

CAROLINAS CROSS CONNECTION

Volume 78 Issue 4

December 2023

Upcoming Events:

- April 13, 2024—Joy Event, Charlotte, N.C.
- August, 2024—Retreat
 Camp Linn Haven
- Sept. 20-21, 2024—Carolinas Dist. Conv., Cary, NC
- June 26-29,2025—Nat'l Conv.
 Omaha, Ne.



Inside this issue:

Memorial	1
President Paula	2
Pre-Conv. Seminars Sr. Pastoral Counselor	2
Zone News	4
Editor Deadline	4
Zone News	5
Carolinas webpage	5
Zone News Retreat Pictures Zone News	6 6 7- 10
Joy Event	10
Mission Grant App.	11
VP-Mission Outreach	12
Mission of the Qtr.	13
Treas. Report	13
Nominations Comm.	14
2024 Dist. Conv.	15

It is hard to believe that our Jr. Pastoral Counselor Rev. Scott Johnson has passed away. He went to his heavenly home on Monday, November 20, 2023.



Pastor Scott was born on April 13, 1959 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin and in 1985 he married Denise Bradtmuller. They have six children and four grandchildren with the fifth one on the way. He loved visiting his grandchildren- they were his pride and joy. Scott was often asked why he didn't cut his long white hair and beard and he would reply I will get a trim but that is all, my granddaughter thinks I look like Santa.

No matter the time of year most of the time you would see him in his favorite outfits of shorts and Hawaiian shirts. Scott was a very devoted pastor who was available 24/7 for anyone. Being a Pastor was his passion as he was all about getting God's word out. The past three years he was known as Scott the Trouble Maker as he was been part of the Wacky Wake up Crew on WNNC Radio and 63 Big Waves.

Pastor Johnson was loved by everyone and will be greatly missed. May we remember he would tell us he is in a better place and we will see each other again one day.

Kim Cater President Paula Daniels



News from Carolinas District LWML President

Dear Lutheran Women in Mission of the Carolinas,

It's hard to believe 2023 is almost over. The first year serving as your District President has passed and I have learned a lot from each of you and from the National LWML. I hope to continue to serve and learn with God's help and your prayers. I have nominated Pastor Richard Willsea for Pastoral Councilor of the LWML national and he has made it through the first round of screenings. I pray that he makes it to the ballot for the 2025 National Convention.

Our new website is finally up and running. We can now be found at www.lwmlcarolinas.org.

Please be sure to check us out. A big thanks goes out to Lauren Olsen from the Eastern Zone who has been working on getting our website up and running. There are places for each Zone to list information about their zone and upcoming events in their zone. Please contact Sherri Marquardt or Lauren Olsen with you zone information.

Please prayerfully consider how you can serve the Carolinas District LWML. We need women who are willing to serve as officers for the district and women who are willing to serve on committees. Denise Johnson is head of the nominating committee and is looking for women to run for VP of Special Focus Ministries/YWR, VP of Human Care, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, and Nomination Committee members. She is also looking for Pastors willing to serve as a Pastoral Counselor. If you would be interested in collecting LWML information please consider being the district archivist/historian or maybe for your zone.

Please know that each of you are a blessing to the district, to your zone, to your group, to your church, and most of all to God!

God's blessing for a wonderful 2024 year serving the Lord! Paula Daniels LWML Carolinas District President



Pre-Convention Seminar

Pre-Convention Seminar Summary- Mission Grants- Take Away

The impact of district mission grants is huge! There are 40 LWML Districts and each District will support many ministries. The first step in writing a mission grant proposal and sometimes the hardest part may be to define a mission and write the proposal. How to begin:

Look at ministry in your area

Look at needs in your area

District Mission projects- Talk with your district Mission person

District Missionary needs- Does your district have appointed district missionaries?

National and international mission needs- Contact the Synodical office to find out the national and international mission needs.

Mission Grants Bank- LWML maintains a Mission Grants bank on the website which can give you further ideas of ministries that are in need.

As we move forward and think about what we do now, it is good to look back and review the history of the LWML. Finally, it's important to keep the LWML Vision Statement always before you.

Submitted by, Nancy W. Nolley VP Mission Outreach



Sr. Pastoral Counselor

Happy Advent, as we move from Lectionary Year A (Matthew) to Year B (Mark), I'd like to give you a heads-up as to what I hope you will hear in the coming year, so long as your congregation uses the three year lectionary.

Many feel that Mark was written before Matthew and Luke. It is a fair assumption. "Mark is shorter than Matthew and Luke; it must have been written first, and then used as a base text for the other two," they think. You can see us preachers thinking in this way when we unwittingly go outside the text to include the "extra material" from Matthew and



Luke in our sermons. A great illustration of this is Jesus' temptation in the wilderness. Mark does not mention the three temptations, nor Jesus' quotation of Scripture. He only includes two short verses that simply state that the temptation happened. I, however, teach that Mark's Gospel is written after Matthew and Luke, not before. He does not add other extraneous material because he does not need it. Those parts of the story (like the three temptations) are already known, and Mark is telling his own tale for God's own purpose, which we will get to later.

Mark's Gospel is famous or rather infamous for its ending. The earliest manuscripts of Mark do not include verses 9-20 of chapter 16, and I am convinced that Mark's original Gospel ends properly at verse 8—So they [the women] went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

And as troubling and horrific as that verse 8 ending would have been, it's not true. Not that it is a lie—Scripture can't be broken—but rather Mark is using a rhetorical device. Had Jesus' story simply stopped there with no one else the wiser to who Jesus was, that would have been the height of tragedy. But it doesn't end there. Those same three women at the tomb, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had already witnessed just one chapter earlier the heart of the Gospel to the nations, the majesty of the cross, the fulfillment of Jesus' Baptism, as the Centurion declared "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

What God the Father declared at Jesus' Baptism in Mark 1:11, "You are my beloved son...", is now made so clear that even a Roman complicit in Jesus' death can believe it. And confess it. And this only after Jesus exhales his spirit, given to Him in the Baptism. The temple curtain is torn open as the sky was opened at the Baptism. Jesus' journey, not from Bethlehem, but from Baptism, is now complete. We will read the Baptism of Jesus three times in fifteen weeks this church year—the second Sunday in Advent, the Baptism of Jesus on January 7, and the first Sunday in Lent. Mark AND the lectionary are trying to tell us something: Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:21).

Pastor Willsea

Catawba Valley Zone

St John's

In September, we held a Ladies LWML salad supper. We personally invited ladies to come and we had 19 guest that showed interest in being involved with LWML. Denise Johnson gave a brief talk on the LWML and what LWML is. The Gems were invited to the supper and they spoke about their group and projects.

Our LWML celebrated LWML Sunday on October 1st at both services. Sandra Herman wrote an article about mites and all the mission projects they support and told about the mission projects that St. John's does. The article was put into our church October newsletter. The service included the LWML pledge and LWML hymn. Some of the ladies ushered and we collected a door offering after each service. Two members of the GEMS spoke at each service, telling about their group and activities. As the congregation left they were handed a mite box and the bookmark with the new mission projects.

Upcoming activities are the cookie walk and the LWML Christmas party,

Bethel

LWML Sunday was celebrated at Bethel on October 1st. They concluded the celebration with refreshments after service.

Concordia

On October 1st, LWML Sunday was celebrated at Concordia. They celebrated with special music, collection of mites and blessed the quilts made for Lutheran World Relief which are ready to be shipped.

Kim Cater, Co-President









CCC Editor

February Newsletter

Deadline: January 29, 2024

Delivery Method: Mail

Need information from: Joy Event, Gifts from the Heart, Pastoral Counselor article, Mission of the Quarter, Mission Grants, President, V-P, Zone & Society news. Financial Secretary article & deadline infor-

wation, Dist. Convention Information.



Central Zone

EBENEZER - GREENSBORO - CENTRAL ZONE, Mary Ann Boone

Ebenezer Lutheran in Greensboro held their annual **OCTOBERFEST** on Saturday, October 14th. Our LWML sponsored the German Lunch and the Bake Sale. Many women worked for weeks to get ready for the rummage sale, the silent auction and the raffle of gift cards and a beautiful Santa painting. There were various crafters from our area who set up their beautiful items, such as handmade baskets, woven crosses, wooden pieces, floral arrangements, handmade stocking stuffers, Christian Devotionals, and much more. The narthex was full of Christmas items, hand-painted by the daughter of one of our Women in Mission at Ebenezer. The German meal was delicious, and many bought their dessert from the LWML bake sale that was a display of all kinds of cakes, pies, muffins, cookies, and much more. All the hard work and organization led to this busy day with our church full of people at the Octoberfest!









Veterans Day is November 11th every year. Our Ebenezer LWML has put together small red gift bags with a Veterans Day Poem, Isaiah 40:31 Scripture card and a magnetic flag bookmark with the contact information for Ministry to the Armed Forces of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. These will be distributed to those who attend both of our worship services on Sunday, Nov. 12th. We hope that this will lead our Veterans or anyone else to seek information about this part of our Missouri Synod. We are grateful for all men and women in our US Military who have served to protect the freedoms in our country.





Carolinas District LWML new webpage: www.lwmlcarolinas.org

The Executive Board of the Carolinas District LWML voted to purchase a website through MY CHURCH WEBSITE, with an annual cost of \$249 plus a one time setup fee of \$49. Lauren Olsen is working on getting the website up and running and then Sherri Marquardt will maintain the site. The site will offer each Zone a page to display their Zone information and pictures.



Central Zone Continued

EBENEZER LUTHERAN - GREENSBORO - CENTRAL ZONE-Mary Ann Boone

The LWML Fall Project this year was once again the packing of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas/Samaritan's Purse. From early September through early November, our generous congregation donated toiletry items, school supplies, clothing and small toys. They also generously gave monetary donations to support the cost of shipping these boxes around the world to children in need of hearing about the love of Jesus. The monetary donations also help with the printing of materials that share The Gospel of Jesus Christ in the language of the native children who receive the boxes. Thank you to Thrivent's generosity of gift cards to help us to purchase items for the boxes too. Our Lutheran Women in Mission packed 73 boxes this year. We praise our God for helping us to open our hearts to give and share the love of Jesus.









Pictures—Carolinas District Retreat









Eastern Zone

Twenty ladies from the Eastern Zone met at Grace Lutheran in Durham on Saturday, October 21. The ladies were treated to coffee, tea and breakfast goodies during registration.

We opened in the sanctuary with a welcome from Rev. Dr. David Brooks and the introduction of our guests, District President Paula Daniels and Central Zone President Mary Ann Boone. Rev. Brooks then led us in our opening worship.

After the LWML Pledge, Rev. Brooks began our Bible study. Our theme for the day was "Reaching Out in Love: Witness-

ing Today." In Session 1 we talked about "Faith's Work: How We Witness" and after a short break we focused on "Love's Labor: How We Reach Out" in Session 2.

After lunch Joe Wethman told us about Walltown Ministries, a ministry to the neighborhood known as Walltown which is historically African-American, but today also includes Hispanics. Several area churches support this ministry including Grace Lutheran. Our Gifts from the Heart were for the Walltown Food Ministry.

Rev. Brooks led us in a closing worship service before our business meeting.

The ladies of Grace Lutheran meet every Wednesday to work on quilts. Last year they made 111! We were privileged to see some of their handiwork displayed around the sanctuary.

Gay Van Etten, Eastern Zone President



Foothills Zone

FOOTHILLS Spring Zone Rally 2023

The Foothills zone held the 2023 spring rally Sunday April 30th at Salem Lutheran Church in Taylorsville, NC. There were 32 members present, 2 visitors and 1 Pastor. Thank you to Pastor Shoaff in leading us in a Devotion entitled "'Basis of Unity and Guarding the Spirit's Unity" and our organist Mary Propst who played for our hymns. Paula Daniels our Carolina's District President performed a short skit with Kim Cater on how to talk with others about leading devotions and bible studies and where to find materials. Paula shared on how much information is available on the Website and the LWML app. Paula passed out information on how to find and use these items and encouraged all to make plans to use this information at their next meeting, activity or event. Business for the 2023 rally included discussion about the upcoming vote for the National Grants. Updated the societies about the upcoming events that included National convention in June, Retreat in August and the next Zone rally 2024 will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Conover, NC. Meeting ended with Pastor Shoaff blessing the Gifts from the Heart for Caring Hearts Pregnancy Center and a member of the Caring Hearts Center Renee Meade accepted the items on behalf of the center. Following the meeting everyone enjoyed refreshments furnished by the ladies of Salem Lutheran church.

Other activities going on in the Foothills:

Christ Lutheran - made 90 Mommy bags for the local Pregnancy care center. The mommy bag include shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, toothbrush along with vanity items like wash-cloth, Q-tips and makeup remover. They delivered the bags to Candance Rowe the Administrative assistant for the Catawba County Pregnancy Center.

St. Peter's Lutheran- Hosted on April 13, 2023 an event on the issue of human trafficking. They had a speaker from the Charlotte branch of Hope for Justice in NC. They had about 30 ladies present. Information was shared about the statistics about trafficking in our area as well as the varied way trafficking is carried out.

St. Stephens Lutheran- helped with making quilts by assembling and tacking. They attended the Zone rally and have been busy making Hygiene kits.

Salem Lutheran - Held a bake sale to raise money to help replace mattresses at Camp Linn Haven and Hosted the 2023 Spring Zone Rally.









Our Circle #2 made 90 Mommy Bags for the local Pregnancy Care Center. Our mommy bags include shampoo, conditioner, lotion, deodorant, toothbrush and toothpaste along with vanity items like washcloth, q-tips and make up remover cloths. Pictured are Candace Rowe, Administrative Assistant for Pregnancy Care Center of Catawba Valley, and me, Mary Puett from Christ Lutheran Church in Hickory.

Foothills Zone continued

A Very Artistic Quarterly meeting

On Sunday, September 10, 2023, the Mary Circle hosted the quarterly gathering of the LWML of St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Hickory, North Carolina. Our ladies spent an exciting afternoon hearing the Christian testimony and learning about the art of Joyce Vukela-Mayer.

Joyce Vukela-Mayer is a visual artist who captures beauty through nature by creating abstract rusted steel art. She uses various chemicals, water, paints, and pigments then allows nature to direct the path of her art pieces. Her paintings, many of which have themes from nature, are transformed through the natural process of oxidation.

The ladies enjoyed observing the technique Joyce uses in the demonstration part of her presentation. They were also able to view many of her finished pieces. Each piece contains a scripture reference which has become the hallmark signature of this very talented artist.

It was a wonderful afternoon enjoying fellowship, delicious food and a very inspiring presentation.

Teresa Ritchie Mary Circle President, LWML St. Stephen's Lutheran Church, MS Hickory, NC





Metrolina Zone

Nathan and Sarah Federwitz Missionaries with Lutheran Bible Translators Have volunteered to be speakers! They would love to share more about their involvement in Bible translation and mission aviation with your group or church!

Nathan is a pilot. He grew up in Papua New Guinea, where his parents were serving as missionaries. He is currently training for missionary flying with a mission organization called JAARS.

Sarah is a deaconess. She is the daughter of an LCMS pastor who served as an Army chaplain. She will be receiving linguistics training to prepare to serve Bible translation efforts on the mission field.

Please consider having them come to your groups, churches and Zones to share how they are planning to share God's word with others.

If you have questions or would like to invite them to speak, contact Nathan and Sarah:

Email: nathan-sarah.federwitz@lbt.org

The Metrolina Zone held their Fall Zone Rally on Sept. 30 at All Saints' Lutheran Church in Charlotte. The guest speakers Nathan & Sarah Federwitz of Lutheran Bible Translators.

Sara Hanson, Metrolina Zone President





Southern Zone

Ladies of Grace Lutheran Church, Summerville, SC, held a Christmas Celebration on December 3rd with a program, pot-luck and singing. A devotion titled "Advent Joy-A-Tude" and a skit titled "The True Gift" were presented. We discussed up coming activities and District events. Sherri Marquardt Zone President



Joy Event

LWML Carolinas District JOY EVENT

LOVE=MISSIONS=JOY

Matt. 25:40

When you have done it unto the least of these, my brothers, you have done it unto Me.

Come join us for the 2024 Joy Event Hosted by the Metrolina Zone

When: April 13, 2024

Where: Messiah Lutheran Church

8300 Providence Road Charlotte, NC 28277

Guest speakers : Rev. Paul Nielsen & Roberta Hillhouse Keynote speaker: Deaconess Katherine Rittner, Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne

Registration Fee: \$35.00
Registration will begin at 8:30 AM with program beginning at 9:00 AM

Registrar: Sophia Wilkerson 314 Esther Circle, Kannapolis, NC 28082

VP Mission Outreach

CAROLINAS DISTRICT MISSION GRANT APPLICATION

TITLE OF PROJECT
SOCIETY NAME
CHURCH NAME
ADDRESS
CONTACT PERSON
CONTACT ADDRESS
CONTACT PHONE
CONTACT EMAIL
s the project currently implemented? YES NO
no, state projected start date:
explain any other sources of funding:
Brief Description of Project:

Deadline for submission will be February 15, 2024. No grant proposals will be accepted before November 1, 2023. Submissions must include a completed application and resolution. We prefer those submissions be in electronic format, by email attachment to Vice President for Mission Outreach, Nancy W. Nolley, ntere312@yahoo.com.

VP Mission Outreach



Mission of the Quarter

If you have a mission opportunity that takes place in the Carolinas District (NC & SC) that you would like to apply for a Mission of the Quarter, please contact Margaret White, Mission of the Quarter Chairman, at mwhite15@embarqmail.com or call 252-430-4353 for more information. You can find the MOQ form on our Carolinas District website at www.lwmlcarolinas.org.

Please remember the new deadline for MOQ money to be sent in to the financial secretary... 15 Days after the end of the quarter!

We continue to pray for our MOQ projects. Thank you for supporting these mission activities as we seek to be Jesus' hands and feet to those in need of His love and care!

October/November/December 2023 St. Stephens Healthcare Ministry, Hickory, NC

St. Stephens Healthcare Ministry is an ongoing mission which consist of monthly blood pressure checks and providing funds for people unable to pay for their medicine or visits to their physician. These funds are available to a recipient every three months if needed. All recipients are approved by the Pastor. Also cards of Get Well, Thinking of You, Sympathy, etc. are mailed to people in need of being thought of each week.

January/February/March 2024 Eastern Catawba Cooperative Ministry (ECCM), Newton, NC

ECCM began in 1969 as a crisis ministry funded and operated by local churches, including Concordia Lutheran Church in Conover and the Dorcas Society of Concordia. It has grown through the years: more people live in the area, many jobs were lost or devalued when manufacturing landscape changed, and consequently there is more poverty and hunger. Typical assistance (motto is "A helping hand up, not a hand out") consists of food, clothing, referrals, life skills coaching, and assistance with utility bills. For many years, much of Catawba County was served by a sister organization, Cooperative Christian Ministry of Hickory (CCM), while ECCM ministered to crisis needs in the rest of the county. However, recently CCM closed its food pantry and clothing ministry in order to focus entirely on its medical clinic outreach. This leaves ECCM, still supported by local churches and staffed mostly with volunteers, to respond to the crisis needs of persons throughout Catawba County. It is a recognized 501(c)3 organization with nearly all donations going directly to clients.

Margaret White, Mission of Quarter Chair

Treasurers Report

- The Mite Goal set at the 2022 Convention was \$70,350.
- 61% of this goal has been met as of Sept. 30th with total mites being received \$42,502.43.
- As a result, \$10,586.04 has been sent to National,
- \$21,750 has been paid toward district grants.

We have supported IDD Week at CLH for \$3,500 and paid camp scholarships of \$2,420.

Additionally, we have received and paid out \$3,850.50 in MOQ's and \$3,315 for Camp Counselors.



Treasurer, Kecia Rossman

Nominating Committee

Carolinas District Women in Mission.

We thank every one of you for your support and commitment to our Carolinas District LWML. Thank you for serving in your elected or appointed roles. At this time, our Nominating Committee needs



your help in securing nominees for the following elected positions that will be voted upon next September at the 2024 District Convention.

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries/YWR (4-yr. term)
Vice President of Human Care (4-yr. term)
Recording Secretary (4-yr. term)
Financial Secretary (4-yr. term)
Junior Pastoral Counselor (4-yr. term)
Nomination Committee (3 to be elected for 2-yr. term)

It is time for all of us to seek Women in Mission to serve in these offices of our Board of Directors. We also need to seek a pastor within our Carolinas District who would serve as Junior Pastoral Counselor.

Please pray about the women, whom you know, who have been given gifts from God, who could serve in these offices. Please personally pursue them, pray with them and for them. Remind them of their God-given talents and that we are to 'Serve the Lord with Gladness' in using these gifts to serve others. Ask them to consider being nominated for a specific position on our Carolinas District LWML Board of Directors. Share with them that the election of these officers, along with their installation, will occur at the next Carolinas District Convention in September of 2024.

Should you have someone to accept a nomination, please send the completed form to **Denise Johnson, Nomination Committee Chair, by email to her** at sddsjohnson@gmail.com. Or the form can be mailed to her at the following address: 10 Maple Ct. Newton, NC 28658. If you have questions, Denise's mobile number is 828.320.5370. If you have questions, feel free to email or call any of the three of us on the Nomination Committee.

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.' - Numbers 6:24-26

In His Service,

Denise Johnson. Nominating Committee Chair sddsjohnson@gmail.com or call at 828.320.5370

Sherri Marquardt, Nominating Committee Member smarq73@gmail.com or call at 843.425.0414

Mary Ann Boone, Nominating Committee Member lwmlmaboone2022@gmail.com or call at 336.451.4291

CAROLINAS DISTRICT LWML CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2024

WHO? ALL Lutheran Women in Mission in the Carolinas District!

WHAT? The 2024 Carolinas District LWML Convention

FOCUS? Psalm 46:10 - "Be still and know that I am God." (More theme information forthcoming.)

WHEN? September 20-21, 2024

WHERE? Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 Lochmere Dr. West, Cary, NC

WHY? Because all Lutheran Women in Mission love God, love serving God and others!

Please mark your calendars now to attend this event with other Lutheran Women in Mission. Friday afternoon check-in, dinner on your own, then worship in the sanctuary Friday evening. The President's Reception will follow. Need to spend the night in this area? We'll be sharing hotel information early in 2024 so that you can make your reservation. Saturday will be a full day of praying together, eating together, meeting together, singing together, honoring our God together. There will be voting to elect new Board of Directors officers and then their installation. There will be discussion and voting about updating our by-laws. There will be voting on District Mission Grants. Our guest speaker, Deb Burma, is a renowned author/speaker. Check out her Bible Studies online! Our National Representative will be our LWML National President – Eden Keefe! What a full day of decision-making, fellowship, food and fun in honoring God as His Women in Mission. Please plan to attend!

This District Convention will be hosted by the Eastern Zone and the Central Zone. There will be much to do in making decisions, in planning and making preparations for the Convention in order for it to be a success for all. We need the help of our Zone Women in Mission for leadership roles and teams to support those leaders. Please contact your Zone President to see what you can do to help. Gay Van Etten – Eastern Zone – glvanetten44@gmail.com and Mary Ann Boone – Central Zone – lwmlmaboone2022@gmail.com. Other Zone Presidents, we ask that you spread the word and encourage those in your zones to attend the Convention in 2024. If we send you fliers, please print them and post them at your churches. If we send you announcements, please put them in your Sunday bulletins and church newsletters. THANK YOU! (Much more information will be forthcoming! Stay tuned!)

CAROLINAS DISTRICT LWML CONVENTION

Guest Speaker: Deb Burma

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary, NC. September 20-21, 2024

Deb has spoken at national and regional conferences across the country, as well as retreats and ministry events. She has led workshops and sectionals for the Best Practices for Ministry (BPM) Conferences, the Women's Leadership

Institute's National Conferences, and more. Her ministry travels have taken her to 27 states and Canada, aboard a Caribbean cruise ship, and continue to lead her down the street to her home church.