



"Showered with Blessings" was the theme of the **Mid-Arkansas Zone's** (LWML Mid-South District) 2018 Fall Event held at Peace Lutheran Church in Conway, Arkansas. Seventy-two women in mission and four pastors celebrated "Ezekiel 34:26th Day" with great fun and worship. The Peace Players presented a skit with lots of laughs along with

serious time of reflection. Mary Buddenberg (photo left and on page 7) and Karen Carter presented opportunities for serving Bethesda residential homes. An abundance of gifts filled the Birthday Boxes for residents of Bethesda. Gathered in His name to receive and to serve, the day was showered with blessings from the Lord!



### Celebrating 52 Years of Weekly Bible Study!

Back in 1964, during Eula Hankel's tenure as LWML President, the LWML began distributing Bible studies for use by "Cottage Bible Study" groups. In 1966, Phyllis Rush, a new member of **Peace Lutheran Church, Lemay, Missouri** (LWML Missouri District), obtained permission from her pastor (Rev. Leonard Pranschke) to start a Cottage Bible Study. Six women gathered in Phyllis' basement to start studying God's Word by using the LWML resources.

Over the years, the group grew too large to meet in homes. Because no one wanted to split up the group, the church provided a meeting room, and

women shared the responsibility for leading the studies. Pastor David Wiesner encouraged the group to adopt another name (as no cottage was involved anymore), and "Mary/Martha Bible Study" was chosen.

Last year this group celebrated 52 years of studying God's Word together. The women have used many LWML Bible study guides, gone through the Bible together several times, and read many commentaries. Two years ago, Dr. Gerald Joerz, a retired LCMS minister and member of Peace, took over leadership of the class. The group has continued to grow, with approximately 30 women attending each week.

Two of the women who attended that very first class (Mary Lou Mullen and Bernice Bernthal) are still part of the group, as are three others who joined in the very early days (Evelyn Uhlig, Joyce Birk, and Lois Williams). Mrs. Phyllis Rush, who originally started the Cottage Bible Study, is living elsewhere, but continues to lead a women's Bible study.

"One final nod to progress is that we have incorporated a bit of technology into our class. If members are not able to attend in person, they can use FaceTime to be part of the class," shares Patricia Bernthal.



## Reaching out to Moms and Little Ones Through Coffee and Cuddles!

Last November, the LWML of **Calvary Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri** (LWML Missouri District), hosted a “Coffee and Cuddles” event for moms, grandmothers, infants, toddlers, and tiny ones on their way. Thirteen moms, 17 children, 3 grandmothers, 9 LWML members, and Misty — our Gymboree presenter — braved the cold temperatures to enjoy coffee and cuddles.

Scarves, a tunnel, clackers, shakers, scooters, bubbles, a parachute, lively music, and Misty’s exuberance and toddler expertise made the

playtime a rollicking success. Moms and grandmothers got some great playtime ideas! The following day, an email was sent from an attending mom: “The food was great, and the Gymboree presentation was awesome.”

“Calvary LWML’s goal is fellowship for moms and to let them know LWML cares. We had special gifts for moms, crafts for little ones, Advent calendars, Christmas books, and even ‘Dad Bags,’” stated Rita Bryant, president.

“My daughter hasn’t put the bag down since I gave it to her yesterday,”

replied another mom. The enjoyable time included breakfast treats, warm beverages, and toddler snacks provided by the LWML and subsidized by a Thrivent Action Team card.

When asked if she realized how much the parents enjoyed her presentation, Misty replied, “I have carried them inside my heart all day. The little guys who wanted me to hug and hold them especially tugs at my heart. It was truly an honor to be a part of such wonderful fellowship.”



## Nicole Boeder, Carrying on the Mission Mindset

I was raised in a family with a mission-oriented mindset. My maternal grandfather often talked about his grandmother Clara Schmitt, with whom he lived with as a child. Clara was the first President of the LWML and wanted to see more women involved in missions. Her love for missions seemed to pass on to him as he later became a pastor.

After graduating from college, my mother went to Guatemala for two years to teach English as a second language through LCMS World Mission. When I was 12 years old, my mother and I traveled to Guatemala on a short-term trip. After that, I was hooked on mission work, and went on numerous short-term mission trips during high school and college. During my senior year of college, I applied to be a Globally Engaged in Outreach (GEO) missionary through the LCMS and, in 2013, I was sent to South Africa as a second grade teacher. It was a life-changing experience to live and work in that wonderful country. I spent two years there and learned so much about the culture. I attended a church where the services were

held in Zulu. I learned Zulu songs, participated in dancing and clapping during worship, and experienced the joy of communing with fellow believers from across the world.

It was difficult to leave South Africa and my wonderful students, but God was calling me back home. I got married in 2015, and we moved to Springfield, Illinois, where I teach Kindergarten through second grade at Concordia Lutheran School. I enjoy spending time with my toddler son and teaching children about God! It’s amazing to do the Lord’s work wherever He sends me.





Every year, **St. Paul Lutheran LWML in Lester Prairie, Minnesota** (LWML Minnesota South District), collects school kit supplies for Orphan Grain Train (OGT). This year, with congregation donations and a Thrivent Action Team card, 27 sewn bags and purchased backpacks were filled with necessary items for school. "These will go to the OGT warehouse in Nebraska for distribution," stated Lois Raduenz.



The LWML of **Immanuel Lutheran in Twin Falls, Idaho** (LWML Utah-Idaho District) celebrated their LWML Sunday with a fair. Members of the congregation could view several displays, including information about society activities, the structure of LWML, district and national mission grants, Immanuel's Quilting Group, and LWML membership information. To make things even more interesting, a scavenger hunt with prizes kept many busy locating information found within the displays. When fairgoers were ready to relax, they could sit at the tables and color LWML bookmarks or cards, watch the looping LWML videos, and read Mustard Seed Devotions. Ingathering items were taken to Volunteers Against Violence.



The light of Jesus Christ radiated from the teens who attended the **LWML Nebraska North District Convention** earlier this year. Their presence was a beautiful testimony of young women unfolding from nervous, skeptical adolescents into refreshing young women exhibiting care and joy as they experienced an LWML convention. Walking through the words of Philippians 4:8 reminded them that God sees them and they are precious to Him. The ladies in the kitchen showered them with cookies and snacks along with warm, welcoming smiles.

The program leaders were intrigued when Deaconess Heidi Goehmann said, "Let's do something differently!" as she introduced new activities according to the teens' requests. Everyone, including these enthusiastic young women, celebrated by dancing together at the close of the convention. Deaconess Goehmann said, "I love teenagers, if you can't tell. They bring life to every party. How awesome it is that as the LWML we get to teach, raise, and love the young women and the youngest women among us to see, embrace, and to be the light of Jesus."



A crew of 14 women from **Trinity Lutheran Church, Islip, New York** (LWML Atlantic District), had a blast assembling 20 Easter Bible Baskets filled with children's Bibles, Bible-based coloring and storybooks, and a lot of fun things for kids to enjoy. These baskets will be distributed to their local community through the efforts of The Lighthouse Mission, an organization that exists to feed the hungry and help the homeless by sharing God's love with people in need in practical ways. Pam Fuchs, a member of Trinity states, "We are so blessed with our Trinity family who gave us these supplies as well as mite offerings. God's work, our hands."



Brook Gerard



Emy Stueve



Stephanie Edgar

## Young Women from Montana Joyfully Serve the Lord with Gladness!

**Brook Gerard** (six years as *Montana Missive* editor), **Cindy Super** (four years as Corresponding Secretary), **Emy Stueve** (one year as Young Woman Chairman), and **Stephanie Edgar** (three years as webmaster) are all former YWRs serving the LWML Montana District. Freelance author and former YWR **Shari Miller** has served on local, zone, and national positions and currently serves as District President. **Johanna Stinnett**, another former YWR, authored a mission grant request that was adopted by delegates at an LWML Convention. She and her husband, Rev. Eric Stinnett, and their three children are serving as missionaries in Ethiopia. **Emmi Going** has attended every convention since she served as YWR and will be the registrar for the district convention in 2020.

**Johanna (Miller) Allen** has served as District President's Page at convention and has been a Mites in Action scholarship recipient convention speaker. **Deaconess Sonja Reeves** was a Mites in Action convention speaker, attended two LWML leadership events (2012, 2018), serves as vice president of Christian life, and was co-chairman of the host committee for the 2018 district convention.

These young women were willing workers at the LWML Albuquerque Convention as part of the Host District. Many more women participate daily in countless and various ways throughout the state. The joy of serving continues to extend to more young women as generations are mentored and encouraged by one another.



The LWML Women's Bible Study along with the entire congregation of **Redeemer Lutheran Church, Thousand Oaks, California** (LWML Pacific Southwest District) worked diligently by collecting over 700 pair of men's, women's, and children's socks to be distributed to those in need through Lutheran Social Services. In addition to this generous outpouring, gently used shoes were collected, paired with the socks, and then distributed through another agency. What a beautiful picture of what He can do through the hands of His children! Great work, Redeemer!



LWML women of **St. John Lutheran Church, Woodbury, Minnesota** (LWML Minnesota South District) were busy this past November, collecting items for a local homeless shelter. With items donated by the congregation as well as purchased with a Thrivent Action Team card, these faith-filled women were able to bless many people in the shelter as well as Family Place and Union Gospel Mission. Pam Wenger, Joanne Meyr, Mary Rolfs, and Tammy Gentry joyfully served on this project together. Items collected but not useful to the homeless were donated to the Family Place and to Union Gospel Missions in St. Paul by Art and Mary Helmerick.

## FALL 2019 THEME: THE NEXT STEP

Share stories and photos of mission-minded service with News Editor Linda Guterres: [newseditor@lwml.org](mailto:newseditor@lwml.org) or 3 Timber Trail, Medford, NY 11763  
Deadline: 5/15/19  
Include: name, address, phone, and email.

