



PACIFIC NORTHWEST DISTRICT SPECIAL MINISTRIES REPORT

June 8-9th at Evergreen Lutheran High School

Refer to pages 57 to 62 in the 2017 Book of Reports and Memorials

Special Ministries is a ministry of compassion and caring for those who need a little help or who are in certain circumstances. It covers the broad needs of the church and supplies information or materials.

Special Ministries is divided into these areas

- **Health and Wellness:** Ministry to aging; nursing and parish nursing; and hospital, nursing home, and assisted living ministries. This year's emphasis is the needs of the caregivers for those with long-term illness or disability.
- **Military Services:** Civilian chaplaincy for our members all over the world. It provides sermons, Meditations, and lots of love to our members in the military.
- **Prison Ministry:** We send Bible study materials, devotions and Meditations to 70,000 prisoners found in 1,500 correctional facilities nationwide.
- **Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Ministry "IDDM":** This ministry develops resources and provides information to parents, caregivers, children, adults, pastors, teachers and congregations about education programs, mentoring networks, support groups and printed or digital materials.
- **Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** More and more people are in need of some hearing aid. This is a resource on how to help our people to hear the Word of God.
- **Mission for the Visually Impaired:** They produce devotions, books and sermons on tape as well as braille materials. They provide the large print editions of Meditations and Forward in Christ.
- **Care Committee for Called Workers "CCCW":** This committee assists calling bodies in the spiritual, physical and emotional care of their called workers. This year their emphasis is assisting called workers prepare and plan for retirement.
- **Committee for Mental Health Needs:** This committee assists congregations, institutions, called workers, and lay members as they minister to one another in love, especially to those experiencing mental health needs.

This group helps those addicted to pornography. It has a new service helping those who were abused as a child.

This year your District Special Ministry team has provided information to our congregations. We have children with special needs taking confirmation class. A presentation was given to our teachers on Autism at the spring teachers' conference. Information on a hearing loop for a congregation doing a remodel and they wanted it put in while things were torn up. We helped with mental illness needs by pointing them to the WELS/ELS Christian Network as well as Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Services—Christian counseling. We have encouraged the sending in names of our soldiers in the military so they can receive spiritual encouragement.

With great joy we announce Pastor Rob Robbert of our district has been made chairman for the Mission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

Pacific Northwest District Special Ministries committee:

Pastor Thomas Gumm

Pastor Robin Robbert

Pastor Ed Frey