



# SNOW



Spring 2008  
Volume 12, Issue 1

A publication of the Women of the ELCA, Northwestern Minnesota Synod



**Do Justice. Love Kindness. Walk Humbly with your God.**  
You are invited to attend the  
**21<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention**  
of the  
**Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization**  
**June 6 & 7, 2008**  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
East Grand Forks, Minnesota



Registration: \$25/day; \$45/both days

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## COME TO THE WATERS

*“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water’.” John 7:37b, 38*



**Women**  
of the  
**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA**

The 7<sup>th</sup> Triennial Gathering will be held in Salt Lake City, July 10-13, 2008. It is a time to be refreshed, inspired and connected. You will hear from Pastor Heidi Neumark, author of the highly acclaimed book *Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx*, and Sister Joan Chittister, O.S.B., who has been a visionary voice for more than 30 years. There are many workshops to explore and a 4K Run/Walk/Roll to support our Raising Up Healthy Women and Girls initiative. You also will enjoy an evening as guests of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir.



**COME TO THE WATERS**  
July 10-13, 2008 ~ Salt Lake City, Utah

The early bird deadline has passed but that doesn't mean that you still can't register for the Gathering. Registration and housing forms must be in by June 15, 2008. Call the churchwide office at 800-638-3522, ext. 2730 or email [women.ELCA@elca.org](mailto:women.ELCA@elca.org) if you need a registration booklet or information. Our synod's Triennial Gathering promoter is Janet Lian and she can be reached at 218-294-6320 or [djlian@gvtel.com](mailto:djlian@gvtel.com). She can answer or get the answers to any questions you have about the Gathering.

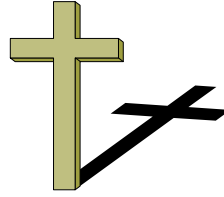
**Join hundreds of bold women for a time of singing, praying, listening to dynamic speakers, worshipping and praising God. See you there.**

*The Mission of the Women of the ELCA is: "To mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ."*

## Thoughts from a Board Member

By Sharon Temanson

My dear friend, Lois, is dying. Stomach cancer is the culprit. She was wintering in Arizona with her husband where she typically enjoyed life very much – church choir, Bible study, golf, lunch with friends. This year she was eager to return home much sooner than planned. It was a long trip by motor home, an option that allowed her to be in bed most of the time. She needed that. Now she is home.



Yesterday I got to visit Lois – a short visit. She is too weary for more. She is thin, but her brown eyes are still bright. I wanted to know what she was *thinking*, not just how she looked. In slow, deliberate articulation she shared. “Jesus is my Friend. Sometimes, if I am able to sit on the side of my bed, he sits down beside me. After awhile, he’ll put his arm around me.” Then, “You know, Sharon, I won’t be here much longer.” “I know, Lois,” I choked. She went on “Soon I’ll be in Heaven. Jesus will say, ‘Hi, Lois. I’ve been waiting for you!’.”

How can I be sad? Oh, I can be sad for myself – I’m losing a friend. But surely I cannot be sad for her. What can be more wonderful than the confident knowledge that within a few days you’ll be in Heaven!

I knew I must leave. Extending my arms to Lois I said, “God bless you, dear Friend.” In slow, slurred speech she responded, “I’ve already been blessed so richly.”

Again, she was asleep.

**P.S.** Lois passed away eight days after this was written. Now she is in Heaven with her friend—OUR friend—Jesus.

## SWO college scholarships available for high school seniors

College scholarships are available from the Northwestern Minnesota Synodical Women’s Organization (SWO) to qualifying high school seniors who are accepted at a college of the ELCA.

Scholarships for \$150.00 will be provided for the second semester of their freshman year, and the amount will be matched by most ELCA colleges. Application must be made on or before May 1, 2008.

Basic eligibility requirements are: be a graduating high school senior with a “C” average or above, be a member of an ELCA church, be a resident of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA and plan to attend an ELCA college. Detailed information and application blanks are available from local W/ELCA units (congregations) or their church office. Information and application forms are also available from the SWO Board scholarship Committee member: ATTN: Lynda Converse, 34640 267<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Browerville, MN. 56438 (320-594-2456).

Funds for the 31 scholarships awarded last year were provided by designated monies sent by the local units of the W/ELCA to the NW MN SWO.

## W/ELCA units urged to provide funds for scholarships

**CONGRATULATIONS!** Because of your generous support we were able to provide scholarships in the amount of \$150.00 this past year. Your continued support is needed and will be greatly appreciated as we prepare to provide scholarships in the amount of not less than \$150.00 in the coming year.

Congregational units and individuals are urged to designate and send funds to the NW MN Synodical Women’s



Organization (SWO) Treasurer, Carolyn Engebretson, P.O. Box 1031, Detroit Lakes, MN 56502 for the SWO Scholarship Fund.

Individuals may also want to consider designating scholarship funds as a memorial gift or in honor of an individual or organization.

SWO Board Scholarship Committee members stated that 31 high school seniors (men and women) were awarded college scholarships: recipients were announced at the NW MN Synodical Convention held in June 2007.

Scholarships of \$150 for each of these recipients are now (second semester) being sent to the ELCA colleges which they are attending. In order to receive matching funds from some of the colleges, scholarships from SWO must be maintained not less than \$100 per recipient. The number of scholarships available is dependent upon the amount of monies received from the local units and individuals in Northwestern Minnesota.

*Submitted by Lynda Converse*

## Pause for Prayer

By Rachel Ronnevik, Board Member  
AHHHHHHHHHHHHH! It feels

soooooo good! The showerhead just above me is sending warm, clean water down to massage my scalp, relax my shoulders, and chase sweat and grime from my body to the drain



just beneath me. Good, therapeutic warmth is oozing its way beneath my skin and I'm relishing it. For this span of time, I'm safe and warm in my own little cubical.

Then, through no reason of my own, the rhythm of the running water turns my thoughts into little rivers of prayer and song. I find myself thanking God not only for the rejuvenating waters running over me, but the life-giving water that is mine because Jesus died and rose for me.

Prayer and song flow like the waters running over me.

*Dear God,*

*"In baptism you made me your own.  
Help me each day to live as your child."*

***I want to walk as a child of the Light; I want to follow Jesus.***

*"Wash away my sweat and grime,  
and forgive me my sins."*

***If I have wounded any soul today, if I have caused one foot to go astray, if I have walked in my own willful way, dear Lord, forgive.***

*"Give me a servant heart, to wash the feet of others, as Jesus washed those of his disciples."*

***Make me a servant, humble and meek. Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.***

*"May my words to others be loving, soothing, warm,--a living witness of Christ's love."*

***Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the  
neighbors we have from you.***

*"Fill me with consistency and endurance to be a light for Christ to others*

*so that they may drink of your  
living water, too."*

***Living for Jesus, a life that is true,  
striving to please him in all that I do.***

*"Teach me to let my faith flow freely, warmly, boldly--- in this shower, once I dry off, outside this door, in my home, in my neighborhood, in my church, in your world."*

***I'll tell the world that I'm a Christian--I'm not ashamed his name to bear;***

***I'll tell the world that I'm a Christian—I'll take him with me anywhere.***

*"Keep me ever grateful for your love which flows so freely to me and all of your children."*

***Lord, with glowing heart I'd praise thee for the bliss your love bestows;***

***For the pard'ning grace that saves me, and the peace that from it flows.***

*"Thank you, Lord, that in this warm, soothing spot beneath the showerhead, I can multi-task! Here, I find cleansing for my body and a wonderful prayer haven." Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the (shower?)*

***I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart. Amen.***

Connecting with our God can be done anywhere, any time. Prayer changes things!

s n o w

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### Newsletter Subscription Form

- Two free copies of the SNOW are sent to each unit president.
- Contact Carolyn Engebretson for subscription information

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\$3 donation check to SNOW Newsletter. Mail to: Carolyn Engebretson, PO Box 1031, Detroit Lakes, MN, 56502

# Synodical News Of Women

Northwestern Minnesota Synod ELCA

901 8th Street South, Concordia College  
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## The Idea Place

This newsletter will include a few ideas we have received from local units. We are always looking for ideas of new things to do and if any of the units have an interesting project please email me at [diane\\_nord@yahoo.com](mailto:diane_nord@yahoo.com) or send it to me at 1588 140<sup>th</sup> St., Wolverton, MN 56594.



### " Kids for Kids "

Last winter, the Sunday school children at Concordia Lutheran Church in Fertile had to choose a PROJECT and a GOAL for their birthday pennies. They chose an ELCA Gifts Project and we named it "Kids for Kids" meaning a goat (kid) per each Sunday school kid. They are used in

Ethiopia, easy to keep, supply a lot of milk and can be eaten. Each goat costs \$25. Our goal was \$800. With the generosity of the children and some special gifts at the end we went over the top.

### " Ten Talents "

Our stewardship leader gave any willing WELCA member \$10 from the quilt sale profits. They were also given a list of mission kit items. Three months later we gathered and brought all of the treasures that we had found for World Relief. Many kits were assembled. The other plus is that more women were aware of the variety of mission possibilities.

### " Dinner Theater "

Youth and adults put on a dinner theater to raise money for Bible School. The dinner was cooked by WELCA members. A great evening.

### " Spring Fling "

Each woman set a table for eight with dishes they brought from home or paper plates for a picnic theme. The woman who set the table was hostess for her table. It was a wonderful evening with conversation over a dinner table with entertainment ending the evening.



## Spring Cluster Gatherings

1	Bethel Lutheran	Greenbush	April 26	9 AM
2	Grace Lutheran	Grygla	April 12	
3	Our Saviors	McIntosh	April 19	
4	United Lutheran	Gonvick	April 19	AM
5	Grace Lutheran	Ada	April 30	
6	Comstock Lutheran	Comstock	April 24	5:30 PM
7	First Lutheran	Mahnomen	April 26	
8	Augustana Lutheran	Fergus Falls	April 14	
9	Immanuel Lutheran	Wadena	April 14	AM
10	West Moe Lutheran	Brandon	April 19	