

# News & Notes

**Spring** 2017

Southwest Minnesota Synodical Women's  
Organization of Women of the ELCA

## PV for Phebe

Phebe Hospital was founded by the Lutheran church in 1921, in partnership with the Methodist and Episcopalian churches. Phebe serves a **population** of approximately **450,000 people**; it is the **foremost hospital** in Bong County.

Phebe Hospital is **powered solely by diesel generators**, consuming in excess of **90,000 gallons** of fuel annually at \$4.50 a gallon. During the rainy season, the road to the hospital often washes out, making **delivery of fuel impossible**. Phebe often must **shut down** its power system for periods of time to conserve fuel. Vaccines are jeopardized and operations become more **risky** with intermittent or **no power**.

A variety of local Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America groups have partnered with the **Rural Renewable Energy Alliance (RREAL)** to construct a **photovoltaic solar array** to serve the energy needs of Phebe Hospital. The **PV for Phebe** project aims to realize cash payoff of the installation costs within **five years**, with further savings expected up to and through the system's 30-year lifespan.

By **investing** funds in a photovoltaic micro grid, Phebe Hospital and its staff will not only be **empowered** to achieve self-reliance through solar power, but serve as a **powerful model** for rebuilding critical infrastructure in a resilient manner.

**If you wish to donate to this important project, you may send a check to:**  
**Northeastern Minnesota Synod**  
**Phebe Solar Project**  
**1105 E Superior Street, Upper Suite**  
**Duluth, MN 55802**

(Write Phebe Hospital donation in the memo line.)

**To find more information on PV for Phebe or if you wish to donate on-line, you may go to their website**  
**[www.skipthegrid.org](http://www.skipthegrid.org)**

## CONFERENCE PRESIDENTS & SECRETARIES:

It is very important for Conference Minutes, Conference Board Officer Listings, Fall & Spring Gathering Minutes, and individual Church Unit Board Officer Listings to be sent to the Synod Secretary, Synod President & Synod Liaison in a timely fashion. When the Synod Board does not have correct & current listings, mailings cannot be sent & received by the proper person/s. Please send your minutes, listings & changes **via e-mail**. (If e-mailing is not an option, send the information via regular mail.)

**Should you like to be added to the electronic *Communicator* publication, you may sign up at:** <http://eepurl.com/cGaXjX>



## THE TENTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING

**Minneapolis, MN July 13-16, 2017**

**Theme: "All Anew"**

The Tenth Triennial Gathering, falling during 2017, is the year we observe the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. The theme resonates with reformation and transformation images. At the gathering, participants will explore ways in which the Holy Spirit changes us, acknowledging that reformation and transformation have happened and continue to happen with the community of women known as Women of the ELCA.

Maria Lokensgard of St. Peter is one of 15 Triennial Gathering Promoters for the 2017 event. If you would like further information, you may contact Maria by calling her at 507-246-5828 or 507-317-0365; her e-mail is [mandem.loke@gmail.com](mailto:mandem.loke@gmail.com).

Registration cost is now \$350.00. One day registrations are \$175.00. Register at [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org) or e-mail [women.elca@elca.org](mailto:women.elca@elca.org) for a registration packet. Information about Triennial Gatherings can be found at [welcatg.org](http://welcatg.org). Speakers and workshops will be added as they are confirmed. Busing information, to & from the Triennial, will also be made available soon.

**Three registrations to the Tenth Triennial Gathering will be given away on May 6, 2017.**

You may have already signed up at the June 17 & 18, 2016 Convention or at your Fall Gathering. Ladies, you have two more opportunities to sign up—at your Conference Spring Gathering & at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual SW MN Synod of the Women of the ELCA Convention at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Redwood Falls, MN on May 6, 2017. Winners will be drawn at the May 6<sup>th</sup> convention.

**Triennial In-Kind gifts:** quilts will not be collected—only quilt kits will be collected this year. Gift cards, hygiene items, socks, underwear & white t-shirts for women, children, teens & men will be collected. Fill your trunks, suitcases, etc.!



**Picnic with Bishop Jon and Robyn Anderson**

Friday, May 5, 2017

6:30 to 8 p.m.

Synod Office - 175 E Bridge Street  
Redwood Falls, MN

Visit with the Bishop,  
tour the Synod Office,  
greet new friends &  
enjoy a picnic supper

(free-will offering accepted).

**Reservations are necessary  
to Kristy Henriksen.**

**Gathered in Grace**



30<sup>th</sup> Synodical Convention of the  
SW MN

Women of the ELCA

Saturday, May 6, 2017

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church,  
Redwood Falls, MN

Guest Speaker:

Lenae Bulthuis, writer of  
*The Back Porch*

Optional Workshops:

Lakota Heritage,  
Living with Lyme,  
Living in a World of Color,  
Incarceration and New Life

In-kind offerings for 2017 will be Baby Care Kits, School Kits & Christian literature. Please use corrugated cases (NO plastic bags will be accepted), with quantity of kits, kit name, (do not mix kits/items in cases), church name & address on top of case. Cases must not weigh more than 30#. All LWR projects are welcome.

Offering objectives are:

- \* 50% to Churchwide Women of the ELCA
- \* 25% to Prison Ministries
- \* 25% to Campus Ministries

**Katie's Fund** is an endowment that supports ministry in three areas: leadership development, global connections, and living theology. Katie's Fund is now more than \$1 million. Women of the ELCA established Katie's Fund in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther, raise up bold leaders for the churchwide women's organization, and support bold and creative ministry for generations to come.

Treasurers, please use the new Offering Form B (going to Merrifield, VA) when sending offerings to churchwide. Destroy any old forms as this box will be closed soon. Form A is used by Congregational Units for offerings going to the SW MN Synodical Treasurer, Maria Lokensgard.

**Conference Liaisons:**

Crow River - Coral Ackman & Betty Brandt  
Glacial Ridge - Bonnie Jaeger  
Great River - Joanna Rustad  
Lac qui Parle - Kim Christianson  
Lakeland - Christina Nelson  
Minnesota Valley - Diane Fredin  
Prairie - Sara Larson  
Scenic Valley - Ruth Ann Anderson  
Shetek - Marcella Chapman  
Watsonwan River - Marcella Chapman  
Synod Nominating - Joanna Rustad



**News & Notes:**

**THE COMMUNICATOR  
IS ONLINE!**

If you would like to receive your own digital copy of our quarterly newsletter, the *Communicator*, please visit this link and sign up:  
<http://eepurl.com/cGaXjX>

If you are told on this sign-up form that your e-mail already exists, but yet you did not actually receive the

*Communicator* this past January, please e-mail  
Christina at

[swmnwelca@gmail.com](mailto:swmnwelca@gmail.com)  
and kindly let her know.

The Speakers List will be updated soon & available on the Synod WELCA website. If you have any additions, please e-mail them to Christina Nelson.

Thank you.

A Southwest Minnesota Synod Women of the ELCA website is up & running. Information will be added to the site in a timely fashion—such as conventions (dates, etc.), minutes, conference officers, church board officers as well as Fall & Spring Gathering dates, locations, etc.

Those not attending the business meeting & who are blessed with the ability to crochet, are asked to bring their crochet needles & work on a Triennial flower during the business meeting. Instructions & yarn will be furnished.