

July, 2023 Newsletter

From: Peggy Kelm, LWML Rep (Christ Lutheran)

### **ANNOUNCEMENT – FALL RETREAT**

WHEN: Saturday September 30

WHERE: Messiah Lutheran Church

WHO: You and your best friend

Save the date *now* & Chairman Ann Boerboom will have details available before the first board meeting.

### **THE MILWAUKEE CONVENTION – THE PRESIDENT’S VIEW**

**By Lisa Rhonemus**

The 2023 LWML Convention was once again a wonderful mountaintop experience shared with many sisters in Christ. We were blessed to hear from several of our mission grant recipients and see the fruits of our partnership with them. It's great to know the Lord is using our mites and these servants to bring others to Christ both in our country and abroad. Since the theme was "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" there were many parts of the convention where the Lord was celebrated in many languages. These included Hebrew, a dialect of Chinese, Spanish, Hmong, and a handful of other languages sung by children of missionaries. The LWML Canada president and a representative from Brazil's equivalent to LWML were also present for this convention. The diversity of people present really helped drive home the theme and made for an inspiring worship service. In addition to meeting people from other countries, it was also a blessing to bump into old friends, be it from former congregations or former conventions. The hosts of "The Lutheran Ladies Lounge" podcast provided the Saturday night entertainment which was both informative and hilarious as LWMLers and the LLL hosts faced off in a "Family Feud" style game for a portion of the show. This time of work, worship, and fellowship was truly one for the books.

### **“CELEBRATE THE LORD OF THE NATIONS”**

**By Carol Leslie**

That was the theme, based on Psalm 33, of the 40th biennial convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, aka Lutheran Women in Mission. And what a celebration it was!

Over 3,550 attendees and a choir of over 300 members gathered to worship, Bible study and fellowship in Milwaukee Wisconsin on June 22-25, 2023. Volunteers came from Northern Wisconsin, Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois all contributing to a very effective and coordinated convention. It was amazing how efficiently communion was administered to the large number of people at the Thursday evening service (well over 3,000) thanks to the large number of Pastors who were attending, with assistance from the Young Women Representatives plus the local volunteers helping direct people. Serious sessions describing the work of missionaries and agencies focused on sharing Christ throughout the world, singing, and humorous interludes were abundant.

Impressive moments at the opening session included the “parade” of banners from the many zones from which members attended that represented the convention theme, and at a later session, the parade of flags from the many countries (69?) that have received mission grants from LWML to proclaim our Lord in many ways over many years. I am awed that we women, through our “mites”, were able to fund 31 mission grants for the next 2 years to the tune of \$2,441,072.62. Never say that your coins can’t make a big difference.

It was a truly joyous celebration. Praise the Lord!

### **“JESUS IS THE POWER – TO KEEP ON WORKING!”**

**By Barb Berner, Christian Life Committee Member Ohio District**

Sooo – Who worked the hardest and continuously, without ceasing at our magnificent “LORD OF THE NATIONS” 40<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention in Milwaukee?? In this case, I say it is not “who” by rather “what?”

You may have your own thoughts, but for now, my choices are escalators and elevators. Let’s think about this... How quickly (or not) could we each have reached our convention sessions on time if they broke down? Oh, yes, they “hiccupped” briefly a couple of times but were back and running in a matter of minutes. Without them, how many sessions would we arrive late?” How many exhibits would we pass by because we had to “hot foot it” to arrive on time to our next activity!

The escalators and elevators allowed us extra time to visit and appreciate the beautiful details of the international flags exhibit, for instance, or attempted to visit *many* wonderful “helps” from our LWML bookstore with an assortment of books and items for your own worship encouragement and enjoyment, but also the same for our families and friends. Some may only recognize our Savior as “oh yes, Jesus Christ” who’s birth we recognize at Christmas, along with Santa Claus. For some folks that’s the only honor our LORD receives. *As Christians, it is our love and duty to share our “christian life” with others.*

### **“YOU ARE MY WITNESSES”**

**A Special Tea Party for the Missions in Motion Event**

The final LWML event of the year is always the Cincinnati Zone’s “Missions in Motion.” April 30th was a delightful Tea Party event, and the Zion Lutheran hostesses welcomed the 48 Zone members with hot tea on the cool afternoon and with tasty tea sandwiches and desserts by the bite! We immediately launched into our program with the POBLO missionary speakers (People of the Bible Lutheran Outreach) Joseph and his wife telling of their experiences of bringing the love of our faith to Muslim refugees in the Columbus, Ohio area. Their passion was evident during their presentation, and they shared their vast experiences from life-long mission trips, even before arriving in the US. They were both born and raised in Christian families in Egypt. What effective missionaries they were, making friends with the refugees and showing the love of Jesus before teaching and sharing Jesus’ name.

## **CINCINNATI ZONE BUSINESS AT MIM**

Our Cincinnati Zone's business meeting led by Vice President Diane Rhonemus highlighted the coming June 22-25 National Convention in Milwaukee. Our delegates from the Cincinnati Zone, Liz Underwood (St. Mark's) and Lisa Rhonemus (substitute for original delegate Karen Fischer, Zion), were joined by Young Woman Representative Anne Boerboom (St. Mark's). Several other women from our Zone were also attending as guests.

Looking ahead, our Fall Retreat is being planned by Chairman Anne Boerboom with assistance from past retreat chairmen. Meetings have already been held and the date, location, details will all be shared later.

Lisa Rhonemus (St. Mark's) was elected President and Marlis Norton (Good Shepherd) was elected Secretary. Pastoral Counselor Greene installed Marlis at the end of this meeting, and Lisa will be installed at the next Executive Board Meeting in August, as she was unable to attend the MIM due to personal health concerns. The previously serving officers, President Arlene Brown (Immanuel Lutheran) and Secretary Paula Frazier (St. Mark's), were warmly thanked.

The Ingathering of flattened plastic bags was overflowing and the demonstration of the plarn being woven into plastic mats for homeless was showed; the weaving of the mats is faster in completion than crocheting.

## **FUTURE PLANNING FOR CINCINNATI ZONE**

### **Saturday August 12 First Meeting**

We want to encourage women to enthusiastically step forward when President Lisa Rhonemus taps new committee leadership to help us be a vibrant organization during these post-covid times. After the convention it will be time to line up a new calendar with events, meetings, and service projects, starting with the first board meeting of the year on **Saturday August 12**. The location will be confirmed shortly, and we want the elected officers plus two representatives from our seventeen-member churches to be present. (However, those who can't attend will want to notify the president and possibly send a substitute.)

We want to reach out with Christ's love enthusiastically! We want to spread the WORD. So we want eager participation from all possible to be available to listen and help create new ideas, possibilities and events!

### **OFFICERS – CINCINNATI ZONE**

President Lisa Rhonemus (St. Mark's)  
Vice President Diane Rhonemus (St. Mark's)  
Secretary Marlis Norton (Good Shepherd)  
Treasurer Wanda Allen (Christ)  
Pastoral Counselor Everette Greene (Immanuel and Trinity, Cincinnati)