

## LWML ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2019

The blessing of Mic and Marissa Brunner having a baby afforded us the opportunity to have a Baby Shower in January, to deliver meals when the baby was born in February, and to make a Baptismal Banner for Asher Brunner's baptism in March.

We continued to meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Our ladies take turns leading a Bible study for the first hour or hosting treats to enjoy after our business meeting which follows the Bible study. We held an Evening LWML for the ladies who are unable to come to the morning meetings January through March. We decided to discontinue having it since it was hard for the ladies to come back out after having worked at their day job. In an effort to keep all the women of the church informed regarding the activities of the LWML, the minutes of the meetings were posted on the LWML section of the church's bulletin board in the hallway between the Narthex and the Fellowship Hall. The input of all the women of the church is welcome at any time. Whether they attend the meetings or not, all ladies are considered part of the LWML.

Our Sewing Group stayed busy making the baptismal banner, the sanctuary banners, and sewing bags to be put in the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. Lorraine Christ led this group and was also the Project Manager for our Annual Christmas Bazaar/Cookie Walk/Bake Sale.

We hosted the Community Lenten Luncheon held at St. John's on March 13<sup>th</sup> and organized the Lenten Soup Suppers which were held before each Lenten Service. On March 23<sup>rd</sup> we had a presentation on Aroma Therapy.

For our April meeting we had Marion Kyner speak on "Becoming a Dementia Friendly Church". Also in April Elfriede, Barbara, and Mabelle attended the Blue Ridge Zone LWML Spring Rally at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Roanoke. The theme was FROG, an acronym for Fully Rely on God. Our Zone Pastoral Counselor, Pastor Keith Beasley led a Bible study on I John 4:16-17. The "Gifts from the Heart" for that meeting were collected for Feeding America Southwest Virginia, the poorest section of Southwest Virginia. We held a dinner for Blake Phillips' students from Longwood who are in the InterVarsity Christian Fellowship on April 28<sup>th</sup>. It was a great opportunity for us to let them know that we are supportive of them in this vital ministry.

In May we participated in the church clean-up, weeding the flower bed in the front of the church. (In the future, watch out for poison ivy in the roots of the bed!)

We held our annual Yard Sale on the first Saturday of June. It brought in over \$800. We always tithe to St. John's from whatever funds we get. Our June meeting time was changed to June 22<sup>nd</sup> to not interfere with the VBS program which took place during the second week. Our meeting was held on Saturday so that all the women could attend. This was our annual Pizza and Ice Cream Social with a short devotion. The LWML helped with the meals during VBS and also held various positions for the program.

Although we have no regularly scheduled meetings during the summer months of July and August, we were still active in other ways. The sewing group continued to meet as well as the Ladies' Lunch Bunch which meets on the second Thursday of the month. We meet at 11:00 usually at Merk's Place just for fun and fellowship. We hosted a luncheon after the funeral for Ray Carlson on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

In August we participated in the Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes Packing Party. We hosted a dinner for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship students. We planned it to intentionally spread out our seating in order to meet the individual students at our table so that we could form relationships. We look forward to future events with Blake's' group of Longwood University students.

In September Shirley Sorenson started a study group to review the book *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* to meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00. We moved our monthly meeting to a week later due to the funeral for Frank Kirstein.

In October we had the LWML Sunday which highlights the ministry of the LWML and its women's ministry at St. John's. Members of our group participated in the worship services by ushering or reading the Scripture lessons. Our LWML pledge and song were included in the bulletin as part of the service. Since October is Pastor Appreciation Month, we presented Pastor Matt with a gift in appreciation for his dedication to the ministry of St. John's and his serving our Lord Jesus Christ. St. John's LWML hosted the Blue Ridge Zone LWML Fall Workshop. The project for this workshop was to fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes. We were able to fill 21 shoeboxes with donations from the ladies who came from Roanoke, Charlottesville, and St. John's. We were responsible for the snacks and luncheon for the day. We also had a luncheon after the memorial service for Marge Bailey on October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

November was our Annual Christmas Bazaar/Cookie Walk/Bake Sale on November 23<sup>rd</sup>. We had a Cookie Bake on November 9<sup>th</sup> to get a head start on the baking for the event. The ladies were baking throughout the month and it really paid off. The fundraiser brought in \$1,570 of which \$1,117.75 was from the baked goods alone. Great job, ladies! Glory to God for what He has allowed us to do! The following week involved preparations for and the Feeding Farmville for Thanksgiving on Thanksgiving Day.

In our December meeting we chose the charities to donate to from the Bazaar. We made a soup luncheon for those who would stay after church on December 15<sup>th</sup> to help decorate the church for Christmas. So, as you can see, a HUGE part of our ministry for 2019 has been providing FOOD! That's okay. We all love to eat and don't mind so much cooking for others.

Besides the proceeds from the Yard Sale in June and the Bazaar in November, we received donations from Frank Banko in memory of Margaret and Ronald. Some of our disbursements included chicken for the luncheons, birthday checks for our Seminarian Teklu Ketema and his family members, gifts to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Vacation Bible School, high school graduations just to name a few. Barbara Hansen does an excellent job of sending out cards to our members for birthdays, sickness, or sympathy and we provide the stamps. For our donations from the Bazaar, we sent \$100 checks to the following: Lutheran Bible Translators - missionaries Claude and Rhoda Houge, Lutheran Special Ed. Ministries, Patraick Henry Boys and Girls Homes, LCMS World Relief & Human Care, LCMS World Relief & Human Care Veterans of the Cross, LWR Gifts for Critters. Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Pregnancy Support Center, Heart of VA Free Clinic, Southside Center for Violence Prevention, St. John's Benevolence Fund, and personal Christmas gifts to Seminarian Teklu Ketema, Missionary Blake Phillips, and Missionary Ben Bloker. We also sent our tithe of \$167.92 to St. John's. We collect Mites and send them to Chesapeake District LWML for mission projects.

Serving the Lord with Gladness,  
Mabelle Bloker