



Lutheran Women's Missionary League  
**MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT**  
Christian Life Report

## Summary of 2021 Christian Life Activities

### REPORTING CHRISTIAN LIFE ACTIVITIES

#### Number of societies that promoted various society activities:

- 74 Held Bible studies (from the Quarterly magazine, LWML website or other sources).
- 55 Helped with the cost of members attending events (conventions, rallies, etc.).
- 68 Provided car pools or rides to events as needed.
- 78 Announced all events in bulletins, newsletters and with personal invitations.
- 30 Welcomed new members with a gift bag and/or LWML information.

#### Additional Comments:

- Sent card tops to St. Jude's Hospital
- Established Working Committees and Prayer Chain
- Addressed questions before each meeting
- Worked with Pastor for LWML Sunday
- Supported a Seminary Student
- Made & delivered Christmas boxes to shut-ins, the lonely, new members and those not coming to worship
- Participated in Mailbox Membership
- Held Bible study once a week
- Helped with Youth Holiday Bazaar
- Purchased Quarterlys for congregation members

#### Number of societies that promoted various congregation activities:

- 55 Started and/or promoted the use of a prayer chain.
- 34 Made the LWML Mite calendar available to everyone promoting Mite donations and prayers.
- 1 Provided babysitting service so others can attend Bible study.
- 40 Encouraged and thanked Sunday school teachers and VBS volunteers.

#### Additional Comments:

- Held "Mites for Missions" campaign
- Participated in Baby Bottle campaign for Pregnancy Center
- Funded the purchase of Bibles for preschool families
- Sent cards each month to shut-ins
- Encouraged current members
- Collected "Thank Offerings" for Pastor and Staff
- Provided encouragement to new pastor

Presented quilt and baptismal medallion to newly baptized  
Promoted LWML with a display for LWML Sunday  
Collected a noisy offering on third Sundays  
Worked with Pastor for the Prayer Service – invited the congregation  
Served supper to VBS students  
Held a Christmas luncheon for all women of the congregation  
Planned a congregational picnic  
Observed LWML Sunday  
Held a “Bread Sunday”  
Had a “Mitten Tree” before Thanksgiving  
Used an LWML display table with Mite boxes for anyone who wanted them  
Purchased Catechisms for new and prospective members

**Number of societies that promoted various community activities:**

- 26 Held a community event (picnic, holiday event) providing food and entertainment.
- 8 Held a baby shower or collected items for the local pregnancy resource center or crisis nursery
- 60 Visited people in nursing homes, hospitals, and the homebound. Pray with them, bring birthday greetings, held devotions, leading sing-alongs.

**Additional Comments:**

Donated to the local food shelf  
Provided Worship Anew DVDs to six community sites  
Supported school students and college students  
Held a ‘trunk or treat’ event in October  
Provided meals to LWML members following surgery  
Sent get well and sympathy cards to members  
Gave quilts to various organizations  
Shared service at our Bible studies at Grace on a weekly basis  
Helped with ‘Meals on Wheels’ in May and November  
Made monthly visits to shut-ins and nursing home members of the congregation  
Prepared Cookie Plates and gave them to shut-ins and nursing home residents in December  
Gave Christmas gifts to nursing home residents  
Sent cards to shut-ins and those in need of emotional support  
Provided assistance to local families in need due to fire, hospitalization, etc.  
Gave out food boxes and cookies to needy families  
Held a Pot Luck meal for the community  
Went Christmas Caroling  
Sent cards and letters  
Delivered Christmas decorations to shut-ins and residents of assisted living centers  
In July, we delivered a suncatcher with a cross to shut-ins and residents of assisted living centers  
Sent birthday, anniversary, sympathy & praying for you cards to congregation & community members  
Sent year-end gifts to local non-profit organizations

**Question 2: List activities from the past year that your societies have done to help nurture Christian Growth with the women in their society, church or community.**

Hold monthly breakfast and devotion events

Donate money to Crisis Pregnancy Center

Monthly newsletters with scripture messages mailed to elderly members who have not returned to worship due to COVID  
Created and distributed a booklet to every woman in the congregation with Bible study groups & times including ways women can serve.

Monthly Bible studies - stick to allotted time.

Hosted a speaker who spoke about Katie Luther. Community members and local churches were invited, also.

Local LWML retreat with Bible study, hymns, lunch, and a business meeting

Quilt making for Union Gospel Mission, VA hospitals, nursing homes, local emergency fundraisers & school graduates.

Provide prayer books, corsages, and altar flowers for confirmation.

Provide poinsettias for Christmas and lilies for Easter.

Donate clothing to those in need.

Purchased fleece throws for residents of a local care home.

Made clothing protectors for residents of a local nursing home.

Women from Bible study group have been praying for both congregations in the dual parish setting, that communication between pastor and members would become clearer.

Group activity after Bible study section finished - went to a shop called Buffalo Nickel and then out for dinner.

On the first Sunday of every month, the large LWML Mite box is out for the congregation to contribute to missions.

Collect Mites for missions from the congregation every fifth Sunday in the year.

We have a Christmas Tea, inviting community members to participate in entertainment & refreshments. The goal is to encourage women to share the message of Christ's birth through music and fellowship.

We have a 'Sunshine Person' who is responsible for keeping our card counter stocked for congregation to buy. She also sends cards for congregation members' birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy, get well and new baby.

We have a monthly devotion, December Bingo party, and July picnic

LWML members sponsor an 8th grade confirmation student with small gifts and cards of encouragement for the year.

The identity of the sponsor will be kept secret until revealing at confirmation time.

Participated in LWML Sunday

Paid for members to attend LWML Convention in Lexington

Hold devotions at our regular meetings

Tied fleece blankets for women and children on the WIC program

Made birthday bags containing cake mix, frosting, candles, & other items for food shelf.

Have each member write their name on a slip of paper each month. The name that is drawn receives a small gift inspiring faith as well as prayers for the rest of the month until a new name is drawn.

Prepared boxes for shut-ins at Christmas

Made shoe box gifts for children at Christmas

Made quilts for graduates and baptisms

Made quilts for missions, Lutheran Island Camp, and the community

Visit shut-ins and nursing home residents

Play bingo monthly at nursing home

Give quilts to high school graduates & new babies

Send Easter and Christmas cards to all members

Make 'cheer bags' at Christmas for nursing home, assisted living centers and shut-ins.

Donated new quilts made by circle members to nursing home & assisted living centers

Donated quilts to Lutheran Island Camp

Donated quilts to county Chaplain, Sheriff & Police Department

Donated quilts to fire victims

Held fundraiser for the Pregnancy Center & Boys & Girls Ranch

Held bake sales for Minnesota Concerned Citizens for Life  
Donated Layettees  
Had summer outing and Christmas party for church members and spouses  
Help with communion at the Madison Lutheran Home  
Remember shut-ins on their birthdays with a visit and a gift at Christmas  
Asked members to reach out to those who are alone, in the nursing home, or other facilities through phone calls, cards, and visits when facilities open.  
Have Tuesday morning Bible study for women in congregation & community  
Sent cards to nursing home members on their birthdays  
Mug ministry for all women in our tri-parish  
Delivered pumpkin pies and cards to nursing home  
Recorded a Christmas program for nursing home residents and sent cookies  
Provide lunch during Sunday Bible study  
Donating in many ways to our new Pastor as he serves our congregation (financial, grocery, and gift card donations).  
Show our pastor appreciation and give him encouragement  
Quilting: encourage new ladies to attend and learn how to quilt or teach  
Fall bake sale; quilt show; presentation of mother/daughter quilt  
In coordination with Pastor's sermons during Lent and in the summer, we promoted involvement with the congregation to add their art depicting the themes: "Tour of the Valleys" during Lent and "A Walk with Daniel" in the summer.  
With Thrivent Action Team help, we provided gifts for teachers and aides in schools; they contained treats and Bible verse  
With Thrivent Action Team help, we did gifts for hospital workers containing treats and Bible verse  
"Cheer Sunshine Bag" for members who were facing illnesses, depression, a death, etc. Usually delivered by an LWML member or by a family member.  
LWML Sunday: served coffee & lunch; handed out pamphlets.  
Hosted Vacation Bible School in August (our science lessons were especially a hit).  
Member teaches Wednesday School to grades 305  
Send care packages to college students.  
Hosted Spring Rally  
Prayer Partners for shut-ins organized -any congregation member can have a prayer partner  
Mite box set out First Sunday of each month for congregational offerings  
Special Reformation Sunday planned  
Congregation Christmas Fellowship event planned  
Congregation women invited to Bible study  
Provide care baskets to sick/injured/hospitalized, include devotional book and mustard seeds.  
Made Witness Bracelets and handed out on LWML Sunday  
Meal for congregation on Reformation Sunday  
Fruit baskets for shut-ins at Thanksgiving  
Complete meals for needy for Christmas (21)  
Held Cookie Walk open to community. Funds used to donate to various local groups promoting Christianity.  
Salad luncheon, Christmas Dinner, Summer luncheon  
Cookie trays for shut-ins  
Community Craft Fair  
Prayer Chain  
Email sharing of LWML studies  
Garage Sale  
Christmas outing - meal at a restaurant with devotions, prayer and favors  
Give upcoming confirmands monthly treat bag  
Prayer Service - invite ladies from nearby congregations  
Share Portals of Prayer with shut-ins

Invite inactive members to activities and meetings  
Devotions at nursing homes  
Food baskets for shut-ins  
Monthly meeting with pastor leading Bible study  
"Mailbox Membership" - 2/3 responded  
Packed over 7,000 meals for Outreach BLA  
Held garage sale and donated proceeds to two food shelves and Brainerd Outreach  
Made Up 26 school backpacks  
Ran a church picnic with games on Rally Sunday  
Mother/Daughter luncheon in May  
LWML Sunday observed during church service  
Bazaar in November to support church's general fund  
Prayer Service - invite congregation  
Make shut-in and nursing home baskets  
Visit shut-ins and have a devotion  
Observed Pastor Appreciation Sunday and honored Pastor  
Have a produce sale and give money to missions  
Quilting one time a week  
Holiday cards to members, shut-ins and those out of area  
Serve at funerals and special occasions  
Gifts for baptisms  
Rummage sale  
Collect shoes for Lutheran Island Camp  
Provide supplies for church events  
Seven tables and chairs purchased for new Fellowship Hall  
Served food and helped with VBS  
Collected personal care items for Safe Place Women's Shelter  
Serve lunch to group of teens and adults from Nebraska who came to conduct VBS for the Native Americans at  
White Earth and Naytahwaush  
Gather together at an LWML member's home for food, games & fellowship  
Hosted an Advent by Candlelight Event. Transportation provided.  
On-line auction for missions  
Rummage sale for missions - raised \$3,000.  
Guest speakers invited to events (Ashley Lehr, missionary and Myron & Sonya Gunderson – Ysleta Mission).  
Had our Zone Delegate give a presentation on the LWML Convention  
LWML Prayer Service  
Christmas Luncheon for all women of congregation and guests  
Support food shelf  
Helped support Faith Family Fellowship group with money and 'labor.'  
Support Orphan Grain Train and Lutheran Island Camp  
Reached out with phone calls and cards  
Summer picnic for LWML members  
Fun outings to see antiques - Invited all women of congregation  
Annual mother/daughter luncheon - Christian fellowship and music for LWML members, families of the congregation,  
and the community. There is a new theme each year.  
On LWML Sunday, we set up a display of pictures and items from early in our LWML history. It was our church's 100th  
anniversary (i.e. banners, silver service from 1920s, meeting minutes, Rally programs, display from 2021 Convention  
We are a very small, older group and I just became president, so I'm using the website for information.  
Had an Advent Brunch in early December extending an invitation to all women of our congregation and our sister

congregation, and guests. The morning consisted of a devotional program, holiday songs, food, and gifts. On LWML Sunday, included a bulletin insert listing the Mission grants that are currently being funded (both National District). Treat bags were handed to everyone after the service that included treats and the LWML brochure. At Christmas we deliver gifts to shut-ins from our congregation and spend time visiting with them. Welcome new members with children by giving them the large book of Christmas stories. We have a rummage sale every year. We pack bags during the sale with goodies for families in need. We have had extra meetings of LWML inviting non-members to attend and we make it a fun day by doing crafts: Example: Making greeting cards, sewing or working on a favorite project, making bows that we sell. Held our annual plant/bake sale in the spring and soup & bake sale in the fall inviting all ladies and gentlemen to help. Attend Rallies and Workshops Remember all members' birthdays We keep encouraging two young single men who are getting very active in the church. By seeing them active, other younger members are taking notice. We encourage our young female organist. We keep asking some of the women to join our group and tell them of our monthly meeting, Bible studies, social times, and prayers

### **Question 3: Tell us how the District Christian Life Committee can help your zone.**

Thank you for the document identifying various activities and projects completed by other societies. It was appreciated and used.

Continue to keep us in your prayers.

Pray that 2022 will provide opportunities to grow and serve in God's name.

Unsure at this time due to COVID

Continue to provide fun retreats

Share ideas!

Provide recitations to share

Make more sketches available

Continue to provide ideas and names of projects in which our groups can participate.

Encourage our group members that their involvement and consistent commitment to LWML is appreciated and prayed for.

A Facebook page for constant contact for LWML would be a great tool. CinchShare provides a way to plan out a month or more at a time. I would see about a Thrivent card to pay for the annual fee and other mini projects

It is always very helpful and encouraging to hear Christian speakers who inspire us at our LWML events.

It's great to hear the wonderful news of how our Mite donations contribute to our huge LWML Grant programs

It is interesting to read the inspirational Christian messages in our LWML *Quarterlys*

How can we show encouragement to our small group gatherings and encourage attendance at larger gatherings?

We all have the experience of working around the COVID issues and we bring up new ideas around the year.

Send out new ideas to each Zone to share with groups

Doing a great job with newsletter listing ideas, web sites, & stories of other church's projects

Keep up the good work

The Christian Life web pages are a great resource

We appreciate all the resources offered - so thank you for providing them

Encourage attendance by recently retired women who didn't feel they had time to join before

Continue to add new brief devotions, Christian Life features, and resources on the LWML MNN website.

Have Mite calendars available on the Website before the end of the previous month so we can print copies.

Get Christian Life reports from other Zones for ideas on other activities we can do.

Continue to keep fresh material on the website. It has such valuable information.

Provide the Christian Life Zone Committee or Zone Chairperson with a woman's devotion book or suggestion of

a good devotion book that we can use during meetings.

Further explain to the Christian Life Zone Committee or Zone Chairperson the difference between Christian Life activities/responsibilities and the Human Care activities/responsibilities. Define difference of the two committees.

Provide a LWML gift bag that can be given to new LWML members. It could include a Mite box, LWML badge or pin, information on LWML, etc. The Zone Christian Life chairperson could present then to new members. Costs for the gift bags could maybe be paid for from District treasury and bags would be consistent throughout the District.

Thank you for allowing our input!

I'm sure you hear it from everyone: "How do we get new members?"

Provide devotional material

Interesting programs provided

Information on resources of women who speak and write books

Keep up good work on *Minnesota Northern Light*

Suggest COVID-safe ways to reach out

Continue to let LWML members know what other groups are doing

How to get new members

Pray for LWML members, groups, and zones

Continue publishing information such as the Mite calendar, Prayer Service, etc. on the website

Continue communication through the *Minnesota Northern Light* publication with ideas & resources.

The work done by the committee already has been great. The retreat is so great. Meeting new LWML members, Bible study and crafts - an awesome experience.

Any new ideas are appreciated. Maybe make a list of events from responses received and send to each group. We are always searching for new things to work on.

Keep us informed and pray for our organization

Keep encouraging people and pray that the Holy Spirit will touch their lives.

## **Thank You!!!**

The restrictions put in place due to Covid-19 really impacted how we could meet and what activities in which we could participate. The comments on this year's forms continue to reflected those restrictions, but I'm pleased to see that you found ways to still complete many Christian Life activities.

We are aware that the boundaries between what is Christian Life and what is Human Care are somewhat blurred. But we recognize that there are cases where both are involved.

My prayer is that we will not only return to some of our previous activities, but embrace the new ways we found to be in the Word.

**May God Bless You!**