



WMF Helping Hand

NEWSLETTER



The Big Picture

By Lavonne West, National WMF President



Engineers without borders – did you know there was such a thing? I'm sure you have heard about doctors without borders, right? Our church is sending one of our college girls off on this adventure this summer. My friend Sharon has built a team of senders for her. We are studying the book Serving as Senders Today by Neal Pirolo. Here are our chapters: The Need for Senders and six ways we can use our spiritual gifts to provide support. Moral, Logistics, Financial, Prayer, Communication, and Re-Entry. The final chapter is entitled: Your part in the big picture.

How do you see yourself in the "big picture" of WMF? We have partnered by giving to missions in serving as senders for sixty years now. Most recently for World Missions is Mafu and Ednay Able into Paraguay. You will read about our Home Missions couple, the Pillmans, who are preparing to re-locate to Ankeny, Iowa. We have been able to provide a mission scholarship for Casey McLaughlin who will be traveling as an intern. Our church is working towards a mission trip, too. Some of us will go. Some will give. And all will be called to pray.

My devotions have been JOY, A Study of Philippians by Deb Burma. Her section on prayer listed these five ways to guide us.

Pray for those who are taking risks as they courageously share Jesus at home and across the world:

Pray for their physical and spiritual protection.

Pray that they may stand firm, not caving to a wayward culture or backing down when ridiculed or opposed.

Pray that they may continue to share fearlessly!

Pray for the Spirit's strength, counsel, and comfort over them.

Luke 10:2 ESV "And he said to them, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.'"

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Devotions.....	2
WMF	2
Christian Ed-(Parish Ed)	4
Christian Ed-(Schools).....	5
Home Missions.....	6
World Missions	7

SO TEACH US!



By Allie Westerbur
Bethel Free Lutheran Church,
Grafton, ND

“So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.” Psalm 90:12

Twelve days of Christmas have long past. The forty days of Lent are upon us. We are near sixty days into the 365 days of 2023. Is this what Moses is referring to when he says, “teach us to number our days?” Moses had wandered in the wilderness with the people of God for 40 years. A generation had died while wandering, their lifespan “seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty” (Psalm 90:10). Witnessing the passing of some of his family of God, Moses was taught to number his days. Our one life on earth is quite short in the realm of eternity. How will we spend the time we have? Our days can be filled with any number of trivial, mundane, or even seemingly “important” tasks. We find ourselves running ragged from meeting to meeting, grocery run to carpool line, appointment to sporting event, and finally back home to recharge until we can start it all over again. What is the answer to the never-ending race? How can we number our days? The answer is found in keeping our eyes fixed on eternity. “God’s eternity is not simply described as the opposite of our mortality; it is proclaimed as the answer to our mortality.”* We must constantly remind ourselves of the end: eternity is ours in Christ! When we know this, these days are transformed from fleeting and burdened into hopeful and expectant. Our Maker is here with us in the gift of His Spirit, leading us on to learn the wisdom from above, which is “first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.” (James 3:17) And our Maker is there on the other side, waiting to welcome us to our eternal home.

“Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our eternal home.”

O God, Our Help in Ages Past (AMB 50)

*Psalms 73-150. *The People’s Bible Commentary*, p. 82.

HOLD FAST TO THE WORD OF LIFE

By Margie Lee., National WMF Treasurer

*Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, **holding fast to the Word of Life**, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Philippians 2:14-16*



Our Western North Dakota/Eastern Montana District WMF Fall Rally was held at Emmanuel Free Lutheran Church in Williston on October 15th. Our theme verse was “hold fast to the word of Life” taken from Philippians 2:14-16. Our speakers were Steve & Glenda

Kvale, AFLC Missionaries on loan to Wycliffe. The Kvales work from their home in SW Minnesota as IT support/Admin Support/Bible Translators for Wycliffe. Wycliffe is currently involved in over 2400 translation projects. There are 1680 languages and 247 sign languages that don’t have any translation projects started yet. Steve and Glenda feel a call to assist in sign language translation. They showed us a 3D animated avatar system for sign language. They translate bible texts into various sign languages and make the digital world accessible to the deaf. Steve showed us a video of a white man with a beard using sign language to “read/sign” a bible passage. But on the screen you would see an Avatar, who looks like the native people group who the bible was being translated for, doing the sign language. Amazing stuff as dedicated people try to bring God’s word to all people in their “heart language”! Another activity demonstrated all of the support people that are needed to help bring the Bible to people who do not have any scripture in their language. The WMF has opportunities to pray, encourage, and financially support our AFLC missionaries on loan to various Bible Translation Agencies. We had a wonderful day of fellowship, and I would encourage all ladies to attend their District Rallies and be blessed!



WMF Day 2023

Wednesday, June 14

Rescued and Redeemed

Colossians 1:13-14 NIV

at the Best Western Plus Ramkota
Hotel and Conference Center in
Sioux Falls, SD

Make plans to join us! Our day will begin
at 9 with registration from 8:15-8:50.

Please be there early to register and be in the room by 9 for the opening.

WMF registration will be handled online through the WMF Treasurer Margie Lee.

There is a link to the registration form online at www.aflc.org/women/wmf-day/ or contact Margie at PO Box 118, Beulah ND 58523 or email at margieleend@gmail.com or by phone or text at 701-870-2259.

Speakers for the day:

Devotions:: Michele Mobley Memorial Service: Jenn Thorson
Workshop speakers: Dr. Brent Olson, Tami Demo, Michelle Olson

MISSION FESTIVAL SERVICE

Service Leader: Pastor Andy Coyle *Speaker:* Pastor Nate Jore

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 2023.

Memorials

Annette Rorvig
Alma Johnson
Gary Ruud
Eleanor Qualley
Marilyn Quanbeck
Nellie Grace Jensen
Vernon Nelson
Arlene Carlson
Tara Lee Keller
Lavonne Perseke
Harriet Rolf
Carroll Chapin
George Perry
Leo Engberg
Deb Ford
Floyd Kasdorf
Mary Normark
Lew Pederson
Donald Sillerud
Marjorie Postevit
Randall Moe
Joyce Johnson
Margaret Johnson
Bernice Voxland
Glenda Fradenburgh
Dee Tigland
Ada Windecker
Elijah Finstrom
Bill Oxner
Dorothy Weichert
Mardene Slaathaug

Women's Retreat at the ARC April 28-30, 2023

Speakers: Jeanne Jorgenson, Julia Stock and Heidi Schantzen
Worship Leader: Mary Schock

Women's Retreat



To register and for pricing go to: www.arc-aflc.org/womens-retreat

2022 Treasurers Report

1/1/2022—12/31/2022	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
World Missions	\$46,801.10	\$46,801.10
Home Missions	\$31,929.44	\$31,929.44
Christian Education		
Parish Ed	\$16,990.94	\$16,990.94
FLBC	\$17,080.56	\$17,080.56
FLS	\$8,934.07	\$8,934.07
WMF General Fund	\$63,321.74	\$57,969.26
Non Project Income (MATA, ARC)	<u>\$1,156.03</u>	<u>\$1,156.03</u>
	\$186,213.88	\$180,861.40

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.

PARISH EDUCATION



Remember, Remember!

By Marian Christopherson

AFLC Parish Education Director

Did your parents ever say to you, “Remember to clean your plate!” “Remember to pick up your room!” “Remember to be home by midnight!” As a child or a teenager, the call to remember can be quite annoying! “*Yeah, yeah, I know,*” we might say. “*You do NOT need to keep reminding me!*”

I grew up on a farm, and one of my jobs was to wash the eggs. “Remember to wash the eggs,” my mom would say. I often put it off until 10 p.m. or later, and sometimes when my mom came home at 11:30 from her nursing shift, I was still washing eggs. But sometimes I got distracted doing other things and simply forgot.

The call to remember was much worse coming from my older, bossy brothers: “Remember to milk the cows if we’re not home by 5:30!” I’m quite sure they intentionally waited until 6 p.m. or later to come home from the field in hopes that I would be almost done milking the cows, so they didn’t have to. That seemed to happen regularly. But sometimes I got distracted by other things, like washing their filthy farm clothes, or maybe even playing piano (which I enjoyed much more). And sometimes I just didn’t *want* to milk the cows and intentionally didn’t.

God wants us to remember some very important things in the Bible, but sometimes we get distracted and forget to remember. And sometimes we just don’t want to do the *work* of remembering. We become lazy and apathetic.

In the book of Deuteronomy and beyond, God says again and again through His prophets, “Remember . . . that you were

slaves in Egypt, and how the LORD your God delivered you!” But sometimes God’s people got distracted and did not remember, or chose not to remember.

When we are teaching in our congregations, it’s easy to get distracted by an overwhelming proliferation of resources available. We may even be distracted by *good* things. And sometimes we get bored of hearing the same thing over and over. We think: *Yeah, yeah, we know. You do NOT need to keep telling us.* But we DO need continual reminding of essential Bible truths, especially those that show our sinfulness and need of a Savior and those that teach God’s deliverance through Jesus our Redeemer. These are truths that are foundational to all our publications, and we intend to keep telling them!

We are excited for four new publications coming in 2023, Lord-willing. Please pray for the many facets of these projects:

- **March 2023** – The last quarter of our new Ten Commandments curriculum for children. We just received the final illustrations from our artist and expect the student leaflets to go to press soon.
- **Spring 2023** – *Principles and Practices of Evangelism* booklet by Dr. Francis Monseth.
- **Summer 2023** – A new Bible study on 1 Peter by Pastor Gary Jorgenson.
- **Winter 2023-24** – A history of the AFLC by Pastor Robert Lee.



FREE LUTHERAN BIBLE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY

By Emily Kregel

FLBC Coordinator of Student Life

Our theme at the Free Lutheran Bible School this year comes from Matthew 7:24-25, the end of the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus tells His audience that if their lives are not built on the firm foundation of the Truth of Scripture, they will crumble when trials and tribulations come. I believe this has always been an underlying theme of the College, to be grounded in the Word of God, to recognize the firm foundation of Christ and build your life upon Him. It is an important and meaningful mission that we have and I believe as the younger generations are being bombarded with lies and ones that sometimes even sound very loving and inclusive, it is more important than ever that we are intentionally investing in speaking Truth to these generations. We cannot passively sit back and assume they will learn it somewhere, it has to come from home, from church, from places like FLBC, from you.



I have been so encouraged to see students coming in, recognizing their need for truth and discernment and seeking to grow in their relationship with the Lord. Encouraged to see churches investing in these students and desiring to come alongside of them and encourage them in their walk. Students at FLBC have had an increasing desire for their relationship with the Lord to deepen. We have seen this in students forming their own study groups and waking up early to study Scripture and pray before class. In addition, students have been asking the hard questions and honestly seeking objective truth from God's Word instead of subjective truth.

The ministry at FLBC has had to adapt to the cultural changes over the last couple of years. We still have fun, don't get me wrong, but we have recognized in a lot of ways we were more focused on community than we were on Christ. I have loved seeing the Student Council recognize that and implement activities on campus focused on Christ over community. For example, they have started student led monthly service projects in the

surrounding area, monthly vespers held on Campus where the Lord is worshipped and glorified, and student led, non-mandatory devos during community time on Fridays where students choose to dig into God's Word as a community



*By Emalynn Nikunen
wife of Senior Seminar-
ian Jeremy Nikunen*

*—they will be moving
to Pipestone, MN, for
Jeremy's seminary internship at Christ the King
Free Lutheran Church*

*"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."
Ephesians 3:20*

When I reflect back on our time at seminary, I am reminded of all that God has provided for us. When my husband Jeremy enrolled at the Free Lutheran Seminary and we made the move, I remember being anxious about our needs and being able to pay for seminary. God has provided for us abundantly more than I expected. He is always faithful.

God has provided for us in other ways that I didn't know I would need: community and fellowship in the body of Christ. I've enjoyed connecting and forming friendships with the other seminary wives and families on campus through Seminary Wives Bible studies, game nights, sharing meals together, and helping one another out with various things. Through painful losses that Jeremy and I have gone through, miscarriages and unexpectedly losing Jeremy's grandma and then his dad this past fall, we have felt the hospitality and love of those around us. Meals, flowers, cards, hugs, and prayers have touched us deeply. Community and fellowship with one another have been a blessing.

God has also provided a job that I am passionate for, proud of, and thoroughly enjoy doing. It has been an important aspect of my life and something that I have been very blessed in. I work in a Memory Care unit providing Therapeutic Recreation for the residents. I have been able to use my creativity, compassion, and therapeutic skills to bring joy to the residents. The pandemic, of course, threw a curveball to all of us, especially in healthcare industries. I am grateful to be able to be there for the residents through all that they've had, and unfortunately, continue to go through. (cont. page 8)

SEASONS OF GROWTH



Spring. In many ways, this word carries greater significance for those who have endured the cold and snow of winter in all its fullness. The snow melts. Spring showers come. Tulips and daffodils emerge. Spring is a season of new life and growth. Though San Antonio already feels much more like summer, God has blessed our family, hearts, and vision with a spring of our own!

First, our family grows. As I (Matthew) write, I am sitting with our newborn on my lap. Born at the grand size of 9lbs 2oz and 21.5 inches long, Solomon sprang into our lives this past February (on Daddy's birthday). Truly, there is no greater gift or miracle than new life! Every time we see a new little one, our hearts should break into song with the Psalmist: *I praise you, for I am fear-*

fully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. (Psalm 139:14) Our family gets a front-row seat as Solomon grows day by day. It is a season of growth for our family!

Second, our hearts grow. For those who do not know, our family is in San Antonio, Texas for a one-year church planting residency. The purpose of this time is to learn and prepare for church planting by serving in the context of a current church plant (Trinity Church) and being mentored by another church planting pastor (Matthew Ballmann). While this time has grown us in church planting wisdom, God has especially grown hearts in love for His church. The church is God's "plan A" to reach the world. It is His beautiful bride that He has sanctified "by the washing of water with the Word" (Ephesians 5:26). It is that for which Christ shed His precious blood. May God continue to grow our hearts!

Third, our vision grows. God continues to lead and open doors for a church plant in Ankeny, IA. The need remains as the community grows. We work together with our sending church (Christ the King in Pipestone, MN) and AFLC Home Missions. We have prayerfully identified a vision statement and 5 values that will shape the plant. Our next steps include continuing to get the word out to supporters, furthering connections in Ankeny, finding housing, and gathering a launch team. It is a season of spring in our ministry as God grows the vision for a church plant!

How can you partner with us?

Pray. Join our monthly prayer email and watch Home Missions prayer updates!

Give. God has provided all the needed funds for our residency, but we currently have less than 40% of our year-1 budget covered (\$124k). Consider partnering with us with monthly or one-time gifts. By God's grace our goal is for the congregation to be fully self-sufficient by the end of year-5. For more details and to give, visit our webpage: www.ctkpipestone.com/ankeny.

Connect. If you know someone in the Ankeny area or who may be interest in moving to help launch a church plant, let us know!

Growing in Christ,
Matthew, Julia, James, Benjamin, and Solomon Pillman



OUR AFLC MISSIONARIES



Paraguay



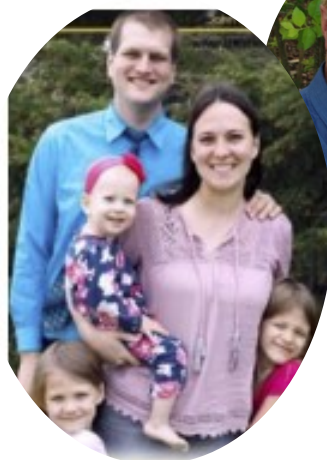
Uganda



Brazil



Mexico



**On
loan**



Remembering our missionaries in prayer is very important. Their newsletters list their specific prayer requests but some general prayers to pray for our missionaries as they serve in the foreign countries and from the USA might be that they would continue to grow in their relationship with God. Pray for their family life to continue strong as an example of God's love to those who they are serving. Pray for an effective ministry, for their emotional needs and their physical needs to be met. Pray for their relationships with the nationals that they work with and also for their relationships with fellow missionaries . They need our prayers, we need to pray!

Women's Missionary Federation
3110 East Medicine Lake Blvd
Minneapolis MN 55441-3008



(FLBC continued)



instead of just socializing. Students have participated in pop up prayer times to pray for our campus and others and to pray for our nation and the nations around us, lifting them up to the One who has the power to affect change in the hearts of humans. God is moving on this campus and in these students. Sometimes it can be easy to miss this as we get bogged down with the mundane and are more consistently confronted with the negative, but God makes it a point repeatedly

in Scripture to look back and remember His faithfulness, His goodness, His mercy that is new every morning, His promises, His provision, His plan and purpose, His unconditional steadfast love, His justice and holiness.

We serve a God who transforms lives, and it has been an incredible honor to watch Him transform lives at FLBC. I deeply appreciate all those who have prayed for, encouraged, and supported our students as they grew up in your churches, currently attend your church, or are a part of your family (biologically or otherwise). I firmly believe that the best thing we can do for our children, students, family members, friends, coworkers, and strangers is to pray that they would be filled with the knowledge of the love of Christ and all the fullness of God (Eph. 3:14-19). Keep praying women, God is listening, and He is moving.

(FLS continued)

As Jeremy and I look forward to our upcoming move to Pipestone, MN, for his internship, I've been experiencing an array of emotions. I am saddened to leave my residents, co-workers, and friends that we have here. Change is hard, but I know that God goes before us and has many blessings in store for us in Pipestone. I am thankful for all that he provides for us now and all that he will continue to provide for us in the future. He is always faithful.