



from our President

Teresa Tester

I am praying that God will richly bless you in 2021 and that we will recognize the blessings when they come our way.

Because time is moving so quickly, I want to remind you about the LWML National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky (KY) on June 24-27, with the theme "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus" **is going to be in person!** You can register online at www.lwml.org or use the registration form that was in the Winter edition of the *Quarterly*. If you register by



April 15, you get an "early bird" savings of \$20 on your registration! Hotels are booking fast, so don't wait. Please let me know if you are planning to attend. Special masks are being made and I want to ensure you receive one (ttester9612@verizon.net). During the convention masks and physical distancing are required. LWML will follow

Kentucky guidelines, not CDC. The exception will be if Kentucky changes to no mask, LWML attendees will still wear their masks. Meals will seat four at a table. There will be no worship service and choir. The LWML store will be open and the exhibits will be different. Booths will not be on top of each other and there might be one-way aisles. To receive convention updates, please visit the LWML webpage www.lwml.org/2021-convention.

In the meantime, I encourage you to "feed your Mite Box." 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 here in the Chesapeake District and 25% is sent to National for the National Mite projects. National LWML Mission Grants — Praise the Lord! — all 21 grants have been paid before the end of the biennium! This is the first in the history of LWML.

I encourage you to pray. Pray that Mites are received to fund the grants chosen at the 2020 Chesapeake District convention and for those who will be elected during the 2021 National Convention. Pray for the mission grant recipients and the work that they do for the glory of God. Pray for Stephanie Greig and Kaitlyn Handy, two H2H sisters – Ruth Horak and Andrea Morton, and Pastoral Counselor Gary Pomrenke as we prepare for the Convention. Your zone leaders will have lots of information to share at your spring events regarding the 34 mission grants that will be on the Convention ballot and the officers that will be elected. Please pray for God's guidance in the selection process. Most of all, pray for continued blessings on the LWML as we celebrate joyful service!

Your LWML sister,
Teresa Tester, District President

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)

March 2021

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lwmlchesapeake.org

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

from our Senior Pastoral Counselor

Rev. Keith Beasley

*"Alleluia! The Lord is risen!"
"He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!"*

I am looking forward to Easter Sunday this year to hear this wonderful response shared among our people again.

Last year Good Shepherd in Roanoke did not have Sunday services for 13 consecutive weeks from mid-March to mid-June, including Palm Sunday and Easter. I count every opportunity to gather since that time as a great blessing because I realize how much I missed being with our congregation as we worshipped together.

Like many of your churches, our congregation is still not back all the way. We are still spread out (social distancing), covering our faces (wearing masks), and still not lifting our voices as we all desire (refraining from singing). We still have folks that we have not seen since March of last year as they remain safe at home for the sake of their family and themselves. Yes, we have had outdoor services when the weather has cooperated (and we hope that we may be able to do that again soon), but being outside has presented challenges for others who cannot attend that type of service either.

Throughout all of this, we have all dealt with the uncertainty, frustration, dismay, and anger that living through a pandemic may bring. What has been encouraging to me is that I have seen people make great sacrifices so that we can both meet here at church in person and bring the Word of God to those at home through internet streaming. I am thankful to God for our Chesapeake District LWML leaders who continue to carry out the work we are committed to do. I am grateful to God for those who love Him and seek the best for our brothers and sisters in Christ and for our neighbors.



At this time as we have grown weary of the pandemic restrictions and have a desire just to be free of what limits us, let us, as dearly beloved children of the heavenly Father, remember two things:

1) **The overriding reason for the approach we take toward the pandemic is for the sake of our neighbor.**


The Small Catechism tells us in the explanation to the Fifth Commandment: *We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.* We need to keep this at the forefront of our thinking as we look ahead; and

2) As dearly beloved children of the Heavenly Father, we take heart in the Word of God as it gives us strength and endurance for the days ahead: **"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith"** (Galatians 6:9-10). Again, I emphasize what Saint Paul says: **"Let us not grow weary of doing good."**

In Jesus, our Good Shepherd,
Pastor Keith

Chesapeake District LWML Mission Grant 2020-2022

Mission Goal: \$100,000

1. Immanuel Lutheran Church, Charlottesville, VA - Provide Bibles, Concordances, devotionals, and Bible study materials for their jail and prison ministries.	\$5,000	
2. Southeastern District, LCMS, Alexandria, VA - Provide student aid for pastors and/or church workers as they prepare to journey with the Lord.	\$5,000	
3. Orphan Grain Train, Mid-Atlantic, Smyrna, DE - Purchase supplemental food items and pay for shipping to a country in need of food, clothing and medical supplies.	\$5,000	
4. Grace Place, Calvary Lutheran Church, Baltimore, MD - Create a computer lab as part of the newly forming Career Planning & Mentoring Center.	\$5,000	
5. Our Savior Lutheran Church & Open Arms Christian Child Development Center, Laurel, MD - Purchase cases of children's Bibles, English/Spanish outreach Bibles and Small Catechisms, providing devotional supplies for outreach in the Laurel community.	\$3,500	
6. Faith and Works Enterprises, Baltimore, MD - Continue community stabilization efforts toward establishing a mission to serve the Sandtown-Winchester community.	\$5,000	
7. Our Savior's Way Lutheran Church, Ashburn, VA - Send five ethnic leaders for training to and reach out to Muslim neighbors in the DC Metro area.	\$5,000	
8. Center for Hispanic Studies (CHS); Ethnic Immigrant Institution of Theology (EIIT), Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO - Provide support for ethnic student/church worker to meet educational costs.	\$3,500	
9. The ESL Program at Lutheran Church of our Savior, Rehoboth Beach, DE Replace outdated text books and provide meals and fellowship.	\$5,000	
10. Lutheran Bible Translators, Concordia, MO - Funds to support ongoing work in Nigeria for the Mbe translation of the Bible.	\$4,000	
Total of \$45,000		

2021 LWML Prayer Service Now Available

When was the last time you prayed with someone? Not **for** someone, but **with** someone? We are encouraged in Scriptures to be people of prayer; prayer marks us as children of the heavenly Father. He has promised to hear us and to answer our prayers. The 2021 LWML Prayer Service, written by Rev. Robert L. Mundahl, a former national LWML Pastoral Counselor, encourages us to expand our life of prayer to include praying with others. This free downloadable Prayer Service is available [here](#).



from our VP of Christian Life

Christine Dennis-Johnson

Renew

Thank you President Teresa for the caring beginning of the year words and sharing your LWML Biennial theme, “TRUST, RENEW, GROW, SHARE.”

Renew

Definition - Merriam Webster: (1) to become new, or as new, (2) to begin again; resume; (3) to make a renewal (as of a lease). Dictionary.com: to begin or take up again (as an acquaintance, a conversation, etc.); resume - to make effective for an additional person; to renew a lease; to restore or replenish.

Synonyms- Thesaurus.com: continue, extend, prolong, reopen, repeat, restore, resume, revive.



Psalm 51:10 reads “Create in me a clean heart, O GOD, and renew a right spirit within me.” This, we sing/chant or speak on Sundays as our Offertory from (LW) Divine I, II & III. To become new through Holy Baptism, Matthew 28: 19-20a (NLT) reads: “Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.” These are a few Bible and hymnal uses. Even our computer tells us to refresh to receive new messages. Throughout our stress-filled lives, we search for ways to renew, from an undisturbed good night’s sleep, to a complete spa day, to a great sermon and fellowship with church members. Daily, weekly and occasional other times of renewal are always great for the body, soul and spirit.

Romans 12:2a (NLT) reads “Don’t copy the behavior and customs of the world, but let GOD transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.”

May we all find in GOD the way to become new, renew, refresh, restore, or replenish. May God bless us all! Amen.

Gifts of Love

St. Paul wrote in Galatians 3, “So, whatever you do, whether in word or deed, DO IT ALL in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.” That perspective reflects a heart captured by God’s Grace, intent on sharing that Grace with everyone. Through His gifts God saves with His Gospel. Remembering that all we have is a Gift from God, how do you plan to give back after He calls you to your heavenly home? No matter how much you have been given you can continue to share your bounty with your loved ones, charities and church. Linda Gage is the LWML Gift Planning Counselor working with our district and will be happy to assist you with expressing your faith through your Christian Estate Plan. LWML provides free, professional Christian estate planning service. You can contact Linda at 1-800-741-4138.

Marge Bruning, mabruning79@gmail.com

Gifts of Love Advocate



from our Parliamentarian

Sylvia Shives

What is a Networker?

At one time this was a well-known term in LWML. It was first used by (national) LWML to designate a person in each society to receive information from the national and district leaders and disseminate it to the ladies in her society.

Do we still have networkers? Yes and no. While the function of the networker remains, the term itself is no longer used at the national level. Just as recent bylaw changes no longer use the term “society” to refer to women’s organizations in a church who are part of LWML. Oh, and by the way, the term “ladies” is considered outdated, preferring the term women.

The recent update of the Chesapeake District bylaws followed the LWML bylaws in using the term “group” for women’s organizations. Although the group may choose to call themselves whatever they wish. Your group can still be called a circle, a guild or even society if that is what you have always called it.



Do we NEED a networker? Yes and no. The function remains, but the individual may be called by any term you choose such as “group contact person”, “news gatherer”, “mail lady”, “information passer” or even “networker”. The function of this person is to receive information from the district or the zone and see that it gets passed on to the women in their church, it’s that simple.

Why can’t the group president do that? She can if she plans to be the president indefinitely.

Presidents tend to change so it works best if the person who serves as “networker” is someone who is willing to do this job over several years so the information goes out even as other officers change. The person who serves as “networker” may certainly hold another office in the group since “networker” is a function, not an office as such.

So, to answer the original questions:

A networker is someone in the group who receives district and zone information and passes it on to everyone in their group in a timely manner.

Yes, we still have networkers, but they may hold some other office or function under a different title.

Yes, each group needs a networker and it is essential that this person can receive the information electronically (email, attachments, etc.) and can pass it on or copy it for anyone in their group without email. They may also need to copy flyers or information to post.

The networker should be someone willing to perform this function over a period of years so there is no break in getting information passed on when there is a transition to new officers in the group.

Plough Mud and God

Plough mud is a smelly mixture of soil, decay, and sand. A mixture of past and present. It's incredibly soft. If you happen to step in it, it's too late. You're stuck and keep sinking. You'll slosh along, slower and slower, each step sucking your feet or shoes deeper and deeper into it. You can hear the plough mud sigh and gasp as you pull and strain to keep moving and avoid sinking.

A few years ago, my college roommate and I were walking along the waters edge in South Carolina as the sun was rising. We were collecting seashells, sand dollars and admiring the beauty of a new day dawning. Suddenly, I heard her cry out, "Susie, come quick. Help me!" She was struggling and petrified! As she tried to lift her feet out of the quicksand substance, she sunk deeper. Alarmed and then laughing at her struggling, I ran to her rescue. We still laugh about this story! She was scared & stuck!



Thinking about that episode and our lives today, our faith can get like that too. There are times when our faith becomes stuck. Some people think a black cloud is following them. Some people just want to give up. People are tired of the unknown.

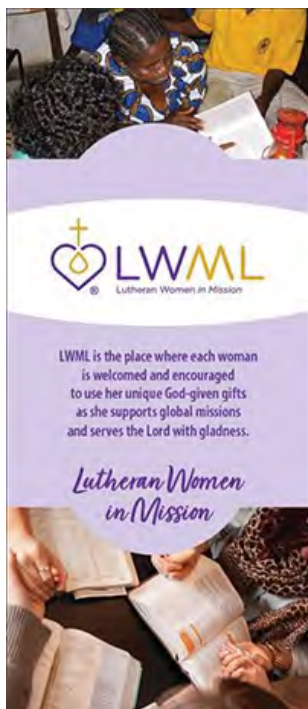
Currently, many of our lives feel stalled. Some people feel alone in this big world while everyone else has direction. Some are on a path. Some are just sitting and waiting. Stuck in the stinky mud. Some don't know who to turn to. Some say they get no help. People feel stuck....where is God?

We need to remind ourselves and others He is working! Remember the fig tree that bears no fruit, or the vineyard with no grapes. Trees look positively dead in the winter then bud in the spring. Yes? When you're stuck, stalled, or even stale, stay faithful...even when life feels empty. Pray! Enlist others to pray. Remind yourself of joys past, and trust that your joy will return again. God has plans that will not leave you stuck in the mud. The Sovereign Lord is my strength: He makes my feet like the feet of a deer, He enables me to get on higher, more stable ground. (Habakkuk 3:19)

Sisters in Christ... reach out to one another, family members, shut ins, and neighbors. Make phone calls, write notes and encourage one another. Pray. Remind others that God is at work. He won't leave us stuck. If the tree buds and the tulips return in the spring, our faith will dislodge from the sticky mud and burst through with new growth. Spiritual pruning is painful, but purposeful, and we need to trust His ways.

Susan Sohn
Christian Life Chair

LWML Board of Directors Approves New Mission Statement



At the LWML Presidents Assembly meeting recently, the Visioning Committee presented a new Mission Statement which was approved at the October LWML Board of Directors' meeting.

LWML Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

Assisting the women of the LWML to put the new Mission Statement into practice, the committee also provided five LWML Core Values:

- **Christian Women** - We live as redeemed children of the Triune God.
- **In God's Word** - We live in joyful response to the Holy Scriptures.
- **Mission-Focused** - We answer God's call to share His Gospel at home and abroad.
- **Embrace Diversity** - We are sisters in Christ who value and benefit from each other.
- **Servant Leaders** - We are called and equipped by God to serve others.

A new LWML brochure was also created with the new LWML Mission Statement inside. These are available from the LWML Office.

Special Gifts Endowment Fund Update



My thanks to Sandy O'Hedy for her help and encouragement as we made the chairman transition. Sincere thanks also to Deb Poese for the gift of her time and expertise; she has done a great job revamping the Special Gifts portion of the Chesapeake District LWML website. She has updated the explanation, Special Grants guidelines, and both the donation and request forms.

As of March 1, 2021, the fund has a balance \$5,466.70 plus \$15,000 in a certificate of deposit. In February, we received two gifts in memory of Cheryl Fertitta, one from Sylvia Shives and the other from the women of Concordia LWML.

We hope you think of Special Gifts as a wonderful way to remember or honor someone and also support the mission and ministry of the Chesapeake District LWML. Monies from this Fund may be given in amounts up to \$300 for small mission projects, special expenses or other programs. All requests should reflect the mission statement of the LWML.

For more information about donating a gift or requesting a grant, please go to our website, lwmlchesapeakedistrict.org, and choose the Mission Grants tab to reach the Special Gifts Endowment Fund section. If you have any questions, you may also contact **Linda Nau, Chairman**, at naule@aol.com or 804-514-0095.

We welcome Desiree Davis from Tidewater Zone & Amy Cannavo from Delmarva Zone as members of the newly created **Growth and Leadership Development Committee**. We thank them for their willingness to serve.

The LWML has many resources to help with your faith walk. Please check out www.lwml.org/mustardseed-devotions

You can sign up to receive Mustard Seed Devotions; LWML Enews; 2 Minute Tuesdays; and/or Leadership Tips.

Claire Carlson
VP of Servant Resources