

LUTHERAN WOMAN'S

QUARTERLY

SPRING 2019



ON THE COVER:

EMPOWERED BY THE SAME GOD

CELEBRATING THE YOUNG WOMEN OF LWML

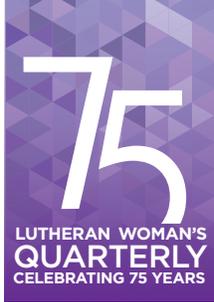
SPRING BIBLE STUDIES

NAMELESS WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

MUJERES SIN NOMBRE DE LA BIBLIA

CARING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST

RUNNING THE RACE



*Knowing Christ & Making Him
Known for 75 years!*

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Nancy Graf Peters • editor@lwml.org

BIBLE STUDY EDITOR

Sharon Rapp

CHRISTIAN LIVING EDITOR

Sheila Lutz

FEATURES EDITOR

Becky Wehrspann

MISSION EDITOR

Cheri Fish

NEWS EDITOR

Linda Guterres • newseditor@lwml.org

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Amy Gill

LWQ APPOINTED DOCTRINAL REVIEWER

Rev. Kenton Wendorf

LWML EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Patti Ross • president@lwml.org

VICE PRESIDENT OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

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LWML MATERIALS

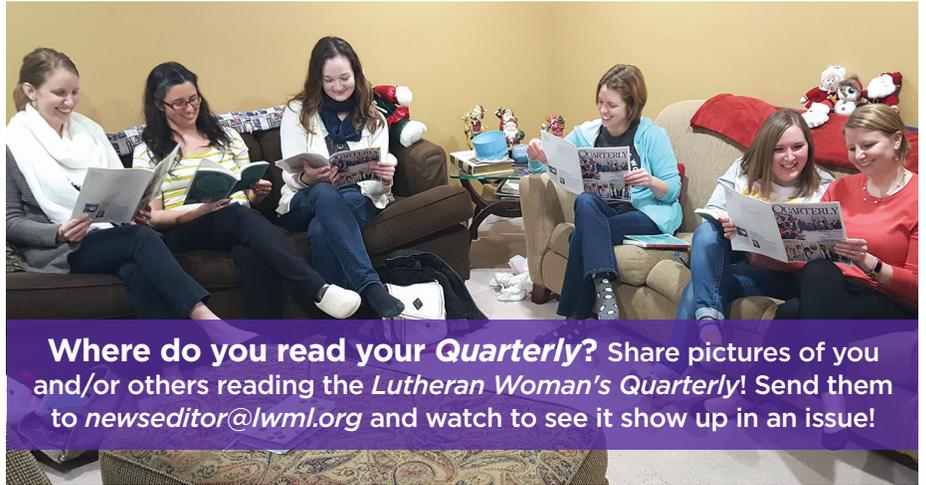
(800) 252-LWML(5965) • lwml@lwml.org

801 Seminary Place, Suite L010 • Saint Louis, MO 63105

TDD/TTY through Missouri Relay

(800) 735-2966 • FAX (314) 268-1532

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Ready. Set. Go!

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FROM THE EDITOR

The magazine you hold in your hands is a gift from President Patti to you. She asked the *Quarterly* Staff last year if we would devote an entire issue to telling the stories of young women in mission. Open these pages and be inspired by our enthusiastic sisters in Christ from around the country!

Nancy

Nancy Graf Peters, Editor-in-Chief



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Praying the Psalms

A prayer inspired by selected verses from Psalm 119:1-16

By Sheila Lutz

Heavenly Father,

In this
wonderful
time of
my life,

I come to
You in prayer
this day.

I've so much to learn, but I also have so much to give. I have so much to share, but I also have so much yet to be experienced. I come to You to ask You to help keep my path blameless and to guard my words according to the teachings of Your Word.

I have stored up Your Word in my heart and wish to share it with many I meet, but I know that first I must seek You with my whole heart — I must seek Your face and not Your hand — Your presence and not just Your gifts. I want to seek Your will and not my own.

Like the young men, Joseph and David, You have blessed me with so many gifts, but like them, I must wait for Your timing to use my blessings. The time may be while I'm young, like Timothy, or the time may come many years later, as it did for Sarah and Abraham.

I have been a student of Your Word as Saul was in his youth. Teach me when I misuse it for my own purposes. I thank You for the forgiveness You grant through my Savior, and I ask You to continue to light my path as You did when You led Paul to leave behind his Saul ways.

Like Esther, have You created me for such a time as this — right now? Like young Jeremiah, I know You formed me for Your purpose — great or small.

I need not be afraid of my youth. I need not be overwhelmed by life ahead. Like Ruth, I will rely on You and mentors You may send me. I will rely on Your power as my God as I learn and share when I go where You want me to go.

With the Psalmists, when I'm in confusion or pain, I will praise You, worship You, and do good with the blessings You give me. Thank You for my life.

Blessed are You, O God, Giver of all gifts, for You gift me for Your good purpose for my life. I will use them to bless others.

I will fix my eyes on You. I will share Your story and Your love and Your glory with those in my life, both now and in times I've yet to see. I will delight in You, my Father, and walk in Your ways.

All Praise and Honor be to You, for You are my God, forevermore.

Amen and Amen! 

EMPOWERED BY THE SAME GOD

By Becky Wehrspann, Features Editor

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.
1 Corinthians 12:4-6



For more than 75 years, women of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have been collecting coins in Mite Boxes, sewing quilts for home and abroad, praying for missionaries, studying God’s Word, mentoring other women, and getting their hands dirty through service projects. Being a Lutheran Woman in Mission means something different to every woman who has done these — or any other number of things — in service to her Lord through the LWML.

The LWML is perhaps more diverse today than it ever has been. Our Heart to Heart Sisters from other countries and cultures are bringing new ideas to societies and congregations all around the U.S. Young women — even teenagers — are getting involved in servant activities and reaching out as missionaries in their own communities. Young mothers are organizing times to meet for Bible study with others outside their congregations. New ideas, fresh perspectives, and increased enthusiasm are breathing life into local groups, zones, and districts. God has planted these young women in places where His Word and Sacrament are celebrated and shared. It is my joy to introduce you to a small cross-section of young women who are answering God’s call in their churches and communities.



Amanda Hankemeier

“You are really fun and have so much energy. You should join LWML.”

I'm not sure if you have ever had a seasoned woman from your church say those words to you, but I was told over and over again that my high energy would be an unmatched asset to my local LWML group. I joined my society in 2012 and found relationships that continue to grow; I have not regretted a moment of the experience. I have served as zone secretary, and I am now the Texas District Young Woman Representative.



I recommend taking the plunge to anyone wanting to get involved in her local society. Attend a meeting or two, and get to know the women in the group. If you feel the group does not meet your needs, search for other LWML groups in your area. To continue growing the mission field for LWML, young women must be willing to set out on their own and create new groups to meet the needs of their friends and congregation members.

Seventy-six years ago, brave young women reached out to people in their communities and offered assistance by collecting clothes, equipping hospitals, establishing schools, and assisting orphanages. This was not an easy task then, nor is it now. Many of the missions LWML supports today are tirelessly working for the benefit of the people in the community and for spreading the Love of God. My prayer is that the young women of the LWML would continue this mission and help the LWML celebrate its 150th birthday in 2092. God's people are depending on our dedication to share His Word and work in the mission field.



Ola Odedele

My mom introduced me to the LWML, and I frequently attended and helped at LWML events because of her involvement. I

knew about Mite Boxes, Mustard Seed Devotions, and online Bible studies, but I didn't make my own commitment to LWML until I was chosen as a YWR for the LWML Convention in Albuquerque. Right away, I began attending LWML events at the local, zone, and district levels. Now I get to experience everything firsthand instead of hearing the stories from my mom!

In Albuquerque I most enjoyed getting to know the YWRs from other districts. At convention, I also learned that women didn't lead their own Bible studies until the 1970s! A family member was featured in the history presentation from her attendance at the Ames, Iowa convention in the 1980s; my mother's first convention was also in Iowa in 2015!

After seeing all that the LWML does, and learning how conventions are run, I wanted to learn more and bring my own ideas to the LWML. At every level, I want to encourage as many women as possible to participate, whether that's on the local, district or national level, or even all three. I also really want to create opportunities for young women to fellowship and support each other. Often, women say they would like more social activities for women in their church. I want them to recognize the LWML offers this. There is no requirement that a woman attend a minimum number of events or any events at all. Supporting the LWML with mite offerings and prayer for the work of the Lord is just as important.

The LWML motto, and a line from the song, “Serve the Lord with gladness! Glorify His name,” reminds me that everything — every interaction — is a way of serving God, and each should glorify His name. My goal is for people to see Jesus when they look at me. Sometimes I don't succeed, but that is my goal.

“Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!” (Luke 1:45)

STEPPING BACK AND WATCHING GOD LEAD



Carolyn Blum

Having been mentored by many women in the past, I now enjoy encouraging other women to become involved with the LWML, so they, too, can experience the opportunity to serve the Lord with gladness. Most recently, a joy-filled, sparkling, young woman, Kati Meyerhofer, came across my path. A relatively new member of our church, she and her husband quickly became involved in working with our youth. It was fun getting to know them and their young children.

She attended our LWML Women's Guild meetings, listening, learning, and participating. Our older leadership was weary of the roles they handled for so many years, and Kati prayerfully asked several of us (she calls us her "advisory group") if she could offer to be the president. We eagerly agreed, and everyone readily accepted her.

Kati led with tact and thoughtfulness, delegated tasks, and personally asked women to help with projects. Starting slowly so as to retain the best aspects of the existing group, she introduced new ideas such as changing the name of the group to Women in Mission. She also suggested limiting business meetings and using that extra time to work on service projects.

A call went out for plastic bag donations, and sleeping mats were made for the homeless. We had "chocolate night" and "women's night out" at a local restaurant, both events attracting women who had not considered coming to a Women's Guild meeting. Our group hosted a baby shower for a young single mother. We hosted a speaker from Bethesda Lutheran Communities; we're now making clothing

protectors for them. And with each activity, we prayed, had devotions, and sometimes a Bible study.

Once a month, a large Mite Box is placed in the gathering area, with announcements in the worship folder highlighting the current grant being funded. This gives visibility to the LWML and affords congregation members the opportunity to support LWML Mission Grants.

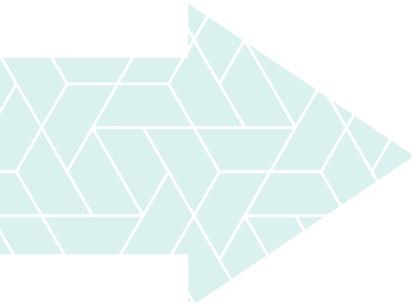
We're no longer the stereotypical "church basement ladies," but rather a sisterhood of friends who play and pray together while supporting missions. Participation, rather than membership, is emphasized.

As I watched Kati work under God's direction, a thought popped into my head: "Introduce her to the larger scope of the LWML — she might like that!" I told her about the scholarship program that our LWML South Wisconsin District developed to encourage more women to attend district retreats and conventions. She filled out the form and received the funding, so I offered her a ride and hesitantly asked if she'd like to be my roommate. (After all, I'm more her mother's age — but she said, "Yes!")

What a joy it was to get to know Kati that weekend! I discovered that she had been baptized and confirmed as an adult and suffered from bouts of depression. Both were surprises, as she was so grounded in her faith and exuded contagious joy with her smile and sparkling eyes. She asked dozens of questions about the LWML, and I encouraged her to mingle with the other young women at the retreat while I enjoyed time with my "older" friends.

Since then, others also have observed her spark, her gifts and talents, and her willingness to share those attributes in serving the Lord through the LWML. She served as the floor manager at our 2018 district convention, doing a superb job even though that was the very first district convention she'd ever attended.

I am praying for Kati and the leadership she exhibits, as well as watching her develop as God's precious child. My role now is to step back, be available to her, pray for her, and wait to see where God leads her. Having been mentored by others, it's a joy for me to now serve as one. Mentoring is very humbling, and I'm grateful to God for this privilege.



“The LWML has given to me something I was missing: a strong connection to God and a desire to help all people in ways I would have never thought of on my own.”

Kati Meyerhofer

My parents both grew up Catholic, but as they got older, they stopped going to church. They didn't want to pick my path for me, so I was not baptized or confirmed as a child, and we didn't go to church unless it was a funeral or wedding. We did celebrate Christmas and Easter, and I knew who Jesus was, but only the basics.

I met my husband, Zack, at Marquette University, a Catholic college. He was raised LCMS but was not involved in a church during his college years. After he asked me to marry him, his mother asked me to be baptized and confirmed before our wedding. I was a little taken back, but as my faith was growing, I knew it was the next step.

While we were looking for a church home as well as a church to be married in, we visited Divine Savior in Hartford, Wisconsin, and felt very welcome. We talked to the pastor about joining and being married there. I was baptized and confirmed in Spring 2007. We were married on April 26, 2008.

Shortly after we were married, we had to move in with my parents, in West Allis, Wisconsin. I was really struggling with being a wife and daughter at the same time under the same roof. I ended up in a severe depression and attempted to take my life. Once I hit rock bottom, I realized I needed help. We continued to go to church in Hartford, which was about a 45-minute commute each way, but I didn't understand the importance of prayer and truly relying on God. I began counseling and meeting with our pastor. Zack and I worked through it and, with the help of God, I am here today.

As I started to feel more comfortable in the church, I went to LWML meetings. The society president was thinking about stepping down, but no one wanted to take her place. I prayed and asked God to direct me. I approached a few women and mentioned I would be interested in leading but would need some help. One of those women was Carolyn Blum. She took me under her wing and helped me understand what the LWML was all about. At the time



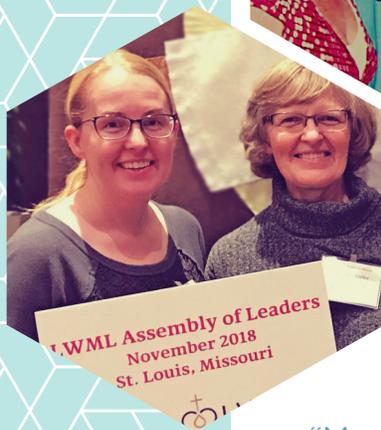
I knew very little of how active she had been, and still is, within the LWML on a district and national level. She started by providing me a link to where I could find the leadership materials online. She wanted to show what the LWML was, so she invited me to the 2016 South Wisconsin Winter Retreat. I really started to understand what the LWML was about on a larger scale and my enthusiasm grew, so I applied to be a YWR to the 2017 Albuquerque LWML Convention.

At the convention, I felt a fire growing inside me. I now really understood the LWML and what the mission was. I took that excitement back to my congregation and made some changes. With the blessing of the women who were helping me, we stopped having a business meeting every month. Instead, we have a speaker, a fun night for fellowship, or work on service projects. Since making the changes, our monthly meetings have increased in size and we are continuing to plan new events.

I am co-chair for our 2019 Winter Retreat and the chair for the 2020 Winter Retreat. I attended the Assembly of Leaders training in November 2018 and will be part of the committee that will be training the leaders and women in our district.

Becoming involved in the LWML has given me a different sense of purpose, allowing me to use the talents I didn't know I had, and giving me time to focus on our Lord. I feel so much more connected to God and recharged and rejuvenated in my faith. The LWML has given to me something I was missing: a strong connection to God and a desire to help all people in ways I would have never thought of on my own.

Learn more about Kati's journey in the Summer 2019 issue of the LWQ.



Carolyn Zimmerman

I find it quite interesting to hear what people remember about certain dates or events. When you ask “What was your first experience in LWML?” the answers will be as unique as the individuals asked. Even if you ask individuals involved in a single event, most likely you’ll get more than one story.

For instance, if you asked my grandmother, “What was Carolyn’s first experience in LWML?” she might tell you about when I was a YWR at a district convention. Or perhaps she’d tell you about the three times we served for the Alaska Mission for Christ together. Maybe she’d still be beaming that I attended Assembly of Leaders last November and tell you about that. Or, maybe she thinks my experience with LWML was when I became a zone president. All of these are wonderful, extremely memorable events that could be fascinating first experiences with LWML.

But, if you ask me, my first experience with LWML was far less glamorous or adventurous. Even though my grandmother and I were both there, we remember things differently.

I remember her kitchen vividly. She had low-pile brown carpet with dark cabinetry and a Formica® counter top. There was an island in the middle and the sink was on the wall under a window. Grandma had a small, crystal hummingbird suction-cupped to that window that would make rainbows when the morning sun rose. And on the sill, she always had a tiny little cardboard box. A.L.W.A.Y.S.

While sitting at the island eating Club® crackers and Kraft® cheese slices — a snack I only enjoyed at Grandma’s — I asked her about that funny little box. She explained to me what “mites” were. When I sit back, close my eyes, and think of that afternoon, I can still plainly hear her say, “If we all put in a little, we might end up with a lot.” I can see her soft curly, gray hair. I can smell the room. I can feel her tender heart.

When I open my eyes, reality comes flooding back to me. My kids are noisy. I think my coffee might have burned, and I still need to make breakfast. I have no idea how busy my grandma was that day or if my kind of chaos may have been ensuing in her reality. Considering I was at her house, she hardly was able to sit back and relax.

Amid whatever was going on, she took the time to talk to a 5-year old about the tiny cardboard box and all that it means for the LWML. And many years later, that moment is engrained in my memory.

I doubt my grandma expects this to be my answer. Honestly, I doubt she’ll remember the specific conversation. I have no idea if I’ve ever been someone’s first experience with the LWML — or if I ever will be. But my prayer is that should the time come when it is my turn to share the Gospel through the seemingly mundane, I’ll serve my Lord with gladness. Just like my grandma did.

“My prayer is that should the time come when it is my turn to share the Gospel through the seemingly mundane, I’ll serve my Lord with gladness. Just like my grandma did.”



Mary Buddenberg

Mary lives in the Mid-South District and was one of eight from her congregation who attended the 75th Anniversary

LWML Convention in Albuquerque. She

is a college junior, working on a Bachelor's

Degree in Special Education at the University of Central Arkansas, Conway, and an active member of Peace Lutheran Church.

Working with Peace LWML, middle schoolers of the congregation, and Karen Carter, Bethesda Auxiliary President, Mary is currently leading the Bethesda Birthday Boxes project. Boxes are filled with cake mix, frosting, candles, plates, napkins, homemade birthday cards and, as funds allow, a small gift.

The project is an opportunity for spiritual growth and enrichment to all who volunteer. It involves the congregation and youth in disability ministry, and provides an easy, fun, purposeful, and Christ-centered celebration for the person of the day. Delivery of the first set of 53 boxes to Cypress, Texas, took place in December 2017. (See news story on page 22.)

Mary became involved in LWML to stay involved in her church. "My mom and our LWML president invited me to their meetings, and I have attended several since. I spoke about the birthday boxes to our LWML, and our women support me with open arms and donations."

"I loved the convention in Albuquerque! I enjoyed the fact that it was mostly all women and about learning all that LWML does. I now understand where my mite offerings go, as well as enjoying the fellowship with members of Peace."

The Bethesda Auxiliary says that the Birthday Box Project is just beginning: "We hope to provide these boxes in all 13 states where Bethesda supports people with intellectual and developmental disabilities." Learn more at: www.bethesdalca.org.

Laura Davis Hemminger

My dad is a Lutheran pastor and my mom is a Lutheran teacher, so they taught me from an early age the importance of sharing my faith and looking to the Gospel for answers to difficult questions. They also didn't hide the truth about what those difficult questions were. As I got older and learned more about life and death, the more I felt the urging from the Holy Spirit to do something to help.

It wasn't until I got involved with Lutherans For Life, though, that I truly understood the connection between the Gospel and Life issues. People generally see Life issues as political or social issues, but I have learned they are primarily spiritual issues. Life comes under threat, whether at the beginning of life or the end of life, when life is devalued. Life is devalued when people don't understand where the value of life comes from. It doesn't come from our abilities, our accomplishments, or our physical characteristics. Rather, it comes from the Gospel.

Isaiah 43:1 says: *But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine."* We are created by God, redeemed by the blood of Jesus, and called according to the Holy Spirit. This is the message we need to hear, and this is the message I have been called to share through Y4Life.

Working with Y4Life, the youth and young adult program at Lutherans for Life, I have the privilege of mentoring young men and women, teaching them how to share the truth in love through education and service opportunities. I have seen these students save lives, change hearts, and above all else, witness to what God has done to give ALL life value. I pray that God will continue to give us the opportunity to witness to those who need to hear most that life has value, even when it is difficult.

You can learn more about Laura's involvement with Y4Life on page 14 and at the Mobile LWML Convention where she will be a Mites in Action speaker!



Priscilla Daryaie

I am a Christian and a woman of color. I am bilingual in English and Spanish. I'm a mother of a grown daughter and son. I'm a sister to three brothers and a trusted friend to many. I am a 20-year banking professional and leader. I have served as a volunteer for many causes. Above all, I am a child of God.

I was born and raised in Southern California by my mother, Angelina Jauregui, an American of Mexican heritage from Texas, and my father, Oscar Cifuentes, from Colombia, South America. Through their examples, I learned the importance of faith in God, family, hard work, love, laughter, respect, and helping others.

From the very beginning, I was surrounded by God and family. We attended church every Sunday. I loved God as a child and learned how to pray. After my parents divorced, I became a member of the youth group and was confirmed at Trinity Lutheran Church in Whittier, California. As a young adult, I formed a youth group for 13- to 19-year olds at St. John's Lutheran Church, Montebello, California. I also helped with Vacation Bible School. It felt good to be active in my church, but life's hardships and trials wore me down and tested my faith. Through all this time my mother was my strongest mentor in Christ. Her words of godly wisdom and her constant encouragement to remain in church have always brought me back to St. John's. My mom's tireless efforts in doing God's work has never ceased to amaze me. Through her efforts, along with the members of the Spanish congregation, I have been inspired to get more involved in the church. But the fear of not living up to their expectations and not knowing my own purpose often held me back.

Attending the LWML Convention in Albuquerque as a Heart to Heart (H2H) Sister was life changing. It was my first introduction to diversity in the LWML. My favorite part was meeting Lutheran women from all over the world. I was so inspired by each woman's story and the collective ideas we brought to the table. In praising, praying, and hearing testimonies of God's work with my fellow H2H Sisters and the women of LWML, I shared a wonderful, God-given unity that will forever bond us.

I returned from Albuquerque with joy in my heart, a desire to share my story, and an inspiration to serve. This inspiration led me, with several others, to plan and organize our LWML rally. We invited women from multiple congregations to come together to worship, hear mission stories, sing praises, and raise funds for mite offerings. We auctioned donated gift baskets from our congregation, raising \$400 toward our mite goal. I've been blessed with the opportunity to volunteer my time, share my talents, and teach Bible school in my church. I am grateful to the LWML for their mission of reaching out to others and encouraging me to use my gifts to serve the Lord.

All of you are part of the same body. There is only one Spirit of God, just as you were given one hope when you were chosen to be God's people. We have only one Lord, one faith, and one baptism. There is one God who is the Father of all people. Not only is God above all others, but he works by using all of us, and he lives in all of us.

Ephesians 4:4-6 (CEV)



Nicole Knutson

My passion for LWML started during my deaconess internship at Grace Lutheran Church in San Mateo, California. The Pastor and Delores Keim (my “house mom”) strongly encouraged me to participate in the society, and I’m glad they did. The fellowship and encouragement we found together in God’s Word strengthened me during that time. I was also able to serve as a bridge between the women in church and those who were homebound and could no longer attend. At their encouraging, I served as delegate for our district convention. After my internship, I was active in LWML societies in Santa Rosa, California; Spokane, Washington; Cullman, Alabama; and Fort Wayne, Indiana. Even though each LWML was vastly different, they all were centered on their love of Jesus and reliance on God’s Word. This commonality helped me feel at home, no matter where we moved.

When my husband received his Call to St. John Lutheran Church in McMinnville, Oregon, we started our dual ministry, he as the Pastor and I as Volunteer Deaconess. I serve as Christian life leader for the St. John LWML society and vice president of special focus ministries for Oregon District. My husband recently became pastoral counselor for the Pacific Zone in the Oregon District.

Our love for our Lord is something we celebrate with the other women in LWML meetings and events — where Lutheran women of all ages serve to extend God’s Word and God’s work to all people throughout the world. As servants in Christ, we are thankful for the work we do together through the LWML.



Ashley Tieman

As a young girl in Houston, Texas, my mom told me stories about missionaries. We collected special Christmas offerings, wrote letters to, and prayed for missionary families. I began to dream of being a missionary when I grew up. The Lord refined that dream into a passion and, through His Spirit, drew my eyes to Asia. When I met my husband, Nicholas, and learned that he, too, desired to share the Word, we began to dream of missionary life together.

Our dreams were realized in 2009 when we moved to Yunnan, China, to teach English. Among the hundreds of students we taught that year, a few grew close to us and came into our home for Bible study.

In 2010, we became English teachers in rural Japan alongside a permanent missionary couple. Although we faced many challenges, those years were full of blessings. I participated in Bible studies, hosted cooking exchange parties, helped prepare for worship and the fellowship dinners that followed, and served as a substitute teacher for the mission conversation school.

During our years abroad, the LWML society of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Memphis, Tennessee, sent us several care packages. Although I had never met these women in person, they showered us with snacks, language learning resources, magazines, school supplies, and cards. When we moved to Memphis in 2013, I was determined to find these “purple women” who had been so generous to us. When I discovered LWML was about serving the Lord through mission and service, I knew I wanted to be involved.

I have served as a district and national YWR, as district YWR chairman, a district mission grants committee member, zone treasurer, and Christian Life chairman for my society. I love serving with LWML — through the faithful service of each woman helping where she is able, the Lord blesses her efforts and joins her together with other Lutheran women throughout the world to bring Christ to the nations.

I now live in the United States, but I am still a missionary. I cultivate friendships with Japanese people in Memphis and invite them into our home. My husband and I are very active in our church. I spend my days educating my two children, not just how to do math or spelling, but also about the Triune God and His grace, the Savior who came and died so that through Him, people from all nations can stand *before the throne and before the Lamb ... crying out with a loud voice, “Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!”* (Revelation 7:9-10).

“When I discovered LWML was about serving the Lord through mission and service, I knew I wanted to be involved.”

Amanda Williams and Alli Bauck

Amanda Williams' journey with the LWML started in 2013 when Ella, a church friend and mentor, encouraged her to apply as a Kansas District YWR for the Pittsburgh LWML Convention. Amanda was not chosen but was encouraged to apply for the 2014 district convention the next year. She was accepted as one of the Kansas City CrossRoads Zone YWRs. It was at this convention that Amanda met Alli Bauck. Alli was the other CrossRoads Zone YWR and was already well known to the Kansas LWML community, thanks to the involvement of her mom, grandma, aunt, and great aunt. Amanda's first experiences with LWML were through her grandmother and the Ladies Aids at her churches growing up in Minnesota and South Dakota. In Kansas City, Amanda didn't really know anyone in her area, except those at her own church.

Amanda and Alli became fast friends, finding many things in common between the two of them: both were about the same age, met their husbands in college, had similar hobbies, and each had a set of kittens — one orange and the other black. Alli is quiet, organized, thoughtful, and enjoys being creative. Amanda's outgoing personality gives her joy to be in front of a crowd, getting people together or leading a group. By the end of their weekend together, God had put it on their hearts to start their own LWML group. Each one attended a different church in the CrossRoads Zone, where they knew there were other young women who were interested in a young women's group. They set out to create a new group especially for these young women.

Eight women came, representing three different churches! They joined in discussion about what this group would look like and shared what LWML was all about. They named their group *Eve Circle*, because it was one of the first of its kind and they were young like *Eve*.

Amanda and Alli sent invitations to all the area LCMS congregations. Their first meeting was held at a local coffee shop one Sunday evening. Eight women came, representing three different churches! They joined in discussion about what this group would look like and shared what LWML was all about. They named their group *Eve Circle*, because it was one of the first of its kind and they were young like *Eve*. In the first year they gathered monthly for fellowship, Bible study, and ministry projects. They created a Facebook group so they could communicate and get to know one another better. What the young women craved most was fellowship time and Bible study. Each year the group selects a Bible study to do together. So far they have enjoyed (and highly recommend): *Ruth: More than a Love Story*; *Sip, Savor, and Drink Deeply*; *Soul Spa*; and *Demystifying the Proverbs 31 Woman*.

The women of *Eve Circle* designed and handcrafted sunflower pins for the 2015 Des Moines LWML Convention, where they were also recognized by President Kay. In 2016, the Kansas District recognized them as their own society. In addition to the friendships they've built, in the last year seven of them have become first-time moms and two of them have gotten married! *Eve Circle* currently has 12 active members, representing four churches. It is exciting to witness God's work as He continues to bless the *Eve Circle* gatherings and grow its young women closer together as sisters in Christ, in the Kansas City area.





Tiffany Harkins

Tiffany Harkins is a public school teacher who loves her job and her students and is intentional about sharing the love of Jesus. She became a member of the LCMS at Beautiful Savior in Olathe, Kansas, in 2005, after marrying her high school sweetheart. She began attending Bible study but didn't realize it was part of the church's LWML society until Eden Keefe invited Tiffany to apply to be a YWR at the 2006 Kansas District convention. She came home with her own Mite Box, hooked on the mission of the LWML.

Since that first convention experience, Tiffany has been involved in the LWML at the local, district, and even national level. In 2014 she joined the newly formed Eve Circle (see Amanda and Alli's story on page 10) designed to bring young women together from different congregations across the Kansas City CrossRoads Zone.

Tiffany has been blessed to attend every district convention since her YWR experience in 2006.

She has served on the member development committee (now special focus ministries) and currently chairs the christian life committee.

In 2012, Tiffany applied for and was selected as a Kansas District YWR for the 2013 LWML Convention in Pittsburgh. She loved seeing the passionate service during the servant events and ingathering collections and was deeply moved by the Mites in Action speakers.

She was thrilled to be invited to dress as Marty the Mosquito for the Malaria Project at the block party! It was a relief to hear President Kay give the YWRs "permission" to do things differently. When Tiffany arrived home, she asked her husband to please do whatever it took with the budget to enable her to always attend national conventions, and she is grateful to have been able to attend each national convention since. A highlight and delight was learning so much LWML history at the special 75th Anniversary Diamond Dazzle celebration!

Tiffany does not know what other plans God has for her inside and outside the LWML but trusts in His plan for her life. She is passionate about the mission of the LWML and will continue to serve the Lord with gladness as long as she is able.



Ali Arndt

I have been a part of the LWML as long as I can remember: I sat with my dad when he would lead devotions as the pastor; I went to circle meetings with my mom when I got older; and I served as page for the North Dakota District convention. I was then asked to apply to be the Young Woman Representative in Albuquerque.

I was privileged to serve as a YWR and was amazed at all the women who serve, joyfully spreading the Gospel and supporting others with their mite offerings. I was most inspired by the history of the LWML, which made me see LWML in a new light. I was excited to share what I had learned and could not wait to get started.

I approached our LWML group with my ideas, and they were excited and willing to support me. First, they joined with Vocational Training Center, an agency I work for that serves adults with disabilities, by inviting some of the individuals to come sew with them.

Then, in the fall of 2017, I asked some young women in our church to do a Bible study. We decided to meet on Friday nights, and Larissa Brelje, a YWR from the Pittsburgh LWML Convention, and her mom helped get things set up. Six women attended the first Bible study, and we really enjoyed the fellowship and time in God's Word. I invited others to join, and the group grew. Each month we shared more about LWML and the missions and, in June, our Bible study group asked if we could join LWML as our own circle. It has been such a blessing to see the relationships developing between the young and old.

The Lord continues to call me to serve, and this last fall I was invited to join the Assembly of Leaders training. I am excited to use what I have learned to continue to share the love of Christ with others.

"I was most inspired by the history of the LWML, which made me see LWML in a new light."



Bonnie Karch and Elizabeth Cross

As a teacher and a District President, I find much of my time is spent mentoring and encouraging my students and fellow LWML sisters. I've never intentionally sought out anyone until the Lord blessed me with the opportunity to mentor a young woman in my church.

One Sunday, Elizabeth asked me what I was carrying in my package. I didn't know her well, although I had seen her occasionally around the church. I told her my bag contained craft supplies from my monthly Ladies Craft Day. She asked more about it and if she could attend. Neither of us had any idea of God's plan as we laughed, talked, and made lots of silly greeting cards. Many of the women there talked about LWML activities, and Elizabeth began to ask questions. Before she left, I invited her to our next LWML event.

Elizabeth was so excited to hear what was going on in LWML and wanted to know more about all aspects of it: society, zone, district, and national; mite offerings; H2H Sisters; YWRs; and how she could help. I eagerly encouraged her to join our next event, where she was an enthusiastic and willing worker.

Our zone invited her to the 2018 district convention. She had so many questions, and I made sure to answer them all. By the end of convention, she was charged up and ready to become more involved in the LWML ministry. Praise the Lord!

At the end of summer, our society held elections and she became our new society president. She made me promise to guide her and answer all her questions. She hit the ground running with all kinds of ideas for outreach. I made sure I never used the words, "We've never done it that way before," unless I finished with, "but it sounds like a great idea that we should try!"

I started our annual Holiday Craft Bazaar 15 years ago but had to miss last fall because I was attending the Assembly of Leaders Training in St. Louis. I asked Elizabeth and my daughter, Krista, to help in my absence. Imagine my surprise when I returned home to hear them tell me they already had new ideas for the next bazaar that will make it even better, and they were going to run it together (without me)! They even made changes to the instructions in my official Bazaar Notebook! What a great feeling to see them eagerly embrace these new opportunities in the LWML.

Imagine my surprise when I returned home to hear them tell me they already had new ideas for the next bazaar that will make it even better, and they were going to run it together (without me)!

Elizabeth has become more confident and enthusiastic and involved in other church areas. She joined our Bible study group as we worked our way through Donna Pyle's *Abundance of Love* study. She has also become a Lay Minister and serves with passion and encourages others to become involved in reaching out.

Due to health issues, Elizabeth doesn't drive, so her mother is her chauffeur. The added blessing is that her mother has also become active in LWML and Bible study. My greatest joy is watching Elizabeth grow in confidence as she becomes more involved. It's a blessing for me to help pass the work of the LWML to the next generation. I pray that the Lord will bless me with more young women to encourage and mentor as they begin their journey in LWML.



Dawn Zerkel

Have you ever read the book *Oh! The Places You'll Go!* by Dr. Seuss? I feel that is my journey with the LWML.

I started out going to a meeting one Monday evening not knowing what to expect. The president asked me to attend the district convention in Bloomington, Illinois, as both delegate and a Young Woman Representative. Patti Ross (now LWML President), encouraged me to apply to be a national YWR. I was intrigued; however, it still took a couple weeks before I filled it out and sent it in.

I was accepted to be the YWR from my district to the Sioux Falls LWML Convention in 2007.

I got to Sioux Falls overwhelmed. I was showered with gifts; I felt like part of the LWML "royalty." We were kept busy, morning until night.

YWRs share a special bond or sisterhood within the LWML. We were told we are the future (the now!) of LWML, and this frightened me. We were also told "God does not send the equipped, He equips the ones He sends."

After my return, I served in my zone, then became Christian life chairman for the district. I am now vice president of Christian life where I serve with six of my fellow YWRs.

I am also serving on the LWML Information Technology Committee. It is exciting to see the places God sent me, and I can't wait to see where my journey with God and LWML will take me next.



MeiChun Lin

I was born in southeast China, where people worship all kinds of gods, goddesses, and even their ancestors. My mom is considered to have Immortals' Bones, which is called *Xiangu* in Chinese. People with Immortals' Bones are said to be able to communicate with spirits and dead people.

I was very sick when I was 19 years old and a "witch" said I was also one gifted with Immortals' Bones. The witch suggested I become a witch, work in a temple, and worship a goddess in my house for the rest of my life in order to stay away from misfortunes. The thought of becoming a witch, working in a temple, or worshipping a goddess for my whole life made me scared.

In my senior year of college, a Christian friend told me that Jesus had freed me from my sins and all I needed to do was simply to believe in Him. These words touched my heart. My family had undergone lots of ups and downs because of these so-called spirits with their blessings or curses. I had no desire to serve these spirits. I was baptized in 2011, the year I graduated from college.

I came to the United States to study for my M.Ed in 2012 and was confirmed as a Lutheran in 2013. I later met my husband, Zach, at church. His mother, the president of our local LWML, introduced us.

I am serving as a Mandarin teacher for 7th-11th grade students at a private school in Idaho. I taught Vacation Bible School and shared my faith story at the Utah-Idaho District convention. I have been working with Pastor Christian Zimmermann, who is also an author, to translate his Bible story book from English into Chinese.

I have grown a lot in my faith since 2011 when I was baptized. I got baptized to escape my ancestry of serving the spirits with my Immortals' Bones, but not because I truly knew God at that time. Since then, I've learned to trust God, and I keep growing strong in my faith gradually. He has answered my prayers, and I never question that God is with me in all situations. One of my favorite, simple daily prayers is, "God, don't forget me if I forget you today."

God loves all His children regardless of their language, color, and background. Knowing brothers and sisters from diversified cultures is a wonderful chance to witness how His powerful love prevails in every corner of the world. As a Heart to Heart Sister, I was thrilled to meet the other sisters from various backgrounds at the Albuquerque LWML Convention. It encouraged me when they shared how they serve God in their own communities.

"It is exciting to see the places God sent me and I can't wait to see where my journey with God and LWML will take me next."



Y4LIFE

Sharing The Gospel Through Life Issues

By Laura Davis Hemminger, Director of Y4Life, Lutherans for Life, with Cheri Fish, Mission Editor

The decision of how to confront an unplanned pregnancy faces teens and young adults more than any other age group. Out of the 1.2 million abortions that take place every year in the United States, most are performed on young, single women. At the current rate, nearly one third of women will have an abortion in their lifetime, so it is likely that Lutheran youth will come into contact with someone facing this kind of decision: possibly a close friend, family member, or even themselves.

At the same time that youth and young adults are facing these life or death situations, they are hearing the message of the Gospel less and less. Approximately 27 percent of those who have an abortion have no religious affiliation. Through this heart-wrenching situation, God provides us with a wonderful opportunity to share the Gospel.

The purpose of the Y4Life program at Lutherans For Life is to equip young people to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life. Through education, training and service learning, these young people will be ready to provide guidance and information about Life issues and will be credible witnesses of the Gospel to their peers.

The \$25,000 LWML Mission Grant at the 2017 Albuquerque Convention is being used to expand the current campus ministry programs to include all who attend Lutheran high schools: Lutherans and those of other backgrounds and faiths. These programs will equip youth to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life through identifying, training, and mentoring student leaders and faculty, as well as providing ongoing support to existing Life groups on Lutheran campuses.

Since 2017, we have been laying the groundwork for future success. This has included a college-age intern who is responsible for communicating with Lutheran high schools and researching their Life ministry needs. We have also expanded our existing programs hosting our first mini-conference for students at the annual March for Life in Washington, D.C. In 2018, our first year hosting the event, we had over 75 students attend, eager to learn more about witnessing to the Gospel through Life issues.

Ongoing outreach events will allow us to share our message and ministry, including our Y4Life

Servant Event Program. Servant events are weekend-long trips that introduce high school students to life-affirming ministries in their own community: pregnancy centers, disabilities ministries, and senior centers. After the event, many students will continue to serve at these ministries with a newfound respect for life at all of its stages.

We also plan on adding a new full-time Director of High School Ministry to our Y4Life staff, as we currently have only one full-time staff member. Adding this new position will allow for more hands-on work targeted specifically at recruiting, training, mentoring, and supporting high school-aged leaders. We hope to officially launch the new Y4Life High School Ministry at the end of 2019.

We sincerely thank the LWML for this mission grant to enable us to reach out to answer a need by equipping young people to be Gospel-motivated voices for Life. This mission grant will provide education, training, and service learning for Lutheran students, not only to provide guidance and information about Life issues, but also to teach them be credible witnesses to the Gospel to their peers. *Q*

MISSION GOAL: \$2,075,000 2017–2019 MISSION GRANTS

Mission Grant updates are frequently posted at www.lwml.org.



● 1. Providing Food and the Gospel to Starving Children	\$40,000
● 2. Mercy House for Women and Children	\$100,000
● 3. Christ for Veterans and Their Families	\$27,750
● 4. Tanzanian Sewing Center	\$25,000
● 5. Current Missionary Need	\$100,000
● 6. Lutheran Children's Books for Families Worldwide	\$100,000
● 7. Christian Hope Through Mass Media in Egypt	\$100,000
● 8. NOLA 4H: Hearts for the Hungry, Homeless, and Hurting ..	\$100,000
● 9. Lutheran World Relief Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund.....	\$80,000
● 10. Christian Eldercare Home in Haiti	\$100,000
● 11. Training Lutheran Middle Eastern Missionaries	\$93,000
● 12. Completion of Lutheran School Buildings in Uganda	\$48,000
● 13. Equipping Youth to Witness for Life—Y4Life	\$25,000
● 14. Laborers of Love	\$100,000
● 15. Sharing Jesus with People with Disabilities	\$100,000
● 16. Education Loan Repayment Assistance Grants	\$100,000
● 17. Nursing Students Serving with Mercy Medical Team	\$25,000
● 18. Restoration Programs for Native Hawaiians	\$75,000
● 19. RECONNECT to the Body of Christ, Circuit 28	\$50,000
● 20. Prison and Jail Ministry 2018 Synod-wide Conference	\$36,500
● 21. Family Scholarships for Short Term Mission Trips.....	\$60,000
● 22. Raising Pastors and Deaconesses.....	\$97,000

●—grant partially paid; **purple highlight**—grant paid in full



CURRENT MISSION GRANT HIGHLIGHTS

Y4Life, Equipping Youth to Witness for Life — \$25,000

The Y4Life program is currently serving college campuses. The mission grant funds go directly towards expanding the initiative to include Lutheran high school campuses. By training student leaders and providing ongoing mentorship and support for the individual campus ministries, they can raise their voices for Life.

Family Scholarships for Short Term Mission Trips — \$60,000

Mission Opportunities Short Term (MOST) Ministries has been meeting the needs of people around the world as a way to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. MOST feels it is important to recruit families into mission work because of the positive impact it has on the lives of those served and also on the families themselves. With the increasing costs of travel, this mission grant will help to offset the expenses of a typical mission trip.

Restoration Programs for Native Hawaiians — \$75,000

This mission grant will be used for scholarships for Clarence DeLude III, a staff member with Lutheran Indian Ministries who enrolled in the Cross-Cultural Ministry Center Program at Concordia University, Irvine, California. As a native Hawaiian, he will be used as God's instrument to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to his fellow Kanaka people. Additional funds will go to VBS/Teen Camp, on-going Bible study, and Sexual Abuse and Leadership Training seminars.



Nameless Women of the Bible

By Susan Maluschka

Names are as important as they are versatile. They can be used not only as identifiers, but can also reveal much about us — everything from our ancestry to our family status. We are given names at birth but often change them or prefer a nickname to better suit our personality.

On the other hand, some people in the world want to “make a name” for themselves. They want the world to know who they are and remember them forever.

Far more important than our own name is the fact that God has put His name upon us in Holy Baptism. We remember what God says through His prophet Isaiah: *Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine* (Isaiah 43:1), and we also hear words of assurance in Luke 10:20: *rejoice that your names are written in heaven.*

What matters more than the name we choose to call ourselves is the impact we make on others, living lives that show God’s love and sacrifice for all mankind. Helping to bring someone to faith will be remembered long after our names are forgotten.

We’ve heard the Bible stories of Mary, Eve, Rachel, Ruth, Esther and others, but what about the women in the Bible who aren’t given names? Some are given chapters to share their accomplishments while others are judged on only a sentence or two. Regardless, they deserve to be considered and appreciated for their efforts and sacrifices. This study looks at just one of the women who made a significant impact but remains a mystery.

Susan is currently living with her husband of 34 years in Victoria, Texas. By day she is a church secretary and by night she writes Bible studies. Her book, *Watching Movies with Christian Eyes*, will be available soon.

Opening Prayer: Lord Jesus, in Your earthly ministry You were loved and served by devoted women, including Mary and Martha in whose home You enjoyed rest and refreshment. Give us grace to recognize and affirm the varied and singular gifts You bestow on women that Your Kingdom may be extended, Your Church enriched, and Your people lovingly served to the glory of Your holy name; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen. (LSB page 307)

Woman in the Crowd

Jesus had just cast out a demon from a mute man and was answering accusations that He used the power of the devil to do it. Immediately following this, a woman calls out to Him from the crowd gathered around. Luke is the only Gospel that records her one sentence; therefore, it deserves our first consideration.

Read **Luke 11:27–28**. What do you think caused this woman to randomly cry out?

Do you think this was the kind of thing that happened often? _____

Why would she bless Jesus’ mother? _____

Whom did Jesus consider to be His mother? **Matthew 12:49–50** _____

Did Jesus rebuke the woman for her outburst? _____ What did He do? _____

Why would Jesus not want someone to give a blessing to His mother? _____

What was He emphasizing by this comment? _____

What blessings do we receive from hearing the Word of God? _____

What do you think her reaction might have been to Jesus’ reply? What would yours be? _____

Do you think Jesus knew the woman’s name (see **Jeremiah 1:4–5**)? _____

Closing Prayer: Lord, help me not only to hear Your Word but, also to keep it in a pure heart and thereby produce a fruitful life of service. Guide my words that they may draw attention to You and not to myself. In Your Name. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Sing or say together one or more verses of “Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love” (LSB #900; LW #182; TLH #114).



Las Mujeres que Aparecen en la Biblia sin Nombres

Por Susan Maluschka
Traducido por Melissa Salomón
en Marilyn McClure

Nombres son importantes y también versátiles. Se pueden usar para identificar a las personas como también revelar mucho acerca de nosotros mismos — tanto como nuestros ancestros y nuestro estatus familiar. Recibimos nombres cuando nacemos pero a veces los cambiamos o preferimos apodos que mejor van con nuestras personalidades. También hay personas que quieren tener éxito y hacerse “un nombre.” Quieren que el mundo entero sepa quiénes son y recordarlos para siempre.

Más importante que nuestros propios nombres es el hecho que Dios ha puesto Su Nombre sobre nosotros en el Santo Bautismo. Recordamos lo que Dios dijo por medio de Su profeta Isaías: *No temas, que yo te he redimido; te he llamado por tu nombre; tú eres mío.* (Isaías 43: 1), y también escuchamos estas palabras de garantía en Lucas 10:20: *alégrense de que sus nombres están escritos en el cielo.*

Lo que importa más que el nombre que escogemos es el impacto que podemos tener en aquellas personas que nos rodean, viviendo nuestras vidas de tal forma que mostremos el amor de Dios y el sacrificio para toda la humanidad. Siendo instrumento en que llegue una persona a creer en Jesús será recordado mucho más tiempo después de que son olvidados nuestros nombres.

Hemos escuchado las historias de la Biblia de María, Eva, Raquel, Rut, Ester y muchas más, pero ¿qué de las mujeres de la Biblia cuyos nombres no aparecen?

En algunos capítulos es relatado con detalla lo que hicieron y otras aparecen con sólo una o dos oraciones. No importa si aparecen sus nombres o no, ellas merecen ser consideradas y apreciadas por sus esfuerzos y sacrificios. Este estudio se enfoca en una de esas damas que hizo un impacto significativo pero su identidad sigue siendo un misterio.

Oración de Apertura: Señor Jesús, en Tu ministerio terrenal, fuiste amado y servido por mujeres devotas, incluyendo a María y Marta. En su casa encontraste descanso y refrescamiento. Danos Tu gracia para reconocer y afirmar los dones variados e únicos que Tú otorgas sobre las mujeres para que Tu Reino se pueda extender, Tu Iglesia se pueda enriquecer y Tu pueblo pueda ser servido amorosamente para la gloria de Tu Santo Nombre; porque Tú vives y reinas con el Padre y Espíritu Santo, un sólo Dios, ahora y siempre. Amén.

La Mujer en la Muchedumbre

Jesús apenas había sacado un demonio de la vida de un hombre mudo y estaba respondiendo a acusaciones que había usado el poder de Satanás (Beelzebú) para hacerlo. Inmediatamente después, una mujer de la muchedumbre le llamó. Lucas es el único que relata esto con una sola oración; así que merece nuestra primera consideración.

Lean a **Lucas 11:27–28**. ¿Por qué creen que gritó esta mujer tan repentinamente así? _____

¿Creen que escuchar gritos de este tipo fue común para Jesús? _____

¿Por qué bendijo a la madre de Jesús esta mujer? _____

¿A quién consideraba Jesús que era Su madre? **Mateo 12:49–50** _____

¿La reprendió Jesús a la mujer por sus gritos? _____ ¿Qué es lo que hizo? _____

¿Por qué tal vez no quería Jesús que le pronunciara una bendición a su madre? _____

¿Qué estaba enfatizando Jesús con este comentario? _____

¿Qué bendiciones recibimos con escuchar la Palabra de Dios? _____

¿Qué piensan que era la reacción de ella a la respuesta de Jesús? ¿Qué sería tu respuesta? _____

¿Crees que Jesús sabía cómo se llamaba esta mujer? (Vean a **Jeremías 1:4–5**) _____

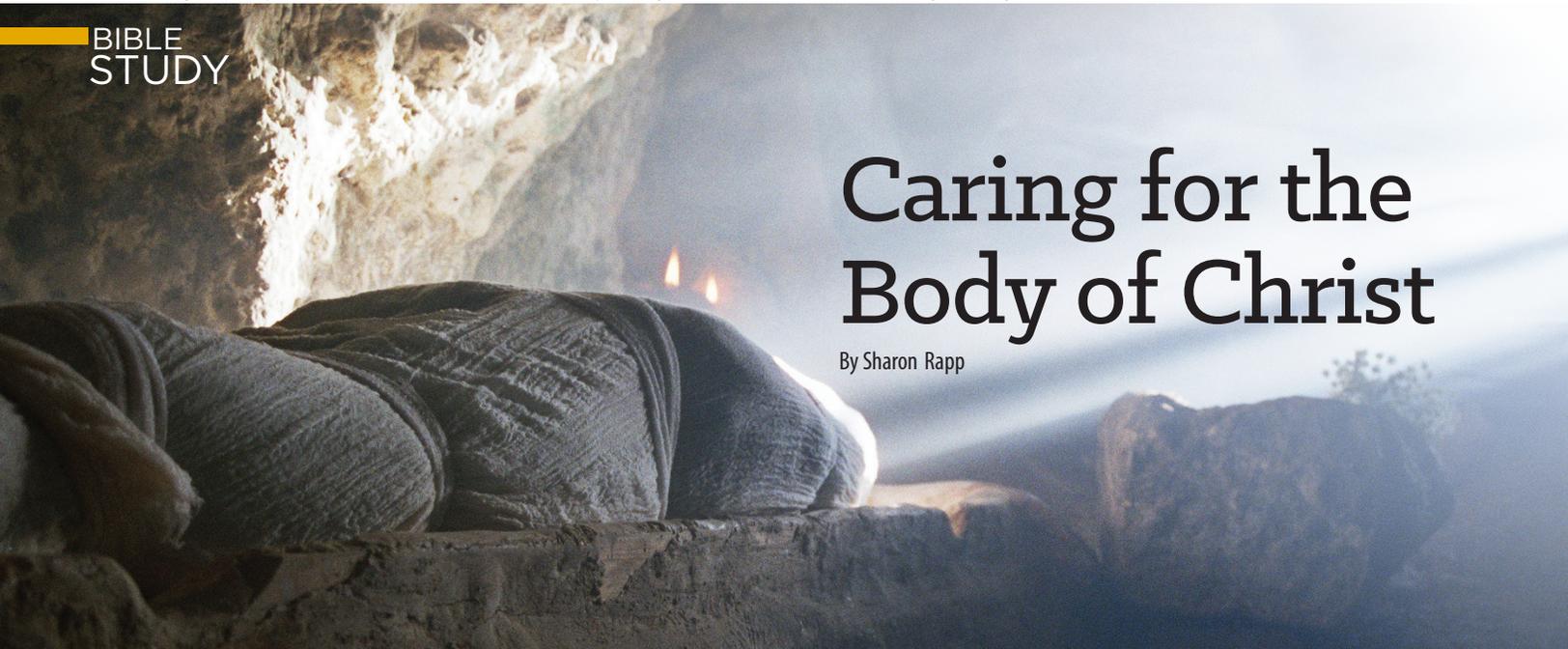
Oración de Clausura: Señor, ayúdame a no solo escuchar Tu Palabra, pero también mantenerla en un corazón puro y así producir una vida de servicio fructífero. Guía mis palabras para que puedan llamar la atención a Ti y no a mí. En Tu nombre. Amén.

Himno de Clausura: Canten o lean juntas “Cuán dulce el nombre de Jesús” (*Culto Cristiano #27*) o “Jesús Divino, Gran Rey del mundo” (*Culto Cristiano #38*).

Susan vive actualmente en Victoria, Texas, con su esposo de 34 años. De día sirve como secretaria de su iglesia y de noche escribe estudios bíblicos. Su libro en inglés, *Watching Movies with Christian Eyes*, estará a la venta próximamente.

Caring for the Body of Christ

By Sharon Rapp



It is a beautiful fall day in Israel. Our small faith-based tour group walks along the Mount of Olives toward Gethsemane, singing praise songs, rejoicing that our faith in Jesus' death and resurrection gives us salvation and a living hope. We visit possible crucifixion sites, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Garden Tomb, marveling at the courage of those who risked relationships, reputation, position, uncleanness — even life! — to honor our Lord at His death.

Opening Prayer: "Where charity and love prevail There God is ever found; Brought here together by Christ's love By love are we thus bound. Let us recall that in our midst Dwells Christ, His only Son; As members of His body joined We are in Him made one." ¹ Amen.

Caring for the Physical Body of Christ

What do we learn about the care for Jesus' body provided by Joseph and Nicodemus in the following passages:

Matthew 27:55–61; Mark 15:40–47; Luke 23:50–56; and John 3:1–16, 7:50–52, 19:38–42? List several facts about the men, events, and locations.

Consider: origins; resources; professions; relationship to Jesus; timing; requests made and to whom; action taken/ care given; details of the tomb; and additional information.

Joseph of Arimathea	Nicodemus
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Fine linen and large amounts of spices were not uncommon for a royal burial. Tombs were often hollowed out of rock and included shelves around the sides for the placement of bodies. The heavy stone used to close the tomb was likely several feet in diameter. It rolled in a hewn track and was used for keeping out animals.

What do you think prompted Nicodemus to seek out Jesus?

Why might Joseph have kept his discipleship secret? See **John 12:42–43.** _____

How might this have worked in his favor in asking for Jesus' body? _____

To whom does Paul refer when he mentions Jesus' burial in **Acts 13:27–29?** _____ How does this information fit with the references to Joseph and Nicodemus? _____

Use the previous Scripture passages and categories to locate information about the women involved.

What were the temple guards instructed to do in Matthew 27:62-66 and why? _____

In spite of the precautions taken, what did Mary Magdalene — one of the last to leave the cross and the tomb — discover when she returned to the tomb early on the first day of the week and what were her reactions (John 20:1-18)? _____

Isaiah had prophesied: And they made his grave with the wicked and with a rich man in his death (53:5). "Jesus is buried [in a rich man's tomb]. By sharing our human grave, He sanctifies our tombs and makes them places where our bodies can rest, confident in the resurrection. [We] honor the faithfully departed by remembering their graves and by praying for their families. As Christ burst from His tomb, so shall He raise all the dead on the Last Day."

Caring for the Spiritual Body of Christ

"Paul repeatedly describes the Church as the Body of Jesus, believers united under one head." He writes to the Ephesians: And he [God] put all things under his [Christ's] feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all (1:22-23).

How are the members of the Body described in the following passages?

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-13, 24b-27
Galatians 3:27-29
Ephesians 4:4-6
Colossians 2:9-12

Using the analogy of the body, Paul expresses his concern for the unity of the church. What unities are described here?

- John 14:16-17
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
Romans 6:3-5
1 John 1:8-9

How are we to deal with other members of Christ's Body?

- John 13:34-35
1 Corinthians 1:10
Ephesians 4:1-3
1 Peter 3:8-9a

"The Church is the body of believers created and sustained by God (1 Corinthians 12), the new Israel (Galatians 6:16), people called together by faith through God's Word and Sacrament. Christians share in (1) apostolic doctrine, (2) the Lord's body and blood in Holy Communion, and (3) specific acts of mutual love."

Create a short list of loving acts that can contribute to the unity of a congregation. _____

Born again of water and Spirit in Baptism, we live in the promise of forgiveness, salvation, resurrection, and eternal life. In repentance and faith, we — the Body of Christ — approach the table of the Lord's Supper where we unite in receiving our Lord's body and blood. And we care for Christ's Body — local, national, international, universal — through the giving of our time, talents, and treasures.

My student travel-study group and I are now near the altar of Canterbury Cathedral when a prelate ascends the pulpit and motions for quiet. Speaking regretfully of a recent skirmish in a nearby capital, he asks that all those in his hearing pray together for unity, using the words of the Lord's Prayer. Many languages surround us and differences in words are evident. In the rhythm of the phrasing and the pauses between, however, this huge group — unrehearsed — speaks in unison and arrives simultaneously at "Amen."

When time allows:

- 1. Using a concordance, research one of the following: adelphoi, church, fellowship, member.
2. Examine one or more of the creeds and Divine Services for evidence of unity and/or caring.
3. Make an extensive list of ways to care for the Body of Christ, then choose one and put it into practice.
4. Select a hymn from the index topic "Church" and memorize one or more of its verses.

Closing Prayer: "Forgive we now each other's faults As we our faults confess, And let us love each other well In Christian holiness. Let strife among us be unknown; Let all contention cease; Be God's the glory that we seek; Be ours His holy peace." Amen.

Closing Hymn: Say or sing together verses one and six of "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" (LSB #766; LW #431; TLH #458).

1 LSB #845, verses 1 and 5; 3 and 4
2 "Key Terms and Phrases in Paul's Epistles," The Lutheran Study Bible, pages 1901-1904
3 Note on Matthew 27:57-61, The Lutheran Study Bible, page 1648

Sharon Rapp, LWQ Bible Study Editor and Heart to Heart Sister, lives in Jackson, Tennessee, where she and her husband, Mike, are members of Concordia Lutheran Church. She is president of the local LWML and served previously as president of Mid-Arkansas Zone.

BIBLE STUDY

Running the Race

By Shari Miller



“Ready, set, go!”

You might recognize these words if you have ever attended a track meet and watched the runners strive to win the race. Discuss with a partner or your small group what message you think these words convey to each runner.

In 1 Corinthians 9:24, Paul uses racing language: *Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it.* He tells Timothy toward his life’s end:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith (2 Timothy 4:7). Our focus will be on the Apostle Paul (Saul) and how God made him ready to serve the Lord, set him on the right path of faith, and blessed that service as he shared the Good News about Jesus as Savior of the entire world — to Jews and Gentiles alike. We will also look at how our loving Lord prepares us for joyful service to Him and blesses us as we go and tell those in our lives about our Savior and all He has done for us.

Opening Prayer: Dear heavenly Father, You created us and have given us many talents and abilities. Unfortunately, we are sinful and our sin separates us from You. Our Savior Jesus came to live a perfect life, suffer, die for our sins, and rise from the dead. Because of Him, we come to You asking for forgiveness for the times we have failed You. Thank You for giving us the Holy Spirit Who gives us faith in Jesus, readies us for the race, sets our path through Word and Sacraments, and spurs us to go and run the race as witnesses to all that Jesus has done for us. Help us to keep our eyes on the prize of eternal life. In Jesus’ name we boldly pray. Amen.

Ready.

The Apostle Paul was the first missionary to the Gentiles, preaching and teaching the Good News about salvation in Jesus to those living in the darkness of their sins during three missionary journeys. He wrote many letters of doctrine and encouragement to church plants in such cities as Corinth, Ephesus, Philippi, and Colossae. God made Paul ready for the awesome task of being His missionary. Read the following references to Paul’s background, and identify some of the things that we learn about Paul’s early life, qualifications, and characteristics.

- Acts 22:1–5** _____
- Acts 22:27–28** _____
- Acts 23:6** _____
- Romans 11:1** _____
- Galatians 1:14** _____
- Philippians 3:5–6** _____

How did these qualifications and characteristics of Paul help to prepare him for later service to the Lord? Be specific. _____

In **Acts 7:54–8:3**, we read about the stoning of the martyr Stephen, *a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit* (Acts 6:5). Who was present and approved of this stoning? _____

What do we learn about Paul/Saul in these passages (see again **Galatians 1:14**)? _____

Faith Talk: Make a list of at least five characteristics and/or qualifications that God has given to you. How have these characteristics/qualifications helped to get you ready for your service to the Lord? Share with a partner or your small group.

Set.

Saul was zealous in defense of the knowledge and faith he had in his erroneous Pharisaical beliefs. He was confident that he was on the true course as he delivered Christians to prison to be persecuted and killed. Read **Acts 9:1–22**. How did God set Saul on the correct path to becoming His missionary?

Paul was baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:9). His path and destination were determined by His Lord and Savior. Read **Acts 9:20–30** for the rest of the story. How long did it take for Paul to begin witnessing about Jesus as Savior? What obstacles did he face? _____

Read **Hebrews 12:1–2**. To what is the Christian’s life compared? _____

How do Christians *run the race*? _____

Who is the Christian’s “coach” for the race? _____

What encouragement does Jesus give? _____

According to **Romans 6:3–4**, when and how is every Christian’s path set by God? _____

At our Baptism, we are filled with the Holy Spirit who “calls, gathers, enlightens, and strengthens the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith” (*Luther’s Small Catechism*, explanation to the Third Article). How does the Spirit work in the lives of Christ’s people to keep them focused and set with their eyes fixed on Jesus? See **1 Corinthians 1:18, 11:23–26**. _____

Faith Talk: Share with a partner or the small group how you remain in God’s Word and the path of faith He has given and set for you. Brainstorm together additional ways you can remain in God’s Word. _____

Faith Talk: When were you baptized? Do you know someone who has yet to be baptized? How could you share the importance of Baptism as you witness your faith in the Savior Jesus? Share with a partner or the small group. _____

Go!

Read a portion of Paul’s own account of his conversion in **Acts 26:15–18**. What did the Lord ask Paul to do? _____

Read more of Paul’s story in **Acts 26:19–23**. Describe how Paul did what the Lord asked him to go and do. _____

If time permits: Imagine being a devout Jew in Paul’s day, hearing his message about proclaiming Christ to the Gentiles. How might this have made you feel? _____

The task that God asked of Paul was not always easy to do. List some of the hardships Paul endured for the sake of the Gospel in **2 Corinthians 11:23–28**. _____

Read **Romans 5:1–5**. What does God promise His witnessing people even in the midst of trials and suffering? _____

See **Mark 5:18–20** and **Acts 1:8**. What does the Lord send these people to go and boldly do by the power of the Spirit? What is the plan for witnessing that Jesus gave His audience? In both cases, what might we learn in our witnessing today? _____

What is the master plan for witnessing that Jesus gives us? _____

Because of Christ’s perfect life, suffering, death, and resurrection and for His sake, what prize awaits the Christian runner at the end of life’s race? See **1 Corinthians 9:24–25**; **Philippians 3:20–21**; and **2 Timothy 4:6–8**. _____

Faith Walk:

1. Thank *God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ* (1 Corinthians 15:57).
2. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you run the race and keep the faith.
3. Witness your faith in Jesus to family and friends.
4. Do additional study about the Apostle Paul.
5. Praise the Lord daily for the gifts He has given to you, especially His joy as we run the race.

Closing Prayer: Speak or sing the words of “Fight the Good Fight” (LSB #664; LW #299; TLH #447).

Blessing: (speak **2 Thessalonians 2:16–17** to one another)
Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and word. Amen.

Shari Miller, wife of Rev. Larry and mother of two grown children, is a freelance author and musician living in Helena, Montana, where she attends First Lutheran Church. Shari is the LWML Montana District President. She has written numerous articles and studies for the LWML.



“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 Ridley, 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 or 3 Timber Trail, Medford, NY 11763
Deadline: 5/15/19
Include: name, address, phone, and email.



Candidates for LWML National Offices

Candidates for President



Linda Arnold, Oswego, Illinois (Northern Illinois District), was LWML Restructure Task Force Chairman, Vice President of Communication, Convention Programming Committee Chairman, Governance Committee Chairman, Nominating Committee Chairman; was her district's Short-term Mission Team Task Force Chairman, President, Vice President for Human Care;

Lutheran Emergency Response Team member; volunteer parish nurse; short-term mission trip leader; has a M.S. in Nursing from Northern Illinois University; is Women's Leadership Institute Advisory Board Chairman; is professor of Nursing at Lewis University.



Debbie Larson, Florissant, Colorado (Rocky Mountain District), is LWML Vice President of Organizational Resources, Assembly of Leaders Committee Chairman, member of Governance and Visioning Committees; was LWML Public Relations Director, Advancement/Development Committee Chairman, member of Convention Programming

and Interdepartmental Committees, Marketing Team Director, member of Christian Life Committee; was LWML North Dakota District President, Recording Secretary, Convention Co-Chairman, Vice President of Mission Grants; attended the University of North Dakota; is a retired office manager and travel agent.

Candidates for Pastoral Counselor



The Rev. Donald P. Beaumont, Willowick, Ohio (Ohio District), serves Bethel Lutheran Church, Willowick; is a 2005 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; served as pastoral counselor for LWML Ohio District 2010–2014 and zone counselor 2006–2010; served as chaplain for Lake Health Systems and the Willowick Police Department, circuit visitor

and regional vice president 2015–present; was delegate to LCMS Conventions in 2010 and 2016.



The Rev. Brian B. Noack, Sayville, New York (Atlantic District), serves Saint John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Sayville; is a 2004 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; served as pastoral counselor for LWML Atlantic District 2012–2016 and zone counselor 2008–present; serves as chaplain for Sayville Fire Department, circuit visitor and

Pastoral Conference Planning Committee 2016–2017; was delegate to LCMS Conventions in 2013 and 2016, and served on the 2016 Synod Floor Committee on Finance.

Candidates for Vice President of Organizational Resources



Marie Chow, Seattle, Washington (Washington-Alaska District), is LWML Restructure Task Force Chairman; was LWML Meeting Manager, LWML Leader Development Committee member; was her district's President, Vice President of Servant Resources, Planner, Convention Host Committee Publicity Committee Chairman, Recording Secretary,

Nominating Committee Chairman; zone Secretary-Treasurer; society President, Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President; received B.A. in Business Administration from University of Washington; is principal software developer at Liberty Mutual Technology Group.



Lois Teinert, Round Rock, Texas (Texas District), serves on LWML Restructure Task Force, was LWML Contracts Administrator, LWML Convention Minutes Review Committee, attended PING and AOL; was her district's President, Vice President of Servant Resources, Short-Term Mission Team participant, Committee on Young Women Chairman,

Communication Committee member, district convention Tellers Committee Chairman; was zone President, Member Development Chairman, Bylaws Committee Chairman; attended University of Texas, Austin, Texas; is officer manager at The Perry Company.

Candidates for Vice President of Special Focus Ministries



Susan Brunkow, Manhattan, Kansas (Kansas District), is LWML Leadership Development Committee Chairman; served on Leader Development Committee, Convention Host Committee; served as Oklahoma District President, Vice President of Communication, District Convention YWR Coordinator, Leader Development Chairman; zone President,

LWML Convention delegate; Sunday School and VBS teacher, LCMS International Student Ministry host family, Gifts of Love quilting group member; B.S. in Home Economics Education from Kansas State University; retired interior design consultant.



Deaconess Betty Knapp, Marquette, Michigan (North Wisconsin District), is LWML Growth and Development Committee member; was LWML Convention Bible Study Leader, Nominating Committee member, Mustard Seeds Task Force Chairman, Christian Life Committee Chairman, Human Care Committee member, LWML Planner, Mission

Service Committee Chairman; was her district's Public Relations Director, Member Development Committee member; Lutheran Society for Missiology Board of Directors member, Concordia College, Selma, Alabama, Board of Regents member; has a Masters of Parish Education; retired parish deaconess.

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Candidates for Treasurer



Karla Koehler, Wausa, Nebraska (Nebraska North District), is LWML Finance Committee member; is her district's Recording Secretary, was district Financial Secretary; was Cub and Boy Scouts treasurer and leader; is church youth group treasurer; was Sunday School teacher; has a Master's in Business Administration from University

of Indianapolis, B.S. in Business Administration-Accounting from Wayne State College; is a licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE); is Nebraska Department of Revenue tax specialist.



Bunnie Koelsch, West Melbourne, Florida (Florida-Georgia District), is 2019 LWML Convention Host Committee Chairman; was LWML H.O.P.E Committee Chairman, Finance Committee member, LWML 2005 Convention-Registration Chairman; was her district's President, Convention Chairman, Treasurer; is zone Treasurer; was

zone Nominating Committee member, President, Secretary/Treasurer; held all society offices; was church finance chairman, church treasurer; was campaign treasurer for three city council campaigns; attended University of South Florida; retired accountant/office manager.

Candidates for Nominating Committee



Sylvia Bean, Clovis, New Mexico (Rocky Mountain District), is a member of LWML Mission Grants Committee; was Co-Host of the 2017 LWML Convention,

Gospel Outreach Committee member, LWML Rocky Mountain District President; is retired from Immanuel Lutheran Preschool.



Lynnette Campbell, Concord, California (California-Nevada-Hawaii District), was LWML California-Nevada-Hawaii District President; is her district's Communications

Director; was District Convention hostess; was zone President, Member Development and Nominating Committee member; is a retired senior data analyst and research chemist.



Whitney Lee, Stephenville, Texas (Texas District), is LWML Texas District Nominating Committee member; was her district's Vice President

Communication, Christian Life Committee member, Young Woman Representative Committee member, Young Woman Representative; works as executive director for Cross Timbers Fine Arts Council.



Ann Marie Bollas, Painesville, Ohio (Ohio District), is LWML Growth and Development Committee member; was LWML Human Care Committee

member, was LWML Ohio District President, Recording Secretary, Structure Committee member; works as a legal secretary at Dworken & Bernstein Co., LPA.



Leslie Colligan, Dedham, Massachusetts (New England District), is LWML Mission Grants Committee member; was Mission Servants Committee member,

LWML New England District President, LCMS-NED Mission Board representative; works as part-time art director teaching individuals with intellectual disabilities.



Crystal Miller, LaVista, Nebraska (Nebraska North District), is LWML Growth and Development Committee Chairman; was LWML Nebraska North District

President, Vice President Christian Life, Meeting Manager, Young Woman Representative; works at University of Nebraska Medical Center as a departmental administrator.



Carrie Brumbaugh, Lyman, Wyoming (Wyoming District), is LWML Committee on Young Woman Chairman; was Host Committee Guest Services Chairman

for the 2017 LWML Convention, LWML Committee on Young Woman member, LWML Wyoming District President; works as an elementary music teacher.



Mary Harrington, Shell Lake, Wisconsin (North Wisconsin District), was LWML North Wisconsin District President, Leader Development Committee member,

Mission Grants Director, District Convention Co-Chair, and Nominating Committee member; was zone President, LWML Convention delegate; is a retired dental hygienist.



Brianne Stahlecker, Seward, Nebraska (Nebraska South District), is LWML Committee on Young Women member; was LWML Information Technology

Committee member; served as her district's Leader Development Committee Chairman, Young Woman Representative; works as middle school language arts teacher at St. John Lutheran School.



Here are some things to enhance your **SPRING** activities and events! We are excited to share some **NEW products and resources with all of you!**

NEW Baseball Jersey in heather gray with purple sleeves. Goes great with the plaid pants, and just right for those spring activities! Small-4XL **LWML10055MM \$20.00 and up**

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FROM PRESIDENT PATTI
Ready. Set. Go!

It's been an encouraging year for this LWML-Lifer! I've always loved the opportunity LWML gives to Lutheran women to use their God-given gifts in service to the Lord. Whether it's through support of mission grant funding, writing and leading Bible study, meeting the physical needs of God's people, or being in fellowship with other strong women who share similar belief systems, family joys and sorrows, job challenges and servant hearts, LWML **engages** with them.



Caroline Honeycutt,
 LWML Archivist-Historian



Joy Anderson, 2017-2019 LWML
 Nominating Committee Chairman



Young Woman Representatives from the LWML Florida-Georgia District

Attending seven LWML district conventions in 2018, I have been **encouraged** because I have seen so many more dedicated women coming into LWML — women much younger than me! — bringing with them new ideas, ways of doing what we do best, a fresh look and outlook to our Lord's LWML. I met with many enthusiastic Young Woman Representatives who were just learning about how LWML can **engage** them in outreach to the world. I am so happy to see them giving LWML a good look to see where they may want to invest their time and energy and service in the avenues we have available for them.

During those conventions and during our Assembly of Leaders last November, I also noticed how many younger women have stepped up and are holding positions of responsibility in their districts. Many are district vice presidents or committee chairmen. We have young women serving as our national Graphics and IT department members, Nominating Committee Chairman, and our Archivist-Historian. I think it's fair to say we are trending downward in the average age department!

LWML continues to support mission grants to **equip** young women too! This biennium one of the grants enables nursing students at our Concordia Universities to go on medical mission trips. Another is to afford family grants for MOST Ministries mission trips. Still another, which will be one of the Mites In Action presentations at our upcoming convention, is to equip young people to witness for Life through Synod's Y4Life program.

At our LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama, June 20-23, 2019, young women will have opportunities to participate as district Young Woman Representatives in special programming. Young women serving on committees will be involved with exhibits and displays, and young women serving in their districts will have opportunities to broaden their knowledge of missions and missionaries with our many exhibitors. All will have opportunities to learn from LWML speakers and leaders through Info Gathering luncheons and Special Interest Luncheons along with other outstanding presenters.

And, above all, they will **enjoy** being together with old, young, and in-between women — strong LWML women of mission who have come together to unite "In Praise to the Lord!"

This LWML-Lifer is encouraged and hopes you are too! See you in Mobile!

Patti Kess



www.lwml.org | Spring 2019

LWML PRAYER SERVICE 2019 GOD CARES FOR YOU!



Concern,
Celebration,
Calm, Cleansing

Attention

Regard,
Responsibility

Efficient,
Enigmatic

Salvation



The 2019 Prayer Service, written by past LCMS Rocky Mountain District President Rev. Allen D. Anderson, is centered around the acronym for “CARES” and based on Psalm 94:17–19: *If the Lord had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. When I thought, “My foot slips,” your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul.*

Reverend Allen D. Anderson, a graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, was ordained in 1981. He currently shepherds Mt. Zion Lutheran Church and Preschool in Boulder, Colorado.

Throughout his ministry he has served the Rocky Mountain District in every capacity, most recently as District President. He has been active in national and international missions throughout his entire ministry.

Pastor Anderson’s passion, as a servant of the Lord, is in his mission efforts to touch the lives of people to help them know forgiveness, life, and salvation through the only means possible ... Jesus!



Find the 2019 Prayer Service online at lwml.org or by calling the LWML Office at (800) 252-LWML(5965).