



Expressions

VOL. 28, NO. 3, AUGUST 2014

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

What matters is not your outward appearance—the styling of hair, the jewelry you wear, the cut of your clothes—but your disposition. Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in.

1 Peter 3:3-4

We have an amazing day planned for our **Autumn Renewals** this year. This day-long retreat, titled “RejYOUvenate” is all about renewing your spirit; there is no business meeting so we encourage you to invite your friends of all faiths to attend with you. Jennifer Brown of



Blair will be our retreat leader. Her enthusiastic belief that the Word of God is the absolute truth for our lives spills into her heart-felt Bible studies and her energetic presentations. Jennifer founded Hope in the Lord ministries to encourage women to never lose their precious hope in Jesus and

always trust God's perfect ways.

Registration forms are available on our website, from your conference board representatives, and in this issue of *Expressions* on page 10. The eastern site is at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Lincoln on September 13th and the western site is at First Evangelical Lutheran Church in North Platte on October 4th. On both days, registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. and the program will be from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. It's only \$18.00 per person and that includes lunch. Register soon for this spirit-lifting day.

In Memoriam

Passionate and energetic are two words that come to mind when remembering Shirley Daire. She loved connecting our NSWOWomen with global missions wherever possible. It seemed each time you visited with Shirley that she had

interesting news to share about the mission field. She was part of a group of four women who were invited to Argentina in 2000 to help them organize their women's

ministry. During that visit, while bouncing around in a van in northern Argentina, the idea for Companion Synod Women's exchange visits was developed. This led to the NSWOWision Fund which provides scholarships for women who wish to participate in these trips.

The very special memory held by many NSWOWomen was Shirley's goal of taking each grandchild on a global mission trip. The last of these trips came not long before she died—hooray Shirley for



Shirley at CJH
Camp STSO
July 2010

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All God's Creatures Got a Place in the Choir

By JACKIE FRANCE, High Plains Broad Representative



Hello all of my friends, sisters, and women in Nebraska.

Have you ever had a song stuck in your head? You just keep thinking of the tune and words over and over? For days?

Our men's group at church, sang "A Place In the Choir" a couple of weeks ago. It is such a happy song. One that makes you want to sing along, sway a little, even clap your hands. After the song I nudged my husband Scott and said, "Doesn't it make you feel like a kid at church camp?"

One of the men from choir returned to his seat near us. I leaned over and said "Great job this morning." He replied "It is such a fun song to sing."

That song was in my head for days and days! It was starting to become very annoying. I thought to myself maybe God is trying to tell me something. Maybe I should listen! I went over the words slowly and carefully. I really paid attention to what the song was saying. I got a couple of messages:

"Anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a child will never enter it."

Luke 16-17. Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs

to such as these, I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will not enter it."

The song certainly has simple childlike words. And a simple melody that gets "stuck in your head."

Another thing "the little song in my head" told me was "love your neighbor as yourself."

Luke 10:27 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind" and "love your neighbor as yourself."

I was singing praise to God "over and over and over again." I was also singing of love to everyone; the little birds, owls, ducks, porcupines, bees, donkeys, cows, even a badger and a weasel! I look around and see many people and many personalities to love.

Dear Lord, help me to see more of your gifts through a child's eyes. Help me to love all the creatures you've created. And help me to love you with all I've got. Thank you for all the gifts you've given me. Help me to serve you. Amen

Remember the next time you get a little song stuck in your head listen—God may be sending you a message.

Expressions is a quarterly publication of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization, Women of the ELCA.

Expressions provides information concerning programs and projects of the Churchwide and Nebraska Synodical Women Organizations, Women of the ELCA; and helpful information for congregational units. It is distributed free to Nebraska congregational unit presidents/coordinators; Nebraska pastors, AIMs, and PMAs; Nebraska female seminarian students; the other SWO Presidents; the CWO Officers and Executive Board Members; and past NSWO Presidents.

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Contact the *Expressions* Editor at nswo.expressions@gmail.com. Content information can be sent via e-mail and is the preferred method.

August *Expressions* team members included Arlene Johnson plus layout editor. Additional contributors included Judy Carstens, Kim Hall, Laura Hunt, Terri Johnson, Elysia McGill, Beth Meyer, and Ann Schultz.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dearest Sisters, Mothers, Daughters, Nieces, Grandmothers, Granddaughters, Aunts, and Girlfriends:

Isaiah 58:12 “Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”



It is a heart filled with love for family and friends that this president's article greets you. When you read this article, females from all over the United States and beyond will have attended the Ninth Triennial in Charlotte, NC on July 24-27 of which the theme was “of many generations”. It truly was an inspiring weekend for mothers, daughters, sisters and best friends we call sisters!!!

As an attendee at this wonderful gathering of Lutheran women I was moved by all those in attendance. There were educators, missionaries, pastors, nurses, housewives, and entertainers. Some of them single, some married, some widowed, some mothers, and youth of many ages. All of them, like many women today, know the joys and heartaches of life. But the bond that drew these generations of women together – connects them to women today—was their heart for God and devotion to Christ. At this triennial, I found spiritual insights from godly women of the past who, like us, struggled with sin, loneliness, and disappointments yet rejoiced in God's love, mercy, grace and providential blessings. We join women of today and of the past in the various seasons of their hearts and find timeless encouragement and wisdom from one generation of women to another.

I believe that some of the most challenging yet tender words ever penned come to us from the writings, beliefs, and stories of Christian women of the past. As noted in 1 Cor. 4:14-16, Our daughters and granddaughters won't forget hearing us speak their names in prayer. And when we praise them trusting the Lord, they will be motivated to do so again. “Mothers should be intentional about passing down faith to their daughters”. Revised slightly by me. But even the childless have opportunity to leave this godly legacy to the next generation of believers. Paul nurtured new Christians as a mother would her daughters.

Today I celebrate another year of life, another year of service, and another year of mercy granted by my Father. I thank God for making himself known to my generation, giving me yet another reason to sing the mercies of the Lord.... Today and every day!!!

Thank You Women of the ELCA for all the memories of the Triennial Gathering. Thank You to all the Nebraska Women for having such a strong influence in my faith journey. All my family and friends have been such a blessing in my life. God is Good!!!

Serve God by serving others. If we act on our faith, we show it is real (James 2:26). Let us aspire to pass this on to our upcoming generations.

Kandy K. Plaster



(Continued from page 1)

achieving that goal. She was an avid gardener, selling it at markets and then using the money either for people in other countries or for her travel costs to visit them. Her love of global missions, travel abroad, and women's ministries are the legacy that have led to her generous gift to NSWO. —shared by Shirley Splittgerber.

In April the NSWO found out that Shirley Daire had left in her estate \$2319 to our Women's organization. At the June NSWO board meeting, the board discussed and voted on how to use Shirley's gift. A decision was made to honor her by sending \$750 each on upcoming trips by the Nebraska Synod to our Companion Synods,

Argentina in July 2014 and Tanzania in February 2015. The women in these Companion Synods had the wonderful opportunity to meet and serve Christ with her. A letter was written by NSWO President Kandy Pflaster to the Argentina Women's Organization which was presented while visiting in July. The remainder would be deposited in her beloved Vision Fund. This Vision Fund is currently assisting eleven Nebraska women to travel to Tanzania next February. The Board was deeply moved by her gift and her love of our women's organization. She will forever be in our hearts and minds as we remember how she cherished what God had done for her in her lifetime.

You Are All One in Christ

What a beautiful day, April 12, for the **Southeast Conference Spring Gathering** at St. John's Lutheran Church in Beatrice. The sun was shining and the ladies were smiling as they gathered for Worship and Holy Communion and wonderful music led by our Board Representative, Elysia McGill. Conference Coordinator, Judy Carstens and President of the St. John's Unit, Brenda Carnes, welcomed all in attendance, around 175 for the day. Wanda Biel, our guest speaker, portrayed Katie Luther and we even had a little German Conversation going on. A portion of our offering for the day was designated for Katie's Fund. Our offering totaled \$2,207.00. Tangible offering for the Beatrice Community Pantry showed again how generous the SE Conference Women are in their sharing.

The business was short and sweet with election of officers and reports on Synod news from NSWO President Kandy Pflaster and money business from NSWO Treasurer JoAnn Rohrs. Before lunch we were treated to beautiful music from ten-year-old Elsie Holland, granddaughter of Planning Committee member Eunice Stuart, who also accompanied her. What a talent this young lady has! Lunch was catered by Valentino's of Beatrice and served by the ladies of St. John's and Holy Cross units in Beatrice. Good comments were heard all around. Several display tables were visited by many after the luncheon.

Pastor Juliet Hampton, Assistant to the Bishop, led us in an excellent Bible Study following our theme for the day. All 258 churches in Nebraska have a connection making us "All One In Christ".

Carol Bierman, representative from St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Falls City, extended a special invitation to the 2015 Gathering. As we joined hands forming a large circle around the whole sanctuary, joining Elysia in song, we felt the comfort of being "All One In Christ." As guests left for the day, they were invited to grab a snack bag for the road and were wished safe travels. God truly blessed our day!

The **Central Conference Spring Gathering** was held Saturday April 26 at Zion Lutheran in Albion. We had a wonderful gathering with 105 in attendance. Pastor Juliet Hampton led our Bible Study. Our first guest speaker was Allison Kern, licensed Kindermusik educator. Kindermusik is a program that incorporates singing, instrument playing, dancing movement, story time, and other activities designed to develop and strengthen children's physical and neural functions and social and emotional skills. The program has been an effective outreach at Zion Lutheran. She was followed by Al Riskowski, Amber Smith, and Nicky Seigel spoke on behalf of "I've Got a Name". It is an

organization founded by Bob Burton that helps people involved with Human Trafficking. This organization works closely with law officials and the legislature to help fight this hidden crime. They spoke of an area church that had gotten involved and the difference they were able to make in an individual's life. We all need to pray for this cause. Megan Frerichs entertained us with her musical talents and informed us on the Lutheran Summer Music Academy. Conference Coordinator, Carol Ortegren led our business meeting. President Kandy Pflaster spoke about the many upcoming events within the synod. Our 2015 Planning Committee was installed. Pastors David Frerichs and Michael Kern led us in our closing worship service. Our 2015 Spring Gathering will be held at Calvary Lutheran of Stromsburg.

Midlands Conference Spring Gathering was held April 5 at Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln. We had an exciting day that began with an inspiring message from Bishop Brian Maas. Bishop Maas's message included some interesting information about Martin Luther. And then later in the day, Martin's wife, Katie, dropped in for a visit. The feature presentation of the day was from the young women at the Lutheran Student Center at UNL. The young women were involved in a very large group conversation with the women who attended Spring Gathering. We focused on the future of Women in the ELCA and what the ministry of women will look like with changes in time. Pastor Adam White also addressed the women by speaking about the role of women in ministry. During lunch time, women were able to enjoy the unique offerings at Sheridan by spending time in the outdoor prayer garden or shopping at the One Sent mission market. After lunch, we listened to Tosca Lee talk about the impact of telling stories for future generations. She featured her novel, "Havah, the Story of Eve", where she illustrates her very descriptive interpretation of the life of Eve. There were four very interesting workshops that gave us good information about Mosaic, Bullying, the Lincoln Child Advocacy Center where they counsel children who have been exploited and in a fourth workshop, women heard about Preparing for End of Life. We ended the day with a refreshing worship service led by Pastor Rhonda Bostrom of Sheridan that included a guided meditation by Kathy Paisley and communion.

2015 Spring Gatherings

Doing Good to All is the theme selected by the Conference Coordinators. Theme verse is Galatians 6:10a NIV — *Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people.* Hymn of the Day is "We All Are One in Mission." Registration is \$18.00 and one-fourth of the offering is still yet to be determined.

The schedule is as follows:

- March 7 - Southeast, St Paul's/Fall City
- March 14 - Northeast, Grace/West Point
- March 21 - Southern Prairie, Prince of Peace/Geneva
- March 28 - High Plains, Chappell/Berea
- April 11 - Central, Calvary/Rural Stromsburg
- April 18 - Midlands, Salem/Fontanelle
- April 25 - Metro East, Rejoice!/Omaha

Sudanese Saved To Serve Opportunity Is A Success

By SUSAN WATSON

Shared stories and traditional songs and foods united some Sudanese and American cultures in an amazing multi-cultural experience for Saved To Serve Opportunity participants at Trinity Lutheran Church in Omaha.

On Friday evening, June 20, Trinity Lutheran Church Pastor John Backus used humor and statistics to provide an overview of the current Sudanese situation in Omaha. Trinity Vicar John Gok Badeng spoke of his journey to Omaha and translated for several Sudanese women who expressed their cares. Messiah Lutheran Church Vicar David Mayen told of his life as one of the "Lost Boys" of Sudan, described his struggles when he came to live in Omaha, and explained some differences in Sudanese and American cultural practices.

Saturday started with a visit to the nearby Minne Lusa House where two retired women turned a small house into a gathering place by offering coffee and canning classes. That led to communication between neighbors and helped transform the neighborhood.

A highlight for many of the 23 participants was going to World Refugee Day activities at



Trinity Vicar John Gok Badeng, left, and a circle of STSO participants watch as some Nile Sudanese women display a decoration they made of hundreds of colorful beads to present to the American women.

Benson High School where they watched the parade of flags and a naturalization ceremony. Also throughout the day, school backpacks were sewn and corded, quilts were tied, pizzas were made and a number of Sudanese children were entertained. A fun-filled Life In Christ Clown performance was followed by sharing American relay games and songs just before the Gospel Choir Concert in Miller Park.

After the concert, the group gathered back at Trinity for homemade pizza and assembled the Lutheran World Relief school kits, which was the project adopted for this event.

The weekend closed on Sunday after the Rock 'N Roll worship service at Trinity.



Two Sudanese women serve traditional Sudanese foods to Carol Bosshardt, right, and Marilyn Wagner. The dishes include lamb stew and spongy bread to dip in it.



Sudanese and American women pack 119 school kits for Lutheran World Relief using an assembly line. The kits include school supplies collected by units across the state. Some backpacks were sewn at the event.

Mark Your Calendar Now!

We have started planning for **Winter Retreat** in 2015. We have invited and secured Rachel Kurtz of Minnesota to share her powerhouse singing voice with the joyful message of “Many Gifts but One Spirit”. Her song “Make a Difference” has become a widespread sensation. Rachel has performed in benefit concert tours across the country helping to raise awareness for world hunger, hurricane relief, and multi-cultural reconciliation.

We encourage you to invite your friends of all faiths to attend with you. NSWO is also really encouraging generations of women; please invite your mother, daughters, and granddaughters. Her message based on Corinthians 12 will speak to our hearts that we work together and use our gifts for the good of others. This will be one Winter Retreat you will not want to miss!

Watch for more information. Registration forms will be available soon. Mark your calendars for January 24, 2015 at St Paul’s Church in Grand Island.

The 2015 **Convention Team** have been busy working and brainstorming. The 2015 team consists of Beth Meyer, Presiding Team Leader; Lynn Echternkamp, Co – Team Leader; Rosie Betts, Recorder; Sunni Richardson, Consultant and representative from First Lutheran/Lincoln; and Team members Joan Berggren, Carole Nordby, and Mae Greve.

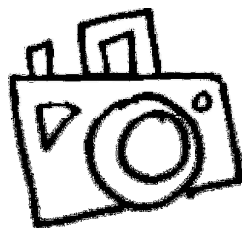
So pull out those 2015 calendars and block out September 18-20. The convention will be held at First Lutheran/Lincoln, 70th St. and A, with motel accommodations at Chase Suites, 200 S 68th Place, Lincoln, NE.

The theme will be “The Power of M” – The team is working off of some M&M words that will be used throughout the convention. The convention verse is *Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly.....Colossians 3:15-17 NIV*

Southeast Conference Spring Gathering, April 12



Spring
Gatherings



Midlands Conference Spring Gathering, April 5



Central Conference Spring Gathering, April 26





You Can

Take it with You!

On your...

- iPad or Tablet
- iPhone or Android smartphone
- laptop computer



Gather magazine

A magazine for growth in faith and action. Published by the Women of the ELCA.
Includes monthly Bible Study (Bible Study videos available at: gathermagazine.org)

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Café

Café

Café is an on-line magazine for young adult women.

It incorporates a Lutheran perspective for women of Christian faith or for any woman who is interested in how faith relates to the issues that women face today. See more at: <http://www.boldcafe.org/>

Daily Grace

Daily readings, reflections and prayers from Women of the ELCA.

App available for iPad, iPhone, Android smartphone (check app store for Android tablets)

Digital Daily Grace for computer: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/blog/category/daily-grace>

Daily Grace by email signup: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/resources-pages-5.php>



Holy Bible

App available for iPad, iPhone, Android smartphone, Android tablets

(my favorite free Bible app is "Bible" by LifeChurch.tv; also like Daily Bible by JoanSoft)

Not sure if this particular one is available for Android Tablets, but there are Bible apps for all platforms.

Luther's Small Catechism

App available for Android smartphone, possibly other platforms
(by Aphorism 44)



Bold Connections

Monthly email newsletter of the Women of the ELCA.

Sign up at: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/bold-connections-pages-51.php>



Interchange

Newsletter of the Women of the ELCA Church-wide. Current and prior issues available at:
<http://www.womenoftheelca.org/interchange-pages-52.php>



Expressions

Newsletter of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization.

Current and prior issues available at: <http://www.nebraskasynod.org/welca/expressions/>

Other NSWOW info and resources available at: <http://www.nebraskasynod.org/welca/>



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On Women of the ELCA website, follow links at the bottom of the page: <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/>



June 2014

Compiled by Nadine Dobbe (nkdobbe@gmail.com)



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Minor edits completed for Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization, Gwen Edwards, Churchwide Executive Board Member.

Autumn Renewal Event

RejYOUvenate

A Day of Spiritual Renewal
For All Women

*What matters is not your outward appearance – the styling of hair, the jewelry you wear, the cut of your clothes - but your disposition.
Cultivate inner beauty, the gentle, gracious kind that God delights in. 1 Peter 3:3-4*

September 13, 2014

Registration: 8:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
1015 Lancaster Lane
Lincoln, NE

October 4, 2014

Registration: 8:30 a.m.
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
First Evangelical Lutheran Church
305 W. 5th St.
North Platte, NE



Retreat Leader
Jennifer Brown

Jennifer Brown is a child of God who is simply overwhelmed by God's goodness, saving grace, and glory. Her enthusiastic belief that the Word of God is the absolute truth for our lives spills into her heart-felt Bible studies and her energetic presentations. Jennifer founded Hope in the Lord ministries to encourage women to never lose their precious hope in Jesus and always trust God's perfect ways. Jennifer and her family live in Nebraska. You can learn more about Jennifer's ministry and Bible studies at www.hopeinthelord.org.

The Autumn Renewal offering will go 1/2 to CWO and 1/2 to Nebraska Women Seminarians.

REGISTRATION FORM REGISTRATION: \$18.00
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: Sept. 5, 2014 - Lincoln Sept. 26th - North Platte

Name _____
Street or PO Box _____
Town _____ ZIP _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____
Church Name _____
Church Town _____
Special Needs (hearing or sight impaired, wheelchair, dietary, etc.) _____

Check the date you
plan to attend:

Sept 13th ☐

Oct. 4th ☐

Please make check payable to NSWO. Registration is transferable, but not refundable
Send registration form and \$18 to: JoAnn Rohrs 402-274-3058 (Home)
1409 10th Street joannrohrs1409@yahoo.com
Auburn, NE 68305-1414

Global Missions

By SANDY OLSON, Global Missions Appointee

ELCA Global Church Sponsorship



Missionaries • Young Adults in Global Mission • International Leaders • Global Ministries

As Global Missions Appointee, I want to bring to your attention recent action taken by the NSWO Board. It was approved to “create a special fund for sponsoring a missionary via the ELCA Missionary Sponsorship Program” and to ask the Nebraska Women's units to help support this fund. The Board will also “establish a person on the Board to keep in monthly contact with our designated missionary.” Sponsoring either a Missionary who works alongside a global church to share the good news of Jesus Christ or a Young Adult in Global Mission who spends a life-changing year in service somewhere in the world gives us the wonderful opportunity to be directly connected and support a missionary, grow stronger as a global church and in our faith.

I'm encouraging NSWO units to prayerfully consider helping to support the fund to sponsor a missionary. Contributions can be sent to our treasurer, JoAnn Rohrs, 1409 10th Street, Auburn, NE 68305-1414. Be sure to designate “Missionary Fund.” Thank you for partnering as Women of the Nebraska Synod.

**Nebraska Synodical
Women of the ELCA,
2013-2015
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Send address changes to Terri Johnson, NSWO VP and Interim Database Coordinator.

Check List for Congregational Units

To Do Every Month

- ___ Send stories and pictures about your unit to the *Expressions* Editor
- ___ Remind women to use their Thankoffering boxes
- ___ Share information received from SWO and CWO
- ___ Send offerings to synodical treasurer

To Do on Specific Months

(S applies to units whose year starts in Sept.; J to those starting in Jan.)

August

- ___ Share *Expressions* with members
- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- ___ Publicize/Promote Autumn Renewals
- 12 – NE Synod Staff Meeting
- 16 – Gather Bible Study Intro Event, Grand View University, Des Moines, IA
- 17 – An Evening with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Lincoln
- 18 – A Morning with Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Grand Island
- 26 – NE Synod Staff Meeting
- 23 – Gather Bible Study Intro Event,

Northwest WA, Southwestern WA, and Oregon

- 24 – Gather Bible Study Intro Event, Oregon Synod
- 28 – Seeking the Spirit Within Commitment Day

September

- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- ___ Publicize/Promote Autumn Renewals
- ___ Have you sent your travel fund assessment to JoAnn? Each unit needs to pay \$16 per year for 2014 and 2015.
- 5 – East Autumn Renewal Registration Deadline
- 9 – NE Synod Staff Meeting
- 12-16 – NE Synod Council Meeting
- 12-14 – CWO Conference of Presidents Planning
- 13 – NSWO East Autumn Renewal, Lincoln
- 16-17 – NE Synod First Call Retreat
- 22-23 – NE Synod Staff Retreat
- 26 – West Autumn Renewal Registration Deadline

- 26-28 – Saved to Serve, Kearney
- 27 – Gather Bible Study Intro Event, Our Savior's Lutheran, San Clemente, CA
- 30 – NE Synod Deans Meeting

October

- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- ___ (S) Send list of new officers after unit elections to Terri Johnson and to Conference Board Representative
- 1 – *Expressions* deadline
- 4 – NSWO West Autumn Renewal, North Platte
- 6-7 – Seeking the Spirit Within Residency
- 10 – LMM Board Meeting
- 10-11 – NSWO Board Meeting
- 14 – Nebraska Synod Staff Meeting
- 16-19 – CWO Executive Board Meeting
- 19-22 – NE Synod Theo-Con'14
- 28 – NE Synod Staff Meeting