

Summer 2021, Volume 16, Issue 10

Joy Notes from Lisa

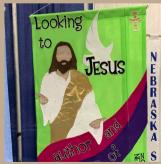
lisalwml@gmail.com (402) 657-0797

RUNNING THE RACE.... LOOKING TO JESUS

Running the Race.... Looking to Jesus was our theme for the National LWML convention in Lexington KT, and we are indeed doing this for Jesus every day. We run with endurance the race that is set before us always looking to Jesus. We were reminded of that so many times at the convention repeatedly. We started with opening worship with 66 pastors assisting, singing with 3000 people praises to Jesus (gives me goosebumps every time I say that), having communion with all your LWML sisters and brothers and giving that offering to the LWML. What a way to start the convention. Praise God!

Our Mission Goal was increased to \$2,150,000.00 for the 2021-2023 biennium. In the last biennium we met our goal, and we had an overage of \$286,176.15 which was then applied to our new goal. 90% of mite money sent to national will now go to Mission goal instead of 75%. Praise God!

Mites in Action Speakers were amazing and inspiring like Rev John Carrier from Detroit Children and Families, Gary Theis from Mission Central, Lorene King from Bethesda with their many inspiring stories. We have children in Detroit never hearing of Jesus and now with Mite money they can hear about Jesus, read Jeremiah 29:11 as Rev. John Carrier states this is a special verse to him. Gary Theis told of many missionaries sharing Jesus all over the world and what great work they are doing only with God's guidance and your mite money. Gary reminded us we are all missionaries everywhere we go. Lorene King shared a story of sharing Jesus with handicapped people and YES, they do understand. She shared as one person was confirmed in the faith with the help of people at Bethesda. Praise God!



CONVENTION LEXINTON, KY



SEMINARY GRADUATES PLACED



SOCIETY **ACTIVITIES**



DISTRICT CONVENTION

Joy Notes from Lisa ... continued

Our keynote was Linda Reiser from Grand Island and former National LWML president and she shared her mountain top experience and then sometimes to go to the valley. Do you hear your calling? Our Bible Study Leader was Heidi Goehmann from Christ Lutheran in Norfolk. What is in your backpack? What is weighing you down? How is God helping you win the Race. Praise God!

From fellowship hugs from your LWML sisters and brothers to the Tee for Mites, to the Pledge Walk, donating to the Gifts from the Heart, attending, and serving at the servant events, and listening Saturday night blue grass entertainment, God was present through it all and WOW what again an amazing experience we had in Lexington KT. I thank you for letting me represent you as the NE North LWML president. Praise God for all these many things and so much more.

Jeanette Beune, Financial Secretary bjbeune@gmail.com

Financial Report for February 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021

Mite Offerings from Societies	\$19,738.98
Donations	\$1,319.00
Memorials	\$501.71
Special Offerings	\$378.00
Total Mite Offerings	\$21,937.69



Memorials Accidently Ommited in November Report

From:

Osmond, Immanuel Lutheran - LWML Arlington, St. Paul Lutheran - LWML Bellevue, Pilgrim Lutheran - Women of Pilgrim Eleonare Barrett Norfolk, Christ Lutheran - Priscillas Hooper, Immanuel Lutheran - Lydia Circle Wahoo, Our Redeemer Lutheran - Lydia Iensen, Rachel Schoch, Kathryn Schoch, Kathryn Schoch, Kathryn Stolzenburg, lean Pilger, St. John Ladies Aid

Memorials February 1 - June 30, 2021 From:

Madison, St. John Lutheran - Lydia Circle Laurel, Immanuel Lutheran Women's Society Columbus, Christ Lutheran - Ladies Aid, LWML South Sioux City, Hope Lutheran - LWML Creighton, Christ Lutheran - Ladies Aid LWML Battle Creek St. John Lutheran - WINGS Wahoo, Our Redeemer Lutheran - Lydia Circle Fremont, Good Shepherd Lutheran Bancroft, Zion Lutheran- Altar Guild Wisner, Zion St. John Lutheran - Ladies Aid LWML Stanton, Faith Lutheran - Mary Martha Myron & leanette Groppe Michael & Shelley Freudenberg Bellevue, Pilgrim Women of Pilgrim Wayne, Grace Ladies Aid Roger Nathan - husband of Carolyn Omaha, Zion – Lydia Circle

For:

Rowlan Anderson Bev Greunke Kenny Brandt Ian Bade Virgene Schuette Virgene Schuette Warren Heller LaVern Heller Bill Harder Byron (Bud) Stolzenburg Marlene Duncan

For:

Carolyn Nathan Darlene Schroeder Marilyn Stevenson Glenda Beck Esther Krepel Dora Norris Lee Wade **Ruth Eggers** Kathie Munderloh **Geraldine Eggers** Jeanette Weatherholt Joyce Udly Janet Lambrecht **Iean Hankins** Lorna Sorensen Carolyn Nathan Rudy Murchie

Send all Mite and Memorial Money to: **Jeanette Beune** 475 H. Road Wisner, NE 68791 email: bjbeune@gmail.com

*If you need additional vouchers, please send a self-addressed stamped long envelope to Jeannette and she will send them.

Thank you for your mites to fund the **LWML Mission Projects for the** 2020-2022 biennium. Please continue your prayers and financial support of LWML Mission Grants!





St. John's Lutheran Church, Pierce

Serving the Least of These

Members of St. John's Lutheran Church, Pierce, NE, joined JOY Circle (LWML) collecting new fleece blankets and new stuffed animals for first responders to hand out to young children in crisis. The project, "Serving the Least of These" was completed January 24 through February 14, 2021.

On February 18, 2021, LWML society JOY Circle President Janet Riedel and Rev. Jacob

Tuma presented the collection to Pierce Fire and Rescue First Responders Karl Schultz, Josh Mattson and Rhonda Rowley.

The collection included: 14 fleece blankets, two stuffed animals holding fleece blankets, one handmade, pieced and tied quilt, two handtied fleece blankets, and eight stuffed animals. Thank you notes addressed to First Responders of the Pierce Fire and Rescue Squads were also delivered thanking them for their bravery and courage.

These Pierce Fire and Rescue men and women risk their lives, often leaving their own children, homes and jobs to rescue people from fires, accidents, and abusive situations. The darkness and the cold can be especially frightening to a child in crisis. Mrs. Rowley pointed out that "Meddie Teddies" from the State can be difficult to keep in stock due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Carol Taylor championed this project by using ideas from LWML.org which provided a Gospel Focus: "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me' (Matthew 25:40). The LWML devotion, "You Look Like Your Father," and a prayer were offered for guidance and direction for this ingathering, while lifting up those who serve these children.

LaDonna Stanosheck, Vice President of Communications

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Psalm 86:5-7

"You, Lord, are forgiving and good, abounding in love to all who call to you.

Hear my prayer, LORD; listen to my cry for mercy.

When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me."

When I used to work (for a paycheck) there were times when I wanted to unplug the phone! Too many interrupting calls and I was not getting my work done! Well, I thank my God that he does NOT feel that way about all of his children calling on him for forgiveness and mercy! He is SO forgiving and SO "abounding in his love to all who call to him". I know whenever I feel stressed, I can simply pray and my Lord hears and cares and loves and answers me. Every day I pray for forgiveness, but not every day am I in distress, so I am so glad that the Lord is there with me every step of the day. Whether I am happy, sad, grateful, confused, overwhelmed or unable to speak the words of prayer that I need., I thank you Lord for always being there for me and all your children.



St. Paul Lutheran Church, West Point

Undie Sundays!

St. Paul LWML were feeling we needed a jump start again and wanted to do an "CovVid" friendly Human Care event along with something to help join us with the Lutheran School. We chose to start it on Valentines Day Sunday in the thankfulness of His Saving Love - and then extended it to the March Sunday that was celebrating Lutheran Schools Week. Many more people participated than those pictured

Suzanne Totten Vice President of Human Care

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Running the Race

"And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us." Hebrews 12:1b NLT

Running the race. The phrase might bring to mind national competitions like the Boston Marathon, with city streets crowded with cheering fans holding signs of encouragement for runners making their way to the finish line. Or perhaps you think of the Olympics, with stands packed with thousands, and millions more watching in front of televisions all over the world.

But to me "Running the Race" brings thoughts of a different and more personal nature. I grew up on a central Nebraska farm in the 1950s and attended a K-8, one-room school in Antelope County. Those were happy times in my early years, and one of the more memorable school events was the annual county track meet in Neligh's Riverside Park. For weeks before the event we practiced our racing skills, paired up for the 3-legged race, and jumped around in burlap bags to improve our performance in the sack races. We didn't get much better, but there were lots of giggles and scraped knees! I don't remember if I ever won any prizes, but I do remember that it was great fun competing, making new friends, and having a day of "no school."

These races - big and small - are all run for prizes and the entertainment of fans. The winner of the Boston Marathon receives \$25,000 and a huge silver trophy. Olympic winners stand on a flag-draped podium to receive their gold medal, with their National Anthem ringing throughout the stadium. An unforgettable moment for the athlete. Entertaining for fans. I'm sure the county track meet winners also enjoyed their moment of fame. Claps on the back from classmates. A picture in the newspaper. Maybe even a family trip to Dairy Cream to celebrate. But the moment passes. The trophy goes on a shelf. The money is spent. The ice cream is eaten. These rewards are fleeting.

The inspired writer of Hebrews says that running the race means looking to Jesus. The prize offered by God is an everlasting one. It will not be forgotten over time or lost to history, and we, as believers, will all be winners. I look forward to winning that treasured prize with a thankful and joyful heart. Thank you Jesus!

If you need ideas of ways to "run the race" during your days at home or any time, here are a few suggestions:

- 1. Make and embroider baptismal napkins for your church or for a mission church. They might be given to Mission Central to send with one of our missionaries.
- 2. Make pillowcase dresses or plastic bag sleeping mats. Directions can be found on the Orphan Grain Train website. Ask your friends and church family to keep you supplied with materials.
- 3. Start a puzzle exchange by passing your puzzles on to someone else. Inside the box include a small notebook for users to sign, include their favorite Bible verse or bits of info about themselves.
- 4. Send Easter cards to assisted-living residents and shut-ins, and include an allowed treat or single flower such as a carnation. Consider adopting one of the residents, calling them to chat and remembering special days.
- 5. And, of course, check the LWML website for new suggestions. They are always updating. God bless you all! I hope you can glean an idea or two from this list.

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 (Paid)
- 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)

LWML Store

Sara Huwaldt has many LWML times in the District LWML store. Reach out to Sara if you need anything! sara.huwaldt@hotmail. com

Lynette Koehler Vice President of Gospel Outreach

hlkoehler@ptcnet.net

Measure of Faith

No, I didn't go to the the wonderful, uplifting convention in Kentucky. Due to a bit of procrastination, a bit of skepticism, and some conflicting events, I stayed home. I didn't actually stay at home though, I was out and about every day for more than a week.

I grew up between Pierce and Osmond, went to church at Zion in Pierce and was an Osmond Tiger from K to 12th grade. I have two home towns. Pierce celebrated it's 150th Birthday this June and I celebrated with it.

There were tons of events and stuff to do, one of them was a community worship service. The community worship service was inspiring and uplifting to see so many people gathered together to Praise the Lord. Now, it doesn't compare to an LWML convention but for a town the size of Pierce it was packed.

Between the worship service, doing a little research, reading some of the family history and remembering stories from my grandmother, it made me focus on the importance of Church and Religion in the daily lives of my forefathers.

Contrary to what is being taught in some schools my great, great, great, (great) grandparents come from Europe, mostly Germany, for a better life. They wanted freedom, they wanted the opportunity to own their own land, and most importantly they wanted religious freedom. My grandmother's family was catholic several generations back. She talked about how her father and grandfather had many discussions (arguments really) with the local priests about what they taught and what the Bible taught. Grandma said that was why they left where they had first settled in Nebraska and moved to Pierce.

Even before there was a Church in Pierce, Lutheran services were held, in German, in my great, great grandfathers sod house in rural Pierce. He donated the land to build St John's Church, that is how important having a place to worship was to him.

How many of us move to a town because through friends they hear of a church that worships what they believe? How many of us have Church services in our own homes? How many of us donate our hard earned money or land to build and church on?

We should all have that same measure of faith and dedication and place that much importance on our Church life as my great, great grandparents did. Our Churches would be packed and our congregations would be growing like crazy.

I have it easy, we all do, let's appreciate what others did so that we can easily Praise Our Dear Lord and Savior now.

Pastor Cory Burma, Senior Pastoral Counselor

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I Call to You

Within the past three months, both of our sons bought houses. It's been a joy to talk to them as they searched for the right house, made an offer, and rejoiced as their offer was the one accepted!

I've also received a few of their calls (or texts) about something going on in their house that's not right. Whether it is water in a basement, the upstairs being too hot, a leaking valve outside, landscape improvements, or any other question, it's good to know that when they are distressed, they will still give me a call!

How about you? To whom do you call? Maybe not when your house has a problem, but when your home, your family, has conflict or struggles? Who will you call, when what seem likes constant troubles wear you down and leaves you down and depressed? Where will you turn when the stress in your life builds almost to the breaking point?

Turn to the one to whom the Psalmist turned. Turn to the Lord! Psalm 86:7 states "When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me."

He knows our needs. He hears our prayers. He answers them according to His great wisdom. And we have the ability and privilege of bringing all our hurts, stress, worries, and (most importantly) our sins. Not because we are good people, but because of His Son, Jesus Christ, and His perfect life, His atoning death, and His glorious resurrection. Jesus reconciled us to the Father, so we can now call on Him at any time!

So give Him a call, He will always answer!

LWML Mission Statement

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









Jeanette Groppe, Archivist/Historian

jmygrop@yahoo.com

Finishing the Race!

"Running the Race"...."Looking to Jesus"" was the theme of the LWML national convention, but what I heard in my heart and mind was "lesus Ran the Race for us....we finish it because of Him."

This convention became a time of healing for me and for a friend of mine. Right from the opening service we both knew no matter our sorrows or pain, we were here to finish that race. Each session, each Bible study, prayers with friends, hugs from people you knew and did not know was another step for both of us to heal and to help others.

Listening to the mission presenters who received mission grants in the past is so overwhelming. And watching the video presentations of those who received the grants this year are the same. It puts so many things in perspective and you come away knowing you want to put more of your ""pennies" in those mite boxes.

All of us could write a lot of information about the convention but it's the amazing things that happen outside of the convention halls that told us this was unusual.

The first day we stopped at a rest stop to eat a boxed lunch. A lot of people were there and not much room, so 4 of us traveling on the bus asked permission to sit with a gentleman who looked like he could be a biker. He was. When he discovered who were and where we were headed, he asked us to pray for his brother who had just been in a motorcycle accident where he been thrown over another vehicle. He had him transferred to UNMC. After we prayed, he asked if he could pray for us.

The next day, at a lunch stop a couple stopped me and asked what this LWML meant. I explained what we were and our mission. They asked if we would pray for his son who had just had his 8th heart attack and his daughter-in-law was an unbeliever. Upon our return to the bus, they were included in a prayer.

There were more incidents in downtown Lexington, so it emphasized our race is not finished and it lifted my heart with each encounter.

So join in and finish the race that our Lord ran and won!

Joyce Buethe, Vice President for Gospel Outreach

buethej8o@gmail.com

Upside down blessings!

Summer is nearly over, vacations time is waning as it's nearly time for school to begin again. Covid numbers are falling and rising, but masks are being seen less and less. Illness, death, birth, sadness and happiness are present in everyone's life. These things are part of our cycle of life and while they change they are also constant. One thing that doesn't change is God's promises to us as his people. He is good, forgiving and abounds in steadfast love to those who call on him. While He knows our needs, He covets our prayers and conversations with Him. During this last year we have been reminded of His promises over and over. As his children, he has promised to take care of us and protect us from evil. This does not mean we will won't face problems but it does mean that God will use whatever we face to teach us. He is a God of compassion and God of all comforts. In those times when our lives seem to be turned upside down, He is there. He listens as we plead to him. This will never change and He will never leave us.

During this upside down year he has continued to bless our district as we have continued to pay out Mission Grants. The mites continue to come in and when the 2021 scholarship grant is paid we will have paid \$50,000 of our \$77,0000 Mission Grant goal. God is most certainly answering our prayers! Now it's the time to look ahead and pursue new Mission Grant applications for our next biennium. The guidelines are on the website and information has been sent to previous applicants but all of us can also submit applications.

New Pastors Placed in the Nebraska North District

Provide a LWML Welcome!

St. John - Columbus (Associate) - Paul Rempfer (Rachel), Blairstown, IA, St. Louis Our Savior - Norfolk (Associate) - Eric Gradberg (Kimberly), Joliet, IL, St. Louis First - Plattsmouth - Ryan Maser (Kari), Little Canada, MN, St. Louis Trinity - Martinsburg - Ponca - Martin Hill (Amberlyn), Westmoreland, NH, Fort Wayne St. Paul/St. Paul - Winside/Caroll - Alexander Blanken (Anne), Davie, FL, Fort Wayne

Pastor Introductions

Future articles in the Leaguer will introduce each of these new pastors to you!



Paul Rempfer - St. John Columbus

Stamps for Mites

If you have used stamps and would like to send them Sue lensen of Norfolk, she can sell them to a stamp collector and all money raised will be given to Mites.

Address: Sue lensen 55633 836 Rd. Norfolk, NE 68701-1502

Introduction

"Paul was born in Iowa and grew up in a small town of 700 people called Blairstown about 30 minutes west of Cedar Rapids. His Dad (David) was the pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Blairstown, and his Mom (Rhoda) stayed at home to raise Paul and his 4 older siblings until Paul was older before she went back to work. Pastor David Rempfer and Rhoda now live in Seward where Pastor Rempfer is the visitation pastor at St. John in Seward. Joel, his oldest brother lives in Illinois with his wife Saydi and their 3 children, where Joel teaches part time at Metro East Lutheran High School. Christopher, the second oldest was called to his heavenly home in November 1997 when Paul was 3 years old. M'Leigh, Paul's oldest sister lives in Seward with her husband Drew Olson who is the Women's basketball coach at Concordia along with their 5 children. I'Nae, lives in Lincoln with her husband Briar McCoy and their 2 sons where I'Nae is a nurse, and Briar does upholstery with his parents.

Paul went to a Lutheran grade school in Iowa and a public high school before coming out to Seward to go to Concordia. He graduated in December 2016 with his degree in Secondary Education and was on the golf team while in college. He taught theology at Lincoln Lutheran High School spring semester 2017 and that summer moved to St. Louis to begin classes at Concordia Seminary.

Rachel (formerly Royuk) was born in Maryville, Illinois and grew up in Seward, Nebraska. Her dad (Brent) is a professor at Concordia University and her mom (Sandra) teaches kindergarten at St. John Lutheran School. Rachel has three younger siblings. Alicia is two years younger and is a Lutheran school teacher. They live in St. Louis as her husband Caleb is completing his first year at Concordia Seminary. Daniel, Rachel's brother is a senior at Concordia University, Nebraska and Anna, Rachel's youngest sister is a freshman there as well.

Rachel attended St. John Lutheran School in Seward and then Lincoln Lutheran High School before going to Concordia. She graduated in the spring of 2016 with a Secondary Education degree and endorsements in Mandarin and Geography. She also played on the women's basketball team.

Paul and Rachel met at Concordia when Rachel was a sophomore and Paul was a freshman. They were engaged in 2018 and married on June 15, 2019. They just had their first daughter Ruth on April 14, 2021. Paul, Rachel, and Ruth are excited to join the family at St. John's this summer!

In their free time Paul and Rachel enjoy traveling, playing sports and yard games, being outdoors, playing board/card games, watching movies, and spending time with family and friends. Paul also loves to watch St. Louis Cardinals baseball."

Emma Jesse - Young Woman Representative

Excited to Share

Hi! My name is Emma Jesse, I am 21 years old, and I was blessed to be selected as one of the District YWR's (Young Women's Representative) for Nebraska North. The national convention was held in Lexington, Kentucky and it was very nice to travel since the pandemic. It was a very busy weekend but I met many fellow sisters in Christ. My favorite parts of the convention was getting to know my fellow YWR's, learning how the business aspect of LWML works, and singing hymns with thousands of ladies. I am very excited to share my experience in anyway! If you would like to get a hold of me so I can share my experience in your church or society, my phone number is 402-841-4734 or my email is emma.jesse1218@gmail.com.



Banner made by: Brenda Fowlkes Norfolk Zone



YWR

Courtney Fowlkes also served as District YWR to Lexington and will share more of her experience in the next Leaguer!

















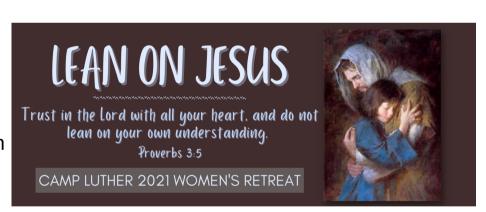


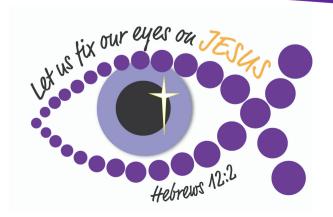


- Ainsworth
 - o September 25, Grace Lutheran, Burton, 10 am, Bible Study Pastor Bill Serr
- Columbus
 - o October 2 or 16 (TBA), Mt. Calvary, Fullerton, 10 am
- Fremont
 - o October 4, St. Matthews, Cedar Bluffs, 2 pm
- Norfolk
 - o October 9, Mt. Olive, Norfolk, 8:30 am
- Omaha TriZone
 - o October 17, Pilgrim, Bellevue, 1 pm, Speaker, Pastor Jim Dahlke Lutheran Heritage Foundation
- Plainview
 - o September 25, Trinity, Foster, 9 am, Speaker, Pastor Jacob Tuma Trip to Israel
- Wayne
 - o October 19, St. Paul, Winside, Theme: Whole Heart of Prayer
- West Point
 - o September 27, St. John, Beemer, 5 pm, Speaker, Pastor Paul Flow, Hispanic Ministry

November 12-13, 2021
Led by Author and Speaker

Deb Burma
and Author Elizabeth Bruick
Check in at 6:00 pm
with retreat beginning at 7:00 pm
Cost \$75
visit www.campluther.org
to register





District LWML Convention July 21-23, 2022 Ramada Inn, Columbus











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