



THE MISSION VOICE

SUMMER 2022

#### IN THIS ISSUE

- A Word from our President
- Come and See
- Mission Grants
- Gatherings
- Thank You!
- Southern Zone
- Blessings
- A New Reality
- Dilemmas
- District Retreat
- Wheels on the Bus
- Southwest Zone

## A Word from Our President

### LWML

Recently we...myself, husband Bill, son Daniel, son Walter and his fiancée Anna, mom, and dad, enjoyed a marvelous family trip to the YMCA of the Rockies, adjacent to gorgeous Rocky Mountain National Park near Estes Park, Colorado.

You probably know that YMCA stands for – Young Men’s Christian Association, and you are probably singing the song right now with hand motions.

The YMCA of the Rockies’ website has

this statement, “We are a charitable and faith-based organization committed to our communities, locally and nationwide.” Their mission statement reads, “YMCA of the Rockies puts Christian principles into practice through programs, staff, and facilities.”

Do these statements sound familiar? They remind me of the LWML mission statement: *As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.* If one added Wo to Men’s, then YMCA could almost be synonymous with what the LWML letters stand for – Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

I am grateful for having had the opportunity of being in the cool beautiful mountainous surroundings with my family at the YMCA, and I am thankful to our Lord for providing me with my broader family of my LWML sisters in Christ as we live out our organization’s mission. Honoring God by serving others can be as simple as helping with snacks or meals at VBS. One of our three sons, as a young boy, wrote on the back of the church bulletin one LWML Sunday, **Lovely Women Making Lunches.**

Enjoy God’s abundant peace and grace upon you.

Michelle Zollinger

LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District President



## Come and See

According to the Oxford dictionary, communication means the imparting or exchanging of information or news. And oh, what news do we have to share. We are *Lutheran Women in Mission*. We are serving Him in all that we do - not for just a convention, a rally, a servant event day, a day of Bible study, or a retreat. Each of us is a missionary doing God's work. In our daily activities, how are we communicating to the world His message? As Psalm 26:7 states, "proclaiming thanksgiving aloud, and telling all your wondrous deeds." LWML has multiple resources to support our proclamation of His love and forgiveness.

I love my LWML t-shirts. I wear one at least once a week, especially if I am out and about in town. I have had a few people stop me and comment on the verse on the back of the t-shirt. It has allowed me to speak His Word to them and gives me the privilege to pray for that person after they go on with their life. *Mustard Seed Devotions* are wonderful to place with a bank deposit, with a tip, or leave at an office – and let our Lord do His work with His Word. Please use all the various LWML materials in your mission work to share His love.

*When Jesus found Philip, He said, "follow Me." Philip was so impressed by Jesus that he told Nathanael, "He's the One we've been waiting for!" When Nathanael was unimpressed, Philip simply said, "Come and see." (John 1:43-46) He could have debated, might have argued, but he simply extended the invitation. Today we may apply Philip's words in two ways. First of all, what people have invited us to "Come and see"? Did Jesus use them to bring us closer to Him? Secondly, to whom can we lovingly say, "Come and see"? We are the tools the Master uses, just as He used Philip.*

*Dear Lord, please help me to lovingly, boldly say, "Come and see." Use me, Lord to show Your love and spread Your joy. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*  
(Mustard Seed: Living in Joy. 24/30 2005)

Leslie Koenck  
LWML LA-MS District Vice President of Communication



*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God*

*Colossians 3:16*

## District Mission Grants—Summer Update



*“Thank you, Ms. Sue. We truly appreciate the support of the LWML!! Just to let you know, I knew the LORD would provide. I have been buying supplies this month, anticipating a busy hurricane season and opportunities for us to serve. And because of this generous support, we will be ready to provide food to those communities in need. Thank you again!”  
God’s grace and peace be with you all.  
Pastor Paul Ernewein*

### **Grant #1: The Village Church Feeding Ministry – \$5,000 –PAID!**

**Alex...Bonnie...Colin...Danielle...Earl...Fiona...Gaston...  
Hermine...Ian**

Do you recognize these names? You probably will soon. These are the official names for the 2022 hurricanes that may visit us in the coming months. What a blessing to be able to support the Village Feeding Ministry as they prepare for coming hurricane season. And what a wonderful blessing to be able to report that we have already fulfilled our District Mission Grant #1 with \$5,000 for this program. See left for the thank you letter from Pastor Ernewein.

### **Mission Grant #2 : The Food and Clothing Co-Op Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne – \$5,000**

At Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana, nearly 60% of the students are married, second career with families. When they decide to leave their jobs to come to the seminary, these students no longer have the same financial flow of funds as before, but they and their families do continue to have the same needs. The Food and Clothing Co-op is currently able to supply from 80-85% of all food and household needs each month at no cost to the student. Seminarians and their families volunteer to work at the Food Co-op each month. In exchange they are allowed one shopping day each week. This \$5,000 grant will be used to purchase only perishable food items each month which are then given directly to the students and their families at **no cost.**



### **Prayers Requested!**

*Many grant roposals were not elected due to a limit in funding. Although we could not give them funds, we support them through prayers. This hurricane season let’s remember to pray for the people of Haiti and the work of Ministry in Mission as they provide both physical and spiritual care to the people in need.*

## Gatherings

This spring brought lots of God's people together in conventions everywhere, including those of us in the LCMS Southern District. We had the Southern District Convention in March and LWML Conventions in April. Did you know that the same weekend we were together for the LWML LA-MS Convention our sisters in the neighboring LWML Gulf States District met in convention as well?

One of my favorite things at conventions, along with corporate worship and fellowship, is visiting the exhibit area. If you attended the Southern District Convention you most probably saw the LWML LA-MS/Gulf States LWML display. (Love those little mints in purple LWML wrappers!) Both presidents Michelle Zollinger and Gwen Marshall were on hand to meet and greet convention goers, eager to share how Mites in Missions are blessing many.

The Exhibit Hall at our 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention was a busy location with displays, Silent Auction items and the LWML store. Roseanne Borland, Executive Director with the Wesley Center in Woodworth Louisiana, provided information on the meeting site for our 2023 Spring Retreat next April 28 through 30<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.thewesleycenter.com](http://www.thewesleycenter.com) and like their Facebook page to see why this location will provide space for spiritual growth and physical relaxation.

This was my first convention as Meeting Manager. It was a good thing our theme was Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus as I definitely needed the running shoes I packed in my suitcase. There were so many of you who prayed for and helped make this an awesome weekend. It was great to meet first-timers and reunite with old timers. It was a treat to have my mom from Arkansas, a former LWML LA-MS delegate, attend with me as well.

There are lots of opportunities for you to help with the 2023 Retreat in Woodworth and the 2024 Convention in the Shreveport-Bossier area. Start by inviting a friend...and even your mom!

Deann (Deedee) Koyn  
Meeting Manager



*Now may the  
God of peace  
who brought  
again from the  
dead our Lord  
Jesus, the great  
shepherd of the  
sheep, by the  
blood of the  
eternal  
covenant, equip  
you with  
everything good  
that you may do  
his will, working  
in us that which  
is pleasing in his  
sight, through  
Jesus Christ, to  
whom be glory  
forever and ever.  
Amen.*

Hebrews 13:20-21

## THANK YOU!

**THANK YOU, TO OUR SOUTHERN ZONE FOR BEING OUTSTANDING HOSTS!**



### **LWML Sunday — Celebrate Lutheran Women in Mission!**

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside as LWML Sunday, but it may be held at any time. It is a time to celebrate all that God has done through the Lutheran Women's Missionary League. The power of God is evident in the dimes, quarters, and dollars you put in your Mite Box, and we celebrate this every LWML Sunday.

A special worship service and other materials are available on the LWML website for you to use in planning for this celebration. Based on Romans 8:31-39, the theme for the 2022 LWML Sunday celebration is "For Us and With Us." The author of this service is Rev. Dr. Ryan Peterson, Vice President of Administration, Concordia University Ann Arbor, Michigan.

**LWML Sunday Materials are available NOW for download at:**

[LWML Sunday - Lutheran Women's Missionary League](#)

Melissa Meeks,  
LWML LA-MS District Public Relations Director  
Northern Zone President



## Southern Zone News

God's overwhelming love shown through in each wonderful moment of our 2022 LWML LA-MS District 40th Biennial Convention from Friday, April 22 – Sunday, April 24. It was at the Lod Cook Conference Center in Baton Rouge. I would love everyone to experience this love.



Early Sunday morning Mission Walk participants

It was an honor, as Southern Zone President and Convention Committee Chairman, to work with the wonderful ladies heading the committees. Michelle Zollinger - District President; Deedee Koyn - Meeting Manager, Property, and the Mission Walk; Liz Slothower - Treasurer/Registrar; Laura Lips - Packets; Rebecca Gernon - Decorations and Door Prizes; Melinda McCue - Publicity and Convention Booklet [Rochell Kurucar – special thanks for printing]; Dee Groby - Hospitality; Bonnie Fraiser - Prayer Room and Silent Auction; Pat Brady - Servant Event of painting rocks with loving thoughts and pictures to distribute in your community; Melissa Meeks - LWML Store; Debbie Greene - Photo Booth; Jim Slothower - Photos; Leslie Koenck - Communication booth; and Sue McAdams - Mission Grants.

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being*  
**Ephesians 3:16**  
**NIV**



Convention Packets



Rehearsing for their skit

*Continued on next page...*

## Southern Zone...Continued from Page 6

Each person working on the Convention went above anything I imagined. Thank you for all your wonderful work making our Convention a special experience.

Rev. Perry Culver and Rev. Michael Shannon's Bible study was a highlight. Rev. John Drosendahl, our Southern Zone Pastoral Counselor, as usual, had a wonderful message lifting us into God's Word. I enjoyed Rev. David Lofthus' inspirational message. Rev. Gary Peterson's message made me want all our LSU students to be a part of Chapel of the Cross. Thank you all.

The highlight for Nick and me was the Young Woman Representative Pinning Ceremony; Jules Capace, our granddaughter, was pinned.

Rhonda Jackson, Southern Zone Vice-President is organizing an 80's project for our zone. God's blessings,

Kathy Capace  
 LWML LA-MS Southern Zone President  
 985.882.4007 / 504.251.1972  
[kcapace@gmail.com](mailto:kcapace@gmail.com)

### Painted Rocks!



## Blessings

There is an old song and part of it goes like this. "Count your many blessings. Name them one by one." If we truly were to count our blessings – all of them – we may find that there are too many for us to number.

Salvation, our health, the ten commandments that guide us and others, the lessons from Jesus and the rest of the Bible, the earth created by God the Father which will never be destroyed by water again, the rainbow, the sun rising in the east and setting in the west, our children and extended families, and the Holy Spirit for His comfort and guidance.

Obviously, we can add to the above list. Let us give thanks and praise for the mites that have been collected; that district Mission Grant #1 has been fully funded; that He has blessed us so that we can bless others. Pray for His continued blessings.

**Please continue to send your mites to P.O. Box 1644, Rosepine, LA 70659**

Blessings to all of you,  
 Laretta Houston  
 Financial Secretary





## The Virtual Reality of the Post-Covid World...

In the nearly two and a half years since the panic of the Covid pandemic first struck, we all have seen our lives become ever more increasingly digital. We order our groceries online rather than go to the store; we stream our entertainment rather than going to the movies; we sometimes even chat with our doctors online rather than go in for an appointment. Like it or not, our world has gotten both larger

(in that digitally we can access things that were previously out of reach) and smaller (in that many folks lead more insular lives not leaving home very often) in the shadow of this flourishing digital age.

One aspect that has now become a norm in organizations around the world is the Zoom Meeting, and LWML is no exception. This virtual platform has made it so much easier for our ladies to communicate across distances, but sometimes as a participant in these meetings we face a bit of a quandary: how do I join in this meeting but keep a little privacy in my home. After all, most of us do not have a dedicated home office, and no one wants their colleagues to see the pile of laundry waiting to be folded in the background. Never fear! The LWML has the solution: a beautiful series of backgrounds that you can insert in Zoom in place of your real living room behind you.



On the LWML.org site, just go to LWML Online under the “Fellowship” menu and you will find a link to a wide selection of “Digital Backgrounds”, from LWML logos and pretty scenes to pictures featuring this biennium’s mission grants to a few of Milwaukee with the logo for the 2023 convention. (And if you need help figuring out how to set it up in Zoom check YouTube for some helpful videos.) So, while it appears that the virtual meeting may be here to stay, just remember you can have fun with it and express yourself with one of these digital backgrounds. Just don’t forget that being socially distanced means working harder than ever to stay connected with the people and that it is always important to reach out and connect in person whenever you have the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Meeks, Public Relations

## Every LWMLer has faced at least one of these dilemmas:

- I need a devotion for our LWML meeting...
- We need some fresh ideas for service projects...
- I need a way to boost our mite collections...
- We want to include a Bible Study at our next get together...
- Our ladies want some kind of fun and inspirational activity, but I am out of ideas...

So how can you solve these dilemmas?

What if I told you the answer for all of them could be found in the same place? That answer is LWML.org!



Your first stop on the website should be “The Word”. This menu found at the top of the page provides us a link to the Mustard Seed Devotions. You can also click on “Program Resources” to find all kinds of resources for Bible studies, devotions, skits, & activities to enhance any program. There are seasonal programs featured each month, as well as links to a long list of resources for all kinds of topics.

If you need fresh ideas for ways to give back to the community, check out the Mission Service Activities page listed in the “Service” menu. There are activity ideas featured each month and a link to an archive of ideas. There is even a section with ideas of activities you can do from home if you can’t get together with your group. When you want help building excitement for collecting those mites, look to the resources and information to be found under the “Missions” menu. Here, you can go to “Mission Grants” to see a list of and video on the current biennium’s national grants. Each grant is clickable and will lead you to more detailed information about it. From the Mission Grant page you can find several other good resources linked on the right side of the page. The first is



the Mite Report which will give you the latest numbers on how national mite collection is going, as well as a link to a monthly Mite Challenge Calendar. The Mite Challenge Calendar can be a fun way to encourage mite donations. The second key resource linked on the Mission Grants page is “Mission Grants Resources”. This page features a different Mission Grant each month and provides several tools for you, including a poster, a devotion, a prayer guide and even a story about that grant. There is also a link to access past months’ featured grant resources, in case you want to pick an earlier one.

Going back to the “Missions”, there are two more awesome resources that can educate and excite your congregation about mites. One is a link that takes you to the explanation and history of the Mite Box. The other is called “Your mite offerings have made an impact!” Here, you can find grant update stories displaying how our mites have been put to work for the Lord. Some of the updates are in the form a letter or article; most have pictures, though some even have a video; but, without fail, they are all inspirational. Sharing just what our few pennies can do when put to work for God is a great inducement for participation.

I hope this look at some of the resources available at LWML.org is helpful to you. In reality, this selection is only a small sampling of what can be found on the website. The resources, information, ideas and inspiration abound on every page of the site. I encourage to take time this summer to explore the greater LWML world available at your fingertips. And, if you run into problems locating what you need, reach out to your Zone & District Officers, we are here to help.

Respectfully submitted,  
Melissa Meeks, Public Relations

## Save the Dates!

Friday evening April 28 — Sunday morning April 30, 2023  
LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Christian Life Retreat

### NATURE WATCH

Wesley Center nature trails and grounds are home to many wild creatures. Along the miles of walking trails you will have the opportunity to observe some of our most famous residents including deer, rabbits, squirrels, and more. We even have an occasional beaver. But chances are that you won't be able to see the beavers themselves because they are nocturnal.

Look for Nature Watch signs near Fox Bridge for more information.



The Wesley Center is an affordable retreat and conference center that organizations can use for events like spiritual retreats, board meetings, seminars and strategic planning.

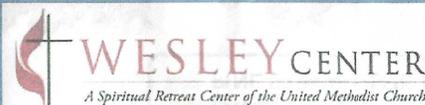
- The hotel-style lodges provide comfortable overnight accommodations for up to 256 people (4 per room). Each of the sixty-four rooms has a private bath and linens are provided. Thirty-two rooms offer a majestic view of the lake.
- Delightfully delicious meals are provided in our beautiful dining room that also overlooks the lake.
- Our amenities include Wi-Fi, fitness center, pavilion, outdoor prayer labyrinth, and challenge course with zip line.
- Our Christian hospitality is showcased by our friendly and professional staff.

**LET US EXCEED YOUR EXPECTATIONS!**

Please contact us for more information.

**Wesley Center 318.449.4500**  
2350 Methodist Parkway  
Woodworth, LA 71485  
[www.TheWesleyCenter.com](http://www.TheWesleyCenter.com)

### NATURE TRAIL GUIDE



More information coming soon to the district website  
[lwml-lams.org](http://lwml-lams.org) and available in the fall issue of  
*The Mission Voice*

## The Wheels on the Bus Go Round and Round



### LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Charter Motorcoach Inquiry to 2023 LWML Convention – Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Plan to leave approximately on Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup> and return approximately on Monday, June 26<sup>th</sup>.

Fill out only if interested in riding the motorcoach to the LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. (Please Print)

|   | Last Name | First Name | Email Address | Phone Number |
|---|-----------|------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1 | CAPACE    | Kathy      |               |              |
| 2 | MEADAMS   | Sue        |               |              |
| 3 | BROOKS    | Gayle      |               |              |
| 4 | Huerstel  | Catolyn    |               |              |
| 5 | MEADAMS   | Melissa    |               |              |
| 6 | BEAR      | Judy       |               |              |
| 7 | HINES     | Sandy      |               |              |
| 8 |           |            |               |              |

| Depart on June 21<br>(Driver change on 3rd location)  | Depart on June 25<br>(Driver change on 2nd location)  | Overnight Required on Route? | Driver Lodging Included? | Use of Bus in Milwaukee | Deposit Amount | Total Amount | PP Cost @ 56 | PP Cost @ 45 | PP Cost @ 40 | Overnight Lodging Cost (Est.) |
|---|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|-------------------------------|
| Little Rock (5:30 am) -<br>Memphis (7:30 am) -<br>Nashville (11:30 am) -<br>Milwaukee (11:00 pm)    | Milwaukee (3:00 pm) -<br>Nashville (1:30 pm) -<br>Memphis (5:30 am) -<br>Little Rock (8:30 am)      | No                           | Yes                      | Yes                     | TBD            | \$ 10,325.85 | \$ 184.39    | \$ 229.46    | \$ 258.15    | \$ 150.00                     |
| Little Rock (5:30 am) -<br>Memphis (7:30 am) -<br>Paducah (11:30 am) -<br>Milwaukee (9:00 pm)       | Milwaukee (3:00 pm) -<br>Paducah (?? pm) -<br>Memphis (4:00 am) -<br>Little Rock (6:30 am)          | No                           | Yes                      | Yes                     | TBD            | \$ 9,045.30  | \$ 161.52    | \$ 201.01    | \$ 226.13    | \$ 150.00                     |
| Little Rock (5:30 am) -<br>Memphis (7:30 am) -<br>Blytheville AR (9:00 am) -<br>Milwaukee (8:00 pm) | Milwaukee (3:00 pm) -<br>Blytheville AR (1:00 am) -<br>Memphis (2:30 am) -<br>Little Rock (5:00 am) | No                           | Yes                      | Yes                     | TBD            | \$ 8,327.70  | \$ 148.71    | \$ 185.06    | \$ 208.19    | \$ 150.00                     |

Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to Him with songs of praise! Psalm 95:2

Enjoy riding in style and fun with your sisters in Christ and leave the driving to the bus driver. The LWML Mid-South District has researched prices and itineraries for traveling to the 2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-25, 2023. At their recent district convention, 13 people indicated that they were interested. At our LWML LA-MS District convention, we had seven women sign the “interested” sheet. Awaiting to hear about LWML Gulf States District.

Please let me know if you are interested in this mode of transportation to the next national LWML Convention. Michelle Zollinger: (318) 680-0683, [lwmlampsres@gmail.com](mailto:lwmlampsres@gmail.com).

## Reflections from the Southwest Zone

Today we are unloading the storage container that has held all the “things” that go into my house. This bin has occupied my front yard since last November, when we began the momentous task of repairing my house from Hurricane Laura damage. Yes, I know it has been almost two full years since the hurricane, but when you are dealing with insurance companies sometimes it takes a while. Now the challenge is how many of the “things” in the storage bin am I going to put back into my home? They have been “stored” for months now and with the exception of a few things none of them have been missed. Does that mean I no longer need them, or is a matter of just wanting them?

How many things in our life do we store and hang onto when we need to dispose of them? How much time do we waste taking care of items that have no real value? How much anger, frustration, and envy do we hold on to when in reality we need to let it go? How much of what we consider valuable is just fluff? I am as guilty as the next person of clinging to what I think of as great memories, and feel disappointed when I find out they are of no value to anyone but me. It doesn't mean that I should not have things that bring me pleasure or contribute to my life in a meaningful way. Everyone has different values, and the items that are valuable to me may mean nothing to you. It doesn't mean they are less valuable to me. We are different. Different does not always equate to wrong...it is just different.

What in my life is valuable according to God's measurement? Is the time I spend wandering around wondering what to do with my stuff valuable? Or is the time I spend searching the scripture looking to learn more about what is important to my eternal life more valuable? We all know the answers to these questions. I hope that through this process of restoring my home I can truly look at the things I have collected and realize what their value is to help me fulfil my mission in life, which is to bring glory to God and point others to HIM. I want to declutter my life of the things I have that are certainly not needed and that have no eternal value. I don't want to cling to things that are earthly not eternal — strife, anger, criticism of others and other things that steal time that could be used to share the love of Christ. I want my heart and my life to be full of the gifts of the Spirit — love, joy, peace, gentleness, meekness and most of all self- control. These things reflect God's values and are needed for eternal life, and in the end they are what brings more joy and peace to my life.

Judy Tinker, President Southwest Zone

### **Congratulations to Andrea Ferguson**

Members of the Southwest Zone wish to congratulate our sister, Andrea Ferguson on being selected the 2022 School Health Service Provider of the Year for the State of Louisiana. This announcement was made on May 16, 2022, by the Louisiana Department of Education. Andrea, who has been an Associate Degree Registered Nurse for 30 years also graduated with her BSN on May 11 from Northwestern University in Natchitoches. She has also served, in the past, with Lutheran Medical Missions; serving in Madagascar, and Botswana Africa. Congratulations to Andrea on her accomplishments for all her hard work. We are proud to have her as a LWML Sister from Redeemer Lutheran Church in DeRidder, Louisiana.

## About This Issue

Thank you to all who contributed content to this edition! If you have questions, corrections, or ideas for future content, please contact Editor, Lisa Miller, Trinity Lutheran Church, Baton Rouge, at [missionvoiceditor@gmail.com](mailto:missionvoiceditor@gmail.com).