

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

VOL. LVII, NO. 1

English District

April 2021

**Lutheran Women's Missionary League
2021 Convention
Lexington, Kentucky
June 24-27**



District Caucuses in Lexington

District caucuses will be held from 3:45-6:20 p.m. on Thursday, June 24. There will be no district photos or choir due to restrictions on social distancing. The Winner's Circle Celebration is scheduled for 7:00-8:30 p.m. on Friday, June 25. Come and shop till you drop at the Purple Rose Store in the exhibit hall, which will be open from 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Thursday. **More information will come in future issues of eNews.**

The Convention Housing Manager is kept up-to-date on convention housing. Updated information on hotels contracted by LWML in Lexington is found on "Convention Central" on the LWML website. Since the convention information insert in the *Quarterly* came out, we have added two additional hotels.

Convention Update from April 9, 2021

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Rupp Arena at Central Bank Center, where the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Convention will be held June 24-27, 2021, can only allow a limited number of people to attend. The arena can hold many but LWML must adhere to their restricted meal seating capacity which, at this time, is at 2,000 seats. Because of these restrictions, **LWML has shut down registrations at this time.** The LWML Board of Directors prayerfully anticipates that the percentage allowed will increase before June. When/if capacity is increased we will supply a link to registration and honor the early registration price for a limited time. Go to **LWML.org** News Releases for the link to be put on the waiting list.

With much prayer and discussion the LWML Board of Directors voted to move forward with an in-person convention. In order to make this possible there are a few necessary changes.

- ◆ CDC regulations will be followed: Physical distancing & masks will be required
- ◆ District Pictures and the Choir have been cancelled
- ◆ Table set for meals will seat four

**Mark Senechal
New Song Leader in Lexington**

Due to a conflict in schedules, Dina Vendetti cannot serve as song leader at our Lexington convention. Dina enthusiastically recommended Mark Senechal, who serves as director of worship at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in St. Louis, Missouri. Mark has also served as a guest worship leader for chapel services on the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis campus.

LWML English District President

Darlene Keca

lwmldarlene@gmail.com

Greetings,

Easter Sunday has passed but now we enter the Easter season. He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

God has richly blessed the LWML with faithful leaders at various levels within the organization. They remind us, we are HIS as we continue **Running the Race...Looking to Jesus**.

Some clarification regarding the LWML April 9, 2021 news release included in this publication: The **LWML has shut down registration at this time** - refers to category A. General Registration. You can register to be placed on a wait list. If you are category B. District Delegate and have not yet registered please contact me for further instructions.

Another option: Everyone Can Watch Convention Live! If you are unable to attend the Lexington convention in person, you can still participate by watching live video streaming of the convention. All sessions and worship services will be streamed live, and most will also be available for viewing later. A link to the live stream and printed material and resources can be found on the LWML website at www.lwml.org/2021-convention. If you know others who do not have the ability to watch the convention live, consider inviting them over and making it a party.

The LWML 2021 Brochure is now available online at the LWML store in packs of 50 for the cost of shipping.

Our New Mission Statement:

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

Where is my replacement? It's starting to sink in that in about a year, May 1, 2022 to be exact; I will be leaving office as your district president. This has led me to think of many of you who might be a little closer to the end of your term, regardless in what capacity you serve. Are our replacements ready to step forward? The LWML has somewhat of a training program. Although that's not what it's called, we refer to it as mentoring. But if you think about it, a woman regardless of her age might receive a personal invitation to an LWML event, which may lead to more functions and maybe a meeting or two. Someone might recognize her gifts, even if she isn't aware of them herself. With a little encouragement a society officer is born. Wow, how did that happen? And so our journey or adventure begins, from society to zone to district and maybe beyond. But along this path one thing stays the same. The Lord is always front and center. What path does he have planned for you? Are you listening?

"Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths." (Psalm 25:4).

Sincerely your sister in Christ,
Darlene



Secretary
Tonya Blomeling

Young Women
IN MISSION

**It is Time to Update the
LWML English District Directory**

The other day I was listening to the radio when they started talking about the last year and all that the World had been through. As we complete Lent, and celebrate our Risen Savior, this last year was an extended Lent. A time of prayer and devotion, to give up things in our lives that don't really matter, but most importantly bring our selves closer to the Lord. He is our only constant in this time of trials and uncertainty.

I am given hope that he walks with us every day and has already experienced that which we are going through. We are never alone. We have our families, friends, churches, the love of an awesome and gracious Father, and soon, time to gather as Sisters in Christ. Lexington doesn't know what will happen when the LWML comes together. A collection of Sisters from across the country "clothed in fine linen and purple" (Proverbs 31:22) running our race! Just as the Queen (Church) is clothed by her King, so we will be awarded what Christ has won for us, that which will last forever.

As we prepare for the Convention, we also take fellowship in our Spring Rallies. A time to gather with women from our Zones and Societies. To praise the Lord and raise our voices in songs of joy. One of the many things that the district is working on requires your help, on the Society and Zone levels.

Each Zone President will be sent a directory spreadsheet. In that spreadsheet, the zone/societies will provide their committee members, and member contact information. By completing this information in one directory, it will help the Executive Committee better communicate much needed information, reach out and provide support to all members, and provide one location for the members of the English District. Spring rallies are a great time to gather this information since we are all together.

Please look for that email to be coming soon, and please don't hesitate to reach out with any questions. I look forward to celebrating the Love of Christ with you in Lexington.

Tonya Blomeling
LWML English District Secretary
tonyalrose@yahoo.com

We are honored to have two women to represent the English District at the Lexington, Kentucky Convention 2021. Mary Ulm is a stay-at-home mom of 3 wonderful children and the wife of a Pastor. She attends Ascension Lutheran North Olmsted in North Olmsted, Ohio where she is active in the choir and with youth events and is looking forward to learning ideas on beginning a chapter at her church.

Ashley Beffrey is a stay-at-home mom of 2 beautiful children and the wife of a Pastor. She attends Epiphany Lutheran Church in Dorr, Michigan, part of the Western Michigan zone. Ashley enjoys helping with LWML events and is looking forward to bringing back new ideas to help her local LWML grow.

Calling all women who have served as a Young Woman Representative for the English District. I would like to hear from anyone who served at either the LWML conventions or the LWML English District conventions in the past. My goal is to start a group to share ideas for growing our local LWML zones, encouraging other young women to attend a convention as a YWR or just to go, and to support each other. Please contact me at emmylou83@gmail.com.

Your sister in Christ,
Emily Terry, LWML English District
Committee on Young Women, Chairman

Convention Prayer

Lord Jesus, all authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to You, and so we entrust each mile of travel, each hour of fellowship, each moment of service, and each attendee of the LWML convention to Your care. We thank You for Your gift of fellowship and ask that our fellowship would overflow with joy. We give You thanks for the blessing of worship and ask that our worship would point always to Your Cross and Empty Tomb. We give You thanks for the privilege of service and ask that You continue to enable all attendees to the convention, as well as all zones, chapters, and members of the LWML to serve You with gladness. By your Word and Spirit nourish our faith, embolden our witness, and encourage our confidence in You. For you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Grace and Peace in Christ! Pastor Ulm

MOST Ministries Receives Grant

Bethel Larson

LWML-English District Second Grant Is Paid!

Our \$3,000 grant for MOST Ministries Clean Water Filters has been paid! Your Mites, noisy offerings, and other contributions for our 2020-2022 Mission Grants are accomplishing much despite the pandemic. When MOST Ministries teams are again able to travel, your gifts will bring life-saving clean water to people in Thailand, Mexico, Guatemala, Uganda, and other places where contaminated water causes illness and death, especially among children.

Using clean food-grade five-gallon buckets and efficient Sawyer water filters, MOST Ministries teams hold classes on health and hygiene and demonstrate how to use and clean the filters, which will last a lifetime. The buckets and filters are then given to families along with the Water of Life: a simple explanation of the Good News of Jesus. After the eruption of the El Fuego volcano in 2018, survivors living in temporary wooden shelters in Guatemala had nothing to call their own; the very basic furnishings supplied for them had to be left behind when they could finally move to permanent housing. However, the MOST Ministries water team assured them, "This water filter is yours to keep. Take it with you when you move. It will supply clean water and help you stay healthy for many years!"

On February 4, the check for \$3,000 was presented to MOST Ministries Executive Director Ruth Martin and Business Manager Kelly Bone at the MOST Ministries Mission Center in Ann Arbor. According to Ruth Martin, the water filters to be purchased with the grant funds "will be life-changing for the families that receive them." The presentation was made by Bethel Larsen, a member of the LWML English District as well as a MOST Ministries board member and short-term missionary who plans to serve on a clean water team to Thailand this October. Another water team is scheduled to serve in Mexico. Though the 2021 team schedule is limited and uncertain because of COVID-19, there are openings available on several scheduled teams. For more information, visit www.mostministries.org.

MOST Ministries greatly appreciates this Mission Grant, which helps to extend its humanitarian outreach and, especially, the reach of the Gospel as it partners with LCMS-affiliated host churches and missionaries around the world.



Below is a portion of the November 2020 Mission Grants Committee Update

As the district conventions were completed, it was a joy for me to read all the convention reports. I was reading how God continues His work through the district mission grants. Now, with 39 of the 40 districts reporting their mission grant information, the districts will be funding mission grants totaling \$3,543,973. How awesome is our God! **And** how unbelievably privileged we are to serve Him through LWML.

Leslie Colligan Mission Grants Committee, Chairman

LWML English District Mission Grant applications are due by May 1, 2021.

Contact Gail Arndt, gealwml@gmail.com, for more information.

Grant #4 Restoring Hope through Outreach Programs \$3,000

Mt Calvary Lutheran Church & Camp Restore, Detroit, MI

Camp Restore New Orleans has been for many years a beacon of hope in the City of New Orleans, providing care to the people affected by Hurricane Katrina. Today, driving through the streets of Detroit, it is clear there has been a disaster here - an economic disaster that has left behind ruins like that of New Orleans - it has left behind a city that often feels abandoned and hopeless. Children are growing up not only in poverty, but in neighborhoods that reflect that poverty to extreme degrees. Parents trying to give their children the best they can, find themselves surrounded by abandoned houses, lots and yards so overgrown that often you cannot tell there is a sidewalk - or even a house - under all the growth. In our immediate area, the 9th precinct of Detroit, which was once the most violent precinct in Detroit, is only 25% populated. So few people means that it is also difficult to provide not only city services that many of us take for granted, but also children's and family enrichment programs - especially Christian based programs sharing the good news of God's love - are far and few between in this neighborhood. For these reasons, with much prayer and consideration, Camp Restore Detroit was created as a ministry of Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, situated in the middle of the 9th precinct, in partnership with Camp Restore New Orleans.

Planning for Camp Restore Detroit (CRD) began in late 2016, and by May of 2017 we had our first campers arrive! Campers come and stay at our facility, receive housing and meals, and partner with the community to Restore Hope. Desiring to take our lead from the community, we first met with our Neighborhood Police Offices (NPO) and they set up meetings for us with all of the community leaders that were trying to produce change in the neighborhoods. There was an audible gasp from the entire room when they heard that we were bringing volunteers into their neighborhood and asking what we could do to help, rather than announcing to the community what they needed. In 2018, we had over 25 groups and more than 2,000 nights (counted like hotel nights) booked. We have cleared hundreds of lots, boarded up countless houses, and served at nursing homes, local food banks, and sports centers in partnership with these leaders. Reservations for 2019 are coming in (we've already had groups visit)

who will do more work and spread God's love in our community. We will be purchasing a home and using it for outreach programs for children, families and adults. Our first priority is to provide Christ centered art classes, and then move on to theater, tutoring for children and classes for parents on parenting, finances, resume building, etc.



Though this past year has been challenging, with your mites the English District has been able to provide grants for the first three missions selected at our 2020 virtual convention.

- Operation Barnabas' Military Share Food Distribution
- MOST Ministries Clean Water Filters
- Epiphany Lutheran Church Food Truck

Thank you to all the zones and non-zone societies who have sent in their mites which not only support the missions selected by the district but they assisted in surpassing the LWML Mission Grant Goal for 2019-2021.

Please continue to encourage your societies to keep those mites coming. We still have four grants, which total \$9,000, to fund for our English District before March 31, 2022.

With God's help, we can do this!!!
Carol Klein, Treasurer



LWML English District Mission Update

Barbara Martin Taylor, VP Christian Life/Human Care

Rev. Dale & Suzanne Kaster - Serving the Lord in Prague - The Czech Republic

Over their Christmas vacation in the United States Rev. Kaster was able to baptize their two new grandchildren, his son's daughter Rebecca Anne at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Greensboro, NC and his daughter's son, Jameson David in Southern Florida. You can follow the Kastors on their open Facebook page (Kastors in Prague) (you don't have to have a Facebook account to view their page):

<https://www.facebook.com/kastorsinprague>

Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Deaconess Cheryl Naumann - Serving the Lord in Latin America

Daily devotions for 2021 and a copy of the *Christology* volume of the Confessional Lutheran Dogmatics series have been distributed to all the pastors and seminary students in the Latin America Caribbean Region. You can have them add your email address to their mission newsletter list by emailing Cheryl, cheryl.naumann@lcms.org, then you will know what is happening where they are.

Rev. Dr. Edward and Monica Naumann - Serving the Lord in South Asia

Right now, Rev. Dr. Edward and Monica Naumann are in Colombo, Sri Lanka. They were to be staying there until they got their visa to move to India. On Epiphany this year, however, they were instructed instead to move back to the USA as soon as possible, and wait in the USA until their visas for India come through. Therefore, they will pack up their things and put them into storage, to be shipped to India. Saturday, April 10th was the book launch for the publishing project of The Gospel of John in Sinhala. You can follow this at the website: sinhalagospel.com. Rev. Dr. Naumann will also continue to assist Concordia Theological Seminary, Nagercoil, in producing materials on the Augsburg Confession, to be a required course for all graduating students. For more information about the Naumanns, go to: <https://www.lcms.org/Naumann>

Rev. Ted and Rebecca Krey - Serving the Lord in Latin America & the Caribbean

Rev. Krey serves as the regional director for the Latin America and Caribbean region of the LCMS, which encompasses 22 countries in South and Central America and the Caribbean. He is privileged to oversee 40 missionaries planting churches in 10 countries. Hand in

hand with church planting, he works to establish the formation of pastors and deaconesses in Latin America. In 12 countries, he also works with partner churches to strengthen them in their church planting efforts and in various other ministry areas. For more information about the Kreys, go to: <https://www.lcms.org/Krey>

Our newest English District Missionaries are:

The Rev. Andrew and Megan Fedder will serve the Lord through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as career missionaries in **Odessa, Ukraine**. As a pastor and theological educator, Rev. Fedder will work with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ukraine in their seminary, pre-seminary, and continuing education programs, and with other partner churches in Eurasia by providing educational opportunities for pastoral formation and support of other church workers in the region. Rev. Fedder and Megan will also assist with the development of educational media for congregations and Bible schools in the Eurasia region.

They have five children — Wesley, Beatrix, Charlie, Rosalind and John-Paul — who will join them on the mission field but the Fedders have not gone overseas yet. They are still living in El Cajon, CA. We do not know when they will actually be moving. We believe that once they are overseas, they will be supplying monthly newsletters and perhaps social media.

The image shows the phrase "Christ is Risen!" written in a large, elegant, gold-colored cursive script. The text is arranged in three lines: "Christ" on the top line, "is" in the middle, and "Risen!" on the bottom line. The background is white.

Call to Action

Lutheran Service Book 854: A Call to Action From Your Vice President of Organizational Resources

*Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go, My daily labor to pursue,
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know in all I think or speak or do.
The task Thy wisdom has assigned, O let me cheerfully fulfill;
In all my works Thy presence find, And prove Thy good and perfect will.
Thee may I set at my right hand, Whose eyes my inmost substance see,
And labor on at Thy command, And offer all my works to Thee.
Give me to bear Thine easy yoke, And ev'ry moment watch and pray,
And still to things eternal look, And hasten to Thy glorious day.
For Thee delightfully employ Whate'er Thy bounteous grace has giv'n,
And run my course with even joy, And closely walk with Thee to heav'n.*

Might the course YOU are running include serving on an LWML English District committee? Joy is guaranteed to follow. Are Bylaws a labor that you might pursue? Is Leader/Member Development a work you could offer? The Bylaws Committee is in need of two members willing to study the LWML English District Bylaws and propose necessary changes and to review proposed changes to zone and nonzone bylaws. The Leader/Member Development Committee is in need of one additional member to join in providing leadership guidance and training to LWML English District members and also to be an encourager of groups to help increase membership in LWML. Zone leaders, is one of your assigned tasks zone bylaws review or revision? Spring is a great time to clean up those bylaws. And no matter what God in His bounteous grace has given you to do, may you cheerfully serve and ever prove His good and perfect will.

Running with you and hoping to hear from you,
Diana Honebrink, VP of Organizational Resources
knirbenoh@juno.com

Dear Ladies of the LWML English District!!

As you all know, because of Covid-19 our 2020 convention in Pittsburgh, PA was cancelled. However just because we could not meet in person, did not mean the work wasn't done! Our convention voting was held electronically with new mission grants approved and new officers elected.

By the grace of God, our hopes are to have our 2022 convention take place in Pittsburgh, PA. But regardless, the work of the district continues. Next year, we will be voting into office a new President, Vice-President of Gospel Outreach, Treasurer and three individuals to serve on the nominating committee. NOW, don't be shy! We know women of the LWML are intelligent, dedicated and find joy in serving the Lord through the mission of the LWML. We need you to come forward. This is an opportunity to get to know some beautiful and amazing Christian women. They will give you friendship and mentoring, and although each woman has a different position, the Executive Committee works as a team. As someone once said, "God does not call the equipped, He equips those called."

Well, He also calls those that are equipped. Each nominee must be an active member of her local society and must have served as an officer on zone level or as an officer of a non-Zone unit. While it is not required it is extremely beneficial if the nominees for the office of President have previously served on the District Executive Committee. Please encourage members of your zone to prayerfully consider applying for one of these positions. Applications for Nominations are available on our website: www.englishdistrictlwml.weebly.com under, the Convention Central tab.

If you have any questions, contact the Nomination Chairman - Cinda Souer at
lwml.ed.webservant@gmail.com.

God gave His children many talents; we just have to have the courage to use them.

Respectfully submitted,
2020- 2022 Nomination Committee Members:
Laura Calvert – Arizona Zone
Ruth Crowl – Greater Chicago Zone



Please pray for...

MISSION GRANTS 2020–2022

Mission Goal: \$18,000

**Military Share Food Distribution—
Operation Barnabas—Calvary Lutheran Church, Mechanicsburg, PA—
\$3,000—PAID**

**MOST Ministries Clean Water Filters
(Mission Opportunities Short Term)
Ann Arbor, MI—\$3,000—PAID**

**Epiphany Lutheran Church Food
Truck, Epiphany Lutheran, Dorr, MI—
\$3,000—PAID**

**Restoring Hope through Outreach
Programs, Mt. Calvary Lutheran
Church & Camp Restore, Detroit, MI—
\$3,000**

**Soldiers of the Cross, LCMS Mission
Advancement, St. Louis, MO—\$3,000**

**Chaplain Scholarships for Medical
Mission Trips, LCMS Mission Advance-
ment, St. Louis, MO—\$2,500**

**Grief Share—Grief Recovery Support
Group Program, Catalina Lutheran
Church LWML Society, Tucson, AZ—
\$500**

Pandemic Bible Study

The Pandemic hit and most activities stopped, including in-person Bible study. So, it was with my group of women. We were just finishing the study of *Joy* by Deb Burma but were not finding much joy. We stopped meeting except for an occasional outside evening fellowship time in someone’s backyard. We all knew each of us were facing challenges but how could we help each other?

We decided we need exercise, fellowship, and Bible study. We met at the park and did a couple of laps before sitting on the bleachers in proper social distance spaces. We decided we could do this and check what Bible studies were available for health and fitness. Nothing showed up for us to use as a study. It was also getting too cold and dark (for Tucson) to continue this way.

Next step – Zoom. We could see each other! We could discuss our problems and encourage each other through the challenges. A member suggested we take a word, and each person would come to the next Bible study with verses from the Bible that they found helpful for themselves and share them with each other. And we had our Bible study!!!

We picked our words: physical health, mental/emotional health, spiritual health, prayer, trust, and peace. Each week’s discussion would lead to choosing a word for the next meeting. A list of the Bible verses discussed is sent in a follow-up email, so everyone has them. The format gives us encouragement, new insights and brings us closer to each other.

Through the discussions we have also added hymns and podcasts that offer encouragement and sometimes just laughter. As we discuss the verses more verses are added. There is a high level of involvement and the discussions have impacted our lives in positive ways as we moved through the pandemic – support for each other, leaning into the verses we discuss and having more hope, peace, and joy throughout the week. The Holy Spirit is working in our lives as we are less anxious and stressed than a few months ago. Now as we are vaccinated, we are starting to think of meeting together again - in the backyard - and share our joy!

Shirley Holle, ACCENT Editor



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