

Acts 14:17

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## **HAPPY SUMMER!**

Hope everyone is enjoying the beautiful, warm weather for the few months that we have it in the upper Midwest. Although we are only half-way through summer, it is time to begin thinking about the fall. I love when fall rolls around each year in the church, and we all get a chance to start new things! What is your women's ministry doing to kick off the fall? A new bible study or small group? A get-together? The possibilities are endless! Your WMNWC board met in June to discuss upcoming plans as well. Stay tuned for news about some great new ministries! **Happy Summer!**

If you are looking for something new to try, why not a Fall Women's Retreat at one of our Covenant Camps? These retreats have high quality speakers, lots of fun activities, and the opportunity for much relaxation and fellowship with other women. Lake Beauty Bible Camp and Covenant Park Bible Camp are both holding Fall Women's Retreats September 16-18, 2022. Go on your own, or bring your whole women's group! More info can be found on the camps' websites ([www.lbbc.com](http://www.lbbc.com) and [www.covenantpark.org](http://www.covenantpark.org))

*As always, if your women's ministry could use a boost, I am available to meet (in person or virtually) to discuss ideas. Contact me at [rachel@wmnwc.org](mailto:rachel@wmnwc.org).*

*Rachel Kleinschmidt  
NWC Women Ministry Consultant*



### **A Tour of Our Place**

The WMNWC board began their weekend together with a tour of Our Place in Duluth. Our Place opened in 1998 with North Place opening five years later. From their beginning, Women Ministries of the Northwest Conference have had a partnership with Covenant Ability Network-CAN (formerly known as Covenant Enabling Residence-CER). In 2008 CAN expanded to the Twin Cities with Friendship Place and since 2017 has added Lakes Place, Grace Place, Oaks Place and Oaks Place II in the northern suburbs. These homes were begun because of the need for housing for individuals with intellectual disabilities and the stirring of God in the hearts of some Covenanters to meet this need. WMNWC had a special project of raising funds for Our Place and has been supporters of this ministry ever since.

The board members were welcomed by staff and residents into the home. Dana Norton (Executive Director) and Laura Daire (Program Administrator) explained the operations of the group homes along with some of the greatest challenges. The love, care and concern for each of the individuals they serve

was very evident. A great desire that was expressed was for individuals or churches to build relationships with the individuals so they know someone cares for them, especially those who don't have as much family support. They also have practical needs that need to be met, especially with inflation effecting their budget. Donations of paper products, gas cards, fast food gift cards for those they serve, cash donations and more. For a full list and more information visit their website at <https://www.covabilitymn.org/support/> .

As we toured Our Place some of the comments and observations from our team were: impressed with the healthy cooking and meals served, each of their rooms were decorated to reflect the interests and taste of the individual, the guys (Our Place has all men living there) seemed to enjoy having us visit there, the staff was so friendly, the home has a nice atmosphere and more. If you are interested in seeing any of the CAN homes for yourself contact Dana Norton by email at [dlnorton@covabilitymn.org](mailto:dlnorton@covabilitymn.org)

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**Covenant Ability Network (like OurPlace):**

<https://www.covabilitymn.org/connect/>

**Mission ideas:**

<https://www.pinkboxpurpose.org/>

**AVA:**

<https://giving.covchurch.org/priorities-detail/Advocacy-for-Victims-of-Abuse>

**Visit:**

<https://www.wmnwc.org/>

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**Justice and Discipleship:**

***Why One Cannot be Accomplished Without the Other***

No matter how hard people fight, we will never be able to achieve a world of justice. Please bear with me as I explain my seemingly harsh words.

As soon as I started to get involved with some of the justice causes in my area, I quickly found out how easy it is to get caught up in the "justice" of it all. So caught up, in fact, that one can attend endless meetings, forums, conferences, rallies and seminars - all looking rather similar, despite the different names. How easy it is to go from wanting to make a

positive difference to “feeling” like you are making a positive difference, just by the company you keep. After all, if you are supporting someone’s cause, you are participating in something bigger than yourself and therefore making some kind of difference.

For instance, as I got involved in the fight against human trafficking (a very real injustice in our world today), I found many organizations doing great work and I had to determine which ones to throw my support - be it time, talents, spiritual gifts or money - behind.

Some claim they are hoping to see an end to modern day slavery in this lifetime. While I appreciate the enthusiasm, I do not agree this can be accomplished. We live in a broken world, with broken people and no matter how hard we try, we alone are not capable of eliminating the evil that is responsible for the exploitation of others.

I am not saying drop all the causes you support. That would surely make me a hypocrite! There are so many great organizations that need our support to accomplish the many life-changing things they do. I am saying, it is vital that we, as followers of Christ, make sure our efforts are aimed toward a much greater goal.

If you have ever attended a Christian justice meeting of any kind, you have probably heard this scripture used:

“He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God” (*Micah 6:8*)

In fact, this scripture was the one that God used to draw me into His work of justice (again, a very real thing - as I have witnessed). However, many times when we see this verse, it is interpreted as, “... seek justice, love mercy, walk humbly with your God.” There is a noticeable difference between seeking justice versus acting with justice. One is done for others, the other denotes how we ourselves act towards others (i.e. self-control).

You might momentarily agree with me if I said, “if everyone in the world had self-control, it would be a much better world.” I hate to again be so critical, but there are too many people in this world that are quite in control of their own actions, and that is precisely why we cannot have a world without injustice.

When we as humans do things by our own power, we are almost certain to do it for our own advantage. When we allow God to lead our lives - through the power of His Holy Spirit - He will most certainly move with the purpose of reconciliation and restoration of the entire world... for eternity.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

Perspective.

Does that mean we shouldn't even try to make this a better world? Absolutely not! God commands us to love:

“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35).

What better way to show love than to see to it that others receive justice, right? Well... up to a point. Notice what God says loving others reveals? “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples.” Why is this important? It shows people where the love comes from – not of ourselves, but from God!

Years ago, when our church council had selected a prospective new Pastor, we as a congregation had the opportunity to ask him questions. Since I am involved in a number of justice ministries, I inquired as to his thoughts. My (now) Pastor replied, “I am all for justice ministries... as long as they include discipleship.” His view not only secured my vote, but also confirmed what I felt God was telling me, in respect to my own involvement in such ministries.

It is important for us to speak up for those who are unable to speak for themselves; to provide for the most vulnerable of our population. And, we should never underestimate the power of helping just one person. God doesn't.

“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off?” (Matthew 18:12).

If we try, however, to preach the Gospel to a person who is in “survival mode”, they may not be able to see beyond the physical. We need to help stabilize them enough for them to be able to focus on the spiritual. On the other hand, if we only tend to their physical needs, we are leaving that person, or group of people spiritually dead.

We must do all – act justly towards others by seeking justice for those in need while speaking truth into their lives. We must share the good news of Jesus Christ so that others can receive The Blessed Hope:

“For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say ‘No’ to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God

and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good" (Titus 2:11-14).

When selecting who we will join with and support, we, as the body of Christ, need to make sure those organizations are also invested in the spiritual lives of those they serve. When there is discipleship in practice and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, only then can true healing begin.

The truth is, there cannot be complete restoration and transformation without Jesus Christ - who is the very Truth:

"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through me'" (John 14:6).

Jesus works on the heart of the matter... literally; the human heart. We may never be able to create a world without injustice, but God can. In fact, He did - and He plans to restore it to Himself one day.

While we are often unable to see the light at the end of the tunnel, God's light has already come into this world in the form of His Son, Jesus Christ.

"I [Jesus] have come into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness" (John 12:46).

Jesus has already done all the work needed to restore this world to its original purity and beauty. It is now up to those of us who know The Blessed Hope to focus on true and complete justice for those we choose to serve.

We must not only act justly and seek justice for others; but, most importantly, share God's Truth with others, to prepare them for Christ's return and the day when God will restore His perfect justice once and for all.

Deborah Devine

[JustDevine.org](http://JustDevine.org)

WMNWC "Make and Deepen Disciples"

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## **A Note from the President:**

In June the WMNWC board met for 2 days in Duluth for a time of reflection, visioning and planning. This was the first time most of the board was actually meeting each other in person. Our current board has many fresh faces, with Rachel, our consultant, being part of it the longest and everyone else coming on board in 2019 or after. My heart was so encouraged after

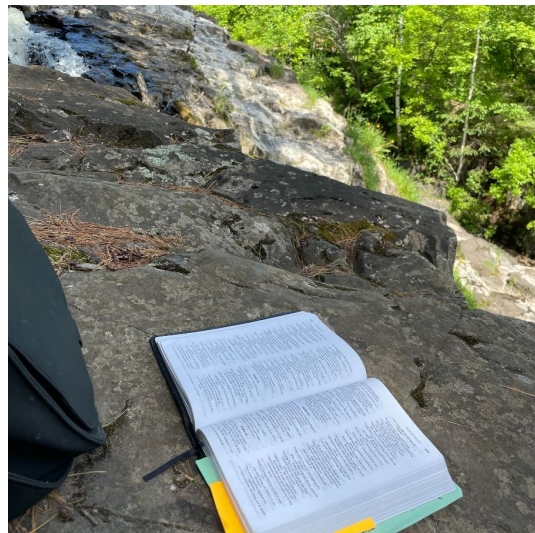
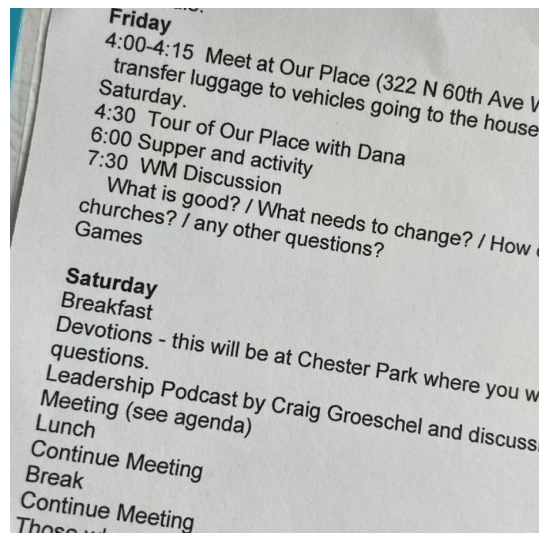


meeting with these women who have a passion for seeing women grow in their faith and make a difference in the Kingdom of God. If you or your church would like to connect with resources regarding Women Ministries, discipleship (Make and Deepen Disciples), missions (Serve Globally), sex trafficking ministry (Love Mercy Do Justice) or having a platform to share what your church is doing you may contact me or Rachel Kleinschmidt [rachel@wmnwc.org](mailto:rachel@wmnwc.org) and we will be happy to help you or direct you to the person that can.

Sheryl Schanil

President

[president@wmnwc.org](mailto:president@wmnwc.org)



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We thank you, our churches and our individual women, for your generous donations to Women Ministries of the Northwest Conference (WMNWC). Because of you, we

are able to minister to our Northwest Conference churches.

There are several different ways that you can give to WMNWC as an individual or as a church:

- You can write a check to WMNWC and mail it to: Financial Secretary WMNWC, c/o 3106 47<sup>th</sup> Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406
- You can give online through the Tithe.ly website. *This can be a one time gift or you can set up an automatic monthly gift.*
- You can give through your own bank with an automatic monthly gift option. The bank then mails the checks to the above address.

With all these options you can designate money for support which covers our expenses and our consultant, Rachel; AVA (Advocates for Victims of Abuse; SIM (Special Interest Missionaries).

If you have questions about any of these options, please contact our financial secretary, Glenda Haverinen: [sghaverinen92@gmail.com](mailto:sghaverinen92@gmail.com)

A church or an individual can give memorial gifts to WMNWC in honor of a someone special. Gifts have been given in memory of a woman from their church or family member that has been very involved in Women Ministries. For ladies involved with Thrivent, you can designate WMNWC for a gift--this goes directly from Thrivent to WMNWC.

Please remember that we do not receive funds from any other group other than you, our churches and individuals. The Evangelical Covenant Denomination no longer has Women Ministries at a national level. So, send all your Women Ministries gifts to WMNWC.

Once again, thank you so much for supporting WMNWC.

### Meet your WM Board -- 2nd Installment:

Hi fellow wanderers!

I am Kristi Lindstrom, Communications Director for the NWC Women Ministries Board. I have just started my second term and am still trying to figure out how to communicate!

I remember vividly the change in family life when my father accepted Christ when I was a child. His radical transformation was instrumental in my journey to the Savior. I accepted Christ while an elementary camper at Cooperstown Bible Camp in North Dakota. As a PERFECT CHILD I heard that I could never be good enough to get to heaven by myself...that a man named Jesus had to DIE as restitution for my imperfections. Even as a child, I knew I was lying to myself about my own righteousness so I became a Savior-needing Christ-follower. Then, I heard His call to ministry when I was in fifth grade during a missionary presentation at that camp. In the following years, I met my husband at the same Bible Camp and was baptized in the river that flowed through the camp.



Needless to say, I believe in camp and retreat ministry!

I attended Oak Hills Bible Institute (now College) in Bemidji after high school, married my high school sweetheart, Cal. We have wandered from Thief River Falls to the Twin Cities to Roseau and then as a pastor's wife to Carlton before going to Fargo and back to Mahtowa. Along the way, we raised four boys, and now have four wonderful daughter-in-love, and ten grandchildren.

God has been faithful in His call on our marriage and lives. His mercy never ends. His purpose hasn't always been foreseeable, but He has proven trustworthy time and time again. I am honored to be part of this board along side these women who He has also called and prepared with a vision for the women of the Covenant.

If you have any needs, or ideas to share for Women Ministries locally or for the district or nationally, please feel free to contact one of us. We would love to see photos and hear stories of what you are doing in your women ministries too. We are ready and willing to serve you!



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