

Women of the Word

"WOW" News



November 2011

A District of Lutheran Congregations
in Mission for Christ (LCMC)

A Thank You and Thanksgiving Day Prayer Suggestions

First, thank you to all of you who attended the Second Annual Gathering of Women of the Word – Augustana District. Your evaluation sheets indicated that you like the one-day format, were given useful information and, most importantly, were spiritually fed. Suggestions for improvement and future programs were also appreciated.

A tradition in our family is for each member to have five kernels of corn on their dinner plate before the Thanksgiving meal is served. As the table prayer, each person takes a turn to tell what five things/persons for which they are thankful. When teaching Sunday School, I would also give kernels of corn to each child to take home so they could share this idea with their family. In the November issue of *Ladies' Home Journal* there is another version of this idea: ask each guest to write down what he or she is thankful for on small pieces of colored or patterned paper. Roll each sheet into a scroll and tie with a ribbon and place in a colorful bowl. (The bowl can also be used as a centerpiece.) After your Thanksgiving meal, have everyone take out a few scrolls and take turns reading aloud the thankful prayers.

This fall I am most grateful for the generosity of the women who donated 164 newborn or hospice kits and \$245 for shipping of those kits at our Second Annual Gathering of Women of the Word. These totals indicate you like "hands on" projects. May you find joy in the good work that you are doing.

Blessings,

Mary Ebent
Coordinator for Women of the Word – Augustana District



We were thrilled to have 110 registered women attend our Second Annual Gathering. In addition approximately 20 other people who were involved in break-out sessions, music, displays, etc. also attended. For those of you receiving this newsletter who did not attend, we hope to see you at the next gathering! Twenty-two churches from Minnesota, Iowa, South Dakota and Wisconsin were represented. One hundred twenty-three newborn kits and forty-one hospice kits were collected and delivered to Global Health Ministries for shipment to Uganda, Africa. In addition seventeen school kits were brought and will be given to Lutheran World Relief. Thanks to all for your generous donations!

WOW Board Presentations – Diane Anderson, Dorothy Desens, Carreen Pierson, and Emilie Wildey traveled to Des Moines, Iowa for the LCMC Annual Convention. They served on a panel at a break-out session regarding the Women of the Word – Augustana District. Eighty ladies, from across the United States and Canada, attended the break-out session to learn how our ladies organized and worked together to form the WOW, Augustana District. It was exciting to learn that there was interest in our women's group and the need for connecting with one another.

On October 29 Carreen Pierson and Dorothy Desens presented similar information at a gathering of LCMC and NALC Congregations in NE Minnesota and NW Wisconsin. Thank you for your continuing prayers for our WOW organization.

Bible Study Information

We have proclaimed we believe God's Word, the Bible, is the inerrant Word of God. Can you say you are consistently reading God's Word daily, every other day, once a week? If not, why not? When you read it, do you just read it or dig into what it has to say? Our calendars in our churches should show a variety of Bible studies and meeting times. More than ever we need to have discernment about what we hear, read, or study whether it is true or false teachings.

Sola Publishing, the publishing house for LCMC, offers women's and men's group studies: **One For All (9 sessions); Of One Mind and Purpose (6 sessions); In Harmony with the Word (8 sessions); God's Reluctant Leaders (9 sessions)**. Visit their website at: www.solapublishing.org. To order materials, call toll free 1-888-887-9840; in MN, 612-216-2055.

I have found attending Bible-based seminars offered in my area, such as Beth Moore and Women of Faith, to be spiritual growth resources in my life. I also have a renewed desire to dig deeper into God's Word each week during the school year through Community Bible Study, an interdenominational organization based out of Colorado Springs, CO, and through books/studies written by Beth Moore (*Daniel*), David Jeremiah (*I Never Thought I'd See the Day: Culture at the Crossroads*), and Chuck Swindoll (*Church Awakening*). These authors are talking about the exact issues that caused us to examine what the Bible is saying to us. They believe in the inerrant Word of God.

Pray that the Holy Spirit will create a hunger within us to study His Word so we will have discernment and will recognize false teachers in these last days and remain steadfast in our faith in Jesus Christ.

Jan Schulte
Education Secretary

Tips to organize a women's group in your church

- Gather a small group of women from your congregation. Make sure you have a representative from each generation and career path. Discuss who the women are in your congregation, their ages, and interests.
- Attract and inform them through Facebook, email, weekly announcements, and monthly church newsletters. Develop a survey asking what they want.
- Determine purpose of gathering. Will it be social, working, worship, and/or educational? How many times a year will you gather?
- Determine time of day, day of week, and length of meeting that works best for your women.
- Does childcare need to be provided? Ask if confirmation students can help with this.
- Determine cost. If your women's event includes food, how will it be provided? Catered, donated, or by using funds from your women's group?
- Publicity. General announcement in church bulletin; special announcement by the pastor or leader of your women's group; local newspaper; telephone and/or personal contact with every woman in your congregation. Volunteer to provide transportation.
- Evaluation sheet should be given to each person attending gathering. Request volunteers and ideas for your next gathering.

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The kits that were collected at the October 1 gathering have been delivered to Global Health Ministries and are being shipped to Uganda, Africa. Global Health can use as many of these kits as we can deliver, so we have decided that we will collect those kits again next year. The kits include:

Newborn Kits

- Please use new or gently used, clean items
- 36" square muslin or sheeting – not necessary to hem
- Regular size bath towel – no longer than 48"
- Wash cloth
- Bath size bar of white Ivory soap
- Newborn stocking cap, this may be sewn, knit or crocheted
- Small baby shirt, size 0-3 or newborn
- 1 receiving blanket (approximate size is 30"x30")
- \$5.00 included for shipping

Hospice Kits

- 1 regular size bath towel
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 bath size bar of soap in a plastic Ziploc bag
- 1 toothbrush
- 1 tube tooth paste
- 1 "pick" style comb
- 1 nail clipper
- 6 band-aids
- 1 jar or tube petroleum jelly
- 1 pair heavy duty household gloves – med size
- 1 small devotional booklet such as Portal of Prayer (may be used)
- \$5.00 included for shipping

Assembling Instructions:

- ❖ Wrap all items in the towel.
- ❖ Place in a large Ziploc bag (2 gal. or larger)
- ❖ Include note: AIDS/Hospice Kit - Note should be visible through the bag
- ❖ Squeeze air out of bag before sealing.
- ❖ Pack 10-15 kits in a box.

Three new members were welcomed to the WOW Planning Committee for 2012. They are Carolyn Fiskness from New London, MN; Jan Schulte from Milbank, SD; and Beverly Tellefson from Granite Falls, MN. Please feel free to contact any of the members if you have questions, suggestions or comments. Members include:

Coordinator: Mary Ebent – mebent@hutchtel.net 320-587-5442

Vice-Coordinator/Education: Jan Schulte – jschulte@sstel.net – 605-695-4996

Treasurer: Emilie Wildey – emandale@hutchtel.net – 320-562-0180

Secretary/Newsletter: Diane Anderson – andersdj@hutchtel.net 320-587-9352

Missions/newsletter: Dorothy Desens – ddesens@hutchtel.net – 320-587-8777

Historian – Heidi Froemming – hkfroem@hutchtel.net – 320-587-5607 *8607*

At Large Members: Beverly Tellefson – bevt43@embarqmail.com 320-564-3475

Carolyn Fiskness – altonfiskness@yahoo.com 320-354-4742

Ex-Officio Member: Carreen Pierson - chuckpierson@mchsi.com 320-587-5602



SAVE THE DATE: The Third Annual Gathering of Women of the Word – Augustana District will be held on Saturday, September 22, 2012 at Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Highlights of Second Annual Gathering

**October 1, 2011
Christ the King
Lutheran Church
Hutchinson, MN**



Sharon Rostberg, of Christ the King Lutheran Church, ready to welcome our guests to the gathering!



Stephanie Freund spoke to the group on our theme – “Coming Together” based on Ephesians 4: 1-6

Maizy the Clown (Sandy Kephart) led a small group session on her clown Ministry and the Bless India Mission



Pastors Randy Freund, Mark Richardson, Jon Lindekugel and Scott Gorud provided the group with special music.



Nancy Greve of Christ the King Lutheran Church with the display of pillowcase dresses women of CTK have made. She will take these dresses to AZ with her this winter and give them to a person who will take them to Africa in the spring.



Break out Session with Karen Olson as she explained what Vision Honduras is all about.



Board members of Women of the Word – Augustana District

Carreen Pierson, Diane Anderson, Jan Schulte, Emilie Wildey, Dorothy Desens, Carolyn Fiskness, Mary Ebent, Heidi Froemming, Beverly Tellefson