

The Mission Voice

LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District



Spring 2021

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

I love spring. It's my favorite season, but this year seems even more special than usual. Maybe it's because we've been in quarantine since last spring. Maybe it's because we had such strange winter weather. Maybe it is because we've not been able to share hugs with friends and loved ones. Whatever it is, I treasure it more than usual.

When a butterfly evolves, it goes from being a squiggly worm in a dark cocoon to being a beautiful butterfly. It reminds me of what Jesus went through during this wonderful season. He went from being a worm to man, being despised and made low, into a beautiful Savior being raised from His dark grave. This is a picture of the way I see Jesus. The difference is that the butterfly will eventually die or go back into its earlier state. With Jesus we know He will never die again, and because of that and of what He did on the cross, we will never die again. We will lose this earthly body but we too will be raised again into His heavenly realm.

No matter how glum the last year has been, we can still rejoice because of what the Lamb of God has done for us. No matter what our circumstances are here on earth, we can rejoice for the things that are to come.

Pat Brady

Vice President of Special Focus Ministries

Upcoming Events

For up-to-date information regarding these events, visit our newly refreshed district website, (lwml-lams.org), designed and maintained by gifted Webmaster Leslie Koenck. You will see a tab at the top labeled Upcoming Events; click on the tab. On the Upcoming Events page, Leslie has included the **new LWML Mission Statement** — “As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.” The following highlighted gatherings will reflect the mission statement. I invite you to check out these events and to participate in as many as possible.

Highlighting these upcoming events:

- LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Spring Christian Life Retreat.

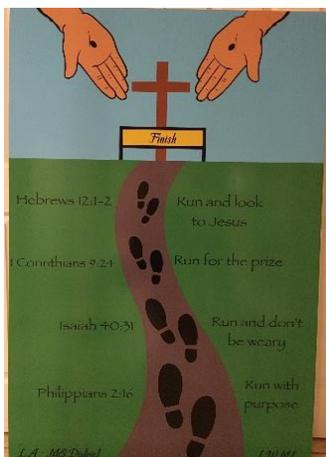
Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. – noon via Zoom Webinar.

Theme: “Active Living in Christ” based upon Colossians 3:16.

- 39th Biennial LWML Convention.

Thursday-Saturday, June 24-27, 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky.

Theme: “Running the Race...Looking to Jesus” based upon Hebrews 12:1-2, *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*



I am delighted to announce that Amy Trosclair from Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Slidell, Louisiana, will be participating as our district's Young Woman Representative (YWR). Amy will be walking with me in the district banner procession on Friday morning, displaying our LA-MS District banner which was designed by Katie Vogt, and is being fabricated by women at Trinity Lutheran Church in Baton Rouge, LA.



- 40th Biennial LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Convention.

Friday-Sunday, April 22-24, 2022 at the Lod Cook Conference Center and Hotel in Baton Rouge, LA.

Theme: “Running the Race...Looking to Jesus” based upon Hebrews 12:1-2.

The convention will be hosted by the Southern Zone.

Hope to see you all at the upcoming events.

May God’s peace, grace, and joy be with you as we honor Him by serving His people with gladness,

Michelle Zollinger

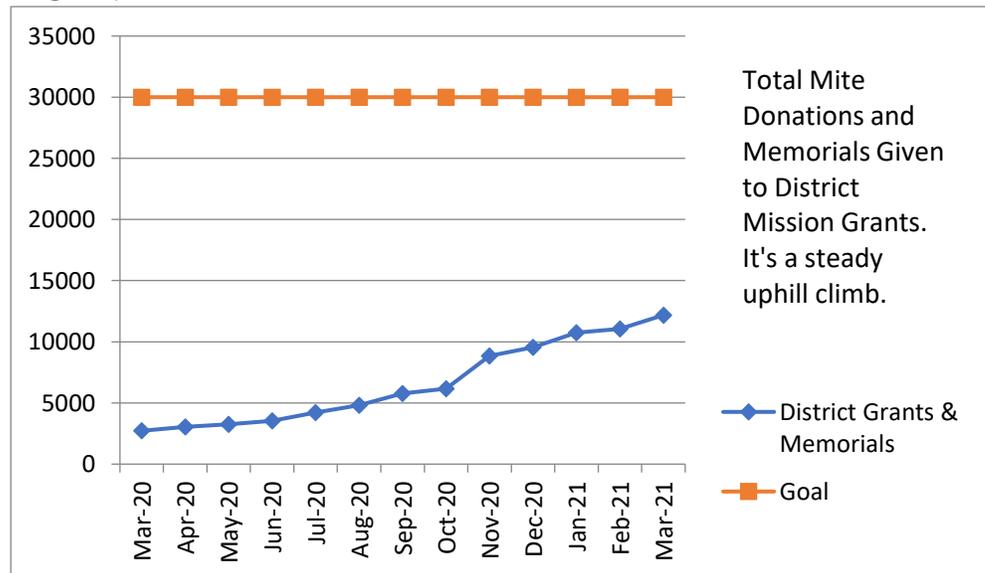
LWML LA-MS District President

Treasury Thoughts from Laurretta Houston & Elizabeth Smith

Wonderful News! We have met 42% of our district mission grants. Not so good news – we have less than eleven months left before our biennium closes to meet 58% of our goal. Don’t you just love a challenge? You have to admit, we have had a few challenges during the past fifteen months. Some of the challenges were too much for some of our brothers and sisters to overcome, on earth. Some of our friends and family members may have departed from this earth, but that does not mean that they did not meet the challenges that they faced head on. They are enjoying a new life, one without pain, tears, sadness, Covid; a new life with Jesus. With Jesus, all things are possible. It’s been said that all of us may not be able to sing, but we can make a joyful noise. Let’s make the jingling of coins a part of that joyful noise. Spring cleaning? Look in those couches and recliners for a little loose change.

Hazel Wilson is still looking for that “little change in the bottom of your purse or pocket, or that green stuff!” Ladies (and gents), we can do this!

Look how far we have come!



The Good Times Will Roll Again In The New Orleans Zone



The pandemic struck the LWML LA-MS District New Orleans Zone with a vengeance. We were unable to hold our spring or our fall rally because of the pandemic, but the women of this great zone are creative and victorious. Although the harvest is plentiful and the workers are few, we will continue to be a vital part of the community. We collected toiletries for the homeless and the hurricane victims. We will continue to go where we are needed. Now, when I hear the word Covid, I see it in a more positive light. This virus taught us to think out of the box and continue to rely on Christ, the king, who is our rock. We will continue to be motivated and encouraged in the New Orleans Zone. Now, when you see the word Covid think of this acronym:

Christ

Omnipotent

Voice

Inspires

Dedication

We will continue to serve the Lord with gladness virtually and through phone conferences, whatever it takes. The good times will roll again in the New Orleans Zone.

Standing firm on the Word of God,

Oddistine Moore

New Orleans Zone President

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS
(PSALM 100:2)

The New LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Website is Launched!!



It is so thrilling to announce that the LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District has launched the new website at the same web address – www.lwml-lams.org. The website's goal is to provide visitors an easy way to learn about LWML and LA-MS district. Some of the site's great new features include a photo gallery, LA-MS news, upcoming events, and zone information. Amongst the new features, the site contains integrated social media buttons for the LA-MS Facebook page, LWML Twitter, LWML blog, LWML Pinterest, LWML YouTube, and LWML Instagram. These social media buttons will foster improved communication between interested people.

With the upcoming events, one will have access to event flyers, information, and online registration. Information will be updated as needed. If you run into trouble or have questions, you can either use the contact tab on the website or email Leslie Koenck at lkoencklwml@gmail.com. Please let us know feedback or concerns to ensure that the website is meeting the needs.

Enjoy

On God rests my salvation and my glory, my mighty rock, my refuge is God. Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us (Psalm 62:7-8).

Leslie Koenck
LWML LA-MS District Vice President of Communication

Jesus loved Martha...

John 11:5a (NIV)

Many of you have written about your favorite Bible verse. I have chosen today...March 13, 2021...to tell about mine. On this day in the past century, 3/13/1921, my grandmother was celebrating her 23rd birthday.

To add to her joy, she had her one-month-old baby girl. With this little girl, my grandparents re-started their family, for only a few years earlier they had lost their young son and baby daughter during the Spanish flu epidemic. Grandma was named Evelyn Martha, but her father refused to call her Evelyn. Instead, he always called her “meine Marta,” and on her 14th birthday he took her to the Milwaukee city hall and legally changed her name to Martha Evelyn. My grandparents went on to rear a large family of six girls and three boys. One of the daughters was named Marilynn Martha, and she in turn gave birth to one daughter who she named Susan Martha. The doctors warned that this baby would probably be stillborn, but she wasn’t! And 70 years later I’m still going strong. To carry on the Martha tradition, Mike and I named our second daughter Martha Michelle.

Being part of these four generations of Marthas, I was always disappointed to hear sermons and Bible studies that dealt with Martha of the Bible. She was often portrayed as a whiny, complaining older sister who felt disdain for her younger sister’s interest in the teachings of Jesus. Then in 2005 I had the blessing and privilege of attending the National LWML Convention in Tampa Bay. Our featured Bible study speaker presented a comprehensive historical look at Martha and Mary. It was lovely and eye-opening.

Over and over Jesus turned to Martha when he needed food and a place to rest with his disciples. Over and over Martha provided this with no advance notice or modern appliances. In John 11:5 the Bible tells us, *Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus*. In the Gospel of Luke, when Martha appeals to Jesus to convince her little sister to choose a more acceptable pastime than sitting with the group of men who were listening to his teaching, Jesus began his response with “*Martha, Martha,*” So often this is read aloud with an angry or aggravated voice. My grandpa always greeted me with a double name...never to convey anger or aggravation but rather to show his sweet love for me and make me feel special. When Jesus reveals himself to her and asks, “*Do you believe this?*” Martha answers, “*Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world*” (John 11:27 NIV).

I am a Martha by name. But we all.... all of us LWML ladies...are proverbial Marthas. We are ready to show up, volunteer, lend a hand, make a meal.... we’ll hang out in the background in case we are needed. And Jesus loves us...each and every one of us...by name.... Martha.

Joyful in His service,
Susan **Martha** Van Slett McAdams

News from the Southern Zone:

The **Southern Zone Spring Rally, March 13, 2021 from 9:00 a.m.-noon** was held **virtually with the theme ‘LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE.’**

The NIV Bible verse was **2 Corinthians 4:6**, *For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.*

Pastor John Drosendahl opened our Rally with a prayer, and as usual led a wonderful Bible study, **‘LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE.’**

Together, we said our new LWML Mission Statement - *As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.*

With our monetary Gifts from the Heart Ingathering for the Rally chosen by Redeemer Lutheran, Mandeville, we were blessed to help Pastor Joe, Sarah, and Ella Arthur from Zion Lutheran in Bogalusa with funds toward a new roof on their home.

Pastor Perry Culver’s recorded Prayer and Bible study from the February District Zoom BOD meeting was played at the Rally. Thank you, Pastor Culver!

Dawne Pflughoeft from Holy Trinity Lutheran, Covington, joined our Southern Zone Board filling the Special Focus Ministries Committee (formally Human Care) Thank you Dawne!

Our Zone is looking forward to the **Virtual Spring Retreat** on Saturday, April 24th from 9am – noon. Hopefully our churches will get groups together to experience this blessing.

We are also excited about our in-person and virtual 2021 National LWML Convention LWML 39th Biennial Convention on June 24–27, 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky. The theme is *“Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus.”*

Chapel of the Cross collects food donations for LSU Food Pantry, they make ‘Welcome Packets’ including a Calendar, Flashlight and Pen with the church’s contact information along with Bible study schedules, and *Portals of Prayer*.

Holy Trinity met in the spring at the park outside of Madisonville, and then moved to New Life in Folsom to try to include some of those ladies; two ladies have joined the group. They celebrate member’s monthly birthday. Their ladies are working on Arts and Crafts projects with the hope of having a Craft Fair with the money going to children’s camps that take in children with varied disabilities.

Lamb of God is so blessed to have a YWR, Amy Trosclair; she will attend our LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky.

Saint James continues to pray and lift each other up with occasional e-mails and text messages. There have been no meetings in church since only a few members come to our Worship Service

currently. They will have information on our virtual Spring Retreat and try to renew excitement about LWML.

Saint Paul participated in the virtual prayer service, *“He Prayed with Them.”* During Lent, they are collecting items for Personal Care Kits for World Relief. They provide special gifts for our Confirmands and for Mother’s and Father’s Day. They are thankful to be able to continue monthly meetings and Bible Studies.

Redeemer ladies are making phone calls and sending get well cards to our sick and homebound. They also continue to remember the birthdays of their members by signing and giving them birthday cards. A very special and successful “Soup Benefit” was organized by the society with the support and seed money from an “Action Team Grant” provided by Thrivent. The purpose was to provide financial assistance for Pastor Warren Schulingkamp for medical expenses resulting from cancer. Soup Benefit offered our support and well wishes in a very concrete way.

The Village ladies hosted a Drive-by Baby Shower for the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Slidell. In addition to all the baby items, \$2,000 was collected for the Center. The Feeding Ministry of the Church continues to provide meals after disasters. They held a Thanksgiving meal for the Lacombe area, and recently served a meal for the St. Tammany Parish employees, Emergency and First Responders, as well as other Parish agencies. Last Friday evening, the church held a drive through Lenten Fish Fry. They pray that they can soon begin to get back to a “normal” way of serving those in their Church and community.

Trinity hosted a soup-to-go/bake sale in November near Veteran's Day. The soup was free to any Veteran or person currently serving in the military. The proceeds from the bake sale are divided between Mites and support of a missionary or other special project, this year the money was sent to Lake Charles to help hurricane victims and to district and national mite projects. This has been an annual event for many years.

In place of the yearly Ladies Christmas party, they held a Scripture and Song gathering with all the Covid procedures in place. They were able to share petit fours and punch in the courtyard prior to the service.

They are planning a Women's Retreat for later in the year.

Their small groups are continuing to meet either in person or via Zoom. They are planning for all in person meetings. There are six or seven groups currently meeting and taking part in Bible studies and prayer.

Zion offers weekly Word and Sacrament ministry at 10:30 am each Sunday. For those who cannot attend in person, all sermons and homilies are posted on Facebook live at our page, Zion Lutheran Bogalusa. We will be offering a Wednesday evening Bible Study this summer with a meal.

God's Blessings,

Kathy Capace

LWML LA-MS Southern Zone President

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves (Philippians 2:3).

LA-MS DISTRICT MISSION GRANTS UPDATE – APRIL 2021

Mission Grants #1, #2, and #3 ... Paid

At this time, we have presented a total of \$9,500 in mission grants! What an amazing blessing when you consider that we have been dealing with numerous natural disasters and a worldwide pandemic. In June, Kathie Baeuerlin presented a check to Joyce Tucker of the Safe Haven Abuse Shelter in Columbus, MS. In November Pat Brady presented a check to the Desiard Street Shelter in Monroe, LA. In December Elizabeth Smith presented a check to Pastor Peterson of Chapel of the Cross on the LSU Campus in Baton Rouge.

Our Next Two Mission Grants

4. Reaching the Homeless and Low-Income Families with God's Love -- \$5,000

District D of New Orleans has many low-income families and homeless people. Our goal is to provide one hot meal per day to the homeless and to assist the low-income families in paying their utility bills.

Feeding God's People is a program of the Ladies Aid Society of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Orleans. Prior to the pandemic, hot meals were prepared and distributed to the community and the homeless using the church's Fellowship Hall. As we emerge from this time of pandemic and are able to once again gather together safely, the Ladies hope to return to this very timely project.

NEWS ALERT!! WE NOW HAVE OVER \$3000
TOWARDS THIS PROJECT!!



5. Concordia Seminary Food & Clothing Co-op -- \$5,000

The seminary students at Concordia Fort Wayne face financial burdens in providing for their families. The Food & Clothing Co-op supplies 80-90% of the household needs for these families.



The Co-op is open to all students enrolled in classes at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW) Fort Wayne, Indiana. Food, clothing and household items are available at no charge. Students volunteer service time for the privilege of shopping.

Looking Ahead – Grants #6 thru #8

6. Drinking Fountains for Trinity Lutheran School in Baton Rouge, LA -- \$5,000

Recent years have brought many challenges and changes to the school. After relocating, the school continues its mission in three modular buildings. Three drinking fountains will provide cold water for the students as they continue to quench their thirst for Christ-filled education.

7. Steeple Replacement & Repair for Epiphany Lutheran of New Orleans -- \$5,000

Built in 1915, the church has survived both hurricanes Betsy and Katrina. At this time the structural stability of the church building requires the replacement of the steeple. This grant will help in the purchase of materials and labor cost.

8. Feeding Lunch to Lutheran School Students in Haiti -- \$500

Nourishing these children with a hot lunch enhances their ability to learn. At a cost of 25 cents per meal, the HOPE project provides a powerful witness of Christ's love along with the food that for many is their only meal of the day.

Any Questions? Any fundraising ideas? Please let me know...you can reach me at

smcadams@tlcbr.org.

Sue McAdams

Vice President of Gospel Outreach/Mission Grants



*To everything there is a season, and
a time to every matter under heaven*

(Ecclesiastes 3:1 ESV):

I just love this verse! It's on my favorite coffee cup --- sipping on my 2nd cup in it right now! The soft watercolor of four trees emphasizes the four seasons --- Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Anyone who knows me knows that Fall is my favorite and Winter is a close second. The older I get, the faster they go by. And that means Fall will be back in no time!

The chapter continues through eight verses of “a time to be born” (the beginning) and “a time to die” (the end) and so on. Reading the rest of Chapter 3 and into 4, it can really be quite depressing. But then I read it with the emphasis on two things:

- (1) Seasons have to do with “under the heavens” and “under the sun.” And that is talking about the EARTH, the world we're in.
- (2) Seasons are within the constraints of TIME.

God be praised!!! Heaven is above our world! Eternity is unbound by time! I thank God for creating and giving us different seasons in our earthly lives, but especially praise Him for preparing our eternal home above this earth in Heaven, and unbounded by time!!! I imagine

heaven to be perpetual Spring, perfection always! I've given up wondering about "will we sleep?" or "but I love a beautiful night with the moon and stars." The song says "I can only imagine," but actually I can't imagine. Being in the presence of God will be all in all for eternity!

Because of the wonderful plan of salvation of God, because of the unimaginable sacrifice of Jesus, and because of the power of the Holy Spirit, we can walk through this life looking UP! Yes, we live within the constraints of time while here on earth, but in the blink of an eye we will live eternally with the Triune God, clothed in the white robes of righteousness given to us by Jesus. We will sing His praises with those who have gone before and the hosts of angels! We will no longer imagine but will know! So, let's spend our time of Christian Life on earth looking up, praising God for His promises, practicing our songs and hymns of praise, loving each other, and serving Him with gladness by serving each other!

Bonnie Asher Frasier
Vice President of Christian Life



Thanks be to God! We are HIS!

We are:

-  Held by God's Word
-  Inspired to share HIS Gospel
-  Surrounded by HIS Grace