



Expressions

VOL. 28, NO. 1, FEBRUARY 2014

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

You Are All One in Christ

"For you are all one in Christ Jesus"!

Galatians 3:28b



The holidays are over, the Christmas decorations are down, and it's time to get back into our routines. We know it's still winter as we experienced wind chill warnings early last month.

"You Are All One in Christ," the theme of our 2014 Spring Gatherings start next month. So pull out your calendar and mark 'NSWO Spring Gathering' on it. The Spring Gatherings give you the opportunity to refuel, refresh, and relax yourself.

There will be a Spring Gathering in each of the NSWO seven conferences. So attend your conference, attend another, or do both.

March 1, Metro East Conference is the first of the Spring Gatherings to be held at St Michael Lutheran Church in

Omaha. They are planning a fun and festive day starting with beautiful organ music, the St. Michael Bell Choir, and young women dancing and exercising to Christian Music. Pastor Miller, Assistant to the Bishop for our Metro East Area will lead us in Bible Study, business will be conducted, and you can enjoy a lovely luncheon. The afternoon will hold exercise with dance, singing songs popular in many lands, and being creative decorating Caring Kits for RSafe, an LFS program for abused children. Hear how Rev. Dr. David Defreese started his ministry at Bethphage Mission, find out about Raising Healthy Families, and learn where to volunteer in the Omaha Area! Bring your mother, daughter, aunt, cousin, friends and join us for a fun and festive day praising God and enjoying each others friendship.

March 8, Southern Prairie Conference is being held at the newly remodeled Bethany Lutheran Church in Minden. Plan to come and celebrate that 'We Are All One in Christ!' Our day will also

be keeping in line with our Triennial Gathering theme... "of many generations." Highlights for this event will include the Bible study given by Bishop Brian Maas, a guest speaker from Nebraska Family Alliance sharing awareness on Human-Trafficking, and presentations on the 1000 Days program and Katie's Fund. Paper items for the Minden Food Pantry will be collected as the Tangible Offering. (paper towels, toilet paper, diaper wipes, diapers, etc...) Plan to spend the day together with our sisters in Christ as we remain devoted to service, raise awareness, share fellowship, and more. Encourage and invite others from your church or community to attend. All are welcome.

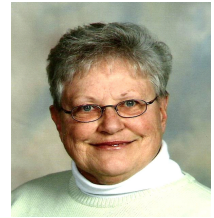
March 22, Northeast Conference Spring Gathering will be held at Zion Lutheran in Creighton. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. St. Mark's Lutheran, Bloomfield will be the hostesses for the morning coffee time. Elaine Peacock, a motivational speaker, from Elk Point, SD will be our featured

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In My Mother's Bible

By BETH MEYER, Secretary



As I was looking through my mother's Bible the other day I notice a sheet of paper that was actually an article from some publication printed on August 6, 1982. The author of the article titled "Learn the ABC's of the Bible" was Margaret Bredberg Harrington. She writes about the importance of memorizing Scripture so when you are in a situation with no Bible in hand, you will have Scripture to recall. She mentioned Kathryn Koob, a former hostage in Iran, spoke often about the value of Scripture memorization. During her captivity, the verses she had memorized were a constant reminder of God's love.

At my mother's memorial service the pastor mentioned that when he would go to visit my mom and dad in the nursing home, he would ask my mom to recite a Bible verse that started with a certain letter and she could always honor his request. He said he didn't know how she could do this, but now I know. She had this whole list.

The Scripture references are all from the Revised Standard Version unless otherwise noted. Here is the list:

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Romans 3:23

Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. Rev. 2:10b

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Matt. 11:28

Draw near to God and he will draw near to you. James 4:8

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Ps. 100:4

For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. Matt. 28:19-20

Have no anxiety about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. Phil. 4:6

I am the light of the world; he who follows me will

not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.

John 8:12

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Heb. 13:8

Know ye not that you are the temple of God and that the Holy Spirit dwells with you? 1 Cor. 3:16
KJV

Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Phil. 2:4

My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth. Ps 12:12

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Heb. 11:1

O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good, His steadfast love endures forever! Ps. 118:1

Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Eph. 6:11

Quench not the Spirit. 1 Thess. 5:19 KJV

Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth. Eccl. 12:1

Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. Matt. 6:33

To all who received Him, who believed in His name, He gave power to become children of God.

John 1:12

Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Luke 2:11 KJV

Verily, verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, He will give it to you.

John 16:23 KJV

Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. Matt. 26:41

X (except) a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

John 3:5 KJV

You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth.

Acts 1:8

Z (Zacchaeus), today salvation has come to this house. Luke 19:9

My challenge for all who read this devotion:

Do you think that you can memorize these verses so you can recall them when you have no Bible available? I did look some of these up and there are a few liberties taken by leaving out a word or two.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dearest Friends,



It is now officially 2014!!!. What does that mean for you? My husband, Tony and I have had recent conversations about what we think, dream, and believe this year will be. Our 2013 brought many things like marriages of two of our children, whew!!, a new granddaughter Isabel Kay, and officially joining the 50-Club. We know not what will be in 2014, but we do know that we will live it to the fullest, vowing to always grow our faith, keep in touch with friends and make new ones, laugh often, and give thanks to God always. I feel like Ecclesiastes 8:15 captures it best "So I recommend having fun, because there is nothing better for people to do in this world than to eat, drink, and enjoy life. That way they will experience some happiness along with all the hard work God gives them." My pastor Mike Parsh at American Lutheran in Cozad had a list in his newsletter article about things that make a new year a healthy one (see pastor I do read your articles). Just a few of my favorite ones were:

- * Laugh out loud- at yourself, with others, and give people permission to laugh.
- * Say "thank you" to people as often as you can
- * Look for trouble, more specifically the troubled....the lonely, the sick, the naked, those who think God has forgotten them
- * Remember that life is not fair, but God is gracious
- * Be the biggest picture window to the Gospel that you can be!
- * Things are not always as they seem. See life through the cross & the Easter Resurrection

The New Year 2014 has much that NSWOW will offer. I find myself excited and empowered by God to bring the gifts of our organization to you, your friends, and our sisters of the ELCA this year of Twenty-Fourteen.

There is one Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious thing that I would like to promote or introduce and emphasize. In May of 2013, Churchwide mailed a letter that invited women to be a part of making history by making a donation to help grow Katie's Fund endowment to \$1 million by July 24, 2014. July 24 marks the start of the 2014 Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, NC. The Triennial Gathering theme "of many generations" will excite Christian women of the Lutheran faith to celebrate Katie's Fund and its mission to raise up BOLD women of faith in EVERY generation. Learning about Katie Luther is powerful and inspiring and will engage others in telling Katie's story. With a stronger endowment, Katie's Fund will generate more dollars each year to support leadership development, global connections, and living theology.

Now I want to "toot" the horn for our faithful, generous Lutheran women of Nebraska. At our convention in September the President of ELCA Women, Jenny Micheal announced that Nebraska was the leader in the Nation in the 25th Anniversary Appeal which supported in part the ELCA Malaria Campaign. You and I made a difference in the lives of many suffering or in the education/prevention of malaria. So here goes my challenge Will you write that check for \$25 to NSWOW/Katie's Fund. The endowment is currently at \$830,000, but Nebraska can prove to be a key supporter in 2014 Katie's Fund. I will share more with you at Spring Gatherings. It is my dream that when many women from Nebraska travel to Charlotte, NC, that Nebraska will be recognized for our compassion, love, and energy to serve others through Christ.

I invite you to go to the website, womenoftheelca.org, to learn more to share with your units or others. There is a free program resource that tells about Katie's life. How much do you know???? Hint: there might be a quiz at spring gatherings. Always remember Psalm 118:24 - *"This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."* (NIV)

Kandy K Pfister

of many generations

The **Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** are coming together in 2014 for Triennial Gathering in Charlotte, North Carolina. This dynamic event July 24-27, 2014 will not disappoint any woman who attends, as it will uplift and move one to spiritual fulfillment and a greater understanding of one's personal faith journey. SO, get into action now to join Lutheran Women from around the world at this world-class event.

Our NSWO awarded five scholarships on November 22, to cover the registration cost of Triennial Gathering. The winners were Young Woman - Caitlin Bennett/Elgin; First Timers - Sandy Terry/Fremont and Kim Hall/Lincoln, and General - Jane Flores/Hooper and Carol Stark/Cozad. Congratulations to these ladies! The scholarships paid for their \$325 early registration. They are responsible for their room, plane fare, meals, and other expenses while at the Triennial Gathering.

As of December 19, Churchwide had 695 people registered (that does not include 189 women who pre-registered in 2011 but have not yet completed registration for Triennial Gathering 2014). If you add them in, we have 884 registered. The City tour is proving most popular with 292 already signed up for it. Some other numbers include: 109 have signed up for Run, Walk, & Roll, 114 have become a "friend of the gathering" (with a total of \$2,775 contributed), 72 have volunteered to help with the gathering, and 62 signed up for the choir.

Ten rooms have been booked at the Westin Hotel across the street from the Convention Center for any ladies who would like to stay together with the NSWO Board Reps and Officers. Let me know if you are interested in staying with us. I would love to see at least seventy-five of us from Nebraska in attendance. It would be fun to have 100 of us there!! Keep talking up going.

Registration fee is \$350.00 starting January 9th, 2014.

Nancy Johnson
Triennial Gathering Promoter
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12777 A Street
Omaha, NE 68144
402-330-8649
cell 402-871-7906
nancy.johnson5@cox.net



GET INVOLVED

Engage our gathering theme in new and different ways before you leave home. Working alone or in groups, you can make a quilt, knot or crochet a prayer shawl or gather in-kind gifts.

The quilt challenge in 2011 was such a big hit, we're doing it again. Quilters of all abilities are invited to create a quilt interpreting the gathering theme **of many generations**.

At the Eighth Triennial Gathering in 2011, we collected over 2,200 shawls. Can we exceed that in 2014? Shawls will be given to ministries in the North Carolina Synod, ELCA, our host.

Giving at the Eighth Triennial Gathering in 2011 included more than \$10,000 in gift cards, 11,000 minutes in phone cards and 800 packages of socks. We'll continue that strong tradition with in-kind gifts for the greater Charlotte area.

Quilt instructions, prayer shawl information, and in-kind gift lists will be posted at <http://www.welcatg.org/get-involved> in the near future.

— Source: <http://www.welcatg.org/get-involved>

** See pages 6 and 7 regarding Prayer Shawl ministries.

Meet the 2013-15 Appointees

Valuable members of each NSWOW team are the Appointees. Appointees are appointed by the president to serve in a particular role to assist the Nebraska women to become better educated regarding the area they are serving. For example, our Companion Synod appointee, keeps us up to date on information regarding Tanzania and Argentina, our companion synods, she also coordinates the NSWOW trips to those area.

The appointee terms end when the president's term ends. Our current appointee's terms will end September 2015. Some of our appointee's were re-appointed by President Kandy Pflaster. When you see these ladies, thank them for their continued service.

The following were re-appointed:

- * Brochure Developer, Karen Anderson
- * Companion Synod Coordinator, Sandy Terry
- * Courtesy Chair, Sandy Smith
- * Global Missions Coordinator, Sandy Olson
- * Resource Coordinator, Carol Stark
- * Saved to Serve Coordinator, Mary Mayfield
- * Young Woman, Aaryn Schultz

President Kandy made some new appointments and would like you to meet them below. When you see these ladies, please welcome and thank them for saying yes when asked to serve.



Historian Mary Peters (St. Matthew/ Omaha) worked as a Medical Technologist/ Toxicologist for over twenty-four years. Now enjoying retirement, she keeps active volunteering at Lauritzen Gardens and Friends of the Public Library. She is also active in her church, having served on the church council, trust fund, and president of and currently treasurer of the Women of the ELCA, a Stephen Minister, volunteer coordinator for the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry, and enjoys playing in the bell choir. She is on the planning committee for Metro East Spring Gathering.

Mary also enjoys gardening, traveling, and spending time with three children and ten grandchildren, ages three-thirteen years. Along with her husband, Carl, they have worked with Rebuild Joplin through the Nebraska ELCA mission trip, and will also go to Nicaragua for their fourth medical mission.



Racial Justice Advocate Rebecca Sipp lives just outside of Verdon and owns and manages a day care in Falls City. Her husband is a pastor of two churches, St. Peter's of rural Falls City and St. Mark's of rural Verdon, where they live with their lively, energetic eighteen month old Maggie. Rebecca says, "I can't wait to get to know the Nebraska Women of the ELCA better through this role."



Interim Database Coordinator Terri Johnson will serve in this capacity for this year as our previous coordinator was elected to the NSWOW Board in September; Terri is also currently serving as Vice President. Contact information forms are available on the website. We are asking units to submit their officer/contact information yearly even if they don't change officers. Forms can be e-mailed; it is important that forms are written clearly and legible. Forms can also be mailed to Terri Johnson, 25725 W Suburban RD, Hershey, NE 69143-5312, cranefarm@yahoo.com.



About the Shawls...

In 1998, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at The Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut gave birth to a ministry. As a result of their experience in the program of applied Feminist Spirituality under the direction of Professor Miriam Therese Winter, MMS, their love of knitting/crocheting has been combined into a prayerful ministry and spiritual practice, which reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace, as well as in celebration and joy. Many blessings are prayed into every shawl.

Whether they are called Prayer Shawls, Comfort Shawls, Peace Shawls or Mantles, etc..., the shawl maker begins with prayers and blessings for the recipient. The intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl. Upon completion, a final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way. Some recipients have continued the kindness by making a shawl and passing it onto someone in need. Thus, the blessing ripples from person-to-person, with both the giver and the receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, mothering God.

"Shawls..made for centuries, universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beatify. Those who have received these shawls have been uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..."

1998, Janet Bristow

For You

*As you wrap yourself in the prayer shawl of comfort...
May the Mother of Mercy, the Father of Faithfulness and
the spirit of compassion wrap you in their all-encompassing
love.*

May you find comfort from:

*All that appears too much to bear at this moment.
All that feels like it might be the braking point.
All that seems to threaten your peace of heart.*

May this prayer shawl be:

*A shelter from overwhelming grief
A shade in times of sorrow too deep for words
A shield from times of unimaginable loss.*

May this prayer shawl be a comfort:

*By the presence of those who love and support you
By faith of the eternal Loving One
By the healing of body and soul.*

*May this shawl be a strength and a comfort for whatever lays
ahead in your life.*

Blessings be with you for now and forever. Amen

Shine Your Light



THE PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY at AMERICAN LUTHERAN IN COZAD

The following article was a bulletin insert at American Lutheran to tell the story of the ladies who do the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Four years ago last November, Pat Halouska was given a prayer shawl from her daughter's church in Lincoln, NE as she was preparing to have major surgery at Mayo Clinic for her Trigeminal Neuralgia. Being brought out from surgery, her daughter placed the prayer shawl next to her in the bed. Each time Pat would feel pain or anxiety, she placed her hand on the shawl and received peace and comfort, unlike any other feeling she had ever felt.

After returning home, Pat asked the Women's Circle, if they could start a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Marge Wolf said she would help and the Prayer Shawl Ministry started at American Lutheran in Cozad. After receiving a Prayer Shawl, Mavis Beavers joined the group and then Donna Ackerman joined.

Recently a member of our ministries took a prayer shawl to a woman who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. This lady immediately put the shawl around her shoulders and thanked our member for the shawl. Her husband came into the house at that time and she showed it to him and told him to read the attached tag. After reading the tag, he took his glasses off to wipe tears from his eyes, put his head in his hands and told the member how wonderful this ministry was.

Pat Halouska took a prayer shawl to her sister, who was in a care home in North Platte. She explained what the shawl was and that it had been blessed by the Women's Circle and the Pastor of our church. . Since Pat's sister was in the early stages of dementia, each time Pat would visit she would put the shawl around her sister's shoulders. Pat would explain again what the shawl was and what it meant. About three months before Pat's sister passed away, every time Pat would visit, her sister would have her prayer shawl either around her or on her lap. Her sister would say, "I feel so good and safe when this shawl is around me." The nurse happened to enter the room while Pat was there and said, "Yes, if she can't find the shawl, she starts yelling for a nurse to find it." Pat's sister passed away the last of June and since she loved her shawl so much, she was buried with it.

A friend was losing her husband this past fall, so Pat took a prayer shawl to her and her friend asked if she could give it to her husband, until the casket was closed, then she would bring the shawl home with her. Pat told her that they could give one to her and him. However the friend said she just wanted one, but for it to be with him, as long as possible. She told Pat that it meant so much to her, as it was in his hands until the very end.

A baby shawl was given to a member who said that she places it on her baby while riding in the car, as babies need prayers while in the car. Several times when prayer shawls are given to people they have tears in their eyes or cry. It is hard to know who receives the most blessings; the giver or the receiver. Several shawls have been given to people who are hurting in many ways; illness, bereavement, needing comfort or happiness.

Making, praying over, and giving Prayer Shawls has brought many blessings to the Prayer Shawl Ministry. Anyone is invited to join the Prayer Shawl Ministry of Marge Wolf, Mavis Beavers, Donna Ackerman, Pastor Mike Parsh, or Pat Halouska.

—submitted by Kandy Pflaster

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 Seminarrians.

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 joannrohrrs1409@yahoo.com
Auburn, NE 68305-1414

(Continued from page 1)

speaker during the morning. Work shops will be: Norfolk Rescue Mission; Bloomfield's Northstar Services; Massage by Dorothy; Women's Health by Amy Borgmann, PA; and Bird Watching by Mark Brogie. Bishop Brian Maas will lead afternoon Bible study. Tangible offering recipient will be the Norfolk Rescue Mission. The day will conclude with a communion service. Trinity Lutheran from Hartington will serve as afternoon coffee hostess.

April 5, Midlands Conference Spring Gathering will be held at Sheridan Lutheran Church in Lincoln. Storytelling will be a theme running through the day. The day will include a presentation from the women at UNL Lutheran Student Center, along with a panel discussion where women will have a chance to share stories about their church service. Tosca Lee, a New York Times Bestselling Author, will also speak about her book, *Havah the story of Eve*, a book about women sharing their stories. Tangible offering will be given to the Lincoln Child Advocacy Center.

April 12, Southeast Conference Spring Gathering will be held at St. John's Lutheran in Beatrice. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Our focus will be on Katie's fund, with our guest speaker, Wanda Biel, portraying Katie Luther! Please come and join us for a wonderful day of fun and fellowship with your sisters in Christ!

April 26, Central Conference Spring Gathering will be held at Zion Lutheran in Albion (Town Church). The ladies at Zion are already gearing up to host us. We are All Welcome at our conference! Our conference will prove to be an awesome one. Bob Burton of Lincoln will be informing us of the sex trafficking happening right in Lincoln. He is apart of "I've Got a Name"; a program to help young girls to get away from this terrible life. Bishop Maas will be with us and we will be doing music, Yoga, and many more things to learn. Your Unit President or contact person will be getting the registrations forms, please register as early as possible, The weather should be warm by then!

May 2, High Plains Conference Spring Gathering will be held at Berea Lutheran in Chappell. Our tangible offerings will go to Table of Grace Food Pantry that serves several local communities; Tim Lindemon from Table of Grace Food Pantry will be telling us about this ministry. Tasia Aden of Cozad will be speaking to us on a women's justice issue and her own personal experience. A very special guest named Katie Luther will also join us. Come and join us for a wonderful day of fellowship and love.



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

February *Expressions* team members included Arlene Johnson plus layout editor. Additional contributors included Karen Anderson, Kim Hall,, Valerie Killinger, Mary Mayfield, Elysia McGill, Mary Peters, Ann Schultz, Rebbecca Sipf, Judy Stahlecker, and Carol Stark.

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NSWO Vision Trip

By SANDY TERRY
Companion Synod Appointee



A decision has been made that the June 2014 NSWO Vision Trip to Tanzania be cancelled and rescheduled. Due to the low number of individuals who expressed interest in the Vision Trip, it has been decided that this trip will be rescheduled to coincide with the February 2015 Nebraska Synod Vision Trip.

The factors that went into this decision:

1. The 2014 trip scheduled so close to the Women's Triennial Gathering.
2. Low number of individuals registered and deposits received.
3. Additional time to promote even though it was promoted at Spring Gatherings, *Expressions* newsletters, Synod Assembly, and at the NSWO State Convention.
4. February date is approximately \$400 cheaper.
5. Travel with the Nebraska Synod Vision Team but NSWO will be able to have separate itinerary.
6. Original date was set to entice more families, youth and/or school personnel, which was not the case.

The dates for the 2015 Nebraska Synod Vision trip is February 2 – 17, 2015. Please watch for additional details in regard to this trip. If interested, please contact Sandy Terry at sterry9415@yahoo.com.

NSWO Communication

- * Looking for more information regarding the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization, then visit our website. Registration forms for upcoming events are there plus more information.—www.nebraskasynod.org/welca
- * Find us on Facebook as "Nebraska Women of the ELCA"—
<http://www.facebook.com/NebraskaWELCA>
- * Send "Shine Your Light" articles and pictures to nsw.expressions@gmail.com

Nebraska Synod Sponsored Trip to Argentina and Uruguay

The following is a copy of an article in the last issue of *Your Nebraska Lutheran*:

24 Years of Walking Together: Argentina and Uruguay

For the past 24 years, the Nebraska Synod has shared a companion synod relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina and Uruguay (Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Unida - IELU).

To further strengthen this relationship, please join us as we visit our brothers and sisters in Argentina and Uruguay on a Nebraska Synod-sponsored trip scheduled for **July 25-Aug. 6, 2014**.

Participants will visit many ministry sites of our companion church such as schools, a home for the elderly, and a facility for individuals living with HIV/AIDS as well as take in the cultural diversity Argentina has to offer. Female participants will have the opportunity to attend the IELU Women's Assembly and accompany them as they discuss women's rights and violence issues.

The cost of the trip is approximately \$3,000 and includes all travel, lodging and most meals. Space is limited, so don't delay. For more information or to obtain a reservation form, please contact Stephanie Lusinski at stephanie@nebraskasynod.org or 402-896-5311



nsw.expressions@gmail.com

mail address

Tanzanian Treasures/Fabric and More

Tanzanian Treasures is a mission project of St Matthew Lutheran Church in Omaha, Nebraska. Our purpose is to provide scholarships for women in Tanzania, East Africa.

We have booths at quilt shows, church events, give programs, teach classes, conduct Tanzanian Fabric, Fun, and Facts, a 3 Day Retreat. We sell Tanzanian fabric, commercial and hand dyed. Some fabric is dyed by our students. We carry batik artwork, clothing, jewelry, aprons, purses, photos, note cards, baskets and more. Mary Mayfield also designs patterns, make samples, and makes kits of the Tanzanian Fabrics. 50% of the price of each item goes to the Women's Scholarship Fund.

Tanzanian Treasures grew out of our partnership with Tella Lutheran Parish which is located 7½ miles up a dirt road on Mt. Kilimanjaro. Scholarships are provided to the Angaza Women's Training Center run by the Women's Work Department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, the Mount Kilimanjaro area in East Africa. We also have a three-year scholarship available to the Machame School of Nursing.

For more information call St Matthew Lutheran Church 402-556-7030 or contact Mary Mayfield, mayfieldim@cox.net 402-778-0291



**Nebraska Synodical
Women of the ELCA,
2013-2015
Elected Board**
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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.)

February

- ___ Share *Expressions* with members
- ___ (J) Send list of new officers after unit elections to Terri Johnson and to Conference Board Representative
- 7-8 – Nebraska Synod God's

- IDEA LifeShine Retreat
- 16-22 – Nebraska Synod Rebuild Joplin Mission Trip
- 21-23 – CWO Conference of Presidents, Chicago, IL
- 22 – Nebraska LMM Annual Meeting
- 23 – Bold's Women's Day
- 28-3/1 – Nebraska Synod God's IDEA High School Retreat
- ___ Publicized/Promote Spring Gathering
- ___ Send Gathering Offering

March

- ___ Publicize/Promote Spring Gatherings
- 1 – Metro East Conference Spring Gathering
- 8 – Southern Prairie Conference Spring Gathering
- 14-15 – Nebraska Synod

Council

- 26 – Northeast Conference Spring Gathering

April

- ___ Publicize/Promote Spring Gatherings
- ___ Remember in prayer the SWO conventions this month
- 1 – *Expressions* deadline
- 5 – Midlands Conference Spring Gathering
- 11-12 – Nebraska Synod PMA Convocation
- 12 – Southeast Conference Spring Gathering
- 12 – Nebraska LMM Board Meeting
- 25 – Central Conference Spring Gathering
- 27-29 – Nebraska Synod Women in Ministry Retreat