

2007—Women of the ELCA Celebrates twenty years!



Happy New Year, Sisters!

Here's hoping that 2006 was a good year for you, and you're excitedly looking forward to 2007. Some of you have had some exciting happenings with your group, and doubtlessly are planning more for 2007.

That's great... What's *not-so-great* is that **NOT ENOUGH** of your stories and activities are shared with the rest of us! I KNOW you like hearing what your sisters are doing in other communities and other churches; according to evaluations, that's what some of you missed at our Fall Day of Renewal.

We do have a time for sharing during our Spring Gatherings, but through the *Northwex*, sharing can happen ALL YEAR LONG!



Plan to attend the **SWO Convention, July 27-28**, at Adam's Mark in Indy! You'll be getting materials soon, but, meanwhile, don't forget what I told you in the last *Northwex* that I'm doing to help some congregation attend! The kitty's growing!!!

Check out the Women of the ELCA Website!

There you'll find the new anniversary planning brochure that you can download free. Get your copy at womenoftheelca.org/20years/20thanniversary.pdf

You'll also read about the anniversary offerings to support the **Stand with Africa Water Project** and the work of **Augusta Victoria Hospital** in Jerusalem. Below are pictures courtesy of Lutheran World Federation, and instructions for contributing.



A women's group from the Zvishavane district, Zimbabwe, discusses a new irrigation project that enables income-generating activities as well as clean water.



Do we need to learn more?

I talked to my dear friend, **Louise Andrews**, from Christ Valpo, just before Christmas, and she had an idea.

Louise is the Lutheran World Relief person for our area. It is she who is responsible for the flyers you get reminding you of LWR drop-off dates.

Louise suggested an LWR workshop for the area. She says that there are lots of people who don't know all that is involved in LWR, and what they can do, and I agreed.

We also have another LWR authority in our midst in **Nancy Ryding** at Michigan City, and I'm sure she'd participate.

A gathering for *all* Lutheran churches, not just ELCA, would be an (→ page 2)

Mariam and Alla tape dialysis tubes to a doll on the floor of the Artificial Kidney Unit as part of a play therapy program practiced by the hospital. Every week, the two children spend three days receiving dialysis treatment—and playing.



The conflict in the Middle East is challenging Augusta Victoria Hospital's ability to provide life-saving and life sustaining services to people in the region.



How to contribute

Send your special 20th anniversary offerings by January 31, 2008, to Women of the ELCA, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631-4101. Write "20th Anniversary" on your check memo line.

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

Please make copies available for the women in your congregation.

Download it at
 Iksynod.org,

*Around the Northwest...
 In our hearts...
 In our prayers...*



- **Wilma Dwight**, faithful former cluster coordinator, is progressing since being hospitalized. Mornings are a bit tiring, but she feels better as the day wears on. If you'd like to send her a card, I'm sure she'd enjoy it. (6341 W. 400 N, MC, 46360)
- **Ellen Klopfer** is in Texas. They moved there with their daughter after Pastor suffered a stroke, but are expected back in January.
- Keep **Thelma Vajda** and her family in your prayer. She and two daughters were injured Thanksgiving Eve in an accident that claimed the life of Pastor Ludovit Vajda. (6308 75th Ave, Schererville, 46375)
- Pray without ceasing for **Thanne and Walt Wangerin** and God's omnipresent hand of healing. (PO B1218, Valpo, 46384)

(LWR con't.) excellent opportunity to learn about a mission that blesses people all over the world, in a warm, inviting atmosphere. Maybe Christ, with their extensive involvement, especially as drop-off site each October, could host it. Maybe a date in midyear would be excellent.

What do you think?

If you think Louise's idea is one you'd like to see come to fruition, email me—or my address is right above. And if you'd like to help make it happen, let me know that, too. I'm already getting excited.

The planning committee is scheduled to meet Saturday morning, January 20, at 10 o'clock, at St. Paul in Michigan City, in



preparation for Spring Cluster, which is scheduled for April 28. The meeting is open, especially for St. Paul leadership, as well as representatives from the congregations. If you plan to attend, notify one of the committee members so that accommodations are provided for. (*Annette-972-2722, markholtan@earthlink.net or Hazel-872-9629. Mindy is away, and my info is below.*) Your input and ideas are always welcome. **We want them! We want them! We'd be delighted!!**

Creation Caring for God's Creation

Gen 2:15

Does Hospitality Have to Be So Wasteful? (*NY Times 12/12/06*), by Andrew Fairley, director of the International Ecotourism Society, shares his response to the waste of hotels, airlines, restaurants, etc. I think a few of them would be helpful here.

1. Those little "landfill-clogging vials" of lotion, shampoo, etc., should be replaced by dispensers, but since you can't control that, leave them in the bathroom. I know... they're handy—and cute—but they're bad for the environment
2. When you're given a handful of napkins—or condiments—take what you need, and give the rest back. (*Number 2, I do; number 1, I will henceforth.*)
3. Refuse in-flight snacks and decrease the amount of rubbish that very likely won't be recycled.
4. He suggested replacing "blow your through the wall" showers with tamer ones would save 50% in water consumption. The hotel manager said customers would never go for it. *We're customers.* Suggest it next time you're at a luxury hotel. With enough



If you get an official-looking email seemingly from your bank, credit card company, etc., with a warning and link or phone number, **DON'T DO IT!!** Instead, call the number on your statement to see if it's valid. 'Tis (always) the season for **PHISHING**, a slick way to steal your account info and drain or run up your account.

The *Northwex*, 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.