



Expressions

VOL. 24, NO. 3, AUGUST 2010

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

Together, we live love with Tanzania

"Therefore be imitators of God...and live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us" Ephesians 5:1-2 NRSV

Break away from your routine for a fall day focusing on Tanzania and featuring inspiring presentations by Bob Kasworm, Operations Leader for Alegent Health Tanzania and Pastor Martin Russell, assistant to the Bishop in the Nebraska Synod.



Bob Kasworm

Kasworm first visited Tanzania on a Nebraska Synod trip in 2001 and relocated there in 2004. He is the appointed health advisor to the Northern Diocese of the Lutheran Church in Tanzania and serves as a member of the leadership team at Machame Lutheran Hospital. Kasworm is the commissioned on site representative of the Nebraska Synod in Tanzania and an ELCA Global Mission Associate.

Karworm is a member of Lord of Love/Omaha.



Pr. Martin Russell

Pastor Russell first went to Tanzania as an exchange pastor in 1999. Since joining the Nebraska Synod staff in 2000, his responsibilities have included helping to deepen the relationship between the Northern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania and the Nebraska Synod.



Hear the stories, learn about the mission, and decide how you can "live love" with our sisters and brothers in Tanzania.

Offerings for the day will be divided equally between two Tanzania missions—**Houses for Health** and the **Ngarony Youth Camp**. Houses for Health is a program to build homes for poor individuals with severe health problems that are further threatened by their seriously substandard living situations. The Ngarony Youth Camp is a mission to provide experiences for the Christian growth and spiritual development of young people.



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East Autumn Renewal is Sept. 18, at Bethlehem Lutheran, Wahoo.

West Autumn Renewal is Sept. 25, at American Lutheran in Gothenburg.

Registration Cost is \$18.00

Morning refreshments will be served at 8:30 a.m., event begins at 9:00 a.m. Lunch provided.

Registration deadline is Sept. 8 for East and Sept. 15 for West

The Convention Team has begun its planning. Mark your calendars: September 23-25, 2011, in Kearney, Nebraska. Stay tuned to future issues as information becomes available!

Devotions

“Be Fruitful!”



By MICHELLE STEADMAN, Southeast Board Representative

Have your at-one-time comfortable circumstances recently become less so? Have you felt the severing of some of your roots, perhaps some deep ones? Maybe you’ve even gotten a whiff of, could that be, the odor of manure? If so, perhaps God is trying to encourage you to bear some fruit.

Then he told this parable: ‘A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, “See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?” He replied, “Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.” ’

—Luke 13:6-9

Are you bearing fruit? Christians are expected to be fruitful.

*You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and **bear fruit**, fruit that will last,*

—John 15:16a

*In the same way, my friends, you have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead in order that we may **bear fruit** for God.* —Romans 7:4

*... so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you **bear fruit** in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God*

—Colossians 1:10

What sort of fruit are we to be producing?

*By contrast, the **fruit** of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.*

—Galatians 5:22-23a

*Live as children of light—for the **fruit** of the light is found in all that is good and right and true*

—Ephesians 5:8b-9

*Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the **fruit** of lips that confess his name.*

—Hebrews 13:15

*[...so that you may be] filled with the **fruit** of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.*

—Philippians 1:11 (NIV)

I don’t know about you, but sometimes my “fruit” crop is less than abundant. I can recall several times this last week when I had an opportunity to demonstrate fruitfulness and came up short.

I didn’t have the peace, patience, and self control to spare and as a result gentleness, kindness, love, and joy were also lacking.

So what is a failed fruit bearer to do? Thankfully, there is a prescription.

“Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” —John 15:4-5

If we have trouble producing fruit, God will not give up on us but will continue to encourage us. If this encouragement takes us out of our comfort zones and we feel like complaining about the change in our circumstances, remember that fertilizing and root & branch pruning are probably uncomfortable for fruit trees as well, but the result is an improved harvest of more and better fruit.

Father God, thank-you for your patience and encouragement of us in our weakness. Help us to bear much good fruit to your glory and praise. In Jesus’ name, Amen

All Bible verses unless otherwise noted are NRSV.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are told in Ephesians 6:14-18 NIV, “*Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.*”



I remember this verse being used as a children's sermon. The pastor had the props and the young boy put on the belt, breastplate, and helmet; and had the shield and sword. Of course, the props were slightly large for him, however, the message was received by all in attendance...including the adults.

We study the word of God, the sword of the Spirit to strengthen our faith walk, our spiritual growth. We are told to memorize verses, to keep them in our hearts, so we have them when we need them... to comfort a friend, to ease our thoughts, or perhaps to fight our enemy the devil.

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls along like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 1 Peter 5:8 NIV. This is not my favorite verse, however, one carved into my heart. When I was first learning and memorizing this verse, I didn't like it because it stated 'your enemy.' He wasn't 'my' enemy; those two words were just too personal. The week this was my memory verse, my husband got up in the middle of the night for a drink of water. About sixty seconds after returning to bed, one of Aaron's infant toys started making noise in the living room; hence, that roaring lion was prowling around in my living room. Needless to say, the verse is carved into my heart.

Ladies, I encourage each of you to memorize some verses if you haven't already. Take a verse that stands out to you and put it somewhere where you can see it most days. On the bottom of my monitor at the office is, “*What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us?*” Romans 8:31 NIV. No matter what happens at the office, I know that God is always on my side and there to help me keep going.

This week's memory verse is “*I delight greatly in the LORD; my soul rejoices in my God,*” Isaiah 61:10 NIV. True, I am not always rejoicing and delighting 24x7, however, when I read that verse, it just brings a smile to my face. My God, our God, is an awesome God. He protects us, he loves us unconditionally... what more could we want? He tells us in Deuteronomy 3:22 NIV “*Do not be afraid of them, the LORD your God himself will fight for you.*” That is love and protection!

He also wants us to tell him our desires, our wishes. *Delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart,* Psalm 37:4 NIV. We need to remember when asking Him, we asked it according to his will. My answered prayer is a story for another time.

Seems as if summer just started, however, Independence Day was last week and Back-to-School signs are out at the stores. Enjoy the rest of your summer, your family gatherings, camping trips, and the other activities on your calendar. Don't forget to put Autumn Renewal on the calendar. It will be an inspiring day. See you there!

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the NSWOB board. Remember to contact us if you need anything from us. Until September... and as Pooh would say... “Ta Ta For Now.”

Your sister in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gwen'.

Mosaic Saved to Serve Opportunity Brings Smiles

By SUSAN WATSON,
NSWO Brochure Developer Appointee

Puppets, vibrating pillows, music shakers, and bingo games brought smiles to faces at the Mosaic group home on Faidley Street in Grand Island, May 21-23.



Mary Mayfield introduces Waldo, the puppet, to Mosaic Resident Zack as part of the Saved To Serve Opportunity activities in Grand Island in May.

A group of twenty-six women from across Nebraska had fun with the nine residents of the group home as a part of the Saved to Serve Opportunity held that weekend.

The women also painted the entry, the ceilings in the living room and dining room of the home, and removed wallpaper, painted, and added a wallpaper



Marian Kotas, Betty Kempf and TeriLyn Beilke pose with the quilts, soaps and paper products donated by units and congregations from across Nebraska.



Pearl Anderson, Staff Members Michelle and Bonnie, and Joyce Roesener surround Resident Mike with prize selections after he won a bingo game.

border in the kitchen.

In the back yard, they stained a large outdoor screen house and sanded and painted a picnic table. The women also trimmed bushes, pulled weeds, put in new plantings, and spread mulch around the house and the gazebo in the adjacent park. Sewing projects included tactile and small vibrator pillows for each of the residents, and a cushion for the glider swing.

Units across that state contributed more than \$1,600 to purchase a swing made to accommodate wheelchairs and make a dream come true for the facility. TeriLyn Beilke, Mosaic community relations manager, said the Mosaic management team was shocked by all the tangible items that were donated. Besides large numbers of soap, hand lotion, shampoo, detergent, and paper products, thirty-one quilts were donated to be used in the new Mosaic residences currently under construction in Grand Island.

On Friday evening, Beilke presented to the group an overview of Mosaic including some moving video segments featuring Nebraska recipients of Mosaic care. She gave tips on interacting with people with



Julie Reiser, Verna Whitfield, and Judy Stahlecker create tissue paper flowers to give to the Mosaic residents and staff as Lana Novak looks on.



Marcia Seier, Betty Rother, Lorene Geer and Corinne Jensen used brushes to stain the screen house used by the residents and staff of the Mosaic intensive care facility located on Faidley Street in Grand Island.

disabilities, emphasizing that it was important to talk directly to the person in a natural adult voice and to consider the wheelchair as a part of the individual's personal space.

Other aspects of the weekend included devotions with an emphasis on culinary arts led by Lu Krueger, Kearney. She tied biblical lessons to foods ranging from soup to cookies.

On Saturday evening, the group toured the 125 year old Messiah Lutheran Church and learned about their ministry to the hungry in Grand Island. After a delicious dinner, provided by the ladies of Messiah, the women enjoyed a lovely musical program by Marsha Dunn, Grand Island, following the theme of "The life of a woman."

Other activities ranged from hearing readings about flour sacks and handkerchiefs read by Shirley

Kehne, Winnetoon; taking a quiz about Bible women; and making tissue paper flowers to be used as gifts.

Music was provided on a keyboard by Jane Johnson, Newman Grove, for singing as a group and with the residents. Laughter, however, was the prime result on Saturday night when the women attempted to learn how to play color coded bells.

Some of the residents of the Mosaic home worshiped with the women on Sunday at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Closing servant towel ceremonies and a tasty lunch provided by the women of St. Paul were enjoyed before the final group hug.

Betty Kempf and Marian Kotas of Kearney coordinated the Mosaic retreat with the help of Phyllis Eriksen, Grand Island, and Nancy Johnson, Omaha.



Sandy Olson and June Baumgartner get settled in their Red Cross cots. Having a giant slumber party in the Mosaic Vocational Education facility resulted in more time to get acquainted and fun for everyone.



June Baumgartner, Betty Kempf, Ruth Jensen, Sandy Olsen, Julie Reiser, Marcia Seier, and Jane Johnson helped others finish the work of painting the living and dining room ceilings.

Share the Light of Christ: Live, Laugh, and Love



“...let’s live by the light of the Lord,” Isaiah 2:5b CEV was the verse for the 2010 Spring Gatherings. All seven Spring Gatherings used the same theme and verse; however, they are all different. Different decorations, presenters, and information shared. The light of Christ could be seen and was shared as the last four were held in April.

Central Conference, St. John’s/Norfolk

By PHYLLIS ERIKSEN



April 10, 2010 was filled with Bible study, worship, speakers, fellowship, and fun.

Our day began with a Bible study by Bishop deFreese, “Come, Let Us Live In The Light of the Lord.” This is our calling as the Church and as followers of Christ. We are to reflect the light of Christ as we love and give ourselves to others. Laughter is in response to those who recognize God’s grace.

Ruth Henricks, who is the President and CEO of Lutheran Family Services shared how their agency has impacted and helped many young mothers. She reminded us how important it was to have had a Mother who taught us how to be a good mother and that there are many women who have not had this wonderful experience. Ruth shared information on the “Building Families Boutique.”

Lor Stratton, who has a Christian Yoga Studio in Norfolk, provided us with very relaxing and Christ centered breaks.

Pastor Edgar Schambach presided at a Service of Healing and Holy Communion.

Pastor Schambach’s message was entitled “Thomas, My Twin.” Ladies from St. John’s assisted with the Communion and Healing Service.

St. John’s ladies were wonderful hosts to a very enjoyable day.

Southern Prairie Conference, Bethel/ Holdrege By MARIAN KOTAS

April 24, 2010, the Southern Prairie Spring Gathering was hosted by Bethel Lutheran Church in Holdrege. The theme “Share the Light of Christ” was woven through the entire day starting with the gathering in the assembly, the workshops (Spiritual Gifts with Pastor Renee Johnson, Humor with Sue Brown, and Praying with Beads with Vickie Davis) and closing with a candlelight songfest including *This Little Light of Mine*.

Bishop deFreese stirred our hearts with ways to live, love and laugh as our response to God’s grace’ inviting us to live in the light of the Lord.

The ladies of Bethel showed us their love with the delicious lunch and dessert they served. It was a doubly fulfilling day!

Business highlights were the welcome of the planning committee, Conference of Presidents news from Gwendolynn Edwards, our NSWO president, and the financial report from Nancy Johnson, our synodical treasurer. A commercial for Saved to Serve invited women to join them at Mosaic in May and/or Camp Carol Joy Holling in July. Our tangible gifts were given to Phelps Co Food Pantry and we were introduced to their program and ministry.

Next spring First Lutheran in Kearney will host the Southern Prairie Spring Gathering. Don’t miss this special day of the year.



Bishop David deFreese
reflecting the light at Central.

Program Resources from NSW0

Here is an up-to-date list of the program resources available to Women of the ELCA units and larger groups from Linda Fangmeyer, resources coordinator, Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization.

According to action of the NSW0, 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."

Send order to:

Linda Fangmeyer
Resource Coordinator
P O Box 505
Deshler, NE 68340
402-365-4122

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

SKITS, page 2

- 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
- 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

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

If you have a **skit**
or a **devotional**
or a **program**
or a **banner pattern**
which you would be willing to add to our resource catalog, please send a copy to

Linda Fangmeyer
P O Box 505
Deshler NE 68340

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

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

NEW DEVOTIONS AND SKITS

Devotion on Hands - (1 page) reading

Shoes and Souls - (1 page) reading - message from a shoe

The Church Supper - (6 pages) 10 persons - a misinterpretation of words

Lessons from my Mother - (2 pages) 2 persons

This is exactly what it says it is.

Passing on the Spirit - 3 pages - Remembering the "Mothers of our Souls"

Women of the ELCA recycling - reading - 2 pages

Thankoffering - (2 pages) could be used to install officers or at the start of a new year.

Midlands Conference, St. Andrews/Lincoln By BETH MEYER

The ladies of St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Lincoln were the hostesses for the Midlands Conference Spring Gathering which was held on May 1 with coffee and rolls served prior to the start of the gathering music. Patty Carlson and her daughter were in charge of the music for the day and Conference Coordinator, Vernyce Schmidt was in charge of the meeting. The ladies of the churches in Cluster One helped to make the day a huge success.

The Bible study was presented by Bishop deFreese and was based on the theme verse – *Let's live by the light of the Lord*, Isaiah 2:5. Informational workshops were held in a morning session and an afternoon session that included the following: St. Monica's, Talbot Kitchen & Outreach Clinic With a Heart, Fellowship of Christ Church, Campus Ministry, City Mission, Friendship Home, and Sandy Terry presented one on being a Parish Ministry Assistant.

At the business meeting elected as Conference Coordinator was Kathy McCartin, Salem/Fremont. Planning committee members elected were: Pam Dill, St. Andrews/Lincoln; Arlene Johnson, Bethlehem/Wahoo; Beth Meyer, First/Fremont; and Inez Benjes, St. Paul's/Uehling. Nominating Committee members elected were: Estelle Riemann, Grace/Lincoln; Glenda Ferguson, Bethlehem/Wahoo; and Kathy Semrau, St. Paul's/Uehling. Reports from the NSWO

President, Gwendolynn Edwards, via a video, and NSWO Treasurer, Nancy Johnson were a part of the business meeting. In the afternoon humorist, T. Marni Vos entertained and inspired us to be top performers in our work and in our personal lives. Ruth Hultgren-Henneman told us about the Lutheran Family Service's Building Families Boutiques in Council Bluffs, IA and Fremont, NE.

The day closed with NSWO Vice President, Leslie Marchando-Cook installing the newly elected CC, planning committee members, and the nominating committee members. Fellowship followed for those that could stay for coffee and cookies.

We continue to *"Share the Light of Christ"* through our lives, through laughter, and with our love.

Stay tuned for the November issue of *Expressions* for Metro East Spring Gathering Conference highlights.



Attendees at Southern Prairie enjoying rolls and coffee.



High Plains 2011 Conference Coordinator, Planning Team, and Nominating Team Members



High Plains 2011 Conference Coordinator, Planning Team, and Nominating Team Members



Meet the New Board Member and Appointee

At the June 2010 NSWO Board meeting, the board voted to accept the letter of resignation of Metro East Board Representative Jody Ptacnik and voted to appoint Jeanne Dunn, Immanuel/Omaha, to fill the remainder of the term.

In March, President Gwendolynn Edwards appointed Beth Olson, Lord of Love/Omaha, as the Historian Appointee for the 2009-2011 Biennium.



Metro East Board Representative Jeanne Dunn is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Benson neighborhood of Omaha. She moved to Nebraska from South Dakota when she married Bob Dunn in 1997. They have three children: Patricia, William, and Christian. Since William began first grade, Jeanne has participated in Cub Scouts as either Assistant Den Leader or Den Leader. At Immanuel Lutheran, she has served in various positions such as Sunday school teacher, Vacation Bible School teacher, Call Committee member, Queen Esther Circle Vice-President, ILCW Secretary for Mission Growth, and Memorial Committee Chairperson. In addition, she has worked as part of the Metro East Spring Gathering Committee and the Nominating Committee. She teaches French at UNO and is concurrently pursuing a graduate degree in Language Teaching with emphasis on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Together with others of her church

family, she has enjoyed sponsoring a refugee family and volunteering at World Refugee Day. This spring she also volunteered in adult English as a Second Language class for recently arrived refugees. Her most favorite activity is discussing books with her friends at the Benson Library Tuesday Book Club.



Historian Beth Olson is a member of Lord of Love Lutheran Church in Omaha. She is married to Tom, has two sons, Nick and Nate and two step-daughters, Heather and Paula. Beth is active in her Women of the ELCA Unit overseeing the process of sending two ladies on a Mission Trip, and an active member of the Monday night Bible study group. Beth has served on the Endowment Committee, on Church Council, was a youth sponsor for four years, and has served in many other areas as needed.

She is a Client Relations Manager for NEI Global Relocation where she assists clients with overall program planning, while providing accurate and meaningful data; she analyzes statistical reports and feedback from the operations team and then counsels them on ways to maximize the relocation program.

In her spare time, she likes to golf, travel, and scrapbook with friends.



Thank you for sharing our sorrow. Your kindness and thoughtfulness at this time is sincerely appreciated and gratefully acknowledged by the family of Benjamin Splichal Larson.

Your accompaniment in prayer, in words of condolence, in your generosity lifts and carries us in this journey of sorrow. With you, we cling to God's promise that in the resurrection we will see Ben again.

Pastor Judd Larson & Pastor April Ulring Larson

Expressions is a 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 pastors, AIMs, and PMAs; Nebraska female seminarian students; and the other SWO Presidents.

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.

It is currently team designed, edited, and proofread. Contact the team at expressions@nebraskaelcawomen.org, or by phone, 402-291-1087. Content information can be sent via e-mail.

August *Expressions* team members were Gwen Edwards, Arlene Johnson, Terri Johnson, Mitch McCartney, Beth Meyer, and Pastor Martin Russell. **Thank you!**

**NEBRASKA SYNODICAL WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM FOR
EIGHTH TRIENNIAL GATHERING, JULY 14-17, 2011
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON**



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

Eighth Triennial Gathering
July 14-17, 2011 • Spokane, Wash.

Each scholarship will be \$299.00; the cost of the early registration fee.

TWO scholarships will be awarded to women who are **FIRST-TIME** gathering attendees. Recipients will be chosen randomly from those applying.

TWO scholarships will be awarded to a woman who is **35 YEARS OR YOUNGER**. Recipient will be chosen randomly from those applying.

TWO general scholarships will be awarded. Recipient will be chosen randomly from those applying.

Please Print Clearly or Type:

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

Have you attended a Triennial Gathering before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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)
- ☐ I would like to be considered for the General Scholarship.

Send applications by November 15 to: Gwendolynn F. Edwards

NSWO President
3402 Castile Drive
Bellevue, NE 68123-1327

Scholarship recipients will be notified in writing.

2011 Vision Trip Update

By PEARL ANDERSON,
NSWO Companion Synod Coordinator



There is an excited group of women going to Tanzania in February 2011. We will be meeting with and discussing topics of interest to the women of Argentina, Tanzania, and Nebraska. Upon our return, we all will be willing to share this amazing adventure with your units.

The NSWO Board voted to make the special offering we will be taking with us to give to the women for use in the HIV/AIDS projects that they support. HIV/AIDS is a devastating disease. It leaves many orphans behind to be raised by other family members, which creates a financial burden. I am asking each unit to prayerfully consider a donation to this offering. Make your checks out to the NSWO and send them to Nancy Johnson, NSWO treasurer using form A.

Continue to pray for us that we might have a safe journey and for the people of our companion synods of Argentina and Tanzania.

2011 Spring Gatherings

Come and learn to "Serve with Zeal." Theme verse is Romans 12:11 NRSV - *Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord.* Song to be included is *Jesu, Jesu* WOV 765. Registration will remain at \$15.00 and one-fourth of the offering will be given to LWR Project Comfort.

The schedule is as follows:

- February 26 - Midlands - St. John's Ridgely
- March 12 - High Plains - Calvary/Scottsbluff
- March 26 - Southeast - St. Paul's/Auburn
- April 2 - Northeast, St. Paul's St. Luke's/Emerson
- April 9 - Metro East, Kountze/Omaha
- April 9 - Central - Salem/Stromsburg
- April 16 - Southern Prairie, First Lutheran/Kearney

Save These Dates

- Sept. 18, Autumn Renewal, Bethlehem/Wahoo
- Sept. 25, Autumn Renewal, American/Gothenburg
- January 15, 2011, Winter Retreat, Grand Island
- February 7-22, 2011, Tanzania Vision Trip
- July 12-14, 2011, CWO Triennial Convention, WA
- July 14-17, 2011, CWO Triennial Gathering, WA
- Sept. 23-25, 2011, NSWO Convention, Kearney

Today's Dreams: Tomorrow's Reality

By BRENDA KRUEGER,
NSWO Anti-Racism Appointee/TDTR Team Member

Before I got involved with Women of the ELCA Anti-Racism, I was not aware of the degree of white privilege in our society. White privilege is the bias we enjoy because of the color of our skin. Recently my husband and I went into a Shopko location for the first time. As we checked out and paid with a card the machine said, "show the card to the cashier". My husband started to hand the cashier the card when she said, "I don't need to see it. I know my regulars." We'd never seen her before. As we walked out, I said to my husband, "That was white privilege."

In a completely different experience, I visited the Welcome Center in Lexington. It's a place where Grace Lutheran Church, Lutheran Family Services, people from the Lexington community, and the ELCA work with the very large immigrant community. The attitude is "let's work together with the Hispanic and African immigrants and help where we can" not "let's get rid of the illegals" Besides other services at the Welcome Center, two Hispanic women work full-time with people with immigration issues. It seems like the city of Lexington has embraced its new multicultural identity.

In Fremont, where I live, a group called "Nebraska is home" works to encourage the various ethnic groups to get to know one another as people and see how much we all have in common. Unfortunately, this group is in the minority. I am embarrassed to be a resident of Fremont right now because we just had an election where 57 % of the voters passed a resolution forbidding anyone to hire or rent to illegal immigrants. I see it as an excuse for racial profiling, forcing difficulties on legal residents because of the way they look or the sound of their names.

Micah tells us "to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God." Let's do it!

Fran Hughes and I are your Today's Dream, Tomorrow's Reality team and we will be happy to come and present a program for your group. We have a variety of programs to choose from to fit your time frame and interest. There is no fee for our presentation, only our cost, such as mileage. You may reach me at 402-721-1508 or at grand_travelers@hotmail.com.

Invite Your Sisters to Find Fellowship and Celebrate Faith with You!



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DISCOVER your heart for service. Respond to your calling.

Register September 15! Get details now! www.womenoftheelca.org/triennial7 800-648-3522, ext. 2730

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Check List for Congregational Units

To Do Every Month

- ___ Send stories and pictures about your unit to the *Expressions* Team
- ___ 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.)

August

- ___ Share *Expressions* with members
- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
 - 7/30-8/1 – Saved to Serve Opportunity at CCJH

- 31 – Public Hearing on the ELCA Social Statement, First St. Paul's, Hasting

September

- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- ___ Promote Katie's Fund Annual Appeal
- 16-18 – NE Synod Council Meeting at CCJH, Ashland
- 18 – Autumn Renewal, Bethlehem/Wahoo
- 24-26 NE Synod's "The Field Trip"
- 25 – Autumn Renewal, American/Gothenburg
- ___ Have you sent your travel fund assessment to Nancy? Each unit needs to pay \$16 per year for 2010 and 2011. *Must be received before Convention.*

October

- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 9/30-10/10 Argentina Habitat for Humanity Project
- 1 – *Expressions* deadline
- 8-9 – NE Synod's Clergy Spouse Retreat
- 14-17 – CWO Board Meeting in Chicago
- 18-20 – NE Synod's Theological Conference
- 22-23 – NSWO Board Meeting in Axtell, NE
- ___ This is a good month to do a fun collection calendar for Thanksoffering
- ___ (S) Send list of new officers after unit elections to Valerie Killinger and to Conference Board Representative