

Council of Lutheran Women
Spring General Meeting
Monday, April 17, 2023
Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, Detroit

Meeting called to order by President Sandy Hardies at 9:50 am.

Opening Devotion was given by Pastor Dietrick Gladden from Charity and Mt. Calvary in Detroit.

Welcome was given by Karen Linzing.

ATTENDANCE: 50

RECORDING SECRETARY REPORT: Report reviewed and filed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Report on file.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

VP of Communication Report – Judy Shepard

Correspondence Coordinator - Wilma Wagner; Membership Coordinator – Marlene Gunnell; Acting Development Coordinator – Judy Shepard; Publicity Coordinator – Laura Thomas and Assistant – Nora Baars; Scholarship Coordinator – Lucie Witte; Website Coordinator – Judy Shepard

Scholarship Report included information on Call Day and Vicarage Assignments coming up at both Seminaries over the dates of April 24-26 and how to view the services live.

Report on file.

VP of Events – Candie Sionkowski

Hospitality Coordinator - Sheri Comeford; Women of the Year Coordinator – Joan Monson; Reservation Coordinator – Candie Sionkowski; Program Coordinator and Luncheon Booklet Coordinator – Barb Collins

Joan and Barb shared reports in Candie's absence. Joan reported there were 38 WOY honored at this year's luncheon. Barb reported 489 registered for the luncheon. Due to issues with the venue, the consensus of the Events Committee is that we would rather not return to Burton Manor in the future. Barb asked for suggestions for future locations from the attendees.

Report on file.

VP of Human Care – Barbara Hoffmeier

Food Bank Coordinator - Ivy Thompson; Operation Layette Coordinator - Pam Stasko; Issues & Action Coordinator - Glory Drum; Mission Support Coordinator - Andrea Anderson

Pam reported that 33 layettes were assembled and delivered in 2022. The next assembly is Thursday, May 25, beginning at 7 pm at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Royal Oak (202 E 5th Street). Items most needed are blankets, bottles (4 oz and 8 oz) and infant socks. The report included a tally of the ingathering items received at the luncheon.

Report on file.

Historian Report – No report given

President's Report - Report on file.

Old Business

Review of financial records was completed by Judy Shepard and Laurine Griffin. Report is on file.

2023 Luncheon was discussed, both pros and cons. The WOY were not required to walk up onto a stage and were visible on the screens as they were announced. Food and coffee stations were good, but venue was understaffed, also some bathroom issues.

Scholarship Coordinator Lucie W reminded everyone that contributions to the Scholarship program can be made at any time of year by accessing the form available on the Council's website and mailing contributions to the Council Treasurer. If a Thrivent member, consider designating Thrivent Choice Dollars to support the scholarship efforts.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Nora B, Pat S, Ivy T and Laura T, with Laura acting as Chair. A Constant Contact mailing was sent out asking for candidates for the positions of Secretary, VP of Communication, and VP of Events. Phone calls were made as follow-up. There was one candidate for Secretary, Judy Shepard; one candidate for VP of Communication, Laura Thomas; and two candidates for VP of Events, Gina Davidson and Cynthia Khan. With no additional nominations from the floor, attendees cast ballots for the VP of Events position. Gina Davidson was elected for a two-year term as VP of Events. The new officers were installed by Counselor Pastor Dan Howard.

New Business

Discussion of the 2024 Luncheon centered on possible locations and a speaker for entertainment. Key features are the price for the meal; size to fit 500 or more; rooms or spaces for gathering the WOY, collecting and sorting of ingathering items, and display tables for ministry partners. Returning to the Macomb Sports & Expo Center would require a large increase in ticket price.

Standard Operating Procedures was also discussed as a tool for recruiting candidates for offices and to make an easier transition from outgoing officers to their replacements. Outgoing officers are asked to prepare a list of their responsibilities and how each one is accomplished by May 1st, and all other officers and coordinators by July 1st.

Inter-congregational updates from LWML Zones of Macomb South, Greater Detroit, Ann Arbor, Wayne/Oak Hills, and Dearborn/Downriver; MOST Ministries; Gifts for All God's Children; Family of God; Camp Restore Detroit; POBLO; and Ephphatha Lutheran Mission Society (St. Martin School for the Deaf) were shared with attendees. Upcoming events at Congregational members of SALT (St. Augustine Lutheran in Troy), and Huntington Woods Lutheran were also shared. Patricia Donald from St. Matthew in Westland was also on hand to announce they are resuming their membership in the Council. Laura Thomas also reminded everyone of the websites for the seminaries (csl.edu for St. Louis and ctsfw.edu for Ft. Wayne) where members can donate in support of seminarians. Member groups are encouraged to use the General Meetings as a forum for spreading information and are encouraged to bring flyers to distribute (written announcements make it easier for information to also be shared on the Council's website and Facebook page).

Pastor Gladden led the group in prayer for lunch at 11:40 am. Lunch consisted of a salad bar with chicken, rolls, fruit salad and desserts.

After lunch Jen Boos from Elli’s House shared a slide presentation on behalf of founder Deb Ellinger, who is undergoing cancer treatments. Deb is a former police officer who felt her ministry was to serve in the area around Bethany Lutheran where she grew up. Deb has a van that goes out Mondays and Thursdays at night and Wednesdays and Fridays during the day. The van is stocked with coats, pants, shirts, hats, and scarves, lunches for 40-50 each trip, also hygiene kits for the ladies she finds on the streets. They also have two houses for ladies working to get their lives back on track, two residents in each house. They must be drug free and are given support for a 2-year program to rebuild their lives and get them off the streets. Contact Deb at Deb@ellishouse.org if interested in helping with lunches, donations of clothes and snacks can be dropped off at Faith in Troy. Pastor Howard led us in prayer for Deb and her health challenges.

Closing prayer was led by Sandy at 1:15 pm.

Upcoming Meetings

EC Meeting	August 7, 2023	10 am	TBD
Board of Directors Meeting	August 21, 2023	10 am	Mt. Calvary, Detroit
Fall General Meeting	Sept. 25, 2023	9:15 am	Holy Cross, Warren
EC Meeting	Nov. 6, 2023	10 am	TBD
BOD Meeting	Jan. 22, 2024	10 am	TBD

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 pm with closing prayer led by Sandy.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Linzing, Recording Secretary