

AUGUST 2020

THE MISSION VOICE

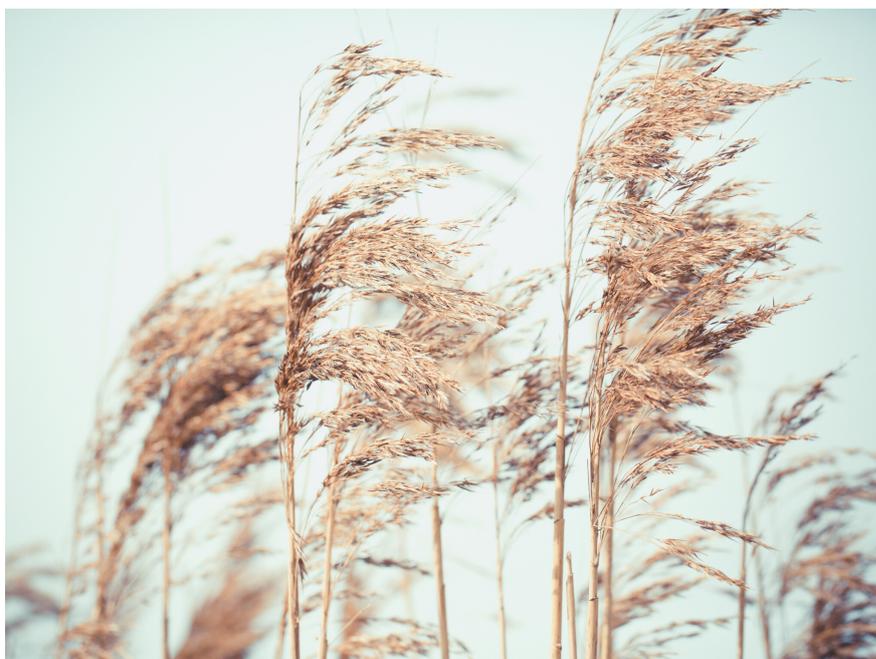


Louisiana-Mississippi District LWML

FEATURED STORIES THIS MONTH:

Biennial Reflections
by Kathy Capace

Staying Connected
by Deedee Koyn



SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS
(PSALM 100:2)



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recognize any of these mission-minded folks in the photo above who have hearts and hands for service? One lovely person that participated in the 2019 LWML Convention is not seen in our LA-MS district group photo – Daisy Olmstead. Daisy was probably fulfilling her host committee responsibilities of publicity as a roving reporter, and may have been on the other side of the convention center at the time the photo was taken. Daisy will certainly be missed during this current biennium in the LWML LA-MS District as district Webmaster, as she has handed over the webmaster duties to newly elected Vice President of Communication Leslie Koenck. I want to personally thank Daisy for graciously and joyfully serving for the last four years as our district Webmaster which is an appointed position. Many of you know that Daisy is the LCMS Southern District Administrative Assistant to the President, Spirit of Southern Editor and Graphic Designer, and contributor to the coordination of the upcoming 2021 LCMS Southern District Convention; thus, you know that Daisy is a bit busy. The LWML LA-MS District appreciates all of the dedicated work and time that Daisy has given over these past four years in using her gifts and talents in serving the Lord with gladness!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

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Speaking of the LWML LA-MS District website, have you checked it out lately? I encourage you to do so by clicking here, lwml-lams.org. You will enjoy viewing and using the many resources and information available.



"The kingdom of God will be ... given to a people producing its fruits" (Matthew 21:43).

Another website to also add to your favorites list is the national LWML website, lwml.org. While visiting it, you will find all the newly released LWML Sunday 2020 resources. LWML Sunday is typically observed the first Sunday in October. Hosting LWML Sunday 2020 would provide a grand opportunity to inform your congregation about LWML including the Mite Box and mission grants; and to invite your sisters in Christ to participate in the LWML. Most of the LWML Sunday resources are free downloads which include bulletins, promotional bulletin bytes, the worship service, children's message and coloring page, and a power point template.



Also, at lwml.org, you will find more info about the June, 2021 LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky. Did you know that all you 2019 LWML Convention Host Committee servants will have special VIP seating in the Rupp Arena Convention Hall to enjoy the entire convention while seated and not having to feverously run around? How exciting! Did you also know that it is a beautiful and nice carpooling drive from Louisiana-Mississippi to Lexington, Kentucky?

I really look forward to seeing you all, including Daisy, in Lexington where we will be shoulder to shoulder and heart to heart in our LA-MS group photo. You may even get a glimpse of Bill and I remembering the romantic spot in the downtown Lexington triangle park where he surprised me with a marriage proposal 27 years ago.

Michelle Zollinger, LWML LA-MS District President

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift His countenance upon you and give you peace (Numbers 6:24–26).

A LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

We know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Dear friends,

I'm excited to share with you the wonderful things that God is doing through the LWML LA-MS district. Our families, nation, and world are in a difficult time and yet He continues His work. I have been blessed with extra time at home to reflect on the more important things in life, rather than getting distracted by every day busy-ness and I hope you have been able to do the same.



In some ways, time seems to have slowed down or even stopped. I have remarked many times that I have almost no memory of the entire month of April, because it seems like nothing happened. But in other ways, we are more busy than we were before, observing new regulations and protocols, schedules, and tasks that have made our lives more chaotic.

We are in a time of great transition and uncertainty of what the future holds, but at this time, I have been forced to seek comfort in the constants in our lives - family, friendship, and above all, the Lord and His promises. I pray that you are able to see Jesus as the lighthouse in this storm who guides you safely to harbor, and that you are able to rest on His unfailing love and promises.

I'm thrilled for you to read this issue of The Mission Voice and pray that its contents are a blessing and inspiration to you as you see all that God is doing in our district through the inspiring women of the LWML. May you rest in God's peace and unfailing promises!

In Christ,

Brenda Stewart

BIENNIAL REFLECTIONS

WONDERFUL MOMENTS from our 38th BIENNIAL LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION in Mobile, AL, June 20–23, 2019 may be found here: livestream.com/thelwml.

Especially inspirational to me were

- Lynn Corker at 2:44:14 Friday PM: livestream.com/TheLWML/events/8708106
- Donna Pyle 1st session at 58:04 Friday AM: livestream.com/TheLWML/events/8708085/videos/192840178
- Donna Pyle 2nd session at 54:18 Saturday AM: livestream.com/TheLWML/events/8708120/videos/192876515
- Rev. Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor our song leader, and
- Jan Struck (Merry May - Merry Will), Humorous Interrupter were both delightful throughout the entire convention.

A goal of mine is to encourage as many ladies as possible to go to our 39th Biennial LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, from June 24th – 27th.

LWML 2021 CONVENTION CENTRAL: www.lwml.org/2021-convention

The Southern Zone sent an LWML Information Packet to societies within our Southern Zone, as well as to the other four zone presidents in our LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District for them to customize and distribute the packet to their societies and groups. We will send the LWML Information Packet to the five churches in our Southern Zone that do not have an LWML society or group, and try to recruit them into our LWML family. Our LWML family reflects God's Word and truly cares for others. I appreciate working with such extremely loving, supportive, and empathetic LWML sisters.

The Southern Zone Board members are meeting, working, and having Bible Studies through Zoom. Many of our societies are staying engaged by making masks, delivering food, sending cards, and enjoying Zoom Bible Studies.

God's Blessings,

Kathy Capace

LWML LA-MS District Southern Zone President

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves (Philippians 2:3 NIV).

SPECIAL FOCUS MINISTRIES

As Vice President of Special Focus Ministries (formerly Human Care), I have had the opportunity to reflect a lot on the things that are going on around us during this unusual time in our world today. We think times are bad; we complain because we can't go and do the things we have always taken for granted. But if we compare our current situation to some of the situations experienced by God's people in Bible times, we realize that we are blessed to have only the problems that we have. The Bible describes famine such as we have never seen, manna to eat every day for forty years, plagues, exile into strange and foreign lands, and travel on a donkey at nine months pregnant just to name a few.

We are blessed. We have this time in our lives to be God's ambassadors, to help others in need, to keep in touch by phone with our friends and neighbors, and to share the bounty of what has been given to us. It's a time to reflect on the blessings we have. It's a time to be quiet and listen to what God has to tell us. Take this opportunity to do these things.

In the meanwhile, pray for one another, stay safe, and draw nearer to Christ. My prayer for each of you is that you look at this time as a time God has set aside for us to be in His Word more, and to listen to what He wants of us.

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Pat Brady

LWML LA-MS District Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

STAYING CONNECTED

COVID -19 has changed the way we work, shop, learn, communicate, and even how we worship and fellowship. Even with so much change God is working in and through us to share the Gospel message. Were you able to join the Overflowing Abundance Bible study on Facebook led by Donna Snow? Women from all over the United States logged on to be a part of this timely study based on Matthew 14. You can find it at lwml.org/home. Many LWML district conventions went virtual-including our own LWML LA-MS District. How exciting to give to the new Mission Grants and prayerfully support those willing to take on leadership positions. I am the new LWML LA-MS District Meeting Manager and am hopeful we will be able to gather again very soon to learn and grow together in our faith. The Spring District Retreat is slated to take place in April of 2021 in the New Orleans Zone region. I would love to hear from you if you have retreat center recommendations in the New Orleans area.

Psalm 46:10

Deedee Koyn, Holy Trinity, Covington, Louisiana

ddkoyn@gmail.com

CHRISTIAN LIFE

When I agreed to run for the office of LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District VP of Christian Life, I was SO EXCITED!! (And I still am!) Christian Life isn't just meetings, Bible Study, fellowship, service projects --- it is all of that and so much more! It is the "24-7 umbrella" that covers who we are individually and collectively ---every hour, every minute of every day that God gives us on this earth.

Okay --- 24 hours or 1440 minutes in a day times 365 days in a year. That equals 525,600 minutes in a year!!!!!! Kind of mind-blowing! How much of that do we use to "Offer a sacrifice of Thanksgiving" to God?

WAIT A MINUTE!!!

Before I get a million Lutheran objections to this possible works/righteousness notation (including from 2 Pastoral Counselors!) This is NOT heading into "okay, 10% or a tithe of my time is...." **NO, NO, NO!!!** Let me say the only reason for this observation is to reflect on how much time God gives us to live for Him.

Since the Covid virus I've been primarily at home. It's been a joy to spend more time reflecting on all of God's "good and perfect gifts," studying His Word, spending more time praying --- not just rattling off words, but focusing on specific people, situations ---my list grows longer by the day! While many/most of us are not meeting as societies, we can continue to serve with mites, with donations of food, writing uplifting notes to the sick, caretakers, lonely, first responders, the harried mother. There are not enough minutes in the day (or your attention span!) to list all the opportunities we have. JS (just saying) ---it's food for thought. Are there available minutes in your day to "Serve the Lord with gladness" and "Offer up sacrifices of Thanksgiving" to Him? Think I'll turn off the Hallmark movie and write a "love note" to someone shut-in like me.

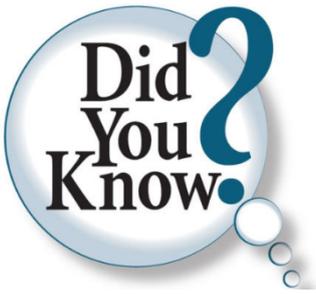
Blessings and warm virtual hugs,

Bonnie Asher Frasier

LWML LA-MS District Vice President of Christian Life

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE



Lutheran Women in Mission has a mobile app that can be downloaded to your smartphone or tablet.

After the easy download, you will find all kinds of resources and information.

The homepage feed has daily Twitter and Facebook posts. If you don't already receive the daily Mustard Seed Devotions through email, you can through the app where each devotion is posted under the "Devotion" button.

The 2019-2021 Mission Grants descriptions and progress of disbursements are available to monitor our giving of mites. What a great way to share with friends and family what the Lord is doing with our coins!

Also, the app has podcasts and videos available to listen to on the go. The weekly podcast called The Task-Filled Life is a study of God's Word lead by Becca Fuddy. Did you miss Donna Snow's Overflowing Abundance Bible Study? Well, the six sessions are posted under the video section in the app. The app provides a multitude of materials to support the study of God's Word. For more information, visit: www.lwml.org/app.

An advertisement for the LWML App. On the left, a white smartphone displays the app's interface, which includes a "More" menu with options like "2-Minute Tuesday", "Bible", "Bible Studies", "Events", "Facebook", "League Pledge and Songs", "Lutheran Woman's Quarterly", "LWML Mission Goal Progress", and "Mission Servants Activities". On the right, the text "Download the LWML APP" is displayed in white. Below this, there are two buttons: "ANDROID APP ON Google play" and "Available on the App Store". At the bottom right, the text "Get plugged in today! Search for LWML in Google Play or the App Store to download our free app." is written in white.

My challenge to you is to share with your society members. At your next meeting, help members download the app and explore all the resources that are available to support the Lord's work.

Leslie Koenck

LWML LA-MS District Vice President of Communication

GATHERING MITES DURING A PANDEMIC

Sue McAdams

LWML LA-MS District Vice President of Gospel Outreach (formerly Mission Grants)

We are living in extraordinary times. Tasks that are normally easy have become quite difficult to perform. Gathering mites may be one of these tasks that now take lots more planning and effort than was necessary just months ago. Like many others, I have basically stayed home since March.... no attending church, or LWML meetings, or Bible Study. And that change that I usually scoop out of my purse to toss in my Mite Box.... it got scooped out in March, and since then the purse has hung over the doorknob gathering dust! I remind myself to be grateful for all the many forms of communicating available to us today and the many opportunities we have to gather “virtually”. We need to put our minds together and come up with fun ways to keep our mission goals up front and in our face every day. So here is one idea that maybe your society could use this fall.



This is a “Christmas Stocking”. These foam shapes are available at craft or school supply stores. Staple the shape to a Ziplock bag.... use stickers to cover the staples and decorate the stocking. Inside the bag is a half sheet of colored paper printed with fun mite-gathering ideas and an explanation of mites. Ask your ladies to put them on the refrigerator and fill them up!

Please take this Christmas “Stocking” and fill it with Mites to fund the many Mission Grant Projects of our Louisiana-Mississippi District LWML and our National LWML. Please remember to add a prayer to any coins or bills you drop into the stocking. Watch for information on where to return your stocking!

Thanksgiving.... as we praise God for all He has given us, let us fill our Mite Stocking and pray for all to hear of Christ’s salvation through our missions.

**The End of Daylight Savings Time!
Praise God for His shining light – put \$ in your stocking.*

****Traveling to see family? Put \$\$ in your stocking for each mile travelled.**

****For each wrapped gift under your tree drop a coin into your stocking.**

*****For every house in your neighborhood that has outdoor Christmas decorations, adorn your stocking with green!**

Count your blessing and contribute \$\$ for

- Years of life or Years of marriage
- Number of children or grandchildren
- Years of employment or retirement

Do you ever thank God for what you consider imperfections in yourself? Celebrate today the accomplishments of those with disabilities and also those who volunteer to help the disabled. Many of our mission grants support those with special needs. Pray and give a mighty mite, so that all my know of our perfect Lord!

Add your own ideas.... Hurricanes that missed us? Unexpected pandemic blessings??

CHANGE

Have you ever heard a line from a movie or song that gets stuck in your head? Last December we took our granddaughters to see the movie “Frozen 2”. We all enjoyed it! So, when we visited them at the end of June, we watched it again on television. This time I heard a statement that has stuck in my head and caused me to think about change. Anna and Olaf are having a conversation. Anna asks Olaf “Are you enjoying your permafrost?” Olaf, a magical snowman, replies, “I'm just living the dream, Anna. Oh how I wish this could last forever. And yet change mocks us with her beauty.” That last sentence made me stop and think. Is change beautiful? Or is it something we dread?

Whatever our viewpoint, it's not something we can stop. Like Olaf, we may have wished some things could last forever. But that is not the way our world works. Some changes are expected or planned for, and others are unexpected and life-changing. It's pretty easy to get caught up in all the chaos and misery in our world today. BUT, we have a loving heavenly Father who does not change! A favorite Bible verse that gives me hope in the middle of these uncertain times is Jeremiah 29:11–12. “I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, to give you hope and a future. Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to me, and I will listen.” God does have a plan for each of us and has from the beginning. Earlier in Jeremiah, God calls him with these words, “Before you were formed in the womb, I knew you, before you were born, I set you apart.” And later in chapter 1:8, he comforts Jeremiah with these words, “Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you.” How many times does God speak those comforting words to us in the Bible! There are phrases in the song, “Some Things Never Change”, from Frozen 2, “Some things stay the same..., some things are always true..., some things never change..., That's why I rely on certainties.” God's love is certain, His words are always true, and He will never change. We can hold on tight to our heavenly Father and trust in His plan for us.

Dear Heavenly Father, source of all that is good, I thank you for this day and all the blessings you give us. I ask Your forgiveness for those times when I lose focus and trust in you. I ask you to direct my life and draw me closer to you. In Jesus' name, Amen.

FYI: Our Hope & Future by Donna Pyle, is a four-part, downloadable Bible study on Jeremiah 29:11–12 available at lwml.org.

Liz Slothower
LWML LA-MS District Secretary

FINANCIAL SECRETARY UPDATE

Greetings from the LWML LA-MS District Financial Secretary.

Hazel Wilson, dubbed 'Mitey Lady', would give you the biggest, warmest, smile if you found some change and gave it to her for mites. She would even ask Pastor if he found any change in the parking lot. "Why yes, I might have," he might reply as he dug in his pocket for his change. After giving it to her she tenderly put it in her Mite Box, thanked him, and smiled from ear to ear. She did not mind asking for your change, or any 'green stuff'. People could not resist her. In that same spirit, I ask you for your change. Put a Mite Box in the car. Drop your change in the bottom of your purse, until your purse gets too heavy and you have to 'clean it out' into the Mite Box. Your purse and your heart will be lighter! Consider giving a memorial to LWML LA-MS District. Unless otherwise designated, all of the memorial donations go to district mission grants.

Because of the generous offerings given by you ladies, who have a heart like Hazel, and who are women in mission, our district funded all of the district mission grants for the last biennium, and had a carryover of \$3539.57 to go towards funding district mission grants for our current biennium beginning in March, 2020. Mission grant #1, Safe Haven Abuse Shelter, was paid \$2,500, leaving a balance of \$1,039.57 to go toward the next grant. Our next grant, Desiard Street Shelter of Monroe, LA, is for \$5,000. As of June 30, 2020, \$1804.53 has been received in mites and memorials. The district grant portion of those deposits is \$939.78. So, a total of \$1,979.35 has been collected toward the second grant.

During the virtual district convention, \$60,000.00 was approved as the goal for the new biennium. A monthly average for mites incoming should be \$2,500.00. In other words, the mites collected should be \$10,000.00 by the end of June. As noted above, \$1804.53 has been received. If Hazel was still living on this earth, she would not be smiling.

In addition to seeing more mites coming in, I would like to suggest that we could have prayer partners. Any comments or ideas?

We are here to serve the Lord with gladness.

Lord, let me do what you want me to do; when you want me to do it; the way you want me to do it; give me the strength to do it; and let me give you all thanks and glory. Amen.

Your Smiling Sister in Christ,
Lauretta Houston

*And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny
(Mark 12:42).*

TREASURING HISTORY

I would like to introduce you to Mrs. Gladys Mundt. She and her husband, Chris Mundt, lived in Pittsburg, Kansas, and were members of Zion Lutheran Church. She was the typical 1950's homemaker and was active in her LWML. She was my grandmother.



My family lived in Baker, Louisiana, and would visit my grandparents every summer. To this day I remember her excitement when she realized that we would be in Pittsburg during her LWML's Mission Fair. I remember seeing all of the displays with different country flags and information about how mites were helping to spread God's Word and love in these countries. Little did I know that years later I would become a part of LWML.

This is just a little story about how I became interested in LWML. And that is exactly what an archivist does – they tell the stories of the people and then carefully organize them into what becomes the history of the organization and in our case our LWML LA-MS District. Our history tells the story of our mission as we participate in LWML through mites and reach out in our community. It tells the story of our fellowship as we build relationships over the generations through retreats, events, and working together.

So, I would like to share with you some basic rules from the Concordia Historical Institute for saving or purging files and photos which are the same for everyone regardless of your position, whether it be society, zone, or district.

What to save

1. Signed executive board and board of director minutes
2. Handouts from meetings
3. Elected and appointed officer's reports
4. Printed material from special meetings, such as prayer services, anniversary celebrations, workshops, etc.
5. Biennium reports
6. Newsletters
7. Photos should be kept in acid-free folders (not scrapbooks); identify photos with *who, what, when, and where*
8. Photocopies of newspaper articles relating to your history
9. Newsletters from the next level up may be kept for a biennium but do not keep long term.
10. Documents relevant to your level

TREASURING HISTORY

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What to purge

1. Unidentified photos
2. Multiple copies of officer's reports
3. Original newspaper clippings after they have been photocopied
4. Copies of the *Quarterly* periodicals; Concordia Historical Institute has a complete collection of *Quarterlies*

What to pass on

1. Officer's reports to the board of directors
2. Files from preceding terms should be sent to society, zone, or district level
3. Documents reflecting any actions which affect the workings of your position
4. Updated set of guidelines for your position, including all actions required in your position that are not specifically mentioned in the bylaws

I look forward to learning more about preserving our history and will be passing on more information to all in the future.

Redeemed in Christ,

Kathy Abbott

Archivist-Historian

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer (Romans 12:12).

MISSION GRANT UPDATE

Greetings from your LWML LA-MS District Treasurer Elizabeth Smith. Hope all are safe. I'm praying for all my sisters.

Our district has paid the first mission grant of \$2500.00 to Safe Haven Abuse Shelter in Columbus, MS. Our next grant is the Desiard Street Shelter in Monroe, LA for \$5,000.00 which will help support their mission of providing nutritious meals and sharing the Gospel to over 6,000 hungry people each year in the community.

Please send your mites to Elizabeth Smith, P. O. Box 1644, Rosepine, LA, 70659. This is safer than sending it to my mailbox.

On a personal note I have bought a house in Baton Rouge, LA. This way I can be closer to my daughter and family. When I am in Baton Rouge, I attend Chapel of the Cross. This is where my daughter was married and my grandkids were baptized. When I am in DeRidder, LA, I attend Redeemer, there I play the organ. I love both churches.

In His service,

Elizabeth Smith

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1 Corinthians 12:4–7).

Are you looking for a way to serve the LWML behind the scenes? This may be the opportunity you are searching for to use your gifts. Areas where you are needed are:

- Young Woman's Representative program
 - Do you have a desire to work with our young women and help them see the benefit of LWML?
- Leader Development Committee
 - Do you have some ideas, proven or otherwise, that could help societies identify potential leaders?
- Structure Coordinator - reviews bylaws for societies, zones, and our district
 - Do you like parliamentary procedures? Are you detail oriented? Does English grammar hold a dear spot in your heart?
- District Leaders' Guide reviewing and updating
 - Would you like to help build a guide for the different officers to help them do their job better?

Because committee people are limited in length of service to two years with one two-year extension, it is time to start fresh! This office needs your help.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a part of Organization Resources. If you want to be a part of one of the above committees or have a suggestion of someone that might be a good fit to contact, please send me an email at lamslwmlservantresources@gmail.com or give me a call at 337-783-2265.

I pray that all of us will be able to meet in person at our Fall Rallies in a couple of months. But, if not, I pray that you remain healthy and safe.

From Debbie Greene

LWML LA-MS District Vice President of Organizational Resources
(formerly Servant Resources)