



Women in the NORTHWEX

St. Paul Women Get Froggy

Do you know what the letters F.R.O.G stand for? Women who attended the annual late summer retreat hosted by St. Paul of Michigan City were reminded to **Fully Rely on God** on a sparkling Saturday, August 28, in the beautiful setting of the Red Mill County Park. Almost 50 women gathered to enrich their understanding of God’s presence in their lives. Nancy Walter served as program leader.



Using Scripture and the hymn, “Borning Cry,” she both encouraged and challenged the women to look more deeply into the ages and stages of their lives to remember just how much they need to rely on God every day.

Ninth grader Sara Payne reminded the women that “Jesus Loves Me” in her beautiful solo, which helped open the day, as did Janet Bakken’s devotion based on “Footprints in the Sand.” Following a delicious lunch catered by Emma’s Eats, the Grace Notes, four musically talented women from St. Paul, uplifted the women’s hearts with their gift of song.



Each attendee received a “F.R.O.G.” bracelet as a memento and reminder to keep on F.R.O.G.ging! Thank you, St. Paul women, for your hard work and hospital-

Cluster Fall Retreat Planned

Weren’t able to F.R.O.G? Don’t fret! The Northwest Indiana Cluster presents our Fall Retreat, “Listen, God is Calling.” Join us on Saturday, October 2, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. as Deaconess Diane Marten, Education/Formation Director of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, helps us reflect on God’s many callings in our daily lives. Our hosts, the women of Gloria Dei, 3711 Ridge Road in Highland, are anxious to welcome us. Please call Maryann Lovas at 219-924-8546 or e-mail her at mrnlovas@yahoo.com by September 27 to make a reservation for your group. Come join the fun!

Our Mission:

To mobilize women to act **BOLDLY** on their faith in Jesus Christ



President's Message

Dear Sisters in Community and Discipleship in Jesus Christ,

Let me thank you for your tremendous help at the LWR workshop on August 14th. You probably didn't realize how much you were helping, but you were participating in a "dress rehearsal" for the whole synod; it showed us what needed fixin' and what was a "keeper."

Thank you, also, for your commitment on behalf of those served by LWR. I know that the last Saturday of October will see an overflow of caring in kits and quilts because of your renewed effort. We must continue to encourage support of Project Comfort and to spread the word about the Lutheran Malaria Initiative. Learn more about the LWR and its global reach through its website: lwr.org.

Advocating for justice is the foundation of this organization: the Bible mentions God's passion for justice many times. Micah 6:8 says is for me: *And what does the LORD require of you but to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?*

In this economic downturn, we still have much to be thankful for, particularly as we consider the reality faced by the daughters and granddaughters of women like us across the world. And the reality of "another world" may be only a few miles away.

If you've visited the IK Women's Facebook page recently — and if not, please do — you've probably seen a post and a link to "Half the Sky," a movement directed at young girls, some preteen, forced into prostitution. The story tells of **bold** women who, at their own risk, build "safe houses" and schools for these children. This is advocacy.

Also, if you paste or type "*It's Time to End Africa's Mass Rape Tragedy* www.thedailybeast.com" into your browser, you'll find a compelling story by our Triennial Gathering speaker Leymah Gbowee.

These aren't "milk and cookie" stories, but they show what **bold** women are doing for their daughters, granddaughters, and themselves.

And it should give us courage to claim a **boldness** greater than we have imagined.

At a recent informal post-workshop gathering, we were presented this challenge: Why not invite a daughter, niece, goddaughter, granddaughter or daughter-in-law to share in our next gathering? I don't mean just mention it in passing, but intentionally extend an invitation with love and without "guilting," the way you'd invite her to lunch or the mall. It's just that easy. . . and the beginning of **BOLD**.

BOLD Women on the Road

Two upcoming opportunities to meet **BOLD** women from throughout the Synod and throughout the World!



First, at the Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering from July 14-17, 2011 in Spokane, Washington.

Why attend? **ESCAPE** from the busyness of your life. **RENEW** your spirit. **REJOICE** in fellowship with your Lutheran sisters!

DISCOVER your heart for service. Respond to your calling.

ATTEND workshops, worship services, Bible studies, and other events that will transform your life.

Registration is now open! See the Women of the ELCA page on the ELCA website for information and details.

Then, don't unpack your suitcase — ok, at least do your laundry — because the IK Synod Convention 2011 follows, from September 16-18, 2011. Our theme, "Rejoicing in Your Renewal," is a wonderful follow-up to Triennial. Convention 2011 will take place in Fort Wayne, with Trinity English Lutheran Church playing host to most events, which will keep costs, including registration, low. Look forward to worship, music, fellowship, workshops and possibly a service project, so mark your calendars and be on the lookout for more information.

Saving God's Gift of Creation

How much garbage do Americans, among the most wasteful people in the world, create in a year?

I went searching, and this is what I found: The Environmental Protection Agency reports the US produces about 220 million tons each year, or 82,000 football fields **six feet deep** in compacted garbage. The average American produces about 4.5 pounds daily, or 1,600 pounds a year.

That's a lot of garbage. That's a lot of apathy.

For us, once it's *neat* in those strong plastic (Glad, Happy, or Joyful) bags, and tossed onto the big lumbering trucks to be taken out of our sight, it's *gone*.

Have you considered that your garbage has to go *somewhere*, that once there, it will sit and ooze out poisons to destroy our water and gases to destroy our air?

Did you know that lives closest to garbage dumps suffer, families of babies and parents, both animal and human?

We'll be assembling kits in late October with packaging removed from everything but toothbrushes and soap. So what will you do with all that packaging?

Well, pry the cardboard off and recycle it. You may have to toss the plastic — I'll research that more — but saving the cardboard is a big help!

Resources for Fall Programming



God Colors Outside the Lines: A Short Workshop on Diversity and God's Church

Diversity is one way God demonstrates genius at coloring outside the lines. Through scripture and simple, brief exercises, this short resource will help you demonstrate how diversity is a gift from God, as well as a trait of God, worthy of our exploration and embrace.



Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls: Connecting with and Supporting Girls

Girls need the women in their lives more than ever as they search for deeper connections and for more than their peers can provide. Talking and being with them early in their lives will help us to help them navigate their most challenging life passages. This resource is designed to help women and girls build relationships and can be used by an individual or with a planning group. Allow about 60 minutes for the first

These are only a small sample of what's available for FREE download from the Women of the ECLA website. If you're looking for a program for one of your monthly gatherings or if you're contemplating a retreat, check out www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA for these and many other resources.



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
in the society, and
in the world

The Northwex

Northwest Cluster of the IK SWO (6C)

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