**St. John's Ladies Guild**

January 31, 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

 You may be wondering " what do those ladies of St. John's Ladies Guild do?" Here is some information about St. John's Ladies Guild.

 The purpose of St. John's Ladies Guild is to promote Christian fellowship among the women of the Church and to engage in activities to raise money for missions and charitable purposes to further the Kingdom of God here on earth.

 The Ladies Guild was organized in March 1950. The Ladies Guild is also a member organization of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, LWML.

 As members of the Ladies Guild we "serve the Lord with gladness," whether it is supporting our Church family, our local community, or supporting mission projects throughout the United States and the world.

 St. John's Ladies Guild provides opportunities for fellowship and to serve St. John's, and the community. The members of the Ladies Guild support St. John's in many ways. We have numerous committees which support our Church. The Altar Committee, who set up the altar for communion every Sunday. The Helping Hands Committee, who provide practical assistance to those who need rides to the doctor or grocery store, or who need help with household chores. The Spiritual Life Committee, who prepare devotions for our meetings. The Sunshine Committee, who keep in contact with our shut-ins and with members of the Church who are ill. They then let us know who is in need of our prayers and our support. Our membership committee, who greet newcomers to the Church, make them feel welcome and invite them to join the Ladies Guild. Our Program Committee, who plan the programs for the upcoming meetings for the year, and arrange for interesting guest speakers to come to our meetings, and share their expertise and stories with us. We have had Community Police Officers visit, a dietitian from Shoprite Supermarkets, as well as George Hopkins, a writer, George Way, an antiques expert from the Staten Island Advance, Pam Sylvestri, the Food Editor for the Staten island Advance, as well as Jerry Valles, our Church Council President, and Pastor Bagnall.

 We also support St. John's in a variety of ways. We provide and serve Easter Breakfast each year before the Easter Service. We run the Annual Christmas Fair, where we sell crafts made by the ladies of St. John's Mary and Martha Workshop. We also support the Christmas Fair at St. John's Lutheran School, where we provide soup and crafts for the children so they can do their own Christmas shopping. We also donated $200.00 profit that we made at the fair to the school. We also host potluck luncheons for the Church as an opportunity for fellowship. When our young members receive their first Holy Communion or are Confirmed, we host a celebratory party for them, their families, and the members of the Church to celebrate these milestones in their lives. We also provide monetary support when needed. We donated $1,000 to help defray the costs of the kitchen renovation. We bought a new vacuum cleaner for the Church when we saw that there was a need for a new vacuum cleaner. We also donated $400 for hurricane relief.

 We serve in many different ways at St. John's. When you see the Greeters, the Ushers or the Lectors during the service, there is a good chance that they are also members of the Ladies Guild. Members of the Ladies Guild also set up the coffee and cake for coffee hour, which we all enjoy. Members also serve as Sunday School teachers. We also serve on the Church Council, and on the School Board.

 We also raise money to support various Lutheran missions and charities, such as Lutheran Braille workers, Lutheran Social Services of New York, and Orphan Grain Train as well as other Lutheran organizations.

 St John's Ladies Guild is also a member organization of the LWML. We collect mites, small donations of coins, to support local, national and international mission projects. These mites really add up. For our local area, the Atlantic District, we are part of a fundraising effort to raise $46,000 for 13 local mission grants. These mission grants include, Grace Lutheran Pantry, Queens Village, NY, and Long Island Deaf Missions, Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, Millneck, NY. On the national level, we are part of a national effort to raise $2,750,000 to support 22 mission projects in the United States and throughout the world. These include; Mercy House for Women and Children in Flint, Michigan, Christ for Veterans and Their Families, LCMS Ministry of the Armed Forces, and Tanzanian Sewing Center, Evangelical Lutheran Church, Tanzania.

 Ladies Guild members also serve their families and their communities. Most of the ladies also volunteer their time and talents to various organizations, for example, we have members who are volunteers for Meals on Wheels. We have members who serve on the Board of Trustees for Eger Lutheran Home and Services.

 As you can see, where there is a need, there is a Sister in Christ from the Ladies Guild, willing and able to serve, whether it is in the Church or in our communities, we are here to "serve the Lord with gladness". We have meetings on the first Thursday of every month, from September through June, at 7:30 p.m. in the Church basement. Please join us for service and fellowship. You are always welcome.

 In Christ,

 Leonor Abugel

 St. John's Ladies Guild

 President