



The Scribe

Western Iowa Synod Women of the ELCA

Linda Susie & Sylvia Moore, Co-Editors

September, 2011

Volume 22, No. 3

President's Message

On June 24 we had an inspiring convention at St. Olaf Lutheran in Fort Dodge. Our theme "Women of Hope" was carried out in the energy of Anna Miller leading the singing, the excellent inspirational music of the Sunshine Singers, the communion service led by Pastor Danette Johns, Pastor Chris Lang's sermon, the unique Bible study led by Pastor Deb Mechler and Laura Carlentini, Michelle Christy's moving message titled "In Possession of Hope's Confession", and the in-kind gifts to the Beacon of Hope, shelter for homeless men. We were privileged to have Julieth Johansen, who has completed her studies at the Igumbilo Girls School in Tanzania, share a short message to all of us and be involved in a workshop. Read more about the convention later in this issue of The Scribe.

Fall Leadership Training: All congregational unit and cluster leaders and officers are encouraged to attend one of the Fall Leadership Trainings. They are open to all women of the ELCA. They will be held on September 17 at Riverside Lutheran in Sioux City, on September 24 at First Lutheran in Algona, and on October 1 at Bethlehem in Kimballton. Registration will start at 12:30 p.m. and the training will start at 1:00 p.m. There is no registration fee.

The WISWO board will be conducting this training. We will gather for Bible study, singing, and sharing information. We will gather for discussion in a forum where those who attend may ask some questions. We will have some door prizes and coffee and goodies available before you leave. We are planning to finish between 3:00 and 3:30 pm. A letter has gone out to the unit presidents and the cluster coordinators with more details.

Address Changes and Officer Changes: Thanks to those of you who are so prompt in sending in your changes of officers. It costs us 50 cents for anything that comes back to us. So please send changes in

officers to our secretary, Diane Vavak, 2810 280th Street, Rockwell City, IA 50579 or email to dianeavavak@hotmail.com and to sdmoore@smunet.net. If you mail them, Diane will forward them to Sylvia Moore for the Scribe.

Dates to Remember:

April 27-29, 2012 - Western Iowa Synod Assembly, Clay County Regional Events Center, Spencer.

June 23, 2012 - Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Convention, Bethany Lutheran, Spencer.

Gather is the new name of the *Lutheran Woman Today*. The thoughtful articles and Bible studies that you have come to rely on will remain; the name change simply seeks to expand our community of thinkers and doers, bringing together people of faith in Jesus Christ. Read the article on page 4 of the September issue for more explanation of this change. I just learned that the number of subscriptions to *Gather* has increased significantly in one month.

New Beginnings: At this time of the year the new school year is starting, that means new teachers, new students, new subjects, and a chance to start over. God's grace and forgiveness gives us another chance, another day. We are starting a new Bible study on the book of Mark. *Gather* is the new name for *Lutheran Woman Today*. Many units are electing new officers. It is also a good time to start a fresh devotional life. May God bless you as you search the scriptures in your devotions. As we gather for Bible study, may we be renewed and inspired to respond to God's call. Let us all rejoice in God's love and grace.

-- Judy Lang, WISWO president

NEWS FROM YOUR WISWO TREASURER

The convention offering received to date is \$4,826.00. This will be divided with half going to the Women of the ELCA and the other half divided between the Center for Agricultural Development (CAD) and the Seminarian Scholarships.

The In-Kind Offering for the Beacon of Hope men’s homeless shelter in Fort Dodge collected 327 full kits and 5 boxes of extra supplies.

If your unit has not sent in a convention assessment (\$10) or an offering you still may do so as we need each unit to help share the expense of the convention.

Please continue to send your offering to Marlyce Hauge, PO Box 311, Manson, IA 50563 as I will be your treasurer until February 1, 2012.

WISWO Convention Treasurer’s Report

Income

Assessments	\$ 580.00	
Registrations	<u>2,895.00</u>	
	3,475.00	\$3,475.00

Expenses

Registrar	108.73	
Convention book	288.21	
Speaker, music, etc.	847.00	
Meals	1,387.80	
Lodging	557.15	
Hope Pins	<u>212.38</u>	
	3,401.27	<u>3,401.27</u>

Balance \$ **73.73**

Yours in Christ, Marlyce Hauge, WISWO Treasurer

MISSION COMMUNITY *Modeling God’s Love*

Women of the ELCA have realized a 2% loss in active units since August 2009, largely a result of the decisions made by ELCA churchwide on the issue of human sexuality. Women in those 164 congregations have options on how they can remain connected to Women of the ELCA if they wish. This offers unique outreach opportunities for all of us. How do we respond to our sisters in Christ?

Our Executive Director, Linda Post Bushkofsky wrote, “In an effort to promote healing and wholeness in the church, we should reach out to women whose congregations have left the ELCA. In some instances, the women might not have agreed with the congregation’s decision; they may be distraught and feeling upended by the turn of events. In other instances, the women may agree with their congregation’s decision but still wish to remain connected somehow with Women of the ELCA. Offer a listening ear and open heart to women in these circumstances. Invite them to participate in your congregational unit’s activities. Hold them in prayer.”

Please join us for an open discussion forum during our three scheduled fall trainings as we discuss ways to support one another and promote healing and wholeness in our churches and communities. You are invited to submit questions or comments on this topic ahead of these trainings to: janek@commstock.com or submit your questions at the trainings.

“In Christ Jesus you who were once far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is the hostility between us.” (Ephesians 2:13-14)

By Jane Kruse and JoAnne Tapper

The Scribe

\$5.00 for one year/4 issues

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Mail completed form and payment to: Sylvia Moore, 1018 8th Ave. W., Spencer, IA 51301
Make check payable to WISWO.

MISSION ACTION

We would like to congratulate the Western Iowa Women for all of the Mission Action items brought to our convention in Ft. Dodge. We are pleased to give you some of the numbers that we have.

There were 150 cell phones donated. Each phone is eligible for a phone card that is then given to a veteran.

We had 322 Bibles donated which gives us a total of 2,776 Bibles from 2000-2011.

We collected 327 Beacon of Hope completed kits for the men's homeless shelter in Ft. Dodge, plus components to make several others.

June 29 we took a van load of items to Global Health in Fridley, Minnesota. The items included rolled bandages, newborn kits, quilts, and items from a hospital that were no longer in use but in good condition.

We thank all of you for your help in these projects. Western Iowa Synodical Women are to be commended for all of the work and projects they have participated in. The totals are truly AWESOME!!

Our Goal: "To enable women to articulate and act out their faith as disciples of Jesus Christ in all walks of life."

Marilyn Nielsen and Loretta Daisy, Mission Action

MISSION ACTION REPORT

May, 2010 thru May, 2011

Report includes all Clusters in Western Iowa

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Quilts & blankets	6237
Layettes	1014
Health Kits	1425
School Kits	2629
Sewing Kits	344
Soap	553

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

Bandages	572
New Born Kits	201
Aids/Hospice Kits	41
Medical Supplies -2 trips with supplies	

OTHER DONATIONS (items, food, or cash)

Old Bibles, 2571 Cell phones Okoboji Camp Lutheran Lakeside Camp Riverside Camp KLC Youth Camp Lullaby Foundation Ronald McDonald House Relay for Life Bremwood Campbell Soup Labels Beacon of Hope YMCA Cancelled Stamps Cherish House Box Tops for Education CAD Open Door Mission Omaha Katie's Fund LSI Church of Damascus Road Wright County Nurses-Quilts & Layettes	Quilts for Graduates Quilts for Baptism Lap Robes Baby Quilts Broadlawns School supplies Prayer shawls Little dresses-Tanzania Christian Center-LeMars Quilts Storybook Project CSADV Council Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence Stork's Nest-Baby Quilt Pillowcase dresses-Wiota Haiti Dresses Tanzania Water Project & Girls School Beloit - Quilts Linus Project Pop Tabs Schools – Mittens & glove Angel Tree Local Missions Eye Glasses Cash donated to various organizations \$35,582.44
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MISSION GROWTH

Did you know next year, 2012, marks the 25th anniversary of Women of the ELCA? Plans are being made churchwide to observe this occasion. Watch the various media of the church for more information. A printed anniversary resource with litany and prayers, a retrospective on the history of the organization on the Web site, ideas for celebrating the anniversary in “25 somethings” and more will be made available to us, so watch for more information as plans come together.

Our magazine “Lutheran Women Today” will be renamed “Gather” when our September issue arrives. You will note a subtitle “our faith in action.” Part of the rationale for this change is that it makes the magazine more marketable to women of other denominations. It was also noted that not any other magazines by other denominations mention their denomination in the title.

The “Gather” Bible study for the nine months beginning in September, 2011 and running through May, 2012 was written by the Rev. Patricia Lull of Augsburg College and is titled “To Follow and Serve . . . the Gospel of Mark.” If the topic, gospel of Mark, seems familiar, you might recall the women of the ELCA began their life studying the Gospel of Mark in 1998. Rev. Lull will challenge all of us to read the gospel written in a narrative language as an invitation to discipleship in the 21st century. The study emphasizes what it means to follow Jesus Christ today. We are called to a living faith, to a deeper and more courageous understanding of what it means to follow Christ. More information is available at www.gathermagazine.org.

Besides the Bible study which can be used in a group setting or as a study in quiet, “Gather” offers regular columns on prayer, health, family life, useful Bible study resources, and faith-in-action articles. A

one-year subscription (10 issues) is just \$12. Check it out.

A new e-newsletter “Bold Connections” was launched in 2009 and provides regular timely news and information from the churchwide organization. This connects the readers to all expressions of the whole of Women of the ELCA – units at the local level, synod at the synodical level and nationally at the churchwide level.

“Daily Grace,” an iPhone app, was launched during the spring of 2011. This piece provides a faith reflection for each day through which women can encounter God’s extravagant, boundless and many times surprising grace. To learn more, visit the App store at iTunes or www.womenoftheelca.org.

The Interchange has had interesting articles (May & June 2011) telling how to have an intergenerational women’s group involving a summer retreat event and a Vacation Bible School event for moms. Have you checked out those articles for ideas to involve the younger generation?

We hope to provide an alphabetical listing of all the program resources that are available free of charge or online. There were more than 30 new programs published since 2009 and new ones are added continually. These programs are perfect for units, adult forums, retreats, workshops and the like. Each resource gives you several choices as to how to use the resource. Topics are wide-ranging as you will see when a listing is made available to you.

Don’t be afraid to scout for programming ideas created by Women of the ELCA. There is much information on websites and in publications if we are willing to look for them. Bring your ideas this fall to a Regional Officers’ Training near you so we can share. See you there? Hope so.

Elfrieda Saylor and Marge Tindall

Regional Fall Leadership Training

Please plan to attend one of these Saturday sessions.

All unit (congregation) AND cluster officers are encouraged to attend.

September 17, 2011

Riverside Lutheran Church
Sioux City, Iowa

September 24, 2011

First Lutheran Church
Algona, Iowa

October 1, 2011

Immanuel Lutheran Church
Kimballton, Iowa

Registration begins at 12:30 p.m. All materials for the breakout sessions should be picked up after you register. If all your officers cannot attend, we ask that someone from your group pick up their material. Training will be from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. There is no registration fee.

Scripture Help in Times of Trial

God determines who walks into your life. It's up to you to decide who you let walk away, and who you let stay, and who you refuse to let go.

As we enter the fall season of the year, we must remember to pray for our farmers and the safe harvest of the crop God has blessed us with again this year. We need only think of our friends in the western part of the state who have no crop because of the flooded Missouri River and those in the southwest who lost their crop to the hail so recently. We in the central part of the state are once again being blessed with an abundant harvest of corn and soybeans. As we think about this remember to thank our Lord.

There are many times when we need to remember to pray. I thought maybe these verses of scripture might help us remember those times.

- YOU say: "It's impossible." GOD says: "All things are possible." (Luke 18:27)
- YOU say: "I'm too tired." GOD says: "I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28-30)
- YOU say: "Nobody really loves me." GOD says: "I love you." (John 2:1 & John 3:34)
- YOU say: "I can't go on." GOD says: "My grace is sufficient." (2 Corinthians 12:9 & Psalm 91:15)

- YOU say: "I can't figure things out." GOD says: "I will direct your steps." (Proverbs 3:5-6)
- YOU say: "I'm not able." GOD says: "I am able." (2 Corinthians 9:8 & Romans 8:28)
- YOU say: "I'm not worth it." GOD says: "I will be worth it." (Romans 8:28)
- YOU say: "I can't forgive myself." GOD says: "I forgive you." (1 John 1:9 & Romans 8:1)
- YOU say: "I can't manage." GOD says: "I will supply your needs." (Philippians 4:19)
- YOU say: "I'm afraid." GOD says: "I have not given you a spirit of fear." (1 Timothy 1:7)
- YOU say: "I'm always worried and frustrated." GOD says: "Cast all your cares on ME." (1 Peter 5:7)

- YOU say: "I'm not smart enough." GOD says: "I give you wisdom." (1 Corinthians 1:30)
- YOU say: "I feel all alone." GOD says: "I will never leave you or forsake you." (Hebrews 13:5)

Dear God, bless all of our friends in whatever it is that You know they may need this day. May their lives be full of Your peace, prosperity and power as they seek to have a closer relationship with You. Amen.

**Thank You
For Your Service!**



Thanks to outgoing board members: Mary Ann Olsen, Marlyce Hauge, and Joyce Anderson.

Mary Ann Olsen served as president for 2 years. Her organizational skills and her attention to detail have helped her be an excellent leader.

Marlyce Hauge has served as treasurer for almost 4 years, her term ends January 31, 2012. Besides doing a great job of keeping our finances in order, she has served on convention committees.

Joyce Anderson has served the past 4 years in Mission Action. She has also helped with the Fall Trainings and has been willing to serve wherever needed.

May God bless you as you continue to serve the Lord in whatever and wherever He leads you. Thank you for your willingness to serve on the Western Iowa Synodical Board.

--Judy Lang and the Western Iowa Synod Women

Welcome

New WISWO Board Members



Judy Lang

Judy Lang, our new president, is wife of Pastor Carroll Lang, who retired in 2009. His last parish was The Church of the Damascus Road prison congregation. They are both involved in the aftercare ministry, helping inmates reenter society. Judy and Carroll have two grown daughters, who are married, and three grandchildren. One lives in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, and the other in Allen, Texas.

Judy taught math to middle school and high school level students. She has played piano and organ, taught Sunday School and Bible School, and been active in the women’s organization of the church. She likes to play piano, sew and do puzzles when she has time. The Langs are members of St. Olaf Lutheran in Fort Dodge.



Loretta Daisy

Loretta is a retired educator. She taught 4th grade, was a special education teacher, a special education consultant, and a classroom teacher for Drake University.

Loretta is 1st Vice President of the Federated Garden Clubs of Iowa, has been a board member of the local Hospital Auxiliary, a Girl Scout leader, a Sunday school teacher, and a Bible school superintendent.

She has served office in the local Women of the ELCA Unit, been a cluster officer, served on the church board, and is a Stephen Minister. She is a member of Fulton Lutheran Church of Roelyn.

She is married to husband, Bryce, who is also retired. They have one daughter who is also an educator. Hobbies include reading and studying, Garden Club activities, and gardening.



Bonny Carlson

Bonny is a member of Augustana Lutheran Church in Manson, Iowa. She is president of the Women of the ELCA unit and serves on the music and worship committee as well as serving on the Church Council. She also plays in the bell choir. Presently Bonny is on the Board of the Golden Meadows Home and is a member of the Chamber in Rockwell City. She is also a bookkeeper for Carlson Trucking and Carlson Auto.

She has served on the Mission Action committee in Augustana and as Cluster 6 Board Treasurer. She sang in the church choir and has been on the finance and stewardship committees.



Please make copies of this newsletter and see that your women are given the opportunity to share the news. Or tell them about finding it at our website: www.wisynod.org/WomenoftheELCA.htm.

**Minutes of the 24th Convention
Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization
June 25, 2011 at St. Olaf Lutheran Church – Fort Dodge, IA**

Theme - "Women of Hope"

Hebrews 10:23: "Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering, for he is faithful that promised."

The 24th Convention of the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization was held at St. Olaf Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge, Iowa on June 25, 2011. The theme for the convention was "Women of Hope".

The morning coffee was served by the women of Zion Lutheran of Gowrie and Fulton Lutheran of Moorland. Registration and coffee started at 8:00 a.m.

At 8:45 a.m. Anna Miller led us in a hymn sing, accompanied by Janis Campbell on the piano. President Mary Ann Olsen led us in the Opening of Convention on page 6 of the convention book.

A worship service was led by Pastor Danette Johns from the Synod office and assisted by Pastor Chris Lang, who is currently at Bethel Lutheran in Graettinger and Wallingford in Wallingford.

The offering was divided as follows: one-half to Churchwide Women of the ELCA; one-fourth to the Center for Agricultural Development (CAD) and one-fourth to WISWO Women Seminary Scholarship Fund.

Mary Ann Olsen gave the Synodical greetings followed by the introduction of the committees and special guests. Local president of St. Olaf Lutheran Women, Judy Lang, extended her greetings to us. The introductions of the officers and board of the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization were made.

Bishop Last brought us his greetings. Julieth Johansen, our visitor from Tanzania, gave a short greeting. Syd Brinkman, who is a member of the Churchwide Executive Board of Women of the ELCA and the President's representative, gave the Churchwide report.

The Scholarship Committee presented a \$2,000 scholarship to Katie Slack, full-time student at the seminary, and \$750 to Lynn Egesdal, part-time Associate in Ministry (AIM) student.

The Credential committee reported that there were 36 voting members, 77 visitors, 8 officers, 4 board members, and 18 special guests with a total of 145 attending the convention.

Some of the displays were: Beacon of Hope, Lutheran Services of Iowa, Okoboji Lutheran Bible Camp, Lutheran Lakeside Camp, and Mission Action.

There were several workshops available for visitors during the morning business meeting: Card Making, Quilt Making, Poetry Club of St. Olaf, Church of the Damascus Road, Meditation Garden, and Igumbilo Secondary Girl's School.

The first session business meeting was called to order by President Mary Ann Olsen. Carole Suhr was appointed as Parliamentarian of the 24th convention of the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization.

The following correction was made to the credentials report: 8 board members and 4 officers.

The Standing Rules were voted on and adopted. The Agenda was voted on and adopted. Committees were adopted.

The secretary's report was given by Diane Vavak. The minutes were approved by the minutes committee and were printed in the Scribe; therefore they were not read at this time. The treasurer's report was presented by Marlyce Hauge. It was on pages 9 and 10 of the convention book. The treasurer's report will be placed on file. The books have been audited by an accountant.

Marlyce Hauge presented the proposed 2012 budget. The budget will be voted on later.

Marilyn Jorgensen reported on the nomination committee. Nominations were as follows: President: Judy Lang; Treasurer: Bonny Carlson; and Board Members: Sela Bryhne, Loretta Daisy, Jane Kruse and Elfrieda Saylor.

Prayers were offered, voting commenced, and ballots were collected.

Vice-President Maxine Lampe took the chair and asked for the President's oral report. Mary Ann Olsen gave her oral report. Her written report was on page 20 in the convention book.

President Mary Ann Olsen took the chair again and declared the business session recessed until this afternoon.

Laura Carlentini and Rev. Deb Mechler led us in an unusual Bible study. This was a singing Bible study, which was really inspiring. The name of the study was "The Melody of God's Grace".

Local president, Judy Lang, read a memorial to Eleanor Campbell of St. John Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs, who was very active in the Women of the ELCA and passed away recently at the age of 92.

Instructions were given for lunch and we sang the table prayer. A wonderful lunch was served by the ladies of St. Olaf. After lunch, fabulous special music was presented by a group of the Sonshine Singers. The Sonshine Singers is a large group composed of members from churches in the community.

The Claims Committee reported on the offering. Offering for the convention was as follows: \$640 was collected before the convention and \$3,351 was collected during the convention with a grand total of \$3,991.

Michelle Christy gave a moving keynote address titled "In Possession of Hope's Confession". This was inspired by our theme *Women of Hope*.

The second business session was called to order by President Mary Ann Olsen.

The Elections Committee reported on the voting: eligible voters 48, Judy Lang 48; Bonny Carlson 48; Sela Bryhne 48, Loretta Daisy 48, Jane Kruse 48, and Elfrieda Saylor 48. President Mary Ann Olsen declared Judy Lang elected President, Bonny Carlson elected Treasurer, and Sela Bryhne, Loretta Daisy, Jane Kruse and Elfrieda Saylor elected Board Members.

The report of the President Committee was given by Bonny Carlson, thanking Mary Ann for her service. The report of the Minutes Committee was given by Glenda Wiener, saying that the morning minutes were approved and that the afternoon minutes would be approved later by the committee and published in the Scribe. The Assembly and Business Committee had no report as no resolutions were presented to them.

Women of Bethany Lutheran in Spencer invited us to come to their church for next year's WISWO convention on June 23, 2012.

The in-kind offerings were kits for Beacon of Hope. Totals for that were 327 full kits and 5 boxes of various supplies to be made into kits later. Steve Roe, founder of Beacon of Hope, shared a little about the shelter and thanked us for our generous gift of kits.

Syd Brinkman led us in the Recognition of outgoing officers and board members on page 32 and then the Installation of the new officers and board members on pages 33 and 34. President Mary Ann Olsen led us in the Closing of Convention on page 35 of the convention book. She then gave some closing announcements.

To close the day, a snack was served by the women of Trinity Lutheran in Webster City.

Blessings from Diane Vavak, Western Iowa Synod Secretary

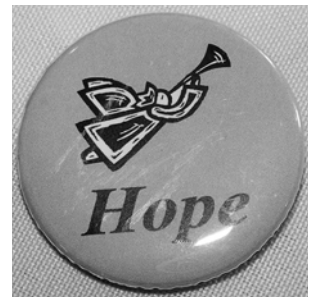
Women of Bethany inviting us to the 2012 Convention.



The 25th Convention of the Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization will be held on **June 23, 2012. at Bethany Lutheran Church in Spencer, Iowa. They will be doing the convention in conjunction with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Royal, Iowa.**

Mark your calendars!

Women of Hope



Syd Brinkman from Churchwide Executive Board



Western Iowa Synod Women officers and board: Judy Lang, Maxine Lampe, Diane Vavak, Bonny Carlson, Sela Bryhne, Elfrieda Saylor, Loretta Daisy, Marilyn Nielsen, Jane Kruse, JoAnne Tapper, Marge Tindall, Syd Brinkman (Churchwide Representative).



Michelle Christy, at left. Jane Kruse, above. Julieth Johansen, Tanzanian visitor, at right.



Sonshine Singers from Fort Dodge area.



Delicious Food!



Friendships!



TRIENNIEL REFLECTIONS



Marilyn Jorgenson, Judy Lang, Diane Vavak, Elfrieda Saylor, Marlys Segar, Sela Bryhne, Maxine Lampe, Joan Turner – Western Iowa Synod representatives at Triennial in Spokane, Washington.

What an exhilarating experience! To see quiet Lutheran ladies become bold, and rejoice loudly with “Praise to the Lord!” The exuberance was catching as we learned how women of all nations, colors, and languages were united with one God.

After viewing the documentary, “Praying the Devil Back to Hell,” of how one woman, Leymah Gbowee, saved her country from peril to peace by uniting the women of her country to stand up (or sit down) in unity for the cause of peace. We were moved and in awe to hear her in person. Through prayer and actions we can all be women that respond to the call of God in our lives.
--Sela Bryhne

I really appreciated being a delegate to the 2011 Triennial Convention and Gathering. It was good to get acquainted with women from all over the United States. One of the highlights for me was the chance to watch the film “A Walk to Beautiful” about the hard lives of young women in Ethiopia. I have reported on that film and other issues as I speak to congregations and also with gatherings of women over coffee. Thank you for the opportunity to experience this Triennial.
--Marilyn Jorgensen

As a first time delegate, I want to thank WISWO for the awe-inspiring experience! The friendships and fellowship were more than I could have imagined. I learned so much about our national organization and its leadership. The speakers, the worship services, the workshops, the food, the weather and the fellowship made it an unforgettable week.
--Marlys Segar

I am thankful to have been elected as a delegate to triennial. It was a moving, learning, and joyful experience. The business meetings were so interesting. Women, and men too, should have a greater awareness of the “business” of the church. Yes, we are based on faith and moved by the Holy Spirit but as any other organization, the ELCA has a structure of which the members need to be part of and informed. The election process is always interesting and exciting. I visited with a few of the churchwide board members and am impressed by the dedication and inspired ideas they have. As we find on the Synod level, when a group of women sit around a table together, the ideas flow. The gathering was great fun. It reminded me of the commercial building at the fair. Everything you might be interested in is there for you to see, hear about and even sample. I visited with some interesting, dedicated “vendors.” I was inspired by the beautiful worship and messages. The speakers each in their way brought insight and knowledge from their area of expertise. The message from Bishop Hanson was especially moving and shed new light on issues facing the ELCA. Most of all the chance to meet and share with women from all over the country was the best of the experience. Thanks for the opportunity to be there.
--Joan Turner

Awesome, beautiful, moving, energizing and God-filled are a few of the things I would use to describe the Triennial Convention. I was so moved by the Spirit during my first triennial convention. I enjoyed learning how the mechanics of our organization works and how much God is truly living in our organization and our people who are committed to running it. I learned from each and everyone I met there and traveled with. I just can't express adequately how much I enjoyed letting God work through me. I think we have elected a great president in Jennifer Michaels as well as the rest of the board. I would like to express my thanks for every one of our delegates that traveled to Spokane. They were thoughtful and considerate in everything they did. I have to say I have never been with such loving people. I truly felt God with us there. Thank you to everyone who elected me to be a delegate. It sure has proven to be a life-changing event for me.
---Diane Vavak

(continued on page 11)

(continued from page 10)

It was an honor and privilege to serve as a delegate to the 8th Triennial Convention and then attend the Gathering. Those of us who attended the convention experienced a strong community of women who walked together for several days to discuss our faith and do the business of the Women of the ELCA. During the convention there was much discussion on the size and composition of the executive board. There were memorials presented on climate change, human trafficking, gender justice, ending hunger, the 1000 Days Initiative and modeling God's love to women whose congregations have decided to leave the ELCA. For me, the highlight of the Gathering was viewing the film screenings of "A Walk to Beautiful" and "Pray the Devil Back to Hell." As with the last Gathering it also was inspiring to hear Bishop Mark Hansen speak about grace and passion. He stated, "Issues that do not define us should not divide us. Jesus stands on both sides." And, "If we have high expectations, we will receive power and be freed in Christ to serve." It was wonderful to see all the prayer shawls, quilts and kits that were donated and on display. Truly, we can be proud of the work of our women.

--Maxine Lampe

Thanks for the privilege and honor of serving as a delegate at the Triennial Convention. Our churchwide staff, officers and board members are committed women of faith who work together to put on these inspiring triennial conventions and gatherings! The memorials (Maxine listed them above) encourage us to act boldly in our faith! At our opening worship, Rev. Jessica Crist encouraged us to keep doing what we are doing: caring, nourishing, and sharing the love of Christ. It matters! Bishop Mark Hanson thanked us for our leadership in the church. He encouraged us to continue to be fluent in the Scriptures, to pray and work for peace and justice, to advocate for people living in poverty, and to keep raising up women for leadership in the church and society. Through speakers, workshops, and Bible study we were **Renewed** so we are ready to **Respond** to the call. In our worship we **Rejoiced** – over 2,200 of us! That is an experience! Another highlight for me is sharing with new and old friends in Christ!

--Judy Lang

The triennial is not only business and speakers but it is renewing friendships and making new ones. This year I met a friend of a college friend while I was there. There always is someone new and someone to renew friendships with.

--Elfrieda Saylor

Center for Agricultural Development (CAD)

You may have heard CAD mentioned at synod events. The purpose of CAD is to help improve the livelihood and dignity of Tanzanian smallholder farmers. Many of these farmers are women. CAD will work directly with the small farmers to increase productivity and profitability to enhance their lives. There will be programs and trainings like our 4-H and extension. We are working with Iowa State University on this project. This was all explained at an event on August 30, 2009.

Since then an Executive Director has been employed, facility renovation and demonstration plots have been put in place, utilities have been supplied to the site, curriculum has been devised, lead contact farmers have been identified and are in training, 4-H clubs and leaders are evolving, and hope and excitement are high as CAD begins to improve the livelihood and dignity of smallholder farmers in the Southern Diocese.

The CAD Partnership Event II on November 6, 2011 will update those who attend on the progress

and plans for the future. If you are interested in attending this, contact Cynthia Wells at the synod office or visit the synod website for particulars.

In July of 2009, the WISWO board pledged \$15,000 over 3 years toward this project. So far we have contributed \$4,096 plus one-fourth of the convention offering, which at this time amounts to \$1,206. This totals \$5,302, a little over a third of our pledge.

Therefore the board would like to encourage units and clusters to remember CAD in your giving. You could consider doing a special event to earn money for this Center. You, the women of the Western Iowa Synod, have been so generous in supporting the Igumbilo Girls School and the well project. Prayerfully consider how blessed we are and the impact this center will have on the lives of our sisters in the Southern Diocese of Tanzania. For more information, contact Cynthia Wells at 712-732-4968 extension 441.

*Let us come together as we . . . Plant a program . . . Implement ideas . . .
Harvest goals . . . actualize dreams!!*

Cluster 2

St. Mark's annual Potluck Supper was held at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Storm Lake on June 15, 2011 with guests attending from area churches. A delicious salad supper and bars were served. Tables were decorated with German items and pictures. The program was on Katarina Von Bora Luther in connection with the Bold Women theme. An excellent video called *The Morning Star of Wittenburg* was shown. Purposes of Katie's Fund were read and an offering designated for that fund was collected. A hymn was sung followed with prayer.

Gloria Rohlfson, Secretary

Cluster 6

The Cluster 6 Spring Rally was held on Saturday, April 9, 2011 at St. Peter Lutheran, Pocahontas, Iowa with 28 in attendance and 3 guests present. A program was given by Kelly Lantz from Lytton on EPIC (Every Person In Christ) she is a youth leader for churches in the Lytton/Rockwell City area. Students from 6th through 12th grades meet on Wednesday evenings with enthusiastic and fun time sharing Christ.

A business meeting was called to order by President Diane Vavak. The secretary and treasurer's reports were given and approved. Diane asked each unit to have their officers elected by September so all newly elected officers may attend the workshop in September. Election of cluster officers was held. Installation services for officers was done by Elfrieda Saylor.

Please NOTE there will NOT be a Fall meeting for Cluster 6. Meeting adjourned.

Carolyn Johnson, Secretary



Stewardship Planning Guide

Every unit will receive the *2011-2012 Stewardship Planning Guide* and Thankoffering service with the September issue of Interchange. Don't just pass the guide on to your treasurer! It contains important things everyone should know!

This guide covers the different types of offerings and how they are received and a report describing how your gifts were used in the previous fiscal year. You will receive the new 2011-2012 Thankoffering service as well, written for and celebrated at the 2011 Triennial Gathering. So please take time to look at the *2011-2012 Stewardship Planning Guide* and make sure that you and all the women in your unit are connected to the great work being done by Women of the ELCA!

Fall Opportunities for Renewal, Growth in Faith and Fellowship

Wed., Sept. 14, 2011

TWIN LAKES FALL RETREAT

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Twin Lakes Christian Center

7718 Twin Lakes Rd. - Manson, Iowa

"Molded In His Image" featuring Tyler Sandstrom of Miry Clay Pottery

For more information call 515-571-5737 or e-mail JudithLang@aol.com.

Sept. 17 & 18, 2011

RIVERSIDE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP

Sat. 8:30 a.m. – Sun. 12:30 p.m.

Speaker: Alicia Economos

This weekend is about removing the clutter that causes resistance to our hearing and obeying God, wholeheartedly connecting with God and learning to be vibrantly alive!

For more information go to riversidelbc.org.

Sept. 30 – Oct. 1, 2011

LUTHERAN LAKESIDE CAMP

Fri. 5:00 p.m. – Sat. 3:30 p.m.

Women Up!

Willia Mueske and Pat McGill will be guiding us on an exploratory spiritual journey that will leave us feeling refreshed and prepared to go out and experience the world with a fresh perspective.

More information at www.lutheranlakeside.com.

Sat. & Sun., October 1-2, 2011

INGHAM/OKOBOJI LUTHERAN

BIBLE CAMP

Speaker: Staci Mason

What does it mean to be a woman of God in today's world? How can we help the next generation of women seek after God? How do the youth of our generation see the world differently?

For more information go to www.okoboji.org.

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

Lutheran Resource Center
800-638-3522 ext. 2730
Clear Lake: 641-357-4451
www.lutheranresourcecenter.org

The Scribe

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interchange

To subscribe: 800-638-3522, ext. 2730
Send a check for \$7 for 1 year; \$13 for 2 years;
\$18 for 3 years to Women of the ELCA,
8765 W Higgins Rd, Chicago, IL 60631-4101

**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: November 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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**Thanksgiving
Prayer**



I thank You, Lord, for harvest grain,
for plums and apples, too,
For sunny days and gentle rain
and skies of deepest blue.

I thank You for a place called home
where love and laughter live,
A place where all are safe and warm
and ready to forgive.

I thank You for the soothing peace
That comes at close of day
As I my fears and cares release
When I kneel down to pray.

by Chris Ahlemann

Western Iowa Women's Organization Directory 2011-2012

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