

Women of the Word

“WOW” News



January 2013

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

The Third Annual Gathering of Women of the Word was held September 22, 2012, at Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, MN. Thank you to all who attended and to those who participated in the planned event. The evaluation sheets told us you continue to like the format of the day and appreciate receiving sound spiritual direction and encouragement for your lives.

This has been my second year of consistently reading from the One Year Bible for my daily devotions. The Holy Spirit has been active in calling my attention to many of the warnings in Scripture about changing God's Word or adding to it and that eyes will not see and ears will not hear. Apparently I have passed over some of these admonitions at previous readings.

2 Timothy 4:3 says, "The time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear." One of this year's break-out sessions was on the versions of the Bible available for purchase. Discernment is of great importance – knowing what truth is and what is not truth. A new version of the NIV was released last year (NIV 2011). It is a gender-neutral edition creating the potential for minimizing the particularity of biblical revelation and more seriously, at times undermining the saving revelation of Christ as the promised Savior of humankind.

I encourage you to organize a women's ministry, encouraging your women to become active in your local churches in Bible study and missions. You have the freedom to choose what those projects will be, whether to fill needs at home or abroad.

Mark your calendar now for the Fourth Annual Gathering of WOW: September 21, 2013, in Watertown, SD. The theme is **EMPOWERED BY THE SPIRIT**, based on Acts 1:8 – "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Make this a priority for YOU. The Board and the local committee are already planning for another enriching, life-changing event.

Jan Schulte, Coordinator



The Third Annual Gathering was held on September 22, 2012 at Faith Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, MN. There were a total of 111 registrants who enjoyed break out sessions including: New Hope Mission Society, led by Dorothy Desens; Versions of the Bible, led by Pastor Scott Grorud; Card-Making 101: Words of Comfort, Care, Concern, led by Carolyn Fiskness and Beverly Tellefson; Beth Moore Bible Series, led by Pastor Janine Rew-Werling and Jan Schulte; and What God Has Joined Together – The Minnesota

Marriage Amendment, led by Pastor Scott Grorud. Following are the number of kits collected: 156 Newborn Kits; 51 Hospice/Aids Kits; 240 Rolled Bandages; 72 4x4 Dressings; 156 Diapers/Pins; 34 School Bags; 12 Quilts; 291 Pillowcase dresses; 92 Boxer shorts and 17 t-shirts. Thank you to all for your generous donations and time taken to prepare them!

Bible Study Information

I love word pictures. Often they can help me explain to another a concept more simply than what multiple words by themselves can do.

Take for instance the verses in James 2:14-26 where James is talking about faith and deeds. A Bible study leader explained it like this:

Faith and deeds are like Siamese twins. They are born physically together. They are not separate. They sometimes depend on one another, but they are not separate. At the heart of James' message in these verses is the simple fact that genuine faith produces genuine works. James says, faith cannot stand alone, and works cannot stand alone. Faith alone is dead without works. And works alone are dead and useless without faith in God.

Faith of course, needs to be genuine—not intellectual, but from the heart. It would serve us well to examine our hearts as we reflect on our faith walk. If our faith is producing results, praise be to God. If not, a visit to the Great Physician might be in order. No appointment necessary—He is available and accessible through His Son, Jesus.

We are so blessed to have at our disposal multiple options for solid, scripture-based Bible studies. As noted in earlier publications, Sola Publishing has a variety of resources for small group study. At Hosanna Lutheran in Watertown, SD, we have just completed “In Harmony with the Word” in our women’s circles. What a wonderful way to share, learn and share in fellowship with trusted materials to grow our faith.

There are also multiple other options. One study I completed with a small group of women was “He Speaks to Me - Preparing to Hear from God,” by Priscilla Shirer (2005, LifeWay Press). Priscilla Shirer, daughter of Dr. Tony Evans (Promise Keeper founder), ministers full-time to women. Her desire is to see women not only know the uncompromising truths of scripture intellectually but experience them practically. In this study, Priscilla shows us how God spoke to Samuel and how He speaks to Christians today. I truly enjoyed this study about positioning ourselves to hear from God.

I encourage all of us as Women of the Word to become involved in Bible study. As our dear Pastor tells us, “it’s better than TV.”

Helen Hoftiezer, Education Secretary

MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Executive Board of the Women of the Word met and decided to put their emphases on two projects this coming year, the Newborn Kits and AIDS/Hospice Kits for Global Health Ministries (GHM)

Newborn Kits:

Think about a child born in places like Africa, India, Madagascar, or Papua New Guinea. That baby has the same need to arrive in a well-prepared environment - and the same

need for a chance to survive as a baby born in a well-equipped hospital in the United States. How do we bridge that gap between abundance and nothing?
As friends of Global Health Ministries we have the opportunity to serve in a very special way by providing much needed kits that will be sent to areas where they are needed so that midwives and mothers will not feel like they are alone.

The following items complete a Newborn Kit:

- 1 - 36" square muslin or sheeting – not necessary to hem
- 1 regular size bath towel, new or gently used. No longer than 48"
- 1 wash cloth
- 1 bath-size bar white Ivory soap
- 1 newborn stocking cap (keep hand knit ones small using baby yarn)
- 1 small baby shirt, size 0-3 or newborn
- 1 receiving blanket (approx. 30" X 30")
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Assembly Instructions:

1. Wrap all these items in the towel
2. Place the wrapped items in a large 2 gallon or larger "Ziplock" plastic bag
3. Include note: "Newborn Kit" The note should be visible through the bag.
4. Squeeze the air out of the bag before sealing.
5. Completed kits (10-15 kits to a box can be mailed or delivered to GHM.

Hospice Kits

By creating Hospice/AIDS Kits we can provide cleanliness and comfort to someone who is suffering. By enclosing a devotional booklet in this kit, we can provide comfort and hope. Through our prayers and generosity, we can reach far into the lives of those who have been affected.

One Hospice/AIDS Kit contains:

- 1 regular size bath towel
 - 1 wash cloth
 - 1 bath size bar of hand soap (wrapped) – any brand
 - 1 toothbrush, single and in original packaging
 - 1 toothpaste (size medium or large or two small sample size – any brand.
 - 1 "pick" comb
 - 1 nail clipper
 - 6 Band-Aids
 - 1 jar or petroleum jelly, 4 oz. or more
 - 1 pair of heavy-duty household gloves (kitchen type, size medium)
 - 1 small devotional booklet (eg. "Portals of Prayer" or "Christ in our Home")
- Wrap these items in the towel

Place the wrapped items in a large 2 gallon or larger Ziploc plastic bag. Include note: "Aids/Hospice Kit." The note should be visible through the bag. Squeeze the air out of the bag before sealing. Completed kits (10-15 kits to a box) can be brought to the gathering or sent to GHM. Shipping for these kits requires \$5.00 per kit.

Three new members were welcomed to the WOW Planning Committee for 2013. They are Linda Anderson and Marion Thorston of St. Johns Lutheran in Springfield, Minnesota, and Helen Hoftiezer of Hosanna Lutheran in Watertown, South Dakota. Please feel free to contact any of the members if you have questions, suggestions or comments. Members include:

Coordinator: Jan Schulte – jschulte@sstel.net – 605-695-4996
Vice-Coordinator/Education: Marian Thorston – mariant@newulmtel.net – 507-723-5509
Treasurer: Emilie Wildey – emandale@hutchtel.net – 320-562-0180
Secretary: Diane Anderson – andersdj@hutchtel.net 320-587-9352
Newsletter/Publicity: Linda Anderson – lindaanderson46@yahoo.com – 507-723-5623
Missions/newsletter: Beverly Tellefson – bevt43@embarqmail.com 320-564-3475
Education: Helen Hoftiezer – tandhhoftiezer@wat.midco.net – 605-882-1878
At Large Members: Carolyn Fiskness – altonfiskness@yahoo.com 320-354-4742
Ex-Officio Member: Mary Ebent – mebent@hutchtel.net 320-587-5442



SAVE THE DATE: The Fourth Annual Gathering of Women of the Word – Augustana District will be held on Saturday, September 21, 2013, at Watertown, SD. MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Highlights of Third Annual Gathering
"Share the Word"
September 22, 2012
Faith Lutheran Church, Hutchinson, MN**



***Pastor Mark
Richardson,
Worship Service
Leader***



***Lara Liepold, Music
Leader***



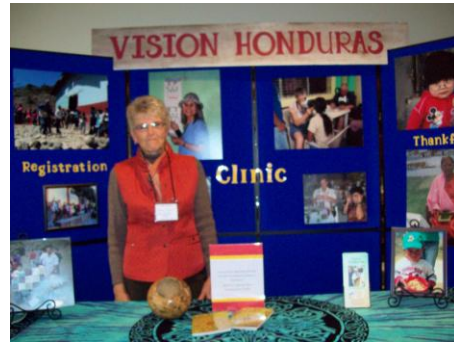
Dorothy Desens in front of her New Hope Mission display; she also led two breakout sessions.



Crafts led by Carolyn Fiskness



Green Lake Bible Cam



Vision Honduras



Global Health Ministries



Jan Schulte with Keynote Speaker Pastor Janine Rew-Werling



2013 Women of the Word Officers

**Front row: L-R, Mary Ebent, Carolyn Fiskness, Diane Anderson, Jan Schulte
Back row: L-R, Helen Hoftiezer, Beverly Tellefsen, Marian Thorston and
Linda Anderson. Emilie Wildey was not present.**