Minutes from the Augustana District Annual Women of the Word Fall Gathering
September 16, 2023
St Johns Lutheran Church, Springfield, MN

The annual Fall Gathering of the Augustana District Women of the Word was held on Saturday, September 16 at St. John's Lutheran in Springfield, MN with 78 women in attendance. These women were joined by 5 women from Morris, MN, 17 women from NY, 12 women from Nevis, MN and a lady from Washington state via livestream. It was a day of fellowship, music and inspiration. The theme verse for the day was: 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. The theme was Faith Over Fear.

The congregation of St John's offered hospitality the Fall Gathering 2023 throughout the day with the help of their men and youth serving the coffee and refreshments in the morning and the delicious noon meals. These events offered an opportunity for fellowship and sharing. The women had opportunities throughout the day to look at displays: Faith Lutheran of Hutchinson displaying information on the WOW Fall Gathering 2024 which will be held on September 21, 2024 with featured guest speaker, Gretchen Ronnevik; the Gideons; St. Johns WOW with their quilting mission and a wall hanging for a door prize; and Amanda Peterson, Springfield with her crafts.

The day opened with registration and fellowship at 8:30 with muffins and beverages served by the youth and men of St. Johns of Springfield.

The group was welcomed by Jodi Dalsgaard, the WOW Coordinator. Pastor Julie Smith, the Coordinator for District and Fellowship for the LCMC led the attendees in the morning worship service which included Holy Communion. Julie preached her message from Hebrews emphasizing Faith over Fear.

The offering for the day was given to the Table Ministry in Sioux Falls.

Julie Smith gave an update from the Synod LCMC happenings. The Annual gathering of the LCMC will be held in St. Charles, MO on Oct. 1-4 with around 650 participants expected.

Jodi Dalsgaard called the business meeting to order. The agenda was approved. The minutes from last year had been distributed and were approved as written. The treasurer report was corrected to read Peace Lutheran, Nevus instead of Faith Lutheran, Nevus. It showed a balance of $5092.51. Coordinator Jodi informed the group that there were names for the open offices of vice-coordinator and member at large but that there were no names for secretary and treasurer. Those in attendance were asked to prayerfully consider serving the organization in one of these offices and to let one of the officers know if they had a nomination for any of them. The meeting was suspended until later in the day. A 15 minute break was taken. Displays were available.

Pastor Erica Varcoe from the Table Ministry in Sioux Falls gave the morning message. She informed the group of how her church had been planted and was in the Shenanigan Bar in Sioux Falls. It is now 2 years old and meets on Wed evening with a meal and also meets on Sunday morning.

The lunch prepared by the women of St. Johns was served by the men and youth of the church. A time of food and fellowship was enjoyed by all.

The group returned to the sanctuary after lunch to participate in a hymn sing. The organist for the day was Peggy Martius.

The afternoon meeting resumed with coordinator Jodi conducting it. Jan Kreie presented the nominations of: Jan Kreie, Faith Lutheran, Hutchinson, MN, coordinator; Jennifer Howery, New Creation, Perham, MN as vice-coordinator; Marcia Heinje, Living Word, Milbank, SD, secretary; Diane Anderson, Christ the King, Hutchinson, MN, treasurer; Sue DeJong, Living Word, Milbank, SD, Member at Large. Motion was made and seconded to cast a unanimous ballot for this slate of officers. Motion carried. Officers were installed by Pastor Julie Smith. Next year's officers will be those elected plus member at large, Linda Anderson. Jodi Dalsgaard will be the coordinator ex-officio.

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A thank you gift was given to Jane Evers for her service to the board.

Coordinator, Jodi Dalsgaard, requested the registration report from treasurer, Diane Anderson. There were 69 preregistered and 9 walk ins for a total of 78 in attendance. There were 3 churches live streaming as listed above. A drawing was held for the quilted fall wall hanging made by the St. Johns quilters. Carreen Pierson and Jan Kreie gave an invitation to everyone to come to Faith Lutheran in Hutchinson, MN on September 21, 2024. Their speaker will be Gretchen Ronnevik. They have chosen Ephesians 6:18 as their them verse. Everyone was encouraged to attend and bring many other members with them.

The meeting adjourned as there was no further business.

Pastor Jennifer Bennet, serving at Faith Lutheran in Castle Rock, CO and who is the former pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Jeffers, MN and Bethany Lutheran Church in Storden, MN. was the afternoon speaker. She gave a message on Faith over Fear. She then told the group about her mission trip to Latvia last year to spread Christianity in a Bible School type atmosphere that lasted all day each day. Their team of 10 people was there in a country where Christianity had not been allowed for over 50 years while they were under control of the Soviet Union.

The gathering was closed by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Marcia Heinje
Augustana District Secretary