

The Mission Voice

LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District



Spring 2024 issue:

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- District Convention Information
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CORDIALLY INVITED...

*Fit right in with your district Lutheran sisters and brothers in Christ,
at the April 26, 2024 LA-MS District Convention President's Reception!*

*Please join President Michelle Zollinger as she hosts an evening of Friday fun fellowship
immediately following the Communion Worship Service.*

Register Now Online by April 6th

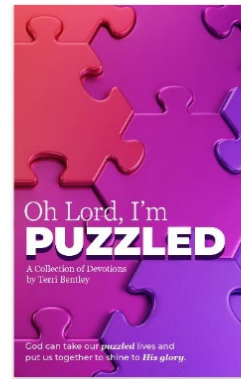
[Upcoming Events | District LWML \(lwml-lams.org/upcoming-events-1\)](https://lwml-lams.org/upcoming-events-1)

**Celebrate the
Lord of the nations...**



LWML Louisiana-Mississippi
District

This morning, I read the devotion, “Never Fit,” from the recently published LWML devotion booklet *Oh Lord, I’m PUZZLED* authored by Terri Bentley. In this devotion, Terri asks the question, “Have you ever had a puzzle piece refuse to go where you insisted it fit?” She goes on to write that we do that in our own life situations sometimes too. The devotion begins with this Bible verse — *If you were of the world, the world would love you as its own; but because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you* (John 15:19). The devotion ends with the sentence, “Cling to Christian friends and a Savior who lovingly cares for you and always provides a place for you.”



CORDIALLY INVITED... CONVENTION CELEBRATION!

Enjoy God’s peace and grace upon you,
Michelle Zollinger



Benefiting Mite Offerings

Each church society/group is asked to donate an item for the auction.

Items are turned in to Leslie Koenck on Friday, April 26,
between 1-3 pm at the LA-MS District Convention in the
Magnolia/Rose Room.



Please contact Leslie at lkoencklwml@gmail.com for any questions.

LWML 2023 – 2025 Mission Grant #12 Check Presentation



LHS Student Council Executive Board, Michelle Zollinger, and Gladys Brown

Sharing Christ Crucified with High School Youth — Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, LA \$35,000

Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans, the only high school in the LCMS Southern District, has been serving youth for over 50 years. It provides students with the opportunity to academically succeed in a safe environment, while educating them about their Lord and Savior through the teachings of the LCMS. Many of the students being served by the school are disadvantaged, culturally diverse, and unchurched. Because the school was devastated by Hurricane Ida, funds which would have been used for computers, school supplies, Christian materials, and scholarship aid are now being used for construction costs to rebuild one of the buildings. This grant will be matched by five generous donors and will be used to pay the tuition costs of ten students.

On February 27, 2024 Religion Teacher Rev. Limkatso Nare, students, and faculty opened the weekly Tuesday morning LHS Chapel Service held in adjacent First English Lutheran Church, in the name of our Triune God. The student Choir and guitarist led us in two praise songs. Student Activities Director/Athletic Director Mitzi Loughmiller presented an interactive devotional based on the Bible verse, *“Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:5 NLT).* This verse fit well into the theme of their week-long celebration of National Lutheran Schools — “Connected.” To further enhance this message, students from the Service Club performed two skits entitled Vines University. We all learned that Jesus Christ chooses to connect to us, and through the working of the Holy Spirit we remain connected to Him, bearing fruit to share with others.

Following the conclusion of the Chapel Service, the second half of LWML Mission Grant #12 partial payment check was joyfully presented and received. The student Yearbook photographer captured the smiles in this presentation.

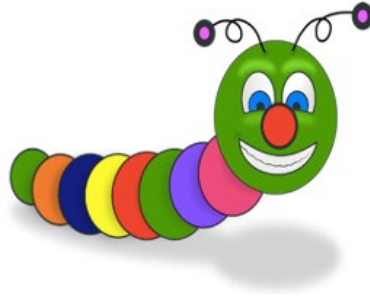
Glory be to our Triune God for blessing us with Lutheran High School of Greater New Orleans and this LWML Mission Grant funded by Mite Box offerings to extend His kingdom and to the great task of bringing the lost and the erring into eternal fellowship with Him.

LHS...Love, Honor, and Serve Christ who chose us.

Article submitted by Michelle Zollinger



(l to r) Principal Nancy Hernandez, LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District President Michelle Zollinger, and New Orleans Zone President Gladys Brown.



I Guess I'll Go Eat Worms!

Back in the old days I was a Cub Scout leader. One of the young boys' favorite songs was the "Guess I'll Go Eat Worms" song.

Sometimes I just get in a "nobody likes me – everybody hates me, guess I'll go eat worms" kind of mood. You know the feeling – things aren't going as I planned, maybe someone said something to me and I just took it the wrong way or I'll stay awake at night worrying about the silliest things of which I have no control like our government, the whole world – yada, yada, yada – you get the idea. I suspect I'm not the only one with those feelings and its times like those that I don't eat worms but I do turn to God's Word.

Psalm 91 is one of my favorite psalms for those times. I love verse 4 – *He will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.* Psalm 91 testifies to the security of all who place their trust in God. The wings of God serve to gather, protect, and bear up His children.

Martin Luther speaks about this psalm in the book *Reading the Psalms with Luther* in this way, "The 91st psalm is a psalm of comfort that exhorts us to trust in God in all distress and affliction. It is full of abundant promises flowing from and spun from the First Commandment. It is the second psalm in which the dear angels are proclaimed to be our guards and protectors (cf. Psalm 34), which is comforting and good to remember."

We also have such a wonderful treasure in our *Lutheran Service Book*...hymn 727 "On Eagles Wings." This hymn was written by Michael Joncas. In the 1970's he visited a fellow seminary friend. He and his friend went out for dinner and when they returned there was a message waiting for him that his father had had a heart attack and died. This hymn was sung at the friend's father's funeral. Go to the [Lutheran Service Book hymn 727 sung by St. Matthew on YouTube - Google Search](#) to hear St. Matthew Lutheran Church sing the hymn.

I think *The Lutheran Study Bible* commentary sums up Psalm 91 beautifully, "How quickly life can go from smooth and routine to troubled and fearful. How encouraging it is to know of God's protection. Our security comes from His promises kept. Jesus trampled Satan once and for all when He gloriously rose from the dead. We walk in victory even during dangerous times because He is with us and will not let us be separated from His love."

He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the Shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." (Psalm 91:1-2)

Redeemed in Christ,
Kathy Abbott,
Archivist/Historian

Forged by Fire



The Forged by Fire team with a grant from the LCMS was able to return to Selma, Alabama and share some delicious food with locals at Trinity Lutheran Church.

In 2023 a deadly tornado cut through the small community of Selma, Alabama. The LCMS responded to this event, and was able to send various recovery groups who served this community for a few months. FBF was able to play a very small part for a few days, serving the community from Trinity.

As a way of letting the community know they are not forgotten, but loved, the LCMS helped cover some of the cost of this trip back to Selma. It was a great community outreach event for Trinity Lutheran and Pastor Washington. In addition to the community receiving meals [700+ meals], our spiritual care tent provided prayers and water to anyone who came up. I believe that every vehicle that came through the line [over 300 cars], stopped for prayers from our team. What a blessing it is to be the hands and feet of our Savior Christ Jesus!



We could not do this without the support of our home congregation The Village Church in Lacombe Louisiana. To learn more about them, visit <https://villagelutheran.org/>

Supporting congregations today included Trinity Lutheran of Selma, First Lutheran of Birmingham, and St. Paul Lutheran of Montgomery. Their pastors and volunteers rocked it!



Huge thanks to the LCMS for their grant to help cover expenses. To learn more about the LCMS, visit <https://www.lcms.org/>

We were also able to use our new trailer for this trip. It was a shake out or shake down run. It towed great and I have a great feeling about this design and the future of our work with this style of trailer. Thank you to the LWML for their national 2023-2025 Mission Grant # 6 to purchase this trailer.

To learn more about the LWML and their work, visit <https://www.lwml.org/home>

Of course, we could not do this without the incredible volunteers! You make it happen, thank you!

Rev. Paul Ernewein
March 23, 2024

Our focus is on our 41st Biennial LWML LA-MS District Convention from April 26 –28, 2024 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Bossier City, Louisiana. We're setting up a YWR photo booth with metallic tinsel foil fringe curtains for the backdrop. We will have signs and props.



We'll make necklaces for our YWR's with amethyst crystal crosses with this poem.



*On those days you're feeling blue...
Pray each time you touch the cross...
To calm your heart, your mind and soul~
A reminder it's God who makes you whole!*

Nick and I had the opportunity to travel to Selma, Alabama, to help serve lunch at Trinity Lutheran Church through Forged by Fire. We served over 700 meals. It was a one-day trip — we left home at 4:30 a.m.; drove four hours to Trinity; began helping; left to return at 1:30 p.m.; and arrived home around 7:00 p.m. We were blessed with wonderful weather the whole day. Pastors prayed with the people receiving meals. It was an amazing experience. We used the new kitchen trailer; thanks to our national LWML mission grant #6.

Nick and I are in awe of what LWML continues to do and that we are a small part of this wonderful family.

Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually! (1 Chronicles 16:11)

Yours in Christ,
Kathy Capace,
Vice President of Organizational Resources

The District Convention is coming!

It's a perfect time to look forward and look back. Following the 2022 District Convention, I had the joyful task of writing to our seven elected Mission Grant proposers to let them know that their mission project proposal had been chosen by our delegates. Next, I had the more difficult task of informing those who had proposed the last six projects that we would not be able to fund a grant for them at that time. While I expressed my regrets, I also thanked them for the work they were doing and promised to remember their efforts with prayer. *With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people* (Ephesians 6:18b. NIV).

So, I would like to ask all of you to lift prayers for the following:

1. Helping the families of Military Chaplains to attend Church Worker Wellness Retreats. 160 LCMS Chaplains serve our nation around the world. This project would provide funds so the spouses of the chaplains could also attend these important retreats.
2. The Faith and Hope Center in Siberia. The LCMS works to provide church services, Bible study, and Christian counseling in the cultural and educational center of Novosibirsk.
3. Providing LOGOS Bible Software for students at Concordia Seminary. This software is essential to the study of the Bible for our future pastors.
4. The Lutheran Heritage Foundation's project to provide the translation and printing of A Child's Garden of Bible Stories in Haitian Creole to be distributed to families in Haiti.
5. Ministry in Mission's project to bring both spiritual and physical care to the people of Haiti.
6. The Trinity HOPE project to provide a daily meal for the students and staff of a Lutheran school in Haiti.

Now we look forward to our new biennium. There are new decisions to be made. Please check out the thirteen mission grant proposals that our delegates will be voting on at our District Convention. Go to our website at lwml-lams.org and click on "Upcoming Events." Now scroll down to "2024 Mission Grant Proposals" and click!

I look forward to seeing all of you in Bossier City soon!

Joyful in His Service,
Sue McAdams,
Vice President of Gospel Outreach

Opportunities

Since retirement, I have had many additional opportunities to speak boldly for our Lord. I know that our Lord has provided these times for me to share His Word with those who have crossed my path. *So then, as we have the opportunity, let us do good to everyone, especially to those who are of the household of faith* (Galatians 6:10).

He has taken me down a path to become a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). A CASA worker is the voice of children who have been removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. I pray that I reflect our Lord's love and comfort for the children and families involved. Through this opportunity, I continue to grow in my relationship with our Lord. I am thankful to support God's children in their time of need.

Whatever chapter of life you are in, open yourself to the many opportunities our Lord provides us to share His love and comfort through His Word. *Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person* (Colossians 4:5-6).

Leslie Koenck
Vice President of Communication

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say rejoice (Philippians 4:4).



ZONE NEWS

MARCH MADNESS!! Our “March Madness” was an IN-PERSON Zone spring Rally March 9th at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Clinton, Mississippi. Pastor Schubert led an engaging Bible Study/Devotion for all those who attended. Our Lord was praised with hymns and prayer. LWML LA-MS District President Michelle Zollinger attended, and she spoke to the group about the upcoming district convention. Gathering face-to-face was such a blessing. God’s peace to all our sisters in Christ.

I always thank God for you because of His grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in Him you have been enriched in every way (1 Corinthians 1:4-5a NIV).

Sherri Adam,
Mississippi Zone President



Spring always makes me happy. It’s about blooming flowers, new green leaves on the trees, new baby animals and birds, and new beginnings.

Even with LWML there are new beginnings — new biennium, new officers, and new goals to meet. Isn’t it wonderful that God sends all these things in the spring to remind us of the bounty He gives for us to use as His stewards.

Of course, the best new beginning, received through the Holy Spirit in Baptism, is new life and the gift of faith in Jesus Christ. The grace and the promise of eternal life with Him that He bestows on each of us is much more beautiful than all the spring flowers. The flowers are temporary, but His love for us is everlasting. *Having purified your souls by your obedience to the truth for a sincere brotherly love, love one another earnestly from a pure heart, since you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and abiding word of God; for “All flesh is like grass and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls, but the word of the Lord remains forever” (1 Peter 1:22-25).*

Please join us in studying God’s abiding Word at the Northern Zone spring Rally, April 6th, at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bossier City, with the theme, “Fruits of the Spirit.”

Pat Brady,
Northern Zone President

MORE ZONE NEWS CONTINUED...

Although COVID certainly has diminished LWML societies throughout the national and district LWML organizations, the Southern Zone is proud to announce that they are, with the grace of God and hard work, reinvigorating the ladies in their congregations to “Serve the Lord with Gladness” by serving God with **JOY** and not fear or reluctance. We read in Romans 8:28, *And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.*

The Village-Lacombe has a newly appointed LWML board and is looking forward to deepening their relationship with God. They had their first meeting on March 10, with 20 ladies in attendance; and plan on having monthly Christ-centered and fun gatherings where

they will encourage all of their ladies to enjoy a devotion, craft, food and fellowship.



They will also have quarterly business meetings. As most everyone knows, The Village has awesome fish fry(s); learned through their involvement with *Forged by Fire*. The ladies participate by making desserts which has allowed them to raise \$500. Plans are to participate in all of the Men’s Club fish fry(s).

Zion-Bogalusa has also seen progress in their efforts to revive their society. In November, the Church celebrated their 112th birthday, where the ladies served breakfast and lunch to approximately 42 guests, and Southern District President Eric Johnson attended and delivered the message. This year, they have so far collected nine boxes of food to help feed needy families, made 50 Valentine bags containing fruit cups and applesauce for the Senior Center, and helped a local family with furniture, a microwave and food. They also participated in many community activities, such as a gumbo cook-off and a chili cook-off; where Barbara Alston won 3rd place. The Zone is also thankful to that their Society President, Cara Hall, joined the Executive Committee as Interim Secretary when Sarah Arthur resigned due to her family relocating when her husband accepted a call in the Southwest Zone. Sarah will be truly missed but we’re sure the SW Zone will be blessed and happy to keep her active in LWML.

Cross of Calvary University-Baton Rouge



interest in their LWML due to taking in new church members by way of their merger with Calvary Lutheran-BR. They have a meeting planned in April to reorganize and plan activities for the coming year. Praise God for the growth that He has granted “us”!

Redeemer-Mandeville has been able to meet their 2023 Mite Goal of \$1,100! For their February Service Project, they gathered and donated men’s clothes, small appliances, and winter coats to Community Christian Concern (CCC is a



men’s homeless shelter Slidell). Once again, they applied for a Thrivent grant to help fund their project (if you need more information on doing this, Laurie Drosendahl will be happy to share). The grant helped them to purchase new sheets and men’s underwear and socks. Their spring project allowed them to immediately bless the men who receive CCC assistance by collecting and delivering six full vans and a truck of sorted and labeled donations. Since most of their projects benefit women, they are glad they were able to show some love to the men.

Holy Trinity-Covington/New Life-Folsom has collected items for residents of Heritage Nursing Home in Franklinton; each resident received two boxes – one edible treats and one with socks and toiletry items. They enjoyed handing the



to the residents in person. At their Christmas luncheon they enjoyed an ornament gift exchange along with their meal. In January, they participated in the Zone Phil’s Friends Servant Event...their society made Encouragement Cards. February was a blast decorating Mardi Gras masks; and March was a perfect meeting, participating in Bible study.

St. Paul-Hammond began with a congregational luncheon in November for Rev. Eric Stinnett and his mother Esther. They updated the congregation on the Stinnett Family Mission work in Ethiopia. A fundraiser for Lutheran Bible Translators followed the next day; raising a total of \$1,000. The ladies of the congregation got together in December to prepare 300 recycled Christmas cards to share with three local nursing homes; a special Christmas greeting and a *Mustard Seed Devotion* was inserted in each card. The ladies were excited to host a Zone Phil's Friends Workshop in January; making quilts, fleece blankets, journals and greeting cards for cancer patients. Fifteen ladies from four congregations participated. St. Paul held the LWML Southern Zone Prayer Service in February. Pastor Boldt and Pastor Ernewein hosted the live service, "Grace, Mercy, Peace;" which was also available on-line. Their Lenten service project is a collection of hygiene kit items for Orphan Grain Train. Lastly, the ladies were excited to present beautiful hanging glass trio crosses to the two young ladies confirmed on Palm Sunday.



The Southern Zone spring Rally was held at Trinity-Baton Rouge on March 16; using the theme of, "*Faith Is Trusting God's Plans*" (Romans 8:28). It was a time spent completing Zone business, a Leadership Training Activity, and in praise to God in word and song — a blessing for all who attended.

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God (Ephesians 5:1-2).

Laura Lips,
Southern Zone President

On January 27th from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hammond, members of the Southern Zone met for a workshop to benefit those with cancer through Phil's Friends organization. Phil's Friends is a Christ-centered support and hope group for cancer patients. Its logo includes these words, "Cancer is strong. Hope is stronger!" Three LWML societies with 15 women participated. They made four fleece blankets, one quilt, and 10 journals and 10 cards were decorated. Several crocheted hats were also made for cancer patients.

Next workshop is scheduled for April 6th from 10–3 at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Covington. Bring a sack lunch and materials for projects you will make. Special thanks to Rhonda Jackson, New Life Lutheran Church, Folsom, for organizing and facilitating these workshops.



I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came to me (Matthew 25:36).

Gail Gerike,
St. Paul Lutheran LWML Society President