



WMF Helping Hand

NEWSLETTER



Gathering

By Lavonne West, National WMF President

"We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing; He chastens and hastens His will to make known."
Ambassador Hymn #146

Gathering for Blessing

I'd love to take a whistle-stop tour with this 6th year as WMF president; to attend all of your district rallies and retreats. Wouldn't that be fun? Sioux Falls, Estes Park, Lake Bronson, Lake Park, Bemidji, Osceola, or Medicine Lake Blvd. Rich times of fellowship to "ask the Lord's blessing." What a treasure!

Gathering for Chastening

Iron sharpens iron. We grow together. Able to comfort each other in times of grief. Able to encourage those who struggle with addictions. Able to remind our sisters that they are never alone. God is with us!

Gathering for Hastening

Even so, come Lord Jesus. Already but not yet. This world is not my home, I'm just passing through. Our commission as a WMF reminds us to Go! Our support for missions and Parish Ed. fulfills our purpose:

As branches – we live in Him;
As servants – we work in Him;
As witnesses – we speak in Him;



As you read this edition of our Helping Hand, we pray that you will smile. It's God's work and we are rejoicing with you.

Matthew 18:20, "For where two or three have gathered together in my Name I am there in their midst." (NASB) Enjoy those gatherings.

The National WMF Board



Lavonne West (President),
Karen Floan (Recording Secretary),
Margie Lee (Treasurer),
Linda Hensrud (Communication Sec.),
Anne Presteng (1st Vice President),
Liz McCarlson (2nd Vice President)

**Make
plans to
join us!!!**

WMF Day 2024

Wednesday, June 12, 2024
at Free Lutheran Bible College and Seminary
Campus, Plymouth MN



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DEPENDENCE ON GOD FUELS COMMUNITY

written by Elizabeth Jore
Women ministry leader at Grace Free Lutheran Church
in Maple Grove, MN

What comes to your mind when you think of the word dependent? Immediately children come to mind. I recently took care of my nieces and nephew for close to a week and was quickly reminded of how dependent the children were on me day and night and I can tell you I have a new respect for a mother's role. Whew!

Matthew 18:1-4 reminds us of how God desires us to relate to Him in a childlike way; *"Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."*

John 15:5 is another good example of daily, moment by moment dependence; *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, **for apart from me you can do nothing.**"*

When we seek to live with a dependent heart on God, He uses this humble position to open our heart and lives to our sisters in Christ, including our areas of weakness and where we need help. These *"one another"* scriptures show us what a true community looks like:

"Welcome one another" (Romans 15:7)

"Love one another" (John 13:34 – this command occurs at least 15 times in the N.T.)

"Serve one another" (Galatians 5:13)

"Confess your sins to one another" (James 5:16)

"Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another" (1 Peter 5:5)

"Bear one another's burdens" (Galatians 6:2)

"Lord, in this world of loud voices saying we need to be independent, please reframe our mindset and transform our hearts to be completely dependent on You. Help us to humbly take steps of obedience, sharing our needs with our sisters in Christ and to make room in our lives to be available to meet the needs of our sisters. Amen".

WMF Day 2023

Our theme was Rescued and Redeemed taken from Colossians 1:13-14. Below are pictures of our main speakers for the day. More pictures can be found on page 5.



Michele Mobley
Devotional



Ryan Egan
Praise and Worship



Dr Brent Olson
Workshop Leader

(Powerpoint posted at
www.aflc.org/women/wmf-day/)



Tami Demo
Workshop Leader



Jenn Thorson
Memorail Service
Leader



Michelle Olson
Workshop Leader

(Powerpoint posted at
www.aflc.org/women/wmf-day/)

BE A PART OF GIVING

Written by Margie Lee, Treasurer

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. [2 Corinthians 9:7-8 ESV]

Thank you for your donations to the National WMF. We are grateful for your generous gifts to all of our Projects:

1. **World Missions.** Your gifts are given to missionaries as designated and the remaining gifts are distributed as needed by the World Missions Department
2. **Home Missions.** Home Missions has been using your gifts to work on podcasts and other materials for planting churches
3. **Christian Education:**
 - **Parish Education** is using your gifts to help publish Heritage Series Volume #6 by Pastor Robert Lee.
 - **FLBC** continues to use your gifts to purchase new dorm room furniture.
 - **FLS** gifts are used to give \$100 per semester to each seminarian to help with books. We also donate subscriptions for The Lutheran Ambassador to the seminarians.
4. **WMF General Fund.** During the first 7 months of 2023, you have faithfully donated \$47,147.97 to our WMF General Fund. Our expenses from the General Fund include a salary for our Executive Secretary. Stipends are available for our President and Treasurer. Our board members are able to be reimbursed for mileage and supplies. Your gifts help with the expenses of WMF Day such as speakers, printed reports and packets, and meals. Your donations help provide a gift for our Mission Festival Speaker. Your gifts also help us to select an AFLC woman/women to author our yearly WMF bible study, and 2 pastors and 2 women to edit the bible study. The Helping Hand is sent out twice a year. Printing, postage expenses, computers and software are also vital to our ministry which your gifts provide. Our 2023 budget for the General Fund is \$61,150.00. I would like to thank you for donating to our general fund so that we can effectively serve you as the National WMF Board.

Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement to us as a board, and your generous donations to WMF of the AFLC.



Bible studies are still available. Check our Bible study web page for those in stock.

www.aflc.org/women/resources/bible-studies/

Cradle Roll packets are available for \$23..

Place Bible study and Cradle roll orders with Executive Secretary, Dawn Johnson.

Treasurers Report		
1/1/2023—7/31/2023	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
World Missions	\$22,030.75	\$22,030.75
Home Missions	\$12,884.25	\$12,884.25
Christian Education		
Parish Ed	\$4,458.88	\$4,458.88
FLBC	\$6,187.71	\$6,187.71
FLS	\$4,124.06	\$1,600.00
WMF General Fund	\$47,147.97	\$35,537.13
Non Project Income	<u>\$2,438.00</u>	<u>\$2,438.00</u>
	\$99,271.62	\$85,136.72

WMF

If your WMF has had members pass away in this past year, please email the funeral bulletin, her name, city, state and church or funeral home connection to the Executive Secretary and they will be included in the memorial service at WMF Day 2024.

Memorials

Mardeno Slaathaug
Lavonne Ward
Debbie Iverson
Jeanette Swanson
Luverne Pearson
Donna Skistad
James Prather
Chet Wolla
Elocile K Uran
Ann Tucker

PARISH EDUCATION

**COMPLEXITIES**

Written by Pastor Ryan Patenaude, Kindred ND

I have served on Parish Ed now for almost 4 complete years. I have helped edit Bible studies and Sunday School curriculum. I have helped with annual budgets. I have offered my opinion here and there, and I was able to bring to fruition one silly project—the alternative dust jacket for Luther for the Busy Man. I am convinced that I am no better than most people at any of those tasks, and the dust cover is of no eternal significance. But last year, I finally figured out what I believe to be the biggest reason He put me on Parish Ed, and that is to get the book my mother-in-law has created into print. This project has become my baby and I am so excited to see the pieces coming together.

Marian has often spoken of the complexities of getting a book printed and I always acted like I knew what she meant. But I didn't. Let me give you a taste. Josh is professionally digitizing the paintings, Rachel is doing the graphic design, and Gerry is going to get them printed. Josh needs information from Rachel on how to export the images, but first Rachel needs parameters from the printer who first needs information on the size of the book, number of pages (has to be a multiple of 4), type of paper, sheen, and other things. On top of that we need to make sure we have proper permission to use verses from multiple translations of the Bible. The biggest headache has been making sure that we cross our t's and dot our i's when it comes to licensing the images that the paintings were derived from. And I don't even know what other hurdles await. But I am SO EXCITED for the final product. 26 pages, 26 paintings, and 26 verses about who Jesus is. I am praying it will adorn a thousand coffee tables.

This experience of being privy to what goes on behind the scenes has caused me to contemplate the ways in which the Lord is at work in the world. God has a grand design. He is always working out details in ways we will never know. He is preparing hearts both to proclaim the Word and receive it. He is preparing encounters. He is working through circumstances. He is orchestrating things through His angels behind the scenes, in ways that we will never see. Just like I have never appreciated what goes into making a book, I don't think we appreciate that God's hand is always at work in us and around us—whether we acknowledge it or not. According to Colossians 1:17, "In Him all things hold together". "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) Not only is God holding everything together all the time, but He is also working them out for our good. He is constantly manipulating the universe for our good and for His glory. What a blessed thought!

I trust that the Lord's hand is all over Parish Ed as well. He provides the staff, the volunteers, the ideas, the facilities, the funding, and even the board members. And He has met so many of our needs through the generous women of the WMF! Of course, we have much more going on than just this Jesus A-Z book, but I ask you to continue to pray for this work—that we can get it done so that many will be comforted by a richer knowledge of who Jesus is!

One of the pages from the children's book



FREE LUTHERAN BIBLE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

Goals for FLBCS

The following goals were shared at conference this past year.

Our plan consists of these five strategic goals, all of which “come due” in June 2026:

1. FLBCS will be successfully standing against the increased pressures of conformity and compromise.
2. FLBCS will be operating with a balanced budget and have established a \$10M endowment and a 9-month operating reserve.
3. FLBCS will have increased enrollment in the Bible College to 160 while maintaining its theological integrity and campus culture.
4. FLBCS will be offering an AA and BA in Bible and Ministry and will graduate its first BA cohort.
5. FLBCS will be implementing at least three new outreach emphases and practices that are employing the values and skills of its students and graduates to impact the AFLC.

You can find more information on these goals at <https://flbc.edu/strategicplan/>.

Pray for our seminary students as they prepare to serve the Lord through congregational and mission work.

Juniors:

Daniel Aichele (Bethany)
Aaron Arneson (Rachel)
Hunter Berntson
Samuel Jagt (Sarah)
Jeremy Larson (Rachel)
Isak Olson (Phoebe)
Hans Tanner (Janna)

Middlers:

Wen Chen (Jinghong YIN)
Adam Erickson (Alexandra)
Alexander Grimes
Caleb Korhonen
Adam McCarlson (Emily)
Micah Moan (Kalei)
Alex Monseth (Erin)
Jon Nelson (Heidi)
Michael Rokenbrodt

Interns:

Scott Olson

Seniors:

Troy Hanson (Nicole)
Mikey (Marlen) Meester (Madi)

(WMF Day continued)

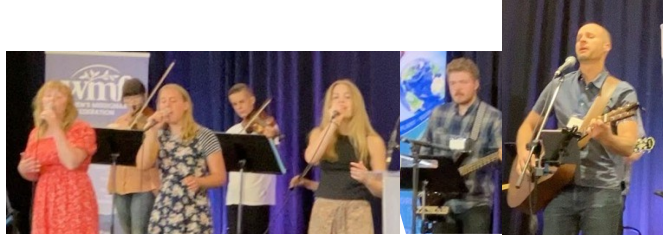


Throughout the day we had various ladies from South Dakota performing skits about women of the Bible.

WMF BREAKFAST



MISSION FESTIVAL SERVICE



Mike Borg and His Praise and Worship Team



Service Leader
Pastor Andy Coyle
Home Missions Director



Missionary Speaker
Pastor Nate Jore



Home Missions presentation to Jeremy Crowell

BE A PART OF SPREADING THE GOSPEL



Written by Lacey Crowell, Alaska Mission

When Jeremy and I were married in 2007 we both knew that we had a heart for missions and that we wanted to serve the Lord somewhere. Both of us had been to Alaska at different times to different places, but both were mission trips. When we got married only Jeremy had been to Naknek. In 2008, Jeremy and Lavon Bohling flew a plane up to Naknek and Lavon's wife, Fern, and I followed commercially for a week. That whole week I saw the sun for about 10 minutes. Even then, we knew that this is a place we desired to live and serve if it was God's will. Graciously, wouldn't you know it, when we were here for six months in 2009 as part of Jeremy's seminary internship God, gave us one of the nicest summers here. (Don't worry, we still got to experience some winter too.) In 2010, we moved up here.

Fast forward thirteen years. God is moving us on. Here's a bit that Jeremy has written:

"After seeking counsel from godly men the Lord has placed in our life, and after much prayer, both Lacey and I agree that the Lord is calling us to resign from Home Missions and to take a ministry position at Mission Aviation Training Academy (MATA) in Arlington, WA. MATA has had a close relationship and continues to have a close relationship with the AFLC and FLAPS... I have a strong desire to pass on what the Lord has taught me over the years and to help be a part of raising up the next generation for missionary service and in particular the role of aviation as a tool for ministry."

It has been a privilege to serve Bristol Bay, and it has become home for us. The unique lifestyle, the hustle of the busy fishing season, our close-knit community, picking berries and putting salmon in the freezer, experiencing winter, and attending community events are things that I will miss when we move to a different area.

Looking back on some ways I was able to be of use here, it's wonderful to reminisce about. Most of the time here I have taught Sunday School at our church, Hilltop Christian Fellowship. Many of the kids who have come are foster kids. Because Naknek is one of the "larger" towns in the area there is a small handful of people who are foster parents. Several kids from other villages will get sent here. "Grandma Nola", a faithful church attendee, has had numerous foster children come through her home. I'm not even sure if she knows how many. Some of them come for just a couple months and some for a couple years. We have tried to share the gospel with them as much as we can. The seeds have been planted. Bibles have been given. We pray that they will be able to continue to hear the Word back at home or wherever they have ended up.

I have also led a ladies Bible Study, Thursdays at noon. I had never led a group of adults; but it has been a blessing, and our group has become quite close! In the past we have had a larger group, maybe about ten or so. More recently it has been about five or six. Since it's in the middle of the day a lot of people are working, but the ones who don't have full time jobs, or are retired are able to come and we are able to read the Word, pray, share heart-to heart, and even be fed a delicious lunch by our hostess.

There's been other tasks I've been involved in during the busy summer months, but for now these are ones I had on my heart to share. No matter what stage in life you're at you can always be a part of spreading the gospel! Thank you for your prayers for the Alaska Mission!

BE A PART OF MISSIONS

*Written by Pastor Earl Korhonen
Executive Director, AFLC World Missions*



AFLC World Missions is grateful for your continuing support of our global ministries. I find great hope for the world's people from Psalm 86—specifically v. 5 and 9, “For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call upon you... All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.” These verses encourage me that our ministry to the nations is not in vain, for the Lord has promised to save all who come to him in repentance and faith!

Here are the latest news items and prayer concerns in AFLC World Missions:

Uganda: We are in a unique season of interest in church planting and helping the nationals organize as free and living Lutheran congregations. There is hope that groups of Ambassador Institute graduates will adopt our AFLC model of an association of congregations. It is challenging that this interest coincides with the absence of our missionaries. Jores are home on furlough, Michael is home for seminary classes, and the Raans will begin their furlough in December. Plans are underway to have Michael, Brent, and myself make some visits to Uganda during this next year. In addition, Raans are requesting help from another couple to join them in their church-planting ministry.

Brazil: The publishing arm of our Brazil seminary, DRELL, continues to translate our rich pietistic resources. The publications are being well-received, and there is genuine excitement about the uniqueness of the AFLC. In my recent visit with the AFLC Brazilian national leaders, I was reminded of the need for more workers- specifically church planters. They have dreams of beginning congregations in two new cities. They are praying for more missionaries!

India: As the Horeb Children's ministry and theological training of pastors and Bible women continue, Pastor Luther recognizes the need for more help in leadership. He is praying for a way for his son-in-law and daughter to receive theological training at FLBC. Their student visa was recently denied, so they are waiting on the Lord for the next step. The national government does not allow us to send missionaries, so please pray for wisdom. Pastor Craig Johnson and I will be teaching in India in January 2024.

Switzerland: Pastor Augusto is encouraged by the work in the congregation- but he admits they need more help. The congregation is asking for a US or Brazil missionary to help the ministry. Although French and Portuguese are helpful, an English-speaking pastor could have an effective ministry among the college-age people of the city. Please join us in prayer for a pastor willing to be called through AFLC World Missions to Switzerland.

Mexico: Todd and Barb are encouraged by less violent conditions in their city. They are thankful that the Kid's Club, worship, visitation, discipleship, and works of mercy ministries can be scheduled again. Please pray that God will continue to give them strength and wisdom- and that lives will continue to be changed through the ministry of the Word.

Paraguay: Matthew & Ednay look forward to seeing many of us during their upcoming Sept.-January furlough. Please pray for the ministry in Paraguay in their absence. They also request prayer for Matthew's health- his joint pain from the mosquito-borne virus has not improved. The ministry is encouraging, but they need another couple or individual to come and work alongside them. Please pray!

Perhaps you noticed a common thread in nearly all our fields: **we need more workers!** Would you please renew your efforts and join me in praying that the Lord of the Harvest would raise up more missionaries from our AFLC to join our global ministries? Remember, David prophesied in Psalm 86, “All the nations you have made shall come and worship before you, O Lord, and shall glorify your name.” May those whom God is calling be faithful to go to the nations!

Women's Missionary Federation
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Minneapolis MN 55441-3008



Share A Heart

written by Connie Kinnoin

When the Mon-Dak-Ada Family Bible Camp met this year at Mt. Carmel east of Granville, ND, the WMF ladies from Our Savior's Free Lutheran Church of Stanley presented a program for the women and young gals Tuesday afternoon. It was all centered around our "Hearts." We talked about our physical heart, how many beats per minute, where it is located and the size of it. Then we talked about our spiritual heart, God's name is written on our heart and the city of Jerusalem is called His City and looks similar to our human heart. According to various Scripture references, We also found that our mind, will, emotions, and conscience are all part of our heart. We worked on a Health Word Find and a Healthy Heart Puzzle while the other group decorated hearts made by the ladies of Our Savior's WMF. The hearts that we decorated and the idea for this fun afternoon came from the website "I Found A Quilted Heart," a worldwide project. The idea is to make and decorate cloth hearts with various embellishments and then hang your heart along walking trails, various community bulletin boards, etc., to be found and loved by the person who finds it. For more information on this project go to www.ifoundaquiltedheart.com. Maybe you know of a group who would like to get involved also. After and during decorating we were treated to "Heart" decorated cookies, red apple wedges, heart candy, and red lemonade punch. It was a fun afternoon and maybe someone will find your heart and give it a HOME.

