

from our President, Christine Maconachy



All Around the Neighborhood....I'm Going to Let It Shine"

Very soon, the wonderful lights of Christmas will be taken down and put away. It's been exciting, comforting and uplifting to see all the lights around us. They give us a strong feel of enthusiasm for celebrating! Lights make us happy! One light, the light of Christ does not get put away. The light of Christ has shined within us since our baptism. His light points the way to salvation. His light not only gives us happiness but also gives us a passion to love others, share His light and serve. Another word for this type of happiness is PASSION. Passion is an emotion that requires action. Passion keeps you going no matter what hurdles you may face, or lie ahead.

Everyday I am blessed to see passion in action in LWML sisters. Becky Hoffman, Facilities Director of Grace Lutheran Church in LaPlata, Maryland is on fire with passion for Mites! She has developed a program to involve the entire church, especially the children in daycare and Sunday School, in collecting Mites for our LWML missions. It is inspiring to witness her love and light for Christ, her PASSION, as she shares her concept. Attending the Christian Life Retreat gave her the discernment, insight and motivation for beginning her passionate project. What a phenomenal way to ignite Grace to live Matthew 28 and Go and Tell through intentional Mite collections.

We recently awarded Mission Grant #5 to Peace Lutheran Church, Washington, D.C - CHOT: Changing Hearts One at a Time: Uniting the Community for Christ! How many of you have cared for incontinent loved ones? I will never forget when an ambulance crew came to take my Dad to the hospital; a crew member complained about my Dad's smell, and that he had wet himself. As a former EMT volunteer, I know EMT's are exposed to all kinds of smells as they tend to those in need; however complaining is never part of the medical response! The comment by that volunteer hurt; however, my Dad needed to get to the hospital immediately. Now think about Ward 7 of Washington D.C. where Peace Lutheran is located. Think about children who are abused, bullied, poor, ill, and....? In situations at school and home, when stressed, they wet themselves. Not all in Ward 7 have access to a washing machine, clean clothes, or even soap, and must come to school soiled and smelly. This leads to more embarrassment, more harassment and more denigration of one's worth. Women of Peace, Denitra Hawkins, Yvonne Brown, Kathleen Mobley, Etta Watts as well as Rev. Lloyd Gaines have recognized the children's inescapable plight and have acted to relieve their suffering. This Mission Grant will help CHOT to provide clean underwear, other essential clothing and soap. It also provides opportunities for the women of Peace to reach out to parents, teachers and most important, to the children with the Light of Christ.

What light will you be sharing in your neighborhood? How can you bring the hope of Jesus as the source of light in Christ? Lift us up and inspire us by sharing your actions and passions as you reach out to share the light of Christ. Email me, clmacon@aol.com, your actions of light and passion that will be shared with and inspire LWML sisters in our Chesapeake District. *Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is heaven.* Matthew 5:16. God Bless YOU with His incredible Love, Joy and Light in the new year!

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

December 2023

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

Chesapeake District LWML Mission Grants 2022-2024

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	PAID IN FULL
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	PAID IN FULL
3	Southeastern District-LCMS, Alexandria, VA Scholarships to SED students pursuing careers in full-time church work	\$6,000	PAID IN FULL
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	PAID IN FULL
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	PAID IN FULL
6	LCMS International Missions (Pr. Phil Jaseph & 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	PAID IN FULL
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	
Total		\$45,000	

Chesapeake District Convention News

**September 20-22, 2024
(Friday to Sunday)**

Hyatt Regency at Dulles Airport

It's hard to believe that the 2024 Convention is less than a year away. The Committee will begin meeting once a month to finalize our plans. I met with our entertainment person on November 16 and you are going to love her! Start saving your pennies for an absolutely fantastic Convention.

Martha McGlynn



Presentation of Grant #7 by President Christine Maconachy to Rev. Dr. Joel Elowsky, Coordinator of International Seminary Exchange Programs and Elizabeth Meschke, Grant Writer

Mission Grant Focus: Grant #5 Changing Hearts One at a Time (CHOT)



CHOT accepting mission grant of \$4,000

Photo left to right: Lloyd D. Gaines Sr., (Pastor), Kathleen (Joanne) Mobley – Congregation President, Denitra Hawkins (Coordinator and founder), Etta Watts (Team member), Yvonne Brown (Outreach Director), Christine Maconachy, District LWML President

(Not pictured) Antonia Hawkins, Sheryl & Janice Freeman, Samantha Powell, Vivian Hughes and Peace LWML president Vallorie Coley.

Grant #5 for this biennium is Changing Hearts One at a Time (CHOT) at Peace Lutheran Church in Washington, D.C. The \$4000 they have been awarded will allow them to increase their support for children from low income families in their community. Four times each year they seek to provide children ages 1–12 years of age with basic clothing and other necessities. While providing children with the basic necessities including pajamas, clothing, coats, socks and hygiene supplies, they also share the Gospel. The members seek to build relationships with children and their families, and show them why the Bible is relevant to their future and their faith. Changing Hearts provides outreach to children in the church community. Many of the children attend Houston Elementary School. In the spirit of Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your father in heaven.” Four times a year the members plan and execute the supply distribution. Participating members shop, package and distribute the items. At the April 2022 distribution over 200 bags were provided. The focus was on undergarments based on anecdotal information provided by the Assistant Principal. Additionally, 50 sets of undergarments (25 boys and 25 girls) were provided to the schools for emergency use. A generous donor also provided t-shirts from the Washington Nationals 2019 World series victory that the members of CHOT were able to give to the parents present. As the bags were distributed at dismissal of school, volunteers from the church were able to share with the children that God knows their heart and their prayer that the small gift would help them to let their light shine with a smile.



CHOT has a core group of 15 volunteers, supplementary support is provided by some of the seniors and sick & shut-in members who stuffed bags at home. On average volunteers gave a minimum of 12 hours each. Initial funding for CHOT was provided as a part of the church outreach budget and a \$250 grant from Thrivent. The funding from LWML will allow the expansion of the program to include more children and their families. CHOT volunteers report that they were touched by the many hugs and smiles they received from children and parents. The families were in awe with the gift bags and very thankful. Members of CHOT change the items given each cycle based on the needs of the children. Donations are scheduled for April, July, October and December. Changing Hearts One at a Time allows the members of Peace Lutheran Church to be a light to the children and families of their community.



from our Christian Life Chair

Faith Evans

The Lord blessed us with good weather for the Christian Life Retreat weekend, which gave us the opportunity to see His beautiful creation! It was so nice that so many women attended who had never been to a retreat before.

Thank you to everyone for their help at the CLR. Whether you had a “bigger” contribution, like leading an interest session or speaking at a designated time, or if you had a “smaller job” - helping me to set up the Silent Auction without much notice or passing out something - I appreciated it all.

I hope that some of the lessons from the Bible studies have stayed with you and that you have perhaps been able to apply them to situations in your own lives. I pray that we are able to see ourselves through God’s eyes, not our own, sometimes self-critical eyes. Thank you to Sharla Fritz for bringing this message to us through her Bible studies. Some highlights of the Christian Life Retreat that were mentioned during comments and in the evaluations, were the Bible studies presented by Sharla Fritz, the “forced” getting out of our comfort zones seating at lunch on Saturday so that we talked to people we didn’t know, the opportunity to relax because someone else took care of the details, having a nice balance between free time and planned activities and the worship service.

Speaking for the Christian Life Committee, I’d like to share that all of the evaluations are read and appreciated, changes for the next gathering are considered where possible, and areas to improve or enhance the next retreat are already being discussed.

We will also be looking at a different area of our district for the next Retreat. Unfortunately, costs for places to meet have risen quite a bit since the Covid pandemic, and costs are certainly taken into consideration when planning all LWML events. Our pocketbooks feel the pinch, too!

We received a very appreciative thank you from the Believe in Tomorrow Foundation in Ocean City, one of our in-gathering recipients. I was fortunate to be able to tour their facility for families with chronically ill children and see how they provide respite.

One of my goals in my personal spiritual life that I’d like to share with you, is to have more consistent morning daily devotions. As I was gathering materials for the Retreat folders, I came across many LWML Mustard Seeds, devotionals which are about the size of a bookmark with a short thought for the day and supporting Bible verses to direct our hearts and minds to God. (There should have been one in your Retreat folder.) These can be ordered from LWML, through CPH, and make a nice personal devotion. I’d like to close by sharing the front of a Mustard Seed from 2007 (they’re timeless!) called “Begin With God... So We Can Pray to Him” -

“What is Prayer?”

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for the privilege of coming to You in prayer. Thank You for hearing me and thank You for answering my prayers in the best way and at the right time. Help me to pray faithfully and wait patiently. In Jesus’ Name. Amen.”

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your Christian Life Chairman.

Faith Evans



Bell Ringing at the Christian Life Retreat

Christian Life Retreat - Ocean City, MD - October 20-22, 2023



Jeff Smith, entertainer, leads the dancing



Pr. Gary Pomrenke and Martha McGlynn



DCMarva Zone



More laughs Saturday night



President Christine with speaker Sharla Fritz



Pastor Gary Pomrenke and Pastor Mike Thress with their new stoles, created by Ann Zimmerman (2nd from left)