



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

Oregon Leaguer

Fall 2020



Our Mission

Lutheran Women in Mission will, by God's grace, **ignite**, ... women of the Oregon District to express their faith as servants of the Triune God through joyful Christian Ministry. God's Word tells us that we have been baptized into God's Kingdom. At that moment, God turned our old life in for an eternal kingdom life, the main character in this drama is our Lord. Compared to Him, we are mere stagehands. He will "**ignite** the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He's going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He'll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he'll put out with the trash to be burned."

Matthew 3:11-12 (The Message)



As I started to write this article, I googled the word ignite, I thought that I would get the dictionary definition, and possibly a tool that you would use to start a fire. Little did I know that ignite was some sort of Microsoft digital event in September, it is also a program to assist your children to prepare for kindergarten, and sites for outdoor wear, drinks, creams, shoes, books and who knows what else. I never realized there were so many different types of ignite.

Today I want to concentrate on how we can ignite the kingdom life within us and in those around us. I haven't made many fires, but I know we need to gather our resources. For a fire we need:

- kindling
- firewood
- a lighter of some sort.

For this application, our resources are:

- † prayer
- † the Bible
- † the Holy Spirit.

Before we start the fire, we need to prepare the area. We do this with:

- ✂ prayer for guidance
- ✂ Bible study
- ✂ getting to know the person we are working with.

We don't even need to talk about God to begin this process, just get to know someone. Find some:

- ★ common interests
- ★ hobbies
- ★ life experiences.



Table of Contents

President's Message	1
New Junior Pastoral Counselor	2
Senior Pastoral Counselor	3
Christian Life	4
Bethesda Lutheran Communities	5
Gospel Outreach	5
ZipLine/Zone	6
Young Women in Mission	7
2020 Oregon District Banner	7
Winter Leaguer Deadline	7
OR District Board of Directors Mtg	7
Officer Contact Information	8
LWML Mission Statement	8
Zone Presidents	8
The Time is Now	8
Mustard Seed Daily Devotion	8

Continued on page 2

Fall 2020

Then let the Holy Spirit guide you in your walk/talk.

The getting to know the person portion can be with:

- ♥ friends or relatives that you already have
- ♥ people you've recently met or
- ♥ even with yourself (this one could be the most instructive, to evaluate what you think you know about yourself and renew your commitments)

As the fire is started we need to tend it to make sure it doesn't get extinguished. This can be done with:

- ✓ prayer
- ✓ Bible study
- ✓ a phone call
- ✓ a snail mail note
- ✓ getting together for coffee
- ✓ book discussions
- ✓ gardening
- ✓ taking a walk
- ✓ or whatever else that brings the people together.

Through all of this we need to keep praying for assistance and guidance.

Some of you are great igniters, but for a lot of us this process can be daunting. If you are one that has difficulty in this, then seek assistance from others.

God has given each of us gifts to be used to help spread the Good News of our redemption.

As a thank you for these gifts we joyfully undertake what God has placed before us,
and take a leap of faith to become

IGNITERS!!!

Carol Reis
LWML Oregon District President

Meet our new Junior Pastoral Counselor Pastor David LaFore from Trinity, Mt. Angel

Pastor David LaFore grew up in Auburn Washington, where he loved to spend time in the great outdoors all over the Pacific Northwest. From there he went to college in Portland, Oregon, at Concordia University, where he received an interdisciplinary degree in theology and music.

While in college he spent his summers working as a camp counselor at Lutherwood, Oregon, about 40 minutes northwest of Eugene. David spent a total of seven summers working at camp (one of those summers at Camp Dixie in Elberta, Alabama), where he did everything from being a cabin counselor to being the summer program director. Thanks to camp, David was able to meet a lot of people in the faith, and face a lot of challenges alongside them.

Starting in 2013 he attended Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. David spent those years being formed into a pastor and making life long friends and colleagues. During that time David spent a yearlong internship in Minot, North Dakota where he learned how to do church work first hand, and not to take our balmy northwest summers for granted! He was ordained and installed in July, 2018, and has been serving his first call at Trinity in Mt. Angel.

He is learning to rely on God more and more each day in the ministry, and hopes to share the Gospel and the Word with people in his community.



From Pastor Ted — JUST CHECKING IN

First, our congratulations to President Carol on becoming the newest President of the Oregon District LWML. We are thrilled to have you as our leader and look forward to working with you as we seek to move forward in “Serving the Lord with GLADNESS”.

As we begin this new biennium, I am reminded of that great old hymn: “WITH THE LORD BEGIN YOUR TASK”. That is great advice as we look and plan for the next 4 years. Certainly, the head of the church, our Lord Jesus Christ, already knows what He has in mind for our ministry together in the days ahead. So, let us pray and seek His guidance so that our plans and His coincide. I would urge you to do so DAILY. Daily “CHECKING IN” with the Lord, not only asking that He give wisdom and guidance to your new leaders, but also asking Him to guide you in determining what part He wants you to play in the ministry of your local society and the ministry of the Oregon District of the LWML.

Prayer – “Checking In” with the Lord - is such an important part of our faith journey. I am reminded of a story that I heard some time ago. I am not sure who to give credit to for it, because I do not remember who shared it or where I saw it. But whoever it was that brought it to my attention, I want to thank them, because it has been a blessing to many and is a good reminder of the importance of checking in with the Lord on a regular basis. The story is entitled - “Just Checking In”.

“A pastor passed through his church one day and noticed someone at the altar praying. The pastor first noticed that the individual hadn’t shaved in quite some time. Then he saw that his shirt was kinda shabby and his coat was torn and frayed. The man was kneeling with his head bowed. Then he rose and left the church. Each day that followed, this individual would enter the church, kneel and pray, sit outside on the steps, open his lunch pail and eat his lunch. After some time, the pastor became curious and just a little uneasy, because the homeless population was growing in that area and he wondered about the man’s intentions. So, one day the pastor stopped the visitor and asked, “can I help you?” The man said that he worked in the factory a short distance away and only had a half hour for lunch and lunchtime was he prayer time, for finding strength and power. (And he found the church a great place to pray)

“I stay only a few moments,” he said, “because you see the factory I work at is a ways down the street. But as I kneel here talking with the Lord, this is kinda what I say: ‘I just came again to tell you, Lord, how happy I have been since we found each other’s friendship and You took away my sin. Don’t know much how to pray, but I think about you every day. So, Jesus, this is Jim... and I’m just checking in.’”

The pastor, feeling a bit foolish, told Jim, that that was fine and he was welcome to come and pray anytime. “Thanks,” Jim said, with a smile. “Time to go,” and he hurried to the door.

The pastor knelt at the altar. (It had been sometime since he had done that outside of worship). His suspicious thoughts melted away, warmed with love, he met Jesus there. As tears flowed, in his heart, he repeated old Jim’s prayer: “I just came again to tell you, Lord, how happy I have been since we found each other’s friendship and You took away my sin. I think about You every day. So, Jesus, this is me... and I am just checking in.”

Well, one day Jim did not show up to pray. More days passed and no Jim. The pastor became concerned and decided to go to the factory and inquire about him. He discovered that Jim had become ill and been hospitalized.

The hospital staff was worried about Jim, but he had given them a thrill. The week that Jim was with them brought changes to the ward. His smiles and his joy were contagious and brought the best out of his care givers. The head nurse couldn’t understand why Jim was so joyful. He received no flowers nor cards. No family nor friends had come to visit or show interest in him.

When the pastor heard of his situation, he decided to visit. As he sat at Jim’s bedside, he shared the nurse’s concern; No friends came to show they cared. He had nowhere to turn... Looking surprised, old Jim spoke up and with a winsome smile, he said, “The nurse is wrong, she couldn’t know, that He’s in here all the while. Every day at noon He is here, a dear Friend of mine, you see. He sits right down, takes my hand, leans over and says to me: ‘I came again to tell you Jim, how happy I have been since we found this friendship, and I took away your sin. Always love to hear you pray, and I think about you every day. Jim, this is Jesus, and I am just checking in.’”

What a Friend we have in Jesus. I pray that this story is an encouragement to you and a motivation toward faithful and diligent daily prayer.

May the Lord continue to bless you each day
Pastor Ted – Sr. Pastoral Counselor



Seeking Balance

Are you balanced?

Did you know that your nervous system craves balance?

I have been taking an online chair yoga class, via Zoom, since March. Each week we practice various stretches and moves for an hour, most of which are done while sitting in a chair. However, there are several moves where we stand.

The standing moves are where we practice balance. When was the last time you stood on one leg without holding onto anything? Let me tell you, my “tree pose” didn’t start out very pretty, good thing there was a chair close by to grab onto to help me keep my balance. But after a few months, I can now do several “tree pose” moves without needing to hang onto something.

I never realized how important balance was until I took a stumble last November and fractured my pelvis in two places. My physical therapist kept giving me all kinds of exercises to strengthen my balancing abilities. Apparently my “core” was not in the best shape and I had a long way to go before I could balance myself on the exercise floor. I soon learned that if your “core” isn’t in very good shape, then the rest of your body will struggle to find balance in all that you do.

And during my recovery time I also realized that balance is not just about being physically fit. There’s another form of balance that we need to remain healthy: a balance of the mind and spirit.



Getting sidelined wasn’t my plan, but apparently it was God’s plan for me. I spent 13 weeks doing physical therapy twice each week. Home exercises also became part of my daily routine. And then there was my “planner.” You know, that calendar that has something on it every day of the week, like Bible Study, church, volunteering, meetings to attend, social gatherings, etc. I had all my days filled with “something” to do.

God’s plan changed all that. He sidelined me and told me “you’re not balanced in the right places.”

Not balanced physically, but more importantly, I wasn’t balanced spiritually. I had sidelined God. There was no room for Him on my calendar. I was physically hurt and emotionally depleted.

So, I practiced balance. I cleared out my calendar of all events. I went to physical therapy and I started to read the Word. I started a gratitude journal and spent time in prayer. I rearranged my priority list and started to put God first.

And by the time we were all put into quarantine, I was pretty balanced. I felt physically better, but more importantly I felt spiritually healed. My core felt balanced at a different level.

Sometimes God has a plan that we don’t understand. We have all been in lock down for months now. We have all missed events, weddings, funerals, traveling, vacations, family members, etc. We have all watched as our Nation and our cities have been compromised by protestors. We have watched as hatred once again surfaced in our day-to-day world.

So, how’s your balance?

“Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.” Matthew 6:33

Deb Weaver
VP Christian Life Committee



Thanks be to God! We are HIS!

We are:

- H** Held by God’s Word
- I** Inspired to share HIS Gospel
- S** Surrounded by HIS Grace



Bethesda Lutheran Communities Needs Your Prayers

The pandemic has greatly affected Bethesda Lutheran Communities, as it has our whole nation and each of our lives. Finances have led Bethesda to eliminate their Religious Life Department, and a number of other positions on their Watertown, WI campus. With no religious life personnel, it means that devotions that were being delivered virtually, will no longer be occurring, so the people living with intellectual and developmental disabilities that Bethesda supports will no longer have an opportunity to hear God's Word and have someone to hear and pray for their prayer requests.

A prayer request for you LWML prayer warriors is to pray that Bethesda's decision makers truly seek the Lord and His ways and will in all of their decisions, that they will be given a way to provide Christ-centered care to all the people they support, and that their financial situation would improve. Please thank the Lord for the faith He has given most of the people Bethesda supports, and for Christian staff members to truly share the love of Jesus with those they are supporting.

An opportunity to be a telephone friend with one of the people Bethesda supports is being worked out. Individual Christians would be able to have the first name of a person, whom they could then call on the phone (hopefully virtually so faces could be enjoyed), and share a devotion, sing "Jesus Loves Me" with, and pray with. The person would also be able to call you and ask for specific prayers or share joys. As soon as the logistics on this are worked out, the details will be made available.

In the meantime, ways to get a couple of tablets into each home for use by the clients to worship virtually, see and hear family and friends, and receive devotions, are being pursued. Could this be a project for your LWML society, or a Thrivent Action Team grant project for your congregation? Please contact me if you are interested in either or both of these opportunities.

May our Lord keep you safe and use you in new and mighty ways to share Jesus' love and wonderful promises with others.

Serving our Lord with Gladness with you,
Terry Putnam for Bethesda Auxiliary.
terryatnetarts@gmail.com or 503-842-7740



Gospel Outreach

What is Gospel Outreach?

The purpose of the Gospel Outreach Committee is to engage, encourage, and equip women to share their faith in Jesus Christ, their loving Savior, with people of their communities and the world.

As in the LWML logo, the drop represents the blood of Christ. The ripples symbolize how we can extend the love of Christ to others by sharing the Gospel message with them.

Where do mites come from?

Well, that's easy. From all of us, right? As we are moved by God, we drop in a dime here or a quarter there, maybe even a dollar or more. As they drop into the box, many say a prayer for God to use those mites. You may only have a few dollars' worth, but of course when we combine our mites together, they add up and accomplish great things for God's kingdom.



Most societies have not been able to meet for months. Zone rallies have been canceled. Even our district convention had to be canceled. Some churches are still not holding in-person services and for those who do, not everyone is comfortable with attending. These are all places where mites are collected. Mites being sent in have dropped dramatically. Understandably, it has been difficult to collect mites. Is your mite box overflowing? Talk to your society president/treasurer and find out how you might be able to get your mites to them. While mite contributions have declined, the needs of those receiving our support have not.

You can send in mites individually as well. Make your check out to LWML Oregon District and send to our financial secretary, Connie Adams, PO Box 2918, Oregon City, OR 97045. Be sure to let her know which society you belong to. This pandemic has required all of us to be flexible and creative. How can your society collect mites? Let's all work together to fund the worthy mission grants chosen this past June.

Liz Bier, VP Gospel Outreach



Oregon District:

<http://www.lwmlor.org>

LWML:

<http://www.lwml.org/home>



Working Together for the Good of Others

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we adapt to ways we can safely support those in our community. We look for new ways to serve one another while social distancing. We continue to recognize the needs of others as we plan for a new school year.

Ideas for Activities

Drive-thru Food Pantry or School Supply Collection Day

- ⇒ Talk to your local food pantry, a neighborhood school, or a day care facility in your community. Get a list of their most needed items during this time and discuss distribution options.
- ⇒ Decide who will be offered the service based on your group size. Develop a way to contact those people.
- ⇒ Advertise the "Needs List" to your church/community. Consider social media to help spread the word. It might be helpful to mention that precautions are being taken when the items are packed (the packers will use hand sanitizer and wear masks), and that masks will be worn during pickup and delivery.
- ⇒ Select a date, place, and time for dropping off items. Keep the drop-off time short and/or break up the drop-off times. Consider two hours in the early morning and two hours in the evening, or two days for drop-off if your group is large.
- ⇒ Solicit a small group of volunteers for drop-off. The volunteers will accept the donation items from each vehicle when they drive up and take them to the holding area.
- ⇒ Set up a small group to assemble the items into bags to make pick-up or delivery quick and easy.
- ⇒ Establish a pick-up method. Take items to the food pantry or school for them to distribute, or set a pick-up time at a church or other location.
- ⇒ Consider having another set of volunteers to deliver the items, if the project recipient cannot come to pick up the donated items.
- ⇒ Contact the sewing ladies in your church/community. Ask them to provide masks, especially children's sizes. Pack each mask in a zip-lock bag. Have them available for the volunteers to pass out to anyone in need of a mask, or give them to the school or daycare facility.

Gospel Focus

Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind (1 Peter 3:8).

Prayer as you Plan and Prepare

Heavenly Father, thank You for allowing us the privilege of creatively serving others in Your name during this time of pandemic. You have directed us to realize that there are still plenty of ways to be Your hands and feet and to think outside of our normal avenues. Guide us as we strive to reach out to others while keeping everyone safe. We know that You are the God of grace, mercy, and peace. Grant each of those strengths to us as we plan this servant event. In the name of Jesus, Your precious Son, we pray. Amen.



Prayer Chain Email!

lwml.or.prayerchain@gmail.com



Young Women in Mission

The YWR Pin: The double links represent LWML, women of all ages who are joyfully united in spirit and purpose. While each member is different, in Christ all are linked together, complementing one another's gifts, talents and strengths.

The LWML Young Women Facebook page can be found at:
www.facebook.com/groups/orlwmlyoungwomen/

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

HUG-IN-A-MUG

Please contact:

Pat Reck

pbmsreck@bendnet.com



Beautiful 2020 Oregon District Banner

Celeste Allsberry and her friend, Joanne Adamson, designed and made the banner. Celeste is the daughter of Joan Symmank. Joan is an LWML sister in the Southern Zone. Pictured with Janis Arnsdorf, Convention Chairman.

Winter Leaguer Deadline

— December 1, 2020 —

Publication Date—January 1, 2021

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

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

Oregon District Board of Directors Meeting

Zoom — Saturday, September 26, 2020



OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Vice President of Communication—Vacant

Recording Secretary—Char Kroemer

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Financial Secretary—Vacant

Treasurer—Debra Schlueter

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Pastoral Counselor-Senior—Pastor Ted Will

Email: twilljr@gmail.com

Pastoral Counselor-Junior—Pastor David LaFore

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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.

Oregon District Mission Statement

Lutheran Women in Mission will, by God's grace, ignite, involve, equip and encourage women of the Oregon District to express their faith as servants of the Triune God through joyful Christian Ministry.

ZONE PRESIDENTS

Emerald Zone—Delores Feddersen

Interstate Zone—Betsy Ablott

Juniper Zone—Pat Reck

Mt. Hood Zone—Eunice MacKenzie

Myrtlewood Zone—Joan Mahaffy

Pacific Zone—Coleen Gurske

Southern Zone—Carolyn Nelson

West Hills Zone—Debbie Vosseler



Unique!

I received a Mustard Seed Devotion booklet, *Trust and Talents*, from my mentor, Marie Chow, after my installation as the new LWML Oregon District President. In it, I found a devotion that had been written especially for me! The first line says, "Jill stared in the mirror, examining her limp hair and not-so-perfect teeth. Why can't I have _____" (Fill in your own wants.)

This really hit me. I usually compare myself to others, and not always in the best way. The devotion continues, "God didn't use a cookie cutter when He created us." God created each of us as a unique individual to fulfill the plans He has for us.

He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that he has prepared for us to do (Ephesians 2:10b GW).

Abba Father, thank You for creating each one of us and placing us in this time and place to do Your will. Help remind us that we have a purpose in Your plan and to look to You for that purpose. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Carol Reis, President
Oregon District/2020-2024

How, Lord . . .

Can I Accept My Circumstances?  **Mustard Seed**
Daily Devotions

In the Word

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." [Luke 1:38a](#)

Of the Word

A 13-year-old boy was killed in a motorcycle wreck. His grieving family filled the front pews of the little church, and the minister announced his text, Psalm 23. But he read only three words, *The LORD is ...* ([Psalm 23:1](#)).

As his eyes looked out across the congregation, he reminded them that, even in the midst of grief, *The LORD is When the worst of times befall us, The LORD is When hopelessness envelops us like a dark cloud, the truth still rings out: The LORD is*

May we then say with young Mary, "I am the Lord's servant ... May it be to me as you have said" ([Luke 1:38](#)).

Walking with My Lord

My Lord and my God, let me never doubt Your loving presence in my life. Give me a patient and understanding heart, and help me serve You with acceptance and joy. In Jesus' name. Amen.