

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society
 Chicago Area Circuit
 Spring Retreat, April 13, 2013
Learning from the Lord in Lafayette



The Spring Retreat of the Chicago Area Circuit of LWMS was held at Lord & Savior Lutheran, Crystal Lake, IL on Saturday April 13, 2013. A prayer corner was available for quiet reflection and to write prayer requests during registration, which showed 44 present.

Church	# Attending	Church	# Attending
Abiding Peace, Elgin	3	Resurrection, Aurora	3
Christ the King, Palatine	1	St. Matthew, Niles	3
Good Shepherd, Downers Grove	6	St. Paul, Grant Park	0
Jerusalem, Morton Grove	0	Trinity, Crete	7
Lord & Savior, Crystal Lake	12	Zion, Crete	6
Palos, Palos Heights	2	Non-member Cong.	1

Opening Devotion, *Lamb of God*, led by Pastor David Carlovsky, began at 9:00 a.m. Ella Behrens, Lord & Savior, welcomed everyone & thanked those who helped with the retreat. Pastor Nick Schmoller, our keynote speaker, gave his presentation titled *Learning from the Lord in Lafayette*. He began by discussing his ministry leading up to his mission call. His vicar year was spent in Columbia, TN (south of Nashville), and outreach was his focus by working the prospect list. Pastor Schmoller was able to share Jesus with folks who had no relationship with our Savior. One such couple was Fran & Walter. Fran seemed interested in finding out more about the church, but Walter had no time for God. With some persistent nudging, Walter finally came to Bible Information Class. After one hour of the class, the Holy Spirit changed him! After that, Walter & Fran became faithful church members, and their son and his family are now attending church as well. Columbia, TN now has 2 Pastors, 1 Staff Minister, 3 preschool teachers, 300 in worship on Sunday, monthly fellowship events, and soccer camps in the summer.

Pastor Schmoller graduated from seminary in 2010, and was a recruiter at MLC for one year. He still returned to Columbia, TN every summer for the soccer camps he had started there as a non-confrontational way to meet the unchurched. One such boy was Ryan, age 8. After the first daily devotion, Ryan said, "I am Jewish, and I don't believe a word you said." By the end of the week with daily devotions, he referred to Jesus as his Savior!

After that, the Schmollers headed to Lafayette – home to Purdue University with 30,000 students. A WELS church was there once, but it left our fellowship in 1998. There were 16 WELS members anxious for a new church. The first baptism Pastor performed in Lafayette was his own daughter's! Where do you start with a new church? Make a ministry wish list:

****Worship** – in a classroom at Purdue – space is free, but limited for outreach.

****Education** – Campus Ministry Bible Study, expanding to teen group and Sunday School.

****Outreach** – Weekly canvassing, website – loginlafayette.com, prospect newsletter.

****Fellowship Events** – Once a month – parades, bowling, mini golfing, etc...

****Campus Ministry** – regular communication, care packages 2X semester, & ESL class.

Things to do in the first month of ministry – visit all members, visit area pastors, canvass, meet with realtor to look for worship space, meet people in the community, establish a website, establish yourselves as a tax exempt entity. *Current status in Lafayette* – Worship in a 3,500 sq.ft. storefront with church sign and logo on it. Worship space has 50 chairs, but can fit 100 comfortably. There is also a separate office space and storage area. Each mission is different, but the ministry is the same. We gather around the means of grace, meet people and love them, and share the gospel.

After the break, Paula Danekas called the Business meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. There were no questions or concerns with the Fall Retreat Minutes or the Treasurers Reports (all congregations sent in offerings this spring)! Paula highlighted that Thea Buege was president at the very first Chicago Area Circuit gathering in 1976, and that Doris Holcomb was also in attendance. Trinity, Crete won the gift basket for most members in attendance today.

Pastor Cordes presented a remembrance of Erla Schwarz. She had been involved with LWMS for 37 years, serving as Vice-President from 1986-90, and again from 1994-98. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to have \$100.00 from the working fund sent *In Memorium* in Erla's name to the Mission & Ministry Endowment Fund.

Our recipient for the Chicago Area Circuit *LWMS Annual Convention stipend* for 2013 is Margaret Schubring.

Paula thanked the two Thrivent representatives that were present for the generosity shown to our Circuit. They drew names to give away 4 - \$25 gas cards and the winners were: Joy King, Thea Buege, Ella Behrens, and Mary Mittag. Darlyn Shemanski then invited us all to the 2013 Fall Retreat to be held October 5th in Palos Heights, IL. The speaker will be Jackie Hieb - reporting on the LWMS trip to Nepal.

LaCrosse, WI is the location of the 50th Annual LWMS Convention, *Like a Tree Planted by Streams of Water*, June 27th-30th. Be sure to register before May 1st to avoid late fees.

Discussion took place regarding the convention stipend. Carol Miller made a motion to select a recipient at each fall retreat by a drawing. Motion was seconded and carried.

The meeting adjourned, and *The Little Red Hat Lady* skit was presented.

The members of Lord & Savior treated us to a delicious lunch of Indiana treats.

Following lunch, we split into two groups and took part in both workshops offered! The Spiritual Growth presentation included a video presentation by Pastor Rob Siirila, where they are teaching people to begin their own churches. We were also encouraged to check out the *Sunday 'citement* program of Pastor Chris Cordes in Hillsboro, OR @ www.beautiful-savior.org. We then wrote cards to our two BAM representatives and to the CAMM. Pastor Nick Schmoller held the second workshop with examples of God's grace and lessons about planning.

Ballots were counted and installation took place for Chicago Area Circuit Board members:

President:	Paula Danekas (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove)
Treasurer:	Doris Holcomb (Good Shepherd, Downers Grove)
Spiritual Growth Pastor:	Nathan Cordes (St. Matthew, Niles)
Spiritual Growth Woman:	Thea Buege (Zion, Crete)
World Mission Project:	#WM-2012-22 Hong Kong Projects
Home Mission Project:	#HM-2012-12 Children's Ministry Assistance

At 2:30 p.m., the afternoon ended with a beautiful closing devotion, led by Pastor Nathan Cordes, followed by Prayer Center petitions and Hymn 265.

Thank you to Lord & Savior Lutheran Church for hosting this very enjoyable retreat!

Respectfully submitted,

Caryn Grossman, Chicago Area Circuit Secretary

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