



Trinity Lutheran LWML in Arapahoe, Nebraska (**LWML Nebraska South District**) has resumed meeting again since the COVID-19 guidelines are loosening. The women are using a Bible study from the *Quarterly*.



The first gathering of Zion Lutheran Church LWML in Nampa, Idaho (**LWML Utah-Idaho District**) since the pandemic began was held in July 2020 in the garden! The group met for six weeks this summer for “Bible Study in the Garden” using studies from the *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterly*. “It was a joy to come together after so many months,” says LWML member Linda Larson. “What a blessing to have a beautiful place to study God’s Word. God is good and in control!”



Whisking off their required masks for a quick picture of their Kentucky Derby hats are Edee Anderson, LWML Meeting Manager Arlene Naasz, and Barb Kohs. LWML Montana District members Edee and Barb were part of the Lexington LWML Convention invitation sketch at the **LWML Montana District** Convention in July 2020. Arlene was the LWML Representative. Social distancing and all necessary safety protocols were observed as Montana women met face-to-face (or perhaps more accurately, mask-to-mask). The Lexington LWML Convention is scheduled for June 24-27, 2021.



LWML group members from St. Paul Lutheran Church–Dewberry in Cross Plains, Indiana (**LWML Indiana District**) gathered throughout the winter and spring to make 80 handmade pillowcases for the Ronald McDonald House at Children’s Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. The House opens its doors to families with children staying at the hospital. Fabric and money donations helped to make the colorful pillowcases a reality. Many of the women devoted their time and talents into this heartfelt mission. LWML member Brenda Hockman, who spearheaded the project, states, “What an awesome accomplishment! This will, prayerfully, bring comfort and a smile to those during a difficult time. Thanks to the women who devoted their time and talents into this heartfelt project.”



Lutheran Women in Mission of the Mount Calvary Lutheran LWML group in Wamego, Kansas (**LWML Kansas District**) enjoyed giving “Mighty Mite Bears” some personalities! Several young girls ages 8 to 11 years old helped. The bears were sold at a silent auction and the proceeds were given as an offering for mites.



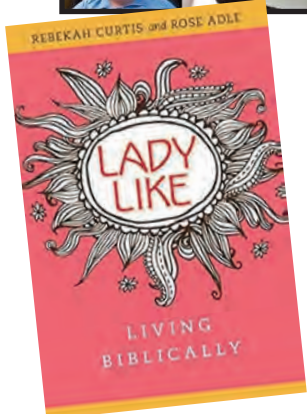
In the light of the pandemic, the LWML group at St. John Amelith in Bay City, Michigan (**LWML Michigan District**), had not met since February 2020. Every year the group has a July “Out to Dinner Night” at a local restaurant to give convention reports, fellowship, and sometimes hear a special speaker. Instead of a restaurant gathering this year, a few resilient ladies helped prepare a light dinner in the church basement for 16 masked attendees. It was prepared and served with all safety precautions and sanitization procedures. After dinner, Rev. Stephen Starke led the women in a worshipful devotion based on the observance of St. Mary Magdalene. Business included a delegate report about the LWML Michigan District virtual convention, LWML updates, and accomplishing five months of group business. Member Cheri Fish says, “It was a great evening of prayer and fellowship. We followed with an email update to the rest of our ladies who couldn’t attend.”



St. Matthew Lutheran LWML in Milan, Illinois (**LWML Central Illinois District**), held its last in-person meeting on March 5, 2020, just before Illinois was locked down because of the Coronavirus pandemic. Many members continued to send mites to the group’s treasurer, but the women really missed seeing faces and checking in with one another. Thus, the Drive-Thru LWML meeting was born and held in early August 2020.

Members were finally able to trade in their heavy, heavy Mite Boxes for a fresh empty one. Drivers were also treated to special face masks compliments of a member’s sewing talents, handmade “hello” cards to send to the congregation’s shut-ins, a packet of LWML news, and information about coming opportunities. The group’s summer mission project was a “Flip-Flop” sandal drive for the residents of the local Christian Care Center. This project gleaned 35 pairs of sandals and a nice cash donation.

Sandy Young, one of the event organizers, reports: “What a fantastic day and a joy to see each other, with masks in place of course! We were blessed with perfect weather, and a great turnout of 13 drive-thru members and guests.”



Nothing stops the LWML Atlantic District gals from having a great time! In June 2020, more than 35 women from across the nation met virtually for “Denim & Heels,” an **LWML Atlantic District** Young Woman Representative (YWR) event. After opening with prayer, YWR Kareema Gathers led the group in an online scavenger hunt that sent people searching for all sorts of things including toilet paper! Deaconess Rose Adle, co-author of the book, *Lady Like – Living Biblically* then read a chapter from her book and led an open discussion on that reading. Albany Zone President LaNette Sagehorn says, “It was so exciting to receive a prize package for winning the Denim & Heels scavenger hunt! It was so much fun, and I enjoyed Rosie Adle’s presentation of her book.”



In February 2020, members of the **LWML New Jersey District** gathered at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Mountain Lakes for an Orphan Grain Train (OGT) orientation and “sew-in.” Fourteen women came out to sew, including LWML New Jersey District President Susan Harnos. A Mid-Atlantic Branch (MAB) OGT representative, Rich Gruenhagen, spoke about the activities of the MAB. “The whirring of sewing machines turned out 36 pillowcase dresses and five pair of shorts during the time it took me to describe the ministries of OGT.” The women were motivated to keep sewing and providing for those in need. MAB Manager Cliff Kraft commented, “This could be the start of something exciting. We look forward to a long and happy relationship with our new LWML friends.”



The LWML at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Greensboro, North Carolina (**LWML Carolinas District**), had a wonderful time collecting, sorting, and filling shoeboxes for Samaritan’s Purse “Operation Christmas Child” in early November 2019. Twenty-seven boxes were filled with a wide variety of items.

Each shoebox was filled with one “wow” item such as a small stuffed animal or ball. Then, the boxes were stuffed with things such as pencils, sharpeners, notebooks, and bags for the school supplies. Included were hygiene items such as toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes, bars of soap, and bandages. A new pair of socks, a t-shirt, and religious story books were included in each box.

Filling the boxes was a delightful way to spend a Saturday morning. “Operation Christmas Child” is a wonderful activity for any group, no matter how large or small.



The women of the **LWML Chesapeake District** continue to faithfully give their mites to fund district grants. One grant is for The Wyneken Project in Baltimore, Maryland. Funds will be used for their Liberian and Hispanic Outreach and Lutheran Blind Outreach. The Wyneken Project is a Registered Service Organization of the LCMS and focuses on Lutheran community outreach in the Baltimore area. In June 2020, Vice President of Outreach and Mission Grants Martha McGlynn and Baltimore Zone President Paula Ellison were able to give Rev. Elliott Robertson, founder of the Wyneken Project (top left), a \$5,000 check to fully fund this grant. To God be the glory!



Apryl Brand, a member of Christ Lutheran Church LWML in Yuma, Arizona (**LWML Pacific Southwest District**), “serves the Lord with gladness” as a volunteer at Yuma’s Crossroads Mission, a non-profit that serves the homeless, drug-addicted, and at-risk families in the community. She is a retired RN, BSN, and Parish Nurse who maintains her nursing license and volunteers once a month to take blood pressures on all the residents receiving treatment at the mission. She says that she especially enjoys talking to them about their life with Christ. Apryl has been a member of the LWML for 62 years. She has served the LCMS as a short-term missionary nurse all over the world — from Kazakhstan to China and from India to Brazil. Apryl states: “The Lord has graciously provided me with a blessed life.”



Blessed to be a Blessing

The women at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sheboygan, Wisconsin (**LWML South Wisconsin District**) have revamped their LWML society structure from a meeting to more of an event or fellowship. They meet weekly to collect mites, have Bible study, and work on a servant project. In September 2019, Rita Whittow from Bethany Lutheran Church in Milwaukee joined them and spoke about how God is faithfully providing for her church's ministry to the very poor and homeless in their community. After hearing Rita speak, the group began making fleece blankets for Bethany's outreach ministry to the homeless.

This "Bethany Project for the Homeless" continued through the next months and the congregation was invited to donate items for Blessing Bags to be given to Bethany Lutheran for distribution to the homeless.

Enough cereal bars, new socks, washcloths, bath soap, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, chap sticks, and gallon zip bags were collected to assemble 200 Blessing Bags. The congregation's day school also got involved, and the school children collected well over 1,500 paper grocery bags for Bethany Lutheran's food pantry. Students wrote personal notes and put them in each blessing bag as they prayed for the recipient of the bag.

"What a joy it was for six Lutheran Women in Mission to take a 50-mile road trip to Bethany, located in a very poor area of Milwaukee, to deliver the Blessing Bags, 18 fleece blankets, and all those grocery bags!" exclaims LWML member Diane Meyer. "Our hearts were filled with joy that we were able to be part of this mission outreach. We are so blessed!"



Summer 2021 Theme: Therefore ...

Please share stories and photos of joyful women who are witnesses about the Good News of salvation in Jesus and share God's grace with others of different cultures, ethnicities, or walks of life with News Editor Shari Miller: newseditor@lwml.org or 3827 Chokecherry, East Helena, Montana 59635. Include: name, address, phone, and email. **Deadline: February 15, 2021.**



Imagine two of five sisters raised in the Lutheran church getting married during a pandemic. The brides were Jeni (Zeller) Hill [top], a 2019 Young Woman Representative (YWR) from the **LWML Nebraska South District**, and her sister, Maria (Zeller) Edwards [below]. Despite having to adjust plans due to COVID-19 restrictions, both weddings were memorable. Maria and husband Josh adjusted their plans to have the wedding at the end of March. The gathering was kept under the safety guidelines of 50 or less, a much smaller, but more intimate, ceremony than originally anticipated. As YWR Jeni and her fiancé, Ryan's, wedding date of May 23 drew closer, they also knew that their wedding would look different than they had originally planned with even more guidelines in place. A bridal shower became a curbside event with guests driving by to deliver gifts to the masked couple. Most guests watched the wedding online, some even getting dressed up for the occasion. Jeni shares, "Maria and I are blessed with amazing families who graciously helped us pull off two great days."