



Expressions

VOL. 29, NO. 2, MAY 2015

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 be going to Sullivan Hills Camp, near Lodgepole from May 1 to 3 and to Hebron, July 31 to August 2, Blue Valley Lutheran Homes.

Find satisfaction in serving! Register now!

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 the 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 at mayfieldim@cox.net, or Susan Watson at swat55@windstream.net.

2015 NSWO Convention

Mark those calendars now!
September 18-20, 2015

Join us for the biennial convention to be held in Lincoln, at First Lutheran Church, 70th and A Streets.

Contact Chase Suites, 200 South 68th Place for your motel accommodations.

"The Power of M" is our theme. The team is working off of some M&M words that will be used throughout the convention.

Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly. Colossians 3:15-17 NIV

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Many Nebraska youth, pastors, and Synod staff will be heading to Detroit in two months. Please remember them in your prayers!



Did you know that Women of the ELCA have a blog? New entries are posted every Monday and Thursday. Check it out at www.womenofthelca.org/blog/

Devotions

By ELYSIA MCGILL, Southeast Board Representative



I am tired. I have so much on my plate. I am an Elementary Music Teacher who is in the middle of preparing three programs in the next three weeks. I am a devoted NSWO Board member who is trying to make contact with each of the congregations and ladies groups I represent. I am a busy mom of a 16-year-old and a 10-year-old with crazy schedules. I am a loving wife who is trying to keep the house clean in the midst of moving, I help at church... Well, you get the idea.

Now I don't want you to think that I can't handle all of this, because if you know me, I can handle all of this and more. Anything that the good Lord has set in my path, I have found a way to accomplish with grace and a positive outlook! For the Lord doesn't call the qualified, He qualifies the called! The point is that we are ALL busy with things in our lives! But the question is... How do we find time for rest and recharging ourselves so that we are better, stronger women?



My all time favorite, go-to passage is Matthew 11:28-30, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am

gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

What a wonderful thought this is for us! Come to me and I will give you rest! All you tired mommies, all you who are sad, disappointed, angry, or depressed. It doesn't say some of you, it says all you who are weary! Lay down your burdens with God and he will teach you how to carry them differently. This has been a game changer for me and helped me realize that with the love of God, I can do everything He has planned for me, whatever that might be! And my dear sisters, He will do it for you too!

It takes courage to let go, rest and recharge. So in this beautiful Springtime, how will you accomplish this? Take some time to help yourself and the women around you! Devote time to a new devotional, read a book, talk with friends, sit in the sunshine and drink coffee! Whatever it takes for you to find your rest in the Lord, I encourage you to try it!

Lord of All, come to us and show us your peace. Help us to learn how to let go and trust in you! Amen!

My prayers are with all of you my dear Sisters in Christ!

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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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.

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 Carol Bosshardt, Sharon Ebke, Pearl Hanson, Beth Meyer, and Kris Robinson.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Dear Friends,

Spring is officially here in Nebraska in many ways. Just look around to see the weather is lovely to be outside, the farmers are planting crops in the fields, pots of flowers are being arranged and cleaning up of the lawns and decks.



Many of you women are making the plans for your spring and summer months so it is the perfect time to officially invite you to the convention for NSWO in September. The different location of this convention promises to bring some wonderful changes and opportunities to those who have attended in the past. For those of you who have never attended a convention, it promises to be a time that you will always cherish. The Power of “M” theme is going to have so many wonderful topics and activities. I found where C.L. Lewis quotes “Is any pleasure on earth as great as a circle of Christian friends by a good fire?” We promise at the NSWO convention it will be that same type of pleasure. I have attended several conventions making new friends each time and reconnecting with old friends. The community of women, the community of faith and the community of friendship is a good recipe for all to attend then leave with their “cup running over”.

My friends I found this scripture about Jesus on friendship, John 15:12-15 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this that someone lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you”. Please consider bringing your friend of any faith, the business will be minor, the speakers will be fabulous, the worship will be very endearing and the friendships will abound.

I would like to share with you that I continue to be proud of all the Nebraska Women of the NSWO and I serve. I am consistently amazed at how each church or unit serves it’s women, their church, community, and world in so many diverse ways. Yours gifts, talents, and offerings in Nebraska have always been highly recognized among our other sister synods. It is so easy being your President when I am equipped with such caring Christian women. For me it is like C.L. Lewis said “The next best thing to being wise oneself is to live in a circle of those who are.”

Plan to attend the 2015 Biennial Convention in Lincoln to hear how to energize your unit and your faith.

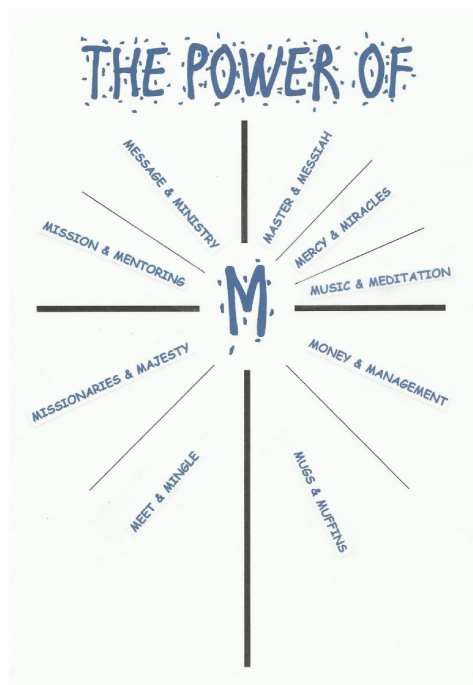
I can’t wait to greet you!!!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kandy K Pfister".

Editors Note:

Have you seen the latest issue of *interchange*? It’s a publication of the Chuchwide Women’s Organization. The latest issue is available on the website at <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/interchange-pages-52.php> both in English and Spanish. The “SWO Spotlight” is sharing the work of the Nebraska SWO, *thank you women of Nebraska for all your hard work, your dedication, and the love of Christ which you continuously shared with others!!*





**NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF
WOMEN OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
IN AMERICA**

**TWELFTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION,
SEPTEMBER 18-20, 2015
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, LINCOLN NE
REGISTRATION FORM**

Registration is: \$90.00

Accommodations: are available at special rates if you reserve your room before August 26, 2015, at Chase Suite Hotel, 200 S. 68th Place, Lincoln, Ne. Individuals will make reservations by calling the hotel directly at 888-433-6183, 402-483-4900 or email

rswaink@chasesuitehotels.com

Reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit must be sent in advance.

Voting member (previously known as delegate) **registrations deadline: August 15, 2015**

Non-voting member (previously known as participant) **registrations suggested date by September 1, 2015**

Please **Print** Clearly or Type:

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____ Email _____

Congregation _____ City _____

☐ **I am a voting member** ☐ **I am not a voting member**

☐ **I have been awarded a scholarship**

Are you a scholarship recipient? ☐ No ☐ Yes

If yes, which one did you receive?

☐ First Timer ☐ Young Woman ☐ Beth Bohling

I am registering as:

☐ Board Member/Officer ☐ Conference Coordinator ☐ Appointee

☐ Vendor/Display ☐ Invited Guest

**Mark your NSWOC
Conference:**

☐ Central
☐ High Plains
☐ Metro East
☐ Midlands
☐ Northeast
☐ Southeast
☐ Southern Prairie

Send registration form and \$90.00 to: Make checks payable to **Women of the ELCA**

JoAnn Rohrs

1409 10th Street

Auburn, NE 68305-1414

joannrohrs1409@yahoo.com

The NSWO Convention opens with:

REGISTRATION: at 2:00 pm on Friday, September 18th and 7:00 am Saturday, September 19th.

WORKSHOPS: begin at 2:45 pm on Friday, September 18th.

We will be exploring 'mini themes' of M&M's such as Mission & Mentoring, Message & Ministry, Master & Messiah, Mercy & Miracles, Music & Meditation, Missionaries & Majesty, and Money and Management. We will Meet & Mingle while we Munch on Muffins over a Mug of Fair Trade coffee or tea.

7:00 pm FRIDAY: HEALING SERVICE WITH BISHOP BRIAN MAAS

KEY NOTE SPEAKER: PR. BRIGETTE WEIER SERVES LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE MASTER IN LAKEWOOD, CO AS THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR OF YOUTH AND HOUSEHOLD MINISTRY.

CONVENTION CHAPLAIN: PR. JULIET HAMPTON, ASSISTANT TO THE NE SYNOD BISHOP

Tangible Offering items: (Kits will be put together in the "Servant Room" at convention.)

HOMELESS SHELTER KITS: (LOVE KITS for women in homeless shelters)

- Gallon Ziploc bags
- 12 x 12" wash cloth (avoid white)
- 2 fl oz. lotion
- small mouthwash
- 1.5oz baby powder
- small brush
- 1.4oz deodorant
- small wire bound notebook
- toothbrush
- 4oz toothpaste
- bar soap
- small comb
- disposable razor
- tampons
- ballpoint pen & note cards

Katie's Café

Written by Katie Chavanak

The newest group meeting at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Falls City, Nebraska is not your typical group. We're not a youth group, although some of could still be in one. We're not a circle group, although some of our members attend those too. We are a cafe group: Katie's Cafe to be specific.

Our group, which officially consists of members ranging in age from sixteen to somewhere in their 80's (although several of our most devoted attendees have been attending since before birth) and includes women from several local churches (not all Lutheran). We meet monthly for church duties (folding newsletters and cleaning the sanctuary), devotions from www.boldcafe.org, fellowship, and to plan projects. Our main focus at this time is raising money to help offset the cost of funeral dinners put on by circle groups at our churches. You may be wondering why we felt we needed a separate a group away from the circles and the answer is pretty easy: time. Most of our local circles meet during the day and take on church duties that require them to be available during the day such as funeral lunches, visiting, etc. As (mostly) working women and moms, that just wasn't a time that we were available to help out, but we still felt a desire to do something. Katie's Cafe offers us a time once a month where we can meet in fellowship and help out our local churches and others in our community.



In Memory of Beth Bohling



For the past several years, the Women of the ELCA have been encouraging women to “Be Bold” in their faith. Beth Bohling could have been described as “bold” long before the campaign began.

Beth was bold to show up. She went to church, NSWO board meetings, Bible studies, Spring Gatherings, Winter Retreats, and Conventions. [Above quoted from May 2009 *Expressions*]

In memory of Beth Bohling, a scholarship fund was established to provide registration fees to the Nebraska SWO Biennial Convention, beginning with the 2011 Convention. One scholarship per conference will be available; for a total of seven scholarships.

Applicants must meet these requirements to be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

- † Must be a member of the Women of the ELCA (Nebraska SWO) who is 36 years of age or older.
- † Applicant must be an ACTIVE member of their local Women of the ELCA unit.
- † Applicant must be able to show that the scholarship is necessary for attendance, based on financial need, to be determined by the recommendation of the unit President or the Pastor of their congregation.
- † Applicant must fill out the application form (see pages 11-12) and it must include a letter of recommendation written by their local unit President or Pastor of their church.

The value of each scholarship for 2013 will be \$90.00, the early registration fee.

Designated donations from units and individuals will help make this an ongoing scholarship fund. Please send your designated donations to the NSWO Treasurer, JoAnn Rohrs.



Racial Justice

By REBBECA SIPF,
Racial Justice Advocacy Appointee



Greetings! I'm sure many of you have seen me out and about at Winter Retreat and a sprinkling of Spring Gatherings. If you've seen me, you've probably heard me and you're ready for what I'm about to say. I can't say this enough, justice advocacy isn't about what you and I do or say to others. It's about how our government, businesses, and society as a whole act towards people different from themselves. We all know that the majority of lawmakers, business owners, and corporation leaders are men, white men. It is very difficult to understand the life of someone else and so it is very difficult to make decisions for others, but this is what these people in power do everyday. So I encourage you, learn more. Learn more about racial justice issues, women's justice issues, human trafficking, or any other topic or lifestyle that you do not live and understand. Education and awareness is the first step to toward action.

Global Missions

By SANDY OLSON,
Global Missions Coordinator Appointee

Just a reminder that as Women of the Nebraska Synod we have the opportunity to help provide funds to sponsor either an ELCA Missionary or Young Adult in Global Mission through our NSWO Fund to Sponsor a Missionary. To help reach our goal of sponsorship, the NSWO Board has designated that the Worship Offering at the 2015 Women's Convention in September go to the Missionary Sponsorship Fund. NSWO units are encouraged to prayerfully consider helping to support the fund and plan for an offering to bring to Convention. Thank you in advance for partnering as Women of the Nebraska Synod.



BETH BOHLING SCHOLARSHIP FORM

NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION ELEVENTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION, SEPTEMBER 2015

Value of Scholarship is \$90.00, Registration Rate

Applicants must meet these requirements to be eligible to apply for the scholarship.

- ✚ Must be a member of the Women of the ELCA (NSWO) who is 36 years of age or older.
- ✚ Applicant must be an ACTIVE member of their local Women of the ELCA unit.
- ✚ Applicant must be able to show that the scholarship is necessary for attendance, based on financial need, to be determined by the recommendation of the unit President or the Pastor of their congregation.
- ✚ Applicant must fill out the application form and it must include a letter of recommendation written by their local unit President or Pastor of their church.

Please complete all requested information before returning this scholarship application.

Please check your NSWO Conference	_____ Midlands Conference
_____ Central Conference	_____ Northeast Conference
_____ High Plains Conference	_____ Southeast Conference
_____ Metro East Conference	_____ Southern Prairie Conference

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____
Mailing Address _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone: () _____
E-mail Address _____

Age Range ☐ 36 – 55 years ☐ 56+ years

Race & Ethnicity ☐ African American ☐ Arab, Middle Eastern ☐ Caucasian
 ☐ Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Hispanic
 ☐ American Indian ☐ Black ☐ Other: _____

Primary Language if other than English: _____

Name of Conference _____
Name of Congregation _____
Address & Town of Congregation _____

Please complete both sides and return by July 1, 2013 to:

Beth Meyer, Convention Team Co-leader
Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization
2051 Fairacres Dr.
Fremont, NE 68025-2736

For more information, call Beth @ 402-719-1732 or e-mail at nanabeth1999@gmail.com

[over]

EXPERIENCE & CHURCH SERVICE: (Positions held in office and service work done.) Begin with the most recent and significant experience in each over the **LAST FIVE YEARS**.

Congregational Level: _____

Conference Level: _____

Synodical Level: _____

Regional or Churchwide Level: _____

Community Service: _____

Special Gifts or Talents: _____

The information below this line is to be completed by Unit President or Pastor of the Church.

Applicant must be able to show that the scholarship is necessary for attendance, based on financial need, to be determined by the recommendation of the unit President or the Pastor of their congregation. *Attach an additional sheet if more space is needed.*

Printed Name of President/Pastor _____

Signature of President/Pastor _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number () _____ E-mail _____

Name of Congregation _____

Town of Congregation _____

NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION

NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

2015-2017 TERM

Congregational Units: Please complete the information requested before returning this nomination form.

Check below the position in which the nominee is willing to serve. The individual nominated must consent to serve if elected. All positions are for a **two-year** term.

_____ Vice President _____ Secretary _____ Treasurer _____ Central Conference Board Rep _____ High Plains Conference Board Rep	_____ Metro East Conference Board Rep _____ Midlands Conference Board Rep _____ Northeast Conference Board Rep _____ Southeast Conference Board Rep _____ Southern Prairie Conference Board Rep
--	---

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Home Phone () _____ **Work Phone:** () _____

E-mail Address _____

Age Range ☐ 20 – 25 years ☐ 26 – 35 years ☐ 36 – 55 years ☐ 56+ years

Race & Ethnicity ☐ African American ☐ Arab, Middle Easterner ☐ Caucasian

☐ Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Hispanic

☐ American Indian ☐ Black ☐ Other: _____

Primary Language if other than English: _____

Name of Conference _____

Name of Congregation _____

Address & Town of Congregation _____

Please complete Pages 1 and 3 and return by July 1, 2015 to:

Beth Meyer, Convention Team Co-leader
 Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization
 2051 Fairacres Dr.
 Fremont, NE 68025-2736

For more information, call Beth @ 402-719-1732 or e-mail at nanabeth1999@gmail.com



**NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
NOMINATION FORM FOR TRIENNIAL DELEGATE
2017 CONVENTION, MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA**

Congregational Units: Please complete the information requested before returning this nomination form.

PLEASE PRINT:

Name _____
Mailing Address _____

Home Phone () _____ **Work Phone:** () _____
E-mail Address _____

Age Range ☐ 20 – 25 years ☐ 26 – 35 years ☐ 36 – 55 years ☐ 56+ years

Race & Ethnicity ☐ African American ☐ Arab, Middle Easterner ☐ Caucasian
 ☐ Alaska Native ☐ Asian ☐ Hispanic
 ☐ American Indian ☐ Black ☐ Other: _____

Primary Language if other than English: _____

 Name of Conference _____
 Name of Congregation _____
Address & Town of Congregation _____

Has this nominee attended a Triennial Convention before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what year(s)? _____

Has this nominee served as a Triennial Delegate before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what year(s)? _____

Please complete Pages 2 and 3 and return by July 1, 2015 to:

Beth Meyer, Convention Team Co-leader
Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization
2051 Fairacres Dr.
Fremont, NE 68025-2736

For more information, call Beth @ 402-719-1732 or e-mail at nanabeth1999@gmail.com

EXPERIENCE & CHURCH SERVICE: (Positions held in office and service work done.) Begin with the most recent and significant experience in each over the **LAST FIVE YEARS**.

Congregational Level: _____

Conference Level: _____

Synodical Level: _____

Regional or Churchwide Level: _____

Community Service: _____

Special Gifts or Talents: _____

The information below this line is to be completed by the person recommending this nominee.

RATIONALE for believing this nominee can serve effectively in the position for which she has been nominated.

Signature of Nominating Participant _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number () _____ E-mail _____

Name of Congregation _____

Town of Congregation _____

**NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
TWELFTH BIENNIAL CONVENTION, SEPTEMBER 18-20
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

FOURTEEN SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!!

Each scholarship will be \$90.00; the cost of the registration fee.

SEVEN scholarships will be awarded to women who are **FIRST-TIME** convention attendees; one from each of the NSWO conferences. Recipients will be chosen randomly from those applying.

SEVEN scholarships will be awarded to a woman who is **35 YEARS OR YOUNGER**; one from each of the NSWO conferences. Recipient will be chosen randomly from those applying.

Requirement Notice: Not the delegate from your congregational unit.

Please Print Clearly or Type:

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ Zip _____
Phone () _____ E-mail _____
Congregation _____ City _____

NSWO Conference:

- | | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central | <input type="checkbox"/> High Plains | <input type="checkbox"/> Metro East | <input type="checkbox"/> Midlands |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast | <input type="checkbox"/> Southeast | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Prairie | |

Indicate below the scholarship you are applying for – if applying for more than one scholarship, separate forms must be submitted. Only one scholarship can be received.

- ☐ I would like to be considered for the First-Timer Scholarship.
- ☐ I would like to be considered for the Young Women Scholarship (35 and younger)

Send applications by July 1 to:

Beth Meyer
NSWO Convention Team Co-leader
2051 Fairacres Dr.
Fremont, NE 68025-2736

Scholarship recipients will be notified in writing.



Southeast Conference Spring Gathering was held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Falls City on March 7, a total of ninety-five were registered. After gathering music, lead by Elysia McGill and welcoming from Sharon Ebke, Conference Coordinator and Carol Bierman, St. Paul's W/ELCA President, three NSWO officers were introduced: Kandy Pflaster, President; Joanne Rohrs, Treasurer; and Beth Meyer, Secretary/Convention Chair along with Elysia McGill, Southeast Conference Board Representative. Gwen Edwards, W/ELCA Churchwide Executive Board member was also introduced.

Worship with Communion was led by Pastor Andrew Chavanak from the host church. Our guest speaker Pastor Bob Bryan, Director of Prison Ministry for the Nebraska Synod and Pastor of Followers of Christ at the State Penitentiary, informed us of the services available for the prisoners and those in transition. A special offering was taken to be given to the Prison Ministry. After lunch, Pastor Megan Morrow, Assistant to the Bishop lead us in a Bible study. We also heard from Heather Abbott representative from NLOM about the quilt project at Camp Carol Joy and Bryon Line, Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska about AT EASE. Tangible offerings of personal and baby care items were collected and donated to SENCA, to be distributed to those in need from the area. Newly elected Coordinator, Planning Committee and Nominating Committee members were introduced and installed by President Kandy Pflaster. Chris Ruzicka, W/ELCA co-President at American Lutheran Fairbury invited the group to join them next year for the 2016 Spring Gathering.

Northeast Conference Spring Gathering was held on March 14 at Grace Lutheran Church in West Point. The day's theme "Doing Good to All!" was carried out and presented in a variety of ways throughout the day. Guests were greeted by wonderful displays to visit, coffee and baked goodies. Gathering music by Grace's Praise Team welcomed the attendees into the Sanctuary to begin the day. NSWO officers present were introduced: Kandy Pflaster, President and JoAnn Rohrs, Treasurer. The business meeting included Roll Call of Churches, election and installation of the Conference Coordinator—Dorothy Wert, Planning Committee—JoAnn Kumm, Carol Nordby, Marlene Hansen, Marci Bartels and Nominating Committee—Marge Stottler, Lyla Swanson, Sandy Boots, Janice Roeber, as well as the President's and Treasurer's reports. The tangible offering received went to The Bridge, of Fremont. The featured speaker, Mary Lou Erickson aka Lena the Cleaning Lady, shared her ministry of laughter and smiles. With a Swedish accent, Lena told funny stories and crazy tales about her and her family...even how President Obama had recently called upon her for her services "because she can clean up anything!" Two sessions of four workshops were offered, they included (1) Making a quilt; (2) LFS At Ease; (3) Women's Health, and (4) Global Health Ministries and LWR Kits. A sit down catered meal was served by the Grace Lutheran Luther League. Following the second workshop, attendees were welcomed back to the sanctuary with music by the Praise Team and a greeting from NLOM. The Rev. Gary Panko, Assistant to the Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, led the Bible study from Galatians based on the theme and the theme verse, Galatians 6:9-10 focusing primarily on using our freedom in Christ to serve one another. A final financial report and report of attendance were given. The four quilts that were assembled in the workshops were shown and it was reported that 360 bandages had been rolled. The quilts will be sent to the Carol Joy Holling annual quilt auction and the bandages will be sent to LWR. An invitation was extended by the women of Thabor Lutheran Church, Wausa for the 2016 Spring Gathering. The day concluded with worship and communion.

(Continued from page 13)

Ryan Kaufman's story of military service, addiction, and how God saved him from addiction and gave him a ministry to soldiers, veterans, and their families enthralled ninety-six attendees at the **Southern Prairie Conference Spring Gathering** on March 21 at Prince of Peace Lutheran in Geneva. NSWOP President Kandy Pflaster, Treasurer JoAnn Rohrs, and Racial Justice Advocate, Rebbecca Sipf, as well as Cheryl Myers from the Fillmore Country Support Group, Phyllis Schoenholz and Company with the Quilts of Valor program, and Esther and Janet Winter with Plastic Bag Sleeping Mats challenged us to share God's justice and stewardship in a variety of ways. Rev. Megan Morrow, Assistant to the Bishop, and Rev. Becky Sells encouraged us in our discipleship through Bible study and worship, and First Lutheran-Kearney invited the Conference to Kearney in 2016. Carol Bosshardt was elected Conference Coordinator, Peggy Hinrichs, Mona Mueller, and Carol Mueller will be the Planning Committee, and Sue Sands-Buss, Glenda Herz, and Louise Wulf will be the Nominating Committee for 2016.

High Plains Conference Spring Gathering was held March 28 at Berea Lutheran, in Chappell. Besides women coming together for fellowship which includes laughter, hugs, coffee, food, and chatter, we did have some challenges. Our main speaker Kay Connery from Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, AT EASE division challenged us to be on the alert for returning Vets (and families) that might be in need of the low or no cost help that AT EASE can provide especially for those suffering from PTSD. Men don't typically seek help as most women might. There are about sixty suicides a day in our land in this category. Kay brought along a recipient of this help called Mo and his comfort dog Jake. It was good for us to hear how the program is working in Mo's life as he told us about the struggles he deals with. Pastor Steve Meysing had some challenges of his own. He brought a great Bible study to us despite his technical difficulties and commended us for choosing a second year of Galatians. We had some special guests as well. A giant M&M promoting the W/ELCA convention of "The Power of M," and Katie Luther (Martins' wife) who is around 500-years-old now, visited us. It was a great day with thirty-one participants.

Shine Your Light



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women of Davey, Nebraska, meet each Wednesday morning in October and November, and begin again in January to May. We have a group of eight to ten women making quilts. We have coffee at 9:00 a.m. and potluck lunch at noon.

The quilt pictured has the top made of a length of material brought from Tanzania which our Pastor Kris Bohac brought back from a trip there. The finished quilt was donated to Camp Carol Joy Holling for the quilt auction in July. We completed ninety-two quilts which were donated to Lutheran World Relief and women's shelters in Lincoln. Several of our members also donated personal handmade quilts to Camp Carol Joy Holling for a total of nearly \$1,000.00.

—submitted by Elaine Hansen

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

There is a cooperative mission project going on between the women of a small rural church, St. Paul's in Glenvil, and a large urban church, Bethany in Elkhorn. The large church contributes a large number of layettes to LWR but needed sweaters and caps to include in the bundles. The small church contributes those sweaters and caps.



There is a mother-daughter team who do the transfer of items. Yarn comes from Bethany members and the completed sweaters and caps are sent from St. Paul's via that team. The mother-daughter team is mother Rogene Ockinga of St. Paul's and daughter Brenda Mink of Bethany. In Glenvil sweaters are knitted by Lanetta Kellogg and caps are crocheted by Donna Valentine and Barb Goldenstein.

—submitted by Donna Valentine, Glenvil

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2013-2015
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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
- ___ Remember in prayer the

SWO conventions this month

- 1-2 – NSWO Board Meeting
- 1-3 – Saved to Serve, Camp Sullivan Hills, Lodgepole
- 4 – Retired ELCA Workers and Spouses Gathering
- 12 – NE Synod Staff Meeting
- 18 – NE Synod Prepare Enrich Facilitator Training
- 28 – NE Synod Council
- 28-30 – NE Synod Assembly, Kearney
- 30 – NE Synod 5K Fun Run/Walk, Kearney
-

June

- ___ Publicize/Promote NSWO Convention

___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month

- 13 – NE Synod STSW Reflective Practices
- 16 – NE Synod Staff Meeting

July

- ___ Publicize/Promote Saved to Serve Opportunities
- ___ Publicize/Promote NSWO Convention
- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 1 – *Expressions* deadline
- 14 – NE Synod Staff Meeting
- 15-19 – ELCA Youth Gathering