

FLAVIA VIA- An Accomplished Lady for All Kinds of Job by Nancy Cramer

For Flavia Via, a longtime member of 23 years of All Saints Lutheran Church, no job was too small or unimportant regarding her service during all these years with- an important caveat- "as long as it included working with the children of the church." That meant Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, the nursery, even a special feeding program before church services started. At present, she is making use of her talents and training by being a caregiver to an elderly person. Prior to this position, she has been a tax preparer, a receptionist, a hairdresser, and a photographer's assistant. Asked which job she enjoyed the most, she quickly answered that of "hairdresser." Perhaps that is the reason why her long dark hair is so attractive. The variety of jobs depict her many varied skills and talents.

Originally of the Catholic faith, she joined All Saints 23 years ago, because it was known for its friendly members who welcomed all visitors. It is this warm atmosphere and the friendships and connections that she has made over the years that keep her as a member.

She is the mother of three adult children. Ereik just reached his 18th birthday and will be starting this fall at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He was a member of the team that went to (when) and did. Next is Jordin, 24, with older sister, Taylor, 29. Flavia's most difficult time in her life was when her husband died in September, 2011. It was an emotional loss that took her a long time to recover. He had been active also in the church as the choir director.

It is difficult for her to decide what were the best times in her life because she has had many, especially when working with small children. One project that brought her great satisfaction would be the breakfast program for children before the church services. She and other women would provide breakfast for as many as 15 youngsters.

She also is chairperson of the committee which plans and carries out a garage sale each summer. It's a good way for people to give away something good they don't need any more, and a good way to purchase something good they can use. The monies go to church designated organizations.

Presently, she is one of the women who are making masks for the corona virus victims. She and others have made 100 masks which were shipped to Pennsylvania. The masks have a special design using wire that tapers to the nose. Now they are making masks to sell to local people. With gratitude, All Saints thanks Flavia for her many years of service to the church and its members.