Ladies Aid Says THANK YOU

With the beginning of 2023, the Emanuel's Lutheran Ladies Aid enters its 124th year of existence. From its inception, the Ladies Aid was tasked with fostering Christian fellowship among its members; performing works of charity in the congregation by caring for the sick, the poor and those in distress and raising money for charitable institutions, the needs of Emanuel's Lutheran Church and local welfare. To this day, the Ladies Aid continues to work to fulfill the above tasks set forth in its Constitution which was created in 1899.

We have the fellowship part down. In fact, we've been working at minimizing the food which is hard for a group of ladies who think nothing about whipping up a dessert from memory. But can't have something sweet without a salty treat. And what about healthy? At least, sandwiches have finally gone by the wayside.

Without the need to provide assistance to the many German immigrants flooding our community at the time of the creation of the Ladies Aid, we have switched our focus with more emphasis on helping Emanuel's and the community at large. Pastor Marcus is helping us gain more insight into our Christian heritage as he guides us on a trip through the Holy Land. It is not unusual that his narration veers off into such titillating discussions such as the existence of wingless angels.

The study of the Holy Land and the discussions that are generated set the stage for furthering our primary purpose—service. If Pastor Marcus is unavailable for his guided tour, we have had presentations by community organizations such as the Christian Cupboard. The Ladies maintain contact with Emanuel's members and extended family through visits, phone calls and cards. They work with nursing homes by providing funds to support nursing home activities and, often, by attending activities to provide assistance and fellowship for the residents. However, the focus of our organization has become fundraising in an effort to financially support the needs of Emanuel's and the community-at-large. To this end, we depend on the generosity of our Emanuel's family and friends.

Fundraising by the Ladies Aid has evolved from the sale of turkey lunches, cookbooks and rummage sales which involved a yearlong collection of items, to bazaars, homemade coffee cake sales, quilt raffles (aided by the work of the Emanuel's quilters) and, now, back to the creation and sale of cookbooks. Thank you to all for providing way more than expected family recipes to truly make our cookbook a collection of tried and true old and new ideas.

The success of our fundraising has led to the more recent funding of the replacement of the flooring in the 1st floor educational wing; a $12,000 submission to the capital campaign for the renovation project; replacement of the broken (unfixable) ice machine in the Women's Ministry gathering space and the annual donation of $1,000 to the Christian Cupboard food pantry. Other support has been provided by purchasing church office equipment, replacement Paraments for the church altar space and new home communion kits; providing funds for Ervin Fischer's grandson and his family for their missional ministry in Kosovo; helping to fund the LWR shipping costs for the shipping of quilts, backpacks with school supplies, etc; donations to the Battered Women's Shelter and The Texas Agricultural Educational and Heritage Center ("The Red Barn"). Additional donations are made as the Ladies Aid is made aware of the need.

You, the members of Emanuel's and your family members and friends, have made the funds available for the Ladies Aid to reach out and support Emanuel's and the needs of the community. THANK YOU for your generous support of each of our fundraising projects. Without you, the Ladies Aid could not meet our commitment to serve the Emanuel's family and your friends and neighbors here and abroad.