



Expressions

VOL. 26, NO. 1, FEBRUARY 2012

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

Christ Makes Life Exciting

"Take Delight in the Lord." Psalm 47:1 TEV



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.

"Christ makes life exciting," the theme of our 2012 Spring Gathering, comes from Dr. Dick Hardel who uses that sentence to close his letters. Dr. Hardel was an Assistant to the Bishop of the Nebraska Synod from 1990-1994. He wanted a positive way to connect with people at the close of a letter, and he began using "Life is exciting." Then Hardel realized that many times Jesus referred to Himself as "the Life". It became clear to him that the closing should be "Christ Makes Life Exciting" because it is

Christ who makes all things new and exciting. It is Christ who renews our lives each and every day.

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.

February 25, Northeast Conference will be held at Christ Lutheran in Wisner. Guests will have the privilege of hearing messages from the Rev. Dr. David deFreese, Bishop to the Nebraska Synod; and Rachelle McCalla, author, minister, wife, and mother. Presentations about Real Estate, Photography, Chair Yoga, and Foot Reflexology may also be attended to educate, entertain, and inspire. Tangible offerings will be directed to the Prison Ministries. A quilt top will be assembled to be used as a banner. This will travel throughout the state to be used at all the Gatherings. After it is returned to Northeast, it will be

completed and auctioned at Camp Carol Joy Holling.

March 17, Southeast Conference will be held American Lutheran Church in Filley on St. Patrick's Day. On the agenda is worship with communion and Bible study with the Bishop. Bev Stokebrand will talk about the exciting turn her life has taken and her recent trips to Tanzania as she speaks on the women of Tanzania. Tangible offerings will be collected for Mosaic in Beatrice and for Tanzania.

March 24, Central Conference will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Wolbach. Bishop deFreese will lead the Bible Study. PMA Susan Jewell will have our worship service. Our featured speaker will be Michelle Oeltjen, a Palmer native, she is the author of the book *Love, Lies, & Lessons Learned*. Tangible offering will go to the local food pantry and to the new Senior Center.

March 31, Midlands Conference will be held at First Lutheran Church in Fremont. There will be music and clowns, yes, CLOWNS. The "Clowns for Christ" will be doing a

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Devotions

By CAROL ORTEGREN, Central Board Representative



At a recent convention I attended, this quote was included in the folder. It spoke to me and probably will to you.

“This is the beginning of a new day. You have been given this day to use as you will. You can waste it or use it for good. What you do today is important because you are exchanging a day of your life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever; in its place is something you have left behind... let it be something good.”

Too many of us rush through our lives missing the wonderful, important things that happen in the present, right now, today. If you dwell on the past or worry about the future you are not being in the present as Jesus was.

One of my Christmas gifts was a book of quotes. I'm sharing a few of them with you.

“Look not mournfully into the past, it comes not back again. Wisely improve the present, it is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future without fear.” —Henry Wadsworth Longfellow.

“God only looks at your future because He's

canceled out your past.” —Karon Phillip Goodman.

“Every year I live I am more convinced that the waste of life lies in the love we have not given, the powers we have not used, the selfish prudence that will risk nothing, and when shirking pain, misses happiness as well.” —Mary Cholmondeley.

If you read Psalm 103 you will find it is a pleasant reminder not to forget our daily blessings. Psalm 119 tells us how to walk in God's ways every day of your life. James 4:13-15, Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gains,” whereas you do not know about tomorrow. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes God invites you to put your trust in Him now and place the future in His hands. You know how He has kept you in the past and He has both the desire and power to protect you, comfort you, and bless you today and every day to come.

Saved to Serve Opportunity Update

The Saved to Serve Task Force is busy at work trying to get arrangements made for our 2012 Opportunities. Many of our 2011 Saved to Serve participants were introduced to Lutheran Family Services' Family Life projects when we were at the 2011 Synod Assembly in Fremont. At that time an invitation was extended for us to help them with their facility in Council Bluffs, Iowa. We are looking into housing to see if those plans might work out. We are also in contact with Tabitha Home Health Care in Crete trying to work out particulars for a possible Saved to Serve Opportunity there.

We hope to have more information for you at the Winter Retreat in Grand Island on January 14th. Watch your *Expressions* for more details and don't forget that brochures will be available and a skit will likely be on the agenda at your conferences Spring Gathering.

Lovingly in Christ,

Mary, Susan, and Nancy

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

Expressions provides information concerning programs and projects of the Churchwide and Nebraska Synodical Women Organizations, Women of the ELCA; and helpful information for congregational units. It is distributed free to Nebraska congregational unit presidents/coordinators; Nebraska pastors, AIMs, and PMAs; Nebraska female seminarian students; and the other SWO Presidents.

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 nsw.o.expressions@gmail.com, or by phone, 402-291-1087. Content information can be sent via e-mail.

February *Expressions* team members included Beth Meyer plus layout editor. Additional contributors included Carol Bosshardt, Mae Greve, Mary Mayfield, Bev Richards, Shirley Splittgerber, Michelle Steadman, Nancy Steele, and Carol Stark.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEARS TO ALL MY DEAR FRIENDS AND READERS:

I am excited about the year 2012! I know that it is off to a great start already, with the Burpo Family as speakers at the Winter Retreat in Grand Island, and then the upcoming Spring Gatherings across the state of Nebraska. I get energized just thinking about the theme “CHRIST MAKES LIFE EXCITING.” Passions or energy ignite us and keep us going, but some of us are so entrenched in our daily lives that we’ve lost sight of those passions or energies. I suggest asking yourself this question: “If God came to you and told you to go after your dreams right away, what would you do first?”



Stumped? What did you love to do as a child? Which clubs did you join in high school? When did you last feel truly happy, and what were you doing at the time? For more ideas, make a list of things you’ve always wanted to learn, and then learn them. Dance the tango, study German, take up rock-climbing, play the guitar, travel to Tanzania with Nebraska women, write a poem...anything goes as long as you’re doing it for you. Think about attending a spring gathering in your conference or another conference with an out of town friend. Just know that “Christ Makes Life Exciting.”

The board chose the Bible Verse Psalm 47:1 as the theme verse. The following is the chapter of Psalm 47.

- 1 Clap your hands for joy, all peoples!
Praise God with loud songs!
- 2 The LORD, the Most High, is to be feared;
he is a great king, ruling over all the world.
- 3 He gave us victory over the peoples;
he made us rule over the nations.
- 4 He chose for us the land where we live,
the proud possession of his people, whom he loves.
- 5 God goes up to his throne.
There are shouts of joy and the blast of trumpets,
as the LORD goes up.
- 6 Sing praise to God;
sing praise to our king!
- 7 God is king over all the world;
praise him with songs!
- 8 God sits on his sacred throne;
he rules over the nations.
- 9 The rulers of the nations assemble
with the people
of the God of Abraham.
More powerful than all armies is he;
he rules supreme.

God is king over the entire world; praise him with songs as the supreme ruler. God is there for you, just let him open all those doors of excitement. Try something new this great year of 2012. I hope to see you there in the midst of all the FUN!!!!!!

God’s Peace to you always,
Kandy Pflaster

Discipleship, Justice, and Stewardship

By TERRI JOHNSON, Vice President



You may have noticed in the recently mailed Change of Officer forms, that we are no longer asking units to have Mission Growth, Mission Action, and Mission Community committee leaders. This may seem strange to us in Nebraska since through our synod under the leadership of Bishop David deFreese, we are all about MISSION! Our churches are “Mission Centers;” we talk about the “Mission Field;” and our Nebraska Synod motto is “We Do Mission!” So, the first thing I want to emphasize is that this change does not mean the Women of the ELCA no longer focus on mission.

First they recognize that units are not necessarily traditionally structured with multiple committees. Secondly, they are using words that make it clear to all who read them, what type of mission we are called to do:

Discipleship to help us *grow* to discern God’s call, understand God’s gifts and respond to God’s presence in our lives. This includes our Bible studies, retreats, and other programs to strengthen us in these areas.

Justice to *actively* work in justice and advocacy, and to faithfully carry out our vision of bringing healing and wholeness to the world. This includes work on domestic violence, commercial sexual exploitation, and environmental justice.

Stewardship to be in *community* with others by providing assistance to them through our stewardship dollars as well as to help one another by using our talents and time. This includes our support of the ministries of the Women of the ELCA through our

Thankofferings and our purchases of fair trade goods such as coffee and chocolate. Our Saved to Serve activities could be part of this area of emphasis.

These areas will often overlap as we plan our programs and projects for the year. Both the Interchange newsletter and the women’s website, www.womenoftheelca.org, offer free resources for programs and longer events. Resources can also be used by individuals for personal faith growth. The February 2011 Interchange featured an article with this same title where I gleaned some of the information I listed above. It listed resources available from the Women of the ELCA in each area. You can view all of the past newsletters on the website and have access to print a multitude of program resources. If you see something in the Interchange you receive in the mail, you can also phone the Women of the ELCA’s 800-number and they will send you a copy.

As you look at the website, you will see that program resources are clearly connected to our purpose statement. In fact the resources links are titled using words from that statement. Many programs could easily fit in two or more of the areas. I encourage you to explore the website and the resources for Growing in Faith; Affirming Our Gifts; Supporting One Another in Our Callings; Engaging in Ministry and Action; and Promoting Healing and Wholeness.

By planning your unit’s programs and activities with discipleship, justice, and stewardship as your primary focus, you will truly meet the purpose of our organization and serve the Lord each time you come together.

Thank You

By NANCY JOHNSON,
Treasurer, 2008-2012



Greetings from your Immediate Past Treasurer of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization, Nancy Johnson.

Thank you to the Congregational Units for your support during the last four years. I have gotten to meet many great Nebraskan Lutheran women who are dedicated to the service to our Lord and look forward to meeting you again at one of the upcoming Nebraska events. I thank God for the opportunity to serve Him and the Women of the ELCA. My term ended on January 31, 2012.

Your new Nebraska SWO treasurer (as of February 1) is Janet Schmidt from Lincoln. Her address is 2639 South 39th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506. Home phone is 402-488-6034 and e-mail is sogschmidt@inebraska.com.

Please send all your offerings to Janet along with a Form A. Also send *Expressions* renewal and new subscriptions to Janet who will then send your information to the Database Coordinator, Valerie Killinger.

Remember **Thanksofferings** and **Designated Gifts** go to **Churchwide Women of the ELCA** at PO Box 71256, Chicago, IL 60694-1256 with a Form B.

Form A and B can be downloaded for free from the website, at <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/Stewardship/Stewardship-Resources.aspx>. Or you can order copies of the forms through the ELCA Resource Catalog online or by phone at 1-800-638-3522, ext. 2580. You can order copies of the forms from Augsburg Fortress online or by phone at 1-800-328-4648.



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

Eighth Triennial Gathering
July 14-17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash.

Triennial Report 2011

By EMILY LAAKER,
Metro East Board Representative



Wow! Each time I attend a triennial, it is better than the last! I thoroughly enjoyed this convention. The accommodations were well thought-out. The hotel where the delegates stayed is connected by a walkway to the convention center. The meals were served in the hall adjoining the business meeting space, so we got to meet some of the guest speakers and CWO board members as we ate. Bishop of the Slovak Zion Synod, Rev. Wilma Kucharek, presented a Bible study dwelling on the lesser-known women in the Bible.

Leymah Gbowee spoke at one of the plenary sessions. She has since been awarded the Noble Peace Prize, along with two other women. She led her people of Liberia in protest of all the violence in her country. She challenged us to dare to work for peace in this country—especially in cases of bigotry and bullying. HER VIDEO, *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* was shown during the Gathering session.

Bishop Mark Hanson spoke to us about the upcoming Churchwide ELCA Assembly. The theme will be "Freed in Christ to Serve". He stressed that we identify ourselves by our connectedness, not by divisiveness. We are connected to both the Jewish and the Islamic faiths. ELCA Lutherans work for peace and justice throughout the world, not just in the U.S. He presented the 1% Challenge and the It Gets Better Initiative. We will hear more about these throughout the year to come.

Nora Gallagher shared her faith as she worked through a difficult time in her life, fearing the loss of the eyesight. Her advice is to always live in the present; to concentrate on what is real in the present, and not spend precious time and energy lamenting the past or worrying about the future.

Rev. Megan Torgerson, spoke at the closing worship. Her topic was Enough. We should be content with Enough, not always wanting more.

Attending a Triennial is a great opportunity that I hope you will be able to enjoy sometime.

Mission Field Nebraska

By MITCH McCARTHNEY,
Director of Communications and Development/Director of Public Policy Ministry,
Nebraska Synod ELCA



God is at work in our lives in powerful and profound ways. God wants us to make a difference in the lives of those around us, and that's what our Mission Field Nebraska ministries do... they do mission!

Mission Field Nebraska is our outreach to our neighbors here in the Nebraska Synod, providing spiritual and physical care to many who need it. These multicultural and socioeconomic ministries are made possible through God's grace, through the love and care shown by those who serve, and by generous financial support.

The needs are great. Here is a sampling of the work being done through Mission Field Nebraska and what it takes to make it happen.

- \$9,000 a year allows Lakota Lutheran Center and Chapel in Scottsbluff to offer a soup kitchen three days a week, providing a good hot meal to those who might not otherwise get one.
- \$3,000 a month provides pastoral leadership and care at a Mission Field Nebraska ministry site, such as Fontenelle Community Lutheran Church in North Omaha, Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey in South Omaha, or United Southeast Asian Ministry in Dakota City.
- \$8,000 a year helps provide theological education for the pastoral leadership at the Nile Lutheran congregation housed within Trinity Lutheran Church in Omaha.
- \$1,200 a week allows Table Grace Café in Downtown Omaha to provide a place for people of all economic backgrounds to share food and fellowship with one another while providing job skills training to people in search of employment.
- \$7,000 a month provides pastoral leadership and program support for Nebraska Synod Prison Ministries and Followers of Christ worship within the Nebraska State Penitentiary.
- \$4,000 a year provides rent support from the Nebraska Synod to The Welcome Center in Lexington, Lutheran Family Services' ministry providing low-cost legal services to newcomers.
- \$4,500 a month allows Lutheran Metro Ministries in North Omaha to provide emergency assistance and a food pantry to those in need.
- \$1,000 provides English-Second Language classes to five individuals through the Todos los Hijos deDios ministry in Southeast Nebraska.

Through Mission Field Nebraska, lives have been changed, hope has been made known, and the love of God has been shared. This is possible because of your support and participation. On behalf of those who serve and are served, thank you for your support of our Mission Field Nebraska ministries.

One-fourth of the offerings collected at the seven Spring Gatherings held this year will be donated to Mission Field Nebraska.

(Continued from page 1)

workshop and will hang out most of the day. There will be a music workshop, Jeanie Kocher will share what it was like to live and teach in Tanzania. Pastor Jim Gobel will share “The Gospel According to Dr. Seuss.” We think it would be very helpful for young mothers to hear what he has to say. And yes.. the Bishop will do the Bible Study. It is all adding up to a fun and exciting day to spend with your Christian sisters. This whole day will be focused on Psalm 47:1, “*Clap your hand for joy, all peoples! Praise God with loud songs.*”

April 14, Metro East Conference will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church in Elkhorn. Our featured guests: Mitch McCartney, Bible study leader; Amy Chisholm of Project Harmony; and Diane Gubbels, sharing her stories of inspiration with her quilts. We will close the day with gospel music by Nola Jean Pierre to send us home rejoicing that truly “Christ Makes Life Exciting” for us. The monetary offering will be divided this way: one-half to CWO, one-fourth to NSWO, and one-fourth to Nebraska Synod Mission Field Nebraska. Our tangible offering will go to Project Harmony, a community-based organization that serves children who have suffered abuse.

April 21, High Plains Conference will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Eustis. We will have registration starting at 8:45 a.m. There will be a presentation from the Welcome Center of Lexington. The Welcome Center will also receive part of our offering that day. We also will present a skit that was done at Convention and a presentation from a spiritual advisor called Talking Sticks. We will be celebrating our Lord's blessings.

May 5, Southern Praire Conference will be held at Salem in Superior. Save the date and plan to join friends as we: Experience a quilted program about Women of the Old and New Testaments. Bring or send several spare pairs of shoes for the Shoeman Water Project. We're looking to collect 20,000 pounds (approx. 10,000 shoes) with no holes in the soles or tops. Tennis shoes, sandals, loafers can all be sent overseas to raise money for water projects. Enjoy “Inspiring Hymns” and learn about their history.

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

Today's Dreams: Tomorrow's Reality

By BRENDA KRUEGER,
TDTR Team Member



As Women of the ELCA we continue to strive for racial justice. Our new title, Racial Justice Advocacy, encourages us even more not to just see the problem of injustice but to think about what we can do. So what can we do? One way is to read books or watch movies that can promote our thinking and lead to discussion of inequality in our world. A good recent book and movie is *THE HELP*, which could lead to interesting conversation in a small group.

The Nebraska Synod library will lend out videos. In *A DAY WITHOUT A MEXICAN* every Mexican leaves the U.S. and makes us realize what an important part of our society they are. *A CLASS DIVIDED* was originally shown on public television. It is an old video but shows an interesting experiment in which a teacher really brought home the concept of prejudice by giving privileges to children with blue eyes and putting down those with brown eyes. It was amazing to see the effect it had on each group. Later the groups were reversed. Years after her experiment, she interviews these children as adults who remembered it well and saw it as life changing.

Fran Hughes and I are happy to come and present a program to fit your time frame and interest. There is no fee for the presentation, only our cost, such as mileage. You may reach me at 402-721-1508 or by e-mail at grand_travelers@hotmail.com.

 **Lutheran Family Services**
of Nebraska, Inc.

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska is celebrating its 120th birthday in 2012. Their goal is to find as many families who have been connected to the agency through adoption—adoptees, adopting families, grandparents—as possible. Those families would then be invited to attend a celebration. The first is scheduled for September 22, 2012 in Omaha. Send your story to info@lfsneb.org, or call Anna at 402-591-5063.

Save Your Shoes

Don't we all have at LEAST ONE pair of shoes that we don't wear anymore?

Well, there is a need for that pair of shoes besides collecting dust in the back of your closet.

The Southern Prairie Conference Spring Gathering on Saturday, **May 5 at Salem Lutheran, Superior is collecting new and used shoes for an organization called the Shoeman Water Project.**

This organization sells new and used (but good condition-no worn holes) shoes to exporters for resale in developing countries.

That money is used to help purchase well-drilling rigs, water purification systems, and others supplies to bring clean, fresh water to those in need overseas.

If any person thinks they, their church, or an organization in their community may be interested in helping Southern Prairie reach their goal of collecting 10,000 pairs of shoes, please contact Ann Schultz from Bethany, Ruskin, annschultz2007@hotmail.com, or call her at home: 402-879-4456 or cell: 402-879-5348.



Shine Your Light

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.

WINTER RETREAT HUGE SUCCESS!

The theme of the NSWO Winter Retreat "Covered in the Spirit" was very evident as over 350 people enjoyed Joan Naber's story of how she became Ms. Wheelchair Nebraska 2010 and how her life witnesses to God's grace in everything she does. Her witness is shared through her speaking engagements, her work as a nurse, and teaching Sunday School, and her other church activities. Her main message to us was to be sure to tell those people in our lives how they have affected us and how much they mean to us.

Nearly half of those present walked the Labyrinth that was brought by Julie Krull. She is a Licensed Mental Health Practitioner who is well versed in meditative prayer and holistic health. Julie gave us a brief history of the Labyrinth and its use as a tool in our devotional life.

After lunch we drew as additional forty participants to hear Sonja Burpo tell how God cover her family with grace as they witness to God's salvation through books, interviews, and presentations. We especially enjoyed Sonja's to witness prayer ministries and how they helped the Burpo family. Their church and community listened to God's direction through traditional prayer and through the activation of many prayer chains as well as prayer texting. Sonja included a variety of ways we can pray for safety and Christian partnerships for our children and grandchildren as well as others in our family, communities, and the world.

The blessings were many this day and we all were truly "Covered in the Spirit".



Covered in the Spirit

CELEBRATE BOLD WOMEN'S DAY THIS MONTH

Yes, it's February and the 2012 incarnation of Bold Women's Day is scheduled for Sunday, February 26th, but it's not too late to pull together a celebration. Lots of ideas—from simple to elaborate—can be found at womenoftheelca.org/bwd. If nothing else, download one of the litanies and use it in your meetings this month or even your personal devotions.

Also at womenoftheelca.org/bwd you'll find a link to "how others celebrate" where you can find several real-life examples of Bold Women's Day celebrations. Destined to be added to that link is what will be happening this month in Windom, Kansas—a town of 130 people that bills itself as the Covered Dish Capital of the World. There the women of Andover Lutheran Church are celebrating Bold Women's Day with a daylong retreat held at an event space in neighboring McPherson. The retreat involves fun, fellowship and relaxation, including a coffee foot soak and a chocolate fountain. Sounds great already! Participants will be using the Women of the ELCA resource *Finding Your Bold* and local women will be recognized for their boldness.

Visit our Facebook page, [facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA](https://www.facebook.com/WomenoftheELCA), and tell us how you're celebrating. If you feel it's too late to do something this year, begin thinking now about how you'll celebrate Bold Women's Day in 2013 during our year-long 25th anniversary celebration. By starting now, you'll be able to create an extraordinary event in 2013!

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GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATIONS DUE

February 15 marks the deadline for two important annual programs of Women of the ELCA: grants and scholarships.

Agencies and non-profits that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages are invited to apply for a 2012 grant from Women of the ELCA. Last year grants were given to teen parent mentoring programs, therapeutic support groups for adolescent girls who are victims of sexual trauma, culinary and life-skills training for women stuck in poverty, seminars for survivors of domestic and sexual violence and peacemaking training, among others. If you know of similar agencies and non-profits in your community, encourage them to apply. Details are available at womenoftheelca.org.

Scholarships are available for women who are members of the ELCA. There are scholarships for Lutheran laywomen who are studying for a career other than ordained ministry as well as scholarships for those in their final year at an ELCA seminary. The other scholarships fall into two administrative categories: for women administrators and faculty at ELCA colleges and seminaries who are participating in leadership training or management training institutes and for women interested in reaching the top of their fields as administrators. Last year 24 women received scholarships from Women of the ELCA. Encourage someone you know to apply today. Details are available at womenoftheelca.org.

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Save These Dates

February 25, Northeast SG, Christ/Wisner
March 17, Southeast SG, American/Filley
March 24, Central SG, Trinity/Wolbach
March 31, Midlands SG, First/Fremont
April 14, Metro East SG, Bethany/Elkhorn

April 21, High Plains SG, St. John's/Eustis
May 5, Southern Prairie SG, Salem/Superior
September 8, West Autumn Renewal, TBD
September 15, East Autumn Renewal, Omaha

Tanzania

Fabric, Fun & Facts Workshop

Sunday, February 26 – Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Carol Joy Holling Center • Ashland, NE

This year's feature project will be a "Square within a Square" quilt with ladder sashing. Table runners, placemats or tote bags will also be an option for those wanting a faster project. Kits of 36 six-inch squares of Tanzanian fabric can be purchased at the retreat for \$35. There will also be six-inch wide strips, fat quarters and yardcuts of a variety of Tanzanian fabrics, as well as coordinating cotton fabrics. All fabric has been washed, sized, pressed and cut for your convenience.



Besides our quilting fun, we'll gather for morning and evening devotions, great food with a Tanzania flair and lots of photos and fact about Tanzania! Bring a friend or come alone. You are sure to leave with great new friendships.

Accommodations will be in the Swanson Center at Carol Joy Holling Center. This first-class facility is a high comfort hotel-style facility.

Registration is now open online at www.caroljoyholling.org. Just select the Events & Retreats button and choose "Tanzania Fabric, Fun & Facts."

Cost:

Triple occupancy = \$165 per person

Double occupancy = \$185 per person

Single occupancy = \$235 per person

www.caroljoyholling.org • 888-656-6254

Tanzania: Fabric, Fun and Facts Workshop

JOIN US for another great time renewing old acquaintance and making new friends as we sew, your own project or make the featured quilt. We will enjoy tasty food with a touch of Tanzania here and there, we can start and end the day with devotions. We will learn a few Swahili words, try on a kanga (traditional dress), and even learn a song. We will discover projects going on in the Mount Kilimanjaro area and enjoy the beautiful Swanson Conference Center hotel like setting. Take some time to see the lovely grounds of Carol Joy Holling Camp as well.

Your instructor will be Mary Mayfield who just returned from Tanzania in February with new fabric, batiks, jewelry, and more. She just got another 100 yards of tie dye and batik fabric before Christmas. We will have a little shop with kits, patterns, Tanzanian fabric, and a variety of fabrics to compliment our colorful Tanzanian yardage.

We will have lots of things for show and tell. Bring something you are doing and I will bring some ideas for colorful Tanzanian fabric pin cushions, wine bottle carriers, an apron pattern that uses only one yard of fabric, fan shaped pot holders or traditional square ones from quilt blocks. We even have ideas for gift bags and hair ornaments, Christmas Tree ornament ideas, too. Come and see and sew. Some folks like to just bring their UFOs and relax and have a good time chatting.

Fifty percent of all purchases of fabric, kits, patterns, etc is for the Tanzanian Scholarship Fund. Scholarships are provided to the Angaza Women's Training Center and to the Machame Hospital School of Nursing!

Hope to see you Sunday, February 26 to Tuesday, February 28th! SIGN UP TODAY at www.caroljoyholling.org or call 888-656-6254. See the flyer on the opposite page for more information.

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.)

February

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

Board Representative

- ☐ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 23-26 – CWO Conference of Presidents, Chicago, IL
- 25 – Northeast Conference Spring Gathering
- 26 – 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 – World Day of Prayer
- 17 – Southeast Conference Spring Gathering

- 24 – Central Conference Spring Gathering
- 31 – Midlands Conference Spring Gathering

April

- ☐ Publicize/Promote Spring Gatherings
- ☐ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 1 – *Expressions* deadline
- 14 – Metro East Conference Spring Gathering
- 20-21 – CWO Executive Board Meeting
- 21 – High Plains Conference Spring Gathering
- 27-28 – New SWO Treasurer's Training, Chicago, IL