



Time is an interesting bird. It seems to fly in and out like a seasonal breeze. What happened to January? As we look forward, what do we see? Another day? Another week? Another year? As we slide into February, we have Valentine's Day. A day of the heart, the stores seem to have sold out the clearance aisle of Christmas and now we cannot help but be overwhelmed with the balloons, cards, candy, and blistering red everywhere. How long until the shelves are barren yet again and we move on to the next day, week, month, or year? The problem is, we are always looking for the next thing while forgetting about the now. We forget to enjoy what is right in front of us. A gift of life. A gift of a new start. A gift of community. What blessing is in front of you now? Have you taken the time today to consider what God has given you? Even the little things... Too often our eyes are so focused on the future we forget the encouragement, love, grace, and peace no matter what you are going through today. It is a hard season of uncertainty for many, but we have much to be grateful for. Christ has given us the power to live life and live life to the fullest. Does that mean your daily life is exactly what your ideal situation is? No. But it does mean we have an opportunity to enjoy the little things God has given us, and also to say thank you for the gift of now. The gift of life, a new start, a community. and grace which flows from Christ's nail pierced hand. These gifts we receive are not given to be locked away and kept for safekeeping, instead they are meant to be given to others. As a fellow follower of Christ, and a brother in the faith, I implore you, continue with the mission Christ has given you... to bless others today has you have been blessed... with the little things.

*An extra piece of Valentines candy
is always a little blessing!*

In Christ,
Pastor Seth Davidson, St. John – Athens
LWML East Texas Zone Pastoral Counselor

BLESSINGS OF LOVE TO LWML EAST TEXAS ZONE

Praying that all the Women and Men in Mission are in good health and filled with joy and hope. I continue praying for each of you and again thank you for your prayers.

On February 13, 2021 LWML Texas District will have its Board of Directors Meeting virtually instead of meeting in person at Camp Lone Star. Once I have that information, I will update you.

I am preparing to be your Delegate to the LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky on June 24-27, 2021. My hotel reservations are made, and the Convention Registration will be completed at the BOD Meeting. I plan to attend the Saturday Special Interest Luncheon with Jan Struck and Abby Goehring. Abby is one of our own Texas LWML members who is mentoring with Jan. If you would rather, I attend a different luncheon, please let me know. I am your representative to this convention.

Thank you for trusting me with this honor and responsibility.

Please check out the LWML Convention Information on www.lwml.org

Sharon Mills
LWML East Texas Zone President

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



East Texas Zone
Texas District

LWML TEXAS DISTRICT 2020-2022 PRIMARY FOCUS

Abounding in **HOPE**, Lutheran Women in Mission are bold to declare we are:

Held by Christ,
Obedient to His calling,
Perfected by His promise,
Encouraged to share.



LWML Texas District Endowment Fund News

A new endowment has been created: The Mission Goal Endowment. This fund will provide additional funding for the mission goal of LWML Texas District.

Currently there are three Endowments administered by Legacy Deo, a charitable foundation affiliated with the Texas District LCMS. Interest each year is directed to the specific purpose of each fund.

- The **Mission Goal Endowment** provides funding for mission grants and expenses of the district to accomplish its mission.
- The **Mission Inreach Endowment** provides funding for spiritual enrichment, member development and leadership training opportunities for members of the LWML Texas District.
- The **Scholarship Endowment** provides funding for scholarships for Texas women attending an LCMS university preparing for full-time church work fields.

This information was taken from the LWML Texas District website. For more information - www.lwmltxdist.org/endowments-lwml-texas-district

Debbie Curry is now a Legacy Deo Ambassador and is available for estate planning and charitable giving presentations to LWML Groups, Zones, and members upon request. Contact Debbie at Debbie.legacydeo@gmail.com to schedule a presentation.



LWML Board of Directors Approves New Mission Statement

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

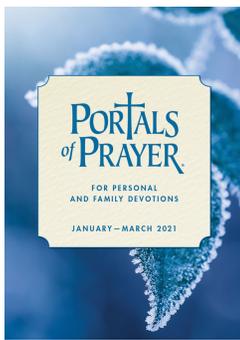
Assisting the women of the LWML to put the new Mission Statement into practice, the committee also provided five LWML Core Values:

- 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.



2021 LWML Prayer Service Now Available

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 at www.lwml.org/prayer-service



Jan Brunette, LWML Member from Fate, Texas is the author of the *March 2021 Portals of Prayer Devotions*. Jan's "greatest desire is to encourage women to spend time in God's Word on a regular basis as they seek a personal relationship with Jesus."

LWML STAMPOREE PROJECT



LWML Texas District collects cancelled or new stamps for the support of LWR Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund. Please continue or start collecting these valuable stamps from your church office, business offices, family, and friends. When I visit your congregation (I plan to do this again this year) I will collect the stamps and get them to the stamp chairman.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE ZONE WINTER 2020 - 2021

"I was thinking how I could promote LWML to members of **Redeemer Lutheran Church** while encouraging others to participate. I discussed with my pastor, Dennis Bragdon, if LWML could do a skit or devotion at our annual Christmas dinner held after a Sunday morning service. His great enthusiasm encouraged me to go forward. After reading through the large list of devotions on the LWML website, I picked the LWML Christmas devotion entitled, "*Pilgrimage of Adoration*," written by Marcia Schwartz. It consists of different

vocations and what their perspective might have been on that first Christmas Eve, interspersed with Christmas Carols. I asked several group members to participate but also asked others including (hold on to your hat) a man, who read the part of the Motel Operator. The devotion was well received by participation in the singing and, also by comments following the program. I urge all to use the many wonderful resources found on the website and am looking forward to maybe planning something for Easter.

Keep Your Gospel Light Shining
Sharon Sampson
LWML of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Longview, Texas



The **LWML Society at St Peter Lutheran Church** hopes to resume their meetings on 3rd Thursday of the month.... soon. However, our small Wednesday group continues to meet every week throughout the year.

Fall '20: There were 78 quilts completed and delivered to the LWR ingathering in Dallas this fall. A special offering was collected the Sunday we blessed the quilts and \$133.00 was donated to LWR to help cover shipping cost overseas.

Winter '20: Lap blankets were delivered to Kemp Senior Care Center in December.

Members of Wednesday group continue to make potholders & bowl holders, which are sold all year. Greeting card sales continue year-round and beautiful quilts were auctioned off in December to the congregation. Several other quilts were given to Love in Action, a homeless shelter, in Athens.

St. Peter LWML delivered gifts to women and children at the East Texas Crisis Center before Christmas. A special quilt was donated to one family at the Bluestone Apartments in Mabank during Christmas, along with gifts for each child on the property.

Our Group purchased poinsettias, from a school for "special need children" in Athens for the altar and sold them to the congregation in December.

This purchase benefited the school's annual fund raiser.

Spring '21: Our society will hold another auction during Lent//Easter season.

The Wednesday group already has a head start on quilts for LWR. Funds from the auctions, cards, potholders, and bowl holders, will be donated to special ministries or projects in our local area.

St Peter LWML continues to send mite offerings to LWML Texas District.

God's Blessings,

Jerry Anderson

President of LWML St Peter Lutheran Church
Gun Barrel City, Texas

Greetings from **Centerville Our Savior LWML.**

While Covid-19 has changed the way we accomplished service to others in 2020, we have remained workers in the harvest field. We completed 102 health kits and seven quilts in **November 2020.** These kits were folded, packed, and delivered to Houston by two ladies from our group. They stayed and worked with the ingathering folks helping them for two hours unloading the boxes from other churches. They were blessed to see the volume of items coming in from other societies. May Our Lord and Savior use all the items helping others in times of need while witnessing to the world God's mercy and love.

In December, we baked and put together cookies in baggies with a note to take one and enjoy them on their way home from Our Youth led Advent service. Everyone was delighted to receive a goody bag from the elders and sweet tasting cookies from their LWML ladies.

January 2021 two of our members with Our Pastor and an Elder, took down all the Christmas decorations after Epiphany.

Now with February here, our members voted, and we are resuming our regular meetings. We are encouraged to see flowers, blooming as spring appears to be coming early.

We want to wish all a Happy Valentine's day!

Linda Newman

President of LWML Our Savior Lutheran Church
Centerville, Texas

The **Mary Martha Group of St. John Lutheran** continues to meet monthly and quilt weekly. Quilts were delivered to LWR and some were made available for local needs. Using material scraps in pillowcases, mats are made for shelter dogs. Mites are being collected and sent to the district. Ladies helped decorate for the Christmas Season. The TV Series "The Chosen" was viewed recently and sponsored by LWML Women.

For Paulette Rose

President of LWML St. John Lutheran Church
Athens, Texas



The **Willing Workers of Bethlehem Lutheran** collected and delivered kit items to Lutheran World Relief. The Ladies continue holding short meetings between Worship Services. They look forward to being under less restrictive lockdown policies and fellowship together again. They continue collecting Mites.

For JoAnn Tugwell

President of LWML Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Palestine, Texas

