



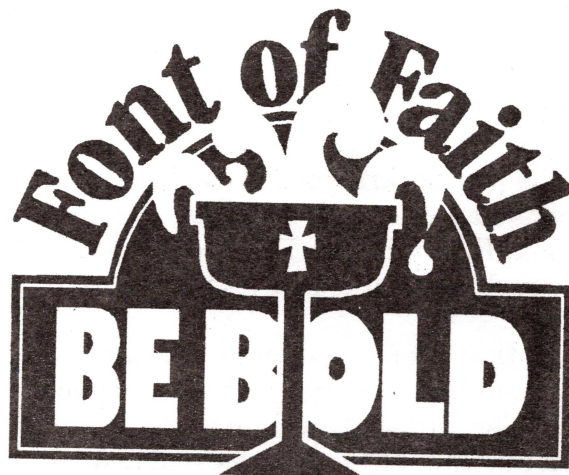
Register NOW For Oct. Convention

Have you registered for convention? If not, the time is now. Exciting bold experiences are awaiting you in Kearney on October 3-5. Consider mailing your registration today. You will:

*** Be anchored in the Word.** Worship with the celebration of Holy Communion is scheduled for Friday with Vicar Catherine Braasch presiding and Sunday with Pastor Sacia Vic. They will also lead Bible study early on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

*** Be bold in Faith.** Jacqueline L. Tobin, author from Colorado, will tell the story of how the slaves used quilts to navigate their escape on the Underground Railroad. In her workshops, she encourages others "to tell their own story."

*** Be refreshed using laughter.** T. Marni Vos, a bold, honest, refreshing humorist will tickle us as she challenges us to have a light heart, free of stress and ready for change.



*** Be soaked in great Christian music.** Music will surround the convention hall as the "Sounds of Celebration" lead us in song during worship, breaks and "fill-in" times.

*** Be energized in mission** at the Mission Fair. Get great ideas for Action, Growth, and Community. Lots of resources will be on hand amid displays of all kinds.

(Continued on p. 4)

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Delegates are Highest Authority

Delegates from congregational units are the highest legislative authority of the Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization. They select the leadership, approve the budget, determine the direction the organization will go for the next two years.

Congregational units need to choose their delegates and certify them by using the Credential Form which will be distributed with their advance packets after Sept. 1. Delegates' primary responsibility is to attend all business sessions of

the convention, from an orientation at 8 a.m. Saturday through the closing at noon Sunday.

When they sign the Credentials List at registration, they should also turn in their completed Travel Vouchers (for those units who have contributed to the Travel Fund.)

If a unit or a group of individual participants has an idea or a project for the Nebraska Women of the ELCA to consider, they can introduce it to the convention by using the

(Continued on p. 4)

A Devotional Study

*By Arlene Johnson, secretary
Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization*

For All the Saints. . .

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest,
Alleluia! Alleluia!

(Hymn #174, green hymnal)

In the past several months we have observed Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Father's Day, and Independence Day. Each special day has brought special memories to me this year.

My father (96+ years) passed away on Good Friday and his memorial service was two days after Easter Sunday, a very meaningful time to have a funeral! I have been blessed to have him with me for so many years.

Like many of you, during these spring holiday observances, I recalled the "Saints" in my life who have witnessed to me and influenced me and I thank God for all of them.

At my father's service we came in singing "Lift High the Cross" (#377, green hymnal) and during the service the Fremont Barbershop Chorus sang "Sweet Hour of Prayer" and "I'll Walk With God" and closed with "Irish Blessing."

My dad was a 22-year member of barbershop singing. He also sang for 55 years in his home church choir. Music was a very important part of his life and as a result, an important part of mine.

Psalm 96, Ephesians 5:19 & 20 and I Corinthians 15:51-58 were all Scripture text used in the service that refer to music and psalms and praising our God through them.

My brother sang "The Trumpet Shall Sound" from Handel's Messiah and the recessional was "Onward Christian Soldiers" I Timothy 6:7-16 (#509, green hymnal). My brothers remember marching out of the sanctuary on Sunday mornings to our respective Sunday School classes following opening exercises to this hymn. (I hadn't remember that but it came back to me when they recalled it as we planned Dad's service.)

Let us pray;

Dear Father in Heaven, Help us to be soldiers for Christ and witness to his saving grace. Thank You for the great cloud of witnesses that have gone on before us. We must Lift up our crosses and labor for your church as the Saints who have gone before us have done.

Amen

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

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

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

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

Send subscriptions to Linda Fuhr, 1158 132nd Rd, Osceola NE 68651. \$4 per year.

Upcoming Events

NSWO Convention

Oct. 3-5

Holiday Inn, Kearney

Winter Retreat

Jan. 24, 2004

St. Paul/ Grand Island

Message from the President

Listen: God is Calling YOU to Kearney on Oct. 3-5 to the biennial NSWOC Convention. We are calling grandmothers, mothers and daughters to BE BOLD and answer your call to join other sisters with an appetite for spiritual growth, for renewal, for fellowship, for learning and for new experiences.

I encourage you to register in groups of three or more. If you can't bring a grandmother or mother or daughter, bring other women, young and old, in your church or broader community. Register now (before Sept. 1st) and enjoy the early bird registration fee of \$80.

Please be assured that the Convention Committee has attempted to keep registration fee to a minimum. Realize that it covers four meals that totals \$43 of the cost. That leaves \$37 for everything else

including the costs associated with the keynote speaker, worship leaders, etc. It is an investment that you will not regret. Memories will be made.

Our goal is to have every Nebraska congregation represented by one or more women. Congregations that have a Women of the ELCA unit can send one official delegate and those that do not have a unit may send one official representative.

Congregational units – please support those interested in participating. A special mailing with convention information has been sent to your congregational unit. Spread the word. Post or distribute the information. Support financially if possible.

Volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks. Give Arlene Johnson a call at 402-527-5500 if you want help.

There is something special for everyone. I hope to see you Oct. 3.

As I am writing this, I am also making mental notes and endless lists to prepare for the trip with Bishop deFreese to Argentina, one of our Companion Synods. Joining me in representing our women's organization will be Kandy Pflaster, High Plains Board rep, her daughter Lindsey Romero, and Pearl Anderson, our Companion Synod appointee to the Board.

We want to thank the Women of the ELCA for this opportunity and look forward to sharing our experiences with you upon our return. We leave July 29 and return Aug. 7please keep our party of 12 in your prayers.

I have found that I take things for granted. At

Ardith Hoins, PO Box 6, Davenport NE 68335
402-364-2142 jahoins@navix.net



the blink of an eye, or nod of your head, life can be changed in an instant.

That fact became painfully evident for the residents of southern Thayer County on June 23. As residents of the communities of Deshler, Byron, Chester and Hubbell drove up and down their streets and roads, they viewed the destruction of four tornadoes that had hovered above their communities the night before. With winds up to 167 miles per hour and rain of 6-12 inches, devastation remains.

Please keep these brothers and sisters in your prayers as well as others in the state who have been attacked by ravaging storms. May they remember what Jesus tells us in Matthew 6: 32-34, "Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. So don't worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today's trouble is enough for today." Live one day at a time!!!

As Erma Bombeck eloquently stated in "If I Had My Life To Live Over" in her book, **Let's Wear Purple Hats**: "Given another shot at life, I would seize every minute....look at it and really set it....live it....and never give it back. Stop sweating the small stuff. Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what. Let's think about what God Has Blessed us with and what we are doing each day to promote ourselves mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually."

Peace Be With You,

Ardi

August, 2003 - 3

Register NOW . . .

(Continued from p. 1)

*** Be supportive through offerings.** Our support will be offered to Operation I.D.E.A., NSWO and Churchwide Women's Organization through Mission offering on Saturday, to Scottsbluff Lakota Center through worship offering on Sunday and to "God's Global Barnyard" through our tangible coin and paper gifts.

*** Be prayful** as you walk the labyrinth. Focusing inwardly, experience a prayful walk on the labyrinth.

*** Be relaxed and exhilarated** with the von Trapps. Bring your best jammies 'cuz the von Trapps will be joining us in song at our Pajama Party on Saturday evening.

*** Be strengthened to share** with your unit all that you have learned. Growth in knowledge about the Women of the ELCA and its various phases will be a tremendous benefit. People, reports, workshops, speakers, displays....all broaden our perspective and experiences.

This is YOUR convention. Many opportunities await you. So mark your calendar for Oct. 3-5 to be in Kearney at Holiday Inn Convention Center. Join us and make memories as a member of the Women of the ELCA.

Join the Choir - Sing on Sunday

Watch for announcements of rehearsal times. Any woman interested is welcome to join in the fun.

Invitation To Visit Tanzania in 2004

The NSWO Board is excited to announce that an invitation has been extended to the women of Nebraska to visit Tanzania in October of 2004. This is your opportunity to learn more of the culture of our sisters in Tanzania. The trip will include visits to ministries of the church and time to worship in one of the churches.

Also we hope to take a safari to visit one or more of the wonderful national parks of Tanzania. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to get to know our companion synod sisters on a personal basis. Stop by the companion synod display at convention and learn more.

4 - August, 2003

NSWO Convention Time Line For Delegates and Visitors

- Aug 15 Delegate Registration deadline
- Sept 1 Book of Reports mailed to Delegates
- Sept 1 Early Bird Registration deadline (\$80)
- Sept 4 Last day for hotel convention room rate
Make own reservation 1-800-248-4460
- Sept 15 Last date to register (\$100)
No refunds after this date.
- Sept 20 Last date for day care registration.
- Sept 23 Submit resolutions
- Oct 4 Delegate orientation 8 a.m.
Required for all delegates

Delegate Authority...

(Continued from p. 1)

Resolution form, which is being mailed with this *Expressions*.

Resolutions may be mailed to President Ardi Hoins, PO Box 6, Davenport, NE 68335 by Sept. 23. Or they may be submitted to the Committee on Reference and Counsel no later than 1 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 4, during the convention.. Resolutions presented at convention must be signed by five delegates.

Business will include election of leadership (officers and a board representative for each conference), approval of a two-year budget, and election of delegates to the Triennial Gathering in San Antonio in 2005.

Companion Synods

Pearl Andersonn
Coordinator
14529 Parker St.
Omaha NE 68154
402-493-6326



As I write this article, Ardith Hoins, Kandy Pflaster, Lindsey Romero and I are preparing for the trip to Argentina. We are looking forward to an interesting and informative time there. Come see the pictures of our trip at the convention in October.

The sisters in Argentina ask for your prayers as they continue to struggle with financial crises, even while carrying out the ministries of the church.

Spring Gatherings Draw 783 Women



Clowns for Christ entertain High Plains with meaningful yet humorous skits.

Total attendance for all seven Spring Gatherings was 783. Offerings totalled \$11,974.47 and were divided 1/2 to Churchwide, 1/4 to NSWO, 1/8 to Companion Synod Vision Fund and 1/8 to World Hunger.

For the later four gatherings, Bishop David deFreese presented Bible Studies at Central and Midlands. Assistants Harold Stromer and Judy Gifford led the studies at Southeast and High Plains, respectively.

President Ardith Hoins and treasurer R. LaDene Rutt reported to all conferences, and assisted others in presenting "Let's Make a BOLD Deal" skits.

Below are details of the last four meetings:

Southeast - 128, \$1,801

A musical program by Luther Memorial/Syracuse featured a bell choir, several singing groups, French horn and piano solos.

Eleanor Gerdes, Auburn, was reelected coordinator. Planning committee, Kitty DeBoer, Fairbury; Connie Wallman, Pickrell; Marian DeBuhr,

Central: Coordinator Beth Cummings, Randi Pennell, Phyllis Erickson, Kim Jacobs, Ingrid Hoper, Iva Thelander.

Beatrice; Evelyn Effken, Cook; Helen Volker, Humboldt. Nominating, Marilee Brinkmeyer, DeWitt; Jackie Ruyle, Beatrice; Sandra K. Smith, Weeping Water; Ellen Oestmann, Johnson.

Tangibles collected for the Syracuse Food Pantry.

Central - 95, \$1009.55.

Beth Townsend, Council Bluffs, Ia., described her work as interpreter for the deaf. Nancy Schroeder told about the ministry to help the Sudanese get started in Grand Island. Tangible offerings were to this ministry.

Beth Cummings was reelected coordinator and Randi Pennell, recorder. Planning committee: Phyllis Erickson, Alane Nelson, Sonia Schmid. Nominating Committee, Kim Jacobs, Michelle Teegerstrom, Iva Thelander.

Midlands - 118, \$1,053.75

The theme was interpreted LISTEN - Lutherans Invite Spiritually Talented Enthusiastic women Now. Sunni Richardson from Nebraska



Southeast: Helen Volker, Jackie Ruyle, Marian DeBuhr, Ellen Oestmann, Coordinator Eleanor Gerdes, Connie Wallman, Evelyn Effken, Sandy Smith.



Midland: Sandra Huser, Dode Miller, Coordinator Marcia Fick, Judy Nygren, Betty Dasenbrock.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries and Crystal Corman from the UNL Lutheran Student Center spoke.

Elected were: Marcia Fick, coordinator; Planning Committee, Betty Dasenbrock, Sandra Husaar, Dorothy Miller, Joanne Miller. Nominating committee, Caroline Caauwe, Darlene Doll, Judy Nygren, Karen Peters.

Tangible offering to Lutheran Student Center and Oakland Area Foot Pantry.

High Plains - 73, \$827.01

The Clowns for Christ ministry team from Omaha performed, and a festive circus theme was used in their honor.

(Continued on p. 6)

August, 2003 - 5

Mission: Growth

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18a NIV

I was born and raised in a Christian family (Lutheran) attending church, Sunday school, and confirmation classes faithfully. Through the years

my mother made sure that we made it to church every Sunday and I continue to go, not because of habit, but because I need it. I need to learn and hear more about God's grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even though I have had the opportunity to grow up in the faith, my faith journey continues to change and hopefully grow stronger because of the opportunities I've taken to learn more through Bible study whether in Sunday school, circle, conventions, assemblies, workshops, Crossways or Inspire series. Even my daily devotions and reading the *Lutheran Women Today* magazine helps my faith to increase. Sometimes I think that the "new Christians" are the lucky ones, such new birth and excitement to learn about Jesus, their enthusiasm shines like a beacon, while my life seems sedentary and the light nearly shines. It is because of this notion that I seek to grow more in my faith.

So that leads me to the information I wish to share with you. About mid-May all of the church units in Nebraska should have received a plastic-wrapped Spring Resource Packet. The packet came to your church, so if there is a box or pigeon hole for the Women of the ELCA mail in your church please look for this information. It contains the revised 2002 edition of the Constitution and Bylaws which you should put in your president's note book. It also contains the 2003 edition Resource Catalog (a supplement) which lists all of the new study resources that became available within the last year. These studies touch on being called by God to take action in

learning about our Global sisters, called to make political, ethical decisions, being like Jonah, and loving unconditionally. You will also find the new *Interchange* subscription form, a clip art sheet and a "What's Coming Up?" sheet that describes the coming year's lessons and asks us to share our ideas in Ideanet and share stories of our faith in Reader Call.

PURPOSE: To provide a variety of learning experiences that strengthen each woman as a whole person, develop her potential and equip her for ministry.

Our new study this fall is entitled "I Thank God for You: Forming Community with Paul" written by

Rev. Dr. Robin Mattison. All the Christians in the first century were new Christians – no one person or community had much more experience at being Christian than the next. Yet Paul

Donna Bathke

Committee Member
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Lincoln NE 68507
402-466-0521
tadbathke3@juno.com



never ceased to give thanks for the witness of these "baby Believers." What a great opportunity to invite someone new to the faith, or new in your church, or a young woman who might feel her faith is the baby stages to join our Bible study this fall. Christ wants us to share our faith stories and his life story with all so that we all can grow in God's grace and knowledge.

Spring Gatherings . . .

(Continued from p. 5)

The day ended with an optional tour of an underground home in a missile silo near Kimball.

Terri Johnson was elected coordinator. Planning committee, Helen Witt, North Platte; Fran Kemp, North Platte; Verda Gibbens, Gothenburg; Denise Warner, Cozad; Peggy Nelson, Potter; Karleen Gramberg, Chadron. Nominating, Lindsey Ramero, Cozad; Shelia Cheleen, Chappell; Reta Pahl, Kimball.

Tangible offerings went to the Clowns for Christ ministry.



GLOBAL HEALTH

Global Health Ministries

Mission Statement

Explanation - GHM Logo

Christians stand before God with empty hands. Through grace God turns our empty hands into instruments of service. The cross represents Jesus' earthly ministry of healing that we are called to continue. The larger cross covers the world and represents God's love for all.

Friends of Global Health Ministries (GHM) help provide a gift of life – both physical and spiritual – through Lutheran health care work across the world. GHM goals are met by providing financial support, shipping of urgently needed medical supplies, assisting in recruiting of medical personnel and funding for training of national health care givers.

Aren't Babies Wonderful? **Midwife Kit Project**

Preparing for the birth of a baby should be a happy experience. In some countries, however, the day to day burden of providing for a growing family can be overwhelming. What if the baby is ill? How do we keep the baby warm? How do we feed another mouth?

When the newborn arrives it may be with the assistance of the local midwife -- if there is one in the area, and if the family will accept her assistance. The midwife has the training and knowledge to handle the delivery but often does not have the very basic equipment, such as a clean cloth for the mother to lie on, a suitable instrument to cut the umbilical cord or a towel to dry and wrap the baby.

Then imagine a baby born at a hospital in your hometown.... How do we bridge the gap between abundance and nothing?

As women in mission we have been challenged to provide "midwife kits" which GHM will send to the areas where they are needed so that the midwives and the new mothers may feel that they are not alone, that someone cares and that they can welcome the babies into a safer world.

Material for this pull-out section compiled by Shirley Daire, Global Advocacy appointee.

Assembling The Kits



ONE MIDWIFE KIT contains:

(Please use new or clean used items in good condition)

- 1 36" square muslin or sheeting
- 1 regular size bath towel (thinner type)
- 1 wash cloth (thin)
- 2 cord ties: 8" narrow lengths of selvage, 1/4" twill tape or heavy white knit/crochet cotton
- 1 bath size bar Ivory soap
- 1 razor blade (single-edge, safety-wrapped), may be purchased at a home improvement store
- 1 newborn stocking cap (keep hand-knit ones very small)
- 1 small cotton-blend or flannel shirt (to waist only as the babies do not wear diapers)
- 1 receiving blanket
- 1 pair plastic or latex gloves (clean, not sterile), NO kitchen gloves

Wrap cord ties, razor blade and gloves in the wash cloth. Pack all items in a 2-gallon Ziploc plastic bag. Squeeze air out of the bag before sealing.

Shipping the Kits

10 to 15 kits to a box can be mailed or delivered to:
Global Health Ministries
7831 Hickory Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55432

Helpful Hints/ Saving Money On Midwife Kits

Muslin or sheeting: Used sheets in good condition can be cut to size.

Bath towel: Check with local hotels about towels. Maybe they have some that are not "up to standard." Or look for bargains in discount stores.

Wash cloth: Some stores have bundles of 12 or 18 for around \$5.

Cord ties: You can cut an abundance from a skein of heavy white cotton knit/crochet yarn.

Stocking cap: Cut a strip of knit fabric lengthwise about 8" wide, fold in half, sew or serge. Cut the sewn strip into pieces about 8" long. Gather the top and fold the other end up.

Shirt: Sew from flannel. Or buy nice-looking light terry or knit sleepers at garage sales or second-hand stores. They must be cut just above the crotch and hemmed.

Receiving blanket: The cheapest are probably the 5- or 6-pack available at some discount stores. But even better, you may find some almost new flannel sheets at a second-hand store. Cut them to size and serge or finish with a close zigzag around the edge.

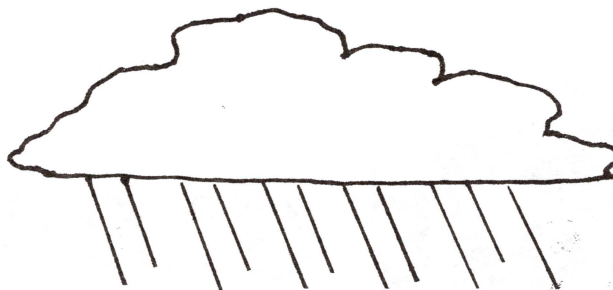
Rolled Bandage Project

Commercial bandages are often expensive and in short supply, so rolled bandages are needed in many countries. They are made from rolled strips of used bed sheets, white or of any color, any cotton or cotton blend material is suitable.

Material should be washed before beginning. Rip the material into strips two-four inches wide; sew ends together and assemble strips into rolls about 1-2 inches in diameter. Secure with tape to keep the bandages from unrolling.

FREE: learn about women's issues!

Write and order:
LWF Women magazine
P.O. Box 2100, 1211 Geneva 2 Switzerland
e-mail: prs@lutheranworld.org



Safe Water For All

A mission education guide teaching the value of clean water and the need to help others have safe water contains the following sections:

Background Information

Overview

Session 1: Are You Thirsty?

Session 2: Digging a Well

Session 3: Bringing Water Home

Session 4: Dirty Water Won't Do

Session 5: Precious Water

Session 6: Life-Saving Water

You may order these materials and find much more information by using your computer www.ghm.org or by contacting GHM, 7831 Hickory St. NE, Minneapolis MN 55432-2500

Lutheran Immigration and Refuge Service

LIRS's mission statement says, "in response to God's love in Christ, we welcome the stranger, bringing new hope and life through ministries of service and justice."

This is done by:

Resettling refugees

Helping vulnerable immigrants needing legal, asylum, and support services.

Helping congregations to resettle refugees.

Resettling children without families

Job training for refugees

Helping U.S. citizens stranded overseas due to illness or other crisis.

We can be involved by speaking up on legislative issues that affect refugees and helping refugee families get established in our communities.

For more information: www.lirs.org
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
700 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 21230
410-230-2700

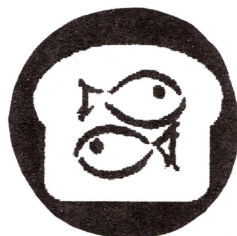
Lutheran Office For Governmental Affairs

This is YOUR chance to express your opinion to our state and national legislators! Issues that affect local and world wide, such as advocacy in justice needs, hunger, needs of children, conflict/peace situations, and the environment. Writing letters, sending emails and even a telephone call can alert members of our government to a need for action.

Our local resource for information and advice can be found in the Nebraska Synod's Office of Justice Ministries (formerly - Public Policy)

Mr. Chuck Bentjen
4701 Briarpark Dr. # 59
Lincoln NE 68516
402-450-1003
email: cbentjen2000@yahoo.com
moreinfo: www.nejusticemin.org

Bread for the World



- Seeking Justice, Ending Hunger -

This Christian organization strives to be an important voice in ending hunger in our world. They work with us in three main ways:

1. Use resources to influence legislation on hunger issues - both in the U.S. and for world food policies.
2. Do hunger research.
3. Create educational materials for us to use in our women's units and in the congregation.

One great resource is:

"Agriculture in the Global Economy: Hunger 2003." It costs \$20 for non-members.

Or

Contact them and ask for the Background Paper #164, Mar, 2003, entitled:

"Agriculture in the Global Economy: Hunger 2003"

Bread for the World also tells us actions we can take to aid in ending hunger in our world. Get on their newsletter list: 1-800-82-BREAD or check out their web: www.bread.org



As members of a congregation we hear about the ELCA World Hunger appeal, and give our offerings, but do you know all the ways your dollars go?

* They provide direct relief to families in extreme poverty.

* Dollars are used for projects to help families

and communities break the cycle of poverty. Animal or gardening projects might be an example.

* Advocates for justice in government policies and works with other groups such as LOGA and Bread for the World.

* Educates-- offers us material to learn about hunger causes and solutions and sponsors gatherings for us to come and learn.

Three groups receive funding from these monies:

**Lutheran World Relief and
Lutheran World Federation**

receive 60% of the budget for their work.

Stand With Africa

Lutheran Disaster Response

are funded by the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod World Relief.

Lutheran World Relief

You all know about the regular ways we serve this vital ministry - making quilts and many kinds of kits. They are sent to refugees and needy people around the world.

Did you know:

You can subscribe to the "LWR Journal" and stay better informed?

You can sell LWR Handcraft projects? This is a way for people to have work and support their families and for you to earn money to support the ministries of your group.

Buy Tanzanian coffee to use in the congregation and at home and help coffee farmers get a better price for their beans. You will learn more about this at convention, but you can start now by getting information from LWR by telephoning 1-800-LWR-LWR2 or logging on to www.lwr.org/coffee

ELCA international Disaster Response

ELCA domestic Disaster Response

World Hunger Appeal supports world and local disasters. On the local level Nebraska congregations are now getting involved with evaluating how they can be prepared to help their communities in the event of a disaster. What gifts do members have, how can we be better prepared?

Lutheran Family Services (Rev. Roger Kruger, Partners in Caring office in Omaha) directs the program. Regional coordinators have been appointed for each area. We women are great at volunteering, learning and coordinating preparation efforts. Such things as food preparation and shelter for families affected, food kitchens, day care of children and pets, transportation, clean up, etc.....all are part of a response to disaster. Let your pastor or council members know that you want to be involved in this process.

There are many, many other justice issues and ministries that call for caring women and men! Just to name a few:

Church World Service asks us to be involved in programs to

Ban Landmines,
Recovery Ministry in Afghanistan
and many others.

Contact: Church World Service 1-800-297-1516 or www.churchworldservice.org

Heifer International offers a great educational program in ending hunger and poverty for families worldwide through the purchase of farm animals. Their farm in Arkansas is a great place to take your family or youth group!

Contact: Heifer Project International
1015 Louisiana St.
Little Rock, AR 72202
1-800-422-0474 or www.heifer.org



Nebraska's Jim Bowman is LWR editor for the **"Africa Advocacy"** newsletter.

Information in the newsletter helps you know the latest scoop and action needed for **"Stand With Africa,"** a three-year campaign to support African churches and communities as they withstand AIDS, banish hunger and build peace.

Get more information – how can you be part of this vital task and partners with our African sisters in their struggle? Above all pray regularly for them! Speak out for them as the U.S. government makes decisions that touch their lives.

To subscribe: Jim Bowman,
LWR Office of Public Policy
700 Light Street
Baltimore MD 21230



Change of Address:

Pastora Judith VanOsdol-Hansen
cc 6 Suc. 19
1419 Villa Devoto
Capital Federal
Argentina

(Pastora Judith's birthday is March 2)

LWR Lists Needs

Quilts, health kits and school kits are especially needed around the world at this time. Clothing, layettes, soap and other kits will also be welcome. Wilma Steinman, LWR coordinator, writes "I hope every congregation will make a special effort to assist our neighbors in need."

Date for the 2003 Ingathering is Nov. 10-14. Information about collection sites will be sent to each congregation.

Instructions for making quilts and assembling school kits, health kits, sewing kits, and layettes are found in the BE INVOLVED! LWR Parish Projects brochure, which can be ordered by calling 1-800-LWR-LWR2.

Steinman reports that in 2002 Nebraska shipped eight semi-trailer loads of quilts, parish projects, used clothing and soap to LWR.

When you have time, visit the website at www.interviewwithgod.com.

Win Scholarships

Seven scholarships for the NSWO Convention have been awarded.

First-timer scholarship winners are Evelyn Balke, Shepherd of the Hills/Hickman, Julie Ann Deepe, Peace/Deshler; Jean Jones, Calvary/Stromsburg; Marianna Moss, St. Matthew/Johnson; Denise Werner, American/Cozad.

Lindsey Romero, American/Cozad, is the 25 and younger recipient and Joanne Shottenkirk, First St. Paul/Hastings, the differently abled.

Thanks, High Plains

A heartfelt thank you to High Plains women who responded to the need of a Native American woman from the Lakota Lutheran Center. Through your caring generosity at Spring Gathering, this woman was able to purchase the ingredients for Indian tacos, which she sold to raise money for a grave marker

Herb Brokering Set for Retreat

Herb Brokering, staff associate for Wheat Ridge Ministries whose roots are in southeastern Nebraska, has accepted an invitation to lead the 2004 NSWO Winter Retreat on Jan. 24 at St. Paul/Grand Island.

Brokering is a pastor, author of more than 40 books, song writer and script writer for national radio programs. He has guided more than 100 pilgrimage groups into east central Europe, and hosted youth groups from East Germany in the United States.

For Wheat Ridge, he conducts health and healing workshops and directs partner projects for peace building.

on her family's burial plot.

We don't always know the outcome of situations that we respond to and I wanted to take this opportunity to share the happy ending to this story.

Nancy Steele, PMA,
Calvary/Scottsbluff

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Saved To Serve Benefits Tabitha/York Clients



Sis Jensen prepares flower pots for delivery to homes.

**By Louise Wheeler,
Saved To Serve Coordinator**

An enthusiastic group of 21 women from the Women of the ELCA and several representatives of Tabitha met in York on June 6-8 for another Saved to Serve adventure.

Everyone jumped right into the projects and an amazing amount was accomplished!

Fifty-six dozen cookies were baked and 27 flowering plants potted to be delivered to Tabitha clients. Four teams of women went to several homes and cleaned, did yard work, washed windows, or whatever the cli-

ent wanted to have done.

Other women made rice heat pads and neck warmers, hospital gowns, cancer turbans, walker attachments and other items for Tabitha.

On Saturday night we all went to the Gospel Music Festival in Henderson. What a treat!

Thanks to all of you there were 238 stuffed bears collected! There is also lots of fabric left if anyone would like to take on a sewing project.

Many thanks goes to the Tabitha staff, First Lutheran in York for letting us use their facility and for the hospitality on Sunday, Jeanette Richardson for the delicious breakfast and local support, and to all of

you who participated by coming and by sending materials.



Sandra Olson helps bake 57 dozen cookies to distribute.

Events for 2004 in Wayne, Blair

The 2004 Saved to Serve events are already in the preparation stages.

At this time we are planning one at Wayne State College for the ministry there. It will probably be in the spring of 2004, and will involve painting, wall-papering, redecorating and such.

The second event is being

scheduled for September 2004 at the Good Shepherd Home in Blair. We are trying to organize a "Prom" type event. It will be great fun! You will have a chance to bring out your sequins, beads, and boas and we will put on a pretty party!

Thanks to everyone who continues to make this program such a great one!



Evelyn Effken, Loretta Feistner and Cindy Thompson work at making items for Tabitha.



Jeanette Richardson helps arrange some of the 238 Teddy Bears donated for clients.

Catalog

NSWO Devotions - Programs - Skits - Videos

Collected by Mission: Community

Devotions

A Healing Devotion - (1 page)

Create a Thankoffering Devotion. (4 pages) Tells how to write a devotion

Devotional Lord's Prayer - (1 page) leader and people

Give Thanks for the Gifts - (1 page)

India - the Poor Feed the Poorest - (1/2 page)

Litany for Peacemakers - (1/2 page) leader and people

Litany of Kindness - (1 page)

Litany of Seeking - (1 page)

Meditation for Political Holiday - (1 page)

Potholder Devotions - (1 page)

Praying Stress Away with the Lord's Prayer - (1 page) individual or group

Rachel's Day - Litany for Children (also much info. for 1st Sunday in May)

The Unshakable - (1 page) - Reconciliation through Christ

**This is
A KEEPER
Please File 3 Pages
for Future Reference**

New Ordering Policy

According to action of the NSWO Board in April, people requesting skits, programs, devotionals and banner patterns will be expected to pay for the copying and mailing.

Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope with 1 stamp for each 5 pages you request, plus a payment of 10 cents for copying each page. If enclosing a check please make it payable to Women of the ELCA."

Videos may be borrowed for postage of \$2.50. You are expected to show and return them promptly.

Send all orders to:

**Sandy Smith, Resource Coordinator,
Box 409, Weeping Water Ne 68463. 402-267-6525**

Programs

Alphabetical Christian Service - (2 pages)
- Heavenly A-B-C's

Biblical Reflection on the Commandments
- (2 pages)

Christmas Heritage Tour
(Requires research of Christmas customs)

Christmas Program - (4 pages) - reading and song

Experience the Joy of Mentoring - (4 pages)

I am a Christian - (1 page reading)

Rachel's Day - 1st Sunday in May, much information; includes Litany for Children

Waiting, Waiting - (8 pages) 4-week Advent service (costumes and music.)

The Warmth of Mother's Kitchen - (6 pages)

Different cooking aids of the ages

August, 2003 - 9

- Skits - Skits - Skits - Skits - Skits - Skits - Skits - Skits

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <i>Adam and Eve - Outside the Garden of Eden</i> - (2 pages)
2 people | <i>God Who Fights for You</i>
(5+ pages) - Faith | <i>One Dollar</i> (1+ pages)
2 persons - Giving |
| <i>And God Came Near</i> - (3 pages)
5 person & narrator - Stewardship | <i>Great Expectations</i>
(1+ pages) 2 persons - Changing thoughts | <i>Our Father's Garden</i>
(4+ pages with song) up to 13 persons - "flowers" |
| <i>Be Like Salt</i> - (3+ pages)
3 persons - Evangelism | <i>Group Stages-Cluster Daze</i>
(3 pages) 9 people - Acceptance of WELCA | <i>Our Special God-given Gifts</i>
(5 pages with song) - Gifts and talents |
| <i>The 'Bored Meeting'</i> - (5 Pages)
7 persons - Funny board meeting | <i>Happy Birthday to Us</i>
(3 pages) - Honor WELCA and LMM | <i>The Park Bench</i> (5 pages)
5 women - Problem Solving |
| <i>Busy Signals</i> - (3 pages) - Busy signals when God calls | <i>Heritage of Hymns</i> - (2 pages with 7 songs) - Trip through hymnal with old hymns | <i>Passing on Our Gifts</i> (5+ pages with songs) 15 persons - Passing on our talents |
| <i>Bible Study</i> - (1 page) 2 persons - Why study Bible | <i>If God Could Speak</i> - (4 pgs.) 2 persons - Explanation of phrases in Lord's Prayer | <i>A Pinch of Salt</i> (6 pages with devotions) 7 women - Contributing to women's group |
| <i>The Chosen Vessel</i> - (1 page) 7 persons - Talents | <i>Is There a Second to that Motion</i> - (4 pages) - Pay attention at meeting | <i>Rich Women, Poor Women</i> (2 page) 2 women - Comparison |
| <i>A Cloud of Witnesses</i> - (6 pages) - Celebration of Lutheran women | <i>Journaling: A Spiritual Discipline</i> - (6 pages) - Describes the activity | <i>The Rock Group</i> (3 pages with songs) 7 persons - Importance of each person |
| <i>Cups</i> - (3+ pages) 13 persons - Personalities | <i>The Joy Goes On...With Thanks</i> - (2 pages) - Thankoffering | <i>The Sacrifice</i> (2 pages) 3 persons - Living your life for God |
| <i>Day 39 and Counting</i> - (7 pages) 2 persons - Growing with change (Mrs. Noah) | <i>Katie's Fund Skit</i> - (4 pages) 2 persons - Giving | <i>Sisters in a Struggle</i> (3 pages) 3 persons - Women stand together |
| <i>Dem Bones</i> - (6 pages) - Body parts & Bible verses | <i>Little Red Riding Hood Comes of Age</i> (3 pages) 6 persons - Mission groups | <i>Sleeping Beauty</i> (6 pages) 4 persons - God's Spirit |
| <i>Devil Is Chasing Me</i> - (2 pages) 2 persons - Asking for God's care | <i>Long Live the Lutheran Cookie</i> (1 page) - Tribute to cookie bakers | <i>A Spiritual Gift</i> (25 pages) - Taking a spiritual inventor |
| <i>Did We Sing That</i> (4 pages) group of 11 - Songs and actions | <i>Mailbox Missionary Skit</i> (4 pages) 4 persons - Evangelism | <i>Stations of the Cross</i> (5 pages with songs) - Easter |
| <i>Do's and Don'ts of Leadership</i> (1 page) | <i>New Ways for New Days</i> (4 pages) 4 persons - Need and suffering | <i>The Tator Family</i> (3 pages) 7 women - Purpose of WELCA |
| <i>Dressed For Success</i> (6 pgs) - Humorous Style Show | | <i>Ten Lutheran Women</i> (4 pages) 11 women - Faith |

Skits - Skits - Skits

Twelve Days of Summer - (1 page) FUNNY - FUNNY and FUN - to "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

Two Children, Two Lives (1 page) 2 children - Comparison

Up the Creek with the Wrong Paddle (4 pages) 7 women - Teamwork

We Ain't Got a Barrel of Money (4 pages) 9 people - Faith

We Are the Women (5+ pages) 8 persons - Faith

We Light the Candles (2+ pages with songs) 6 persons - Advent

What's Brewin' in the Hen House? (2 pages) 6 persons - Merger ALC and WELCA

Women of the ELCA (1 page) - Mission groups

Women of the ELCA is Like. .. (2 pages) - Compares to products

Banner Patterns

Advent

Let Earth Receive Her King

All Occasion

Lift Ye Up a Banner

Anew

We are the New Creation

Christmas

Behold

Glory to God in the Highest

Communion

Partake & Remember

Come to the Table

Confirmation

Stand Firm

Take My Life

Easter

Risen Indeed

Once for All

Education

Teach Me, Lord

Funeral

Today With Me

Lent

Take Up Your Cross

Marriage

Two Become One

Palm Sunday

Hosanna

Worship

We Adore Thee

Videos - Videos

Introductions to Triennial

A Chance of a Lifetime
10 min.

Proclaim God's Peace
10 min.

Live God's Justice
13 min.

General

Gift of Grace

Informational Video made by High Plains

Joyful, Thankful, Prayerful

Style Show from MetroEast

A Vision of Human Dignity - SERRV

A Wondrous Tapestry

Women Helping Women Help Themselves

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

Mail check to: Linda Fuhr, 1158 132nd Rd., Osceola NE 68651

August, 2003 - 11

Check List for Congregational Units

To Do Every Month

- ☐ Remind women to use their Thankoffering boxes
- ☐ Share information received from SWO and CWO
- ☐ Send offerings to synodical treasurer

To Do on Specific Months

(S applies to units whose year starts in September - J to those starting in January)

August

- ☐ Share *Expressions* with members.
- ☐ Promote Convention
- ☐ 15 - Delegate Reg. Deadline
- ☐ (S) Send list of officers to Linda Fuhr, 1158 132nd

Rd, Osceola NE 68651 or
lfuhr@alltel.net

September

- ☐ 1 - Early Bird Registration deadline, NSWOW Conv.
- ☐ Plan convention offerings.
- ☐ 4 - Last day hotel room rates
- ☐ 15 - Final registration date
- ☐ 20 - Reg. deadline for daycare
- ☐ Send news to *Expressions*
- ☐ (S) Did you send officers to Linda?

October

- ☐ 1 - *Expressions* deadline
- ☐ 3-5 NSWOW Convention
- ☐ (J) Elect officers
- ☐ (J) Send list of officers to Linda Fuhr, address above.

- ☐ Prepare kits, blankets, etc., for LWR

November

- ☐ (J) Plan yearbooks
- ☐ 7 - World Community Day
- ☐ 10-14 - LWR Pickup
- ☐ Hold Thankoffering Service

Please Share Ideas

Heard an interesting speaker or other program recently? Please let Sandy Smith know, as she is compiling a new list of resources for units.

Sandy Smith, Box 409,
Weeping Water NE 68463.
402-267-6525.

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