



Expressions

VOL. 24, NO. 4, NOVEMBER 2010

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

Women – Made Whole Again

“And when he (Jesus) saw her, he said, daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour.” Matthew 9:22 KJV

Advent starts this month, and we will begin preparing our hearts for the birth of our Saviour. We also start the preparations for the holidays, including decorating our homes, our churches, our schools. We will attend Sunday school programs, Christmas programs at schools, churches, and in the community.

Many of us will travel or have guests traveling to our homes. Our hearts and souls are filled with love. Continue the feeling of love and preparations by starting 2011 with giving yourself the gift of a day, to be made whole again at Winter Retreat, January 15, St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Grand Island.

Join us as Diane Gubbels shares her “Stories of Inspiration.” As her beautiful quilts unfold, so do the stories



Diane Gubbels

that lead to their creation. As a talented designer and applique artist, Gubbels allows her creative spirit to speak through her quilts, using fabric and design. One of her greatest joys is to share the work of her hands as she unfolds the stories from her heart. Her quilts are inspired by many life experiences which become “music in my soul,” she says. Sharing the “music” is her goal. Gubbels and her husband, Dan, live on a farm near Coleridge, Nebraska. They have seven children and two grandchildren.

Be inspired by Sister Ruth Ellen Rebin who served as a missionary with the Evangelical Lutheran Church and taught at a seminary in Papua, New Guinea for many years. Several Nebraska churches sponsored her work. She is now retired and lives in Kearney.

Shellie Pointer is the executive director of Crisis Center, Inc. in Grand Island

**DATE CHANGE
NOTICE**
**Southern Prairie Spring
Gathering, April 2**
**Northeast Spring
Gathering, April 16**

which assists individuals and families in domestic violence and sexual abuse situations in Hall, Hamilton, Howard, and Merrick counties. Come and be informed. Abuse is a far reaching concern. Statistics show that one in four people are involved with domestic violence in their lifetime.

Saws and autoharps are among the instruments used by Grandmas On The Go from central Nebraska communities. Come and sing along with some of their familiar tunes and enjoy their stories and anecdotes.

**Join us January 15 for
Winter Retreat in
Grand Island**

**NSWO Convention
September 23-25
Kearney, Nebraska.**

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Devotions

A Modern Parable

By NANCY STEELE, High Plains Board Representative



Based on Luke 15:8-10 – Jesus told the people another story: *“What will a woman do if she has ten silver coins and loses one of them? Won’t she light a lamp, sweep the floor, and look carefully until she finds it? Then she will call in her friends and neighbors and say, ‘Let’s celebrate! I’ve found the coin I lost.’”* Jesus said, *“In the same way God’s angels are happy when even one person turns to him.”* CEV

She had lost it! Oh nothing very valuable by the world’s standards, but to her it was irreplaceable. It had been a gift. A small black hills gold ring given to her by her brother on her 21st birthday. A gift given in one of those rare moments of true sibling love and care. It meant the world to her. She wore it all the time. It gave her great joy and pleasure to wear it. AND NOW SHE HAD LOST IT!

She felt panic and was heart sick, and she searched... she searched her jewelry box at least a dozen times – every drawer – her purses – each pocket in every item of clothing. Had it been in one of those pockets and now the victim of the washing machine? Did she leave it on while doing the dishes and had it been swallowed down the drain? Could it have been put out with the garbage?

For many months she searched until finally, after many tears, she resigned herself to the fact that her precious little ring was lost forever.

I imagine that many of you know exactly how she felt. Most of us at one time or another have felt the hurt and panic of loss. It might have been a lost child, a possession, a lost relationship, or a loved one lost in death.

Well one morning my daughter called, and through joy-filled tears she said, “Mom, guess what? I found it – I found my lost ring!” I was so excited for her. “Where was it?” I asked.

She answered that she was getting ready for work and had knocked something off her dresser. When she reached down to pick it up, there was her ring.

My first thought was how many times had the vacuum passed by that tiny speck on her floor? For one brief moment, I was glad that my daughter was not known for her great housekeeping skills.

So what is the message in this modern parable? It might be telling us that we are like that little ring – lying slightly hidden from the truth and love of the one who created us in great joy. We can become temporarily lost to Him when we become so wrapped up in our busy lives that we forget the real purpose for which we were created. That little ring gave nothing as it lay hidden for all those months.

But what joy the Lord must know when one of his children comes out from hiding and realizes the purpose for which they were created. We were created to bring joy and pleasure to Him by sharing the gift that we are in service and caring love to those around us.

Loving God, help us come up out of the dusty darkness of our lost-ness and help us to become the true gifts you created us to be.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ecclesiastes 3 - A Time for Everything

We are all familiar with verse 1: *There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.* As I reflect on this verse now, I admit there was time and season for me to serve as VBS Director. I had volunteered for three years prior to moving into this role. Three years later, the season had ended and it was no longer my calling. It was time to serve in another ministry role.



When I heard this verse last, September 9, it also included verse 2: *a time to be born and a time to die...* It was a cloudy day, and John and I were attending the funeral service of Don Stalker. Don was the father of some of John's friends he went to school with; Don was a delightful man and always had a smile and hug for those visiting him. John would work with Don and Mike (Don's son) on the Studebaker. Fond memories of the restoration everyone had when the minister mentioned the Studebaker. Don no longer walks this earth with us; however, he lives with us in our hearts.

Verse 4, *a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance.* Personally, I would like to laugh and dance and forget the weeping and mourning. Last month was the first anniversary of a dear friend's passing, Keith Whiteman. Keith was a co-worker of mine, 'uncle' to Aaron, and a dear friend. He made me think outside of the box, including outside of the ELCA box. He wanted to push me and help me grow in my spiritual walk. I never had the opportunity to tell him that I was elected president, as he passed away only three weeks after last year's convention. However, he had the chance to tell me to take care of myself. On the weekends of Spring Gatherings, he would tease me about spending time with a hundred of my closest girlfriends; he knew Women of the ELCA is my calling and passion. He is still with us in our hearts, in our minds, and in our fun memories.

Verse 6, *a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away.* To search and keep our quiet time with the Lord; we need to remember to do this as we enter into Advent. We know the reason for the season; we need to remember not to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season. We need to take time for ourselves to reflect, to study, to ponder, to grow. Advent is my favorite season of the church year. The excitement, the anticipation, the wise men coming, baby Jesus coming; it is time to celebrate! We need to search His book, keep the time to do this; don't give up reading, don't throw away the time.

Verse 8a, *a time to love.* Sometimes it is hard to love; we need to love as Jesus loves us. *We love because he first loved us,* 1 John 4:19. Jesus loves us unconditionally, an unending, an unquestioning love. Matthew 22:39 tells us, *Love your neighbor as yourself.* We are told to love; we are loved; we need to share that love... our love for others and Jesus' love for all of us.

Remember to take time to spend with your Heavenly Father, celebrate the birth of our Savior. Remember your love ones now rejoicing in Heaven; those memories will always be in your heart. ♥ My hope is that each and every one of you will have an enjoyable, enriching Holiday season.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers for the NSW board. Remember to contact us if you need anything from us. We will see you in January at Winter Retreat.

Your sister in Christ,

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

Saved To Serve Opportunity Combines Love for Camp, Quilts, and Serving

By SUSAN WATSON,
NSWO Brochure Developer Appointee

A love for Carol Joy Holling Camp, an appreciation for beautiful quilts, and a desire to serve prompted thirty-one women from across Nebraska to participate in a Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Saved



Angel's Gulch cleaning crew participants Joyce Olson, Laura Hunt, Anna Carlson, Marlene Busboom, Kandy Pflaster, and Kathryn Otto are ready to clean and scrub.

To Serve Opportunity at Carol Joy Holling Camp near Ashland, July 31 through August 2.

The women helped "deep clean" the Camp to prepare it for the retreat season just as the summer camping season closed. With a large amount of work needing to be accomplished,

groups of women got right to work washing numerous windows, inside and out, and scrubbing walls, floors and stairs. They washed bunk beds, mattresses, refrigerators, and light fixtures. They vacuumed carpets, washed, ironed and re-hung curtains. They scoured and sanitized bathroom and showers.

All the participants, lead by Group Leaders Karen Anderson, Betty Kempf, Barb Englund, Mary Peters, Kandy Pflaster, and Susan Watson, tackled their work with enthusiasm and diligence. By Saturday evening, all the priority assignments



Shirley Daire inspired the group to contemplate how daily activities can become sacred spaces.

were completed for Holling House, the Sjogren Center, Angel's Gulch, and the Bunk Houses.

Housekeeping Supervisor Pat Boone was thrilled with all that was accomplished. She could not stop talking about all the wonderful hard

working Women of the ELCA! She said it would have taken her and her staff three months to accomplish all the cleaning our thirty-one incredible participants did in one weekend.

Boone also expressed appreciation to units and individuals for all the tangible items brought by participants and for the \$1,500.00 donation which is to be used to buy vacuum cleaners to assist the housekeeping staff in maintaining the Camp facilities.

Parish Ministry Associate Shirley Daire, Alma, served as the spiritual director for the weekend. Drawing from a book titled *Feathers on The Wind* by Edward Hays. Daire encouraged participants to expand their view of scared spaces to include their work environment, to use daily activities such as combing ones hair as reminders to pray, and to use objects such as prayer beads to help increase mental focus during prayer times.



Lana Knovak and Pearl Anderson re-hang curtains in one of the 10 bunk houses cleaned by the group.

Other highlights of the weekend serving retreat were attending the annual quilt action and a pre-auction pep rally. This year more than 385 donated quilts were auctioned off and more than



Emily Laaker, (left) leads Betty Kempf, Joyce Olson, Kandy Pflaster, Kathryn Otto, Marlene Busboom, Lois Hansen, and Rosella Andersen in stretching exercises before the day's activities.

servant towels and had a group hug before heading to worship at American Lutheran Church in Ashland. The group enjoyed a bountiful brunch at the church before leaving for their homes.



Lutheran World Relief CEO John Nunes (top left) and Camp Executive Director Dave Coker (top center) participated in blessing the 37,000 health kits collected and assembled over the summer.



Tangible offerings for the Camp are pictured with Carolyn Schlake, Rose Miller, Vernyce Schmidt, Arlene Arnold, Lois Hansen, and Rosella Andersen who were on the Sjogren cleaning crew.



Attending their first Saved to Serve Opportunity were (standing) Shirley Martin, NSWO President Gwen Edwards, Past President Beth Meyer, (seated) Arlene Arnold, Beth Olson, and Vernyce Schmidt.

\$80,000 was raised to benefit camping and retreat activities. During a break in the quilt auction, participants also witnessed the blessing of 37,000 health kits by a delegation from Lutheran World Relief headquarters in Baltimore, Maryland, and Bishop David deFreese.

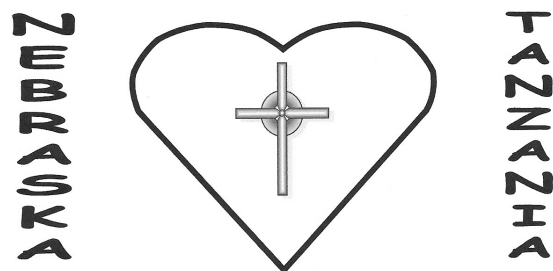
During the summer, campers assembled 32,000 of the health kits as a serving component of their camping experience. The remaining 5,000 kits were brought to the quilt auction by ELCA congregations.

Sunday morning, the participants cleaned the rooms they had used in the Sjogren Center, held a dedication to service ceremony, signed each others



Beth Meyer, Carolyn Schlake, Carol Bosshardt, Camp Housekeeping Supervisor Pat Boone, Emily Laaker, and Michelle Steadman share a joyous farewell moment.

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 was the verse for the 2010 Autumn Renewals.

West, American/Gothenburg

By NANCY STEELE, High Plains Board Representative

On Saturday, September 25th, about fifty women gathered at American Lutheran Church in Gothenburg. Our time together was a time to learn something new – to give our brains a little thinking activity. It was a time to refocus – to bring new information into our lives – to remind us to expand our vision beyond our families and communities – to see a bigger picture. It was a time to renew and open our hearts to the needs of others and to the mission and ministry of the church.

We were informed and inspired by Pastor Martin Russell, Assistant to Bishop Dave deFreese and by Bob Kasworm from Alegent Health who drew on their wealth of knowledge and experience as well as sharing their great passion for the people of our Nebraska Synod's sister companion synod in the Northern Diocese of Tanzania.

We learned about the culture of the area as well as some of the programs that our congregations of the Nebraska Synod are helping to support. Projects such as Books for Tanzania, Houses for Health, Motorcycles for Pastors, Dispensaries, Pastor Exchanges, education, mission trip exchanges, and much more.

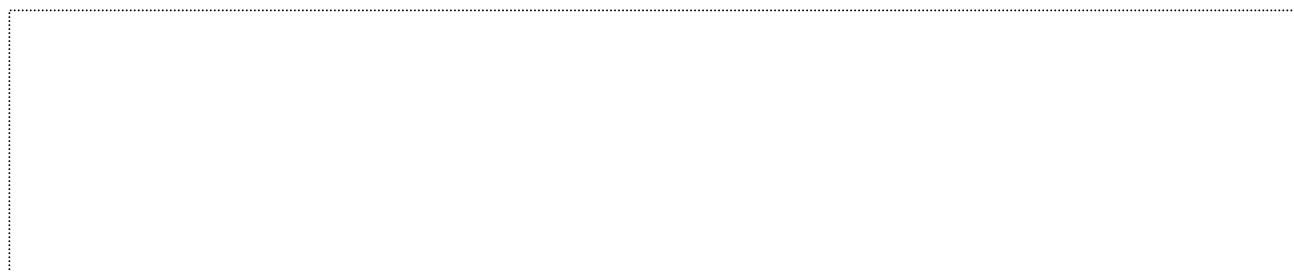
Our day of renewal also included beautiful solos by two area youth, a delicious meal, and uplifting singing by all. Our offering from the west was approximately \$1354.00. Money was still coming in from various units. If your congregation has not sent their offering yet, there is still time to get it to Nancy Johnson, 12777 A Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68144.

East Autumn Renewal was held at **Bethlehem/Wahoo**, September 18, with 130+ in attendance and the onsite offering over \$2,520.87.

Thank you everyone for attending.



Happy Thanksgiving from our Homes to Your Homes!



Report from the NSWO Treasurer

By NANCY JOHNSON



Thank you to all the congregational units for your **Regular Offering** and Form A sent to the Nebraska SWO, receiving your offerings monthly would be appreciated. At the 1990 Triennial Convention, the recommendation was that at least half of the unit's Regular offerings be sent to your synodical organization. When we receive your offerings, we send fifty percent of the money to Churchwide and retain the remaining fifty percent in our NSWO treasury. These offerings support women in ministry and keep our organization running!

It is helpful having all the information listed on the Form A filled in, including your Congregational number and Conference name. If you need more Form A's, they can be ordered from **Augsburg Fortress** at 1-800-328-4648. They come in a set of twelve and are free of charge; you only pay for the shipping and postage. Or you can download the Form A from the website, www.womenoftheelca.org, under "Resources."

Remember to send your yearly assessment for the NSWO Convention **travel fund**, \$16.00 for each of the two years prior to our convention (2010 and 2011). The \$32.00 from each unit needs to be received by September 1, 2011 to support travel reimbursement for your unit delegate to the NSWO Convention.

Special offerings to be collected in 2011 include the following: Tanzania Vision Trip, Winter Retreat, Spring Gathering, Convention, and Convention Worship. Please either place offerings in the collection plate at the event or send them to me your NSWO Treasurer Nancy Johnson with a Form A.

Thankofferings show gratitude for God's blessings. We are called to offer with joy and thanksgiving what God has first given to us. Thankofferings help Women of the ELCA provide resources, events, and programs. Thankofferings also support the organization's crucial annual gift to the ELCA. This offering is sent directory to Churchwide in Chicago with a Form B.

We encourage you to use the Thankoffering Service, the monthly offering devotions, and the 2010-2011 Stewardship Planning Guide, *Building Stewardship*. These guides have lots of helpful information for you. The Stewardship Planning Guide came along with the **Interchange** in September. It can also be downloaded from the Women of the ELCA, website www.womenoftheelca.org.

Special Offerings are given in observance of a special occasion, memorial, or anniversary. The funds that benefit from special offerings make a lasting memory and difference in the lives of others. You can make a special offering to **Katie's Fund** or one of the ELCA scholarship endowment funds. Nebraska was recognized for our contributions to Katie's Fund at the last Triennial Convention. So keep up the good work and continue to contribute to Katie's Fund. This is sent directly to Churchwide along with a Form B.

Designated gifts: Women of the ELCA grants program supports annual domestic and international grants. Our grants support women and children in crisis, health projects, and community building programs. Because of your generous gifts, the grants program has been able to award nearly \$3 million since 1988. Yet each year, the requests for grant funding far exceed the resources available. These also go directly to Churchwide along with a Form B.

Designated gifts: Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls health initiative was launched at the 6th Triennial Gathering in 2005 to promote women's complete and total health: physical, spiritual, and emotional. The initiative allows us to provide resources and events that encourage women to create healthy communities and develop healthy leaders by educating, sharing, motivating, and advocating. These also go directly to Churchwide along with a Form B

Designated gifts: Women of the ELCA scholarship program help women continue their education in ordained ministry, academics, and leadership. Students attending seminary, retirees returning to university, and future deaconesses and physicians all benefit from your generosity. These also go directly to Churchwide along with a Form B.

If you have any questions, please contact me. See page 11 for my contact information.

**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



We will soon be leaving Nebraska for the February 2011 Tanzania Vision Trip. As we prepare for this trip, we ask that you continue to pray for our sisters in Christ in Tanzania and Argentina and for the participants. As you plan your 2011 activities and programs, consider asking one of the participants to come for a visit and share this journey with your units. Either call me at 402-493-6326 or send an e-mail to pj_a@cox.net and I will be happy to give you the name of someone near you to share their story.

Do not forget your **special offering** to be taken to Tanzania to help support the work that the women of Tanzania are doing with HIV/AIDS families. If you had the opportunity to attend the Autumn Renewal, you learned of the need for health care and what just a small amount of money it takes to make the life better for those who are ill. Send your offering to the NSWO using Form A to Nancy Johnson, Treasurer, 12777 A Street, Omaha, NE 68144.



Save These Dates

- January 15, 2011, Winter Retreat, Grand Island
- February 7-22, 2011, Tanzania Vision Trip
- Spring Gathering 2011 schedule:
- February 26 - Midlands - St. John's Ridgely
- March 12 - High Plains - Calvary/Scottsbluff
- March 26 - Southeast - St. Paul's/Auburn
- April 2 - Southern Prairie, First Lutheran/Kearney
- April 9 - Metro East, Kountze/Omaha
- April 9 - Central - Salem/Stromsburg
- April 16 - Northeast, St. Paul's St. Luke's/Emerson
- 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

A man recently told this story about himself. He was taking an early morning jog and was crossing a parking lot when he saw an elderly couple pull into a space. There was a picnic table nearby. Even though it seemed like a strange time for a picnic, the man took a large chest from the vehicle and seemed to stagger toward the curb. The jogger noticed the man leaning forward and it looked like he was losing control of the chest. So the jogger ran as quickly as he could, got his arms under the chest, and tilted it back into the man's arms. The man looked at him and said, "Sonny, I was just trying to dump the ice."

Think of the jogger as those of us with "white privilege," and the man as those affected by racism. How often do we think we understand what is going on and jump in with our own conclusion? We need to be relational, getting to know these people, and discovering what they see as their needs.

Inez Torres Davis, the W/ELCA Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality leader, says, "First and foremost white women can learn to be an ally to people of color. An ally commits herself to the practice of personal growth - she reads, listens, attends lectures, and does all she can to learn the things she needs to know to be a good ally. She is able to celebrate, take pride in and appreciate any and all successes in the struggle for justice. She realizes that people of color do not need rescuing, but they need white people to communicate to other white people the patterns and practices of racism."

For more information from Nebraska's Today's Dream: Tomorrow's Reality, contact Brenda Krueger at 402-721-1508 or grand_travelers@hotmail.com or Fran Hughes at fran821@windstream.net.

Note: The quote from Inez is taken from her cookbook for TDTR educators, Dessert 13.

Triennial Promotion

By BETSY HANSEN,
NSWO Triennial Gathering Promoter



Like the “Little Engine that Could,” it’s time for Nebraska women to begin telling themselves: “I think I can. I think I can.” We all can, can, can go to Spokane. Begin to think about the hows. We will help.

1. We will have information on travel options for you to “think” about.
2. We will have room information to help you say, “I think I can.”

It’s time to get serious about thinking about this once every three year event – an event that will Renew your spirit, inspire you to Respond with women from all over the country and will open your hearts, Rejoicing in the gifts of faith. That’s the theme: Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

The speakers have been chosen, women of substance who will guide you in new ways of thinking, new ways of being in the Lord. Women who will affirm the good that you are doing. You will love every moment. For me, the best part has been about the other women I have met, the women from our synod with whom I have formed a special bond because we were there together. The next best part was being in a room of energized women singing their faith out, worshipping together, and being challenged to go out and do God’s work in God’s world. There will, of course, be workshops and opportunities to reach out to the community of Spokane. Tours are also planned. Spokane is beautiful.

Nora Gallagher: “Writer, speaker, preacher and colorful story teller; Nora Gallagher’s life inspires us because of her faith and the manner in which she embraces life’s challenges.”

Leymah Gbowee, “Social worker and peacemaker Leymah Gbowee found herself called to lead Liberia on a mission for peace and she responded. Hear a first-hand account of her journey and learn about the transformation of a country from peril to peace.”

You can, can, can go to Spokane, July 14-17th, Spokane, Washington.

-Quoted from registration bulletin



RESOURCES...

Lutheran Woman Today, the magazine of Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, offers stories that inform, challenge, comfort, and encourage. Our award-winning Bible study brings together women of all ages and ways of life to explore God’s word. Regular columns on prayer, health, the church calendar, and useful resources supplement the Bible study, and faith-in-action articles.

Bold Connections is the free monthly e-newsletter of Women of the ELCA. Whether you participate a lot or a little in Women of the ELCA, and no matter what your role, you’ll find helpful news and

information on our programs and activities, and stories of how together we are living out our purpose and mission. Go to the web site, and sign up for *Bold Connections* today!

Café is an award-winning Web-based magazine for young women who want to build Community, participate in Advocacy, strengthen Faith, and strive toward Enlightenment (CAFE!). It incorporates a Lutheran perspective for women of Christian faith or simply for any woman who is interested in how faith can relate to the issues that women face today.

Our readers include pastors, seminary and college students, and other young women who use *Café* as a Bible study resource individually or within their congregations. Many also use it to learn more about what the Lutheran church has to say about certain issues and to start discussions with friends or classmates.

Visit *Café* and sign up to receive e-mail alerts when new issues are posted.

Don’t miss the next issue! Visit the web and sign up today!

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



Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

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

In the words of former churchwide executive board member Susan Humphrey, “It’s fellowship with family time. I encourage mothers to invite their daughters and daughters to invite their mothers.” Please reach out not only to your family members, but to your Lutheran sisters and invite them to attend Triennial Gathering. Give them all the opportunity to experience a life-changing event that will inspire them to live out their faith.

“Rejoice in the Lord always ... Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.”

Rejoice at God’s amazing grace, unfolding and shared with sisters of all sizes, colors, shapes, and dreams! Go to Spokane to hear of God’s unending love for you and for all. Stand among 2,000-plus women and hear their voices, united in praise, celebrating their Christian faith. Attend the Gathering and rejoice!

Nebraska Synodical Women of the ELCA, 2009-2011 Elected Board

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Subscriptions are \$4.00 per year.
Make checks payable to NSWO

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Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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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.)

November

- ___ Share *Expressions* with members
- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 1-5 – NE LWR Ingathering
- 13 – NE Synod Confirmation Conference

- 19-21 – LYON Assembly in Kearney, NE
- 19-21 – NE Synod Lay Leader Conference
- ___ Hold Thanksoffering Service
- ___ (J) Plan Yearbook

December

- ___ 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.*
- 3-4 – NE Synod Council Meeting in Omaha, NE
- ___ (J) Prepare Yearbook
- ___ (J) Install Officers
- ___ (J) Adopt Budget
- ___ (J) Send list of new officers after unit elections to Valerie Killinger and to Conference Board Representative

January

- 1 – *Expressions* deadline
- 4 – Winter Retreat registration deadline
- 15 – Winter Retreat
- 15 – NSWO Board Meeting in Grand Island, NE
- 28-30 – NE Synod Operation IDEA College Age

February

- 5 – NE Synod Operation IDEA Middle School
- 12 – NE LMM Annual Retreat in Elkhorn, NE
- 17-20 – CWO Conference of Presidents in Illinois
- 18-26 – NE Synod Gulf Coast Mission Trip
- 26- Midlands Spring Gathering, St. John's Ridgely