

WOMEN OF ST. JAMES WELCA (2016)

All women of St. James are members and are invited to attend monthly meetings and special activities of our women's group. The women of St. James participate in conferences, synod and national programs of the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, known as WELCA.

St. James WELCA meets with the Sarah Circle on the third Wednesday of each month at 1400 hours, with the exception of months June, July, and December. In August, we meet at 9:00 with a noon meal. Pastor Scott Hofmann gives the bible study taken from *The Gather Magazine*, followed by a business meeting.

WELCA officers for 2016 were Rachel Palmer, President; Stephanie Ertel, Vice President; Fran Dendy, Secretary; and Sally Kettler, Treasurer. Sally also served as liaison with Thrivent Financial. Janice Spaeth coordinated work with the Lutheran World Relief.

St. James women love working together to provide for the needs of third-world countries under the auspices of Lutheran World Relief. We work to provide necessary shopping, labor, cutting, tacking, sewing and packing up beautiful quilts, health/school kids, and infant layettes according to LWR guidelines. Praise to Janice and all the women for their valuable assistance!

Sarah Circle provided 50 quilts after having four quilting parties on February, June, July, and October 2016.

In May, the Sarah Circle recognized three high school graduates: Kristen Harper, Jamie Wallace (Bubba Weinecke), and Cooper Boatright during our church service and each was presented with a gift bible and journal.

In September 2016, ST. James's congregation set up a booth during the Harper Historical Celebration to sell baked goods contributed by our congregation's best cooks. Sally Kettler, treasurer, reported the total amount funds raised was \$1100, plus another \$180 in contributions. Thrivent Financial contributed to our funds by matching amount by 50%. ST. James's WELCA was able to provide the Harper Historical Celebration with \$915.

The Sarah Circle, in September, contributed a monetary gift of \$40 for the Fall Festival, supporting the Crossroads camping program.

In October 2016, the WELCA, plus women from San Antonio, joined us for quilting, fellowship and made twenty-three beautiful quilts. Janice Spaeth earns handclaps for cutting and sewing the large cloth squares on her own time and her valuable guidance in assembling the quilts. Much praise to all our women!

In November, the Sarah Circle/WELCA women provided a THANKOFFERING service, performed by WELCA president and women of the church. The sanctuary was decorated with handmade quilts made by the women's group. A special Thankoffering Service was performed, with an offering of \$259 to

be shared between the Sarah Circle and WELCA's national organization.

The last event of the year was in December 2016. St. James exchanges names for Secret Prayer Partners. Our annual Christmas party was held at St. James Fellowship hall, with a total of twenty-six women attending. The identities of our Secret Prayer Partners were revealed and names were exchanged for Secret Prayer Partners for 2017. We shared wonderful snacks, opened gifts and enjoyed wonderful fellowship. It was decided that SPP's only have to send cards to our SPP, and no gift would be necessary for the annual Christmas party.

Sarah Circle mourns the death of a former officer Paula Dieke in May 2016. Her spiritual insights are missed by all.

WELCA and Sarah Circle members are extremely talented and hard-working and represent St. James Lutheran Church with honor. We look forward to the future to serve God and His church.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Palmer, President

January 2017