


# the Finish Post

LWML 39TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION • LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY

FRIDAY, JUNE 25, 2021

## ACTIVITIES IN SERVANT CONNECTIONS BENEFIT THOUSANDS

 By participating in servant activities, hundreds of energetic convention-goers said “Yes” to the opportunity to serve God and people in need in the Lexington community and others worldwide. Non-stop activity, chatter, and laughter filled Exhibit Hall C as work was completed for eight different ministries.

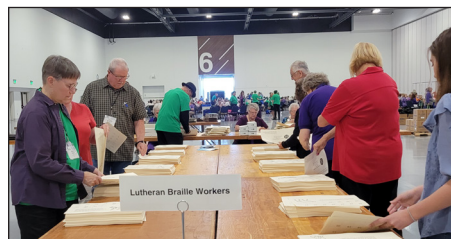
**Campus Ministries:** To encourage college students to continue in their faith journey during busy hectic times on campus, Blessings Bags were filled with a variety of useful items including snacks, sanitizers, markers, and first aid kits. Bags will be presented to students at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., and Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Mich.

**Graceworks Lutheran Services:** In response to Jesus Christ, Graceworks, Dayton, Ohio, offers services and housing options for people with challenging circumstances related to aging and disabilities. To offer comfort and warmth for Graceworks clients, women knotted more than 250 fleece blankets, and knotted and stuffed 240 fleece pillows. Renee Keeslar, of the Creative Enhancement Department, remarked, “The women are great workers and enjoy what they are doing, making the pillows and lap robes.”

**Love the Hungry:** One of the more challenging servant activities was working on one of four assembly line teams. Those volunteering with Love the Hungry were asked to spend their entire two-hour time slot on task, standing for the most part,

adding ingredients to a bag, and passing it to the next person. The meals are nutrient-rich and alleviate malnutrition in young children. A volunteer commented, “I wanted to serve here because this gives children a chance to be healthy!” over 30,000 meals were packed! To God be the glory!

**Lutheran Braille Workers:** Guided by Lutheran Braille Workers, volunteers assembled materials for those with visual disabilities, collating and binding braille and large print materials. Twenty-five hundred large print calendars and fifty copies of two books, “Lift Me Up, Lord” and “God’s Promises to Me,” were completed. *(continued on page 4)*



## TEE UP 4 MITES GOLF OUTING



The Sixth Biennial Tee Up 4 Mites golf outing was held on Wednesday, June 23, at the picturesque University Club of Kentucky. Convention Manager Shelley Moeller welcomed 69 golfers, the largest number to ever be in attendance. Golf Outing Manager Marguerite Christman introduced LWML Past Presidents Linda Reiser and Patti Ross, the 15th

and 18th LWML Presidents. Led by Linda Reiser and Patti Ross, 18 teams teed off shortly after 8 a.m.

The first place winning team was Hans Stromberg, David Lee, Lane Harrison, and Jacob Cook. In second place was the team of Joey Doom, Alex Worrell, Terry

Worrell, and Brett Antle. Hole-in-One prizes were offered at each of the Par 3 holes. The prizes, unfortunately, went unclaimed.

The Lutheran Federal Credit Union was the Grand Sponsor for the event. Sponsorships overall exceeded

expectations, and their contributions to the outing helped to make it a success. Total amounts raised are being tallied and will be announced at the sixth meeting on Sunday.

## HAPPENING IN THE *BLUEGRASS MEADOWS* EXHIBIT HALL

**Deaf Ministry:** Are you prepared to welcome women who are deaf or hard of hearing to your LWML events? Have you ever thought of learning American Sign Language (ASL) as a second language? Stop by our Deaf Ministry booth and meet sisters who are deaf or hard of hearing who can get you started by using fun games and activities.

**Gospel Outreach:** “GO” to the Gospel Outreach booth to discover how to access ready-to-use materials that support ways to reach out with loving care. Share ways you reach out in your community while you are there.

**Heart to Heart Sisters:** Stop by the Heart to Heart (H2H) Sisters booth. Register for a drawing for international gifts, play horseshoes, gather information on the H2H program for your district, enjoy some candy, and receive a bookmark and a first place ribbon for your nametag.



**Leadership Development:** Spin a prize wheel, learn simple leadership tips and techniques, and win a prize. Pose with a life-size Lucy Leader, and visit with the members of the committee.

**Lutheran Woman's Quarterly:** Calling all cover girls! Stop by the *Quarterly* booth and take your picture with the special *Quarterly* background. Stay and chat. Tell us your idea or story for upcoming issues of the *LWQ*. Pick up past issues and our new brochure.

**Structure:** In preparation to run a race, you need to create a firm foundation through good nutrition and hydration, proper equipment, and appropriate training. Come visit the LWML Structure Committee booth in the *Bluegrass Meadows* Exhibit Hall and let us help you build a firm foundation for your group, zone, and district bylaws.

## WAKE UP WITH THE WORD



Plan now to attend one of four available Bible study options Saturday morning from 6:45–7:45 a.m. No registration is required. Find room locations in the Activity Locator. Grab breakfast from a convention center concession stand and “Wake up with the Word!”

**Saturday, June 26, 2021**

1. Deaconess Heidi Goehmann — “Finding Hope”
2. The Rev. John Heckmann — “Born to Run ... Away, Reborn to Run with God”
3. Christina Hergenrader — “Be Inspired! Four Habits for Your Faith” (sponsored by Concordia Publishing House)
4. Kaye Wolff — “Be Thou My Guide”



### FRIDAY LUNCH INFO GATHERINGS NOON–1:30 P.M.

Info Gatherings happen today. Bring your pre-ordered box lunch or concession meal to one of the sessions.

Attendees have pre-registered, but additional space may be available.

**Arrive early.** Once the room fills, the session is closed. Consult the Activity Locator for locations.

- **First-Timers**
- **Gifts of Love Ministry**
- **Heart to Heart Sisters & District Leaders Reunion**
- **Lunch with My Friends**
- **Lutheran Woman's Quarterly Staff**
- **Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)**
- **Lutheran Hour Ministries**
- **MOST Ministries**
- **Partners in Mission: Pastors, Church Workers, and LWML Impacting Lives**
- **YWRs, YWR Alumni, & Young Women**



### TODAY ONLY AT THE *Winner's Circle* CELEBRATION!

*Quarterly* staff have hidden **ten "Q's"** throughout the exhibit hall. Photograph each "Q" you find. After finding all "Q's," bring your photos (camera or phone) to the *Quarterly* booth. Be one of the **first 78** in the Winner's Circle and claim your prize!

## EXTRA CONVENTION TOTE BAGS AVAILABLE

We are blessed to have extra convention tote bags available for attendees to take home. Starting with the Friday lunch break, these bags will be available at registration on a first-come, first-served basis. Instead of a set price for purchase, you have the opportunity to place a mite offering into the Mite Box. Each attendee is allowed a maximum of five convention tote bags.





## MILES FOR MITES


When traveling to convention, most of us consider a plane, a district bus, or a car. Few consider a bicycle, but that is exactly what Carla Elenz did. Carla is the Lakes Zone President from the LWML Michigan District. A long-distance bicyclist, she rode 630 miles from Gaylord, Mich., to Lexington, Ky., in 12 days. Her reason for challenging herself to a long bicycle trek was to raise mites for missions. Donations were made along the way through a link to her Facebook page called Miles for Mites. Anyone may still donate through a link on the LWML Michigan District website, [lwmlmichigan.org](http://lwmlmichigan.org). A final total will be announced soon.

On day 11, Carla posted on her Facebook page: "Life is like riding a bicycle. For every up, there's a down, and for every down, there's an up. You have many profound thoughts from the seat of a

bicycle. At one point today I had a momentary lapse — why did I do this? Oh yeah, the mites and the missions they support! That's why I did this! LWML mites help spread the Gospel in so many places and in so many ways all over the world. And that's why we do what we do, isn't it?"

Carla has 40 years of bicycling experience, but Miles for Mites was her first solo trip. Planning for the trip started in January. She carried all her gear, food and energy snacks, a change of cycling clothes, "off the bike" clothes, phone, helmet, and her sense of daily perseverance. She overnighted with fellow Lutherans who opened their homes to her and her mission. Along the way, she met up with her daughter and three grandchildren who rode their bicycles with her through Dayton.

## HEART TO HEART SISTERS COMMISSIONED FOR LEADERSHIP

 Heart to Heart Sisters were first trained in 2003 for leadership in cultural diversity within their districts. Presently, 25 of our 40 districts are involved in this leadership training.

On Thursday, 25 trainees were pinned by their District Presidents during a special luncheon. This luncheon followed 12 hours of intensive training in leading others to appreciate cultural impact on faith and service. Each trainee had agreed to be a District Leader in Training.

The purpose of the Heart to Heart Sisters program is to bring faith, fellowship, and services to women of all cultures in each district within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Cultural learning goes both ways. As one trainee put it, a person of one ethnicity could be in the minority of one congregation's body, but the majority in another congregation. Eastern District President Susan Bell remarked that

congregations in her district are mostly Caucasian. More interaction with other ethnic groups is needed. The Heart to Heart Sisters program will enable congregations to interact with those of other cultures.

Trainee Brooke Aker, LWML South Dakota District, said that she was invited to participate in this program to learn of different cultures and how they came to faith. She received special training on how to reach out to and interact with each other.

Pinkey Dhuna is the trainee from the metro Detroit area in the LWML Michigan District. Her background is Sikh. She reported that once she became a Christian, she had to keep her new faith from her family. Her transformation in becoming a Christian led her to become a Heart to Heart Sister.

One District President remarked that her church has two Lutheran congregations of

the same ethnicity worshipping in their building. She would like to see them interact more with each other. The Heart to Heart Sisters program will help this happen.

LWML Vice President of Special Focus Ministries Deaconess Betty Knapp hosted the luncheon, and LWML Pastoral Counselor Rev. Brian Noack conducted the ceremony.



## GRACE PRAYER CHAPEL BLESSING



On Thursday morning, the Blessing Service for Grace Place Prayer Chapel, held on the patio of the Central Bank Center, was filled with inspiring prayers, meaningful Scripture, beautiful hymns, and an encouraging message. Those in attendance agreed it was a wonderful start to their day and to the convention.

Grace Place Prayer Chapel is located on **Level 2, Room 1**. Stop in for a time of quiet meditation. Kelly green prayer request forms can be found in your convention bag, at the prayer chapel, and the information desk.

# SERVANT CONNECTIONS

## PRE-ORDERED CONVENTION SHIRT PICK-UP



Did you pre-order a convention shirt? Pick them up in the atrium when the convention is not in session.



## CALLING ALL SHUTTERBUGS

Have a great photo to share? Text your photo to 1-405-414-0191 or email [oklwmlstructure@gmail.com](mailto:oklwmlstructure@gmail.com). In 25 words or less, share the names of everyone in the photo, their district, and the photo's convention story.

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**MOST Ministries:** Participants strung seven brightly colored pony beads on leather and suede strapping material, creating 400 Witness Bracelets. The order in which the beads are placed must be correct as the order tells the Gospel message.

**Orphan Grain Train:** Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that serves 69 different countries. This year, LWML chose to collect and donate school supplies. In some countries, school children share a single piece of paper and a single pencil that is passed from one to another. Energetic volunteers packed kits for 400 young children. Each backpack was filled with the usual school supplies. One volunteer reported they had completed 140 kits in the first 40 minutes of work. Because of their service today, 400 children may be more excited to attend school because they have their own materials.



**Phil's Friends:** Phil's Friends mails Cards of Hope to cancer patients of all ages; currently, an average of 4,000 per month. Today's goal was to complete 1,100 cards. Blank cards were distributed to congregations and individuals on a limited basis earlier this year. Before convention began 1,312 cards had been finished, meeting the initial goal. Cards colored at convention were icing on the cake. Rev. Stechholz commented of the servant event, "The men and women from many states are enjoying the Christian fellowship."

**Refuge for Women:** Refuge for Women helps women flee from lives enslaved by sex trafficking and addiction. This program provides physical, emotional, and spiritual support; survivors are showered with God's grace and love as they heal and learn to understand their worth. Our convention volunteers wrote loving messages inside 350 beautiful encouragement cards.

## VIRTUAL CHOIR SINGS FOR OPENING WORSHIP

Thursday evening's Opening Worship Service usually involves a choir of LWML members from all over the country. This was not possible this year. The members of the Host Convention Music Committee, chaired by Renee Schuller, learned an interest in having a choir was still alive, and they came up with a new idea. The recording studio for WORSHIP ANEW on the campus of the Concordia Theological

Seminary campus was available. Information for an off-site choir was sent to the hosting districts of Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio for anyone interested in joining the virtual choir. A choir of 17 women and their guests was assembled. The choir director was Shannon Miesner. Accompanists were Diane Rohrs on the piano and Joann Zieroth on the violin.

Music Committee Direct Choir Mailing/Support Nora Cleary made yellow scarves to designate choir members. The yellow scarves are now worn by Host Committee members as part of their identifying attire. The rest of the scarves are being given to the Milwaukee Host Convention Committee.

📶 Convention Wi-Fi Network: **Looking to Jesus**



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