

***REFORMATION CELEBRATION
INITIATIVE: 500 AND BEYOND!
REFORM, RESTORE, REVIVE AND
RESPOND!***

Sisters in Christ,

Greeting to you and your congregation family in the name of our Lord and Savior! I don't know about you, but the last year has been a challenge on many levels: I lost a parent, which has caused many urgent adjustments. But, thanks be to God for His enduring strength and care! I am confident that you understand such life altering changes. My eyes have been opened more to the day to day struggles which each of us has to live and grow during our life's journey. Such experiences have brought introspective reflection and I am honored to know each of you.

Through service to WELCA locally and nationally, I have met ages from 5-95 and each of you have taught me something of great value. From those who have mentored me, I have learned courage, the will to keep fighting for change and a wicked sense of God's humor and love. From those younger, I am continually reminded of the faith of a child, of innocence and trust, and joy in the simplest of things.

For our Church, this year is the celebration of the 500th Year of the beginning of the Reformation. Your WELCA Board has focused on this celebration and planned our Biennial convention for October (13th & 14th); the theme is:

500 & BEYOND - Reform, Restore, Revive and Respond!

Your respective 2017 Spring Gatherings are great start to become informed and engaged in this wonderful experience:

- **SCIOTO CONFERENCE - 25 March** Calvary Lutheran, 74 W. Main St., Chillicothe, OH 45601
Theme: "Discipleship: Grace in Action", 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
- **DAYTON CONFERENCE - Saturday, 1 April (No Fool' in!!)**
St. John's Lutheran Church, 122 W. National Rd., Vandalia, OH 45377
Theme: "Fools For Christ!"
- **NORTHWEST CONFERENCE – 8 April** First Lutheran Church, Bellefontaine OH
- **CINCINNATI CONFERENCE – 22 April** Ascension Lutheran Church, Montgomery
- **MUSKINGHAM CONFERENCE:**
 - **April 29, at New Hope Lutheran Church, Adamsville**
- **CENTRAL OHIO CONFERENCE – 7TH May** To BE Confirmed, in Columbus OH





The Tenth Triennial Gathering will be held July 13-16, 2017, at the Minneapolis Convention Center, in Minneapolis, Minn. "All Anew" is the theme

Our WELCA Board prayed and reflected on how to have each and every woman in The ELCA Lutheran Church in Southern Ohio involved. Our vision, as we believe God directed is:

We have planned - **The "500 ANNIVERSARY REFORMATION CELEBRATION INITIATIVE."**

Request: We are asking each woman in every pew in every church in Southern Ohio to donate \$5.00(dollars) to this Initiative. Five-hundred (500) pennies for 500 years.

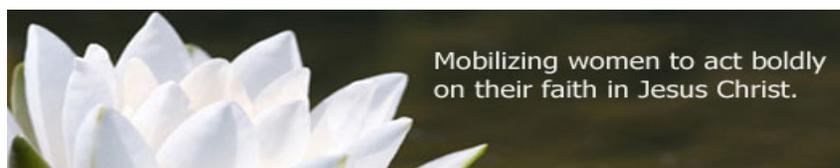
Here is how it works: There are 6 WELCA Conferences. Each Conference will have a designated 500 Anniversary Reformation Celebration Initiative Box at their Gatherings for this purpose. This will be their initial launch of this event! Each of the women in the churches (within each conference) coming to the Gatherings should reach out to their sisters in their congregations and share this challenge, collect the money and bring it for placement in the Gathering Box. We continue to collect funds for this Initiative until the conclusion of the year. We are hopeful we can collect minimally \$500 from each conference, thereby achieving our 500 Years and beyond part of the Initiative. Gifts be offered to God as an offering of Love at our Biennial Gathering Fall, October (13th & 14th) at St. Luke Lutheran Church, in Columbus OH; we will disburse gifts (funds donated) to each of the 6 (six) Conference to use in ministry in their area in a 4:1 effort. For each 5 collected, one (\$1) dollar will be sent to the synod WELCA for disbursement to the national WELCA to support our global communities, remaining \$4 will remain in the local community for specific outreach ministries.

**To recap: REFORM (ation)
REVIVE (Conference Gatherings)
RESTORE (Gift of \$5.00)
RESPOND (Gifts to ministries locally & globally!)**

Now, Sisters, you have been CHALLENGED! I know your good works in your churches, within family and community. Let's continue in the faith to demonstrate the love of Christ Jesus! Thanks for your contribution to a productive and memorable year!

I look forward to seeing you soon at the Spring Gatherings!
God's Peace from your WELCA Board!

Robin Kaelin, President – Robin
WELCA Board, Southern Ohio Synod
http://www.southernohiosynod.org/aws/SOS/pt/sp/leadership_welca



Mobilizing women to act boldly
on their faith in Jesus Christ.