

SEPTEMBER 2017 WOMEN OF JOY MEETING

September 12, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. Joy Lutheran Church Basement

Present: Jan Elder, Iva Lou Fluegel, Gretchen Beecroft, Pat Magaard, JoAnn Hansen, Marilyn Benting, Gerri Westerberg, Jody Dobe, Sara Elmstrand, Diane Althoff, Elaine Belsheim, Carol Gibson

Elaine led the Bible Study based on readings “What Happiness Is”, “In Need of Peace of Mind” and “Living in Jesus”. All pointing to our never ending future – eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Savior!

President Sara opened the business meeting.

The secretary’s minutes were reviewed and accepted as presented.

The treasurer’s report shows a balance of \$1,597.49 with the 4th quarter missions paid but mites have yet to be paid. \$367.00 was raised from our June and August bake sales. This money was set aside for the kitchen fund. Our books show \$3,718.50 in the kitchen fund but Denice states there is \$4,116.50 in the kitchen fund. This discrepancy may be due to other funds contributed other than Women of Joy proceeds. We will resume bake sales on the first Sunday of November (**November 5th**). It was decided to bake a fall assortment of goodies for this bake sale.

Pictures from our summer outing to Panola Gardens were shared.

President Sara purchased enough supplies to complete the 20 **school kits** we had left from last year. We will meet next **Tuesday, September 19th at 10 a.m.** to finish stuffing the bags. We also plan to change the table centerpieces from spring to fall that day. New ivory covers will replace our white ones just prior to the Harvest Fest.

The Fall Rally will be held the first Saturday of November (**November 4th**) at St. Stephens in Braham. The theme will be based on the reformation. Suzanne Hequet from Concordia College will be the speaker. The Ingathering will be for the military, those deployed. A list of suggested items needed will be compiled and placed in the church newsletter for the congregation. A box will be placed in the narthex for donations. Items will be gathered through **Sunday, October 29th**. Joy is scheduled to host the Spring Rally. It is presently scheduled for the last Saturday in April (**April 28th**). A planning meeting will be held in January. Only 7 churches in the circuit presently have societies.

The **Harvest Festival** will be held at Joy on **Friday, October 13th**. Meal times will be 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. We need to encourage all members of Joy to help participate in this fund raiser. We will continue the tradition of serving chili, chicken noodle soup, vegetable beef soup, breads, crackers, and bars. Tables will also be set up for craft, baked goods, and produce sales. At the present time we plan to set up and decorate on **Wednesday, Oct. 11th at 6:30 p.m.**

Our **Advent Brunch** will be held **Saturday, December 2nd**. Our speaker will be Gaye Lindfors and her message title is “Once Upon a Time”. Our service project would be to collect baby kits during the months of November and December to send with Amy Anderson who is planning a mission trip to Haiti in 2018.

The women were invited to attend a birthday celebration for Harriet from 2-4 p.m. on **October 8th**. It is her 90th birthday!

The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer and offerings for MITES and the Women of Joy general fund.

Thank you to Elaine for leading the Bible Study and hostesses Gretchen and Diane.

Next meeting: Tuesday, October 10th at 9:30 a.m. Hostesses are Jan Elder and JoAnn Hansen

SOME THINGS I’VE NOTICED By Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, President of MN South District of The LCMS
July 25, 2017

I may have won an Observation merit badge as a Boy Scout, but I’m not the most observant guy. I need someone (like Jesus) to say, “Behold!” Then I might notice. Things usually have to repeat themselves for me to take note. By the time I have them on my radar, they may even be a trend.

So it is that five years into being your [MNS] district president I have noticed a few things worth mentioning. They are important for us to see in our life together, especially as Lutherans. Here they are:

1. We don’t smile very much when we worship. Someone must have told us that it’s alright to feel joy deep in our hearts but not to wear it on our faces. This is true, I think, because we are mostly German and Scandinavian. It’s different with our African friends in worship. They wear their joy. I think visitors would be more drawn to us if we looked more joyful like them.
2. We quote Martin Luther a lot, especially this Reformation anniversary year. Sometimes we quote the reformer more than the Redeemer, especially we pastors. I love to quote Luther. I’m pretty sure, though, that Luther would not be happy with this. He was so Christ-centered, not narcissistic at all. He didn’t write to be quoted. I think we would do well in our witness to adopt the Reformation’s complete focus on the full sufficiency of Christ, quoting him first and most.
3. We still don’t sit in the front pews of our churches. Even if the church is half full, we like the back. Don’t invite us up either (as in the parable) because we’re not budging. It’s almost as if we’re afraid the pastor will ask us to do something or use us as an illustration in his sermon. I suspect this won’t change soon. It just looks silly, the gap between pastor and people, as if they’re afraid of him (or God) or mad or shy or somewhat but not fully engaged. I know. I usually sit in the back.
4. We sure are hung up on offices. The word for “office” in German is “Amt.” Germans like Amt. They value hierarchy, position, and structure. Some of our churches have more positions to be filled in their governance structure than they have worshipers on a Sunday morning. It seems to me that what we do matters more than what title we bear, that the kind of people we are speaks louder than our position.
5. It’s difficult to find organists these days. Some churches use recorded music. Others may use a pianist. Churches expect that if they begin “contemporary” worship, the crowds will come. If it’s hard to find an organist, though, it’s harder yet to find an entire band that sounds good. Few of our churches can do this well. The key here seems to be that we worship with excellence. I hope our churches, especially our smaller ones, can still do music beautifully.
6. Many of us insulate ourselves from those outside the church. Our closest friends are in the church. We simply don’t place ourselves where outsiders spend their time (Colossians 4:5). No wonder we don’t see many visitors in our churches or ever find ourselves explaining what we believe. Our churches would grow, I think, if more of us intentionally placed ourselves in cafes and coffee shops, at soccer games and town hall meetings. Instead of waiting for outsiders to come to us, we might consider going to them.
7. The Body of Christ, the church, is beautiful. I knew it before, but now I see it with a wider lens. I’m in three or four churches a week, and I can say that the church is as beautiful as ever – Christ still giving His gifts to His people, Christians loving one another, leaders serving, disciples growing. I’m pretty sure that the more we look like Jesus, the more beautiful we become.
This is some of what I’ve noticed. I wanted you to see it, too.