



# Expressions

VOL. 27, NO. 3, AUGUST 2013

Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization

## Sing a New Song

The Convention Team is looking forward to taking time with you to *Sing a New Song* next month at the Fifteenth (Eleventh Biennial) Convention in Kearney, September 20-22.

Where we will be reminded to "Shout to the Lord—Sing him a new song of praise" Psalm 149:1 CEV

The team is excited about the featured speaker Anita Gutschick—interesting name, interesting lady. She is an actress, retreat leader, and speaker at Christian gatherings. Anita lives in Maryland and first came to Nebraska to perform at the penitentiaries, at the invitation of Pr. William Barth, former director of Nebraska Synod Prison Ministries.

Other highlights of this convention, which they have been planning for the past year, include



Anita Gutschick

reports from Jenny Michael of Iowa, Women of the ELCA Executive President; Bishop Brian Maas will be joining us; Pastor Renae Johnson, Chaplain at Tabitha/Lincoln, will serve as Convention Pastor; and Simone Weber, Director of Music Ministry at First Lutheran Church/Omaha will be the Convention Music Director and presenting Saturday night's program.



Jennifer Michael

Convention team members are Jeannette Allen, Lincoln; Christi Heitshusen, Oakland; Joyce Roesener, Cook; Shirley Splittgerber, chair, Omaha; and Board Liaison Terri Johnson, Hershey.

### Convention Extras

Our Servant Room activity will be tying fleece blankets. The blankets will be donated to Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska to be distributed throughout the Synod as needed in their various programs. Each unit attending is asked to bring fleece for one blanket (Two 2-yard pieces) – in gender neutral colors and designs, no crosses, no flags – just attractive, warm, and cozy. The blankets will be consecrated during the closing worship service on Sunday morning.

A Silent Auction will be held on

Saturday afternoon. Items will be received Friday 2:00-6:30pm and until 10:00am on Saturday. Bidding will go from 12:00noon-6:00pm on Saturday. Our goal is to raise \$1,025.00 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 items might be themed baskets, tickets to sports events or performances, restored items, and handcrafted items.

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

Run, Walk, and Roll with us in 2013: Be sure to see the article on page 9.

The Labyrinth at Yanney Park: another option for getting some exercise and fresh air on Saturday would be to go to Yanney Park and walk the Labyrinth that is built into an area of the park. Directions to the park and the Labyrinth will be provided when you arrive.

Saved to Serve Reunion will be held at noon on Saturday.

Devotions.....	2
Still Seeking Nominations .....	3
Women of ELCA 2013 Grants.....	3
NSWO Convention Scholarships.....	3
Lift Our Hands in Praise!.....	4-5
Convention Featured Speakers.....	5
Saved to Serve .....	6-7
Convention Workshop Descriptions .....	8
News from the NSWOW TGP.....	9
Run, Walk, or Roll.....	9
Strong Partnership = God's Work! .....	10
Convention Workshop Schedule.....	10
NSWO Vision Trip 2014 .....	11
Subscription Blank.....	11

# Devotions

By MAE GREVE, Northeast Board Representative



*You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand. Psalm 16:11*

As I was thinking about what to write for my devotion, an email arrived from a distant cousin who had a stroke twenty-eight years ago. Her comments made me realize that each day is a gift from God and nothing on this earth is to be taken for granted. Our lives can be changed in a split second with sickness, injuries, or loss. Even though we know our eternal home is a glorious place, we have so much to be thankful for here on earth.

Here is what she said she has learned the past twenty-eight years since surviving her stroke. These are some valuable pieces of advice for all of us, even if we've never had a life-changing experience like her.

1. Once you have faced death, nothing else scares you.
2. Now, if you have to strip for a doctor, it's no big deal.
3. Have that bowl of ice cream or popcorn instead of supper every once in awhile.
4. Always find some good in everything.
5. If you are sick or feeling down, REALLY be sick of feeling down! Relish it! But the next day should find you back on the positive side

of the tracks.

6. Don't complain about what you DON'T have. Focus on what you DO have.
7. Be attentive to every soul. There are those who are worse off than you.
8. Tell your dear ones that you love them - often and loudly! Make sure they hear you, every time.
9. Do as much as you can to fill each and every day with several positive events. Even getting out of bed can be a positive event!
10. Love, Love, LOVE!!!! People, Places, and Things. If you choose to love, everything else falls into place.

Prior to the stroke she was a beautiful pianist. However the stroke left her paralyzed on her right side. Now she has found music for one hand and plays with her left hand. She wakes up every morning saying "I'm awake for another day. Thank you God." She is an inspiration to everyone who knows her and she thanks her family for all the care and support they have given her.

Her favorite verse is Philippians 4:4, "*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again, Rejoice!*"

*Thank you Lord for your healing hand. We celebrate life each day and thank you for your kindness shown along the way. You are our rock and salvation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

*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 NSWOW Presidents.

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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 [nswow.expressions@gmail.com](mailto:nswow.expressions@gmail.com), or by phone, 402-719-1732. Content information can be sent via e-mail.

August *Expressions* team members included Arlene Johnson, Beth Meyer plus layout editor. Additional contributors included Heather Abbott, Carol Bosshardt, Kandy Pflaster, Shirley Splittgerber, Michelle Steadman, and Sandy Terry.

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# Still Seeking Nominations for Convention Elections for NSWO Board and Triennial Delegates

By TERRI JOHNSON, Vice President

July 1<sup>st</sup> passed and we did not have enough nominees to fill our ballot. Please prayerfully consider if you know someone who could faithfully serve in our organization. Ask a friend to nominate you if you feel called to join us as we plan events and work to keep the women in our synod informed. Feel free to call any of the NSWO officers and board reps to talk about the duties of their positions.

Nomination forms can be printed from our website or I would be happy to mail you a form.

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. It is an amazing opportunity to participate in the decisions of our organization and to attend the Gathering. Step up to the challenge and opportunity!

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## Women of the ELCA awards a 2013 Grant to an organization in Nebraska Synod

Lakota Lutheran Center, Inc., Cultivating Lakota Women's Leadership for Persons with Disabilities, receives a \$1,950.00 grant.

This project establishes workshops and training to strengthen advocacy by women for persons who are disabled and definitely-abled in their daily lives.

The granting funds to organizations and programs that support the needs and the development of women is one way we fulfill the purposes of Women of the ELCA. Since 1990 our grants in support of women and children have totaled over three and a half million dollars.

As part of the application review process our synodical women's organizations were asked to comment on the applications received from their synod, thus helping the churchwide organization make informed choices from among the many worthy applications submitted. It is our prayer that through projects we support this year, Women of the ELCA will continue to make a strong and positive difference in the lives of women and their families throughout this country and abroad.

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## NSWO Convention Scholarships Available

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

If applying for more than one scholarship, separate forms must be submitted – they can be mailed in the same envelope. Scholarship forms can be obtained from Terri Johnson or the website. Recipients will be randomly selected and notified in writing.

Beth Bohling Scholarship forms can also be obtained from Terri Johnson or the website. See the May 2013 issue page six for more information.

# *Lift Our Hands in Praise!*

The weather on April 6 was so gorgeous that the windows of Syracuse's Luther Memorial church were opened to let in a breeze. 141 people (the count included eight clergy) from thirty-one churches in the **Southeast Conference** gathered to praise God and celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> year as an organization. The themes of the day were emphasized throughout the morning in Pastor Hennigs communion homily on praise, Bishop Maas' Bible study on lifting hands, and the table centerpieces at lunch which listed all the spring gathering themes and locations (SE conference) of the past 25 years. In addition, the table grace for lunch was the same grace used at the very first Spring Gathering.

Lunch was served in two shifts and while one group ate the other group was entertained by special music from Allen and Connie Parker from Fairbury. Our main speaker in the afternoon was Lori Broady, who talked about DREAM (*Definitely Reaching Everyone Abled for Ministry*) which encourages churches to work to include people with all sorts of physical, mental, and emotional handicaps. She told us about her struggle to work through her emotions when her youngest child was born with Downs Syndrome, and how she has come to appreciate and enjoy those very qualities that were originally a source of grief.

Other presentations during the day included information and a short video about the Malaria Campaign; thanks from the local food pantry for which tangible offerings were collected; and an update from Stephanie Lusinski and Heather Abbott (of the Synod office and Camp Carol Joy Holling) about the Lutheran World Relief 2013 quilt campaign and the partnership with camp including the new process to track quilts and kits so that we will know where they are sent which will be very interesting.

Of course, we also had a business meeting, an election, officers' reports, a Saved to Serve skit, and information about the upcoming convention and Triennial, but despite this jam-packed day, we concluded on time, or even a little early. The offerings collected were \$2,376.00 and tangible gifts for the food pantry of 929 items and \$90.00.

It was great to see almost ninety ladies at the **Southern Prairie Conference Spring Gathering**. The ladies from First St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hastings and the Planning Committee hosted a JOY-filled day on April 13 from our opening devotions to closing communion worship. In between we enjoyed Idano's Clown Ministry exercises, information, and entertainment; Bishop Maas' Bible Study; and Rev. Chuck Johnson's Laughter Yoga exercises. Our offering was \$972 plus \$125 for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Malaria Appeal and tangible offerings included many nice things for the Unity Houses in Hastings.

The **Northeast Conference Spring Gathering** was held April 20 at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Wayne, Nebraska. The host church prepared a special cupcake display celebrating 25 Years of Women of the ELCA in the fellowship hall. The delicious cupcakes were enjoyed at the end of the day. Attendance was 148 from twenty-two different churches. The tangible offering went to Haven House.

Highlights of the day included: Our Savior members, Sharon Garvin & Dave Anderson, presenting a dialogue, "*If God Should Speak*;" keynote speaker, Mary Hamer of Loess Hill Lavender Farm sharing how she was called to return to her home area to grow lavender and its healing amenities; Bishop Maas's Bible study; and two sessions of seven different workshop topics.

Following the second workshop, attendees were welcomed back to the sanctuary with the day's theme song and a humorous skit by Valerie Koeber. Little did we know that Julia Child was alive and well in Wayne, Nebraska.

(Continued from page 4)

The newly elected committees are as follows:

Conference Coordinator—Becky Graham, Immanuel, Coleridge

Planning Committee:

Cluster 1—Janet Kliment, St. John, Atkinson

Cluster 2—Lynette Krie, Concordia, Concord

Cluster 3—Kathy Jensen, Trinity, Winside

Cluster 4—Dorothy Wert, Our Savior, Wayne

Nominating Committee:

Cluster 1—Marge Stottler, St. Mark's, Bloomfield

Cluster 2—Peg Lutt, Concordia, Concord

Cluster 3—Sandy Boots, Grace, West Point

Cluster 4—Phyllis Rahn, Our Savior, Wayne

The 2014 Gathering will be hosted by Zion Lutheran Church in Creighton

**Midlands Conference Spring Gathering** was held April 27 at American Lutheran Church in Ashland. Conference Coordinator Beth Meyer welcomed seventy-three women to a day of faith, fellowship, and fun. Attendees were led in Bible Study based on Psalm 63:4, "*I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer*" by Pastor Juliet Hampton, Assistant to the Bishop. They also were entertained by the St. Marketeers Puppet Ministry from St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Valley and enlightened with Salem Lutheran Church of Fremont's Costa Rica Mission Team presentation. An offering of \$978 was collected with an additional \$305 given to the Malaria Campaign. The women in attendance were generous with their tangible gifts for Ashland's Food Pantry. The day ended as everyone raised their hands in inspirational praise with a worship service and communion led by Pastor Lori Morton of American Lutheran Church.

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## NSWO Convention Featured Speakers



The Rev. Brian Maas serves as Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, ELCA. He is a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University and Yale Divinity School with a certificate of studies from Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Bishop Maas was ordained in 1992. He served three congregations: Emmanuel Lutheran, Tekamah, Nebraska; Immanuel Lutheran, Kansas City, Missouri; and First Lutheran Church, Lincoln, Nebraska. He was elected Bishop of the Nebraska Synod in June 2012. Bishop Maas and his family lives in Lincoln, Nebraska.



Jenny Michael, President, Churchwide Executive Board 2011-2014, Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Jenny Michael was elected president of the churchwide executive board of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at the 8<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention in July 2011. Previously, Jenny served as a churchwide executive board member during the last triennium. She has also served as president of the Florida-Bahamas Synodical Women's Organization, president of the Tampa Conference, and leader of her own congregational unit.



Anita Gutschick is an experienced stage actress who through God's calling has devoted her time and talents to the one-woman program *Women of the Bible*. Anita is active in her church; she has served as a deacon; is trained as a Stephen Minister; and has participated in Bible Study Fellowship. In 2004 she took a Walk to Emmaus – *De Colores!* Anita developed *Women of the Bible* in 1995 and it has become her most passionate vocation. God's grace has allowed her to share the messages of these biblical women with tens of thousands of men, women and children across the United States.



# Saved To Serve Opportunity Participants Serve and Praise God at MOSAIC at Bethphage Village

By SUSAN WATSON

Hold up three fingers on each hand on each side of your mouth. Shout WOW! ALLELUIA! Follow that by three claps. That was the expression of praise to God fifteen women from across Nebraska and a number of MOSAIC at Bethphage Village residents and staff used during the Saved To Serve Opportunity June 8, 9 and 10.

The praise was taught to the group by Judy Gosswein, a participant from Kearney, as she led a dedication service for six new banners for Zion Chapel at the Village near Axtell. The colorful, felt banners were created by the Saved To Serve Opportunity participants during the weekend.

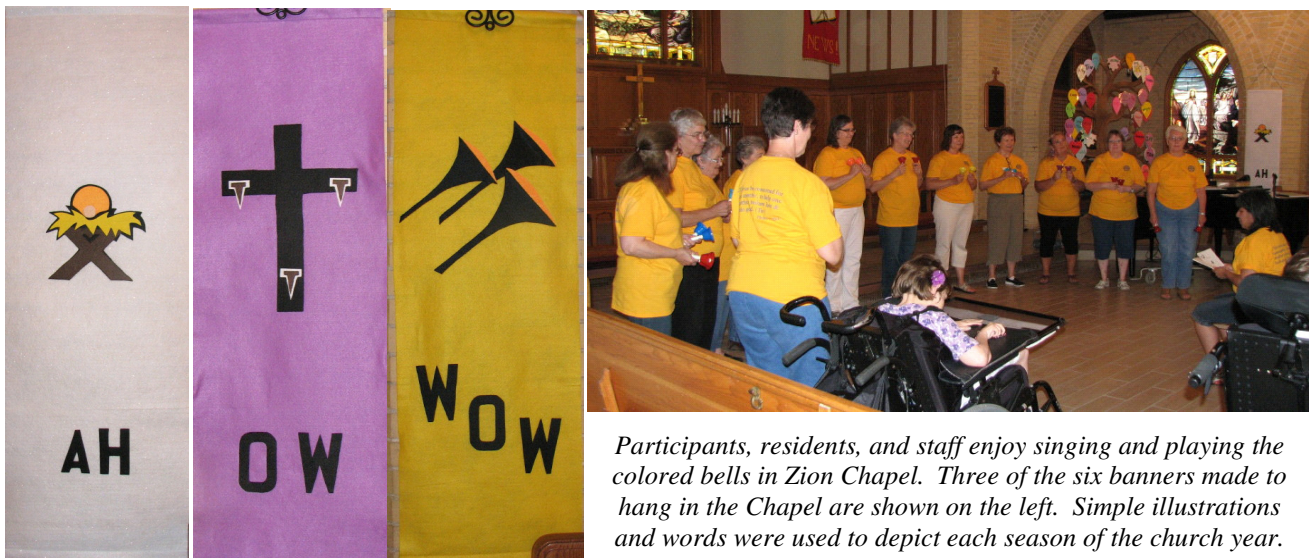
Gosswein's husband, Rev. John Gosswein, is the pastor of Zion. He worked with STSO Coordinator Marion Kotas to design the banners so each has only one or two words which give emotion to the seasons of the church year in expressions easily understood by all people including those with intellectual disabilities

like those at the Village. Pastor Gosswein said he is really enjoying the banners that were made and dedicated in time to beautify the sanctuary for the centennial celebration service planned to be held at the historic Zion Chapel later in June.

In 1913, Rev. K. G. William Dahl, a Lutheran pastor, founded Bethphage Village to help people with disabilities grow toward independence. Now, as it celebrates its one hundredth year, it is home to 107 individuals with developmental disabilities. The residents range in age from seven to seventy-seven and live in six cottages. They all take a role in keeping the community functioning much like a small town. Some go to school, others work in the laundry or go to the work shop where gifts are made for sale, or have other responsibilities just like in any community.

The banner dedication was part of a program held in the Chapel Saturday afternoon. STSO participants treated the residents and staff to a clown skit version of the parable of the Good Samaritan, complete with costumes and props arranged for by Participant and trained Clown "Idano" Joyce Olson.

The group also found a way to grant the wish of one of the young residents and sing "If I Were A Butterfly." Not having the words proved to be no problem when Michelle Steadman thought to use her smart phone and the Internet to obtain them. Smiles of delight were evident everywhere as the song was sung



*Participants, residents, and staff enjoy singing and playing the colored bells in Zion Chapel. Three of the six banners made to hang in the Chapel are shown on the left. Simple illustrations and words were used to depict each season of the church year.*

and when the residents rang colored bells to the song “Do Lord,,” one of their favorite songs.

The women also thoroughly cleaned the Chapel and the Pavilion at the Village. They planted fifteen large flower pots for positioning about the campus, prepared and added annual flowers to four areas, weeded several flower beds, hemmed and hung curtains, and sorted a large box of greeting cards for use.

On Friday evening, the group heard the story of Bethphage from Public Relations Director Teresa Evers. She led the group on a tour of the Village including Tabor Museum which was one of the original buildings and displays artifacts depicting the history of the mission.

Saturday evening, the group traveled to the Spirit of Grace store front church in downtown Holdrege where Pastor Ted Carnahan showed them their facility including the furniture pantry they operate to assist local families in need.

After a wonderful salad supper served by the women of Spirit Of Grace, the group took a tour of local bronze sculptures and learned how bronze sculptures are created. Following that, they headed for the Nebraska Prairie Museum to learn about the Holdrege POW camp, the Pawnee Indians, and the pioneers in the area.

Carol Bosshardt, served as the spiritual leader for the weekend. She lead the group in *Lessons for Today's Disciples* from the Women of the ELCA website. The studies highlighted faith practices including praying, worshiping, inviting, and encouraging.

Sunday found the group sharing the closing STSO ceremony and traveling to Hildreth for worship at Trinity Lutheran. The group learned how the congregation was formed by joining three nearby congregations. Following the service, a delicious a salad lunch was served by the women of Trinity, and there was time to get acquainted before everyone joined together in a final group hug to close a great weekend of serving, worshiping, learning, fellowshiping, and having a great deal of fun.

**WOW!  
ALLELUIA!  
CLAP CLAP CLAP.**



*Lisa Hendrickson and Judy Gosswein travel toward Mary Mayfield who is playing the victim in the clown skit version of the story of the Good Samaritan.*



*Eleta Eisenhower plays a nurse and Marian Kotas "Dude" plays the part of the Good Samaritan riding in on a bicycle carrying a sign that reads 'Hardly A Davidson.'"*



*Carol Bosshardt puts the finishing touches on some flower pots to be placed around the Village.*



*First time STSO participants practice praising God with WOW! Alleluia! Clap Clap Clap. They are (from left) Judy Gosswein, Eleta Eisenhower, Debra Gillespie, and Sue Davidson.*



# NSWO Convention — Workshop Descriptions

## Theatre Games – Anita Gutschick

Come play theatre games with Anita to learn some basic acting techniques. No experience required. Dress comfortably. Anita, our keynote and Bible study leader, has focused much of her acting experience of the Women of the Bible.

## Nebraska Synod Prison Ministry – Pastor Robert Bryan

Pr. Bryan will talk about Followers of Christ Church at the Nebraska State Penitentiary and how the prison ministry provides support both in and outside of the prison and how outside congregations can participate. He will discuss why prison ministry is important from both Biblical and economic perspectives. Pastor Bryan is pastor of Followers of Christ Church in the Nebraska State Penitentiary and Director of Prison Ministry for the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA.

## New Life - In Christ – Jan Riedman

What happens after release from a Correctional Facility in Nebraska? How does one transition from being an inmate to being a citizen? Reentry brings excitement, questions, fears, hopes, and sometimes an identity crisis. Jan is the Director of Outreach Ministries for Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Lincoln.

## "Sacrifice the Sacred Cow: Rejuvenating Our Organization" – Jenny Michael

If the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again but expecting different results, then ministry leaders can be downright nuts sometimes! Every organization has its "sacred cows"; they are usually processes, programs, or activities that worked one time really well and no one has dared to change it since. This workshop will help you identify your own "sacred cows" and uncover ways to put them out to pasture. Let's commit ourselves to try something new... take some risks... and find out how to do things differently! Jenny Michael is President of the Churchwide Executive Board 2011–2014 of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## Words Are Important – A Racial Justice Advocacy – Jenny Michael

At our 5<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention, bold women of the ELCA adopted a constitutional amendment that became the 13th principle of this organization. It reads as follows: (Article 3 Section 13) "This community of women shall claim and practice an anti-racist identity and actively seek full participation and shared power in determining its mission, structures, constituency, policy and practices." So, since we, as Women of the ELCA, consider racial justice advocacy a *sacred* work, we would like to invite you to participate in this Racial Justice Advocacy Workshop. Learn how we can be instruments to move the peace of God forward and live as better people of God. Jenny Michael is President of the Churchwide Executive Board 2011–2014 of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

## Table Grace Café: "Nourishing Hungry Bodies and Souls" – Matt and Simone Weber

As a church how do we build community one relationship at a time, show Christ's love in action, give a hand up instead of a hand out, serve each other through generosity and grace? Come join Simone and Matt Weber as they share how the Holy Spirit has led them to serve through Table Grace Cafe in downtown Omaha and beyond. Simone is the Director of Music Ministry at First Lutheran in Omaha. She and Matt will also be doing a musical program on Saturday.

## 2014 NSWO Vision Trip – Sandy Olson, Kandy Pflaster, Sandy Terry

A preview of the plans for the NSWO Vision Trip to Tanzania presented by women who have made this trip. They are anxious to share their experiences with you and to encourage you to join them in this upcoming trip.

## Do One Thing Differently – Thrivent Representative

The discussion is designed to help participants do one thing differently to improve their financial life. Whether they choose to start simple or take a big first step, they'll see how the benefits can really add up.

## Real Money Talk for Women – Thrivent Representative

This award-winning workshop delivers financial education for women of all ages, which is more important than ever considering that women have a 90% chance of being solely responsible for their finances at some point in their lives (National Center for Women and Retirement Research). The workshop helps participants: minimize their money worries by understanding facts.; overcome obstacles that prevent them from managing their finances; and use five keys that help them reach financial goals.





## News from the NSWO TGP

“Nothing would be finer than to be in North Carolina in 2014” for the Women of the ELCA 9th Triennial Gathering in the “Queen City” of Charlotte on July 24-27, 2014!!! The theme is “of many generations.” Hope many of you are planning and saving both the date and your money!!

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

We just heard from Churchwide that early registration should open September 1 and close December 31, 2013. More details should be available the 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 registered at the last triennial and are planning to be in the “Queen’s City”. Our NSWO officers and Board Representatives will be attending. We have been challenged by Churchwide to have 100 women 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??

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## Run, Walk, or Roll with us in 2013

Women of the ELCA in Nebraska will be collecting pledges and running, walking, and rolling on Saturday, September 21 during the Synodical Convention in Kearney. The goals of the Women’s Health Initiative are to share knowledge and advocate for more research. Grants and seed money have been given to organizations and individual congregational units to help fund programs for education on wellness topics.

This year, we will walk in the daytime, when we are all awake. It will be offered during the last workshop time slot on Saturday afternoon. We will be bussed to Yanney Park, where we have walked before. And this time, we can take in the beauty of the park. We will go once around the park, and then home either by bus or by Betty’s trail. It will again be one mile long—or a little more if you decide to take the trail back to the motel complex.

Contact Emily Laaker to get your pledge forms and instructions at 402-238-2583 or [elaaker@cox.net](mailto:elaaker@cox.net) or PO Box 107, Bennington, NE 68007. We intend to give out T-shirts again this year. The logo has changed, so it won’t be the same as the one you may have received earlier. So whichever way you get in touch, please indicate what size shirt to order for you.

Do it right away, so you will have a chance to ask for pledges from your friends, family, and congregation. This is a fun way to help raise money for research and treatment of women’s health issues. There will also be a chance for you to sign up when you arrive at convention, but we can’t guarantee that there will be a T-shirt for you.



## ***Strong Partnership = God's Work!***

Quilts? Really? You want to have the kids use needles and pins? What was once an idea that got some chuckles and a few raised eyebrows has turned into a meaningful and exciting service project and partnership. With God's hands at work, Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Women of the ELCA Nebraska Synod and Lutheran World Relief have come together to donate material resources; to tie quilts; to create intergenerational relationships; to pass on a skill and to pray. All of this work helps people all around the world who are less fortunate. With an ambitious goal of 300 quilts, more than 1700 campers and 50 volunteers set out to get the work done by the end of the summer.

Each camper spends one hour on this project during his or her time at Carol Joy Holling Camp, Ashland and Sullivan Hills Camp, Lodgepole. First, they learn about how the quilts are used throughout the world— as walls, covers, baby blankets and more. Next, they learn how to tie a quilt. As each of the



three knots is made, campers vocalize "one for the Father, one for the Son and one for the Holy Spirit." At the end of their time, each group gathers around the quilt and places

their hands on it. Campers, staff and volunteers pray, heartily, for the people that will receive these quilts – asking for their love and God's love to be felt in them.

The volunteers that have come to help with this project are from all over Nebraska. "They have given of their time and talents so generously," said Heather Abbott, Project Coordinator. From sewing to threading needle after needle, each volunteer has left a mark with the campers. Abbott says, "Each conversation, song, prayer and laugh that happens between these volunteers, staff and campers has such a presence of Christ. It is really something special to experience."

For more information on this project, visit [www.nlom.org](http://www.nlom.org) or call Heather Abbott at 402-944-2544.

**10 – August 2013**

## **NSWO Convention Workshop Schedule**

### Friday, September 20, 2:45-4:00pm

Prison Ministry	Pr. Bob Bryan
Theatre Games	Anita Gutschick
Table Grace	Simone Weber
Sacred Cow	Jenny Michael
Money Talk	Thrivent Representative

### Friday, September 20, 4:15-5:30pm

Prison Ministry	Pr. Bob Bryan
Theatre Games	Anita Gutschick
Table Grace	Simone Weber
Racial Justice	Jenny Michael
One Thing Differently	Thrivent Representative

### Saturday, September 21, 4:00-5:15pm

Prison ministry	Jan Riedman
Table Grace	Simone Weber
Sacred Cow	Jenny Michael
Money Talk	Thrivent Representative
2014 Vision Trip	Sandy Olson, Kandy Pflaster, Sandy Terry

### Saturday, September 21, 5:30-6:45

Prison ministry	Jan Riedman
Table Grace	Simone Weber
Racial Justice	Jenny Michael
One Thing Differently	Thrivent Representative
2014 Vision Trip	Sandy Olson, Kandy Pflaster, Sandy Terry

### Saturday September 2, 5:30-6:45

(your choice to either attend a workshop or  
do Run Walk and Roll)

Run Walk and Roll      Emily Laaker



# NSWO Vision Trip 2014

The NSWO board is so excited to announce that we are planning a Vision Trip to our Companion Synod, Tanzania. The dates have been set for June 9 to June 24, 2014.

The coordinators for this event are our Board Appointees: Sandy Olson (Global Missions) and Sandy Terry (Companion Synod Coordinator). The board appointees will be working closely with Bill Davis, the Nebraska Synod Companion Synod contact for all the planning.

The trip planning is in the beginning phases but will be developing quickly; we have a preliminary list of interested persons. The NSWO board made a decision to promote this trip to Men, Women, and Youth, with a trip itinerary that will interest everyone traveling. The NSWO does have some plans to determine yet on what stipends or scholarships will be available to those needing financial assistance. We want to help anyone that might need assistance for this life changing travel. The Nebraska Synod website has a link on Tanzania travel for more general details of Tanzania.

More information can be obtained by going to the NSWO website, Nebraska Synod website, or contacting: Sandy Olson at sandyoly@neb.rr.com; Sandy Terry at sterry9415@yahoo.com; or Kandy Pflaster at tkpflaster@gmail.com.

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

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## 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.)

### August

- \_\_\_ Share *Expressions* with members
- \_\_\_ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- \_\_\_ Publicize/Promote NSWO Biennial Convention
- 9-11 – Saved to Serve Opportunity at Prison Ministries, Lincoln, NE
- 10 – Postmark date for early Convention registration

- 12-17 – ELCA Churchwide Assembly, Pittsburgh, PA
- 16-17 – NSWO Board Meeting, Axtell, NE
- 17 – Bible Study Intro, Grand View University, Des Moines, Iowa

### September

- \_\_\_ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- \_\_\_ Publicize/Promote NSWO Biennial Convention
- \_\_\_ Have you sent your travel fund assessment to JoAnn? Each unit needs to pay \$16 per year for 2012 and 2013. *Must be received before Convention.*
- 8 – ELCA Day of Service
- 13-14 – NE Synod Council
- 14 – Bible Study Intro, Grace Lutheran Church, sponsored by Grand Canyon SWO
- 20-21 – NSWO Convention,

Kearney, NE

- 21 – Bible Study Intro, Our Savior's Lutheran, San Clemente, CA
- 24-24 – NE Synod First Call Retreat
- 27-29 – NE Synod Field Trip 2013
- 28 – Bible Study Intro, St. Mark's Lutheran Church, N. St. Paul, MN

### October

- \_\_\_ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 1 – *Expressions* deadline
- 20 – NE Synod Interim Ministry & Spiritual Retreat
- 21-23 – NE Synod TheoCon 2013
- 27-29 – NE Synod Fall Mission Event
- \_\_\_ (S) Send list of new officers after unit elections to Valerie Killinger and to Conference Board Representative