

Dear women of the Northern Illinois Synod,

The accompanying attachments include a scholarship application form for one woman under 40 to participate in the Triennial Gathering in Phoenix, AZ and registration and scholarship forms to invite you to join us for our annual one-day retreat to be held on Saturday, April 29 at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Center (LOMC) in Oregon, IL. "Women at the Well" is the theme of our day! The Bible study and worship will be led by Pastor Makayla Dahleen from St. Paul Lutheran in Sterling.

The cost of the retreat is \$25.00. As we have done in the past, if you would like to contribute to one or more of our missions (these are located at the bottom of the registration form), we certainly appreciate these gifts.

If you would like to apply for a half scholarship for the retreat, please complete the scholarship form and mail it to our Vice President, Ruth Anne Hartman as directed on the form. Two half scholarships will be granted for each Conference. You will be contacted whether or not you have received the scholarship. At that time, please complete the registration form with the appropriate amount of money and send as directed on the form.

We would also like to remind all women that our Northern Illinois Synod WELCA will be presenting a breakout session at the upcoming Congregational Resourcing Event (CRE) on March 4th at Sauk Valley Community College at Dixon. Our session will be in Workshop B and titled "NIS WELCA and You." Kim Choin, Joan Soltwisch, and others on the board will be discussing what is happening in WELCA, both in our synod and congregational units, as well as a Katie's fund grant from churchwide. Come and see what your Synodical Women's Organization has been doing in Discipleship, Justice, and Stewardship. You are encouraged to invite others to take part in the discussion of these focus areas and how they might apply in your home congregation.

May God bless you as you continue to be Bold Women in our world, with the love of our Lord.

Ruth Anne Hartman, vice president NIS WELCA