



Bits & Pieces

Eastern Washington-Idaho Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the ELCA

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TAKE A TRIP TO BEAUTIFUL IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

GENIE TRIGSTED, TREASURER

Fun, Spiritual Uplifting, Relaxation and the Joy of staying in the SHILO INN, Idaho Falls, Idaho. The E-WA/ID SWO board just spent 3 days planning your Gathering for October 9 – 11, 2009. The hotel is so-o-o Beautiful! You will love spending a few days there in the fall. The hotel overlooks the Snake River and is very close to many other wonderful and exciting tourist attractions.

The Tautphaus Park Zoo has over 350 animals from six continents. The Greenbelt, a park central to the city's downtown has a six mile paved walking trail that we can access a few feet from the Shilo Inn. Also a short distance from the Shilo Inn is the beautiful 20 foot falls on the Snake River.

Idaho Falls is an Antiquer's dream. Visit over 10 antique shops. The Museum of Idaho, located very close to the Shilo Inn, offers traveling and permanent displays. The traveling display available to us in October is **Lincoln: Preservation of a Nation** – "Abraham Lincoln: the influential leader who altered the



Shilo Inn Suites Hotel-Idaho Falls - 780 Lindsay Blvd., Idaho Falls, ID 83402 - (208)523-0088 - (800)222-2244 - shiloinns.com

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Cluster Assignment: North Idaho

SILENT AUCTION COORDINATOR

Jeanne Winterfeld 509-865-2464

path of slavery and the Civil War while laying the foundation for the birth of Idaho." This should be a must for all of us to visit.

Our Gathering will uplift your Spirit, and Idaho Falls can offer you recreation and relaxation. PLAN ON COMING TO IDAHO FALLS ON OCTOBER 9 – 11TH AND STAY IN THE BEAUTIFUL SHILO INN, 780 Lindsay Blvd..

Shilo Inn has reserved a block of river view rooms for us until September 25th. The price for one to four people in a room is \$89 per night. The women need to make their own reservations with the hotel. The number for the Shilo Inn is (208) 523-0088. Breakfast is included with the room.

Secretary Phyllis Bradburn would like your photos of churches and women's activities from around the Synod to include in the Gathering "Book of Reports." 1725 E. Highgate Ct., Eagle, ID 83616, (208)939-2753 or pabraddburn@aol.com

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Romans 15:13

Where would we be without *Hope*? Where would we be without that helping hand or encouraging word from family, friends or maybe even a stranger? I will never forget the 1993 Triennial in Washington D.C. It was the first year that they had “Convention Without Walls”. They took us out into the city to visit on-going ministries. I chose to go to a ministry that worked with disadvantaged youth and young adults. They had to teach these young people that there is hope even though they could see no end to their misery. Many of them lived for today doing whatever gave them momentary pleasure because they saw no future. I had never thought about living without *Hope*. Your every decision can be affected by *Hope*; how you treat your neighbor and family. Do you do drugs, steal, murder, what does it matter if there is no *Hope* for tomorrow?

Romans 15:13 is our theme verse for our 2009 Gathering October 9-11th at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Our theme “God’s Love through Our Hearts: Bring Hope to Your Community” speaks to how we share our faith which gives hope as we go about our everyday tasks in the grocery store, beauty shop, etc. and at our social gatherings.

Once we chose this theme I started seeing the word *Hope* everywhere. We all live in hope that tomorrow will bring better health, a stable economy, peace and no more hungry people. We need to share the Good News. The best *Hope* phrase I have heard lately is “Hope begins at the cross” and that is the message we all need to share!

Carole Dinning, President

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.

of the
Women ELCA 

**LADIES OF THE ELCA:
LET'S MAKE A QUILT
AT THE IDAHO FALLS GATHERING!
GLORIA ANDERSON, MISSION ACTION**

I know how much your ladies like to sew and put together **beautiful quilts**, and that is such a wonderful mission of love.

Our Idaho Falls Synodical Gathering will be held October 9-11, 2009, with the theme: **"God's Love Through Our Hearts."**

As a fun craft project, it would be great if **every church** in our synod could **make a quilt square 12" x 12" with appliqués of something that is unique in your area**. Also, we'd like your church name embroidered on the square.

These squares **will be put together at the Gathering** to make a quilt (or more) for those in need in the Idaho Falls area.

We have a special work room set aside for a sewing machine and space to work. It'll be fun to see what a special gift we can leave with our friends in Idaho Falls.

Gloria, 208-661-3797



Faith Without Walls

Connie Reid, Global Education Advocate

The "**Faith Without Walls**" session is about how we share our faith in our everyday lives, in many ways, with all kinds of faiths or unbelievers, when the opportunities arise. We share the "Hope" that we feel, in non-threatening conversations.

The scripture that we are using for the convention says we want to "**Overflow with Hope by the Power of the Holy Spirit.**" The session will have stations that the participants can go to, where they can see these examples of sharing their faith without walls, such as beauty shops, book clubs, support groups, grocery stores, etc. **We invite everyone to come and share their faith without walls.**

Bold Women on the Move

By Jone K. Stout, Mission Growth

When you pack your bags to come to the gathering at Idaho Falls next Oct. 9-11th, **be sure to include a swim suit and a good pair of walking shoes.** In response to requests from women at previous gatherings, we're providing two different opportunities for exercise on both Friday and Saturday.

Jone Stout, who has been certified by the Arthritis Foundation as an arthritis water exercise instructor, will be leading **water exercise** at the Shiloh's pool at 3:00p.m. on Friday, and 4:30p.m. on Saturday. The sessions will last about 45 minutes. The routine she uses includes gentle stretches and exercises designed to increase your range of motion in just about every joint in the body, from fingers to ankles! The hotel has agreed to let only Women of the ELCA use the pool at these times, so there's no need to worry about overcrowding or splashing. The deepest anyone needs to get is up to their shoulders,

and if needed, staying in shallower water is OK. Even non-swimmers can attend. Class size is limited to 16-20 people at each session, so be sure to sign up at the registration table if you'd like to give it a try.

The other exercise option, which is at the same time as water exercise, is a **guided walking tour of the falls on the river and the surrounding area.** Local residents will be guiding groups of walkers. The walking path is just a short distance from the back of the hotel, so if you aren't able to walk with a tour, you can try it out on your own. Again, you'll want to sign up at the registration table to be part of a guided walking tour.

So be sure not to forget those walking shoes and a swim suit. It will be fun to see lots of **"Bold Women on the Move"** in Idaho Falls this October!

Jone Stout

WOMEN IN MINISTRY SILENT AUCTION

JEANNE WINTERFELD

The **Silent Auction** provides funding for women who are studying for service in Lutheran ministries. A check is written to the school of the recipient's choice, in the amount of **\$1,000**, as a **scholarship from the SWO.** We had no scholarship applicants for 2008.

Be thinking of what you and your congregation can bring or send to the Idaho Falls Gathering for the Silent Auction. **Your handmade and lightly used items sell well; be creative and help fund the Silent Auction.**

Jeanne, 509-865-2464

WATCH FOR THESE SPECIAL WOMEN AT THE GATHERING

Marie Tesch, Waseca, Minnesota, will be our Churchwide Representative to bring information from Churchwide.

Penny Dixon, choir director at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Idaho Falls, will be our music leader.

Margie Fiedler, Guest Speaker

Margie P. Fiedler serves the church as Associate Vice President of Marketing for the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund, serving the six synods in Region 1. Stewardship, youth, camping, hospitality, and global mission, are among her passions. Prior to working with the ELCA Mission Investment Fund, Margie served as Associate to the Bishop, EWA-ID Synod for nine years, with her work focusing on estate gift planning.

From 1977-1997 she served as Executive Director for Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, at Lutherhaven, ID, and Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Ohio. She also worked with the planning team for the ELCA National youth gathering for over 20 years. She continues to consult with camps in the area of financial development in her 'free' time!

Margie also loves to write, and has written Sunday school and outdoor ministries curriculum and Bible Study, for Augsburg Fortress. In 2008 she started running more, and placed 3rd in the 5k run at the WELCA event in Salt Lake City, and completed her first ½ marathon in October. **Margie served on the original planning team for the Women of the ELCA for the three years prior to merger which formed the ELCA.** Margie also likes to hike, ski, canoe, read, travel, bake, and be with her husband Al, son Jesse, 17, and daughter Mica, 9. She begins each January 1st, at her home in Coeur d' Alene, ID with the annual "Polar Bear Plunge."

Jolene Pooley, Leadership

Gathering exhibits to browse, experience, learn, explore and receive "freebies" at the display tables of:



Margie Fiedler

- * Women of the ELCA Resources
- * Mission Investment Fund
- * Women in Ministry Scholarships
- * Global Missions
- * Fair Trade
- * Synod Clusters' Information & History Scrapbooks
- * Luther Heights Camp
- * Tumaini Scholarships
- * Idaho Falls, ID Tourist Information

Greetings from Spokane, Washington

Myrtle Stoop, Vice President

! Spring has finally arrived in the great northwest. Your Board has been busy working on the plans for the Fall Gathering in Idaho Falls, Idaho. We are in the process of assembling a **nominating committee** and **selecting nominees** for the office of **President, Secretary and three General Board positions**.

I am asking you to **prayerfully consider to run for office and serve the women of our church**. You will find a nomination form elsewhere in this publication. If you know someone you would like to nominate, please get their permission, then copy and complete the form and send it to me so the nominating committee can contact them. I know many of you have special gifts and talents—come share them with your Synodical Women’s Organization.

Thank you for all your help and consideration in this important matter.

Myrtle L. Stoop, SWO Vice President (509) 891-2681

jamesstoop@peoplepc.com

11319 E. 29th Avenue, Spokane Valley, WA 99206

For information on the Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger, contact Vivian Parrish of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran in Boise vparrish1@mindspring.com regarding the Idaho Grocery Tax.

THE LUTHERAN BOOK PARLOR is coming to IDAHO FALLS!

The staff of **THE BOOK PARLOR of Spokane** look forward to being at the SWO October Convention Gathering ! Salem Lutheran began this “bookstore ministry” eight years ago and they continue to serve the book needs of their area.

They recently partnered with Spokane Urban Ministries and now have expanded with a soup/coffee bar across the street to further serve their customers.

Check out their **web site** at www.TheBookParlor.com or e-mail them at lutheranbooks@msn.com if you need more information before the gathering.

The SWO Board is pleased to offer this Christian book purchasing opportunity to those attending the October Convention Gathering .

St. John's Lutheran Bazaar, Medical Lake

Bazaars are a lot of hard work but well worth the effort. Work for the next annual bazaar and rummage sale at **St. John's Lutheran Church, Medical Lake, WA**, begins as soon as the doors are closed on the current annual bazaar. You know the saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." Well, it takes an entire congregation to "raise" a successful bazaar. Throughout the year crafters craft and knitters and crocheters knit and crochet. The Rags-to-Riches quilters select two of their best for the quilt raffle. Rummage is collected, sorted and priced. Teams of workers from **St. John's Lutheran Church in Medical Lake and Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Reardan** make the sausage and apple cider. Expert lefse makers make lefse for at least two days. Bakers start making their breads, rolls, pies, cakes, cookies, and candy. Cooks fill the church with the magnificent smells of the chili, chicken casserole, and sausages.

Why would a congregation work so hard for a bazaar? Because **the money raised**, paired with matching funds from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, is used to help support the various ministries of the church. Proceeds of the 2008 Annual Bazaar and Rummage Sale helped support ministries such as the **Medical Lake Community Outreach, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Eastern Washington University, Lutheran World Relief, the Lugala Hospital in Tanzania, Nathan Krupkee (Campus Crusade in China), Lutheran Social Services, the S.P.E.A.R. Program in Spokane, Camp Lutherhaven, the Rafiki Mission for children in Africa, CASA, the Awana program at St. John's, Vacation Bible School, Camp Shoshone, and the Equal Exchange Coffee Project, as well as the cleaning of the church, and cash assistance to a young widow and son following the sudden and unexpected death of their husband and father.**

St. John's Lutheran Church, 223 S. Hallett St., Medical Lake, and other area churches, plan their **bazaars** for the **first weekend of November**; so many of our shoppers make a day of it going from one bazaar to the other, getting a head start on their Christmas shopping. You can plan your visit well in advance for **Friday, November 6, or Saturday, November 7, 2009**. We hope to see you there!

Joanna Williams

A Different Kind of Christmas Party at Cameron Emmanuel, Kendrick

The December 2008 WELCA Christmas party at **Cameron Emmanuel Lutheran, Kendrick, Idaho**, broke with years of tradition. Formerly, the women gathered to sing carols, share gifts and goodies, and participate in a Christmas program. This time, the women decided to invite the entire congregation to a soup luncheon after Sunday services. Those planning to attend were invited to bring **baby items and monetary offerings for the Life Choices Clinic in Lewiston**. A representative of that program gave a short presentation of their services.

It warmed the hearts of all to see the baby gifts laid under the life-size Nativity figures, and was a touching reminder that **the Advent season is all about welcoming the baby Jesus into our hearts**.

Margaret Treu

Cluster Event at Bethlehem Lutheran, Spokane

Bethlehem Lutheran, Spokane, hosted Mt Spokane, Spokane Westward and Spokane Valley Clusters on April 19th. Twelve churches were represented in the 56 attending.

“For the Beauty of the Earth” a multi-media program featuring **photography of E WA and Idaho** by Derek Blumenschien, Bonners Ferry, was presented with Pastor Samuelson narrating the program which was based on the Creation.

Outreach ministry representatives and displays included Joanna Williams—Thrivent, Connie Copeland-Malone—Lutheran Book Store, Dennis McCaughey—Regional Vice President of Lutheran Community Services, Tauni Samuelson—Global Mission, Jan McKee and Robin Johnson—Women’s and Children Free Restaurant, and Margie Fieldler—Synod Associate, V.P. of Marketing.

Tamie Evers, Mt Spokane and Westward Cluster SWO Representative spoke to the group. She reported that the Fall Gathering will be in Idaho Falls, ID, October 9-11, 2009. Region I meeting will be held on June 25-27, 2010 in Kalispell, MT. The Triennial will be July 10-12, 2011 in Spokane.

Myrtle Stoop, SWO Vice President and Historian, and Spokane Valley Cluster Representative updated the group on current issues of the Synod Women. Women are needed to fill positions on the SWO Board this fall.

Gloria Anderson, SWO Mission Action, told about the quilting project for the Synod October Gathering. Each unit is asked to bring a 12x12” square that is pieced or embroidered that represents something about their church, and also has the church name on the square. The squares will be assembled into quilts at the Gathering.

Rose Marie Griess

Gathering Offering Objective: The Haven

Offering objective for the 2009 Convention Gathering in Idaho Falls is one-half to **The Haven**, an emergency shelter, short-term transitional housing and supportive service for the homeless and single women, and one half to help fund the programs and ministries of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Physical offerings for THE HAVEN: Paper Products, Toilet Paper, Diapers, Paper Towels, Toiletries.

IDAHO FALLS GATHERING

Shilo Inn – 780 Lindsay Blvd. Idaho Falls, Idaho

OCTOBER 9 – 11, 2009

Eastern Washington/Idaho Synodical Gathering – Women of the ELCA

GOD'S LOVE THROUGH OUR HEARTS

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____ E-Mail _____
Church and City _____

Delegate _____ Participant _____

Registration Deadline: September 25, 2009

REGISTRATION FEE: \$100.00

Registration fee includes: Dinner Friday Night - Lunch and Dinner Saturday - fee also helps defray cost for speakers, musicians and other expenses for Gathering.

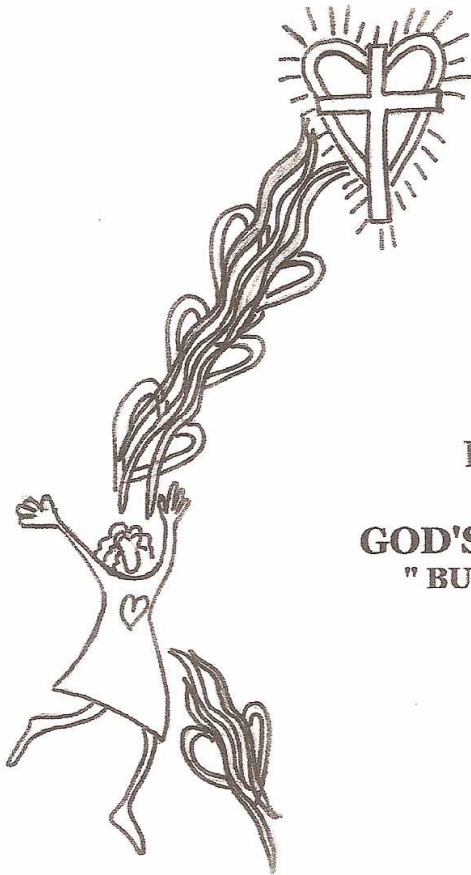
Special Needs: _____

Please make checks payable to: **WOMEN OF THE ELCA**

Send to: Genie Trigsted
111 W 19th Avenue
Lewiston, ID 83501

For information contact Genie
(208) 743-0976
etrigsted@cableone.net

(Make copies as needed for each of the women who plan to attend)



IDAHO FALLS GATHERING

GOD'S LOVE THROUGH OUR HEARTS
" BUILDING HOPE IN OUR COMMUNITY "
ROMANS 15:13

OCTOBER 9 - 11, 2009

WOMEN of the ELCA
EASTERN WASHINGTON / IDAHO
SYNODICAL GATHERING

SHILO INN
780 LINDSAY BLVD. IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO

Register Now to attend this
special women's event
planned just for you!

Print and Post to advertise the Fall Synodical Women's Gathering

**EASTERN WASHINGTON/IDAHO WOMEN OF THE ELCA CONVENTION
BOARD NOMINATION FORM**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

HOME PHONE _____

NAME OF CONGREGATION _____

CHURCH ADDRESS _____

AGE RANGE: _____ 34 or under _____ 35-49 _____ 50-64 _____ 65 or over

POSITIONS TO FILL: _____ President _____ Secretary _____ General Board
 _____ General Board _____ General Board

EXPERIENCE: Please list significant experience in each area over the past five years only.
 Use back of sheet if needed.

1. Occupational History:
2. Local Congregational Women's Organization Involvement:
3. Unit/Cluster/Synod/Churchwide Women's Organization Involvement:
4. Local Congregational Involvement:
5. Cluster/Conference/Synod or National Church Involvement:
6. Community/Other Organizations:

Form submitted by:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CONGREGATIONAL AND ADDRESS _____

COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 10, 2009

**TO: MYRTLE L. STOOP
11319 E. 29th Avenue
Spokane Valley, WA 99206
(509) 891-2681
jamesstoop@peoplepc.com**

2009

EASTERN WASHINGTON - IDAHO SYNODICAL WOMENS ORGANIZATION

WOMEN IN MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

This scholarship is sponsored by the EWA-ID SWO for Lutheran women entering a program of Christian study such as Seminary, Associate in Ministry, Deaconess Program or Youth Ministry for service in Lutheran congregations.

The scholarship is in the amount of \$1,000. Gifting of the scholarship will be based strongly on financial need, but other factors will also be used in deciding between the applicants. A check will be mailed to the school of the recipient's choice in October following selection.

Please include a brief explanation of the area of ministry you have chosen and why, along with some information on you financial need. Please also ATTACH TWO LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION FROM PERSONS OTHER THAN FAMILY MEMBERS.

DEADLINE TO APPLY: SEPTEMBER 30, 2009

NAME: _____ AGE: _____

PHONE # _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

HOME CONGREGATION: _____

SCHOOL OF CHOICE: _____

SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE #: _____

MAIL TO: Tamie Evers--902 E. Boone-Apt. 201--Spokane, WA. 99202

Phone #: 509-489-3177

E-mail address: tjevers52@webband.com

Meet Our Gathering Pastor, Pastor Kristine Blaess

Joan K Stout, Mission Growth

Our pastor for the Women of the ELCA Eastern Washington/Idaho Synodical Women's Organization Gathering held October 9-11 at the Shiloh Inn in Idaho Falls, ID, is **Pastor Kristine Blaess**.

Pastor Kristine has served Community Presbyterian Church in Rigby, Idaho since 2001. She graduated from St. Olaf College with a B.A. in Music, and completed graduate work in Sacred Music before earning a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary.

Upon graduating, Kristine and her husband Michael received the Graduate Preaching Fellowship and spent a year in Australia studying, visiting Aboriginal communities, and working on a sheep station.

She has served as High School Camp pastor and Women's Retreat leader at Luther Heights Bible Camp. Apart from her parish responsibilities, which she loves, the work that really captures her imagination is mentoring Lay Pastors and working with congregations without pastors.

Pastor Kristine will lead two Bible studies at the Gathering, one early Friday afternoon, and the second on Saturday morning. She has based her Bible studies on Romans 15, especially our theme verse Romans 15:13 which states, *"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."* (NIV) We will be studying a companion verse chosen by Pastor Kristine as well. Romans 10:15 tells us *"And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"* (NIV)

Pastor Kristine will also lead two worship services for us. On Friday at 7:30p.m. she will lead a celebratory communion service. The worship Saturday evening at 8p.m. will be quieter, and more meditative.

Pastor Kristine has told us that in her free time she hits a mean tennis ball, sews short straight lines in the quilts she makes, cooks great food when the cupboards are bare, and sometimes gets so into playing "Power Rangers" that she neglects to comb her children's hair. She lives in Pocatello, ID, with her family.

I know I am looking forward to getting to know Pastor Kristine a little better as she leads us in Bible study and worship at the Gathering next fall. I hope you'll join us there!

Jone K. Stout



Pastor Kristine Blaess

How Much of a Small Town Can One Cat Touch, Or Can He Touch the World?

Phyllis Bradburn, Secretary

At our October Gathering in Idaho Falls we will have our own small town, called **Faith without Walls**. The town will have a **many places where women meet and talk things over**. The talk in any group reflects the interests of people there. Yet Christians often avoid speaking of their faith, especially around the non-churched. Not knowing how the subject would be received on the part of the other, and fearing the worst, keeps many quiet. Not knowing where to start and what to say probably does too. Small talk gets us to many topics, why not faith? How does the subject come up? And how does it become a witness? We will be exploring these questions at our Gathering as we share **“God’s Love through Our Hearts.”**

Although our town, “Faith without Walls” will be a place to share the good news to other Lutheran women, it will not be preaching to the choir. **We all learn from each other**. We learn of each other’s faith, we grow in our own, and we learn ways to share. And though we may be clumsy when it comes to sharing God’s blessings (That is an endearing part of being human.), the Holy Spirit is right there with us to give us words, and to translate our words to the other’s heart.

One of the activities in this town will be a **book discussion group**. If you are a book lover, read *Dewey, the Small-Town Library Cat Who Touched the World*, by Vicki Myron. I know that many Lutheran women are cat lovers. Purr-haps you would like to spend a few hours being transported to the small town of Spencer, Iowa. The book describes the ups and downs of a farm economy; the workings of a small town library; and it talks of life and health and corn. In the book you meet real people from all over the world; and one special cat, who really did live in the library. I’m sure your library should have a copy of this book. The book is not religious, but the ministry of Dewey to his small town and beyond will get you in the mood for ministry in our small town without walls. Read the book. Find out what percentage of the American diet is corn. Think of ways you might discuss the gospel while discussing the book. Then, while you are in our town, come sit a spell at our book discussion as we discuss “Dewey Readmore Books” and explore how Dewey Shares.

Phyllis Bradburn



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 Pasco, WA 99301

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June 2009
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News of the Eastern Washington/Idaho Synodical Women's Organization
 Pastors/Secretaries, Please give to one of the women of your church.



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 INFORMATION**

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City, State, Zip Code: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Bits & Pieces is sent FREE OF CHARGE to anyone who would like to receive it. You may copy any information from the Newsletter for your Women of the ELCA women.

**Upcoming
 Events**

October 9-11, 2009 SWO
 Convention Gathering
 Shilo Inn,
 Idaho Falls, Idaho.

St John's Bazaar
 Medical Lake, WA
 Nov 6-7, 2009

Region I Gathering
 June 25-27, 2010
 Kalispel, Montana

Triennial Gathering
 July 14-17, 2011
 Spokane, Washington

