

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another, to show love.

Hebrews 10:24 TEV

Are you ready to attend a Saved To Serve Opportunity?

Join other women from across Nebraska for a Saved To Serve Opportunity-a working retreat!

Groups will be going to Bethphage Mission, Axtell, from June 7 to 9 and to Lincoln August 9 to 11 where the emphasis will be on prison ministry.

Find satisfaction in serving!

Register now! The registration fee for these events is \$39.00 each. Lodging and most meals are provided. In addition to the service activities, each event will include a multi-part



Bible study, community building among participants, learning about the agency associated with the ELCA, interaction with the others, satisfaction, fun, and JOY in serving our Lord Jesus Christ!

If you have general questions about these events or Saved to Serve Opportunities, contact Mary Mayfield at mayfieldim@cox.net, or Susan Watson at swat55@windstream.net.

Look for Us at Synod Assembly

Be sure to stop by the Women of the ELCA table in the display area at the 2013 Nebraska Synod Assembly.

This year's assembly will be at the Younes Center in Kearney on May 31-June 2. "Mission Possible" is this year's theme. This year's assembly promises to be memorable and inspiring as speakers and preachers,

including Bishop Brian Maas lift up the many missions in which we as a synod are involved in. It will be a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the ELCA and also the 20th anniversary of our relationship with the Northern Diocese of Tanzania, our sister synod. Visitors from Tanzania will be present including several women and you will have opportunities to meet and greet our partners in ministry.

Our women's organization has had strong ties with the women of Tanzania throughout these 20 years as well. Our women have visited Tanzania and visitors from there have visited in Nebraska. We look forward to this reunion with our sisters.

Our display will have information about our upcoming events and our president Kandy Pflaster and others in our organization will be present to answer questions. We look forward to having a chance to chat with you, so don't forget to come by and visit.

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Remembering

By CAROL BOSSHARDT, Southern Prairie Board Representative



“And he took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, ‘This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. In the same way, after the supper he took the cup, saying, ‘This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you’”

Luke 22:19b-20

I felt so foolish!

After I finished playing the organ while my son-in-law went to communion with my daughter, I looked up to see only four people at the communion rail. Although we had four songs to sing, for some reason I thought everyone else had communed, and I was about to miss out on the Lord’s Supper. So I hurried up to the railing by myself. The elder serving the bread nodded graciously to me in spite of his surprise, and I knelt down feeling very much alone in the front of a full church. When the next group of people was ushered up to the railing, I felt even more foolish and embarrassed, not prepared to receive communion.

In spite of my embarrassment, I knelt with others at the altar railing. I remembered and thanked God that Christ died and rose for my silly mistakes. I gratefully accepted the body and blood of my Savior and returned to my seat.

As I sat, still feeling foolish, I remembered my mistake. I also remembered again why I

was so anxious to approach God’s altar. Christ’s body was broken. Christ’s blood was poured out—to cover my sins. My focus shifted, away from myself and my mistakes to my Savior. I had rushed to the Lord’s Supper, not because of my strength, but because of my weakness. I was there because Christ died for my sins, and Christ was glad to see me at His altar, regardless of whether I was there at the right time or not.

God reminds me often of a verse I learned many years ago when I battled a deep depression. Back then I often focused on my weaknesses and questioned my ability to trust in God’s Grace. Romans 8:26 reminds me each time I read it or think about it that *“the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.”* NIV

Christ died for me. The Spirit intercedes for me. God reminds me. My words, my actions, and my understanding are weak, but God remembered me before I ever existed.

Thank you, Jesus, for your broken body and spilled blood. Thank you, Holy Spirit, for your intercession when I don’t even know what to pray for. Thank you, Lord God, for remembering me, and help me to remember you.

Expressions is a quarterly 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; Nebraska pastors, AIMs, and PMAs; Nebraska female seminarian students; the other SWO Presidents; the CWO Officers and Executive Board Members; and past NSWO Presidents.

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May *Expressions* team members included Arlene Johnson, Beth Meyer plus layout editor. Additional contributors included Mary Mayfield, Carol Ortengren, Shirley Splittgerber, and Susan Watson .

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dearest Friends in Discipleship,



As I prepared for writing this article, I realized I am really, really ready for spring to be here. I am eager for all the sounds, scents, colors, and breezes of springtime in Nebraska. A lot of times in our excitement of the season we like to start “Spring Cleaning” in our houses and yards. Do we really invest the thought and energy into spring cleaning our Spirit?? So I ask how do you spring Clean Your Spirit. While you're cleaning out closets and sweeping under the furniture, think about this: Spring cleaning, while worth the effort, will only last for a season, but spiritual cleansing could have an eternal influence. So don't just dust behind those book shelves, dust off that favorite Bible and get ready for a spiritual spring cleaning.

- A. Take out the Garbage: This is one of the biggest areas of struggle for most of us—removing the garbage from our minds. We must feed our minds and spirits with the Word of God instead of the garbage of this world.
- B. Clean out your mouth: This housekeeping goes beyond what others see and hear. This is talking about bad language, negative talk, and pessimistic thoughts that contradict the Word of God and faith. This includes the challenge to stop complaining.

Philippians 2:14 *Do everything without complaining or arguing...* (NIV)

- C. Cleanse your Heart: The Bible encourages us to draw close to God and allow our hearts and bodies to be cleansed. This is an important step in our spring cleaning project. We can't clean ourselves. Instead we must draw near to God and ask Him to do the cleansing.

Psalms 51:10 *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.* KJV

- D. Rearrange the shelves: Involve Jesus in your daily life: What God wants most from you is relationship - friendship. He wants to be involved in the big and small moments of your life. Open your life, let the light of God's presence shine into every part, and you'll have no need for a yearly spiritual cleaning. Instead experience daily, moment to moment refreshing of your spirit.

1 Corinthians 1:9 *God ... is the one who invited you into this wonderful friendship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.* NLT

- E. Dust the décor that makes you laugh or smile: Learn to laugh at yourself and life. Some of us take life too seriously, or we take ourselves too seriously. Jesus wants you to enjoy yourself, and learn to have some fun. God made you for His pleasure!

Psalms 126:2 *Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."* NIV

These were a few chores that I felt were essential, I am sure there are more. But let the “Spring” begin. I will be ready, what about you??

God's Peace to you always.

Kandy K. Plaster



Continued on page 14

Spring Cleaning: For A Clean Heart

NSWO Convention: September 20-22, 2013
Holiday Inn Kearney NE
Registration \$90.00, no increase from 2011
Convention opens at 2:00pm on Friday for registration and afternoon workshops
We will close with worship on Sunday morning

Have you made your plans to attend our NSWO Convention? Registration forms were distributed at Spring Gatherings, so you just need to make some copies, share them with your group, fill them out, and send them in. There's a rumor going around that there is a prize for the first registration to be received, and it could be you.

The convention starts with Friday afternoon workshops and continues until Sunday noon. Anita Gutschick will be the keynote presenter. You can learn more about Anita by visiting her website womenofthebible.com. She will do three presentations during the convention. Bishop Maas will be our guest on Friday evening and Pastor Renae Johnson will serve as convention pastor. Simone Weber is the convention musician, and she and her group will offer a musical program for Saturday evening.

Bringing items to benefit Nebraska Synod Serving Arms is a traditional part of the NSWO convention. This year, churches are asked to donate items for our Silent Auction. Our goal is to raise \$1025.00 for Table Grace Café. If each unit donates one item we can easily reach that. You are encouraged to both donate an item and to come prepared to shop. The bids for each item will start at \$25.00. Just think you could be getting some early Christmas shopping done. Ideas for the auction might be themed baskets, tickets to sports events or performances, restored items, and handcrafted items. You're such a creative group that there will no doubt be some wonderful surprises.

Another shopping opportunity—Tanzanian Treasures will offer fabric, baskets, jewelry and carved animals. This is a ministry sponsored by the Women of the ELCA of St. Matthew's in Omaha. The proceeds from their sales will go to the NSWO Vision Fund.

The Servant Room has been a convention tradition for several years. It is an area set aside for a hands-on project that will be completed during Convention. This year we will be making tied fleece blankets to be shared all across Nebraska through Lutheran Family Services. Each unit is asked to donate the two coordinating pieces of fleece needed for one blanket. Each piece should be two yards long with gender-neutral prints—attractive and colorful. The blankets will be consecrated during the closing worship service on Sunday morning.

Watch for more information in the *Expressions*, on our website (nebraskasynod.com/welca), and on Facebook.

Lift Our Hands in Praise!

Central Conference Spring Gathering was held on March 2 at St. John's, Shell Creek, rural Columbus. We had a great day weather-wise and really nice attendance. The ladies at St. John's were wonderful hostesses. They were full of ideas and willingness to make our day fantastic. It was a great pleasure to work with them. All the speakers were enjoyed. Pastor Juliet Hampton, Assistant to Bishop Mass led our Bible Study and inspired us with her enthusiasm and growing love for our rural area. Regina Hanson author of *Soaring With Eagle Wings* shared her testimony of how God has blessed her even through adversity. The local Pastors led Worship and Devotions and the tangible offering went to Mosaic in

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Columbus. Jane Rehmer ended our day with a musical testimony. The elections were held with the following being elected: Conference Coordinator Carol Ortengen; Recorder Nancy Schuerman; and planning team members Beth Cumming, Janet Eisenmann, and Laura Hunt. Nominating Committee Betty Rother, Tracey Moore, and Rogene McMeekin. Elva Bartels extended an invitation to Central conference from Zion at Albion for the 2014 Spring Gathering.

Metro East Spring Gathering was March 9 at St. Paul Lutheran in Millard; the theme “Lift Up Our Hands in Praise and Prayer” was evident all day long. As our guests arrived, they were greeted with beautiful banners made with many hands and name tags with tiny hands. Manna Musical Group opened the day with harmony and we joined them in song. Our Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement was said as a group as we watched photos of “Hands Being Lifted Up” in all sorts of venues of Praise: worship, Bible study, action, support, global mission, etc. One of the highlights of the day was meeting and listening to the Bible Study lead by our new Bishop Brian Maas. The business of electing new planning committee and thanking those who served followed the President’s report by our NSWOL leader, Kandy Pflaster, and our Treasurer, JoAnn Rohrs. We celebrated the 25th Anniversary of Women of the ELCA with greetings from Marilyn Larkowski, the 1st NSWOL President, and with clowns and wonderfully decorated luncheon tables with the Metro East conference. Lunch was beautifully prepared by St Paul’s Women of the ELCA Unit. “Lift Up Our Hands” continued to be the theme as we gathered for seven different workshops from Lifting Our Hands in Prayer, Healing Hands-Massage, Stretching Hands-Tai Chi, Creating Hands-Quilts for LWR, to Hands CAN speak-sign language, Give Us a Hand-LFS, and Hand in Hand-Project Interfaith.

The day closed by Lifting Our Hands in Praise and Prayer and with thank yous, especially to our workshop presenters and to Thrivent Financial who underwrote our refreshments and our luncheon guests. A special treat was an overview of the day with a PowerPoint presentation of photos taken all through the day.

It was a delightful day and we thank our hard

working 2013 Planning Committee for their time, efforts, and organization.

High Plains Conference held their **Spring Gathering** on March 23 at American Lutheran in Gothenburg. We started with a rainy and snowy day but had a very warm and uplifting day inside. The day began with devotions and our Bible study presented by Bishop Brian Maas on the theme verse, “*I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer.*” Psalm 63:4 NLT

Heather Abbott of NLOM gave a presentation on the quilt summer camp project and the LWR quilt campaign and how the women can help with both of these projects.

The women of American Lutheran of Gothenburg served a wonderful lunch with time for fellowship to catch up with our sisters in Christ. The afternoon’s presentation was from Jill Vaughn of Deborah’s Legacy in North Platte. Deborah’s Legacy is a home for women who need help getting back on their feet and a second chance at life. Tangible offerings from the gathering went to Deborah’s Legacy. The day finished with worship and installation of the new Conference Planning Team and Nominating committee. What a great day to raise our hands in praise to God!

HIGH PLAINS PHOTOS



In Memory of Beth Bohling



For the past several 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.

Beth was bold to show up. She went to church, NSW board meetings, Bible studies, Spring Gatherings, Winter Retreats, and Conventions. [Above quoted from May 2009 *Expressions*]

In memory of Beth Bohling, a scholarship fund was established to provide registration fees to the Nebraska SWO Biennial Convention, beginning with the 2011 Convention. One scholarship per conference will be available; for a total of seven scholarships.

Applicants must meet these requirements to be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

- † Must be a member of the Women of the ELCA (Nebraska SWO) who is 36 years of age or older.
- † Applicant must be an ACTIVE member of their local Women of the ELCA unit.
- † Applicant must be able to show that the scholarship is necessary for attendance, based on financial need, to be determined by the recommendation of the unit President or the Pastor of their congregation.
- † Applicant must fill out the application form (see pages 11-12) and it must include a letter of recommendation written by their local unit President or Pastor of their church.

The value of each scholarship for 2013 will be \$90.00, the early registration fee.

Designated donations from units and individuals will help make this an ongoing scholarship fund. Please send your designated donations to the NSW Treasurer, JoAnn Rohrs.



Scholarships Available

At the January 2013 board meeting, the Board approved fourteen scholarships for the 2013 NSW Convention. Seven will be awarded to first time attendees, one from each NSW conference; and seven young women scholarships, <35 years and younger, one from each NSW conference.

If applying for more than one scholarship, separate forms must be submitted – they can be mailed in the same envelope.

Scholarship forms are included in this issue on page twelve. Deadline is July 1. Recipients will be randomly selected and notified in writing.

Spring Cleaning: For A Clean Heart:

Psalm 51:7-15 **Purge** me with hyssop, and I shall be **clean**: **wash** me, and I shall be **whiter** than **snow**. **Make** me to hear **joy** and **gladness**; that the **bones** which thou hast **broken** may **rejoice**. **Hide** thy **face** from my sins, and blot out all **mine iniquities**. **Create** in me a clean **heart**, O **God**; and **renew** a right **spirit** **within** me. **Cast** me not away from thy **presence**; and **take** not thy **holy** spirit from me. **Restore** unto me the joy of thy **salvation**; and **uphold** me with thy **free** spirit. Then will I **teach transgressors** thy ways; and **sinner**s shall be **converted** unto **thee**. **Deliver** me from blood guiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my **tongue** shall sing **aloud** of thy righteousness. O **Lord**, open thou my **lips**; and my **mouth** shall go forth thy **praise**. (KJV)

ETPPSIESNOITAVLASWUP
SPRMTEBUOBNYFHTIRIPS
ZGEALRJEEOIOJERVEVHF
NBSONEWSZQQJWZASNPOC
PVEGESPI TVUHWASHNJLT
YUNMUTGAHP I IQRATIODU
ZXCPGGOXRETTKMVHVSJWS
VOEHNRRJPEHIHNF EIMAKE
ZGFEOEVRI SEADARUEZCH
RMLCTXKNLCSBESENOBSB
PJKTNMGOETSOTTVLLAHS
LVIBUONARRRESRWIACWEU
PHAE LUHAZBFCESLIPSW E
XIETFTTEEITQNVNEEWGUB
AMTNKHECFREENIDTGGLV
FAAUIFFAURFVOPXAARXZ
GMKDPMQFCPI YCLEELGUE
SRECTPIFRHLAVTFROGRP
VJHICYXETOWBTVCCUVON
UXWSZGQCQHHMVG LOR D IGD

BETH BOHLING SCHOLARSHIP FORM

NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION ELEVENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION, SEPTEMBER 2013

Value of Scholarship is \$90.00, Early Registration Rate

Applicants must meet these requirements to be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

- ☐ Must be a member of the Women of the ELCA (NSWO) who is 36 years of age or older.
- ☐ Applicant must be an ACTIVE member of their local Women of the ELCA unit.
- ☐ Applicant must be able to show that the scholarship is necessary for attendance, based on financial need, to be determined by the recommendation of the unit President or the Pastor of their congregation.
- ☐ Applicant must fill out the application form and it must include a letter of recommendation written by their local unit President or Pastor of their church.

Please complete all requested information before returning this scholarship application.

<i>Please check your NSWO Conference</i>	_____ Midlands Conference
_____ Central Conference	_____ Northeast Conference
_____ High Plains Conference	_____ Southeast Conference
_____ Metro East Conference	_____ Southern Prairie Conference

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone: () _____

E-mail Address _____

Age Range ☐ 36 – 55 years ☐ 56+ years

Race & Ethnicity ☐ African American ☐ Arab, Middle Easterner ☐ Caucasian

☐ Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Hispanic

☐ American Indian ☐ Black ☐ Other: _____

Primary Language if other than English: _____

Name of Conference _____

Name of Congregation _____

Address & Town of Congregation _____

Please complete both sides and return by July 1, 2013 to:

Terri Johnson, Vice President
Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization
25725 West Suburban Rd
Hershey, NE 69143-5312

For more information, call Terri at 308.368.7522 or e-mail at cranefarm@yahoo.com

[over]

EXPERIENCE & CHURCH SERVICE: (Positions held in office and service work done.) Begin with the most recent and significant experience in each over the **LAST FIVE YEARS**.

Congregational Level: _____

Conference Level: _____

Synodical Level: _____

Regional or Churchwide Level: _____

Community Service: _____

Special Gifts or Talents: _____

The information below this line is to be completed by Unit President or Pastor of the Church.

Applicant must be able to show that the scholarship is necessary for attendance, based on financial need, to be determined by the recommendation of the unit President or the Pastor of their congregation. *Attach an additional sheet if more space is needed.*

Printed Name of President/Pastor _____

Signature of President/Pastor _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number () _____ E-mail _____

Name of Congregation _____

Town of Congregation _____

**NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS
2013-2015 TERM**

Congregational Units: Please complete the information requested before returning this nomination form.

Check below the position in which the nominee is willing to serve. The individual nominated must consent to serve if elected. All positions are for a **two-year** term.

_____ Vice President	_____ Metro East Conference Board Rep
_____ Secretary	_____ Midlands Conference Board Rep
_____ Treasurer	_____ Northeast Conference Board Rep
_____ Central Conference Board Rep	_____ Southeast Conference Board Rep
_____ High Plains Conference Board Rep	_____ Southern Prairie Conference Board Rep

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone: () _____

E-mail Address _____

Age Range ☐ 20 – 25 years ☐ 26 – 35 years ☐ 36 – 55 years ☐ 56+ years

Race & Ethnicity ☐ African American ☐ Arab, Middle Easterner ☐ Caucasian

☐ Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Hispanic

☐ American Indian ☐ Black ☐ Other: _____

Primary Language if other than English: _____

Name of Conference _____

Name of Congregation _____

Address & Town of Congregation _____

Please complete Pages 1 and 3 and return by July 1, 2013 to:

Terri Johnson, Vice President
Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization
25725 West Suburban Rd
Hershey, NE 69143-5312

For more information, call Terri at 308.368.7522 or e-mail at cranefarm@yahoo.com



**NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
NOMINATION FORM FOR TRIENNIAL DELEGATE
2014 CONVENTION, CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA**

Congregational Units: Please complete the information requested before returning this nomination form.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____
Mailing Address _____

Home Phone () _____ **Work Phone:** () _____
E-mail Address _____

Age Range ☐ 20 – 25 years ☐ 26 – 35 years ☐ 36 – 55 years ☐ 56+ years

Race & Ethnicity ☐ African American ☐ Arab, Middle Easterner ☐ Caucasian
 ☐ Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Hispanic
 ☐ American Indian ☐ Black ☐ Other: _____

Primary Language if other than English: _____

Name of Conference _____
Name of Congregation _____
Address & Town of Congregation _____

Has this nominee attended a Triennial Convention before? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, what year(s)? _____

Has this nominee served as a Triennial Delegate before? ☐ Yes ☐ No
If yes, what year(s)? _____

Please complete Pages 2 and 3 and return by July 1, 2013 to:

Terri Johnson, Vice President
Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization
25725 West Suburban Rd
Hershey, NE 69143-5312

For more information, call Terri at 308.368.7522 or e-mail at cranefarm@yahoo.com

EXPERIENCE & CHURCH SERVICE: (Positions held in office and service work done.) Begin with the most recent and significant experience in each over the **LAST FIVE YEARS**.

Congregational Level: _____

Conference Level: _____

Synodical Level: _____

Regional or Churchwide Level: _____

Community Service: _____

Special Gifts or Talents: _____

The information below this line is to be completed by the person recommending this nominee.

RATIONALE for believing this nominee can serve effectively in the position for which she has been nominated.

Signature of Nominating Participant _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number () _____ E-mail _____

Name of Congregation _____

Town of Congregation _____

**NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
ELEVENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION, SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2013
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

FOURTEEN SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!

Each scholarship will be \$90.00; the cost of the early registration fee.

SEVEN scholarships will be awarded to women who are **FIRST-TIME** convention attendees; one from each of the NSWOW conferences. Recipients will be chosen randomly from those applying.

SEVEN scholarships will be awarded to a woman who is **35 YEARS OR YOUNGER**; one from each of the NSWOW conferences. Recipient will be chosen randomly from those applying.

Requirement Notice: Not the delegate from your congregational unit.

Please Print Clearly or Type:

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ E-mail _____
Congregation _____ City _____

NSWO Conference:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central | <input type="checkbox"/> High Plains | <input type="checkbox"/> Metro East | <input type="checkbox"/> Midlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast | <input type="checkbox"/> Southeast | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Prairie | |

Indicate below the scholarship you are applying for – if applying for more than one scholarship, separate forms must be submitted. Only one scholarship can be received.

- ☐ I would like to be considered for the First-Timer Scholarship.
- ☐ I would like to be considered for the Young Women Scholarship (35 and younger)

Send applications by July 1 to:

Terri Johnson
NSWO Vice President
25725 West Suburban Rd
Hershey, NE 69143-5312

Scholarship recipients will be notified in writing.



News from the NSWOTGP

We are looking for interested ladies to attend the Women of the ELCA 9th Triennial Gathering in the "Queen City" of Charlotte, North Carolina on July 24-27, 2014! The theme is "of many generations."

I have been collecting names, e-mail address, and phone numbers of ladies who want the latest available information. The tri-fold with "Save the Date" bookmarks, flyers, magnets, stickers, and business cards were at Winter Retreat and Spring Gatherings. Several ladies have already won a 'piggy bank' for their Triennial Gathering savings.

Just heard from Churchwide that the next registration should begin in September 2013. More details will be available middle of July or first of August, so let me know if you want this information!! Check the Women of the ELCA website for the latest information.

Nebraska already has fifteen ladies who have done early registration and are planning to be in the "Queen's City". I am sure our officers and Board Representatives will be attending. The TGPs have been challenged by Churchwide to have 100 from each Synodical Organization. That would be about one from each Congregational unit in Nebraska. How can we do this? Think of the girls who went to the last Youth Gathering. Could you or your congregation help sponsor someone? Could you bring your mother, daughter, sister, granddaughter, aunt, or best friend with you??

Nancy Johnson
NSWO TGP 2014
12777 A Street
Omaha, NE 68144
402-330-8649
402-871-7906 (cell)
nancy.johnson5@cox.net

Resources

By CAROL STARK,
Resources Appointee

There are some new resources available for use in your women's groups and events. These DVD's are available on loan from the resources of the NSWOTGP. If you would like to borrow these, please contact Carol Stark. The new DVD's that are available include Leymah Gbowee's speech from the Spokane Triennial. Leymah is a Nobel Peace Prize winner for her work in Liberia. Her movie which was shown at the Triennial of *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* is also available. It is a powerful and moving story about Leymah, the women, and her country and what they went through during the civil war in Liberia.

Also available is Pastor Megan Torgerson's sermon from the Eighth Triennial in Spokane. Pastor Megan reminded us to remember that what we do in our daily lives is enough and to remember we are enough. The little things that we do can mean a lot to someone that is in our lives. Pastor Megan compared Psalm 23 with Jesus feeding the 5,000. What a wonderful way to see this in a new comparison.

These three new DVD's are available for your group to borrow for an event your unit is holding.

Newly added to our skit collection is the skit that was performed at the last NSWOTGP Convention, *The Journey Home*. It is about a couple on their way home after a church service. It is funny and cute.

In September, at the NSWOTGP Convention, we will again give you a chance to pick up free resources for your unit.

Please contact me to borrow any resources, cbreeze1977@hotmail.com.

The NSWOTGP Board is here to serve and help where we can.



Global Missions

By SANDY OLSON,
Global Missions Coordinator Appointee

Tied in Faith -- Sent in Hope -- Wrapped in Love



The 2013 Summer Camp service project for Carol Joy Holling Camp, Ashland and Sullivan Hills Camp, Lodgepole, will

focus on the Joy of Quilting! Through an exciting partnership with the Nebraska Synod Women of the ELCA, hundreds of campers will learn how to make quilts which will be donated to Lutheran World Relief to help with their 500,000 Quilts Campaign in 2013.

Volunteers are needed to come and work with the campers...NO QUILTING EXPERIENCE NEEDED. We are looking for women and men that would like to come out for two or more days during the eight week summer camp to help campers tie quilts. You will spend your day teaching, assisting, and interacting with campers. It will be a wonderful opportunity for campers to have an intergenerational experience at camp that has never been offered before. In addition, a few good sewers are needed to finish the binding after the campers are done tying the quilts.

Nebraska Synod Women have been asked to donate Quilt Kits—a top, filler, and back. There has been a good response but we are just fifty kits short of the goal of 300 Quilt Kits. Women, your help is needed to supply the fifty needed Quilt Kits and consider volunteering to be on-site at camp to help campers make quilts!

For more information or to volunteer, please call Heather Abbott at 402-994-2544 or e-mail habbott@nlom.org.

14 – May 2013

2014 Triennial Delegates

The next Women of the ELCA Triennial Convention and Gathering will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina. The Convention (business) will be held first, July 22 – 24, 2014, then the Gathering, July 24 – 27, 2014.

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 ten delegates plus our president for a total of eleven. Our delegates will be elected at the Eleventh Biennial Convention in September.

The Nomination forms can be found on pages 10 and 11; the deadline is July 1, 2013.

METRO EAST SPRING GATHERING



Lift Our Hands in Service

By TERRI JOHNSON, NSWO VP

At the High Plains Spring Gathering, during the Bible study, Bishop Maas told us that Jesus is the model for us; Jesus took, blessed, broke, and gave. He encouraged us to ask the question, "How can God use me?" We are to lift our hands in service. We are so grateful for the women that lifted their hands to be the planning and nominating committees for spring gatherings. And now, as chair of the nominating committee for our NSWO convention, I am asking women to lift their hands and serve on our NSWO board. This year, we have several conference board representatives that have served their maximum terms on the board so we need new people to volunteer. We also need other nominees for officer positions. All positions are elected every two years and a woman can be re-elected one time for the same position. You can serve another two years in a different position on the board.

We do not gather nominees for president. The president is nominated by a nominating ballot at convention.

This year we will also elect delegates for the 2014 Triennial Convention. The Women of the ELCA pays delegates expenses for the convention including transportation. Delegates do need to pay their own expenses for the Triennial Gathering following convention.

Nomination forms are in this newsletter (pg 9 and 11). Feel free to call any of the NSWO officers and board reps to talk about the duties of their positions. Pray about whom in your unit, including yourself would be good nominees. Personally, I can tell you it is a blessing and faith-growing experience to serve on this Board.

Nebraska Synodical Women of the ELCA, 2011-2013 Elected Board

Officers

President

Kandy Pflaster
1009 Meridian Avenue
Cozad, NE 69130-1758
308-784-2193
tkpflaster@gmail.com

Vice President

Terri Johnson
25725 W Suburban Road
Hershey, NE 69143
308-368-7522
cranefarm@yahoo.com

Secretary

Randi VenHuizen
17205 Seward Street
Omaha, NE 68118
402-932-3435
randiv@cox.net

Treasurer

JoAnn Rohrs
1409 10th Street
Auburn, NE 68305
402-274-3058
joannrohrs1409@yahoo.com

Board Representatives

Central

Carol Ann Ortegren
PO Box 602
Stromsburg, NE 68666
402-765-5052
cortegren@windstream.net

High Plains

Nancy Steele
617 W. 31st Street
Scottbluffs, NE 69361-4428
308-632-7558
nancylsteele@embargmail.com

Metro East

Emily Laaker
PO Box 107
Bennington, NE 68007
402-238-2583
elaaker@cox.net

Midlands

Joyce Olson
4 Ginger Cove Road
Valley, NE 68064
402-359-4131
idano@cox.net

Northeast

Mae Greve
1515 Vintage Hill Drive
Wayne, NE 68787
402-375-1589
agreve@huntel.net

Southeast

Michelle Steadman
72823 634 Avenue
Auburn, NE 68305
402-274-5051
mldsteadman@gmail.com

Southern Prairie

Carol Bosshardt
2008 West 42nd Street
Kearney, NE 68845-1260
308-440-8422
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Send address changes to Valerie Killinger, NSWO Database Coordinator.

Check List for Congregational Units

To Do Every Month

- ___ Send stories and pictures about your 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

- ___ Share *Expressions* with members
- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- ___ Publicize/Promote Saved to

Serve Opportunities

- 3-4 – NSWO Board Meeting, Axtell, NE
- 11 – LMM Board Meeting
- 21-22 – NE Synod First Call Retreat
- 22-23 – Bible Study Intro, Wartburg Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa
- 31 – NE Synod Council Mtg. in Grand Island, NE
- 31-June 2 Nebraska Synod Assembly, Grand Island, NE

June

- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- May 31-June 2 – NE Synod Assembly, Grand Island, NE
- 7-9 – Saved to Serve Opportunity at Bethphage,

Axtell, NE

- 21-23 – Bible Study Intro, The Healthman Lodge, Vancouver, WA
- 22 – NE Synod Building Men for Christ Workshop
- 22-28 – NE Synod Youth Mission Trip

July

- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- ___ Publicize/Promote Saved to Serve Opportunities
- 1 – *Expressions* deadline
- 13 – Bible Study Intro, Reformation Lutheran Church, Reading, PA
- 25-26 – Bible Study Intro, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, MN