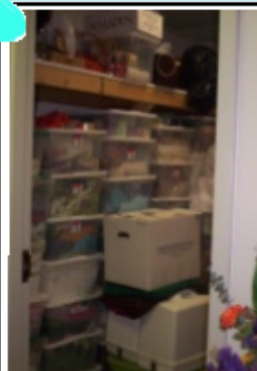




**Attention Bold Women!
Get bold with me!**

Oh, to be 20 again! That's the challenge for us here in the northwestern corner of the state! You don't follow? Well, here's the scoop:

Women of the ELCA turns 20 next year. Our synodical convention is also next year (July 27-28), so what better way to celebrate than having 20 or more women (The "more" does NOT stand for *being over 20!*) show up at Adam's Mark demanding sleeping quarters! And I'll sweeten the pot! Details on page 2!



Does your group quilt? Would you like to quilt but your unit or group doesn't? Email me your group's quilting schedule and location. If your unit wants to start a group, send me that info, too. Then we can put together a quilting directory of all

the groups in the cluster.

I got a peek at Christ Valpo's quilting closet. Their group, "Ties That Bind," is made up of several churches, ELCA and Missouri Synod, and they complete over 500 quilts per year for Lutheran World Relief... and if you saw what our quilts mean to others, you'd be quilting, too!

Fall Day of Renewal 2006



We had the grandest time, didn't we? Fifty-four women from 12 churches enjoyed speakers on Spiritual, Physical, and Emotional Wholeness at our Fall Day of Renewal, *Embracing Wholeness*, at the beautiful Carmelite Monastery and Shrines. This definitely was not the time to stay at home.

Our thanks goes to Bible study leaders, Debbie Thines, Susan Buchholz, and Annette Holtan; soloists Brenda Pollalis and Mona Matson; pianist Marilyn Weber; massage students from Sawyer College; Gloria Dei for morning beverages; and all who contributed gifts and materials.

Give members of the planning committee a big thanks, too, when you see them!

SWO Board meeting Dec. 2 in Indy with Cluster Coordinators. Send your thoughts



Bertha Carpenter gets a massage. She's Baptist, but that doesn't stop her. She came once... she liked it...and she keeps on coming!



**Welcome to the Table!
There's space for you!**



"If you are not now involved with Women of the ELCA, know this truth: Not only are you welcome in the organization, but there is already a place for you at the table — a place that only *you* can fill...*you* with your unique gifts, skills, interests, dreams. Welcome to the table."

Nancy J. Stelling, former editor of Lutheran Woman Today.



Called "Women's Day," "WELCA Sunday," or "Welca Sunday," Thank-offering Sunday is usually celebrated on the 3rd Sunday in October.

Thankofferings make up part of Women of the ELCA's annual gift to the ELCA. They also support Women of the ELCA programs and services and help the church reach out in ministry worldwide. This collective giving is at the heart of carrying on a vision for mission and ministry. The heart and cross symbol reminds us that this offering is the result of God's activity in our lives. See page 2 for a bit of related history from our executive director, Linda Post Bushkovsky.

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

Please provide copies for the
women in your congregation.

Happy Thanksgiving;
Advent Blessings;
Christmas Joy!

Get BOLD for our 20 Year Anniversary!

Put your ideas and skills together! Women from IK always wear black and white checkered vests with horse and race car emblems to Triennial, symbolizing Kentucky Derby and Indy 500! *And we stand out!* Can your unit come up with a unique vest or scarf or sash or hat... to represent our Northwest Cluster? Something that we could wear at the convention July 27-28? If so, be ready to show it at our spring gathering ... and let the women select the winner! ... **ALSO**... I'm starting a "kitty" for a NW delegation! The goal is a crisp (crisp and pink, to be exact... or *not so crisp*...) \$20 bill for each registrant from the CU with the largest crowd! (.If I don't teach two classes spring semester, the maximum will be \$100; if I do, then who knows? Pray for a large enrollment — although I could stand the break!!!) I'll discuss with the committee what to do.

(Start your own kitty at your church and treat one of your hardest working women (do a drawing) or your leader to a trip to the convention... maybe hotel, or registration... it'll be a gift she'll remember forever!)

Just how long has the Women's Organization fought that 5-letter word? Oh, about 20 years. If you want to review some of Women of the ELCA's rich history, check out the following website. You'll enjoy it! Click on <http://www.womenoftheelca.org/20years/history.html>

Creation

Caring for God's Creation

Gen 2:15

The World Health Organization says that we need **75 liters** of water a day to protect against household disease, and **50 liters** a day for basic family sanitation. However... a member of the Masai Tribe in Africa survives on approximately **4 liters** per day, while a typical resident of Los Angeles uses **500 liters per day!** See how you stand. Take the family water audit at <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/familywater/index.shtml>

Don't waste water. Don't run water while brushing your teeth, or run the shower while you dawdle. Repair dripping faucets, leaking pipes, or running toilets.

Use the 1-2-3 method to shower the way folks wash their cars in the summer: (1) Rinse off grime; (2) lather and wash; (3) rinse off soap.

There are a few differences— you don't have grime and you don't use a hose, but you do need to shut off the water after step one. You may, if you like, continue with the final steps— *Move to a shady area and dry with a soft towel or chamois, and wax!*

Is Thankoffering Sunday... Something new?

Linda Post Bushkofsky explains Thankofferings in an excerpt from "Leader to Leader" in *Interchange*, Nov. 2003.

The historians among us, and those with long memories, can tell us that Thankofferings have had different meanings over the course of time and within predecessor church bodies. Early in the last century, Thankofferings blended money and prayer, creating a form of devotional giving or financial piety.

Thankoffering boxes were given to women who placed them in a special location in the house, a visible reminder of blessings received. Coins were often added to those boxes daily as a particular blessing was noted. Then the women of the congregation would come together once a year to make a public collection of their Thankofferings. Often that gathering would include a meeting of some educational nature. The actual money collected through Thankofferings went directly to the mission work of the church.

Thankofferings fell out of favor in at least one predecessor women's organization sometime in the middle of the last century, as a more unified form of giving was instituted. When Thankofferings were reinstated later in the century, the earlier form of devotional giving was not emphasized, but liturgical resources were provided for a service of Thankoffering.

Today, Thankofferings and regular offerings are the primary sources of funding for the ministry that is directly or indirectly supported by the churchwide expression of Women of the ELCA, here and around the world. Units send 100 percent of the Thankofferings they collect to the churchwide organization for its ministry.

For the entire text, go to www.womenoftheelca.org/ and type **history** in the search box at the top right of the home page, or www.womenoftheelca.org/resources/ic/2003/1103english.pdf

Women of St Paul (Mich. City) will have their annual Advent Salad Bar, Saturday, **December 2**, beginning at **12 Noon**, in the lower level of the church at 818 Franklin Square. Suggested donation \$5.00.

The Northwex, a publication of IN-KY Women of the ELCA Northwest Cluster, is published bimonthly and distributed free to the women's leader of each church. For questions, submissions, comments, or to inquire about subscribing via USPS or email, please contact me by mail or at 219-886-0201 or maslivend@sbcglobal.net.