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## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*Running the Race... Looking to Jesus*

"let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,  
looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith"

**HEBREWS 12 1B:2A**

Ever considered attending an LWML district convention, but it just didn't work out? Ever attended an LWML LA-MS District Convention, and couldn't wait to go again? Well, this is it...walk, run, or hitch a ride to the Lod Cook Conference Center and Hotel in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on April 22, 2022—Looking to Jesus!

What? Pastors attend for Free? Really? That's right. Pastors can participate in all the outstanding activities by just being present. And that's not all...Rostered Church Workers and society, zone, or district Young Women Representatives can join in the fun for the discounted low amount of \$35. But wait, there's more...

*Continued page 2*

## FEEDING OUR FAITH

What is participation? Webster's dictionary defines it as *the state being related to a larger whole*. Lutheran Women in Mission are part of the larger whole that serve our Lord with gladness. The opportunity provided to us through His service for the purpose of proclaiming Christ, supporting



*Donna Snow at Trinity Baton Rouge's CHOSEN Retreat, December 2021*

missions, equipping women, and serving others. Many of us serve our church societies and zones but maybe have not attended a district or biennial convention. Our Lord provides us opportunities to be with other Lutheran women to study His Word and declare His glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all peoples (Psalm 96:3).

As Paul states in Romans 12: 4-6a, *For as in one body we have many members,[e]and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them.* By attending LWML functions and conventions we can nourish our faith and use our gifts to serve others.

The LWML website has many recourses to feed our faith and serve others. It has a variety of ways to engage with the LWML content online through email subscriptions, podcasts, videos, and the LWML President's biweekly blog. To learn more, go to <https://www.lwml.org/online>.

Also, mark your calendar to be part of the gatherings of LWML sisters in Christ to grow in faith and serve Him over the coming year.

*May all that we do be for His honor and glory,*  
*Leslie Koenck, LWML LA-MS District Vice President of Communications*

*Continued from page 1*  
all the rest of us can also enjoy the Worship Services, Bible Studies, fellowship and food at the President's Reception where a YWR pinning ceremony will occur, Servant Event of painting witness rocks to place around the LSU campus, mission walk along the lakes, Prayer Chapel, room devotions, mission grant selections and mission grant recipient speakers, national LWML Representative presentation, LWML Store, and of course an added bonus of - thought provoking Christian messages, lots of laughter, and pure joy with Jan Struck and Abby Goehring...all for just \$55! So, act now, lace up those sneakers, and get going...Looking to Jesus!

Enjoy God's peace and grace upon you,  
**Michelle Zollinger, LWML LA-MS District President**



## GEAUX PURPLE AND GOLD!

The Lod Cook Hotel and Alumni Conference Center will be our meeting site for the LA-MS District LWML Convention April 22-24, 2022. This is in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at the edge of the Louisiana State University (LSU) campus overlooking University Lake, just a short walk from Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church.

The hotel features complimentary parking, wired and wireless internet, HDTV, a fitness center, two continental breakfasts per room, and the LSU alumni gift shop. *Two additional breakfasts will need to be purchased if four people are staying in a room.* 65 rooms have been blocked so you will want to reserve yours soon. Be sure to mention you are attending the LA-MS LWML convention when making your reservation.

The Cook Hotel raises money from every guest that stays at the hotel and puts it toward student scholarships and professorships at LSU. Another fun fact is that the football and basketball teams stay at the hotel every home game. LSU's mascot is Mike the Tiger and the school colors are purple and gold. Did you know purple and gold are the official colors of LWML also? Purple symbolizes royalty and gold symbolizes value and integrity. Be sure to pack plenty of LWML purple and gold to sport while on campus!

Next door to the Hotel and Conference Center is the LSU Recreation Center, known as the UREC. Amenities include indoor and outdoor pools, a lazy river, a 35' rock climbing wall, an indoor track, basketball and tennis courts, badminton, volleyball, arcade games and even a Smoothie King on site. An ID is required to purchase a guest pass \$10 per day by persons 18 years and older. Passes are also available for children accompanied by their parent.

Let me know if you have any specific questions I can help get answers to related to your stay during Convention.

**Deedee Koyn, Meeting Manager, [ddkoyn@gmail.com](mailto:ddkoyn@gmail.com)**



**LOD COOK ALUMNI  
CONFERENCE CENTER - LSU**

3848 West Lakeshore Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
225.383.2665  
**[www.thecookhotel.com](http://www.thecookhotel.com)**

Visit [lsuuniversityrec.com](http://lsuuniversityrec.com)  
for facility hours, court  
reservations, general  
policies, COVID and other  
guidelines or call  
225-578-8601 for more  
information.

## THE MERRY-GO-ROUND

Have you ever been on a merry-go-round question? Why am I doing this? What difference does it make? Do I make a difference? Why do I put things off? What should I be doing? What is my purpose in life? Should I make a New Year's resolution? What good works can I do today? *Good works are like filthy rags in His sight, so why try?* Aaaagh! Stop!

Have you ever been in a similar situation? A time when your thoughts kept racing and you just could not seem to make sense of anything in your life. A time when you couldn't take a step in any direction, and certainly had no clue what the 'right direction' was. What to do? What to do?

Let's break that down a little more. Please understand, this is my opinion.

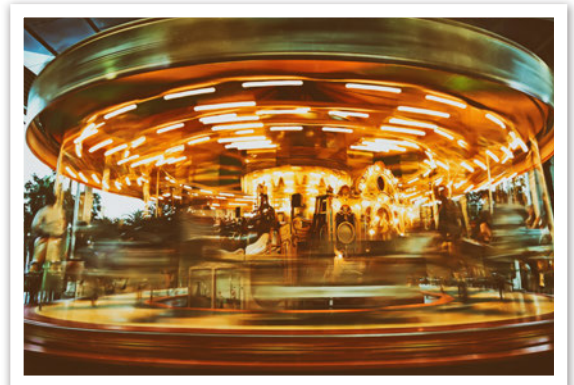
**Trust**—believe that what someone says they will do, they will do. Has God ever broken His Word? Don't think so. **In the Lord**—the One who has the greatest of powers and authority. Didn't He create the universe? Didn't He overcome the devil? **With all your heart**—completely with all of your *nobody else can do this for you* mind, body, soul. **In all your ways**—in everything I do, say, think *gotta admit, sometimes that ain't pretty, but the good things come from Him*. **Acknowledge Him**—pray and praise Him, speak the truth to Him. **And He will make straight your paths**—*So, if I trust and acknowledge Him, He will do all of the work of keeping me on a straight path. Wonderful!*

He has stopped the merry-go-round questioning and, by the gift of faith that He has given to me, I can stop circling and get off. There is a beautiful path ahead of me. I take the first step. I don't know where it goes. He knows where it goes and when it will end. Each of us has a path that we walk in faith. I hope that our paths merge at the district convention. Maybe, we will be running down our paths!

A quick summary of the LWML LA-MS District financial status:

As of 12/31/2021, the bank balance is \$18,027.23. There is \$2,333.31 toward the next grant.

*Trustingly,*  
Lauretta Houston, Financial Secretary



**Breathe.** "Be still and know that I am God." Ps 46:10. Go outside. Take a breath. It's 27 degrees outside. Are you crazy?

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make straight your paths."**

**Proverbs 3:5,6.**



## SILENT AUCTION EVENT AT CONVENTION

During the 2022 LA-MS District Convention to be held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, we will once again be adding a silent auction to benefit our Mite giving. It will not replace our regular Mite Box program, but will focus on assisting in accomplishing grant goals for our Local, District, and National LWML.

Each society will be encouraged to put on their “thinking caps” (large ones!) and set a goal for how many items will be donated with descriptions. A form will be provided in January and we will follow up regularly so we can provide display space at the convention. Society Presidents will be the initial contacts but a member/members can be named as contact. Don’t forget to donate items like your society cookbook!

Items to be donated will come from many sources—from individual LWML members and include business contributions. The items will range from personal handcrafts, artwork, donated antiques and collectables to business donations of jewelry, artwork, services (tickets to events, travel, meals, entertainment, etc.) or even a monetary donation or gift card!

Start TODAY with a brainstorming session!!!

*Bonnie Asher Frasier, District Vice President of Christian Life*

### IMPORTANT TIP!!!

Before you make a contact visit to businesses, prepare a brief introductory visual with **Mite Boxes** and the scope of what they can do, locally and nationally. Business donors will receive recognition for their participation—photo and brief article for local news! Be sure to follow up to let them know how much their donation brought in at auction! Remember that Businesses are the most interested in how their donation affects the local area.



## GIFTS FROM THE HEART

### LWML LA-MS DISTRICT CONVENTION 2022

The LWML LA-MS District Department of Special Focus Ministries has chosen two Gifts from the Heart giving opportunities to be received at the District Convention on April 22, 2022.

The first is giving food items to the LSU Food Pantry Drive, sponsored by Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church LWML, Baton Rouge. During December 2018 and January 2019, members of Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, located on the campus of LSU in Baton Rouge, collected food items to be donated to the **LSU Food Pantry**. Let's continue this tradition!

The mission of the pantry is to provide students in need who may experience hunger or food insecurity. The pantry exists to address the issue of situational hunger, and Chapel's LWML members are committed to make this food donation an ongoing effort.

Another opportunity for giving is gift cards to be used for groceries and other supplies to **Forged by Fire**. This is a disaster relief team that works with The Village Lutheran Church Feeding Ministry in Lacombe, Louisiana. Under the direction of Rev. Paul Ernewein, volunteers serve 800-1200 freshly prepared meals throughout areas affected by disasters. Gift cards from stores such as Walmart, Sam's Club, and Costco may be given for the team to use as they need. Please denote amount on each gift card.



*Forged by Fire (left) and LSU Food Pantry (right)*

### FOOD DRIVE ITEMS ACCEPTED

- 100% fruit or veggie juice (canned, plastic, or boxed)
- canned or boxed meals (soup, mac and cheese, chili, stew)
- canned fruits and veggies
- canned meats (tuna, chicken, salmon)
- canned or dried beans,
- cereal (boxed, oatmeal, cream of wheat)
- cooking oil
- pasta and pasta sauce
- peanut butter and other nut butters
- rice
- shelf-stable milk

### NOT ACCEPTED

- alcoholic beverages or mixes
- food items without labels
- homemade items
- noncommercial canned or packaged item
- open or used items
- rusty or unlabeled cans

## FROM THE SOUTHERN ZONE

Make plans to join us at our 2022 LWML LA-MS District 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention from Friday, April 22 – Sunday, April 24. It will be at the Lod Cook Conference Center and Hotel, see page 2 sidebar for details.

Plan for a weekend of Faith, Fellowship and Fun full of God's Word and Service to His Kingdom! Gifts from the Heart, Servant Events, Bible Study, Mission Grants, and Silent Auction to benefit Mites for Missions! Special Guests: Humorous Interrupters Jan Struck and Abby Goehring.

Our Southern Zone is very blessed and excited to host our Convention. We will have several committees to serve in different categories to help make our Convention filled with God's love. Our Southern Zone Societies: Chapel of the Cross *Baton Rouge*, Holy Trinity *Covington*, Lamb of God *Slidell*, Redeemer *Mandeville*, New Life *Folsom*, St James *Gonzales*, St Paul *Hammond*, The Village *Lacombe*, Trinity *Baton Rouge*, and Zion *Bogalusa*.

*Kathy Capace, Southern Zone President*

**Why should I attend an LWML convention you may ask yourself? What is in it for me? Here are a few thoughts you may want to consider:**

- What better way to connect to our God through Bible studies, keynote speakers and other events at an LWML convention.
- It is where I can meet new women who have a servant heart and/or reconnect with women I haven't seen in a while.
- I can be recharged in my relationship with God.
- I can volunteer to serve on one or more committees where I can make the convention experience rewarding and exciting for other women while enriching my own convention experience.
- I may be able to bring some ideas to my own congregation to implement with women there to enrich their service to God in their congregation.
- I can enjoy a relaxing weekend away from the everyday pressures of my life to focus on God.
- I can learn and appreciate what LWML is all about and how every woman can support LWML in our district and at the national level.

*Rhonda S Jackson,  
Southern Zone Vice-President*



**HUMOROUS INTERRUPTERS JAN STRUCK AND ABBY GOEHRING**

## MISSION GRANT UPDATE

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

I hope that all of you had a joyous Christmas season and praying for a Happy New Year with God's will in 2022.

LWML LA-MS District's next mission grant to be funded for \$5000.00 is Mission Grant #7. It is for the steeple replacement and repair at Epiphany Lutheran Church of New Orleans. This church was built in 1915 and survived hurricanes Betsy and Katrina.

Our last grant is for \$500.00. It is to feed lunch to the Lutheran School students in Haiti. The HOPE project provides a powerful witness of Christ's love along with the food that for many is their only meal for the day. See their letter on the next page.

Mission Grant #4 of \$5000.00, "Reaching the Homeless in District D of New Orleans," was deferred earlier in 2021. After their congregation was severely affected by the COVID pandemic, the Ladies Aid Society of St. Paul Lutheran, New Orleans (Annette Street) was forced to step down from providing hot meals in their church's Fellowship Hall to the homeless in their community. The church also was damaged in Hurricane Ida. Thankfully, recent circumstances have enabled the ladies to enthusiastically resume reaching out to the homeless with hot meals.

We only have two more months to collect mites for this biennium. Please get your mites into the district with diligence so that these wonderful grants can be paid.

*Thank you all for your service to the LWML.*

*Elizabeth Smith, Treasurer*

### FOR MORE MISSION GRANT

information, visit our Mission Grant page on the district website at <https://www.lwml-lams.org/mission-grants>.

## MESSAGE BOARD

Happy and Blessed New Year!  
We held a Rada cutlery and bake and soup sale for Lutheran Bible Translators, which we have done every November for the past 30 years. The soup sale took us over the top, and we were able to send \$800+ for their ministry. Three of us also attended the Donna Snow Bible Study in Baton Rouge. Such a blessing for us and all who attended.

*Gail Gerike,  
St Paul, Hammond*

A group of women from Holy Trinity and New Life Lutheran churches enjoyed a Christmas luncheon and fellowship at a local restaurant in early December. A craft display sponsored by several members was held after the church services on two Sundays in December at New Life Lutheran. One member donated her profits to LWML Mites. Each month an article is published showcasing the national mission grant for that month to encourage the collection of mites by the congregation members.

*Rhonda S Jackson,  
New Life, Folsom*



Correspondence from  
First Lutheran of Les  
Cayes  
December 2021



Dear LWML District LA-MS,

Like the Star of Bethlehem, you are leading others to Christ through your school sponsorship! Life in Haiti continues to be very challenging. The natural disasters and civil unrest have increased malnutrition making the meals you provide even more important. You bring light to young lives who live in the darkness of a country where voodoo is the primary religion. Through your gifts, God's light is shining bright!

Enclosed are drawings, letters, and pictures from your school. The current travel situation in Haiti made mailing very difficult, but we are blessed that we have been able to receive these through the technology of scans and emails. The Feeding Program Directors want you to know that the children are excited, each day, to know that they will receive food to fill the void in their bellies, and they show joy in learning as a result of a warm tummy. Thank you so very much for your continued support. On the top of your picture sheet or poster is the current feeding program director for your school. Please keep these directors, the students, the teachers, and the staff wrapped in prayer.

This school year has many challenges, and we don't know what the future holds for Haiti, but we do know that God is in control and reminds us to not be afraid. *"Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my righteous right hand."* (Isaiah 41:10) He has great plans for Haiti and for each of us. In fact, in these seemingly impossible times, He has blessed us to expand the feeding program and share His light with over 52,000 hungry souls each school day!

Thank you for your continued support and for sharing God's light with children and families in Haiti! Merry Christmas and may God bless you in this season of giving and love!

God's Blessings,

*Denise Gudlin*

Denise Gudlin

❄️ *Espwa, Lapè, ak Kè kontan* ❄️  
Hope, Peace and Joy from Trinity HOPE

## CONSTANTLY CHANGING

Hmmm—Winter thoughts for The Mission Voice. Well, it was 73 degrees yesterday morning, it is supposed to be a high of 82 and low of 70 on Friday. Sunday is projected to be a high of 39 and a low of 25. But not to worry, Wednesday the 5th is projected to be a high of 69 and a low of 58. No wonder so many are sick with head and ear issues!! My poor heating/cooling system is so confused! I'm sure it is wondering why this crazy old lady runs the a/c and heat in the same day! Change, change, change!

The one constant is that God is with us! Christmas was such a blessing! Celebrating the anniversary of the birth of our Savior is an awesome experience. And nothing can take away from the story of God's immeasurable love, and His plan for our salvation.

So, we boldly step into a New Year. There will be endless opportunities to serve our Lord! Do you make resolutions, goals, checklists, post due-dates on your (new) calendar and cellphone? Organization is helpful **"but one thing is necessary"** as Jesus tells Martha and Mary in Luke 10:38-42. Jesus is welcomed into their home and begins teaching those gathered there. Martha complains that Mary should be told to help her with preparations for their guests, but Jesus tells her that Mary has chosen the good portion and it would not be taken away. **She sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to Him.** And there are our directions! We too need to sit at Jesus' feet and listen to Him...He will give us strength and guidance in taking the tasks He gives us...He will choose the order of importance and provide the gifts needed to complete them.

Let's not be distracted by all the hustle and bustle, the changes in temperature, the various jobs pulling at our sleeves—the one thing necessary is daily sitting at our Savior's feet and listening to Him.

*Bonnie Asher Frasier, Vice President of Christian Life*



## 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 Lisa Miller at [lmiller@tlcbr.org](mailto:lmiller@tlcbr.org).

*Edited by Lisa Miller, Trinity Baton Rouge. Layout Design by Stephanie Bailey, Trinity Baton Rouge.*



MAKE PLANS NOW TO JOIN US  
"Running the Race....Looking to Jesus"  
IN BATON ROUGE, LA  
APRIL 22-24, 2022

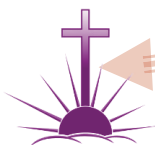


Convention will be held at the  
Lod Cook Hotel & Conference Center on the lake at LSU.  
Call the hotel (225-383-2665) and say you are with the  
LA-MS District LWML Convention to make your hotel room reservation.

Registration opens January 2022  
Stay tuned to [www.lwml-lams.org](http://www.lwml-lams.org) for the latest information and developments!

Plan for a weekend of Faith, Fellowship & Fun  
full of God's Word and Service to His Kingdom!

Gifts from the Heart & Servant Events  
Bible Study & Mission Grants



Silent Auction to benefit Mites for Missions!

Special Guests: Humorous Interrupters  
Jan Struck & Abby Goehring







## 2022 Convention in Baton Rouge

**April 22-24, 2022**

The Cook Hotel  
3848 W. Lakeshore Drive  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808  
(225) 383-2665

### GUEST ROOM BLOCK

**Be sure to tell them that you are reserving for the  
Louisiana-Mississippi District Convention room block**

All hotel guest room rates are subject to transient occupancy tax, as well as any applicable state & local taxes

Each room is considered a double occupancy. For each additional person, there will be an extra ten dollar charge applied to the room fee. This includes adults and children over the age of 12.

### Room Rates:

Standard Double / Standard King = \$119/night  
(triple = \$129 / Quad = \$139)

Double Suite / King Suite = \$139/night  
(triple = \$149 / Quad = \$159)

*Suites are limited and used 1<sup>st</sup> by board & special guests, so they may not be available*

A complimentary full buffet breakfast is served each morning from 6:00-9:30 am





***"Running the Race...Looking to Jesus"***  
**LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention**  
**Registration Form**

**1 p.m. Friday, April 22 – 12 p.m. Sunday, April 24, 2022**

**The Lod Cook Conference Center and Hotel**

3848 W. Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70808

Make hotel reservations directly with the Cook Hotel by calling (225) 383-2665 and ask for LA-MS District Convention room block.  
 Rate: \$119/night + tax for Standard Double/Standard King & \$139 + tax for Double Suite/King Suite. Complimentary Breakfast  
 Buffet included for two per room, with an additional \$10/person if sharing a room with more than two people.

**Please Print:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name &amp; City: \_\_\_\_\_

Zone: \_\_\_\_\_ Society (Group): \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:**

\_\_\_\_\_ General Registration

\_\_\_\_\_ Society Delegate \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate

\_\_\_\_\_ District Board of Directors Member

\_\_\_\_\_ Past District President

\_\_\_\_\_ Pastor

\_\_\_\_\_ Guest or Exhibitor

\_\_\_\_\_ Young Woman Representative

\_\_\_\_\_ Current District YWR \_\_\_\_\_ Past District YWR

\_\_\_\_\_ Zone YWR \_\_\_\_\_ Society YWR

**Convention Registration Fees** (includes Conference facilities, materials, programming, and speakers):

Pastors..... \$0

YWRs, Deaconess, DCEs, Rostered Church Workers..... \$30 \$\_\_\_\_\_

All others..... \$55 \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Meals:**

Friday 5 p.m. Boxed Dinner – Chargrilled Chicken Wrap with Honey Mustard on the side;  
 potato chips, white chocolate Macadamia nut cookie, bottled water. \$14 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Boxed Lunch – Club Sandwich of smoked turkey, slow roasted ham, crisp bacon,  
 lettuce, tomato, & Havarti cheese with Creole mayo on the side;  
 potato chips, fudge brownie, bottled water. \$13 \$\_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Banquet Dinner with Entertainment – **Circle Entrée A. or B.** \$50 \$\_\_\_\_\_

**A.** Braised Chicken Coq au Vin with Broadbent bacon, red wine, pear  
 tomatoes, and Porcini mushrooms.

**B.** Lowland Jumbo Shrimp and Grits with white Vermont cheddar cheese.

Meal includes oven roasted squash and zucchini with roasted red peppers, scalloped potatoes,  
 House Sensation salad, fresh bread, Strawberry layer cake, tea, and water.

Total \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Information:**

- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ Servant Event at Conference Center on Friday afternoon.
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ Choir during Friday evening & Sunday morning Worship Services with practice late Friday afternoon.
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ Mission Walk/Run (Conference Center <> Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church) Sunday, 6:45-7:30 a.m.
- ❖ \_\_\_\_\_ Special Needs: \_\_\_\_\_ Interpreter \_\_\_\_\_ Wheelchair Accessibility \_\_\_\_\_ Dietary Restrictions (describe).
- ❖ Group Photos will be taken late Saturday afternoon; cost TBD. Gifts from the Heart info on separate flyer.

**Permission Release:** I grant to LWML LA-MS District the right and permission to take photographs and audio/video recordings during my participation. I agree that these images and recordings may be used in LWML's promotional literature, audio-visual presentations, and written and electronic publications such as the district's newsletter, website, and Facebook page.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Convention attendee: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration to be completed by April 2, 2022 using this form or electronically at [lwml-lams.org](http://lwml-lams.org).**

Mail check (made payable to LA-MS District LWML) and Registration Form to:

Liz Slothower, 26314 Holly Ridge Drive, Denham Springs, LA 70726 ~ [slothowerliz@gmail.com](mailto:slothowerliz@gmail.com)