

A Sisterhood of Working and Serving Together!



LWML Sisters

The **LWML Rocky Mountain District Four Corners Zone** gathered in October, 2019, at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Navajo, New Mexico. The women of this

district have prayed for the Navajo mission for many years. A 2018–2020 district grant helped to pay for interns to assist Rev. Tim Norton in reaching out to the Navajo people.

Louise Lee (pictured, right), one of the founding members of the Navajo mission, attended the LWML Sioux Falls

Convention as a Heart to Heart Sister. “That is when I became an LWML sister,” she states. Since then, she prayed that her LWML sisters would come to the Navajo mission. Twelve years later, her prayers were answered.

Women from all over the district made the journey, many traveling through two or three states. The Four Corners Zone officers helped the women of the mission host the rally. Twelve women from the community who do not regularly attend services at the mission attended as guests. Pastor Tim led a Bible study before providing babysitting services. Women were able to get to know each other as sisters in Christ and share Navajo tacos.

District President Debbie Yocky (pictured, left): “What a wonderful opportunity to develop new friendships with our LWML sisters! Louise invited us all to come back and join them again for Bible study and fellowship.”



Polar Plunge

On the day she turned 59, **LWML Atlantic District** President Linda Guterres threw down a challenge: If \$5,900 was received in district mite donations over 59 days beginning with her birthday through December 18, 2019, she would plunge into the icy waters off Long Island’s south shore. The challenge overwhelmingly exceeded! More than \$12,800 was raised for the LWML Atlantic District Mission Grants! On December 28, 2019, friends and family gathered to watch Linda complete her part of the challenge. District President Linda said, “I am not brave. I was pretty anxious not knowing what to expect. And I am definitely not awesome. What was awesome was the overwhelming support the LWML Atlantic District received in response to this challenge. May God be praised!”



Connecting with Care for Pastors’ Wives

Crystal Miller, LWML Nominating Committee member and former **LWML Nebraska North District** President shares, “I was asked to be the lay member of the Nebraska District Care Team for Pastors’ Wives. What an honor!” This group organizes an annual retreat for the Nebraska District pastors’ wives. This year’s retreat was held at Peace Lutheran, Grand Island. Other members of the care team include Valorie Snow, Deb Burma, Kristin Hopkins, and Pam Williams. The Nebraska pastors’ wives group is called DOTS (Daughters of the Savior, Depending on the Savior). This year’s theme for the retreat was “Creating a Culture of Grace.”

Each woman was gifted a Grace Charm necklace, with 18 printed grace verses, chocolates, a grace-themed pack of nuggets, and a *Starring Roles* devotional booklet. Each participant was able to create four grace-themed coasters.



Masks for Marquette

Lutheran Women in Mission across the nation have been joyfully serving the Lord by serving others during the COVID-19 pandemic, even while social distancing. LWML Vice President of Special Focus Ministries Deaconess Betty Knapp (**LWML North Wisconsin District**) shares what's being done in her hometown, Marquette, Michigan. "A project called 'Masks for Marquette' was started through a Facebook post in March 2020. The original goal was to ask local seamstresses to sew 5,000 cloth masks that could be used by hospital workers and other essential workers in our county.



A box of 1,000 masks for delivery.

"This wasn't a church sponsored project, but there were a lot of women from both my congregation (Redeemer Lutheran) and other churches in town that took up the cause to supply our front-line workers with these masks. In less than

three weeks, the project exploded, and 5,677 masks were completed. It's great to feel like I could contribute to the wellbeing of my community simply by sewing."

If you are interested in getting involved in a similar project or other projects in your community and beyond, visit the LWML website for suggested at-home service activities. Face mask patterns can be found at: lwml.org/posts/mission-servants-activities/april-2020.



Lutheran Women in Mission Joyfully Serve!

The Dorcas Society of Immanuel Lutheran Church, East Dundee (**LWML Northern Illinois District**), held a "Loom-Knit" class last fall. The group invited church and community members to a morning of

instruction to make baby hats. With the help of Thrivent®, the society was able to purchase yarn, and all in attendance completed a baby hat in just a couple of hours. Nearly all of these hats were donated to Lutheran Child and Family Services of Northern Illinois for foster care children.

INKspot (I Never Knew)

LWML Glossary and Abbreviations

To newcomers, the many abbreviations in LWML may make it seem like a secret club. Far from it; it's just easier to abbreviate the long titles and names for various aspects of our organization. Share this list with someone new so she can learn more about how LWML operates.

LWML — Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Also commonly known as Lutheran Women in Mission.

BOD — Board of Directors*

The BOD is composed of the elected officers, with the pastoral counselors and the appointed officers as advisory members. The BOD transacts day-to-day LWML business between LWML conventions.

PA — Presidents Assembly*

The Presidents Assembly is composed of the LWML President and district presidents (DPs). District presidents spend time in spiritual growth, networking, and leadership training. The PA makes decisions that call for financial contributions from the districts.

AOL — Assembly of Leaders

An LWML workshop for LWML leaders.

H2H — Heart to Heart Sisters

A group of women and their mentors who have completed the LWML H2H Sisters training program.

ID — Interdepartmental Meeting

The planning and working session of LWML committees and other personnel; usually held at least once a biennium.

LWQ — Lutheran Woman's Quarterly

The official publication of the LWML.

YWR — Young Woman Representative

A young woman chosen by districts to attend an LWML convention as a non-voting guest.

For more information about LWML, visit lwml.org/who-we-are.

**Updated LWML Terms 2019 LWML Convention*



Winter 2020 Theme: Surrounded by HIS Grace

Please share stories and photos of joyful women who support local missions or have been a recent missionary with News Editor Shari Miller: newseditor@lwml.org or 3827 Chokecherry, East Helena, MT 59635. Deadline: July 15, 2020. Include: name, address, phone, and email.

Holiday Happenings and Special Celebrations



Red Stocking Mite Project

Members of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Twin Falls, Idaho, (**LWML Utah-Idaho District**) look forward to receiving a red stocking each December. A large stocking is given to each family and smaller ones to the children. Stuffed inside is the story of the Widow's Mite, plus pictures and stories of the grants their offering and prayers will support. In January, the stockings are returned, some bulging at the seams and tied at the top so the coins will not fall out! What a blessing to see the outpouring of generosity as the congregation demonstrates their support of missions! This "Red Stocking Mite Project" began several years ago and has been a wonderful way for members to be involved in the work the Lord has given LWML to do.



"Souper Bowl Sundae"

The LWML of Zion Lutheran Church, Hampton (**LWML Nebraska South District**), definitely scored a "Touchdown!" with this great idea. Each year they host "Souper Bowl Sundae." Each member makes a large crock pot of soup to be shared, followed with a dessert of ice cream sundaes. The price of admission is a can of soup that is donated to a local food pantry. A free-will offering is also gathered for various projects. Souper Bowl Sundae has proven to be a *super* Sunday event!



Valentine Brunch

The Phoebe Society, Trinity Lutheran Church of Sheboygan (**LWML South Wisconsin District**), hosted a beautiful Valentine Brunch. Pre-assembled "Scripture Cookies in a Jar" were prepared in decorated jars. Attached was a recipe card listing Bible verses to look up to find the ingredients needed to complete the recipe. These lovely jars served double duty as the centerpiece and the take-home gift for each attendee. The LWML sketch, "Bountiful Mites," was presented, connecting Mites and Mission to the "M & M" candies on the tables. Eileen Mayer (seated) was also recognized for her 19 years of service as their Group President.

O Christmas Tree!

The mission-minded women of the **LWML Indiana District** group at Emanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour (Dudletown), along with Sunday school children and members of the congregation, collected items to be given to the homeless in Jackson County. The gloves, hats, socks, and scarves decorated the hallway Christmas tree before being given to grateful recipients.



Birthday Blessings

The St. Paul Lutheran Church LWML, Concord, (**LWML Nebraska North**) and four Tri-Parish (Immanuel, St. John, and St. Paul) confirmands, had a great time assembling birthday bags. Each bag contained a foil pan, cake mix, frosting, candles, napkins, plates, balloons, and a gift for a child recipient. The bags were delivered to local food pantries and to Haven House, which offers crisis intervention and prevention services for survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. The costs for this Action Team project were provided by Thrivent®.



Historic LWML Sunday

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, (**LWML Minnesota North**), celebrated LWML Sunday 2019 by including a celebration of the 75th anniversary of their local group joining the LWML on July 19, 1944. To create an atmosphere from 75 years ago, the ladies were all encouraged to wear a vintage hat. The history of the group was read during the service, and the ladies sang the LWML songs, "Lutheran Women, One and All" and "Serve the Lord with Gladness."



Gifts from the Heart for Hospice

Lutheran Women in Mission of Trinity Lutheran, Slayton (**LWML Minnesota South District**) hosted a Fall Gathering for the Pipestone and Worthington Zones. Gifts from the Heart of cash donations, food, and other

items were given to Our House of Murray County. Our House is owned and operated by Hospice of Murray County and is located in Slayton. This home is a place for hospice patients who need additional assistance when care becomes greater than a family can provide in the home.



LWML Texas District Retreat

In Palestine, Texas, 129 women gathered at Lakeview Methodist Conference Center for the Rest and Renewal Retreat (**LWML Texas District**). Lutheran Women in Mission were inspired and entertained by Kaye Wolff, former LWML Vice President of Special Focus Ministries, who spoke about prayer and had everyone dancing in the aisles. Rev. John Heckmann, District Pastoral Counselor, led opening and closing devotions and two Bible studies. Staci Geiger, former LWML Texas District Young Woman Representative, spoke about how prayer and being in the Word saw her through the tough days (see cover story page 4).



The ingathering benefitted Daniel's Lion Heart Foundation (more information page 7). The group collected 90 Arch books for children, 22 Scripture coffee mugs, 70 gift cards, and \$793 (toward the purchase of prayer journals) which will be packed into care packages and distributed to families. District President Debbie Curry shares, "Thank you to everyone who brought items. Daniel's Lion Heart Foundation was overwhelmed with the love and support."



Mid-South Lutheran Women in Mission Cheerfully Give

The **LWML Mid-South District** continues to fund grants that were selected at their

2018 district convention. During the Sunday worship service, West Tennessee Zone President, Vicki Eubanks, presented a \$7,500 check to Ed Mell, Principal of Immanuel Lutheran School, Memphis, for the "All God's Children" program. This grant will help ensure that Immanuel's passion for education reaches more students who need additional help with tutoring and services.



Groups from 39 congregations also participated in collecting health kits, baby kits, fabric kits, boxes of soap, and quilts to fill the LCMS Mid-South District

CARE-Van. In November, 510 boxes weighing 10,001 pounds were shipped to Lutheran World Relief and \$3,702.50 was donated to help with shipping costs. Pictured are the boxes from just the first zone. The van was on its way to being filled to overflowing!