



Bits & Pieces

*Eastern Washington – Idaho Synodical Women's Organization
Women of the ELCA*

*Volume 24, Issue 3
November 2011*

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Visitation

It was 1982. My husband, Martin Wells, and I were in the first year of our first pastoral call to Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Bellingham. Many years of shared ministry would follow, including four more years in Bellingham, eight years as campus pastors at Pacific Lutheran University, and five years as the directors of Holden Village, but this was my first solo trip. The leaders of the ALCW (American Lutheran Church Women) had invited me to speak at several gatherings around the state. I don't remember the theme of those events or the topic of my presentations, but I do remember that our new blue Honda Civic, purchased and financed at 18% interest, got nearly 45 miles per gallon on that tour around eastern Washington.

In Walla Walla, a lovely man and woman, members of Emmanuel Lutheran Church, hosted me overnight in their farmhouse. When I awoke in the morning after a good night's sleep the aroma of bacon frying filled the house . . . and made me queasy. I confessed to my hostess that I didn't feel well and didn't dare eat the bacon and biscuits and eggs she had prepared. Even coffee didn't sound appealing.

While she toasted a piece of bread for me, I said, "I am not 100% certain." She replied only with a nod and a smile. "Well, I am not ready to tell anyone," I confided. "I have had one miscarriage already." She took me into her arms and held me with such strong, maternal care that I wept as her kind husband sat knowingly, silently at the breakfast table. She kept my confidence secure until I was certain, beyond morning sickness, deep into the second trimester, and ready to share the good news.

My presence at Emmanuel Lutheran was not without controversy. I had been informed in advance that some who would attend the event did not approve of the ALC's 1970 decision to ordain women, and others would be "watching very closely," because they had never before seen or heard a female pastor. I have no idea how my hosts viewed the ordination of women. What I do know is that this woman took me into her arms and received me—grief, fear, hope, joy, nausea and all—with an open and tender heart. The hospitality extended in that farmhouse bore witness to a whole way of life shaped by gratitude for God's generosity and grace.

I have come to understand that morning in the farmhouse kitchen as a Visitation, a Mary and Elizabeth encounter. As in Luke's nativity story, a young woman was held in the embrace of her wise elder, the mystery of new life stirring, but hidden between them. Like Mary and Elizabeth the women were kin to one another: sisters in faith. Born anew by water and the Word, they were called to a common mission: "giving

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thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world" (ELW, Holy Baptism, p. 231). Anointed by the Spirit, they were caught up in a power greater than themselves: the very life and love of God. And as in Elizabeth's home, so in the farmhouse, Christ Jesus made his presence known.

You have known such acts of embodied grace, living signs of Christ's presence. They unfold in the most ordinary places and hallow the most ordinary moments. We experience them when we are strangers and are welcomed; when someone honors our fragile, finite bodies or shelters us in our weakness; when others invite us to their tables; and when they share our joy and our suffering. These grace-filled acts not only bless us, they change us. They shape the way we live, forming us to practice the mercy we have received from Christ through others.

My Walla Walla Visitation proved not only to be faith-forming and life-changing, but fruitful too. That "new life stirring, but hidden between us" in 1982 was Mary Emily who celebrated her 29th birthday in November. She and her sister Magdalena have reminded me for the length of their lives that Jesus continues to meet us in ordinary places, at unexpected times, and in the presence of one another.

I expect to witness and experience new Visitations next September when the women of the ELCA meet in Wenatchee to explore what it means to be Born. Called. Caught. We will be a community of women—daughters and mothers, grandmothers and godmothers, nieces and aunts, spouses and friends, employees and volunteers, neighbors, citizens, and members of congregations—called and gathered by the Holy Spirit. We will be a company of Marys and Elizabeths attentive to the Word of God. And in Wenatchee, as in Walla Walla and Nazareth and a host of other ordinary places, Christ promises to be among us, stirring us to new life.

Susan Briehl works with the Valparaiso Project on the Education and Formation of People in Faith. She is on the clergy roster of the Indiana-Kentucky Synod. Her husband serves as the Bishop of Eastern Washington-Idaho Synod. They live in Spokane. She will present our topic "Born, Called, Caught" at our Eastern Washington – Idaho Synodical 2012 Gathering.

Giving Thanks for Volunteers

In our October "Bits & Pieces" we advertised for a woman to be our new Newsletter editor. And just before the newsletter was published we put out a plea for an anti-racism team. Out of thousands of women in our Synod we knew God would speak to someone about these positions. A woman volunteered for each of the positions! We give thanks for these bold women!

Patti Berg is to be our "Bit & Pieces" editor. She will begin with the January edition of the newsletter. Patti and her husband Dick Thiel have lived in Spokane since 2003. She had always worked in the secretarial world until they moved to Spokane and they have no desire to leave!! They are retired and so travel overseas quite a bit, usually with Habitat, or a group from church. When they are in town, they volunteer at church, with 2nd Harvest, and many other organizations. Patti is a born and bred Lutheran!!!! And attends St. Marks.

Our new "Today's Dream Tomorrow's Reality" team is Barb Blasch and Kathy Long. Barb has taught in racially diverse schools near Chicago, Atlanta, and Washington DC. She has taught English as a second language to children and adults. She has travelled on mission trips to Haiti and Nicaragua where she helped start a Christian elementary school, and is on the board of directors. She attends King of Glory Lutheran in Boise, where she helped organize Women of the ELCA and was the first president. Kathy has been involved in anti-racism work since 1994. She has been trained under several different programs in those 17 years, and has lead eight anti-racism trainings in the Northwest Washington Synod. She lives in Redmond, Washington, and desires to be involved and the NWWA women have an existing team.

Come to Wenatchee at apple picking time!
 And there near the banks of the beautiful Columbia River
 remember your baptism!

BORN.... CALLED.... CAUGHT

My counsel for you is simple and straightforward: Just go ahead with what you've been given. You received Christ Jesus, the Master; now live him. You're deeply rooted in him. You're well constructed upon him. You know your way around the faith. Now do what you have been taught. Schools out; quit studying the subject and start living it! And let your living spill over into thanksgiving.

Colossians 2:6 From "The Message" by Eugene Peterson

The 2012 Gathering is September 28-30 at the Red Lion
 in Wenatchee, Washington

Theme presenter, Pastor Susan Briehl

Singing our Faith

Doing God's work

Bearing witness to each other

Laughing and maybe a few tears

We are born through baptism, called and caught up in the Spirit, to live!

This Gathering will include the 2012 Convention of the
 Eastern Washington-Idaho Synodical Women's Organization of the Women of the ELCA.

Wenatchee, Worship, Word, Women, Wonder & Water

Our gathering in Wenatchee will begin with registration Friday afternoon, September 28th. After registering, you may shop the silent auction, perhaps attend a workshop or walk along the beautiful Columbia River. The Apple Capitol Recreational Loop Trail is about a half mile from the hotel, by road. I'm sure ducks would take a shorter route. You can follow the trail to the Walla Walla Point Park or for miles. We will begin our gathering with worship Friday and close with worship with Pastor Susan Sunday morning. Friday evening supper and Saturday lunch will be on your own. There are at least eight restaurants within .2 of a mile from the hotel. And a number further down the road. Hamburgers, pizza, and Applebee's are close by. Little Caesars can be walked to in less than a minute. Further down the road, a variety of choices are found. Saturday evening we will offer a banquet. Saturday and Sunday mornings will feature a free breakfast buffet from 6am-10am for those who have rooms at the hotel.

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Pastor Susan Briehl will lead the three sessions on our theme. The first Friday evening on BAPTISM. Saturday will feature the other two, CALLED and CAUGHT. CALLED will include the topics why Lutheran? And why here and now? Pastor Susan is our most requested speaker. She presided at the opening worship at the Triennial, and she and her daughter, Mary Emily Briehl Duba together led a workshop at the triennial, focusing on faithful living on an endangered planet in the interest of coming generations. I am sorry I was unable to squeeze into their workshop. Pastor Briehl has authored and/or co-authored a devotional for families, a book for those suffering, and a book for young adults. We are very excited to have this special time with her at our gathering.

During our business meeting, workshops will be offered for non-delegates and also again “shopping” at the silent auction. All churches are invited to send one delegate. Churches should make it a point to contribute their \$35 to the travel fund, so their delegate will share in the amount paid out per mile travelled. This allows travel to be more equally affordable from all corners of our Eastern Washington – Idaho Synod.

The registration for the weekend is \$66, to cover the use of the hotel, and the needs of our special guests. The Saturday banquet is extra. Rooms are \$85.95 for one or two people, \$90.95 for three guests and \$95.95 for four.

Begin thinking of the Silent Auction now. What do you have, that someone might need more than you? What could you make that someone else would appreciate? Our silent auction has had a two year rest, but funds a \$1000 scholarship for a women studying for a career in ministry. Of course we don’t want only women who come to the gathering to participate. All may donate to this wonderful cause, with either a item to be auctioned or money for the fund.

As a Community of Women

The question “Why Women of the ELCA” has been asked many times but even more disturbing to me is that there are those who say we don’t need a women’s organization any more. I am standing up and saying “Oh, yes we do!” I know I am preaching to the choir but maybe I can give you some answers to these comments.

1. Bible study with men is great and should be part of our lives but those times of just women allow for a kind of sharing that just wouldn’t happen with men present. An example is my own circle many years ago was in a discussion about child sexual abuse. We had heard the statistic that at least 1 in 10 women were sexually abused by their father as a child. It was a shocking thing to hear but not as shocking as finding out that evening that 2 of our members were part of that statistic. They shared with us and in doing so changed our lives. This is just one of the ways that we become part of each other’s lives through studying God’s word together.

2. There is much work to do out in our communities and the world but we can’t do everything. The ELCA and other organizations have taken on many concerns but the Women of the ELCA have chosen their focus to be on women and Children in crisis. Do the men care? Of course they do but it takes the women to keep this in front of them. Eastern Washington/Idaho women of the ELCA chose education to be our focus with our scholarships to the girls in Tanzania. 60% of children not attending school in the world are girls. Girls that are educated are less vulnerable to HIV, human trafficking and other forms of exploitation, many marry later and raise fewer children that are more likely to go to school and in doing so are able to contribute to the family income. Educating girls changes the whole community. Please don’t let this ministry end.

3. The purpose statement of the Women of the ELCA is all about empowering women to be God's hands in the world. Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General said, "*Study after Study has taught us that there is no tool more effective for development than the empowerment of women.*"

So is the women's organization old fashioned or obsolete?
I think not!

Carole Dinning

BEST WAY TO KEEP THE KIDS BUSY:

Give each child his or her own miniature tree to decorate.

Use construction paper to make giant stars and candy canes. Glue on pictures of favorite friends and family members (including pets).

Have kids make place cards for holiday dinners. Cut small rectangles out of construction paper. Use stamps and markers to decorate. Fold in half so they stand up.

Borrow library books with stories about Christmas celebrations in other countries and cultures.

On December 1, draw Santa's face on a paper plate with markers. Put 24 cotton balls in a bag and let the kids glue them to the bottom half of the face, one each day. (Adults or older children can help. When Santa's beard is full, it's time to start watching the chimney.



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.



A Gathering in the Pines

Imagine gathering with sisters in Christ in the middle of pines surrounding you in every direction; Sharing stories and experiences, both good and bad, as you soak in the warmth of the sun filtering through the trees. In the evening local church youth camp staffers lead singing around a crackling fire under the beautiful moonlight sky with stars twinkling and winking at you. You will also gather together inside a beautiful lodge for Bible studies and delicious meals for the nourishment, rest and relaxation that your body and soul need.

No it isn't a dream. This is the experience of the women from the Upper Snake River Valley Cluster and the Treasure Valley Cluster when they meet at the Luther Heights for their annual Women's Retreat. They meet the third weekend in July, which this year unavoidably conflicted with the Triennial. Women from both clusters look forward to the time together each year. Many churches have taken turns in planning the retreat in the past forty years; choosing wonderful women to lead the gathering each year. This year the leader was The Rev. Helga Jansons, the Eastern Washington – Idaho Synod Director for Evangelical Missions. The weekend was a blessing for the women attending.

Luther Heights is located in the Sawtooth Mountains, 20 miles from Stanley ID and 40 miles from Ketchum ID, right off Alturas Lake. Keep it in mind, dream of it as we face snow, wind, drippy and dreary skies. Try it. You will like it and come away feeling renewed, refreshed and full of God's spirit.

Lou Wetherbee

Spokane Area Clusters

On Saturday November 5, the three Spokane area clusters met at St. Luke in north Spokane. Members from Bethlehem in Spokane brought festive autumn leaf name tags and assisted everyone with registration upon arrival. Morning snacks with our coffee were provided by members from Zion in Deer Park. With 50 ladies in attendance, we heard Debbie Wraspir, a St. Luke member, share not only the tragic loss of her 12 year old daughter Kira, but also the mission established in her memory. Kira's Kloset (look for it on Facebook!) accepts donations of children's clothing and books, launders & sorts them, putting out good quality used items and new underwear and socks once a month for community families to come and get clothing for their kids free of charge. We had been invited before the event to bring a physical offering with us of new socks and underwear, hats or mittens for Kira's Kloset.

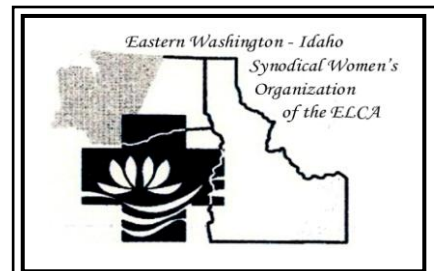
We enjoyed a Whitworth University student singing a wonderful medley, accompanied by a talented pianist from St. Luke, Michal Rosenberger, who also played for us to sing some favorite hymns. After announcements and a roll call of churches in attendance, St. Luke women served lunch. A general offering was split evenly between EWAID SWO and Kira's Kloset.

These three clusters, Mt. Spokane, Spokane Westward, and Spokane Valley, have gathered spring and fall for many years at one of the churches for this type of event, with the host church setting the date; mailing invitations; planning and providing a lunch; assigning other units to registration and coffee treats. We have charged \$4.50 for lunch, which stays with the host church to cover costs of providing the lunch. There is always a speaker from a local mission project, with offerings supporting that mission. Sadly, we did not have a church unit volunteer to host the spring cluster meeting. Many of our units are shrinking in numbers of active women, and many of those remaining are seasoned veterans of many cluster lunches, now older and unable to do the work involved in setting up, providing and serving a lunch, and cleaning up. Perhaps it is time for a change. Involving more women who are younger is always a goal, but difficult to accomplish. While we all seem to enjoy the fellowship that sharing a meal affords, perhaps it is time for a break from our traditional lunch. Would a smaller church group be willing and able to host the cluster meeting if we just share coffee and treats as we have been doing, and then adjourn after our program without lunch? If some want to gather over lunch, smaller groups could move on to a local restaurant, or attendees could just go home and contemplate the morning event. Another option would be to invite attendees to bring a sack lunch. What do you think? What do other clusters do? We would love to hear your ideas. Please contact a board member with your ideas.

Sherry Burgess

Tumaini Girl's Scholarships

We recently paid \$5000 to the Tumaini School in Tanzania for ten girl's scholarships. For the first time, we did not receive enough donations for this fund, but were able to pay the total amount out of the general funds. But in 2012 we will hold our own Gathering again, and we will likely need that extra in the general fund, in case the number of our registrants is not enough to pay the convention costs. We have lost to the ELCA some of our faithful supporters to the Tumaini Scholarship Fund. We hope that some other congregations will see the importance of educating girls in Tanzania.



Purpose Statement of the
Eastern Washington-Idaho
Synodical Women of the ELCA

*Being one in Christ
We strive with the help of the
Holy Spirit to empower each
Other through prayer, personal
Contact, and physical action.*

WE'RE ON THE WEB
EWAIDSYNOD.ORG

November a month of Thanks

Since the early years of our United States, the pilgrims set aside the month of November as Thanksgiving. The women of the ELCA has followed this tradition and used the month of November as the month to gather in our Thankofferings. Thankofferings have been selected for special remembrances and support. At our Triennial, the Thankoffering was designated as support for our ELCW. We have fallen short of our giving to our Synod and to our Churchwide staff. They have cut staff and reduced expenses to the point where they had to ask for us to designate a fund, that had always gone to special mission work, to go to maintaining basic staff and support work for us. I hope we remember this as we think about all the reasons that we have to be giving thanks to our Creator and our Lord. Let us truly give thanks and share not just within our own Circles and groups but within our Synod and our Churchwide organization.

Blessings to all as we remember our Creator and Lord! *LaVonne Johnson*

Leslie shares the blessing she received as she remembered the following from Daily Grace- September 15, 2011-

“As long as the earth remains, there will be planting and harvest, cold and heat; winter and summer, day and night” (Genesis 8:22 CEV).

Do you ever want to see a miracle? Really see an angel? Do you long for a sign to bolster your faith? If I told you miracles abound under our feet, over our heads, and within reach of our hands, would you believe me?

Harvest time is God’s gift that follows planting. For some of us, harvest is just a lovely word; for others, a daily event. When we take a potato from our own garden and brush away the soil, harvest has a meaning. From a bit of potato put into the soil in the chill of spring has come a kettle full. Now we understand harvest. The God of the Old and New Testament lives also in the nuances of planting and harvest, soil and land.

We plant in anticipation of increase, and God gives harvest in anticipation of gratitude. May we share the gift of gratitude with those who have no garden.

This message was adapted from “Everyday Miracles” by Marj Leegard that appeared in the September 2004 issue of Lutheran Woman Today.

I am rushing to get a project done for this weekend. It will be auctioned off (I hope) at our annual Soup and Pie Sale. I am overwhelmed. I keep thinking is it really worth it? What is the point? So I prayed. I remembered this devotion. The harvest that I am sharing may not be the biggest and best but it will add to the bounty. We will share with "those who have no garden". Remember to share. Give to your local food banks. Invite a neighbor/stranger to share in your harvest this season. Share Gods love with everyone.

Leslie Mason

To access the Daily Grace devotion, visit www.womenoftheelca.org and click on iPhone app on the left navigation bar. <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Ministry/Women-of-the-ELCA/iPhone.aspx>



Daily Grace
powered by the **Women of the ELCA**

Daily Grace, where you'll encounter God's extravagant, boundless and often surprising grace. Daily Grace, where you need it—at your fingertips.

This free App for iPhone features

- Daily readings
- Reflections
- Prayers
- Connections to the liturgical and secular calendars

Visit the App StoreSM today to download, or go to www.womenoftheelca.org/apps for more information.

Available on the **App Store**

FEED MEDICAL LAKE

On the second Monday of each month, between 5 and 6 pm, a free meal is served restaurant style at St. John's Lutheran Church, 223 S. Hallett St., Medical Lake, WA. Anyone, any age, needing a little help stretching their food budget so they can pay a bill, wanting socialization with other community members, or a little free entertainment, is welcome.

Since the free meal program began in June, 2011, 339 meals have been served at a cost of approximately \$1.50 per person per meal. Each meal consists of a protein dish, vegetable, fruit, beverage and small dessert. Five hundred pounds of free groceries have been distributed. There is no waste as scraps are taken to a local rancher for his pigs.

Each month has a theme such as "School's Out!" in June, "Freedom" in July at which time we honored our military men and women (Vets and active duty), "Hot Days at the Beach" in August, "Bak 2 Skool Nite" in September, "Season of the Falling Leaves" in October, and "Football Inferno" this month (November). In line with the theme of the month are decorations, entertainment, door prizes, etc.

Kaity Lang, a local teenager, has blessed the meals with her talent on the piano. The Ryan Wood Trio (Jeremy Ryan, Nick and Kris Isherwood) performs improv jazz. They are 12-14 years of age. The young people of the community have energetically volunteered to work at the meals. Altogether there are 55 registered volunteers of all ages. Each meal usually has about 25 volunteers present.

Feed Medical Lake started with small individual donations. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, West Spokane County Chapter, gave a Care Abounds in Communities Hands-On grant. Medical Lake Kiwanis, Sherman Valley Farm, Denny's Harvest Foods, and other community businesses and individuals have also helped with donations of goods or money. In order to continue serving the community, however, additional funds are needed.

Please prayerfully consider making a donation to Feed Medical Lake so we can continue serving the citizens of Medical Lake and Fairchild Air Force Base (though ALL are welcome!) where 1 in 3 children attending District 326 schools suffers hunger issues (compared to 1 in 4 nationally). In addition to one-time donations, Feed Medical Lake seeks partners to make a monthly commitment. Ten supporters donating \$15 a month (about 1 latte a week) would provide each monthly meal. A donation of \$20 a month (a movie and snacks for 1) from 10 partners would provide the monthly meal and put some funds into savings toward updating the food storage and preparation appliances.

Joanna Williams, a member of St. John's Lutheran Church, is the Program Director. She can be reached at 509-714-1150 or jojo382@gmail.com if you have questions, comments, or suggestions. Donations can be mailed to Feed Medical Lake, c/o Joanna Williams, P.O. Box 364, Medical Lake, WA 99022-0364. Come dine with us and join the fun!

God's work. Our hands.

Joanna Williams



BEST TIME TO MAIL OVERSEAS. Send in advance to take advantage of surface rates. To Africa, Middle East, Central and South America: October 1 for surface, November 15 by air. To Europe and the Far East: November 1 for surface, December 1 for air. To Australia and the Caribbean: November 1 by surface, December 5 for air. Military mail: October 25 for surface, November 24 for air. Put return labels *inside* all packages in case they need to be returned to you.

Checklist for a Joyful Christmas

November 14-27

- Thank God for His blessings of the year. (Make notes to use for Christmas letter.)
- Consult God about preparations for His parties—List plans for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Church activities, dinner at the homeless shelter. Attach list to this one. Take action.
- Mail gifts to faraway places. Complete non-holiday commitments. Ask God's guidance.
- Talk with family about having fewer gifts, make list. Find gifts you bought during the year.
- Praise God for who He is as we learn from the beautiful Biblical words that describe Him!
- Cook or travel for Thanksgiving, praying for those to be with you and those who won't.
- Enjoy family, let them know! Wash the dishes, thanking God for the feast and family.

November 27-December 3

- Pray for safe travel for all as you travel, & discuss topics for your annual letter.
- As you decorate, for Christmas, thank God for the memories that items of décor bring.
- Begin days with an Advent Bible reading & prayer. End days with family readings & prayer.

December 4-10

- Begin a Christmas letter, celebrating Christ's birthday. Consider calling it an Advent Letter.
- Shop for gifts. Take children shopping for a gift for a less fortunate child and for dad. Instead of exchanging presents with your husband, give each other your presence. Download a copy of "Gifts for You"
- Wrap a gift from God to your family. Enjoy a Sabbath rest.

December 11-17

- Let God speak to your heart, giving you words for the Advent letter.
- Recheck what needs done before company comes. Plan menus for each company meal. Worry about nothing! Pray instead! Make a gift-wrapping corner for the kids to use. Buy camera batteries!
- Make a gingerbread house with children, or read them Christmas stories.
- Update computer Christmas card list, printing a 2011 list. Print extra letters for posterity.
- Help your neighbor when you're needed, and check to see if tablecloths are ready for use.

December 18-25

- Pray for wisdom to do what really needs done. If still writing the Advent letter, now call it a Christmas letter as it is late. By the 22nd change name to 5th Day of Christmas Letter.
- When company arrives, scratch unfinished chores from to-do list—they aren't important.
- Put aside writing the "12th Day of Christmas Letter", until the family leaves.
- Have an easy early Christmas Eve supper. Clean kitchen before the Christmas Eve service.
- Attend Sunday Christmas services. After a simple festive lunch, clean kitchen, then open presents, laugh, sing carols, pray and play. Then eat leftovers & dessert.
- Open the gift from God to your family and talk about God's gifts. Pray, sing carols & "Happy Birthday," read the Christmas story. Give God your presence and feel His!

December 26-January 1

- Pray for family, and for God's presence in family dynamics. Apologize to those you should.
- Cook, play with grandchildren, talk to adults. Worry about nothing! Let daughters plan New Year's Eve. Take family picture before anyone leaves. Hug everyone goodbye.

January 1-7 & January 8-16

- Celebrate Christ's presence among us. Finish your letter, now renamed Epiphany letter, include meeting God in sudden intuitive moments day by day. Address, write notes, and mail. Leave your Christmas décor up for inspiration, until the last Epiphany letter is mailed. Redecorate giving God Glory for a Christmas of love, joy, family, & memories! Be ready for new challenges!

My apologies to Joanna, for this list. She turned in a list of many things to think about while preparing for Christmas. While I was shortening it, I had to cut out many of them. And I wanted to add my prayers. So now I am sure she no longer recognizes her list. Her organized list now reflects my disorganization. But some of her great tips are still in there. And several are to be found throughout this paper. She has more energy and pays more attention to details than I do. If you can do that too, you may want to write to her for her complete list.



Joanna Williams & Phyllis Bradburn

One Woman's Project with Helpers

I'm blessed with about 30 to 35 children, whom I've never met. They are the children of Isabella House. This fantastic place in Spokane, WA, has a 6 month behavior modification and parenting program for mothers struggling with addictions.

The holidays I bring to them are Easter, Valentines, Halloween and the big celebration of Christmas. Birth of our Lord. So many of these Mothers have never had a Christ filled Christmas. They have not been loved and do not know how to love. This is our chance to be a model for them. What they go through, no child should ever have to experience.

I make quilts for every child. I pray for them. What they have seen and lived through breaks my heart. I watch every clearance waiting for 90% off. I fill the cart (and sometimes two carts). Dolls, trucks, cars, doll strollers, walk-e-talkies, action figures for girls and boys, tea sets, puzzles, play dough, books, color books and crayons, new clothes. You get the idea, everything your child or grandchild would like, so do they.

It takes two vans to deliver the presents. Each child gets a "garbage size" bag full of goodies. All of St. John's, Medical Lake, take part in bringing the dinner. A huge ham and turkey with all the fixings. When we are stuffed (and holding their babies) it is time for the Christmas story.

Then the fun begins. Our children hand out the gifts to Isabella House children. To see all 30 to 35 children opening bags brings tears of joy to all. The next surprise is for the moms. Our church fills huge shopping bags with makeup, shirts, jewelry, lotion, shampoo and a prayer shawl for each mom. Tears and laughter are abounding. We have been there for 13 wonderful years and pray God has many more ready for us.

Lu Smith, St. John's, Medical Lake, WA



One Easter bucket 2011

BEST SIMPLE CENTERPIECES:

Tie small gold ribbons around the stems of red apples, put the apples in a wooden bowl and tuck ribbons among them.

Lay fresh evergreens in a spray arrangement, wire on the kids' old miniature toys and spray-paint the whole thing gold.



BEST SCENT FOR CHRISTMAS:

Combine a teaspoon of allspice, a teaspoon of whole cloves, ½ dozen cinnamon sticks and one tablespoon chopped rosemary branches in a pan with four to five drops of vanilla extract. Cover with two cups of fresh water and let simmer on very low heat. (DO NOT BOIL.)

PEANUT DIP:

Can be made in a flash with ingredients everyone has on hand. Serve it with cup-up raw vegetables like sliced red and green peppers, carrots, cucumbers, celery and blanched cauliflorettes.

- 1 cup chunk-style peanut butter
- 2 to 3 tablespoons soy sauce
- ½ teaspoon crushed red pepper
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 to 3 tablespoons lemon juice

Mix all ingredients until blended. Gradually stir in 1/3 cup boiling water, adding 1 teaspoon more at a time if mixture seems too thick. Makes about 1 ½ cups.

Eastern Washington/Idaho Synodical Board 2010-2011



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**Cluster assignments-North Idaho, Palouse &
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Church: Bethel, Firth ~ Upper Snake
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River Valley

Cluster Assignment: Upper Snake



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**Cluster Assignment: Lower Columbia Basin &
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Cluster Assignment: Tscemicum



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Cluster Assignment: Mt. Spokane & Big Bend



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**Cluster assignments-North Idaho, Palouse &
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Cluster assignment-Spokane Westward

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Valley Cluster



Help Wanted

Room for one more Board Member for Synodical Women's Organization—

Responsible for strengthening relationships with ELCA women specifically within one or two clusters of the Eastern Washington – Idaho Synod. Will use social media of internet, phone calls, and cluster visits. Involves travelling to two or three board meetings a year, possibility anywhere in Eastern Washington or Idaho, and helping with planning and attending the next Synodical convention, with your expenses paid. Internet and communication skills are useful, or may be developed, during the term. Remember, the positions God calls us to are ones we are not equipped to do without His help... So that we will see His provision and give Him Glory!

Position open to be appointed for the 2011-12 term:

General Board

Nomination forms may be found at the Synod website, "EWAID," in our past "Bits & Pieces."

Delegates to the 2012 Convention of the Synodical Women's Organization of Eastern Washington – Idaho—Must be a member of the ELCA congregation which you are representing. Each ELCA congregation is to send one delegate. Delegates will have voice and vote. They will elect officers and board members for the next two years. They will also vote on resolutions and policies. Be thinking of who your women's group will want to send to Wenatchee in September of 2012.

Attention Women who live in the North Central Washington, South Central Washington & Big Bend Clusters: If you are interested in helping with our Wenatchee Gathering please call or email Carole Dinning.

If you would like to be included on our "Bits & Pieces" email list, please email pabradburn@aol.com.

If you attended the Triennial, and did not notify us previously, we are still interested in knowing all the 127 Eastern Washington ~ Idaho people who were involved, even as a vendor.

Remember to send offerings for our ten \$500 scholarships for girls at the Tumaini School in Tanzania. Their education depends on you!

