

Capitol Zone Capsule

Third Quarter 2023

Capitol Zone Officers

Betsy Martino, President
Rosanne Capdeville, VP of Christian Life & Gospel Outreach
Susan Schmidt, VP of Human Care & Organizational Resources
Patricia Willoughby, VP of Communication
Donna Halliburton, Secretary
Sylvia Kokel, Treasurer
Courtney Baxter, YWR
Rev. Eric Borchers, Pastoral Counselor

NATIONAL MITE GOAL FOR 2023-2025

Mite Goal for 2023-2025 Biennium: \$2,350,000

Amount Received: \$

Amount Over: \$

Amounts as of

TEXAS MITE GOAL FOR 2022-2024

Mite Goal for 2022-2024 Biennium: \$390,000

Amount Received: \$225,745

Amount Needed: \$164,255

Amounts are through June 30, 2023

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FROM OUR DISTRICT PRESIDENT

At the Board of Directors meeting this past February, I challenged each zone president to pursue either starting one new group or reactivating a supporting (or inactive) group in their respective zone. This challenge is not just for the zone presidents, but for all who are actively involved in LWML. To be consistent with what we know and believe as Lutherans, the intent of this goal is NOT about increasing numbers, but introducing all women in our congregations and communities to the many avenues and resources the LWML provides for spiritual renewal, opportunities to serve God by serving others, and sharing our blessings. This challenge is not intended to be measured by human standards of success or failure. It is my encouragement for us all to be open to any possibility of what a group may look like or how it may choose to operate. It is not necessary the group operate in the traditional sense. We can stand on the sidelines and cheer them on. Take a back seat, smile and bite the tongue when the words “no, you can’t do that” want to come out. Be wise in our choice of words. Seek the assistance of your district leaders in any questions that arise. That is part of their official duties also. It is the commitment to the mission of LWML which allows us to be blessed as Lutheran Women in Mission. What we can measure is our own enthusiasm, our own sincere efforts, our own reliance on the Lord for guidance, and our own level of being in prayer. There is no need to fear the LWML will lose its identity by allowing some governance modifications. LWML will always have traditions we can treasure. It is not about deviations from what we perceive to be the norm, but about planning for the future — the future of our congregations, the future of the organization we all love and serve. So, let’s get out there — be bold — be courageous — be confident through the gift of sure hope, earned for us by Christ Jesus, given freely in grace and faith. And may our Father keep us enthused, energized, and ready to serve whenever and wherever He has need of us.

Frances Molitor, LWML Texas District President



LWML Prayer Service

August 19, 2023

Redeemer Lutheran Church

1500 W Anderson Lane

Austin, Texas

9 am Breakfast - Commons Area

9:30 am Service

10:30 am Board of Directors Meeting

11:30 am Conclusion

Each Group planning to attend bring
breakfast items to share!

FROM OUR ZONE PRESIDENT

Dear Sisters in Christ,

It is the middle of July as I am writing this letter to you, and it has been a tumultuous year. My sister-in-law died on Christmas Eve last year, which led to a month away from home, getting my brother's rented house cleared out, and moving him from Arizona to Hutto, where he lives with our sister. February was full of getting ready for the Zone Presidents Training weekend, followed by our zone retreat. On March 6, our son-in-law, who had ALS, was taken to the hospital with severe breathing problems. There he had a tracheostomy and was moved to a specialty hospital, where another major medical crisis led to his death in April. In May, one of my friends died unexpectedly. And in June, I lost two more friends who had been battling cancer.

Good things were happening too. There were birthdays; my sister and her husband from Colorado spent a week with us in March; the national LWML convention in June; my husband and I celebrated our 55th anniversary.

God has been right beside me through all the ups and downs of this year. He has provided strength for every day. He comforted me and still comforts me as I mourn my losses; and rejoices with me as I celebrate all the good things in my life.

"Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold, and there be no herd in stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation."

Habakkuk 3:17-18

"Don't be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are Mine. When you go through deep waters, I am with you; or through rivers, they will not drown you. When you walk through fire, you will not be burned, and the flames will not scorch you." Isaiah 43:1b-2

"Praise the LORD, all you nations! Praise Him, all you people! His love to us is great, and the LORD is faithful forever. Praise the LORD!" Psalm 117

My prayer is that in the tumults of your life, you will be able to rest on the promises of God and at the same time rejoice in all the good gifts God gives daily.

Rejoicing in His Love,
Betsy Martino
Capitol Zone President

Save the Dates

LWML Prayer Service August 19, 2023

1st Dist. Retreat September 8-9, 2023, Glen Lake Camp, Glen Rose

2nd Dist. Retreat September 22-23, 2023, Ceta Canyon, Happy

Fall Rally October 1, 2023, Redeemer Lutheran, Austin

3rd Dist. Retreat October 20-21, 2023, Spiritual Retreat Center, Victoria

Register for retreats @ <https://www.lwmltxdist.org/district-retreat>

District Officer Nominee Deadline November 1, 2023

Do you know an LWML member who shows a deep, active interest in LWML and willing to devote her time and energy to serve the Lord? The Nominating Committee asks you to nominate her. For more information on how and what officers are needed visit

<https://www.lwmltxdist.org/nominating-committee>

Texas District Newsletter

Formerly known as *Linked by Love* is now named *The Lone Star Connection*

You can learn more by visiting the website <https://www.lwmltxdist.org/newsletter>.

Click on the Subscribe Here on the webpage to get yours by email.

Lutheran World Relief In-gathering

November 1, 2023; 9 am to 2 pm

St. John Lutheran Church

600 S. Center St.

Marion, TX 78124

They are requesting help to load.

Vice President of Christian Life and Gospel Outreach, Rosanne Capdeville

The following information is shared with you acknowledging ***Lutherans Engage the World*** as the source. I encourage you to invest some of your time in finding out about these resources.

(The ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod develop many free resources to benefit the church at-large. The following podcasts, books, Bible studies and other resources may be of interest to both church workers and laypeople.)



'5 Minutes with a Missionary'

This podcast from the LCMS Office of International Mission offers a window into missionary life. Each episode features one of the Synod's missionaries sharing an unfiltered take on life abroad for the sake of the Gospel – all in the time it takes to pick up your drive-thru order or empty the dishwasher. It's fun. It's real. And it's always an adventure. Listen at resources.lcms.org/podcasts/missionary-podcast.

'Adopt-a-Chap' Program

The "Adopt-a-Chap" program matches participating congregations with an LCMS Armed Forces chaplain. No financial commitment is expected; instead, the congregation and chaplain establish a relationship through regular communication. Congregations keep the chaplain and his family in prayer and learn about his specialized ministry. Learn more at lcms.org/ministry-to-the-armed-forces/adopt-a-chap-program.



Memory Verse Challenge

Memorizing Scripture is a valuable practice for Christians, even in a digital age. That's why the LCMS offers a weekly memory verse challenge for those interested in learning Scripture by heart. Find the verse of the week at lcms.org/memoryverse and on the LCMS' social media channels.

LCMS Convention Bible Study

In preparation for the 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, which will be held in Milwaukee in July, a new Bible study is available that delves into the convention theme, "*We Preach Christ Crucified*," based on 1 Corinthians 1:18–25. The five-part study leads participants to understand how Scripture defines the Gospel, how the apostles proclaimed it in the Book of Acts and how continuing this proclamation is the church's ongoing task. Download the participant and leader guides at lcms.org/convention/biblestudy.





I share some highlights from immediate past LWML President Debbie Larson's convention report.

****This amazing God of ours has brought nations to our doorstep. Opportunities to share Jesus' love by experiencing and embracing His gift of cultural differences abound. I encourage each of you to look for those opportunities and step out and embrace our Mission Statement.**

****God forms character during challenging times, and the character of this group of women continues to grow — strong and sure. Remember: a tiny virus can do damage, but a mustard seed of faith gives us the strength to trust in God.**

****LWML's future will have new ideas under new leaders. Women across the nation will continue to proclaim, give, and serve in unity of purpose because our Lord of the Nations is the Lord of the past, the present, and the future.**



LWML Prayer Service

Saturday, August 19, 2023 – Redeemer Lutheran, Austin

8:30 to 11:30 a.m. – Commons area

Zone Pastoral Counselor Rev. Eric Borchers will lead our Prayer Service using the LWML resource **"MY SOUL REJOICES: A SERVICE OF SONG AND PRAYER"**. *But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy (Psalm 5:11a).* We will start with fellowship and breakfast followed by a Board of Directors' (BOD) meeting...looking forward to seeing you at this Prayer Service.



LWML Fall Rally

Sunday, October 1

Giovanna Turincio, a representative of the Mission Service Committee is our speaker. The theme is "Paint the Planet Purple" with Servanthood. The LWML groups of Redeemer Lutheran, Austin look forward to welcoming you.

Registration and a light lunch starts at 1:00 p.m.

Rally begins at 2:00 p.m.

Stamped Christmas cards will be available benefitting the Stamporee Program.



PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

(LSB, page 310)

(By including this prayer box, I follow the lead of *The Celebration Chronicles*, Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention Newspaper, 40th Biennial Convention Milwaukee, Wisconsin.)

Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism You called us to be Your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of Your Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, Our Savior. Amen.

News & More from Your VP of Communication

Hello, Ladies of the Capitol Zone LWML. I want to thank Cheryl Wawrzyniak and Joy Cowan for being guest writers for the Capsule. Be sure to look for their articles in this issue. You, too, can be a guest writer. All you have to do is write a few paragraphs about your experience at an LWML event, such as the retreat, rally, or Convention and email it to me before the deadline. The next issue's deadline is **October 15, 2023**. I may even ask you to consider writing about your experience. If you have pictures, please include them. Thank you so much for your attention and participation. You can email the Capsule at czlwmlvpcommunication@gmail.com.

The Convention Reporter

Are you looking for news from the National Convention? Coming to your email will be an edition of the Convention Reporter with fun, exciting information, and stories. There will be pictures too. So be sure to look for it around **August 7**. You will learn how much fun attending is, and maybe you will consider traveling to the National in Omaha, Nebraska, in 2025.

In The Next Issue

Ask Our Pastoral Counselor

Do you have a theological or Biblical question? Do you need help finding an answer? You can send your questions to me, and I will forward them to Pastor Borchers. He will select a question or two to answer in the November issue. So please send your questions to czlwmlvpcommunication@gmail.com, and put Ask Pastoral Counselor in the subject line. Thank you!

AROUND THE ZONE

ULC Dinners

You can contact Laurie Bellard to request more information on how to sponsor a dinner. Her email is laurielwml@gmail.com

A Game of Chickenfoot

The Evening Circle at Zion in Walburg hosted an evening of Chicken Foot for the adults in the congregation.

For an admission price of a dish to share and an item(s) for the Jarrell Food Pantry, a good time was had by all. We started with a potluck meal and lots of visiting. Continuing with Chicken Foot, a simple domino game, led to many laughs and a few groans. The event closed with some prizes.

This evening was a lot of fun and a great way to reach out and invite ladies to come to our group meetings. Thrivent helped support this event. Here are a few pictures of our event.

Joy Cowan

