ERA called booster for home and family

The Equal Rights Amendment will nify rather than split families and so-dify the role of the homemaker rather than downgrade it

unity rather than spin tantures one addition that the fidility the role of the homemaker rather than downgrade it.

That's the message of Anne Follis, national president of Homemakers for ERA Association, visiting in this area to push the amendment on televsion and begin the organization of a Michigan chapter of her group.

"I know of women who have been devastated because laws do not protect them equally, said Mrs. Follis, resident of Urbana, III. "We want to achieve legal status for the homemaker because that strengthens the family." Articulast and decisive, this minister's wife and mother of three said she's convinced that women who stay



Anne Follis explains why home-makers need the Equal Rights Amendment. (Photos by Steve

home and nurture their families need the Equal Rights Amendment more than those who go into business or prefessions as earners of payches.

It's an old English common law, underlying principle of governments in most states including Michigan, that makes ERA so important to homemakers, she said in an interview in the home of Livonian Laura Callow, co-chairwoman of Michigan ERAmerica. That 200-year-old law, she said, "holds that when a man and woman get married they become one, and that one is the husband — the wife ceases to exist as a separate legal beling."

is the husband — the wife ceases to ex-ist as a separate legal being."
"Some laws do treat women fairly,"
Mrs. Follis agreed, "but that underly-ing principle is still there waiting to rear its ugly head."

SHE THEN LISTED some of the ways in which this principle affects lives of women in this country.

The Supreme Court of Oklahoma ruled in 1915 that a husband and wife cannot be adversaries in court because the wife does not exist in the eyes of the law, she said.

the whe does not exist in the eyes of the law, she said.

In South Dakota and Georgia, she added, a husband can disinherit his

wife.
And from the legal annals of Wisconsin she related the story of a homemaker named Margaret Rasmussen whom she called "betrayed" by her country's

she called "Detrayed by ner country system of law "She was married in the '40s and had two sons," said Mrs. Follis. "She and her husband, Harold, lived in Margaret's mother's home, and she was thrifty and ran her home well.

"And she had a great belief in higher advartion so she managed to save

atu she had a great bent in nighter education, so she managed to save \$5,000 in two bank accounts so her sons could go to college."

Mrs. Rasmussen died in 1963, and af-ter her death her husband remarried

and went to court to reclaim in money

in those accounts.

"The court ruled," Mrs. Follis said,
"that the money had been earned by the
husband and it was only hers to use for
the operation of the household.

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ANNE FOLLIS said it came as a surprise to her when she began under-standing the homemaker's legal vul-nerability.

standing the homemaker's legal vul-reability.

"I first got interested in ERA in 1973
when I was living near Springfield, Ill.,
the state capital," she said.
"I had just quit working to have a
baby and someone suggested I go to a
legislative brunch. It sounded like fun
and I took my baby and went, but I was
inclined to think ERA was for women
who worked outside the home and that
it did not have much to say to me as a
housewife." b
As the only representative from her
district, she found herself involved in
setting up a local group to push ERA
ratification.
"So I started studying the amendment," she said, "and the more I read
the more I realized how many rights
women lose when they get married. I
realized we need ERA more than anyone else does."

THE RIGHT TO SUPPORT is a much misunderstoof facet of discussion over ERA, Mrs. Folils said. "and this ta biggie for opponents of the amendment."

They talk a lot about how ratification would change laws requiring husbands to support their wives; she said, "and I find that rather demeaning to men.

"The implication is that those won-derful husbands are going to stop supporting their wives once they do not have to. I like to think my haband surports me because he loves me.

They take to think my haband supports me because he loves me.

They take to think my haband supports me because he loves me.

They have for the think my haband support the habands support the habands support their wives.

"They require that he provide necessities," she stated, "and that has been interpreted in courts to mean what the HUSBAND deems necessities.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church 35300 Eight Mile Rood Farmington Hills EINO M. TUORL, PASTOR 474-2579 Worship & Sunday School 10:30 A.M

Services

Sunday 9:45 Sunday School 10:50 Worship 6:30 p.m. Praise & Worsl

Wednesday 7:00 Family Night

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The Congregational

Church of

U.C.C. oodward at Cranbrook

> MI 6-4511 10:00 Service

silnisters: Charles O. Erikson Earl R. Eckhart

"If he chooses to waste money on alcohol, for instance, or be stringent with the money he gives to his wife and family, the wife has no legal means of getting any more short of going to court and suing for separate main-tenace.

gether can and do provide reasons to split them apart."

MRS. FOLLIS believes "the momentum is moving for ERA now but she sees the battle as a long one with ratification coming 'hopefully while live."

"Opponents said a year ago, after the deadline was extended, that there would be 20 states rescinding ratificatenace.
"So these so-called wonderful rights that are supposed to keep families to-

cioding.

"However you count it, there are more states supporting than opposing — by a long shot."

She also is sure the vocal opposition to ERA from within the conservative church does not fairly represent church neach of this country. people of this country

August programs planned for widowed and divorced

SPACE, a community service of the National Council of Jewish Women, is planning a busy shedule of activities in August for widowed and di-vorced men and women and their families.

vorced men and women and their families. Ellen Labes, chairperson, amounced the dates of two four-week support group series. The program for the divorced will run on Monday evenings, A. §, 13, 20, and 27. Each group meets for two hours per evening and is led by a trained facilitator. There is a \$5 charge for each series. Preregistration is remulred.

tion is required. Weekly drop-in discussion groups will continue to run on Wednesday evenings throughout the summer. These rap groups for the widowed, divorced and separated are also guided by trained facilitators. There is a \$1 donation requested per evening. All discussion groups begin at \$P, m. at the offices of the NCJW 16400 W. Twelve Mile Rd., Suite 165 Constitution.

305. Southfield.

306. Southfield.

A family pionic for single parents and their youngsters will begin at 1 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 5. at the Southfield Civic Center Park, Eyergreen and Civic Center Drive. Participants should bring sports equipment and your own pionic lunches. In case of rain, the event will be postponed until Sunday, Aug. 12. No reservations are necessary.

To make reservations for the support groups, or obtain information on any aspect of SPACE, call Phyllis Chassin, 557-9604 between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m.

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St. John American Lutheron Church 23225 Gill Rood Forming Charles Fox - Pastor 830 8 11:00 AM Worshop 9 40 Sonday School Morsey at 11:00 Sentos

WORSHIP SERVICE 9:30 a.m.

Charles William Richter 646-5207

First United Methodist Church

1589 West Maple at Pleasant

Thomas H. Beaven Harold E. Weemhoff 8:30, 10:00 a.m.

Church Services Church School Nursery Care Provided Nursery School: Monday through Friday 9:00-11:30 a.m.

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Church School 920 Aug 920 Aug Wonning Sand 1000 Aug

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer 1800 W. Maple Rd. Birmingham, MI 644-4010

hursday 7:45 p.m. - Ch Yorship junday 8:30 a.m. - Chapel

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF FARMINGTON

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CHRISTIAN CENTER
Drake Rd. at Freedom
Rev.Edmund.Coher Pastor
SUNDAY
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10:45 AM-Worship
10:45 PM-Worship
10:45

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURC 23425 Lahser Road (just N. of 9 Me) Phone 357-1848 9:30 AM Church School 10:45 AM The Seniol The Rev. L. Alden Erlandson

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