

INTRODUCTION of the WOMAN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION

Of the ASSOCIATION of FREE LUTHERAN CONGREGATIONS

(WMF of AFLC)

In 1962 the women of the AFLC banded together to help further the work of the church. The society they formed became the Women's Missionary Federation, working at home and abroad to further love in the Kingdom of God, to unite the women of the AFLC in missions and Christian education, and to organize missionary activities in the local congregations.

This resource manual has been designed to aid local WMF groups to work for these greater goals. The WMF gives financial support to the following AFLC Departments (**WMF Projects**):

Christian Education

World Missions

Home Missions

WMF General Fund

This resource manual contains ideas to encourage each individual member of the WMF to get personally involved in each mission.

Also included in this resource manual is important information regarding the responsibilities of the District and National WMF officers, as well as ideas for special programs and services a local WMF may wish to hold throughout the year.

It is our hope that the contents of this resource manual will be helpful to your WMF group for drawing hearts to Christ, building up of congregations, , and encouraging one another in our Christian walk as we work together in the Kingdom of God.

OUR NAME

The National and District organization of the women of the AFLC is called the Women's Missionary Federation of Association Free Lutheran Congregations (WMF of AFLC), however congregational women are free to use that name or a specialized name for their local women's group.

WMF of AFLC Incorporated

The WMF was incorporated in 2009 and we are under the umbrella of the Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee asked that we incorporate because of liability issues - insurance coverage for any unforeseen accidents that could happen during a large gathering. (Stages breaking, someone falling and injuring themselves, etc.) It protects us if a lawsuit occurred for something like this that could hurt our WMF or the AFLC for that matter. Since we are not our own corporation like the Missions Corporation or the Schools Corporation, we are under the Coordinating Committee.

OUR COMMISSION

The Lord Jesus Christ, our Shepherd and Teacher, used various persons to be His witnesses. Women were also called to serve, as indicated in Mark 15:40, 41. We dedicate ourselves to the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ when He said, *“Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15).*

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the WMF is “To awaken and deepen interest in and love for the Kingdom of God at home and abroad, thus sharing in the great missionary enterprise of the Christian Church through:

- a) monthly WMF Bible studies.
- b) The distribution of literature and information concerning the missions of the Women’s Missionary Federation.
- c) Personal involvement and financial contributions to the ministries of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations through its regularly established boards.

To unite all the women of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations into the deeper fellowship of consecrated service for the missions, the charities and the Christian Education program of our Association.

To organize missionary activities and children’s missionary groups wherever possible.”

WE LIVE IN HIM – We are the branches

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5).

You are a “branch” which bears fruit as you participate in God’s work.

WE WORK IN HIM – We are servants

“Remember the word that I said to you. A slave is not greater than his master. If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My saying, they will keep yours also” (John 15:20).

You are a “servant” as you help fulfill God’s will in Christian service.

WE SPEAK IN HIM – We are witnesses

“And you will bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning” (John 15:27).

You are a “witness” for Him through your support of the ministries of WMF.



MEANING OF EMBLEM/LOGO

The Women's Missionary Federation (WMF) emblem pictured here is a representation of the goals of the women of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations (AFLC). The entire logo is in the shape of a heart signifying our heart for missions and each other. The letters W, M, and F are joined together signify the uniting of AFLC women to claim the world for Christ.

The design includes the AFLC emblem: the ascending dove and the vine. The ascending dove represents the Holy Spirit, symbolic of the freedom of the congregation, and the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. The vine is symbolic of the living congregation bearing fruit for God. (*Printable logo pages are available in section VI. Other Resources.*)

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE WMF PIN

The WMF pin is not just a piece of jewelry. The pin has special significance; it should be worn as a way of witness.

There are four points on the pin representing the cross. The top points upward to God, "Turn to me, and be saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:22).

The two side points reach out to all men everywhere, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

The bottom point represents the foot of the cross. Each one of us must come to the foot of the cross for forgiveness and salvation. "For Thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in lovingkindness to all who call upon Thee" (Psalm 86:5).

The blue in the pin represents the love of God for all men everywhere and surrounds the globe which symbolizes the whole world, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

The gold of the pin represents the riches and wealth that is ours as children of God, "I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire, that you may become rich, and white garments, that you may clothe yourself, and that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and eyesalve to anoint your eyes, that you may see" (Revelation 3:18).

As we wear this pin, may we deny self and be a true witness for our loving Lord and Savior.

Pins are available through the WMF National Treasurer. These may be presented to honor a WMF member or they may be purchased by individuals for their own use. Money received from the sale of pins supports ALFC World Missions.



WMF Publications and other Communications



1. The **WMF Resource Manual** is a compilation of WMF information and placed in this binder. This takes the place of the WMF Handbook of previous years. Please look through this manual to see all the pertinent information for the women in your congregation.
2. A complete listing of **WMF Bible Studies** are available through the WMF Executive Secretary. You will find the list in section V. Ministry Resources of this manual or online at our WMF site under resources/Bible studies.
3. The WMF newsletter is called the **Helping Hand**. One copy of the newsletter is mailed to the WMF President or church address as well as to the Pastor's wife. The newsletter is also posted on the website after it is mailed out. We ask that this newsletter be read and/or copied and distributed among local congregational women.
4. The **Fall Resource Packet** is posted on the website to be downloaded or mailed out with the yearly updated pages that are to be added or replaced in your WMF Resource Manual.
5. The **Lutheran Ambassador** is the official publication of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregations. The WMF has a one page article in this monthly publication.
6. The **WMF web site** www.aflc.org/women features a word from our WMF President, a monthly devotional, Bible study listings, yearly WMF projects and other information that may be helpful to you.
7. The **WMF blog** is located at: <http://www.aflc.org/women/blog/>. We post on the blog some of the longer articles or information that we share that may be too large to share on the Facebook page.
8. WMF **Facebook** page at: <https://www.facebook.com/WomensMissionaryFederation>.



