



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LEAGUER

Website: lwmlnebraskanorth.org
Facebook: Nebraska North District LWML

Winter 2020, Volume 16, Issue 8

Joy Notes from Lisa

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COPING WITH THE PANDEMIC CHRIST BY MY SIDE JESUS IS THERE!

Jesus is guiding our steps every day. Through these days of the pandemic, dealing with family members with COVID, dealing with schools and churches and how they should operate, Jesus is there guiding our steps. We know that at times, we feel like asking - Where are you Jesus? However, we know that Jesus is a constant in our life. Things have changed for us in our lives from wearing masks everywhere, ZOOM meetings, little contact with our older family members, FaceTime with our grandchildren instead of seeing them in person and live streaming our church services. Jesus is there and is the constant.

When I was elected to be your Nebraska North President, I did not know that I would be dealing with this pandemic, but through this all Jesus is there. He has shown me how to run ZOOM meetings with my Board of Directors, how to connect on Facebook and through email. It has been tough not to be together, but we have gotten through this and we remembered that Jesus is there.

When we decided to cancel the NE North LWML 2020 convention, my heart sank. I wanted to be with you all, and wanted to celebrate with you all, hear of missions going on, in our district and the world, but again God had different plans for us and we have survived. Our LWML sisters have kept going. Our LWML sisters have met through ZOOM for their bible studies at their own churches. Our LWML sisters have had live-streamed church services and were fed by the Word there. Our LWML sisters have made masks and donated them to places in need. Our LWML sisters have made quilts and sent them to Orphan Grain Train to send overseas. Our LWML sisters have sent cards of encouragement to people who needed to hear that Jesus loves them. Our LWML sisters have made meals for people who may have lost their jobs. Our LWML sisters have continued to share their mites in supporting our district and national LWML mission grants. Our LWML sisters have been there and will continue to be there, as we know Jesus is there.

As I read in my Bible the other day in Philippians 4:4-6 *Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say Rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand, do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.*

We know Jesus is there, and He wants us to come to Him in everything. Remain strong in His Word daily and keep Him as our focus. Jesus is there always and will remain our constant in these uncertain times. Jesus loves you all.



PAST DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Meet, Guide and Celebrate



SOCIETY AND ZONE NEWS

Service Projects



MISSION GRANT PRESENTED

Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool



SCHOLARSHIPS

Lutheran Church Workers



Mission Grants and Scholarships



- **2020 Scholarships -\$15,000**
- **Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool - \$3,730 (Paid)**
- Mission Central - \$10,000
- Fort Wayne Seminary Food Bank - \$5,000
- Peace Lutheran Comfort Dog Ministry - \$5,000
- Siouxland Hispanic Ministry - \$12,000
- Lutheran Braille Workers - Bring Christs Light to Those Living in Darkness - \$10,000
- Gospel Outreach to International Students - Lutheran Chapel - Univ. Nebraska Lincoln - \$1,270
- **2021 Scholarships - \$15,000**
- **Soldiers of the Cross - Young Women Representatives - \$2,020 (Paid)**

Jeanette Beune, Financial Secretary

bjbeune@gmail.com

Financial Report for April 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020

Mite Offerings from Societies	\$17,064.95
Donations	\$1,137.58
Memorials	\$305.00
Special Offerings	\$100.00
Total Mite Offerings	\$18,605.53

Memorials

From:

Koehler, Lois
Madison, Trinity Ladies Aid
Madison, Trinity Ladies Aid
Totten, Suzanne
Hooper, Immanuel Lydia Circle
Jensen, Rachel E.
Anonymous
South Sioux City, Hope LWML
Groppe, Jeanette
Bancroft, St. Paul Altar Guild

For:

Karen Goeglien
Gloria Long
Liela Berends
Christina Schwager
Lois Mueller
Wilma Amen
Wilma Amen
Lois Larsen
Elaine Garms
Lenn Zuhlke

**Send all
Mite and Memorial
Money
to:**

**Jeanette Buene
475 H. Road
Wisner, NE 68791**

Lynette Koehler, Vice President of Christian Life

hlkoehler@ptcnet.net

How have I been coping with the pandemic?

I was doing fine until I realized that I had to write an article for the Leaguer when I was elected.

Yikes! Seriously, I was lucky, I continued to work, went on my daily walks, stayed busy and stayed in the Word, but I did miss church and Bible study. I think I got this far by using the tools God has given me and everyone to use during any crisis.

Here are some of the tools I used, my Bible, one of the best tools in God's tool chest. Make time to read it every day, if a passage stumps you just keep reading, God's instruction manual, sometimes it takes a little studying.

The phone, stay in touch with family, friends and your LWML sisters. No one can exist in a vacuum. God gave us these connections to lift us up and support one another.

The internet, our church broadcast our weekly service on YouTube. I would watch Sunday mornings, sing as loud as I wanted to the hymns and feel renewed. I did in fact go to several of my LWML sister's houses and show them how to find our church service on YouTube.

My daily walks. I rarely miss a day and that is my time to talk with God. I know you will regret voting for me when I tell you this, but my walking time is also, my talking to God time. Some people would call this prayer and it is, but in my mind God is my best friend, my biggest supporter, and my most trusted adviser. When I go on my walk, I take my worries, concerns and triumphs to God.

I know people that did not see or talk to their pastors for weeks but I did see him and talk to him and knew he was there if I needed spiritual help.

My sister lost her husband a short time ago and is struggling but I keep telling her to lean on the Lord and He will get her through this. My other advice to her was to get up, get dressed and get one thing accomplished every day. I think this is good advice for anyone having trouble during this pandemic. With the Lord's help, we can all make it!

Your sister in Christ

Suzanne Totten, Vice President of Human Care

stotten1@neb.rr.com

Comfort in a Coffee Cup

Coffee drinkers (as well as hot tea drinkers) usually have an array of cups, cups of various sizes, colors and shapes. This includes near-hordes of sentimental cups from loved ones and souvenir cups from special events or adventurous travels. Even one that should have been thrown out long ago but a cup of joe in that beloved cup just seems to taste much more comforting!

Find me guilty, as I am a coffee lover, who has all of the above. I too have a special cup – special because of the comforting words written on it from our dear Dr. Luther. His message reminds me frequently of God's care for me and simply states, "Pray and let God worry". With the epidemic constantly hanging over us, this brief but powerful message tells me how to handle the chaos and concerns of COVID-19. Just as he has always been in control, God is handling it for us now and in the future. We can believe this with sure and certain hope because His promises are true. As Rev. Dr. Harrison said in the The Lutheran Witness (October, 2020), "Do you want certainty? Then look to Jesus".

So, enjoy that cup of coffee with a prayer, having comfort in your heart and peace in your soul, "because he cares for you". (1 Peter 5:7b)

LaDonna Stanosheck, Vice President of Communications

lmstano@gmail.com

Pandemic – that is not a word I ever thought I would hear regarding the USA! Nevertheless, it came caused chaos, took lives and turned our worlds upside down. So how did we get through it? At least this far. For many there seemed no hope. Jobs lost, business closed and loved ones dying without family present. However, do we have hope? Of course! Hope lies with our Savior, Jesus Christ and Him alone. Yes, we pray for vaccines and medicines to help fight this Covid-19, but that knowledge comes from God. In His perfect timing, all these things will happen. So how did I cope through this? I am so fortunate to have been able to retire, so I did not have to spend 12-hour days at the laboratory, exhausted each night by the amount of testing that had to be done. I was able to be home and isolate myself, as I wanted. I have been blessed to be in that situation. But where did my blessings come from...God alone. Turning to His word each day, connecting to church services and daily devotions electronically, FaceTime on the phone with family. God provided all these things to keep us in contact. As we slowly come through this mess, let us remember, who brought us through it, who is always there beside us, who loves us and cares for us and has a place for us in our real home in heaven. Isaiah 41:10 tells us, *So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.*

May God keep you all safe.

Joyce Buethe, Vice President of Gospel Outreach

j_buethe@hotmail.com

The New Normal! We have heard this phrase used frequently since March with the lockdown because of Covid. What does it mean? What is or was normal? In discussing this with friends and family, I have concluded that 'normal' is that with which we are comfortable. Masks, physical distancing and not having an LWML convention are 'not normal'. We are hopeful for things to return to the way they were before Covid. It is stressful to think about having to continue living in this New Normal for an extended period, much longer than we have had to so far. As women of the LWML this includes not only missing out on hugs at convention or sharing face to face but also thinking of new ways to do things. Our delegates chose new Mission Grants to fund for this biennium - \$77,000 worth - projects to help share God's Word both near and far. We have already funded scholarships for future church workers and paid a craft and snack grant to Jesus Our Savior Preschool. We need to look for new or additional ways to raise 'mites' to help fund our remaining grants. We can be there to support and uplift each other in the New Normal.

But wait – we are not alone in this challenging time. We have our unchanging Savoir to guide us on this journey. In Hebrews 13:8 we are told "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*". What a wonderful and comforting reminder to each of us, to know and feel the comfort of these words. It is almost like getting a 'hug' from our Father. No matter how much seems to be changing around us, we can be sure of the solid ground that our Lord provides in His presence in our world. Our old normal will become a new normal, but we know Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.



Pastor Cory Burma, Senior Pastoral Counselor

cburma@peacecolumbus.org

How Long

"How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?" (Psalm 13:1a) How many times have you felt like crying this out to God in the past six months? For me, the number is too many times to count. The first time was in March, when we were asked on a Saturday to not gather for worship that weekend due to the virus. How long? Nobody knew. Another time was on Easter, when instead of gathering friends and family in the sanctuary with music and joy and alleluias, I spent the day quietly with my wife. Yes, we watched the Easter service together and enjoyed the day together. But, I had a sadness in me as well. How long, O LORD?

Many other times were when I desired to visit someone in a hospital, or care center, or even their home, but was unable to do so. How Long, O LORD?

And even now, as I write this we are experiencing another increase in cases, with more directly impacting my congregation and friends, causing pain, frustration and separation. How long, O LORD, will you forget us forever?

That seems to be our cry all too often, crying out to God wondering why He is not answering us. Yet He does answer us, in the last two verses of that same Psalm.

*But I have trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.*

*I will sing to the Lord,
because he has dealt bountifully with me.* (Psalm 13:4-6)

When David cried out to the LORD, he was reminded of the LORD's steadfast love – that steadfast love that anointed him to be king when he was just a young shepherd, that love – steadfast love that he experienced as he stood against the giant, that steadfast love that was there during the good times that remained during the terrible, horrible, no good, very bad days!

Because of that steadfast love, David's heart rejoiced in the LORD's salvation, not just the being saved from Goliath, Saul, and those who wanted to physically harm him, but the evil one who was continually trying to pull him away from his trust in God. And the joy in His salvation overflowed in songs to the LORD.

During this time of struggling and separation, trust in your God's steadfast love for you! A love so great He sent His Son to bring to YOU the joy of salvation. Lift your voice in song, flowing from that very joy and hope we have in Jesus. To Him be the glory forever, AMEN!

In His Peace and Joy,

Elected Officers and Nominating Committee

Vice President of Christian Life

- Lynette Koehler, Zion, Pierce – Norfolk Zone

Vice President of Human Care

- Suzanne Totten, Immanuel, Columbus – Columbus Zone

Vice President of Communications

- LaDonna Stanosheck, Immanuel, Osmond – Plainview Zone

Recording Secretary

- Shelley Freudenburg, Christ, Norfolk – Norfolk Zone

Financial Secretary

- Jeanette Beune, Zion/St. John – Wisner – West Point Zone

Pastoral Counselor

- Pastor Jared Hartman, St. Paul, Wisner - West Point Zone

Nominating Committee

- Lana Erickson – Omaha West Zone (Chair)
- Connie Anderson – Plainview Zone
- Nancy Hasenkamp – West Point Zone
- Betty Poppe – Fremont Zone
- Gloria Ruegge – Ainsworth Zone



Scholarship Recipients



Drew Oswald

Home Congregation: Lord of Life, Elkhorn

Year in School: Second, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Future Career Plans: Serve the Lord in Word and Sacrament ministry at an LCMS parish or school.

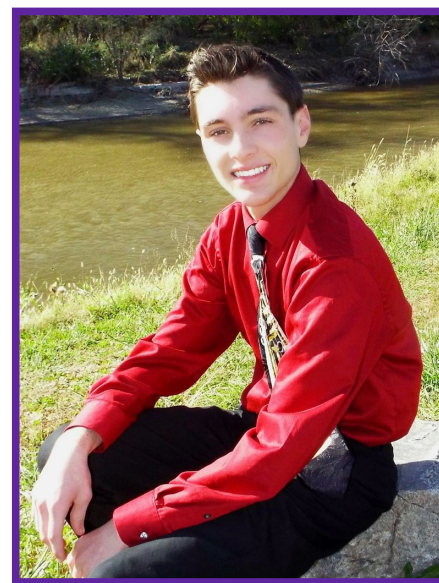


Michelle Hernandez

Home Congregation: Peace Lutheran, Columbus, Nebraska

Year in School: Freshman, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

Future Career Plans: Director of Christian Education or Elementary Education



Matthew Feusse

Home Congregation: Concordia Lutheran Church, Clearwater, NE

Year in School: Freshman, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

Future Career Plans: I plan to be an organist and a music director.

Thank you for your generosity.

Scholarship Recipients - Continued



Nicholle Harstad

Home Congregation: Christ Lutheran, Norfolk

Year in School: Junior, Concordia University, Seward, NE

Future Career Plans: I am majoring in Elementary Education with an endorsement in English as a Second Language (ESL). I am also getting my Lutheran Teachers Diploma and a minor in music. I plan to work as a Lutheran teacher in a 3rd-5th grade classroom here I hope to use my knowledge of music and education to help children learn and stay engaged. I am also glad to have an endorsement in English as a Second Language to help Lutheran schools with any students who may need assistance learning English so that they can excel in the classroom.



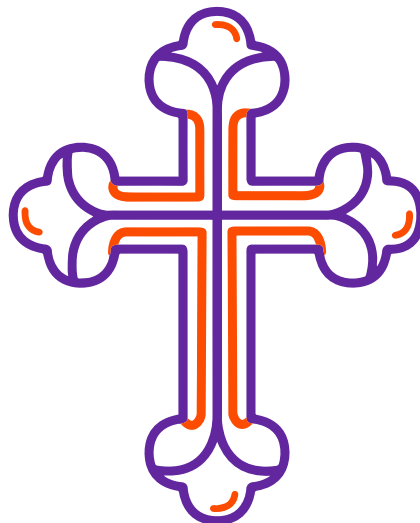
Hannah Feusse

Home Congregation: Concordia Lutheran Church, Clearwater, NE

Year in School: Sophomore, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

Future Career Plans: I plan on becoming a preschool teacher with my Lutheran teacher's diploma. I am majoring in Early Childhood Education

Thank you for helping me on my road through college!



Macee Hope Goehmann

Home Congregation: Christ Lutheran Church, Norfolk, Nebraska

Year in School: Freshman, Concordia University, Mequon, Wisconsin

Future Career Plans: I plan to graduate from Concordia Wisconsin with a major in Secondary Education with an emphasis in Social Studies and a minor in Theater. I hope to get my Lutheran Teachers' Diploma so I may teach History, and possibly Government, to high school students. I have always had a passion for Theater; I aspire to direct Theater, if possible, wherever I may teach in the future. I also hope for the opportunity to attend graduate school so I may one day teach Ancient History on the Ph.D. level.

Hello!
Thank you for the support and encouragement to become a full-time church worker. It is greatly appreciated and means a lot to me that I may wisely support my vocation.

Scholarship Recipients -Continued



Drew Boggs

Home Congregation: Immanuel Lutheran Church, Tilden, NE

Year in School: Senior, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska

Future Career Plans: I plan to be a DCE in a parish and eventually move into overseas mission work.

Thank you so much for your financial aid support on my educational career! It is because of people like you that I am able to remain in college and reach my educational goals!

Society Servant Event



King of Kings LWML

Lutheran World Relief Kits were packed on Monday September 28th in the King of Kings courtyard Room. 203 school kits were assembled and sent to Orphan Grain Train

Past and Current District Presidents Meet

On August 6th, the Past and Current District Presidents for the Nebraska North District met in Plainview at Serendipity. They practiced their social distancing and also their mask wearing. It was a time of celebration (Virginia's Birthday), guidance for current DP Lisa and wonderful fellowship with one another, and connecting with those who could not be with us through cards. Janyce Warenke and Virginia VonSeggern were our host. Gwen Lindberg, Monique Wolske and Yvonne Greunke were missed.



National Nominating Committee

The National Nominating Committee met in the Nebraska North District. They have chosen the slate of candidates for the ballot in Lexington, KY. It will be announced soon - look for the nominees in the Quarterly or on the LWML website.



Mission Grant Funds Presented

Lisa Stirtz presented a check for \$3,730 to Jesus Our Savior Preschool in Winnebago. Sheryl Tietz, the director of the preschool was so thankful to get the funding.

Jesus Our Savior began their 2020-2021 year on August 24th with 20 preschoolers. Sheryl is excited to share the love of Jesus with the preschoolers of Winnebago. This year's theme verse is "Then Jesus opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. He told them "This is what is written: That Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." The theme song for this year is "I am Trusting The Lord Jesus".

Mrs. Tietz says, these children are like little sponges and will be learning the precious bible stories, hymns, songs, prayers, the 10 commandments, the Lords Prayer, the Apostles, the entire 23rd Psalm and several Bible verses.

In addition to serving as the director and teacher at Our Savior Preschool, Sheryl helps Pastor Ricky Jacob with Kidz Bible Adventure Hour which is held every Wednesday after school for 5-12 year olds. In the fall of 2016, she also started a women's Bible study on Tuesday evenings and continues with that ministry today.



A Note from your Archivist/Historian - Jeanette Groppe

Jeanette is working hard on making sure that everything is in order in the LWML Archives. She would like to provide the following guidance:

- SOCIETIES-Do NOT send anything to the zone archivist unless she specifically requests information. Keep in your local files: executive board minutes, meeting minutes, treasurer's reports, year books, society reports and if you wish pictures, properly filed and identified and a copy of your local history. Write an addition to you history every five years. If you do not have an archivist/historian, you may have to rely upon the president or secretary. I know it is difficult as our societies become smaller and smaller.
- ZONES-Keep only zone information, including the obvious, minutes, treasurers reports, other reports, pictures, zone history. A zone history should be written every five years. Do not send anything to the district archivist/historian unless it is requested.
- IF A CHURCH CLOSES-it is the duty of the local society to get their files to the district archivist/historian. These are not be stored with the church archives. The LWML is responsible for them.
- IF A SOCIETY BECOMES INACTIVE-it will depend upon the situation. If there is only one society, send the information to me. If there are more than one societies in a church another society can take charge of them.

If you have additional questions, contact Jeanette directly at jmygrop@yahoo.com or 402-664-2430

National Convention - June 24 - 27, 2021 - Lexington, KY

God willing, the LWML will be meeting in convention on June 24-27 in Lexington, KY. Start making your plans to go. Many of your sisters are planning to make the trip to Lexington. The district will not have a bus, but you can contact the Nebraska South District, as they are planning to travel in a bus to KY. It will be an exciting time and if we can go, we should go. The Convention Theme is: Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus. The scripture verse for convention is Hebrews 12:1-2. Look it up and prayerfully consider planning for Lexington. More information will be coming in both the Leaguer and Quarterly.

Young Women Representatives Applications

The Nebraska North District is now accepting applications for Young Women Representatives (YWR) from our district. This is a wonderful experience for young women to attend the LWML National convention, learn more about what LWML is doing, and meet many other YWRs from all over the country who are participating in the mission of the LWML. If you are a young woman, or if you have a young woman in your congregation who is interested, you can find a letter from President Lisa and VP Deb Gutz in the following pages with more detailed information.

Contact Information for Current District Officers

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Shelley Freudenburg - Recording Secretary

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Deb Gutz - Vice President of Servant Resources

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