



The KINswoman

A Publication of Indiana-Kentucky Women of the ELCA • Vol 22 • No 2 • Summer 2009

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



**Jill Watson
President**

... Support One Another...

Hello Sisters in Christ,

I would like to share with you some recurring thoughts regarding one aspect of our Women of the ELCA purpose statement. I will focus on just three words demonstrated to me

by friends and fellow sisters in Christ during the past few weeks as I have felt the truth of those words in my personal life: *Support one another...*

My daughter was diagnosed with a serious illness Mother's Day, and I took an emergency road trip to be with her, helping her adjust to a regimen of medications and testing procedures that may last for several more months. During this time I felt the support and knew of prayers said on our behalf across several states, lasting from the minute they heard until this day.

Women of the ELCA is an organization of women who know they can turn to each other in time of need, connecting with others willing to share their pain and shoulder their burdens. I thank God for my Women of the ELCA family, who give of themselves in so many ways to support me, and exemplify how I, too, can be supportive of others.

The Fair Share Program in our Synodical Women's Organization is a way that congregations can together support the financial needs of other congregations, so that each active congregation can afford the costs of sending a delegate to the Convention. Typically the costs of the 2-day convention, including registration, meals, housing and transportation, are paid by the congregational women's organization. The Fair Share Program asks for contributions from each unit based on the number of women participating in their programs. These amounts are only suggestions, and congregations should provide assistance as they are able.

Some organizations may contribute but also request funds in return. Contributing to Fair Share

shows support of the entire programming of Women of ELCA in our synod. Contributing at a time when your organization may not be able to afford the costs of a delegate is similar to the Biblical story of the poor woman who gave her last coins to the synagogue. She was blessed by her giving, and she showed where her dedication was meant to be.

Units who may be able to contribute to Fair Share without the need to receive funds in return will also bless the organization as a whole. They will know that, from their abundance, they foster the participation of more congregations and the inclusion of more women from our synod to benefit our organization for years to come. We need to hear from congregations and know the priorities of the women involved in our organization, and convention is an excellent time when these can be shared—through resolutions brought to the floor, through discussions in various workshops, by nominations to the synodical board, and through service as delegates to the triennial conventions.

One final option for congregations is to contribute funds to Fair Share even when they are unable to send a delegate to the convention due to scheduling conflicts, etc. We regret when these prevent participation; however, each financial contribution helps further the cause of our organization and will be appreciated by the entire body. Congregations that may support our efforts but not have an active women's organization may also wish to contribute in order to be a part of the ongoing ministries of the Women of ELCA in Indiana-Kentucky.

Join in the support of our organization by sending in your Fair Share. Funds received by the September 1 deadline will be shared evenly with those requesting funds and who send full-time delegates to the convention this year in Louisville. I hope to see all of you there, and that you will be a part of this effort to "support one another..." as we continue to do ministry together.

In His Service, Jill



For All His Benefits to Me

You are doubtlessly familiar with this offertory from LBW. You may also recall a previous reference to this passage from Psalm 50.

Occasionally I will get a note thanking me for what I have “done for” Women of the ELCA, and it always takes me aback, for I cannot reconcile “doing for” and “Women of the ELCA.”

Dorothy Nevils
Vice President/
KINswoman

In reality, “doing for” Women on the ELCA is “doing for” oneself, for we are those selfsame *women*. It’s as if our hands are to be commended for brushing our teeth or our feet for moving our bodies.

From another viewpoint, I am the benefactor of whatever I do as a part of Women of the ELCA. Being a part of this organization has been an experience I would not trade for recession-proof stocks! How do I benefit? Let me count the ways:

Growth: The women I’ve met have taught me what it is to be involved, to let my hands, my heart, and my faith work together to promote wholeness within God’s creation. Their faith stories have warmed and nurtured me.

Community: Oh, the beautiful friendships I have formed with some of the most remarkable women God created (since Eve), whose lives are an example of embracing others. My cell phone is full of numbers, and I always use every last card in my box—no matter how many boxes I buy.

Action: The answer to a need or a request is always just a call or an e-mail away. No matter how weird the appeal, somebody is going to respond! I can always count on my sisters in Christ to step up to the plate in support of others, locally or across the sea, to bring wholeness to the church, the society, and the world—yes, even to me.

So when one of my sisters thanks me, I look outward and see where thanks is due. It is I that am thankful, thankful for the experience of being a part of an organization of love.

This experience is open for you this year as a member of the SWO board. Some of our committed sisters will complete their eligibility, and all seats must be filled—four officers and nine board members. Submit your name in nomination when your unit’s packet arrives, and discover what it means to be embraced by women of Christ, and to go forth reflecting that bold gentleness to all those you meet, and those you serve with love.

Blessings!

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



Faith—Flowing, Changing, Connecting

By Rebecca Bailey, Griffith Lutheran, Griffith, IN

I grew up in Newburgh, Indiana, the first Northern town the South captured during the Civil War. The coup wasn't exactly the bloody, horrific carnage of Gettysburg; rather, the day was marked by tea parties and family reunions. After all, when you stood on the Indiana banks of the Ohio River, you could see the enemy on the other side.

As a child, I thought all rivers were supposed to be more than a hundred feet wide, capable of swallowing swimmers and bridged by locks and dams I could walk across. So when my husband, Andrew, and I started our married life, I got a big shock.

You see, we got married on Aug. 8, 1992, and Andrew started seminary at (then) Luther Northwest in St. Paul, MN. On the Mississippi River.

The Mississippi that runs through St. Paul is not the Mississippi that runs through St. Louis. St. Louis boasts the river that put the "mighty" in Mighty Mississippi.

St. Paul's version? Let's just say "not mighty."

Homesick and struggling to send a new spouse through school, I was (understatement of 2009) *not* happy.

The Mississippi symbolized everything the Ohio was not, which was home.

But my husband's seminary made me do stuff. Like a steamboat cruise with faculty where we feasted and watched city lights glimmer on the river. We floated upriver to the bridge we were told marked the navigable head of the Mississippi. That means the Mississippi gets so small and shallow past that point, no boats can pass.

Andrew's professor told me, "You think that's interesting? Go to Lake Itasca and the mouth of the Mississippi, where it starts as a trickle. Then you can claim you stood with one foot on each bank of the Mississippi."

I still think that's cool.

Slowly my mind changed about the Mississippi. After all, the Ohio did join the Mississippi at Cairo, IL. And the prehistoric Native Americans who lived at Angel Mounds in Newburgh and the Ohio River were cousins to the clans at Cahokia Mounds, a negligible distance from St. Louis and the Mississippi.

My husband's seminary experience even took us to new rivers. From the Twin Cities, we were within driving distance of the Red River in Canada, which actually runs *northward*. Different could be interesting.

I warmed to our new life, forming a love for Vespers and joining a group for pastor's spouses. (I call myself a *PS*.) My attitude toward being a *PS* changed so much, the I-K synod called me to present seminars on "How to Be a Joyous *PS*."

Now I'm very happy living by the Kankakee and Calumet; my husband is pastor at Griffith Lutheran, a congregation of wonderful people who truly have become our church family. Our kids love their lives as *PKs*.

This St. Patrick's Day, they asked me to explain how the Chicago River is dyed green. Just as the Ohio joins the Mississippi, the rivers of their lives flow from mine.

Family and faith, flowing like a river...connecting me to them—and me to you.

Thanks to Rebecca Bailey for this issue's "River Writings." The book's still open. We're still accepting pages. Please share your thoughts (and talents) with your IK sisters.

So far, we've been gifted from the northwest and the southeast corners of our synod. I know from taking geometry that a *two corners* is as rare as fat-free bacon **PLUS, there is a GREAT BIG expanse of synodical acreage in between!**

Send your writings tied to our convention theme, "Your River of Faith."

Let those creative juices flow as you reflect upon a river in your life.

Be an early part of the faith journey we are anticipating in September — in Louisville... by the river!!!

IN THE PINK...

New "Officer Change Forms" have recently been mailed. They are bright pink and difficult to miss. It is important to have current information about our Synod units in order to provide the most current information regarding Synod and Churchwide activities and to better serve your units. The mailing contained two forms, one for now and one for future use. Copies made do not have to be in the pink color.

The forms were mailed to the contact person that was listed for the unit in our records. A number of envelopes have been returned to me meaning that some part of the information that we have is incorrect. I am sending a mailing directly to the churches of those units addressed to the attention of Women of the ELCA. If your unit has not received this information, please check at your church.

This is a really big and important project. I am asking that units respond as quickly as possible – the convention is "just around the corner." Please list your contact person, address, phone, and e-mail on the form. Remember, the contact person does not need to be an officer. If for any reason the contact person needs to be changed, please contact me so that I can change it.

The mailings were sent to units that are shown to be active in our records. If you are a member of a unit that did not receive this information and you feel it is incorrect, please contact me.

Thanks for your help!

Barbara Dietz, 1917 Denslow Dr., South Bend, IN 46614, bdietz59@sbcglobal.net



**BARBARA DIETZ,
SECRETARY**

SUMMERTIME...TIME TO PLAN TO ATTEND CONVENTION

That's right! I know that the Convention in Louisville is not until September but summer has a way of spoiling good intentions. Very often units don't meet in the summer and, by the time they regroup in the fall, it will be too late. Make your plans to attend and select your delegate now. It would be terrific if each unit could send at least a delegate and an alternate. Arrange to car-pool with women from your church and from neighboring churches.

And on a similar topic, delegates to the 2011 Triennial in Spokane need to be chosen at this convention. Why so early? Because we won't be meeting again until after Spokane! Consider being a delegate. It's a wonderful opportunity.



URGENT!!!

Watch for your packet coming soon! Don't miss it! It's full of need-to-know info!

- 1.) You MUST be nominated for **Triennial Delegate** THIS YEAR, 2009. Delegates will be elected in September at convention for **Triennial in 2011!** We cannot nominate from the floor, so if you'd like to represent IN-KY in **Spokane, July 14-17**, let your unit know, fill out the form, and send it in by the deadline.**
- 2.) Fill out nomination forms for the BOARD. Nominees for **President, V.P., Secretary, and Treasurer**, and for nine **board members** are needed! Let your**

unit know you are willing; then send in the completed form, along with a picture if you have one. (Thanks!)

- 3.) Do you have **ideas** about changes that need to be made or needs that need to be addressed? Don't just talk about it. Take it to your unit and sponsor a **RESOLUTION**. Information, forms, and instructions will be included in your info packs!**
- 4.) Be a **delegate**, or an **alternate**, to represent your unit at the convention this fall.**
- 5.) Participate in **Fair Share** which assists struggling units, which otherwise couldn't, to attend convention.**
- 6.) Keep your eyes peeled for your info!**

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 (811) 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

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 workshop 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.

Agenda for the 2009 Biennial Convention of I-K Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA "Your River of Faith," September 18—19

Thursday, September 17, 2009

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM Registration open

Friday, September 18, 2009

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Registration Open

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM Booths and Displays Open
Bookstore Open
Mission Project - Backside Ministries

10:00 - 10:30 AM Welcome & Opening
Opening Worship
Orientation for Voting Delegates & First Timers

10:30 - 11:45 AM Business Session 1

12:00 - 1:00 PM Lunch

1:15 - 2:15 PM Workshops
1. Art & The Church - vEnessa Acham, CWO Representative
2. Greener Landscaping - Sarah Lynn Cunningham, Center for Environmental Education
3. Current Global Mission Relationships - Odette Salman

2:30 PM - 4:30 PM Business Session 2
Synod Report
Announcements & Adjournment

6:00 PM Banquet

8:00 PM Worship with Eucharist at Christ Lutheran Church

Saturday - September 19, 2009

8:00 AM - 3:30 PM Bookstore Open
Booths & Displays Open

8:00 - 8:30 AM Gathering Music & Morning Devotion

8:30 - 10:30 AM Business Session 3

10:45 - 11:45 PM Workshops
4. What Is My Job? (Leaders, officers) - Jill Watson & Florence Bright
5. Waste Water & Water Quality - Louisville Department of Public Health
6. Ministering on the Backside - Churchill Downs Chaplain, Rev. Ken Boehm

12:00 Noon Lunch - Recognize Female Ministers

1:30 - 3:00 PM Business Session 4
A Message from Churchwide - vEnessa Acham

3:30 PM Closing & Adjournment

3:45 PM Sending Service - Pastor Betsy Dartt, Presiding

Leadership Training

A Leadership Training Workshop will be presented at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Michigan City, July 18, for Northwest and North-central clusters. This event is open to anyone with a desire to increase her leadership abilities, but for current leaders, it is a must.

Women of the ELCA just celebrated its 20th Anniversary last year, and many things and women, have changed during that time.

One thing that has not changed, however, is what Women of the ELCA has meant for us and for people all over the world who have seen God's face in the faces of thousands of participating women.

Keep that face visible by helping the organization to grow—by your own growth.



Spring Gatherings

Bonnie Kroening,
Cluster Facilitator/Mission

The two spring cluster gatherings that I attended were a time of learning, reflection, and fellowship. South Central had a small group who had the Bible study "Called to Obey God: It's Not Easy Being Jonah." Some women had done the study before, but gained a different perspective with a different leader and group. Remember, everyone, that each leader may present something differently, so don't say, "I studied it before," and stay home; come and see!

Southeast cluster had about 60 women, the largest I've ever attended. Chalk artist John Lowry presented the message. His work is unique.

Cluster gatherings are a great way to meet women from other churches and share. I look forward to meeting old and new friends at convention in September.

Once again **Northwest Cluster Gathering's** date conflicted with "Rebuilding Together," but we had a really great Bible study, "It's Not Easy Being Jonah," led by Nancy Walter, our newly elected cluster coordinator. Cause for rejoicing was the return to participation by Griffith Lutheran. This is the second year straight that another unit has joined us in our mission—and both years, a woman from the unit has offered her gifts in service on the cluster committee.

We praise God for His faithfulness, and that faithfulness mirrored in His daughters. We also thank Him for the women who serve as inspiration year after year!

ENTER THE CONTEST!

Needed: Logo and Banner for Convention

Needed: Your help . . . Your talent!!

We need a banner, with a logo reflecting the theme, "Your River of Faith."

Your creation will be used as the backdrop for our meetings—and will be photographed by a throng of women wishing to savor the moment.

We know of the abundance of talent in the Indiana-Kentucky synod.

Consider this your opportunity to show yours.

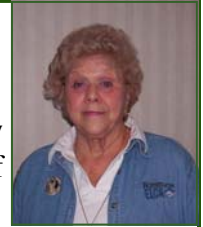
Requirements for the banner:

1. Should be no larger than 4' x 8'
2. Should use the theme, "Your River of Faith"
3. Should include - Women of the ELCA Convention
4. Should include the date - September 18 - 19, 2009
5. Should cost maximum of \$100.00

Send your design to René Siria, 108 Old Station Road, Frankfort KY 40601, by **June 30**.

Report from the Treasurer

All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. 1 Cor.12:27.



Florence Bright

As you can see by the Treasurer's Report in this *Kinswoman* some of our Clusters are now designating half of their offering to specific charities. This is in line with the guidelines of CWO (churchwide). I have been receiving an accounting for the churches who participate at cluster events. **THANK YOU!** By listing the churches attending, You help us get a more accurate count of active units, thus helping with delegate allotment to Triennial.

Also, I want to thank all the units who have sent offerings since February 1st, the beginning of our fiscal year. With the economy in the state it is in, offerings are doing well. CWO offerings in general are down, and some programs and staff positions are having to be reduced .

It is my earnest plea that all treasurers will consider coming to the Convention in September. First of all, it will be great to meet you, and second, I will be leading a program especially for treasurers and cluster coordinators. It would be so helpful for new treasurers especially. I will be completing my six-year term on the Board at that time and you will get a chance to meet your new treasurer.

Start making plans now ... Let's have a great attendance at Convention in Louisville, September 18 and 19.

Finally, if you have not received a packet from CWO with offering transmittal forms (Form A - SWO offerings; Form B-CWO designated gifts— i.e. Thankoffering, scholarship, grant, etc.), you may obtain them by calling the ELCA distribution center, 1-800-328-4648. You will only be charged for the shipping and handling. You may down-load them at the womenoftheheelca website also.

I-K SWO Treasurer's Report: February 1, 2009—May 14, 2009	
Beginning Balance, February 1, 2008	\$ 2,634.06
<i>Note Check No 675 to CWO, 1/21/08 -.06 adj.</i>	<i>-.06</i>
Actual balance, 2/1/2009	\$ 2,634.00
Receipts:	
Regular Offering	\$3,360.71
Cluster Offering	892.55
Designated Cluster Offering	354.00
2009 Convention Offering	100.00
Love Offering	25.00
Lutheran Disaster Relief	30.00
Church Women United	50.00
Reimburse Board Expense	51.73
Total Receipts:	\$ 4,863.99
Available	\$7,497.99
Disbursements:	
Churchwide:	
Regular Offering	\$ 1,680.35
Cluster Offering	892.55
Love Offering	12.50
SE Cluster Offering - Pathways	200.00
SC Cluster - Center for Women	70.00
E KY Cluster - LDR-I-K Synod (84.00)	
Designated Gift, LDR - I-K Synod (30.00)	
ELCA, LDR - I-K Synod	114.00
<i>KINswoman</i>	407.43
Board Expense	151.75
Church Women United - Kentucky	*50.00
Total disbursements:	\$ 3,578.58
Balance on Hand, May 24, 2009	\$ 3,919.41
<i>(SWO - \$3,819.41; Convention Offering 100.00)</i>	



KINswoman

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



DATED MATERIAL
For immediate delivery

Recycle your *KINswoman*

Recieve it. Sign up at kinswoman@gmail.com

Read it. Keep up and stay connected

Regift it. Pass it on. Share it with another



where you'll find reasons A-plenty
for Planning to

Attend Indiana-Kentucky's 13th Convention,

Your River of Faith

September 18 & 19, 2009...

(DID I MENTION THAT KATE SPRUTTA ELLIOTT,
EDITOR OF LUTHERAN WOMAN TODAY,
WILL BE OUR BIBLE STUDY LEADER?)