



The KINswoman

A Publication of Indiana-Kentucky Women of the ELCA • Volume 19 • Number 2 • August 2006

President's

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Jill Watson
President

In His Service...

This is the way that I often sign my letters when writing to women with whom I do ministry. Perhaps you have read one of my letters with such a signature. I even used it as an ending for my last Kinswoman article! We are united in ministry together. The Women of the ELCA has brought all of us together with a valiant purpose, and has called each of us to our own

place in the work of the organization.

I was fortunate to attend 4 Spring Gatherings in 4 different clusters in our synod this year. I would suspect that most of you attend only one, and usually the one that your own congregation "belongs to." Although it is always fun to be reunited with other women at these gatherings that I don't see except at these meetings, I found it extremely interesting to visit in a cluster where I was the stranger to the group. I was able to watch as groups were formed, as women were reunited, and I was able to feel totally welcomed into the midst of them. I appreciate how you took me in and allowed me to study along with you, as well as permitted me to present some direction from the synod board... and yet, our ministry is not to just be together, but to do work outside of our own comfort zones...

So, the point that I wanted to make in this article is to remind you to *listen* to those opportunities to serve. Sometimes you will be called to serve with a comfortable group that you have worked with before. Other times, you may be called to become a part of a "strange" group, or you may even be called into individual service to our Lord. Know that God will be with you wherever this service may be. Know too, that God may be calling on you to encourage and support someone else into the ministry. Allow the women around you to support you, and



encourage them to do the work they are being called to do.

If you are called to work as a member of your congregation's women's board, cluster committee, or to serve on the synodical board, we would love to hear from you! In this way you will allow us to meet our mission of encouraging you in your calling.

We have opportunities coming for just such a situation as the new year begins and we begin our planning for the next synodical board. Nomination forms will be included in the next issue of the KINswoman, or in packets sent to each congregation. Heed His call to you and place yourself ...

In His Service,
Jill

Unit Constitutions

It has been a long time since congregations were asked to submit revised constitutions to the president for the official files. Some congregations submitted constitutions without the changes required by the Churchwide Women of the ELCA, and others have simply not submitted any constitution. If you have questions about your own constitutions, please contact me, or one of the other board members for assistance. I would be happy to meet with groups to work through this process. Be sure to identify your congregation and city/state/ conference/cluster. Please contact me at (812) 634-9244 or songcues@fullnet.com. Thanks.



Helen Garvey
Mission Projects

Mission: Katrina

May the Lord make your love increase and overflow for each other and

for everyone else, just as ours does for you. 1 Thess 3:12

The 2006 project, *Cleaning Kits for Katrina*, still needs our offerings. If you see newscasts from the gulf coast, you see in the background the devastation that is still there. People are still going down to help with the cleanup. While people who have the means can hire people to clean for them, the poor and needy must do the work themselves. What we see mostly on TV is the tourist section of the area, which has been cleaned up; there are blocks and blocks of houses which need much work.

So far we have received only \$1,300 in donations for our project. We who have so many blessings must help, for, according to the Gospel, "If you have done it for the least of these, you have done it for me."

Our Katrina project ends in November, so make sure your unit responds to this need. Send your offerings in care of Mary Glasscock, Women of ELCA Treasurer, to IK Synod of ELCA, (Continued on page.6)



Carol Wagner
Secretary

Board Report

The I-K Synodical Board of Women of the ELCA met in Indianapolis on July 28 and 29, 2006, on site at the Adams Mark Hotel. We toured the hotel's convention and restaurant facilities in preparation for the convention to take place on July 27-28, 2007.

As this convention will be the first two day convention, taking place on Friday and Saturday, a great deal of effort was spent in planning how to best meet spiritual and personal growth, fellowship, and business goals in the shortened time frame, while keeping costs down.

The Board is very diligent in finding ways to keep everyone informed with a new website and active cluster leaders, and through the *KINswoman*. We also continue to be proactive in finding ways to achieve our goals at the lowest possible expense. Please let us know if you have any suggestions, and offer any talents you're willing to share (cont'd on p.4)

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 3-4 times a year by the Synodical Women's Organization of Indiana-Kentucky Women of the ELCA, Jill Watson, President, and online at <http://iksynod.org/ministry/WELCA/WELCA.asp>

Send all articles, photos, questions, or subscription requests to

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Barbara Dietz
Leadership

The Leader in Us All

The dictionary defines “leadership” as the ability to provide guidance or direction. For some of you, your first reaction may be, “Well, I’m not a leader!” But, take a moment to think about it and you’ll see that that is not true.

We all have the ability to be leaders, just not in the same capacity.

The Church has asked us to give of our time, talents, and treasures. Take a few minutes to examine and list your talents. In what ways have you been involved in your Women’s Unit? How have you served in your congregation? Are you outgoing, and good at communicating? Are you quiet, but good at organization? Do you enjoy helping others in mission work? Leadership can be demonstrated in all these areas and more, and can be shown both by individuals and by the unit as a whole.

Presently, many groups are reconvening after a summer break. Now is the time to put your leadership skills to work. As a group, combine your lists to identify your strengths. Brainstorm with units in your cluster for ideas. Read *KINswoman* and *Interchange* and go online to womenoftheelca.org to find out about activities that demonstrate leadership in our synod and churchwide. Take the initiative and stretch your leadership skills. The benefits to your unit, congregation, and community will be evident.

Since joining the Synodical Board, I have heard wonderful examples of leadership, and those represent only a fraction of your ideas. What I would like you to do is send me leadership examples that your unit has implemented. I will compile these and print them in future issues of the *KINswoman*. If I receive enough, I will also prepare a booklet to be available at next year’s convention. Please contact me at bdietz59@sbcglobal.net. Type *Women of ELCA* in the subject area so I don’t delete your ideas as junk mail! Also, feel welcome to write to me: Barbara Dietz, 1917 Denslow Drive, South Bend, IN 46614.

I hope to hear from *every unit in our Synod!*

Serving you through Christ,
Barbara



Act boldly.



Florence Bright
Finance

The King’s Reply

Matthew 25:40

How many times have you given your money for a specific cause, and then later thought, “I wonder if my donation has made a difference?” Let me assure you that **you have made a difference** in the work of the church in Chile.

For several years, the I-K Synod has been in relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Chile (IELCH), which, with approximately 3,000 members, represents a very small percentage of the total church population in Chile. In 2004, the IELCH requested financial assistance from the I-K Synod to help their women receive training to improve their opportunities to become self-supporting. With the help of I-K Women of the ELCA (our ladies donated \$12,906.98) working with the Synod Global Mission Committee, women have been trained for various employment opportunities, and have combined their skills to help their personal congregations.

- In Osorno and Concepcion, women make jelly and marmalade. In Santiago, the church women make and sell chocolate. In the fishing village of Coronel, many people, under the false impression that the church was wealthy, asked why the church women were selling bread. They were surprised when told it was to pay the church’s bills (gas, lights, water, etc.) The community now eagerly buys the breads made by the women of the church.
- Since most homes in Chile are very small, people don’t have room for guests when celebrating baptisms, weddings, birthdays, and other special events. Congregations in Santiago saw an opportunity and now rent space for these celebrations, and also provide catering services.
- There are now two preschools run by the Lutheran Church, one in Toma and one in Buen Samaritan. These preschools keep the children of the women who now are able to find employment and work. The preschools are not supported by the government, and depend on gifts from congregations, women’s groups and individuals for support.

You have made a difference! Many thanks to all of you for your support of our Chile project.



For more information about these projects please contact Rev. Bill Gafkjen at the synod office 317-253-3522.

iGracias!

Florence

Pastora Presidente Gloria Rojas of the IELCH and Bishop Stuck share a light moment at Synod Assembly in June.



**Diann Zehr
Mission
Resources**

Fall Bible Study

The following reflections can be part of the Daily Caring for others—and for ourselves. These reflections may be downloaded from the Women of the ELCA website, but it is much

more fun and enlightening to share with other women your experiences.

Giving Daily Care to God's Abundance

A reflection that challenges you to take a new look at how you view wealth and poverty within the context of abundance and scarcity, both as an individual and as a Christian community.

Giving Daily Care to God's Grace

This reflection may be most difficult in understanding in discerning between our responsibility—and our *response* ability.

Giving Daily Care to Others

In Matthew 14 we read that 5,000 men, plus women and children, were fed. Could the total number have been 20,750?

Giving Daily Care to Ourselves

The humanness of Jesus; He also had the need for maintaining a rhythm of work, play, rest, and worship. We have the same needs.

Giving Daily Care to Financial Resources

From Luke 15:11-32— is the father as well as the son "prodigal"?

Giving Daily Care to God's Creation

This reflection focuses on what one person can do when faced with the magnitude of environmental problems.

Giving Daily Care to Justice

A look at a persistent widow seeking justice in Luke 18:1-8a.

Giving Daily Care to Caring Daily

A look at Mary when she was told she would be the mother of Jesus, and the day Jesus charged the beloved disciple with the care of His mother at the hour of His death.

Attend the cluster retreat or Fall Day of Renewal in your area for more details on these reflections of Caring.

Diane

(Board Report, con't.from p. 2)
with any board member; or tell your cluster coordinator, and she'll pass it on.

Board Actions:

- Approved convention schedule
- Set deadlines for disseminating information
- Toured website under construction
- Selected theme, *Act Boldly in Christ*

Carol Wagner, Secretary

Communication Dorothy Nevils



Kinswoman—non-board

Greetings during my break between classes—

which will resume around the time this gets in your hands. As soon as grades were posted, I got knee-deep in updating the *KINswoman* list, that 1450+ list of names that is responsible for this neatly folded epistle getting into your hands 3—4 times a year... but this is not about me. It's about you— and what *you can expect*, and what is about *to be expected of you*.

To be frank, what you have in your hand right now is our single greatest ongoing expense, costing approximately 85¢ per issue. Do the math. No...wait. I've got a calculator right here... When the mail carriers are finished dropping the *KINswoman* around Indiana and Kentucky, they'll drop us a bill for around \$1250.00.

Some of you may remember when there was a charge for the newsletter, and may wonder why we don't have paid subscriptions now. Many clusters do.

The board feels it's important that information gets to as many women as possible. Our organization is about mission and discipleship, so we continue to attempt to connect with as many women as we possibly can.

What can you do? You can help make the *KINswoman* something ***every woman will want to read***. How? By sharing. Send us your news, thoughts, ideas, concerns, reflections, pictures... not the kitchen sink.

You can also email me the **info on your label** plus your **email address**, and I'll email you a PDF of the next issue... or you can download it by then on our website. We'll still send paper copies to churches, so if your group would like to help with that... a *five* or *tener* (more if you like) ... boy, would that make Mary smile!

Let me hear from you real soon!

Dorothy

Raising up Healthy Women and Girls
WOMEN OF THE ELCA GRANTS PROGRAM

As Women of the ELCA, we are prepared to lead boldly in promoting women's complete and total health—physical, spiritual, and emotional. During the 2005-2008 triennium, the Grants Program is awarding grants to not-for-profit organizations, both domestic and international, that support healing and wholeness for women of all ages through the affirmation and advancement of women's emotional, physical, and spiritual health.

I have been privileged to serve on the Grants Committee for 5 years. Each year we read through the proposals prior to our May meeting, when we select grant recipients. This year, with 129 proposals and \$104,600 available for grants, we awarded 38 Domestic Grants and 15 International Grants.

Following is a sampling of the projects awarded grants this year and the focus of each:

Domestic Grants

- **Domestic Violence** - This project provides bilingual/bicultural courthouse advocacy, translation, counseling, support group facilitation and crisis intervention for Latino victims of domestic violence.
- **Youth Mentoring** - This project works with adolescent girls, fostering strong mentoring relationships between high schoolers and life coaches.
- **Nutritional Health** - this project teaches healthy crock pot cooking for expectant or new mothers in Appalachia, and stresses budgeting, nutritional analysis of ingredients, and cooking. Upon completion of the class each student receives a crock pot.
- **Health Forums** - The program will provide 5 to 8 women's forums on topics such as depression, violence, building self-esteem, women of faith, diet and exercise, cancer, and heart health for girls and women in rural areas.

International Grants

- **Health Advocacy** - This project seeks to strengthen community health response groups in neighborhood organizations in three marginal municipalities in Santiago, Chile.
- **Malaria Treatment Education** - a volunteer project operations in schools and community to educate people about malaria in Uganda.
- **Care for Orphaned Girls** - Project to improve health care and access to orphaned girls in rural Kenya.

To ensure the continuing success of the Grants Program, private gifts to Women of the ELCA are essential in supporting our faithful women and their callings around the world. If you would like to make a gift, please contact Women of the ELCA.

Your Sister in Christ,
Darlene Deck, Education Advocate



Darlene Deck



A Note from Astrid

Almost one year has passed since our last convention. So many wonderful events have happened during this year. I think of the hymn, "Thine the Amen."

In May, Rock and I took the Amtrak to Rochester, New York, to help Paul and Emily, our son and daughter-in-law, move to a new house in Avon. For my Mother's Day gift I received a link bracelet with a stork link. We are awaiting the birth of our first grandchild in December. Sonja, our daughter, just visited them and had a wonderful time. She is blessed with an accounting position with the Limited.

Rock and I celebrated our 27th anniversary. Our love grows stronger each day.

Dad had an angiogram in May and had a tough time of it. God took care of him again and he is continuing to pastor in Merrillville.

In June our county and town were hit fiercely by 80 mph winds. What a blessing that no one was hurt. Our meter base was off the house and the power line, which had blown down when a tree landed on it, was across the yard. We were without manmade power for three days. God was in control the whole time. Van Buren worked together to clean up the mess. We still have a tree in another tree. The Sunday scriptures were on calming the storm, and Dad used us as a real live example. The hymns I played on Sunday were hymns of Thanksgiving.

Now I am thankful to have the opportunity to go on a trip with Mom for two weeks to Denmark. Mom was born in Denmark and came over in 1948 after the occupation. Her sister and family live there. I would like to share with you about Mom's life and our trip someday.

God bless you, my dear friends.

Astrid Richwine (Picture unavailable)



Darlene shares her SA experience with women of the NW Cluster, and explains the grants program.

(Note from editor: If your unit wants to make a designated gift, use transmittal form B (green). Under designated gifts, write "grant," and mail to address at top of form. You may now download forms at www.womenoftheelca.org/resources/forms.html)

Communications: Website, Internet, and the Younger Woman

Greetings, my sisters in Christ!

Exciting things are happening on the communications front for the IK Women of the ELCA. We have a preliminary site up and ('kinda-sorta') running. Feel free to peruse the site and send your feedback to me via my new e-mail address:

dwerner9164@sbcglobal.net. You will find us by going through the synod site at www.iksynod.org, then clicking on the words "Our Ministries," then clicking on "I-K Synod WELCA. This page is what we currently have up and running.

Please check back every couple of weeks and watch us grow. One of the first things we will add to the page is a link to the Northwest Indiana Conference/Cluster newsletter, the *NORTHWEX*. We will also add a link to the *KINswoman*, our Synodical Women's newsletter.

Spread the news and share your thoughts with me! Many thanks go out to Danielle Burrus at the Synod Office, without whom there would be no page for us.

Peace be with you
all!

Darla



Darla Werner



Darla works on the website at a recent board meeting

(Mission Project, con't from p. 2)

911 E. 26th Street, Suite 200, Indianapolis, IN 46240, and they will forward them to Mary. You can also send them directly to Mary Glasscock at 212 Dorchester Rd, Louisville, KY 40223.

Shirley Schmidt has prepared a power point presentation of her Mississippi trip. Contact her at 260-485-6002 or gschmidt47@comcast.net and ask for Christus Victor or Mississippi Trip.

We can do more. Let us *act boldly with our bounty.*

Helen



Marilyn Saum
I-K Cluster
Coordinator

Cluster Report

Greetings,

This spring I visited five of the spring gatherings: Louisville, March 25; Otwell, April 1; Mulberry, April 18; Chesterton, April 22; and Frankfort, April 29. To each I brought greetings from the I-K board. It was interesting to see how each cluster interpreted the suggested Bible study. However, one I attended used another Bible study,

having used the recommended one at a previous event, and it provided a little variety for me. Below is what I did at each spring gathering:

- Emphasized the need for a constitution for each congregation, and the importance of being an active unit so that we are fairly represented at Triennial. (A constitution is also important for women who will come after you at your church, as it establishes the ground work for the congregational women just as your church's constitution does.) I took samples of the constitution and shared them, pointing out that there are many places where they can be adjusted to the specific needs of each unit..
- Distributed forms for recording the cluster coordinator and committee. Somehow I didn't get copies of all of these, and must admit that I've misplaced the ones I did get. I would like each **coordinator to send me another copy** so that I can make a chart of all the cluster committees and coordinators for each coordinator and member.
- Distributed forms for spring gathering reports. These I have received, and I'd like to take this opportunity to give thanks for all the receipts and donations sent to the synodical board. To me, these are examples of the "widow's mite."
- Distributed forms for recording the contact information for each congregational unit, information which is needed by Churchwide Organization. They hope to do mailings to these contacts. When each contact gets information, this hopefully will be **shared with ALL** women in the church. The information is not meant for just those who participate in a specific Women of ELCA unit or circle.
- Shared those things that Jill had emphasized in the first spring gathering I attended. At this point in time, I've erased those from my memory bank.
- Shared some "thoughts" that I had printed from emails. If you know me, I always bring these things. I get a lot of them and feel I should share the wealth.

Cluster meetings to date: **Northwest, October 7, at Carmelite Monastery in Munster; North Central, October 27, at Lutherwald in Howell**

Have a blessed day! Joy!

Marilyn☺



Mary Glasscock

Treasurer

Dear sisters in Christ,

It is that time of year again when every thing starts up— meetings that were cancelled because of summer vacations, schools starting, fall shopping and Fall Color tours— all the things that make the world go around.

As treasurer, I can tell that many church activities were cut way back, as were ours here in Louisville. However, the needs are still great in our focus area of Texas and Louisiana, as well as Churchwide. Therefore, when you are planning your budget for the remainder of the year, I hope you will remember to include those who still need your help.

We are in the process of planning the convention for 2007, and hope we can come up with an exciting and spirit-filled two days for all of us to enjoy. Please encourage as many women as you can to joins us, and of course, plan to carpool because of the high cost of gasoline.

I look forward to seeing all of you in July of 2007 in Indianapolis.

Love,
Mary

The worship service at our last convention was truly a blessing to all who attended. The choir of convention attendees was wonderful singing, "Seek Ye First." Convention singing was full of familiar hymns and choruses. Be ready to come and make a joyful noise at the 2007 convention in Indianapolis July 27-28. If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to sing, please email me at rock@comteck.com



Cluster Roundup: Spring Gatherings

(Psst! Cluster coordinators, let us know what's happening and we'll share it with the rest of your Indiana and Kentucky Sisters in Christ!)

North Central: The Spring Gathering was held on April 22, 2005, hosted by Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, South Bend, IN. The Bible study was "Called to be Women in Mission," led by Barbara Dietz. We gathered \$111 for the Texas, Louisiana Gulf Synod project and \$122 for O'Hana Heritage Foundation, a respite home being built for medically fragile children. Nineteen women representing 5 units attended. (Submitted by Barbara Dietz)

East Kentucky: Thirty-six women from 6 churches attended Spring Gathering on April 29 at Hope Lutheran in Frankfort. Cluster Coordinator Barbara Herbener, and Rene' Siria led the Bible study, "The Jesus Model - Mission Possible." Helen Garvey shared information about the mission project and Marilyn Saum gave remarks. Congregations shared and the Ladies of Hope served a delicious lunch.

Northeast: Gathering was held at St. Mark in Albion. Aileen Dupen explained the Prayer Shawl ministry for women around the world, Pastor Richard Hartman gave a PowerPoint presentation about work in the Gulf, and a local Christian bookstore was present. Pastor Ann Marshall led Bible Study, "So Let Us Act Boldly." Jeanne Parish is cluster coordinator. (Astrid Richwine, SWO)

East Central: Zion in Hartford City hosted with Bible study, "Called to be Women of Mission." Participants weaved Danish paper hearts out of red and white paper to remember our dear Lord and Savior. A communion service was shared to end a wonderful day. Thanks to Marilyn Scott, cluster coordinator, for many years of fine service. (Astrid Richwine, SWO)

Northwest: Gathering was held at Bethlehem Chesterton. Annette Holtan presented Bible Study, "...Women in Mission": Darlene Deck gave presentation re: her study seminar trip to S. A. Hosts from 1987 were given certificates of thanks, and women received gift bags. Total of 44 (42 women representing 10 churches) attended; \$117.00 remitted to SWO treasurer. (Dorothy Nevils, CC)

Evansville: Gathering was April 1, 2006, at St. John Otwell. Nine of 25 congregational units were represented with 35 women attending. Pastor Katie Gallagher led Bible Study, "Called To Be Women in Mission.". Afternoon presentation was given by Darlene Deck on her So. American trip. \$201.00 was collected for hurricane relief. LWR items included 1692 blankets/quilts, 123 school kits, 189 health kits, 130 layettes, 70 sewing kits, soap, and men's clothing. (Dian Zehr)

Lafayette: Spring Gathering was at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Mulberry, Indiana. Marilyn Saum had the women go over the address lists for *KINswoman* for updating. Women had been selected ahead of time to lead the various discussion groups for Bible study, "Called to be Women in Mission." The diverse backgrounds of the leaders produced a wide variety of responses.

Everybody raved about the food— spice cake, quiche, mini muffins, spiced muffins so you know it was appreciated and enjoyed!!

If you've got it, flaunt it— the Lucinda pin. Don't leave home without it. Wear it as a witness. It's a conversation starter. Use it to tell women about Women of the ELCA. It's a mission. Sales support the grants program. If you don't have one, you'll have the opportunity to



Go to Womenoftheelca.com website

SAVE THE DATE



July 27 & 28, 2007

for the
**Indiana/Kentucky Women of
the ELCA Convention**

at
Adams Mark Hotel
2544 Executive Drive
Indianapolis, Indiana

Highlights currently planned:

- ✓ Lunch with the Bishop
- ✓ Health themed workshops
- ✓ Banquet
- ✓ Sending Service with Communion



René Siria
Convention Chair

**Make reservations
now:**

Phone - 317-248-2481

Online - www.adamsmark.com

Rooms: \$80.00 (up to 4 people/room)

Make plans now to attend

**Watch your *KINswoman* and mailbox
for more details and
registration information.**



**We'll be looking for
you!**

Phyllis Thompson, out-going president, displays her gift, the Women of the ELCA water lily candle, at the end of last year's Convention, *Called to Hope*.

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The worship service at our last convention was truly a blessing to all who attended. The choir of convention attendees was won singing, "Seek Ye First." The convention singing was full of familiar hymns and choruses. Be ready to come and make a joyful the 2007 convention in Indianapolis. If you have a favorite hymn that you would like to sing, please email me at rock@comteck.

Love, Astrid