

LWML ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2020

What a different year it has been! The pandemic COVID-19 had an impact on our activities from April to the end of the year. It appears that it will still be causing disruption of some things in 2021, but we are trusting God to guide us and remember that He told us to “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10).

The January meeting was held at 9:00 with Bible study and business meeting to follow. We made preparations for the funeral of our dear sister-in-Christ Nancy Faas.

In February Bonnie graciously invited us to hold our meeting at her house, and we changed the time to 9:30. Our long-time treasurer Dorothy Stamper was moving away, so Barbara Hansen was chosen to be our new treasurer. Ginny Dixon took over Barbara’s position of Son Shine Lady who sends cards to members for birthdays, illness, etc. We saw the Lord provide bountifully for each job! We had a covered dish Sunday to say goodbye to the Stampers. We decided to change our regular start time for our meetings to 9:30.

March 2020 began as usual with our monthly meeting on the second Tuesday. We made plans for the Community Lenten Luncheon which would be held at St. John’s the next day. It was well attended, but we had no idea that ours would be the last one held for Lent 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic arrived.

April, May, and June meetings were canceled because of the restrictions placed on public gatherings by the Governor of Virginia. We eventually began to have our worship services and Bible study on Zoom but we did not continue to have our LWML meetings.

A huge blessing occurred on July 4th when Bonnie Arney and her daughter Kathryn Burch provided their yard as a venue for us to have a fund-raising Yard Sale. It was organized spontaneously and was a great success bringing in \$686. It raised enough money for us to be able to support another seminarian in the fall as Teklu Ketema (whom we had supported for four years) had graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in May. We don’t usually meet throughout the summer so the pandemic didn’t change that.

By September restrictions had eased up a bit, and we were able to have our regular meeting on the second Tuesday. We practiced social distancing and wearing face coverings. It worked well and was a welcome time of getting to see each other in person. Barbara Hansen was able to be on a phone call during the meeting to give her Treasurer’s Report. Sara Sandridge and Ginny Dixon volunteered to be our delegates to the Chesapeake District LWML Convention. It was all virtual on the internet, so that made it easier for them to attend. We voted to support a new seminarian named John Kastner who is attending Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. The newly-wed is from Trinity Lutheran Church in Richmond, so we hope to be able to see him and his wife at some point in the future. We took food to Sherry Walters when she had surgery.

October is Pastor Appreciation Month, so we presented Pastor with a check in appreciation of his ministry here at St. John's. We discussed plans for how we could have a Bake Sale with COVID restrictions. It was decided that we would have only baked goods and no bazaar items. We would have the cookies pre-bagged and cakes and pies boxed or covered so they could be seen. We would have a form with all the items that would be available to purchase and make it available for people to order from. We set the date for the Bake Sale for December 12th. The sale would only be for our congregation and friends of our members, not open to the general public. Lorraine Christ was having a Yard Sale at her house, so we cleaned out items from our storage room to take to her for sale. Whatever money was received was then given to our treasury.

At our November meeting, Marion Kyner made a presentation regarding preparing kits for seniors to be handed out for Christmas. She had a grant from Subaru Share the Love Event to purchase the items, and we agreed to assemble the kits at a later date. Shirley Sorenson informed us that the turkeys baked for Feeding Farmville for Thanksgiving should be brought to the church on Tuesday or Wednesday of that week. Sarah Schember's daughter received a grant from Thrivent for ingredients for our Bake Sale.

We had our regular meeting in December where we finalized plans for the Bake Sale. Notice was put on our church website about the sale. We would offer Saturday from 1-3 and Sunday after each service for people to pick up their order and pay for it. We prepared gift bags for our shut-ins and had volunteers to deliver them and have a little visit if possible. We decided to give a \$100 check to our seminarian, John Kastner for Christmas. Our other usual December gifts and donations will have to be postponed until January when we have the funds from our Bake Sale and will know how much we can give. Shirley Sorenson gave a report on Feeding Farmville for Thanksgiving as many of our ladies were involved with that. We were able to go Christmas caroling at The Woodlands. We stood outside their coffee shop while some residents were able to listen and watch from inside.

This year was different because of the pandemic, but we did manage to still have some activities safely and encourage each other with phone calls. We pray for the pandemic to be eradicated soon so that we can resume the ministry of Bible study, encouragement, and care for each other. May we be a witness of the love of God in sending Jesus Christ to be our Savior. All glory to God for the things He has done!

Serving the Lord with Gladness,

Mabelle Bloker
President