



Lutheran Woman's Quarterly

Ohio District Edition — ODE



IS THE TIME REALLY NOW?

Time! The Lord has given us all the same amount of time each day, but there never seems to be enough hours in a day to do everything, right? Time is a commodity we use but cannot save. Since we cannot create a "time bank" to put some time aside and use it later, perhaps we need to be more aware of how we spend that time.

How often do we miss opportunities to speak or serve? Do we always assume there will be another chance? Or have you ever heard anyone say, "I wish I had called," or "Can I have a do-over?" or "If only..." In hindsight, the regret of not doing those things we should or for delaying and losing the opportunity steals our joy. Procrastination is unproductive. Yesterday cannot be retrieved and tomorrow is not yet here. Martin Luther once said, "How soon 'not now' becomes never."

"THE TIME IS NOW" is an initiative of the LWML. It was developed to help us refocus on our basic common core values of being in God's Word, missions, service, and fellowship.

THE TIME IS NOW for our Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) societies to be involved in God's word. There will always be business to do, but NOW is the time to make Bible study and prayer a priority in your meetings.

THE TIME IS NOW for us to become involved in Missions. Witnessing is not an option but an opportunity to proclaim God's love in all that we say

and do at all times -- NOW!

THE TIME IS NOW for service – be watchful for opportunities to serve and reach out in love for others -- do acts of kindness (random or planned), and help in whatever way you can. Send a card with a message of hope, love and/or encouragement. Or perhaps make it a visit instead.

My dear sisters in Christ,

THE TIME IS NOW, not tomorrow. I encourage you to complete this



thought and put it into action in your personal life:

THE TIME IS NOW for: ... (you fill in the blank). I take great comfort and assurance in God's promise through St. Paul when he writes: *And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work* (2 Corinthians 9:8 NIV).



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Pastoral Counselor's Corner

Greetings in the name of our RISEN Lord, Jesus Christ!! He is Risen!

We are Easter people – living on this side of the resurrection. The three evil foes are defeated by the cross and resurrection of Jesus.Or are they? We often live “our” lives as if those three foes have not been defeated. We tremble. We fear. We worry. We fight. We tend to react to the world’s influence on us, rather than to live as Easter people.

In the days of Noah the people then lived their lives “eating and drinking and marrying and being given into marriage.” In the days of Lot – “they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building.” And so it will be in this world until Christ comes again.

The world has always been filled with people living their lives as if God did not matter; that is living in their unbelief. And the majority of the world will continue in their unbelief. It is easy for us too to get so

caught in the day to day that we also begin to believe and live as if God does not matter.

Noah and others of the Old Testament believed the promises of God. For you and me the promise has been fulfilled in Our Lord Jesus - in His life, death and resurrection. So, how do we live as Easter people in today’s world? As Easter people we live our lives as God does matter. We hear His Word. We allow His Word to convict us of our sinfulness and our need for a Savior; and most importantly we cling to Christ. We hold on to the Son in faith! We remain in Him. We believe the wonderful truth that God loves us and we say “I believe in Jesus, true Son of the Father, who was nailed to the cross and lifted up for me.”

In this world you will continue to eat and drink, marry and being given into marriage. You will buy and sell, and plant and build, and through it all you will cling to Christ. God’s continued blessing to you as you Walk With Jesus Daily (WWJD). “He is Risen!”

God’s peace,
Rev. Jimmy Riley
Jr. Pastoral Counselor

“You Are God’s Gift”

As I have been reading through our history of the LWML, I came across an interesting fact from 1979, you may see a familiar name too.

“The National LWML board in February 1979 approved the ‘You Are God’s Gift’ seminars emphasizing all aspects of the League, coordinated by **Alberta Barnes**, Mission Projects Secretary. Forty-two district seminars took place throughout 1980-81, attended by over 7,000 members.” (Taege, Marlys. Women In God’s Service Wings. Lutheran Women’s Missionary League. 1991. p. 205).

The seminars were broken up into three sections:

- You Are God’s Gift to Yourself
- You Are God’s Gift to the Church
- You Are God’s Gift to the Community and World

I feel that we, as sisters in Christ, still need to hear these three aspects of what we can tangibly acquire through the work of the LWML. In looking at our history and looking at the present, the LWML provides all three of these. How much are we seeking to make these a reality in our home congregation, zone, and district?

*The time is now...*to build up and encourage, just as our sisters did before us!

Caroline Honeycutt
Archivist/Historian

News from El Salvador

Submitted by Sue Usner Miller for Faith, Kent

The women of Faith Lutheran Church, Kent, lovingly made, decorated and sent 500 paper dolls to El Salvador through members Jack and Pat Burns for children at two orphanages and an eye care clinic. Dolls were distributed at two orphanages: Hogar Guirola, which houses special needs children, and Hogar Moraga which is home to 40 girls.

Dolls were also given to the many children who stood in line for hours with their mothers waiting to be seen

at the Eye Care International Clinic, which provided eye exams, glasses, cataract surgery and treatment over a two week period for over 6000 Salvadorans. The paper dolls were received with smiles and hugs from the Salvadoran children. For some children, this is the only toy they have. Each doll represents a hug from the women of Faith to each child.





Be Still!

Cannot think of a thing to say? Cannot think of a thing to write? Listen to Psalm 46:10 (NIV), *Be still and know that I am God.*

My father used to say, "You'll get their attention if you hit them upside the head." Although God sometimes made pretty bold statements, he never hit anyone upside the head to get their attention. God's style, or that of his messengers, was to address the person by name (which really got their attention), calm them down (the oftentimes heard "Fear not") and then dole out the task (mission accomplished).

How often has God tried to get your attention? Do you let God direct you? In Psalm 119:133 (NIV), the psalmist states, *Direct my footsteps according to your Word.* Let God and His Word take over your thoughts and inspire you to say and write. Because of the inspiration of others, LWML sisters are blessed that they can refer to and adapt Bible studies, prayer services, life-stories, skits, devotions, etc. No need to reinvent the wheel when it is there waiting for you to make it roll. The *ODE, Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*, LWML website, and even your District Christian Life Committee are available with pertinent-to-any-situation material or ideas. Most importantly, stay in the Word by using the Word. It's God-breathed, so you know it's loaded with "good stuff." All you need do is *Be still and know that I am God* and let God *direct your footsteps.*

Diana Schnack
Vice President, Christian Life

105th Birthday Celebration!

On March 13, I had the opportunity/privilege/honor of attending the birthday celebration of Luella Ropers who is a member of St. John's Lutheran, Aurora, Ind.



The day before her birthday she attended her LWML meeting. We rejoiced in celebrating 105 years of God's grace. In the picture – she is being greeted by another who is 97. Let us rejoice and give thanks.

Pastor Larry Rodencal
Senior Pastoral Counselor

Only 6 Months Left!!!



Hurry! The deadline for submitting LWML Ohio District Mission Grant Applications is only 6 months away! Have you found a way to spread God's Word and His Love? Do you need financial assistance to get started, along with lots of prayer support? Look around with your mission vision.

Get your LWML Ohio District Mission Grant Application forms from the LWML Ohio District (OD) website or from your Zone President. Fill it out completely, submit it to your Zone President for approval and then forward to *me*, the Ohio District Vice President of Gospel Outreach.

They must be in *my* hands, or at least *postmarked*, by **OCTOBER 31, 2015.** *WOW! That is this year. Happy searching with God's eyes for ways to share His love.*

Karyl H. VanMeurs-Juergens
Vice President, Gospel Outreach

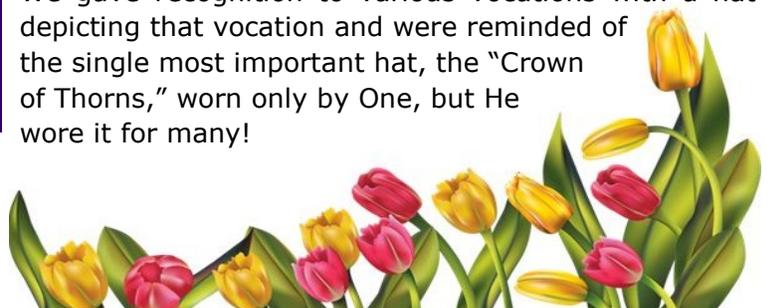
Northeast Zone Prayer Service

Article Submitted by Gayle Hunt

The Women of the Northeast Zone held their Prayer Service on February 28, 2015, at Holy Cross Lutheran in Madison. Despite cold wintry weather the service was well attended with 46 registrants and 11 societies represented.

President Ann Marie Bollas brought district news and updates to us. Each attendee received a "prayer box" containing a beautiful flower arrangement prepared by the Ladies of Holy Cross. Zone Counselor, Rev. Curtis May, Peace Lutheran, Chardon, delivered the message: "God-Given Hats". "Hats off" for a wonderful skit presented by our ladies. It portrayed a lady who wore many hats and encouraged others to take one of those hats!

We gave recognition to various vocations with a hat depicting that vocation and were reminded of the single most important hat, the "Crown of Thorns," worn only by One, but He wore it for many!





Grateful and Happy Seminarian

Early last November, President Ann Marie mailed letters and checks to Seminarians providing assistance to our students. They, in turn, are grateful and happy for the help. Below is a letter from Jeff Burgess, a recipient of our support.

*Shirley Wiser, Chairman,
Mission Grants Committee*



Dear Ohio District LWML:

Hello to you all! My name is Jeff Burgess and I am a student at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. I feel privileged to have the opportunity to thank you and also share a bit about myself in this edition of the *LWML Quarterly ODE*. I would first like to express my sincerest gratitude for your support through LWML Ohio District grant money and also your prayers! We can never be sure of just exactly how God will bless us in life, but I am certain that our God is at work through the ministries of the LWML Ohio District. Your support and outreach are wonderful gifts to all those who receive them. Thank you!

I have chosen to save the monetary support I received from the LWML Ohio District for expenses next year when I return to the seminary after my vicarage concludes. Textbooks for classes can get expensive out of pocket. (A future pastor can never have enough good resources in his library to consult for doing ministry.) It is for such costs that I am thankful to have received your support. The work that the LWML does for outreach and care of so many people is astounding! I am grateful for your commitment to the success of future church workers.

I am 26 years old and I attend Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. I am a 2011 graduate of Miami University in Oxford, Ohio where I received my bachelor's degree in both German and Comparative Religion. After my first year at Miami University I found myself taking steps closer to the seminary. After a visit to the seminary campus I knew that ministry was where God had been leading me all along. Seminary has been a wonderful experience so far and it is my goal to learn and soak up as much as I can while I have the opportunity to be on campus.

Since July first 2014, I have been serving as the vicar at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carbondale, Illinois. I am really enjoying the experience of getting that first taste of what parish ministry will be like! Being with people, talking with them, preaching and teaching God's Word, and just being in a new context have been some of my most treasured moments during vicarage. My vicarage assignment will end at the end of June and I will be taking many valuable experiences and cherished memories with me.

This summer (July 2015) I will be getting married to

my wonderful fiancée, Bailey. Bailey, a Social Work student, will graduate from Washington University, in St. Louis in May 2015. Our paths first crossed at Miami University where we met through mutual friends, a religion class, and a Lutheran Student Fellowship Bible study on campus. She has been a blessing to me and we are very excited to begin our life together!

Thank you again for your unwavering support!

I would like to conclude by sharing with you some words from St. Paul as he wrote to the church at Philippi. These words are the Apostle's, but they include my sentiments as well. *"I am well supplied, having received...the gifts you sent...And my God will supply every need of yours according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen"* (Philippians 4:18-20, ESV).

In Christian Gratitude, Jeff Burgess

Webmaster Invitation

Have you visited our website recently? You will find a lot of information such as: Ohio District grant forms, PR posters and much more! The address is:

www.lutheransonline.com/lwmlohiodistrict

Check it out, find out what's happening in our district. Have items for the website?

Send information to: Billie Lelle,

Email: blelle@roadrunner.com

Copy: Ann Marie Bollas, President

Email: ambollas47@gmail.com

Include "LWML" in the subject line

Billie Lelle, Webmaster

STAMPS FOR MISSIONS:

We collect cancelled stamps: Commemorative, Definitive (Christmas, Love, Forever, and Common), and Foreign stamps.

REQUIRED: A 1/4" margin around the stamp, perforations must be intact! Tear/trim stamps from envelopes, don't trim them too close.

Do not save stamps that are: scotch-taped, damaged, or creased.

Stamps are collected at all LWML Ohio District and Zone events; take your cancelled stamps in a zip-lock plastic bag.

Zone Presidents or district officers will ensure they are delivered. OR you can mail them directly to:

Donna Frank, P.O. Box 28, Stryker, OH 43557





LWML CONVENTION OVERVIEW

Des Moines, Iowa – June 25-28, 2015:

Registration. Everyone must register to attend the convention. (Yes, even if you are a certified delegate.) You may register online at www.lwml.org or by mail. The registration form is in the Winter Issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. If you have never attended an LWML convention before, this is a perfect opportunity to attend and be inspired and energized!

Registration deadline is May 12, 2015

(postmarked, faxed or emailed).

Orientation. Delegates must attend the delegate orientation on Thursday, June 25 at 2:30 p.m. in the convention hall.

Caucus. The time and location of the district caucus and the photo have not yet been released. Please note that the first edition of the convention newsletter will include that information. *Everyone from the Ohio District who attends the convention is requested and encouraged to attend the caucus and smile in the photo!*

Prepare in Advance. Review the convention information online or check the latest issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* for more in-depth information on the mission grants, candidates, and for the collection recipients.

Live Streaming. Even if you cannot attend, the convention will be live-streamed. You will be able to join in the convention from home on your computer. Go to www.lwml.org for more details.



Be still...Walk His Way!

Be still ... Walk His Way! That was the theme at the Ohio District Junior Youth Convention in Columbus. We were encouraged to put down our electronic devices and spend some quality time with God. In this busy paced society, we hardly ever slow down. Our surroundings are never truly silent. God wants our lives centered on Him. Let us strive to "Be still and Walk His Way" each and every day. Spend some time in the study of God's Word and in prayer, maybe even challenge the ladies at your church to unplug for a day.

Ruth Mowery
Public Relations Chairman



CONNECTING

As I type this article, we are still awaiting the sun to warm the earth and the brown grass to turn into the beautiful green grass we look forward to every spring. I think we would be hard pressed to find someone who doesn't look forward to those warmer temps, greener grass and a chance to get outside and enjoy the beauty that God brings each day. However, we could easily find someone who doesn't have an opportunity to get outside and enjoy those warmer days. What about the homebound, or the shut-ins? What about those who now call the nursing home their home? What a great time for you to show them you care.

You say you don't know anyone in those circumstances? Look around at church each week to see who is missing from their pew. Come on, we all know that most people sit in the same pew each week. If not the same pew, it's at least in the same area. It's easy to see who might welcome a visit, a call, a note or a card. They may not be in the same circumstances as those I listed above, but perhaps they've just been under the weather. Maybe the long winter months have wreaked havoc on their moods. Maybe they are going through circumstances we know nothing about and they may simply need to know you care, someone to let them know that they don't have to carry their burdens alone. You could be the very person God has placed in their life, in this moment, to show them His love.

I encourage each and every one of you to take some time each week to pray through your church directory. God already knows their needs. Be His voice, pick up the phone and give that person a call. Let them know you care and are thinking of them. Be His hands and send someone a card. Be His arms and wrap someone in His love. Invite them out for a cup of tea, lunch or visit them in their home. You may never know just how much you have lifted their spirits and, I guarantee, it will lift yours, also!

Cyndi Lako
Chairman, Human Care Committee



Central Zone Winter Retreat

Article and pictures submitted by Jane Stolzenburg

"Faith Filled, Stress Less Life" was the theme for the LWML Central Zone Winter Retreat. It was held at Battelle Darby Creek Park, Cedar Ridge Lodge on January 31, 2015. We were blessed with a beautiful winter day in the woods.

Rosie, the Comfort Dog of Lutheran Church Charities, spent the morning with us. Atonement Lutheran in Columbus is her home church .

Our ingathering supported "My Very Own Blanket," based in Westerville, Ohio. The organization benefits foster care children by providing them a personalized blanket when they move out on their own.

Pastor Darren Harbaugh, Central Zone Pastoral Counselor, divided our Bible Study into two parts with "Stress of Law" vs. "Ease of Faith".

St. John's Lutheran, Marysville catered the lunch for 58 LWML ladies. We ended our day playing a Family Feud Style game called "Stress vs. Faith."

Defiance/Napoleon Zone Fall Rally

Article and pictures submitted by Lois Rosebrock

The LWML of the Defiance/Napoleon Zone hosted their annual Fall Retreat held at St. John Lutheran, Stryker. The theme was "Open Now the Scriptures, Lord", based on Luke 24:44-47. The bible study leaders were Rev. Keith Witte, Pastor at Liberty Center and Napoleon Zone Counselor and John Holyer, Associate Pastor at St. Paul of Napoleon. Greetings from Ohio District were given by President Ann Marie Bollas.

Eighty-two ladies and five pastors enjoyed this presentation of a journey thru the scriptures. "Seeing What We Hear" gave us a foundation for the first session.



The second session was "Mediating on the Word." Pictured are the pastors including Pastor Peter Marcis, Jeff Corder, new pastor for St. John and Pastor Lecher, Counselor for the LWML Defiance Zone and Eileen Stough, chairman.

Running a Orderly Meeting

Using Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised to run your meetings has several benefits. They keep your meetings: 1) on track; on topic; 2) ensure agenda items are covered, 3) offer a clear process for decision-making, 4) give everyone a chance to participate, 5) allows ample time for debate, 6) keeps your meetings focused, and , 6) Units and Zones run more smoothly.

For a refresher on running your meetings, go to: robertsrules.org/rulesintro.htm.

Also view tips on the LWML website at

lwml.org/bylaws-and-meeting-helps.

Working on amendments to your Zone or Unit's bylaws? Amended bylaws must be approved by the Structure Committee. You may send these to Janet Guda at janet.guda@yahoo.com for approval.

God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the meetings of God's holy people (1 Corinthians 14:33).

Denice Horton, Structure Committee

Calendar of Zone & District Events

- May 2 **Toledo Zone Spring Rally**
Prince of Peace LC, Oregon
- May 3 **Cincinnati Zone Spring Rally**
Peace LC, Cincinnati
- Jun 25-28 **LWML National Convention**
Des Moines, IA
- Jul 18 **Toledo Zone Servant Work Day**
Concordia LC, Toledo
- Sep 26 **Northeast Zone Fall Retreat**
Outdoor YMCA-Perry
- Oct 3 **Toledo Zone Fall Rally**
Trinity LC, Toledo
- Oct 9-10 **Cincinnati Zone Fall Retreat**

Young Women Representatives (YWR)

The Ohio District Board of Directors voted to send 2 YWR's to the LWML Convention in Des Moines, Megan Kovach and Regina Kodzev

Megan is from the Lorain-Medina Zone and was a YWR at the 2014 Ohio District Convention. Megan, an instrumental music teacher for the North Olmsted City Schools is also active in the praise band and youth group at Faith Lutheran in Avon, OH.

Regina is from the Akron-Youngstown Zone. She attended the 2014 Ohio District Convention and participated in the YWR activities. Regina is a member of Redeemer Lutheran in Cuyahoga Falls and is the Director of Ministry at Redeemer. Regina serves on the Leader Development Committee.

Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 NIV).

Stephanie Petee

Leader Development Committee Chairman



Megan and Regina



Honors and Memorials

January through March, 2015

In Honor of:

Joy Dougherty, prayers for healing
Marilyn Britton
Rev. Fredrick Hearn

In Memory of:

Kim Daly
Robert "Bob" Goodman
Philip Keller
Ernestine Landgraf
Bob Lucas
Lucille McCauley
Kathleen (Kathy) Rogers
Arlene Schmaltz



LWML Ohio District Mites Update

2014-2016 Mission Goal \$202,500
April 1, 2014 through March 31, 2015

Notes: Halfway through our biennium, we have reached 48.5% of our Mission Goal for the biennium.

Needed to reach Mission Goal: \$104,347.49

Mites needed monthly for the next 12 months: \$8,695.62

	March 2015	April 1, 2014 - March 31, 2015
Mites Received	\$12,905.43	\$82,101.67
Stamps for Missions		88.13
Thrivent Choice Dollars	52	4,102.00
Honors/Memorials	207.97	4,461.42
<i>Quarterly's & ODE Donation</i>	885.05	7,399.29
Total Mission Income	\$14,050.45	\$98,152.51

Mites, Memorials, Honors and Contributions

Mite Remittance Forms are available on the district website or by contacting:

Vivian Nelson, Financial Secretary
4805 Bowen Road
Toledo, OH 43613
Email: vnelson4805@gmail.com

Make checks payable to "LWML Ohio District" and send with completed forms to Vivian.

Mite Boxes

To order Mite Boxes, contact:

Helen Schwartz
6891 East 50 South, Decatur, IN 46733



Noisy Mites

Article and picture by Billie Lelle

Our noisy mites offering taken March 21/22 to support mission work of LWML weighed in at 36 pounds and a total of \$501.77 (plus Canadian coins)! Coin breakdown:



445 quarters	950 dimes
786 nickels	2,872 pennies
1 gold dollar	1 half dollar

Praise God for this outpouring. With the coins, I designed a candle as a symbol of the 2016 District Convention theme, "It only Takes A Spark." I'm adding, "and JESUS is the Spark" to share on facebook and with others.

Gifts of Love

Confused about gift annuities, charitable trusts, endowments, donor advised funds and other gift planning options? LWML Gift Planning Services now offers a foldout that gives the who, what, where, why and how about all these different options. For a free copy, e-mail patbilow.lwml@gmail.com, call 800/741-4138, Ext. 2, or send a request to:

Pat Bilow, LWML Gift Planning Services, 733 N. Perry Street, Ste. #3, Napoleon, OH 43545
Also available is a Christian preamble and Family Blessing for your will or living trust.

Pat Bilow, Senior Gift Planning Counselor

