



Expressions

VOL. 31, NO. 2, MAY 2017

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

Let us be concerned for one another, to help one another, to show love.

Hebrews 10:24 TEV

Are you ready to attend a Saved To Serve Opportunity?

Join other women from across Nebraska for a Saved To Serve Opportunity-a working retreat!

Groups will gather in Holdrege at Spirit of Grace Lutheran Church, which is a new mission congregation, from August 25 to 27, and to Lincoln, October 20 to 22, to the Lutheran Center at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Find satisfaction in serving!

In Holdrege, to increase awareness of the congregation, volunteers will help distribute throughout the town informational fliers about the church and their upcoming fall events. The planning team met late last month to finalize additional activities which may include assisting the Mosaic group homes in Holdrege.

On a non-Nebraska game weekend, STSO participants will join forces at the Lutheran Center at UNL to make

paraments for their altar and to give cooking lessons. The food prepared will be eaten as a community meal following worship services on Sunday. Some sprucing up at the center is also planned. The ingathering for this event will help supply the OpeN Shelf Campus Pantry providing Husker students access to free personal care items. The most needed items are women's hygiene supplies, laundry detergent, paper towels, toilet paper and tissues. Gift cards or monetary donations towards the purchase of items can be sent to NSWO Treasurer Sandy Terry.

The registration fee for these events is \$39.00 each. Lodging and most meals are provided. In addition to the service activities, each event will include a multi-part Bible study, community building among participants, learning about the agency associated with the ELCA, interaction with others, satisfaction, fun, and JOY in serving our Lord Jesus Christ!

If you have general questions about these events or Saved to Serve Opportunities, contact :

Mary Mayfield
mayfieldim@cox.net

or
Susan Watson
swat55@windstream.net.

Why attend Triennial Gathering?

ELCA Region 4 members said:

"To reconnect with loving Lutheran sisters," Jackie Wilson, CWO Executive Board Member.

"To be refreshed and made 'All Anew'," Lisa Youngquist, Central States SWO President.

"Because I've heard it's addictive!," MiLisa Gaertner, TX-LA Gulf Coast SWO Board Member.

"It's a time for personal renewal, making new friends, and leaving cares of home and work behind you for a week," Gwen Edwards, CWO Executive Board Member.

"To renew your faith and reconnect with friends," Deana Fuchs, TX-LA Gulf Coast SWO President.

"To be inspired by Bold women and participate in life changing ministry," Susan Humphrey, past CWO Executive Board Member.

"For the love and spiritual fullness and to learn more about what we as Women of the ELCA do!," Elysia McGill, Nebraska SWO Vice-President.

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From Fearful to Faithful

By JUDY STAHLECKER, Board Member/Northeast Conference



Matthew 19:26--Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

A son drew a picture of his Mommy. She was curious, so asked him, "What is Mommy doing in that

picture?"

He said, "She is thinking."

Then he drew one of those brain bubbles that float up to the sky. Pretty certain that she was about to be crowned Super Mommy, she asked, "What is Mommy thinking about?"

His reply? "About herself."

Wow! Talk about getting hit with a "ton of bricks." She was hit with the truth--thinking of herself (again).

As controllers, it's hard not to, isn't it? We exchange love for lists, being for doing, relationships for rapid-fire orders and the list goes on and on. Our need to feel at ease makes us forget the deep needs of others. Don't get me wrong: we have things handled. We are all very good at reaching surface level and situational goals--the house is clean, the T's are crossed and the I's are dotted, but just as the boy revealed, sometimes we get so busy handling all we have to handle we become dismantled and people suffer.

It's right about now when we need to say, "I didn't do well, but I'm going to fix myself and do whatever to make things right."

I. Will. Improve.

Usually all that needs to be said is this, "Lord!"

Not, "Lord! Those people need to get their act together."

Not, "Lord! When will people move a little faster."

Not, "Lord! If I want something done right, well, I have to do it myself."

Not, "Lord! I can't trust anyone."

Not, "Lord! When will you do what I need you to do?"

No, more like:

Lord! I need YOU!

Lord! I can't do it without You.

It comes down to this: "Come, Lord! Help me to be an abiding person."

The simple acknowledgement of "I can't" gives you the eyes to see--HE can.

Let's pray...*Dear Lord, I hold on to life tightly. Help me to let go. May I remember when I can't, You can. May I understand the depths of Your love and peace. Bring me to greater surrender, that I may know You more. In Jesus' name. Amen.*

Your turn...

Where have you gripped life so hard your hand is leaving a mark? How has control negatively impacted your attitude, relationships or outcomes? What would it look like to know, you can't--but God always can?

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 female seminarian students; the other SWO Presidents; the CWO Officers and Executive Board Members; and past NSWO Presidents.

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Contact the *Expressions* Editor at nswo.expressions@gmail.com. Content information can be sent via e-mail and is the preferred method.

May *Expressions* team members included Arlene Johnson plus layout editor. Additional contributors included Karen Daffer, Gwen Edwards, Chrissy Garten, Val Killinger, Shirley Splittgerber, Connie Wallman, and Susan Watson.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Spring is Here!! Hope you are enjoying the beautiful flowers and wonderful weather.

Since my last letter, I have attended the Conference of Presidents in Chicago. There were sixty-three of the sixty-four SWO Presidents there along with six members of the Women of the ELCA's Executive Board. We discussed "Do you know this Woman?" as we read several passages from the Bible. It is interesting to see/hear what other synods are doing to increase participation, to raise money for projects, to support women/children in need, to communicate with the congregational units as well as Churchwide, and to support Women of the ELCA through our offerings. We quilted finger labyrinths, colored "all anew" pages, gathered in-kind gifts, and toured the Lutheran Center as we arrived. President Patti Austin greeted us with her ministry update, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton stopped by to greet us, Katie von Bora Luther was one of the guest visitors as we discussed Katie's Fund, and we recognized new synodical presidents. We had a worship service, regional caucus time, Bible study, workshops about stewardship, leadership and writing a resolution, and discipleship. We learned how to hold a conversation about a proposed ELCA social statement on women and justice. We participated in a Cafe' event. We gave \$7,490 in offerings that were split three ways: Katie's Fund, Beacon Interfaith Housing Collaborative, and Women of the ELCA's General Fund. We brought \$4,540 in gift cards and cash that will go to Beacon. I roomed with our sister synod's (Pacifica) president Eunice Hanson and we are planning to get our synods together for a meal during the Triennial Gathering.

Spring Gatherings have been a wonderful experience. "Sisters in Christ" was the theme and each conference had a unique emphasis. What creative ladies we have in Nebraska! Several should have articles and photos in this *Expressions* with more in the next issue.

I am getting excited about our Triennial Convention, July 11-13, and Triennial Gathering, July 13-16, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I hope many of you ladies will be attending. We have heard from the Churchwide offices that so far we have forty registered, but they can only give me names of those who checked the box to share your information so I only know names of twelve. I would love to know who you are so we can try to get together while at the Triennial Gathering. Please e-mail or call me and let me know if you are attending.

The Nebraska SWO is arranging for a bus to leave early on Monday, July 10 as the voting members credentialing begins Monday evening at 7:00 p.m. We have room for forty ladies. Please contact Chrissy Garton for more information. The more we have the less it will cost per person.

Visit the Women of the ELCA's Triennial Gathering website, welcatg.org, to register online. You can also prepare for the Tenth Triennial Gathering in any number of ways: knitting, sewing, crocheting, and more. Quilters should consider entering a black & white +one quilt challenge. Using only black and white fabrics, plus the addition of one color, make a quilt that's forty inches square with the purpose of interpreting the gathering theme, "All Anew". See the website for more details, the deadline is May 17 OR make a finger labyrinth, quilted or knitted or crocheted. They are hoping to collect 5,000 so each voting member at Convention plus each member at the Gathering may receive one. If they have extra they will go to chaplains in schools, hospitals, hospices and nursing homes. Examples, patterns, and directions are available on the website. These should be sent to the Churchwide office by June 1.

Our NSWO Convention will be September 28-30 at Carol Joy Holling Camp. The registration form is on our NSWO website. Your congregational voting member will attend on Friday, September 28. You can come for the weekend or for just one day. Great way to see what is new at the camp while women learn, encourage, support and live out our mission.

Remember our emphasis on Human Trafficking and the work being done on the Women and Justice social statement. Hopefully, our work will be able to help other women and girls who are in need. It is an honor and privilege to serve such a wonderful organization as the NSWO. Thanks for all your support, love and inspiration. God Bless You All.

Nancy Johnson

TRIENNIAL GATHERINGS ARE A TIME TO SING, DANCE AND RESPOND TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

SOURCE: <http://www.welcatg.org/news/triennial-gatherings-time-sing-dance-respond-holy-spirit/>



Plenary sessions at a triennial gathering are exciting. Where else do you get 2,500 Lutheran women singing, dancing and responding to the Holy Spirit at the same time!? Plenary sessions at the Tenth Triennial Gathering will be no exception. They are being shaped around *Gather* magazine's summer Bible study, All Anew: Ready Or Not.

The gathering is July 13-16, 2017, in Minneapolis.

Each session will include Bible study, world music, inspiring words from Lutheran women and audience interaction.

After opening worship, our Thursday evening plenary explores the concept of "Saying Goodbye to Nice." Bible study author Kelly Fryer will remind us how heroes and sheroes of the biblical story often had to do and say things that were unpopular with family, friends and neighbors as they lived out the "new" thing God was doing. We'll explore what it means to be part of God's renewal today.

The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, presiding bishop of the ELCA, will lead a panel responding to Fryer's study.

Friday morning we turn to session two, "Stand with the Least of These." Fryer will remind us the biblical story tells us that whenever God does a new thing, it happens in, through and with people who live on the margins.

Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee, our Lutheran sister from Liberia, will help us answer the question with whom is God asking us to align today? In whose corner are we being called to stand? Again, a panel will respond to the study and Gbowee's talk.

On Saturday we'll "Upend the Tables" as we are reminded that the biblical story is filled with characters who challenged unjust systems, took action that turned societal norms upside down and spoke truth to power. The Rev. Alexia Salvatierra, a national leader in areas of poverty and immigration and an ELCA pastor, will help us examine the systems we are part of that need to be challenged, asking what counter-cultural, justice-making actions are we being called to take. A panel will respond to the study and Salvatierra's talk.

Are we ready to say goodbye to nice, stand with the least of these and upend some tables? When 2,500 powerful and influential Lutheran women say yes, change will take place in this church!



Looking for Transportation? Lodging?

The Nebraska SWO bus will be leaving Monday morning July 10th from Kearney promptly at 6:00 am, and make stops in Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha along the way. The cost is approximately \$280 right now per person. The bus will return on Sunday late evening on July 16th. There are very few spots left in the block of Nebraska rooms, but there is still space, and we can add more rooms if more want to stay with us. Contact Chrissy Garton at 402-763-7672 or chrissylovescake@gmail.com for more information and to make your reservations.

NSWO Thirteenth Biennial Convention

September 28-30

Carol Joy Holling Camp, Ashland, NE

Here are some of the Convention Committee's plans to date:

- Workshops on Thursday and Friday that are focused on Women of the ELCA and your unit
- An opportunity to discuss Faith, Sexism and Justice
- An Old Time Hymn Sing plus learning lots of camp songs
- Thursday evening: An Evening with Katie presented by Lisa Kramme followed by German refreshments
- Friday evening: Outdoor devotions and Patio Party with Two Gals and a Guitar
- Bible study and worship led by Pr. Paula Lawhead
- Tie fleece blankets for LWR in the Servant Room
- Make a stole for closing worship
- Free time to take a tour of the camp, just wander on your own, or enjoy the rocking chairs on the front porch of the Swanson Center
- And this is just a start

A big THANK YOU to everyone who has donated lace and ribbon for the stoles. As always, you have been very generous.



Summer Service Project for NLom

What an outpouring of love and support! Thank you so much. We have received seventy-five pledged emergency food kits and over \$2,500 in donations. Those donations will buy 250 kits. We are on our way to the goal of 1,000 emergency food kits for our partner agencies, Project Hope, Heartland Hope Mission, Ashland Kids Cupboard, and Table of Grace Mobil Food Pantry. We are also looking for volunteers for the project. Volunteers will come and work alongside campers with gardening, making a reusable bag, and stuffing the emergency food kits. For more information about donating or volunteering please contact Heather Abbott at habbott@nlom.org or at 402-944-2544.

Nebraska W/ELCA Human Trafficking Task Force

By CHRISSY GARTON, Task Force Member

I did a presentation at St Mark's in St Paul Nebraska to roughly sixty community members, including the Chief of Police and a local youth group. I presented information on Human trafficking including warning signs, what we as a community can do to help prevent Human trafficking, where to report what we suspect may be trafficking, and how we can help victims of this terrible crime. Human Trafficking is happening in Nebraska, it's happening in our cities, and our small towns. It's a terrible crime swiftly growing into the most profitable illegal activity in the country. With Interstate 80 traversing our state, Nebraska is one of the largest hot spots for Human Trafficking in the United States. The purchase of sexual services has grown into a mass epidemic of women and girls, men and boys, being exploited and victimized. The Nebraska Legislature is currently debating a bill, LB 289, that would make penalties for the purchasers of services from Human Trafficking victims, as well as the perpetrators trafficking the victims, much harsher. The purpose of the bill is to prevent the crime of Human Trafficking from happening. We signed and sent many letters to our Legislators asking for their support of this bill. I am happy to come to congregations and do presentations for any size group or function. Presentations are scheduled in Byron, Lincoln, Hastings, and one pending in Beatrice, on my books, and would love to add more!

The Human Trafficking Task Force Committee has been asking for support of LB 289 through letters to legislators. E-mail me for a copy at chrissylovescake@gmail.com The bill is currently in the judiciary committee, and hopefully will be moving through soon.

For an update on the bill, visit http://nebraskalegislature.gov/bills/view_bill.php?DocumentID=30972.

TREASURER UPDATE

By SANDY TERRY, NSWO Treasurer

The calendar may say it is spring but when I look out the window I am not quite sure. Spring is a time of change and new growth. I remember as a child my Mother would always set a special week to thoroughly clean the house. She would make sure the house was clean from floor to ceiling. A time of change, which means a transition to warmer weather and sunshine (hopefully). This last year has been a time of change serving as the NSWO Treasurer. It is not only a change in my routine but also a change for the Unit Treasurers. A new treasurer to mail your regular offerings to but it also means updated forms.

New Address, New Forms The Women of the ELCA Churchwide Women's Organization has a new Gift Processing Center that will handle your remittances quickly, accurately, and efficiently (and inexpensively, too!). All remittances to Churchwide Women of the ELCA, whether Thankofferings or Designated Gifts to Women of the ELCA ministries or to any other ministries with **FORM B** are to be mailed to this address:

Women of the ELCA
ELCA Gift Processing Center
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield VA 22116-8009

Please don't send remittances to the Chicago address anymore this will only cause a delay or possibly having your forms lost. And with the new Gift Processing Center address come new forms! You can download PDF versions of these forms, both in English and in Spanish, at this Internet address – www.womenoftheelca.org. Please download the forms from the website and print out as many as you need. Form A is for congregational unit treasurers to use for sending Regular Offerings and Convention offerings to their synodical treasurer at her address - remember, your Synodical Treasurer is Sandy Terry. Her contact information is:

1461 2nd Avenue Ct., Fremont, NE 68025-5317; 402-957-4480

Next, I would like to challenge each Unit. At your Circle meetings when the offering comes around are you still giving \$1 each month. My challenge to you is to increase that \$1 to \$2 or even \$5. The WELCA purpose statement is - "As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world." Our Regular Offerings help to support not only your individual congregational unit but also our synodical women's organization and our churchwide women's organization. Your generosity is important to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ, study that Word, and to encourage more women to act and serve boldly!!



Central Conference Spring Gathering was held at St John's in Norfolk on March 4. St John's women were wonderful hosts and it was a great church for the conference. Being early, the attendance wasn't quite as would always hope, yet those of us that attended had a fun, entertaining, and a "friends" days as Sisters in Christ.

We had yoga breaks, music breaks, and great food! Our speakers spoke of coming back from cancer, personal safety for each of us and great information about the Cupboard for college students and the women's shelters in Norfolk.

The election was held for the new Planning Committee for 2018. Betty Kolar of Messiah/Grand Island as Conference Coordinator; with members Beth Cummings of Our Saviors/Dannebrog; Nancy Schuerman of Salem/Stromsburg;; and Val Killinger of St Mark's/St. Paul, Secretary. We still need a representative on the planning committee from the north east cluster. The 2018 Spring Gathering will be at Messiah in Grand Island.

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Nebraska W/ELCA Human Trafficking Task Force

By BARBARA FANNING, Task Force Chairperson

We want to thank all the women of the Nebraska W/ELCA that have sent letters to their senators regarding the Legislative Bill 289 on Human Trafficking. The bill has advanced 42-0 and is sitting in the Judiciary Committee. It must advance through two additional rounds of debate before it becomes law. According to the March 30, Omaha World-Herald, some senators worry that the plan is overly broad and might undercut efforts to reduce prison overcrowding. Senator Patty Pansing Brooks said she is willing to work with her colleagues to make the LB 289 stronger. So if you haven't sent a letter to your senator, please take time to send one today.

The Coalition of Human Trafficking held a – A prayer and Informational Opportunity Session called Out of Darkness which included a presentation by Crysta Price on the Creighton University study on Human Trafficking. The study indicated the following:

- Research looked at a website that features classified ads for “escorts” called Backpage, according to the report accounts for 80 percent of online commercial sex advertising.
- More than 1 in 10 commercial sex ads on Nebraska’s Backpage sites advertised someone under the age of 21
- 1 in 5 ads emphasized that the individuals sold for sex in Nebraska are “very young” based on keywords or their posted age
- 70 – 75% (Backpage) of individuals sold for sex in Nebraska show some sign of being underage or controlled by a third party – both indicators of trafficking.
- On average 675 people are advertised on Backpage per month in Omaha, Lincoln 200, Grand Island 65, North Platte 15 and Scottsbluff 10
- One-fifth of individuals in commercial sex industry in Nebraska advertise in multiple markets in the state
- African-Americans represent half of all individuals in the commercial sex industry on Backpage in Nebraska even though they make up only 5 percent of the state’s population.
- The Backpage site eliminated its escort section in January but it’s only a matter of time before the ads move to different sections of Backpage or to different sites.

The Coalition on Human Trafficking is also asking for volunteers to help with the Hotel/Motel Project. If you are interested, please contact Sister Rosalee at rburke@notredameisters.org.

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Southeast Conference Spring Gathering was held on March 18 at Christ Lutheran, Pickrell. It was a beautiful spring day. Attendance was 115 which represented twenty-three of the thirty-three churches in the conference.

We heard from the executive director of Adult & Teen Challenge of the Midland's Blue River Women's Center. This program provides HOPE in Christ, HELP for hurting people, and FREEDOM from addiction. Our tangible offering completely filled her SUV with household and personal care items.

The founders of Sister Hugs explained what their organization does. For the last five years they have been sharing love with people who are experiencing difficult times. The Sister Hugs Facebook page tells how people can get involved and includes some interesting and inspiring posts.

Worship with communion was led by Pastor Heather Brown. The Grace Notes provided special music which was entertaining and uplifting.

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WINTER RETREAT RECAP

By VALERIE KILINGER, Board Member/Central Conference



Saturday January 21, was our Annual Winter Retreat at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island. Martha, Mary and Me was the theme. If you ever thought it was a confusing story in Luke 10:38-41, we all learned a great deal about the ladies. The devotions was based on the sister's Martha & Mary.

NSWO President Nancy Johnson gave us an update of all the events happening in the Nebraska SWO, including the then upcoming Spring Gatherings.

Our Keynote speaker was Dr. Heather Goertz from Bennington. She is such a dynamic speaker and she enlightened us with challenges of who we are. She is also an advocate for being foster parents and or adopting children. A family of five quickly became a family of ten. Her enlightening story of their lives, leaves all of us wanting to ask how can we make a difference in someone life's.

Worship was with Pastor Marcia Dorn of Trinity Lutheran of Wolbach. Our offering of approximately \$2,000 was given to the Safe-T program sponsored by the Salvation Army. They have started a program of providing shelter to sex trafficking victims to help them get away and start a new life.

Churchwide Executive Board Member Gwen Edwards joined us for the day and spoke about the different synodical conventions she has attended and she's proud to be representing Nebraska on our behalf!

Of course we ate very well, compliments of Phyllis Erickson and her group from St Paul's Lutheran. It was a delicious meal and coffee. The Upstairs Lutheran Women from St Marks in St. Paul went back in a time machine to see how Martha & Mary really lived and prepared for Jesus visit. (Wow, I'm glad we live now with refrigerators)

Bishop Brian Maas joined us after lunch to lead us in Bible Study, he brought so much knowledge to our Bible study that many of us admitted we didn't realize about Martha & Mary. Other presentations through out the day were about the Saved to Serve Opportunities, see their news article; the NSWO Convention at Camp Carol Joy Holling this year; the Triennial Convention and Gathering in Minnesota this summer; and an update on the task force on Human Trafficking.

Thank you to the Winter Retreat Committee: Judy Stahlecker, Marilee Brinkmeyer, Elysia McGill, and Val Killinger. Also a big Thank you to the Board for helping out where needed.

It's a great Sisterhood that develops when you become apart of the NSWO.

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The ladies of Christ Lutheran served the lunch featuring pulled pork.

We had an opportunity to visit a number of displays including Sewing for Babies and Fair Trade.

Next year the Southeast Spring Gathering will be held at Grace Lutheran, Cook, Nebraska.

Midlands Conference Spring Gathering was held at Bethlehem Lutheran in Wahoo on April 1. Ninety-three women enjoyed a wonderful day. The women of Bethlehem used every color of the rainbow to announce spring is here with their brightly colored tablecloths and graciously welcomed us for morning coffee and rolls in their fellowship hall, where we enjoyed displays from many of the



serving arms of the Nebraska Synod. Tangible offering was collected for the Saunders County Food Bank. Janice Gustafson and Vicki Simons drew us into the sanctuary with their gathering music to begin the day and we were welcomed by our Conference Coordinator, Karen Daffer. After hearing about the ministry of Martin Luther in Bishop Maas's Bible study, we were influenced by Katie Luther's spirit through an inspiring presentation by our keynote speaker, Lisa Kramme (pictured), as she presented "The Life of Katie Luther." Lisa obviously borrowed from Katie's wardrobe, as she was dressed in 16th century fashion to deliver a message that complemented the Bishop's study. Some of the men of

(Continued on page 9)

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Bethlehem joined the women to serve a wonderful lunch where the women of the Midlands Conference enjoyed a chance to visit with women from various congregations. After lunch, we were kept awake by the lively humor of Joy Johnson, author of *The BOOB Girls: The Burned Out Old Broads*. It seemed we couldn't hear enough of her jokes and stories. We joined in worship and communion, led by Pastor Bob Hayden, to conclude a renewing day of connection as Sisters in Christ. We look forward to 2018 when the women from Spirit of Hope Lutheran in Lincoln will graciously serve host to the Midlands Spring Gathering.

Shine Your Light



On February 26, the Women of the ELCA Executive Board of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Wayne, celebrated "Bold Women's Day" during the Sunday church worship service. A Litany was used to celebrate and honor seven ladies in our congregation. Those attending the service and presented a Certificate of Honor for their commitment of faith were (L to R): Kris Robinson, Deb Hammer, Lydia Thomsen, Pastor Jeanne Madsen, Kara Woehler and Trisha Peters. Also honored was Rodella Wacker, who was unable to at the service.



—submitted by Dorothy Wert, W/ELCA President

The Grace Lutheran Women's Unit from Cook Evangelism Committee challenges their ladies monthly to provide a salty act of God based on the Bible verse: YOU ARE THE SALT OF THE EARTH, BUT IF SALT HAS LOST ITS TASTE HOW SHALL ITS SALTINESS BE RESTORED, Matthew 5:13. Each month they are asked to bring flavor into people's lives. They are pleasantly surprised how much flavor it brings back into their OWN lives! A few monthly ideas: April, reach out to someone in need or a friend. A written note, a phone call or a casserole or however you so choose. May, clean out your closets and donate to the City Mission. June, become physically active, take care of yourself in order to take care of others. September, send a letter of thanks to someone you owe gratitude. October, clean out the closets and donate coats that you no longer have a need for.

—submitted for Winter Retreat 2015, "You Make a Difference"

Zion at Creighton shared "Gifts of Joy," a community project carried out each Christmas for at least thirty years and is now sponsored by the Ministerial Association. The objective is to ensure that families who would be lacking in children's gifts and a holiday meal are provided for. Mid-November the trees are set up at the hospital and in the lobby of the grocery store. Coded tags, green for a toy, red for clothing for each child infant to grade 6 are hung on these trees listing gender, age, their desired gift suggestion. The community is very generous in these purchases bringing them and gift wrapping them. Churches are also asked to give either cookies or candy for the goodie trays. Zion does candy as well as their annual ten quilts. Items not donated are purchased with cash gifts received. When the volunteers are done assembling grocery boxes containing fixings for a bountiful meal which also includes a flat of fresh fruit and come home themselves, the recipients come at their designated time to receive their family's bounty. This program is kept confidential and the recipients identity is not shared.

—submitted for Winter Retreat 2015, "You Make a Difference"

NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

THIRTEENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 4:00PM--SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2017 4:00PM

CAROL JOY HOLLING CAMP
27416 Ranch Road Ashland, NE

Registration fees: Thursday-Saturday \$90.00 Saturday only \$75 Deadline September 18th

Registration for Thursday-Saturday includes 6 meals

Registration for Saturday only includes lunch

Registrations are transferable but not refundable.

Housing will be provided in two locations at the Camp:

Sjogren Retreat Center rooms have two full beds and a sink. Restrooms and showers are across the hall. Cost \$122.00 per person Thursday-Saturday, based on 4 people per room. Cost for 2 people per room is \$150.00.

Swanson Retreat Center has oversized sleeping rooms with two queen beds and a restroom. Cost \$149.00 per person Thursday-Saturday, based on 4 people per room. Cost for 2 people per room is \$191.00 per person.

+++++ Both facilities have an elevator +++++

Please send the form below and your check to our Registrar:

Sandy Terry 1461 2nd Avenue St. Fremont, NE 68025
Phone 402-957-4480 Email: Sterry9415@yahoo.com

Make checks payable to NSWO

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Email _____
City _____ Zip code _____
Congregation _____ City _____
Conference _____

I am registering for ____ Thursday- Saturday ____ Saturday only

I plan to stay in ____ Swanson ____ Sjogren ____ Commuter

My preference for roommates are _____

I have enclosed \$_____ for registration and housing for _____ at _____
(days) (name of retreat center)

I am a ____ Voting Member ____ Invited guest ____ Participant ____ Presenter
____ Board Officer ____ Board member ____ Conference Coordinator ____ Board Appointee

Are you a scholarship recipient? ____ Yes Which one did you receive: ____ First Timer ____ Young Woman
Is this your first NSWO Convention: ____ Yes

Please list any special needs you may have: _____

For more registration information, please contact Sandy Terry. See her information above.

Triennial Gathering Event Information



Join the conversation as we explore the triennial gathering theme “All Anew.” Listen to inspiring speakers; participate in worship and praise; learn by attending workshops, viewing films and engaging in servant events. Visit the exhibit hall where you can gather, shop and connect. And don't forget our special events where women in their 20s and 30s can eat chocolate and join others to run it off later. And where's it all happening? In Minneapolis, at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

While this is an official event of Women of the ELCA, all women in the church are invited to attend. One need not be a participant in Women of the ELCA. In fact, we invite all our ecumenical partners to attend as well, so share this invitation.

Triennial Gathering Special Events

Looking for something beyond the ordinary? How about a Lounge 70. 80. 90? It's a late-evening get-together especially younger women. Like to run or walk? Then Saturday's Run, Walk and Roll is just for you.

Nebraska Synodical Women of the ELCA, 2015-2017

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www.facebook.com/NebraskaWELCA

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Check List for Congregational Units

To Do Every Month

- ☐ Send stories and pictures about your unit to the *Expressions* Editor
- ☐ 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.)

May

- ☐ Share *Expressions* with members
- ☐ Publicize/Promote NSWO Convention
- ☐ Publicize/Promote CWO Triennial Gathering
- ☐ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this

month

- 1 – Reformation Prayer Service
- 16-17 – NE Synod First Call
- 17-18 – NE Synod Systems Thinking
- 31 – Essential Boundaries for Wise Leaders

June

- ☐ Publicize/Promote NSWO Convention
- ☐ Publicize/Promote CWO Triennial Gathering
- ☐ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 1 – NE Synod Council
- 1-3 – NE Synod Assembly
- 11-16 – NE Journey to Omaha

July

- ☐ Publicize/Promote Saved to

Serve Opportunities

- ☐ Publicize/Promote NSWO Convention
- ☐ Publicize/Promote CWO Triennial Gathering
- ☐ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 1 – *Expressions* deadline
- 14-17 – NE Synod LutherLand Trip

August

September

- ☐ Share *Expressions* with members
- 8 – NE Synod Council
- 11 – Reformation Prayer Service
- 18 – NSWO Convention Registration Deadline
- 27-28 – NE Synod Systems Thinking