

WOMEN

of the

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



Expressions

VOL. 20, NO. 3 AUGUST, 2006

'Eye-Opener' Promised for Renewals

The Autumn Renewal team has been working hard to help everyone who comes for a day of renewal to go home with "new eyes."

The Eastern Renewal will be Sept. 23, 2006, at First/Fremont and the Western Renewal on Sept. 30 at St. John/Alliance. Registrations are due to JoAnn Rohrs, 1409 10th St., Auburn NE 68305 by Sept. 11 and 18, respectively. Make check to NSWOW.

Mary Ann Johnson, Omaha, the presenter writes about the eye opening:

No, there will be no surgeries! But we hope to open your eyes to see things differently in the world around you. We have activities

planned for table discussion, hearing some stories from women who have lived a life of struggle, seeing some movie clips and sharing your reactions and, of course, some singing and Bible study, not to mention some food from different cultures. Don't forget to bring your singing voice because we will try some songs

from different lands.

This is a day of discovery with hopes that you will go back to your women's group with a feeling that there is so much to share! Our team is part of the ELCA Multi-cultural task force and Women of the ELCA Anti-racism training (Other committee members are Rev. Liz

(Continued on page 6)

Argentine Trip Builds Vision

Nine women from the Nebraska Synod of the Women of the ELCA and two from Tanzania spent 13 days in Argentina in June. Mostly they heard presentations and considered similarities and differences in their various churches.

At the Maria Magdalena Mission in a barrio near

Resistencia, for instance, they heard from the youth group about their project of educating their peers about avoiding teenage pregnancy.

The travelers were told that this is a big problem in Argentina since the Catholic Church is the only church recognized

(Continued on Page 11)

Inside . . .

Devotions	2
President	3
Sp. Gatherings	4-5
Argentina Trip	6
Action	7
Global Missions	8
Saved To Serve	9
Churchwide	11
Pull-Out Section	
Catalog-Programs,	
Videos, Skits	
Between	
Pages 6 & 7	



Youth from the Maria Magdalena Mission in the barrio of Juan Bautistia Alberdi gathered to tell the Nebraska and Tanzania travelers about their project to educate their peers about avoiding teen pregnancy.

A Devotional Study

By Laura Hunt

Central Board Representative

Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization

' Too Busy '

"And it is he who will supply all your needs from his riches in glory, because of what Christ Jesus has done for us." Philipians 4:19 (The Living Bible)

"I'm too busy."

"I just don't have time."

"My neighbor just had surgery, I really should take a casserole or visit. I'm too busy today, maybe tomorrow."

"My friend's baby is sick, I should call, but I'd better vaccum. I can call later."

Tomorrow or later may be too late.

How many times do we put off the things God is nudging us to do? We're always so busy, we don't stop to listen to his voice. An aunt of mine always wrote on my birthday card: "Take time to stop and smell the roses." We need to take the time to worship, study, be quiet and listen.

One of my favorite spots on the way to visit my daughter is a rest stop on a hilltop. I love to look out over the hills, the beautiful trees, the farm fields and lake. It is so peaceful; it is a holy place. God feels so near. We are fortunate to live in this beautiful country.

We don't go to sleep hungry or to the sound of gunfire. We are warm. We have so much, yet we always want more. We do not always share of our "first fruits," or our best. Let us remember as we wake to a fresh new day to thank God for our abundant gifts.

Dear Lord, I think you that you are not too busy to hear me. 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 JoAnn Rohrs, 1409 10th St., Auburn NE 68305 \$4 per year. Make check to NSWO.

Autumn Renewal **"Nebraska Cultures"**

East - Sept. 23, 2006

First Lutheran, Fremont

West - Sept. 30, 2006

St. John, Alliance

Message from the President

The dream of three companion synods being together again has come true. This has been the dream of the NSWO since 2001. In June, 2006, nine **BOLD** women from Nebraska and two **BOLDER** women from Tanzania traveled to Argentina on a vision trip. The trip was titled, "**A Journey Without Borders.**" We were hosted by Chabela Furlan, Graciela Stein, Nelly Buhler -- all members of the IELU Women's Organization. These three women and Aripa Marealle, one of our Tanzanian guests, were among the women who came to our NSWO Convention in 2001.

We welcomed the Rev. Joyceline Njama of Tanzania and two "Americano" women who are living in Argentina and working for the ELCA, to our traveling group. Sandra Jones, an ELCA Horizon Intern, and Kate Lawler, a member of the ELCA Global Mission Team, were our translators for the trip. At times we were joined by people from the office of the IELU in Buenos Aires: IELU Bishop Alan Eldrid, Gustavo Driau, Pastor Angel Furlan, Roberto Stein (Tito), secretary of IELU, and Ana Maria Papadopoulos, IELU Women's project person in the Misiones Province, Ana Maria Vargas, pastoral accompaniment with the Bolivian Community, the Rev. Lisandro Orlov, pastoral accompaniment HIV/AIDS, and Pastor Judith VanOsdol Hanson. These people were vital to our understanding as they presented various projects and concerns of the Lutheran Church in Argentina. They asked us to express to you their gratitude and their greetings.

In addition to Buenos Aires, we visited three provinces in northern Argentina. We visited a two-point parish in Eldorado, a community of German descendants. It was a joy to see that young women were interested in the work of the church. Pastor Fabian had power point presentations on what his congregations were doing for people. The *asados* (barbecues) were a delight, and they fed us well. Pastor Joyceline and I were interviewed for a radio broadcast by one of the congregants. Barb from Nebraska was the Spanish and German translator for this interview.

In Obera we were welcomed with high tea by the women's group of Olaus Petri parish, known as the Bee Hive. They pick a Queen Bee every year. This church has a school starting with pre-school and continuing through secondary school. We visited with two farm families that attend Caa-Yari Church, one of their mission parishes.



We also visited the women of San Martin, God Is Love Church, also one of their mission churches. This is where Digma, one of the women who visited Nebraska in 2001, teaches the women how to create craft items to sell, one of their means of earning a living. Most of these women are buying government houses and so we purchased most of the things they had for sale that day. They have raised enough money for their church to build a covered patio and a kitchen.

We went on to Corrientes and Resistencia where we visited the parish of St. Matthew and talked with the women of the student housing mission connected with the church. We went to the Barrio Juan Bautista Alberdi to visit with the youth of the Maria Magdalena Mission Church about teen pregnancy. Social workers Fabian and Ofilia work with these teens and Pastor Raul and his wife, Elene, were with us at the barrio. We took a walk through the streets of the barrio and saw the extreme poverty that is painfully evident. Graciela's church works directly with this mission which provides both a pre-school and adult education classes. The warmth of their relationship was obvious.

When we were in Buenos Aires we marched with the Mothers of May at the Plaza de Mayo, visited with the boys at the Hostel of Solidarity for people with HIV/AIDS. We were housed at the ISEDET seminary where we also spent time in discussion, heard presentations by

(Continued on Page 6)

2051 Fairacres Dr.
Fremont NE 68025-273 6
402-721-3053
tmeyer10@neb'rr.com

August, 2006, 3

More Than 800 Attend Spring Gatherings

More than 800 women attended the seven Spring Gatherings of 2006. Total offering as of July 1 was \$13,590.98, with one-half going to the churchwide organization, one-fourth to NSWO and one-fourth to Lutheran World Hunger.

Bishop David deFreese led the Bible Study on the theme, "It is Well With My Soul" at Metro-East and Midlands, with Pastor Martin Russell officiating at Northeast.

President Beth Meyer and Treasurer JoAnn Rohrs reported on the work of Women of the ELCA, as they had at the previous four gatherings, which were reported in the May *Expressions*.

Details of the final three gatherings:

Metro East - 126, \$4,124.25

Debbie Diesing Blank was keynote speaker. Following her presentation, women had an opportunity to attend two of five workshops. Topics included volunteering, music therapy, life coaching, women's health and Oaks Indian Mission.

Tangible offering went to Oaks.

Election, Coordinator, Nancy Johnson, Rejoice!; Planning committee, Jeanne Dunn, Immanuel; Mardelle Gocek, Christ the King; Karen Hansen, Millard; Trudy Hutton, Blair; Pat Stevens, St. Michael; Randi VenHuizen, Lord of Love; Mary Yocom, Kountze.

Nominating committee, Carolyn Beethe, First; Mary Nelsen, Holy Cross.

Midlands - 162, \$1,793

Workshops dealt with health -- body, soul and mind. The prayer walk labyrinth was available all day and there were areas throughout the



Northeast hostesses wore nurses' caps to emphasize the wellness theme.

4 - August, 2006



Metro-East: Planning Committee, Pat Stevens, Mardelle Gocek, Randy VenHuizen, Nancy Johnson (coordinator), Trudy Hutton, Karen Hansen



Midlands: Planning Committee: Marian Vermeline, Sandy Husar, Vernyce Schmidt, Gail Elsasser, Jane Flores (coordinator), Estelle Riemann, Betty Dasenbrock



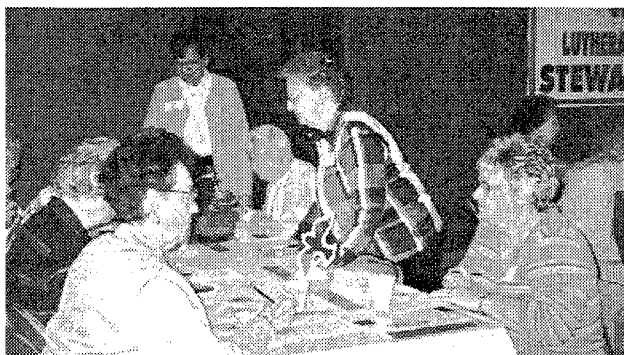
Northeast: Committees: Carole Nordby (N), Shirley Kehne (P), Mae Greve (N), Marilyn Leonard, (P), Diane Frerichs (P)

church to remember baptism. The day concluded with worship and Holy Communion.

The ladies assembled 300+ health kits for LWR and have enough supplies to assemble 300 more.

Election, Coordinator, Jane Flores, Hooper; Planning committee, Estelle Riemann, Lincoln; Phyllis Olson, Wahoo; Diane Bade, Fremont; Gail Elsasser, Oakland.

Nominating committee, Betty Dasenbrock, Lincoln; Marian Vermeline, Malmo; Vernyce Schmidt, Fremont; Sandra Husar, Oakland.



Midlands women build friendships with getting-acquainted activity

Northeast - 116, \$2,063

Danielle Stein, a psychiatric social worker, spoke on "Grief as a Threat to Our Well Being." The Wausa Cleaning Ladies provided laughter for the soul.

Women's and children's socks and underwear were collected for Haven House.

Election, Coordinator, Phyllis Rahn, Wayne; Planning committee, Shirley Kehne, Winnetoon; Diane Frerichs, Coleridge; Marilyn Leonard, Pender; Janice Roeber, Emerson; Judy Stahlecker, Spencer.

Nominating committee, Lorraine Marvin, Bloomfield; Carole Nordby, Hartington; Sandy Boots, West Point; Mae Greve, Wakefield.

Study Explores Suffering

The fall Bible Study from *Lutheran Woman Today* will explore suffering, a common human condition. First session, "The Big Questions," will appear in the September magazine. Nine sessions in all continue until May, 2007.

The Bible Study will make distinctions between personal and communal suffering, consider causes of suffering and explore ways in which Christians can respond.

The study, "Hope in God in Times of Suffering," is written by a husband and wife team, Terence and Faith Fretheim. Terence is the Elva B. Lovell Professor of Old Testament at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minn. Faith is retired from the churchwide Women of the ELCA staff, where she served in the program division. She has been to Nebraska several times for conventions and workshops.

A Leader's Guide can be ordered by calling 1-800-328-4648.

NSWO Board Gleanings:

From June 9-10 meeting

- Program for Winter Retreat, Jan. 20, St. Paul/Grand Island will be "The Tea Pot Lady" and "The Women of the Bible Quilt Presentation."

- Plans were made for 2007 Spring Gatherings.

Theme: "I Am a Woman of Faith"

Scripture: Philippians 4:13 (GNV)

Dates and locations:

Feb. 24 - Metro-East, St. John's/Bennington

Mar. 10 - Midlands, Redeemer/Hooper

Mar. 24 - Central, Zion/Albion

Mar. 31 - Southeast, St. Paul's/Falls City

Apr. 14 - Southern Prairie, Trinity/Hildreth

Apr. 21 - High Plains, St. John's United/Alliance

Apr. 28 - Northeast, Salem/Wakefield

Registration will be \$15.

- Work is continuing on a NSWO website, to be hosted by NonProfit Strategy Partners, Inc. The address chosen is www.ne-womenoftheelca.org.

- * Treasurer JoAnn Rohrs reported that while CWO offerings are down overall in the nation, NSWO offerings to CWO are stable and on schedule.

- * Sandy Boots was appointed as Triennial Gathering Promotor for the 2008 gathering in Salt Lake City.. She and President Beth Meyer will attend an orientation meeting in Salt Lake in February.

- * A completed assessment of active units showed 218 in Nebraska. The NSWO will be allowed nine delegates to the triennial convention.

Ask for Samples

Sample copies of Expressions (up to 25) are available on request to Editor Beth Bohling, 1345 N. Commercial, Superior Ne 68978-1023 (beth.b@alltel.net)

President . . .

(Continued from Page 3)

various groups of their concerns. We divided into two groups and attended Sunday worship services at Angel, Chabela, Kate and Sandra's church and at Roberto, Graciela and Nelly's church. Dinner was hosted at Graciela's church, giving us the opportunity to meet Graciela's and Nelly's families.

We also found time to do some sight seeing. We visited the awesome work of God at the Iguazu Falls National Park and Kupper Falls, saw the Jesuit Ruins at San Ignacio, toured the Wanda Mines and had tours of the cities we visited. We also had time for a little shopping.

Wherever we went we were welcomed with open arms. The love of God was truly present in the people with whom we spent our time. The women of IELU



Women from three continents are close-knit group for Argentina tour.

put together a fantastic trip for us!

I think Jane Johnson summed it up best by saying, "We all learned so much as we laughed, cried, played and worshipped together. We became sisters and seeds were planted. As we parted we prayed together that each of us will carry these seeds

of faith back to our homes, nurture them, and watch them grow into something awesome that God intended for all of us."

Called and Saying Yes!

Beth

More about the Argentina Visit from an IELU Intern

Kate Lawler, a member of the ELCA Global Mission team in Argentina, traveled with the Nebraska and Tanzania tour group. She reports in *El Camino Solidario*, mission newsletter:

"The delegation visited three provinces in northern Argentina, areas where farming is the livelihood of large sectors of the population. The delegation visited many IELU congregations and learned about work that the IELU is doing in such areas as sustainable agriculture, primary and secondary education, domestic violence, teen pregnancy, HIV-AIDS and church growth.

Our ears were graced with prayer and song in five languages: Spanish, English,

Kiswahili (the official language of Tanzania), Kichaga (the native language of the women from Tanzania) and Aymara (the native language of women from the IELU's Bolivian Immigrant Ministry). Rich insights arose from discussions about God in each of our languages. The word for God in Hebrew, Kichaga and Aymara all lift up the image of God as both female and male. The Aymara word for God is "Kamasa" and encompasses the concepts of breath, force and spirit. In Hebrew, the word "Ruah," a feminine noun, means the Spirit of God. Almost the same word in Kichaga, "Ruwa," means God of Creation. The visiting delegation from Tanzania explained that when

Lutheran missionaries first arrived in Tanzania, they did not change the pre-Christian word or concept that the Chaga people had of God. Therefore, in Lutheran churches today, they still refer to God as "Ruwa."

Given that agriculture is close to the hearts of the women from Nebraska and Tanzania, the struggles of Argentine farmers moved them deeply. Small farmers in the northern province of Misiones are becoming increasingly dependent on multinational companies to buy their crops and livestock. These companies, and their local intermediaries, not only control the price but also require the farmers to buy their animal feed, seeds, chemicals and fertilizers, and then dictate when and how they use them.

'Eye-Opener' . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Connors, Omaha, and Rev. Julie Tillberg, Plattsmouth.)

We come to show you how exciting it is to learn things about a different culture. We are very blessed in Nebraska that our Lutheran church is reaching out, but we are still 98% white.

Please come to learn about our sisters in Christ. The good thing is you don't have to drive very far and the cost is only \$18. (Much cheaper than a flight to Argentina!) But watch out! The Holy Spirit might put fire in your heart to do things in your community that you did not think possible!

Please File Catalog

An up-dated Catalog of Skits, Devotionals and Program Materials available from the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization is being distributed with this issue of *Expressions*. You will find it tucked in between pages 6 and 7.

Please file this so that you can refer to it when necessary, as the catalog will not be published again for at least two years.

Investment Challenge

The Mission Investment Fund (MIF) of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has agreed to contribute \$25,000 to support the Seventh Triennial Women of the ELCA gathering in Salt Lake City in 2008 if W/ELCA participants open 1,000 new individuals account with MIF before then.

MIF is a fund which pays interest to depositors and uses the money deposited to make loans to mission congregations and established congregations for land purchase, building, etc.

Special "Women of the ELCA Challenge" applications are available by calling Tanya Constanza or Teresa Grannum toll free at 877-886-3522.

Nebraskan Wins Scholarship

Ann Gillen of Kearney is a winner of a Laywoman Opportunity Scholarship from the churchwide Women of the ELCA. These scholarships are to provide assistance for women studying for a career other than the ordained ministry.

Gillen is working on her MA in community counseling at the University of Nebraska.

The scholarships are supported by funds from several accounts.

Elected Board

**Nebraska
Synodical
Women
of the ELCA
2005-2007**

President

Beth Meyer
2061 Fairacres Dr.
Fremont NE 688025-
27736
402-721-3053
tmeyer10@neb/rr.com

Vice President

Gwendolynn Edwards
3402 cCastile Dr.
Bellevue NE 68127
402-291-1087
GFEwardsNSWO@
aol.com

Secretary

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

Treasurer

JoAnn Rohrs
1409 10th St.
Auburn NE 68305
402-274-3058

Brd. Representatives

jar1409@earthlink.ne
Central
Laura Hunt
P.O. Box 293
Stromsburg NE 68666
402-764-3321

jh30956@alltel.net

High Plains

Bernice Gengenbach
Route 1 Box 105
Eustis NE 69028
308-486-4261

Metro East

Emily Laaker
PO Box 107
Bennington NE 68007
402-238-2583
elaaker@cox.net

Midlands

Connie Johnson
PO Box 17
Cordova NE 68330
402-576-3009
cjthepreacherswife @

hotmail.com

Northeast

Judy Stahlecker
PO Box 267
Spencer NE 68777
402-589-9086
stahlecker@
inebraska.com

Southeast

Carolyn Schlake
1520 Darwin St.
Beatrice NE 68310
402-228-9646

Southern Prairie

Lynn Echterkamp
104 Northridge Dr.
Clay Center NE 68933
402-762-3866
lechterkamp@
yahoo.com

Keys to Working for Peace and Justice

The New Lutheran Handbook has an excellent chapter entitled, "How To Work for Peace and Justice on Behalf of People Who Are Poor and Oppressed" (pages 93-95). It begins by reminding us that good works are the result and

Global Awareness

Shirley Daire, Advocate
Rt 1 Box 77
Alma NE 68920-9791
308-928-2839
sdaire@yahoo.com



not the cause of our salvation. It is our gratefulness to the Lord for his many blessings that makes us want to serve others who have not power to help themselves.

As Lutherans we have many organizations with a long record of working for justice, and for relief and for peace. They minister in a variety of ways. The two largest you know -- Lutheran World Relief and ELCA World Hunger. We work together with other Christians, too. It is our way of sharing Jesus' compassion and love.

There are seven key ways in which we can serve:

1. Include people who are poor and oppressed in your daily prayers.
2. Include people who are poor and oppressed in your personal or offering budget.
3. Pay close attention to economic and political conditions in other nations.
4. Get to know organizations that work for justice locally.
5. Make working for justice part of your weekly or monthly routine.
6. Vote your conscience.
7. Be an advocate for a cause in which you believe, one that has meaning for your personally.

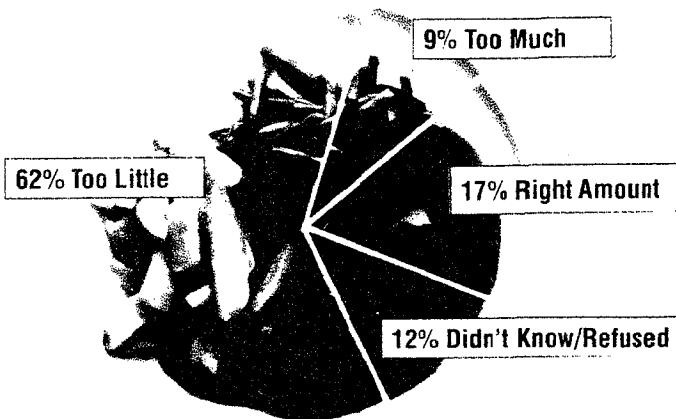
This is only a summary of the article, but gives us a reminder that we are to speak and act for justice and peace here and through the whole world!

The Lutheran Handbook, Augsburg Fortress, 2005. Used by permission.
8- August, 2006

Poll Weighs Efforts in US

The June, 2006, issue of *BREAD*, the Bread for the World newsletter, reports results of a recent poll conducted by the Alliance To End Hunger. Voters were asked, "Do you feel the U.S. government spends too much, too little or about the right amount to reduce hunger in the United States?"

Here are the results:



How would you have answered the question? Why?

How much does Congress budget to reduce hunger world wide? That is a good question to research!

According to Bread for the World, we don't always keep our pledges.

Another Hunger Resource

Also available from Bread for the World is a publication, "Hunger for the Word, Lectionary Reflections on Food and Justice Year C" which explores the scriptural witness with an openness to seeing how God's Word can nourish us in the struggle to feed the hungry.

It draws on insights and stories of pastors and others active in anti-hunger advocacy. It has been described as "a banquet of wisdom for those who long for communities of faith that leave the Sunday gathering to become what they have received: bread for hunger, wine of peace, Christ's body blessed, broken and given for the life of the world."

To order call 1-800-82-BREAD or visit www.bread.org

July Event Brightens Life at Bethphage

Saved To Serve went back to Bethphage Village at Axtell for another service opportunity July 7-9. Fifteen women participated.

They transformed two classrooms, painting one a banana peel yellow with a frog theme and wallpaper border, and the other a vivid sky blue with a butterfly border and theme. Eight pair of white curtains with a green and yellow band tied the two rooms together.

Another activity was making greeting cards to be distributed to Bethphage residents who do not normally receive mail. Over 400 cards were made featuring holidays, birthdays, get well and thinking of you types.

Quilts and pillows made from a variety of fabrics which are tactile/visual stimulating were completed, as were activity tray covers. Some of the quilts and pillows were donated by units across Nebraska; others sent paper products and shampoos.

Saturday night the participants interacted with Bethphage residents in the chapel, singing, playing bells and laughing together. Later in the evening, the women relaxed with line-dance routines.

As always with Saved To Serve events, Bible Study and interacting with the Bethphage personnel were strong components.

For Your Planning

Lutheran World Relief In-gathering will be Nov. 6-10, 2006.

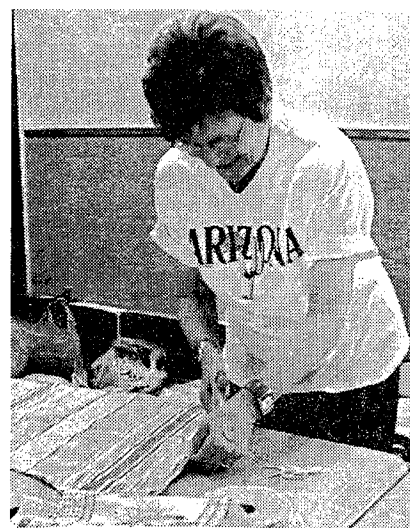
More information will be included with your Conference Newsletter mailing.



Deb Folkerts, Nancy Johnson and DeAnna Tuttle hang new curtains in the blue classroom at Bethphage.



First-timers Julie Johnson (above) applies banana peel yellow paint to the other classroom and Marian Kotas works on activity tray covers.



Men and Women Head to Oaks

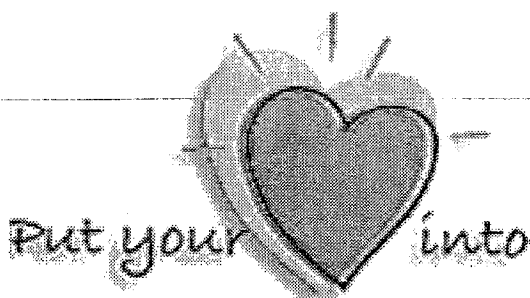
Thirty-four members of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization and the Nebraska Lutheran Men in Mission have registered for a joint Saved To Serve Opportunity at Oaks Indian Center, Okla., Aug. 10-13.

One of their projects will be to help refurbish Seminole Hall, which is to become a young women's dormitory. They will also probably work on the stone building which is being made into a museum, and may paint some other rooms.

Highlights will include a side trip to Talequah to visit the Heritage Center of the Cherokee Nation and an afternoon of storytelling by Sol Bird Mockisin.

On Saturday night they will attend church services at Eben Ezer Lutheran Church in Oaks. The pastor, Jack Russell, is the only full-blooded Cherokee pastor in the ELCA.

August, 2006 - 9



Raising up Healthy Women and Girls Women of the ELCA

Churchwide Women of the ELCA offers several activities related to the health emphasis.

Wellness Seminars

Wellness seminars are scheduled for September and October.

They urge women to take time for themselves, by joining other Women of the ELCA at one of the weekend seminars.

"Not only will you learn to create a better quality of life for yourself, you'll also learn how to replicate this event in your own community."

Two seminars are scheduled:

Sept. 29-Oct. 1, Chicago, Ill. Speakers, Rev. Mary Stein-Webber and Dr. Gwen Wagstrom Halaas.

Oct 27-29, Greensboro, N. C. Speakers, Tammy Devine and Ginger Larson

Join other Christian women in heart-to-heart discussions of health matters that affect women emotionally, mentally, physically and spiritually.

Early-bird registration (by Sept. 1) is \$75 and student registration \$65. For later registrations, add \$10.

Hotel rates available under News & Events, www.womenoftheelca.com.

Bold Women of the Reformation

Women of the ELCA is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a trip to Germany April 16-30, 2007.

The trip will focus on the lives of Martin Luther, Katharina von

Bora Luther, and other women of the Reformation. It is being developed in partnership with the ELCA Wittenberg Center.

Participants will visit the city where Martin Luther lived and taught for 36 years; the ruins of Kloster Nimbschen (convent where Katharina was a nun), and the church where Bach served as a music director.

A unique Reformation-era performance by local Wittenberg women will be included. Cities to be toured included Berlin, Wittenberg, Torgau, Leipzig, Dresden, Eisleben, Erfurt and Eisenach.

Fees and registration information

is available on-line at www.womenoftheelca.com/20years/germany.html. Cost for double occupancy is \$2,200, not including air fare.



*Statue of Katharina
Von Bora Luther*

Monthly LW Article

Every month, health reporter Molly M. Ginty shares an article of interest in the Health Wise department of *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine.

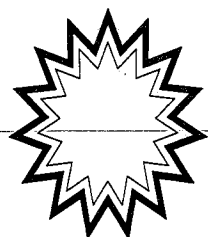
Wheat Ridge Grants

Grants are available from Wheat Ridge Ministries to support new congregation-based health and wellness ministries.

Guidelines and application blank on-line at www.wheatridge.org

Act Boldly for Health

The summer 2006 Bible study in *Lutheran Woman Today* magazine, entitled *Act Boldly for Health*, can be downloaded from www.womenoftheelca.com



Let Your Light Shine



Workers at St. Paul/Homer display fleece articles made for Lutheran World Relief.

Women of St/ Paul/Homer met Tuesday afternoons in February and March, with an average attendance of 8. They made 23 large fleece blankets, 10 baby blankets, two ponchos with matching scarves, 10

other scarves and two small pillow covers for LWR.

One of the women was Gladys Rasmussen, who is 98 years old. She has a long history of helping with quilts.

Our Redeemer, Superior, observed Rachel's Day with a special offering of children's toys and games, which were given to the local Spouse Abuse/ Sexual Assault Crisis Center, to be used as needed.

Argentina. . .

(Continued from Page 1)
by the government and they do not allow any education that would include birth control or family planning.

Fabian, a social worker from Buenos Aires, leads the youth group. Since they are in the same social/economic situation, and the same age as the teens they are talking to, there

is no built-in resistance to the message, he said.

Normally, when teenagers have a child in Argentina, the boy's family has no sense of responsibility. And because the sense of family is strong, the girl knows that there will always be someone to take care of the baby -- usually the mother's grandmother.

The youth group is teaching

about the importance of abstinence and other methods of prevention.

For more about the Argentina trip, see the President's Letter, Page 3-4.

A list of the NSWO women who made the trip, with information about how to contact them to present programs about it, is on page 4 of the Catalog insert.

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1409 10th Street
Auburn NE 68305

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)

August

- 10-13 - Saved To Serve at Oaks Indian Center
- S - Prepare yearbooks.
- S - Prepare budget

- S - Send list of officers to Mindy Chandler, 2051 Fairacres Dr., Fremont NE 68025-2736 or email to mnchandler71@hotmail.com
- Circulate *Expressions* among participants.

September

- Plan Autumn Renewal offering
- 11 - Registration due - East Renewal
- 18 - Registration due - West Renewal
- 23 - East Autumn Renewal
- 30 - West Autumn Renewal
- Send news for November

Expressions.

- S - Did you send officers to Mindy?

October

- 1 - *Expressions* deadline
- J - Elect officers
- Prepare kits, blankets, etc. for LWR

Plan Thankoffering Service

November

- J - Plan yearbook
- 3 - World Community Day
- 6-10 LWR Pickup
- J - Send list of officers to Mindy Chandler, 2051 Fairacres Dr., Fremont NE 68025-2736 or email to mnchandler71@hotmail.com

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2006 Catalog

Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization

Programs

Alphabetical Christian Service - (2 pages)
- Heavenly A-B-C's

Biblical Reflection on the Commandments
- (2 pages)

Christmas Heritage Tour
(Requires research of Christmas customs)

Christmas Program - (4 pages) - reading and song

Experience the Joy of Mentoring - (4 pages)

The Holy Alphabet - (1 page reading)

I am a Christian - (1 page reading)

My Seat in Church - (1 page reading)

The One Flaw in Women - (2 page reading)

Rachel's Day - 1st Sunday in May, much information; includes Litany for Children

Waiting, Waiting - (8 pages) 4-week Advent service
(costumes and music)

The Warmth of Mother's Kitchen - (6 pages) Different cooking aids of the ages

Where Do You Fit in God's Design? - (3 pages)
Compares women to quilt fabrics

Devotions

A Healing Devotion - (1 page)

**Create a Thankoffering
Devotion** - (4 pages) Tells
how to write a devotion

Devotional Lord's Prayer - (1
page) leader and people

Give Thanks for the Gifts -
(1 page)

**India - the Poor Feed the
Poorest** - (1/2 page)

Litany for Peacemakers -
(1/2 page) leader and people

Litany of Kindness -
(1 page)

Litany of Seeking - (1 page)

**Meditation for Political
Holiday** - (1 page)

Potholder Devotions - (1 page)

**Praying Stress Away with
the Lord's Prayer** - (1 page)
individual or group

Rachel's Day - Litany for
Children (also much info. for
observing on 1st Sunday in
May)

Rainbow Devotional - (2
pages) - 7 persons (reflects
some of our virtues, hopes
and dreams made possible
by God)

The Unshakeable - (1 page) -
Reconciliation through Christ

Skits

Adam and Eve - Outside the Garden of Eden - (2 pages) 2 people

And God Came Near - (3 pages) 5 person & narrator - Stewardship

The Animals of Noah's Ark - 14 participants - Faith - Costumes may be rented from the originator. About faith.

Be Like Salt - (3+ pages) 3 persons - Evangelism

The 'Bored Meeting' (5 Pages) 7 persons - Funny board meeting

Busy Signals - (3 pages) Busy signals when God calls

Bible Study - (1 page) 2 persons - Why study Bible

The Chosen Vessel - (1 page) 7 persons - Talents

A Cloud of Witnesses - (6 pages) - Celebration of Lutheran women

Color Skit - (2 pages) - could use as many as 13 people

Cups - (3+ pages) - 13 persons Personalities

Day 39 and Counting - (7 pages) 2 persons - Growing with change (Mrs. Noah)

Dem Bones - (6 pages) - Body parts & Bible verses

Devil Is Chasing Me - (2 pages) 2 persons - Asking for God's care

Did We Sing That - (4 pages) group of 11 - Songs and actions

Do's and Don'ts of Leadership - (1 page)

Dressed For Success - (6 pgs) Humorous Style Show

Fair Trade Coffee Skit - (6 pages) - 8 persons

Fishes of the Jubilee Sea (3 pages) - 14 people (a style show of the fish named in the scriptures)

God Who Fights for You (5+ pages) - Faith

Goose Skit - (2 pages) - Skit with Bible Study

Great Expectations (1+ pages) 2 persons - Changing thoughts

Group Stages-Cluster Daze (3 pages) 9 people - Acceptance of WELCA

Guide My Feet - The Bible and Liberation (4 pages) Bible Study

Happy Birthday to Us (3 pages) - Honor WELCA and LMM

Heritage of Hymns - (2 pages with 7 songs) - Trip through hymnal with old hymns

If God Could Speak - (4 pgs.) 2 persons - Explanation of phrases in Lord's Prayer

Is There a Second to that Motion - (4 pages) - Pay attention at meeting

Journaling: A Spiritual Discipline - (6 pages) - Describes the activity

The Joy Goes On...With Thanks - (2 pages) - Thankoffering

Katie's Fund Skit - (4 pages) 2 persons - Giving

Little Red Riding Hood Comes of Age - (3 pages) 6 persons - Mission groups

Long Live the Lutheran Cookie - (1 page) - Tribute to cookie bakers

Mailbox Missionary Skit - (4 pages) 4 persons - Evangelism

Moses and the Computer (3 pages) 2 persons - Humor

New Ways for New Days - (4 pages) 4 persons - Need and suffering

One Dollar - (1+ pages) 2 persons - Giving

Our Father's Garden - (4+ pages with song) up to 13 persons - "flowers"

Our Special God-given Gifts - (5 pages with song) - Gifts and talents

The Park Bench - (5 pages) 5 women - Problem Solving

Passing on Our Gifts - (5+ pages with songs) 15 persons - Passing on our talents

A Pinch of Salt - (6 pages with devotions) 7 women - Contributing to women's group

Rich Women, Poor Women (2 page) 2 women Comparison

The Rock Group - (3 pages with songs) 7 persons - Importance of each person

The Sacrifice - (2 pages) 3 persons - Living your life for God

The "7-Up" Skit - (1 page) The "Ups" of life

Sisters in a Struggle - (3 pages) 3 persons - Women stand together

Sleeping Beauty - (6 pages) 4 persons - God's Spirit

A Spiritual Gift - (25 pages) Taking a spiritual inventor

Stations of the Cross - (5 pages with songs) - Easter

The Tator Family - (3 pages) 7 women - Purpose of WELCA

Ten Lutheran Women - (4 pages) 11 women - Faith

Twelve Days of Summer - (1 page) FUNNY - FUNNY and FUN - to "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

Two Children, Two Lives (1 page) 2 children - Comparison

Up the Creek with the Wrong Paddle - (4 pages) 7 women - Teamwork

We Ain't Got a Barrel of Money - (4 pages) 9 people - Faith

We Are the Women - (5+ pages) 8 persons - Faith

We Light the Candles (2+ pages with songs) 6 persons - Advent

Banner Patterns

Advent

Let Earth Receive Her King

All Occasion

Lift Ye Up a Banner

Anew

We are the New Creation

Christmas

Behold

Glory to God in the Highest

Communion

Partake & Remember

Come to the Table

Confirmation

Stand Firm

Take My Life

Easter

Risen Indeed

Once for All

Education

Teach Me, Lord

Funeral

Today With Me

Lent

Take Up Your Cross

Marriage

Two Become One

Palm Sunday

Hosanna

Worship

We Adore Thee

What's Brewin' in the Hen House? - (2 pages) 6 persons - Merger ALC and WELCA

What's Epiphany - (1 page)

Women Called by God - (5 pages) - 12 women of the Bible

Women of the ELCA - (1 page) - Mission groups

Women of the ELCA is Like... - (2 pages) - Compares to products

Videos

Gift of Grace

Informational Video made by High Plains

Joyful, Thankful, Prayerful

Style Show from MetroEast

A Vision of Human Dignity - SERRV

A Wondrous Tapestry

Women Helping Women Help Themselves

Ordering Policy

According to action of the NSWO, people requesting skits, programs, devotionals and banner patterns are expected to pay for the copying and mailing.

Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with 1 stamp for each 5 pages you request, plus a payment of 10 cents for copying each page. If enclosing a check please make it payable to "Women of the ELCA."

Videos may be borrowed for postage of \$2.50. You are expected to show and return them promptly.

Send orders to:

Sandy Smith
Resource Coordinator
Box 409
Weeping Water Ne 68463
402-267-6525
sjsmith1944@lltel.net

Reports from Companion Synod Trips

Women of the ELCA participants in the Vision Trips to Argentina and Tanzania will be glad to present a program for your unit or a larger group concerning what they experienced on the tour. Here are the addresses where they can be reached:

Argentina Trip, June, 2006

Anderson, Pearl
14529 Parker Street
Omaha NE 68154
402-493-6326
email: *pj_a@cox.net*

Becker, Barb
2419 Cochin Street
Grand Island NE 68801
308-381-0192
email: *bsbgine@inebraska.com*

Cockerham, Lois
5701 Vine Street
Lincoln NE 68505
402-464-7014
Lterrif@aol.com

Gruber, Linda
RR 1 Box 178
Eustis NE 69028
308-486-4501
ljgruber163@msn.com

Johnson, Jane
302 N. 9th Street
Newman Grove NE 68758
402-447-94886
jejohns@megavision.com

Meyer, Beth
2051 Fairacres Dr.
Fremont NE 68025
402-721-3053
tmeyer10@neb.rr.com

Pasco, Charlotte
501 Eastborough Lane
Lincoln NE 68505
402-466-0672
cpasco@southeast.edu

Walker, Glenda
75125 Rd. 421
Eustis NE 69029
gwalker@nebnet.net

Waldman, Grace
2425 Folkways Blvd.
#140
Lincoln NE 68521
402-438-2780

Tanzania Trip, October, 2004

Pearl Anderson
14529 Parker Street
Omaha, NE 68154
402-493-6326

Kathryn Cole
5816 Cedar Street
Omaha, NE 68106
402-556-8777

Shirley Daire
311 James Street
Alma, NE 68920
308-928-2839

Mae Greve
1515 Vintage Hill Dr.
Wayne, NE 68787
402-375-1589

Linda Gruber
RR1 Box 178
Eustis NE 69028
308-486-4501

Anne Hennig
6501 S. 41st
Lincoln NE 68516
402-421-7368

Ardith Hoins
PO Box 6
Davenport, NE 68335
402-364-2142

Jane Johnson
302 N. 9th Street
Newman Grove, NE
68758
402-447-9486
402-920-3576 (cell)

Karen Johnson
514 W 3rd Street
Oakland, NE 68045
402-685-5216

Bonnetta Mattison
Box 268
Emerson, NE 68733
402-695-2314

Mary Mayfield
15686 Fountain Hills
Dr.
Omaha, NE 68118
402-778-0291

Joyce Olson
#4 Ginger Cove Road
Valley, NE 68064
402-359-4131

Kandy Pflaster
1009 Medidian
Cozad, NE 69130
308-784-2193

Jeanette Richardson
2 N. Circle Dr.
York, NE 68467
402-362-5985

Patricia Stiefel
316 W. Adams St.
Valley, NE 68064
402-359-2504

Louise Wheeler
PO Box 733
Osceloa, NE 68651
402-747-6531

**Want to give your members the
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**Materials are available from
President Beth Meyer,
2051 Fairacres Dr.
Fremont NE 68025
402-721-3053
*tmeyer10@neb.rr.com***