



## 1987 -2007. Twenty **BOLD** Years for Women of the ELCAI

### We went to Indy...and we represented!



Foreground: Rita Walls, Nancy Ryding; Back: Lillie McElroy, Adrian Lark, Lois Boyd, Annette Holtan at Friday night's banquet.

There were a bunch of us "beach towelers" at the IK Synodical Women's Organization Biennial Convention--12 women from 7 churches--on July 27, 28. Margo Parker was elected delegate and Muriel Jacobi alternate to the Triennial, I was elected Vice President of the SWO Board, and none could have been a more perfect mentor than Darlene for the three beautiful Young Women's Scholarship winners!

### Broadway Calls...



#### and the Northwest Players are hamming it up.

Performing a comedy skit written by talented Jeanoma Babcock for the talent show are budding thespians, Darlene (Glenda the Good Witch), Pat Piekarczyk (Sleeping Beauty), Rita (Dorothy), Adrian (Cinderella), Anne Demaree-Cullen (Belle), Annette and Lillie (wicked stepsisters), Louise Aaron (Snow White), *(inset)* Lois Boyd and Muriel (Little Red Riding Hood & Rapunzel), Nancy Ryding, (Woman of ELCA). Storybook characters wrestled with the challenge of being bold in discipleship through Women in the ELCA; however there's nothing fairy tale about what these women are doing to make a difference in their churches and elsewhere.

### By now you should have received

preliminary information about the Cluster Fall Gathering, which will be held at Augustana in Hobart. In keeping with our triennial focus on women's health, our theme is "Matters of the Heart," and Jeanoma Babcock has agreed to be our Bible study leader. We are also exploring having a medical authority with us in the afternoon.

The next planning meeting will be at 3:00 on September 9 at Augustana, and anyone is invited to attend, especially leaders. Watch for more details--and if you don't see them, flag a lady down and ask her point blank, "Is there any new information about the gathering?" That oughta get her attention. Of course, you can always contact one of the committee members: Annette: 743-0101, markholtan@earthlink.net; Norma: 942-5268, anlewis@juno.net; Mindy: 874-5337; Dorothy: 886-0201, maslivend@sbcglobal.net



Darlene Deck enjoys her role as mother hen to Liz Met-calf (SC Cluster), Abby Brown (EK Cluster), and Adrian Lark (NW, Bethel) attending for the first time as scholarship winners.

Bethel introduced two resolutions for consideration at convention. One was to increase awareness of water issues, a result of our Spring Gathering, which focused on water. Two was for leadership training each year, beginning next fall, in response to the need expressed so often by women that makes them hesitant to accept leadership roles. Both passed, the 2nd with training sessions every two years without a target date. As vice president, I promise to work toward both of these worthy efforts.



Adrian wows the crowd with "Eye on the Sparrow."



*The Kitty was unclaimed--no church sent 4 or more-- but Bethel and First United each had 3. We're getting there. Maybe we'll get back to the days of old when the Northwest Cluster turned out in force! So... Let Northwest shine in 2009!*

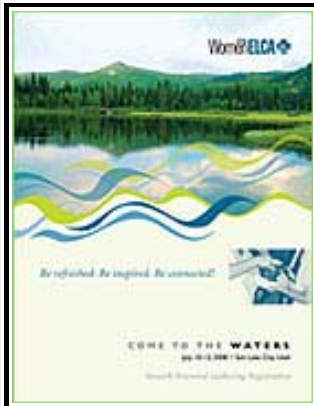


I-K Women of the ELCA, NW Cluster  
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**Please make copies available**  
**for the women in your congregation.**  
 Download *Northwex* at [iksynod.org](http://iksynod.org),

**FROM OUR WEBSITE:**  
**Gathering registration is in the mail**

The Triennial Gathering registration booklet and information about "Come to the Waters," Women of the ELCA's 7th Triennial Gathering, is in the mail. Let your church secretary know to watch for it. Then promote the gathering in your congregation's newsletter and on your bulletin board. This is an event for all women of all ages in the church. Our gathering Web site will debut on September 4 along with the online registration and housing reservations forms. If you would like a copy of the registration booklet, contact us or download the PDF file.



**Start saving money now. Rooms are \$115/night with up to 4 per room. Registration opens September 4. Check *Interchange*, which just arrived, or visit the website at [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org).**

**Don't forget St Paul's retreat, Fruit of the Spirit,** Saturday, August 25, beginning at 9 A. M., at Red Mill Park, 0185 South Holmesville Rd., LaPorte, IN. Call Wilma Dwight (219-879-9477) or Ruth Lubs (872-6358) by Saturday, August 18. Registration is \$10.



**Northwex Alert!**

You know that toothpaste is no longer a part of LWR health kits. However, **DID YOU KNOW** the little tubes of toothpaste exported from China and found in hotel rooms have been found to contain an ingredient found in anti-freeze, which is toxic. Check your toothpaste, and see the whole list of recalls at [www.toothpasterecall.net](http://www.toothpasterecall.net)

**Creation**

**Caring for God's Creation**

*Gen 2:15*

This spot is generally reserved for environmental topics, and we look to the above verse as the foundation for our role as *stewards* of God's creation. The word derives from Old English, and means "keeper of the *hall*" —an object, a thing.

We have expanded the concept to mean the earth, and in this space you regularly find information pertaining to the environment—*keeper of the earth*.

For this issue, however, let's consider another aspect of God's creation, *people*, and our call to be stewards here. Looking at our **Mission and Purpose Statement**, we are directed to that call through a few simple words: *faith, Jesus, support, healing...*

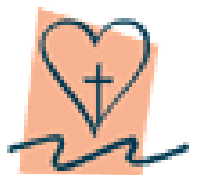
Have you thought about the focus of your women's group? Do these words define your priority, or are *things*—*curtains, new carpets, tables, vases, etc.*—at the center of your activity, your "*busyness*"?

Now is a good time to recenter your group. Set up a session and discuss the **purpose statement**. Encourage the women to stretch their minds and grow in faith.

Help your women learn to be *real* stewards...much more than just "*keepers of the hall.*" (Gen.4:9)

**It's time to make plans...**

**for Thankoffering Sunday. Traditionally it is celebrated on the third Sunday in October with women leading the worship service, including serving as greeters, ushers, etc., and some churches feature a women's choir especially for that day.**



**The offering collected is sent in its entirety to Churchwide using Form B, which can be downloaded under resources.**

**A Thankoffering Service, complete with prayers, litanies, and suggested hymns, can be downloaded for your use.**

**Go to [womenoftheelca.org](http://womenoftheelca.org). On the right you will find a gold sidebar with Quick Links. Click *Thankoffering Service*.**

**If you feel you don't know as much as you think you ought to about our organization, tarry a spell while you're there, and rummage on the web. Visit especially the *what we do* sites**

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 contact me at 219-886-0201 or [maslivend@sbcglobal.net](mailto:maslivend@sbcglobal.net).