



Lutheran Women's Missionary League

LEAGUER

Website: lwmlnebraskanorth.org

Facebook: Nebraska North District LWML

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Joy Notes from Lisa

lisalwml@gmail.com
(402) 657-0797

RUNNING THE RACE! HEBREWS 12:1-2

Looking to Jesus! Running the Race is our theme for our National LWML convention this summer. He is constant in our life! There are so many things in our life right now that are changing...the weather, our jobs, our visits with family and friends, our church family and worship, our shopping and eating out, but in all this Jesus is our constant. Running the Race is our theme for the 39th Biennial LWML Convention in Lexington KT on June 24-27. As we join to Run the Race and to keep our focus on Jesus, what is the race we are running to? Are we keeping our eyes focused on Him, are we focusing on our family or our jobs, are we focusing on the Bible study that will happen in Lexington, the servant events and how we can serve others, are we focused on the Mites in Action Speakers, are we focused on our new Mission Grant goal and the new mission grants we will vote on or are we focused on the many friends we will meet? God has laid before us many things to keep our eyes on Him, and to Run the Race for Him every day. God will be there and help us to Run the Race and He will show us where we can serve Him in LWML and how we can bring back ideas to our family and church. Run the Race for Christ should be our first priority in life, and what are you doing to run with endurance the race that is set before us always looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith (*Hebrews 12:1-2*). I pray for you as we look to see how God will be using us in Lexington and then as we come back home to our church and family. Keep your eyes focused on Jesus! Jesus is our constant and will be forever. Keep your faith strong in Him and let's Run the Race for Jesus.



RUNNING THE RACE

Hebrews 12:1-2



SOCIETY AND ZONE NEWS

River of Life



MISSION GRANT PRESENTED

Mission Central



EDEN

COMFORT DOG EDEN ARRIVED



Jeanette Beune, Financial Secretary

bjbeune@gmail.com

Financial Report for October 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021

Mite Offerings from Societies	\$13,738.43
Donations	\$849.00
Memorials	\$420.00
Special Offerings	\$1,006.29
Total Mite Offerings	\$16,013.72

Memorials

From:

- Arlington, St. Paul
- Arlington, St. Paul
- Arlington, St. Paul
- Atkinson, Immanuel LWML by Bonnie Brandt
- Bancroft, St. Paul Altar Guild
- Battle Creek, St. John WINGS
- Battle Creek, St. John WINGS
- Battle Creek, St. John WINGS
- Battle Creek, St. John WINGS
- Columbus, Christ Ladies Aid & LWML
- DeLene Freudenburg
- Hooper, Immanuel Lydia Circle
- Jeanette Beune
- Jeanette Groppe
- Laurel, Immanuel Women's Society
- Laurel, Immanuel Women's Society
- Laurel, Immanuel Women's Society
- Laurel, Immanuel Women's Society
- Laurel, Immanuel Women's Society
- Monica Ebmeier
- Tilden, Immanuel Ladies Aid
- Wahoo, Our Redeemer, Lydia Circle
- Wayne, Grace Ladies Aid
- West Point, St. Paul
- West Point, St. Paul

For:

- Lila A. Scheer
- Meta Giesselman
- Carol Oerman
- Dorothy Mlinar
- Kenneth Schoch
- LaVerne Werner
- Marjorie Rinkel
- Joyce Obst
- Ruth Biermann
- Karen Wurdeman
- Carolyn Nathan
- Lois Krohn
- Kenneth Schoch
- Mary Lou Echtenkamp
- Darlene Schroeder
- Ervin Rastede
- Russ Bradford
- Merlin Kint
- Deb Patras
- Darlene Schroeder
- Roger Johnson
- Adeline Chapek
- Phyllis Nolte
- Marcia Beck
- Lois Wiechman

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

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





Stacey Coffey, Outreach Chair of River of Life Lutheran Church

New Ministry Brings God, Recovery to an Omaha Community

Nestled in the heart of north Omaha, Nebraska, in the Benson neighborhood, is a little church making big changes. River of Life Omaha is a new church plant that was formed in 2019. It is comprised of three former Lutheran congregations: St. Paul, Bethany, and Atonement Lutheran. These three churches courageously listened to God's calling and closed their doors to start a new mission church in the old Bethany location. With the sale of the other two buildings, the church is finishing

construction and updates to their building, adding an elevator and new bathrooms, and giving the church a new look.

The vision of River of Life is to have a living worship with faithful caring and reaching outward into the community. Under the guidance of their new Pastor, Eric Wenger, they are learning to embrace their heart for helping others and sharing God's great love.

One focus of ministry for River of Life is reaching out into the recovery community to bring God's love to people who have been broken by addictions. The church hosts different recovery groups such as AA and Cocaine Anonymous in their church building every night of the week.

Three years ago, the church began a second worship service on Sunday nights that focuses on bringing people in recovery to the church to worship and hear God's message. This service is named Recovery Revival Fellowship. Sunday night service looks a lot different than a traditional Sunday morning service. It includes a worship band that 'rocks out' to contemporary music, a speaker who brings their testimony of how God has helped them through their own addictions, a wonderful message by one of River of Life's congregation members, Joseph Haggas, who is working on becoming a Special Ministries Pastor (SMP) through the LCMS, and a warm meal cooked by some of the ladies of the church.

River of Life also partners with various recovery houses in Omaha, who serve men and women going through the rehabilitation process. This ministry has grown so much over the last three years and they can really see the impact God is making in many of these people's lives.

On Feb. 7, River of Life celebrated three years of their recovery ministry. To commemorate the occasion, they held a special worship service and witnessed God bringing seven new people to faith through the holy waters of baptism or by reaffirming their baptisms! What an amazing time of joy that was!

This ministry is one that God has brought to River of Life and they are excited to see how He continues to use them to help those suffering with addictions and share His love in this community.



New LWML Mission Statement

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

Lynette Koehler Vice President of Gospel Outreach

hlkoehler@ptcnet.net

Tips for staying in touch!

Hey, if you have power and are hanging around the house trying to stay warm check out the LWML website. Just type in LWML into your search engine, Google, Chrome, whatever you have and you can find lots of good tips. It's not just that single page that comes up, look under all the headings at the top.

There is one section with tips for staying connected. Like, shorten your meeting time, spread out, skip roll call, e-mail or mail minutes and treasurer's report, have officers make more decisions so more meeting time can be spent connecting to each other and in His word. I would not recommend some of the tips for this time of year, meet in the church parking lot, meet in the park, or other outdoor venue. Respect the comfort level of those who choose not to meet, this I totally agree with. And you can always meet electronically. Read Dear Lucy, there are some good ideas there too.

If you are not able to go to church you can still drop off your mites or have porch pick up, coordinate with your group. There are different challenges, school, Sunday school, one grade against another, mission walk, silly challenge to raise mites.

If service is your cup of tea, look for mission service activities, Orphan Grain Train projects and kits, World relief kits, meals for shut ins, care packages for soldiers or students, they can be done by individuals or small groups if you want to limit your group size.

Check out the website, you will find lots of ideas.



Pastor Jared Hartman, Junior Pastoral Counselor

pastorjaredhartman@icloud.com

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (*Hebrews 12:1-2, ESV*).

"Many years ago, when I was in the Army, I ran. I wasn't good at it. I did it because I had to, because it was part of serving our country as a soldier. Occasionally, we would run in a huge formation-as a brigade. We would run around the entirety of "The Hill" at Fort Riley, Kansas. I admit, these long runs were difficult for me. But I got through them because I was surrounded by thousands of fellow soldiers. It was an endurance run. There were hills and valleys along the way, and when we finally finished and stood together to salute the flag at the end of the run, the effort made it all worth it.

The life of a Christian is an endurance run. Throughout life, a Christian is called to confess Christ, despite whatever hills and valleys may come. Those hills and valleys include persecution in the public square for confessing the truth of Christ. It may mean persecution by your family towards you when you confess Christ to brother or sister, child, or grandchild. The great temptation to us is that because of our own sin, we want to drop out of the hard parts of the race and only run the flat and easy parts, (like enjoying the company of your sisters in Christ at LWML conventions or singing your favorite hymns at church).

The "cloud of witnesses," the saints who have gone before you and are with Christ, give you their examples of bearing witness to the faith. They remind you that you are not alone in the struggle to confess Christ as a soldier in the Lord's Army. As you run the race of this body and life, you freely receive God's grace through faith in Christ Jesus. By His death on the cross Christ opened the gates to salvation. He strengthens and creates faith through His Holy Gospel and the Sacraments until the day that He calls you to be in the company of heaven to await the resurrection. Until then, lay aside the weight of your sin in Christ's forgiveness. Run the race and endure as Christ did. As a soldier of the cross, confess the Gospel of our Lord with joy. For Christ has already won the victory for you. Amen.

Mission Grants and Scholarships

- **2020 Scholarships -\$15,000 (Paid)**
- **Jesus Our Savior Lutheran Preschool - \$3,730 (Paid)**
- **Mission Central - \$10,000 (Paid)**
- 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)**



Mission Central Mission Grant Awarded!



Karen Peters, Gary Thies, LaDonna Stanoscheck, Lynette Koehler and Sara Huwaldt gathered together at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Osmond and presented the LWML Mission Grant check for \$10,000 to support missionaries being sent to share God with the world through Mission Central!

Eden is Here!



After almost a three year wait, Peace Lutheran Church in Columbus has their Lutheran Church Charity K-9 comfort dog. Eden arrived in Columbus on January 27th. She had her vesting service on January 31st with the other 6 Nebraska comfort dogs (and their teams) in attendance. Eden is also vested for canine police ministry and veteran ministry. Her bible verse is Genesis 1: 27 "And God created mankind in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them". The mission of the LCC Comfort Dog ministry is to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those suffering and in need. Eden is a bridge to share Christ to those who are hurting. She interacts with people at churches, schools, nursing homes, hospitals, events, and in disaster response situations. Eden is a friend who brings a calming influence and allows people to open up their hearts and receive help for what is affecting them. Eden is available to visit your church or group. For more information, contact Peace Lutheran at 402-564-8311 or www.peacecolumbus.org.



Mission Grant #5 for this Biennium for the Nebraska North LWML is \$5,000 to help in supporting Eden and her ministry!

Deb Gutz, Vice President of Servant Resources

debgutz@hotmail.com

Witnessing !

What we are asked to do is to witness to others about God's great love for us! With Valentine's Day just behind us, it has reminded me of God's great love for us - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son so that whoever believes in Him shall have everlasting life" What better way for us to show His love, than to show love to everyone. We need to "Run with it"! Be looking for ways to show love to others and to be "in the Word". Being in and amongst others who have the love of our Lord and Savior in their hearts, helps us to grow in our love of the Lord, also! Even with the pandemic around us, it is not a time to wither and stay away from others, we need to be with other believers in Christ to let our faith grow! Precautions, yes, but continue to grow in our faith!

As Vice-President of Servant Resources, part of my job is to help recruit Young Women Representatives for both our District and National LWML conventions. Right now we are looking for young ladies who are interested in becoming more involved in the LWML organization. What a wonderful way to become more in the Word of God and meet some wonderful women in mission! I am looking forward to the National LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, this June and working with new young women of our District.

LaDonna Stanosheck, Vice President of Communications

lmstano@gmail.com

The Race

I can't do it! It's too hard. I want to quit. I'm not fast enough, or strong enough or good enough! Those thoughts always race through my mind when I find my life race hard. But then I stop and remember. I don't have to be strong enough or good enough. I have a Savior that is all those things for me. He is my strength. He is my hope. He helps me to endure and go on. He shows me that "great cloud of witnesses" all around me. They also find this race hard at times. But they rely on their Lord Jesus for strength and endurance to finish the race. Often it is hard to "lay aside every weight and sin that ensnares us". But with God's help, we will overcome those obstacles and finish this race we are on. Not all races are sprints. And our race to eternal life with Christ is a life long journey. Look around for your own personal "great cloud of witnesses" and let them help you and guide you on your life race. But always, look first to Jesus, the "perfecter of our faith". His journey, his race, was painful and hard, but for the "joy set before him" he endured, even to death. When I am called home to heaven, may I say: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." *2 Timothy 4:7-8*

Jeanette Groppe, Archivist/Historian

jmygrop@yahoo.com

Just Remember the Cross and Run!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith." Hebrews 12:1-2a.

When I read this verse the first part is always a little frightening...Witnesses...a great cloud of them. Who are they? My friends? People who don't like me and want to see me fail? People I don't know? Oh yes, The saints in heaven. Oh yes, and God, definitely. O my, I need to be on my best behavior at all times! No mistakes! One little error and I am in trouble.

How can I lay aside the weights I carry and the sins that cling to me and yet run a race of endurance as my study Bible says a Christian life is an endurance race. And we probably all feel as if this past year has been an endurance race as we deal with our sins, we may have added more crankiness, fear and maybe distrust, anger, impatience, feelings of being less forgiving. It has been difficult and some of us will handle it better than others.

My study Bible says we run it remembering the cross and that it is already won for us. Turn to the word and the cross. The cross! What a wonderful vision. Close your eyes and picture that cross, then picture Christ taking your hand and helping you along the rough spots or picking you up and carrying you when you need that extra boost. Maybe He is even giving you a shove in the right direction. Just remember the cross and run.

Joyce Buethe, Vice President for Gospel Outreach

j_buethe@hotmail.com

To God Be the Glory!

What an exciting time this is! On February 21st the Women of the Nebraska North LWML presented a check to Gary Thies and LCMS Mission Central. That's us! A check for \$10,000! Our mites added together to give financial assistance to called LCMS missionaries or projects in the most efficient way. AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME is the project name of the grant proposal we received from Mission Central. Mission Central's sole purpose is to raise financial support for our missionaries. This model "at just the right time" puts our gift to its best use immediately. As directed by our Lord and encouraged by Paul as he wrote in *Romans 5:6-8*, "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." At Just the Right Time - in the middle of the corona virus epidemic our mites have added together to allow us to help spread The Good News. It most certainly is "At just the Right Time", during this ongoing uncertain time we have come together to help support missionaries where the need is the greatest today. To God be the glory.

Lynette Koehler Vice President of Gospel Outreach

hlkoehler@ptcnet.net

Run the Race

"Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."

Luckily this is a metaphor, because my legs have forgotten how to run. I don't know how it happened, I used to love to run. But now I take off and two steps later I'm like ow, that hurts. Hey, it doesn't matter. I can still run the race that God has set before me. Just because I am slower doesn't matter. What I now lack in speed I have gained inexperience and wisdom. (Well at least more wisdom than when I was young and stupid.)

All my life I have believed that God is real and Jesus is my Savior. What has it me is that this belief has gotten stronger, deeper, richer, most especially with every trial, heartache and stumbling block that has been set before me. Some may question, why me? What we can't see right away is what we gained from our journey. Was my faith strengthened, am I closer to God or someone I love, have I touched someone else's life and given them an opportunity to come to Jesus.

I know that the path set before me is not likely to be a smooth well defined track, but more likely a steeple chase, hurdles to go over, water hazards to wade through, all sorts of obstacles to negotiate but I will continue until I cross the finish line.

There I will get my grand prize, a mansion prepared by the Master, just for me. It will probably have its own pool, ice cream that doesn't make me fatter, and my voice will be so good I will sing God's praises in his angel choir.



Zone Spring Gatherings

Ainsworth Zone

March 27
Immanuel - Atkinson
Registration: 9:00 a.m.
Theme: Psalm 25
Paths of the Lord Led by Pastor Hasskari
Speaker: Emma Tubbs...Women and Diabetes

Columbus Zone

April 17
Immanuel - Columbus
Registration: 10:00 a.m.
Speaker: Susan Leffer, Orphan Grain Train

Fremont Zone

April 24
St. Paul - Arlington

Norfolk Zone

March 27
Our Savior - Norfolk

Omaha Tri-Zone

Postpone until Fall of 2021

Plainview Zone

April 10
Concordia - Clearwater
Registration: 8:30 a.m.
Theme: Alive in Christ I Cor. 15:22

Wayne Zone

April (TBA)
Grace - Wayne

West Point Zone

April 6
Zion - Bancroft
5:00 p.m.
Theme: Lord Teach us to pray Led by
Pastor Ricky Jacob

Contact Information for Current District Officers

Lisa Stirtz - President

21813 Bobwhite Ave.
Gretna, NE 68028
lisalwml@gmail.com
402-657-0797 (M)

Jeanette Beune - Financial Secretary

475 H Road
Wisner NE 68791
bjbeune@gmail.com
402-529-6495 (H)
402-380-7813 (M)

Shelley Freudenburg - Recording Secretary

700 W. Omaha Ave., Suite B
Norfolk, NE 68701
shelld844@gmail.com
402-371-6061 (W)
402-992-1284 (M)

Karen Peters - Treasurer

808 S. Clark Ave.
Bloomfield, NE 68718
peters@gpcom.net
402-373-2597 (H)
402-360-1135 (M)

Lynette Koehler - Vice President of Christian Life

85865 547th Ave.
Pierce, NE 68767
hlkoehler@ptcnet.net
402-329-6248 (H)

LaDonna Stanosheck - Vice President of Communications

701 N. Maple St
Osmond, NE 68765
lmstano@gmail.com
402-360-5202 (M)

Joyce Buehe - Vice President of Gospel Outreach

11407 S. 198th St.
Gretna, NE 68028
j_buehe@hotmail.com
402-680-4295 (M)

Suzanne Totten - Vice President of Human Care

2421 33rd St
Columbus, NE 68601
stotten1@neb.rr.com
402-564-1455 (H)
402-276-6306 (M)

Deb Gutz - Vice President of Servant Resources

602 N Main St.
Osmond, NE 68765
debгутz@hotmail.com
402-640-3489 (M)
402-748-3301 (W)

Rev. Cory Burma - Sr. Pastoral Counselor

2564 Pershing RD
Columbus, NE 68601
cburma@peacecolumbus.org
402-564-8311 (W)
402-860-0443 (M)

Rev. Jared Hartman - Jr. Pastoral Counselor

509 13th St
PO Box 797
Wisner, NE 68791
pastorjaredhartman@icloud.com
402-529-3468 (H)
317-691-5892 (M)

Pam Williams - Meeting Manager

82660 547th Ave.
Madison, NE 68748
pjwilli547@gmail.com
402-454-2086 (H)
402-640-5185 (M)