



Nancy Walter
NWC Coordinator

Spring Brings a Gathering of Renewal

Butterflies filled the air as fifty-one women from ten congregations of the NW Cluster came together at Griffith Lutheran on a beautiful spring Saturday, April 17th, for “Renewing Our Relationship with God.”

Camille White and the GLC women served up warm hospitality, assisted by our sisters from Gloria Dei, who not only brought breakfast goodies, but butterfly favors for each attendee.

Annette Holtan brought greetings from the Synodical Board and President Dorothy Nevils, attending a Synod Council meeting in Indy.

Norma Lewis of Augustana led opening devotions, and was thanked for her two terms of service to the Cluster Planning Committee.

Pastor Freda Scales of Hope Lutheran Community led our Bible Study, with spirit and energy, using the Lectio Divina method. We discovered that a relationship with God is a never ending circle of being renewed by God’s grace, refreshed for service and responding by our action.

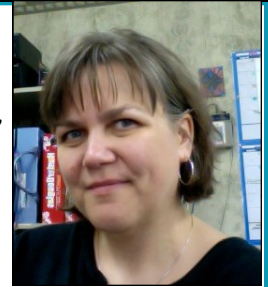
Annette followed with a “half hour of power,” describing the opportunities for advocacy and service available through Women of the ELCA and Lutheran World Relief.

During lunch, Ann Bawinkel of Love, INC (In the Name of Christ), inspired us with a presentation, not just giving us facts about the ministry, but challenging us to remember service is not so much about giving as developing relationships.

Amy Doelling-Osterhout, from Hope by way of Trinity Valparaiso, was elected to fill the vacancy left by Norma Lewis. We welcome Amy, who expressed her excitement at the opportunity to serve.

A time of sharing revealed that the Women of Gloria Dei are helping the congregation celebrate its 50th anniversary as a worshipping and serving community; Bethlehem Chesterton continues with many (activities, including selling LWR fair trade coffee one Sunday per month. Finally, Augustana has added another Circle and is growing!

Josie Offredo, a woman living her call to mission (See p. 2)



Amy Doelling-Osterhout

Meet our newest Planning Committee member.

Greetings! I turned 40 on Monday, May 10. My husband Jeff and I, who celebrated 14 years of marriage in April, have two children: Joshua, 12 and Maggie, 10.

I work for my dad at our family business, Doelling Decorating Center, a 4th generation family owned and operated business celebrating its 90th anniversary next year. We have three designers who help with painting, wallpapering, window treatments, drapery, bedding...

I just recently traveled to Phoenix / Mesa, AZ, for interior plantation shutter Journeyman & Master planning and installation school, becoming the third Master shutter installer in Indiana—my dad, Paul Doelling, and my cousin, David Doelling.

A life-long member of Trinity Lutheran in Valpo, I have taught Sunday School and Confirmation and served on the Council and Evangelism committee. I started a women’s book club that meets monthly for fellowship, fun, food, and, of course, a book discussion, at different members’ homes.

At one of our meetings, I approached my friend Freda Scales, who was embarking on a Spirit-led adventure in starting a mission in Crown Point, with the idea of perhaps helping her with a website or anything else I could help her with. Little did we know what would happen as a result! We now have an extremely informative website with devotions, a lector schedule, past sermons, and a FaceBook page listing daily devotions and commemorations/festivals, and links to ELCA and Women of the ELCA.

My faith has been a life long journey that only grows stronger daily. In 2001 I was diagnosed with cervical cancer and underwent a hysterectomy, resulting in “surgical menopause” at the age of 31. I chose to listen to what God was doing for me: He was preparing me for a more difficult experience 8 years later. In August of 2009, my husband was diagnosed (Page 2)

(*Gathering of Renewal, Cont'd*) in action, shared pictures and the story of her journey to Haiti as part of a medical mission team following the recent devastating earthquake.

We closed with installation of the Planning Committee: Nancy Miller (Bethlehem Chesterton), Maryann Lovas (Griffith), Nancy Walter (Holy Shepherd/Hope) and our new member, Amy Doelling Osterhout (Trinity/Hope).

We look forward to our Fall retreat, which the Committee will soon begin planning!



Annette Holtan (right), SWO partner, commissions the new planning committee, Maryann Lovas, Nancy Miller, Amy Doelling-Osterhout, and Coordinator, Nancy Walter.

Creation

Caring for God's Creation

Gen 2:15

Last month I visited the North Central cluster gathering at Redeemer in Elkhart. It was a most pleasant experience. The stand-ins for the coordinator did a great job, the attendance was more than they anticipated, and the room was inviting.

The tables were decked out in beautiful spring colors, and the Redeemer women, seemingly aware of my passion, explained the layout to me, beginning with the decorations on the tables.

Each table had little colored "vases" with delicate bouquets. One woman, seeing my curiosity, explained what they were. The little glasses were decorated with pieces of paper colored by kids and pasted on with white glue giving a sort of stained glass appearance. They had been used over and over, she said.

Strips of lilac adorned each table, a pastel runner that was folded and packed away to be brought out occasion after event, betraying its age, to add elegance and beauty time and time again.

When I went to get a refreshment, one of the women, examining the underside of the clear plastic cup, smiled brightly and announced, "It's a 1!" indicating the recycling symbol. The ♻️ means it's most suitable for recycling; the higher the number, the lower its value as a recyclable.

After lunch, three of us delved into the fresh garbage and retrieved practically every cup carelessly and thoughtlessly tossed in, making sure that we gained the attention of as many of the women as possible.

This past Saturday, Kay joined me at my own church folding up the plastic covers before someone waded them and tossed them away. We can do so much in our congregations to encourage recycling and reuse.

Thanks, Redeemer. You're a lifesaver—of the earth!

(*Newest member, cont'd*) with tonsillar cancer. A tonsillectomy was unsuccessful in eliminating the cancer that had spread to the soft tissue in his neck. With the problems that surfaced during his treatment, I came to the understanding that God is in control, and fully submitted all of my problems to the Lord; as a result, I am free.

A daily devotional for May 9th states: "It's true that Jesus does not calm every storm. That's not what his peace is about. What Jesus does is calm us in the midst of our storms with a peace that surpasses human understanding." Jeff has finished his 18-week treatment of chemo and radiation and is now in remission and cancer free. Thanks be to God!

Prior to August of 2009, I was preparing to enter seminary to become a Pastor. That was not possible, but other doors opened. Being on this committee is one of those events that I was being led to do without my knowing the reason? Sometimes we figure it out, and other times not.



The cluster committee meets at Annette's home on a Saturday morning for final preparations for Spring Gathering.

The *Northwex*, a bimonthly publication of IN-KY Women of the ELCA Northwest Cluster, can be downloaded at ik-synod.org. For questions, submissions, or comments, or subscription via USPS or email, contact Nancy Walter at 219-322-8999 or nanjackwalter@sbcglobal.net.

In Honor of Bishop Jim Stuck



For twelve years, Bishop Jim Stuck has been a true partner to IK Women of the ELCA. His tenure initiated a period when women were given a “seat at the table,” represented at IK Synod Council along with conferences and other ministries.

He did what we had wished. Now let’s honor him by doing what he wishes.

IK Synodical Women will present a gift to “Freed to Lead Fund” in his honor at the IK Assembly in Covington, KY.

IK Synod has received a grant from Lilly Endowment of \$741,000, with \$570,000 as matching seed money. We are asking individual women and/or units to join us in helping the IK Synod raise the necessary funds, freeing new pastors of the debt they carry into their first call (which at \$70 - over \$102,000 for three years’ tuition at seminary can be crippling) so that they can serve congregations as needed.

Make your checks to **IK Women of the ELCA**, and mail to **Bonnie Kroening, 10543 Dove Chase Circle, Louisville, KY 40299, by May 26.**

For additional info on the Freed to Lead Fund, go to iksynod.org/freedtoleadfund/ or iksynod.org/ministry/Epistle/septepistle08.pdf.

Thank you for your gift...which will be a gift not only to pastors, but their congregations as well.

Women of the ELCA Purpose Statement

*As a community of women
created in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,
and empowered by the Holy Spirit,
we commit ourselves to
grow in faith,
affirm our gifts,
support one another in our callings,
engage in ministry and action, and
promote healing and wholeness
in the church,
the society, and
the world.*

St. Paul is planning a Fall Retreat for August 28. Mark your calendars and keep your eyes peeled for additional details as they become available.



Did you know?

I-K Synodical has established the René Siria Memorial fund in honor of René, our convention planner, who died nine days before convention opened last year.

This fund, once it grows and begins to generate interest, will be used to help women attend convention.

Some of you will remember René from the 2007 convention, and the energy and passion she put into the Synodical Organization. Individuals and units are encouraged to make a contribution at least annually to honor her.

NOTES

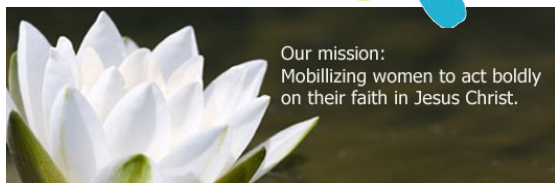
Coming Soon!!!

The Leader's HanDbook

A new Guidebook with answers to your most frequently asked questions.

Congregations have been asked to contribute \$5.00 (or more) to help rebuild churches destroyed in Chile’s earthquake. Send your unit’s offering on Form A to the SWO treasurer.

Meanwhile, share what your CU is doing to draw attention to our mission project, “Women for Haiti Earthquake Relief,” which runs through 2010. At Bethel, a “QUARTer a Week for Haiti display has a QUART jar to remind parishioners to drop in their QUARTER each Sunday, .



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

I-K Women of the ELCA, NW Cluster

Dorothy Nevils, editor
575 Johnson Street
Gary, IN 46402

Renew reclaim reflect recapture return revitalize replenish remit
rededicate revisit respite reinvigorate rebirth revel reactivate re-

affirm reestablish resurrect recommence reclaim return restructure release revalue reveal rebuild re-
late renew retrace restore return revitalize replenish retreat regain redevelop revisit respite redeem
remember reactivate reaffirm reestablish resurrect reclaim return restructure rebuild restart relate
reinstitute renew reconcile restyle revere revitalize revise replenish revisit respite reinvigorate re-
member reactivate receive reaffirm regenerate retrace reestablish resurrect retreat reclaim remind re-
turn restructure Respond revise retrieve rebuild relate reinstitute renew respond restore return reviti-
lize replenish realign regenerate respite reinvigorate reward remember reactivate reassure resolve
remember recapture reactivate reaffirm remediate reestablish retouch revamp resurrect reclaim re-
turn restructure rebuild relate reinstitute relieve respond return revitalize replenish revisit receive
respite reinvigorate revere remember reactivate rejoice reenter regain regenerate remember reacti-
vate reaffirm reestablish resurrect reclaim return restructure relate reinstitute renew respond Rejoice

**NOTE: Indy Training Seminar
rescheduled for August.**

**“We do God's work not because God needs us to do so, but because our neighbor does.
We do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.” Mark S. Hanson, ELCA Bishop**

(I trust Nancy will forgive me for doing this on my own, but I felt compelled to share an e-mail I received from her. Nancy, who is serving her internship with LDA, truly answers the call alluded to above. Some of you may be involved in prison ministry, and others may want to be, but, as I experienced, have found a fit difficult for you or your group. I am sharing this because it may speak to someone who reads this, and it falls right in line with our Purpose Statement, allowing us to act BOLDLY in discipleship. See Matt. 25:36,40,43-45.)

God commands us to “plant a seed” by sharing His word and unconditional love – to love our neighbors as ourselves. It doesn’t take much to grow a flower – a seed, soil, water, sunlight and a little Tender Loving Care; the results bring beauty, hope and joy for all to see.

KAIROS OUTSIDE is a ministry designed to reach out to adult female relatives and/or friends of the incarcerated to let them know there is a Christian community that cares about them and their needs. Weekend retreats are structured to help strengthen the family unit and encourage small support groups. On two weekends each year, we provide a secure place for up to 24 women to share their struggles in a safe environment.

KAIROS means *God’s Special Time*; and, in the lives of these women, it will be God’s special time for them.

This non-profit ministry began in California in 1989. The eighth weekend retreat in Indiana will be held this month.

Just as a flower seed planted in the ground is watered and begins to grow and bloom, so it is with the hurting women who attend these weekends. *Many experience God’s unconditional love for the first time in their lives.*

I am a team member for the upcoming **KAIROS OUTSIDE OF NORTHERN INDIANA Weekend # 8** being held May 14th – 18th, and need your help.

The guests are not charged to come this weekend, the total cost of which is \$5000. I am asking each of you to prayerfully consider making a contribution toward that cost; any amount raised over the cost of this weekend will be kept in a reserve for future weekends.

Please make out any checks to Kairos Outside of Northern Indiana and send them to me at 1057 Poppyfield Place, Schererville, IN 46375.