

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society
 Chicago Area Circuit
 Fall Rally, October 11, 2014
 "World Missions Update"



The Fall Rally of the Chicago Area Circuit of LWMS was held at Trinity Lutheran, Crete, IL. Registration was from 8:45 to 9:00 a.m. During this time, a prayer corner was available for quiet reflection and to write prayer requests. Registration: 43 present.

Church	# Attending	Church	# Attending
Abiding Peace, Elgin	1	Resurrection, Aurora	2
Amazing Love, Frankfort	0	St. Matthew, Niles	4
Christ the King, Palatine	1	St. Paul, Grant Park	2
Good Shepherd, Downers Grove	7	Trinity, Crete	13
Jerusalem, Morton Grove	0	Zion, Crete	7
Lord & Savior, Crystal Lake	6	Non-member Cong.	1
Palos, Palos Heights	0		

The opening devotion, *The Lord is Good*, was led by Pastor David Carlovsky. We were then welcomed to the rally by Mark Blauert, Staff Minister. We were invited to participate in the Christmas Tree giving project at Trinity, where you can select an ornament to fulfill a need for World Missions.

Next, we were addressed by our keynote speaker, Larry Schlomer, Administrator for World Missions. He grew up in Colombia as his father was a missionary. High School years were spent in the United States, then on to Martin Luther College, and finally to the WELS Seminary. Pastor Schlomer completed his vicar year in Puerto Rico, spent 9 years in the Dominican Republic, and then 9 years in a cross-cultural congregation.

There are 7 billion people in the world. By 2050, the estimate is 9 billion and most of them are going to hell. In the world population 33% are Christian, 21% Muslim, 13% Hindu, 6% Buddhist, 13% are other religions, and 14% are non-religious. Most people live in Asia, followed by Africa, Latin American, and finally North America. That is why there is such a large focus on missions in Asia and Africa. We are God's army to go out and plant his seeds, and then leave it to God for it to take root and grow. Update around the globe:

- **Asia** – working with Multi-Language Publications.
- **India** – 30 seminary students to spread the word.
- **Thailand** – religion is so tied to culture that the best hope is training nationals to be pastors for inreach.
- **Indonesia** – Sent nationals to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for study.
- **Russia** – tough to break through the Orthodox Church.
- **Cameroon** – mentoring national ministers and lay people.
- **Zambia** – serving congregations there in national church.
- **Malawi** – national pastors are ready to share the Word.
- **Mexico** - national pastors are supported by WELS missionaries.
- **Latin America** – national pastors and lay people.
- **Dominican Republic** – working with children in orphanages to spread the Word.
- **Apache** – oldest mission field.

We learned of many exciting ministries around the world! Multi-Language Publications are being used extensively, as well as the DVD's *Road to Emmaus* and *Come, Follow Me*. We were then encouraged to visit wels.net and look for the tab "How We Serve" to find out more about World Missions as we have to be careful about what information is shared in printed form and on the internet.

After the lunch break, President Paula Danekas called the Business Meeting to order. Reporters were introduced in roll call, and we welcomed new member congregation, Amazing Love, Frankfort. Thank you to retiring reporters Carol Miller and Lucy Vicker from Good Shepherd, Downers Grove and welcome to new reporters Laura Swiatnicki and Yvonne Riechers from Downers Grove! A copy of the Spring Rally minutes and the Treasurers Report were included in the rally folders and approved as written.

We were informed about our 2015-16 Befriend A Mission assignments - Rev. Michael Quandt, St. George, Utah and Native America Teacher, Ruth Luehring, Whiteriver, AZ.

- Convention stipend – funds divided among 2015 convention attendees (women)
- Become a friend of Chicago Area Circuit *Facebook* page - see pictures of 2014 Convention attendees! Also be a *Facebook* friend of international LWMS and please submit your e-mail address to Central Office for LWMS updates.
- Convention highlights can be found at www.lwms.org
- The 2016 Convention will be held at Pheasant Run in St. Charles, Illinois, with a theme of *Christ Alone, Our Cornerstone* on June 23rd – 26th, 2016.
- Circuit board nominations for 2015 – president, treasurer, one spiritual growth woman, spiritual growth pastor
- International board nominations for 2015 – president-elect, treasurer, spiritual growth-mission awareness coordinator, pastoral advisor

The 52nd Annual LWMS Convention, *Lift High the Cross in the Hills*, will be held on June 25th-28th, 2015 in Rapid City, South Dakota.

The invitation to Chicago Area Circuit 2015 spring rally at Abiding Peace, Elgin on Saturday, April 11th was given by Caryn Grossman. Our keynote speaker will be Home Missions Administrator, Keith Free, with a topic of Home Missions Update. Betty Allen, Trinity presented the trophy to Caryn Grossman, Abiding Peace, Elgin. The Business Meeting adjourned at 12:55 p.m.

The Spiritual Growth presentation was *God Has Provided All We Need to Be Recharged*.

The Committee Chairs for the 2016 Convention were introduced (including a standup cutout version of Marlena Spurbeck) so all the participants would know their committee.

The Prayer Center requests, followed by a closing devotion, were led by Pastor David Carlovsky. Thank you to Trinity Lutheran Church for hosting this rally!

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn Grossman, Reporter, and Marlena Spurbeck, Secretary