

DISTRICT GREETINGS, SPRING 2022

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I bring you greetings from the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, (the LWML) Ohio District, and all your sisters there. We pray that you are doing well, enjoying this spring event, and finding loving ways to serve our God by serving others. I'd like to begin by saying the new LWML Mission Statement for you (or with you, if you have it printed). **"As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others."**

LWML's mission statements, the first one and the new one, make me proud to be a member and eager to serve in whatever capacity I am called. Each of us can do all these things: We can proclaim Christ to our families, our Sunday school classes, our friends, our neighbors. We support missions with our mites and with our prayers. We serve others in many ways – each of us doing her part, whether it is serving a meal at a shelter, stitching a quilt top, driving a shut-in to a doctor's appointment, or helping a friend with chores around the house. Doing these things defines us as Christians and as joyful members of the LWML.

I'm certain you have heard about our concise convention to be held in Napoleon on June 17th and 18th at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Consider yourself invited! The women of the Napoleon, Defiance and Toledo zones will be ready to make you feel welcome and at home.

The theme is "Lord of the Harvest," and you'll see fields of corn and wheat and beans on your way there. Even before you arrive, you'll be reminded of the Harvest Fields and our Lord's desire for us to be his workers. The basis for the theme is Isaiah 55:10, which says, *"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater."* I like to add verse 11 also, *"So is my word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."* This reassures us that when we share the good news of Jesus, God will see to it that our words will not be wasted. Even if we don't see a positive result, God will provide the growth of the seed we have planted.

We have invited speakers to inspire you, including Rev. Keith Witte, our pastoral counselor; Rev. Peter Marcis, the pastor at St. Paul; and Rev. Ryan Peterson, who

was scheduled to be our keynote speaker for the convention that had to be cancelled two years ago. There will be seven interest sessions to choose from, so you can be sure you will find one you will like. On Friday afternoon there will be servant events for Phil's Friends and for MOST Ministries. The host committee is even putting together a light dinner on Friday evening so you won't have to find a restaurant before the worship service.

Has your church selected your two delegates? They will be voting to elect new officers and to select mission grants for the next two years. There is also a pair of bylaws amendments which will allow us to conduct our meetings electronically when necessary. If you know a woman who would like to run for one of the offices, you will have the opportunity to nominate her from the floor – just be sure to get her permission first.

This convention has the lowest registration fee that we've had in a very long time. The hotel rates will be reasonable, too. I am mentioning this so your group might consider sending an additional guest or two. Perhaps you would even consider sending your pastor or a new young woman to give them a taste of what an LWML convention is like.

Have you heard that 2022 is the 80th anniversary of the founding of LWML? The question of the year has become, "What's your 80?" Individual women, groups, zones and districts are encouraged to consider what gifts or acts of service they can accomplish 80 times this year. The easy financial answer would be to add 80 extra dollars or dimes to your mite box. The more challenging answer might be more along the lines of 80 phone calls to shut-ins, 80 notes of encouragement to seminarians, students or church workers. Or it could be 80 prayers for missionaries, or 80 quilts or personal hygiene kits – you have the idea. Whatever you do, take a picture of it. We'd love to display it at convention, and LWML would also like to feature your ideas at the next convention in Milwaukee.

And speaking of Milwaukee, the next national convention will be there in 2023. This time we just get to go as delegates and guests. The theme for that will be, "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations." The dates are June 22-25, 2023.

Keep filling up your mite boxes. Our grants are all paid for this biennium, even though we did not meet the goal we set. Many groups had fewer meetings because of the pandemic. If you are still not getting together regularly, consider

collecting mites on a Sunday during or after the worship service. Have people empty their mite boxes into a noisy bowl or a bucket. Encourage the silent money too! And allow the children and husbands to participate – they all like to support missions.

If the summer Quarterly arrives and there is only one copy, be aware that you were supposed to pay for the subscriptions now. Payments should be sent to our Financial Secretary with documentation on the mites remittance form.

And last, but certainly NOT least, visit our website for the latest news about all these things! The Ohio site is www.lwmlohio.org and the national one is just www.lwml.org. Check it for dates of upcoming events, lists of our mission grants, contact information, links to registration forms and mite remittance forms, pictures of recent events, issues of the ODE, and so much more. For those of you who are more media savvy, we have a facebook page, too!

Thank you for allowing me to share all this news with you. May God continue to bless your day today!