

A Fond Farewell

BY LINDA GUTERES



For the past 14 years, the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* has benefited from the expertise of its Editor-in-Chief, Nancy Graf Peters. Even though Nancy gives all the glory to God for His gracious and merciful provision during her appointment, we sincerely want to thank her for her years of dedicated service and devotion to the *Quarterly*.

Nancy was appointed in August 2005, and has served under four LWML Presidents (Linda Reiser, Janice Wendorf, Kay Kreklau, and Patti Ross) and with four Vice Presidents (Sandy Hardies, Linda Arnold, Nancy Bogenhagen, and Char Kroemer). She held the Editor position through the Winter 2019 issue.

During her term, the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* included many new features: dedicated pages for teens and young women; a prayer page; free MP3 music downloads; a voting contest to select the next cover; ongoing guest columnists; and two history series, the "Historic Journey of LCMS Women and Missionaries," written by former *Quarterly* Editor Marlys Taege Moberg, and "Then and Now: The Women of LWML" by Carolyn Blum.

The eQuarterly, the digital option of the *Quarterly* magazine, was created, and Bible study leader guides were expanded. The Spanish language translations of Bible studies continued and included devotions when possible.

The *LWQ* permanently changed from digest-size to a full-size magazine in 2009. The *Quarterly* commemorated the 75th anniversary of LWML, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and its own 75th anniversary!

Since this past summer, Nancy has been collaborating with leaders of Mid Hudson area LWML groups to make exciting plans for the revitalization of their zone.

Under Nancy's leadership, the *LWQ* has grown from a great magazine into a widely read, highly respected periodical used as a witness of God's message of hope. Thank you, Nancy, and accept our humble thanks for the generous gift of your time and talents through these last 56 issues of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* magazine!

A Warm Welcome

BY NANCY GRAF PETERS



Please allow me to introduce the newly appointed Editor-in-Chief of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* — Sheila Lutz!

Currently serving as LWML Central Illinois District President, Sheila has also served her district as Vice President of Christian Life, Publications Editor for *The Clarion*, Chairman for Leader

Development and the Young Women Recruitment committees, and two times as District Convention Chairman. She has also had the opportunity of being a retreat committee member, leader, and speaker.

Since 1995, Sheila's service on national LWML has included working on the Christian Outreach Committee, Human Care Committee Chairman, 2011 Peoria Convention Host Committee, and serving with the LWML Restructure Task Force.

Sheila was elected to the LWML Nominating Committee (2011–2013) and appointed to the staff of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* in 2013. She has served for six years as Christian Living Editor and author of the "Praying the Psalms" devotions.

Sheila was born in Chicago, lived most of her life in Illinois, and graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in History and English. Sheila sings with two church and two civic groups, teaches American Folk dancing, has been a member of the same Bible study since the 1980s, and was a member of nine mission trips throughout the United States. She taught at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church for 24 years, and enjoys singing, dancing, reading, and writing.

Sheila lives in Pekin, Illinois, with her husband, Don, where they attend St. John's Lutheran, in Green Valley, Illinois. They have four adult children, a daughter-in-law and son-in-law, and three granddaughters.

Always willing to learn something new, Sheila looks forward to seeing where God will lead her and the *Quarterly* as she begins her term as Editor-in-Chief.

Summer 2020 Theme: Held by His Word

Please share stories and photos of joyful, mission-minded service with News Editor Shari Miller: newseditor@lwml.org or 3827 Chokecherry, East Helena, MT 59635 **Deadline:** February 15, 2020. **Include:** name, address, phone, and email.



Women (and men) in Mission from the **LWML Montana District** spent four days at the Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot, North Dakota, in June. The group worked in the Ranch thrift store and warehouse and interacted with the youth. The District Vice President of Christian Life, Deaconess Sonja Reeves, shared, "To be able to see, firsthand, the work that the Lord is doing through this multi-faceted ministry was very inspiring. The kids, ages 11–18, who call the Ranch home, have been given such a wonderful opportunity to heal and build a better foundation for life with the help of the extensive staff that are so dedicated to them." Plans are already underway for a follow-up trip. The participants were financially able to sponsor the trip, thanks to a gift annuity from LWML Montana Past District President, the late Jo Young.



After many hours of planning, organizing, delivering, and picking up items, the LWML of **Zion Lutheran Church** of Snohomish, Washington (Washington-Alaska District), hosted a two-day church garage sale. This sale proved to be so profitable that the society was able to purchase quilt batting and yarn for chemo caps, while also having a great time reaching out to the local community. More than 25 volunteers were kept hydrated with water bottles imprinted with 1 Corinthians 13:13: *And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.* Great job!

TWO GREAT WAYS TO CELEBRATE

Christmas in July



Christmas Alphabet Books

"It's the most wonderful time of the year," rang true at **Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Poway, California** (Pacific Southwest District), for their Christmas in July celebration. These dedicated women used Christmas cards and a special template to assemble children's Christmas alphabet books. Everyone had a grand time searching for the perfect angels for the letter A, babies for B, and other pictures that represented the remaining letters of the alphabet. The completed books will be donated to a local crisis pregnancy center. The women commented, "I'm so glad I came to this!" and "Let's do this again." I'm absolutely sure this will become an annual event!



Operation Christmas Child

Samaritan's Purse has provided spiritual and physical aid to hurting people around the world for nearly 50 years. They follow the example given by Jesus in the parable of the Good Samaritan, "Go and do likewise," by helping those in need and proclaiming the hope of the Gospel.

One of the ways Samaritan's Purse helps those in need is through their Operation Christmas Child campaign. Celebrating "Christmas in July," members of **Concordia Lutheran LWML in Kingsport, Tennessee** (Mid-South District), took up the charge by passing out empty shoe boxes along with directions on how properly to fill the boxes for Samaritan's Purse. What a joy it will be when children all over the world receive these boxes filled to overflowing.

For information on Operation Christmas Child, please visit www.samaritanspurse.org.



Dedicated! BY CAROLYN BLUM

LWML's motto, *Serve the Lord with gladness* (Psalm 100:2), was chosen in 1943 at the first LWML Convention. *I can do all things through him who strengthens me* (Philippians 4:13) easily exemplifies our founders, whose

resourcefulness, perseverance, and resilience boldly started our organization in the middle of World War II.

Likewise, LWML's newest history book, *Dedicated! Lutheran Women Grounded in the Word; Growing in God's Mission*, shows how Lutheran Women in Mission still rely on God's guidance and strength. We continue to pray and focus on sharing Christ's love with all nations despite natural disasters, family crises, and a culture increasingly unfriendly to the Christian faith.

When LWML President Patti Ross approached me in the spring of 2017 with the challenge to author a new history book, prayer was first on my to-do list! God provided me with names to form an outstanding team who helped produce this new volume.

Together, He enabled our team to overcome challenges such as a debilitating accident, a life-threatening disease, time-consuming and exhausting medical treatments, family emergencies, blizzards, floods, and ice storms. We persevered even through power outages! On a below zero day, I needed to write part of a chapter with pen and paper, by lamplight, instead of on my computer. One team member edited a chapter by the light of a campfire; other edits and tweaks were made in hospital waiting rooms, doctors' offices, and airplanes. Photos we planned to use

became unavailable. Computers crashed. And, just like He has done for LWML women since the 1940s, God intervened in all these setbacks to ensure we'd meet our printing deadline. All praise and glory to HIM!

Dedicated! briefly traces LWML's history from its founding in 1942 through the 2005 Tampa LWML Convention. The remaining chapters deal with 12 years of history through the 75th anniversary celebration at the 2017 Albuquerque LWML Convention. (Three previous LWML history books are now available as free downloads on the LWML website.)

Dedicated! can be used in several ways:

- As a source of encouragement, not only through the stories of women who formed the organization, but also by showing how God placed past presidents and other LWML leaders, each with the exact gifts and talents He needed to move the organization forward, for the exact time He needed them;
- As a source of inspiration when perusing the appendix's list of women who served as national LWML leaders and district presidents since 1942; and
- As a reference book of LWML facts and figures, found in the extensive appendix.

It is our prayer that all women will be motivated to further service by reading how God works through us in the LWML to share Christ's love with people around the world.

Dedicated! is available for purchase on the LWML website. Although we carefully proofread and fact-checked each sentence, readers can send feedback or report errors to dedicated@lwml.org, and we will share them with the author of our next LWML history book!



The women of the **LWML Texas District** know how to put more activities into a one-day retreat than you can shake a stick at! After Pastor Woelmer led the attendees in a Bible study, District President Debbie Curry and Amanda Hankeimeir presented information on "Change is Good — You Go First!" The Not Quite Ready For The Church Basement Players performed "How to Handle Situations Better with Real Life Skits," followed by a delicious lunch prepared by women of the group. Everyone who attended took part in creating a painting and a ribbon and paper cross craft. What a wonderful way to share some of the great information from the Assembly of Leaders event!



LWML members of **Trinity Lutheran Church in Bear Creek, Wisconsin** (North Wisconsin District), along with confirmation students and their families, participated in a Birthday Box and Volunteer Appreciation Party, sponsored with a Thrivent Action Team grant. After a month-long ingathering of items, this dedicated team was able to assemble 50 birthday boxes ready for delivery to Bethesda and Mission of Hope House of New London.

Residents of Bethesda and Hope House will now receive gifts that will let them know that they matter to us and are very worth celebrating!

"People with developmental disabilities and those who face homelessness can sometimes find themselves isolated and forgotten," said event coordinator Brenda Hansen. "We wanted them to know that as Christians, we care. And more important, God cares."

"I think everyone enjoyed the project," said Hansen, "and I think it raised the level of consciousness in our community for those people who find themselves on the edge of our society. I know it did that for me. We are hopeful all will become more aware that every life matters in God's eyes and respond by working in a positive way to help make that happen."



What happens when you blend together 17 joy-filled women, colorful fleece, and a Thrivent Action Team grant? You get a "Blankets for our Community Day"! The LWML of **Redeemer Lutheran Church, Springfield, Missouri** (Missouri District), gathered with 10 additional women who "wanted in on the action" and tied together 17 beautiful blankets. These blankets will be distributed between local women's charities, homeless shelters, and others in need. Everyone had such a great time that the resounding theme of the day was, "That was fun! Let's do it again!"

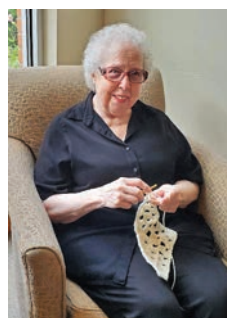


Many LWML Districts support Orphan Grain Train (OGT) through mission grants, but the **LWML South Dakota District** took it one step further and arranged a mission trip to the OGT facility located in Norfolk, Nebraska!

This team of missionaries was able to tour the facility and was then instructed how to sort and box clothing, personal items, blankets, towels, and other various items. About 50 men and women of all ages worked Friday night and Saturday morning while learning about OGT and their mission. Orphan Grain Train's work is made possible through dedicated volunteers who spend countless hours receiving, sorting, and packing various items to be sent out all over the world.

"Sorting clothes and having fashion shows with strangers is even more fun than with your grandparents," writes Mary Steffen, a young adult member of the mission team.

"We were blessed to participate in this hands-on service event as we helped to carry out OGT's mission of sharing resources and Christ's love to people in need. Working side by side with so many like-minded servants made the heart happy," declared Nancy Bopenhagen, White Lake, South Dakota.



Judith Gorian of **Hope Lutheran Church in Seattle, Washington** (Washington-Alaska District) dedicates hours of her life crocheting beautiful prayer shawls in hopes of bringing "REST"—Real Escape from the Sex Trade—to women caught in the horrors of sex trafficking. Judith turns off all media and prays specifically

for the woman who will receive each shawl. It takes an entire month to complete a shawl, and each one is accompanied by a card listing the blessings from 1 Corinthians. Thanks be to God for loving fingers, hands, and hearts of the people reaching out to those who are wounded, hurting, and living with scars of the past!