

from our President

And you are my witnesses,” declares the Lord, “and I am God. Isaiah 43:12
When reflecting on the September 23-24 District Convention and its theme, one cannot help but smile and also think of the Bible verse,

Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. Psalm 81:10!

At the convention we were blessed with a cloud of witnesses: our proclaimer SED President Rev. Dr. Bill Harmon, Bible study leader Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Gary Pomrenke, Orphan Grain Train speaker Irene Giguere, LWML representative Brenda Piester, Linda Gage, representatives from Faith and Work Enterprises, musicians, our humorist Martha McGlynn, a host of hard working sisters AND YOU! God certainly filled us with His Love, Hope and Spirit as we talked, shared, prayed, laughed and sang. The convention was filled with heartfelt noisy, joy-filled mouths, as we encouraged and witnessed with each other.

How can we be filled with God:

*Check out the Winter Lutheran Women’s Quarterly for **all** the information you need to know in order to attend the National Convention, June 22-25, 2023 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin as we “CELEBRATE the LORD of the NATIONS” Psalm 33:12-13. Let’s GO!*

- Sign up for the daily online Mustard Seed Devotions on the LWML website
- Attend your church LWML group and your zone gathering events
- Have daily conversations with our Heavenly Father
- Use Visual Ministry resources to enrich your devotional life (lwml.org)
- Reach out to people needing Christ in their lives,
- Utilize LWML resources found online for your meetings, witnessing and serving
- Pray for LWML Chesapeake District members and women of the Southeastern District



Assembly of Leaders: Ann Zimmerman, Pr. Gary Pomrenke, Paula Ellison, LaDonna Schrank, Christine Maconachy (seated)

Thank you to all of you, who have reached out to me with prayers, as I begin serving as your District President. A huge Thank You to Teresa Tester who faithfully led us through the past four, unusual years as our District President.

Dear LWML Sisters, So much to say, and so much to do, for all of us, as we serve together, as one in His Mission Field. Much more information will be forthcoming! Check your mailboxes, emails, Facebook, the Chesapeake Breeze and our District website. Christ’s Love to you all!

In Christ Alone,
Christine Maconachy

“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 trees of the field shall clap their hands.” Isaiah 55:12

November 2022

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 www.facebook.com/ChesLWML

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

Dear friends in Christ in the LWML Chesapeake District,

I am the Director of Development for Bethania Kids Foundation, a ministry that serves nearly 1,000 indigent children, women, and families in India. Our vision is to *"nurture and equip the children of India to change their own world through Jesus' love."* We have been delighted to be partners in this ministry with you in the LWML Chesapeake District since 2015.

It was a great honor to be invited to tell the story of Bethania Kids at the 2022 Chesapeake District Convention in September. The theme *"... and You are My Witnesses"* is especially appropriate given the work of the Bethania Kids staff and volunteers who witness in Christ's love to so many who have never heard the message before. Unfortunately, I was not able to be with you as I contracted COVID the week before the convention. Thank you for your understanding, patience, generosity, and for your prayers for my recovery. I wanted to share with you personally all the wonderful things happening at Bethania Kids in God's name, and there are many! Here is a brief snapshot:

Bethania Kids News

The last 2½ years have been very challenging for all those at Bethania Kids, especially the children, women, family and staff in India. In March 2020, all our residence homes, care centers and women's empowerment programs were shut down due to COVID. That meant the children in the four homes were sent to live with relatives in villages, regardless of the ability of the families to care adequately for them. They and the families of the children in care centers found themselves in even more dire straits, without adequate food, than ever before.

Bethania Kids staff in India immediately went into community support mode, including providing pandemic supplies and planting gardens, like the one shown below, to supply fresh produce to families in the community.

During the time when our ministry sites were closed to children and women, the staff kept in touch with all of them, either in person or by phone. Through God's grace, we lost only one staff member and one

child to the pandemic.

The construction of the new Shalom Home for 48 girls in Batlagundu continued and the home was dedicated in April 2022. The girls and staff moved in late June and are loving their new home!

Since the children have returned to all the residence homes and care centers, there have been several post-pandemic workshops designed to help children, staff,

and parents find ways to meet the physical, emotional, and intellectual challenges resulting from the pandemic. The benefits of working with physicians, psychologists and educators from a local university are already evident and will continue for years to come.

There is much more to tell! Our latest newsletters contain wonderful stories and photos showing God in

action through Bethania Kids. Follow these links to learn more:

Spring 2022: ***Equipped Anew***

bethaniakids.org/2022/05/seeds-on-the-wind-spring-2022/

Fall 2022: ***Nurturing New Growth***

bethaniakids.org/2022/09/seeds-on-the-wind-newsletter-fall-2022/

I would be very glad to visit with LWML Chesapeake District chapters and churches over the next weeks and months to talk about the Bethania Kids ministry, either in person or via Zoom. Sending newsletter articles and short videos is also possible. Thank you for considering what, where and when would work best for your own community. You can reach me at wendy@bethaniakids.org. I look forward to hearing from you and meeting many of you in person.

All of us at Bethania Kids are very grateful for our partnership in ministry with the LWML Chesapeake District. We are excited to see where God leads us together next!

Wishing you all God's richest blessings,

Wendy Oesterling

Director of Development, Bethania Kids
540. 539. 7646

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it." *1 Corinthians 12:27 (NIV)*



District Convention Wrap Up

You have heard the old saying “build it and they will come.” That statement was true for the Chesapeake District LWML Convention held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Gaithersburg, MD on September 23-24. Over 100 ladies attended, even with the threat of COVID still in the air.

We were blessed with:

- Uplifting communion worship service on Friday evening. Newly elected SED President Bill Harmon was the proclaimer with Pastors Beasley and Pomrenke assisting.
- Two inspirational Bible studies by Pr. Pomrenke.
- Presentations from two of our Mission Grant recipients: Faith and Works Enterprises and the Orphan Grain Train. The Bethania Kids representative could not be with us because of COVID – but her information is printed in the *Breeze*.
- Music provided by Jake and Erin Pomrenke. Yes, they are the son and daughter-in-law of Pr. Pomrenke (Senior Pastoral Counselor).
- Information and a video presented by the LWML Recording Secretary Brenda Piester. She flew in from Kansas.
- New Officers for the 2022-2024 installed. The Lord has provided us with great leadership for the next biennium. A big **Thank You** to the outgoing officers!
- New Mite Projects were selected by the delegates. The delegates voted electronically before the Convention -- so we didn't have to wait for the results. (See new Mission Projects).
- New Mission Goal for 2022-2024 biennium is \$100,000. Of this total 25% will be sent to national, 45% will be used for the new Chesapeake District Mission Projects and 30% will be used for Inreach, i.e. Quarterlies, newsletters, Board meetings, operations, etc.
- LWML's 80th birthday celebrated at this Convention. Margaret Martens prepared a video of photos of the past and Desiree Davis provided a photo booth. Banners that were used at previous District Conventions were also displayed.
- Pledge Walk lead by Susan Sohn provided additional revenue of over \$1,000. Those shoes were made for walking ladies. Thanks!!

- Humorist Martha McGlynn made us laugh.
- New Chesapeake District LWML Shirts and Hoodies were for sale. They will be offered at the Retreat and Zone events.
- Convention offerings: District Mission Projects - \$1,431.84 and National Projects-\$1,085. These were the initial figures, I am sure the totals are higher. Give thanks to the Lord!
- Dinner and Lunch: According to the evaluations, the DoubleTree chef gets high marks. This is very unusual for hotel food...but makes the Meeting Managers very happy. JJ
- LWML Store had lots of items to sell and there were seven vendors that were eager to tell you about their organization.
- Gifts from the Heart. Lutheran women are **GENEROUS!!** The room was filled with flip flops for Orphan Grain Train, eye glasses for Most Ministries, children's clothing for Changing Hearts One at a Time, and travel size toiletries for Faith and Works Enterprises. And – over **\$1500** was collected in gift cards for the Seminarian students at St. Louis and Ft. Wayne. Also note cards were written to accompany the gift cards.
- Audio/Visual technology and equipment provided by Bruce and Deb Poesse. This would be a big expense item in our budget if we had to use the hotel's technician and equipment. Many thanks to both of them!
- Thank you to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund for the \$500 donation to the President's reception.
- Giving God the Glory for the 2022 Chesapeake District Convention!!

Karen Matthiesen & Claudia Jacobson
Meeting Managers



Young Woman Reps.

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 |

Total \$45,000



Galilee Lutheran, Pasadena, MD

Your Mite Offerings Have Made an Impact

While listening to mission grant recipients at the district convention in September, I realized how much more alive the mission grants seemed, than when I read the submission proposals and resolutions two years ago. It was exciting and encouraging to hear how our mites are working to minister to His people.

We heard how Orphan Grain Train (OGT), a non-profit Christian volunteer network gathers much needed donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs of God's people. They are a recognized service organization (RSO) of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).



Many shipments have been in cooperation with Lutheran Hour Ministries, LCMS World Mission, LCMS World Relief, and other Christian ministries. This past biennium, OGT, Maryland Branch, was funded \$5,000 to cover one-time costs to set up the sorting room in the OGT warehouse. It is the hub of activity for volunteers to sort & pack supplies received, such as clothes, medical & school supplies. The sorting room is a key factor in running the warehouse efficiently. At the convention, we heard about how this has helped them in their mission. And saw the bright smiles of the volunteers there.

We also heard from Faith and Work Enterprise and their work in Baltimore. It became very real to me that they are doing important work in extending His kingdom. You may remember them as the “chocolate” people, having used Pennsylvania Avenue Chocolates as a fund raiser. They have a Gospel approach to a three-fold ministry, 1) Community stabilization 2) Workforce development 3) Long-term financial literacy and holistic wellbeing and were awarded \$5,000. They gave us a very personal view of this approach to “being there” for God's people in need. In February, they were able to set up 33 warm clothing/blanket stations throughout the community and provided warm clothing to hundreds of community members, many without a place of residence. In a Back-to-School Event in September, they were able to provide well

over 300 backpacks filled with school supplies and countless uniform pants to children in Sandtown-Winchester. Please continue to pray for the work they do in our own District.

Extending His Kingdom....part of Gospel Outreach through our mission grants. Delegates at our 2022 LWML Chesapeake District Convention adopted a mission goal of \$100,000 again for this biennium, with \$45,000 in mission grants. See the list provided elsewhere in this issue and pray for our grant recipients and all of the Gospel work they support. They are funded in order of rank with #1 being paid first. Please see another article highlighting our first grant request for New Day Pregnancy Care Center, Dover, DE.

Once funds are distributed, they must be used by the end of the following biennium or returned. There are fewer grants to fund this biennium because the BOD increased the request limit for each grant to \$6,000. With God's help, we will reach our goal of \$100,000 in Mite donations, or exceed it by June 2024. Of that \$100,000 goal, 25% goes directly to national for their mission goals. Then 45% goes to mission grants (\$45,000) and the last 30% for general fund. For the last two biennium at least, we have not collected enough Mite donations to fulfill the grants we accepted and funding was supplemented from the general fund. Thank God that those funds were available. We hope to keep you informed on the status of Mite collections with a thermometer of donations. Please continue to encourage the collection of Mites to reach this goal.

There are several ways to donate:

- Set up a single donation or recurring donation to district on line – see link below
- Through your local group
- Send your check, payable to **LWML Chesapeake District to District Financial Secretary** Edi Collis, 3601 Stoney Castle St., Olney, MD 20832.

For more information of giving, please click this link. <https://www.lwmlchesapeake.org/how-to-give.html>

Portia Tomlinson, VP Gospel Outreach and Mission Grants

Mission Grant Focus – NEW DAY Pregnancy Care Center – Dover, DE

Grant #1 for this biennium is NEW DAY Pregnancy Care Center Dover, DE for \$6,000 to cover in part the expenses of training a registered nurse to become a certified ultrasound technician and provide clients with free ultrasounds to educate and encourage life-affirming decisions.

New Day Pregnancy Care Center Dover, DE is a local, faith-based, non-profit organization serving families in their community by providing free and confidential services. They strive to support women during pregnancy and promote confidence in families by extending compassion, hope, and holistic support. They not only meet the physical needs of those they serve, they also care about their clients mentally, emotionally and spiritually. As they seek to display the Gospel of Jesus Christ, they are dedicated to educating, equipping, and empowering their clients to make life-affirming decisions for themselves and their families. Their mission is to advocate for women in their pregnancy, and help restore families by extending compassion, hope and holistic support.

NEW DAY envisions a culture where women and men faced with pregnancy decisions are **Transformed** by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and **Empowered** to choose life for their unborn children and **Abundant Life** for their families.

NEW DAY is made up of compassionate staff and trained volunteers. Their goal is to give professional medical services, adequate support and resources to those they serve. Their volunteers are well-trained and committed to providing all of the information our clients need as they navigate parenting and make decisions about their pregnancy. At NEW DAY, they seek to radiate positivity, instill confidence and promote hope to their clients. Their desire when clients visit is to feel comfortable and experience the love of Jesus when they are there.

NEW DAY has been engaged in the pro-abundant life cause since March 1985. The center was established by churches in the area with a shared conviction to spread the Gospel through love by offering life-affirming services. They've had multiple name and location changes, but one thing that remains the same is the support they receive from local churches, businesses and individuals. With increasing financial

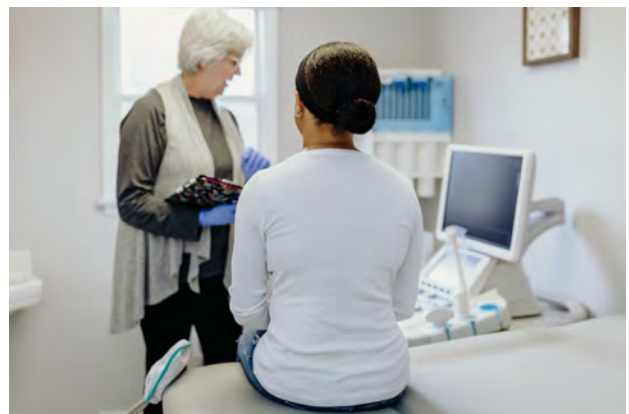
support, lives are transformed and life-affirming decisions are made every day at NEW DAY!

NEW DAY Pregnancy Care Center needs a certified ultrasound technician so that their center is able to provide free ultrasounds to women and men facing a pregnancy decision. The impact of offering ultrasounds in our center is reflected in the following statistics.

- 85% of abortion-vulnerable clients who met with a pregnancy center counselor chose life compared to 94% of abortion-vulnerable clients who received an ultrasound chose life for their unborn child.
- 26% of abortion-minded clients who met with a pregnancy center counselor chose life compared to 52% of abortion-minded clients who received an ultrasound chose life.

In order to provide this service to clients, their center is required to train a registered nurse to become a certified ultrasound technician, which will cost an estimated amount of \$7,485. Adding this service will allow them to continue to educate, equip and empower women and men to choose life-affirming alternatives to abortion. Additional funds will be covered using program expenses. NEW DAY will maintain certification renewal requirements for trainee, keep up to date on all ultrasound maintenance and supplies as well as all applicable liability insurances necessary to provide this service.

This worthy grant will be paid when Mite donations are sufficient to fund.



from our Special Gifts Endowment Fund Chair

Linda Nau

Special Gifts is a great way to remember or honor someone, while also supporting the mission and ministry of the Chesapeake District LWML. Monies from this Fund may be given in increments of \$100 up to a maximum \$300 for small mission projects, special expenses or other programs. All requests should reflect the mission statement of the LWML.



In September, three grants were given to help defray the registration cost for three women to attend the LWML Chesapeake District Convention in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

The combined amount of the grants was \$500.

In the last three months, we have received donations totaling \$350.

Gifts in Memory of:

Linda Becker, Claire Carlson, Ron Collis, Charlotte Reed, and Robert Shives by Karen Matthiesen

Claire Carlson by Teresa Tester

Pamela Tate by Constance Hoff

Gift in Honor of:

Claudia Jacobson, Best Friend Ever, by Karen Matthiesen

As of October 24, the Special Gifts Endowment Fund has a balance \$6,837.51 plus \$15,000 in a certificate of deposit.

For more information on and forms for donating a gift or requesting a grant, please go to our website, lwmlchesapeakedistrict.org. Choose **Giving to LWML or Mission Grant** 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.

“Serve The LORD with Gladness”

On the heels of the Chesapeake District Convention, which was a glorious event – from the opening Worship Service, which gave most of us a first look and opportunity to hear from our new Southeastern District President, Rev. Harmon – he left with us a blue wristband with white writing “Immeasurably more” from Ephesians 3:20,21; to the beautiful people attending; to the District and Zone banner procession; to the Bible studies from then Jr. Pastoral Advisor, Rev. Pomrenke; to the enjoyable music - by Mr. & Mrs. Pomrenke; to the last thump of the gavel by Chesapeake President, Teresa Tester Killion.

Thank you to those leaving office and their families. Welcome to the new officers and their families. If you are in the LWML, you serve, whether you hold an official position or not, and you do it with joy and gladness. Everyone serves in their own way.

1 Peter 4:11b: *If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength GOD provides, so that in all things GOD may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.*



LWML National Convention

June 22–25, 2023

Milwaukee, Wisconsin



DelMarVa Zone - Sandy O'Hedy

Bethany, Salisbury, MD: is restarting and have been collecting Mites.

Christ, Seaford, DE: In October had a LWML table at the Community Fall festival, Observed LWML Sunday and are planning a Ladies Christmas party on Dec. 8th.

Galilee, Kent Island, MD: will have a Cookie Walk in December to support a deaconess student.

Our Redeemer, Newark, DE: Had first in person meeting on October 15. Filled out Thanksgiving and Christmas greeting cards for congregation's shut-ins, uses devotion from LWML website, will collect soup for food pantry in November and donate two gift baskets for Faith, Bear, DE quarter auction that will benefit A Door of Hope Pregnancy Resource Center in Wilmington (This is the organization that received a grant at the convention.) In January and February, they will help Faith raise funds for the Pregnancy center by having a science board filled with envelopes that members pull off and inside will be an amount that is between \$1-\$10 for them to donate or more if they would like.

Peace, Smyrna, DE: Held a pork & sauerkraut dinner on October 15 to support a seminary student. Collect Mites in church on a quarterly basis.

Sand Dollars, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Rehoboth Beach, DE: The LWML grant that was received from the last biennium was presented to the ESL leaders on LWML Sunday. The November meeting will be hosting "Family Promise of Southern Delaware" a program to assist & combat homelessness for children in lower Sussex County by providing housing to maintain the family housed together; a light lunch will be provided and free will offering collected.

St. John's, Dover, DE: No officers therefore no meetings, but collect Mites quarterly and are having annual Nativ-Tea on December 4.

Trinity, Chestertown, MD: No formal ladies guild, but several of the ladies have met to continue with LWML online Bible Studies. The ladies are planning a lunch for Veterans who reside in a local assisted living home on the Sunday closest to Veteran's Day. The Veterans will also attend church that day. On the last Sunday in October Mites will be collected for the first time in several years.

Ellen Thress has written a book *My Journey Through Life*. It is available on Amazon. Ellen is the widow of Rev. Ed Thress and mother of our district junior counselor, Rev. Mike Thress

Tidewater Zone - Kathy Moss

Tidewater Zone recently held their Fall workshop. Doreen Canuelle used the LWML Candy corn devotion. (see photo) Our guest speaker was Mi cha El from Hands of God ministry. Mi Cha El travels to devastated areas and uses his carpentry skills to help people in need. We had an ingathering of items (water, hand sanitizer, flashlights etc.) for him to use on his next mission. Postcards were created to send to seminary students and inspirational rocks painted for people to place where others will find them. (many pictures to choose from) Each group shared their "What's your 80? ideas. Cookies for jail ministry, socks for children's groups, goody bags for veteran's and first responders were some of the ideas presented. The pastor presented a biblical portrayal of "Trust".

Hope Lutheran gave out invitations for their Advent Tea to be held December 3.

Tidewater Zone Winter Retreat will be held February 11-13 at the Williamsburg Christian Retreat Center in Toano, VA.

Blue Ridge Zone - LaDonna Schrank

Praise from the Blue Ridge Zone. After more than two years the Lord has put us in touch with both the church in Danville, Christ the King Lutheran and the church in Charlottesville, Immanuel Lutheran. Plans are to have a Spring Rally at St. John's, Farmville at the end of April 2023. LORD, we give You thanks. Isaiah 40:20 *They that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength: They shall mount up with wings as eagles: They shall run, and not grow wear: They shall walk and not faint.*

Photo Gallery | Chesapeake District Convention 2022



