

Held by God Through a Pandemic

COVID-19 AND LWML

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The world was not expecting or prepared for the Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) it has experienced this spring and summer. But nothing is hidden from our Lord. Each member of the LWML Board of Directors (BOD) was asked what they and their families experienced and where they saw God's hand in this pandemic. We share our thoughts with you here.

God's people felt loss. Without realizing it, we all develop a false sense of security — in our jobs, our families and friends, and what we perceive as our normal lifestyle. We do trust God, but our human nature trusts that, with care, we can avoid diseases that may ravage other nations. These feelings of security were shattered as many wondered if they were exposed to the virus.

God's people, many for the first time in their lives, saw emptiness. Desks and pews were empty. Restaurants, businesses, stadiums, and playgrounds were empty. Entire shelves and aisles in stores were empty. How strange it was to witness these unwelcome changes. The media described the virus as out-of-control, and we were ordered to shelter-in-place. As Christians, we know Who is in control. In every circumstance, we see His hand working for the good of His children. In His Word, we see the empty cross, and we rejoice at the empty tomb. Jesus has paid for our sins, and He is alive!

Was this crisis a gift of time? Jesus may have been saying, "Come. Spend time with Me. Speak to Me in prayer, and know I am listening." The sun comes up each morning, and the seasons continue as they always have. We have more time to give thanks for His wonderful creation.



Photo courtesy of Rachael Hundley

God provided an opportunity to trust that He is Lord of all. We learned to appreciate access to food and necessary items, our relationships with others, and the value of human touch. Through separation, we have learned to treasure our Christian community and look forward to time together as the body of Christ in worship.

God blessed His people with ingenuity to become resourceful in connecting with each other during this time of crisis. They made a determined effort to care for each other, to reach out in love to family members and neighbors. Through every challenge, opportunities were found to reach out with Jesus' love and mercy. The prayer of the LWML BOD is that God's people will continue to find innovative ways to be connected once the pandemic is past.

A term used frequently during the pandemic was "essential." Essential employees reported to work. Essential businesses remained open. Only essential errands were to take you out of your home. The realization of how many "extra" activities fill our days made us aware of what is truly essential: our God, our family, and our health.

Crisis brings out the bad in some, but we prefer to remember how it brought out the good in many. We saw an emerging faith in people across America; people were helping neighbors and asking for prayers. Lutheran women and men exhibited calm attitudes and generous hearts. LWML members shared ideas for service through social networking. This separation, in many instances, gave us unity through Scripture. God's people remain Held by HIS Word!

Here are a few of the BOD's go-to Bible verses (look them up and find comfort and joy in being Held by God's Word!): Psalm 46:10, Psalm 118:2, Jeremiah 29:11-12, John 14:27, Romans 8:38-39, Colossians 3:14-17, and 1 John 3:18 and 4:7. *Q*