

TRIENNIAL GATHERING REFLECTION: I AM WORTHY

Diane Brauer

It is always the people! It is always the conversations, the hugs, and the mealtime discussions. It is the joy of worshipping with women across the ELCA and the globe, singing together, hearing anew together, and even crying together. It is the opportunity to encounter new thoughts, new ways to live out one's faith, and affirm the work that is already being done.

Bishop Amy Current reminded us at the gathering's opening worship that God finds worth in each of us. God's "beautiful promise is that everyone, every human is worthy." The theme of our worth and worthiness continued throughout the event, all the way to the conclusion with Bishop Curry encouraging us to keep our enthusiasm and take it home, to continue recognizing need and taking action. Our work and ministry matter.

I found Pastor Sara Olson-Smith's Bible study challenging me to consider when I have been restored, (and "re-storied") by the community of the faithful and by the grace of Jesus. God knows us, remembers us, and cares for us.

The convention for Women of the ELCA was held in the days preceding the gathering. I was fortunate to be there in person as part of a committee. It is always exciting to elect new leadership for the organization. Sheena Foster was elected as the new Churchwide president. To me it is always exciting to see memorials (resolutions) come from the women in synods across the church for action over the next triennium. This year memorials addressed justice for our neighbors (support for Global Refuge, AMMPARO, and more), period poverty, creation care, Missing and Murdered Indigenous women, and Indian Boarding Schools, and more.

I came home renewed, rejoicing, and reflective. I came home singing songs the amazing musicians led us in. They were running on a loop in my head for days. I came home with the solid affirmation that "I am Worthy." You are worthy. Each and every person is a unique, beloved, and amazing person in God's sight. God's love is unconditional. We all are worthy.