



In the words—and with all the gesticulations—of Bruno Tonioli, “It was Magnifico!!!!” That’s an *on pointe* assessment of our NW Cluster Spring Gathering! We had a great Bible study, led by the very capable Nancy Walter, unbelievable music by the Grace Notes, and the enveloping hospitality of our sisters at Christ (and, of course, *food!*), and something we’ve missed, our Griffith sisters. I’ve included lots of pictures. Find yourself or a sister—and if you didn’t come, you missed a photo-op! Meet the new NW Cluster planning committee:



Nancy Miller, Nancy Walter, coordinator, Norma Lewis, and Maryann Lovas, Griffith. Fall Gathering will be at Bethlehem in Chesterton. We’ll get details to you in the coming months. But... we still need a host for Spring 2010. (You?)

It’s coming sooner than you think!

Just 4 short months (well, one of them is) and it’s September and **"Your River of Faith"** Get ready for our Biennial Convention, Sep. 18-19, at the Hurstbourne Holiday Inn in Louisville, Kentucky. Watch for information coming soon! In 2007, we were well represented. This year will be greater. I’ve got faith in my Northwest sisters, and I’ll help get you there and lodged. Just let me know if you have a ride/need a ride, have a room/need a roommate as soon as possible. Also, elect your delegate and alternate, make nominations for board members and officers, as well as, triennial delegates, put together resolutions, and make decisions about offerings. P.S. I still need “river writings.” Thanks to Rebecca Bailey for sharing memories of the Mississippi. You can read it in the next *KINswoman*.



I have copies of the DVD, *Created in the Image of God: A Community of Women*. If you were at the gathering, you saw it...and you know how enlightening it is! It’s a good way to start discussion and learning with your women’s group. Each committee member has a copy that she’d be more than happy to have you borrow... And remember, if you can’t get it from one of them, there’s always me. Call or email me. I’ll be glad to send it your way!

Prayers of Healing for our Special Sister, Hazel Schlicher



Stimulus Packet for Spiritual Growth

Get more. Grow Spiritually! Avoid Foreclosure. We have resources for you. Absolutely free! No strings attached! High interest...high yield from Women of the ELCA. *Come on in!*



I asked anyone interested in prairie gardens for their church to notify me. Nobody did, but you know me. I take that as a yes, so here goes... This is a picture of the native garden at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Oak Park, Ill.) from the Mar/Apr *Seeds for the Parish*. It's a green issue, and has an article about **Creation Sunday** that I found interesting. Isn't that just about the coolest thing you've ever heard of? It's celebrated the first Sunday after the day of Pentecost. This year it's June 21, the first day of summer! If you didn't get a copy (or have RECYCLED yours) download it at webofcreation.org/ActionSuggestions/actssugseedsforparish.htm, and, hey, you don't have to thank me!!!

YOU'RE INVITED

General Meeting for First United's Women of the ELCA will be May 15th at 1:00 P.M. The program will be the video, *Created in the Image of God: A Community of Women*. This is an open invitation to anyone interested in attending. If you plan to do so, please call the church office at 219-932-9070.

Creation

Caring for God's Creation

Gen 2:15

In the discussion group I was dealt Saturday, we wrestled with the question, "Should we listen to how others respond to us in discovering if we're following God's plan, or is that something we must decide ourselves?" The point was made that others' reaction, positively or negatively, to our behavior can in truth help us to see whether we are obeying God.

As women created in the image of God, we become God's presence in the world. The world sees us and our behavior and gets a "picture of God." This goes for all we do and all we say, even in our attitude toward the environment.

Skimming through the evaluations, the newly elected coordinator was stopped by one comment that went deeper than the standard *great fellowship, good food, meeting old friends*. This one addressed our stewardship of God's creation.

This one did not come from me, but this very paper repeatedly admonishes us that our habits in the church serve as a guide for all who visit. We must change our old habits and become conscious of conservation. That means less to the garbage and more to be reused. Rinse and recycle rather than toss.

Let's work toward a wedding of "pretty plus practical." With plastic coverings, choose *wipe over grabbage* (grab + garbage). Spread 'em again or use them as "sit upons," a sharing from one unit; or they can protect clothes, carpets, or countless other *Sunday* surfaces from "calamity kids," discreetly catch a Communion "oops," or protect the trunk from misbehaving plants.

This is God's earth. We are His children. Earth is a precious and generous gift for our use. How do you feel when you see a gift you have chosen with love abused by your children?

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!***

Watch for St. Paul's Fall Retreat!



The *Northwest*, the bimonthly publication of IN-KY Women of the ELCA Northwest Cluster, can be downloaded at iksynod.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.



Meet **Women of the ELCA** in One Neat Package

There's a little woman you see at just about every cluster gathering. You know her smile, and you probably know her name, but just what do *you really* know about Wilma Dwight?

Wilma cut her teeth on women's mission. As a little girl, she tagged along with her mother to the "women's society." Her mother was president, and, in those days before play dates and structured activity centers that entertained the kids, when you saw the mother, you saw the daughter.

Wilma followed in her mother's footsteps, becoming president of the St Paul's women's group several times. Before the merging of the ALC, LCA, and AELC, she was president of the American Lutheran Church Women (ALCW) South Chicago Conference, now the North-west (Indiana) Cluster. She tells about the women's magazine at that time, *Scope*, a small magazine that fit in a purse. The Bible study was in the center, so it gave rise to many "centerfold" jokes. She also served as cluster coordinator and a member of the synodical board.

When she's not involved with something "women," Wilma enjoys knitting, sewing, reading, and working at her computer. She also enjoys planning gatherings for her family, which includes daughters Kathleen, Carolyn, and Julaine, and son Craig, who have blessed her with 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren...*and they're still coming!*

Right: Judy Gustum wrote this note and shared this picture with Wilma at a Christmas luncheon a few years ago. Pam Kieft is telling her that her *M* is upside down.

"The picture shows you doing your funny thing. You were asked to hold one letter of the word Christmas and you had yours upside down! Of course you were the one chosen to do the foolish thing and you were ever so eager to 'perform.' All your friends tried to get your attention and tell you to turn it over, but you just played dumb and let the joke roll. How Wilma-like!"





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

IK Women of the ELCA, NW Cluster

Dorothy Nevils, Board Partner

575 Johnson Street

Gary, IN 46402

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copies available
for the women in
your congregation.
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God's blessings on all FATHERS!

A Note of Thanks

...To three additional congregational units for offerings this year— **Christ** in Valparaiso, **Gloria Dei** in Highland, and **Griffith** in Griffith. They join *Augustana, Bethel, Bethlehem (Gary), First United, and St. Paul* in financial support of the IK Synodical Organization—and Churchwide.

On behalf of the SWO board, thank you so very much. You are a **GODSEND!**

If your unit has not sent a portion of your offerings, please do so as you are able. Your gifts are especially important this year as we prepare for our Biennial convention and provide leadership training, one being planned here in our own cluster, **July 18, at St. Paul**. You'll hear more about it. Plan to be a part of this opportunity to make your unit **stronger, bolder, and more responsive** to the call to discipleship.

The teacher in me has an assignment for you...

I won't call it homework, but I do ask that you work in groups...**and talk a lot!!!** (*Talking points highlighted*)

1. Discuss the possibility of **servicing on the synodical board**. Four officers and nine members need to be elected. Submit your name for nomination so that we may seat a full board and do the work assigned to us...effectively.
2. Select a **delegate** and alternative to this year's convention, and nominate a woman for **Triennial delegate**.
3. **Submit** a woman to be highlighted in the next issue of the Northwex. Send info and a photo, preferably via e-mail
4. **Write** or encourage another woman to write for the *Northwex* and/or the *KINswoman*, especially the river writings.
5. **Send information** about what you're doing, or have done, whether it's something new or traditional for your group.
6. **Go online** and visit Women of the ELCA or IK Synod Women of the ELCA.
7. **Learn** the purpose statement. Live the purpose statement.
8. Begin planning for your **Thankoffering Service**.
9. Reduce your trash. Swear off plastic bags. Reuse. **Conserve**.
10. Plan to **host the next spring gathering**, and tell somebody!