



The KINswoman

A Publication of Indiana-Kentucky Women of the ELCA • Vol 22 • No 1 • Spring 2009

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



“**C**el-e-brate good times. **C**ome on! **L**et’s **C**elebrate!” Does this line remind ANY-ONE ELSE of a song?

I am known at my office place as someone who gives, and takes, “song cues.” I have a good friend who describes my conversations as lyrical because I take spoken words and connect them to portions of songs, thereby giving off “song cues.” I will sometimes respond in conversation with song lyrics, giving HER a song cue. It is a fun game that we play with one another. When I needed a name for my own personal business (that included offering children’s music classes), I ended up naming it “Song Cues.” Music is a great connector for me.

So, what does the opening line of this article do for you? Can you hear the music in your head? Then you have found a song cue of your own.

The IN-KY Synodical Women’s Organization will be having a celebration of its own in just a few months. We will be meeting September 18-19, in Louisville, Kentucky, for 2 days of convention, business, worship, fellowship and **celebration**.

We have much to celebrate as we continue to see growth in new congregations participating in our ministry together: **We celebrate the varieties of ministries** that are happening in the name of Jesus, all over the synod. **We celebrate the opportunities** that we have to gather and to work together on mutual projects. **We celebrate the unity we have with other women in our organization**, including churchwide staff and representatives, who visit with us at convention time; and also **with other partners in ministry** in our church, including the Bishop of our synod, representatives from various mission groups and leaders in congregations throughout our synod, and **with one another**. Plan to be a part of this celebration. Consider this an invitation to attend.

Come on! Let’s celebrate!

In His Service,
Jill



Whom did (will) you celebrate on Bold Women’s Day?

When Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans the morning of August 29, 2005, **Myrtle Ory** fled her senior citizen dwelling, with a friend, stopping at a Baton Rouge hospital because it seemed the friend was having a heart attack. They stayed at LSU chapel, then a private home before heading to Houston to stay with her daughter, until forced to relocate because of Hurricane Rita.

Myrtle eventually returned to New Orleans, but finally relocated to be near another daughter three years ago, joining Christ Lutheran, where she is an active participant in everything Women of the ELCA. “GOD provides for a reason,” says Myrtle. Look for her in Louisville in September.

When I ran into **Elizabeth Metcalf** just before worship service at Christ in Louisville, my mind took a minute to pull it together. Maybe you remember her as an ’07 Young Woman’s Scholarship recipient. Well, she’s been one of the biggest cheerleaders, committed to young women at her church!

Liz’s life is busy. She’ll be a bride September 5, so you get an idea of what her days are like. However, it doesn’t keep her away from what has been her life. Since Liz was young, she’s been active in her church, serving as lector and communion assistant, and as nursery teacher.

In her new position as youth director, she’s preparing to take on the challenge of taking a group of youth to the youth convention in July. She’s put together several fundraisers to take the kids to the city that Myrtle called home, New Orleans.

Celebrate two bold women, Myrtle and Liz!



Dorothy Nevils
Vice President/
KINswoman

I remember a few years back when I was at Calvary before it closed. The season of Lent was approaching, and people were “preparing.”

Preparing meant one thing for most people. As I hung my head down in the shampoo bowl, I listened to my beautician talk about what she was “giving up.” She had attended Calvary long before joining a larger, non-denominational church, keeping the Lutheran ways and singing the Lutheran hymns that brought her comfort while setting her apart from her new parishioners.

“I’m giving up sweets,” she said, squeezing a generous amount of slimy stuff into her hand and transforming my thick, black hair into a fragrant soufflé. “I need to lose weight anyway,”

The year before I had approached Lent almost the same way, denying myself a single Hershey’s chocolate almond bar, and any other brand— *the longest 50 days!* I had included Sundays.

The next Sunday, Pastor delivered a sermon that changed forever my way of observing Lent. I decided then to seek a way of giving *of* rather than giving *up*—and I’d do it through the Women’s Organization.

I bought 1½ yd. each of yellow and green fabric, cut it into twelve 22” squares and made my first LWR quilt.

The quilt didn’t get shipped. On the last Sunday of July, our unit always had LWR Kickoff Sunday, and for the next two years, the quilt was spread under sample layettes, school kits, health kits, and sewing kits. Eventually I made three more, and began a mission that I eventually carried to two more churches.

This year as you move through the season of Lent, look for a way to offer a sacrifice that will benefit someone beside yourself. Sacrifice time, perhaps. You really don’t have to take *give up anything*.

Women of the ELCA began over thirty years ago showing me a “bigger” person than I could ever imagine being. It offers the same for every other participating woman.

Christ emptied Himself for us. Let Women of the ELCA teach you “emptying,” too, and discover fullness.

The KINswoman

The *KINswoman* newsletter is a publication of the Indiana-Kentucky Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). This publication facilitates communications of the I-K Women of the ELCA by sharing ideas and programs of individuals, as well as our Clusters, Congregational Units and (SWO) Board.

The *KINswoman* is published quarterly by the Synodical Women’s Organization of IN-KY Women of the ELCA, Jill Watson, President, and online at iksynod.org/ministry//IK-SWO/IKSWO.asp.

Send all articles, photos, questions, to **Dorothy Nevils**, Editor (see below), and or subscription requests to kinswoman@gmail.com.

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Young Women



AWAITING SPRING
by Barbara Dietz

It's *finally February*, and I'm starting to be hopeful that winter will soon be over. After the record cold and lake effect snows of northern Indiana, to the ice storms of Kentucky, and everything else in between, I'm sure that you all feel the same way. This winter was dark and cold in other ways too. Confirmation came every time I turned on the news.

But spring is a time of hope – and we can make a difference in many ways and for many people, both within our congregations and beyond. More good can be accomplished by a group than by individuals alone.

Become active in your unit. Be aware of those in your congregation that may need help or support. Organize activities and projects that will benefit your church. Expand your mission beyond your congregation and support outreach programs

And it doesn't stop there. Be active at the cluster level. Attend the Spring Gatherings and learn what other women are doing to make a difference. Then take that information back to your church and make it part of your program.

And if you think a lot can be accomplished at the cluster level, just wait until you see what can happen when women of the Synod gather together! Plan to attend the I-K Women's Synodical Organization convention this September 18 and 19. Attend the workshops, be enlightened by the Bible studies and worship services, commune with your Sisters in Christ. You don't have to be a delegate or alternate to attend. *All* women are encouraged to be a part of this experience.

And what will happen when all the Synods combine and attend the next Triennial in Spokane, WA, in the summer of 2011? What will be accomplished will be unbelievable!

Together we can continue Christ's work as He instructed. Together we have strength. Together we are "Bold Women In Motion."



BRAG COLUMN...



Jennifer wants to use this column for sharing events and activities, especially for 20 and 30-somethings. She'd like to begin a resource file so these events can be shared synod-wide, so get those details and pictures e-mailed to her at jen.k.faust@gmail.com...so she can share them!

Bottled Faith

by Deb Rieselman
Gloria Dei, Crestview Hills

Sometimes I do something without really knowing why. I just act on impulse.

That happened while I was wading in the River Jordon one day. Seriously. THE River Jordon. The same one Christ was baptized in.

Controversy surrounds the exact location of His baptism, but obviously no one really knows. Proof didn't matter to me because holiness can be gifted onto a place by the reverence of those sharing the space.

In this case, the cold water running around my knees was indeed holy from the prayers that filled the air and rustled through the trees. To preserve the moment, I impulsively filled a small glass bottle with some river water.

A month later, I was scheduled to give a children's sermon at church, and the Gospel lesson was — what luck! — about Jesus' baptism. I poured the water into a little dish, then let the children dip their fingers into it to make the sign of the cross as a reminder of their own baptisms.

I explained how Martin Luther, when he was scared, would say to himself over and over again, "I am baptized. I am baptized. I am baptized." He used it as a mantra to remember that as long as he was a member of God's family, God would take good care of him, and everything would be OK.

I love that story because I've often followed in Luther's footsteps when I didn't know what else to pray. After I shared the story with the children, I poured the water back into my bottle, feeling it had grown a little holier with their touch.

A few months later, I was asked to give the children's sermon at another church, and the theme of baptism fit into the lesson once again. So I grabbed my bottle one more time, believing the water would simply grow holier with each use.

As it turns out, maybe I did have a reason for bottling that river water; I just didn't know it at the time. Lucky (page 4)

for me, I paid attention to a little nudge that told me to stick my bottle in the flowing current.

Lots of times I have overlooked such holy nudges. But I thank God for the moments I have stayed aware, then noticed the reason revealed in hindsight.

Holiness can be gifted upon locations, people and even water, as long as we remain aware of God's loving presence. To help me remember, I have a three-word mantra to use. Now I gift it to you.

Our sincerest thanks to Debbie Rieselmann for her contribution to "River Writings," and we look forward to other contributions from our sisters across the synod.

E-mail (USPS, too) those writings to me, and share them. Only 3 requirements: Make them **short**, about a **river**, and about **faith**. We know they'll be enjoyed!

Dorothy



Treasurer's Report

Florence Bright

Dear sisters in Christ,
As I write this article it is freezing cold, power is out all over Louisville, and I am truly blessed with electricity and a warm house. Tuesday night was terrifying, with branches breaking and falling all around sounding like New Year's Eve, only lasting all night. It truly makes one very thankful for being blessed at a time like this, and yet, feeling so helpless for others.

I hope that you take time to go over the year-end Treasurer's Report in this issue of the *KINswoman*. As your board met in Louisville last week, we very carefully analyzed our income and expenses. You will be

**Indiana-Kentucky Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the ELCA -Treasurer's Report
February 1, 2008 - January 31, 2009**

Beginning Balance, February 1, 2008.....\$ 3,555.89

Receipts:

Regular Offering	10,301.59
Designated I-K Offering	270.33
Waters for Africa	561.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	282.50
Cluster Offering	1,637.77
SCC ½ Charity	56.75
Board Thankoffering	30.00
Dissolution-1 st English-Goshen	70.00
<i>KINswoman</i>	337.00
World Hunger	25.00

Total Receipts..... \$13,571.94

Available..... \$17,127.83

Disbursements:

Churchwide:

½ Regular Offering	5,150.28
Waters for Africa	561.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	282.50
Cluster Offering	1,637.77
Dissolution Unit	70.00
Board Thankoffering	30.00
Triennial Gift	30.00
Women Helping Woman (gift)	500.00
World Hunger	25.00

Total Churchwide Disbursement..... \$8,286.55

<i>KINswoman</i>	3,088.29
Special Mailing (printing and postage)	672.00
Board Expenses	2,286.78
SCC -Jeffersontown Ministries (½ cluster offering)	56.75
Church Women United	25.00
Insurance Payment	20.00
Stamps	8.40
Audit	50.00

Total disbursements..... \$14,493.77

Balance on Hand, January 24, 2009.....\$2,634.06

approving this year's budget at our Convention in September. It is my further hope that during the time between now and September you will prayerfully consider your offering, sending your President and Treasurer to Convention, and supporting the goals and mission of the Women of the ELCA.

You will also be approving our budget for February 1, 2009 to January 31, 2010 when presented at Convention. Please do not hesitate to ask questions about the budget if there is anything that you do not understand, or concerning expenses. The two major expenses are the *KINswoman* and the board expenses. Board expenses include travel (gas reimbursement of 25¢/mile) and lunch for board meetings in Indianapolis (3/1/08, 6/27/08, and 9/13/08), and an overnight meeting in Louisville (1/24/09) for putting the Convention budget together, working out other details for Convention, and our general business meeting. The president and any board member attending a cluster that is not within her own cluster also receives mileage reimbursement.

Each board member is an officer or a committee chair or co-chair. Their expenses include paper, ink for their computers, copying costs, and postage. We have been so blessed to have board members who donate all of these costs. However, we include them in the budget as they are legitimate reimbursable expenses, and future board members may not be able to contribute these in-kind gifts.

Cluster Coordinators, please help me! At your cluster gatherings, please write down the churches represented. This helps us keep records of active, participating units that may not send offerings throughout the year.

ALSO, after your expenses are paid

Board Notes for Jan. 24-25

Board met at convention site, Holiday Inn, Hurstbourne, KY. the site of our September convention. Attending were Jill Watson, Dorothy Nevils, Barbara Dietz, Florence Bright, Bonnie Kroening, René Siria, and Mary Glasscock.

- ◀ Need to fill board vacancies until end of term.
- ◀ Secretary needs current unit officers forms; new "pink" form to be mailed to units; update active unit lists by 3/31, contact for each unit.
- ◀ *Radical Welcome* recommended to welcome new women/people; use at circle/unit levels, by board; check Women of the ELCA website to order.
- ◀ Treasury balance 1/24/09: \$3,878.07; offerings continue downward, units wait until yearend.
- ◀ Spring Gathering dates needed for *KINswoman*; should include short empowerment workshops, encourage full convention workshop attendance; cluster events pictures wanted for *KINswoman*.
- ◀ Desire info re: number women receiving and number sharing *KINswoman* to ensure it reaches all.
- ◀ Clusters encouraged to post to our page on IK website, develop a newsletter like NW's *Northwex*.
- ◀ Delegate packets to be mailed to units; to include nomination forms for officers & board, and delegates to 2011 Triennial in Spokane, WA; Fair Share forms; and info re: Love and mission offerings to be collected.
- ◀ Planning continues for workshops, mission projects, the Augsburg bookstore, meals, presenters, Bible studies, and music; worship service Friday evening at Christ in Jeffersontown, about a mile from the hotel.



A big **THANKS** and Women of the ELCA tote bag to "cyber angel," Danielle Burris, who along with sending the weekly Wednesday IK updates to your inbox (*You get it, right?*), also posts news of the IN-KY Women's Organization as a courtesy to us. She sent a picture of her holding the tote, and giving it a big "thumbs up!" The plastic one gets a thumb in the other direction.

Our totes cry, "Thanks, Danielle! We love you!"

and you send your offering, **you may designate one-half of your offering for a special project. Thus, one-half of your offering goes directly to churchwide, and one half will be sent to your special designated project. You may also designate the one-half for ongoing expenses of your I-K Synod Board.**

THANKS to all our units who faithfully send their offerings. I wish I could give you all a hug. Maybe I can do that when I get to see you at convention!

Florence

Notes, Reminders, etc.

Send in names and emails so we can get the *KINswoman* into the hands of every woman possible. If you want a print copy, we need that info, too. Please include the name of your congregation and send to kinswoman@gmail.com, or KINswoman, P.O.B 888, Jasper, IN 47546.



You can still order the new Women of the ELCA dvd, "Created in the Image of God," and *Radical*



Welcome. Read blogs, join the discussion. Start your own. Chat. Exchange ideas. For info, visit womenoftheelca.org.



You still have until April 30 to turn those old cell phones into a good deed for the Women's funding Network. Just go to GoodDeedfoundation.org/recycle

OUR MISSION FOCUS THROUGH JUNE IS I-K DOMESTIC DISASTER RELIEF FOR WEATHER-RELATED DISASTERS. If you HAVE NOT SENT YOUR UNIT'S IN, WHY NOT DESIGNATE A SUNDAY, HOLD A BAG, BUCKET, JAR... AND COLLECT \$1 FROM EACH WOMAN. THEN, WRITE "IK DISASTER" ON THE BLUE FORM, AND SEND IT TO FLORENCE BRIGHT, 2619 LINDSAY AVENUE, LOUISVILLE, KY 40206.

Spring Gatherings

Northwest: April 18; Christ, Hammond, IN

Evansville: April 18; Shepherd of the Hills, Evansville, IN

South Central: April 18; Messiah-Trinity, Louisville KY

East Kentucky: April 4; Hebron, Hebron, KY

Southeast: April 4; Resurrection, Madison, IN



Women boldly speaking up for children
Rachel's Day

Justice for Children and Youth. Observe it this year on May 3. Visit WomenoftheELCA.org, or Google Rachel's Day to find resources and suggestions.

Beyond Spirituality to Service

Spiritual Gathering for Christian Women
Friday, July 23—Saturday, July 24, 2010
At the Holiday Inn, Fairborn, OH

"Whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies." -1 Peter 4:11

Bible study, worship, singing, spiritual friendships, journaling, sharing the Gospel, service to others, inspirational entertainment

Bible study leaders: Pastor Vicki Garber, Gloria Dei Lutheran, Crestview Hills, KY
Pastor Doris Sparks, Zion Lutheran, Chelsea, MI.

An ecumenical event hosted by the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America from Region 6: (IN/KY, NW OH, S OH, NE OH, SE MI, NW Lower MI)

More info forthcoming.

Women, our Kentucky sisters desperately need our immediate help!

Recent ice storms in western Kentucky have caused vast destruction over eight counties, damaging buildings and downing power lines.

St. Matthew by the Lake, Benton, KY, is in an area still without power, and their biggest need now is canned food and other non-perishables and money to buy perishable food. We can help them to help others. Please make checks payable to the church and mark them for Marshall County Storm Support. Mail to: St. Matthew by the Lake, 3966 US Hwy 641N, Benton, KY 42025.

Pr. Mary Poston (Christ in Madisonville) is coordinating cleanup in Hopkins and Muhlenberg Counties, and could use physical assistance of self-contained teams for tree removal for one or several days. Call 812-490-6916 or 812-629-8390 to learn what is needed.

We ask that you notify Florence (with notes—*no money, please*) of your unit's gift so we can see and share how, as Women of the ELCA, we support one another.

For more information, see the IK Wednesday update for 2/11/09, or visit iksynod.org. While there, sign up and keep up with synod news and info. Thank you for your caring. (Mt.25:35-40)

Thank You

CONTRIBUTING ACTIVE UNITS

I-K SYNODICAL WOMEN OF THE ELCA

FEBRUARY 1, 2008 -- JANUARY 31, 2009*

1. Northwest

Augustana, Hobart
Bethel, Gary
Bethlehem, Gary
First United, Hammond
St. Paul, Michigan City
Spring & Fall Clusters

2. North Central

First English, Mishawaka
First English, Goshen
Gloria Dei, South Bend
Trinity, Goshen

3. Northeast

Antioch, Hoagland
Calvary, Angola (Water for Africa)
Faith, Ft. Wayne
Grace, Columbia (Water for Africa)
Holy Trinity, Harlan
St. John, Ft. Wayne
St. John of the Lake, Ft. Wayne
St. Mark, Albion
St. Mark, Ft. Wayne
St. Mark, St. Joe
St. Mark, Uniondale
Trinity English, Ft. Wayne
Zion, North Manchester
Grace, Ft. Wayne

St. Mark, Auburn
Spring & Fall Cluster

4. Lafayette

Christ, Kokomo
Faith, Logansport
Gloria Dei, Mulberry
Trinity, Logansport
Spring Cluster

5. Indianapolis

Faith, Indy
Messiah, Brownsburg
Pilgrim, Indy
St. Andrew, Speedway
St. Paul, Seymour

6. East Central

Holy Trinity, New Castle
St. John, Anderson
Zion, Hartford City

7. Southeast

Emmanuel, Lawrenceburg
St. John, Lawrenceburg
St. Paul, Olean
St. Peter BB, Dillsboro
St. Peter, Dillsboro
Zion, Sunman
Spring Cluster

8. Evansville

Christ, Jasper
Redeemer, Jasper
Shepherd of the Hill, Evansville
St. James, Holland
St. Matthew by Lake, Benton
St. Paul, Jasper
St. Peter, Stendall
Spring Cluster

9. South Central

Christ, Jeffersontown
Faith, Jeffersonville, IN
First, Louisville (Cluster)
St. John, Louisville
St. Paul, Louisville
St. Peter, Corydon
House of Prayer (Cluster)
Messiah-Trinity (Cluster)
Spring Cluster

10. East Kentucky

Gloria Dei, Crestview Hills
Hebron, Hebron
St. John, Melbourne
St. Luke, Cold Springs
Hope (Cluster)
Spring Cluster

***NOTE from Florence:** If your unit sent an offering in *December or January* and it was mailed to the *Synod address (Indianapolis)*, it will not be reflected above, as I only receive offerings from Synod every two or three months. Because of this, it is much better to *send your offerings to me:* Florence Bright, 2619 Lindsay Ave., Louisville, KY 40206.

The next *Kinswoman* will reflect offerings sent to the synod which I received *after* this list was compiled. However, if your unit does not appear, and you have sent an offering *prior* to December, please let me know.

Many thanks for your support of the ministries of the Women of the ELCA.

Coming this Spring...

A new "current officers form." You won't be able to miss it; it will be **bright pink!**

Please include the **names** of the officers **and when** elections are held, **and how long** your women hold office. Each unit should also have a contact person **WHICH DOES NOT CHANGE** when elections are held but **remains as long as she is active in the unit**. This ensures that the information being sent to the unit is reaching the women.

Please fill out the information and mail it back to me, Barbara Dietz (info on p. 2, and on the form).

**Update
Your Constitution
in 10 minutes flat!
Use the template on
Pages 4 and 5 in
the January issue
of *Interchange* !**

**DATED MATERIAL
For immediate delivery**

SAVE THE DATE

September 18 & 19

Indiana-Kentucky Women of the ELCA Convention

Your River of Faith

At Holiday Inn Hurstbourne in Louisville, KY

HIGHLIGHTS include:

**CHURCHILL DOWNS CHAPLAIN
MESSAGE FROM BISHOP'S OFFICE
WORSHIP WITH EUCHARIST
BIBLE STUDY
ELECTIONS
BANQUET**

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Workshops

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Info from cwo

Exhibits

Board the Mission Train

Mission Project