



Brokering To Lead Winter Retreat



The man who taught the world to "Sing to the Lord a New Song" will be in Grand Island in January to lead NSWOW women to see how God made his people to Live from the Inside Out.

Dr. Herbert F. Brokering, who was born and raised in Nebraska, will return from Minneapolis for the 2004 Winter Retreat on Saturday, Jan 24, at St. Paul/Grand Island. The lyrics above are from "Earth and

All Stars" (#558, LBW), one of over 2000 anthems he has written.

He has authored more than 40 books, as well as teaching in seminaries, chaplain schools and military bases throughout the US and Europe.

Brokering said he will do his sessions as stories and songs that describe the wonder of God opening up inside persons. Stories will include women he knew when he was little in Nebraska. He says that all of his books and songs come from faith born in early Nebraska years.

"We will talk and pray about the life that unfolds in women," he said. "Our hope is to see this miracle in ourselves and each other."

Registration of \$18 includes lunch. The program will begin with coffee and rolls at 8:30 a.m. and end at 3:30 p.m. Registration deadline is Jan. 12.

More information and registration blank included on flyer mailed with this *Expressions*. Or contact registrar R. LaDene Rutt, 308-874-2982.

Delegates Name Hoins President

Ardith Hoins, Davenport, was elected president of the Nebraska SWO during the sixth biennial convention. She had previously been appointed to fill an unexpired term.

Other officers elected were Arlene Johnson, Shelby, vice president; Joan Berggren, Nebraska City, secretary; and JoAnn Rohrs, Auburn, treasurer.

Board representatives were elected as follows: Central, Diane Langer, Osceola; High Plains, Kandy Pflaster, Cozad; Metro East, Trudy Hutton, Blair; Midlands, Beth Meyer, Fremont; Northeast, Judy Stahlecker, Spencer; Southeast, Rose Miller, Pickrell; Southern Prairie, Lynn Echternkamp, Clay Center.

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Convention attendance totalled 268; with a voting body of 104.

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Budgets were adopted as follows: 2003 - \$126,525; 2004 - \$116,525.

(See "Convention" p. 4-5)

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Convention choir provides music for Sunday worship.

A Devotional Study

By Marydae Eigenberg

Former Southern Prairie Board Representative
Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization

Sunshine and Shadow

*You are my mighty rock, my fortress, my protector, the rock where I am safe,
my shield, my powerful weapon, and my place of shelter. Psalm 18:2 CEV*

There lay a bright square quilt over her as she lay on the sofa – this Hospice patient of mine. She didn't talk, simply held my hand that afternoon.

There had been an accident which had killed a young man from the community. This was in my thoughts and prayers as I sat there. The dying lingers and the young dies.

Life is full of sunshine and shadow just like the blocks in the quilt at which I was looking. Typical of our life. Some blocks of the quilt were bright yellow, green and red. There were blocks of tan, brown, and black. Those only added to the brightness of the colorful blocks.

If we were to look at a pieced quilt from years ago, we would see sunshine and shadows. There are blocks made from sunshine times, blocks of a wedding dress, maternity dress, or a dress worn on a special date. But there are blocks from shadow times, too. Material from a dress worn to a funeral, worn when the Doctor said Cancer, worn when a job was terminated.

Each of us can put together a memory quilt of sunshine and shadows. Dark shadows of

grief when our hearts cried. By putting a sunshine block next to the shadow block, the shadow isn't as dark and the sunshine block seems brighter. We go from shadows into sunshine when our sins are forgiven. So many times in sunshine we do our own thing, because we think we see and know. But in shadows we depend upon God to lead us. When the shadows are the darkest, we place our hand in His, and know He will lead us into the sunshine.

What blessings and comfort come when we gather up the quilt of blocks --sunshine and shadows -- and give them to our loving God. The master quilter sorts out the blocks that make our quilt. They are sunshine and shadows, the patchwork of our lives.

The bright squared quilt that covered my patient -- what were the experiences that made her quilt of life? Are they like mine?

Prayer: *Our Father, keep us aware that you are the Master Quilter. No matter how bad things are, you are there. You turn the shadows into light, the light into your SONSHINE. Amen.*

Expressions 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's Organization, Women of the ELCA, and helps for congregational units. It is distributed free to congregational unit presidents and pastors of congregations.

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.

Editor: Beth Bohling, 1345 North Commercial, Superior NE 68978-1023 Phone: 402-879-3494 e-mail: beth.b@alltel.net

Send subscriptions to Linda Fuhr, 1158 132nd Rd, Osceola NE 68651. \$4 per year.

Upcoming Events

Winter Retreat

Jan. 24, 2004

St. Paul/ Grand Island

Wayne Saved To Serve

June 11-13, 2004

Message from the President

...Well done, good and faithful servant!! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!! Matthew 25:21(NIV)

To ALL those who helped with convention in any manner.....WELL DONE!! The evaluations revealed very favorable comments and good suggestions for future planning. The committee sought to BE BOLD in their planning....wondering if their choices were too bold!! The tangible offering was not "tangible" as we have known it. The evening celebration involved a pajama party with a comedian with hors d'oeuvres, not a banquet! The music was led by a band with movement during the songs!! to mention a few!!! It was placed in God's hands and we were blessed abundantly!

I appreciate the vote of confidence by the convention body in my election to serve in the capacity of President. I found a verse by an unknown author....."The Lord doesn't ask about your ability, only your availability; and if you prove your dependability, the Lord will increase your capability." I am relying on the Lord to carry me forward in this work...He has been there in the last 18 months and I will continue to call upon Him constantly asking for courage and strength in the next two years. Thank you for all who continue to include me, as well as the Board, in your daily prayers.

I extend a heartfelt thank you to the outgoing officers and Board Representatives. May they be blessed in special ways as they are called to be bold in their service to God in other ways.

I look forward to working with the new Board, welcoming two new officers and four new Board representatives. As we make plans for the next two years, we will be setting goals, reevaluating our present endeavors, and assessing and exploring new directions and areas of emphasis.

One of the Ah-Ha! moments during convention was the call for all those registered who were attending convention for the first-time to come forward. Sixty-four women came to be recognized..... 25% of those registered. Goose bumps arose on my arms as the buzz in the convention room increased when the significance of this was realized. Thanks to those Women of the ELCA



members who spread the word, invited, distributed convention information, made phone calls, etc., etc., etc. to make this possible. The moment was a high!! The Holy Spirit was at work!!!

One of the resolutions passed at convention encourages congregations of the Nebraska Synod to participate in the Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project through the purchase of Equal Exchange Tanzanian Jubilee Coffee and asks that, when possible, we use this coffee at future Spring Gatherings, Autumn Renewals, Winter Retreats and other synodical and conference Women of the ELCA events. Please share this with your congregation. This is vital to the producers in Tanzania. By embracing this new campaign of the Women of the ELCA, "Pour Justice to the Brim: The 90 Ton Challenge," we will help to double the amount of fair trade coffee purchased last year. Please give this prayerful consideration in your congregation.

Heard of *Café*....a new electronically delivered magazine geared to women ages 20-35 by the Women of the ELCA. *Café* stands for Community, Advocacy, Faith and Enlightenment. There will be five issues a year. It is free. Sign up online at www.elca.org/wo/café/

"...if anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ...." 1 Peter 4:11 (NIT)

Called and serving,
Sister in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ardith".

Ardith Hoins, President
P. O. Box 6, Davenport NE 68335
402-364-2142 jahoins@navix.net

November , 2003 - 3

Convention Highlights

Vicar Cathy Braasch of Hope/Smithfield preached at Friday evening's worship and healing service and led Bible Study on Saturday morning. "God is calling us," she said, "to steadfast faith in action, to tell others what God has done for us and to invite them to come and see."

~ ~ ~

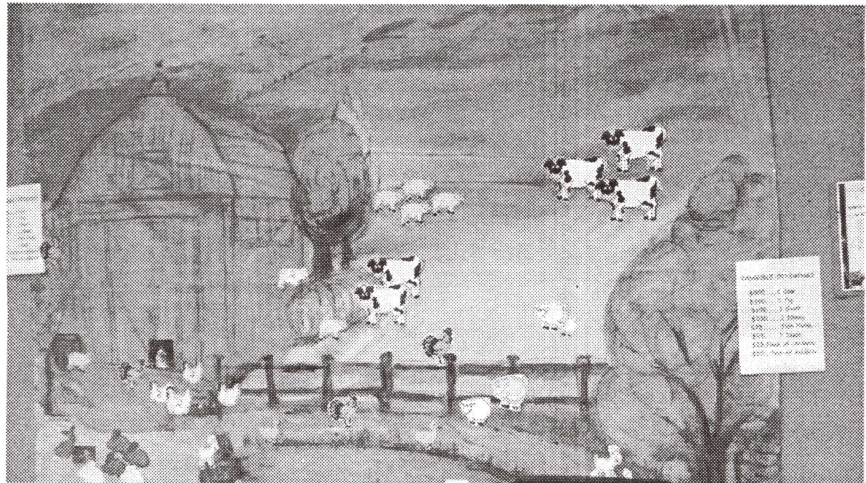
"Sounds of Celebration," which leads contemporary worship at First/Fremont, provided music for worship and business sessions, encouraging those attending to sing and clap along. The group included two singers, two guitar players, a pianist and a drummer.

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The Rev. Anjanette Rist, chaplain for the convention, was in charge of the service of healing, which followed Friday evening's communion. She was also available for counseling.

~ ~ ~

In her president's message,



God's Barnyard was filled with creatures as Nebraska Women of the ELCA gave to purchase animals, fowl and fish through the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Animals mounted on the convention barnyard scene represented the \$6,634.90 donated toward the project to help the world's poor feed themselves.

Ardith Hoins challenged the units to rethink what they are doing – to see how they can best fulfill the Women of the ELCA purpose to "Mobilize. . . Act. . . Be Bold."

~ ~ ~

Keynote speaker Jacqueline Tobin, Colorado teacher and author, urged women to write down their own personal story. **CW Executive Linda Post-Bushkowski accepts a Cornhusker shirt in recognition of her visit to Nebraska.**



Women select pins by Lucinda to help build the Vision Fund, which provides funding for exchange visits with Companion Synods.

Triennial Delegates 2005

Nebraska SWO delegates elected to attend Triennial Convention, 2005, are:

Joanne Shottenkirk, differently abled, Southern Prairie; Ardith Hoins, president; Donna Bathke, Midlands; Vicky Hingst, Northeast; Mary Levander, Central; Sharon Larson, High Plains; Mary Mayfield, Metro East; Marydae Eigenberg, Southern Prairie; Carol Deepe, Southern Prairie; Beth Rippe, Metro East; Shirley Kehne, Northeast; Carol Bierman, Southeast.

Alternates in descending order are Sharon Hartman, Denise Werner, Debra Jenner-Billington, Pam Johnson, Janet Schmidt, Ilene Tegtman, Sandra Smith, Marian Nitz, Emily Laaker, Susan Pinguoch, Nancy Marty.



President Ardith Hoins beside the waterfall which highlighted the convention worship setting.

ries. She told of learning from an African American woman selling quilts in a market the meanings which various quilt patterns had to slaves in the 19th century, and how they helped them negotiate the Underground Railroad.

~ ~ ~

Pastor Sacia Vik, preaching on Sunday morning, said Lutherans tend to be more comfortable being moderate than bold. "We pay an enormous price for that," she said, urging her hearers to look for patterns of boldness in Scripture. Too many people think that being nice is the same as being Christian, she said.

Pastor Vik cited examples, such as Nehemiah, Esther, Ruth, Nicodemus and others, climaxing each with "Front of Faith - Be Bold."

"We must be bold because Satan is real," she said, "and delights in our moderation, in our contentment."

~ ~ ~

The Convention Worship offering, totalling \$2,059.65 was for the Lakota Indian Center in Scottsbluff.

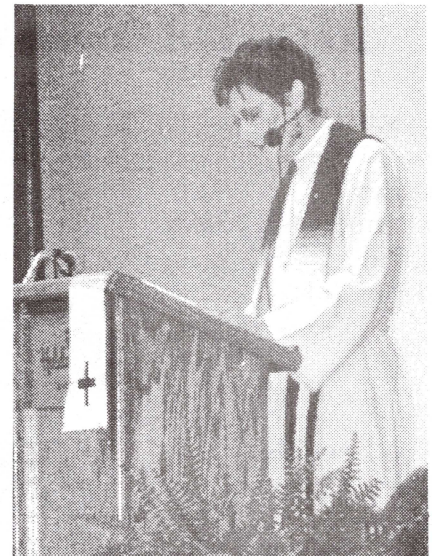
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The Convention Mission offering which totalled \$9,828.14 by Oct. 21, was evenly divided between the churchwide women's organization and the Nebraska Synod Operation I.D.E.A.

I.D.E.A. is a long-term program whose goal is to identify potential candidates for the ministry and help them along the way to answering God's call. Its importance can be seen by the fact that more than 50 congregations in Nebraska have no pastor, and almost 70 of the current pastors will reach retirement age in the next five years.

Font of Faith - Be Bold

Convention
Pictures
by Sandy
Boots,
Mary
Mayfield



Pastor Sacia Vik delivers the sermon at Sunday morning's convention worship.

Information about how units and individuals can help is available from Pastor Roger Sasse, Operation IDEA, 27416 Ranch Road, Ashland Ne 68003.

~ ~ ~

Breakout sessions on Friday and Saturday afternoons provided opportunities for women to walk the contemplative path in the Labyrinth Room, as well as attend their choices of workshops.

Carolyn Cook, CWO Board representative from Oregon, did a workshop on children today. Other topics involved citizenship, leadership, faith in daily life, justice, boldness in mission, and current affairs. A young women track was also available.



Pajamas set the tone for a hilarious Saturday evening, with speaker T. Marni Vos followed by the NSWOW's own adaptation of "The Sound of Music."

Meet Your Executive Board, NSWO

President

Ardith Hoins
PO Box 6
Davenport NE 68335
402-364-2142
jahoins@navix.net



Ardith is a member of Christ/Davenport, where she is Sunday School superintendent, circle chairperson, communion assistant, lay reader and choir member.. She has served the Board as Service and Development chair and vice president, as well as completing a term as president. She directs the Family and Community Services Department at Blue Valley Community Action, which serves several counties. Her husband Jerry farms. They have two sons and three grandchildren.

Vice President

Arlene Johnson
PO Box 71
Shelby NE 68662
402-527-5500



Arlene is in her third term as vice president and has served as Board Representatives for both Central and Southeast conferences. In her home congregation, St. Paul/Osceola, she is a member of Martha Circle and the Grace Girls Bible study group. She is active with the Shelby Community Improvement Committee, the Shelby Bible Study Group and the Polk County Hospital Auxiliary Board. Her husband, Jerry is a Farmland manager. They have two children and three granddaughters.

Secretary

Joan Berggren
1224 2nd Ave.
Nebraska City
68410-2006
402-873-6204
brucejoan@yahoo.com



Joan has been Women of the ELCA circle chair, co-Sunday School superintendent and co-chairman of the church library renovation. She was on the synod committee for "Partners in Caring." As an extension club officer, she organized the county-wide Thanksgiving Dinner for two years. She has been president of a Lutheran Brotherhood branch. She and her husband Bruce, a retired pastor, recently moved to Nebraska City. They have five children and seven grandchildren.

Treasurer

JoAnn Rohrs
1409 10th St.
Auburn NE 68305
402-274-3058
jar1409@earthlink.net



JoAnn is unit president at St. Paul/Auburn, where she has served as congregational council member. She is retired after 28 years as Nemaha County clerk. Her community involvement includes the American Legion Auxiliary, Auburn Chamber of Commerce, and the Nemaha Valley Museum board. JoAnn was coordinator for the Saved to Serve event at Lutheran Student Center. Her husband is deceased. She had a daughter, a son, seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

Conference Board Representatives

High Plains

Kandy Pflaster
1009 Meridian
Cozad NE 69130
308-784-2193
kpflast@charter.net



Kandy, a member of American/Cozad, is on the boards of Evangelism and Christian Education. She volunteers for the Red Cross, the American Legion Baseball Board of Directors and the Cozad Athletic Boosters. She is a registered nurse, employed as director of nursing at a skilled long term care facility. She holds leadership positions in several professional associations. Her husband, Tony, is a farm laborer and bee keeper. They have three teen-aged children.

Northeast

Judy Stahlecker
PO Box 49
Spencer NE 68777
402-589-1033
stahlecker@inebraska.com



Judy is a past Northeast Conference coordinator. At Our Saviour/Spencer, she is Women of the ELCA president, a council member and Sunday School coordinator.

She chairs the S-N Alumni Association and is co-chair of the Spencer Community Club. Her husband, Glen, manages a lumber and hardware store, where she is clerk-secretary. She also designs floral displays for a greenhouse. They have two children and one grandchild.

Midland

Beth Meyer
2051 Fairacres Dr.
Fremont NE 68025
-2736
402-721-3053
nanampapam@cs.com



Beth has served as Midland Conference coordinator and attended two Triennial conventions as a delegate. She has been unit president at First/ Fremont, and has served on the church council and sings with the choir. She helps with Habitat for Humanity projects. A former paraprofessional with the Fremont schools, she now babysits a grandson. Her husband, Terry, is retired.

Central

Diana Langer
PO Box 282
Osceola NE 68651
402-362-3021
lajidi@yahoo.com



Diana has served as president of the Women of the ELCA in her home congregation, St, Paul/Osceola, for three years. She is also a choir member and a former Sunday School teacher. She was a visitor at Triennial in Philadelphia (2003). She teaches art, social studies, and language arts at St.. Joseph in York. Her husband Jim is employed by a feed store. She has two children, two stepchildren and three step grandchildren.

Metro East

Trudy Hutton
2233 Colfax St.
Blair NE 68008
402-426-4358
dhutton@acad2.dana.edu



Trudy is unit president of the Women of the ELCA, First/Blair, liaison for Bread for the World, and a member of the Social Concerns committee and of choir. She is a retired mental health therapist and has helped with CROP, Habitat for Humanity, the Washington County recycling center and food pantry. Her husband, Delvin, is a retired professor from Dana College. They have four married children and seven grandchildren.

Southeast

Rose Miller
10366 E. Cherry Rd.
Adams NE 68301
402-988-2725



Rose is a member of Christ/Pickrell, where she is unit president and circle president, Mission Action chair, a Stephen Minister and choir member. This is her second term as Board Representative. At Adams, where she and her husband, Kenneth, farm, Rose is president of the extension club and volunteers at the retirement center, the immunization clinic and the Red Cross. The Millers have three children and nine grandchildren.

Southern Prairie

Lynn Echternkamp
104 Northridge Dr.
Clay Center NE 68933
402-762-3866



Lynn was Southern Prairie Conference coordinator in 2003. She has been unit president at Zion/Clay Center, where she is also the Fun Time coordinator for their after-school program. She coordinates the drug free program for Clay Center School, where she is a Title I reading teacher. She has attended two Triennial conventions. Her husband, Sherrill, is a scientist at the Meat Animal Research Center. They have two children and one grandchild.

We Are Women of the Global Community

We are called to be women of the global community. We live here — locally. Yet every activity of our day affects people all over the

Global Awareness

Shirley Daire, Advocate
Rt 1 Box 77
Alma NE 68920-9791
(308-928-2893)
sdaire@yahoo.com



world. The other way around— what happens anywhere in the world is part of our daily life! Sounds strange, doesn't it?

Hungry, hurting people can only mean "angry" people when they see others living in plenty. That means terrorism happens to right the balance. Even more, Jesus has called all who love him to care about those who suffer and are in need.

Some days we feel overwhelmed with the needs we see and know about! We are NOT called to do everything—just to do what is in our power. Many of us are finding a wide variety of ways to be in ministry and service.

Here are a few tidbits from Global Mission and Social Justice Education to know and use in your women's unit.

Travel Opportunities

While Nebraska Synod women are global women, we are also specifically companions with Lutheran women in Argentina and in the Northern Diocese of Tanzania. In 2004 there are two opportunities to visit and get to know women in these places.

We don't have much detail yet about the jointly sponsored ELCA/Women of the ELCA study seminar for South America. There are spaces for two women from Nebraska. Other synods with companions in South American countries will also be part of the group. Women from the companion churches will also attend. The focus is on the issues affecting women in our companion churches and countries. It is also a great time of getting to know women from other places and cultures. More info is coming soon.

Nebraska Synod women have also been invited to visit our sisters in Tanzania in October, 2004. See Pearl Anderson's article, p. 11, for additional information.

Just for Fun:

I've been reading a fun book that I found in a bookstore. It has been on the best seller list. In the middle of the humor it lifts up women and their options to do whatever they feel called to do in spite of what others may see as "the norm."

The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency by Alexander McCall Smith. This is a novel with a story about Precious Ramotswe who lives in Botswana and wants to be a detective. But, women have never been detectives before!

If you enjoy that one, there are three more books in the series.

A Kit for the Terminally Ill

This kit is designed for AIDS patients and others who are terminally ill. Assembled kits can be sent to Global Health Ministries, 7831 Hickory Street NE, Minneapolis MN 55432



New or gently used:

- 1 regular size bath towel and 1 wash cloth

New items:

- 1 bath size bar of hand soap (wrapped)
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 tube tooth paste, medium or large (or two small sample sizes)
- 1 "pick" comb (see illustration)
- 1 nail clipper
- 6 Band-Aids
- 1 jar or tube of petroleum jelly
- 1 bottle multivitamins (100-200 count)
- 1 bottle aspirin, Tylenol or ibuprofen (100-200 count)
- 1 pair heavy duty household gloves (kitchen type) size: medium
- 1 small devotional booklet

Mission: Growth

There is an old saying that you never stay at the same place in your growing in knowledge. You are either increasing or decreasing, You never stay the same. That is why it

is so important to continue in our learning. Growing is difficult at times, we are faced with ideas that are foreign to us. "We have never done it

that way before." By learning about new ways, we can decide if the old way is really the better way or if by trying something new, we will learn.

There is help in many different places. *Expressions*, our SWO newsletter which is published four times a year, contains the upcoming events and the dates when they will take place. . . knowledge of the Global Mission Work. . . information about our Sister Synods of Argentina and Tanzania. . . dates when reports are due from each unit. There are other areas of growth. . . Presidents Workshops. . . Autumn Renewals. . . Winter Retreats. . . State Conventions. . . Saved to Serve events. . . as well as the Triennial Convention. All learning events.

Probably the most important for growth are the Bible Studies. We are urged to use *The Lutheran Woman*. These studies are used nation wide. This year the study will be on Paul's letters. But whether you use these studies or others, Bible Study should be the most important tool in your Christian growth.

Another source of study can be found in the series, "Called To Be." These are available to

each unit free through the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago IL 60631-4189.

In the Women of the ELCA purpose statement, we commit ourselves "to **grow** in faith."

Most of us make this promise at our unit meetings each month, and we mean it.

PURPOSE: To provide a variety of learning experiences that strengthen each woman as a whole person, develop her potential and equip her for ministry.

How do we do it? We are often asked, "How are you?" What if we were to answer, "I'm growing." That could open up any number of ideas. People would really wonder

Marydae Eigenberg
Former Committee Chair
1207 W. 6th Street
Hastings NE 68901
402-463-4605
marydae@inebraska.com



what you are talking about. What a wonderful opening to talk about our spiritual growth. "I'm growing in my prayer life." "I'm growing in memorizing Bible verses." You add areas where you are growing.

As I have signed my letters the last four years, we are God's hands and feet here on earth, let's serve with love and joy. Let's continue to learn and grow and to serve Him. I'll be seeing you at "Growth Events" through the coming years.

A big thank you to the following representatives who had convention displays in the commons area:

Aloha Schmid and Annette,
Tabitha Health Care Services
Anita Sites, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
Don Marshall, Oaks Indian

Center

Pat Brown, NE Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault Coalition, Family Violence Council of Lincoln/Interchurch Ministries of Nebraska

Bob Prucha, Immanuel Health Ministries

Sunni Richardson, Ne-

braska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries/Operation IDEA

Shirley Thomlison, Lutheran Family Services

Bill Shaner, Mosaic

Shelly Petersen, ELCA Mission Investment Fund

Stacy Poggendorf, Midland Lutheran College

Mission: Community

We Need Another Reformation

October 31 is called Reformation Day because that's the date on which Martin Luther posted his 95 theses in 1517. This is actually the birthday of the Lutheran Church.

Reformation Day provides a natural opportunity to think and pray about what it means to be a Christian. "Am I taking my cues from the world, from other people, from my own sinful desires, or from the living and true God who never changes?" This is a question we need to ask ourselves.

Because we are sinners, we don't need a lot of help to drift away from the true, the beautiful and the good. Dr. Luther served us well by naming particular problems in the church of his time. But the basic issue was the authority of the Word of God (the Bible) in the daily lives of the people.

We need to be open to the Holy Spirit every day so that we have the insight and the power to stay close to God. "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God -- what is good and acceptable and perfect." Romans 12:2

Some questions we can ask ourselves are:

Does God have first place in my life?

Do I honor Him by daily worship?

Do I obey God by taking part in His church as a humble and helpful member?

Do I allow God to make me more like Jesus through repentance and acceptance of His Grace gifts of the Holy Bible and the Holy Spirit?

Do I allow God to use my gifts in serving other people?

PURPOSE: To enable each woman to value herself and others as created in God's image and redeemed through Christ and to build up and celebrate relationships that are global, diverse and interdependent

Ephesians 2:10 states, "We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do

good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Do I share the truth of

Ingrid Hoper
Committee Chair
Box 494
Osceola NE 68651
402-747-3471
crhoper@alltel.net



God's salvation through Jesus Christ with other people as opportunities arise?

Each one of us is put on this earth by a loving heavenly Father to bring Him glory. This happens and will continue happening as people respond one at a time to His call to discipleship.

Have a blessed Reformation Day!

Let Your Light Shine



10 - November 2003

A "Festival of the Tables" is the major fund raiser for St. Paul/Falls City Women of the ELCA. A salad luncheon in July netted \$1511, including \$400 from Thrivent. Ticket sales and a silent auction accounted for the rest of the funds.

Twelve tables were set in a "Hobbie and Collectibles" theme, ranging from cows to angels. Fine china and linens complemented the theme decorations.

Susan Brown spoke on "The Importance of Laughter." Music included vocal, piano and violin solos.

Money raised was divided among community causes such as the ambulance, town and rural fire departments, museum, library and swimming pool.

For more information, contact Della Meyer, Rt 3, Box 48, Falls City NE 68355, 402-245-3743, drdmeyer@sentco.net

Argentina Delights

The trip to Argentina was delightful and informative. We visited several churches and heard of their work with the poor. We visited schools supported by the church. We heard from Nora, a mother whose young son was arrested and disappeared during the 1970's as did 35,000 other young adults.

We also greeted some old friends. Nelly, who visited the convention here in 2001, was there to greet us with enthusiasm. She remembers seeing so many women her age and older that were working hard in their congregations doing Christ's work in Nebraska. You all sent her home with renewed energy. She now feels that she is not too old and still has a lot to give.

Nelly brought her daughter and granddaughter to the Northern District meeting, which we also attended. For the seven ladies from Buenos Aires, it was a 19-hour bus ride to get there. We attended worship on Sunday morning and I was impressed by the distances that the people travel, many on foot, to attend morning worship.

Blitz or Glitz Identify '04 Saved To Serve Retreat Opportunities

Saved To Serve opportunities for 2004 will include

- * A decorating blitz on a house for Christian students at Wayne State College, June 11-13 and

- * Putting on the glitz for a party at Good Shepherd Home, Blair, Sept. 10-12.

These serving retreat opportunities will begin on Friday evening with orientation, planning and Bible study. Saturday during the day participants work on the projects, in the evening they enjoy some type of fun group activities. On

Companion Synods

Pearl Anderson, Coor.
14529 Parker St.
Omaha NE 68154
402-493-6326



The Church of Argentina thanks you for your prayers. Their economy is improving somewhat. Ardi, Kandy, Lindsey, and I thank you for your prayers and financial support.

Now we look forward to a visit with our sisters in Tanzania in October 5 - 18, 2004. If you can not go, your prayers and support to the Vision Fund to assist someone else to go will be appreciated.

The Vision Fund, which helps finance visits (both ways) between Nebraska Women of the ELCA and women of Companion Synods in Argentina and Tanzania, received \$1600.98 from gifts and the sale of Lucinda pins at convention.

Balance in the fund as of Oct. 21 was \$6,598.68.

Sunday a commissioning service and worship round out the weekend.

Again there will be opportunities for those who do not attend to send related items.

For the campus house, pots and pans, dishes, silverware and bathroom products are being collected.

For the Good Shepherd Home, patterns for bags to make will be mailed to each unit in January.

See more details in flyer mailed with this *Expressions*.

Subscription Blank

☐ New ☐ Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip+4 _____

Subscription: \$4 per year (4 issues). Make check payable to NSWO

Please do not mail cash. Mail to:

Linda Fuhr
1158 132nd R.
Osceola NE 68653

November, 2003 - 11

Check List for Congregational Units

To Do Every Month

- ☐ 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 September - J to those starting in January)

November

- ☐ Share *Expressions* with members.
- ☐ (J) Plan yearbooks

- ☐ 7 World Community Day
- ☐ 10-14 LWR Pickup
- ☐ Hold Thankoffering Service
- ☐ (J) Have you sent officers list to Linda Fuhr, 1158 132nd Rd. Osceola NE 68651?

December

- ☐ Plan to use left-over money to do God's work
- ☐ (J) Install officers at Sunday worship
- ☐ (J) Prepare yearbooks
- ☐ Send in year's end offering
- ☐ Send news to *Expressions*
- ☐ Did you send officers to Linda?

January

- ☐ 1 *Expressions* deadline
- ☐ 12 Registration deadline for Winter Retreat
- ☐ 24 Winter Retreat at Grand Island
- ☐ Announce Spring Gathering
- ☐ Did you send in your year's end offering?
- ☐ (J) Adopt budget
- ☐ (J) Distribute yearbooks

February

- ☐ 7 Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day
- ☐ Publicize spring gathering
- ☐ Plan offering for gathering
- ☐ Share *Expressions*

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