

## from our Jr. Pastoral Counselor

Rev. Gary Pomrenke

Beloved,

I can't believe that this year has zipped by so quickly. We have experienced the hardest year that I can remember aside from the 9-11 fallout. We have been challenged as Christians at every turn. People have taken positions at opposing ends of so many things. To wear a mask or not wear a mask ... cheating in the presidential election or not ... Covid-19 isn't real to those who are so scared that they haven't left their homes since March. Our world is facing a time that I have never experienced in my lifetime. We all have been very divided on how to react and live amongst this virus. The one thing that we should all be able to agree on is the fact that anxiety and fear will not add a day to any of our lives. Our Christian Nation has let our fear overtake our faith. I want not to admonish you, but rather to encourage you.

I don't think there was any biblical figure that was more tested by trial than that of Job. Even though he experienced such devastation and trial in his life, he always spoke of hope. In fact, the word hope is mentioned 32 times in the book of Job. He goes from having no hope in his gloomy life to the hope that can only be found in our Lord. Even in his struggles, and they were many, he found solace in the lord. Satan was allowed to strip everything of any worth from Job ... His wealth, his family, all of it gone. God knew that he was a great man of faith. After Satan took everything, Job had this to say to him ... <sup>20</sup> "Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. <sup>21</sup> And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." <sup>22</sup> In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong." Job 1:20-22 (ESV)

If Job could get through the trials that he faced, then we too shall be able to do the same. In facing the challenges that we currently are, we must be able to acknowledge that Our Savior **can** and **will** lead us through anything in this world that we may face. He is

greater than any disease that we will encounter. He is greater than any trial that we may encounter. He is greater than anything ... so let us focus on that this Advent season. Let's focus on what we can control. Let's remember the spirit of Christmas. Let's remember the path that Mary and Joseph traveled. Let's look into that manger on Christmas and see the only thing that can save us from our sins and from ourselves ... Jesus Christ! Let's focus on that miracle and our faith and our God will get us through the rest. Amen?

Blessings,  
Rev. Gary R. Pomrenke



December 2020

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Send your news and photos by March 1, to  
Linda Roscoe,  
Publications Editor

## from our President

*Teresa Tester*

God's Blessings to you all. A great big THANK YOU to everyone who participated and voted in our Delegate Orientation that was held on September 12 via Zoom. Thank you to everyone who attended the virtual convention. It was great to have our National President, Debbie Larson, attend, as well as Susan Brunkow, national Vice President, Christian Life. There were *more than 175* women (and a few men) gathered for our virtual 28<sup>th</sup> Biennial 2020 Chesapeake District Convention on September 26, under the theme "Tell His Glory." I hope you had a chance to visit our the new feature that was added to our website for the virtual convention, called "Padlet," where participants could post comments and pictures before and during the convention <https://padlet.com/cheslwml/wgg9gvb3tgcpszdyo>.

You will find pictures and other notes from the convention throughout this issue of the Chesapeake Breeze, including all the amendments passed and the mission goal and mission grant projects that were voted on. For me some of the most memorable parts of the convention was listening to the wonderful Mites in Action speaker, Lynn Corker, from Women of the Pearl, sharing a powerful message about the ministry to help women break their poverty cycle through education in the areas of nutrition, sanitation, business ownership, ministry leadership, and most importantly, the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Congratulations to Claire Carlson, our new Vice President for Organizational Resources; Portia Tomlinson, our new Vice President of Mission Outreach and Grants; Christine Dennis-Johnson, our new Vice President of Christian Life; and LaDonna Schrank, our new Treasurer. Rev Keith Beasley moves up to be our Senior Pastoral Counselor and Rev Gary Pomrenke is our new Junior Pastoral Counselor.

I am now a Senior District President. That means that I have completed two years of my four-year term. Half of the District Presidents were voted in this year and half will be voted in in 2022. The District Presidents hope to meet in Lexington, KY in January to look over the venue for the 2021 convention June 24 - 27, 2021. Please prayerfully consider attending this convention. Your faith will be uplifted. The Chesapeake District continues to send in Mites for our Mission Projects. All of the Mission Grants for 2018 – 2020 were funded. Thank you!! This year has been a challenge for collecting Mites. Please continue to send them in. If individuals want to, they can send checks directly to our Financial Secretary or contribute via our District website <https://www.lwmlchesapeake.org>. Remember that 75% of the Mite money stays in the Chesapeake District and 25% is sent to national for the LWML Mite projects.

Now, we turn our attention to the national gathering of the LWML in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24-27, 2021 "Running the Race... Looking to Jesus." We are challenged to increase the number of attendees from our Districts by at least 5% more than the number at Mobile, Alabama—I believe our District will increase that by 50% or more! If any of you like to make banners, we have the information for making the banner for the Lexington convention. Please let me or a Zone President know if interested. All the information about the convention and the registration forms will be in the Winter Edition of the *Quarterly*. Pre-convention special workshops include ones for teens, church workers, Heart to Heart Sisters and Deaf Ministry. Contact me if you want to attend any of these workshops. I continue to keep you and the LWML in my prayers,



Blessings on your Advent preparations and Christmas celebrations!

Teresa Tester, President LWML Chesapeake District

*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13)*

*But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. (2 Timothy 4:17)*

## Chesapeake District LWML Mission Grant 2020-2022

### Mission Goal: \$100,000

- |  |                |
|--|----------------|
| 1. <b>Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charlottesville, VA</b> - Provide Bibles, Concordances, devotionals, and Bible study materials for their jail and prison ministries.   | <b>\$5,000</b> |
| 2. <b>Southeastern District, LCMS, Alexandria, VA</b> - Provide student aid for pastors and/or church workers as they prepare to journey with the Lord.  | <b>\$5,000</b> |
| 3. <b>Orphan Grain Train, Mid-Atlantic, Smyrna, DE</b> - Purchase supplemental food items and pay for shipping to a country in need of food, clothing and medical supplies.  | <b>\$5,000</b> |
| 4. <b>Grace Place, Calvary Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD</b> - Create a computer lab as part of the newly forming Career Planning & Mentoring Center.   | <b>\$5,000</b> |
| 5. <b>Our Savior Lutheran Church &amp; Open Arms Christian Child Development Center, Laurel, MD</b> - Purchase cases of children's Bibles, English/Spanish outreach Bibles and Small Catechisms, providing devotional supplies for outreach in the Laurel community. | <b>\$3,500</b> |
| 6. <b>Faith and Works Enterprises, Baltimore, MD</b> - Continue community stabilization efforts toward establishing a mission to serve the Sandtown-Winchester community.  | <b>\$5,000</b> |
| 7. <b>Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, Ashburn, VA</b> - Send five ethnic leaders for training to and reach out to Muslim neighbors in the DC Metro area.   | <b>\$5,000</b> |
| 8. <b>Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS); Ethnic Immigrant Institution of Theology (EIIT), Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO</b> - Provide support for ethnic student/church worker to meet educational costs.  | <b>\$3,500</b> |
| 9. <b>The ESL Program at Lutheran Church of our Savior, Rehoboth Beach, DE</b> - Replace outdated text books and provide meals and fellowship.   | <b>\$5,000</b> |
| 10. <b>Lutheran Bible Translators, Concordia, MO</b> - Funds to support ongoing work in Nigeria for the Mbe translation of the Bible.  | <b>\$4,000</b> |

PAID IN FULL

**Total of \$45,000**

### How to Order Your Own Mite Boxes!

Did you know that you can order mite boxes directly from national LWML online? They are FREE in sets of 25 (both regular and children's versions) but you do have to pay for the shipping costs. [Click here](https://www.lwmlchesapeake.org/how-to-give.html) to see how to place the order.



Online Mite giving is fully available to give via fund transfer or credit card, Check out the details at <https://www.lwmlchesapeake.org/how-to-give.html>



## from our VP of Gospel Outreach

*Portia Tomlinson*

Even in a pandemic, Mites are being collected by His faithful servants.

Chesapeake District is blessed to be able to fund its first mission grant of the 2020 – 2022 biennium to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Charlottesville, VA. Founded in 1961, “Good News Jail and Prison Ministry is a Christian outreach that provides chaplains, volunteers, counseling, and educational programs to jails and prisons throughout the US. The first Good News Ministry Chaplain in Albemarle-Charlottesville Regional Jail was placed in 1988. Immanuel Lutheran’s Chaplain Joseph Varaksa began his work at ACRJ in March 2018. He meets and counsels both inmates and staff at ACRJ and coordinates schedules of almost 50 volunteers at the jail each month. He has added programs that help mentor inmates in getting jobs, housing, and support after they are released. Our Lord uses chaplains in correctional facilities for effective evangelism - sharing the clear message of the Gospel, Biblical discipleship – equipping believers to be devoted followers of Christ, and church mobilization – challenging the church and community to partner in ministry to meet the needs of inmates.

This mission grant will be used for support of a full-time chaplain at the jail, purchase Bibles, concordances, devotionals, and Bible study materials for use with the inmates, and potentially the development of church supported re-entry programs for the newly released.

The check for \$5000 was presented to Pastor Ben Maton at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charlottesville, VA on December 6, 2020 following worship by Portia Tomlinson, VP of Gospel Outreach.



Martha McGlynn presents last biennium check to Larry Zimmerman, Chairman of Bethania Kids and Greg Twombly, Director of Ministries of Lutheran Church of St. Andrew's, Silver Spring



Martha McGlynn presenting last biennium grant check for \$3800 to Hope Lutheran chair Chris Ellis and Pr. Alexander Whitfield for their music outreach program.

## from our 2020 Convention Chair

*Edi Collis*

On Saturday, September 26, beginning at 9:30 am, the Chesapeake District held its first virtual convention; this was our innovative response to the need to cancel our physical convention because of the pandemic. the number of **registered** attendees was 168, but we know at many sites, our ladies were grouped together using one computer, so the actual number of attendees may have been over 200! As you know, voting took place electronically in advance of the convention and 107 women participated as members eligible to vote. Bylaw updates were approved, the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee was accepted, a mission goal of \$100,000 for the 2020-2022 biennium was selected, which will allow the Chesapeake District to fund 10 mission grants!

As always, our members were generous with their contributions to the various collections. The amounts totaled: national LWML grants, \$925.00; District grants, \$1,570.00; Gifts from the Heart, \$905.00; and Mission Pledge Walk, \$725.00. Despite everything, we keep giving!

Through the wonders of technology, the convention received greetings from SED President Rev. Dr. John Denninger and LWML President Debbie Larson; heard the LWML report from Susan Brunkow, LWML's Vice President of Christian Life; and learned from our Mites in Action speaker, Lynn Corker, that the LWML gives her "Heartburn!" Just like every other convention, we sang, laughed, studied the Bible, worshiped, and prayed. The only thing missing was the LWML hugs!

Back in 2018, when I accepted the job of 2020 Convention Chairman, I couldn't imagine the turn events would take this year. I thank LaDonna Schrank, 2018 Convention Chairman, for all the notes and supplies she passed forward to me, which I will pass forward to the 2022 Chairman, slightly used! I praise the Lord that he provided the Chesapeake District with such creative thinkers, innovators, and leaders who stepped forward to work on the Convention Committee, accepting the challenge of creating a new convention format. President Teresa did a great job of keeping us informed regarding other districts' plans, so we could see all the different approaches that were available to us. I also thank the Potomac Zone members for volunteering to help with the original convention. We all "Serve the Lord with Gladness!"

Stay tuned for information about the Christian Life Retreat in the Fall of 2021. By that time, God willing, we will be able to meet in person and share those wonderful hugs!

Serving the Lord  
with Gladness,  
*Edi Collis*  
2020 Convention  
Chairman



**Delegates met by Zoom in advance of the Convention**



## Hope Lutheran, Virginia Beach hosts Advent Tea

Advent Tea at Hope Lutheran began ten years ago, started at the request of the Pastor, and put together by Kathryn Wacker and Britta Rinehard. We took advantage of our large space and invited other local ladies' groups in the Tidewater Zone to join us. Ever since it has been a way for Hope to join in fellowship with our closest church neighbors. It was a challenge this year as we had to respect the social distancing mandates and keep everyone safe and healthy. To our friends who couldn't join us this year, we understand, we miss you, we pray for you, and we are looking forward to seeing you again next year.

2 Chronicles 15:7 "But as for you, be strong and do not give up, for your work will be rewarded."

Hope Lutheran Church LWML hosted their tenth annual Advent Tea on December 5; while it was smaller, more spread out, and saw faces covered with masks, it was an enjoyable opportunity to prepare our hearts and minds for the Advent Season. The decorations were in true "Tea Party" style, the centerpieces were floral filled teapots of all shapes and sizes. The ladies were also invited to participate in the first ever teacup exchange. Names and addresses were exchanged with the cups and the ladies were encouraged to reach out and start a new friendship. Despite the pandemic, and social distancing measures, our ladies are able to make new and hopefully ongoing connections.

With a theme of Fun and Fellowship in Faith, Hope LWML lit the advent wreath around lovely music. We opened with a heartwarming solo by Rebekah Samuel singing *Mary Did You Know*. Our choir director Ellen Belfi and flutist Sue Cashman accompanied Colleen Shahayda in a collection of hymns, some we sang along with and some we sat back and enjoyed the solos. We were also joined by Hope Lutheran's Bell Choir led by Alison Hernandez. We all enjoyed the silly rhymes in the Pass the Centerpiece game that we sprinkled throughout the event. The favorite game was the Guess the Christmas Song that was suggested by Chris Eller and illustrated by Desiree Davis. Pastor Alexander Whitfield gave a wonderful message reminding us to find our "Joy-ittude" this season. We were all touched by the short story and devotional both which focused on faith and waiting. Closing the event out was "The Rest of the Story" of *Silent Night*, followed by everyone singing a touching rendition.

Advent Tea is a special event that could not be hosted without the help of an army of volunteers. Many thanks to the Planning Committee, all of the set-up crew, and especially the clean-up crew that rolled up their sleeves to wash dishes! May all your hearts and minds be well rested, and we pray that you find the "Joy-ittude" that supports you for the rest of the year.

