

IDEA SHARING

What do some of the congregational units do together? Quilting: heavy quilts given locally, lighter ones go to Lutheran World Relief (LWR), and some make special ones for their high school graduates. Prayer shawl ministry along with hats, scarves etc.; make homeless food bags to include such things as a McDonald's gift card, hand warmer gel packs, bottled water, granola bars, etc.; collect school supplies in July and August and again in December or January ; make personal health kits (LWR); collect children's books and donate to the monthly reading group; Food Pantry; Teddy Bear Ministry; hold a Gift of the World Bazaar; have Bible Studies using Gather Magazine and bring food items for the Food Pantry; Collect feminine hygiene products for local organizations; Thanksgiving food baskets; Little gifts for teachers at a nearby school; Personal health kits; Support Family Promise (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network); Make Easter baskets for a social services organization to distribute; Organize an area for in-kind gifts away from the narthex, keeping the boxes or bins well labeled, clean and professional looking.

Fundraising ideas: Gift in a jar(cookie recipe, soups, etc.); pie social; auction off a dessert; book sale; pumpkin patch; basket silent auction; and a Mystery Dinner tickets.

How do you make welcome single women and women ages 22 to 30? Do they have a place in your church, a position, a thing? Get across the message that the old fogies are more "hip," (yes, even this is an old fashioned word) than assumed and interested in the vision and needs of this group. This age is a time of finding one's place in the world, and we need to make sure that one of those places is the Women's Organization, or Women's Ministries. Sponsor young women to events; catch them early while still in high school. Provide annual scholarships.

Notification Places: Provide a "Graffiti Board", a place to celebrate, post notes, congratulations, concerns, prayers, programs, news, activities, high fives, praise, care notes, art and affirmations. This will be a constantly changing place, a place that anyone can write on or post to. Keep it current and not too cluttered. " Virtual" bulletin board or bible study – on the web or Facebook (Such as www.cafe.org or www.womenoftheelca.org) "Physical" – a bulletin board, cork board, and or white board.

Share your ideas by sending them directly to RMSWO President Anna Thompson via email at: anna498.at@gmail.com. The ideas will be placed in this area to help others expand their ministry locally.