

# Lutheran Women in Action

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## Destination: Ysleta *by Sheila Lutz*

When the LCMS purchased Ysleta (in El Paso, Texas) in the 1980s, the complex had 14 leaky buildings — all over 80 years old. The transforming work began, turning one of the structures into the San Pablo Lutheran Church. Today, 16 buildings are housed on approximately six acres. A new purchase and some repurposing will continue the transformation into a thrift/furniture store, a community clinic, and a retreat center for those suffering with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Our mission team arrived at Ysleta around midnight, and the next day we attended both the English and Spanish Sunday worship services. We met several snowbird couples who winter in Ysleta each year and met those who would be directing and helping our team.

The health department had told the mission they had to replace the linoleum floor in the kitchen, so Monday we began working to get the tiles off the floor. There were about 600 tiles to remove, and they didn't want to budge. Most of them came up in shreds. The rest of the week found many of us on our knees, cleaning floors, laying tile, and grouting. It was a good time to think and pray.

I took some time to meet with the women in the office, who told me a lot about the mission's outreach. Ann Hernandez (Heart-to-Heart Sister at the 2009 Portland LWML Convention and president of San Pablo LWML society) took me on a tour of the area and began listing the outreach programs of the

mission: building homes in Juarez and El Paso, a thrift store, Al-Anon and Al-A-Teen meetings, food pantry, prison ministry, and television ministry, just to name a few. Ysleta relies on the work of mission teams and other volunteers who serve with Rev. Karl Heimer, his son, Stephen, and a small paid staff.

Katy Lane Lutz has gone to Ysleta eight times. Since 2005, her father, a Lutheran school teacher in Minnesota, has taken groups there for a week in late December. "I continue to go back because I love what the organization is doing and how the Lord is using the people at Ysleta to transform communities. It's been amazing to go back year after year and witness how lives have changed. I always want to go back because of the people."

One little girl who came to the site was totally unfriendly and unresponsive. But, when the team went back the next year — what a change! She wanted to know who had been there the year before and, after the count was taken, she went home, returning with a bag for each of them. Inside each bag was a plastic toy. She wanted to give them something for all they had done for her family the year before, so she gave them all she had — her small plastic toys.

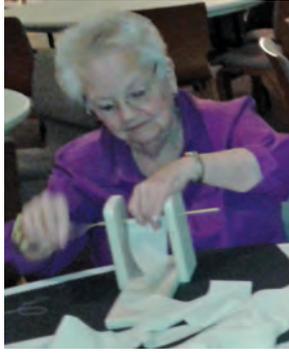
God has blessed the work at Ysleta, which never stops giving hope and joy to the community it serves and to its workers. God is waiting to pour out his blessings to His servants and through His servants.



The ladies of **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Washington, Michigan**, had the blessing of hearing feedback from one of their previous district mission grants. Lynn Corker, founder of Women of the Pearl in Uganda [see Grants@ Work on page 14], was the speaker at their spring rally. She spoke of her many mission trips and her inspiration to help the women of this nation. Lynn has been able to teach the people of the town how to be self-sufficient and how they can improve their way of life. They now have clean drinking water and are learning about personal hygiene. Some of the funding from this mission grant has also been used to repair a deteriorating seminary in the area. Ms. Corker thanked the ladies of Our Redeemer and has asked for prayers for this mission. To learn more about Women of the Pearl, please visit their website at [www.womenofthepearl.org](http://www.womenofthepearl.org).

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## ACTION



**Immanuel Lutheran Church of Macomb, Michigan**, has an LWML group who not only have rolled bandages, but also have included two of their husbands in the process. Mike Woloszyn and Jim Floyd made bandage-rolling machines that helped these busy women roll 332 bandages! These gifts of love will be used in hospitals and clinics through the efforts of Global Health Ministries. These women say, "Our group loves to give helping hands for humanity doing God's work!" For specific instructions on rolling bandages and other hands-on mission projects of Global Health Ministries please visit their website at [www.ghm.org](http://www.ghm.org).

### SPRING 2017 THEME:

ENGAGE,  
ENCOURAGE,  
EQUIP, ENJOY

**NEWS!** Please share your stories (and photos!) of joyful, mission-minded service to **News Editor Linda Guteris** at [newseditor@lwml.org](mailto:newseditor@lwml.org) or 3 Timber Trail, Medford, NY 11763 by October 15, 2016. Include your name, address, phone, and email address.



Thanks to women from **Faith Lutheran LWML, Pierre, South Dakota**, and people from as far away as Arizona, 327 pillowcase dresses were created to support Little Dresses for Africa. Women (including Marilyn Penrod, Carol Harrmann, and Jeri Erbe) worked tirelessly collecting the supplies needed to assemble the kits and sew these precious dresses. Little Dresses for Africa is a Christian organization that reaches over 47 African countries, 31 other countries, Appalachians, and South Dakota. More information regarding this mission can be found at [www.littledressesforafrica.org](http://www.littledressesforafrica.org).

### The Legacy Continues

During the recent **LWML Missouri District Convention**, Christie Steffens, District President, had the opportunity to recognize retired LCMS pastor, the **Rev. Ken Young**, grandson of the first LWML President, Mrs. Otto F. (Clara) Schmitt, who served from 1942–1947. Rev. Young's wife, Mildred; daughter, Alice Decker; and granddaughter, Nicole Baeder were also present and thanked for their service to the LWML and world-wide missions. With tears in his eyes, Rev. Young said, "This was wonderful, and I appreciate how you honored my grandmother." He went on to relate that Clara Schmitt was a warm woman who loved animals and surrounded herself with a large variety of pets. When LWML President Patti Ross asked him what his grandmother would think about the LWML now, he responded with a big smile, "I think she would be very excited!"



The LWML at **Zion Lutheran Church, Anaheim, California**, sure know how to have fun! They sponsored a fashion show with the models wearing items from their church thrift shop. This shop serves the community with low cost clothing and household items. Profits benefited their elementary school, and bags of clothing were donated to Lutheran Social Services. Now that's what I call a great deal!



### A Banner Year for The Banner Lady

This year has been a banner year for **Ms. Emma Hendrick**, long-time member of **Tullahoma Faith Lutheran Church**. She recently helped her daughter complete the latest of 89 banners that she has created. Over the past 50 years, these banners have adorned the walls of the sanctuary and, on occasion, have been given to children to enjoy in their homes.

Ms. Emma, a dedicated, 52-year member of the LWML, has sung in the choir and served in numerous roles in church and community life, including a 68-year stint as a volunteer for the Good Samaritan community outreach program in Tennessee. She has also been an auxiliary member of the hospital.

After Sunday School last December, Ms. Emma was surprised with a cake and punch reception and a basket of cards to celebrate her 95th birthday.



In honor of Kate Walsh, a fallen **Sanford, Florida**, police officer, the LWML of **Lutheran Church of The Redeemer** embarked on a new project, Kate's Hope. Kate's Hope is a beautiful way to bring compassion to children who have become caught in domestic violence or traumatic events. Kate's Hope provides backpacks filled with a small blanket, snacks, coloring books and crayons, small toys, and stuffed animals for their local police department. The police distribute these packs to children when they respond to domestic violence calls, to help reduce the fear children may have. LWML member Sheryl DeWitt stated, "It is a way for us to support both our police department and the children of our community. Often children see the police as scary; we hope the backpacks will provide a tool for building a positive bridge between officers and children."



Where do you get your ideas for your projects? This one came from a husband. When he heard about the new craze of freezer meal parties, he asked, "Why don't you make those up for the ladies who have babies, those who have had hospital stays or prolonged illnesses, or whoever needs them?" That idea was the foundation for a do-it-yourself freezer meal day by **Rebekah Circle** at **St. John's Church, Green Valley, Illinois**. Those who couldn't attend participated by shopping or prepping food. Receiving Thrivent Action Dollars to purchase ingredients, the women bagged around 36 meals. Over half of the meals have already gone out to members and others in need. The group plans another freezer meal day when all the meals have been donated.



Members of **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, St. Charles, Minnesota**, helped to assemble 27 quilts with donated materials from Textile Care Services and a Thrivent Action Grant. These lovingly prepared quilts were delivered to the Ronald McDonald House in Rochester. Helen Pierce writes, "It was a very rewarding project to do, and we all enjoyed our day of delivering."