



## **Saved To Serve RetreatWeekends Begin Feb. 18-20**

The first of three working retreat weekends scheduled this year by the Saved to Serve (S2S) task force will be Feb. 18-20 in Kearney. Women will make church year paraments for the UN-Kearney Campus Ministry Center.

Each weekend includes Bible Study, fun and fellowship as well as work. The February participants will be housed at the Bethphage Retreat Center, Axtell, which last year's S2S workers helped redecorate.

Cost for a retreat is \$39.

Other retreat dates:

June 2-4 - In cooperation with Lutheran Men in Mission. Work to prepare Sullivan Hills, Lodgepole, for the coming season.

Aug. 4-6 - Refurbishing Temme House in Omaha to become a Neighborhood Learning Center. Housing at the Lutheran Service Corps.

For more information, call Louise Wheeler 402-747-6531.

## **Spring Gatherings Schedule:**

March 11 - Northeast, Our Savior/Wayne  
March 18 - Metro East, Trinity/Omaha  
March 25 - Southeast, Christ/Pickrell  
April 1 - Southern Prairie, Trinity/Hildreth  
April 8 - High Plains, Calvary/Scottsbluff  
April 15 - Central, Messiah/Grand Island  
April 29 - Midlands, Sinai/Fremont

## **Gatherings To Continue**

The Conference structure lives on in the Nebraska Synodical Women of the ELCA, even though the synod itself is no longer divided into conferences. Traditional Spring Gatherings, which have proved so successful for the organization, will be held again on March and April Saturdays, except for Easter weekend.

Theme for this year is "Called to Discipleship." It is based on Ephesians 4:12-13 NSRV:

*... to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.*

Offerings will be divided between CWO (1/2), NSWOW (1/4) and World Hunger (1/4).

Bishop Richard N. Jessen will be leading the Bible Study where he does not have a schedule conflict.

High Plains is looking forward to the NSWOW Presi-

dent Sharroll Bernahl being with them. The Midland Choir will start Southern Prairie's program with a concert at 8:30 a.m. Linda Janssen Gere will tell at Central of her trip to Honduras.

Watch for other special features. Mailings from your Conference Planning Committee should be arriving soon.

## **Legislative Day Will be Feb. 12**

If you read this by Feb. 11, it is still not too late to attend the Ecumenical Legislative Briefing Day Saturday, Feb. 12, at First Lutheran Church, 1551 S. 70th Street in Lincoln.

The NSWOW Board plans to attend as part of its February meeting. You, too, can learn first hand about how the legislature works, and what legislation concerning women and children is being considered.

Theme of the day is "Working for Justice." Registrations the day of the event begin at 8 a.m.

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# A Devotional Study

By Marydae Eigenberg  
NSWO Board Representative  
Southern Prairie Conference

## LOVE

Valentines... Flowers... Candy...

February is the month of love.

I Corinthians 13:8a reads: *"All the special gifts and powers from God will someday come to an end, but love goes on forever."* (The Living Bible)

But what is love and what does it mean? Winston's Dictionary says, "love . . . a strong feeling of affection." This isn't a satisfying definition. There should be more than that.

"Caring about people." "Being there when needed." "Trust." "Commitment." "What kind of love are you asking about?" were some answers given by people asked to define love. A Great-Great-Grandmother says, "Love is an itch in your heart you can't scratch."

"Love is unselfish giving." Yes, that's a good description.

He gives her a ring to show his love.

She gives him a tender touch to show her love.

Parents give home, food and clothing to show their love.

God gave His Son to show His love

accepting people unconditionally, "warts and all."

But Jesus Gave His Life to show His Love.

**NOW THAT IS REAL LOVE!**

*Our Father, let us always appreciate your gift of love. So freely given . . . but so costly to you. Your Son died that we might live. For this we thank and praise you, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.*

*Expressions of the Nebraska Synodical Women's  
Organization, Women of the ELCA*

*Expressions* provides information concerning programs and projects of the Churchwide and Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization, Women of the ELCA, and helps for congregational units. It is distributed free to congregational unit presidents and pastors of congregations.

The newsletter is published four times a year, in February, May, August and November. Deadline is the first of the month preceding the issue date.

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

Send subscriptions to Linda Fuhr, Rt 2, Box 26, Osceola NE 68651. \$4 per year.

## Upcoming Events

**Saved To Serve - Kearney**

Feb 18-20, 2000

Lutheran Campus Ministry Center

**Spring Gatherings**

March, April Saturdays

# *Message from the President*

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I write this communication to you on New Year's Day - January 1, 2000 - the NEW millenium. I admit to feeling a certain amount of disappointment. After all the hype about Y2K, the reality has been something of a letdown.



Over the past several weeks I've been thinking of the similarities between Advent and all our Y2K preparations. The Old Testament prophets had much to say about the savior who would be coming. Folks at that time had a great many expectations about what this savior would be like. The reality of the baby Jesus wasn't at all what they expected. Many were disappointed. Yet this tiny baby has turned out to be the greatest gift the world has ever known!

Today is the first day of a new century – the first day of the rest of our lives! Only God knows what this century will bring. Perhaps we'll find a cure for cancer or AIDS. Perhaps there will be an end to racial prejucie. Perhaps those of us with so much will learn to share what we have with those who are less fortunate. Perhaps all the nations of the world will learn to get along and we can at last have world peace. The possibilities are endless!

Earlier I admitted to feeling a bit let down that the new millenium's arrival was less spectacular than I had anticipated. I am reminded, as we all must be reminded, that just as the baby born in Bethlehem was an incredible gift, so too is the gift of a new year. We have been given an opportunity to start over with a clean slate. The past is behind us, the future is before us. With God's guidance what a future it will be!

Yours in Christ's Service,

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

Karen Tjarks, NSW President

Box 508, Ceresco NE 68017  
H 402-665-2360  
[ktjarks@juno.com](mailto:ktjarks@juno.com)

See NSW Board Update, p. 6  
for more from the President



# Emphasizing Women and Children in Crisis

For the next three years, our emphasis will continue to focus on what we can do to help women and children in crisis. This is a large area



## Vice President

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tadbathke3@juno.com

to cover, when considering the many facets of crisis. Have you worked this emphasis into your program for the new year?

Consider supporting advocacy and action on behalf of at-risk children. Consider supporting prison ministries for women. Consider programs for women who have experienced abusive relationships. Consider living in poverty in our own communities as well as around the world. Consider advocating for congregations and social ministry organizations to provide adequate benefit packages to early childhood staff. Consider nonviolence education, and focus on leadership and safe havens for children. Consider mentoring one woman at a time with personal commitment, spiritual fellowship, and individual invitation.

There are so many resources to cover these areas (*Interchange*, Fall 1999, pages 22-23) including some probably in your own community.

## Students Promoting Jubilee 2000

Jubilee 2000 has caught the attention of Lutheran students at Wayne State College, under the leadership of student Stephanie Lorenz and Pastor Paul Judson.

They have invited other Lutheran Campus Ministries across the state to participate and are seeking to organize a group of 12 Nebraska Lutheran student delegates to attend the J-2000 Rally in Washington, D.C. in April.

(See "Special Message," Jubilee, p. 4, for more on rally.)

Help is being sought to raise \$5000 to fund the trip. Lorenz has asked if Women of the ELCA congregational units might be interested in donating. If for some reason the trip does not take place, she said the money would be used for other LCM projects across the state.

Contributions can be sent to Wayne Lutheran Campus Ministry, c/o Stephanie Lorenz, 1301 Shreiner Drive, Wayne NE 68787

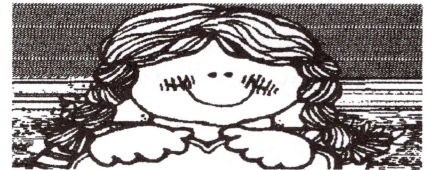
Wayne students began their J-2000 activities with a letter-writing campaign in the campus student center. Students were asked to sign the J-2000 petition or write a letter to their representatives in Congress. A flier developed by Wayne Lutheran Campus Ministry was distributed.

Lorenz has agreed to serve as a member of the Women of the ELCA Jubilee 2000 Speakers Bureau, so is available to speak to units either before or after the trip.

## More Jubilee Ideas

More ideas of what Women of the ELCA units can do in relation to Jubilee 2000 are listed on page 4 of the Jubilee 2000 pull-out section between pages 6 and 7.

In addition, Deb Billington, Jubilee 2000 coordinator, is preparing a packet of information to be handed out at Spring Gatherings.



## Gift of Laughter

### From the Internet

Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree.

Noah built an ark, which the animals come on to in pairs.

Samson was a strongman who let himself be led astray by a Jezebel like Delilah.

Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients.

The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert.

Afterwards, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten ammendments.

The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.

The fifth commandment is to humor thy father and mother.

Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol.





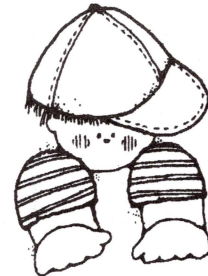
## A Prayer for The Children

We pray for the Children

who sneak popsicles before supper, who erase holes in math workbooks,  
who can never find their shoes.

And we pray for those

who stare at photographers from behind barbed wire,  
who can't bound down the street in a new pair of sneakers,  
who never "counted potatoes,"  
who are born in places where we wouldn't be caught dead,  
who never go to the circus,  
who live in an X-rated world.

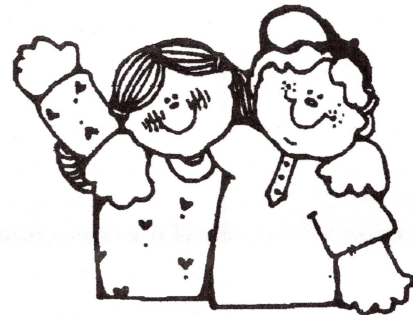


We pray for children

who bring us sticky kisses and fistfuls of dandelions, who hug us in a hurry and forget  
their lunch money.

And we pray for those

who never get dessert,  
who have no safe blanket to drag behind them,  
who watch their parents watch them die,  
who can't find any bread to steal,  
who don't have any rooms to clean up,  
whose pictures aren't on anybody's dresser,  
whose monsters are real.

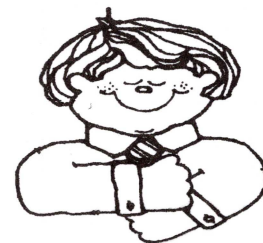


We pray for children

who spend all their allowance before Tuesday,  
who throw tantrums in the grocery store and pick at their food, who like ghost stories,  
who shove dirty clothes under the bed, who never rinse out the tub, who get visits from the tooth  
fairy, who don't like to be kissed in front of the carpool, who squirm in church or temple and  
scream in the phone,  
whose tears we sometimes laugh at and whose smiles can make us cry.

And we pray for those

whose nightmares come in the daytime,  
who will eat anything,  
who have never seen a dentist,  
who aren't spoiled by anybody,  
who go to bed hungry and cry themselves to sleep,  
who live and move, but have no being.



We pray for children who want to be carried and for those who must, who we never give up on and  
for those who don't get a second chance.

For those we smother and . . . for those who will grab the hand of anybody kind enough to offer it.

Several board members submitted this poem for *Expressions*. Vice President Donna Bathke says:

"It fits our focus so well. I do not know who the author is, or where it came from, but the notation at the bottom of my e-mail said it was in memory of the teacher and children killed in the school shooting Tuesday, March 24, 1998, in Jonesboro, Ark."



# Nebraska SWO Update:

From Karen Tjarks, president

Your Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Board met together for the first time in November. Following are some of the topics discussed. If you have concerns to bring before the Board, please submit them to me in writing at least two weeks before the Board meeting.

- Reviewed our Constitution, Bylaws and Conference Guidelines

- Reaffirmed our Vision Statement:

***Rooted in God's Word, and responding to God's undeserved love, we, the Women of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization, offer our time and talents to God's glory, to provide a vital ministry for our sisters of diverse ages, cultures and situations.***

- Established goals for the next two years

- Winter Retreat - I hope you attended (Jan. 22) and learned more about being a mentor to someone else. I am so thankful for those persons in my life who have guided me on my faith journey.

- Spring Gatherings - Conference Planning Committees are meeting to make final arrangements. From reports I've received these events should be enjoyable and spiritually uplifting - well worth your time to attend! If for some reasons you are unable to attend the Gathering in your conference, feel free to attend one in another conference. (See schedule, p. 1)

- Board appointees - The Board discussed appointee positions and the role they should play in supporting our NSWO. The following appointments have been made:

Expressions Editor - Beth Bohling

Lutheran Woman Today - Glenda Jessen

Global Awareness - Shirley Daire

Database Coordinator - Linda Fuhr

Jubilee 2000 Coordinator - Deb Billington

Position descriptions and guidelines will be established; appointment letters will be sent for other spots. If you have an interest in one or these special areas, please contact me as soon as possible!

Appointee Positions To Be Filled:

Historian -

Service & Development -

Anti-Racism Education -

Advocacy Education -

- Next meeting - Feb. 11-13 in Lincoln. (To be attended by elected board representatives and officers; attendance by appointees is optional.) We will be attending the Legislative Briefing Day as part of our board time together. This will enable us to become more familiar with the legislative process and to learn more about legislation affecting women and children. I encourage anyone who is able to attend this enjoyable and informative day. (For more on Legislative Day, see p. 1)

**6 - February, 2000**

## Mailing Woes

Please check the address on your label to be sure it is **exactly** as your postmaster wants it. If there is any change at all, or if it should change in the least in the future, please send a Change of Address card to Linda Fuhr, Route 2, Box 26, Osceola NE 68651.

Since we are so anxious that you receive your *Expressions*, we ask the postal department for "Address Service." Often this results in a postmaster delivering the newsletter to you and sending us an address correction, for which we normally pay 50 cents.

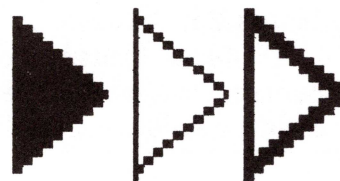
We are not complaining about that, but last issue we paid \$2+ to retrieve a newsletter which was returned to us. **ALL THAT WAS DIFFERENT ABOUT THE ADDRESS WAS THAT A BOX NUMBER HAD BEEN ADDED TO THE RURAL ROUTE NUMBER!**

In addition, we paid first class postage to remail the newsletter.

Instances like that really cut into our postage budget. We would appreciate everyone's cooperation to prevent its happening again.

The Editor

**Pull Out  
Jubilee  
2000**







**'Forgive Us Our Debts as We Forgive Our Debtors'**

## **Jubilee 2000/USA**

Jubilee 2000/USA is a part of a world-wide movement of concerned people and groups (including the ELCA) seeking to cancel the international debts of the poorest countries through a fair and accountable process by the end of the year 2000.

The Jubilee 2000 movement draws its inspiration from the Biblical book of Leviticus which describes a Year of Jubilee every 50 years. In Leviticus the Jubilee year was a year in which slaves were freed, land was returned to its original owners, social inequalities were rectified and debts canceled.

Jubilee 2000 grows out of the concern of the ELCA and other groups about global fairness. In the year 2000, over 1.5 billion people are in poverty and 40 percent of the children in developing countries suffer from malnutrition. This is due in part to a crushing burden of debt.

### ***Breaking the 'Chains' of Debt***

In order to repay foreign debt many of the poorest countries are being forced to use money that would normally go to health care, education, roads and other vital services. Many children are then denied the chance to go to school. Pregnant women and children have no health care. HIV-infected people do not get counseling and treatment. There are no funds to maintain roads, which are in major need of repair.

*How easy for us to go zooming down our roads and interstates for whatever we need whenever we need it, to get the health and education that we need whenever we want it! I have been in Tanzania and Haiti and believe me, the roads are bad – often impassable!*

The real story of the debt burden does not lie in numbers and statistics, but rather in the ways in which women's lives – and therefore the lives of their families and communities – are impacted by debt. Women's multiple roles as mothers, wives, producers, sellers and community members mean that virtually every aspect of their lives has been impacted by the debt crisis. The diversion of scarce national resources from education and health to debt repayment has closed off educational opportunities for women and girls, threatened their health, and increased women's burden as care-givers and providers of education.

Two examples from Africa:

- Niger, the poorest country in the world, spends three times more money paying off their debt than for health care and education. One in three children born in Niger will die before they are five years old from hunger, measles, diarrhea, meningitis or a combination of the four. The burden of debt leaves little money for governments such as Niger to pay doctors or nurses or to purchase needed drugs.

- In Zambia, between 1990-1993, the government spent 34 times as much on debt service as it did on education. Since then education spending has decreased. Because women are responsible for paying school fees, the burden of primary school costs falls on them.

This is only a part of the picture of how the "chains" of debt are hurting women. Governments spend almost all of their resources paying back the debt. This causes interest rates to rise and this makes it harder for women to have credit, they can't afford it!

The material on these pages was prepared by Deb Jenner-Billington. NSWJubilee 2000 appointee, with help from Shirley Daire of the Global Mission Board. Much of the information is from Jubilee 2000/USA.



# ***Why Should We Care?***

If we do not support debt cancellation EVERYONE LOSES. The idea of crushing the "chains" of the debt burden is a matter of justice and compassion. We are globally connected with one another. What affects my brother and sister in another country affects me. Our own Companion Synod country of Tanzania is one of the African countries that is burdened by this debt.

These economic, social and environmental problems threaten the well-being of people everywhere. As the Jubilee 2000 movement states, "In Today's world, none of us can prosper for long unless all of us have the things that we need for lives of sufficiency and dignity. The debt burden carried by poor countries harms us all."

Jesus says in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Shouldn't we believe what our Savior has to say?

Debt burden motivates many poor countries to lower their labor standards. They are not good customers for US products or investment. The Ugandan Women's Network notes that unrepayable debt "discourages foreign direct in-

vestment, affects commerce, stifles corruption and development of markets." That hurts the US farmer, workers and businesses as well as the people in the indebted countries.

**How Do They Benefit?** Jubilee 2000 will save 21 million children from disease and hunger in Africa alone. It will preserve the environment. Debt-induced poverty causes the exploitation of natural resources. Jubilee 2000 enables indebted countries to start with a "clean slate." These countries can have decent health care and education, basic human rights.

**How Do We Benefit?** Morally, we will know families are not being sacrificed to send us money for debt repayment that they need for basic survival. But there are other benefits:

Jubilee 2000 would protect US jobs. Exports from rich countries to poorer nations would be much higher, that would boost manufacturing and employment in the north.

Greater stability and economic prosperity would make lower-income countries better markets for goods and services, and less likely to erupt as trouble spots.

Canceling the debt will not harm us in any way. Although the debt for these countries is ENORMOUS to them, the amounts are small in relation to the wealth of a rich nation such as the United States.

## **Women Play Key Role**

A key part in making this process work is that poor countries will play a significant role in deciding how these economic resources will be spent, and what the conditions for future loans will be. This has not happened before.

Women know in these countries that their governments probably will not pay any attention to the needs of the people even if/when debt relief happens. They are mobilizing, getting together and campaigning for change in their government systems. The WOMEN are the ones who are rallying the people, getting participation from the citizens to get together to work for better health care, education, roads.

We need to support these women with prayer, and the pen. Our Companion Synod of Tanzania has women working for these causes.

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## ***Jubilee Is Biblical***

James 5:1-6 - condemns rich people  
Leviticus 25 - the call for a Jubilee  
Luke 4:18-19 - set the captives free  
Matthew, chaps. 5-7 - Sermon on the Mount  
Luke 6:17-49 - Sermon on the Mount  
Matthew 6:9-15 - Lord's Prayer (Luke 11:1-4)  
Luke 1:39-56 - Mary's song of God's justice  
Matthew 19:16-22 - sell all you have  
Deuteronomy 15:1-15 - debt

During the Lenten season read these scripture verses. Think about what Jesus' way to the cross was like. Did he offer hope to the suffering? Think and talk with other women about the weight on the cross that Jesus was carrying. When I think of Jubilee 2000, I think of the verse in the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." What could be plainer than this? Jesus said it, I believe it! In this Lenten season I will think most about this question: What will I sacrifice so that others may have life?

## **2- JUBILEE**



# How Did Countries Get In Debt?

During the Cold War, Western governments including the U.S. often lent money to corrupt governments for political reasons and largely ignored how the borrowers used the money. Many leaders squandered money on badly designed projects, military spending or personal corruption.

While some poor countries have suffered from adverse weather and armed conflicts, virtually all have endured long-term declines in world prices for their primary exports like coffee or cotton. As export earnings dropped, governments could no longer keep up interest payments which were added to the unpaid principal of the debt.

This compounding of interest and rescheduling of loans has led to situations in many countries where, despite years of making debt payments, the level of indebtedness has not been reduced. Indeed for many countries the debt is higher now than ever.

## To Whom Is the Money Owed?

- The world's wealthiest nations: The United States, Britain, Japan, France and Germany.
- The World Bank, which is controlled by the world's wealthiest nations.
- Regional development banks and many commercial banks.

## Who Owes the Money?

41 countries - about \$220 billion in foreign debts.

### African Nations - Debt total: \$156 billion

Angola Kenya  
Burkina Faso Liberia  
Burundi Madagascar  
Cameroon Mali  
Central African Republic Mauritania  
Chad Mozambique  
Democratic Republic of Congo Niger  
Cote d'Ivoire Nigeria  
Equatorial Guinea Rwanda  
Ethiopia Sao Tome & Principe  
Ghana Senegal  
Guinea Sierra Leone  
Guinea-Bissau Somalia  
Sudan  
Tanzania  
Togo  
Uganda  
Zambia

### Latin American - Debt total: \$17 billion

Bolivia Honduras  
Guyana Nicaragua

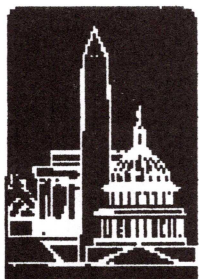
### Asia - Debt total: \$34 billion

Laos Vietnam  
Myanmar (Burma)

### Middle East - Debt total: \$6 billion

Yemen

## A Special Message from our Nebraska Synod office



People of faith and all who care about justice for indebted countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America will gathering on April 9, 2000, at the National Mall in Washington D.C. to be part of a massive public witness supporting debt cancellation for the world's poorest countries.

The rally takes place one week before the Spring Meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Executive Board. It is

sponsored by the Jubilee 2000/USA campaign

The Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs urges: "Come hear speakers, sing, and join in a massive human chain at 1 p.m. . . a full day of activities includes morning religious services. Stay for the Monday Lobby Day, April 10, to meet with Representative and Senators."

Some members of the Tanzania Advocacy group in Nebraska Synod plan to attend this event.

For updates check the Internet web site of the Lutheran Office for Gov. Affairs : [www.loga.org](http://www.loga.org)



# Nebraska Women Can Help

There are many things that congregations around Nebraska can do to help celebrate and educate themselves and those around them about "Jubilee 2000." Here are some, you may think of others:

1. Pray for our legislators and all those in political power. They hold the keys to cancelling the debt for these countries. Make a paper prayer "chain" to hang on the cross or somewhere in the sanctuary and use it in worship.
2. Read and study the Biblical verses listed on p. 2. Actively talk about reducing the debt.
3. Do a Congregational Sacrifice Chart and post it in the church. What are you, the members of your congregation, doing individually to sacrifice so that others may have life?
4. Have a candlelight vigil for debt relief.
5. Write to your government leaders and representatives to ask for debt relief. Sample letter and addresses on *Expressions* page 7.
6. Have a Service of Thankfulness – thanks for blessings received and calling for sharing those blessings with the poorest of the poor.
7. Do a skit about proclaiming Jubilee. I have one for 4 people. Write: Deb Jenner-Billington, 704 West Ave., Holdrege NE 68949 Ph. 308-995-8967 e-mail: [billington@nebi.com](mailto:billington@nebi.com)
8. At Easter - Think about how can we give new life and hope to others. Talk about communion, the cup of suffering that we ALL share,



## 24-Minute Video Available

"Cancel the Debt Now" is a 24-minute, full color VHS video with a fold-out study guide. Explains origin & impact of debt, invites people to work to break the chain.

Order from Jubilee 2000/USA, 222 E. Capitol Street NE, Washington DC 20003-1036. \$10 includes shipping. Make checks payable to Jubilee 2000, USA.

Or borrow from Nebraska Synod Film Library. 402-896-5311, [synodvideo@juno.com](mailto:synodvideo@juno.com)

## 4- JUBILEE

See article p. 4 (main issue) about helping Lutheran students promote Jubilee by attending Washington rally.

the Victory Feast which is a vision of God's end time. Break the paper chain, use other signs and symbols in your church proclaiming VICTORY. God has liberated his people.

9. At Pentecost - Emphasize the lessons about forgiveness, justice and healing.

10. Write short liturgies on the Jubilee for use at home or at church.

11. A video, "Cancel the Debt Now," is available. Get it and watch it at a meeting.

12. Visit these websites to find out more about Jubilee 2000:

[www.j2000usa.org](http://www.j2000usa.org) - Jubilee 2000 site, go to media updates and policy makers

[www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org) - Bread for the World site, go to debt relief and recent developments

[www.loga.org](http://www.loga.org) - Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs

## Speaker's Bureau

These people are willing to come to congregations and/or Women of the ELCA units to speak about Jubilee 2000.

**Shirley Daire** - Rt. 1, Box 77, Alma, Ne.  
68920-9791, ph. 1-308-928-2839,  
email: [sdaire@yahoo.com](mailto:sdaire@yahoo.com)

**Rev. K David and Joan Nordstrom** -  
RR2, Box 11, Byron, NE. 68325-9505,  
email: [kdjnord@juno.com](mailto:kdjnord@juno.com)

**Stephanie Lorenz** - 1308 Walnut St.  
Wayne, NE 68787.  
email: [stlore01@willy.wsc.edu](mailto:stlore01@willy.wsc.edu)

**Stephen King** - 49600 39th Road Gibbon,  
NE 68847 ph: 1-308-468-5119  
email: [Stephensking@yahoo.com](mailto:Stephensking@yahoo.com)

**Mrs. Sheryl Lindau** - 1600 Claycomb Rd.  
Wayne, Ne. 68787 ph 1- 402-375-3333  
Office: 1-402-375-1733

**Packets of information on Jubilee 2000 will be distributed at Spring Gatherings. They will contain more detailed material.**



## Sample Jubilee 2000 Letter To Key Decision Makers

This sample below can be used as a model for letters that you personally or your organization can send to key policy makers such as the PRESIDENT, SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, LEGISLATORS IN CONGRESS AND SENATORS. This information comes from the "JUBILEE 2000 Campaign." Keep the letter brief, no more than one page. You can add things such as your name or the name of your organization, specific action that you would like to see taken such as co-sponsoring Jubilee 2000. Policy makers do respond to you. Many of them also have e-mail addresses and I will be sharing e-mail and "snail mail" addresses with you at the end of this article. I have written many policy makers and have all answered me back. Your letter does indeed count.

Deb Billington

Dear \_\_\_\_\_

I am writing to express my concern about the terrible burden of debt on the citizens of many impoverished countries around the world and to add my voice to their call that this burden be lifted. The loss to debt service of funds for sustainable development makes the lives of people in many indebted countries far more difficult. I think it's a crime that many nations in Africa now spend more on debt repayment than on health care.

I support the Jubilee 2000 movement, which proposes to cancel the backlog of unpayable debt owed by impoverished countries by the end of the year 2000. Carried out through a fair and open process that makes both lenders and borrowers more accountable to ordinary citizens, Jubilee 2000 would give a fresh start to those deep in debt.

I urge you to take action to cancel the debt of the most impoverished countries, giving nations in Africa, Latin America and Asia a chance to invest in their peoples. Please let me know what you are doing on this issue.

Yours Sincerely,  
(Your name)  
(Your organization)  
(Your address)

### Email Addresses

Sen. Kerrey-<http://www.senate.~kerrey/pages/webform.html>

Sen. Hagel-[chuck\\_hagel@hagel.senate.gov](mailto:chuck_hagel@hagel.senate.gov)

Lee Terry- [talk2lee@mail.house.gov](mailto:talk2lee@mail.house.gov)

Bill Barrett-<http://www.house.gov/writerep/>

### Regular Addresses:

Bill Barrett-The Honorable Bill Barrett,  
United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515

Senators Kerrey and Hagel-The Honorable  
Senator \_\_\_\_\_ US Senate, Washington, D.C.  
20510

President Bill Clinton-William Jefferson Clinton, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500

The Honorable Lawrence Summers, U.S. Department of the Treasury, 1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20220

Mr. Michael Camdessus, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund, 700 19th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20431

Mr. James Wolfensohn, President, The World Bank, 1818 H Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20433

February, 2000 - 7



# Assess the Past; Plan for the Future

Your Mission – should you choose to accept it – is three-fold: Mission:Growth, Mission:Action, Mission:Community! These are the three mission areas of emphasis for our organization, the Women of the ELCA.

My responsibility is Mission:Community.

From the New Webster's Dictionary:

*community: mutual participation; the public; a society of persons under the same laws.*

*mission: a sending or delegating; duty on which one is sent; persons sent. . . to propagate religion.*

Are you gasping at this moment, wondering how we might go about such a large task?

Perhaps as the New Year starts and a millenium begins we should take time to assess the past and plan for the future. What have we done in the past that promotes community (mutual participation)? Have we offered opportunities for our church women to get better acquainted? Especially those not active in our circles? Have we moved into the area where we live and promoted friendship and mutual respect? Have we learned about and supported those in need? Especially women and children

## Louise Wheeler Will Lead Autumn Renewals 2000

Louise Wheeler will be "front and center" again next fall as she leads the Autumn Renewals.

The Western Renewal will be Sept. 30 at Berea Lutheran Church near Chappell; the Eastern one Oct. 7 at Trinity in Columbus.

Louise will focus her presentation around the Twenty-third Psalm, under the title "Fill My Cup, Lord." (taken from a book by Emilie Barnes)

"We will consider several cups that our Lord fills for us," she said.

Louise says the highlight of her past six years was serving on the NSWO Board. She completed her term as president in October, 1999.

"The people around me bring me joy," she writes. "My grandchildren, children, Dean, directing the choir at St. Paul's (Osceola) and playing the organ, making harmony with my sisters."

living in poverty? Here and abroad? What can we do in this millenium to assist our Lord in building a better community?

## Mission: Community

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



Many units are so focused and doing wonderful things to promote community. . . they host new member coffees. . . have events inviting the whole congregation. . . some have exchanges with other women's groups. . . other churches. Some units are preparing programs or bringing in speakers to find out about our sister synods in Argentina and Tanzania. Units are even supporting women and children living in poverty by actively working at food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens, by gathering food, clothing, making quilts and health kits and a myriad of other helpful things for local group senior citizen centers and for Lutheran World Relief.

Often our best resource for ideas is simply asking other units and churches what they do. Check your *Expressions*, *Interchange*, copies of *Lutheran Woman Today* for ideas. Attend Winter Retreat, Spring Gatherings, Autumn Renewals, Saved to Serve Events, Officer Information and Training Days, Convention. . . You'll be surprised how much you can learn from others and how much more a part of God's Community you will feel.

## Emergency Numbers !

When in sorrow, call John 14

When men fail you, call Psalm 27

If you want to be fruitful, call John 15

When you have sinned, call Psalm 51

When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34.

When you are in danger, call Psalm 91.

*Emergency numbers are toll free, and may be dialed direct. No operator assistance is necessary.*

*All lines are open to Heaven 24 hours a day!*



# GHM - *Helping the Hands That Heal*

Global Health Ministries (GHM) is a channel through which you and your congregation can be directly involved in Christ's healing ministry.

## Global Awareness

**Shirley Daire, Advocate**  
Rt 1 Box 77  
Alma NE 68920-9791  
(308-928-2839)  
[sdaire@yahoo.com](mailto:sdaire@yahoo.com)



Organized in 1987, it provides an avenue for Christians in America to assist fellow Christians engaged in health care outside the U.S. Specifically, it relates to medical institutions and health care programs abroad which are supported by or related to Lutheran churches and Lutheran missionary agencies in the U.S.

Goals include:

**Fund** approved health care projects.

**Gather and ship** useful donated health care equipment to disadvantaged countries.

**Communicate** to groups and congregations the opportunities and needs of the church's overseas health care programs.

**Pray** for health care missionaries and those they serve.

## You Can

1. Roll Bandages – 2 or 3 inches wide, length of sheet (app.)
2. Make Midwife Kits
3. Send money.
4. Send used soap.
5. Pray for this ministry!



To receive **Global Health**, the GHM newsletter, and other information write or call

## GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

**7831 Hickory Street NE  
Minneapolis MN 55432-2500**

612/586-9590 . FAX 612/586-9591  
email: [74023.2466@compuserve.com](mailto:74023.2466@compuserve.com)  
internet: <http://www.elca.org/ghm.html>

## One Midwife Kit

(Please use new or good condition clean used items)

- 1 36" sq. muslin or sheeting (no hemming necessary)
- 1 bath towel (thinner type)
- 1 wash cloth (thin)
- 2 cord ties: 8" narrow lengths of selvage or .25" twill tape
- 1 bath size bar Ivory soap
- 1 razor blade (single edge, safety - may be purchased at a home improvement store)
- 1 newborn stocking cap (keep handknit ones very small)
- 1 small cotton short sleeve shirt (to waist only as babies do not wear diapers)
- 1 receiving blanket
- 1 pair plastic or latex exam gloves (NOT kitchen gloves. check with doctor or dentist)

Pack items in a two gallon Ziplock bag (squeeze air out of bag before sealing). Pack kits tightly into a box of not more than 15. Mark: "Revised Midwife Kit" and tell number of kits. IF something is missing, please indicate what on outside of box. Ship to Global Health Ministries, at above address.

## Sending Used Soap

Method 1. Package about 3"x5" bars out of small pieces in used sheer hosiery by tying a knot at each end.

Method 2. Remelting and molding:

Chip soap pieces in a food processor (outside or in a ventilated place). Put chips in boiling or meat roasting bag. Sprinkle in 1/2 to 1 cup water and knead to mix. Close bag. Leave for 24 hours to soften. Boil the bag for about 2 hours or until melted. Using glove potholders knead until smooth. Cut off a corner and pour into molds. (Molds can be small drink boxes, etc. Or line containers with waxed paper.)



# Special Days, Special Ways To Help Children

In Bishop Jessen's September message in *Update* he refers to the ELCA focus of Hope for a New Century in serving children. A quote: "Dedicated work with youth can be an antidote

## Mission: Action

**Shirley Kehne, chairman**  
Box 106  
3rd and Sherman  
Winnetoon NE 68789  
(402-847-3261)



to societal tragedies as we've recently seen."

The Women of the ELCA has also placed women and children in poverty and crisis as a priority. I recently ordered a 1999 publication from the Augsburg-Fortress Women's Resource catalog. It is entitled "Making Children a Priority." Order # ISBN 6-0001-0879-6. Phone 800-328-4648. Limit of 3 is FREE. May charge handling and shipping.

It tells us that women of faith cannot stand by when we reflect upon the state of God's children today. Bible references are Mark 10:13-16, Mark 9:36-37 and Matthew 19:13-15a.

Here's a visual representation of how our 99-02 Triennium theme (Micah 6:8: "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God") and our mission areas of Growth, Community and Action work together to achieve help for children:



Women of the ELCA urges units to speak up in congregations and communities about children on two specific occasions during the year:

**Rachel's Day** is the first Sunday in May, and focuses on reduction of violence against children. The booklet includes observance suggestions. In addition, a litany and information are available on the organization's web site: [www.elca.org/wo/rachels.html](http://www.elca.org/wo/rachels.html)

**Children's Sabbath** is celebrated the third weekend of October. For materials, write Children's Defense Fund, 25 E St NW, Washington DC 20001. The Summer 1999 *Interchange*, churchwide newsletter, contains many helps on programs to benefit the lives of children.

How is your unit and/or congregation actively involved with youth?

Here are a few suggestions from my experience at Zion in Creighton. Each newborn on our cradle roll receives a parenting packet each year until they begin Sunday School at age 3. These are from the Augsburg Proclaim series, "Nurturing God's Child." All baptized infants receive a hand-quilted crib quilt from the women and a first "soft" Bible from a religious bookstore from the church. Kindergarteners receive a beginner's Bible and third graders the Good News version at a church service ceremony.

We're in our third year of "Secret Friends in Christ," where adults who register to participate are paired with Sunday School age through high school youth. Cards, notes of encouragement and small gifts are given anonymously throughout the school year. Identity is revealed at the close of service on the last Sunday in May. Refreshments and getting acquainted follow.

One of our Bible Study circles is sponsoring a Latin American child, a 12-year-old girl, through Child Reach.

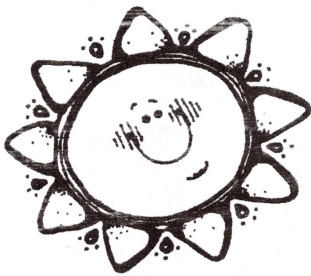
Please send the *Expressions* editor ideas your unit is implementing in support of youth. We all need suggestions and encouragement.

## Thank You . . .

To: Women of the ELCA across the State  
From: Center for Survivors, Columbus

*The Center for Survivors wishes to thank you for your generous donation. Your thoughtfulness has brightened the lives of those in need. (health kits from convention)*





## Let Your Light Shine

The Women of **Christ the Servant/Norfolk** had a spirit-filled retreat in September at the Tintern Retreat and Resource Center near Oakdale. The day-long gathering under the leadership of Sisters in Christ Chris Grassmeyer and Betty Hansen of Fremont featured music and prayers accented by periods of solitude and fun.



## New Anti-Racism Trainers Ready To Do Workshops

Two new leaders for the Anti-Racism Training Team were trained in Chicago during November.

Deb Billington, who previously partnered with Liz Conner, has now been joined by Marilyn Larkowski and both took the training.

Liz and Karen Tjarks were the first training team. Liz stepped down from this mission to pursue classes for ordination and Karen is the new NSWO president.

"Today's Dream - Tomorrow Reality" is the program's theme.

Deb and Marilyn are now offering workshops

for congregational units. They have four one-hour workshops which can be used in various ways--in a retreat format, or two at a time, or one at a time.

To save mileage and time, they prefer the longer time slots.

For more information contact either:

Deb : E-mail - [billington@nebi.com](mailto:billington@nebi.com) Mail - 704 West Ave. Holdrege, NE 68949 Phone - 308-995-8967 or

Marilyn : E-mail - [lllark@aol.com](mailto:lllark@aol.com) Mail - 3115 Maplewood Blvd. # 53 Omaha, NE 68134 Phone - 402-573-5238

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### Subscription Blank

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Subscription: \$4 per year (4 issues). Make check payable to "Women of the ELCA." Please do not mail cash. Mail to:

Linda Fuhr  
Rt. 2 Box 26  
Osceola NE 68651-9611



# 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)

### February

- ☐ Black History Month
- ☐ 18-20 Saved to Serve - Kearney
- ☐ Circulate copies of *Expressions* among members
- ☐ Publicize Spring Gathering
- ☐ Plan offering for "
- ☐ Plan in-kind gifts for "

## March

- ☐ 8 Ash Wednesday
- ☐ Women's History Month
- ☐ 10 - World Day of Prayer
- ☐ (S) Elect officers
- ☐ Publicize Spring Gathering
- ☐ Make offering to "
- ☐ Collect in-kind gifts for "
- ☐ 11- Northeast Sp. Gath.
- ☐ 18 - Metro East Sp. Gath.
- ☐ 25- Southeast Sp. Gath.
- ☐ Send 2000 travel fund (\$10) assessment to R. LaDene Rutt, 2234 Rd 191, Chappell NE 69129

## April

- ☐ (S) Plan budget, program
- ☐ 1 - Expressions deadline
- ☐ 1- Southern Pr. Sp. Gath.

- ☐ 23 - EASTER SUNDAY
- ☐ 8 - High Plains Sp. Gath.
- ☐ 15 - Central Spring Gath.
- ☐ 29 - Midlands Sp. Gath.
- ☐ Have you sent your travel fund assessment?

## May

- ☐ 5 - CWU World Fellowship
- ☐ (S) Send new officers list to Linda Fuhr, Rte 2, Box 26, Osceola, NE 68651

## 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)

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
US POSTAGE  
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SUPERIOR NE  
PERMIT #6

The Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization  
of the Women of the ELCA  
1345 North Commercial Street  
Superior NE 68978-1023





## Registration for *Saved to Serve Opportunities*



Send this form and your check for \$39.00 per *Opportunity* you plan to attend to:  
Ruth Rinde 11718 Arbor Omaha NE 68144

***Registration is transferable not refundable.***

You will receive a confirmation letter with specific directions and a list of what you need to bring. Late registrations will be placed on a waiting list.  
Questions?? Please call Ruth at 1-402-697-1396.

-----

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to participate in the following 1999 *Saved To Serve Opportunity*:

1. **Kearney Opportunity** February 18-20, 2000 \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration deadline February 1
2. **Sullivan Hills Opportunity** June 2- 4, 2000 \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration deadline May 18
3. **Omaha Opportunity** To be announced \_\_\_\_\_  
Registration deadline

Special needs \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am willing to bring a sleeping bag and sleep on the floor if necessary.

T shirt size \_\_\_ L \_\_\_ XL \_\_\_ XXL

In order to qualify for matching funds we would appreciate the following information:  
Do you belong to AAL \_\_\_\_\_? Lutheran Brotherhood \_\_\_\_\_?