

Women of the Word

"WOW" News



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

June 2011

Second Annual Gathering of Women of the Word to be held October 1, 2011

"Coming Together"



We are excited to invite you to attend the second Annual Gathering of Women of the Word - Augustana District. This Gathering will be held on Saturday, October 1, at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Hutchinson, Minnesota. The theme for this year's gathering is **"Coming Together"** and is based on Ephesians 4: 1-6: *"I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."*

More information regarding this Gathering and a registration form is included with this mailing.
We hope everyone will plan to attend!

Augustana's Women of the Word

Lutheran women have always been a "Force for Good" within the Church. Throughout the years, they have provided the backbone in many churches – serving their churches faithfully, selflessly, and enthusiastically. And even in churches where Bible Study may not have been a regular or significant ministry, one could always be sure the women were gathered monthly to study and reflect together on the Holy Scriptures. Even more, beyond their local churches, Lutheran women have displayed a deep heart and passion for world missions, spending countless of volunteer hours to create and ship quilts, layettes, or whatever the needs might be.

The Augustana District is *so entirely thankful* that women of the district have stepped forward to organize Women of the Word in the Augustana District. They are off to a terrific start. This fall's gathering, "Coming Together", will mark a milestone in the growing and developing of a district-wide cooperation among LCMC women. It will be well worth your effort to attend, and we hope you will – whether you are from a church affiliated with the Augustana District or not. All women are invited to attend.

May God grant His special blessing to the women of our churches, and to the faithful ways they serve!

Pastor Mark Richardson
Interim Service Coordinator
Augustana District, LCMC

From the WOW Committee Coordinator....

"I will declare the sweetness of the gospel, for I am not ashamed of the good news about Christ." Romans 1:16

Go tell everyone the Good News and also invite them to join Women of the Word. It is a place to belong, to join in mission, to experience pastoral and collegial support, and to find help and support for congregations doing ministry.

Summer is just around the corner because I think spring passed us by! Our WOW board has been busy planning for our second Annual Gathering to be held on October 1. Please save the date.

On October 30, we had a wonderful group of women and men participate in the WOW breakout sessions at the Augustana District Convention. We heard from ladies about what they were doing for their programs and missions. Some ideas were program on aprons, a shoe theme based on scripture, hats around the bible, Midsummer Victorian Tea (fair trade tea), etc. We need to remember to invite – invite – invite. People need to feel invited.

We hope you will join us for more discussion at our October 1 Annual Gathering.

Carreen Pierson
WOW Committee Coordinator

Featured WOW Group.....

Christ the King Women - "Coming Together"

Saturday, April 30, from 10:30-1:30

Ten women volunteered to invite 7 to 10 other members of our church to a free, catered luncheon. The hostess decided on the theme for her table. The program was the hostess introducing her guests and telling why she picked the theme at her table. Ninety attended plus six men served as waiters.

Nancy McGraw is pictured with her apple dishes and guests who were all involved in teaching, either in the public sector, church, or daycare for teachers' children.



MISSION & MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

Our last newsletter featured Global Health Ministries Newborn Kits. This newsletter will feature another Global Health Ministry project that will assist health workers in Africa as they minister to innocent HIV/AIDS victims. The children and wives, who are suffering from end stage symptoms, need our help. The AIDS/Hospice Kit can provide cleanliness, comfort and hope. As you pack the kits, pray for the church visitation team and medical professionals who provide spiritual and medical care to those who are affected by AIDS.

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")

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.

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)

WE WILL BE COLLECTING THE HOSPICE KITS AND THE NEWBORN KITS AT THE OCTOBER 1 MEETING AT CHRIST THE KING, HUTCHINSON
Please donate \$5 per kit for shipping costs.

If you are not able to attend this meeting, please mail your projects to Global Health Ministries, 7831 Hickory Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55432

WHAT AN OPPORTUNITY!!

Host the 2012 Third Annual Gathering of WOW at your church. All you would need to do is:

1. Arrange snacks and noon lunch
2. Arrange rooms for breakout sessions

LOOKING AHEAD:

11th National Annual Gathering of LCMC will be held October 2 through October 5, 2011 in Des Moines, Iowa. Watch for additional information. WOW will have a display at the national convention.



Women of the Word has a link on the Augustana District web site.
Find both of us at: www.augustanadistrict.org

Tips to organize the women 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.

Albian Lutheran Church will be holding its Annual Bazaar on Saturday, June 18 beginning at 3:00 p.m. Serving will begin at 4:00. There will be handcrafted items, a silent auction, good food and fellowship for all. If you have questions, call Joan Brekke at 507-439-6657. Albian Lutheran is located between Sleepy Eye and St. James on MN Highway 4.



Are you a Crafter???

Help support your WOW organization. Bring craft items for sale to the Annual Gathering on October 1, 2011. We will also take these items to the LCMC National Gathering in Des Moines, October 2-5, 2011. Money raised will be used for postage, paper and other general costs.

The steering Committee of WOW would love to have new members help them plan future events and for the future of the WOW organization. Please consider joining us. Contact any board member:

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