

"Serve the Lord with Gladness..." Psalm 100:2

A Blessed 2020 to you!

I have some items to share with you. . .

My prayer in 2020 is that LWML women will be able to utilize the resources that were presented at the Follow MY Lead Celebrations in 2019. The three-ring binders given to each society hold a wealth of valuable information. Ask your President to share it with you.

We have a busy year ahead of us. Our LWML MN North District Convention will be held June 22-24, 2020, at the Timberlake Loge and Event Center in Grand Rapids, MN. Keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Brent Smith from Mission Central, Mapleton, Iowa. Michelle Jenks will represent LWML on the national level; she will lead breakout sessions and bring greetings from LWML President Debbie Larson and the Executive Board.

Arrowhead Region I will be hosting the convention; members of that region are encouraged to get involved in working on this event. (You'll meet lots of Lutheran Women in Mission you never knew before!!)

I am praying for women who are willing to step up and serve on the LWML MN North District Board of Directors. We are looking for women who are willing to run for positions of Regional

Vice President of the following regions: Arrowhead I, Lakeland I, and Park I. Also, we are looking for a woman from Arrowhead II to be appointed and complete the RVP position for two years.

There are a number of societies who are considering becoming "inactive" or "disband". Groups are having trouble finding people to take on leadership roles. I encourage you to "keep" your group; you just may have to "restructure" a little. Consider having a "contact" person who can inform you of zone, regional, and district events. Keep the office of the Treasurer, so that, as you continue to collect mites for mission grants and get them sent to the district and national levels. Continue to meet in prayer and Bible study. Having some LWML presence will encourage and remind others of our meaningful purpose and goals. A fine example of what LWML is about will exist among you. (I recommend that "disbandment" be done if a congregation no longer exists.)

May your 2020 be filled with love, hope, and joy, as we continue to "SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS" together.

Serving with joy,
Marilyn Hiltel
LWML MN North District President



The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the world.

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Mustard Seed Devotions can be sent directly to your email daily. Visit www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions to sign up.



The *Minnesota Northern Light* newsletter is published quarterly. Article submission deadline is December 15, March 15, June 15 and September 15. Sign up to receive the newsletter online. Go to lwmlmnn.org and look for the Subscribe button.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE



2020 Nominating Committee. L to R: Doris Weispfennig, Sally Grabuski, Lori Salvhus, Elaine Wolter, Tessa Giru (chairman), Linda Meyer, Carla Patton (District Board Advisor)

Still Looking for leaders

The LWML MN North District is looking for willing women to use their time and talents to serve on the Board of Directors.

The following Board of Director positions will be open:

- President
- Corresponding Secretary
- Treasurer
- Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs) of Arrowhead I, Lakeland I, and Park I
- Pastoral Counselor from the Lakeland Region

An appointment will be made to complete the term of the Arrowhead II Regional Vice President.

If you are willing to serve, please contact Tessa Giru, Nominating Committee Chairman at 218-682-3432 or email her at jgtcgiru@tds.net.

LEADER DEVELOPMENT

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Committee Members

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 Lori Salvhus • Marcia Wittenburg • Karen Gorentz

Assembly of Leaders

All six "Follow MY Lead" events have been presented. We reached over 350 women and 25 Pastors in these presentations. I believe I can speak for the AOL and Leader Development Committee in saying that it was a joy and a pleasure to meet each one who attended! We pray that the topics presented were a blessing to you and will help you and your group to continue to serve and grow for Jesus Christ, our Leader!



The photo above was taken at the Assembly of Leaders presentation at Zion Lutheran Church, Alexandria, MN on October 5, 2019

By this time your society should have had a chance to look over the binder put together with information helpful to lead your group. Please use these resources and all those online to encourage, enlighten, enhance and enjoy your LWML. We are the Lutheran Women in Mission and are here to serve and proclaim our Savior, Jesus Christ!

I would like to draw your attention to two devotions included in the society binder you received. The first is "Advent Joy-A-Tude. It reminds us to keep the true meaning of the Christmas season first in our thoughts as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. Let us rejoice in the Good News of Great JOY, Jesus Christ!

The second devotion is titled "A-Cross-Tic Christmas". This devotion deals with gift giving and presents. It directs our attention to some gifts that we receive and can give in love and in honor of our loving Savior.

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we have many opportunities to reach beyond ourselves and show God's love to a lost and erring world. God has prepared good works for each of us. Use the gifts and talents God has given you to care for others. But do not get stuck in a rut or reject a new area of service because it is not an area for which you feel equipped. God does not ask if we are capable, only if we are willing. He promises to always be with us and give us what we need to serve Him.

Taken from: "You Look Like Your Father", a devotion written by Debbie Yocky, Albuquerque, New Mexico, LWML 2017

I encourage each one of you to look over your binder and also the resources available on the LWML website, lwml.org. Use these resources, they have been compiled for you!

Save the Date!

June 22-24, 2020

LWML MN North District Convention

Location: Timberlake Lodge Hotel and Event Center, Grand Rapids, MN

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, Mission Central, Iowa

National Representative: Michelle Jenks, Strategic Plan Facilitator

HUMAN CARE

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Rev. Matthew Vrudny, Pastoral Counselor
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Make a Difference

Do you have a favorite motto? My favorite one is “Make a Difference”. I think I adopted it after reading the *Starfish Story* by Loren Easley. In case you haven’t read it:

One day a man was walking along the beach when he noticed a boy picking something up and gently throwing it into the ocean. Approaching the boy, he asked “What are you doing?”

The youth replied “Throwing starfish back into the ocean. The surf is up and the tide is going out. If I don’t throw them back, they’ll die”.

“Son” the man said, “Don’t you realize there are miles and miles of beach and hundreds of starfish? You can’t make a difference.” 

After listening politely, the boy bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it back into the surf. Then smiling at the man, he said; “I made a difference for that one”.

After reading the Human Care Reports from this past year, I was struck by how LWML societies and Individual Members are “Making a Difference”. Here are just a few of the things that were done:

- You assembled meals for “Feed My Starving Children” and local families-in-need, and donated items and money to local food banks – *You Made a Difference.*
- You made School Kits, Layette Kits, Sewing Kits, and Hygiene Kits and donated them to Lutheran World Relief and Orphan Grain Train – *You Made a Difference.*
- You visited people in hospitals, in care centers, and those convalescing in their homes – *You Made a Difference.*
- You sewed quilts, pillowcase dresses, mittens, and hats--donating them to local people-in-need, Lutheran World Relief, and Orphan Grain Train – *You Made a Difference.*

LWML women can’t help everyone, yet we do Make a Difference! To God Be the Glory!

CHRISTIAN LIFE

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Contentment and Gratitude

Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content (Philippians 4:11).

By now, many of the gifts that were received at Christmas have been forgotten. Unfortunately, they probably did not bring the joy and contentment that the givers were hoping they would bring.

What if the only gift we ever received was God’s grace? Would we be content with that one gift? In II Corinthians 12: 9 we read, *My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.*

Our contentment is tied very closely with our gratitude. When we remember how God has so richly blessed us, we can become overwhelmed by His generosity. Not only has He given us grace, He has given us so much more. For most of us, He has blessed us with our physical needs: food, water, clothing and shelter. Plus, we enjoy the freedom to learn, speak, worship, and even sing whenever our hearts desire.

Next to my door is a wall hanging that I look at every time I leave the house. It reads:



What a humbling thought! I don't know where this saying originated, but it certainly prompts me to reflect on my gratitude for what God has given me. Oftentimes my prayers of thanksgiving are generic, thanking God for all the blessings He has given me. I fail to get specific thanking Him for everything from my comfortable bed to His forgiving grace.

Contentment is found by resting in Christ, trusting He is in control. Circumstances, good or bad, are an opportunity for Him to show His faithfulness. So, once we go to God in gratitude, we can live life in contentment, knowing Christ is in control. We, like Paul, can learn to be content because Jesus is with us and will never forsake us. With patience, He will help us accept what we cannot change. We are given strength from the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us, to endure whatever trials we face.

My prayer for each of us in this new year is that we may be grateful and content with what we have in Christ Jesus, our Lord. We may not have all we want, but in Christ Jesus, we have all that is necessary.

The fear of the LORD leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble (Proverbs 19:23 NIV).

Be sure to check out the resources on the LWML website. There are Bible studies, devotions, short readings, skits, and craft projects that will enhance your LWML meetings and activities. If you need help finding something, feel free to contact me at christianlife@lwmlmnn.org.

MISSION GRANTS

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Committee Members

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 Sandra Bakeberg • Carol Ann Sander
 Joan Johnson • Carol Westendorf

Mites can do "Mitey" Things

It is hard to believe that another year has come and gone and that we are now in the year 2020. How many of us can still remember when our calendars changed to the year 2000? Yes, time goes quickly, and before we know it, we will be at our LWML MN North

District Convention in Grand Rapids from June 22-24 of this year. Needless to say, with that convention comes the excitement of choosing new mission grants for the 2020-2022 biennium. It is exciting for me to receive your submissions of grant proposals and see what God has placed on your hearts for consideration by those who will be voting for these mission grants at the convention.

It is important to note that all grant submissions must be sent to me with a postmark no later than **February 15th** of this year. (It would be unfortunate if your project would not be considered because it was submitted at a later date.) Information regarding grant proposals can be found on our District website under the subheading "Resources". The guidelines are easy to follow, but if you need more information, please contact me as soon as possible.

Grants for foreign missions must be cleared through the LCMS Office of International Mission before they can be presented to our Mission Grant Committee for consideration. (Several years ago, a worthy grant proposal was denied as it had not gone through this process.)

What has God placed on your heart that needs funding to bless others in special ways?

What else can you do? Be generous with your mite offerings so that all of our mission grants can be funded for this biennium. We are well on our way towards our goal, but still need your continuous support and prayers.

May God bless all of you and those you love as you continue to be a blessing by serving God in many special ways throughout this new year.



2020 Prayer Service now available

Find it at www.lwml.org
 Click on News and Events Menu
 Choose Prayer Service

ARCHIVIST-HISTORIAN

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JoNette Brogaard 320-846-0984

Convention Bears

We've got them all! What is new to the LWML MN North Archives? A set containing every one of the LWML Convention Bears that have been sold at an LWML Convention! Through the gift of an LWML friend, one bear of my own, and the purchase of the last two bears, our set is complete.

The bears were sold between the 2001 (San Jose, CA) Convention and 2017 (Albuquerque, NM) Convention. Each "bears" a tag telling the dates, location, and theme of their convention. And they each have a name!

Visit the Archivist-Historian table at the LWML MN North Convention at Grand Rapids, MN, in June; they'll be on display!



MISSION GRANT REPORT

A total amount of \$26,000 in mites for LWML MN North grants was raised this past quarter. The Mission Grant Committee recommended and the BOD approved the payment of grant allocations as follows: \$5,000 for Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination; \$14,500 for Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students; \$3,000 for Trinity HOPE Haitian Feeding Program; \$3,500 for "Main Street Living North" Ministry Outreach TV Program. The chart below details the current balance remaining for the 2018-2020 biennium.

	MISSION GRANTS FOR THE 2018-2020 BIENNIUM (Balance as of January 14, 2020)	GRANT AMOUNT	BALANCE REMAINING
Grant 1	Orphan Grain Train	\$9,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 2	Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination	\$15,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 3	Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Student	\$50,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 4	Lutheran Island Camp and Christ Serve Ranch Staff Growth and Training	\$10,000	\$5,000
Grant 5	Trinity HOPE Haitian Feeding Program	\$10,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 6	Sharing Christ With Muslims	\$5,000	\$2,500
Grant 7	Project 24 Child Care; Christ's Care for Children Kenya	\$10,800	PAID IN FULL
Grant 8	Lutheran Outreach in Puerto Rico in response to Hurricane Maria	\$8,000	PAID IN FULL
Grant 9	"Main Street Living North" Ministry Outreach TV Program	\$10,000	\$1,500
Grant 10	Gloria Dei School and Church Building at Cap Haitian, Haiti (Partially Funded)	\$11,200	PAID IN FULL
TOTALS		\$139,000	\$9,000

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The Sponge

My husband and I recently returned from a trip where we had the privilege of residing in a condo for two weeks. After unpacking all our luggage, along with groceries and the food we brought with, we sat down to enjoy a stew dinner prepared in advance. OOOPS! The stew had burnt quite severely to the bottom of the pan. I soaked the pan, scrubbed it with my Chore Girl, and wiped it out with the brand new sponge I had found under the sink provided by the resort. The perfectly clean sponge soaked up all the murky water from the pan, and, "WOW"! Our pan was once again "spic and span"- just as shiny as before.



Later that evening I spilled a cup of coffee on the dinner table. I grabbed the brand new sponge, and again it soaked up the coffee.

The following morning, I took a package of juicy, deli ham from the refrigerator. It had been frozen, but now was thawed, allowing the juices to leak from the baggie, making a path from the refrigerator to the counter. Yes, again I grabbed the sponge. It instantly soaked up the yucky meat juice leaving the floor sparkling clean. I looked at the sponge and thought of how it instantly soaked up the liquid from the pan, counter, and floor. I looked at that pan, counter, and floor, and they were sparkling clean. I could not help but think...that's how Jesus handles our sin. He died and rose again, so He could soak up our sin-leaving us sparkling clean – SERVING HIM WITH GLADNESS.

His resurrection is our resurrection freeing us from our guilty past and making us sparkling clean: perfect to SERVE HIM WITH GLADNESS in our congregations and communities. That is the LWML!

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Scholarship Applications

God provided an eventful year for 2019, from inches of snow to inches of rain. Farmers and ranchers have had a very stressful year. We pray that they continue to put their trust and faith in God and His love as they make plans for the spring planting.

We are thankful for the many blessings God has given us. Praise God for them all, for the harvest, ample food for our tables, family, friends, careers, and vocations.

Please keep the 10 young men and women (our LWML MN North District Scholarship recipients who are preparing for church work professions) in your prayers as they study His Word and do the Lord's work.

Some basic information about the scholarships available through LWML MN North:

- * If you are a person considering full-time church work, we encourage you to apply anytime between now and the deadline of May 15, 2020. See the information on the LWML MN North District website for details.
- * Scholarships, once awarded, are not automatically renewed but need to be applied for ANNUALLY!

Scholarships (cont'd)

LWML Women in Mission are varied ages but our mites are ageless. You whom God is calling to prepare for full-time church work are of varied ages also; the need is both ageless and endless.

YOUNG WOMEN

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Karna Lapolice • Karen Gorentz
Susan Zeige (BOD liaison)

The Men in Our Lives

Just reading my article title makes me chuckle a little. How often do we talk about men in our articles and LWML business? It's mostly limited to our Pastoral Counselors and missionaries, I'd guess. Yet, as I reflect, as so many of us do at the beginning of a new year, I feel compelled to talk about "men" in this article.

As my term as the YWR Committee Chairman nears its completion, I find myself considering what I want to talk about in my remaining articles before handing the pen over to my successor. Over the years, I've talked often about the LWML role models that I've had and appreciate. I've talked about the LWML sisters I've met and LWML friends I have made. I've talked about my mom, my grandma, and my children, but I have not spent much time talking about my menfolk.

Perhaps the decision to change that was influenced by my recent wedding anniversary. On December 30th, my husband and I celebrated our 19th Wedding Anniversary. We were married in the same church where I was baptized and confirmed in Princeton, MN, by my grandpa, who also was the pastor who

baptized, confirmed, and married me. He also baptized our four children.

Besides my grandfather being a pastor, my dad is very involved in the church as well. He has been on a rotating position of church - President, Elder, Treasurer, insert whatever needed Council position here, since I can remember. This example continues in my husband, Justin, as he has also served in positions on the Church Council at our church, as well as in delegate positions to LCMS conventions.

Why do I share this with you? It stems from a conversation that I had with my children on our wedding anniversary. I reminded them of the importance of marrying someone with whom they can share their faith, and that they should not be unequally yoked. I reminded them that I am already praying for their future spouses.

Marriage isn't easy, and being Christian does not ensure us a "trouble free" life. Having a spouse whom you can pray with, rejoice with, and grieve with, is such a blessing. We lost my father-in-law, Fred, very unexpectedly last May, and I can't imagine going through the loss of a parent without the love and support of a faithful spouse. Together we could seek out the comfort and reassurances in the Bible of our heavenly home waiting for us.

Wait for the Lord to provide you with the God-fearing spouse intended for you. As I continue to gently remind my soon-to-be 18-year-old eldest son, remember the admonishments in the Bible, to find a good and faithful spouse, who will be a blessing to you and your life, as my husband, and the other men in my life, have been to me. I encourage you to make sure that God is in the center of your relationship!

*Wait for the Lord; be strong and let your heart
take courage, and wait for the Lord!*
(Psalm 27:14)

MEMORIALS & HONORARIUMS

October 2019 to December 2019

- In memory of Maxine Wagner
from Crookston, Our Saviors Afternoon Guild
- In memory of Lillian DiPretoro
from Ottertail, St John
- In memory of Jerry Schneewind
from Ottertail, St John
- In honor of Virginia Anson's 100th Birthday
from Willmar, Redeemer
- In honor of Celeb & Rose Meyer's 60th Anniversary
from Willmar, Redeemer
- In memory of Vi Backhaus
from Alexandria, Zion
- In memory of Jim Kohnen
from Glenda Kohnen
- In memory of Dorothy Tilton
from Kathy Brandt
- In memory of Pauline Boynton
from Linda Gorath & Pauline's family
- In memory of Paddy Martin
from Frazee, Bethlehem
- In memory of Judith Beck
from Frazee, Bethlehem
- In memory of Grace Blaine
from Frazee, Bethlehem
- In memory of Lorraine Davis
from Frazee, Bethlehem
- In memory of Marion Flatau
from Frazee, Bethlehem
- In memory of Marlys Moltzan
from Frazee, Bethlehem
- In memory of Darlene Gussigberg
from Colleen Nielson
- In memory of Rose Kliver
from Alexandria, Zion
- In memory of Esther Sandau
from Alexandria, Zion
- In memory of Betty Moltzan
from Frazee, Bethlehem
- In memory of Anita Ost
from the Anita Ost Family

- In memory of Ron Grefe
from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel
- In memory of Charlotte Hjelm
from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel
- In memory of Chris Precht
from Parkers Prairie, Immanuel

Memorial gifts and Honorariums should be sent to the Financial Secretary, Peggy Pasche.

Peggy Pasche
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Financial Remittance Form can be downloaded from the Resources page of our district website at lwmlmnn.org.

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 31	Zone Christian Life Forms Due
Jan-Feb	Rally Planning Meetings
Feb 15	Mission Grant Application Deadline
Mar 15	<i>Minnesota Northern Light</i> Spring Issue Articles due
Apr 14	Board of Directors Meeting
Apr-May	Plan to attend a Spring Rally near you
May 15	Scholarship Applications are due
June 15	<i>Minnesota Northern Light</i> Summer Issue Articles due
June 22-24	LWML MN North District Convention in Grand Rapids, MN



LWML MN NORTH DISTRICT 2020 CONVENTION

Plans are underway for the LWML MN North District Convention, to be held June 22-24, 2020. This event will be held at the Timberlake Lodge and Event Center in Grand Rapids, MN.

The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, Mission Central. Iowa.

Bible study leader is Rev. Donald Klatt, Holloway, MN.

Entertainment will be provided by “Sisters in Song” and you may also enjoy “Tea-N-Quilts” - a special quilters outing planned.

Convention activities include breakout sessions, worship, servant activities, Mites in Action speakers, choosing mission grant recipients, and establishing the mite goal for the 2020-2022 biennium.

For more information, visit lwmlmnn.org



LWML MN North District
www.lwmlmnn.org
 LWML: www.lwml.org

Submit an article

Does your zone or society have an event or story to share? Please send your article and pictures to the Editor at:
editor@lwmlmnn.org.

Minnesota Northern Light

Sign up to receive an email notice each quarter announcing when the *Minnesota Northern Light* is ready to download from the district website: lwmlmnn.org.

Prayer & Praise Mite Calendar

A great help in your prayer and praise life – especially remembering the mission grants we’re supporting. Download this month’s calendar from the Publication Menu.

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