



Fourth Annual Gathering of
Women of the Word
"Empowered by the Spirit"
September 21, 2013

Watertown Event Center, Watertown, SD
Hosted by Hosanna Lutheran Church – Watertown

Theme Verse: 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."

Minutes

1. Registration began at 8:30 a.m. in front of the Heritage Theater at the Watertown Event Center. Coffee and muffins were served in the area outside of the theater. Muffins were provided by Hosanna Lutheran Church of Watertown, SD. There were 110 people present from 21 different churches.
2. Sharon Brekke, of Hosanna Lutheran Church and Jan Schulte, representing the Women of the Word Board, welcomed the attendees. Pr. Steve Ferguson, began the worship service with music.
3. Pr. Janine Rew-Werling, of Hosanna Lutheran Church in Watertown, led the gathering worship service, with Pr. Sara Sorenson, of Long Lake and Leona, SD Lutheran Churches, giving the sermon based on our theme verse. An offering was taken. A total of \$1574.51 was received. This will be equally divided between Building Leaders for Global Harvest, the New Hope Mission Society, and support for seminary students in Ethiopia.
4. Jan Schulte called the business meeting of Women of the Word – Augustana District to order. A motion was made and seconded to approve the secretary's minutes from the 2012 Annual Gathering. A motion was also made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report.
 - a. The group was greeted by Pr. Tom Christenson, Augustana District Service Coordinator for South Dakota.
 - b. Jan Schulte recognized the current board members by having them stand. Cynthia Lerohl from Living Word Lutheran Church in Alexandria, and Judy Lalim from Wang Lutheran in Maynard, MN had volunteered to be on the WOW Board for next year. Jan Schulte called for more nominations, there being none, Cynthia and Judy were elected to the board. Emilie Wildey and Diane Anderson are leaving the board, since their terms have expired.
 - c. There was no old business
 - d. A question of who is a member of WOW Augustana District had come up during the year. Pastor Mark Richardson clarified the question by stating via e-mail: **If a church joins the Augustana District, then the women are automatically part of the Augustana District WOW.** A motion was made and seconded to include this statement in the Women of the Word Policy Statement.
5. Pr. Tim Swenson of the Institute of Lutheran Theology in Brookings, SD then greeted the gathering and gave a presentation on ILT. The Institute of Lutheran Theology began because there was a need for theological teaching centered on Jesus Christ. ILT is endorsed by the Augustana District. They have several courses of study including: Master of Divinity, Certificate of Pastoral Ministry, Master of Sacred Theology, Master of Religion etc. Congregational members may also access their resources via the internet. Devotions, Chapel, Table Talk, etc. are also available through signing up on their website: WWW.ILT.ORG
6. Lunch was then served in the Kotadome at the Watertown Event Center.
7. Card Making/Folding was held in the Sandy Shores/Tanglewood Rooms across from the Kotadome. Carolyn Fiskness and Beverly Tellefsen helped make cards. Carolyn demonstrated several folding options to use while making card. She also provided suggestion sheets for where to turn for the 'right words' when

sending cards.

8. The group headed back to the Heritage Theater and Pr. Paul Knudsen, the chairman of the Mission Board for Augustana District, shared information with the group regarding the missions that Augustana District has chosen to support. He said the purpose of his presentation was to inspire, report and invite participation in supporting these missions.
 - a. New Hope Mission Society – K.K. Alavi is our missionary who is reaching out to Muslims in Kerala, India.
 - b. Building Leaders for Global Harvest – Leaders need to be trained for leadership and evangelism in Ethiopia. There are ten centers around the country. They hope to have 15,000 students in 5 years. One great need they have is assistance in purchasing a vehicle.
 - c. Partnership with the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY): Assistance is needed for theological training, student scholarships, helping poor families, and assistance in purchasing a motor bike.
9. Installation of Officers was held: Pr. Tim Christenson, Service Coordinator for Augustana District – South Dakota conducted the installation service. Installed as officers were: Marian Thorston, Linda Anderson, Helen Hoftiezer, Beverly Tellefson, Carolyn Fiskness, Cindy Lerohl, Judy Lalim, and Jan Schulte, who will act as advisor this next year. Marion Thorsten, coordinator, then closed the meeting with devotions and song. The closing hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness" was sung as our closing hymn.
10. Cindy Lerohl invited the WOW-Augustana District to Living Word Lutheran Church in Alexandria, MN for the Fifth Annual Gathering in 2014.

Submitted by

Diane Anderson, Secretary
Women of the Word – Augustana District