

**LWML EAST TEXAS ZONE
2022 WINTER NEWSLETTER**



Grace, Mercy, and Peace Be with you all from Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

Last night I ran into the local dollar general. As you walk in, they have the regularly scheduled holiday specials right up front. Depending on the season, the specials change. With Valentine's Day around the corner, it was loaded with chocolates, cards, and little stuffed animals. Every year when I pass the Valentines season kiosk, I always think, "I still have time... I will grab something next time." Days pass, time slips away, and before you know it, it is the night before and we have nothing. Fast forward to February 13th. Guys are running around, the kiosk has been pillaged, the store is empty with anything that could even be considered a gift. Forget gift cards, they sold out three days ago. The only cards left are for birthdays... and the moment hits. "Now what?" Too often I see Christians who think the same thing about their faith. The church will always be there and I will get to it when I have time. Scripturally, In Matthew's Gospel we hear Jesus say "even the gates of hell will never prevail over the church." But what Jesus didn't say is which church. You see, Jesus loves His church. When I say His church, I do not mean the building. He loves you, His church. You are His church. Jesus doesn't forget us no matter what season it is. He never thinks, "well, I still have time." No. He loves you now. If you are reading this, Hear this good news. Jesus says, "I love you, I will never leave you nor forsake you, and I will be with you to the very end of the age." As you think on what matters this Holiday, remember. Christ Loves you. Always.

In Christ,
Pastor Davidson
LWML East Texas Zone
Pastoral Counselor

*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation,
be constant in prayer. Romans 12:12*

The words of Romans 12:12 seem to be more pertinent as each day moves forward. Last year at this time many of us were still in a 'lock down' mindset. Our LWML Texas District Board of Directors met virtually. The National LWML Convention in Lexington was being planned but with many restrictions. God saw to it that it was celebrated in person with many prayers of Thanksgiving. Many of you know that I am not patient let alone being patient during tribulation but God has given me mentors that have helped me see timing is His business and I just need to follow. The constant prayer is for me the easiest of the three in my verse. God has blessed many LWML Women and Men to be prayer warriors and I am so grateful for their intercessions. I do humbly ask that everyone continues praying for not only LWML but our Pastors and our Church. Christianity, even in the United States, is under assault and persecution.

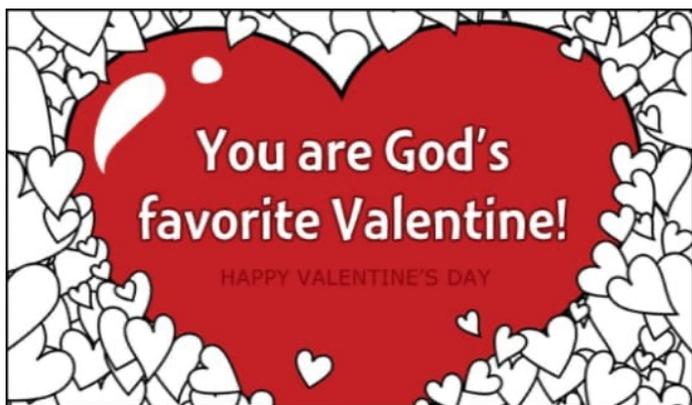
Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Blessings as we work together in God's kingdom.

Sharon Mills

LWML East Texas Zone
President





NEWS FROM AROUND THE ZONE 2021 – 2022

St. Peter, Gun Barrel City

The LWML of St. Peter participated in the Easter Sunday Worship Service and Egg Hunt. They co-hosted a “Back-to-School Party” at a neighboring community, Tamarack. During an August weekend Garage Sale, they collected funds for local missions and Mites. They blessed St. John, Athens’ Mary Martha Society with loads of quilting materials that were thankfully received.

October’s LWML Sunday was special as Pastor Nelson blessed the quilts for Lutheran World Relief. He explained this mission project is a worldwide one. He praised and thanked the work that is being completed each year by our quilters.

In November, the LWML Members and Quilters met at Pizza Hut to celebrate the completion of 50 quilts for LWR. A couple of the quilts were raffled off as a fundraiser for a homeless organization in Athens.

They supported the Annual Free Thanksgiving Day Meal which was only drive thru or delivery this year.

In December they again co-hosted with Tamarack a “Christmas in the Park” providing cookies and hot chocolate. 18 families were blessed with gifts from the Angel Tree Outreach Ministry at that event.

These busy LWML ladies then supported and participated in the Advent and Christmas Worship Services.

Our Savior, Centerville

“The Women in Mission of Our Savior” have been meeting regularly beginning with the LWML Pledge, a devotion or Bible Study and Pastor Bowman providing the Christian Growth part of the meeting. A diaper shower, for a foster family in the congregation, was sponsored with formula being purchased using a Thrivent Action Team grant. LWR received 127 Personal Care Kits and 4 Quilts that had funding from two Thrivent Action Teams. \$50.00 was collected and contributed to the quilt and kit shipping fund. Lisa Faske volunteered to carry the boxes to Seguin along with 3 boxes from Bethlehem, Palestine. This was their second year to work on quilts which were pieced by MaryLou Lambert. Special fellowship time while tying the quilts was enjoyed. Phillis Wiseman is the coordinator, and her daughter Glynda was thanked for assisting. Their Angel Tree provided Christmas gifts for 9 children donated by members. Four LWML members with pastor’s two daughters shopped, wrapped and delivered the gifts to the schools. The Ladies support a St. Louis Seminary Student, Aaron Levenhagen with scholarship funds, gift cards at Christmas and on Aaron’s and his wife’s birthdays. The Adopt-A-Student program requires a gift of at least \$500.00 annually but is an easy program to financially support these students. Supporting Mites is a church wide project with one gentleman saving his change and often donating \$150.00 per month. What a blessing to our Mission Goal. The weekly screen announcements and newsletter feature a different LWML Mission Grant each month.



Bethlehem Willing Workers, Palestine

The Willing Workers began a “Lunch Bunch” once a week where they meet to socialize and share a devotion while enjoying their sack lunch. It is gaining in popularity. Five of the ladies participated in the LWML Texas District Retreat virtually. A successful Bake Sale Fundraiser instead of the Bazaar this year. Willing Workers served as greeters, readers, and ushers for LWML Sunday. They continue collecting card fronts for St. Jude, send various greeting cards as well as providing meals prior to funerals. 36 LWR Personal Kits were assembled, boxed, and sent with Debbie & Jimmie Curry this past fall. Thrivent Action Team funding helped complete these kits. They now are busy preparing for the LWML East Texas Zone Spring Event.



St. John Mary Martha, Athens “Quilting Quities”

The ladies sewed 30 quilts with 25 for Lutheran World Relief, 2 for St. John Graduates and 3 for Fund Raising. 31 Lap Blankets & Shawls were made for Country Place, Athens and members of St. John. Baby Blankets & Sensory Pads were provided to the Help Center, Athens and members of St. John. 48 Activity Bags were divided for the Help Center and St. John Lutheran. 64 Dog Pillows were provided to Athens Animal Center and a St. John member. The LWML collect Mites monthly. They meet for prayers and devotions weekly. Monetary donations were made to St. John Youth for the 2022 National Youth Gathering, the Rebecca Project and to help ship LWR quilts. Plastic sleeping mats for a Men’s Shelter were made by an LWML Member.



Our Redeemer, Longview

The LWML of Our Redeemer was reactivated officially on November 17, 2021 when the group voted to accept the bylaws that had been approved by District! Thank you, Jesus!

LWML Sunday was celebrated on October 10 with Pastor Bragdon doing an excellent job explaining LWML, especially during the children's sermon. We included the LWML coloring sheet with the day's theme in the bulletin including information about our group. Our Zone President, Sharon Mills, brought a large Mite Box to the service for display and small boxes to hand out along with LWML pamphlets and candy.

The group, again, entertained at our church Christmas dinner by performing, "The Message of the Tree." Mite Box Offering will be on every fifth Sunday. Hopefully, we will have several going to the Spring Event and to the convention. Personally, I would like to encourage everyone to read the January edition of the Lutheran Witness. In this day and age, what a blessing to remember our Biblical foundations. Keep Your Gospel Light Shining!

2022 LWML Prayer Service



Prayer may be simple or complex – silent or corporate – memorized or free-flowing from our heart. It is a conversation with God and shows our love for our heavenly Father.

The 2022 Prayer Service, based on Luke 11:1, “Lord. Teach us to Pray,” looks at various forms of prayer used frequently by believers as we seek to honor Christ, the Lord of the Church, with our prayers. LWML thanks Rev. Grimm for authoring the 2022 LWML Prayer Service.

www.lwml.org/prayer-service



**LWML Texas District 42nd
Biennial Convention
June 16–18, 2022
Hyatt Regency Houston West
Houston, Texas**

Bible Verse:

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness (Lamentations 3:22-23).

<https://www.lwmltxdist.org/lwml-texas-district-conventions>



STAMPOREE PROJECT

The goal of the Stamporee Project is to support LWR's Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund, which provides funding for the shipping of goods to those in need around the world. All LWML groups are encouraged to collect and save cancelled postage stamps instead of discarding them. I will be happy to collect the stamps when I visit your church. Thank you to all who support this ministry.

At a meeting held in July 1942, at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Chicago, Illinois, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) was founded by delegates from 15 districts. For 80 years, Lutheran Women in Mission have joyfully proclaimed Christ, supported missions, and equipped women to honor God by serving others. As we continue to serve the Lord with gladness, let's celebrate the blessings that the Lord has bestowed on LWML — 80 years of serving Him and those around us!



**“Celebrate the Lord of the Nations”
2023 LWML Biennial Convention
in Milwaukee, Wisconsin**

The LWML Board of Directors has chosen **“Celebrate the Lord of Nations”** as the theme of the June 22-25, 2023 Convention. Based on Psalm 33:12-13 *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man.”* The convention goal is *“As His children, we celebrate the Lord of the nations.*