

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY FEDERATION  
OF AFLC

# HELPING HAND

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER/FALL 2021

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Looking for a program idea?  
Need information on the  
Missionaries?  
Starting a new Bible study  
and need material? Check  
the **WMF Resource Manual**

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## SUNSHINE

BY LAVONNE WEST,  
NATIONAL WMF PRESIDENT



"I was raised on country sunshine." Dottie West

When that song came on the radio at work I was reminded of my upbringing. Farm life – values, hard work, family pitching in with chores, meals around that table, my Dad would often pray until the food got cold... Our friend Rebecca Moan shared some scenes from her early years as part of her workshop for our WMF day.

We are so thankful for our gifted speakers. You will see some of their photos here in this issue and a brief synopsis of our day together. Adara Sherron wrote, "Sit with women who have been with Jesus. The conversations are different. You walk away inspired; not inferior because these are the women who know this Christian walk is a race but not a competition."

You will also hear from some of our church planters. We are happy to pray for, encourage, and financially support our missionaries here at home and abroad. From Alaska to Hawaii and California to Pennsylvania.

When your WMF board met in May we had 60 registered and we prayed for the Lord to double it. When the final count for our WMF day went over 180 I realized He had another number in mind. We even had a group who had been driving all night from the creation museum stop by! One who was on a quilting tour skipped a shopping day to attend.

And speaking of numbers – you will see that we voted to show you the budget in a clearer picture. Every penny that you give for World Missions, Home Missions, and Christian Ed. (Parish Ed., FLBC, and FLS) is sent directly to those ministries. Money given to these projects-will be reported on but not budgeted like the WMF General Fund as it is a faith budget for those 3 projects. Also, to simplify things we voted to undo the zoning system. We will have a rotating schedule for the 4 projects so all groups will be giving to the same projects. The new giving calendar will include three months for each of the four projects. Special gifts will go to where they are designated. Our limited resources become unlimited when given to our limitless—everlasting creator. So thankful for that spiritual SONSHINE that was generously poured into me from an early age. You ladies enjoy this summer sunshine and trust in the SON who loves you so.



## Godly Heritage

Rev. Greg Schram  
Lutheran Church of Hope, Loveland, Colorado

"Could you...take time to write for our Helping Hand?" was the question asked of me back in May. The theme text provided was 1 Timothy 6:20-21, where Paul exhorts Timothy to ***"guard what has been entrusted to your care."***

This wasn't the only time Paul wrote such words to his disciple. His second letter to him began: ***"guard the truth that has been entrusted to you"*** (1:14).

The assignment given me (as a pastor of a Home Missions congregation) was to write on "how you have guarded what has been entrusted to your care." A prior question, however, must be: "What has been entrusted to your care?" When I think of that I think of Psalm 16:6, where the psalmist thanks God for his ***"goodly*** [i.e. godly] ***heritage.***" It is this marvelous heritage, entrusted to us that we must guard.

What heritage is that? First and foremost, the heritage of (saving) faith. In another letter, Paul reminded Timothy of this heritage of his (2 Tim. 1:5). To guard such a heritage we must guard the truth of God's Holy Word, for it instructs us unto salvation through faith alone in Christ alone (2 Tim. 3:15; John 8:31-32).

Secondly, we have a good and godly heritage of the (Lutheran) Church. As Free Lutherans, we have a beautiful and biblical ecclesiology.

Our good and godly heritage (faith and the church) must be guarded.

How do we (the Lutheran Church of Hope) guard what has been entrusted to us? At great risk of oversimplification, our way of doing this is by keeping in the forefront of everything we do 1 Corinthians 14:12. We strive to ***"excel in building up the church"***...

Whether building a church from scratch, or as in our case, "rebuilding" a one-time church plant, we strive to excel in building up the congregation. We strive to rebuild using God's materials, with God's tools, in God's way. We take to heart Paul's testimony from 2 Corinthians 4:2. By God's grace, we strive not only to "guard" but to share with one and all what God has entrusted to us, with the goal of making living stones, built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5).

## Living Out How to Serve

By Bethany Aichele



When I think of "Guarding what has been entrusted to me," the first thing that comes to mind is my kids. God has entrusted us with three daughters, and one son. They are so precious to us, and we desire to raise them to be serving and seeking after the Lord wholeheartedly.

It has been so fun and rewarding to see how they learn and mimic the things we do, while planting this church in our community. My son, Samuel, is five and wakes up at the crack of dawn on Sunday mornings. He will come bursting into our bedroom, already fully dressed in his church clothes, to wake us up (long before we are ready to get up, haha!) because he is so excited to get to church! He wants to make sure he goes early with daddy to help set up all the chairs in the lobby where we meet and put the Bibles and hymnals on them. He has a missionary heart. Also, in their prayer requests, I witness our children, so earnestly praying for their neighbor kids to know Jesus

and be able to come to church. They have also been praying with us, for the last few years, that God would send us a new pastor, that will come and work alongside us here. It is so fun to see prayers get answered! Our new pastor will be here very shortly now and even having kids just the same age as ours to be their new best friends! My kids are thrilled and feel very rewarded!

We are doing what God has called us to do. God has blessed us through it all. Our kids have been watching and learning through everything we've done- faithfulness in having church each week, having VBS and other outreach events, showing hospitality to guest speakers and visitors. I didn't know this was a tool for teaching my children, but this church planting opportunity has been a wonderful way to teach our children how to serve and be missionaries where they are. Now, after going through a lot of that hard work for the last few years, this past spring has been so fun to see our church being blessed!

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## Seasons of Life

By Anna VandenBos

During Seminary Patrick helped out with the Parish Builders.

My name is Anna VandenBos. My husband is Patrick and we have just finished our seminary journey. God called us to seminary at a time where we were very happy staying right where we were. We had 5 kids, my husband was a math teacher in a school he loved, we were very involved in our church, and were living on the farm of our dreams. We went to seminary kicking and screaming to be honest, but I'm so thankful that's not the end of the story!

I grew up on a farm and I love dirt! I enjoy the mess and the feeling of accomplishing something really worthwhile. However, I don't think I'd like being the seed. I wouldn't like being planted in the dark soil and seeing nothing for days. How messy and scary! Seasons of life feel so similar to this, though! Being planted is hard. Things are new, and so many details are unknown. There's often little we have control over. What carries us through these seasons?

As I look back, I see the Lord's presence in each joy and each trial. During our seminary time, the Lord was so faithful. Our marriage grew so much, we gained 2 more children, we became part of the AFLC family in a deeper way, and our trust and faith in Him grew as we saw His goodness. It was so neat to watch our children's faith grow too as they saw God work!

As I look back, I'm so thankful His presence was with us. We were never alone even in the dark messy places. A flower is always more beautiful than the seed. But the seed must die first. In order to become something a little more like Jesus, we had to die to what was comfortable and give up the things we loved. John 12:24-26

I'm so thankful we followed Him even though it was difficult. As we step out in faith again and take our first call to Salinas CA- far from home, we are anticipating God's goodness! We know He who called us is faithful!



The Advisory committee met after the meeting .





## WMF Day 2021

Student Life Center  
AFLC Schools, Plymouth MN



Memorial Flowers



President Lavonne West,  
led our WMF Day.

WMF Day  
Banner



Devotions were led by our 2021 Bible  
study writer Jeanette Berntson on the  
topic "Guard the Deposit"



Morning Praise and Worship  
was led by the 2021 Ambassador Team



Workshop 1 was led by  
Marian Christopherson on  
"Entrusted for Entrusting!"



Suzanne Tietjen and Leeanna  
Lunn also shared about Parish Ed



Workshop 2 was led by  
Mary Ann Ward called,  
"We too, Must Guard  
What Has Been  
Entrusted to Us."



Jan Strand led the Memorial Service



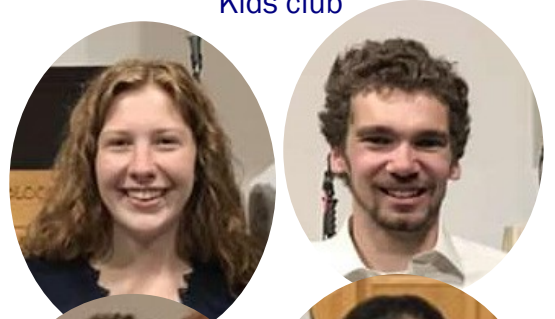
Workshop 3 was led by Rebecca Moan on "Guard the Treasure."



Aliana and Hannah shared about the Kids club

## MISSION FESTIVAL

Pastor Jim Johnson led the Home Missions presentation portion.  
WMF President welcomed all.  
Pastor Earl Korhonen led the Missions Festival Service.



VBS Team shared some of their songs.



Missionary Pastor Jonathan Abel gave the message.



Marian Christopherson and Keziah Quanbeck shared a duet as a postlude.



Special music by the McCarlson family.





## What is Truth?

By Lacey Crowell

Do you remember the well-known phrase by Pilate at Jesus' trial? He had just asked Jesus "Are you a king?" to which Jesus answered "yes" and ended with "Everyone who is of the truth hears my voice." Pilate then responded with, "*What is truth?*"

Have you ever asked yourself this? It seems that truth gets more and more twisted as time goes on. Between current events in the world and politics and influential people trying to persuade us one way or the other, it can get discouraging! *What* do we believe? *Who* do we believe? *How* do we believe? Or maybe sometimes....God, this doesn't make any sense, *why* do I believe? All these thoughts of confusion can swirl around in our minds, but then we are reminded of how faithful God is. How He is the way, the *truth* and life. As I sit here with music playing in the background, another great reminder is sung by Chris Tomlin, Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies). A reminder of the truth that has been entrusted to us! (Take a moment to look this song up on the internet and read the words or if you have a copy of it listen to the words.) I hope this can be an encouraging reminder for each one of you.

My fellow sisters in Christ, keep fighting the good fight! Keep spreading His love! Keep guarding what has been entrusted to you! He is faithful!

## Guarding the Church

Pastor Brady Arneson  
Waikiki Beach Gathering, Honolulu, Hawaii



As pastor of the Waikiki Beach Gathering I have been entrusted to guard our church from false teaching. I find the concept of theological certainty to be unattractive. I shouldn't believe my doctrine is one hundred percent without error and look down on all other Christians because I think their doctrine is so wrong. We don't want to trust our doctrine more than God otherwise our doctrine becomes God. Yet at the same time, it is important for a church to have a stance on what the Bible says for the purpose of clarity and unity among its members. As an AFLC church, the Waikiki Beach Gathering accepts the Apostle's Creed, the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, and Luther's Small Catechism as true expressions of the Christian faith.

As we've planted our church these first five years having a stance on the Word of God has been so beneficial for protecting our community from false teaching. Every kid's teacher and connect group leader fill out an application and pass an interview where they agree to teach according to our church's stance on the Bible. Not every person that attends our church believes the same thing and they don't have to, but they understand and respect our stance on the Word of God.

I've recently received pushback from a few people about two sermons I preached on the topics of homosexuality and speaking in tongues. Engaging in theological discussions with people who disagree with me is stressful, but God has shown me to view this as a growing experience and not a problem. He has confirmed to me over and over again that standing on the Word of God is the right decision. Our culture and experiences change, but the Word of God stays the same. I will continue to faithfully guard what God has entrusted to me all through His power and all for his glory.

**FYI**

You will find  
WMF Day 2021  
information and pictures  
posted on the  
WMF website  
(aflc.org/women/wmf-day)  
Be sure to check them out!

**REMEMBER**

If your WMF has members pass  
into glory this year, please mail  
or email their name, city and/or  
funeral bulletin to the Executive  
Secretary to have them included  
in the memorial service at WMF  
Day 2022.

**Watch For This Fall:**

The yearly WMF Resource  
Manual pages will be mailed  
out around October/November.  
Please be sure to fill out the  
contact information for your  
church, even if it hasn't  
changed we would appreciate  
your sending it back. Other  
information will be included  
with it.

**TREASURER'S REPORT JANUARY—JUNE 2021**

<u>PROJECTS</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>EXPENSES</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
World Missions & Designated Gifts	\$25,802.89	\$25,802.89	\$33,000.00
Home Missions & Designated Gifts	\$9,063.53	\$9,063.53	\$15,000.00
Christian Education & Designated Gifts	\$14,909.36	\$15,155.79	\$17,000.00
WMF General Fund	\$28,400.37	\$24,995.91	\$60,050.00
Convention Offering (mailed in for 4 projects)	\$4,329.75		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$82,505.90</b>	<b>\$75,018.12</b>	<b>\$125,050.00</b>

*Not one project is more important than the other—it is all the work of God!*

**WMF MEMORIALS**

Laverne Johnson  
Thor Strand  
Selmer Myren  
Tracy Jenkins  
Cynthia "Coco" Erickson  
Helen Johnson  
Patti Broden  
Lillian Broden  
Betty Floan  
Jerome Rice  
Beverly Heggen  
Merna Picek  
Joyce Larson  
Deb Benson  
Millie Strand  
Phyllis Nikunen

**National WMF Board**

Newly Elected  
Communication Secretary  
Linda Hensrud



**Pictured Left to right:** Dawn Johnson (Executive Secretary), Karen Floan (Recording Secretary), Anne Presteng (1st Vice President), Lavonne West (President), Margie Lee (Treasurer), Elizabeth McCarlson (2nd Vice President), Linda Hensrud (newly elected Communication Secretary), and Deanna Larson (Communication Secretary).



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To save on expenses for our National WMF GENERAL FUND we send a copy of this Helping Hand Newsletter to the WMF PRESIDENT and the PASTOR'S WIFE. Please make copies and share them with the ladies of your Congregation.

The 2022 Bible study is entitled:

## Behold Our God

Written by Karen Floan, Anne Presteng,  
Gwen Berge and Wendy Westlake

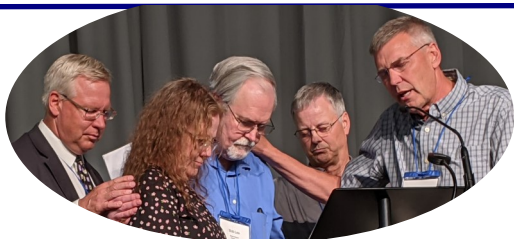
These studies are on Psalm 90-100.

Lesson titles:

1. Psalm 90 Behold the Eternal One
2. Psalm 91 Behold God our Dwelling Place

3. Psalm 92 Behold God's Ways
4. Psalm 93 Behold Christ's Kingdom
5. Psalm 94 Behold the Just One
6. Psalm 95 Behold the Rock of Our Salvation
7. Psalm 96 Behold the Righteous One
8. Psalm 97 Behold God Who Reigns in Power
9. Psalm 98 Behold Him, Savior of All the Earth
10. Psalm 99 Behold Him Who Answers
11. Psalm 100 Behold Our Shepherd King

More information coming out in the future.  
Watch our website and the fall mailings.



Home Missions Presentations at Mission Festival



One of several discussions groups during WMF Day 2021



Coffee time and fellowship