



Are you ready for spring? Is that a *yes*? I'm going to guess you are—and the women at Christ in Hammond are. They're our host for the Northwest Cluster Spring Gathering, "Called to Obey God; It's Not Easy Being Jonah," on **April 25** You won't want to miss it!



Clipart from ChristArt.com

An added treasure is the Grace Notes, from Michigan City, who will grace your whole soul with their beautiful harmony. If you have heard them before, you **know** to come; if you haven't, you **need** to come... *trust me!*

Registration and breakfast begin at 8:30. Registration fee is \$10.00. Check with your unit leader for additional information. A second notice with specifics will be mailed to her at the end of March or early April. In the meantime, remember Jonah. We need two women to answer the call for cluster committee. Will we need to send a big fish?

The IN-KY SWO Board met January 24 & 25 to continue plans for **"Your River of Faith"**

Our Biennial Convention, September 18-19, 2009, at the Hurstbourne Holiday Inn in Louisville, Kentucky.

You'll soon be receiving information about registration, nomination (Triennial delegate and SWO board positions, delegates, Fair Share, resolutions, rooms, workshops...)

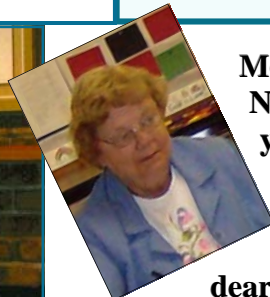
Leaders/contact persons, watch your mailboxes and don't let your packet go by unopened!

We're planning an exciting convention that will include worship and gathering time, as well as opportunities for growth and learning.

If you haven't elected your delegate and alternate, do it **ASAP**. Plus, let me know if you need transportation or roommates, and I'll try to help **match up riders and roomers** through the *Northwex*. **Also**, I have asked for **"River Writings"** (Jan/Feb *Northwex*) to include in *KINswoman* and possibly the convention book and, so far, *you've left me hanging!* **Come on, sisters; that's not nice. Don't do that!!!** Submit your writings; they're **YOUR** newsletters.



Grace Notes from St. Paul: Judy Gustum, alto; Mary Knaup, soprano; and Donna Mitchell, 1st soprano. Barbara Tanner, who plays a mean keyboard as accompanist, is not pictured.



Moses asked of God a leader in Numbers 27:17. We pray that you will, in April, thousands of years later, provide an answer, taking up the challenge as leader of your dear, loving sisters of the Northwest Cluster. If you feel incapable or unsure of yourself, just remember the promise given to Joshua in Deut. 13:8.

First United's women celebrated Bold Women's Day by placing two bouquets on the altar. Afterward, they presented one to bold woman Darlene Deck in thanks and gratitude for starting a Chrismon group with their women. Last Christmas, the group presented a Chrismon to each church family. A second workshop is planned for March 11 following Wednesday Lenten service and soup & sandwich at 12 noon.

Still Looking for "River Writings"!

Your writing doesn't have to look like the above, but I would really LOVE to have a short reflection on past rivers in your life. Read the two in *KINswoman*, "Bottled Faith," (spring, p. 3) and "Faith Like a River," (winter, p. 2); then write your own! **Come on! The women'll love it!**



The following three e-mail addresses have been rejected, so you did not receive the spring *KINswoman* (and will not receive the *Northwex*). Please do one of the following: (1) Check to see if that is the EXACT listing for your e-mail address, including any underscores (_); (2)

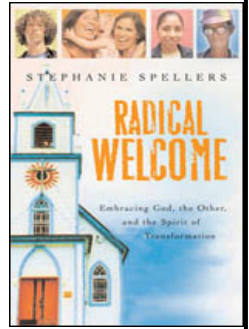
Check your spam folder to see if you have

BLOCKED mail from the kinswoman@gmail.com. If so, remove it (and *maslivend*) from your blocked list.

pamela.lewis@yahoo.com; ragsmaibag@aol.com
mk.smaznaritz@att.net

Then e-mail me the results, along with your name and your church so that I can get the corrections to Jill. Also, gather addresses from other women and email that info to me, too, so we can keep you informed on both levels.

I invite you to order the Women of the ELCA's book discussion choice, author [Stephanie Spellers](#), *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, the Other, and the Spirit of Transformation*. Go online and listen as she discusses her book. Tuesday, March 10, 7 to 10 p.m. will be a live chat on Part II. The book is about making your congregation welcoming, but your unit could benefit right along with your church, as units reflect the church. After all, Women of the ELCA are the women of the church. Go to womenoftheelca.org. While there, sign on to the discussion board.



Thank you! The following is a list of CU's that are credited for the past fiscal year, which ended January 31, 2009, fulfilling one of the four requirements of being an active unit. As your Cluster partner, and on behalf of the Synodical board, I thank you for your generous contributions. **Augustana, Hobart; Bethel, Gary; Bethlehem, Gary; First United, Hammond; St. Paul, Michigan City**

If you sent offerings to the synod office, your unit may not be listed because our treasurer did not get them from Indianapolis in a timely fashion. You will be listed in the next newsletter.

If you did not send offerings last year, make a decision to do so. The Synodical Board depends on your offerings to fund the missions of the Women's Organization and provide for expenses that are incurred during the year. At present, **many of the expenses are shouldered by the women who make up the board.** Just as your home cannot operate without funding, neither can an organization.

Please share the work of the SWO by sending in a portion of your offerings—whether it be \$20, \$50, \$100, or more—regularly (preferably quarterly) to Florence Bright, synodical treasurer.

If offerings are hard to get, set aside a Sunday to collect just for your SWO offering, set up a jar for loose change, or make an offering for a friend's birthday and send that in.

Remember that Synodical offerings are shared with Churchwide to fund its budget.

Singularly we can't do all that much, but together it's a different story.

Creation
repro

Caring for God's Creation

Gen 2:15

"Now is not the time."

According to the February 23 New York Times, that was Portland, Ore., Mayor Sam Adams' remark regarding pursuing his proposal to assess a fee for plastic bag use.

The economic downturn has cities backtracking on attacking the environmental problems resulting from the billions of plastic bags used each year, bags that clog sewers, litter the streets, hang from trees, pollute the ocean, kill aquatic animals, and give off toxins when they decompose. They are part of the tons of garbage picked up at our beaches.

Our elected officials seem reluctant to address the problem. Money has a very loud voice.

However, we can do what they're afraid to do by changing our behavior. Refuse the store's cheap plastic and take your own cloth or other reusable bags. Strack's even gives 5¢ for bringing your own.

If you use plastic, say no to double-bagging, and recycle the bags at Ultra, Jewel, and Walmart to be used in making construction products.

Now IS the time for caring for God's creation.

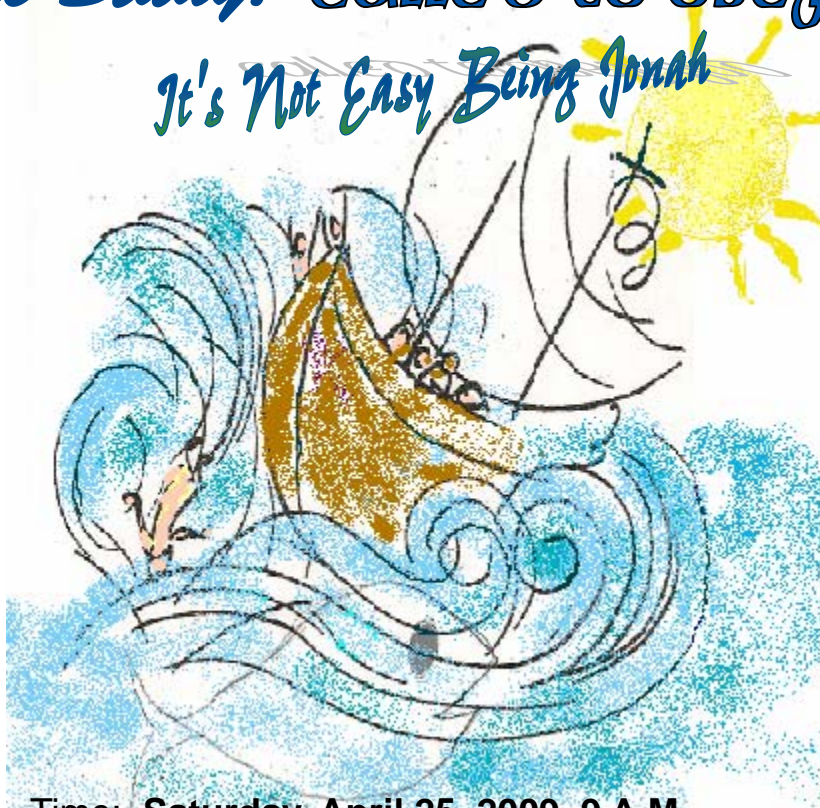
The *Northwex*, the bimonthly publication of IN-KY Women of the ELCA Northwest Cluster, can be downloaded at ik-synod.org. For questions, submissions, or comments, or to inquire about subscribing via USPS or email, please contact me at 219-886-0201 or maslivend@sbcglobal.net.

Women of the ELCA, I-K Synod presents

2009 Northwest Cluster Spring Gathering

Bible Study: called to obey god

It's Not Easy Being Jonah



Time: **Saturday, April 25, 2009, 9 A.M.**

Place: **Christ Lutheran Church,
7051 Indianapolis Ave, Hammond**

Registration: **\$10.00** (breakfast, lunch, materials)

More info forthcoming from your Cluster Planning Committee

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Mindy Meyer • 312 Autumn Trail • Michigan City, 46360 • 219-874-5337 • St. Paul, Michigan City

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Nancy Walter • 1057 Poppyfield Pl • Schererville, 46375 • 219-322-8999 • nanjackwalter@sbcglobal.net • Holy Shepherd

Dorothy Nevils • NW Partner • 575 Johnson St • Gary, 46402 • 219-886-0201 • maslivend@sbcglobal.net • SWO VP

I-K Women of the ELCA, NW Cluster
Dorothy Nevils, Board Partner
575 Johnson Street
Gary, IN 46402

Spring Gathering

April 25th!!

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

Spring Gathering Information

Cluster Committee Openings: We need two women for the cluster planning committee. Terms are two years with 2-term limit. That job entails planning the spring and fall gatherings. Communication via e-mail and telephone has greatly reduced meeting requirements. We would especially welcome women from **Crown Point, Gary, Griffith, Hammond, Merrillville, Michigan City, or Valpo**, giving us good area-wide representation. Cluster coordinator Annette Holtan and committee member Mendy Meyer are ending two terms of great service, and we thank them for their commitment and service, and we wish them well. If you feel inclined to offer yourself up to the call to serve, contact Annette or me, and we'll answer any question (and apprehensions) you may have. You won't regret it!

Fall and Spring Hosts: We need a congregation to host next fall and spring's gatherings. Please consider submitting your church's name now or at our meeting.

If your women have not responded to the cry for help in our lower synod (spring *KINswoman*, p. 6), please do so immediately. St. Matthew has asked for help to assist the many families who have suffered damage and loss due to the recent ice storms, rendering many of them homeless and without food.

Please reach out to God's people at home, making checks payable to St. Matthew by the Lake, 3966 US Hwy 641 N, Benton, KY 42025, note Marshall County Storm support, and send a note to Florence so that we can see the response from our women: Florence Bright, 2619 Lindsay Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206, or you can e-mail me, and I'll get the message to her. Remember: Look for us at iksynod.org.