



The **White Oak** Branch

Edition 10 Dec. 2021

Upended by the Unending

Lamentations 3:22-23

The smell of smoke and fear waft through the air. Distant war cries become ever louder. The stress and panic are palpable. Confusion and despair are on all the faces in the room as you hold your child close to you. Then someone cries out, "The enemy have breached the gates!" The world you once knew crumbles all around you. The screams and wails of terror ring in your ears. Numbness from the shock sets in. The year is 587BC, the same year Jeremiah would pen his Lamentations, and you are in the city of Jerusalem as the Babylonian horde sacks the city. Death awaits the fortunate, slavery in a foreign land for the rest. It makes no sense. You are God's chosen people. How could this happen? Why would He let this happen?

You read of another school shooting. Your heart sinks for the parents who will never hold their child again. The invitation to your godson's wedding is still sitting on the counter unopened. Opening it would require action on your part. How do you tell his parents you can't support his marriage to another man? The nightly news reports gleefully on the ever-shrinking number of people who identify as Christian, as they segue into coverage of a women's march in support of "choice." How can ending the life of a child ever be a choice, you think. You look to your children innocently playing, wishing they could stay their age forever, never having to know the pain of growing up in a world which denies and mocks God. It makes no sense. You are a child of God. How could this happen? Why would He let this happen?

There is no escaping the brokenness of this world. It is all around us and has been since that fateful day in a garden paradise so long ago. In Jeremiah's day the people of Judah were facing what seemed to be an existential threat to their being. If God had promised to preserve them and now, they were being destroyed, what does that mean about God? We too, have faced these same questions when our world seems to be crumbling around us. So, what are we to do? Sin, death, and the devil would have us give up, and give into the despair. But God upends the devils plans by His unending love and faithfulness. He encourages us to continue to cling to Him. This is what Jeremiah is telling us in our Scripture verses. "The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases." No matter the situation God is here for us. He promises us He is there in His Word, so we cling to its every syllable. He promises us He is there in our Baptism, so we remember it daily. He promises us He is truly present, flesh and blood, in His Supper, so we humbly kneel at His altar and receive His gift. He promises us He is there in Holy Absolution as we confess our sins, therefore we plead guilty knowing those sins are forgiven. "We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Cor. 4:8-9). Therefore, every morning we can awake, not knowing what the world has in store for us, but trusting, "His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness."

Rev. Kelly Krieg, Zone Pastoral Counselor

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

LWML White Oak Zone Fall Rally

Hosted by Beautiful Savior Our Redeemer

Billie Schmitt opened the meeting with Welcome! To our North Campus.

Pastor Strimple lead a devotion on Fanny Crosby, a very important woman of her Time and ours. She had written over 8,000 hymns before she died. A handout was given to each attendee. We sang a verse of each song as follows:

“To God Be the Glory”, “Blessed Assurance”, “I Shall Know Him”,

We said the LWML Pledge.

We sang “Serve the Lord with Gladness”

Dianne White announced the Officer Elections.

Nominations from the Committee were the ladies currently serving in these roles. No nominations from the floor. All Board Members have agreed to serve additional term. Dianne presented the Slate of Officers.

Vice President:	Donna Ratcliff
Christian Life:	Sarah Baughman
Treasurer:	Carol Richards (not present)

All voted to accept these officers. No nays.

The new officers were Installed by Pastor Kelly Krieg, our Zone Pastoral Counselor.

We sang: “Voices Raised to You We Offer”.

Our Guest Speaker, Isha Desselle, Director of Turning Point Center, shared of the ministry at the center. We watched a video of her life and of starting the Center. Isha then spoke to us and told us more about her and her program with questions and answer period. Isha started the program 35 years ago with many homeless people that helped her build this program.



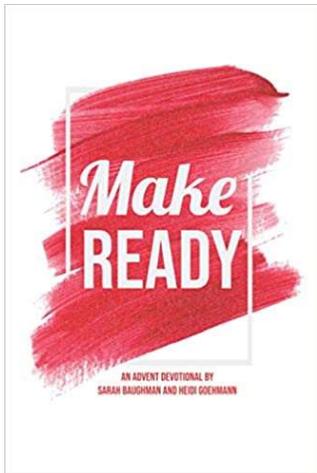
Mandy did announcements. The District Spiritual Rest and Retreat will be on Oct. 9th in Woodway. Our Zone Prayer Service on Nov. 7th at Our Savior. Also, our Zone is still in need of a Secretary.

Table prayer said before we had our luncheon.

Ingathering items donated filled up Donna Ratcliffe’s large SUV! Our offering total was \$213.

Adapted from the minutes which were respectfully submitted by Barbara Gadd.

Reading Corner



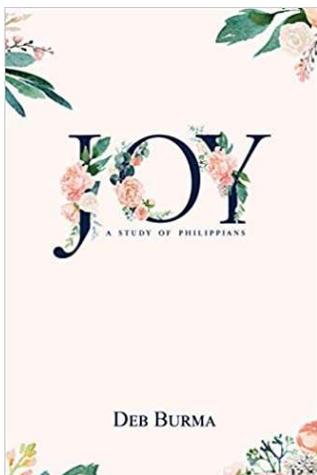
[Make Ready: An Advent Devotional](#)

by Heidi Goehmann and Sarah Baughman

Advent is a season that can be easy to love. Yet stress doesn't take a break during Advent. The season can bring its own bustle and busyness. The days leading up to Christmas come with extra opportunities, extra events, and extra purchases. All these extras might leave us longing for a reminder of the peace made possible by a Baby Boy born in a manger long ago. In this small book, we invite you to take a few minutes each day to ready your mind, your heart, and your home for the One who brings us salvation. Our God delights in spending time with us. We pray the brief devotions we offer in this book give you space to experience His invitation to make ready for Him and with Him.



SCAN ME



[Joy: A Study of Philippians](#)

by Deb Burma

Sure, we find joy in our triumphs, but not so much in the trials. Yet real joy, genuine joy, is always ours in the saving grace of Christ Jesus.

This women's Bible study on the Book of Philippians, the "letter of joy," unpacks messages of contentment, confidence, humility, and hope - all found in Christ and infused with joy - in the mountaintop moments and in the mundane.

Enclosed are eight weeks of study, divided into 40 short sessions, to help you realize the gifts from God's hand more fully. Ample materials are provided to make the sessions flexible for personal or group use and to accommodate changing schedules and individual needs. Targeted study, discussion and reflection questions, and life-application challenges guide you in your exploration of joy.



SCAN ME

Sarah Baughman, Zone Chairman of Christian Life

Dates to Remember

Jan. 15, 2022	White Oak Zone EC Meeting at Our Savior
Feb. 19	White Oak Zone BOD Meeting at Our Savior (Meeting with Group Presidents)
TBD	Spring Rally at Concordia
June 16-18, 2022	Texas District 2022 Convention at Hyatt Regency Houston West

White Oak Zone Ingathering Report

The White Oak Zone received information from three groups for the 2021 ingathering report. Beautiful Savior Our Redeemer, Concordia Women's Club, and Our Savior Cheerful Helpers worked on projects that benefitted Orphan Grain Train and Lutheran World Relief in 2021. Overall, 642 kits and quilts were submitted. The individual breakdown is as follows: 291 quilts, 194 school kits, 72 personal care kits, 64 baby kits, 11 fabric kits, and 10 teacher kits.

Ingathering Report: Lutheran World Relief (LWR) & Orphan Grain Train (OGT)

LWML Texas District: White Oak Zone 2021

	Beautiful Savior Our Redeemer (OGT)	Concordia Women's Club (OGT)	Our Savior Cheerful Helpers (LWR)	Total by item
Quilts	40	195	56	291
School Kits		50	144	194
Personal Care Kits		60	12	72
Baby Care Kits			64	64
Fabric Kits			11	11
Teacher Kits		10		10
Total by group	40	315	287	642

Orphan Grain Train 



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

Diane White, Zone Chairman of Gospel Outreach



White Oak Zone Prayer Service

We were blessed to be lead in a service of prayer by Rev. Krieg and music performed by Jeff Armstrong on November 7th. The service published by LWML was a time to reflect on prayer and scripture. Please mark your calendars to attend this annual event in 2022 the first Sunday in November!

Amanda Halbert, Zone President

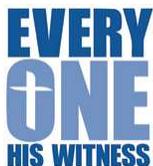
White Oak Zone has given \$503.06 in mites in 2021!

Texas District Spiritual Rest & Renewal Retreat

Celebrating Togetherness! Splashes of God!

Our District Retreat was led by Cheryl Mattil, with song leader Rev. Mike Mattil. If you missed the event in-person or virtually, you can still be renewed by viewing the outlines, songs, and devotions on our District YouTube channel. Look to lwmltxdist.org/christian-life for more information!

Amanda Halbert, Zone President



White Oak Zone Retreat

Eleven ladies from our zone enjoyed a day of learning how to be an every day witness in all areas of their life using the materials developed by Concordia Publishing House.

Amanda Halbert, Zone President

LWML Texas District 42nd Biennium Convention Update

Summer 2022 brings our District's convention to Houston, on the west side, June 16-18. Your Host Committee has been busy planning for the Convention we are hosting this coming summer! Volunteers will be needed so look for more information for how you can help from your group presidents and at our Spring Rally. It will be the first shorter convention so think about having a "Girls' Night Out" on the Wednesday before or a special lunch date with your purple sisters after the convention is adjourned on Saturday at noon.



The YWR and Teen programs will start on Thursday, June 16, 2022. The exhibits and stores will be open Thursday starting at 10 a.m. and will remain open through Friday. You will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of servant activities on Thursday. Our opening worship service with communion is at 7:30 p.m. Thursday evening. The first convention session begins at 8:30 a.m. Friday morning with the convention concluding on Saturday, June 18, 2022, at noon.



Christina Hergenrader will be our keynote speaker and Reverend Michael W. Newman will be our proclaimer for the Thursday night opening worship service. Look for future announcements of "Wake Up with The Word" leaders, off-site servant events, and all other information needed to register for this exciting convention in our backyard!