



WMF Helping Hand

NEWSLETTER



WOMEN'S MINISTRY LOOKS DIFFERENT IN EACH CHURCH

Written by Anne Presteng

On January 15th the Advisory Board, consisting of eight women from districts across the country, held a video conference with the WMF board. President, Lavonne West, opened our meeting using Psalm 23 encouraging us to find our rest, guidance and relationship with Jesus

first and then with each other.

As women from different districts shared, we saw that women's ministry looks different in each church. Many churches have a small core of women faithfully reading and sharing God's word while they serve and lead. Some churches meet monthly while some meet several times a year and some more frequently. Ministries shared include serving, cleaning, quilting along with activities to support world and local missions. Some churches have a ministry to street people, fund-raise for local medical needs, and provide after school programs.

Flexibility and change are key in this busy, Covid world! Churches may have a Women's Coordinator rather than traditional officers and may have one or more Bible studies at various times. We discussed that as mostly older generation ladies we need to meet younger women where they are. Building relationships may look like; "Party of Five" where 5 ladies meet for lunch 3 times a year and share devotions or having a small group cross generational Bible study of several older and several younger women. Many younger women will lead and be involved as they are able. We need to affirm their important role as Mothers in this season of their lives.

Our challenge in this busy world is to pass the baton to the next generation of women. We want to keep our eyes on Jesus and his word as we present the work of our AFLC. May we see it as the privilege it is and embrace it with joy.



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THE LORD'S UNFAILING LOVE

BY RHONDA KIEHL



In a loving home, a child thrives, is joyful and has no concerns. When we think back on our own childhood, we may remember it as the good old days when life was carefree. We may even wish to go back and relive it.

Fast forward to adulthood, life is complicated and even scary. In a world that is constantly changing with pandemics, killer storms, wars and rumors of wars, broken relationships we tend to stay focused on what is happening around us. We are told to seek our happiness in things, go on vacations that are "once in a lifetime", have parties, and the list goes on and on. Is that where joy can be found? Not lasting joy.

In Psalm 90 Moses relays the struggles of life that are the result of sin and pleads with the Lord:

"Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days." (vs. 14)

We look for ways to give us joy but the world is

not where it is found. We are like the character Peter in the movie "Hook" who lost his ability to fly when he became an adult. He was told he had to remember his "happy thought". Happy thoughts are good but verse 14 of Psalm 90 speaks of God's "unfailing love". Have we lost our first love like the city of Ephesus of Revelations 2:4? Have we looked in every place but God's unfailing love?

Our spiritual eyes can become blind to what is truly needful, a new focus on our Heavenly Father. As a child we look to our parents for what we need, God is asking us to do the same with Him. Is He not capable of being the parent we need?

So, as a child of the Heavenly Father, we must ask for God's unfailing love so we too may sing for joy and be glad. Jesus says we must be as little children and so we as little children can sing for joy if we have the Lord's unfailing love. We will be satisfied and glad all our days.

Heavenly Father, you offer me your unfailing love and I admit that I do not always seek it. In times of turmoil, I have looked to the things of this world to satisfy me. Please forgive me and make me satisfied with your unfailing love so that I may sing for joy and be glad all my days.



WMF Day 2022

June 15, 2022

**at the ARC,
in Osceola WI**

Theme: Sing for Joy

Psalm 90:14 NIV

Please be sure to register with the WMF for WMF Day and with the ARC for the meals for the day. Registration will be open soon.

Come join us for our yearly family gathering as we hear God's Word, pray, conduct some necessary business and fellowship together.

Our speakers for the day:

- 1) Mr Andrew Hanson, (also worship and praise)
- 2) Rachel Mattson
- 3) Jan Strand

Memorial service: Vicki Johnson

Those planning your WMF Day:



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

The Cradle Roll Packets



Packets are \$23 each which includes shipping and postage cost. They can be ordered through the WMF Executive Secretary.

2022 WMF Bible Study



Studies are still available for \$13 each.

For more information on this study or other studies still available check our Bible study web page.

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

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 2022.

Something to think about:



How can we be a blessing to the ladies in our congregations?

How can we be a blessing to the ladies in our community?

How can we encourage women to come to our Women's gatherings and be a part of the work that God has called us to?

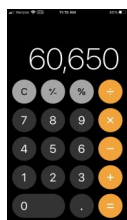
Do we need to change "what we have always done" in order to draw others in?

2021 Treasurers Report January 1, 2021— December 31, 2021

	2021 Budget	Actual Income	Actual Expense
World Missions	\$33,000.00	\$51,429.02	\$51,429.02
Christian Education	\$17,000.00	\$42,120.61	\$42,120.61
Home Missions	\$15,000.00	\$19,228.28	\$19,228.28
WMF General Fund	\$60,050.00	\$71,366.60	\$55,845.58
Totals	\$125,050.00	\$184,144.51	\$168,623.49

The budget for 2022

Our budget includes just the **WMF General Fund of \$60,650.**



The other projects are there but the funding that comes in for World Missions, Christian Ed and Home Missions all goes out to those projects, so there is really no need to set a budget for them. Please consider how you may as a group or individually support the projects of the WMF so that we as a WMF can continue to be a blessings to the AFLC projects.

Memorials

Victoria Haabak
Timothy Lane
Deb Benson
Jean Nash
Larry Pederson
Marion Raad
Evelyn Copes
Mary Nash
Greg Zander
Marlette Thompson
JoAnn Carlson
Pastor Paul Nash
VI Weyers
Verlys Homme
Doris Olson
Ella Straham
Alice Sathre
Dennis Groven
Gordon Twedt
Althea Miller



PASTOR ROBERT LEE WRITING A HISTORY OF THE AFLC

Who was that again? Where did that event take place? What happened? If you need help remembering names and

places and events in the AFLC, you might ask Pastor Robert Lee, who has a longstanding reputation of mentally cataloging such details and recalling them with ease. If you visited him in his office during the past few years, he may have shared recent discoveries with you while sifting through piles of boxes and files of archival documents and paraphernalia. You see, Pastor Lee is working on a book to be published by Ambassador Publications on the history of the AFLC—Volume VI in the AFLC Heritage Series. The working title of this volume is *From Freedom to Life: A History of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations*.

In the opening chapter, Lee provides background on what preceded the beginnings of the AFLC in 1962. He also makes personal connections to his home congregation in Escanaba, Michigan, and tells of

his experience as district Luther League president when he was asked to participate in a debate about the impending church merger and assigned to present the opposing side of the argument. In the continuing chapters, Lee unfolds the story of the AFLC through narrative, personal commentary, and related photographs, documents, and diagrams.

Pastor Lee has written drafts of ten chapters so far and is in the process of refining the earlier chapters. There is much yet to be accomplished on this project, but we hope to begin taking pre-orders for the book in the summer of 2022 with a publication goal of 2023. Please pray for us and join us in praying for wisdom and clarity for Pastor Lee, who has diligently devoted himself to this task. We know this book will be a great blessing to us and to generations to come!

Thank you to the WMF for generous ongoing support of AFLC Parish Education! The national WMF has made the AFLC History book project their funding focus for us in 2022. We hope many congregations and individuals will give generously towards the publication of this book that will help to preserve the history and heritage of the AFLC.

FREE LUTHERAN SEMINARY

The nursery and children's library could still use approximately \$500 for toys and supplies.



Seminary Nursery



Seminary Library



Here are some of the ways that your support is encouraging our seminarians. Pictured are the Seminary library and nursery.

A MESSAGE FROM FLBC DEAN ADAM OSIER

In Psalm 90, Moses calls us to number our days rightly, understanding the greatness of God and the brevity of life. It's a heavy reminder. But in verse 14, we see the comfort in our finitude, and that is the steadfast love of God. It is that, and that alone, that magnifies God's greatness to believers and gives them strength for their days.

We can confidently say God's steadfast love has been poured out upon us at the Free Lutheran Bible College. As of this writing, we've just finished up the fall semester. Despite all that the last two years have done to remind us that we are but dust, the assurance of God's faithful hand on our campus has been strong. We are blessed to serve 97 students with His Word and watch that Word change and mold them more and more into the image of Christ. His provision of these students assures us that He is still at work among this next generation. He's creating faith and forming disciples, and it is great to be part of that mission.

We are greatly appreciating our new Student Life Center. I can honestly tell you that it is being used in positive ways that I never imagined prior to its completion. It has made our campus feel "complete" as has been noted by many alumni who have visited. While it too will pass away, as our Psalm notes, it is a reminder of God's steadfast love.

Please be in prayer for our campus in this upcoming semester. You can join us in praising him in that while we've experienced illness on our campus, God has been faithful in preventing major outbreaks and severe illness among our students. Pray that his hand of protection continues to carry us through the year. Pray also for a continued stirring of souls to come and study God's Word with us. We already have many accepted for next fall. They testify to God's working in their live and a desire to be grounded in his Word. Pray that those influences opposed to that desire wouldn't derail them from committing to these two years of study. Pray that we would continue to remain faithful in proclaiming that Word and continue to strive for the excellence he empowers.

Thank you for your support and prayers! It is most certainly appreciated.

TRYGVE DAHLE HALL LOBBY

BY SHERRY MORK

The lobby of Trygve Dahle Hall has been the welcoming center and gathering area to many women for over 50 years. It is the first thing parents see when considering this to be a "home away from home" for their daughters. It serves as a gathering hub for community and fellowship for the women of the dorm and the men from Strand Hall. It is one of the only places on campus that students are able to cook meals and eat together on weekends. It is where all the women gather for weekly dorm devotions. We are also blessed to house the Board of Trustee members in the lower level of the dorm whenever meetings are held at the College.

While the lobby has been the welcome center for students, parents, and guests for many years, its "welcome" needs some refreshment. The renovation plan

includes wall repair, paint, flooring, cupboards, countertop, backsplash, and a conversation grouping (couch, coffee tables, accent chairs, area rug, and floor lamp). Renovation is inevitable and this transformation will be a wonderful improvement increasing esthetic value, comfort, community, and service opportunities.

Improvements	Estimate
Couch and coffee tables	\$ 5,000.00
Flooring	\$ 5,000.00
Accent chairs	\$ 1,000.00
Area Rug	\$ 400.00
Floor lamp	\$ 100.00
Paint for walls	\$ 700.00
Repair for walls	\$ 700.00
Backsplash	\$ 200.00
New cupboards & countertop	\$ 2,000.00
	\$ 15,100.00

GOD'S WORKERS IN HAWAII

BY LISA ARNESON



"You're so lucky your kids live in Hawaii!" "Well, at least you have a great destination to visit!" But in the back of my mind, I'm thinking, "But they live 4,004 miles away from us!"

Like any mom, I'd love to have all of our chicks close to the nest, living in the same town as us. Seeing each other at church on Sunday. Having them over for meals on a regular basis. Being able to

help them more hands on with repairs and parenting.

But alas, that is not the way it is. Our son Brady Arneson is the pastor of the Waikiki Beach Gathering in Honolulu, Hawaii. Our son Kyle and his wife Marli also live there, and they have played key roles in the leadership and development of this innovative church on the beach.

I remember when Brady left for Hawaii in the fall of 2016, all by himself, feeling a strong call from God to start this church. I was conflicted. Part of me wanted to say "Just stay here. We can serve God all together, here, just like we did during your growing up years."

But I knew that's where God wanted him. And there was no way I was going to be 'that mom.' I don't want my kids saying "I'm pretty sure God wants me to go there, but my mom....."

So yes, they live far away. They don't live in the same town as us, but our family is doing

(Continued on page 8)

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS

BY BECKY ABEL



My first short-term mission experience is unforgettable! In 1978 I was 22 years old and ready to embark on my first adventure outside of the USA. God had already placed on my heart the certainty that He wanted me to serve Him in global missions. With a heart full of expectations, I boarded the plane for Brazil and entered a new world that would one day become my home and mission field for life. I wanted to learn everything I could in those six weeks overseas. Although my limited knowledge of Portuguese left me curious about many things happening around me, I felt very welcomed and en-

joyed all the experiences with missionaries and nationals. Immersed in a new culture and surrounded by people speaking a different language, I needed to depend on the Lord for daily guidance and grace.

Turn the clock forward forty plus years. That first short-term missionary experience resulted in a lifetime of missionary service. During these years we have received many short-term mission groups. Our motto for these volunteers has been "Work Hard, Pray Hard, Play Hard." We encourage participants to give of themselves whole-heartedly, to trust God amid new (and sometimes scary) experiences, and to make sure they have a great time!

Short-term mission trips can serve as a great tool for overseas ministry, benefitting both the ones

SHORT-TERM MISSIONARY ASSISTANTS CONT.

going as well as the ones receiving. Journey Missions teams introduce participants to global missions and the life of a missionary. They build relationships with people in another culture while learning the joys of serving. They connect stateside congregations to mission opportunities abroad.

Although concrete results are often hard to measure, those of us on the receiving end have sensed that the encouragement and impetus of short-term groups have been beneficial. Our family has been richly blessed by volunteers who came to help with homeschooling when our kids were young. Other groups and individuals have helped us with construction projects. One time we had the privilege of receiving the girls' choir from Arlington, WA. They came prepared to minister through song and testimony. Many of the young people who came on short-term experiences had a big impact on our children, serving as role models and helping them want to live their lives in service for the Lord.

Perhaps the greatest long-term benefits of the Journey Missions program are seen in the transformation of those who offer their time and talents to serve for a short time on the field. In stretching beyond comfort zones as they humbly trust God and serve in practical ways, "short-termers" grow and are challenged in new ways of faith and service.

We welcome young and old alike to visit the mission field in order to get a personal experience with the global church. We hope that those who have participated in short-term mission experiences will continue to fulfill the Great Commission as they pray for missions, financially support missions, promote missions, and consider God's call to be a missionary.



RUNNING FOR JOY

BY TODD AND BARB SCHIERKOLK, JEREZ, ZACATECAS, MEXICO

Personal disclosure: My wife can run faster than me. I take comfort in that fact by reminding myself of two key points. First, my best race during my running days was the 800 meters, i.e., a short distance. And just to clarify, I can still run 800 meters faster than her, which leads to the second important point. I can run faster than my wife all the way up to sixteen miles. After sixteen miles, she has cleaned my clock three out of four times. No, I didn't let her win. Only one time was I able to cross the finish line in a marathon with her. The first time we ran that far in a race, she was literally running in circles around me to make sure I was OK. I still had miles (plural!) to go in the other two races when she had already finished.

Why do I do this to myself? I do this because it brings me joy. But my joy isn't in what I experience because it always ends painfully for me. My joy comes in seeing my dear wife run and seeing her smile at the finish line.

Trying to find joy in life can be difficult sometimes. We pass through weeks and months, even years of what may be constant difficulties leaving us feeling like we're running in shoes made of cement. But Jesus is an anchor for joy no matter how our lives are going. What we have in Him doesn't change because He doesn't change, and His promises don't change.

The prophet Habakkuk asserted that point emphatically when he said, "Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation." (Hab. 3:17) Nothing may be going right for you, you may see no fruit from your labor, and life may feel like you're doing what marathoners call "the death shuffle." But you belong to Jesus, and your salvation is secure in Him, and at the end of your race, you will see your Savior's smile, so "I will rejoice in the Lord."



A WORD FROM OUR
PRESIDENT:



Pause with me to reflect on God's blessings in your life. Count your blessings, name them one by one. Let's try for 2,022. We can show each other our lists at WMF day June 15th at the ARC.

I am thankful for each writer in this publication. Your WMF family is praising the Lord with you in the work that is ongoing. We will continue to pray for and support the projects for the year. We are all giving to the same ones each month.



Women's Retreat at the ARC
April 22-24, 2022

Watch the ARC website for further details.

Hawaii (continued)

the best we can to share God's love to others from Amery to Fargo to Honolulu. And Alan and I feel like we are part of the team of the Waikiki Beach Gathering. There have been many consultation texts and phone calls between Pastor Brady and Pastor Dad. We have visited enough times that we know some of the people in the church. I have a pretty intense prayer life for our children and their church family.

And I cry. I cry every time we say good bye! And you know what? It's OK. That just means I love my kids. And every good bye is a time of surrender. A time of laying my kids at the feet of Jesus, in His care. And really, that's where they already are anyways.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE