

# In Memoriam / Honorary Membership

## Program

By Kathy Klenner



### Theme: Prayer

**WELCOME:** Welcome honored guests and visitors. Our theme for today is prayer.

What a privilege it is to pray.

*“For this reason I too, having heard of the faith in the Lord Jesus which exists among you, and your love for all the saints, do not cease giving thanks for you, while making mention of you in my prayers.” Ephesians 1:15-16*

These verses talk about faithfulness and prayer. May the following skit encourage us to be prayer warriors for the furtherance of God’s Kingdom.

### SKIT

#### Characters:

**Job Interviewer** – Donna

**Ladies seeking the job** – Angie, Jennifer, Kay

Begin with Angie standing in an area of the room separate from the main scene.

**ANGIE:**(Holding up the newspapers want ads, deep in thought.) Says aloud as she reads: “Wanted: Prayer Warriors – now that is something I could do.” (She exits.)

Main Scene – a simple table or desk with the interviewer on one side and those being interviewed facing her.

**DONNA:** Good morning Jennifer, come in and have a seat.

**JENNIFER:** (Very enthusiastic) Hi, I saw your ad in the paper for someone to pray. I am so excited—I say the Lord’s Prayer every night and like wow it would be so easy. I can’t believe it!!! So how do I get started.

**DONNA:** Well Jennifer you are certainly enthusiastic but this job does require more than just someone reciting the Lord’s Prayer.

**JENNIFER:** (in disbelief) It does?

**DONNA:** We are looking for someone who desires to pray for others by name.

**JENNIFER:** I heard the pastor talk about that in his sermon – I guess I better listen more carefully.

**DONNA:** Thanks for stopping by Jennifer.

**JENNIFER:** Thank you. Bye (Jennifer exits and Kay enters)

**DONNA:** Good morning Kay, come in and have a seat.

**KAY:** Thanks, Good morning.

**DONNA:** You are here in response to our want ad looking for people to lift up others in prayer?

**KAY:** Yes I am. I really enjoy being part of the church prayer chain. It's great to get all that "good information" right away before others hear about it. Most of the ladies downtown at coffee are amazed at how much I find out before them.

**DONNA:** Kay remember the prayer chain is meant to get the requests out quickly so we can pray specifically for that individual.

**KAY:** (flustered) Oh yes that's right!

**DONNA:** Thanks for stopping by Kay.

**KAY:** Sure – thank you..

(Kay exits and Angie enters)

**DONNA:** Good morning Angie, come in and have a seat.

**ANGIE:** Thank you Donna. I was so convicted after I heard the message at Ruth's funeral. She was a true prayer warrior who diligently sought the Lord. Imagine her tattered Bible and her prayer notebook full of all those names of people she prayed for in our congregation. We certainly do need people to step up and pray like she so faithfully did.

**DONNA:** You're hired.

You may now have a special speaker on prayer and honoring those who have so faithfully served as prayer warriors and in so many other areas of service within the congregation.

**OR**

If this is an informal gathering you may ask a few WMF women to share how a certain person (one who is receiving the honorary membership pin) has made a spiritual impact on her life. You should include each lady so none are left out – even just as simple as someone sharing her favorite Bible verse on her behalf.

**OR**

Close with the following devotional that you can use to either honor women or as a memorial service.

They labor well who intercede  
For others with a pressing need;  
It's on their knees they often work  
And from its rigor will not shrink" D. DeHaan

Read Romans 12:10-13

### **Honorarium**

We honor you (insert the names) for so faithfully serving within our congregation and praying for others. It is with great gratitude that we say thank you and present you with the WMF pin. (At this time you may read the significance of the WMF Pin as printed in the Resource Manual, page \_\_\_\_\_.) (WMF pins can be ordered from the National WMF treasurer.)

### **In Memoriam**

Each day, many older saints, who have continued steadfastly in prayer, leave this earth through death and move on to heaven. This creates a “job opening” for people who will commit themselves to praying faithfully. Many of these positions remain unfilled. Will you fill one of them?

### **Close in Prayer**

**Decorations:** A bulletin board could be lined with want ad newsprint and a prayer theme placed on top. The tables could have fresh flowers or potted plants placed on a “doily” cut from newsprint. Small “place cards” could be placed by each person with a praying hands sticker and Bible verse on prayer printed on each. A “scrap booker” from your church could start an album of this honorarium/memoriam service and add to it in the years to come.

## ***Honorary Membership***

*To honor a WMF member for faithful service*

Members who have served and continue to serve in WMF may be honored each year. Have ready a WMF pin and honorary certificate, which may be ordered from the National WMF Treasurer. A special table with candles, a corsage or flower are options that enhance the occasion.

“In our local WMF we appreciate the different gifts given to our WMF women. Today we will honor (list names) for their faithful service.

I always thank God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus. I Corinthians 1:4”

Hymn

Read several appropriate Scripture passages. Some suggestions include:

Ruth 2:12; Psalm 92:12-15; Philippians 1:3-6

“God has given us all different gifts so that together we might serve the Lord and accomplish the task of leading souls to Christ. As children of God we each have a special part in the building of the Kingdom. Jesus said, ‘You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.’ John 15:16

Today we want to thank the Lord for your faithful service, (read names), in ministry to the women of the church. We thank you for your support through the years. You have been an example to us in carrying out the ministry of the WMF to our local church and also in supporting the ministries of the AFLC.

In recognition of your service, we would like to present this certificate and pin making you an honorary member in the National WMF. (Present pin, reading the description and verses printed on the card.) Congratulations and may God bless you.

WMF members have a part in fulfilling the great commission given to believers by the Lord. “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations...(Matthew 28:19a).’ May God continue to use you here to do great things in the work of the WMF.”

Prayer

Hymn

“Different ways of serving are given to each of us that we may work the works of Him who sent us. May each of us be faithful in our tasks.”

NOTE: Honorary Membership certificates and pins are available from the National WMF Treasurer. Pins may also be purchased for individual use. Unless designated otherwise, proceeds from the sale of certificates and pins will help support World Missionaries and National Workers.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE 1989

**PRAYER:** Lord Jesus, how we thank you for the opportunity of gathering together in your precious Name to honor You, to fellowship together as sisters in Christ, and to pay our respects to our departed sisters. We thank You for what You did in their lives and because of that they served others. We thank You for allowing them to be a blessing to others. Now we ask that You would instill in each of us a desire to do what You have planned for each of us. Be with us now as we continue our Memorial Service. In Your Name we pray, Amen.

**HYMN:** “In Heaven Is Joy and Gladness” (Concordia Hymnal #344)  
(Why should we mourn when Jesus has promised us joy and gladness in heaven? Let us sing this song joyfully.)

**LEADER:** As we remember our loved ones let us pay tribute to those who have gone on before us as we hear God’s Word...

**READER 1:** Psalm 18:1-3; Psalm 19:7-10

**LEADER:** As we think of the passing of our sisters in Christ let us rejoice in the truth that the Lord is perfect; He is sure, the precepts of the Lord are right; the Lord is pure, He is clean. His ordinances are true. More to be desired are they than gold. Why do we strive for so many earthly things when we know there is something so much better?

**READER 2:** Psalm 25:10; Psalm 27:1; Psalm 28:6-8

**LEADER:** We should have no fear about stepping over Heaven’s thresh-hold.

**HYMN:** “O Happy Day When We Shall Stand” (Concordia #62)

**LEADER:** God’s promise is that one day we shall join those who have gone on before and be in that heavenly throng.

**READER 3:** 2 Corinthians 1:3-5

**LEADER:** We are so thankful we have a merciful God who will and can comfort us in sorrow, in sickness, or whatever the circumstance might be.

**READER 4:** 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17; Romans 15:13

**LEADER:** Thank you Lord, for the joy and peace in believing. Through You we do have the hope of Eternal Salvation.

**READER 5:** John 14:1-3

**LEADER:** Isn’t it going to be nice not to have to worry about preparing our own rooms? We won’t need to wonder what color goes with what. Jesus has it all picked out. Thank you, Jesus.

**READER 6:** Isaiah 49:13; James 1:12; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**LEADER:** It isn't always easy to give thanks in all circumstances but calling upon the Lord can make it possible.

**READER 7:** Philippians 4:4-7

**LEADER:** Our command is to rejoice always so that means even in the going home of a loved one. Jesus doesn't mean we are not to be sad when a loved one goes. He wept when Lazarus died. He gave us tears to vent our sorrow but then after our tears are dried our time of rejoicing begins.

**READER 8:** Isaiah 49:13

**LEADER:** It says to sing for joy for the Lord has comforted His people. Let's do that. Let us think about the words as we sing them.

**HYMN:** "Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior" (Concordia #13)

**LEADER:** Thank you, ladies, for your willingness to take part in this service. I hope you have received a special blessing for doing so.

I would like to close our Memorial Service by reading the words of the Hymn..."Blest Be The Tie That Binds"

Blest be the tie that binds, Our hearts in Christian love  
The fellowship of kindred minds, Is like to that above.

Before our Father's throne, We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.

We share our mutual woes, our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows – the sympathizing tear.

When we asunder part, It gives us inward pain.  
But we shall still be joined in heart, and hope to meet again.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER:** All

Mrs. Bud Haugen  
Snohomish, Washington

# Memorials

## A program for remembering former WMF members

It is suggested that at one meeting each year time be set aside for remembering WMF members who died during the previous year. A special table with candle and/or decorations may be used.

Read one or more appropriate Scriptures. The following are suggestions:

I John 2:25; I Peter 1:3, 4; I Corinthians 2:9; Revelation 21:4; Hebrews 4:9

Hymn: (Suggestion) "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"

"It is our privilege to honor the memory of WMF members who have gone from this life to be with the Lord during this past year. Their faithful service is remembered, as are their testimonies in word, song, leadership and in the church.

(Light candles) Today we remember with gratitude to the Lord (read names). Let us thank the Lord for them as we pray silently." The leader closes with prayer and/or with the Lord's Prayer.

Hymn: (Suggestion) "Christ is the Cornerstone"

"As we remember these dear ones, let us also resolve to carry on faithfully the work they left behind. Galatians 2:20 says, 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.' We have been instructed to '...stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain (I Corinthians 15:58).'

Christ has no hands other than ours, no feet but those of His people. We remember today those who were examples to us. May Christ be seen, too, in us. We want to be examples, also, of Jesus' love, joy and peace. Considering prayerfully, 'Jesus, what would You have me to do?' will help us make choices that honor Him. May God bless us, each one, as we go out to serve Him. Amen."

NOTE: Faithful women and loved ones may be remembered with special gifts that should be mailed to the National WMF Treasurer. These gifts are used to help support pastors and national workers who are proclaiming the Gospel on our mission fields unless otherwise designated.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

OPENING SCRIPTURE: “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”  
Psalm 116:15

PRAYER

REMARKS:

The flowers before you are in memory of faithful Christian women who have left this earthly life and have gone home to be with the Lord.

As we gather together today, it is fitting that we pause to praise and thank God for each Christian woman who has put her trust in God and who willingly served Him as a faithful servant. We do mourn for them. We are also grateful to God for their various ways of service, whether it has been, according to Romans 12:6-8, in teaching, encouraging, serving, prophesying, giving, leading, or showing mercy. As we remember them and their gifts we can be reminded of the brevity of life and our need to be fully surrendered to the Lord. Scripture records women who faithfully served the Lord. May we also be diligent in our walk with Jesus and allow Him to rule our thoughts and actions so that we may truly glorify Him.

As each (District) name is read, I will ask that you reflect on the memory of departed loved ones that you individually have known, and silently thank and praise God for their lives here on earth.

“And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign forever and ever.” Revelation 22:5

CLOSING PRAYER:

HYMN SUGGESTION: “Children of the Heavenly Father”

Mrs. Burton Boyum  
Kenyon, Minnesota



## IN MEMORIAM SERVICE 1992

“For this God is our God forever and ever: He will be our guide even unto death” (Psalm 48:14)

Dear friends in Christ, as we gather this day to praise and thank the Lord for those dear ladies who so faithfully served Him in our WMF and this past year have gone home to be with Him in Heaven, let us bow our hearts to Him in prayer.

**PRAYER:** Father, how grateful we are for the dear ones from our midst who are now at rest from their labors of love in our WMF and are now among family and friends in Heaven. We thank you for their Christian witness, for their courage as they faced the last trial of this earthly life, knowing you were waiting to take their outstretched hands and lead them into a blissful eternity. They have been an inspiring example to us of your power and grace within, to carry us through the dark shadows. Blessed be their memory. We thank you and praise you, Dear God, for your amazing grace. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

**SONG:** “What a Joy to Reach the Harbor” Concordia #330.

There are flowers placed here in memory of those who served so faithfully in our WMF. In their dedication and untiring service they were a beautiful example for us to follow wherever God calls us.

Will the representatives please come forward and place a flower in the vase in memory of the dear ladies from your local/district WMF who are now at home with the Lord. (The name(s) of the deceased may be given as the flower is placed in the vase.) Please remain standing until they are all recognized. Thank you.

If I have omitted anyone, please come forward at this time, also.

As we close our service, let us remember the words of Jesus:

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself that Werner I am, there you may be also” (John 14:1-3).

Praise His Name.

Ladies, please be seated. Thank you.

**SONG:** “Face to Face” (solo) or Children of the Heavenly Father” (solo or congregation)

Let us all stand and close by repeating the Twenty-Third Psalm.

Faye James  
Medicine Lake Lutheran  
Minneapolis, Minnesota