

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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Joyfully serve the Lord
Openly confess the Gospel
Yearn to grow in God's Word

At the 40th Biennial Convention in Waco we were "Filled to Overflow" so that we might serve, tell and share the love of Jesus. That theme continues to remind me of why we are Lutheran Women in Mission. What a joy it was to be with everyone at the convention. If you missed it, visit our website for links to videos of the Bible studies, worship services, humorous interruptions and music by Wendysue Fluegge. Don't forget to view the mission grant video to see where your mites will serve God's kingdom during this biennium. All videos are free on YouTube. Contact your zone president and delegate to give a report on the convention. The Sunshine and Central Texas Zones were wonderful hosts and we thank them for welcoming us to Waco.

As we move through this biennium, we will continue to serve, tell and share the love of Jesus in so many ways. In this issue of Linked by Love, you will be introduced to our new officers. They are already hard at work preparing for the next two years. Plans are already being made for the convention in 2020 in Corpus Christi. The 2019 LWML Convention will be in Mobile, Alabama (not too far for all of Texas to go)! The LWML Sunday materials are available at lwml.org as a free download and this year they are authored by Rev. Ken Hennings. Be sure to encourage their use at your church.

Exciting things are happening in our district. All of the leadership team is ready to come visit your

society, zone and church with our primary focus being:

In fervent love, may all women experience JOY as we joyfully serve the Lord, openly confess the Gospel and yearn to grow in God's Word.

Contact me if there is anything you need or want to share. I would love to visit all of the zones in our great state before I complete my term as president in 2020. I'm just waiting on an invitation. You remain in my daily prayers as Lutheran Women in Mission.

Thank you for serving with JOY,

DEBBIE CURRY

DEBBIETEXASLWML@GMAIL.COM

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2019 LWML CONVENTION
JUNE 20-23
MOBILE, ALABAMA

Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations (1 Chronicles 16:23-24a).

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

ALLOW HIS LIVING WATER TO FLOW THROUGH YOU BY SERVING AS A ZONE PRESIDENT

In even-numbered years the zones of the LWML Texas District elect their presidents. Please consider serving the LWML in this capacity. This is a great opportunity to bring some fresh leaders with new ideas and gifts to share. It is also a great opportunity to attend district and national events and learn new and exciting ways to serve our Lord and the LWML. If you are a current society or zone president, it is your duty to recognize the leadership skills of

others and encourage them to run for the office of zone president. Be an encourager to all and especially to those in whom you see qualities of leadership. Zone Presidents, please plan to attend ZPO in February 2019! The date is different this biennium due to LWML conflicts. District officers will be assisting the Leader Development Committee in helping incoming or current Zone Presidents become more proficient in their role as leaders with the LWML. The Zone President Report form you received in Waco needs to be completed and returned by October 15th. Zone

Presidents, please be on the lookout for Membership Report forms to be sent to you. If these documents are misplaced, you can go to www.lwmltxdist.org on the Organizational Resources page to download the forms. Each packet will have a letter with specific instructions for distribution, preparation and collection of forms for Zone Presidents, Society Presidents, and Individual Members. These reports are to be returned to me by November 15th. Feel free to contact me with any questions.

NANCY BECKCOM

VP OF ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES

**ZPO/BOD
FEBRUARY 14-17,
2019
CAMP LONE STAR,
LA GRANGE, TEXAS**

HUMAN CARE

This is the first information for the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) 2019 Ingathering.

LWR Ingathering April 2019
Houston—Monday, April 22, 2019 (Epiphany Lutheran)
Seguin—Wednesday, April 24, 2019 (Texas Lutheran University)
Plano—Saturday, April 27, 2019 (Messiah Lutheran)

TREASURER

What a JOY to be elected to serve as your Treasurer for the next four years. Thank you for this amazing opportunity. I am a native of Amarillo and continue to make my home here. I have been a member of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Amarillo for 30 years. I am currently serving on our church Board of Directors as Financial Secretary. I have also served as Treasurer, Recording Secretary and as a Bible study leader for our women's class. I am completing the end of my term as President of the LWML Panhandle Zone. I also served as our LWML society president for ten years and as registrar for the last two district conventions.

What a JOY it has been to be involved with LWML and to meet and develop friendships with so many women who share God's love.

I have been married to Stephen, the love of my life and best friend for 40 years. We own Omega Electronics, which is a two-way radio business that keeps us extremely busy. It also allows us to be together every day and enjoy all our time with each other. We are blessed with two daughters, Tasha and Heather, and three grandchildren, Kevin (17), Keith (13) and Reagan (9). I love volunteering, reading and spending all the time I can with my family, especially the grandkids.

As Treasurer, the next few months will be a time of learning and looking to the needs of the finance positions. My goal is to change the current accounting program to QuickBooks making it easier for all who need to record finances and generate specific reports. If I can assist you in any way, please contact me at kellyblwml@gmail.com

KELLY BERNHARDT
TREASURER



Please send your mite offerings (preferably monthly) to:

LWML Texas District
Attn: Frances Molitor
Financial Secretary
PO Box 820
Anderson, TX 77830

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

TO MEET OUR 2018-2020 GOAL, BELOW ARE SOME FIGURES TO SHARE:

MITES NEEDED PER MONTH:	\$14,620.00
NEEDED PER MEMBER PER YEAR	\$55.61
NEEDED PER MEMBER PER MONTH	\$4.64
NEEDED PER MEMBER PER DAY	\$0.16

LET'S MAKE THE POST OFFICE BOX "FILL TO OVERFLOWING!"

CHRISTIAN LIFE

Thanksgiving and Prayer

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.
Philippians 1:3-6

Following the district convention in July, I attended a wrap-up meeting where Pastor John Heckmann led a devotion based on Philippians 1:3-6. He pondered a world where we would start all of our correspondence with these words and then proceed to list the reasons why we are thankful for the person we are communicating with. So for my first communication with the ladies and gentlemen of the LWML Texas District, let's give it a try.

I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ (Philippians 1:3-6). I want to thank the voting delegates who by

their vote appointed me to this exciting new position. I want to thank everyone for their many well wishes, words of encouragement, hugs and most importantly prayers. Especially, I would like to thank Jan Brunette and Donna Pyle for their advice and encouragement and Eloise Kuhlmann for reminding me that God does not call the equipped, He equips the called. Your confidence in me means more than I could ever express.

As I begin my journey as Vice-President of Christian Life, I would like to introduce myself to those who may not know me. I live and work in Temple where I am the business manager of a family owned janitorial and swimming pool supply company. The loves of my life are my niece Madilyn, my nephews Ayden and E.J, and my cousin Kyndall. Being an aunt is the greatest joy of my life even when they kick me

out of my bed and I have to sleep on the couch. I enjoy reading, traveling, and spending time with my friends. I look forward to meeting many you and developing new and long lasting relationships.

Plans are underway for the 2019 Rest and Renewal retreat. More information will be coming soon as we finalize dates, locations and speaker. I hope many of you will plan to attend.

KELLI ALSUP
VP OF CHRISTIAN LIFE

SENIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR

Are you still overflowing? I sure hope so because I know without a doubt that you are still being filled to overflow. Through God's holy, inspired Word; through His gifts to us of faith, new life now already, and forgiveness of all of our sins through the water and Word of Holy Baptism; and through the very body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ, given to us in the Lord's Supper thus assuring us of our forgiveness, life, and place in heaven, we are filled to overflowing. We cannot contain all that God desires to pour into our lives and we definitely can't out-give God. Our Father keeps us filled to overflowing so that we can overflow into the lives of others through our serving, sharing, and telling. And now with the festivities and excitement of Waco still fresh on our mind, we turn our focus to Corpus Christi. What opportunities await us there? Only our Father in heaven knows. I however know that He

has incredible things planned for us already. He already knows the lives we will touch through our witness. He already knows into whose lives His life giving water will flow through us to them. He already has plans, grand plans for us. Rest assured that Satan also has plans for us. His plans are to cause as much division and strife as he can in the two years leading up to our convention. His plans are to get us so worked up about things that in the long run will not matter at all, while taking our eyes off the goal and the plans our Lord has for us. The LWML has a multi-week Bible study entitled "Focus Lost, Focus Restored" and that study more than once refers to the fact that it is so easy for us to "major in the minors". That is Satan's will and plan for us. Worry about this detail and that detail that have no value except to puff us up. Worry about yourself and getting your way. Get bogged down with this so that you can't

do that in service to your Lord.

With all that said, I encourage you already, two years out, to add this convention and those tasked with planning it and preparing for us to your daily, or at least weekly, prayer list. Pray that Satan would leave the Committees and their leaders alone. Pray that he would leave your Executive Committee alone. Pray that each of us would be able to say "Satan, leave me alone". Or as the words to the hymn "God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" puts it, "Satan hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ! Drop your ugly accusation, I am not so soon enticed. Now that to the font I've traveled, All your might has come unraveled, And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me."

In HIS service and yours,

**PASTOR
HECKMANN**

**SR. PASTORAL
COUNSELOR**

WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME, AS THE SCRIPTURE HAS SAID, "OUT OF HIS HEART WILL FLOW RIVERS OF LIVING WATER." JOHN 7:38

REMINDER: SEND NEWS TO DISTRICTNEWS@LWMLTXDIST.ORG AND REMEMBER TO DOWNLOAD THE MOST CURRENT COPY OF DISTRICT NEWS ON OUR WEBSITE EACH MONTH AT WWW.LWMLTXDIST.ORG

2018-2020 MISSION GRANTS

THE FOLLOWING MISSION GRANTS WILL BE FUNDED BY THE NEWLY ADOPTED MISSION GOAL OF \$350,900, TO ASSIST THESE MINISTRIES AND INSTITUTIONS. THE GRANTS TOTAL \$180,000.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SEMINARIANS – TEXAS DISTRICT LCMS \$50,000

LET IT SHINE FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM – LUTHERAN SPECIAL EDUCATION MINISTRIES \$10,000

DCE SCHOLARSHIPS CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY TEXAS \$24,000

ACTS OF LOVE EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION CENTER – LEANDER \$20,000

REACHING VISUALLY IMPAIRED INMATES WITH GOD'S LOVE-LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS - TEXAS \$18,500

FORWARD IN FAITH-FUNDING THE MINISTRY OF FAITH LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL \$10,000

MULTI-ETHNIC MINISTRY OF NORTH TEXAS \$25,000

NAVIGATING LIFE AND FAITH – LINC AUSTIN \$10,000

SPANISH AND AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE BIBLE STORIES - LUTHERAN FRIENDS OF THE DEAF \$5,000

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS CHURCH PLANT CHILDREN'S MINISTRY - SAN ANTONIO \$4,285

EXPANDING THE MISSION AT LUTHERAN STUDENT CENTER – HOPE FOR THE NATIONS LUTHERAN CHURCH - ARLINGTON \$3,215

GOSPEL OUTREACH

I am excited and overwhelmed to be serving you as Vice President of Gospel Outreach. This has been a life long goal for me. When I attended my first convention in Tyler as a 22-year-old, I told my aunt that I could see myself as one of the people working for LWML on the District level. But even though that thought was in my mind, I'm still shocked to be actually doing it!

My husband, Dan, and I moved to Walburg in the Capitol Zone early January 2018. So I'm new to that Zone, but I've lived in five zones in Texas. They are Red River Zone in Harrold, South Plains Zone in Lubbock and Lamesa, West Texas Zone in Big Spring, Trinity Zone in Arlington, and now Capitol Zone. Everywhere I've been it's been great to partner with wonderful women who love the Lord and enjoy serving others in and with LWML. It has truly been a blessing in my life.

In addition to my husband, my family consists of two children, Clint and Kayla. Clint is married to Karrie, and they have given me 2 fantastic granddaughters, Maddie and Jackie. Kayla is married to Chad Winkler. Their fabulous contributions to our family are Annabelle and Andrew. Having grandchildren is one of the highlights of my life.

It is with pleasure that I can say I am a retired teacher. Most of my teaching career was done in special education, but my last few years I taught second grade. My degrees are from Texas Tech and a Master of Education from Texas A&M at Commerce. The school I'm proudest of though is that I was able to attend Concordia in Austin for one year.

There are three members of the Gospel Outreach Committee. Beth Franke, Midcoast Zone, Charlotte Hintze,

Capitol Zone, and Dianna Lee, Trinity Zone have agreed to serve in this capacity. I'm very excited to get to work with these three wonderful ladies.

Thank you for trusting me with this office. Please pray for me and our Mission Grant recipients as I pray for them and you. May God bless and keep you!

JOY COWAN,

**VICE PRESIDENT
OF GOSPEL OUTREACH**

JUNIOR PASTORAL COUNSELOR

I am humbled and honored to be elected as a Pastoral Counselor to the LWML Texas District. *"First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world."* Romans 1:8. I also thank each of you for remembering me in prayer and electing me to a position of service as we bring the message of Jesus Christ to all those whom we come into contact with. Through the hope that we have in Christ may He grant the confidence to lead and the humility to serve as we walk together in His name.

I would like to introduce myself in the hope that we might be able to greet each other the next time we

meet. I have been married to my wife Allison for the last 15 years and together we are kept busy raising our six children. I was born and raised in a small country town in Minnesota but I currently find myself serving the Lord at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brenham Texas. When I am not wearing the hat of husband and father I wear the hat of being a pastor though the Lord continues to lead me that in whatever I do, I do all to the glory of God. I feel blessed to lead my family and Bethlehem Lutheran Church and now the LWML Texas District to know God just a little bit more.

One of my favorite bible passages is from Psalm 46:10a where it says

'Be Still and know that I Am God...'
In this next biennium let us slow down and be still that we might see God working in our lives. Thanks again for your many prayers and your support as we serve our Lord together.

REV. MARK MOLDENHAUER

JR. PASTORAL COUNSELOR

COMMUNICATION



I am excited and thankful to be serving you as your VP of Communication. I have jumped in with both feet and recently assisted in releasing the newly designed website and have started working out the kinks. If you haven't had the chance yet to check it out, take a look today. Hope you will be pleased with the new format. But I can't go without giving Whitney Lee, my predecessor, praise and thanks for all that she has done over the last 4 years to keep the past website up and running, keeping us all in the know with Facebook, and transitioning us to the new website format.

I have called Abilene, Texas my home all of my life and attend Our Savior. I have been involved in LWML locally and served as President and Vice President of our Joyful Angels society. My Zone involvement includes being elected President and attending my first National LWML Convention in Tampa, Florida. What a wonderful experience. I am also involved in my church as a past youth sponsor and have served as a Sunday school teacher for the last 5 years.

My husband, David, and I have been married for 23 years and we have two

children, Brittany and Matthew. Brittany and her husband, Nathaniel have blessed us with two wonderful grandchildren, Logan (7) and Layla (3) who help keep us young! Our youngest, Matthew, recently graduated high school and is now attending Texas A & M as an Aerospace Engineering major. Gig 'em!

I look forward to bringing new ideas to the Communications department and I encourage you to check out all the social media avenues that we have. If you have something exciting happening in your society, share it with our District News editor; if you have some wonderful pictures to post, share it with our Facebook fans; and if you missed any of the Waco convention highlights, check out our new YouTube channel – LWML Texas. I look forward to serving the LWML Texas District as VP of Communication during these next four years.

JANNA ATKINS

VP OF COMMUNICATION

NEWLY DESIGNED WEBSITE

IT'S HERE! Announcing the launch of our newly designed website! The LWML Texas District website has a new look and some new features. If you have it book marked as a favorite, it is still in the same place. If you don't have it book marked, now's your chance! The website can be found at <http://www.lwmltxdist.org>. A few of the new features are links to our YouTube channel, easier access to information, and a new search feature that allows you to find what you need. If you have any questions regarding the website, feel free to email Vice President of Communication, Janna Atkins. You will find her contact on the District Officer's page. Happy surfing!!

**REMEMBER TO SEND ZONE AND SOCIETY CHANGES TO:
ORGANIZATIONALRESOURCES@LWMLTXDIST.ORG**

BANNER SUBMISSIONS



Banner designs to represent the LWML Texas District at the LWML Convention in Mobile, Alabama are due Wednesday, February 6, 2019. The banner procession at the LWML convention is a special highlight of the event.

Designs based on the convention theme, "In Praise to the LORD!" are submitted to President Debbie Curry and must be:

- On an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper (include your name on the back of the sheet)

- In color

- With fabric swatches attached (heavy fabric or bulky items are discouraged)

- Contain the words **Texas District** (your choice of colors and size of letters) on the front side of the banner

- Include the approximate cost of construction

The design cannot use the convention logo. Heavy fabric or bulky items are discouraged, for mailing and carrying reasons. It will be rolled when mailed. The finished banner size is to be 3' x 5'. Added fringe may be longer. Specifications for the banner will be sent to the person whose design is selected.

The convention theme is based on *Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations* (1 Chronicles 16:23-24a). More information on the theme can be found at lwml.org.

The LWML Texas District Executive Committee will select one design at its February meeting and will notify the designer of the winning entry. The entrant whose design is chosen will be responsible for the construction of the banner, including dowel and cord. The LWML Texas District will reimburse expenses of construction.

DEBBIE CURRY
LWML TEXAS DISTRICT PRESIDENT
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OAKWOOD TX 75855