

*An invitation to women in New England Synod*

**Everyone has a story to tell.  
Help others tell their stories by leading a  
Women's Writing Group at your congregation.**

Women's writing groups are FUN and BENEFICIAL . . .

. . . To individuals: Women who have never thought of themselves as writers will discover the creative spirit that exists in each person and thus develop a powerful tool for spiritual journeying. Women who have always wanted to write will find encouragement and purpose because an audience offers writers what they most need: the opportunity to be heard. The group helps women develop spiritual insight and construct written pieces that convey their history and witness to contemporaries and future generations.

. . . To congregations: Writing and reading one's stories builds community, as members come to know others in a much deeper way. The group offers a meaningful interface of generations where older and younger women come to understand and be inspired by each other's lives and struggles. Writing groups create congregational members who are more thoughtful, involved, and wise. They bring new insight to congregational issues.



*What about you?*

LEADERS of such groups require these QUALITIES:

As PERSONS, they will faithfully "fill their lamps" in worship, prayer, fellowship, study, and service; love people and their stories; be warm, humorous, energetic, and curious.

As WRITERS, they will experience the power of writing in their own lives, believe in the creative genius in each person, and understand what is truly important in writing: the power of the individual voice and story.

*I have been a writer and a teacher of writing for years, currently at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh. I have contributed to many Lutheran publications and also to academic journals and anthologies. I have learned that people everywhere long to write their stories. Helping them do so is my life's calling.*

*I want to gauge the number of women in the New England Synod who would like to lead a Women's Writing Group in their congregation or as an ecumenical activity in their community. Once I determine the names and locations of such women, I will set up a training date (s) at a central location(s).*

*The major GOALS of the TRAINING will be to teach leaders how to make the group a safe place for writers; how to treat all members equally with sensitivity, encouragement, and guidance; and how to keep the group both emotionally comfortable and intellectually and artistically challenging.*

*Mary M. Dossin*

*INTERESTED? Please communicate the following information to me by*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

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DEADLINE: September 30, 2006