



**Act boldly.**



A big **THANKS** to three wonderful women that I bugged about my lost glasses, and who did everything in their power to make them appear at Synod Assembly. (I found them in my hotel room—I'd *really* like to explain...) I was so thrilled that I vowed to keep them with me at all times. I went straight the following Monday to the YWCA and signed up for swimming... and dropped them in the parking lot. I found them later that day—after several round rubber rollers had, too!

April Lynch (Asst to Pr. Bill Gafkjen and database manager), Karen Eppert (Asst to Bishop Stuck and Pr. Rudy Mueller), Sylvia Ore, I-K Synod bookkeeper).

**HELLO FROM YOUR NEW CLUSTER COORDINATOR**



Hello, bold women and sisters in Christ! I had the honor of being chosen as the new Coordinator for the Northwest Cluster

Planning Committee at our past Spring Gathering.

Before I go on, let me first thank **Annette Holtan** for her leadership as coordinator --- I have mighty big shoes to fill ---- and **Mindy Meyer**, who has also completed her service to our. Your cluster committee is already planning our Fall Gathering!

As for me, I am a member of Holy Shepherd in St. John. We are just getting our unit started, so your prayers and suggestions would be most appreciated! I am married to Jack. We have no children --- ok, yes, we do! They are two furry little pussy cat girls, Abby and Belle, who are firmly in charge. I have worked for the Federal Courts in Hammond for 28 years (yikes!) as of June 1<sup>st</sup> - I will be eligible to retire in 2 years and 53 days. But who's counting? (That would be me!)

The most important part of my identity right now is that I am a student in the Lutheran Deaconess Association program, located at Valparaiso University. We are a pan-Lutheran organization, both LCMS and ELCA; and, while we may have different points of view, our primary focus is the same—service to Jesus Christ, wherever that may be. The student community is made up of women whose age range stretches from college students to grandmothers. Our backgrounds and stories are just

*Calling all Leaders...*

*Remember this?* "Feet on the floor, body erect, eyes on copy. Begin. Now is the time for the I-K Synodical Women's Organization to come to the aid of their leaders... Now is the time for all..."

*Now remember this:* **July 18, 2009**. That is the day you can **come with questions...** and **leave with confidence!** Jill Watson, president, and Barbara Dietz, secretary and board partner for NC cluster, will join me as NW partner in a training session, **especially for leaders**.

Training will be held from **8:30 to 2:30 (9:30 - 3:30 for NC Cluster)** at **St. Paul Lutheran Church**, 818 Franklin Street in Michigan City.

This session, which will include both the **NW and NC clusters**, is an effort to give the women what they want. **You asked** for it, and we're obligated to do as we're told. We ask that your congregational unit **send at least two officers, especially your president and treasurer**, to learn of important **changes and new missions** as the organization strives to relate to what it means to be **called to discipleship** in a changing world.

In addition to current CU leaders, the training is open to **all interested women** in your congregation. After all, where do leaders come from? The **cluster coordinator** is encouraged to come, too; if you can't, send a committee member—and a notepad.

Send your **registration** with a check for **\$5.00 payable to IK SWO (or Synodical Women's Organization)** to the address below. You may also pay at the door. Registrations must be received by **July 10**— **but units prepaying will be entered in a drawing for a great gift you will absolutely love!**

**So get your reservations in ASAP as follows:**

**USPS: Barbara Dietz, 1917 Denslow Dr., South Bend, IN 46614**

**E-mail: bdietz59@sbcglobal.net.** (indicate **July 18 registration** in subject line);

**Phone: 574-299-0117.** Leave **name(s) and congregation** name.

I promise you **won't be disappointed...**in fact, you'll be happy—and I always keep my promise, don't I? (*Oh, that one doesn't count!*)

as diverse.

I am currently in the midst of our Education/Formation program. This consists of taking classes in theology, church history and the Lutheran Confessions, among others. I have recently completed the required 100 hours of field work. I had the honor of serving with the good folks at Gloria Dei in Highland. Further down the road, I will complete one unit of CPE (chaplancy) and then a one-year paid internship.

While the whole process is a gift, the icing on the cake is the Deaconess community itself. Deaconesses and students gather in area conferences for worship, sister sharing, fellowship and food! We gather yearly for our Annual Meeting, which will take place this year in Atlanta, GA, July 27-29, following the World Diakonia Assembly, a gathering of servants from all over the globe, which meets from July 20-27 at Georgia Tech.

Why am I telling you all of this? Not only does it help you understand me, but I want you to spread the word about the LDA. Are you or do you know a woman with a servant's heart --- and hands and feet --- who might want to become a Deaconess, bold woman serving Christ? We have a website, [www.thelda.org](http://www.thelda.org), which tells more of our story, or you can give Diane Marten, Director of Education/Formation, a call at 219-464-6925.

I clearly am always willing to share as well, so please contact me at [nanjackwalter@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nanjackwalter@sbcglobal.net) or 219-322-8999 about our Cluster. My goal is to make sure we are serving your needs and I am always ready and willing to listen. Of course, if you'd like to talk about the LDA, I'm sure I can manage that, too. Better yet, invite me to talk to your unit or your congregation about either, or both!

I hope you are considering attending the SWO Convention coming up September 18-19 in Louisville, Kentucky. In the meantime, have a bold, safe and fun Summer In His Service,

*Nancy Walter*

*Editor's note: I feared we'd never get a coordinator as bold and committed and energetic as Annette—but I think we made it!*

## Griffith Lutheran Church Dedicates Prayer Garden



An angel fairly glows, reflecting the beauty of God's creation.

Many blessings have visited GLC recently, but perhaps the most obvious is the prayer garden, visible from the city's main thoroughfare, Broad Street.

Most of the church poured prayer, work, and love into the garden; children even donated the proceeds from lemonade stands. That's appropriate, considering the garden's genesis was a classic case of "making lemonade from lemons."

Crews tore up the site in 2005 because of floods and sewer repairs. But a prayer garden had always been on the congregation's wish list, so with the site a mess, GLC members saw the perfect opportunity. Rob Buehler presented plans to the trustees for an Eagle Scout project. He leveled and landscaped the area with new rocks and edging, installed walkways, and planted grass.

In 2008, long-time member Lucille Brady was asked to develop the prayer garden. With her sketches, member John Aldrin led construction of a pergola in the courtyard's center.

Lucille and her crew planted bushes and flowers, most from the scriptures, and put in benches, chairs, statues, and crosses.

Just as God's kingdom is always growing, so is the garden. Lucille is still planning ways to make the garden flourish. Now children play there, and just-married couples take pictures beneath the pergola.

Thrivent, donations, and memorials from the congregation funded the garden, and it was dedicated this past fall.



**Are you ready?**

**Only two more months! Experience for the first time, or again, the joy of worshiping, learning, and making a difference with your sisters from all over the synod. Meet old friends. Make new ones. Then return home energized and ready to ACT BOLDLY on your faith in Jesus Christ!**

**"Your River of Faith"**

**Sep. 18-19 • Hurstbourne Holiday Inn • Louisville, KY**



Vernetta Brumfield, president of Bethlehem Women of the ELCA, basks with her son MarQuis and guests at Pastor Steinke's 35th Ordination Anniversary celebration, June 14, planned with his help—while he was totally unaware!

Claiming the elaborate preparations were for a women's celebration, the witty women invited Bishop Stuck to lead the service,



Chatting with me and Bishop, former Metro-Chicago bishop Sherman Hicks, Multicultural Director of ELCA, gets "snapped." with a candid.

and assembled a church full of parishioners from the pastor's past...and he had no clue until he walked into the church (after passing the BOLD announcement on the large sign outside) and saw on the bulletin board a curiously familiar photo of a little boy not quite grown into his ears (the stuff blackmail is made of), compliments of his mother 1,000 miles away in Colorado. Also on hand was his former bishop from Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Now, Bethlehem women, that's BOLD!

By popular demand...

**Chicken & Rice**

3 lb cooked, diced chicken breast, 3 – 4 C. cooked rice In large pot, dice and sauté 1½ celery, 1 lg. red pepper, and 1 med. onion

Blend 1½ c. mayonnaise, 2 cans cream of chicken soup, ¼ c. dry sherry. 2—3 tbs. lemon juice, blk pepper to taste. Add ½ pkg. frozen peas and carrots.

Combine all. Bake in 9x13 pan at 425° until bubbly.

Optional topping: 2 C. crushed rice cereal or Special K. ¼ c. melted butter, slivered almonds, and/or parmesan cheese.

**Creation Caring for God's Creation**

Gen 2:15

Slowly but surely, it seems, people are suspecting something is gone awry. Even members of Congress have creased their brows. Perhaps it's the sharp zig-zag on the charts as the temperature moves 20 to 30 degrees in what seems a matter of minutes. Or, maybe it's the perpetual labor of sump pumps for months on end, or the swollen ditches lining the highway that, till now, held hardly even a sip of water.

I think our habits are changing the earth, and I think it's time to change our habits. It's time to reorder our thinking; and we can do it with a few "Pass overs":

**Pass over** over-packaged products. Cute packaging adds nothing to quality, just more to the garbage;

**Pass over** the dainty bottles of shampoo, lotion, etc., at hotels, and bring the stuff your body's used to—I know you paid for it, but so will your grandkids;

**Pass over** Styrofoam dinnerware. They are such a bargain with all the holiday guests, but they'll be lying in the bowels of the earth long after generations yet unborn have eaten and emptied;

**Pass over** the reduced sizes whenever possible, the *giants* that were last year's *regulars*; and if you find out ...

**Pass over** to me a place where I can protest this increasingly popular ruse to get more coins from our pockets . Many times the packaging is as big for the smaller quantity, creating more waste, so it's not just about protecting our purse, but also **protecting our planet.**

Bethel Women of the ELCA held their annual Mother/Daughter Mother's Day Tea on Saturday, May 9, with porcelain teapots, sumptuous food, praise dancers, and Bingo. Willie Walker of Bethlehem is pleased with her



prize, her own little teapot.



**St. Paul's Fall Retreat**  
**at beautiful Red Mill County Park**  
**Saturday, August 22, 9 - 2**

**Theme: "When Good People Do Nothing, Evil Succeeds"**

**Registration of \$11 may be paid at the door and includes breakfast and catered lunch.**  
**Call Wilma: 219-879-9477**  
**Or Ruth: 219- 872-6358**

**Directions: From I-94 East, exit 421 South. Make a right turn onto Holmesville Road. Follow sign to Red Mill Road.**

The *Northwex*, the bimonthly publication of IN-KY Women of the ELCA Northwest Cluster, can be downloaded at [iksynod.org](http://iksynod.org). For questions, submissions, or comments, or to inquire about subscribing via USPS or email, please contact me at 219-886-0201 or [maslivend@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maslivend@sbcglobal.net).



Our mission:  
Mobilizing women to act boldly  
on their faith in Jesus Christ.

ILK Women of the ELCA, NW Cluster

Dorothy Nevils, Board Partner

575 Johnson Street

Gary, IN 46402

*Celebrate Freedom! Celebrate  
the*

**Please make  
copies available  
for the women in  
your congregation.  
Copies also posted on  
lksynod.org**

*4th  
of July*

Share this *Share this*  
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**SHARE THIS** *Share*

“We do God's work not because God needs us to do so, but because our neighbor does. We do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.”  
Bishop Mark Hanson

### Mary, Mary, how do your boxes go?



Did your women get their coin boxes last fall? It's not too late; there are still almost 4 months until Thankoffering Sunday, so you can order a supply for this year and next. Go to

augsbuurgfortress.org, and type in Act Boldly coin box. Make sure you order a specific quantity.

Though usually gathered on the 3rd Sunday in October, these boxes can be used any time as a routine of thanks and stewardship. Drop in a dime or coin a day, or perhaps a quarter a week, or loose change from the laundry room or couch “pocket” or sofa stash... It adds up painlessly, but it has the power to do so much in our world.

And, have you made plans for celebrating Thankoffering Sunday? You don't need anything special... just women worshipping as on any other Sunday, but leading the worship... maybe refreshments afterward, which we usually do anyway... There's something *really* special about a **community of women** all over the ELCA and USA giving thanks for our ministry, apart, together, at the same time!

*Nancy Walter  
is looking for  
riders.  
Give me a call  
for a ride or  
riders!*

### CU Leaders:

By now you have received convention packets. In them were several forms, including **nomination forms**. PLEASE make sure **all the women** are aware of the positions to be filled, and **forms are available for each woman who is interested**. Nominations have to be sent in **from and by the congregational unit**. Each interested woman **must** have her unit's approval before she can be added to the slate of nominees. Participation is how you make your voice heard. And while you're at it, **submit** someone (18—30) from your church for a **Young Women's Scholarship** to attend **free of charge**.

Communicate with **all the women** in your church. Make sure they know **what positions are available** and what the positions entail. Then **encourage women** to answer the call to service in Women of the ELCA on the synodical (as a board member) and churchwide (as a 2010 Triennial delegate) levels. Resolution forms are also enclosed. If you'd like to propose a change, send your **resolution** by your delegate so that the body can consider it. Remember: **You** are the **women** in **Women of the ELCA!**