



Expressions

VOL. 23, NO. 4 CONVENTION EDITION

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

LISTENING FOR THE TRAIN WHISTLE

Fun, laughter, and chatter could be heard as a new activity was held opening night of convention. Anita deFreese facilitated a 'Get To You Know You' event. Listening to the number of whistle blows indicated the number of persons to be in your small group. Once there, questions were asked so we could get to know each other. Questions included your favorite shoe, saddest movie you watched, color of your childhood home, pet you had growing up, and how you felt Christ's Heart Within You; along with a time of one whistle blow which we then prayed for someone who needed healing. Comments overhead were this is fun, the questions are getting harder, and it was amazing how the women reached out and wanted to hold hands in their small group. Maybe we need to book Anita now for the 2011 convention.

PRESIDENT WRENN GREETES

Beth Wrenn, CWO President greets assembly. When attending her own synodical convention, the pastor stated she came with her pitcher empty to be filled. Beth came to NSWOW Convention with an empty pitcher to get it filled, and it is getting filled. She reflected when she received the phone call inviting her to her first Circle meeting, she thought she wasn't old enough to be in the Circle, she was only 29 ~ she left the meeting as the Unit's Secretary. Beth shared the many resources available to women from the churchwide women: Bible study, retreat material, newsletter and many more. She shared an update on financial status and thanked us for our regular offerings and Thanksoffering. As she spoke, you could hear and see her passion for Women of the ELCA.

At the National Youth Gathering, they set up a Café' and ask the visitors for tips, not monetarily, but information on how women have touched their lives. They also ask them to write notes on postcards which CWO then stamped and mailed them to over 800 congregational units.

She challenged us to be healthy and to find your bold. We all act bold in different ways; step out of your comfort zone.

EDWARDS ELECTED ON THIRD BALLOT

Gwendolynn Edwards of Bellevue, Lord of Love/Omaha, was elected as NSWOW President for the 2009-11 Biennial. In her acceptance remarks, she thanked those ladies who had been her mentors, and thanked the assembly for their encouragement and their support. Gwen later shared that her husband and son, who are Cub Scouting camping, received the news via text message.



Officers for 2009-11 are Leslie Marchando-Cook, Holy Trinity Lutheran/Sidney, Vice-President; Jane Johnson, Trinity Lutheran/Newman Grove, Secretary; and Nancy Johnson, Rejoice! Lutheran/Omaha, Treasurer.

HAT LADY INSPIRES

by Estelle Riemann

Patty Morrison inspired us with her humor and humanness. She showed us that we will never know when God will change the direction of our lives. The stories she shared with us stirred up memories in us when we may have gone through similar feelings and experiences. One of the common threads that ran through her presentation was that God was there directing her paths. She gave us many helpful hints for our life journey: journaling, acknowledging God's presence in the evening and morning, and the power of prayer was emphasized in an uplifting way.

An integral part of her message both in keynote and workshops was changing our "tude" from negative to positive using laughter to encourage an attitude of joy.

BISHOP deFREESE'S BIBLE STUDY **Be Still and Feel Christ's Heart Within You**

By Susan Humphrey



Bishop challenged us to be in relationship as we dug deeply into the story of the Woman at the Well. Here's the short version.....Jesus was compelled into action. He had to go through Samaria. Then he set the stage for the lesson and broke down the barriers.

And as the story unfolds the relationship building begins. Jesus offered his love and gave his life for us. Finally because of the woman's testimony and the hope she brought, Jesus provided the way for us to find our purpose and uses us for His kingdom.

We were then given yet some more homework (a reoccurring theme this weekend). We were asked to take time to finish the statements – A time you felt God used you for good: _____ and I love God because _____. Remember - Christianity is not a religion of rules BUT a relationship of Response! RESPOND!

SULLIVAN HILLS CAMPERS VISIT

Friday evening during the program we had the opportunity to hear from the kids of the St. John's Signs & Wonders of the Holy Spirit's Presence Bold Lutheran Church who had recently been to Camp Sullivan Hills. They shared with us all the things there mama told them and with their Bible studies. The kids exclaimed for us to be "Act Boldly."



The precious children were eagerly waiting to go home so they could have get those lollops after talking to the Heavenly Order of the Mamas of the ELCA.

Lena once again visited us at our convention, we are always glad to have her with us. She

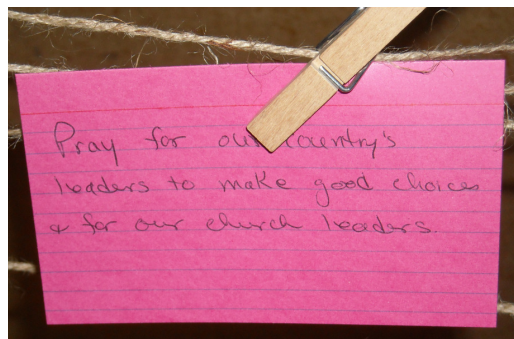


shared jokes, songs, and her memories of Lutfisk. Grandma Arlene shared reflections from children, mothers, and grandmothers. The evening ended with a a group song. The young ladies from Lutheran Service Corp stated

they how much they enjoyed the afternoon grace. They stated the blessing song was like listening to a 'choir of angels.' Lena and Teresa Christensen led the group in "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." It was a fun evening and the ice cream bar was a cool treat.

PRAYER CLOTHSLINE

New this year was a prayer clothesline, it enabled people to post prayer requests or write a prayer. Markers, stamps, and stickers were available.



BUSINESS SESSIONS

Business completed on Saturday included the election of president and officers. The president's report was received. The first ballot for Board Representative was taken; results will be presented on Sunday. Sunday's business will include the Triennial Delegate, Treasurer's report, Financial Review update, and Budget approval for 2010-2011.

It was a busy, fun-filled day and the love of God was felt throughout the day.

