



Is God Trying to Tell You Something?



Have you ever noticed that sometimes God uses multiple ways to ensure you “get the point?”

Last month was such a time for me. The various Bible studies I read and participated in, focused my mind on a single idea. It started at an event in March. Donna Snow spoke at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Westlake.

As she pointed out, paying attention during difficult times may teach us a God-lesson in the future. She illustrated this idea with events from the life of the apostle Peter. After His resurrection, Jesus met several disciples by the Sea of Galilee. Jesus helped Peter remember the first great fish catch by providing a second one. Then He helped Peter remember his denials by having breakfast prepared over a charcoal fire. (Peter had warmed himself on a charcoal fire before his third denial. See John 18:18). So, when Jesus asked, “Peter, do you love me?” Peter was more than ready to say yes in response to Jesus’ love for Him.



Donna also reminded us that when we endure hardships, we can understand and empathize with others experiencing similar things. *Who comforts us in all our afflictions, so that we may comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God* (2 Corinthians 1:4).

A few days later in a Guidepost devotion, author Ashley Kappel wrote that bruised fruit is sweeter than its unbruised parts. Her point was that God loves us just the way we are. He uses our faults and difficulties to help us become the people he wants us to be.

A reading during our Ladies’ Bible

study group from *40 Days with Jesus* by Sarah Young, caught my attention.

Be still and know that I am God (Psalm 46:10) reminds us that God is in control, even in difficult times. Colossians 4:2 tells us *to continue steadfastly in prayer, watchful with thanksgiving*.

Rather than being tense from continually placing our problems before God, we can sincerely pray with a positive mind-set, anticipating the solution God has in mind for us.

These experiences all happened within two weeks. God used three different authors to remind me that even my troubles contribute to me becoming the person I am intended to be. He uses my faults and difficulties to shape me, and I can thank him in advance for his excellent care.

Are you spending time in the Word? Are you open to more than one Bible study process? Is God using those moments with Him to speak to you specifically? Be listening!

Vivian Nelson, District President

Convention Coverage

I look forward to attending the LWML convention in Milwaukee this June. For those of you who are not able to attend, I will share some of the daily events and pictures on lwmlohio.org

I also suggest you check lwml.org/home for live streaming of events.

Billie Lelle, LWML Ohio District Webmaster

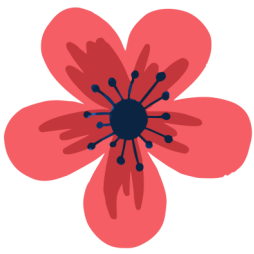


Summer 2023
Volume 59.4

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Butterflies or Bunnies

There are many symbols around Easter celebration, from Easter eggs and hot cross buns, Easter lilies, spring flowers, and even the Easter bunny. They are useful in the celebration of new life in our risen Lord Jesus, while others may be a little confusing (like a bunny hiding chicken eggs!).

When I became pastor at Trinity – Cincinnati, I noticed that at Easter they hung figures of butterflies. The butterflies whole life cycle can be used to symbolize the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. The first stage is that of a caterpillar which might represent Jesus' earthly life as truly a man. The second phase is the cocoon stage depicting Jesus' death and burial in a tomb. The glorious third stage is that of the beautiful butterfly representing Jesus' victorious resurrection from the dead. What a meaningful symbol of the life death and resurrection of the God-man, Jesus!



With this in mind, consider the following butterfly parable: As a butterfly soared overhead, one caterpillar said to the other, "You'll never get me up in one of those things." Yet for every caterpillar the time comes when the urge to eat and grow subsides and he instinctively forms a chrysalis around himself. The chrysalis hardens and then one spring morning the life inside the chrysalis writhes, the top cracks open, and a beautifully-formed butterfly emerges. For hours it will stand stretching and drying its wings, moving them slowly up and down. And then, before you know it, the butterfly glides aloft, effortlessly riding the currents of the air, alighting on flower after gorgeous flower, as if to show off its vivid colors to the bright blossoms.

On Easter morning the disciples saw Jesus' grave clothes lying on the cold slab. The corpse was gone, much like an empty chrysalis deserted by a butterfly who had left to soar free. *He is not here, for He has risen, as He said* (Matthew 28:6) an angel told the women. Later that day He appeared to the disciples, and then, over the course of the next few weeks, to as many as five hundred people at one time. Even "Doubting Thomas" didn't doubt Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

Jesus' resurrection from the grave is God's proof that death is not the end. He conquered death and the devil, and paid the price of sin. The empty tomb and the Holy Spirit within us testify that Easter morning is God's triumph over death. And ultimately, Jesus promised, God will raise from the dead all who believe in His Son.

Why do Christians gather to celebrate Easter morning? To show off their fine clothes or give a ritual tip of the hat to religion? God forbid – but sadly for some this is true! Rather we gather to celebrate Jesus'

victory over death itself. Since He is our Lord and our Savior with whom we are united through Holy Baptism, His victory is our victory! In celebrating His resurrection, we celebrate our own assurance of ultimate triumph over death and the hope of eternal life! Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Pastor Greene, Pastoral Counselor

Bylaws & The Flash Drive Library

Bylaws are the fundamental rules or laws of a society, which include among other things its objectives, its membership, its officers, how and when it meets for business, how many must be present in order that business may be transacted, and how they, the bylaws, may be modified.

FOLLOW THE RULES

- Henry M. Roberts, *Parliamentary*

Law, p. 569

The above is from the LWML website which is a wealth of information on bylaws and the Structure Committee. There is information on updating bylaws for groups, zones and districts.

I'm currently on the LWML Ohio District Structure Committee...only four years of service. This is new considering the number of years Beth Christopherson, our fearless leader has been poring over bylaws for twenty years!

She has kept us efficient, organized, and focused on our task. Thank you Beth! Go through those dusty bylaws, update them, and send them to the LWML Ohio District Structure Committee for review! Even if you are not updating your bylaws, please remember to send an electronic copy to Beth at churchelf@sbcglobal.net to be included in our new Bylaws Flash Drive Library! Thank you!

Diane Johnson, Structure Committee

Study and Fellowship

The word "Zoom" as a verb means to move or travel very quickly. As a noun it means a camera shot that changes smoothly from a long shot to a close-up or vice versa.

For our Ladies Bible Study at Concordia Lutheran, Toledo, a Zoom program encompasses both dictionary definitions for us. We found the tool essential to staying connected. As many of your Bible study groups have, our ladies' group has studied various topics including: *Women of the Bible, Prayers to Start Your Day, Exploring our Spiritual Gifts, 66 Names and Titles of Jesus, Jesus' "I am" words*, and even reviewed *Portals of Prayer* in depth. (Continued on page 3)



(Cont. from page 2)

For many years we enjoyed sharing our studies at church with fellowship, tasty treats and many cups of tea! When COVID came we were distressed not to be in fellowship together at church to study His word. However, we were not dismayed for long. With the help of one of our techies, within a few short weeks, we were able to meet via Zoom. As the definition states above, Zoom allowed us to communicate quickly with each other using our computers and cameras. It also allowed our group to see each other and have as many as ten participants at one time.

Our ladies group chose to stay on Zoom instead of returning in person after COVID. Our studies are meaningful and personal. We still enjoy great fellowship. Everyone supplies their own tasty treats and tea! In our group we have three women who would not be able to join us if we met at church. Two are former members who have moved to different states.

So, what else is positive about Zoom? If you have a bad hair day, make your picture smaller! You don't have to shower and leave the house! You can log on two minutes before the study begins! The camera does not add ten pounds! We praise God that He gives us the opportunity to continue learning and enjoying fellowship.

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching (Hebrews 10:24-25).

Wanda Snyder, Christian Life Committee

Receiving Grant Funds

The LWML Ohio District assists each woman in affirming her mission to the world. Mites are one way the LWML women minister to the world. Mites are used to fulfill grant requests submitted to the LWML Ohio District.



The Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries and **The Lutheran**

Heritage Foundation were chosen for grants in 2022.

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF), in McComb, Michigan, submitted a request for \$8,500 to fund the printing of 1,700 copies of the book *God's Word for You*, a 300-page Bible book, in a variety of languages here in the U.S. and around the world. LHF received \$3,000 in December 2022, \$3,000 in February 2023, and will receive \$2,500 in May 2023.

Jen Begnall, Director of Public Relations at Lutheran Heritage states that translation work is well underway on *God's Word for You* in the Chichewa language. This language is spoken by millions in Malawi and Zambia, in southeast Africa.

LHF expects that the Chichewa translation of *God's Word for You* will be complete by summer and plans to be ready for the printer in late 2023 with delivery to the Chichewa people in early 2024.

LHF expresses thanks to the LWML Ohio District women for shining the Light of the gospel in a part of the world that daily, must contend with poverty and disease.

Lutheran Military Veterans & Families Ministries (LMVFM) in Fort Wayne, Indiana, submitted a request for \$10,000 to enable and extend outreach, care and counseling for veterans and their and their family members and to expand training programs within the Ohio District. In addition, it requested to expand training programs within the Ohio District. LMVFM received \$5,000 in October 2022, and will receive the remaining \$5,000 in October 2023.

LMVFM added a veteran and his spouse to their counseling team, according to Rob Myers, Director of LMVFM Mission Development. They can also send LMVFM representatives to various places for outreach and training for groups. This will help them recognize symptoms in those seeking LMVFM resources. Rob states that they are grateful for the LWML Ohio District grant money.

It is a joy to discover how mites money from the LWML Ohio District are ministering to the world's people.

Thanks be to God!

Joyce West, Mission Grants Committee

The District Connection

Would you like to receive

The District Connection?

This weekly Ohio District newsletter is designed to keep you informed about what's happening with The Ohio District LCMS and our congregations.

Send an email to Deb Klusak at: klusakd@oh.lcms.org

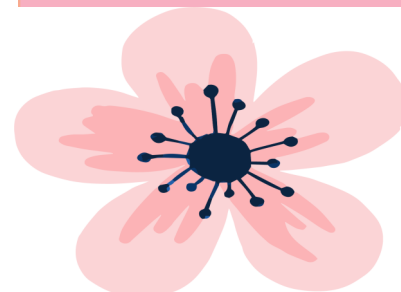
with your name, email address, and the name of your home congregation.

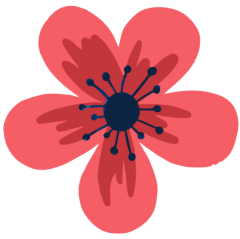


Link to the Newsletter:

[Ohio District LCMS - The District Connection](https://oh.lcms.org/congregations/news-events/the-district-connection)

Or visit the website: <https://oh.lcms.org/congregations/news-events/the-district-connection>





Adjusting Our View

It can be difficult to watch the nightly news and maintain a positive outlook on the world.

We see political unrest, social dissent, physical attacks, and so much more. Our homes are flooded with so much negativity. How can we keep our responses positive and Christ focused?



The challenge for us all this summer is to look for the "Human Care" aspect of the news. The opportunities to care for others that lie between the lines and the stories. What opportunities are being given to us to be the hands of Christ? What programs, outreach options, and/or events can we join this summer to make a positive impact?

In my community, we have reached out to those affected by tornadoes with giving water, food, and helping clean up debris from yards. We have more opportunities to use our time, talents, and treasures to help our local women's centers and foster parents as a result of changing abortion laws. Our local school teachers and police could benefit from a boost of support with gift cards and small treats delivered.

Watch the news this summer keeping Human Care in mind. Find an opportunity that may be an answer to an issue or crisis you hear about and share in that opportunity!!

Maggie King, Human Care Committee

Live on Instagram!

LWML Ohio District is on Instagram! Follow us at: [instagram.com/ohiodlw](https://www.instagram.com/ohiodlw)



If you want to have photos posted to the LWML Ohio District Instagram, please email photos to Hope Boring at shboring@aol.com. The Subject should be: Instagram LWML Ohio District Photos or you can text photos to Hope at 614-309-4236. You can also reach out to Hope on Instagram or Facebook!

Spread the news to Instagram social media users, especially young teens and adults. Invite others to follow us on Instagram and the LWML Ohio District Facebook page.

If you are not receiving special event emails or up-to-date news via the LWML Ohio District emails from our awesome website administrator, Billie Lelle, then please email her at bllele@lwmlohio.org to be added to the email list or have your email address updated.

You can also go to lwmlohio.org and click on email sign up button on the website (bottom left corner).



If you are going to the LWML 2023 Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in June 2023, the Whova phone app will be your friend!

Event attendees can stay encouraged with Jesus by downloading the Whova event app for free from the Google Store or Apple Store.

Whova App User Guide - Whova



This app will provide convention news, photos, Ohio District connections and allow you to make new friends at the LWML 2023 Convention.

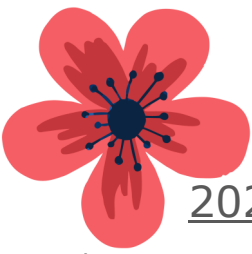
Friendly Reminder

Concession stands at the convention are cashless so bring your plastic! But...don't forget cash and checks for various offerings.

Hope Boring, Public Relations Director

LWML LEADERSHIP SEMINAR, DUBLIN OHIO





2024 Convention Update

The 2024 LWML Ohio District Convention is scheduled in the Akron Youngstown Zone on June 21-22, 2024. A venue has not been chosen but has been narrowed down to three locations:

- † Kent State Hotel and Convention Center
- † Sheraton Suites in Cuyahoga Falls
- † Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cuyahoga Falls

The theme of the convention is "The Lord is my Strength and my Shield" (Psalm 28-7a). The convention logo is based on the theme and its meaning. The scripture text reads: *The LORD is my strength and my shield; in Him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to Him* (Psalm 28:7a).

With God's love, the figure has the strength needed to bear the weight of life. Our value to the Lord is manifested through the gold shield of His protection. The white cross is our Lord, which is as pure as His promise. We each bear the purple heart of prayer when we petition God's forgiveness, His love strengths and shields us.



Jeanie Dinehart, 2024 Convention Co-Chairman

Christian Life Link

The purpose of the Christian Life Committee is to provide materials to engage, encourage, and equip women to grow in their Christian faith and service.

Christian Life Committee

Stephanie Petee, Chairman
Barb Berner
Corrine Sattler
Wanda Snyder
Janice Breitner, VP of Christian Life

PARTICIPATE: The zone rallies will be a part of our schedules. These rallies provide us with the opportunity for promoting new ideas to engage all our members in Bible study. Some suggested studies can be found in the online LWML Catalog.

- † **For Online Readers:** [LWML Store - Lutheran Women's Missionary League](#).
- † **For Hard Copy ODE Readers:** Visit website address: <https://www.lwml.org/store>

Here's a list of the resources LWML provides:

- ♥ **Resources on Christian Living:** Need a quick, thought-provoking opener for your next LWML-hosted event? Choose from one of the many titles below and download for FREE. Topics are noted beside the titles and resources recently featured as program helps are also noted as "new."
 - † **For Online Readers:** [LWML Resources on Christian Living](#)
 - † **For Hard Copy ODE Readers:** Visit website address: <https://www.lwml.org> - then you can type in **Christian Living** in the search box at the top right side of the page.
- ♥ **Program Helps - Devotions:** These devotional resources and service ideas are for you and your LWML group to use.
 - † **For Online Readers:** [Program Helps - Devotions - Lutheran Women's Missionary League](#)
 - † **For Hard Copy ODE Readers:** Visit website address: <https://www.lwml.org/program-helps-devotions>



- ♥ **Daily Devotions:** For the Mustard Seed - Daily Devotions, click on the link below to sign up:
 - † **For Online Readers:** [Home - Lutheran Women's Missionary League](#)
 - † **For Hard Copy ODE Readers:** Visit website address: <https://www.lwml.org/mustard-seed-devotions>

ENCOURAGE: What a wonderful way to witness to others! Sharing these resources with others can make someone's day and bring them closer to the Lord.

Janice Breitner, Vice President of Christian Life



Can You Hear Me Now?



I attended the "Adventures in Equipping Leaders" event sponsored by our district. It was held on March 25 at St. John, Dublin. It was a wonderful event. I listened intently to speakers who used various electronic resources to share their presentations. They often returned to the importance of communication as a leadership essential.

I have been the district webmaster for as long as the district has had a website (2004?). I believe the use of various electronic media (the website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) are all wonderful resources that can communicate the LWML message and mission.

Another hat I wear is Northeast Zone President. While I rely heavily on distributing information via email to the groups, for some, calling them on the phone is necessary and delightful. In our zone, there is one faithful group contact who does not even own a computer. I enjoy calling her to keep her aware of zone news and hear how she is doing. (We also send her zone information via "snail mail.")

When I notice a group is missing in action, I make a personal phone call to find out if they are receiving (and sharing) the information being sent and to let them know they are missed at zone events. Our zone secretary has also sent personal letters to our zone pastors inviting them to zone events. All of this more personal contact seems to be making a difference.

While I encourage each of you to use the valuable resources on our district website, lwmlohio.org and the LWML site lwml.org, I also remind you that your voice may be the key resource to encourage your sisters in Christ.

Billie Lelle, LWML Ohio District Webmaster

Napoleon Zone

Recently, St. John Lutheran Church in Napoleon, Ohio did what we call a "service day".

A day to aid in mission work. Our Women of Freedom (LWML & Ladies Aid) volunteered at our local Orphan Grain Train facility. We sorted items into boxes for distribution to disaster areas by the Orphan Grain Train.



The following week, members of our congregation assisted in the loading of a semi

that was destined for the flood disaster victims in the Inez, Kentucky area.



Linda Riefers, Napoleon Zone

Cincinnati Zone

On March 11 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Milford, Ohio, we hosted an event called "Ohio District - We Serve You with Gladness". More than 25 ladies and two pastors met to learn about the services provided to all LWML members by the officers of the LWML Ohio District. Nicole Dowdell gave a slide presentation showing the division of duties in their hierarchy. She was able to explain simply what each officer's responsibilities include and how that impacts on each of us. Pastor Fenker welcomed the group and gave the opening prayer. Pastoral Counselor Pastor Greene provided an inspiring devotion. Nicole Dowdell provided a slide presentation. Karyl Van Meurs-Juergens provided a skit called "What's your Roll/ Role?"

Everyone enjoyed a wonderful lunch prepared by the ladies of St. Mark's Church. The lunch provided an opportunity for fellowship and reconnecting. There was a servant event following the lunch. Cincinnati Zone churches had collected "undies" to provide to Immanuel's Kids Church families and the Prince of Peace homeless population. We received an overwhelming supply of socks, T-shirts, underwear, etc., for men, women, and children. The ladies worked quickly to sort and package what had been collected.

Peggy Kelm, Cincinnati Zone

Northeast Zone

On February 4, 2023, we brought in the new year with abundant hearts and blessings at the Northeast Zone Prayer Service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Willoughby, Ohio.



Attending were 40 sisters in Christ and four pastors. Members from eleven different churches enjoyed the energetic music provided by Trinity Lutheran Church Organist David Dorsch. (Continued on page 7)



(cont. from page 6)

Using the LWML Prayer Service *My Soul Rejoices* (with adaptations by Christian Life Chairman, Char LePere), Rev. Steve Berndt and various zone members led us to our own spiritual reflections on the Triune God, Baptism, strength and trust, song, strength for our lives, our Good Shepherd, and the power of the resurrection.

Our spirits and bodies were full after we enjoyed the meal provided by Trinity Lutheran Church. Our mites gathering for the day totaled \$509.25.

Kelly Hines, Northeast Zone

Toledo Zone

The women of the LWML Toledo Zone held their annual retreat in March. The opening devotion/litany was led by LWML Toledo Zone President Karen Shanahan. We had a prayer to dedicate our mites. Thirty-eight women from six congregations and one pastor attended.

The program was titled "Why Do You Exist?" A Bible study on the program theme was led by Deaconess Sarah Rusche, Mission Advancement Assistant at Luther Home of Mercy in Williston, Ohio. During the morning and afternoon sessions, we learned that our life as a Christian is like building a house. God is the architect and has drawn up blueprints or a master plan for our lives. In His master plan, He has a purpose for how He will fulfill that purpose in our lives. We looked at God's plan for Jesus' life to seek and save the lost and to fulfill His mission as He preached and healed, and completed his mission through His death and resurrection. Jesus is our model for living a purposeful life.

During the discussion sessions, using Scripture as a basis, we looked at our life purpose and life plan or mission. God uses us with our unique gifts and abilities/talents to help us fulfill His plan for us. As a conclusion, each one was to write a mission statement to keep us focused on Christ and God's plan for us. A delicious lunch was provided after a skit, singing, and news was presented by LWML Ohio District President, Vivian Nelson and LWML Toledo Zone President, Karen Shanahan. Saying the League Pledge and singing "As You Lead, Lord, I Will Follow" (words by LWML member, Jean Hansen Kammerer) confirmed the retreat theme. We exist to "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

During the closing prayers, we thanked God for His blessings, and for the gifts of clothing and household items for the Ukrainian refugees in the area, and for food items for the



food pantry at the Prince of Peace in Oregon, Ohio. We are thankful for Thrivent Financial on helping fund the retreat.



On April 1 the members of the LWML Toledo Zone met at Trinity Lutheran Church to make Easter cards for our homebound members. More than 100 cards were made to bring cheer and wishes of God's love to those no longer able to participate in church activities.



Lillian Keller, Toledo Zone



Returning God's Blessings

Our estates are full of God's gifts. One of the greatest joys of life God gives us is to give away His gifts and to be able to see the joyful response of those receiving them.

Through it all, we aim to share Jesus with the families we love and the ministries we support. Putting a plan together to bless both family and ministry is an honor. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you get started. Contact Linda Gage at Linda.Gage@lfnd.org.

Phone: 800-741-4138

Website: lwmlgiftplan.org

MITES, HONORS AND MEMORIALS

2022-2024

	Jan.-Mar. 2023	Biennium Total
Mites Received	\$22,635.11	\$72,534.58
Joyful Response	\$375.00	\$1,475.00
Thrivent Choice Dollars	\$972.00	\$2,103.00
Honors/Memorial	\$365.00	\$2,031.95
Quarterly & ODE	\$4,155.00	\$5,640.00
Stamps	\$0.00	\$935.00
Total Mission Income	\$28,502.11	\$84,719.53

Total needed to meet the goal: \$122,680.47
Monthly amount needed to reach Mission Goal \$10,223

HONORS



MEMORIALS January-March

Rev. Mark Heuser Carla Horst
Elaine Bickel Walter Rosebrock
Esther Layton Marvin Gruenhagen
Ronald Bush Yolanda Bain
Darlene Myers George Johnston
Marlyss Sekii Darrel Bockelman
Mike Harnett Don Bouic
Betty Patch Hildegard Ludeman

ODE Submissions

Submit news, pictures, and articles for approval to:

Zones: Zone President

District: District President & Sr. Pastoral Counselor

Deadlines for article submissions:

Quarter	Month/Day
Spring	January 5th
Summer	April 5th
Fall	July 5th
Winter	October 5th

Mighty Mites

Directing Thrivent Choice Dollars to mites: To direct funds to LWML Ohio District, select: LWML Ohio District, Olmsted Twp. Ohio, Cuyahoga Co.

Joyful Response® to Mites: To donate mites directly from your checking account each month contact **Janet Pauley**, Financial Secretary. She will send you a Joyful Response® form.

Contributions to Mites, Memorials, Honors: Mites Remittance Forms are available on the district website or from **Janet Pauley**, Financial Secretary. Make checks payable to "LWML Ohio District" and send with completed form to:

Janet Pauley, Financial Secretary
1535 Bahia Drive
Marysville, OH 43040
Ph: 614-746-9855,
Email: jpauley7719@gmail.com



Websites:

District.....lwmlohio.org
National.....lwml.org
Roberts Rules.....robertsrules.org
Concordia Publishing...cph.org



Quarterly / ODE Subscriptions

Quantity changes and address changes should be submitted to **Kim Klein**, Subscription Manager.

Annual Subscription Costs:

ODE	All quantities	\$2.50/each
Quarterly	1-9 Copies	\$7.50/each
Quarterly	10+ Copies	\$6.00/each

Payments for the *Quarterly* and *ODE* are due by January 31st each year. If sufficient payment is not received, subscriptions will be reduced to one copy each effective with the summer edition for that year. Payments should be sent with the Mites Remittance Form to Janet Pauley, Financial Secretary.

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Contributions & Donations for:

- ♥ Mites, Memorials, Honors
- ♥ Joyful Response® to Mites
- ♥ *Quarterly* & *ODE*



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Order direct from Concordia Publishing House
www.cph.org, or on Home page, click LWML

Website: Calendar Items, Pictures, Zone info, etc.

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