



“Serve the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:2

Oregon Leaguer

Summer 2020

Declare!

Recently I had the opportunity to participate in the video of a worship service at my church. I walked into the empty church, sat in the front pew, and embraced the beauty of God’s altar with the evening sun shining through the windows. Oh, the comfort of those walls! But wait, what was missing? Oh, yes the people. My Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

The nursery rhythm of my youth came to me...

Here is the Church,
Here is the Steeple..
Open the door and see all the people.

But the people were not present. The walls of my church are a place of comfort, protection, and stability. A church building is a place to gather in worship and receive the Sacraments, to sing His praises, and to learn how to tell of Jesus.

Singing is easy, telling may be easy, but declaring – what does this mean? According to International Standard Bible Encyclopedia declare is to “make known.” In Psalm 19:1-2 The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. The heavens declare and the sky proclaims the power of God. When looking up, one is filled with the majesty of God. In verse 2, Day to day pours out speech – is this where we declare? Every day we have the opportunity to declare (or make known) the Lord, our God.

We are unable to gather in group meetings and worship for now, but that does not stop us from declaring the Lord. Declare His comfort to those who need support during a tough time. Declare His goodness of providing all our needs so that we may share with others. Declare His Word for others to hear anytime, anywhere. Declare His Love to wrap around friends and family.

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Verse 3 of Psalm 19 is powerful. There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard. We are God’s voice. We are the LWML. The Mission Statement of the LWML states the “why” of who we are:

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 people of the world.

It is my prayer that you will use your voice to SING! TELL! DECLARE! the message of Jesus and glory of the Lord to all the world.

Blessings and HIS Joy,
Carmen Nagel
Past LWML Oregon District President

Carol Reis



¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare^[b] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Jeremiah 29:11 (ESV)



Greetings, have you ever noticed that often God's plans for us and ours are "somewhat" or a lot different?

Take me for example, I grew up in the Lutheran Church, was baptized, went to Sunday school, got confirmed and even did some additional training in the Lay Assistance Program through the LCMS Northwest District. Even during all of that time I never thought of myself as a LEADER...

I wasn't sure what God had in store for me, I just knew He was calling me to do something, but what that something was I didn't know.

I was never sure what gifts God had given me, but I wasn't a teacher, I wasn't comfortable being in front of crowds, I wasn't the smartest or the cleverest in a group setting, I wasn't a lot of things. Or so I thought. I guess some of us are late bloomers, but once I got involved in LWML things started to change. Of course not in a flash or an instant, but God started giving me opportunities to stretch and become who I am today. Which is your newly elected LWML Oregon District President.

Because I've grown so much and some of the gifts that were given to me developed later in life, I would like to take some time this biennium and have the women of the District explore their own giftedness. I challenge the women (and men) of the LWML Oregon District to see if ---you have untapped gifts that might be used to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ our Lord. The three verses listed in this article are some of the ones I keep going back to in times of joy and especially in times of trial.

Thank you for electing me as your next president. May God's blessings be with each of you as we continue the journey God has set before us.

Carol Reis
LWML Oregon District President

His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

A Psalm for giving thanks.

100 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!

² **Serve the LORD with gladness!**

Come into his presence with singing

Psalm 100:1-2 (ESV)

Isaiah's Commission from the Lord

⁸ And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here I am! Send me."

Isaiah 6:8 (ESV)

FROM THE PRAYER CHAIN:

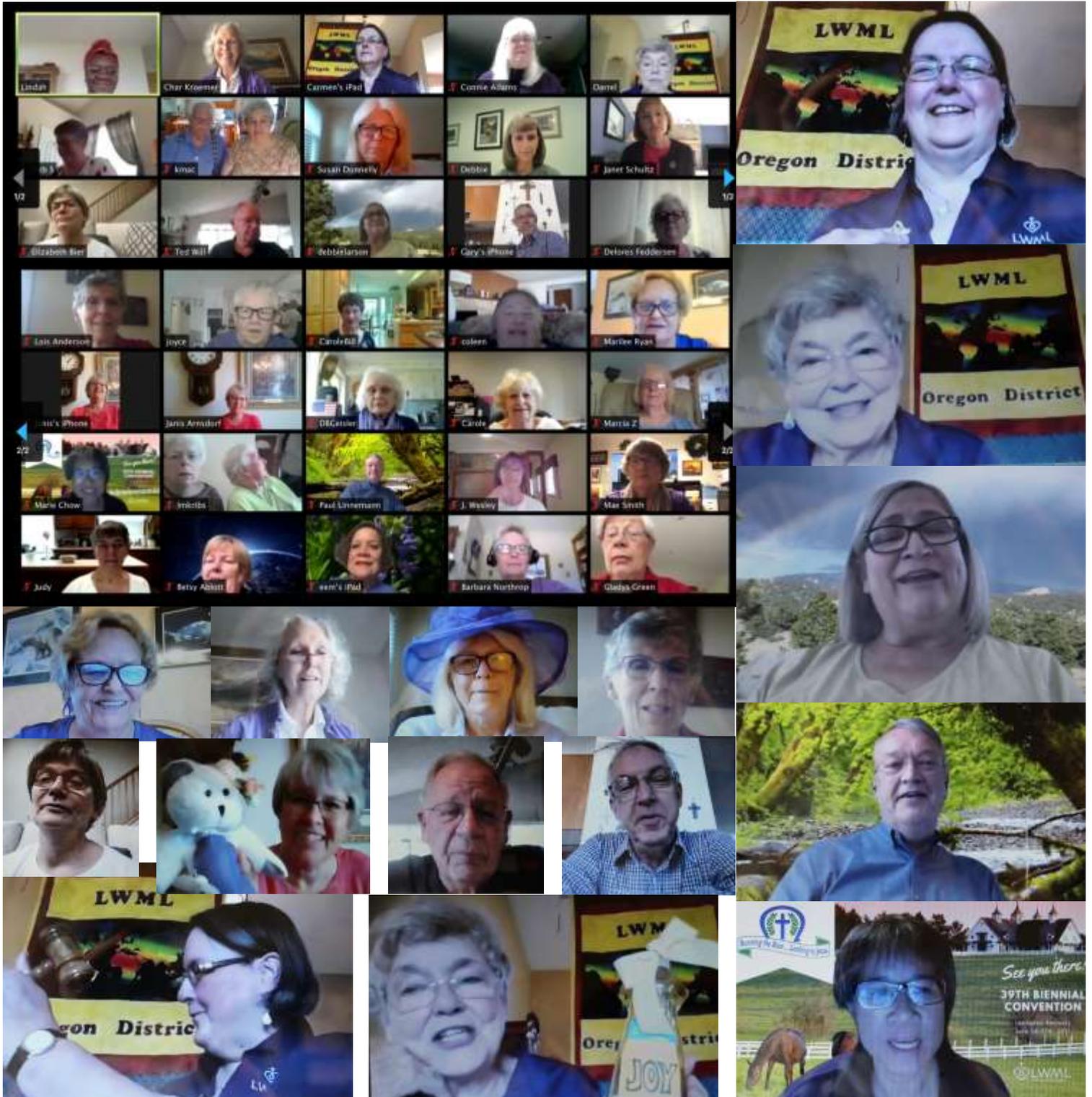
Heavenly Father, We thank you for giving the LWML a way to communicate through technology. We are thankful for our new officers. These women offer their time, talents, and service to you. We ask that you empower them to lead the Oregon LWML and to fulfill the plans that you set before them. We ask that you protect them and give them joy in serving you. "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13. Bless the new mission grants. Help us fulfill our promise to the grantees and may these grants help spread the gospel message of Jesus.

In Christ, Amen

**Installation of Officers — via Zoom
July 2, 2020**

Congratulations to LWML Oregon District's new president and officers. May God continue to bless you beyond measure, Madame President Carol. we look forward to what is ahead. Past District President Carmen, thank you for your inspiring leadership these past four years.

Elected as new officers for 2020-2024:
 President: Carol Reis
 Vice President of Servant Resources: Donna Giesler
 Vice President of Special Focus Ministries: Lindah Hagglund
 Financial Secretary: Currently vacant
 District Jr. Counselor: Currently vacant
 Elected to serve on the Nominating Committee,
 Carmen Nagel, Chairman, Mae Smith, Kay Godfrey



WANDERING!

Wandering! I have been doing that a lot lately. I wander into the kitchen, not because I'm hungry, but just because. I wander into the living room and stare out the window. Wandering! I find myself going into the bathroom, take a look at my hair, give a sigh, and wander away. I started thinking about the why of my wandering. What is causing this behavior of wandering? What is wrong with me? I have lost my focus from time to time.

This wandering brings me right to the people of Israel during their wandering years in Scripture. Every time the people of Israel got into a mess, it was because they had lost focus on Yahweh. They lost focus and disobeyed God, and had to deal with the consequences of their sin.

In the time of Jesus, the people also lost focus. They were worshipping false gods, or no gods, or turning



their religious practices into a ritual of honor to earn their way to salvation. Jesus reminds them of their lack of focus with these words:

John 10:27: My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

Have we lost our focus during this time of unique suffering and challenge? And if so, what do we do about it? Every day we lose our focus on God. We lose the focus of the suffering that Christ did on the cross and gave us an example to live by. We fail to understand that it is by the work of the cross that we receive justification by the body and blood of Christ.

How do we correct it? We don't. God does through the suffering, death, and resurrection of His Son for us. We simply believe, repent, and receive God's forgiveness.

If you find yourself wandering these days, go to God, repent, and receive the forgiveness of your sins. And then you CAN do this: SING! TELL! DECLARE!

Pastor Gary Krumdieck
Senior Pastoral Counselor



Why Mites?

Why do you give mites? We all know it's to support mission projects here and around the world, right? But why do you really give? What is your motivation?

Do you feel like you have to give because you belong to LWML? Are you trying to one-up another member of your society or another society in your zone?

Of course, there is nothing wrong with a little friendly competition, as long as our motive is pure. We all know God loves a cheerful giver but look at the whole verse: Each man should give what he has decided *in his heart* to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Cor. 9:7, emphasis mine).

God wants us to give because we *desire* to. I know what a difference God's salvation through Christ has made in my life and I want others to experience that as well. That is the reason LWML collects mites: to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. This need for all to hear the saving news of the Gospel does not stop because of a pandemic. It never has and never will! In fact, it highlights our need for a Savior, making hearts receptive to hearing the gospel message.

Paul devotes two full chapters in 2 Corinthians to giving generously. Although we are not able to physically meet or worship together at present, we can still give generously. Mites can be sent by individuals directly to Connie Adams, our financial secretary, or you can get creative in collecting mites. I was told about Women of Calvary, Stayton, scheduling a day/time to drive by the church and drop off mites. Not only are they collecting mites, but how encouraging to see another LWMLer or two, even if it is from six feet away!

Elizabeth Bier
Vice President of
Gospel Outreach



Sing! Tell! Declare! During Quarantine

2020 has sure demonstrated to all of us how our lives can change in an instant.

My calendar, that hangs inside my pantry door, has so much white out on it for the past few months that I became exhausted just thinking about all the events, gatherings and meetings that I was supposed to be attending between March – July. You have got to wonder what July through the remainder of the year will look like.

I started to wonder how can I be “Singing, Telling and Declaring” while I am sitting at home most of the days. A trip to the grocery store has become a huge adventure! A trip to the eye doctor’s office had me getting my temperature checked and being asked several screening questions before I could enter the building. Then it was the challenge of reading the eye chart while my glasses were fogging up due to the mask I was wearing. Not sure how I passed the eye test! Then there’s the upcoming appointment for a haircut. I have really toughed it out not cutting my bangs myself. Pretty soon I won’t be able to see to drive to the appointment. And in all of this I am thinking “Sing! Tell! Declare!”. Okay God...show me what to do in these uncharted times.

I will admit, even though I have missed attending church in person, I have been attending several services on Sunday thanks to the virtual world we now live in. And I’ve been able to attend Donna Snow’s Bible Study “Overflowing Abundance” which streams live on Facebook and can also be found on the National LWML website.

But I still have to wonder “Am I “Singing, Telling and Declaring” at any point in my day?”

I was really looking forward to the Oregon District Convention this year. I knew for sure that during those 4 days I would be able to “Sing, Tell and Declare.” After all, all of you would have been there with me. It sure helps me stay on track and on focus when I’m with my sisters in Christ in person.



When I’m on my own, I tend to drift at times. How about you?

Have you been reading 1 Chronicles 16:23-24 “Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of His salvation from day to day. Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples?”

Have you been able to “Sing! Tell! Declare!” while in quarantine?

A few weeks ago, I bought two bouquets of fresh flowers from our local florist. I spent that morning cutting up the bouquets and making small, mason jar arrangements to give to the neighbors on our block. I crafted all morning long. I tied various types of ribbon around each jar and placed a small hand written note that I stuck in the arrangement that said “Just to brighten your day.” I didn’t sign the card and in stealth mode, I went and put a jar on each neighbor’s porch as a surprise. “DECLARE!”

I spent another morning making homemade cards to send to the ladies at my church and some other distant friends just to let them know “I’m thinking about you.” “TELL!”

And a common practice in my home when I’m doing any kind of craft project to is play music. I especially like to sing

out loud for my dogs to hear music by Casting Crowns and MercyMe. “SING!”

I guess I have been “Singing! Telling! and Declaring” during this quarantine time after all.

So, what have you been doing to declare the goodness of God during these times? I hope that you have not locked yourself in your home and thought “there is nothing I can do.”

*“Jesus looked at them and said,
“With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.” Matthew 19:26*

During strange times you just need to find new ways of “doing something.” New ways to “Sing! Tell! Declare!”

Blessings to you all,

Debbie Weaver
Vice President of Christian Life

Have an idea for a National Mission Grant?



While our delegates have recently chosen grants the LWML OR District will support over this biennium, our mites also support national mission grants. Mission Grant proposals are currently being accepted for the 2021 LWML convention in Lexington, KY. The deadline for submission is Sept. 30, 2020, although if you are using the electronic submission form it is recommended you plan to complete it by August 15 in order to allow time for review and needed signatures. You will find the information you need, including how to get started, at www.lwml.org/mission-grant-proposals.

Elizabeth Bier
Vice President of Gospel Outreach



Leaders Are Followers

Followers of God seek wisdom and strength as words of Scripture are read, and we meditate on their meaning. This “Tip for Leading with Confidence” comes to us from Scripture. Enjoy sitting with the prophet Isaiah, soaking up his words from God, and be a leader who follows Him!

*Thus says the Lord:
"But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word" (Isaiah 66:2b).*

Humility: God values men and women who have a realistic grasp on the Lord’s being: the ultra-holy, wholly Other, and the omnipotent Ancient of Days. God lifts up those who know who they are — sinners redeemed by

the blood of Christ. God rejoices in men and women who realize their worth as sons and daughters of the King of grace.

Contrite in spirit: Contrite hearts are hearts softened by sorrow over sin. Contrite hearts realize the hurts their sins have caused. Contrite hearts sincerely desire to make right the wrongs and to avoid involvement with evil in the future.

Trembling at His Word: Knowing God's Word; seeking God's will. Ignoring the cost, and enduring by relying on Christ's strength. Sustained by fervent prayer. Being so committed to Jesus as Lord, the heart cannot conceive of thinking or acting in a way that is contrary to His Word. The Lord seeks us to be His — through and through, committed completely to Him. As a leader, be humble, contrite in spirit, and tremble at His Word.

Adapted from:
Jane Fryar, Online LHM Daily Devotion, November 8, 2019; originally taken from *The Lutheran Layman* February 1980 issue, “Christ’s Leaders are Followers” (St. Louis, International Lutheran Laymen’s League). Used with permission.

God's Blessings,
Lois Teinert, Chairman
Leadership Development Committee



Support Our Military Personnel, Chaplains and Our Veterans!

Through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod there are many ways to do this. The LCMS encourages congregations to reach out to military families in the following ways:

- Pray** for our troops.
- Recognize** veterans in your congregation at least once a year.
- Celebrate** and remember our nation’s military veterans, service personnel, chaplains and families.



Oregon District:
<http://www.lwmlor.org>
LWML:

Prayer Chain Email!

lwml.or.prayerchain@gmail.com

Oregon District "Seek and Serve" Challenge



*1st Thessalonian 5:11:
"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."*

In 1st Thessalonians St. Paul is encouraging us to build one another up.

So, what have you been building up during quarantine? If you're like me, it could be your waistline.

Ladies, it's time to get off the couch, put on some jeans and get to work.

Yes, that's right, work!

July and August have been deemed to be "Seek and Serve" months for the Oregon District. We want you off the couch, away from the TV and the refrigerator and using your talents in other ways. You don't even have to leave your house to do this challenge!

When was the last time you called those shut in ladies from your church?

Have you mailed any hand written letters lately? How about working in the neighbor's yard...you know...the one with the elderly widow who could use some help pulling weeds?

And now let's talk about your Pastor. When was the last time you called him to say "thank you" for all he does? Have you baked him any chocolate chip cookies lately? Have you given him a note just to let him know he's appreciated?

Then we have the First Responders in our towns. Have you waved and honked as you drive by your local police station? Have you made "thank you" signs that you carry in your car and flash them when

you pull into a hospital parking lot? Have you put an advertisement in your local paper that just says "Thanks for all you do"?

Next up, all your girlfriends from church...the ones you can no longer hug...have you called and checked in on them? Have you dropped off a fresh vase of flowers on their front porch? How about putting together a small gift bag with bath salts and a candle in it? Have you reminded them that they are loved by you and by God? Have you dropped off a Mustard Seed packet at their home lately? Have you texted anyone lately? I'm sure you're using your cell phones...let's text some encouraging words to those in our lives.

Are you practicing gratitude these days? How about starting a gratitude journal and writing down a few things each day that you're grateful for?

The challenge is on!

The Christian Life Committee is looking for how you "Seek and Serve" during the months of July and August and especially while we are still practicing social distancing and for some, remaining in quarantine.

We want to hear what you're doing and see how creative you can get!

We want stories of excitement and contagious joy! We want photos to share! We want photos to post on the Oregon District's Facebook page! We want photos to share at our September gathering!

We want YOU to SEEK and SERVE!

And at our gathering in September, we will share the ways the Women of the Oregon District reached out and encouraged one another during these challenging times.

Stories and photos can be sent to Deb Weaver at boodsmom@centurytel.net.

Questions? Call Deb at 503-543-2229.

The Christian Life Committee



Thanks be to God! We are HIS!

We are:

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



happiness

“Count It All Joy!”



joy

Planning -?- Many plans have “gone out the window with the trials and pain the corona virus is causing around the world. How are we Christians to respond?

“Count It All Joy!” James 1:1-4 (written to Christians being persecuted for their faith), “Count it all joy, my brothers (we are in this together), **when** (not if) you meet trials of various kinds” and intensities, (any kind of unmet expectations, unrealized desires that make life more difficult, unexpected circumstances completely out of our control). “... for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” vs. 3-4

God uses the trials, like a tool, in our lives to transform, mold, and shape us, to build our character, to strengthen our faith which, like gold, is purified by fire. I Peter 1:7

God is focusing not on what is happening “to us,” but what is happening “in us” and “for us.” He is transforming our faith “from one degree of glory to another” (2 Corinthians 3:18), so that we see things from His perspective. His perspective is that the faith He gives us, enables us to “count” (ascribe, assign, categorize) our trials and pain. He is telling us to categorize/count our trials in the “JOY” category, not judgement, failure, punishment, or personal victim categories.

Joy is the fruit of our faith that we possess, knowing and trusting God to work in us, transforming us so that we are able to faithfully respond to trials and pain, in spite of how we feel, in light of God’s promises:
I know I failed, but I am not a failure in God’s eyes.
I know I am a sinner, but I’m forgiven.
I know I’m terminal, but it is not the end.
I’m annoyed at work, but God will help me get through.

Often daily trials come upon us, as the Covid-19 pandemic has, and our only choice is how we respond. We can “count it all Joy,” in how we react through the lens of what Christ Jesus has done for us in hope and faith that is steadfast, so that we “may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” vs.4

Because Christ Jesus our Savior is more powerful than any trial or pain, through His death and resurrection, we have His promise of eternal life, and the Joy we have each day will get us through our trials.

Terry Putnam
Chairman
Planning/Visioning Committee

2020-2022 Mission Grants LWML Oregon District

Mission Grant Goal for 2020-2022 is \$97,020 – \$72,765 for Oregon District Mission Grants, with \$24, 255 for LWML (25%)

- Bridge of Hope CARE Pantry Expansion, \$5,500
- A Bridge to Jesus – the SSS Soccer Clinic and Beyond, \$6,000
- Bringing Christ’s Light to Those Living in Darkness, \$6,500
- Carrying Christ into the Heart of the Hispanic Home, \$6,500
- Equipping People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to Sing, Tell, Declare His Marvelous Deeds, \$6,500
- Expanding the Dominican Republic Disability Ministry as God’s Word and Jesus’ Love is Shared, \$6,500
- Filling Haitian Tummies Opens Ears to the Gospel, \$5,000
- Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana Food and Clothing Co-Op to Purchase Food, \$5,000
- Healing Spaces, \$6,500
- Project “GO” (Gospel Outreach) – Share Jesus, \$2,957.50 (partial funding)
- Safeguarding our School Children, \$6,350
- Support for Concordia Seminary’s International Graduate School Students, \$2,957.50 (partial funding)
- Taking the Gospel to B.C. North, \$6,500



Fall Leaguer Deadline

– September 1, 2020 –

Publication Date—October 1, 2020

PLEASE Send articles **IN WORD FORMAT**
& photos to:

Carole Pletz/lwml.or.leaguer@gmail.com

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Mission Statement

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 people of the world.

To be on the mailing list to receive Leader Development's Monthly

HUG-IN-A-MUG

Please contact:

Pat Reck

pbmsreck@bendnet.com



The purpose of the Heart to Heart Sisters Committee is to:

- ◆ Motivate, equip, challenge, and provide mentoring opportunities within the LWML for women of diverse ethnic groups to serve the church, participate in LWML, witness to the world, and grow in relationships.
- ◆ Produce and facilitate the Heart to Heart Sisters District Leaders program for the LWML Convention.
- ◆ Provide resources to facilitate the Heart to Heart Sisters District program.

The LWML recognizes there are gifted multicultural women serving with joy and passion in many multicultural ministries throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Joyful, Joyful When Peace Like a River

In the Word

Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ ... [Romans 5:1](#)

Of the Word

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
It is well with my soul. It is well, it is well with my soul.

At times life can be calm and peaceful, but at other times trials and tribulations may come our way. No matter what happens, Christ gives us the ability to say, "It is well with my soul."

Satan wants to disrupt our peace, ruin our calm. God the Father sent His Son Jesus to be our Savior from all sin, death, and the power of the devil. Jesus gave His life so that our sins are forgiven. By His resurrection He conquered death and defeated Satan. "He lives — oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!"

The Lord will return at the trumpet's sound, and the resounding refrain will continue for us: "It is well with my soul."

Walking with My Lord

I praise You, my Savior. All that You have done for me makes me shout joyfully, "It is well, it is well with my soul." In Your name I pray. Amen.

