



### Pam's Pearls

**"And they're off!"** How often do you hear that phrase, or something similar, at the start of a race whether it be on foot, in a car, on a motorcycle, in a boat, or on a horse? My point is there is excitement as the race begins, and the excitement builds throughout the race. There are fans along the way shouting words of encouragement and cheering the participants on until, at last, a winner crosses the finish line. Unfortunately, not everyone is declared a winner in those races.



We are running a race! It begins at our baptism when we are made a child of God. There is joy and excitement as fellow Christians cheer us on throughout our race. There may be times along the course when the terrain is difficult, but our Christians brothers and sisters pray and give words of encouragement, and the Spirit is within us to strengthen us so we are able to cross the finish line and enter the winner's circle, eternity with Jesus. The wonderful thing about our race is we aren't racing against anyone else, and everyone who runs the race believing in Jesus as Savior will be declared a winner!

I encourage you to attend the LWML National Convention in Lexington, KY on June 24-27, 2021. The theme is "Running the Race...Looking to Jesus." If you can't attend in person, everything will be live streamed. This convention is one more opportunity to encourage one another on the race to the finish line. "And we're off!"

*Pam Weiderkehr, District President*

### Lift My Soul

God's "Got Your Back!"

*Then the angel of God who was going before the host of Israel moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from before them and stood behind them, coming between the host of Egypt and the host of Israel (Exodus 14:19-20a).*

Christians are Christ followers. The Holy Spirit helps us to "run with endurance the race that is set before us" as we "fix our eyes on Jesus." God goes before us into the future and He also guards our backs! Just as with the Israelites, our powerful Triune God is stationed behind us to protect us from any enemy who might chase us. We can confidently move ahead in knowing and sharing Jesus because God has our backs!

*Peggy Grunow, VP Christian Life*

### Look What's Coming!

Zone Spring Flings, TBD

LWML Convention in Lexington, KY, June 24-27, 2021

Women's Fall Retreat, November 5-6, 2021 at Canyon Camp, Hinton, OK

### Hidden Treasure

With her high school English Grammar and Punctuation book and the LWML Stylebook, Doris Schmall sets about proofing and editing LWML minutes, speeches, writing sketches, song lyrics, and whatever comes her way. Her behind-the-scenes work for LWML adds a professional look to LWML documents. She helped edit the book "Radiant Reflections" which LWML published for the 2017 LWML 75th Anniversary convention in Albuquerque.

Doris is a member of Faith, Owasso, where she serves as Treasurer for her Women in Faith LWML group. Her 61 years in LWML started with an invitation to an LWML luau in snowy Buffalo, New York! After moving to Oklahoma with Elmer, her husband of 61 years, she has served Oklahoma LWML as PR Director and VP of Communications. The mission grants of LWML are her favorite aspect of LWML. She treasures all the friendships she has with women from all over the state. Doris and Elmer live in Tulsa and try to keep track of 4 children, 11 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren (with 2 more on the way).

More than her editing skills, Doris is treasured for her happy outlook and sense of humor. Including her writing or her acting in sketches, guarantees laughs all around! Friends cite her clarity of vision, sense of humor, and supportive friendship as some of her gifts they enjoy. Give thanks to the Lord for Doris Schmall--a true hidden treasure!

*Patti Ross, Past District and LWML President*





## Pastor's Perspective



I type this portion of the newsletter with a bit of hesitation. Why? A good chunk of it contains someone else's work! Yet, as I've found, a great deal of theological writing is either expressing doctrine with just a bit of your own style, or simply saying someone else's material word for word because you cannot say it better. Thus, I submit the following is a portion of an article on "contentment" written by a former professor of mine at seminary, Dr. Robert Kolb:

*"We often conceive of what would make us content in terms of things, but this only encourages craving more and more. Just one more potato chip never does it. But craving takes the joy out of life because it makes us ever restless. Without rest, without the relaxing power of contentment, we wear out. We become exhausted, that is, the breath of life seeps away. Contentment restores that breath with the breathing of the Holy Spirit, who speaks to us words of assurance even in the midst of discouragement and adversity. He assures us of our value to the Lord who spent His blood to make us safe and whole. He assures us of the future the Lord's resurrection has shaped for us. He gives us assur-*

***He assures us of the future  
the Lord's resurrection has  
shaped for us.***

*ance that He who promised to be with us to the very end is with us today, Immanuel."*

If you're anything like me, this most recent season of life has sometimes been occupied by a spirit of discontent. There are things we'd like that simply aren't there – fellowship, better health, traveling, etc. Our routines have gone out the window, replaced by a difficult way of life.

Satan would have us drift into discouragement and despair. Yet, for all we have lost, and for all Satan would like us to believe, Dr. Kolb reminds us: God has made and kept you whole through Jesus' saving blood and righteousness. God is still providing you your daily bread. God is still serving and healing the world through the small, unseen things each of you do, especially in the LWML. When this pandemic will end is anyone's guess. Yet, this much is sure – God has not forgotten you. He still takes care of you and works through you. God bless you with the contentment that only comes through being made whole in Jesus.

Pastor Heckmann



## "I Am The Heart Of LWML" Campaign



We are the Heart of the LWML because we are **HIS**:  
**Held** by His Word;  
**Inspired** to share His Gospel;  
**Surrounded** by His grace.

A primary focus of this new campaign is that each woman of the LCMS is the Heart of LWML. Learn more at [LWML.org](http://LWML.org)

## 2021 LWML Prayer Service Now Available



We are encouraged in Scriptures to be people of prayer; prayer marks us as children of the heavenly Father. He has promised to hear us and to answer our prayers. The 2021 LWML Prayer Service was

written by Rev. Robert L. Mundahl, a former national LWML Pastoral Counselor. This free downloadable Prayer Service is available on [LWML.org](http://LWML.org)

## Connecting Hearts and Hands Spring Fling 2021



*Show faithful love and compassion to one another. Zechariah 7:9b CSB*

In our current world of COVID-19 and social distancing, followers of Christ may wonder how to share God's love with those around them. God is not limited by viruses or our fear of them. He has plans that cannot be thwarted and a love that cannot be kept at a distance. **Connecting Hearts and Hands**, the 2021 Spring Fling Bible Study with its accompanying activities, will help each LWML woman connect God's compassionate heart and actions to her own. Due to the pandemic, the Spring Fling will be uniquely presented at the zone level. Stay tuned for more details from your zone president.

## Something New!

Here is our new LWML Mission Statement:

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

## Around the District



*left:* Lori Steele, Tulsa Zone President, atop bags of shoes collected at Good Shepherd, Midwest City when she delivers shoes from Tulsa and Miami Zones.

*right:* Pastor Bruce Cottrell and Loren England unload shoes from the Miami Zone.

### WOW! SHOES, SHOES AND MORE SHOES!

The past few months OK District LWML has been collecting gently used shoes with project proceeds going toward special endeavors of LWML programs. From all over Oklahoma the response has been outstanding. Marguerite Christman, project coordinator, extends a hearty “thank you” to all helpers and contributors!

*Bev England, PR*

### Christmas Cheer Gift Bags

Messiah Lutheran LWML and church members, with the help of seed money from Thrivent, assembled Christmas Cheer gift bags for the clients at Rose Rock Recovery Center in Vinita. This inpatient facility is dedicated to help women with an alcohol or drug use problem.



The gift bags included a journal, pens, highlighters, a Mustard Seed packet, LWML nail files, lip balm, hand cream, and bag of Christmas candy. The staff members were very appreciative of the gift bags for their clients.

*Betty Reichert, PR*

*left:* Team members delivering the gift bags. L to R: Dianna Just, 3 Staff members, Carl Reichert, Lucy Gregory, Betty Reichert

### Delegate Fund

It's that time of year when each group will receive an invoice for copies of the “Quarterly” and the Delegate Fund. The Delegate Fund is used to cover the expenses of our Zone delegates to the national LWML conventions. We have nine who are elected at the Zone level at our Fall Fests. The Board of Directors in November voted to increase the amount from \$3/member to \$5/member. By using this fund, we do not have to use our mite money to cover those expenses.

### Delegates to the 2021 LWML Convention

The LWML Convention 2021 is fast approaching. At the Zone Fall Fests the following were selected to represent Oklahoma District LWML as delegates and alternates at the Lexington, Kentucky convention, June 24-27, 2021.

Representatives from the zones include: **Enid Zone:** Joyce Von Dielingen, Delegate, Garber; Denise Morris, Alternate, Redeemer, Enid; **Kingfisher Zone:** Karen Rumsey, Delegate, Guthrie; Sharon Bomhoff, Alternate, Okarche; **Lawton Zone:** Linda Taylor, Delegate, Lawton; No Alternate; **Miami Zone:** Beth Fredrick, Delegate, Redeemer, Bartlesville; Amy Moeller, Alternate, Adair; **Oklahoma City Zone:** Deborah Allen, Delegate, Oklahoma City; Jennifer Karner, Delegate, Oklahoma City; Michelle Daugherty, Alternate; **Panhandle Zone:** Mary Olsen, Delegate, Gruver, TX; Rita Knop, Alternate, Tyrone, OK; **Ponca City Zone:** Brenda Nivens, Delegate, Guthrie; Marilyn Miller, Alternate, Guthrie; **Tulsa Zone:** Lori Steel, Delegate, Broken Arrow; Claudette Brown, Alternate, Tulsa.

As the convention approaches, please feel free to contact your delegate with questions about items on the agenda for voting.

**Submit news items and pictures for our newsletter to Sharon Greene at [oklwmleditor@gmail.com](mailto:oklwmleditor@gmail.com)**

### New YWRs

We are excited to introduce the two young ladies selected as our 2021 Young Women Representatives to the LWML National Convention in Lexington, KY. Both are members of Trinity Lutheran Church in Edmond.

Katelyn Collison is presently a fulltime student. “I think it is important for young women to actively follow Jesus. I want to be surrounded by a group of strong women who love the Lord with all their hearts.”



Jordan Post is Ministry Coordinator at Holy Trinity Lutheran of Edmond. Being a YWR, “Would benefit me greatly as I grow in my faith and navigate each step of my

life to have a group of women who will support me.” We look forward to the contributions both will bring to OKLWML.

*Jill Blanski, YWR chair*



## Around the Mission Field

### Healing Spaces – Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND

**Mission Grant #13 \$5000**

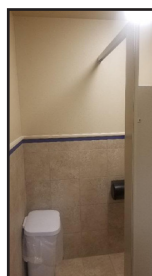


The Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch in Minot, North Dakota, works with the physically and emotionally abused children to show them merciful care and the healing power of the Gospel message. During their stay at the ranch, they are able to visualize the world differently, experience the love of God through those caring for them and look to their future with hope.

One of the key components of their program is attending worship services at the Kruse Memorial Chapel. Renovations were sorely needed as the structure was almost 50 years old. With donations from various LWML districts, upgrades included revamping chapel décor, upgrading audio equipment and restroom remodeling. The Oklahoma District grant was used specifically for the restroom upgrades.

Once the renovations were completed, it was noted that chapel attendance increased as well as general use of the facilities. Increased use of the chapel/gym has built confidence to the residents as they utilize the instruments, sound equipment, recreational equipment, and, of course, the restrooms. One resident, who struggled in uncomfortable and stressful environments, now utilizes the facilities daily and has become a regular reader in the chapel services.

*Beverly Bahr, VP Gospel Outreach*



- ♥ + 1. Ministerial Students, OK District \$12,000 (*partial*)
- ♥ 2. Bringing Christ's Light to Those Living in Darkness, Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. \$5,000
- + 3. AED Devices for Camp Lutheroma, Tahlequah, OK \$4,690
- ♥ + 4. Professional Church Workers Scholarships, OK District \$12,000 (*partial*)
- ♥ 5. Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) Food and Clothing Co-op, IN \$5,000
- ♥ 6. King of Kings Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dog Ministry, Glenpool, OK \$5,000
- + 7. Pregnancy Resource Center of Southwest Oklahoma, Lawton, OK \$5,010
- ♥ 8. MOST Ministries Water Filters, Ann Arbor, MI \$7,050
- ♥ 9. Assistance to LWML Members Team Mission Trip, OK District \$6,000
- + 10. Good Samaritan Fund at Concordia Life Care Community, Oklahoma City, OK \$5,000

- ♥ + 11. Tools for Oaks Indian Mission, Oaks, OK \$3,500 (*partial*)
- ♥ 12. Pastors, Vicars and Lay Ministers Wives Retreat, OK District \$4,000
- + 13. Healing Spaces--Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND \$5,000
- + 14. At Just The Right Time, Mission Central, Mapleton, IA \$10,000
- + 15. God Speaks Today--A Lutheran Voice, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala \$10,020
- ♥ 16. Equipping People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to Share the Gospel, Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Watertown, WI \$5,000
- + 17. Tablet Technology for St. John's Lutheran School, Moore, OK \$5,700
- ♥ 18. Worker Wellness for Chaplain Families, LCMS, St. Louis, MO \$3,000
- ♥ 19. Summer Heights Day Camp, Immanuel Lutheran, Oklahoma City, OK \$2,000
- ♥ 20. Training Leaders to BOLDLY Declare Y'shua as Messiah, Israel \$90

**District Mission Grants listed in the side columns are marked with a cross if they are fully funded. Grants with an open heart still need your help!**

**Most recently funded grant is # 15**

**How to donate: LWML OK District Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 1464, Lawton, OK 73502**

**Thank you for your prayers and offerings!**

#### District Officers

Pam Wiederkehr, President; Joan Anderson, VP of Organizational Resources; Peggy Grunow, VP of Christian Life; Beverly Bahr, VP of Gospel Outreach; Kasey Meyer, VP of Communication; Caroline Honeycutt, VP of Special Focus Ministries; Sarah Yauk, Recording Secretary; Myrna Lou Meyer, Corresponding Secretary; Jonith Grundmann, Treasurer; Teresa Heater, Financial Secretary; Rev. Joel Heckmann, Senior Pastoral Counselor; Rev. John Wackler, Junior Pastor Counselor

*www.oklwml.org*