



Mites Gathered

Child Inspired for Service through a Mite Box

"I was astounded how the Holy Spirit can impact a child," stated **Gretchen**, LWML member from **Hope in Shawnee, Kansas**. "Our 2010 LWML Sunday celebration included a children's sermon by **Rev. Thomas Harries**, using LWML as the topic. He explained how the organization raises mites and how it encourages Bible study and service to the Lord. He handed out children's mite boxes to take home."

Gretchen's then-seven-year-old son, **Nathaniel**, clung to his treasured mite box. Later that Sunday, he announced, "I have secret plans for our family this evening!"

After dinner, Nathaniel revealed his surprise: he would lead family devotions. He had chosen a prayer service from the hymnal and led the family in prayer, including prayers for the work of the LWML. Using a gelatin mold as an offering plate, he collected coins and transferred them to his mite box. Since then, he continues to lead devotions and collect mites.

"God has blessed me with a direct example of how children drink in His love and pay attention to how adults work for the church. I'm so thankful for LWML and its women who care for people around the world and for each other, all while staying grounded in His Word. What an incredible blessing God has given to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to have such an amazing example of service and care to pass along to our children!"

Mites Given by Three Generations

"The newest and youngest member of our LWML at **Trinity, Fort Dodge, Iowa**, is nine years old," reports **Patty Tussing**, society secretary. "**Addison** attends our meetings with her mom, grandmother,



and great-aunt. She enjoys lovingly filling her children's mite box with her own money. It's never too early to encourage children to have a mission heart!"



The Shumway Way

"We were delighted when our church council decided to donate all the loose change in each Sunday's offering plate to LWML mites," reported **Jane Reinheimer**, a member from **Faith in Shumway, Illinois**. "The amount is growing each week. We've received baggies full of change!"

Society treasurer **Ann Musser** and **Rev. Jason Rensner**, pastor, indicated that the decision was very well received in this small, rural congregation. **Nola Friese**, president of the group, noticed that the regular Sunday morning offering isn't decreasing, either.

Jane, whose feature story about hoarding and two Bible studies appear in this Winter *LWQ*, is pleased that all church members have an opportunity to support a hands-on, active, worldwide mission ministry. "Now everyone can participate each Sunday, not just once a year on LWML Sunday," she stated.

No Matter the Size — Given with Love and Gladness

The Sunday School from **St. John's in Plymouth, Wisconsin**, [photo below] filled their mite boxes last spring, collecting over \$1,000 for missions!

A collection of pennies, dimes, and quarters was added to the mite goal by the Sunday School children at **Trinity, Fremont, Nebraska**. They raised \$189 for missions!





Advent Soup Supper in Nebraska

“WORD,” the Teen LWML at Immanuel Lutheran in Laurel, Nebraska, sponsored their Annual Advent Soup Judging and Supper last December. Local celebrities, including past LWML President Virginia Von Seggern and Rev. Russ Sommerfeld, President of the Nebraska District LCMS, served as soup chefs.

Guests were served samples of eight delicious soups and voted for their favorite via contributions to LWML mites, raising \$467 for missions. A “Golden Ladle” award for the best soup was given to Joyce Daberkow for her white chili. “Fun was had by all,” shared Monica Ebmeier, church secretary. The diners closed the evening with Advent worship.

Mites Touch Lives in Milwaukee and China

“Liang joined our English conversation group a year ago when her husband was a student at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee,” stated Bessie Fick, director of International Student Ministries at UWM. “Coming from China, she was eager to learn about American culture. Through the Bible accounts of Christmas and Easter, she heard about Jesus. Although not ready to join a formal Bible study class, Liang did participate with the Dorcas Mission Group at Luther Memorial Church.”

“At the farewell party on the last day of the conversation class, Liang asked to take a bi-lingual Bible home. We ask for prayers that God will provide Christian contacts in China so she will continue to hear and learn about Jesus, her Savior. We also want to thank the LWML for its grant supplying the Bibles to give away, as well as for the assistance from many congregations. Through these gifts, we are able to touch the lives of many people with God’s Word.”



Mite Enthusiasm Just Can’t be Squashed

A member of Christ the Life, Waukesha, Wisconsin, donated

bushels of squash to the congregation last fall. Members were asked to make a donation to the LWML mite box for the privilege of taking some of the produce. Stef, Jacob, Julia, and Joanne are pictured with the squash and their children’s mite boxes.



Servant Event

Mercy and Outreach in Appalachia

Led by Deaconess Deanna Cheadle and Heidi Goehmann from the Ohio District LWML, eleven women focused on mercy, human care, and outreach in a six-day servant event last summer to Appalachia. “We painted, pruned bushes, cleaned, visited the needy, comforted the sick, and brought gifts,” stated Ohio District LWML President Joy Dougherty.

“As we served the Lord with gladness, the blessings went both ways,” she explained. “We were touched by the gratitude of those we helped. The Vacation Bible School that we were privileged to conduct was attended not only by children from St. Paul’s in Ashland, Kentucky, but also by children from the community.”



As each day opened with devotions and closed with Bible study, the women were also enriched in their spiritual walk with the Lord.



'Tis the Season

Rachael Circle's Annual Christmas Caroling

For 34 consecutive years, women from the LWML at St. John's in Yankton, South Dakota, have been singing Christmas carols at the Human Services Center. "We enjoy serving through this mission outreach," explained Rachael Circle president Cheryl Hirsch. "We also have year-round projects such as making cross-stitch Bible bookmarks for our confirmands, sending 'thinking of you' cards to college students, and helping serve food at a local meal program."

Poinsettias for Seniors

"If you're over the age of 80 at Zion Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Missouri, you will receive a beautiful poinsettia plant for Christmas," shared Karin Poppe, President of the Sedalia LWML Zone. "Last year, 21 seniors received plants."



"We also adopt one or more children through a local Christmas-for-kids program and, rather than exchange gifts with our LWML sisters last year, we gave a love offering to a family who had major damage from a fire."

Craft and Bake Sale Supports Missions

"All proceeds from our annual Holiday Craft and Bake Sale are given to others," stated Charlotte Miller, LWML member at Beautiful Savior in Plymouth, Minnesota. "LWML missions, our church, community organizations, and missions in India and Africa are recipients. Last year we were able to donate over \$9,000."

"Many church members are involved with this project each November. Making apple pies, lefse, cream puffs, jar mixes, and candy keep us busy. We also have craft nights to create items to sell; others prepare and serve the luncheon on the day of the sale."

Warmth Shared with Needy Children

Nearly 600 disadvantaged children had warm hands last winter through the generosity of the LWML Ladies Mission Society at St. John's in Gaylord, Minnesota.

Society President Gladys Woller stated, "Besides mittens, we also donated scarves and clothing to warm the hands, bodies, and hearts of the recipients. It is truly more blessed to give than to receive."

Handmade ... With His Love

Quilting by Touch

Catherine Imer is an active member of the LWML Sewing Circle at St. Paul in Phoenix, Arizona. In her 90s, Catherine is visually-impaired from macular degeneration, but that doesn't stop her from doing what she loves, tying quilts and crocheting.



Society co-president Delores Townsend shares, "Catherine, widow of our former pastor, Rev. Arthur Imer, is an inspiration to all of us. We make the quilts, pinning the layers together. She uses the pins as a guide for her needle. She's memorized the patterns for the lap robes she crochets. Her daughter, Louise Ahrens, organizes the patterns for her."

All the items are donated to various organizations, such as the Veteran's Administration Hospital.



Sweaters from the Heart

Carolyn Sundbom of First English in Crookston, Minnesota, has knitted hundreds of baby sweaters over the last 25 years, being taught to knit at age ten by her mom. All of the soft pastel garments are donated to church

bazaars, pregnancy care centers, missions, and to anyone having a special need for them.

“As I knit each sweater,” she reports, “I say a prayer for the precious little one who will wear it.”

News You Can Use

Mustard Seeds: Witness Tools at Preschool

Mustard Seed Devotions are placed in the mailbox of each family whose child attends **St. Mark Lutheran Church Preschool** in Encinitas, California.

Iriety Burrows reports, “Our LWML members separated the Faith-filled Parenting devotions so each family could receive the same devotion each week. It’s a wonderful way to reach out to the community, and we heard many favorable comments from the parents. Three of our unchurched families have started bringing their children to our Sunday morning services.”

Molly Watson, preschool director shared, “One of the older preschoolers asked to be baptized. Her parents talked to our pastor and allowed the baptism to take place. This 5-year-old child, who has a heart for Jesus, answered all the questions by herself. The parents do not attend any church.”

Zone Rally in the Bahamas!

While their LWML sisters in the northern part of the country were fighting snow and ice to attend zone rallies, members and guests of the **Tropical Zone** in the **Florida-Georgia District LWML** traveled to theirs via a cruise ship.

“In an attempt to keep the **LWML of Nassau Lutheran Church** in **Nassau, Bahamas**, involved in our zone, we held our Spring rally at their church, the only LCMS church in the Bahamas. Twenty-four zone members, pastors, and guests cruised overnight,” stated **Annie Mann**,



Zone President. “We arrived to a wonderful welcome from the women, led by **Lona Wells**, society president, and their pastor, **Rev. Samuel Boodle, Sr.** We spent a very special weekend with our Lord and with our sisters in Nassau, worshipping, praying, and sharing fellowship that we won’t soon forget!”

A “Mooving” Experience

“Raising funds for a ‘Cows for Africa’ mission project was truly a ‘mooving’ experience,” shared **Barbara Trail**, vice president of **Lutheran Women in Mission** at **Good Shepherd, Lincoln, Nebraska**. “We heard about this cow-purchasing project for pastors and missionaries in Africa from **Rev. Daniel Preus**, executive director of **Luther Academy** and 4th Vice President of the LCMS, when he spoke at our church.”

“Our whole congregation, including our Sunday School students, was involved,” she explained. “Students collected their funds in milk cartons.”

To stimulate interest and remind them of their goal, they designed a herd of cows — a display of stuffed-animal cows and others made of wood and ceramic. “The continual ‘movement’ of the herd around the church helped sustain conversation while the funds came in. We raised more than \$3,000, enough to purchase at least eight cows.”

The funds were processed through **LCMS World Relief and Human Care**.



Feeding Starving Children

The LWML at **Concordia** in **Berwyn, Illinois**, sponsored a congregational off-site servant event at the Feed My Starving Children packing plant in nearby Aurora. Their two-hour shift involved measuring and funneling dehydrated vegetables, soy, rice, and

other ingredients into plastic bags.

The congregation’s public relations director and LWML member **Patricia Hirschman** said, “Our crew, along with volunteers from other churches, packed 19,656 meals that will feed 54 children for an entire year. The MannaPacks are distributed to starving children through mission orphanages and schools in 70 countries.”





Purple Feet Fund Raiser

“My husband cut out a pair of feet in his workshop,” shared **Cindy Dunekacke, LWML** member at **Faith Lutheran in Buena Vista, Colorado**. “We painted them LWML-purple and attached clear plastic tube

‘legs,’ which are the exact diameter of a quarter. One leg is the women’s side, and it sports an ankle bracelet. The men’s side has a bow tie at the top. We then challenged the men to a contest to see who could fill their side first. So far the women are winning, but we understand the men are hoarding quarters at home and plan a ‘fill the leg’ Sunday!”



LWML Honors Soldiers in Oklahoma

Sharing meeting facilities with a group of soldiers from **Fort Sill, Oklahoma**, who were there on retreat, **Oklahoma District LWML** women attending their fall retreat often crossed paths with the servicemen in the hallways.

At the end of the LWML retreat, the soldiers were invited to the stage, where they were thanked for their service to our country. Attendees sang the “Doxology” and “God Bless America” to honor them. Each soldier was presented with an LWML military card and devotion booklet for servicemen.

“Everyone attending our retreat signed at least one of the cards,” reported **Carol Fruehling, Tulsa Zone** president. “As we distributed the items, we received many hugs of thanks. We praise God for giving us this opportunity to witness His love!”

Mission stories needed!

Have you, or someone you know, benefited from an LWML grant in North, South, or Central America? Have you served there as a missionary or on a short-term mission trip and witnessed how our mites are still being used by God to further His kingdom?

Marlys Taege Moberg and **Lauren Beale**, two of the authors of “God Gave the Increase,” which covered LWML mite-funded grants in Asia, Europe, and Africa, are writing another book, covering grants in the Americas. They would appreciate hearing your stories; contact Marlys at marlys@sbcglobal.net before January 31, 2012.



Grandma Shares Bible Verses on Index Cards

Marlene Dreyer of Frisco, Texas, has found a unique and fun way to share Scripture with her grandchil-

dren. A number of years ago, she started writing favorite Bible verses on index cards, filing them in a recipe box.

“I purchased a small ringed notebook for each grandchild, and each time they visit, they choose a few cards and add them to their book. Sometimes they decorate the cards with stickers. Now several of the grandchildren are teenagers, and they have asked for some pre-punched cards so they can add their own favorite verses to their notebook,” she said. “It’s a way for me to continue memorizing Scripture as well as to share God’s Word with them.”

Call for news items Summer 2012 Issue

“**Tough Breaks — Living on the Edge**” is the theme for Summer 2012. Key content phrases include guilt, burdens of illness, help for the caregiver, sadness, it’s not fair, at all times give thanks, life is precious, why me?

NEWS! NEWS! Please send news of unique and meaningful activities, mission trips, and servant events from your society, zone, and district, including photos (electronic preferred, prints accepted) to News Editor Linda Guterres at newseditor@lwml.org or to 3 Timber Trail, Medford, NY 11763 by December 15, 2011. Please include your name, address, phone and email address.

Read “Photo Submission Guidelines” for help when taking and submitting photos — www.lwml.org/resources/quarterly/

