew: Our Tenth Triennial Gathering

WOMEN OF THE ELCA'S TRIENNIAL GATHERINGS are always a real celebration, and our Tenth Triennial Gathering in Minneapolis (July 13–16, 2017) will be no exception!

Our festive opening worship service, with Minneapolis Area Synod Bishop Ann Svennungsen presiding and Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton preaching, will be a Thankoffering service to remember. It always feels so good to express our gratitude with generosity at the Triennial Thankoffering service.

There will be other opportunities to make a difference at home and around the world by giving at triennial.

For example, our closing worship service will include a joyful offering to support the PV for Phebe Project and Cherish All Children, as well as the ongoing ministries of the churchwide women's organization.

PV for Phebe, a project initiated by the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Woman's Organization, will mean

dependable solar power for Phebe Hospital in Liberia. Cherish All Children, an ELCA ministry, works to educate congregations throughout our church about human trafficking. Both of these ministries forward work proposed by your elected voting members and passed at previous conventions.

Please plan ahead for these and other opportunities to give at the triennial. You may also support these offerings in advance by mailing your check, made out to Women of the ELCA with either "Triennial Gathering Thankoffering" or "Triennial Closing Worship Offering" written on the memo line, to:

Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield VA 22116-8009

Or you can use the envelope in this issue.

Are you ready for the summer Bible study?

THIS SUMMER, you can take part in a three-session Bible study written by Kelly Fryer and published in *Gather*, the magazine of Women of the ELCA. In "All Anew: Ready or Not," Fryer challenges us to consider what we're really asking for when we plead with God for renewal. Renewal is a process much like giving birth—beautiful and essential for life, but not "nice." Like giving birth, renewal "produces pain, requires sacrifice and makes a really big mess," Fryer says.

Those attending the Tenth Triennial Gathering will receive free copies of the Bible study. Learn more about *Gather* Bible studies and subscribe at: www.gathermagazine.org.

Session titles are:

Session 1: Say goodbye to nice

For the heroes and "sheroes" of the biblical story, being part of the "new" thing God was doing often meant

having to do and say things that were unpopular with family, friends and neighbors. What truths need to be told in the places where you live, work, worship and play? Are you ready?

Session 2: Stand with the least of these

The biblical story tells us that whenever God does a new thing, it happens in, through and with people who live on the margins. With whom is God asking you to align yourself? In whose corner are you being called to stand? Are you ready?

Session 3: Upend the tables

The biblical story is filled with characters who challenged unjust systems, took action that turned societal norms upside down and spoke truth to power. What counter-cultural, justice-making actions are you being called to take? Are you ready?

News Briefs

Rocking Region 4 issues Reformation challenge

Northern Texas/Northern Louisiana synodical women's organization (SWO) is issuing a 500th Reformation anniversary challenge to other SWOs.

Region 4 presidents and vice-presidents are challenging each synod to raise \$500 for Women of the ELCA.

The money raised by the challenge (which is above regular offerings), they say, should be distributed to Women of the ELCA in the following way:

- 25% to support any special initiative that Women of the ELCA may choose for the Reformation celebration,
- 25% toward Katie's Fund
- 50% to support the regular budget of Women of the ELCA.

Are you up for the challenge?

Give with a smile

Now you can support Women of the ELCA with an even sweeter smile—an AmazonSmile, that is.



AmazonSmile is an automatic way for you to support Women of the ELCA every time you shop at Amazon.com at no cost to you. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate .5 percent of what you spend at Amazon to the churchwide women's organization.

Your privacy is protected—Women of the ELCA is never informed of your purchases, the amount you spend,

or even that it's you who's supporting Women of the ELCA through AmazonSmile.

Visit our website (womenoftheelca.org) news & events tab to learn how to shop, smile and give.

Save our children; observe Rachel's Day

Rachel's Day is a time set aside to mourn the loss of our children and to renounce the forces of violence and fear. At the 1996 Women of the ELCA triennial convention, voting members passed a memorial to encourage congregations to recognize the first Sunday in May as Rachel's Day, though it can be observed any time of the year.

The day takes its name from Jeremiah 31:15–17, in which the matriarch Rachel grieves for her children. Women of the ELCA offers a free, downloadable Rachel's Day resource with information about how you can work within your community and congregation to combat gun violence.

Consider using Rachel's Day resource at your church or in your community. The 2015 Rachel's Day resource includes a litany for use in a special Rachel's Day service. Find the resource at womenoftheelca.org.

New Websites

Women of the ELCA will unveil a new website at the Tenth Triennial Gathering. The new site will offer a fresh, contemporary look. Café (boldcafe.org) and Gather (gathermagazine.org) will also get a new look.

Calendar

For information on any of these events, contact Women of the ELCA at 800-638-3522, ext. 2730, or email Women.ELCA@elca.org.

APRIL 2017

- 29 **Allegheny SWO convention**, St. Matthews Lutheran Church, Martinsburg, Pa.
- 29 **Lacrosse Area SWO convention**, Our Savior's Lutheran Church, West Salem, Wis.
- 29 **Delaware-Maryland SWO convention**, St. Michael Lutheran Church, Perry Hall, Md.

MAY 2017

- 5–6 **St. Paul Area SWO convention**, St. Phillip's Lutheran Church, Hastings, Minn.
- 6 **Southwestern Minnesota SWO convention**, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Redwood Falls, Minn.
- 6 **Metro Washington, D.C., SWO convention**, Peace Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Va.
- 12–13 **Northwestern Pennsylvania SWO convention**, Olmsted Manor, Ludlow, Penn.

- 19–20 **Southwestern Pennsylvania SWO convention**, Bishop Connare Center, Greensburg, Penn.

- 20 **Northeastern Pennsylvania SWO convention**, Hope Lutheran Church, Cherryville, Penn.

JUNE 2017

- 7–9 **Northeastern Minnesota SWO convention**, Sugar Lake Lodge, Cohasset, Minn.
- 9–10 **South Carolina SWO convention**, St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, Lexington, S.C.

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immediate delivery

Spring 2017

Please route to:

- Women of the ELCA
leaders**
- pastor(s)**
- other church leaders**

Please copy and share with the women in your congregation!

Register now!



all anew

WOMEN OF THE ELCA

TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING

Minneapolis, Minnesota

July 13–16, 2017

Become a
Friend of the
Triennial Gathering.
Learn more at
welcatg.org.

**DOWNLOAD A COPY OF THE ALL ANEW
REGISTRATION BOOK AT WELCATG.ORG**

For more information, visit welcatg.org or call 1-800-638-3522 ext. 2730.