

SUMMARY OF THE WELCA ACTIVITIES FOR 2017

The WELCA mission statement is a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit. We commit ourselves to grow in faith affirm our gifts and support on another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, society and the world.

EVENTS:

Spring Cluster Meeting – This year we hosted the event. The area church groups that were represented are Hinsdale, and Glasgow and local guests. This is a time for individual spiritual growth and fellowship with old friends and friends that we have not met yet.

Pastor Chris Holler-Dinsmore made a presentation about her ministry at the Correctional facility in Poplar. It was well received as the majority of the ladies were not aware of the facility, and the issues that the incarcerated must face. Pastor Chris has successfully enriched their lives with a commitment to the Christian faith. The departed members that we honored from our group are: Lee Iwen, Violet Zimmerman, Greta Monson, Terry Lein, Bernice Zimmerman, Doris Hanks, Bertha Fredrickson, and friend - Jana Elliott.

In 2018 the spring cluster meeting will be in Glasgow. Give serious consideration to committing one day to prayer, fellowship and inspiration in our faith. Sandy Pipal would be able to answer any questions that you may have.

The Summer Salad Supper was held in June. 20 WELCA members and guests were treated to a salad bar made by the possible by the talents of our members' potluck recipes. Pastor Chris gave a very informative talk with a slide show about their recent bicycle tour of Australia. She shared a family desert recipe that they brought back from down under.

This year 138 quilts were completed to be sent to various missions around the world. Quilts were also shared the local families that experienced disasters such as fire. Graduating Seniors were gifted a quilt to remind them of the their church family and spiritual support. 50 health kits were donated by Frontier 4 – H with the help of a grant from Thrivent. 13 Baby Care kits and 30 school kits were made. The majority of the items were completed by a small group of dedicated members. The prayer shawl group meets the third Thursday afternoon at the Community/ Senior Center. Additional shawls are made for the Baptisms.

As the demographics of First Lutheran WELCA are changing (we are getting older); it is becoming apparent that we need to consider the possibility of changing structure of the local organization to meet the needs of the membership. There has been requests for a bible or scripture study group. If you are interested please let the office or Pastor Greg and Pastor Chris know.

This year we are trying a new venue to raise funds for the various projects that have been under funded for the past couple of years. On January 21 a meal ball dinner with a silent auction will be held. It has been refreshing to see a group of women organize and see this project finished.

WELCA is still providing lunches for funerals if requested. It is refreshing to see those who are not active in a circle volunteer to help and provide food. Thank you to all of you.

A big Thank you to Kathy Redekopp for all her efforts in the decorating the narthex and sanctuary. It creates welcoming atmosphere along with other projects to encourage visitors and new members.

Upcoming events.

February - it is being discussed to have an afternoon social at Faith Lutheran Home,

March or April the spring cluster meeting in Glasgow,

The quilters need people, no sewing skills needed only that you can tie a knot.

Prayer shawl group is looking for people that would be interested in learning a new skill and fellowship.

The kitchen is used by several groups. Time and use are beginning to have effects on the cabinets; they need repairs and the finish is wearing out. It has been suggested that the janitor utility sink be move out of the kitchen to the furnace room. Watch for an announcement of meetings to outline the projects. If you have ideas please jot it down and leave it with church office.

Watch the Web site, bulletin and parish callers for time and place for upcoming events.

Respectfully Submitted.

Phyllis Sethre