



Act boldly.

**Convention is right around the weekend, and that spells change!**

New officers and board members will be elected to serve the women of this cluster and the entire IK synodical area.

Over the history of our organization, women from our cluster have stepped up to answer the call, and this year is no different. **Annette Holtan** has submitted her name for nomination to the SWO Board.

This does not mean that NW will lose her if she's elected; she'll bring her enthusiasm to serve her sisters in a new position, likely as liaison, or board partner, a role I served in the past.

Currently I serve as vice president of the board. Jill, our current president, is not eligible for reelection, so I have submitted my name for that position.

The challenges facing our organization are great, as are the challenges of our church, as well as organized religion in general; so we will need commitment from all of our sisters. We will continue to put our hands and hearts to the work God has entrusted to us as disciples, on your behalf, and with your blessing.

There would be no greater show of *supporting one another in our callings* than your presence at our Biennial Convention in Louisville.

You still have time to join us. Several women will be traveling southward, and I am confident that you would be a welcome companion, and we will help to make it happen. We are looking forward to growing in **discipleship**, growing in **love**, and growing in **purpose** through Women of the ELCA, all of us together.

*Dorothy*



**Leadership Workshop**

Jill Watson, SWO president, Barbara Deitz, SWO secretary, and I conducted a long-overdue training session for leaders on July 18, at St. Paul in Michigan City. Present were Annette (Gloria Dei), Darlene Deck (Augustana), Maryann Lovas (Griffith), Nancy Miller (Bethlehem Chesterton), Pam Waltz, Hazel Schlicker, and Joan Coughlin (St. Paul).



An entire wedding party made their way back and forth through the area, their beautiful outfits turning the heads of the group of women, but training managed to remain the center of attention until the bride herself filed through, marking an impromptu, semi-official break.

The women had an opportunity to ask questions about things they needed clarifying as Jill and Barbara covered some of the nuts and bolts of their positions as leaders.

My contribution was a "Whatchamacallit" segment—*what you call it becomes what it is... to different people*—stressing the importance of language as *including or excluding*: Women respond to words differently based on their age and experience. For example, younger women feel left out when the term "ladies" is used, and use of the term "Welca" dates the organization as *belonging to the past*.



I also presented St. Paul with a leader's guide and companion Bible for our new study, "To God's Beloved: Paul's Letter to the Romans," by Sara Henrich, and everyone received a book mark, as well as a compact zip-up recyclable bag.



Though the group was small, the training was worthwhile, and will be repeated this fall in a different cluster. We thank all the churches that attended.

**Meet Kate Sprutta Elliott, editor of Lutheran Woman Today at our IK SWO Biennial Convention**

**"YOUR RIVER OF FAITH"**

at Hurstbourne Holiday Inn

September 18 & 19 in Louisville, KY

Visit [iksynod.org](http://iksynod.org) for registration form.

**Bethlehem Women of the ELCA**  
invites you to enjoy good home cooking  
and fellowship at  
**The Taste of Bethlehem**



**Saturday, Sep. 19, 2009; 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.**  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
601 Fillmore Street  
Gary, Indiana 46402  
Pastor Michael Steinke

Call (219)885-7900 for more details

- Thankoffering Worship Service, October 18, 2009 10:45 A.M.
- Annual pie sale now beginning. Call the church to order.

**Creation**

**Caring for God's Creation**

Gen 2:15

You're cautioned to shred your documents to avoid identity theft, but what do you do with the bags of confetti? Some recycling programs don't accept shredded documents, so you may feel at a loss. Here are some pointers:

- Shred **ONLY** documents with personal information.
- Cushion ornaments or other fragile objects for storing, or for packing, moving, mailing, etc. Place cardboard between layers.
- Use for for hamster, guinea pig bedding, cat litter, etc. Call your local shelter to see if they can use it.
- Stitch and stuff old towels to use as draft blockers.
- Layer in garden, wet down, and cover with mulch as a great weed blocker and moisture retainer. Bulbs have no problem coming through, and digging is easier than with commercial weed block material.
- Stuff paper art or offer to art teachers.

Shredded paper is less valuable than whole paper, but if your recycling program does accept it, place it in a paper, not plastic, bag and secure it, or closed cardboard box to prevent it from flying all over town.

One more thing... Get your church on board. A paper shredder and paper bags would be an excellent Christmas gift from your unit to your church...and to the environment.

Search "shredded paper" at these websites: [thriftyfun.com](http://thriftyfun.com); [ehow.com](http://ehow.com); [stoptheride.com](http://stoptheride.com) for more tips.



Wilma Dwight and Ruth Lubs

By Pam Waltz



**It was for Michigan City St. Paul Women of the ELCA** to hold their annual Fall Retreat on August 22 at Red Mill County Park with about 50 women in attendance, including those from Hobart and Port-

age, and guests from as far away as California. Each table had an alarm clock as its centerpiece, and bells rang at the beginning of each time segment of the day—*time to sing, time for Bible study, time to eat!*

Opening devotions and three Bible study leaders got us thinking about "*When Good People Do Nothing, Evil Succeeds,*" and that we are all here *for such a TIME as this* to take a stand with Christ against evil. Words from one of the songs Grace Notes sang expressed it well: *Your love compels me, Lord, to give as you would give, to speak as You would speak, to live as You would live, to see as You would see, to serve as You would serve, to be what You would be.*



Ellen Klopfer and Gwen Hudson

If you have not sent 2009 offerings to the SWO treasurer, consider doing it today. Some units don't send offerings because they feel they cannot afford a large amount. If you send \$20, it is welcomed. When added to others', it makes a difference. Remember that **OFTEN** is best, rather than at the end of the year. Think how difficult it would be to manage a household if **all the money came once a year ... in December?**

Switch to quarterly or bi-monthly. The **FISCAL YEAR ENDS JANUARY 31**, and by law, **only \$3000 can be retained for that year**. So, if \$6,000 is sent at the end of the year, likely half (or *more*) will have to be given away.

The *Northwex*, a 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 subscription via USPS or email, contact me at 219-886-0201 or [maslivend@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maslivend@sbcglobal.net).

IK Synodical Women's Organization of Women of the ELCA

## Northwest Cluster Fall Retreat

**"Called to Love as God Loves. . . Unconditionally"**

Saturday, October 10, 2009 — 8:30 - 2:30 pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
2050 West 1100 N  
Chesterton, IN

**Morning: Small Group Bible Study led by Pastor Freda Scales**

**Afternoon: Entertainment by "The Bethlehem Singing Sisters"  
and the debut of "The Women in Motion Players"**

**Registration of \$10.00 includes continental breakfast and lunch**

**RSVP to Nancy Walter at 219-322-8999 by September 30, 2009**

**Planning committee: Nancy Walter, Holy Shepherd, coordinator; Nancy Miller, Bethlehem (Chesterton); Norma Lewis, Augustana; and Maryann Lovas, Griffith; Dorothy Nevils, IK SWO Board Partner, 219-886-0201, maslivend@gmail.com**

### 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.*

Cluster gatherings are one way to meet our purpose, especially growth and community, as we come together to study.

We invite you to be a part of this gathered community each spring and fall, taking part in the spiritual growth that is central to each gathering.

Spring gatherings include learning, business, and spiritual growth, while fall gatherings center on spiritual connecting. If you've never attended, do so for a new experience. There is nothing like a group of sisters in Christ bringing new perspectives from their varied and shared experiences in a friendly, relaxed atmosphere.

Contact your unit leader, grab a sister, and call Nancy and tell her the good news: *"I just don't want to miss it!"*



**René Siria**

remain inactive. President to seek an interpretation from Churchwide. • With offerings down, attendance is crucial to meet financial burdens of meeting rooms and other expenses. Churchwide representative is required and food and lodging must be provided for her as well as for Bible study leader; plus scholarships (registration, meals, and lodging) must be provided for a young woman from each of the 10 clusters. As liaisons with the SWO, cluster coordinators given free registration with, food

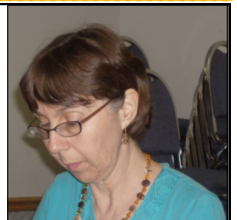


**Mary Glasscock**

**Phyllis Thompson**

**Busy, Bold, Working Women**—The board met at the Lutheran Center in Indianapolis for last minute convention preparation. • Louisville Women to be responsible for on-site duties, copying, and preparing convention booklets, etc. • Rene brought proposals for possible 2011 convention sites.

• Several concerns hang over the board: Finances and board and Triennial delegate nominations. Four officers plus 9 board members necessary for full board. Nominees can only come from active units, causing a dilemma for women wanting to serve, but whose units  
and lodging their own expense; does not increase expenses. • Clarified the Mission Offering, to take the place of customary physical offering. • Third World items, Lucinda pins, and Bible studies to be available for purchase. • Discussed "transition retreat" for outgoing and incoming board members, possibly at Lutheran Hills in November. • Discussed effort toward revitalization in Indianapolis area; should seek assistance from Bishop Stuck. • Worship and sending services planned. Current board's final meeting: Thursday evening, September 17, 2009.



**Barbara Deitz**



**Florence Bright**



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

**I-K Women of the ELCA, NW Cluster**  
Dorothy Nevils, IK Board Partner  
575 Johnson Street  
Gary, IN 46402

**Did you know?...**  
Thrivent Financial for  
Lutherans has  
**personal checking  
accounts.** Visit  
[thrivent.net/banking/](http://thrivent.net/banking/)

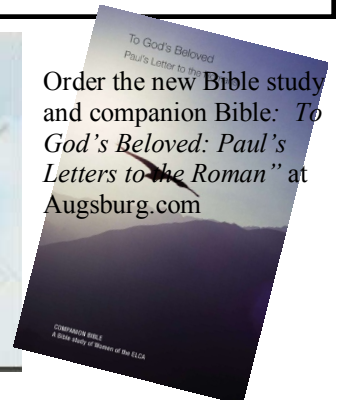
**Please make  
copies available  
for the women in  
your congregation.  
Copies also posted on  
[Iksynod.org](http://Iksynod.org)**

“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

Do you like cryptograms? Substitute the letters below and read the message. Look for repeated letters or combinations. To help you get started, **K** stands for **H**, and **all vowels are vowels**. Clue: Message is about a **new resource you can download** from Women of the ELCA. If you can't decode it, take a look at *what our website has to offer!*

K U C L A Y E J A Y F   A C   N U L I   Y K E T   M I A T W   G E L N   E T B   Z L A I T B J F  
Y U   U Y K I L C   E C   F U O   R K U U C I .   A Y   A C   E Y L E T C Z U L N A T W   G E F  
U Z   J A Z I   Y K E Y   U L I T C   Y K I   K I E L Y   U Z   Y K I   B A C R A D J I   Y U   T U Y  
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L U U N ,   N E J I   L I E B F ,   E T B   M I   E Q E A J E M J I   Z U L   Y K I C   A T   T I I B .

Need Resources? Download Resources... + this poster for your bulletin board



Order the new Bible study and companion Bible: *To God's Beloved: Paul's Letters to the Roman* at [Augsburg.com](http://Augsburg.com)