

2022 Spring Synod Update Meeting Summaries

Dodgeville Spring Update meeting summary

Rev. Kate Kieckhafer from Grace Lutheran in Darlington provided an interactive Bible study from Isaiah 55. We took a look at The Lord's Banquet and what is to be served up for all of us. This was a good way to get us started with Rebuilding and Rebooting our women's groups.

Mikayla Onken and Kendra Kaul of Family Advocates who have offices in Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties talked about Human Trafficking. They provided handouts and hot line flyers and brochures for those in attendance to take back to their communities and post. Half of the offering collected, which amounted to \$255 was given to Family Advocates for the work they do with Human Trafficking as well as helping victims of domestic, sexual, child, and elder abuse. The other half of the offering collected was given to the SWO.

Mikayla and Kendra also shared that April 27, 2022 is Denim Day. Denim is observed on the 4th Wednesday in April. Denim Day began more than twenty-one years ago, after the Italian Supreme Court overturned a rape conviction because the justices felt that since the victim was wearing tight jeans, she must have helped the person who raped her remove her jeans, implying consent. The following day, women in the Italian Parliament came to work wearing jeans in solidarity with the victim. Developed by Peace over Violence, the Denim Day campaign is observed worldwide by millions of people. As the longest-running sexual violence prevention and education campaign, Denim Day asks people to wear jeans as a visible way to highlight misconceptions surrounding sexual violence.

Baraboo Conference/Loganville Spring Update Meeting Summary

Offering received \$570.00 -- \$285 to Sugar Creek Bible Camp, Ferryville, WI
\$142.50 to Churchwide
\$142.50 to Synod Welca

48 registered participants and 3 guests

Guest Speaker: Jesse Klosterboer, Executive Director of Sugar Creek Bible Camp

The focus of his presentation was how important an outdoor camp ministry is to our youth. It impacts them on an emotional level and helps them create empathy and then sympathy for others. Studies have shown that those who have had a camp experience become more active in their home congregations after they have been confirmed. A slide show of the camp was shown also.

A luncheon was served which consisted of "loaded" baked potatoes and various layer cakes for dessert.

If you wish to add your comments to the paragraph on what Jesse spoke about, feel free to do so.

\$150 was received from the Synod; \$76.05 for mileage to the speaker and \$73.95 sent to Jesse as an honorarium. I will be sending the full financial report on the form that Sandy Seffrood sent to me shortly. I have to get a signature on it from our treasurer.

Monroe Conference/Blanchardville Spring Update Meeting Summary

The Monroe Conference Spring Business Meeting was held April 30 th at New Hope Lutheran Church-Blanchardville Campus; nineteen ladies were present to celebrate coming together once again after two years of pandemic. Pastor Chris Strohm led us in devotions and prayer from John 21:4. We sang a favorite "Gather Us In" and were blessed with an offering of \$326 to cover expenses and share with Synodical/Churchwide.

During our business meeting, we approved the 2022 Monroe Conference constitution/guidelines, heard the mission report, shared the reports of the units and elected our new officer team. Sandy Potter will serve one year as coordinator and Vicki Tollakson will serve a two year term as recorder. We are looking for someone to fill the mission position for two years. Sandy Seffrood, SWO Treasurer installed the officer and Donna Peterson, SWO President greeted us from the synodical and shared updates and handouts. Following "We are Marching in the Light of God" the ladies enjoyed a delicious lunch served by our hostesses from New Hope. A very special thank you for joining us and hope to see you at our August 20 th - 35 th Celebration location TBA. Submitted by Sandy Potter

Elkhorn Conference/Johnson Creek Spring Update Meeting Summary

Elkhorn Conference Spring Gathering – April 30, 2022 held at St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church, Johnson Creek with the Theme verse: 1 Corinthians 13:13

After registration and refreshments, speaker Debra Brown, curator at Johnson Creek Historical Society and Museum, gave us a brief history of the Village of Johnson Creek, as well as historical artifacts that meant so much to our ancestors, based on our theme of "Wrapped in Love." Get out those old quilts our grandmothers made and use them! Unfortunately, Coordinator Julie Peterson could not be with us this morning, but we listened to her recorded message and song. Following introductions, roll call, unit sharing, and synodical update, First English Lutheran Church, Whitewater, volunteered to host next year. Janna Smith was elected to a two-year term as Conference Coordinator. Julie Wright will remain for another year and Lezlie Oldenburg will assist until additional officer(s) are found. Thanks also to outgoing officer Kay Broihahn. Worship service with Holy Communion was followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall, with a free-will offering taken for lunch. General offerings amounted to \$352, to be split between SWO and our local Helping Hands Food Pantry. Approx. 40 women attended. Submitted by Lynn Mehringer.

East/West Conference/Madison Spring Update Meeting Summary

East/West Spring Update was held Saturday, May 14, 2022, at Good Shepherd, Madison Campus. Polly Carter from Good Shepherd welcomed 25 women from Madison, Lodi, Sun Prairie, Edgerton, Dodgeville, and Beloit. Pastor Dara Schuller-Hanson led us in devotions on Compassion with Matthew 15:20 - 39, Jesus Feeds the Four Thousand (NIV). She asked us what we noticed and wondered about in the Bible passage. There was a good discussion of what we as women noticed and questioned.

Margaret Staniforth, a volunteer from the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, spoke on human trafficking and showed a video of what is happening at truck stops and what can be done to catch and prosecute traffickers. Donna Peterson, SWO President, gave the women's synod update and had many Anti-Trafficking handouts.

There was a time for sharing of the activities that are going on in our women groups, as they return to meet for Bible study and different service projects in their churches.

An offering of \$310 was received. One half will go to Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin and one half to go to Women of the ELCA synod.

The morning ended with a potluck salad luncheon. Submitted by Helen Sheahan