



A tribute to a Bold Woman – Beth Bohling

by Susan Watson, Brochures Appointee



Beth was bold to show up. She went to church, NSWO board meetings, Bible studies, Spring Gatherings, Winter Retreats, and Conventions. In Superior, she attended city council meetings, disaster response information gatherings, community suppers, and youth meetings. Showing up makes things happen, and she was good at that.

Beth was bold to be there for others. She took on raising a grandson and later made room in her home for her great grandchildren during hard times. It took sacrifices on her part, but like so many other times, if something was needed, she

For the past few years, the Women of the ELCA have been encouraging women to “Be Bold” in their faith. Beth Bohling could have been described as “bold” long before the campaign began.

Like others, I felt a special bond with her; in my case, probably because we shared a tie to journalism. But beyond that, we shared local (and beyond) church activities, participated in an interdenominational Bible study group, and for a time, we were both involved in SCARED (South Central Area Rallying to Eliminate Drugs)

If you knew Beth, you could probably make your own list of ways she demonstrated how to ‘Be Bold.’ Otherwise, perhaps these observations will encourage you to discover ways to Be Bold.

was there to offer what she had.

Beth was bold to think independently and speak up. Perhaps this boldness came from her days of reporting for the *Hastings Tribune*, but she liked to get the record straight. She often presented ideas and ways to act on them. She is the one who pointed out that the word CARE was central in the acronym SCARED that the anti drug group had chosen. At Bible studies, she often had unique insights into Bible passages that benefited the whole group.

Beth was bold to do. She was eager and willing to take on tasks. She produced

Expressions quarterly, wrote articles for the Hastings newspaper, and handled publicity for numerous community events. When she was younger, Beth was the first woman to receive a Masters degree in Journalism from the University of Nebraska. She was in her 80's when SCARED needed to get grants for activities, and Beth volunteered to go to a grant writing clinic and she learn to successfully write the grants.

I believe that when Beth entered into the presence of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ on March 11, 2009, she did so ...boldly.

Thank you, Lord, for your gift of Beth Bohling.

A Devotional Study

By Becky Bahnfleth, Northeast Conference Board Representative



Then Jesus told them, "You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light."

John 12:35-36

I love what light can do. I have a prism hanging in my kitchen window that happens to be facing east. In the mornings, the sun light shines through this prism creating hundreds of rainbows. You should see what happens if we spin the prism, the light dances everywhere.

Patsy Clairmont gave me the inspiration for this reflection/devotion. I have been reading *Catching Fireflies*, a book written to help us see the lights that God sends into our darkened lives. Some of us might equate this to realizing our blessings, no matter how small. I like the idea of fireflies, small brilliant lights floating through the air, but blinking. If we lose sight of one, we could lose it forever unless we keep our eyes on the light. We live our lives being blessed abundantly, but I think maybe we miss some of what God does for us because we take our eyes off the light of Christ. How much God loves us is so very clear because He keeps sending the lights until we finally walk in His light.

The people we surround ourselves with can be our lights to help us walk. Like the prism in my kitchen, the lights can seem to be as crazy as the spinning prism. Sometimes crazy is alright; those that know me kind of know that. Are you someone that gives light to others?

I know we all have our dark days when we need others to light the way. I have found that if

I walk with the light of Christ inside me, I can't help but let it shine from all the cracks and crevices that make me who I am. Try this experiment: light a taper candle and let the flame get bright and beautiful. Shine a flash light at the candle and notice the shadow. The flame has no shadow. Some may see heat waves depending on how bright their flashlight is, mine was very weak, but I found it interesting. When we are shining, the darkness cannot overcome us! The secret is to let others shine with us and sometimes for us. Our church communities and Christian friends help us shine and we all become like pieces of a prism reflecting each others lights.

As I close, I want to remember another light that has shone brightly. Beth Bohling let her light shine without hesitation. Her strength of character and unfailing faith in her Savior gave us all strength to do what must be done. We will miss her wit and humor at our meetings. Beth, we will miss you.

"May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

2 Corinthians 13:14

Expressions is a publication of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization, Women of the ELCA.

Expressions provides information concerning programs and projects of the Churchwide and Nebraska Synodical Women Organizations, Women of the ELCA; and helpful information for congregational units. It is distributed free to Nebraska congregational unit presidents/coordinators and pastors of Nebraska congregations.

The newsletter is published four times a year, in February, May, August, and November. Deadline is the first of the month preceding the issue date.

It is currently team designed, edited, and proofread. Contact the team at expressions@nebraskaelcawomen.org, or by phone, 402-721-3053. Content information can be sent via e-mail.

May *Expressions* team members were Gwen Edwards, Arlene Johnson, and Beth Meyer. A special thank to Bill Blauvelt of *The Superior Express* for his assistance and answering our numerous questions.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The next two issues of *Expressions* will be a team effort.

We are saddened by the loss of our editor, Beth Bohling, who went home to be with Jesus on March 11, 2009. Beth was taken from us suddenly and with no pain, having died of a heart attack as she returned home from Lenten services.

Beth was a faithful member of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization's board of directors as the newsletter editor appointee. Beth was the editor of *Expressions* for seventeen years and all of us that worked with her knew that the *Expressions* was her 'baby.' Beth dedicated her self to the work of her Lord and Savior through her talent as a journalist, as well as in all the other service projects in which she participated. She had stated to her sister Mickey that when she died she hoped to be sitting at her computer working on *Expressions*. Her daughters, Sharon Bohling and Martha Bohling; grandsons, R.J. Bohling and Jason Wessel and their wives; her sister, Mildred (Mickey) Knapp and husband, Jake; her brother, Dave Snyder and wife, Glenna; her 11 great-grandchildren; and all the rest of her family and friends are in our thoughts and prayers.

These words were written in Beth's funeral service bulletin: "At a person's death, the church shares the grief of those who mourn and remembers the brevity of life on earth." At the funeral, we give voice to sorrow, thank God for our loved one, and entrust this companion of ours into the hands of God. Trusting in God's promise in baptism that we are claimed by Christ forever, we rest in the sure hope of the resurrection. When the church gathers to mark the end of life, Christ crucified and risen is the witness of worship, the strength of mutual consolation, and the hope of healing.

Beth would say to us, "Continue the work that is at hand and don't dwell on what could or should have been." We will miss her and we hope to continue to publish the newsletter as a team until the new NSWOW President appoints a new editor after our convention in September. Any communication can be sent to expressions@nebraskaelcawomen.org.

Attending Spring Gatherings has been a blessing again this year. It amazes me that all the programs with the same theme are so varied in content. Watch the next issue for the totals of the offering and attendance.

Saved to Serve opportunities are coming up this summer and I encourage you to register with Nancy Johnson so you don't miss out on one of these excellent events of fellowship and service. Brochures/registrations have been mailed to your unit president.

There is a NSWOW Convention pull-out containing the convention brochure, and registration, delegate, and scholarship forms in the center of this *Expressions*. Please use this form to register. Make copies and share with the women in your unit. Sending a delegate from your unit is very important because she will help in the decisions made at this convention. Don't just send a delegate, be a friend and come with her. We will be voting on officers, conference board representatives, and delegates to the 2011 Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention in Spokane, WA. I want you to be at the convention so you can meet the newly elected president of Women of the ELCA, Beth Wrenn. She has heard great things about you through my visits with her and through the NSWOW newsletters that she reads. Come and be a part of the fun and fellowship. Your being there gives me a chance to thank each one of you in person for the support that you have given me these past 4 years.

Called and Saying Yes!

Beth



Tributes to Beth Bohling



Beth was a wonderful, hardworking lady. I spent time with her traveling and learned that she was using her God given gifts and doing them well. She loved people of all kinds. She will be missed.

Julia Bryant, NSWO Historian

When I first met Beth it was like we had always been friends. She was an extraordinary lady always doing anything she could for others. I enjoyed our trips together to NSWO Board meetings. Heaven is now a better place; she will be greatly missed here on earth.

Lynn Echternkamp, 2003-2007 Southern Prairie Conference Board Rep.

Beth was a gentle, loving person. She always greeted me with a hug, a grandmotherly hug. She encouraged me and coached me when needed. When there was a NSWO event, Beth was there. It has been a pleasure serving on the board with her these past 3½ years. I am thankful for all she has done for us, the Women of the ELCA. She will be dearly missed!

Gwendolynn Edwards, NSWO Vice President

To be your self without envy, conceit, or false pride — this describes the heart of Beth Bohling. She loved her Lord and did her best. Beth enjoyed being a part of several “Saved to Serve” projects. She loved her Lord, her family, the Women of the ELCA, and *Expressions*! Thanks God, for sharing Beth with us.

Jane Flores, Midlands Conference Board Rep.

Beth Bohling was an amazing woman that I am so grateful I got to meet and know personally with our many travels and meetings through NSWO. Now she's organizing St. Peter (or whoever's in charge) and submitting feature articles for the "Heavenly Herald Expressions Newspaper"!

Arlene Johnson, 2002-2005 Vice-President,
2009 Convention Team Member

My greatest memories of Beth involved her dedication to our Lord and her perseverance! She was the strongest woman I have ever known and one of the most faithful. She loved her "Bible in the computer" and was tremendously helpful when we would be searching for verses, themes, and such for events. She was a great influence in my faith journey.

Louise Wheeler, 1997-99 NSWO President



2009 Saved To Serve Events Approaching



As spring time arrives and summer schedules are being planned, it is time to mark your calendars for our 'Saved To Serve' Opportunities available this year. Two wonderful 'Saved To Serve' Opportunities are to be held this year. The cost is still \$39.00 which includes housing, most food, and a 'Saved To Serve' T-shirt. A letter with specific information will be sent to those who register. Registrations should be sent to NSW, Nancy Johnson, 12777 A Street, Omaha NE 68141-4060.

Serve at the Lakota Lutheran Center and Chapel in Scottsbluff, June 12-14. Landscaping and painting a huge cross will be the focus of the serving projects. The group will learn about and experience Indian culture through Bible study, devotions, interacting with people at the Center and attending a POW WOW. If enough interest is expressed, a bus or van for transportation from Kearney to Scottsbluff will be arranged. **May 15 is the registration deadline** to allow for transportation considerations, Kandy Pflaster is coordinating this event. For more information contact her at tkpflast@charter.net or 308-784-2193. The tangible offering for this event is hospitality goods—coffee, paper coffee cups (not styrofoam), sugar, sugar substitute, creamer, and plastic knives, forks, and spoons for the Center.

The second 2009 opportunity is to **Minister to Prisoners in Lincoln, July 10-12.** This Saved to Serve Opportunity includes an overview of the Nebraska Synod ELCA Prison Ministry Program and attending worship at Followers of Christ Church at the Nebraska Penitentiary as a choir. Additionally, the group will prepare a meal for about 100 work release prisoners and their families at Our Saviors Lutheran Church as a part of the FEAST program. **The Registration deadline is June 10,** to allow time for background checks for the prison visit. For more information on this event, contact Jane Flores at 402-654-2246. Items needed for the prison ministry are personal items such as shampoo, toilet paper, razors, hand soap, toothpaste, cleaning products, laundry soap in small containers only, new or used men's clothing (jeans, t-shirts, boxer shorts) especially in X-large, XX, or XXX. Also needed are monetary contributions to assist with the weekly FEAST meals which cost an average of \$300.00 each Sunday.

If you have questions, contact Mary Mayfield, Saved to Serve Coordinator Appointee, mayfieldim@cox.net or 402-778-0291; or Susan Watson at mvwcpa@alltel.net or 402-879-1354. The flyer is available on our website, www.nebraskaelcawomen.org.

Wanted...

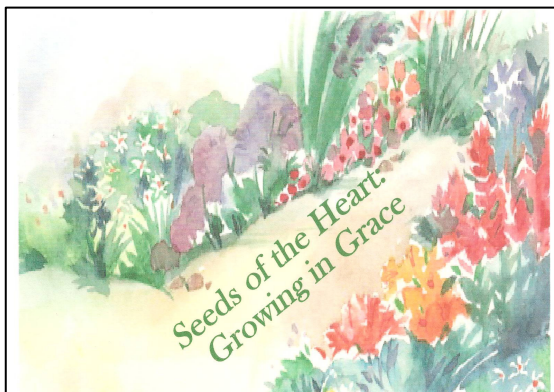


book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Persons in congregations who would be willing to participate in Teacher Enrichment Workshop(s) in 2009, either as learners or leaders of workshops on different aspects of educating. The *Book of Faith* Initiative Synod Advocate, Sue Stover, will be arranging these workshops to occur at various locations in Nebraska, dates as yet to be announced.

Please send names and contact information to Sue via e-mail at sslover@oslcwayne.org or to Our Savior Lutheran, 421 Pearl Street, Wayne, NE 68787; or call Sue at 402-375-2899.

Four Spring Gatherings held in February/March



Things were in bloom as “**Seeds of the Heart: Growing in Grace**” (the theme) was interpreted in various ways throughout the Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization’s (NSWO) Spring Gatherings. Matthew 13: 4-8 NRSV was the scripture verses chosen for these events. *A sower went out to sow and as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on the rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil, but when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered*

away. Other seeds fell among thorns grew and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundred fold, some sixty, some thirty. The theme song, “You Are the Seed” was sung at all the events.

Some of the material and resources for this theme were used with permission from Pr. Barbara Lemke and the Women of Bethel Lutheran Church, Aurora, CO. Included in the events were keynote speakers; workshops; business meetings with election of Conference Coordinators, planning teams, and nominating teams; reports from the NSWO President and Treasurer; singing; Bible study; and worship services. The Spring Gatherings are always filled with fellowship of women gathered together for continued opportunities beyond the congregational unit. How blessed it is to come together in Christian community! The offering recipients were ½ CWO, ¼ NSWO, and ¼ Lutheran Disaster Response.

February 28, 2009, brought the women of **Metro East** together at Luther Memorial in Omaha. Conference Coordinator, Karen Anderson from St. John’s/Bennington, was the presiding officer for the day. Jane Olafson was elected Conference Coordinator. The following were elected to the Planning Team : Phyllis Carlson, Christ the King/Bellevue; Mary Nielsen, Holy Cross/Omaha; Jody Ptacnik, First/Blair; Eva Swanson, Augustana/Omaha; Linda Diane Olson, Immanuel/Omaha; and Terri Durham, St. Luke’s/Omaha. Elected to the Nominating Team were: Jeanne Dunn, Immanuel/Omaha; Trudy Hutton, First/Blair; Marty Welch, Rejoice/Omaha. These ladies were installed by NSWO Vice President, Gwendolynn Edwards. Bible study leader was Bishop deFreese, Pr. Pam Ciulla was the keynote speaker; and Pr. Carm Aderman was the presiding minister. Workshop leaders were: Pr. Pam Ciulla/Prayer, Debra Hayes/Immanuel Senior Living, and David Schachle/Oaks Indian Mission.



Metro East 2010 Team: Jane Olafson, Jody Ptacnik, Eva Swanson, Phyllis Carlson, Mary Nielsen, and Linda Diane Olson



Northeast 2010 Team: (back) Marge Stottler, Phyllis Birkley, and Mary Burns; (front) Judy Stahlecker and Betty Bothwell

On **March 7, 2009**, we gathered at St. Marks in Bloomfield. Janice Roeber from St. Luke/Emerson, serving the **Northeast Conference** as the Conference Coordinator was the presiding officer. Music leaders were Sheri Lundahl and Marian Schroeder of St. Marks. A humorous skit and a spiritual dance were additions to this event. Workshop leaders were: Pr. Larry Sydow, Zion/Albion; Pr. Roger Sasse, NE Synod; Mae Greve, Salem/Wakefield; and PMA Susan Urbanic, St. Mark's/Bloomfield. Pr. Sydow entertained us with PowerPoint pictures of herbs and songs that he had

written about those herbs. Pr. Martin Russell was the Bible study leader for this event. The newly elected Conference Coordinator is Judy Stahlecker from Our Savior/Spencer. The new Planning Team members are:

Marge Stottler, St. Mark/Bloomfield; Betty Bothwell, Concordia/Concord; Mary Burns, St. Peter's/Pender; and Phyllis Birkley, Salem/Dakota City. Nominating Team members that were elected are: Marlo Johnson, Trinity/Bristow; Vicky Hingst, First/Allen; Mary Hansen, Christ/Wisner; and Joan Spencer, Trinity/Hubbard.

The third Spring Gathering, **High Plains Conference, March 14**, was held at Holy Trinity/Sidney with Conference Coordinator Leslie Marchando-Cook as the presiding officer. Leslie is the unit president for Holy Trinity and she was the caterer for the lunch which was superb. The business meeting followed the gathering music and devotions by NSWOW Vice-President, Gwendolynn Edwards. Pr. Eric Meissner offered a special prayer for the family of Beth Bohling after it was announced that she had passed away just three days earlier. The results of the election are as follows: Conference Coordinator – Terri Johnson, Maria/Hershey; Planning Team: Bette Frels, Maria/Hershey; Loretta Ellett, First Evangelical Lutheran/North Platte. Because of the lack of names on the ballot for the Nominating Team, it will be the responsibility of the Conference Coordinator to appoint some women to be on this team. The day continued with David Mackie's presentation of "Faces of Hope." David traveled to Tanzania in February and had also traveled there in the summer of 2008. He showed pictures and told about his trip. Special music was sung by Jennifer Mead and Tim Williams. Pr. Martin Russell was the Bible study leader. The day concluded with Pr. Eric Meissner as the presiding minister at the worship service that included Holy Communion.

March 28, 2009, we woke up to snow in Auburn and traveled in snow to the **Southeast Conference** Spring Gathering in Nebraska City. Some of the women were not able to come due to the bad roads. The sun came out later in the day and it was a warm spring day. The day began with gathering music led by Marcia Friesen and accompanist Marion Hodde. Marcia and Tim Regler sang for the opening of the day. Linda Bell, First Evangelical Lutheran Church's local co-chair, welcomed all present and she introduced the Southeast Conference Coordinator, Glenda VanEperen. Glenda introduced the planning committee members, the NSWOW board members present, and introduced Southeast Conference Board Representative, Carolyn Schlake who brought greetings to the assembly. Pastor Marsha Anderson presided over the worship service. Each participant was given a stone and during the service the stones were laid at the base of the cross at the front of the church. The Bible readings were all about seeds, soil, or the bearing of fruit and songs were sung to go with the Biblical texts. After the service, we had an interesting and spirited exercise break, led by Richard Simmons (aka Joan Berggren). The keynote speaker was Sue Brown, an Extension Educator from Hastings, NE.

Her program was about “Hugs,” all kinds of hugs. Needless to say there were many hugs throughout the day. Glenda called the business meeting to order. Rose Miller called the roll of attendees from the various congregational units. NSWO President, Beth Meyer gave her report and NSWO Vice-President, Gwendolyn Edwards gave the treasurer’s report. The election was held and the following women were elected: Conference Coordinator – Connie Wallman, Christ/Pickerell; Planning Team – Sharon Ebke, American/Fairbury; Karen Page, American/Adams; Shirley Wolken, Holy Cross/Beatrice; Robin Martin, Beautiful Savior/Palmyra; Margaret Hoffmeyer, St. Paul/Auburn; Nominating Team – Jean Schleif, American/Fairbury; Brenda Hippen, American/Filley; Marilyn Higgins, St. John/Beatrice; Kathy Teten, Faith/Talmage; and Deanne Gerking, Hickory Grove/Auburn. These women were installed later in the day by President Beth Meyer. We were entertained after lunch with music by the Nebraska City ‘Belles – A – Peeling’. The day continued with the Bible study given by Bishop David deFreese and the Bishop presided at the communion service to close the day. The tangible offering was for the Nebraska City Project Response and the Nebraska City Food Pantry. The Spring Gathering in 2010 will be held at American/Adams.

Stay tuned to the August issue for High Plains and Southeast pictures.

Bible Studies at the Spring Gatherings

As of the deadline for this issue, four of the Spring Gatherings have been held with three remaining. Here is a synopsis of the Bible studies given by Bishop David deFreese and Pastor Martin Russell, Assistant to the Bishop. The three remaining Bible studies will be given by Lisa Kramme, Director of Faith Formation for the NE Synod; James (Jim) Peterson, Mission Directory for NE Synod; and Pastor Martin Russell.

Bishop David deFreese introduced his Bible studies with a ‘melodrama’ of the parable of the sower. He emphasized not only the seeds, but asked us to think of ourselves as the soil. He challenged us to determine what helps us to be receptive of God’s care and teaching. We are the good soil and we need to bear good fruit and be all that we can be. Bishop deFreese also included the story of Jonah because it is a story of our God – who grows us. God calls us and God wants our partnership. God persists and God uses others. God calls and wants our attention. God cares (relates) and God wants us to show love (grow). Bishop deFreese concluded his Bible study with a story of two men that he met on his recent visit to the Middle East. Rommi is an Israeli whose daughter was killed on a bus that had been blown up. Mazen

is a Palestinian who lives in a refugee camp outside of Bethlehem. He wanted to kill because they had killed his father for no reason. These two men, in all unlikelihood, have become good friends because they were brought together to talk to one another. This was not an option before the Bishops’ Conference Trip to the Middle East. Bishop deFreese found hope in these two men. God grows us when the soil is ready.

In **Pastor Martin Russell’s** Bible studies of the parable of the sower, he asked us to replace the word soil with heart. He compared the soil to things that are in our lives, such as: hard paths – hard heart, thin soil – superficiality, the thorns would be like the clutter in our lives; good soil – a tremendous harvest, growth that only God can cause to happen. He asked us to describe our ‘soil’ (heart) today. What is God calling you to do about your ‘soil’ (heart) condition? What barrier(s) do you need to remove in order to grow spiritually? Where are you being called to cast seeds? He reminded us that a seed has to die to grow. He compared this to Christ’s dying and being buried to a seed being planted. Christ’s resurrection was like the growth from a planted seed. We are now supposed to plant the seeds of Grace.

“Sing to the Lord, all the World”

Psalm 100:1 Good News Bible
Today's English Version

Mission Growth

By CAROLYN SCHLAKE,
NSWO Board Committee Chair



Several months ago, I attended the Baptism of a young lady. During the service the pastor presented her a hymnal and told her to place it next to her Bible, which she had received earlier, and use it every day. I thought to myself, “What a great idea!”

The hymnal tells us what God is like and contains songs for many different occasions. There are hymns for those times when we feel friendless and lonely, like the hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.”

We need to give thanks to God every day, so there are hymns such as “Now Thank We All Our God.”

During the Christmas season we have hymns that remind us of that special Christmas gift – the birth of Jesus Christ. “What Child is This” tells us that story.

Some hymns sung during Lent remind us of the great love God has for his people by sacrificing His Son. “Were You There” is the hymn that comes to mind.

What a wonderful feeling we get on Easter when we sing “Christ the Lord is Risen Today, Alleluia!” or “The Strife is O’er the Battle Done.” Can’t you almost hear it now?

Other songs tell us what a wonderful home is waiting for us after we die. One that I enjoy hearing is “How Beautiful Heaven Must Be.”

I often use one of my favorite hymns as a prayer to start my day. That hymn is “Lead Me, Guide Me.” I could mention many more, but I think you get the picture.

God does not care if we have a good singing voice or if we have a tendency to sing off-key. Even reading or humming a hymn can be uplifting.

Have you ever noticed that when we sing a hymn in church with which we are familiar, our

singing is much louder and stronger, especially when we have the song memorized?

I can still see the long list of hymns on the blackboard that we were supposed to memorize when I attended Bible school. At the time I wasn’t so excited about having to do that, but as I get older I appreciate the fact that I can think of a song that helps me through the day for whatever reason and no matter where I am.

So put your hymnal next to your Bible and use it to get that uplifting feeling to start your day!

It is good to sing praises to our God, it is pleasant and right to praise Him.

Psalm 147: 1 Good News Bible
Today's English Version

Silent Auction

By Pearl Anderson,
NSWO Companion Synod Coordinator

All of the units have now had an opportunity to see the painted linens given to the Nebraska Synodical Women’s Organization from the women of Dios es Amor congregation in Argentina. These linens were given as an expression of gratitude for the monetary gift the NSWO gave them to build a shelter for community gatherings in San Martin, Argentina. The NSWO board voted to give the proceeds from the sale of these linens to the ‘Building Families Boutiques’ operated by Lutheran Family Services. Everyone had the opportunity to bid for the items at the Spring Gatherings and the auction will continue until Saturday, September 26, at 5:00 p.m. Your last opportunity will be at the NSWO Convention in Kearney. Think of your bid for these items as a donation to Lutheran Family Services. Should you wish to contribute to the fund but do not wish to purchase an item, simply send or give a check to Nancy Johnson, NSWO Treasurer, and note on the check it is for the - **Silent Auction LFS**. We would like to raise a substantial sum to give to Lutheran Family Services. Thank you for your participation in this fund raising event.

Website Information

Our website, www.nebraskaelcawomen.org, has had 13,375 clicks (hits) on our site since the beginning of the year and the writing of this article, 4/15/09. Most visits were on Thursday. "Autumn Renewal" pages had the second most visits.

With this new site, we have the capability to have more information posted. Including but not limited to women's health information, women pastor information, and photo albums.

The next update will be working on the photo albums. So send your pictures from Winter Retreat, Spring Gathering, and other events to nsw@nebraskaelcawomen.org. Registration forms are also being posted as available. Is there something you would like to see posted? Then contact us and let us know. We are looking forward to hearing from you. Be sure to check us out as we build this ministry for our women.

2011 Triennial Delegates

The next Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention and Gathering will be held in Spokane, Washington. The Convention (business) will be held first, July 12 – 14, 2011, then the Gathering, July 14 – 17, 2011.

Each Synodical Organization sends delegates to the Convention to conduct the business of the Churchwide Women's Organization. The number of delegates allowed is based on the number of active units in the Synodical Women's Organization. Of those, as nearly as possible a minimum of ten percent must be persons of color and/or persons whose primary language is other than English; and one-fourth first time delegates. The NSWO is allowed to send nine delegates plus our president for a total of ten. Our delegates will be elected at the Ninth Biennial Convention in September.

Nomination deadline is July 1, 2009.

Prayers Needed

Are you attending the NSWO Convention, September 25-27? Is intercessory prayer one of your talents? We are seeking members to serve on the Prayer Team. They will pray in every room being used for the convention, pray with those involved with the convention, collect prayer requests and pray. If you are interested or need more information, contact Ruth Manning, Lord of Love/Omaha, Prayer Team Coordinator at 402-455-7221 or at cranecoffeekick@gmail.com.

Are You Being Called?

The nomination committee is beginning their work. They will be praying for you; asking God that his presence be felt by you, that you listen for Him, and then Act Boldly. Act Bold by sending in your nomination form for serving on the NSWO 2009-11 board or serving as a NSWO delegate for the 2011 CWO Triennial Convention.

The nomination committee consists of the seven conference coordinators, chaired by Gwendolynn Edwards, NSWO Vice President. Nomination forms are included in this issue; make copies as needed. Deadline is July 1.

Thank you for answering God's call and we will see you in Kearney.

Scholarships Available

At the October 2008 board meeting, the Board approved fourteen scholarships for the 2009 NSWO Convention. Seven first time attendees, one from each conference; and seven young women scholarships, <35 years and younger, one from each conference.

Scholarship forms are included in this issue. Deadline is July 1, 2009, recipients will be randomly selected and notified in writing.

Become an Individual Partner

Women of the ELCA means a lot to you. Here you find fellowship, friendship, and support. Are there important women in your life looking for these same things? They could be your daughters, granddaughters, sisters, nieces, or friends. Now you can offer them a new way to connect to Women of the ELCA! Individual partnerships are a new way to participate in the life and mission of Women of the ELCA.

For only \$20.00 a year, you can give someone the gift of an individual partnership. The recipient receives a one-year subscription to *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, a subscription to Café, and semi-annual newsletter, and access to Bible studies, global networks, advocacy efforts, and other resources.

The legacy of her gift can provide a way for her to deepen her faith and to continue the work of Women of the ELCA for generations to come.

Download our individual partnerships flyer today from www.womenoftheelca.org, fill out the form, and send it in. Feel free to make copies of this flyer for your next Women of the ELCA meeting, or contact us and we'll send you copies of our full-color brochure, which includes more information and a reply envelope. Call us at 800-638-3522, ext. 2737, or email Women.ELCA@elca.org.

Nebraska Synodical Women of the ELCA, 2007-2009 Elected Board

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Check List for Congregational Units

To Do Every Month

___ Send stories and pictures about unit to the *Expressions* Team

___ Remind women to use their Thankoffering boxes

___ Share information received from SWO and CWO

___ Send offerings to synodical treasurer

To Do on Specific Months

(S applies to units whose year starts in Sept.; J to those starting in Jan.)

May

1 - CWU Friendship Day

3 - Rachel's Day

___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions being held this month

20-21 - LWT Bible Study Introduction, Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa; call 563-589-0327

___ Send officer, conference representative, and Triennial delegate nomination forms to Gwendolynn Edwards, 3402 Castile Drive, Bellevue, NE 68123-1327

June

5-7 - Nebraska Synod Assembly, Midland Lutheran College Event Center, Fremont, NE

___ Send NSWO Convention scholarship applications to Gwendolynn Edwards (address above)

___ Register your delegate for the NSWO Convention

___ Register for the NSWO Convention, send registrations to Nancy Johnson at 12777 A Street, Omaha, NE, 68144

July

1 - *Expressions* deadline

22-26 - ELCA Youth Gathering, New Orleans,

Jesus * Justice * Jazz

26-29 - Triennial convention of the Lutheran Youth Organization, New Orleans

___ Have you sent your travel fund assessment to Nancy?

Each unit needs to pay \$16 per year for 2008 and 2009