

Lift Our Hands in Praise!

"I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer."

Psalm 63:4 NLT



The holidays are over, the Christmas decorations are down, and it's time to get back into our routines. It's still winter according to the calendar even though our weather has been mild thus far.

"Lift Our Hands in Praise!," the theme of our 2013 Spring Gatherings start next month. So pull out your calendar and mark 'NSWO Spring Gathering' on it. The Spring Gatherings give you the opportunity to refuel, refresh, and relax yourself.

There will be a Spring Gathering in each of the NSWO seven conferences. So attend your conference, attend another, or do both.

March 2, Central Conference is the first one to be held this year. The Conference will offer much to everyone. We will be praying a lot(!) and study

with the Assistant to the Bishop Pastor Juliet Hampton. The author Regina Hanson of "Soaring on Eagle's Wings" will be sharing her life's journey with us. We will be stretching some, eating Chocolate and Cupcakes as well as being inspired with prayer and music by Jane Rehmer. The tangible offering needs will be listed on the registration form as well we'll learn about Mosaic's mission in the Columbus area. We will have

(Continued on page 5)

Called to Serve

Greetings from JoAnn Rohrs, your new NSWO Treasurer, appointed by the NSWO Board in October.

You may remember me as I have served the NSWO in this position from 2004-2007. In September, I attended the Autumn Renewal in Omaha, and was very excited about the 25th Anniversary of the Women of the ELCA. What a great way to celebrate by giving a gift for the ministries for women around the world. I was also excited to be with my Christian sisters in the celebration. In October, I received a call from our President Kandy asking if I would consider filling the unexpired term of treasurer Janet Schmidt. I could

not resist the call to serve.

I am a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Auburn, currently serving as their treasurer and a member of the Dorothea Wood Circle. In our community I serve as Coordinator for the American Red Cross, we host six drives a year. I enjoy being with my family, I now have eleven great grandchildren to love.

In December I joined twelve other ladies on a treasurers conference call with Emma Crossen, CWO Director for Stewardship and Development. She extended an invitation to share updates with her throughout the year on promoting the 25th Anniversary. I would appreciate hearing from Units in what you have planned for this celebration.

Treasurers if you have questions in regard to Forms A, used for Regular Offerings and Convention Offerings or Form B used for Thankofferings and Designated Gifts please contact me. These forms are no longer sent with the Stewardship materials, they are available on the Internet and only one copy is necessary for my records. I will have copies available at our gatherings.

Devotions.....	2
From the President.....	3
NSWO Convention.....	4
Spring Gathering continued.....	5, 9
25th Anniversary Appeal	5
Global Missions.....	6
Saved to Serve	6
Ninth Triennial Gathering.....	7
NSWO Board Update	7, 10
Region 4 challenged.....	8, 11
LWR Quilt Challenge	9
Save These Dates	10
Shine Your Light	10
Subscription Blank.....	11

Devotions

By TERRI JOHNSON, Vice President



February is traditionally considered the month of love. What greater love is there than the love of a parent for a child? I'm writing this two days before Christmas during my granddaughter's nap. We are babysitting while my son and his wife are at the hospital with their newborn son. Joy filled my heart when I glimpsed this new child of God for the first time and saw the love in his father's eyes as he held his son. And I know that the love in his heart for his first child has expanded with the birth of his second child, just like God's expansive love includes all of us.

God's love for us is like that of a perfect parent. 2 Corinthians 6:18 (NIV), *"And I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."*

It is comforting to think of God as my Heavenly Father, the parent who loves me in all circumstances, no matter my imperfections and mistakes. The Bible offers us so many verses to remind us of this incredible love.

Ephesians 2:4-5 (NIV) says, *"But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you*

have been saved."

Romans 8:37-39 (NIV) says, *"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

As beloved children of God, we are called to show God's love to all we meet, not just our families and friends. Paraphrasing Colossians 3:12-14, let us pray:

God, as your chosen ones, holy and dearly loved, guide us to clothe ourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Teach us to bear with each other and forgive one another if we have a grievance against someone and forgive as you forgave us. And over all these virtues let us put on love, which binds us all together in perfect unity. Amen.



*We are more than conquerors through him who loved us.
Romans 8:37*

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 NSWO Presidents; the CWO Officers and Executive Board Members; and past NSWO Presidents.

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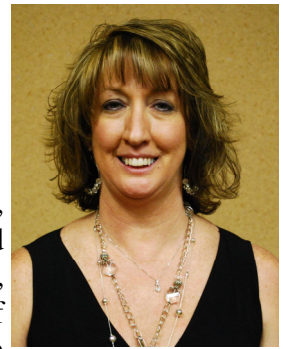
February *Expressions* team members included Arlene Johnson, Beth Meyer plus layout editor. Additional contributors included Shirley Splittgerber, 2013 Spring Gathering Planning Teams, and CWO Executive Board Meeting Summary (provided by e-mail from Linda Post Bushkofsky, April 28, 2012).

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello to all of my friends of faith,

Just like most of you I have been soooo busy, with the holidays, my work, daughter's wedding/reception, and being your president. But my friend and Savior sustains me in the toughest, busiest of times, giving me strength, love, and hope. In the midst of our full and busy lives, we can often take the role of the disciples in the feeding of the five thousand, and focus on serving our own needs and wants. However, when we're focused on our own fullness, we don't identify the needs of others. Just as Jesus engaged the disciples in distributing bread and fish, we have been called by God to distribute assistance and fulfill the needs of our sisters and children (could be those living with Malaria or the threat of Malaria).



I have sooooo much to share with you for this publication and the year 2013. One topic that is so important to me is the 25th Anniversary of the Women of the ELCA, in which we as women of Nebraska have vowed to support the 25th Anniversary Appeal that supports the ELCA Malaria Campaign and Women of the ELCA.

For three days in June of 1987, Lutheran women gathered in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to form Women of the ELCA. As we celebrate 25 years of this organization, we're celebrating a tradition that extends back an additional 150 years. American Lutheran women have been coming together in community for service and study since 1837.


The women who founded Women of the ELCA had incredible vision. Our constitution of the Women of the ELCA calls us to commit ourselves to the full discipleship and oneness in Christ. It tells me as your President that leaders are to provide a form of leadership that supports and empowers others within the community. The NSWOW Board and I hope to empower the community of Nebraska to celebrate 25 years of being Women of the ELCA.

I was involved in a retreat of Presidents and Vice Presidents of the six synods of Region 4 this past July. In July we issued a challenge for each woman in Nebraska of the Lutheran faith to donate \$25.00 to the 25th Anniversary Appeal. To date we are over half way of raising \$5000.00 in the pledge that Nebraska partnered with other synods in Region 4 to raise \$25,000.00.

What does it mean for you to be full and fulfilled, to live in the spirit of Jesus, thinking not just about ourselves but the well being of others and to serve others? I challenge you (1) to pledge \$25.00 to celebrating the anniversary of 25 years for Women of the ELCA; (2) share the challenge with other woman of faith in your church and life; and (3) share your story of faith and action with the NSWOW. You may submit your \$25.00 pledge to our NSWOW treasurer, JoAnn Rohrs and your stories to nswo.expressions@gmail.com or tkpflaster@gmail.com.

Please continue to pray for those in need, those in pain, those in leadership roles, those who are lost, and those who you love.

God's Peace to You Always,
Kandy Pflaster

Women ^{of the} ELCA 
CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

NSWO Convention: September 20-22, 2013
Holiday Inn Kearney NE
Registration \$90.00, no increase from 2011
Registration forms will be available at Spring Gatherings

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.

★★★★★ Here are the reviews of several women who have seen her and used her DVDs and Bible study materials here in Nebraska:

★★★★★ "In regard to videos of Anita Gutschick, our group has all enjoyed watching her videos. She makes the stories all very real and you remember them. Her costumes and the characters she plays are great. Makes you eager to see the next one. I would recommend them to everyone."
Wilma Ward, Bible Study group, Rejoice, Omaha

★★★★★ "I love seeing Anita present her depictions of women in the Bible! Anita has a gift for taking a story that maybe you've heard and applying it in your own life in today's world. She doesn't just act out the story—she focuses on what her character may have thought or felt, what her motivations might have been, how she reacted to God's hand in her life. It makes it so much easier to relate to these women despite the 2000+ years between us."
Cheryl Eliason, Bible Study group, Rejoice, Omaha

★★★★★ "Our group has enjoyed watching Anita's performances-she portrays her characters and tells their stories in a way that everyone can relate to. You come away with a sense of who the person was and the times in which they lived. It is amazing how she can transform herself with very little in the way of costumes and props. Highly recommend this for any women's Bible study."
Joan Maack, Bible Study group, Rejoice, Omaha

★★★★★ "Here are the words my group came up with to describe Anita's portrayal of women of the Bible: inspirational, thought provoking, enlightening, entertaining, visionary, and relevant. She truly uses her talents to bring her characters to life."
Verna Peterson, Bible Study group, Rejoice, Omaha

And from one of her contemporaries:

"Anita Gutschick is a uniquely gifted communicator. She is a dramatist who skillfully weaves the true-life portrayals of Women of the Bible into her personal testimony in a way that will capture your heart, touch your emotions, engage your mind, and lead you to positive change. Her keynote presentations will have you riveted to your seat as she combines exquisite drama with a profound message of hope. She has my highest recommendation!"

Carol Kent of Speak Up Speaker Services, international public speaker,
frequent guest on Focus on the Family and featured speaker at
Women of Faith events.

Plan now to join us for a great Convention experience head-lined by Anita Gutschick, Bishop Brian Maas, Pr. Renae Johnson, Convention Pastor and Simone Weber, Convention Musician.

(Continued from page 1)

four clergy leading us in the Worship and Healing service in the afternoon. We will be welcomed at St. John's (Shell Creek) at Columbus, with their beautiful rural church setting, the gals there will be hosting us for the day of relaxation and spiritual growth. Join us for the beginning of spring!

March 9, Metro East Conference is being held from 8:30 a.m. to 3:10 p.m. at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Millard. A celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Women of the ELCA is our focus with Music, Praise, Prayer, Bible Study, Clowns, a tasty luncheon, "Hands-On" workshops, and more. A special highlight will be the introduction of our new Bishop Brian Maas who will lead our Bible study. Come join us.

March 23, High Plains Conference will be held at American Lutheran in Gothenburg. Our day will be filled with Bible study from our new Bishop Brian Maas and we will also have a

presentation from Deborah's Legacy co-founders from Hershey, NE. There will be other presentations from the Quilt Campaign and other updates from the NSWO on upcoming events and opportunities to gather as Women of the ELCA.

April 6, Southeast Conference will be held at Luther Memorial Church in Syracuse. The theme for this year's gathering is "Lift our Hands in Praise" using Bible verse Psalm 63:4. This year we will be celebrating the 25th Anniversary of Women of the ELCA. Highlights for this event include Bible study given by Bishop Brian Maas, worship service, guest speaker from Definitely Able, LWR Quilt Campaign, Malaria Campaign, Tangible offering to the Syracuse Food Pantry, and special music. Offering will be distributed as 50% CWO, 25% SWO, and 25% ELCA Malaria Campaign. Plan on attending this uplifting event. Program begins at 9:00 a.m. and

(Continued on page 9)



25th Anniversary Appeal

Celebrating 25 years of mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ

- Creating a just world
- Supporting global sisters
- Bringing about health and wholeness

Continue our mission today by making a gift to the **25TH ANNIVERSARY APPEAL**. Every dollar goes to support **Women of the ELCA** (50%) and the **ELCA Malaria Campaign** (50%).



DONATE TODAY! Visit womenoftheelca.org to make an online gift. Or, send your check to Women of the ELCA, PO Box 71256, Chicago, IL 60694-1256 and write "25th Anniversary Appeal" on the memo line.

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If you or your unit sends a check directly to the Churchwide Women's Organization for the 25th Anniversary Appeal, please let NSWO Treasurer JoAnn Rohrs know the amount sent so she can keep a total of monies sent from Nebraska for the Region 4, \$25,000 Challenge. Units can send a copy of Form B to JoAnn. Individuals can call or e-mail JoAnn with their amounts.

Global Missions

By SANDY OLSON,
Global Missions Coordinator Appointee

Thanks be to God for the gift of His son Jesus, the Christ! Grace and Peace in the New Year! I'm reminded of the hymn: "Jesu, Jesu fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you"

My encouragement to all of you in 2013 is to continue to think of what you can do to promote and support the work of Global Missions in your units and congregations. Especially promote the work of LWR projects, with special emphasis on the 1 Year – 500,000 LWR Quilt Campaign for 2013 and hunger issues.

Fighting hunger is more than food. The poorest of the poor need Food Security. So what is Food Security? It is the human right to sufficient, safe, nutritious food for all people at all times to help them live free from hunger and lead healthy and productive lives. It may be the ability to grow crops even in the face of challenging weather conditions like drought. Or it might be having the knowledge and skill to grow crops that will feed families healthier or sell for a good price. LWR works in many ways with small-scale farmers, refugees, women by providing education, aid, quality seeds, irrigation systems, and a host of programs to overcome hunger and poverty all over the world.

To raise awareness about global hunger, host a LWR Sunday in your congregation. A free LWR Sunday Kit can be downloaded at: lwr.org/sunday. The Kit includes all the tools you need to celebrate your congregation's call to end global hunger for all God's children.

Another good program resource that can be used in your congregation is "Navigating the Globe". It is available on the Women of the ELCA website under resources. Acts 1:8 reads: *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."* We have received the same command the apostles received. Today we have an easier access to the ends of the earth but what are we to do once we get there? This resource shows us there is a "P.L.A.N for Global Mission". A PURPOSE, LANGUAGE, APPROACH, and a way to

NAVIGATE the mission.

Don't forget to check out and subscribe to ELCA Global Links at www.ELCA.org/global-links, the monthly ELCA Global Mission e-newsletter. It is a way to stay INFORMED about what's happening around the globe, be INSPIRED by the first-hand stories of missionaries on site and GET INVOLVED by supporting a missionary or ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission.

The next Global Mission Gathering will be in Bismark, ND, February 22-23, 2013. For more information and to register, go to

www.elca.org/gme.

I'm interested to hear from you, how do you emphasize Global Missions in your congregation or how can I help you with further information? Remember, "God's Work, Our Hands" Blessings in 2013.

Saved to Serve

By MARY MAYFIELD,
Saved to Serve Coordinator Appointee

JUNE 7, 8, 9 and AUGUST 3, 4, 5 are the dates for 2013 Saved to Serve Opportunity Retreats.

June 7, 8, and 9th will find us at Bethphage Mission in Axtell helping them spruce things up for their 100th Birthday. Wow Mosaic! We may also be doing some work at the HUD homes in Holdrege or Minden just a few miles down the road.

August 2, 3, and 4th will find us in Lincoln, Nebraska learning more about the Prison Ministry Program sponsored by the Nebraska Synod ELCA. We will again work at the Bridges of Hope Warehouse, tour the Penal Facility, and plan to be the choir at the Prison at their Saturday evening Worship Service.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS GALS....and plan to join us for a fun and fulfilling experience. The cost for the Saved To Serve Opportunity Retreat weekend is still just \$39.00 and can be sent to JoAnn Rohrs, our NSWO Treasurer at 1409 10th St., Auburn, Nebraska 68305.

For more information: watch your *Expressions*, attend Spring Gatherings, talk to your Board Representative, or contact Mary Mayfield at mayfieldim@cox.net or 402-778-0291. Also contact Susan Watson at 402-879-1354 or swat555@windstream.net.

**Ninth Triennial Gathering
of the Women of the ELCA
Convention Center
Charlotte, North Carolina
July 24-27, 2014
with the theme
“of many generations”**

Nebraska already has fifteen ladies who have done early registration and are planning to be in the “Queen’s City”. I am sure our NSWO officers and Board Representatives will be attending. We 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??

Right now we just need to keep ladies informed of the upcoming dates and have them save money for the registration fee and hotel expense. I will have a tri-fold with information at each NSWO event during 2013.

I will also have “Save the Date” bookmarks, flyers, stickers, magnets and business cards available. At each event I will collect names of ladies interested in learning more about this Triennial event. One lucky lady at each event will win a special Piggy Bank for her savings.

Check the Women of the ELCA website for the latest information.

“Nothing could be finer than to go to North Carolina in July 20 fourteen,

Charlotte is the host for the Triennial Gathering in July 20 fourteen.

Fun and fellowship and learning opportunities.

Worship and great speakers are just some of what you’ll see,

Nothing would be finer than to go to North Carolina in July 20 fourteen.”

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



NSWO Board Update

NSWO board forms work groups to update their resources and goals. At the October board meeting, we divided into work groups to review items needing the board's attention. Each group set goals and timelines to accomplish these goals. These groups will continue to work throughout this year.

Labels, Expressions, and Active Unit Assessment Work Group

Terri Johnson, Val Killinger, Joann Rohrs, and Carol Bosshardt are members of this work group. We set committee goals at our last meeting to identify who is maintaining the *Expressions*, Unit Officers, and other lists. And reviewing the cost of each *Expressions* mailed, whether it goes to a paid subscriber or a unit president or other person, and checking online information related to undeliverable address labels from the August *Expressions* mailing. We hope to have all of these items completed by the January board meeting. With quarterly updates of the Unit phone/address lists that board reps received at the last meeting, we hope to be more efficient at maintaining the unit lists. As unit lists are reviewed, we may need assistance in contacting units that haven't updated officer lists for several years to see if they are still active. That way Kandy can keep an accurate Active Unit Assessment as required by the Churchwide Women's Organization.

Event Guidelines & Resource Book

Mae Greve and Nancy Steele compiled updated guidelines for Spring Gatherings, Winter

(Continued on page 10)

Region 4 challenged to raise \$25,000 for 25th Anniversary Appeal

by Emma Crossen

Braving the heat of last summer, representatives from Region 4 synodical women's organizations (SWOs) met in Nebraska for a retreat in July. Their main objective was to plan for the 25th Anniversary of Women of the ELCA. They gathered to envision how their SWOs would celebrate and how they would promote the 25th Anniversary Appeal, which supports the ELCA Malaria Campaign and Women of the ELCA.

What they came up with was a bold challenge for Region 4 to raise \$25,000 for the Appeal. They called on "every woman to each give \$25 in celebration of 25 years to reach and exceed a goal of \$25,000." On July 16, the synodical representatives left the retreat and immediately set to work promoting this challenge at their synodical conventions, cluster and conference events, unit meetings, and on their websites, Facebook pages and newsletters.

They are well on the way to reaching the \$25,000 goal. A few days after the July retreat, the Central States SWO collected \$1,295 for the Appeal at its convention. In September, the Nebraska SWO organized smaller weekend gatherings in the eastern and western parts of the state and collected more than \$1,600 in the first weekend alone. The anniversary year extends through May 2013.

A 25th anniversary video is also in the works, using photos from each SWO in Region 4 to showcase highlights from their first 25 years. The Nebraska SWO will take on the task of combining the photos into one video that can be shown at churches, online and at Women of the ELCA events. Media staff from the Nebraska Synod office is helping with the project.

Nebraska SWO President Kandy

Pflaster expressed her hope that Region 4's bold commitment will inspire other SWOs and regions to give and celebrate boldly during the 25th anniversary year.

Commenting on the \$25,000 challenge, the synodical representatives issued a statement saying, "This Women of the ELCA 25th Anniversary Appeal is not just about celebrating the past. This is about celebrating our future and all that we are accomplishing as women of faith empowered by the Holy Spirit. As a region, we are called to lift each other up, 'to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ,' recognizing and celebrating our roles as change-makers in the global church... We all left the Rockin' Region 4 Retreat invigorated and inspired to share what we learned about this 25th Anniversary of the Women of the ELCA and the Appeal. It is exciting to carry the news back home of how we are changing our world."



Region 4 synodical representatives pose with commemorative plates from Triennial Gatherings during the July retreat where they challenged their region to raise \$25,000 for the 25th Anniversary Appeal.

Region 4 includes six synodical women's organizations: Central States, Nebraska,

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 5)

will conclude at 3:00 p.m.

April 13, Southern Prairie Conference come Celebrate with Laughter. Join IDANO to learn about "Clown Ministry" and practice "Laughing Yoga" with Pastor Chuck Johnson. From 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 501 N. Burlington St. in Hastings, we'll meet new friends and visit with long-time friends. We'll sing a few songs, study the Bible with Bishop Brian Maas, and close with a brief communion service. Registration begins at 8:35 a.m. For more information call Carol, 308-224-3734.

April 20, Northeast Conference Planning Committee has been brainstorming ideas for their Spring Gathering being held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Wayne. Along with celebrating 25 years as Women of the ELCA, our guests will share in worship, communion, and Bible Study.

Mary Hamer from the Loess Hills Lavender farm near Missouri Valley will be the featured speaker. She will share her story and her lavender products. The women will have the opportunity to learn from a local florist, a massage therapist, and about PLARN. Come and see what God's helping hands are doing.

April 27, Midlands Conference Spring Gathering Team is busy making the plans for the gathering at American Lutheran Church in Ashland. Cluster 2 churches will be our hostesses. The Bible study at this gathering will be presented by Pr. Juliet Hampton, assistant to the Bishop. The St. Mark's Puppet Brigade from Valley will be there for some lessons and laughs, and we will witness the mission work in Costa Rica through the eyes of those who visited there in January of this year. Pr. Lori Morton will lead us in devotion and we hope to have a great pianist on hand for the day to entertain us and to lead us in singing great songs of praise. There will be Birthday cake as we celebrate Women of the ELCA's birthday.

Watch for more information and registration forms for all our Spring Gatherings in letters to the Unit Presidents/Coordinators and on our website, www.nebraskasynod.org/welca.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILT CHALLENGE

In 2013, Lutheran World Relief is challenging Lutherans across the U.S. to donate 500,000 Quilts to answer God's call to love and serve our neighbors in need around the globe. This is an increase of 100,000 Quilts or 25 % over previous years being tangible symbols of God's love and compassion.

The Nebraska Synodical Women of the ELCA have been invited by David Coker, Executive Director of Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries to partner with NLOM's 2013 summer service project focusing on the joy of quilting as experienced quilters teach hundreds of campers to produce quilts from beginning to finished product. In addition to materials and already made quilt tops donated, women will be invited to be on-site volunteers during each week of summer camp. Women can come for a week of camp, help campers tie and finish quilts, enjoy a camp experience of Bible study, worship, and meals with campers. It will be a wonderful opportunity for campers to have an intergenerational experience at camp that has never been offered before.

At the October 2012 NSWOB Board meeting, it was agreed upon to accept the invitation to partner with NLOM's 2013 summer service project of making quilts for LWR.

So women, let's get busy in your congregations in 2013 making additional quilts, gathering materials for quilts to send to camp, and volunteering to be on-site at camp to help campers make quilts!

Tied in Faith – Sent in Hope – Wrapped in Love

At the request of Lutheran World Relief, the CWO Board endorsed the LWR 2013 Quilt Campaign at their April 2012 Board Meeting. In 2013, LWR will challenge Lutherans to reach an unprecedented milestone in the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry. "It's ambitious, but attainable with the partnership and support of Women of the ELCA," says a LWR spokeswoman.

(Continued from page 7)

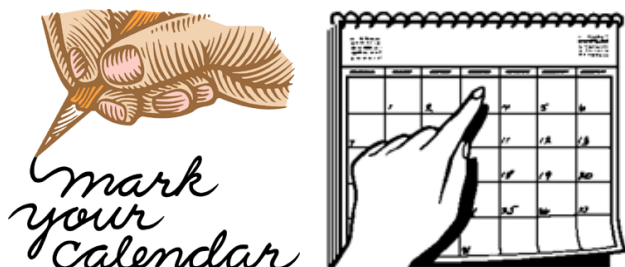
Retreat, and Autumn Renewal for review at the January meeting. Shirley Splittgerber is organizing the Convention planning notebook. They will also look at the resource books after further guidance from the board on what is needed.

Strategic Planning for the NSWO Board

Sandy Olson, Michelle Steadman, Joyce Olson, Mary Mayfield, Randi VenHuizen, and Aaryn Schultz are on this committee. The group met again in November and are using ideas from the June meeting and retreat. They will report their progress at a later date.

Job Descriptions of Appointees

Carol Ortengren, Emily Laaker, Carol Stark, Jane Johnson, Sandy Smith, and Maria Bouche comprise this committee. They are updating the job descriptions so appointees have clear direction of what to do in their positions.



Save These Dates

March 2, Central SG, Shell Creek/Columbus

March 9, Metro East SG, St. Paul's/Millard

March 23, High Plains SG, American/
Gothenburg

April 6, Southeast SG, Luther Memorial/
Syracuse

April 13, Southern Prairie SG, First St. Paul's/
Hastings

April 20, Northeast SG, Our Savior's/Wayne

April 27 - Midland SG, American/Ashland

June 7-9, Saved to Serve Opportunity, Axtell

August 2-4, Saved to Serve Opportunity,
Lincoln

September 20-22, NSWO Convention, Kearney

July 22-24, 2014, Triennial Convention, Charlotte, NC

July 24-27, 2014, Triennial Gathering, Charlotte, NC

2017, Triennial Gathering, Minneapolis, MN

Shine Your Light

By CAROL BIERMAN



The **Women of the ELCA** of St.

Paul's Lutheran Church in Falls City, made fifty five quilts. Forty-nine were sent to LWR, two were given to the local SENCA program, two went to the silent auction for our annual Festival of Tables, and two will go to Camp Carol Joy Holling.

The ladies meet once a month and also sewed at home. The quilts were displayed and blessed at a Sunday worship service.

Pictured is Mardy Herbster, Marilyn McKinsey, Marilyn Slagle, Carol Bierman, Gayleen Zentner, and Kathryn Thomas. Several other ladies from the congregation helped with this project.

The women also celebrated 25 years as Women of the ELCA on their annual Thankoffering Sunday in November. A decorated cake was served by the officers and monies have been sent to the ELCA Malaria fund for the Anniversary Appeal.



The 'Shine Your Light' section is for congregational units to send news and information regarding their units to be published in *Expressions*. This newsletter is edited and published by the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization; however, it is your newsletter and we want to see your news in it. So send your information via e-mail to nswo.expressions@gmail.com.

(Continued from page 8)

Arkansas-Oklahoma, Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Southwestern Texas and Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast. Here is what SWO representatives said after the July retreat where they committed to raise \$25,000 for the 25th Anniversary Appeal.

"As Rockin' Region 4, we work hard to get our six synods involved in churchwide incentives and appeals. 25 years of service is a 'big deal' and calls for a special effort on our part."

"The amazing flow of ideas and shared vision this weekend has inspired us all to go back to our home congregations and synods, challenging our sisters to open their hands to give \$25 in praise and celebration of these 25 years."

"Networking makes the task of planning, promoting and engaging so much easier....What a wonderful group of faith-filled, forward-thinking women we have in Rockin' Region 4!"

"It was a God-moment when several of us shared the same vision of hands reaching out to help and exceed our initial goals."

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Women of the ELCA,
2011-2013
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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.)

February

- ___ Share *Expressions* with members
- ___ (J) Send list of new officers after unit elections to Valerie Killinger and to Conference Board Representative

- 15-16 – Nebraska Synod Operation IDEA High School Retreat
- 16-23 – Nebraska Synod Rebuild Joplin Mission Trip
- 21-24 – CWO Conference of Presidents, Chicago, IL
- 23 – Nebraska LMM Annual Meeting
- 24 – Bold Women's Day
- ___ Publicize/Promote Spring Gatherings
- ___ Send Gathering Offering

March

- ___ Publicize/Promote Spring Gatherings
- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 2 – Central Conference Spring Gathering
- 9 – Metro East Conference

Spring Gathering

- 15-16 – Nebraska Synod Council Meeting
- 23 – Nebraska LMM Annual Meeting
- 23 – High Plains Conference Spring Gathering

April

- ___ Publicize/Promote Spring Gatherings
- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 1 – *Expressions* deadline
- 6 – Southeast Conference Spring Gathering
- 13 – Southern Prairie Conference Spring Gathering
- 20 – Northeast Conference Spring Gathering
- 27 – Midlands Conference Spring Gathering