



WMF Helping Hand

NEWSLETTER



Newly Elected WMF Officers

The newly elected officers were asked this question when they were considered for their positions: What can you contribute to WMF Board & the WMF as a whole church body with talents God has given you for this **position**.



Karen Pederson, WMF President

This question is hard to answer and has made me think about what God has gifted me with such as leadership skills that I've been able to use locally but that's scary to say on the national level. Because I have history with WMF from childhood having seen lots of previous WMF days and officers, and being involved in our local WMF for many years helps to see the needs & areas of ministry throughout our AFLC for our WMF projects. I'm a type of dreamer or visionary and will pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire ideas for His work & kingdom that we can implement.

Linda Fugleberg, Communication Secretary



I love people and love communicating with them. God has put that in me. I trust that with the experiences of serving the Lord in Michigan, Washington state, and North Dakota churches and in their communities, that He has equipped and continues to equip me to meet many types of people where they are at and can serve Him whenever and wherever the Lord leads. I have been a part of local AFLC WMFS for 40+ years and love studying the Word together at our meetings and supporting missions. I have had the opportunity to visit and help where I could at our AFLC mission fields in India and Brazil and have a heart for our missionaries and the mission fields around the world. I love all kinds of mission work both at home and abroad and I rejoice that missions is our WMF heartbeat.

Be sure to read more about our new officers in the WMF email newsletter and the Lutheran Ambassador .

President
Karen Pederson
 253 5th St NW
 PO Box 381
 Tioga ND 58852
 701-648-9892
wmfpres@gmail.com

1st Vice President
Anne Presteng
 6838 147th Ave NE
 Grafton ND 58237
annepresteng@gmail.com
 701-520-3138

Executive Secretary
Dawn Johnson
 2991 30th Ave
 Wilson WI 54027
aflcwmf@gmail.com
 715-505-4454
 (until December 2024)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Devotions	2
WMF Day	3
Mission Festival	4
Christian Ed.....	4
Home Missions	6
World Missions.....	7
Important information.....	8



FORGIVENESS

By Donna Fontaine

"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Ephesians 4:32 (NIV)

Sometimes we seasoned Christians gloss over verses like this one. We've heard it so many times! The words *kind*, *compassionate*, and *forgiveness* are mentioned in our daily devotionals, in the sermons we hear, and in verses we've memorized. But let's slow down a little and meditate on the word *forgiveness* for a few minutes.

Merriam-Webster tells us that the word *forgive* means to stop feeling angry or resentful to someone for an offense, flaw, or mistake; to cancel (a debt). A basic tenet of our faith is that we are forgiven of our sin because of Jesus' work on the cross. By believing and trusting in Jesus, we are no longer separated from God Almighty! Praise God that we are forgiven!

After reading a verse or hearing a sermon, we often walk away wondering how to apply it to our life. When we apply forgiveness, we often picture something big: a co-worker, neighbor, or family member does or says something that hurts us. At some point the offender approaches us with remorse, asks our forgiveness, and we graciously grant it, never to stir it up again. We sometimes think of forgiveness as an 'event'.

But as we study Colossians 3:13, "...Forgive as the Lord forgave you.", we see there is more to the picture. Has the Lord Jesus only forgiven us for sins we've specifically confessed? Does He only forgive what we think of as 'big' sins? Or does he forgive us completely, for sins both large and small, and for simply being a person tainted by sin?

Maybe a more realistic picture of forgiveness be this: a coworker makes a hurtful comment under their breath, a neighbor is unkind, a family member excludes us from an event and whether they are aware of the hurt they've caused or not, we graciously forgive them, no matter if the sin was big or small, even if they don't ask for forgiveness, even if we're offended, and then graciously carry on treating them with kindness and love? Instead of an event, a Christ-follower sees forgiveness as an attitude, a lifestyle, only to be

lived out by the power of the Holy Spirit. Do you see the difference?

Does this not mirror our relationship with God through His Son, Jesus Christ? We continually receive forgiveness for thoughts, words, and deeds that are offensive to God's holiness so therefore we should likewise continually be forgiving others.

Sisters in Christ, will you take several minutes to meditate on forgiveness, both the forgiveness we've received and that which we extend to others? Let us pray with new and firm conviction "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." (Matthew 6:11)



Bible Study—SEARCHING SCRIPTURE

Are you a part of the F.B.I not the FBI you are thinking of but are you a FEMALE BIBLE INVESTIGATOR?

God's word tells us in Hebrews 10:24-25: "And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near."

Gather with other women to study the Bible-to stir each other on through the study of the Word of God together.

(See the full article in the WMF Resource Manual section V.)



WMF Day 2024

A quick look at our annual gathering at FLBCS in June.



Our devotions Exuberant Joy from the book of Philip-pians were given by Angie Lombardo our Bible study writer for this year.



Pastor Jerry Moan led our 1st Workshop Rejoicing happens as we focus on Jesus, a historical background on the book of Philipians.



Missionary Emily Raan led our 2nd Workshop from Psalm 5.



Workshop 3 was presented by Shiney Dasari Ramnarain shared about the ongoing work of the AFLC of India with some pictures and explained the programs AFLCI is involved in.

Two special musical selections were presented by Angela Hanson on the violin from Reflections on the Psalms, music from the Deus Ex Musica Psalms Project for solo violin. Angela featured Psalm 23 Beside the Still Waters by Joellen Wallach and Psalm 133 by Delvyn Case. The theme of the piece was "Joy in unity in the body of Christ".



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 .

Memorials
Irene Peck
Edith Johnson



Mia Presteng led the Memorial Service sharing on eternity, and a song "Amen" her brother Jeremy had written about heaven shortly before his passing.

2024 Treasurers Report		
1/1/2024—8/31/2024	Income	Expense
World Missions	\$29,321.63	\$29,321.63
Home Missions	\$11,857.23	\$11,857.23
Christian Education:		
Parish Ed	\$ 5,977.81	\$ 5,977.81
FLBC	\$ 5,128.52	\$ 5,128.52
FLS	\$ 6,380.52	\$ 5,914.67
WMF General Fund	\$37,039.97	\$36,417.62
Non Project	\$ 173.00	\$ 173.00
	\$95,878.68	\$94,790.48
Over all total	\$1,088.20	

Mission Festival Service 2024

World Missions
Director
Rev. Dr. Earl
Korhonen led our
service.



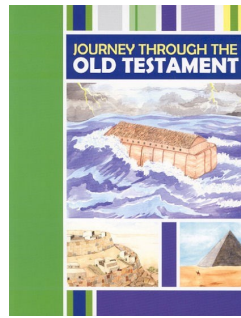
Home Missions
Director
Rev. Andy Coyle
gave an update



Alaska Missions
Representative
Rev Jeff
Swanson was
our speaker for
the evening.



The 2024 Ambassador Team blessed us with
special music



Parish Education

by Diane Brubakken

Our *Journey Through the Old Testament* level 5 curriculum, which delves into the background, culture, and geography of the Old Testament, while showing the unfolding of God's redemption story has been quite popular in both youth and adult Sunday school since it was first published. Going into this fall, we knew we were getting low on our student books for this curriculum. But based on sales from past years, we thought we'd have plenty to make it through this Sunday school year and focus on getting it reprinted later in the year. And then the orders started coming in.

All of a sudden we were getting continual orders, some for large quantities, some for small, but orders none-the-less for the *Journey Through the Old Testament* books. The next thing we knew we had sold out of all the books we thought would see us through this year! It's a fantastic predicament to be in really, to know there is such a desire to make use of this curriculum that we've now run out of. It's a huge blessing and encouragement to all of us in Parish Education.

It also makes clear our need to move a little quicker on reprinting these books. Thanks to the WMF for gathering funds for this reprinting project in 2024. A gift of \$15 helps sponsor the printing of one student book. The WMF has been so faithful over the years in helping to support the materials we produce; we really could not do it without you. Both your prayers and financial support allow us to keep moving forward when faced with the unexpected.

Be a part of the WMF, Women's Ministry, Women's Bible study. Whatever your ladies gather for-be a part of it. If you want to get to know something about your womens organization-the best way is to get involved-be a part.

WMF Projects:

- 1) Christian Education
Parish Ed, FLBC and FLS
- 2) Home Missions
- 3) World Missions
- 4) WMF General Fund



Seminary Update

by Rev. Dr. James Molstre

Fall is almost here which means the start of a new school year.

We are excited to bring back 14 returning students, three new students, and two interns. Our two interns, Mikey Meester and Troy Hanson are doing well in Stanley and Williston North Dakota. They are learning Pastoral ministry from Pastor Erin Tormanen and Jon Wellumson. Our three new students are currently in class studying Greek every morning for two weeks. They are taking a refresher course to be sure they are ready for fall classes. Teaching them is our new faculty member Dr. Jarrod Hylden. Dr. Hylden has a passion for Biblical languages and loves to impart his gift to the students. Our new Students are Matthew Baerbock his wife Sara and ten children from the Living Word congregation in Eagan Minnesota, Benjamin Nordvik his wife Nicole and three children from Grace Free Lutheran in Bagley Minnesota and Luke Dryburgh and his wife Reise most recently from Fertile/Beltrami Minnesota.

Large families seem to be the trend in our seminary recently. Not counting the interns we have a total of 78 family members in our Junior, Middler, and Senior classes. Of those 78, 41 are children with six newborns in the past year.

Dr. Hylden mentioned above is married with five children. He and his wife Elise moved into the Jerry Moan house in Corcoran after the Moans accepted the call to serve the McIntosh congregations. Dr. Jason Gudim also accepted a call to serve as full-time faculty. He and his wife Esther have five children with the first attending Bible College this fall.

While so much changes every new school year, much remains the same. Our students will be taught the Word of God and how to minister in the congregation. They will learn the importance of caring for the souls of each member. And by God's grace they will have a Pastor's heart.



FLBC

by Julia Presteng

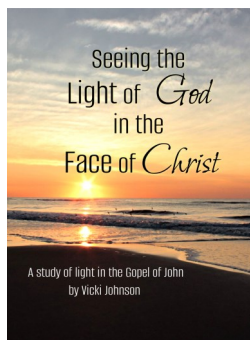
I just started my second year at the Free Lutheran Bible College. Move-in was easy this year. I joyfully hugged my friends and reconnected with all the amazing people I met the previous year. I also noticed the first year students moving in and couldn't help but think about myself in their position last year. Move-in my first year at FLBC was much different than this year. I had a nervous anticipation for the coming year, and I was both excited to meet people and anxious about building new relationships. Early in the year, I realized that God had brought me to the Bible College for much more than the lifelong friendships I would make.

God worked so much in my life during my first year of Bible College. After church on my first weekend at FLBC, I broke down in tears from the conviction I had been feeling. The Word of God that I had been hearing all week in class and at church brought into light the sins that I wasn't even aware I was unrepentant of. Throughout the rest of the year, I was in the Word constantly in my classes and it changed my life. I realized my need for Jesus in my life every day. I recognized my sin and begged for forgiveness. I rejoiced in the victory and hope that all believers have received as a gift from God.

While I believe very strongly that God can work in the heart of anyone no matter where he has placed them, I can think of no better place to grow in faith than FLBC. Every day I hear the word of God in my classes, and after classes I am surrounded by a tight-knit community of believers. FLBC means so much to me because God brought me here to bring me back to him.

"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart: yet not one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end" Ecclesiastes 3:11

The 2025 WMF Bible study :



Seeing the Light of God in the Face of Christ

A Study of Light in the Gospel of John

By Vicki Johnson

As we study together we'll see that God is good, and His Light reveals the sin hiding in all of us. He alone offers us the blessed remedy His light brings for the redemption from sin.

Every lesson in this Bible study begins with a **Light Cue** verse. These are statements by or about Jesus, recorded throughout the gospel of John, which pertain to the Light of God.

God seeks to penetrate our lives with His true, pure Light through His Son, Jesus Christ. The stories and teachings of Jesus serve to illuminate scriptural Truth from which we learn and live.

Lesson Titles are:

- 1-The Light of Life: Nicodemus and Being Born Again.
- 2-The Light that Dispels Darkness: the Woman at the Well Discovers the Truth.
- 3-The Light that Reflects: John the Baptist and Exalting God's Good Light.
- 4-The Light that Enlightens: The Nobleman Sees and Believes.
- 5-The Light of Righteousness: Born Blind vs. Willfully Blind.
- 6-The Light of Truth and the Response of the Evildoer: Pride of the Pharisees.
- 7-The Light of Truth and the Response of the Truth-doer: Humility of the Blind Man.
- 8-The Light of the World: The Invitation.
- 9-The Light that Directs.
- 10-The Light that Transforms: Becoming Sons of Light.
- 11-The Light that Abides: Living the De-Vine Life

The books are \$15 and they can be ordered through the Executive Secretary with form on back page.

HOME MISSIONS



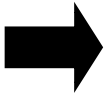
Serving in Alaska

By Maggie Johnson

In April 2024, I accepted a call to serve at the Alaska Mission as Assistant Station Manager at 100.9 KAKN, a Christian radio station run by Bay Broadcasting and AFLC Home Missions. My only experience with radio was listening to it, so learning how to run a radio station was pretty overwhelming at first. While learning the process of downloading our weekly programs, I thought for sure I would never get it. Now 3 months later it's the easiest part of the job.

My job also includes creating new program logs, recording weather reports, bulletin board announcements, and updating our music and program libraries. We air many preaching programs and Christian songs. We broadcast the local basketball games during the school year, which I am very excited to be a part of! A couple of goals of mine are to develop a high school basketball sports program for the area and a music/scripture program. A new addition for us is officially being able to stream KAKN online at our website KAKN.org. Until now, KAKN has only been heard in the Bristol Bay area. We are very excited to share this part of the Alaska Mission ministry with those in the "lower 48" and gain new listeners!

Outside of my work at KAKN, I've enjoyed and been encouraged by getting to know my new church family, helping with Sunday School, hosting teams that visited this summer, going to the beach, seeing bears, and checking out the local library! At times it can be hard to gauge how much of an impact serving has, but 1 Corinthians 15:58 says, "Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." That's a good reminder for the team up here, and hopefully an encouragement for you as you serve your families, churches, and communities. If you want to learn more about KAKN or the other parts of the work in Naknek, check out the Alaska Mission section on the Home Missions website!



PLEASE NOTE THESE UPDATES



The Nate Jore Family Completes their ministry with AFLC World Missions.

Thank you for your many years of faithful support of the Jore family. Since they have resigned from AFLC World Missions, we can no longer accept gifts for their personal support.

The Brent Raan Family will complete their ministry with AFLC World Missions at year end.



The Raan's will continue to serve under AFLC World missions until the end of 2024. We appreciate your continued support through these next months as they spend time in Uganda wrapping up their ministry, packing, saying goodbyes, and as they prepare for their parish ministry in Tioga, ND.



Dear supporting friends,

As I was preaching this past Sunday there were three sets of eyes that caught my attention. The passage was from Acts where the Apostle Paul recounts his conversion to Jesus on the road to Damascus. The point I shared about was that Jesus was the one who changed Paul's story and that He is the best part of Paul's story and ours. The more we get to know Jesus, the better our story gets. And it has a very happy ending, just like Paul's.

Those three sets of eyes were locked onto me as I shared about Jesus. One was a grandmother whose eyes showed a broken, defeated hopefulness. One was a mother whose eyes showed wondrous amazement and conviction of error. Her religious life has consisted in praying to saints and not much more—until now. The third set of eyes belonged to one of our confirmation students. And she looked like someone was showing her an absolute wonderland.

Since about one year ago, we have seven new people joining us on Sunday mornings. All of them have had some connection to us from a long time ago, but for different reasons left or have stayed away. But by the grace of God, not any more, it appears.

Apart from your gracious and generous gifts toward Jesus' ministry through us here in Jerez this past year and longer, and your persevering prayers, we wouldn't be able to be here. And we hope those three sets of eyes encourage you as they encouraged us. Thank you so much for your partnership with us in sharing the story of Jesus and teaching His Words. We are so grateful to you.

In Christ's love,
Todd and Barb Schierkolk
Jerez, Zacatecas, Mexico

*We're so grateful to all our WMF
friends throughout the AFLC!
God bless you all in Jesus,
Todd & Barb*

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



Please Note:

Executive Secretary Position

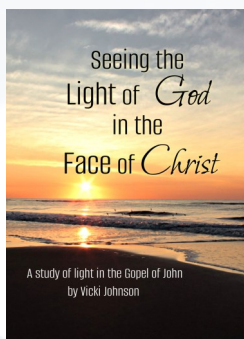
Dawn Johnson, WMF Executive Secretary will be retiring December 2024. The WMF is seeking to fill this paid position.

Contact WMF President Karen Pederson for details:
wmfpres@gmail.com

Helping Hand Newsletter

The National WMF Board will be making the Helping Hand a digital newsletter, **BUT** it will be available in printed format for those who do not have the ability to access it by computer. You must let the Executive Secretary know that you need the printed version in order to receive it.

2025 Bible study



Seeing the Light of God in the Face of Christ

_____ Number of books

The Bible studies are \$15 each. Please include payment for this order. Checks should be made to WMF of AFLC.

Mail to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please include street address if a PO Box.

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Church _____

City/State _____

Mail your order to the Executive Secretary.