



Our Spring Cluster Gathering is so close, you can almost hear the *singing*. And the *laughing*. And the *learning*. And the *sharing!* But you won't hear if you're not



here, April 19, at Bethel in beautiful Miller by the lake in Gary. Theme for this year is "For the Love of the

Earth," and we're anticipating *a very special* Bible study with a very special Bible study leader.

Mary Mwaura, deaconess from Kenya about whom you read in



last month's Northwex, will bless us as this spring's Bible study leader. You'll be receiving more specific info later, but mark the date now as *totally taken!*

### March Is Women's History Month



A photo exhibit entitled "It Didn't All Begin with Ordination: Women's Contributions to ELCA History" can be seen online, or can be borrowed on a first-come-first served basis from Women of the ELCA.

The photos are laminated and come in eight sections. They

may be borrowed as an entire display, or individually. Contact Laura Barkenquast at 800-638-3522, x2737, or [laura.barkenquast@elca.org](mailto:laura.barkenquast@elca.org) to reserve; or go to [www.elca.org/archives/ordination/panel3.html](http://www.elca.org/archives/ordination/panel3.html) to view the exhibit online.

You can also do your own exhibit of your women's contributions to your local congregation. If you don't have a collection of pictures now, why not start an archive today.

Get a photo album and start a photo history of everything you do. Then blow some up for display at special events. Before long you'll have your own collection to set up a display. Once you start, you'll be surprised at the pictures that will "turn up" from the past!



The SWO Executive Board were the first to see our brand new IK Synod sign. We looked out of the office window when we met February 16 as workers hoisted it, and when we broke for lunch, it was there, proclaiming for everyone that passes by that 911 E. 86th is now the IN-KY LUTHERAN CENTER. (I must admit, however, that my camera was in Gary, and the Kodak moment was missed!)

The IK Synodical Board met March 1 at St. Andrew Lutheran in Indianapolis. We were pleased to welcome Jennifer Faust, who will be ordained on April 5, and installed at St. John in Loogootee (pronounced la-GOAT-ee) on April 13, as our newest (and youngest) board member. You'll meet her in the next *KINswoman*.

An area of concern is active units. Many units have not responded to the survey, *What Makes an Active Unit?* Many, also, have not filed an updated constitution with Jill as required by Churchwide. We also discussed maintaining a database, reducing expenses in light of reduced offerings, and reaching and connecting with women across generational lines, especially the need to bridge the cultural and life style gap so evident in women who make up (page 2)



You read about it! Now see it! Bethlehem in Chesterton is a warm, inviting place thanks to their Women of the ELCA who furnished the nar-thex with this beautiful furniture through their pecan sale. It simply begs you to "make yourself at home. You're family!"

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Why not download a copy and share.

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

### What are you doing in your congregation?

**Bethlehem (Gary):** You're invited to a shower!  
Where: 601 Fillmore; For: Kitchen and bath; When: Sunday, April 20 after worship (around 12:15 - :30. Go and enjoy the fun and fellowship!

**St. Paul** will have their Spring Banquet on May 23 at 6 PM in the St. Paul Room, with catered Swiss steak dinner, speaker, door awards. Email Joan Coughlin (sevendown8across@yahoo.com) or call (219-872-6012) for reservations. Adults \$10, and children 12 and under \$5.

Share your news with other women in our cluster. Also send your news, special events, and photos in

life style gap so evident in women who make up (page 2)

(Continued: SWO Board Meeting) Women of the ELCA.

One of the board's goals for this biennial was to arrange for regional gatherings to provide training and resources to unit leaders and others. We are looking at the feasibility of scheduling one for the north and the south halves of the synod in the fall. Since many clusters do not hold a fall gathering,

**Earth Hour 2008--** Earth Hour began 3/31/07 in Sydney. 2.2 Million people and 2,100 businesses turned off their lights between 8 and 9 P.M. "to express that individual action on a mass scale can help change our planet for the better. If the greenhouse reduction achieved in the Sydney CBD during Earth Hour was sustained for a year, it would be equivalent to taking 48,616 cars off the road for a year."

This year on **March 29**, 20 major cities, including Chicago, will join the campaign, the aim of which is "to continue to be energy efficient beyond Earth Hour."

Go to [earthhour.org](http://earthhour.org) to find out how you can sign up and get others involved. Find out and share how we can reduce our dependence on energy that kills our earth.

### A Note from me--another one...

If you're reading this from the bulletin board, you could have your own copy. If I don't have your email, send it to me, and I'll add you to the list. Remember that you can read or download the *Northwex* (and the *KINswoman*) at [iksynod.org](http://iksynod.org) by clicking on *Our Ministries*, then women of the ELCA. And while you're online, check out *Café*, the e-Magazine via our

The *Northwex*, the bimonthly publication of IN-KY Women of the ELCA Northwest Cluster, can be downloaded at [iksynod.org](http://iksynod.org). For questions, submissions, or comments, or to inquire about subscribing via USPS or email, please

### Creation

### Caring for God's Creation

Gen 2:15

April's Lutheran Woman Today has an excellent article by Kim Winchell, in which she speaks about *earthkeeping*, our Christian duty to keep the earth for our children and future generations. Looking at it from this standpoint, it is little wonder that polluting the environment is now on the Catholics' revised list of seven mortal sins.

One way we kill our earth is by going into the grocery store empty-handed, and coming out with bags, bags, and more bags. Plastic bags take 1,000 years to degrade in landfills and use 12 million barrels of oil a year to produce. According to Scorecard.com, NW Indiana ranks in the top 50% in pollution (Lake County #2, LaPorte #10, and Porter #12). Reusable cloth bags can be purchased, or they're easy to make. I am including directions. Copy it and share, and do your part in "earthkeeping." Also enclosed are suggestions for observing Earth Day, April 20.

Our afternoon presentation will highlight what needs to be done and what we can do to keep the earth. The earth is a gift from the Creator. How can we treat it so shabbily?

Here's how to make a sturdy shopping bag and help cut down on wasted resources and pollution at the same time.

Dimensions: Each square = 1 inch.

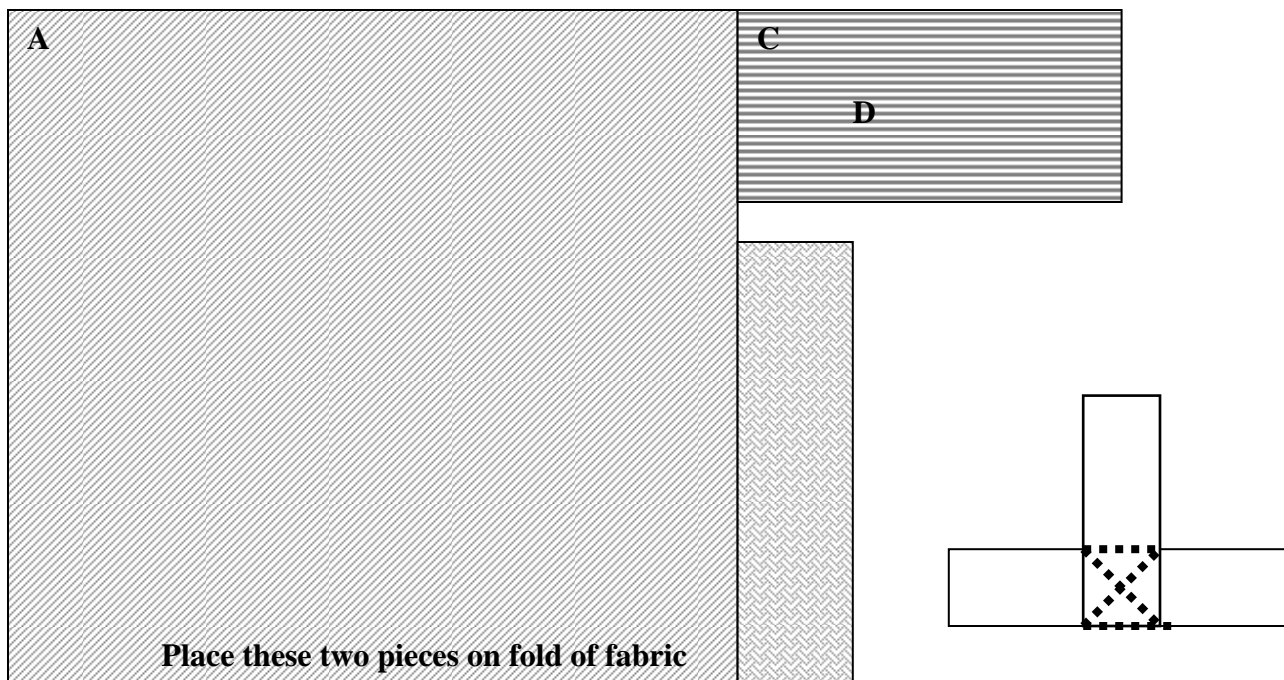
1. Sides of bag— 35" x 18"---
2. Bottom of bag— 11" x 7"----
3. Handles — 28" x 3"

Note: Use sturdy material like drapery fabric, broadcloth, or corduroy.

For sturdier bottom, cut two and put together, or use stiff fabric like denim or upholstery material.

Finished bag will be approximately 16 inches tall.

Make your bag bright and colorful and you're more likely to carry it with you.



To make bag:

Step 1: Sew two ends (AB) together on wrong side with 1/2 inch seam. Press seam open, but leave wrong side out.

Step 2. Make a 1" hem around the top: Fold one edge 1/2 inch (toward *wrong* side). Press. Fold additional 1 inch and press. Sew.

Step 3. Baste (sew or pin) bottom sections (CDEF) wrong sides together.

Step 4. Pin edges to bottom of side section. (Make sure the wrong side is showing). Sew around all corners C, D, E, and F.

Step 5: Turn bag right side out. Press around bottom seam. You can topstitch the bottom seam for extra sturdiness

Step 6: Handle. Fold handle strip down middle, wrong sides together. Sew a 1/2 inch seam forming a tube. Turn right side out. Press with seam in center. Cut strip in half.

Step 7: Attach handles: Mark center of each side of bag. Place end of handle about 3" on each side of this mark. With 1" extending inside bag, sew the handles securely (zig-zag) to the bag at top and bottom of the hem. For reinforcement, you may also sew an X from top corner to bottom corner of the hem. (See figure above.)