



## Telling Jesus' Story Is Focus of Retreat

Various ways of "Telling the Story of Jesus and His Love" will be featured at the NSWO Winter Retreat on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2007, at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Grand Island.

The theme verse is from Col 1:28 (NRSV): *"It is He whom we proclaim."*

The Rev. Dr. Mary E. Jensen, pastor of Prince of Peace/Lincoln, will give an illustrated presentation on what it is like to be a Lutheran Christian in Jerusalem today.

Jensen, who has been in and out of the Middle East for 20 years, working in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, will use stories and pictures to provide insights into life in the Middle East today. From 2002-2004 Jensen assisted the Lutheran bishop in Jerusalem by coordinating com-



**Dr. Mary E. Jensen with Maya, child of long-time Palestinian friends.**

munications for six Palestinian Lutheran congregations and six Lutheran schools.

Her presentation will be in the morning.

In the afternoon, the "Women of the Bible Quilt" will be presented by members of the NSWO board, with each block of the quilt coming to life with the portrayal of a Biblical woman.

Other ways of telling the story, through song, activities and prayer, will also be experienced.

(Continued on Page 5)

## Renewals Explore Racial Bias

About 200 women attended the Autumn Renewals in Fremont and Alliance, going home with a better understanding of the challenges faced by people whose cultures vary from the majority.

Women were seated by colors of name tags, and asked to share stories about their cultural backgrounds.

Leaders were Mary Ann Johnson, NSWO Anti-Racism chair; and the Rev. Maria (Liz) Conner, pastor of Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey, Omaha. The Rev. Julie Tillberg, Hosannah/Plattsmouth, led devotions at Fremont, basing her comments on the story of Jesus talking to the Samaritan woman at the well, when

any contact between Jews and Samaritans was taboo.

Johnson, who is executive director of Project Hope, a Lutheran-sponsored food pantry in North Omaha, said hav-

(Continued on Page 4)



**Pr. Helen King of Fontenelle Church/Omaha visits with another participant.**

### Inside . . .

<b>Devotions . . . . .</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>President . . . . .</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Spring Gatherings 4</b>	
<b>Mission Growth. . . 6</b>	
<b>Companion Synods 7</b>	
<b>Saved To Serve . . . 8</b>	
<b>LWR . . . . .</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Light . . . . .</b>	<b>11</b>