



The Scribe

Western Iowa Synod Women of the ELCA

Linda Susie & Sylvia Moore, Co-Editors

December, 2011

Volume 22, No. 4

President's Message

God has blessed us! This is the time of the year when we remember our blessings. The nice fall weather has enabled the farmers to finish harvesting. The floodwaters along the Missouri River have receded and repair is being done. Many among us are hurting, without work or had some disaster happen. We thank God for our blessings and in turn may we be a blessing to those who are hurting for any reason. That is what Christianity is all about. We are blessed to be a blessing!

Fall Leadership Trainings: In September and October we held our third annual fall leadership trainings for all officers, unit and cluster. Many of you took the time from your busy schedules to come. We thank you for that and for sharing your ideas, concerns and questions. The evaluations indicated that you appreciate the afternoon, having the whole group together for all of it, and the ideas shared, even the difficult ones. We will continue to improve the training, so if you have any suggestions other than what you put on the evaluation, please let any board member know.

Thank you to our host churches: Riverside Lutheran in Sioux City, First Lutheran in Algona, and Immanuel Lutheran in Kimballton. Thanks to these women who graciously prepared and served lunch to the board, and coffee and goodies to everyone else. Host churches for next year will be chosen next spring. If you would like to host a training session, let any board member know.

Center for Agricultural Development: Please remember the Center for Agricultural Development in Tanzania in your giving this month and throughout the next year. See the article on page 4.

Spring Cluster Events: We encourage all clusters to have a spring event of some kind that includes all the churches in the cluster. Suggestions are: securing a special speaker or group, doing a service project, a guest night, or gathering and assembling kits. Please send me the date, time, place, and what you are doing by February 5, so we can get it in the Scribe and decide which board member is able to attend.

NEEDED:

- 1. Nominees:** Suggestions for nominees for vice-president, secretary, and three board members to be elected at the 2012 convention. The term is for two years. Contact Chairperson, Joan Turner at 515-579-4230 or email her at: jnturner@ncn.net.
- 2. Host congregation** for the 2013 WISWO convention. We need to accommodate 200-250 people. If interested, contact any board member.

25th Anniversary: The constituting convention of the Women of the ELCA was held in 1987. Women of the ELCA will have a year-long celebration of the 25th anniversary from June 2012 through May 2013. As part of our 25th celebration, there will be a special anniversary appeal for the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Anniversary materials and more detailed information will be available in February 2012 through the churchwide organization.

Conference of Presidents: February 23-26, 2012, I will be going to Chicago to the Conference of Presidents. This is a time when all 65 synodical presidents meet with the churchwide staff and some board members for sharing as well as getting information. So I think I will be coming back with more information and materials for the 25th anniversary celebration. I will share some of this information in the Scribe in March. So as you plan your 2012, remember the 25th anniversary.

Prayer: Lord, help us to take time to prepare our hearts and listen to you as we go about the busyness of preparing for Christmas. You have blessed us, so help us to be a blessing for those who are hurting. You love us, provide for us, and forgive us. Help us to love others, provide for those who are hurting, and to forgive others. Lord, open our hearts and minds to your word and our ears to listen to you, setting our cares aside. Let the Holy Spirit be our guide. Grant us love, joy and peace.

Have a blessed Advent and Christmas and an enlightening Epiphany!

Judy Lang, WISWO President

NEWS FROM YOUR WISWO TREASURER



The new Stewardship Planning guide packet has been sent to each active unit of the Women of the ELCA. In the packet you will find a Thankoffering Service. There were no forms included this year, so just copy from your old supply.

The WISWO convention offering collected was \$4,911.00. The distribution was as follows:

- ½ (\$2,455.50) to the Women of the ELCA
- ¼ (\$1,277.75) to Seminarian Scholarships
- ¼ (\$1,277.75) to Center for Agricultural Development

To date our total Tanzania support sent through WISWO has been as follows:

- \$1,150.39 Girls' School Scholarships
- \$693.00 Girls' School Fire Repair
- \$814.00 Wells Project
- \$5,344.79 Center for Agricultural Develop.

Other money has been sent directly to the Western Iowa Synod.

This is my last report for the Scribe, as I will turn the treasurer's books over to Bonny Carlson on February 1. I have so enjoyed serving on the WISWO board. Remember to continue sending your offerings to me until January 31, 2012.

Wishing you all a very blessed Advent and Christmas Season.

*Yours in Christ, Marlyce Hauge
WISWO Treasurer*

Address Changes!

Please send any address changes or changes in officers to **both** Diane Vavak, our secretary, and to Sylvia Moore, who keeps the list for the Scribe. The Scribe goes to unit presidents and secretaries and to the cluster officers. Their information is below:

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MISSION ACTION

We want to thank each of the units for all they do in the mission field. We would encourage you to keep up the good work. Watch for the information about the May pickup for Lutheran World Relief. As we announced at the training session this fall there are some changes you need to be aware of:

For Baby Care Kits they are asking for 2 sleepers without feet, 2 pairs of baby socks, 2 cotton t-shirts (instead of onesies), 2 receiving blankets, 4 cloth diapers, 1 jacket or sweater with hood (or include a baby cap), 1 hand towel (instead of washcloths), 2 bath-sized bars of soap in original wrapping and 2 diaper pins.

For Personal Care Kits they are asking for a bath size towel (52"x27"), 2 bath-sized bars of soap, 1 toothbrush, 1 sturdy comb, 1 metal nail clipper.

For Fabric Kits include 2 pieces of cotton fabric (2¼ yds. of 60", 3 yds. of 44", 4 yds. of 36") and 2 spools of 250-300 yds. of matching or neutral thread.

For School Kits include 4 - 70 page wide or college ruled notebooks, 1 - 30 centimeter ruler, 1 pencil sharpener, 1 blunt scissors, 5 unsharpened #2 pencils secured with a rubber band, 5 ballpoint pens (no gel ink) also secured with a rubber band, 1 box of 16-24 crayons, and 1 sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag 14"x17" with shoulder straps. You can use the ones from last year this year, but for the 2013 drive use the new one they describe. Also add a 2½" eraser. You can get directions for the schoolbag from the website lwr@lwr.org or by calling 1-800-597-5972.

Again you are to be commended for all the work you do.

Bible Report – Thanks to all who have participated in our collection of old and used Bibles. To date we have sent 2,907 Bibles to Oregon, where they are distributed to various places that will make good use of them.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to the special couple from Algona who have graciously taken care of the postage to mail them.

Marilyn Nielsen and Loretta Daisy



Smile!
God Loves You!

MISSION COMMUNITY: Bold Women Among Us!

Are you comfortable proclaiming your faith to others? When we are bold enough to speak out about the faith that plays a prominent part in our lives, we are blessed in ways that are powerful. If Jesus could give you a pep talk to encourage you to be bold in proclaiming your faith, what would Jesus say to you?

We would like to recognize Bold Women in the Western Iowa Synod. This segment is about “The Mission of the Messiah.” Read the submitted article from Pastor Lillette Johnston of Sioux City. Then take a moment to thank God for the actions of this “bold woman.” Please share names of others in your clusters who have made a ‘bold’ impact.

JoAnne Tapper & Jane Kruse

The Story of The Mission of the Messiah

By Pastor Lil Johnston

A couple of years ago in Sioux City, a landlord to low income renters was going through bankruptcy proceedings. Some of his renters were given 24 hour notice to vacate their residences. They had no place to go. Groups that work with the homeless in Sioux City sprang into action to find them different places to live. Many of these tenants had been living in furnished residences and beds and furniture had to also be located within 24 hours. There needed to be some place in Sioux City where beds, furniture, and household items could be available whenever they were needed.

I felt that God was calling me to help provide such a place to fulfill these needs. And so, in the spring of 2010 a call was put out for donations to come in; a little bit of everything. Rummage sales were held at Augustana and St. Luke Lutheran Churches in Sioux City. A board of directors was assembled, a business plan done, a name picked, incorporation papers filed, store furnishings gathered and a store sight selected. On October 12, 2010, *The Mission of the Messiah* opened in Sioux City as a thrift-fair trade store and resource center. Using years of previous rummage sale and thrift store experience and 35 years as a parish pastor, I serve as the manager/director of this new ministry and

outreach in Sioux City. Daily social service agency providers, clergy, and school staff members contact *The Mission of the Messiah* with clients to refer. Oftentimes these individuals and families have been in shelters and need “everything” – beds, furniture, household items, personal items, cleaning and laundry supplies. Whatever is needed is provided, as available, at no charge to give these individuals and families a new start.

The Mission of the Messiah is always in need of donations (beds, furniture, household items, winter coats, clothing for all ages) to stock the store and provide for their referral clients. Especially needed are beds, all kinds of furniture and household items (dishes, cups, glasses, silverware, pots and pans, towels, bed linens, new pillows and quilts, coffee makers, toasters, kitchen utensils, shower curtains and bathroom rugs).

The Mission of the Messiah in Sioux City is an outreach ministry of congregations of the Western Iowa Synod of the ELCA and the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa. Its mission is to provide help and hope to all through compassionate service and outreach. Through your donations, volunteer efforts, and financial support this is accomplished in Siouxland.

Thanks for Prayers!

Thanks to all of you who have prayed for my husband, Pastor Carroll Lang, and me this year. Carroll has had an ulcer on his left ankle that became infected. After many trips to the Wound Center at the hospital, it is healed! One doctor said it is rare to have ulcers like his heal, so we believe it is a miracle! We thank God for the healing and your prayers!

- Judy and Carroll Lang

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 27-28, 2012

Western Iowa Synod Assembly,
Clay County Regional Event Center in Spencer

June 23, 2012

Western Iowa Synodical Women’s Organization
Convention
Bethany Lutheran Church, Spencer

CENTER FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Center for Agricultural Development, commonly known as CAD, is a partnership between the Western Iowa Synod and the Southern Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, in collaboration with Iowa State University Extension and Sokoine University of Agriculture in Tanzania. The purpose of the center is to mutually improve the livelihood and dignity of smallholder farmers. Many of these farmers are women. This in turn will help care for families and save lives.

On Sunday, November 6, 2011, the Western Iowa Synod hosted an event at the Clay County Event Center in Spencer to learn of growth and mission of the Center for Agricultural Development. Two guests from Tanzania were present: Rev. Charles Mwantepele the CAD Executive Director, Martins Chodata the CAD Board Vice Chairman. Jean Twilingiyumukiza, from neighboring Rwanda and director of the Ruyumba Farm Development & Training Center was also present. Mr. Twilingiyumukiza from Rwanda operates a similar program that will now be used as a model for the expansion of CAD. The Lutheran World Federation suggested this partnership. WISWO board members who attended the event were Jane Kruse, Marilyn Nielsen, Elfrieda Saylor, Marlyce Hauge, Maxine Lampe, and Judy Lang.

Bishop Last started the event by reviewing our Companion Covenant with the Southern Diocese of Tanzania. Our partner projects started with Well Drilling. So far we have drilled 29 wells. There are 55 on the waiting list. We purchased some new equipment last year. Then we, mostly WISWO, purchased a plantation, which was made into the Igumbilo Secondary Girls' School. The school now has 388 students, a science lab, and is one of the top 13 of the over 2,000 secondary girls' schools in the country. We have a Medical Initiative. We gather medical equipment and supplies and ship them over to Tanzania in cooperation with Global Health Ministries. Our newest partner project is the Center for Agricultural Development, which evolved from a Spirit-filled dream.

Since 2009 this partnership has secured a small piece of test acreage, constructed a small concrete building and began the process of inviting area farmers to come and learn techniques to increase crop production and healthy livestock. The Government of Tanzania has donated about 40 acres of prime land along a small river close to the CAD Center.

We heard several reports attesting to the impact that CAD is having on the local agricultural community. Some examples include several new water wells, development of irrigation systems, better crop management by the local farm families whose average size farm is 2.5 acres, and the purchase of a tractor, trailer, seed planter, pick-up truck and storage units for the CAD test plots and housing of the small staff. They farm by hand so any equipment needs to be made for them and their conditions.

Ten farmers have been identified and trained to help their neighbors. Nearly 20,000 youth are now part of fifty CAD sponsored 4H Clubs in the Southern Diocese. These clubs have trained advisors. There is the possibility of demonstration farms and satellite sites, such as the Igumbilo Girls' School and the Igagala Market.

Some of the challenges they face are: the lack of education especially in bookkeeping and farming techniques; lack of storage and drying of crops; lack of extension services and subsidies; and lack of electricity and roads. This project is to empower these farmers. They are hard workers.

The second phase of the Western Iowa Synod's partnership with CAD is beginning. Those in attendance at the event that Sunday evening raised over \$130,000 in pledges of support. Before this second phase of our partnership with the Center of Agricultural Development is completed in 2015 it is hoped that the amount will rise to \$350,000.

The WISWO board voted to have CAD as a special emphasis for our giving this coming year. So we are inviting our women's groups to focus their special offerings on CAD. We have pledged \$5,000 a year for three years. We are a little behind on this pledge and with your help we can do this and help change the lives of thousands of smallholder farmers, many of whom are women, in Tanzania.

Anyone wanting more information on the Center for Agricultural Development or someone to do a presentation or program should contact Cindy Wells, Western Iowa Synod Global Programs Coordinator, at wiscw@wisynod.org or 712.732.4968, ext. 441.

In Swahili, the native language of Tanzania, we say, Mungu Awabariki! In English: God Bless You All!

Jane Kruse, Marilyn Nielsen, and Judy Lang

MISSION GROWTH

Have you used the new women's magazine Gather? Did you try the recipes for German Pancakes or Grandma's Bread Pudding? Did you consider having a family dinner that could lead to good citizens? Did you know it is a myth that back strains will get better with bed rest? Are you using the Bible study on Mark in your group or individually? Have you ever blown hog casings? Where are the places you call holy ground? Did you know there is an interfaith dialog alive in America starting with the ELCA's Christian-Muslim Relations Web page? If you know the answers to these questions, you are using Gather.

If you haven't subscribed to this award-winning magazine, consider doing so now. It is another source of useful information that can be used to accomplish some of the goals of the mission growth position. The magazine certainly nurtures spiritual growth and personal faith development. You can also find the answers or information about the questions listed above.

The cost for a subscription of ten issues is \$12. Send to Gather Subscription Order Center, Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-8730. Plan now to grow in your faith with the help of Gather.

Elfrieda Saylor and Marge Tindall



Save the Date June 23, 2012

"Faith in Action" based on James 2:17 is the theme for the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Convention which will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church in Spencer, Iowa on June 23, 2012. So mark your calendar. We are planning an action packed convention and look forward to your attendance. More information will follow in the upcoming months.

If you know of any women or projects in your unit or cluster that exemplify faith in action, please notify Maxine Lampe, program vice president through e-mail at lampe.maxine@yahoo.com.

Highlights from Clusters

Cluster 2

Our Fall Event was held at 7 p.m. Thursday, October 20, 2011 at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Storm Lake with 25 women in attendance.

The Movie "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" was shown. It is the inspiring story of a group of ordinary women who came together, Muslim and Christian, to bring peace to their war-torn, but beloved Liberia. Layman Gbowee, the leader of the women's peace movement in Liberia, was a plenary speaker at the 2011 Triennial Convention and Gathering in Spokane, WA in July. She is a recipient of the John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Award. Recently she was one of a group of three women who were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

There was a short discussion following the movie and refreshments were served.

Joanne Georgeff, Secretary

Cluster 9

Salem Lutheran Church Women hosted the gathering on October 1 at 10 a.m. for a light brunch. Twenty women attended with JoAnne Tapper as a guest from the synodical board.

Wilma Reinking, president of Salem's women, gave the welcome and led the group in the table prayer. After brunch, three ladies from Salem presented a skit entitled "God's Lawn" which took us to task about our wastefulness. "Understanding the Plants of the Bible" was a study of plants as to what they were and how they were used. This was to more fully understand Bible verses. The senior version of the song, "Jesus Loves Me" was sung. Salem Lutheran Church will be celebrating their 125th year next summer and there was a short slide presentation of its history.

JoAnne Tapper brought greetings from the synod board along with information on our new magazine "Gather" and the changes in the kits. She presented different ways we could handle the cluster. We need to at least have a contact person and secretary/treasurer.

As one church was unable to attend because of a funeral, the motion to continue to meet twice a year was tabled until the spring meeting. At that time we will also discuss offerings.

At this time it is unknown when the truck for Lutheran World Relief will be coming. Gospel Mission need for quilts was brought forward. JoAnne Tapper will be sending information on making the school bags. Lucille Zellmer announced that Moville will be having their lunch, bazaar, and white elephant sale on November 5. Lucille also extended an invitation to Cluster Nine for the spring gathering.

A movie entitled "Pray the Devil Back to Hell" will be held on October 10 in Storm Lake. President Wilma closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Protetp Secretary, Elaine Klingensmith

Cluster 12

The Fall Meeting of Cluster 12 was held at Underwood Lutheran Church on Saturday, September 24. The theme of the meeting was entitled "REJOICE" . . . In Time of Trial". The hymn "This is the Day" was sung. Judy Pingel was the pianist for the day.

A welcome was given by Carol Bertelsen with a response by Esther Bender. Roll call was taken at this time. The Affirmation of Purpose was led by Nancy Geise, Underwood. The hymn "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" was sung.

Jean Rinde spoke about Eleanor Campbell, who had recently passed way. Eleanor had been very involved with Cluster 12 and had served as Cluster President.

The Bible Study was led by Pastor Eberhard Herring and based on the theme **REJOICE . . . in Time of Trial**". The biblical reference used was Genesis 32:24-31.

Sarah Britsen, from Emanuel Lutheran, provided the special music, singing "Your Great Name" and accompanying herself on the guitar. The offering was taken followed by the singing of "We are an Offering".

Kris Ranney, representing COAD (Community Organization Assisting in Disaster), spoke on the

necessity of being prepared before a disaster strikes. This encompasses all of Pottawattamie County, not just Council Bluffs. Committees are to be formed to cover the areas of volunteer, donations, communication mass care (emergency shelters, food, and clothing) so that the county would be prepared to take action immediately if another disaster would happen. COAD would work with the Iowa Home Security.

The closing hymn "His Eye is on the Sparrow" was sung. In closing Darlene Jeppesen read from the book **Stained Glass Hearts** by Patsy Cairmont, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

The business meeting was opened by Esther Bender. Joyce Anderson, representing the WISWO board spoke on the convention held in June and upcoming events. She talked about the changes that were made in the preparation of the various kits for Lutheran World Relief.

The minutes of the April meeting were approved as printed. Roll Call was given at this time with a total of 35 present. Treasurer, Jane Sewing, reported a balance of \$444.26. The offering for today totaled \$353.00 with an additional \$200.00 designated specifically for the well project.

Reports of the committees were given. Nancy Geise, Mission Community, stressed that we should contact the women of churches who have left the ELCA and invite them to our meetings.

A special invitation was issued by Saint John, C.B. to attend a presentation on Katie Luther. This is a fundraiser to help rebuild the Igmubilo Lutheran Girls School (Tanzania) dormitory that was destroyed by fire. It will be held on Saturday, October 22, at Saint John. A nominating committee was appointed: Nancy Geise, Sharon Derby, plus another person to be appointed.

A discussion was held on the disbursement of our treasury. After all bills are paid and \$100.00 for next year, it was decided that 50% be given to the Our Savior's Food Pantry with the balance to be divided as: 25% to WISWO to be used where needed and 25% to Project Comfort at Lutheran World Relief.

A reminder that quilts and kits should be taken to Brown Transfer in Omaha. The meeting was then adjourned with the singing of the table grace.

The Spring Cluster will meet at St. Paul's, Neola, on Saturday, April 28, 2012.

Shirley Johnson, Secretary

Women of the **ELCA** 
www.womenoftheelca.org
800-638-3522 ext. 2730

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Western Iowa Synod Women's Organization
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www.wisynod.org/WomenoftheELCA.htm

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\$18 for 3 years to Women of the ELCA,
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**Women of the Evangelical
Lutheran Church in America
PURPOSE STATEMENT**

As a community of women, created in the image of
God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and
empowered by the Holy Spirit.

We commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our
gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in
ministry and action, and promote healing and
wholeness in the church, the society and the world.

**The deadline for the next issue of the Scribe will
be: February 1.** If you have something you'd like
published in *The Scribe*, please get it to Linda or
Sylvia **by the deadline.**

Thank You!

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The Scribe

\$5.00 for one year/4 issues

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