#### WOMEN

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



# Celebrate with us at Convention

The Convention Team is looking forward to celebrating with all of you next month at the



Patricia Lorenz

ennial Convention in Kearney, Sept. 21-23. They hope to make this convention celebrating 20 years of Women of the ELCA one of the

larger in convention attendance.

They are particularly excited about the keynote speaker, Patricia Lorenz, whose "Chicken Soup" stories have delighted so

Eighth Bi-

many. Other highlights of this convention which they have spent two years in planning will include reports from Carmen Richards of North

Dakota, president of Women ٥f the ELCA.

The Rev. Sandy Jones, who served an internship with the Lutheran Church in



Carmen Richards

Argentina (IELU) will talk about that country. Bishop David deFreese will lead the Bible study and Pastor Megan Morrow of Lexington will serve as chaplain.

Descriptions of the workshops which will be available are on page 8.

Members of the Convention Team are Gwen Edwards, chair; Carol Bosshardt, Diane Bauer, Beth Rippe, Lynn Strate and Beth Meyer (ad hoc).

The convention worship offering will be divided equally among women seminarians from Nebraska, One-half of the mission offering goes to CWO, the other half will be split between new mission congregations in Columbus and Omaha.

Tangible offerings will go to projects in Argentina and Tanzania.

Registration forms are being mailed with this Expressions and are available on the NSWO website.

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Catalog-Programs, Videos, Skits Between Pages 6 and 7

## **NSWO** Website Grows in Uses

The NSWO website, www. been updated recently to include information regarding the August Saved To Serve event and the biennial conven-23,467 clicks (hits) on the site Edwards, NSWO vice president. since May 4.

capability to post more information, including but not limmation, women pastor information and photo albums.

Our websteward would like nebraskaelcawomen.org, has to begin working on the photo albums. So send your pictures from Spring Gatherings and other events to nswo@nebraska elcawomen.org or you can mail tion. As of July 10 we had had a  $\,\mathrm{CD}\,$  of pictures to  $\,\mathrm{Gwen}\,$ 

Registration forms have also With this site we have the been posted. We hope to include other documents as well.

Is there something you would ited to women's health infor- like to see posted? Contact our websteward, we are looking forward to hearing from you.

## A Devotional Study

By Judy Stahlecker

Northeast Board Representative Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization

## Don't Overlook Little Acts of Kindness

"The Lord bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." Ruth 2:20 (Life Application Study Bible)

Calvin Coolidge was invited to a dinner. After he had excused himself for the evening, the host expressed his belief that Coolidge would make a good president. The other guests disagreed because they believed he was too quiet and lacked charisma and personality. He just wasn't likeable enough. Just then little 6-year-old Anne spoke up and said that she really liked him because he was the only one at the party who asked about her sore finger.

Anne had a good point. While asking a little girl about her sore finger isn't necessarily qualification for the presidency, a spirit of kindness certainly is. Kindness is the sincere expression of love and it makes those around you feel loved and valuable.

Opportunities to show kindness abound. If someone were to pay you 10 cents for every kindness you have ever shown and you were assessed a nickel for every unkind word or action, would you be rich or poor?

Smile at those you meet -- it is the universal language of kindness.

Use the words "please" and "thank you" at every opportunity.

Show concern for those with little hurts as well

as big ones. Allow other to go ahead of you in the check-out lines or to change lanes in heavy traffic. Open the door for someone going into the same building as you. Say "Hello" to people you meet on the street or in the hall.

I know -- you're thinking this is all a bit simplistic. And you are right. However, a sensitive expression of concern makes a positive impression. Simple? Maybe. Effective? No doubt. It's the consistency of our little acts of kindness that cause people to detect a pleasant aroma about us wherever we go.

"Spread your love everywhere you go," encouraged Mother Teresa. "First of all in your own house. Give love to your children, to your wife or husband, to a next-door neighbor. . . let no one ever come to you without leaving better and happier. Be the living expression of God's kindness: kindness in your face, kindness in your eyes, kindness in your smile, kindness in you warm greeting."

Let us pray. Kind and loving Father, help each of us to show kindness where we go and in whatever we do. 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 data

month preceding the issue date.
Editor: Beth Bohling, 1345 North Commercial, Superior NE 68978-1023 Phone: 402-879-3494 e-mail: beth.b@windstream.net

Send subscriptions to JoAnn Rohrs, 1409 10th St., Auburn NE 68305 \$4 per year. Make check to NSWO.

**NSWO** Convention Sept. 21-23, 2007

Winter Retreat Jan. 19, 2008

### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Have you ever been to a garage sale where they have offered some "free" items? They may decorate a box or put up a fancy sign with balloons to make the items look attractive. Have you watched the people seeking to find something of value to them at no cost? God has offered us something free. It isn't sitting there in decorated box, but the offer has been extended to the people for centuries. Jesus' death made it possible for all believers to have eternal life as a free gift.

How good are we at spreading this good news of the Gospel to our neighbors and our friends? It is our responsibility as Christians to be a disciple for Christ. How is your discipleship? Do you make it look attractive through the way you live your life?



Our Christian example is so important in the way we deal with all of God's children and that would include the women in congregational units that may want to try something new or want to start a new group. Are the women in your church units being good disciples in sharing what is taking place in your Women on the ELCA groups? It saddens me when I hear that there are still women saying that we can't do it that way because we have always done it this way. If we do this much longer we will no longer have any Women of the ELCA groups - no one will want to join and the group will die. Plain and simple women – we have to get over it and get off our high horse. Be willing to make the necessary changes in your lives and in your units. I want to hear from women that want to share their stories telling me of the exciting new things they have tried attracting members of their congregations, women who have never attended a 'Women of the ELCA' meeting, bible study or other kind of women's fellowship.

- Have you invited a Sunday school class to come and help you bake cookies at the church?
- Have you talked with the youth group to see if they could help you serve a dinner or serve as ushers for an event?
- Have you considered having a "stress free afternoon" for mothers of preschoolers? If they don't see what we do they won't know what we are all about. We women are so good about doing service, but now it is time to step up and be good disciples. Spread the good news of how great the organization of Women of the ELCA is and publicize the great things that they accomplish.

Please read the second part of Executive Director, Linda Post Bushkofsky's "State of the Ministry" article printed in this *Expressions*. If you missed the first part, the whole article is posted on our website and article is a control of the posted on the second part of the sec

The Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization's convention will be here soon. Please, get a delegate registered early so she can get her packet and be prepared for the convention. Each congregation should have a delegate there.

Have you thought about going to the Triennial Convention and Gathering in Salt Lake City UT?

Called and saying yes!

Beth Meyer
2051 Fairacres Dr.
Fremont NE 68025-273 6
402-721-3053
tmeyer10@neb'rr.com

# **Spring Gatherings Attendance: 821**

Total attendance at the seven Spring Gatherings was 821, with offerings at the sites amounting to \$11,128.

At the three April gatherings, President Beth Meyer and Treasurer JoAnn Rohrs gave their reports, and a skit celebrating the 10 years of Saved to Serve was presented.

Bishop David deFreese led Bible Study for two of the April gatherings, those at Southern Prairie and Northeast.

Here are details about those gatherings. See the May *Expressions* for March gatherings.

**Southern Prairie** - 106, \$1,758.70

Three women, Diane Kelly, Liz Laursen and Regina Hansen shared how their faith had brought them through difficult life experiences. A healing service was led by Pastor Evelyn Phillips, Bethany/Ruskin.

A litany of thanks for Women of Faith included special music by Jane Blum and Carol Loschen.

Other music wes provided by the Bottle Band from Trinity/Hildreth, host church.

Tangible gifts were given to Mosaic.

Election: Coordinator, Linca Fangmeyer, Peace/Deshler. Planning committee, Arlene Hjelm, Peace/Alma; Mona Mueller, First St. Paul/Hastings; Sandy Bostock, St. Paul/Blue Hill; Diane Kelly, Trinity/Holdrege. Nominating committee, Ilene Tegtman, Trinity/Stamford; Carol Bosshardt, First St. Paul/Hastings; Linda Kirchhoff, St. Paul/Hardy.

**High Plains** --75, \$1,246.21

The gathering was at Sullivan Hills camp near Lodgepole. It was the first visit to the camp for many of the women, who took advantage of nice weather to explore. The tangible offering was given to Sullivan Hills.

Bible study was led by Pastor Will Voss of Lakota Indian Center, Scottsbluff. Featured speaker was Robin Tjosvold, who told of her experiences as a nurse and a part of a Hospice team. She said Hospice helps patients face the reality of death without fear.

Special music was provided by a Colorado barbershop group, the Sterling Silver Quartet.

Election: Coordinator, Laurie Schmidt, Immanuel/Chadron. Planning committee, Lois Branting, Maria/Hershey; Leslie Marchando-Cook,, Holy Trinity/Sidney; Elsie Vincent, First English/Kimball; Eileen West, St. John/Alliance. Nominating committee, Twila Johnson, Berea/ Chappell, and Vicki Morlock, Gloria Dei/Lodgepole.

Northeast - 122, \$2,226

Those attending the Northeast gathering had their choice of two sessions from four presented by Sue Stover, AIM, the Rev. Karen Tjarks; the Rev. Gretchen Ritola and the NSWO officers. The first three told their faith stories; the officers conducted leadership training.

Alice Dietz portrayed Fanny Crosby, a blind Christian poet of the 1880's. Several of her poems which had been set to music were sung.

Diane Kelly, director of Nebraska Campus Ministry, talked about the organization's 100 years, and Julia Shear of Wayne Campus Ministry thanked the women for their tangible gifts.

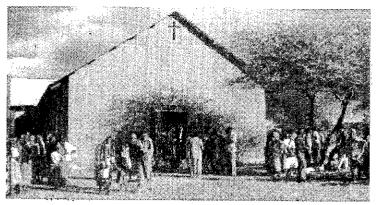
Election: Coordinator, Phyllis Rahn, Our Savior/Wayne. Planning committee, Marilyn Leonard, St. Mark/Pender; Mae Greve, Salem/Wakefield; Lyle Swanson, Concordia/Concord; Shirley Kehne, Zion/Creighton. Nominating committee, Carole Nordby, Trinity/Hartington; Lorrain Marvin, St. Mark/Bloomfield; Sandy Boots, Grace/West Point; Mae Greve, Salem/Wakefield.



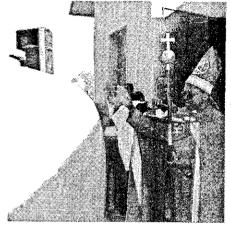
High Plains Planning Committee, Lois Branting, Leslie Cook. Nominating Committee, Twila Johnson; Coordinator Laurie Schmidt.



Northeast Planning Committee Carole Nordby, Janice Roeben, Marlyn Leonard, Shirley Kehne, Lyle Swanson, Mae Greve, Phyllis Rahn (Coordinator).







# Water Project in Tanzania

Anyone who donated to the "A Drop in the Bucket" project at the 2005 NSWO Convention has a stake in the Mibuyu Miwili Water Project recently dedicated in Tanzania. A new church built there has a tin roof which is constructed so that rainwater flows into a cement tank, providing clean water

where little is available.

More than \$5,300 collected from the sale of bottles of water at the convention was donated to this project. A like amount went to a project in Argentina.

The pictures show the church, the spout which carries the water to a tank, and the dedication of the water jar.

# **Try Exercising for Spiritual Fitness**

Every day in some way or another we hear or read the word "exercise." We are to do exercises for various reasons, like for our physical health, mental stress, just to stay fit, etc. Many people

## Mission: Growth

Carolyn Schlake 1520 Darwin St. Beatrice NE 68310 402-228-9646



are very faithful when it comes to exercising, then then there are those who get lax as time goes on.

Imentioned we exercise to stay fit healthwise, but do we stay spiritually fit as we go along, or do we get lax in this area also as we go about our busy lives?

Here are five steps of a spiritual fitness plan to keep us spiritually healthy:

1. Read your Bible every day and think about what God is telling you through His word. The Bible is a very interesting book to read.

- 2. Spend time in prayer every day. Get up early enough to give yourself some time to talk to God and continue to talk to Him throughout the day. Think about the little things in your life and thank God for them.
- 3. In your prayers, remember the ones who have special needs and cares. That list is always long.
- 4. Do at least one thing for someone each day. Appreciate the little blessings of daily life and then think about how you can multiply the harvest of happiness by sharing these gifts with others. It will make their day and will help to make yours, too.
- 5. As you go about your work and other activities in life, ask yourself, "Would this be pleasing to God?"

The list for a Spiritual Fitness Plan could go on and on, but the five that are mentioned are a good start. In Corinthinas 9:24-27, Paul writes about athletes who train hard. The athlete doesn't just want to be fit, they want to win. Use the five spiritual fitness steps to train yourself spiritually so as to not be disqualified for the prize of eternal life.

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## Give to Vision Fund Project Discontinued

Summer 2007 is in full swing and the summer of 2008 seems a long time from now. But when planning for the visit from our companion synod sisters in the fall of 2008, the time will be here all too soon.

## Companion **Synods**

Pearl Anderson 14529 Parker St. Omaha NE 68154 4302-493-6236 pja@phoneet.com



We will need to purchase the airline tickets for our guests in August of 2008. By that time the Vision Fund will need approximately \$15,000 to pay for airline tickets, ground transportation, motel rooms and meals while the women are here.

We can reach this goal if each unit will send a contribution to the Vision Fund.

Send your contribution to the NSWO treasurer, JoAnn Rohrs, noting on the check that it is for the Vision Fund.

We will want to make this vision trip not only informative, but also a memorable one for our Companion Synod sisters. It is through the vision trips that we gain a better understanding of each other's culture, and that relationships are built.

#### **Needed at Convention:**

Sandy Booth, Triennial coordinator, is asking for volunteer to help work at the LWR and Great Gift/SERVV International Store at the NSWO convention.

Items from around the world will be sold to help artisans there.

Proceeds will be used for scholarships to attend the next Triennial Gathering in Salt Lake City in July, 2008.

Booth asks: "Did you attend the last Triennial in San Antonio? Come and help out with a shift or two and tell others about the wonderful experiences you had at a Triennial."

Global Health Ministries has discontinued the tropical ulcer bandage project, having received enough knitted and crocheted bandages to fulfill the demand for some time to come. Bandages which have already been made may still be sent, but no more are needed.

(Note: Bandages rolled from strips of cloth are still needed.)

Knitters and crocheters are encouraged to turn their skills to making baby caps, or blankets for infants and toddlers. Baby blankets should be about 30 inches square. They can be knitted or crocheted from any type of yarn -cotton or acrylic.

Other projects still needed include hospice kits and midwife kits. Instructions are available on the GHM website www.ghm.org.

## Check Toothpaste, Please

All persons assembling Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief are asked to check carefully the toothpaste they include.

LWR asks that toothpastes manufactured in China and those with a Colgate label which say "made in South Africa" not be included. News reports indicate that these toothpastes contain small amounts of the toxic chemical diethylene glycol (DEG) and do not contain fluoride, the key active ingredient that protects teeth.

Colgate does not import toothpaste from South Africa -- the labels are counterfeit. A list of other toothpastes which contain DEG can be found on the Food and Drug Administrations web site: www.fda.gov

#### **Bold Woman's Day in Fremont**

Bold Woman's Day was celebrated during each service at Salem/Fremont on March 4, having been postponed from Feb. 25 because of a blizzard.

The narrator told of the many things the women do in the church as members displayed something in regard to that ministry. Many commented they didn't realize the women "did all that."

Several younger women expressed interest in forming a circle.

The Women of the ELCA 20th anniversary was celebrated by serving cake between the services.

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## Nebraska Synodical Women's Organization Budget 02/01/07 to 01/31/08

Adopted by the Executive Board 5/5/07

	Income	Expenses
Audit	\$1,000	\$1,000
Board Offerings	400	400
NSWO Convention Mission Offering	 6,000	6,000
NSWO Convention Tangible Offering	5,000	5,000
NSWO Convention Worship Offering	2,500	2,500
NSWO Convention Registration	24,000	24,000
NSWO Convention Expenses	2,000	2,000
Expressions	 2,000	2,000
Interest	1,000	1,000
Regular Offerings	56,000	56,000
Saved To Serve	2,000	2,000
Spring Gathering Offerings	12,900	12,900
Spring Gatherings Registrations	11,400	11,400
SWO Leadership	500	500
Travel Fund	3,000	3,000
Triennial Expenses Fund	4,000	4,000
Vision Fund	2,000	2,000
Winter Retreat Offering	3,645	3,645
Winter Retreat Registrations	2,900	2,900
TOTAL	 142,254	\$142,254

#### Elected Board Nebraska Synodical

Women of the ÉLCA 2005-2007

#### **President**

Beth Meyer 2061 Fairacres Dr. Fremont NE 688025-27736 402-721-3053 tmeyer10@neb/rr.com

#### Vice President

Gwendolynn Edwards 3402 cCastile Dr. Bellevue NE 68127 402 -291-1087 GFEdwardsNSWO@ aol.com

#### Secretary

Joan Berggren 1224 2nd Ave Nebraska City NE 68410-2006 402-873-6204 brucejoan@yahoo.com

#### Treasurer

JoAnn Rohrs 1409 10th St. Auburn NE 68305 402-274-3058 jar1409@earthlink.ne

#### **Brd.** Representatives

#### Central

Laura Hunt P.O. Box 293 Stromsburg NE 68666 402-764-3321 jh30956@alltel.net

#### **High Plains**

Bernice Gengenbach Route 1 Box 105 Eustis NE 69028 308-486-4261 bgbach@nebnet.net

#### **Metro East**

Emily Laaker PO Box 107 Bennington NE 68007 402-238-2583 elaaker@cox.net

#### Midlands

Connie Johnson PO Box 17 Cordova NE 68330 402-576-3009 cjthepreacherswife @ hotmail..com

#### Northeast

Judy Stahlecker PO Box 267 Spencer NE 68777 402-589-9086 gstahlecker@ nntc.net

#### Southeast

Carolyn Schlake 1520 Darwin St. Beatrice NE 68310 402-228-9646

#### Southern Prairie

Lynn Echternkamp 104 Northridge Dr. Clay Center NE 68933 402-762-3866 lechternkamp@ yahoo.com

# Bushkofsky on W/ELCA Problem--II

This is another portion of Linda Post Buskofsky's "State of the Ministry" address.

Albert Einstein said we "cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them." Said another way, we cannot expect to meet the challenges of today with yesterday's tools and still expect to be in business tomorrow. What worked for Women of the ELCA in the past will not necessarily work for Women of the ELCA today. If we only keep on doing what we've been doing, we likely won't continue into the next generation. . . .

On my most cynical days, I fear that many of us in Women of the ELCA are looking only to the past or the present and that we will miss the future. I realize that we get comfortable in our existing ways and that even to think of changing makes us feel uncomfortable. Changes can be risky. Yet there is as much risk in doing nothing as there is risk in doing something

But we don't live this life alone. God is with us. God sustains us, strengthens us. And God is doing new things every day. . . .

Our God is a transforming God. Yes, there are things about our God that do not change -- God's love, the salvation that God offers creaton. But God's in the business of change, of transforming lives. And we need to be present to the movement of change in our organization. . . .

The Women of the ELCA involvement at the ELCA Nation Youth Gathering in July of last year holds some of the answers for our current problem and invites us in to considering change for the sake of the life of this organization.

Why the youth gathering?....Young women have the same basic need to connect with other women that you and I do. They aren't finding that connection in the church, though....

So, we want Women of the ELCA to connect with high school women so when these young women graduate, they maintain a connection with the faith community through Women of the ELCA. And we want these young women to be part of our community of women for all the many gifts and insights they can offer us.

Women of the ELCA set up a cafe in the ineractive center, including a tip jar. We didn't want money in our tip jar. The tips we wanted would come from these young women as they answered this question -- what would inspire 8-August, 2007

you to participate in Women of the ELCA? Here are some of their thoughtful responses, in their own words:

- \* information on what it is because I don't know
  - \* a speaker of my age telling me more about it
- \* to know of everything that they have done for others

\*not just old ladies! mix young and old, no required baking!

\*oldest generations need to include younger generations and accept changes

\*it hurts feelings sometimes of older women when younger women in our church want to do things a different or new way -- help us work together -- find a new way!

\*learn to include young women without being bossy and rigid

- \* Get churches to come up with something besides circles!! Circles = old women.
- \* if they worked toward gender equality in the church
- \* to see WELCA picking up some of the work previously done by the Commission for Women

\*I would like to see women stand up for their rights against racism or even people who put them below themselves because of their gender

\* If I know more about what they do to support women in ministry

\* More focus on feminist theology

\* Address social justice issues like homophobia and anti-discrimination

\* It's about companionship -- who can I share the common daily things with? Woman to woman.

- \* An invitation
- \* welcome -- don't coerce.

Do you see yourself in these tips? Do you see others you know in our organization here? Do you see how some of the young women are seeking "unpressured space"? Do you see how they can be leading us in new directions?

These young women are like me and you. In all of God's wisdom, these young women were created to gather in community, to seek solace from one another, to celebrate joys with one another, to explore God's word together. Women of the ELCA is one place where they can gather in community, with one another, with you and me, and together we can live out the mission and purpose statements of this organization. . . .

## **Convention Workshops**

Friday only

First Timers Celebrate

This workshop is for first time NSWO Convention attendees. We will share information regarding what to expect at the convention, information regarding NSWO and CWO and hear from an attendee who was a first timer in 2005.

#### Friday and Saturday both

Celebrate Work in Our Communities

The Lutheran Church includes several Serving Agencies, i.e., Nebraska Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Campus Ministries, etc. Six different agencies will have the opportunity to present information. The list will be available in the convention packet obtained at check-in.

Celebrate Service Today, Build Forever

Let's gather together to assemble Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief. The room will be open during registration and business sessions; closed during worship, keynote, Saturday evening and meals.

Celebrate Walking with God Forever

Refresh, renew and relax as you take time to participate in this prayer walk. Modeled on a labyrinth, it provides an opportunity to quiet our minds and take a sacred journey. Take your time, proceed at your own pace. It is an opportunity to let go of what hinds our ability to hear God, to pause and listen to God, and then to take that word from God back into the world with us. Economic Justice and Poverty in the Third World

This workshop takes a profound look at the external debt of third world countries. Drawing on the insights provided by a video produced by the Church of Norway, we will enter into discussions and reflections on the External Debt, Poverty and the harmful effects to people's lives in the developing nations.

#### Prayer 101...PUSH

So you don't know how to pray? You're scared to pray out loud? This workshop will offer simple helps to improve your prayer life. Prayer may be as simple as a sign, as complicated as public prayer before a congregation. Hopefully you will learn to feel comfortable in your talk with God.

#### Raising up Healthy Women and Girls

This workshop will cover health issues for women. Your ESP --Emotional, Spiritual and Physical -- health and how they relate to the

## Nominees -- Act Boldly!

The nomination committee has been hard at work praying for the members of the Nebraska Women of the ELCA; asking God that you feel His presence, listen for Him, and then Act Boldly.

Act Boldly by sending in your nomination to serve on the NSWO 2007-09 board or as a delegate for the 2008 CWO Triennial Convention.

The original nomination committee has been split into two committees, one to fill the NSWO board ballot and one to fill the triennial delegate ballot. Arlene Johnson, NSWO vice-president 2003-2005, chairs the board committee, assisted by conference coordinators Karen Anderson, Phyllis Eriksen, Phyllis Rahn and Estelle Rieman. Gwen Edwards, current NSWO vice-president, is chairman of the delegate committee, assisted by coordinators Linda Fangmeyer, Charlotte Gronewold and Laurie Schmidt.

Nominations blanks are included with this mailing or are available on the website www. nebraskaelcawomen.org (under Welcome, click on File Downloads).

Nominations may be made from the floor if the following requirements are met:

**NSWO** Board

- 1. Permission from the nominee.
- 2. Signatures of five delegates.
- 3. Biographical information on required form (which will be available onsite).
- 4. Completed and returned to nomination committee by 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22.

Triennial Delegate

If a person was suggested to the nomination committee and was not chosen to be placed on the ballot, that person may be nominated from the floor.

whole person is one of the topics to be discussed. **Saturday only** 

<u>Celebrate Argentina, Yesterday, Today and Forever</u>

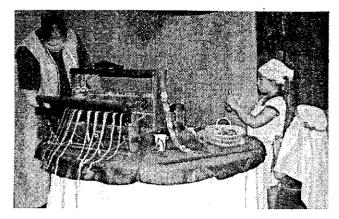
Hear about the experience your fellow sisters in Christ had while traveling to our Companion Synod in Argentina in 2006.

Humor for the Health of It

Learn the five things laughter can do for you physically and mentally. Then, if you think you're not that funny, discover simple ways to put loads of laughter into your daily life.

Your Story, My Story, Our Story

What does God have to do with it, is He a part of our story? Let's check it out together!



Leah Bauer works in the weaving shop at the Bible Village.



Making pottery with Mary Mayfield was a popular activity.

# 'Shalom' Greets Bible Village Visitors

By Marydae Eigenberg "Shalom" was a greeting which was heard often at the Bible Village held in conjunction with Synod Assembly. Saved To Serve participants acted as Bible time residents in the village. They were in costume as they operate shops or booths located there.

People in costumes also strolled the area serving Scripture cake and Bible land bread. Also strolling the village were soldiers, tax collectors and village people. There were animals in the market place. When someone remarked, "It stinks," the reply was, "After all, it IS a market place."

Among the booths, the money changer ran a popular shop, since only the shekel could be used in the village. Rope making featured stole ropes with



Susan Watson helps a visitor to the basket making booth.

the colors of the church year for pastors to use in serving communition to the homebound. Games of the period included a type of jacks using chicken neck bones and a cloth ball, a sling shot toy and a marble game. Tasting booths offered vegetables, fruit, nuts, candy, herbs and breads. The visitors were shown how to form jewelry of beads, especially making crosses. The carpenter shops offered wooden garden crosses made in one shop and painted in the next. There was a pottery shop, a turban-tying shop, and a story telling booth. Musical instruments were made from paper plates.

An important part of each Saved To Serve event is the Bible study. It was based on the assembly theme, "I have set before you an open door --stand up, step through, shout for joy." Ardie Hoins led the study which challenged participants to look for open doors to step through. You never know where God is leading you.



10 - August, 2007

## Let Your Light Shine

Members of St. Matthew/Omaha display some of the health kits they have made for Lutheran World Relief. This time they had matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

# Let Your Light Shine

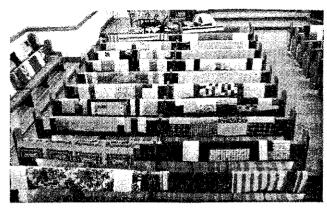


Pictured at the Circle of Friends table at Grace/ Lincoln's Festival of Tea Tables are Jolene Hokanson, Judy Holtgrewe, Claudia Overgaard, Bonnie Ahrens, Janet Jodais and Dorothea Block

Nearly 90 women attended an afternoon Festival of Tea Tables at Grace/Lincoln on Oct. 28. Eleven tables were each decorated with a different theme--Victorian Rose, Fall, Halloween, Easter (2), High Tea, Elephants, Oriental, Christmas, Garden and Circle of Friends.

Entertainment consisted of "Tea Tales and Trivia, a display of cups with Biblical related narrative, and a woman's barbershop quartet.

(LWR donations from Grace this year included nearly 300 health kits made at Spring Gathering. The unit also did quilts, layettes and other kits.)



Of these quilts displayed at St. John/Eustis, seven were given to graduating high school seniors, four to Sullivan Hills and six to the Lakota Indian Center. Others went to needy families in the area and to Lutheran World Relief.



Models of a style show, "Dressed for Success," performed at an evening of fun for First/South Sioux City. Each lady's ensemble signified a ministry of the group, such as the box suit representing packing boxes for Lutheran World Relief. The group found it a delightful way to celebrate their minstries, and a gentle reminder of the many needs there are and the abundant ways for each to serve the Lord.

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## **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

- 3-5 Saved To Serve at Sullivan Hills
- 18 Early bird registration for NSWO Convention due

- S Prepare yearbooks.
- S Prepare budget
- S Send list of officers to Mindy Chandler, 2051 Fairacres Dr., Fremont NE 68025-2736 or email to mnchandler71@hotmail.com
- Circulate Expressions among particpants.

#### September

Plan Convention offering 7 - Late conv. reg. deadline 21-23 NSWO Convention Send news for November Expressions.

S - Did you send officers to Mindy?

#### October

- 1 Expressions deadline
- J Elect officers

Prepare kits, blankets, etc. for LWR

Plan Thankoffering Service November

- J Plan yearbook
- 2 World Community Day
- 5-9 LWR Pickup
- J Send list of officers to Mindy Chandler, 2051 Fairacres Dr., Fremont NE 68025-2736 or email to mnchandler71@hotmail.com

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