

Ministry Goals + Focus Points

2022–2023

Research

Through collaboration with WELS Women's Ministry, a survey of simple questions was formed to get a temperature for the need or interest for a Women's Ministry group at Christ the Lord in Brookfield, Wis. The survey was launched on May 13, 2022.

Survey Findings

We received a handful of responses, with a wide variety of age groups represented across the board. The top "needs" from a Women's Ministry group showed a focus towards the following in this order; Fellowship Opportunities, Educational Topics/Speakers, Spiritual Encouragement, and Service Opportunities (congregational and community).

A highlighted obstacle for participation or interest for women in the congregation all seemed to revolve around the theme of "commitment". It seems as though many yearn for connection and encouragement from women within the congregation/church-family, but are already spread thin between personal, family, or work obligations. Many are willing to help plan or attend, but with as little commitment as possible due to changing circumstances and/or the need for flexibility.

Summative Results

The findings show a definite need for non-committal opportunities for women at CTL to be able to connect, encourage and grow with each other in their faith. A Women's Ministry group that can provide a variety of opportunities, without a major time or task commitment, may just help bridge the gap for those feeling alone as a female member of the congregation or not included in the church-family.

A Women's Ministry group providing such opportunities surrounding the highlighted focuses, a handful of times a year, would be recommended to start. Qualifications and requirements of these opportunities would be that they fall in-line with the overall CTL ministry plan, are well-planned and coordinated, and are of high-quality content and follow-through. The focus of an initial planning team should be not on the quantity of opportunities but the variety and quality of them since "time is precious" to the women of this congregation. These opportunities may aid in the connections between women, inspire and motivate more participation on a congregational level, as well as a relational level in their personal lives outside of church on Sundays. In turn, building up the church of Christ.

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Goals

1. Form a core CTL Women's Ministry team - all while being an open door for inclusion and participation with no extended commitment of time or tasks.
2. In order to alleviate the role responsibilities, at each meeting 4 specific tasks need to be completed/have a volunteer for:
 - a. Taking Meeting Notes/Updating an Agenda for WM google Drive
 - b. Sending Public communications/promotions
 - c. Contacting Member Ministry/Pastors on decisions made or to seek council
 - d. Designate Project lead/contact per initiative
3. Have participation in formal team meetings on a monthly or as needed basis in order to fulfill and meet the goals for the ministry itself.
4. Take summative results from the initial interest survey and create a plan to meet the needs of the four highlighted focuses (listed below).
5. Implement each of the four focus points with open feedback and review after follow through.
6. Track growth and participation in the ministry to provide value in service of core team members and initiatives planned.
7. Provide on-going fellowship opportunities outside of the four key-focused initiatives as capacity of core team members allow.
8. Review after 1 year of pursuing goals and initiatives and determine in collaboration with the Member Ministry Committee and church leadership if any changes need to be made for the betterment of the ministry and the souls it's serving before moving forward with planning another year.
9. If moving forward is a benefit to the membership, set upcoming years' Goals and Focus points.

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Focus Points

→ Fellowship Opportunities

- Come Together Events idea - On-going planning
Date:
Average monthly hosts / participants:
Description: *Women's Ministry at CTL has learned that there is a strong desire within the women of our congregation for fellowship and to create relationships that go beyond a polite smile and wave after church is over. We are excited to introduce an ongoing initiative to provide more opportunities for fellowship and connection after weekend worship has concluded. A Come Together Event is a casual, simple way to meet and connect with your sisters in Christ. Events can be hosted by any female congregation members and all women are welcome to attend based on interest in the individual events. Our first month of events will be hosted by Women's Ministry Team members.*
- Paint and Sip Fellowship Event
Date: October 18, 2022 at 6:30pm
Attendees: 49
Report: On October 18, 2022, Women's Ministry held their first official event for female members of our congregation where we hosted a Paint & Sip Fellowship evening. A total of 49 eager participants were guided through a 2-hour process to create their own unique sunflower painting on canvas. The evening also featured heavy hors d'oeuvres, mocktail drinks and plenty of time for laughs and socializing. WM received many positive comments about this event. Some of the most notable referred to the relaxed, casual atmosphere that naturally encouraged women to enjoy time with friends and also meet new sisters in Christ.

→ Spiritual Encouragement and Growth

- Advent by Candlelight Event
Date: December 4, 2022 from 2pm-4pm
Attendees: 98?
Report: In preparation for our Savior's birth, Women's Ministry held an Advent by Candlelight service on December 4, 2022. 14 women hosted 10 tables of guests for an afternoon of readings, hymns, songs and even some humorous videos. We utilized a newly published service by WELS Women's Ministry entitled, Come Lord Jesus. An estimated 98 women, including about a dozen guests to CTL, listened and participated in Scripture and song to contemplate our Lord as King, Judge, Messiah and Immanuel. Table hostesses provided beautiful decor and personalized refreshments for their guests. WM provided drinks, a devotional booklet, and a keepsake ornament of all attendees. This event included a large number of volunteers between table hostesses, music setup and performance as well as day-of volunteers.

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→ Educational/Topical Speakers

- “Resiliency: Bend, Don’t Break” presentation by Mrs. Karen Fischer – Christian Family Solutions
Date: March 25, 2023, 8:30am - 12pm
Attendees / Registrants: 36 / 50
Report: Women’s Ministry invited a guest speaker from Christian Family Solutions for an educational presentation from a distinctly Christian perspective. Karen Fischer joined our group on the morning of March 25, 2023, to share her work, “Resiliency: Bend, Don’t Break”. A group of 36 women (including outside visitors of CTL) practiced resilience as we gathered on an extremely snowy morning for breakfast and an hour-long presentation involving Elements of Resilience, View of Setbacks, Learned Attributes, Discussion and Encouragement. After the presentation, there was time for discussion and fellowship with coloring pages. We had 50 registered participants, but the inclement weather prevented many women from attending that day.

→ Service Opportunities (congregational and community)

- St. Peter, Milwaukee, Wis. – Pregnancy Counseling Center
Looking for: Donations of Bibles