



The Kinswoman

A Publication of Indiana-Kentucky Women of the ELCA • Vol 22 • No 3 • Fall 2009

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

Final Issue before Convention!



Jill Watson
& the President's Daughter

Growing the Family— *Boldly!*

As I write this, I am preparing for my daughter's wedding. My husband, son and I will be leaving town in a few days to drive to Minnesota for the ceremony and all its accompanying activity. Stephanie has friends arriving this week from all across the country to share in this special event with her. The "girls" have a special get together on Thursday night for a sleepover in the last "single" apartment that Stephanie will ever live in.

Our family is undergoing changes this month as we join with another family, creating new bonds and mutual relationships.

Holidays will be a new experience as we adapt to different schedules, different locations and different traditions.

But the union will be a joyous one! We look forward to the inclusion of Nick as a member of our family, and all that their marriage will bring.

The Indiana-Kentucky Women's organization will be undergoing similar changes in the next few months. We will be having a change of leadership with the election of new board members, and selecting new officers to provide leadership for the work we do together as Women of the ELCA in our synod. Some of our current leaders will be adjusting to new roles in the organization. I will be leaving the synodical board, becoming a participant (like most of you) in the organization instead of serving as I have on the board the past 6 years. Know that I will continue to serve this organization as I am called to do, and as the need arises.

Where do you fit in this organization? Do you have skills that God has not only provided to you, but has called you to use for the Women's Organization? Will you accept the call to serve alongside your Sisters in Christ by allowing your name to be included on the ballot for our September elections? Call or write to me if you are interested in being included and ready to consider that call. I will be pleased to share my experiences with you to help you make a decision. I pray that, as "our family" grows, more of you will become a part of the process.

Give me one week to reorganize my thoughts after the wedding...and after I return from the churchwide assembly (again in Minneapolis) where I will be serving as an Indiana-Kentucky delegate... and I will be ready for action. I pray that you will be ready to join me.

Acting Boldly on My Faith...

Jill



Dorothy Nevils
Vice President/
KINswoman

We Come Bearing Gifts. . . *Maybe*

You remember “We Three Kings”? You sang it long before you knew the meaning of the words or the context of the story, I’m sure. Later you understood more clearly their mission, why they felt compelled to offer their gifts to the Christ child.

You even learned that these gifts were brought much later than greeting card pictures suggest. But that did not take away from the act of giving.

Over the past few months, you have been approached for gift-sharing. Some have offered their gifts, and others have held onto them, convincing themselves they didn’t get any when they were passed out.

If that’s your story, let me turn your attention to 1 Corinthians 12. I know that with your background you are familiar with that passage.

Paul, the “writingest writer in the New Testament,” teaches here a lesson on gifts and belonging. I won’t discuss it here, but you can refresh yourself when your hands are dry and your Bible nearby. I will only say that the people in those early churches kept Paul pretty busy; even today we maybe ought to pull out some of those old letters.

Even if you had never read Matthew 5:15, I’d doubt that you’d turn a basket over a lamp so that no one could see the light. (Well I did, when I was a teenager, every time a car came down the road. I was embarrassed that we were practically the only folks I knew who didn’t have electricity. I’d like to think I’m a little smarter now. And, of course, you’ve always been.)

The truth is that someone has probably asked you to assume a role in your unit, on the cluster committee, or on the synodical level, and you’ve probably said no.

Or, perhaps you’ve been on the asking side of the fence and got that two-letter word. Then you felt like apologizing. For what? For spotlighting the opportunity to answer the call to discipleship? For the opportunity to use one’s gifts for the world or one small corner of it? *(Continued on page 3)*

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.

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

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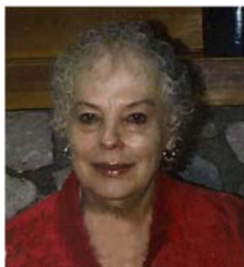
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Young Women



What Is a Cluster??

Phyllis Thompson

Some people might say it is chocolate, caramel and nuts. Others might say it is a ring of flowers. Or others may say it is a group of women of the Evangelical Lu-



theran Church in America whose units come together for study, friendship and fellowship.

The latter is the correct answer.

Units usually meet together **twice per year**, once in the fall and once in the spring. Study materials are provided by the Synodical Organization.



Offerings are usually taken, and are sent to the Synodical Treasurer. If you want to support a local ministry, send the ministry information and the **entire offering amount** to the treasurer within two weeks of the Cluster meeting. **She will send a check to that ministry** in your name.

Clusters are wonderful, inspiring and uplifting. **Each unit needs to attend** to make the cluster stronger and greater. We learn from each other and can go forth and help others within our communities.

If you have a question regarding Clusters, please contact your Cluster Facilitator. Better still, plan to meet with her during Synodical Convention.

Just remember, we need to use the talents God has given us. Only then will we become stronger as a group.

Bonnie Kroening, South clusters

Phyllis S. Thompson, North and Lafayette

(Con't from p. 2) We do have gifts, each one of us. Some have not recognized their gifts, but often others have; and when that happens, there should be a sharing of great joy, the kind, I imagine, that would have filled the house of the woman in Luke 15:8 if her best girlfriend had found the coin—even if the owner didn't realize it was lost. Depending on their physical condition, they would've done a *circle* dance or given each other a high-five!

Or, do you think the BFF would have gone up to the woman, eyes cast down in shame, and muttered, "I'm sorry, but I found this coin of yours in the bathroom. I wasn't looking for it. I just saw it. Accidentally. I'll put it back if you don't want it. I apologize"—just before the woman pushed her out the door?

We need to just "**GO BOLD**," you know, *just do it!* When we see gifts in our sisters, we need to keep pointing them out to them. Point it out, point it out... until they see it for themselves.

After all, we are God's face on earth! I for one think His face ought to be in plain view! Right where everybody can see it. I sure hope you'll show His face this September... and all the rest of the Septembers and Octobers and Aprils ... in your own congregation, cluster, synod, *everywhere!*

... You're Bold!

Cluster Coordinators:

You should have received a paid registration for convention mailed to your home address. Please complete and return that lilac form to Mary Glasscock by August 20. If you did not receive the form, this means we do not have current information about your cluster. Please contact me (See page 2.) immediately. (If by e-mail, please note Coordinator in subject line), providing name, address, phone, and cluster. I will mail your personal registration form to you as soon as I hear from you.

Look what you can find when you type in "Women of the ELCA" on your browser:

- Your Guide to Stroke Safety; LWT, May, 09
- Hospitality: More Than Warm and Friendly—free download
- Act Boldly for Health Bible study—free download
- Brand new Bible Study: To God's Beloved at <http://blogs.elca.org/lwtmagazine/>

If you can't download, type the following address into your browser and get a free Adobe Reader: <http://get.adobe.com/uk/reader/>



Greetings from Your Treasurer

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Florence Bright

This will be my last official article as an I-K Synod Board Member and as your Treasurer. These past six years have just flown by. I have been honored to work with outstanding women from all over our I-K Synod, and was very privileged to represent you as one of our delegates to the Triennial Convention in Salt Lake City last year.

NOW it is time that I must move on. We have hundreds of women who receive the *KINswoman*. I ask each of you to search your mind, pray, and then commit to come to the convention in Louisville (my home) in September, and be prepared to have the Spirit move you to be an active part of our Synodical Board. Wouldn't it be just *fantastic* to have so many women eager to serve on the Board that we would have to have ballots? **AMEN!**

Attention Cluster Committees - It would be so helpful for Cluster Committees to have at least one committee person attend the workshop Jill and I will be presenting. I receive Cluster Reports in many forms. It would be so nice if they were all the same. The only way to do that is to learn. I have learned so very much these past few years about how to do my job better for you as a representative of the I-K Synodical to the CW Women of the ELCA.

We were unable to obtain books and other materials from Augsburg for a book store. Augsburg has discontinued this practice. We will, however, have beautiful items available, as well as the popular **Women of the ELCA pins** for sale. They are \$14.00, and we make no money from the sale of the pins. These are the beautiful round pins in various colors with the three women on them

At convention, you will receive an up-to-date financial report, and we will also be approving the budget for 2009-2010 at the Convention.

Again, I thank everyone for the gifts we have received. You, yourselves, are a tremendous gift to our church for all the ways in which you *act boldly in your faith in Jesus Christ*. As I have attended other cluster events I am overwhelmed at your generosity for others in time, talent and your treasury. You are a loving and giving community of women, and I am so proud to be a part of you all.

With my love to all my sisters in Christ's service,

Florence

**Are you packed and ready to go?
Forgetting anything?????**



**Did your congregation receive your packets?
Did you return the forms you needed to?**

- **Fair Share:** Send an offering as you are able to help congregations attend convention. If you need assistance, indicate your request; if not, indicate that. The receipts will be divvied up between requesting CUs.
- **Young Women's Scholarship:** Aged 17-30 to attend convention with room, board, and registration paid.
- **Nomination forms** for 1) Triennial delegate, 2) synodical board, and 3) SWO officer.

ABOUT OFFERINGS:

- (1) **Love Offerings**-should be mailed to the treasurer or sent by your delegate.
- (2) **Freewill offering** during Friday evening worship. Half of both offerings go to CW; 1/2 remain with SWO

Opportunities for Mission—These offerings take the place of traditional "physical offering," eliminating transporting, sorting, storing, etc., involved in collecting items.

Envelopes will be provided for the following:

- **Backside Ministry** (Rev. Ken Boehm, chaplain at Churchill Downs, in ministry to behind-the-scenes workers) **Make check payable to Churchill Downs Backside Ministry.**
- **Global Mission** (projects in sister synods, Chile and Indonesia). **Make check payable to I-K Synod for Global Mission.**

Your unit may send offerings for either or both of these worthwhile ministries. DO NOT write check to Women of the ELCA. REGISTRATION... Do it now! AFTER AUGUST 20, fee is \$15.00 more.

You'll need to make room reservations. Check with your board partner and/or cluster coordinator. She may be able to make a connection between riders, drivers, and/or roomers looking to share.

Soooo... if you have it together, then grab your suitcase and hit the road!



I-K Synodical Women of the ELCA Convention

September 18 & 19, 2009

Registration and Workshop Information

Registration information: The full registration fee includes all sessions, lunch on Friday and Saturday, and the banquet on Friday night.

Room Reservations: Make reservations through Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, 1325 Hurstbourne Parkway, Louisville, KY 40222; telephone (502)426-2600 or (800) HOLIDAY. Hotel information and registration are available at www.hihurstbourne.com. Room rate: \$94.90 plus tax for each night (one to four people). Be sure to mention you are with Women of the ELCA and **use block code, WEL**, to receive conference rate.

Cut-off Date: Thirty (30) days prior to the conference the hotel will release the block of non-booked rooms to the public. Rooms booked after August 18 may receive conference rate if rooms are available.

Check-in/Check-out: Check-in time 3:00 PM, checkout 12 noon. Late checkout can be arranged if needed.

Parking: Registered guests will enjoy the convenience of ample free parking.

Dietary Restrictions: Include any necessary dietary request with your convention registration. Special needs for your hotel room must be made with the hotel.

Registration Confirmation: If you would like to receive a registration confirmation, please include a self-addressed stamped envelope or your e-mail address with your registration.

Convention Registration deadline: August 20, 2009. Your fee may be transferred but not refunded.

Additional Information: Contact Rene' Siria at renersiria@yahoo.com or (502) 848-4299 or Jill Watson at jill.watson1@insightbb.com or (812) 634-9244.

Workshop Choices (Friday, Workshops 1, 2, & 3; Saturday, 4, 5, & 6):

1) **Art and the Church - vEnessa Acham, Churchwide (CWO) Representative**

Throughout history, religion has been the cradle for creativity. Learn how artists have found their calling in the church, and how their time, talent, and treasures enhance both the worship space and the worship experience.

2) **Greener Landscaping - Sarah Lynn Cunningham, Center for Environmental Education**

Learn about using plants and techniques that reduce maintenance requirements of lawns, gardens, etc. Our expert also discusses and encourages the use of certain types of trees for shade and windbreaks. Hear about the Master Gardener program.

3) **Current Global Mission Relationships - Odette Salman, Member of Global Mission Committee**

Global Mission?? A foreign word? Learn about current Global Mission projects in Chile and Indonesia, and the impact you are making through our commitment to our sister synods.

4) **What Is My Job? - Jill Watson and Florence Bright**

Help! I have been elected an officer or appointed chairperson...now, what do I do? Discover tools you'll need to embrace your calling **boldly**. Also learn how offerings are used, how decisions are made by the synodical and churchwide organizations, and more. A workshop for leaders of our congregational units.

5) **Waste Water and Water Quality - Louisville Department of Public Health**

It is easy to get consumers and elected officials excited about the provision of clean *drinking water*, but for most of them, *wastewater* management is an afterthought. If consumers have access to more water, they make more wastewater. If it isn't properly treated, it will spread pathogens downstream. Then others will have poor quality water. What to do?

6) **Ministering on the Backside - Rev Ken Boehm, Chaplain at Churchill Downs**

Hear about this unique and wonderful ministry on the "backside of Churchill Downs," a city unto itself. Having served as racetrack Chaplain for 19 years, Rev. Boehm has faced some of the greatest challenges and rewards. He faces them head on, meeting spiritual, emotional and educational challenges, and providing needed social services.

**IN-KY Women of the ELCA Convention
13th Synodical Convention**

“Your River of Faith”

September 18 & 19, 2009

Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, 1325 Hurstbourne Parkway, Louisville, KY 40222

REGISTRATION FORM

Please Print or Type

Early Registration Deadline: August 20, 2009

NAME _____ Address _____

(One person per form please)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail address _____

Congregation _____ Cong. Number _____ Pastor _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Cluster: ___NW ___NC ___NE ___Laf. ___Indy ___EC ___SE ___Evans ___SC ___EKY

Check one: ___Delegate ___Alternate ___Clergy ___Board ___Visitor ___Guest ___ Other _____

CHOOSE ONE:

_____ **\$120.00 Full registration sent by August 20** (Includes full convention participation with packet, workshops, 2 lunches and banquet.)

_____ **\$135.00 Full registration sent after August 20** (Includes everything above.)

_____ **\$30.00 1 Day registration sent by August 20** (Includes convention packet, Bible study, workshops. No meals included.) **Day attending:** ___Friday ___Saturday

_____ **\$35.00 1 Day registration sent after August 20** (No meals included); **Day:** ___ Fri ___ Sat

\$ _____ INDIVIDUAL MEALS - AVAILABLE FOR ATTENDEES WITH 1 DAY REGISTRATION ONLY

___ Friday lunch \$21.00 ___ Friday banquet \$35.50 ___ Saturday lunch \$19.00

\$ _____ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED. Checks must accompany all registrations.

No refunds after August 20, 2009. You may request funds be applied toward another person's registration.

_____ **I HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS.** Please state special needs. *(Special needs regarding rooms must be made with the hotel.)* _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT: Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone _____ - _____ Cell _____ - _____ Alternate phone _____ - _____

WORKSHOP CHOICES: Please select two workshops you would like to attend during each session. Select the work-shop numbers for your first and second choice for each day. We will do our best to fulfill your request on a first come, first served basis.

Friday: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____ Saturday: 1st choice _____ 2nd choice _____

MAILING INFO: Send your registration form and check payable to 2009 Convention I-K SWO to Mary Glasscock, 212 Dorchester Road, Louisville, KY 40223.

MAKE AS MANY COPIES OF THIS FORM AS YOU NEED FOR THE WOMEN IN YOUR CONGREGATION.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP IN MICHIGAN CITY



Maryann Lovas of Griffith, Jill, Barbara, and Dorothy turn their attention to Pam Waltz of St. Paul (not shown).

Women of the Northwest and Northcentral clusters attended the first Leadership Workshop in over 10 years. Hosted by the women of St. Paul Lutheran, Michigan City, on July 18, this is the beginning of what is to be a regular offering by the I/K Women's Synodical Organization. Open to all women, but especially the presidents/coordinators and treasurers of the units, the workshop served as a preview of the one that will be offered at the upcoming convention.

The workshop was planned to inform women of the programs, policies, and procedures of Women of the ELCA in order to ensure that a uniform method is used by all units, and that this information continues to be passed along.

Presenters at the workshop were Jill Watson, Dorothy Nevils, and Barbara Dietz. Jill gave an overview of the programs sponsored by Churchwide and stressed the importance of the units' continued support. She also reviewed what makes an active unit and how to write a constitution. Dorothy wowed the group with her lively discussion of how to keep units relevant, current, and appealing to women of all ages. Barbara presented some of the "meat and potato" unit forms that enable I/K SWO to be aware of leadership information throughout the synod. She also represented Florence Bright, who was unable to attend, by reviewing financial procedures and forms.

Leadership is a vital element of any organization, and key to the success of Women of the ELCA nationally and locally. It is hoped that women who are attending the convention will take advantage of the opportunity to attend the Leadership Workshop that will be offered, and thereby add strength to our organization as we do *God's work*—with *Our hands*.

Another Successful Rummage and Bake Sale for the Women of First English

... by Barbara Dietz



The Women of First English in Mishawaka, IN, held their 11th annual sale on July 10-11. It was a community event, unifying the women in our church and allowing our outreach projects to continue. Everyone chipped in where they felt they could be of service - from publicity to set-up/take-down, to baking and pricing, to working the cash boxes or straightening the tables.

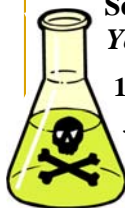
This project is more than a fundraiser. It is an outreach to the community. We have noticed an increase of "business" in the past few years, likely due to the economy. On Saturday, we run a \$2 per paper shopping bag for clothes—all that can be stuffed in, which includes whatever can be worn! One mother came in with four young children and left with all four outfitted for \$8. Furniture, electronic, house wares, and books went home with new owners.

Of the \$2,882.96 profit, 15% was sent to Chiara House, a respite home for individuals with disabilities, and 15% to our Women's I/K Synod as an offering. The balance will be used to correct "deficiencies" found when our nursery school was inspected this past spring, corrections that are necessary for the school to apply for their continued accreditation status. We are happy to be able to provide the funds so that this can be done.

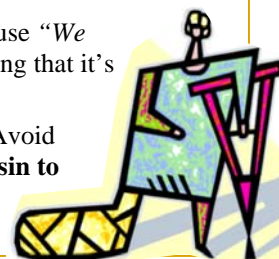
A wrap-up meeting has been held and plans for next year are already in progress!

The question I hear most is "How do we get women involved?" The following are offered with a little humor, but they are real turn-offs.

Seven Deadly Terms ... or How to Successfully Shoot Your Group in the Foot



1. Darlene Deck has pegged **just** as a bad word...and **only** is just as bad. Often we approach women with "There'll **only** be 2 or 3 meetings," or "**just** for a year." Translation: It's a chore...but a quick one.
2. Don't ask a woman if she **belongs** to, or ask her to **join**, Women of the ELCA, as if it's a **club**. That sets her apart as an outsider. If she belongs to your church, she's part of Women of the ELCA.
3. If you want to separate the young from the old (fashioned), have a meeting for the **ladies**. Younger women are **women**, and pride themselves in their independence and spunk.
4. There is no **Welca**. Like **ladies**, it dates your group. It never was correct, and now it's as out of place as avocado kitchen appliances. Women born after the "avocado age" associate "Welca" with an image—a tad stodgy—and one that we've been working to change.
5. Never approach a "post-avocado" woman with, "We need **new blood**." I'd run for my life, too. I've seen what happens in those vampire flicks!
6. If you're looking for younger women because "**We older ladies are dying out**," they may be hearing that it's their turn now... **to start dying!**
7. And, last but not least, a long, long word: Avoid using the word "**Thisisthewaywedoit**," 1st **cousin to Twwwadi**. You'll get the following response: "Then do it your way... without **me!**"





KINswoman

Indiana-Kentucky Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Synodical Women's Organization
575 Johnson Street, Gary, IN 46402



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Recycle your *KINswoman*

R **Receive it.** Sign up at kinswoman@gmail.com

R **Read it.** Keep up and stay connected

R **Regift it.** Pass it on. Share it with another

LAST CHANCE...

TO EXPERIENCE THE 2009 SWO CONVENTION,
Your River of Faith

SEPTEMBER 18 & 19, 2009

HURSTBOURNE HOLIDAY INN

LOUISVILLE, KY

FINALIZE YOUR PLANS TODAY!