



from our President

Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion, for behold, I come and I will dwell in your midst, declares the LORD. And many nations shall join themselves to the LORD in that day, and shall be my people. And I will dwell in your midst, and you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you.
Zechariah 2:10

The women of the LWML Chesapeake District have much to rejoice in our Lord. Increased Mite donations have made it possible for our district to fund our first two grants: New Day Pregnancy Care Center, Dover, DE for \$6,000; and Orphan Grain Train, MD for \$6,000. We are preparing and will be attending, with several thousand women, the LWML Convention, June 22-25 in Milwaukee, WI. The convention theme "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" urges us to celebrate our Lord through Word and Sacrament, honor God by serving our neighbors and proclaim His message to the nations.

Fifty women of the Baltimore Zone met at Our Savior Lutheran, Laurel, MD, for a Prayer Breakfast and the LWML 2023 Prayer Service, "My Soul Rejoices: A Service of Song and Praise, written by Rev. Dr. Mitchel Schuessler. During the event, Pastor Orlando Flahn and his wife Marie, were blessed with a sending and prayers as they prepare for an April 2023 mission trip to Googlebay Lutheran School, Liberia. Our Chesapeake District **IS** celebrating the Lord of the Nations!

Five years ago, our District Board of Directors met at Redeemer Lutheran, Fredericksburg, VA. Rev. John Kassouf was our host. There was no LWML at Redeemer. Rev. Kassouf shared his story of how he was introduced to LWML. While a seminarian, LWML groups adopted and supported him by sending money, gift cards and encouraging letters and cards. He has never forgotten how LWML helped him to complete his journey to become a pastor! Now Rev. Kassouf sings the praises of LWML. He wanted to start an LWML at his church and encouraged the women at Redeemer to observe our Board work, as they prepared lunch and listened to our meeting. A few weeks ago, I attended an LWML meeting at Redeemer, led by their president and Old Dominion Zone Chair, Marian Dawgert. At the meeting, twenty-five women shared an LWML Bible study, planned activities for serving shut-ins, children of the congregation and more! I was blessed to witness the seed Rev. Kassouf had planted, watered and fed, now bear fruit: the very active and happy LWML group "Celebrating the Lord of Nations." Just as Rev. Kassouf will never forget the vital help he received, I will never forget and will forever sing the praises of this wonderful group of women and rejoice at how they are honoring God! To God be All the Glory!

Bless all of you for your ongoing Mite donations, which are helping to proclaim His message of salvation. Bless all of you for your joy as you serve and honor God in your service to your neighbors everywhere!

In Christ Alone,

Christine Maconachy President, LWML Chesapeake District

For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Isaiah 55:12

April 2023

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 www.facebook.com/ChesLWML

Send your news and
photos by June 15 to
Linda Roscoe,
Publications Editor

from our Junior Pastoral Counselor

Rev. Mike Thress,

Spring Forward

“For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” *Isaiah 55:12*

Even as we stand right now in the midst of our Lenten journey, we know that Easter is on the horizon. I always like to tell my congregation that we are Easter People. And for me, a great symbol of that transition from Lent to Easter and from Winter to Spring is the change to Daylight Saving Time.

My favorite recreational activities are running and hiking. I do both year-round, but the winter becomes a great challenge not only because of the cold weather, but even more because of the darkness. Now we have the wonderful gift of an extra hour of daylight in the evening – my favorite time to run and hike!

We are already starting to see the spring flowers emerge. The weather is gradually getting milder. We feel these changes not only physically but emotionally. And as we journey through Lent and into Easter, this transition illustrates our spiritual journey – ultimately from death to life.

As I said, we are Easter People. We *always* celebrate our Risen Savior. Even the season of Lent cannot take away the joy and security of knowing that our faithful God has conquered death for us. In fact, that’s the whole point of Lent – that we “believe in him who raised from the dead Jesus our Lord, who was delivered up for our trespasses and raised for our justification.” *Romans 4:24-25*



As our journey continues, our Savior walks with us – hikes and runs with us. He never leaves our side. Instead, He leads us onward through peril and storm, through darkness and cold, until we reach our final Spring. “For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.” *Isaiah 55:12*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Chesapeake District LWML Convention hosted by the Baltimore Zone: September 27-29, 2024
More information to follow in the upcoming issues of the Chesapeake Breeze.

Some Baltimore Trivia questions

1. Who invented Old Bay?

- A. German immigrant Gustav Brunn
- B. Maryland entrepreneur Willoughby M. McCormick
- C. Chef Cindy Wolf

2. What year was the Baltimore Fire?

- A. 1871
- B. 1896
- C. 1904
- D. 1913



3. Which of the following museums never existed in Baltimore?

- A. National Museum of Dentistry
- B. Public Works Museum
- C. Museum of Incandescent Lighting
- D. Museum of Medical Oddities

Look for more trivia questions as we get closer to the convention.

Thank you, faithful women,
for your Mite offerings.

Please make sure that your checks are sent to our new Financial Secretary, Edi Collis. Her address is: 3601 Stoney Castle St., Olney, MD 20832. Please pass onto to those responsible for sending the checks. Thank you!





DelMarVa Zone April 22

Church of Our Savior, Rehoboth Beach, DE

Contact: Sandy O'Hedy

s.ohedy116@comcast.net

PenMar Zone April 22

Advent, Forest Hill, MD

Contact: Donna Siverd dlsiverd@gmail.com

Tidewater Zone April 29 9 am-2 pm

Redeemer, Newport News, VA

Contact: Kathy Moss Kathy.moss@vbschools.com

Blue Ridge Zone April 22 10 am-3 pm

St.. John's, Farmville VA

Contact: LaDonna Schrank 4bigsis@cox.net

DCMarVa Zone May 20

Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Bryans Rd, MD

Contact: Tracie Pomrenke

pomrenke@yahoo.com

Hope Lutheran Church LWML in Virginia Beach

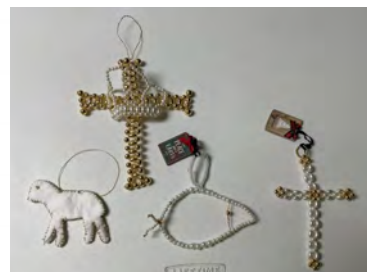
held their 13th annual Advent Tea on December 3, 2022. This annual event brings women together to prepare their hearts and minds and have a fellowship respite at the start of Advent. This year's focus was the story of the Jesse Tree: *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit* (Isaiah 11:1). Over 80 guests from Hope Lutheran Church and area churches in the Tidewater Zone attended this event. Tea, cookies and finger sandwiches were plentiful. Hope's own Praise Band provided music. Games were played, a special personal story was read, ornaments were hung and Rev. Whitfield gave a special message. The Ladies of the Tidewater Zone look forward to gathering each year during this tea as a chance to catch up and share our life stories.



Tidewater Zone Winter retreat

Feb 10-12-2023

The Annual Tidewater Zone Winter Retreat was held at the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center in Toanoo VA. We opted for the WCRC for a 2nd year because the cost is very good and the accommodations are great, but the food was the star of the retreat, really really good. Our theme was Witness: "And you are my witness declares the Lord and I am God." Isaiah 43:12b. We (all 20 of us) like to make crafts, and as we did last year, we learned the history of Chrismons and each person made two. Our bible study was presented by Chaplain Ryan Rupe, USN. Mutts with a Mission, a non-profit organization was our guest speaker. This organization, located in Virginia Beach, trains dogs for service to disabled Veterans and First Responders. Our two guest speakers came with dogs in training and a new puppy, great for dog lovers. We were able to supply Mutts with a Mission with blankets, training aids, treats, toys and pee pads through our In-gathering donations. The weekend was blessed with a bonfire with freshly made Kettle Corn on Saturday night. We enjoy this place so much that we are planning to go back on January 26-28, 2024 for a 3rd Winter Retreat at this location. We pray more will join us!



LWML National Convention

June 22-25, 2023

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Chesapeake District LWML Mission Grants 2022-2024

Mission Goal: \$100,000

- | | | | |
|---|--|---------|---|
| 1 | New Day Pregnancy Care Center, Dover, Delaware
Partial funding to train RN to become a qualified Ultrasound technician to empower clients to choose life for their unborn child and to equip them with the Gospel. | \$6,000 |  |
| 2 | Orphan Grain Train, Maryland
Help fund cost of shipping of 40' container filled with humanitarian aid to Mission Gardens of Christ, South Sudan | \$6,000 |  |
| 3 | Southeastern District-LCMS, Alexandria, VA
Scholarships to SED students pursuing careers in full-time church work | \$6,000 | |
| 4 | Faith & Work Enterprises, Baltimore, MD
Expand the workforce development and entrepreneurship training of FAW Enterprises to promote each person's ability to move toward their hopes and dreams | \$6,000 | |
| 5 | Changing Hearts One at a Time, Peace Lutheran Church, Washington, DC
Changing Hearts One at a Time provides continuing support for low-income families in the D.C. area through Peace Lutheran Church by providing needed clothing | \$4,000 | |
| 6 | LCMS International Missions (Pr. Phil Jaseph and Deaconess Rachel Jaseph)
Direct support of LCMS Missionaries in Uruguay, South America | \$6,000 | |
| 7 | Concordia Seminary Center for International Students, St. Louis, MO
Support for International Seminary Student's education at Concordia, St. Louis | \$4,000 | |
| 8 | McClure River Valley Community Development Center Inc.
Purchase (150) \$30 Food Gift Certificates to spread the work and grace of God to nourish below poverty level families and provide Bibles during the Christmas season | \$4,500 | |
| 9 | Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and Preschool, Roanoke, VA*
Partial funding of a platform lift for Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Roanoke, VA
<i>*Total amount requested \$6,000; will fully fund if possible.</i> | \$2,500 | |



Grant presentation for the New Day Pregnancy Center, Dover, DE



Mission Grant Focus: Grant #2 Orphan Grain Train, Maryland Branch

At our Chesapeake District convention September 2022, we heard about Orphan Grain Train, Maryland Branch from Irene Giguere. She enthusiastically shared with us how the \$5000 they received last biennium was used to cover one-time costs of setting up their sorting room at the new Orphan Grain Train (OGT) warehouse. Pictures showed a new warehouse with smiling volunteers hard at work. The sorting room is a key factor in running the warehouse efficiently. OGT is a 501c3 Nonprofit Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in American and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature and other aid to meet real needs. The OGT movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us. Only 1.8% of every dollar spent goes for administration and fundraising. 98.2% goes for helping those in need. There are branch locations across the country and have shipped to 69 different countries including the US. They just completed a "Light Up Ukraine" campaign and collected over \$85,000 to purchase over 11,000 solar powered Luci lights to give LIGHT and HOPE to the people of Ukraine. This Bible verse is placed with each. ***"In Jesus was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it."*** - John 1:4-5

The mission of OGT, Maryland Branch is to enable people who have more than they need to donate their material goods to those in need. As a Christian all-volunteer charity, they ship wherever there is a need for clothing, school supplies, shoes, wheelchairs, etc. They do this because they care about those who are suffering and in need and they **share the gospel** of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

South Sudan is the newest country in the world. Founded in 2011 after decades of civil war, South Sudan is one of the world's poorest countries and ranks among the lowest in many socioeconomic categories. Problems are exacerbated by ongoing tensions with Sudan over oil revenues and land borders, fighting between rebel forces and rebel groups, and inter-communal violence. As a result, OGT has shipped fifteen 40-foot containers to South Sudan to date and plans to ship many more in the future. The

latest container was received a few months ago and this was the response from Pastor Stephen Mathiang, "About 9,000 people greatly benefitted from the wide distribution of the items in the last two containers." They do their best to be sure that the donated items are spread out to reach as many people as possible with no one taking the lion's-share. "For instance, the medical supplies greatly benefitted our war affected people. The naked were clothed, the sick were visited and served, the prisoners were visited and helped. In short, all the donated items were used accordingly for God's own glory and also for the general good of His poor people." Given the horrific circumstances of the people of South Sudan and their tremendous need, OGT seeks to send another container of materials. They have asked for Bibles, solar lights, clothes, school supplies, medical supplies, sewing equipment and materials, office supplies and bikes – all of which they have available in their warehouse. This biennium OGT requested a \$6000 grant from Chesapeake District LWML to fund the cost of shipping a 40-foot container of humanitarian aid to the Mission Gardens of Christ, South Sudan. The cost for use of the container and for shipping is approximately \$21,000. This grant would help defray this cost.

Please visit their website for more information.
<https://www.ogt.org>

Visit the Maryland branch site here.
<https://www.ogt.org/branches/md/>

Portia Tomlinson, VP Gospel Outreach & Missions



Mission Grant Focus – #3 Student Aid Southeastern District-LCMS

Concordia Seminary's mission is to prepare the church's future pastors, deaconesses, missionaries and teachers, to form servants in Jesus Christ who teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. Your prayers and financial gifts are essential to the success of their programs. Our third grant is for student aid in the Southeastern District (SED) of LCMS. With this we can create a lasting impact on the lives and ministries of our future church leaders – for the sake of the Gospel!

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Matthew 6:20-21 ESV

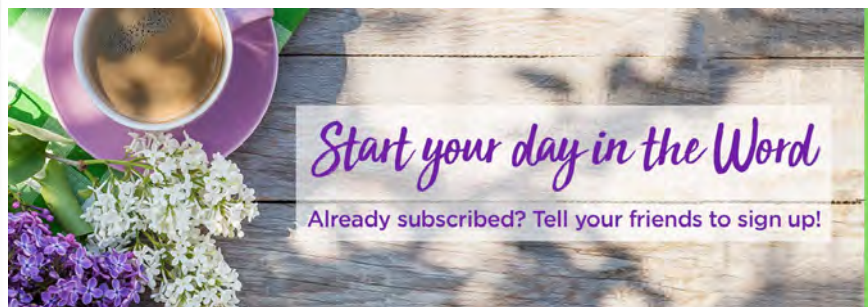
You've seen pastors at work, leading worship, preaching the sermon, presiding over the Lord's Supper, and baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They're also the first ones to the hospital, the last ones at the graveside, the pre-marital counselors, and the Bible study leaders. They comfort God's people in distress, challenge them in complacency, and, above all, love them in all circumstances. Anywhere you find people, you can find suffering. Anywhere you find suffering, you'll find a deaconess bringing Christ's love and mercy. Deaconesses are part of a sisterhood of women who have devoted their lives to acts of mercy for the sake of God's people around the world. The needs are great, but our God is still greater. Directors of Christian Education (DCE) are synodically certified, called, and commissioned life-span educational leaders prepared for team ministry in a congregational setting.



We expect the support of these church workers, but where is our support of them? Seminary education is an investment not only in the student, but also in the future of the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. SED, LCMS nurtures, encourages, and supports students planning to serve as church workers, pastors, deaconesses, teachers and directors of Christian educations. The SED shares an identical goal with the Chesapeake District of LWML, that is to help those in our congregations to journey with the Lord in serving Him by reaching others with the Gospel. Estimated costs per year for Masters of Divinity is \$30,000, more if they need to support a family and Deaconess over \$23,000. SED LCMS offers financial aid, but more is needed. This biennium SED has requested \$6,000 to provide student aid to 30-40 students per academic year to students who have made a commitment to serve the LCMS as a professional church worker, after graduation. More mites are needed to fully fund this worthy grant. Please encourage your congregation to donate.

Portia Tomlinson

VP Gospel Outreach and Mission Grants



<https://www.lwml.org/stayintouch>

Much Needed Mites!

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! God has worked through your generosity and stewardship to help **LWML National surpass their Mission Goal of \$2,150,000 for the 2021–2023 biennium!** But please **do NOT stop** sending in your mites. Chesapeake District's Biennium is 2022-2024, so we are just starting toward our goal of \$100,000. We need your support. As you are aware, 25% off the top goes to National mites, 45% to our mission grants and 30% for general funds. Grants are funded in the order listed and not until enough mites are collected to fully fund the grant. Each time you choose to give to LWML Mission Grants, you are directly pouring God's mercy and message into the lives of others. All ages, all locations across the globe are hearing of Christ's mercy. God knows the needs of every single person.

And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus
(Philippians 4:19).

Consider new ideas to stimulate donations at your church. Yes! All church members may contribute to LWML mites. Remember when you went to Sunday School and they accepted your pennies, nickels and dimes as donations? Why not start the children with their own Mite boxes and collect donations monthly. What about your congregation? Try setting up a donation Sunday once a month with a large Mite box from the CPH store. Remind the congregation of the important work done with Mites and remember to advertise since many of us send our church donations online and don't bring a check book or cash to church anymore. Consider matching donations from your local group or a challenge of your

design. National continues to publish their monthly Mite challenge calendar.

<https://www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/mite-challenge-calendar>



Let them know they can designate fund in the memo on their check or online banking contribution. Maybe they are not aware

of our district mission grants. Try highlighting one prior to your Bible Study, church service or at coffee fellowship. Refer to the information on our web site and in newsletters about the grants being funded this biennium.

We continue to praise God for His provision and for your generosity in stewarding the gifts you have been given. Thank you for supporting LWML as together we proclaim Christ, support missions, equip women, and serve others!

Ways to donate to Mites:

- Through your local LWML group which sends mites monthly
- Set up a single donation or recurring donation on line – <https://www.lwml.org/donate-online>
- Send your check to District Financial Secretary Edi Collis, 3601 Stoney Castle St., Olney, MD 20832, payable to **LWML Chesapeake District**.

Portia Tomlinson,

VP Gospel Outreach and Mission Grants



from our Christian Life Chair

Faith Evans

Greetings from your new Christian Life Chairman!

Hello from Faith Evans of the DCMarVa Zone! I have been thinking and praying about how I will encourage you in your growth as Christian women. Please also pray for me as I take on these new responsibilities.

Our new president, Christine Maconachy, led us in a thought-provoking activity at the end of the District Convention last fall. Do you remember what she asked us to do? We were to turn around to the person sitting behind us and introduce ourselves. Then we were to briefly get to know that person and most importantly, pray for each other after the Convention was over. Have you remembered? I have occasionally reached out to my prayer partner (should be more often) and have been blessed both by praying for her and knowing that she is praying for me.

I have two more prayer suggestions for you:

- Consistently pray for someone without needing to tell them that you are praying for them. Just a quiet communication between you and God for someone you care about.
- Pray for all the women of the LWML, that we are led to serve the Lord in whatever our personal circumstances are.



And now for the FUN announcements:

The CHRISTIAN LIFE RETREAT is coming on October 20-22 in Ocean City, MD! Our committee is working hard to plan a fun, spiritually and physically relaxing event for you, all while giving you opportunities to grow in your faith.

Here are a few of the details that we've worked on and can share with you.

Our presenter: Sharla Fritz, is a well-known Lutheran Christian speaker and author of Christian materials that encourage us to grow as God's children. Her topic will be "Measured by Grace."

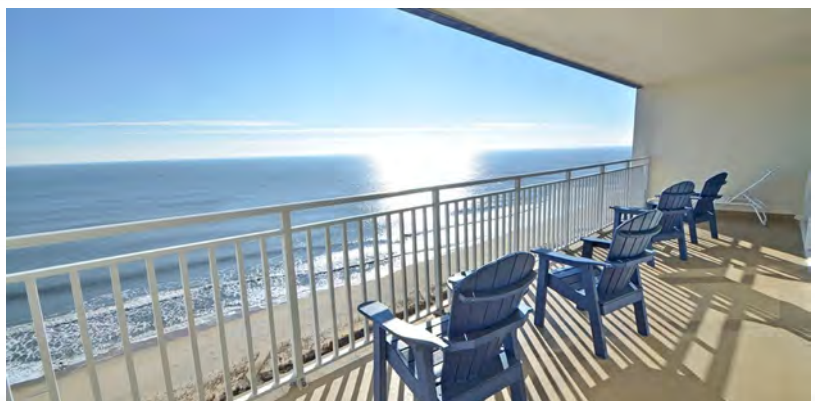
The place: the Carousel Hotel on 117th Street and Coastal Hwy in Ocean City. We are working to find you the best rates and amenities.

Free time choices: Servant Activities including a "Yarn Arts time. Bring your knitting and crocheting skills to make an item for someone in need, more info to follow.

Another first: Choice of small group sessions— there will be three to choose from.

Worship: Closing service with communion and a retreat interspersed with prayer.

Servant events, prayer room, a Mite walk and MORE! Stay tuned! What more can you ask than an opportunity to go to the beach, enjoy God's creation, and know that you are among women who love the Lord as you do!?





SAVE THE DATE

CHESAPEAKE DISTRICT CHRISTIAN LIFE RETREAT

October 20-22, 2023

CAROUSEL HOTEL, OCEAN CITY

Don't miss this special week-end!! Plan to refresh your spirit with Bible studies, walks on the beach, good food, lots of special activities, fun and fellowship with your LWML sisters.

Our retreat leader will be Sharla Fritz, a well-known Lutheran Christian speaker. Her presentation will be *"Measured by Grace, How God Defines Success."* Sharla will help us reevaluate our lives through the lens of God's Word. The world speaks a lot about success, but readers will find peace in the knowledge that God measures them by grace, mercy, and love, not worldly glory. With light-hearted stories and thought-provoking applications she makes Bible study fun and uplifting.

Sharla Fritz is an author, speaker, blogger, musician, and retreat leader. She is also a pastor's wife, mother, grandmother, and lover of resale shops. Sharla and her husband, John, live in a Chicago suburb. She is the author of several books, including the ones listed below.



Besides the Bible Studies, we will have the Pledge Walk, Servant Activities, Break Out Sessions and time for relaxation. Treat yourself to this special event!!

The summer issue of the *Chesapeake Breeze* will contain the Registration Form and all of the details for the Retreat. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend!!

We will be looking for **YOU!!!!**

Karen Matthiesen and Claudia Jacobson
LWML Meeting Managers