



# New England **WELCA**

## Newsletter

Winter 2.0 2018

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- **President's Message**
- **Upcoming Events, Spring Gatherings, Region 7 Retreat**
- **Board Information** – useful information

questions you might have, please give any of us a phone call or send an email.

Peace of the Lord be with you.

*Ade Monareh*

*President – New England WELCA*

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## from our President

Greetings!

This is a special edition of our Newsletter to inform you of the happenings in New England Women of the ELCA this spring. Among spring gatherings that will be held in almost each conference in New England, there is will be the Region 7 Women of the ELCA Spiritual Gatherings. What is Region 7?

The ELCA has 65 synods that vary in size and geography and they are divided into nine Regions. Women of the ELCA follows the ELCA division of synods. Our synod fall under Region 7 and the following synods are included: New Jersey (7A), New England (7B), Metro New York (7C), Upstate New York (7D), Northeastern Pennsylvania (7E) and Southeastern Pennsylvania (7F).

So, women from all these areas will come to our area. I hope that we will have a good representation from each state of New England. One way to support the attendance, the New England board has approved to offer several scholarships to attend this event. Please note the deadline of submission for this scholarship so that you can apply for the event on time.

As we enter the week of Lent, I would like to quote Bishop Eaton's message on Ash Wednesday – "Return to me with all your heart" – let your self-reflection enter in to a time that you would stop and see with God's eyes, revealed in God's presence, believe that God is there to hear our confession

The current board members of the New England Women of the ELCA will be happy to answer any



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**A LOOK AHEAD .....**



### Spring Gatherings

**Here is information about each gathering.  
You are welcome to attend any of them**

- **Southern & Greater New Haven, CT:** April 7 at Christ Lutheran Church in Hamden, CT. Hear about Mariettia Meyers adventures to the Holy Land. For more info contact Stephanie Sherry [sssherry5535@gmail.com](mailto:sssherry5535@gmail.com)
- **New Hampshire/NE MA:** April 14 at Holy Trinity in Newington, NH  
Contact Ade Monareh or Helen Uurtamo for details
- **Naugatuck Valley:** April 14 at St. James Lutheran Church in Southbury, CT "Comfort and Joy" is the theme. Missouri Synod Comfort Dogs will be in attendance. A

breast surgeon will make a presentation. In-Kind gifts will be pet supplies (food, blankets, toys, treats, etc.) Monetary Offerings are earmarked for a Guild Project at Lutheran Home of Southbury in honor of their 100th anniversary. Contact Paula Rosenbeck [teetee108@yahoo.com](mailto:teetee108@yahoo.com) for more info.

- **Maine:** April 21<sup>st</sup> at Grace Lutheran Church in Auburn, ME 9 am – 3 pm. **Theme** will be **Food Insecurity. Verse:** Isaiah 58:10 *Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.*  
**Keynote Speaker:** Kim Finnerty, Whiting Farm's Program Manager.  
**Workshops:** Among workshop opportunities, will be a visit to the Whiting Farm. "Whiting farm is a working four season farm dedicated to community enrichment, education and the support of people with disabilities."  
**For more info** contact: Dianne Boucher [207 522-9769](tel:207-522-9769) or [boucherdj@comcast.net](mailto:boucherdj@comcast.net)
- **Greater Hartford, Central & Eastern, CT:** **May 5** at Zion in Southington, CT. 8:45 am – 2:30 pm. Planning meetings are scheduled for Feb. 24 and April 7 at Zion. Contact Noreen Noll (203-334-5215) for more info.
- **RI/Southeast MA:** May 12 at First Lutheran Church in Brockton, MA. 9:30 am – 2 pm. Theme: **One in Creation** (Genesis 1:27) In a workshop setting we plan to explore the draft of the ELCA Social statement on Women and Justice. Gifts in Kind: Diapers and store gift cards for young mother and infant/toddlers personal needs at Ruth House, an Ascentria home in Brockton helping teen moms to complete education and raise healthy children. For more info contact Pat McAfee [pattyann1056@yahoo.com](mailto:pattyann1056@yahoo.com) or Alice Carlson <[pcarlson99@Comcast.net](mailto:pcarlson99@Comcast.net)>
- Vermont/Northeast NY, Boston Metro, Central MA – Nothing planned.

 **April 27-28, 2018 – Region 7 WELCA Gathering** “WE ARE AN OFFERING” at the Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center in West Hartford, CT. – see enclosed info.

 **October 25-27, 2018**  
New England WELCA Biennial Convention/Gathering at Camp Calumet in Ossipee, New Hampshire

## Wake Up! This is God's Gig

Bible Verse: Isaiah 43:19 *“For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun! Do you not see it?”*

*I will make a pathway through the wilderness. I will create rivers in the dry wasteland. The Lord makes a way for us to do what he places in front of us and we need not fear, but act on faith that He is there.”*

Secondary Verse: Psalm 104:30 *“When you give them your breath, life is created, and you renew the face of the earth.”*

We will delve into some of the All Anew themes brought forward by the speakers at the 2017 Triennial, such as, recognizing that “All anew is a way of life, not an event”, how about being a “Holy Troublemaker”, or “Being good, not nice” We’ll also look at Biblical ‘characters’ who challenged unjust systems, turned societal norms upside down and spoke truth to power”

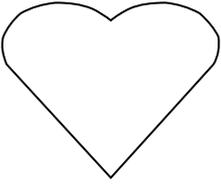
\*\* Contact Katy Sperl at 207 345-3407 or Dianne Boucher 207 522-9769 if you have question or might like to help.

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\*\***February 24:** Energy Summit at Trinity, 73 Lancaster Street, Worcester. Check out NE ELCA website for information.

\*\***March 8** has been designated as “International Women’s Day”. Please pray for our sisters everywhere! There is an ELCA Website for church/individual sponsorship, Litany and resources. Your New England WELCA plans to donate \$100. Thank you for your contributions to NE WELCA.

\*\***April 22** is Earth Day – Share what is going on in your church by sending information to Stephanie Sherry, editor of NE WELCA Newsletter, to be included in the regular Spring edition. Digital pictures are welcomed. Thank you.



## FACTS & INFORMATION ON REGION 7 SPIRITUAL GATHERING Celebrating all that we are as a Gift to God!

♥ The Region 7 Women of the ELCA Triennial Spiritual Gathering, “All that we have ... All that we are ... All that we hope to be ... We Are An Offering” is based on 1 Peter 4: 10-11. The event will be held April 27-29, 2018 at Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center.

♥ Holy Family Passionist Retreat Center is located on 48 picturesque and tranquil wooded acres at 303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT, complete with an outdoor labyrinth, walking rails, stations of the cross, lovely gardens, and ample parking. The main dining room is lovely with a superb chef on staff to provide delicious and well-balanced meals. A bookstore is available on-site. The facility is easily accessible from Interstate 84, or a 15 minute trip from Union Station in Hartford, and a 30 minute drive from Bradley International Airport. (Visit their website: [www.holyfamilyretreat@cpprov.org](mailto:www.holyfamilyretreat@cpprov.org))

♥ Full linen service is provided for each room. Bring your own toiletries. Dress for the weekend is casual. Bring walking shoes if you wish to explore the grounds or walk to the labyrinth. Since weather can be a bit unpredictable at the end of April in southern New England, bring a jacket or sweater for your comfort.

♥ Our honored guests for the weekend include: Keynoter and Preacher, Bishop Wilma Kucharek of the Slovak-Zion Synod; Bible Study Leader, Rev. Tiffany Nicely-Hollick of the New England Synod; Devotion Leader and Chaplain, former Bishop Marie Jerge of the Upstate New York Synod; and Audrey Novak Riley, Churchwide WELCA Director of Stewardship.

♥ *We will use all we learn in the Workshops for our Sunday Worship Celebration.* Those workshops will include:

- Poetry as a Spiritual Practice led by Rev. Marie Jerge
- Liturgical Dance led by Jan Walz of the Upstate NY Synod
- Angklung Music (go to You Tube to listen), traditional Indonesian instruments (provided) led by Ade Monareh, President of the New England Synod
- Acting out the Gospel led by Rev. Tiffany Nicely-Hollick.

It will be a truly interactive worship experience as we end our gathering.

Also speaking during our event are Liz Burgess, CWO Board Member, on the ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice; Audrey Novak Riley; and Beth Walker, Upstate NY Global Missions Coordinator.

♥ **REGISTRATION** for the event begins at 3:00pm on Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup> with dinner being served at 5:00pm. The gathering will formally open at 6:15pm in the main conference room on the main floor. We will enjoy an interactive game of WELCA Bingo and a fun class on “Sex and Flowers,” led by our own Professor Alice Carlson. **(Please bring a container of any shape for the floral arrangement you will make to take home during this activity.)**

♥ Throughout the weekend we will have time for women to tie fleece blankets for Lutheran World Relief. **Please bring scissors appropriate for cutting fleece.**

♥ There will be opportunity for both monetary offerings and in-kind gifts. Personal monetary offerings and those from your congregation will be received at the festive closing Eucharist on Sunday morning. One-half of these offerings will go to the Churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA. The other half will go to Lutheran Disaster Response.

♥ In-kind gifts will be collected for the Prudence Crandall Center, a domestic violence shelter and organization in New Britain, CT. You are invited to bring new bath towels and facecloths as well as new socks and underwear in any size from infant/toddler to adult (men and women). A representative from Prudence Crandall Center will be with us on Sunday morning to accept the gifts and to tell a bit about their organization. We will also be collecting new bath-size bars of soap (4-5 oz.) for Lutheran World Relief. (The soap will be taken - along with the fleece blankets - to upstate NY for pick-up by a truck which will take them to the LWR warehouse – at no charge!)

♥ On Saturday night we will have a Talent Show in the main conference room! So, get your act together, Ladies! Showcase your talent! Please bring any props/instruments, etc. you will need. A podium, microphone and piano will be available. Solo or group acts welcome!

♥ Another opportunity that is available to you on Saturday evening but unrelated to our event, is an Easter concert, “The Joy of Easter,” at Holy Family, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm. Tickets are available by reservation through the Retreat Center. Contact Ted Jastrzebski at 860-760-9705 or go online to [www.holyfamilyretreat.org](http://www.holyfamilyretreat.org); click on retreats; scroll down to Concerts, Dinners, and Masses; you may make your reservations online. Cost is a \$40.00 offering.

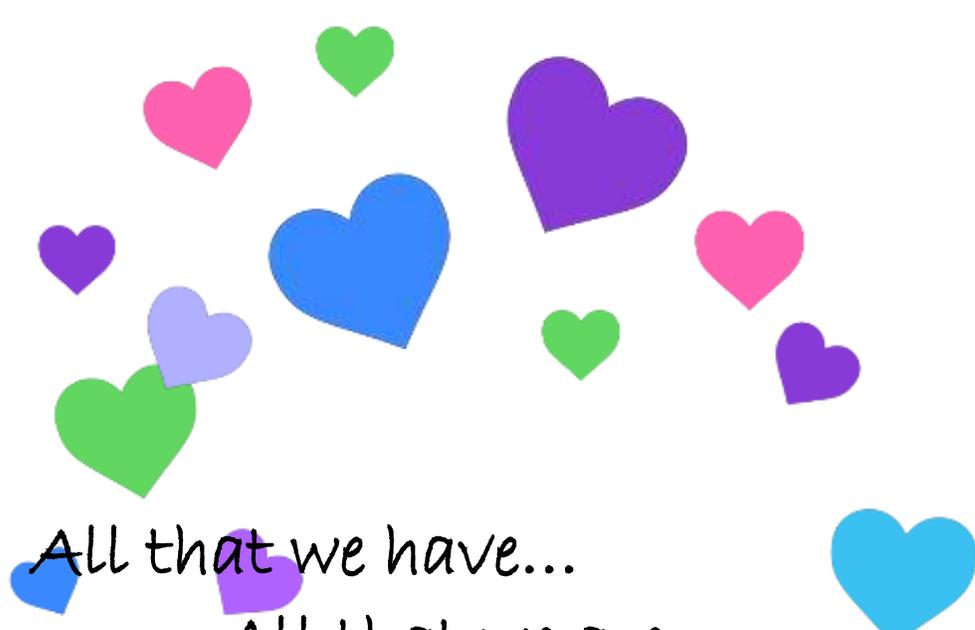
♥ One scholarship per synod is available for the weekend. Contact your SWO president for details. Guidelines are set by each synodical board. PLEASE NOTE: You must still register even if you are granted a scholarship.

♥ Ten Thousand Villages, a fair trade retailer of artisan-crafted home décor, personal accessories, and gift items from around the globe is located within a few miles of the Retreat Center. If women wish to visit the store you may do so during available free time or on your way to or from the gathering. Address is 967C Farmington Ave., West Hartford, CT 06107; phone 860/233-5470; e-mail is [westhartford@tenthousandvillages.com](mailto:westhartford@tenthousandvillages.com). Downtown West Hartford also has lots of cute shops and eateries!

♥ Please bring a snack to share! But be aware that there is very limited refrigerator space. Coffee and tea always available. Perhaps one person from each church could be designated to bring something so we don't have enough snacks for a large army!

♥ Please pray for this event! Spread the word to all women in your church, your conference/cluster, and your synod. Invite a friend, your pastor, or your mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt, or niece! A fun and inspiring time is promised for all.

**“All that we have ... All that we are ... All that we hope to be ...  
We Are An Offering”**



All that we have...

All that we are...

All that we hope to be...



## We Are An Offering

REGION 7 SPIRITUAL GATHERING—APRIL 27-29, 2018  
Holy Family Conference and Retreat Center  
303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

*Each of you has received a gift to use to serve others.  
Be good servants of God's various gifts of grace.*

1 Peter 4:10-11



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**REGISTRATION FORM**

(PLEASE PRINT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Synod: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

COST: \$275.00 per person\* (Includes registration fee, 2 overnights, & 6 meals)

Saturday Commuter Fee: \$100.00 (includes registration fee, lunch, & dinner)

Make check payable to: "Region 7 Women of the ELCA"

\*Double Occupancy in most cases

Please indicate Roommate Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer a handicapped room\*\* if one is available: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*There are a very limited number of handicapped rooms available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is an elevator to travel between floors. Community restrooms/showers are available on each floor of the retreat center.

Please indicate any dietary or mobility issues or other special needs: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a Thrivent Financial member? \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope with your registration if you need confirmation by mail. All other confirmations and updates will be provided by email to the address provided.

**Please send completed form and payment to:** Paula Rosenbeck, Registrar,  
356 Toringford West St. #313,  
Torrington, CT 06790

Questions? [teetee108@yahoo.com](mailto:teetee108@yahoo.com) OR 860-567-9505

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2018**

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** A \$20 cancellation fee will be charged for registrations cancelled between March 1st & 31st. NO Refunds after April 1st.



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303 Tunxis Road, West Hartford, CT 06107

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## New England Women of the ELCA

### Region 7 Gathering

### “We are an Offering”

### Scholarship Form

Date of Gathering: April 27-29 at Holy Family Conference and Retreat Center, West Hartford, CT *join us as we celebrate all that we are as a gift of God in a weekend retreat. Teens and friends are welcomed to attend. Information and registration material is enclosed in this Newsletter*

**Deadline for Application Tue. March 20, 2018.** Amount is seventy-five dollars / applicant. The recipient must be able to attend the entire duration of the event. The first five applications received will have first consideration. A representative from each Conference will be considered. The total limit from New England WELCA is **five** scholarships. The applicant must register for the Gathering separately.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT/ UNIT \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_

CONFERENCE \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this information to: Alice Carlson, 1245 Summer St; Bridgewater, MA 02324**

**or email pcarlson99@comcast.net**

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**Dated Material**



**SPECIAL  
Winter – 2018**

# New England **WELCA** Newsletter

## ***Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement***

*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.*

NEW ENGLAND WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

**A Source of Information for Congregational Units Sent by  
your New England Women of the ELCA Board**

*Opinions expressed within this newsletter are not necessarily those of your Synodical Board, but of the individual authors*