

Minutes from the Augustana District Annual Women of the Word Fall Gathering
September 17, 2022
New Hope Lutheran Church, Comfrey, MN

Ministry Through Music

Registration and fellowship opened at 8:30 with muffins and beverages served by the New Hope WOW and special music and a hymn sing led by Soul's Inspiration, a singing group of New Hope, with accompaniment by organist, Laurie Fredin and Pastor Patricia Baglien on her guitar. Pastor Patricia had helped establish the group.

Jane Evers, coordinator, welcomed the group and gave the logistics of the day. There were 66 women attending the gathering (54 preregistered and 8 walk-ins) and 4 churches were listening on zoom.

The opening communion worship was led by New Hope's Pastor John Hopper. His message was "A Song In Our Hearts" and included a video of his granddaughter, Lauren Hopper, playing and singing her original composition, "Be Still and Know That I Am God" which she had written during a difficult time in her teenage life.

Before the break, Abdul Messiah, spoke briefly about his work as a missionary in India with the New Hope Mission Society. He informed the group that many young women are attending the Bible College in India. Many Muslim widows have come to Christ. The sewing project supported by LCMC has helped many of them who lost everything when they came to Christ.

The break gave those attending time to visit the displays which included: several tables by New Hope Lutheran Ladies showing their churches history and their activities; Thrivent Financial; New Hope Mission Society; Augustana District; cds available from Pastor Patricia Baglien; mission projects that can be made and distributed through Orphan Grain Train assembled by WOW of Living Word Lutheran, Milbank, SD. Beverages and muffins were available during the break.

The morning session was led by Pastor Diane Odermann with the theme of "Serve the Lord With Gladness". She shared information about the trip she and Pastor Patricia made to Oberammergau, Germany to see the Passion Play and how beautiful the music was. Her message was of music in worship and the theme verse. Attendees were actively involved in discussion.

A delicious sandwich and fruit lunch was served by the WOW from New Hope Lutheran. Tables were decorated in the fall music theme and a care bag was given to all those attending.

The afternoon session was led by Pastor Patrician Baglien who was one of the pastor's serving New Hope when Comfrey was devastated by a tornado in 1998 with the destruction of the church. She used the theme, "Come Into His Presence With Singing". She incorporated the use of her guitar as she sang original songs and involved the women in activity and singing.

There was a short break. The business meeting was then called to order by Coordinator, Jane Evers. The agenda was approved. She thanked everyone who helped throughout the year.

Marcia Heinje, secretary, asked if there were any questions or corrections to the minutes of the last meeting as printed. Being no corrections, she moved that the minutes be approved as printed. Motion seconded and approved by affirmative vote of all.

Treasurer's report was also in the packet. Diane Anderson, treasurer, was absent due to Covid precautions. The current balance is \$4588.21. With no questions being asked. Motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report as printed. Motion approved by affirmative vote of all.

Coordinator Jane Evers announced that the report from the Augustana District was included in the packets as Pastor Randy Freund had recently had surgery and could not attend.

Jodi Dalsgaard, the vice-coordinator, invited the WOW to St. John's Church in Springfield, MN on Sept 16, 2023 for the next fall gathering. The packet includes a laminated bookmark with the theme verse for next year, "Behold God is my salvation. I will trust and will not be afraid for the Lord God is my strength and my song and he has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2. Jodi thanked the host church and all those who had participated in making the activities of the day and the program a success.

Evelyn Junker, New Hope Lutheran, reported on their project of Operation Christmas Shoebox and the Samaritan Purse projects. She thanked everyone that had brought items for the shoeboxes that they will be packing this year. Jane Evers announced that all of the offering money today will be sent to Samaritan Purse as it was the designated choice for the gathering offering.

There was no old business.

The new business was the election of officers. The officers that needed to be elected were vice-coordinator and member at large. Jodi Dalsgaard will become the coordinator, Marcia Heinje will continue as secretary, Diane Anderson has another year as treasurer, and Jan Kreie has another year as member at large.

Jane Evers presented the nomination of Carreen Pierson, Faith Lutheran, Hutchinson as vice-coordinator. Faith Lutheran in Hutchinson would then have the gathering in 2024 when Carreen is coordinator and Jan Kreie has agreed to co-chair the gathering with her. There were no further nominations. Motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for Carreen Pierson as the new vice-coordinator. Motion carried as all voted aye.

Linda Anderson of St. John's, Springfield, MN was nominated for member at large. There were no other nominations. Motion made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for Linda for member at large. Motion carried as all voted aye.

Pastor John Hopper installed the officers that were present:

Jodi Dalsgaard (St. John's Lutheran Springfield, MN) Coordinator
Carreen Pierson (Faith Lutheran Hutchinson, MN) Vice- Coordinator
Marcia Heinje (Living Word Lutheran Milbank, SD) Secretary
Jan Kreie (Faith Lutheran Hutchinson, MN) Member At Large
Linda Anderson (St. John's Lutheran Springfield, MN) Member At Large

Meeting closed with Singing.

Submitted by

Marcia Heinje, WOW Secretary 2022