

## **United Methodist Church of Latvia women's ministry report.**

We thank God for his presence and power in all ministries and activities of our Church in Latvia.

In the United Methodist Church of Latvia most of the pastors and church members are women. We have 12 congregations, 11 pastors and 8 of them are women. Most of our congregations are small. Just two: Riga's first and Liepaja's is the little biggest and have more than 50 members. In Latvia we have some special women ministries.

### **Hope Center**

For the 14 years now the Hope center has been able to help and support Latvia's families, single mothers and children. The Hope center has been supported from the Methodist in the US and Europe. The Hope center "Madaras" non-profit organization gives shelter, support, love and training to single mothers and their children. Some mothers are so young and haven't skill for take care about child. In the Hope Center they learn how to do it. If possible they give immediate shelter and a home for those who have no resources or assistance from government.

The center can accommodate 7-8 mothers and their children. This past year they were at full capacity with a waiting list.

The Hope Center and her director Gita Binane continually re looking for ways how to bring new innovations in their daily life. The Hope center provide the mothers with the services of a psychologist who visits every week, social worker, health specialist to ensure medical assistance when necessary. The Hope center also provides the services of a teacher, career consultant, doctor.

The goal is to provide for the mother and child's welfare and protection, working with other social services and institutions, federal and municipal governments, children's court, doctors and social workers. The Hope center are close with the Methodist church in Cesis and their pastor Kristine and other peoples always are ready to give help and talk about God. The Hope center is thankful for any help.

### **After school Program in Liepa.**

"Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children" (Matthew 19:14)

Liepa is small city 100km from capital city Riga. There are must of kids coming from families where just one parent. Most of them coming to program to receive hot meal even once per day. Sometimes school children's are taking with them youngest brother and sisters.

This after school program leading pastor Vera. She are actually the pastor of Russian congregation in Liepa and in Sarkani. For help there coming some women from Liepas congregation to make meal for kids. They serve every week from Monday to Thursday from 2 to 7 PM. Children gather for first hour, during second hour they are doing their homework for next day, but afterward they play varied table games. After they have dinner, and after Bible class, with

varied handcrafts following based on themes from the bible. This year two after school program's children and their younger brother became baptized. Two families are participating in baptism courses- two mothers and 7 children will become baptized summer by water baptism.

### **Union "Metode"**

Metode was founded at 2013. The goal was to help to our congregations and peoples to get some income. There is many craftsmen who are making many handcraft but haven't possibility to sell them So Daina Zamberga, who are leading this program, helping for peoples. But with the time Metode started to make

exhibitions for new artists and amateur artists. To Metode coming peoples from Blind and Visually Impaired Societies. We are learning how to make handcrafts, greeting cards and many other things. We are organizing fairs, to collect money for ministries in church. We are always looking for possibility to find new markets and places to sell our products.

We are always invited and attending LUMC congregation camp, retreats for women , children and youth camp at summer time with creative workshops and helping to serve camps.

**Our website: [www.davanuprieks.lv](http://www.davanuprieks.lv)**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/metode.lv/>**

**Instagram: [davanuprieks.lv](https://www.instagram.com/davanuprieks.lv)**

In a very small congregation located at little village Tasi, many years women knitting very small socks and sending them to the Riga maternity wards for premature babies.

We are involved in charity organization" Let's help each other". This organization helping for many poor families and lonely older peoples with food, medical assistance, lawyer advice, creation of humanitarian living conditions and many other things.

Actually, every women in our congregations are involved in some ministry or small groups.

We need your prayers, dear sisters, for all our Latvia's church, for all our women pastors and for every women who are serving God and people.

**"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace." (Num 6:24-26)**

Wishing God's blessing,

Daina Zamberga