



“Serve the Lord with gladness.” Psalm 100:2

Oregon Leaguer

Spring 2024

Oregon District President Carol Reis



Green Pastures

There have been times in my life that seem to overwhelm me so when I found this devotion, I thought it might be good for you also.

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No matter where we live, our lives experience times of spiritual “drought,” times when we grow weary of pulling the “weeds” that the world, the devil, and our flesh put in our path. We struggle to remain the *seed* [that] *fell on good soil* (Luke 8:8 NIV) and to produce fruit. It is so tempting to be like the seeds that spring up after the monsoons, briefly flourish, but wither away when the hot, hard times come.

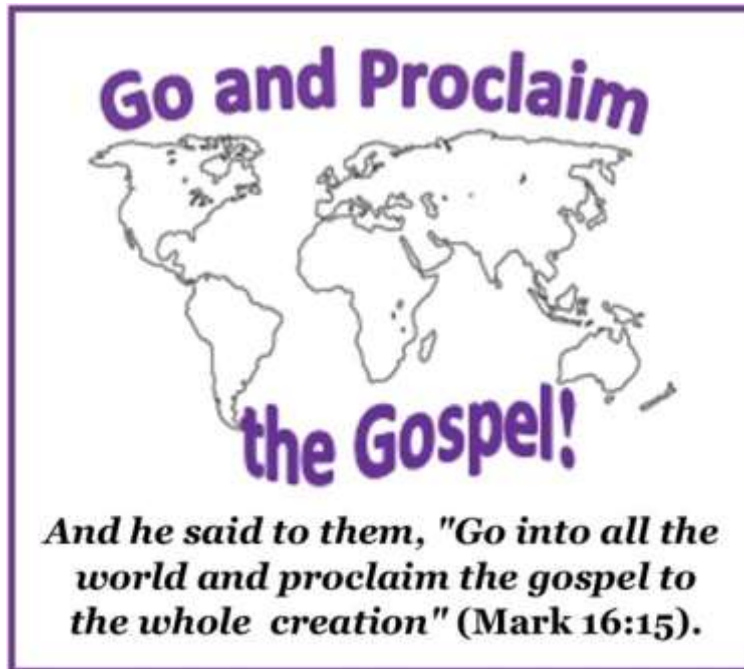
When the hot, hard times come, God helps us to cling to the words of the psalmist *But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever* (Psalm 52:8). Unlike discarded weeds, each and every one of us has been handpicked by God to be His child. We are **loved, redeemed, and forgiven** as baptized followers of Christ. We are His priceless treasures and dearly loved children who trust and believe that *The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures* [emphases added] (Psalm 23:1-2a). That “spot of green,” the safe pasture, is there for us in our daily walk with the Shepherd. The Holy Spirit leads us to find God’s spot of green in our study of Scripture, in Holy Communion, and in prayer. The Holy Spirit helps us to share the spot of green found in the saving love of Jesus with those around us.

Table of Contents	
President’s Message	1
Convention Invitation	2
Junior Pastoral Counselor	3
Christian Life.....	4
Thank You & Zone Gatherings	5
Meeting Help for Leaders	6
Leaguer Deadline	7
Spring Gathering Photos	8-9
Where to find things.....	10
Officer Contact Information.....	11
Zone Presidents.....	11

Through God’s Word and His means of grace, we are no longer worthless, sinful weeds to be cast into the “dumpster.” Instead, God makes us flourishing plants in His green pasture!

Excerpted from Green Pastures by Judy Gordon, Green Valley, New Mexico
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34th Biennial Convention of the LWML Oregon District



You are *INVITED* to join us in *CONVENTION*
June 21–22, 2024
Living Savior Lutheran Church, Tualatin, OR

Please join us as we “Proclaim the Gospel!”

See the Special Convention *Leaguer* or visit the LWML Oregon District website
lwmlor.org for all the details

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

He is risen indeed! Alleluia! The Easter Acclamation, the first words on our lips as we greet one another in the narthex. The first words of the liturgy on Easter Sunday encompass, encapsulate, exude, and explode with joy! Easter joy ... Resurrection joy ... As we begin this joyous season, I would like to take a moment and examine at least four aspects of our Easter joy.

First, the joy of life restored. John does not tell us why Mary Magdalene had come to the tomb in the pre-dawn darkness. But at the sight of the open tomb, she turned and ran. Later, circling back after Peter and John had left, she sat weeping when the gardener came and inquired about her tears. She explained, *"They have taken away my Lord ..."* (John 20:13). No, here stood her Lord! And the joy, the very first Easter joy, explodes out of her heart and out of her mouth, "Rabboni!" This joy is ours today as we stand with her, and we carry this joy with us every time the Lord directs the hands of doctors and surgeons, nurses, and technicians to restore life and health according to his gracious will.

Second, the joy of release from sin. This joy enters a room locked *for fear of the Jews* (John 20:19). It comes to a frightened group of ten who had not yet grasped the events of the day, the week, the entire economy of God's salvation. The joy of release from sin comes as Jesus breaths on them and says, *"Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld"* (John 20:22–23). This joy is also ours as the words of absolution are spoken over us by our pastors.

Third, the joy of reconciliation. This joy enters our life as a consequence of the second, the release from sin. Paul expresses it succinctly in his second letter to the church at Corinth. *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself ...* (2 Corinthians 5:17–18). But there's extra! Not only are we reconciled to God, we are now reconciled to one another. See Ephesians chapter 2 where Paul explains that Jesus died and rose in order that He *might reconcile us both (Jews and Gentiles) to God in one body through the cross* (Ephesians 2:16). This joy is ours as we welcome sisters and brothers from every walk of life, from every nation, from the very ends of the earth.

And fourth, the joy of resurrection. In his great resurrection chapter, Paul exclaims, *But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep ... For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive* (1 Corinthians 15:20, 22). The joy of resurrection is ours not just today, not just two thousand years ago, but to each of us individually at the last. As I like to "tweak" the Nicene Creed, "and I look for the resurrection of THIS body." This joy is our entrance into eternity with God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and also with all the saints who have gone before and will come after us.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! And so shall we!

Therefore, exult in Easter joy! The joy of life restored. The joy of release from sin. The joy of reconciliation. The joy of resurrection. Amen.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body, we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us (Romans 12:3-8).

We have always done it like this ...
So and so always does that ...
We can never do that How can we ...

How will we get new LWML members with these attitudes? When we attend church, we realize that we are *members of one another* (Romans 12:5). We should work together to further the church. Can we do things differently? Can we think outside of the box? Can we look for and ask new people to team up with someone to handle a portion of a project? Can we think of new ideas, projects and times that may appeal to others?

The *Lutheran Study Bible* has a section called "Living Sacrifices ... in view of God's Mercy." Summarizing, Paul writes to motivate Christians with the Gospel and with personal care for one another. Paul describes how we are transformed by our belief in Christ and because we are transformed, we should reject the world's evil ways and walk in the ways of God. This article goes on to say that because we are transformed by the gospel, we should be motivated to greater service. This service can take many forms. Each of us have been given a wide variety of talents and we can use these to share the lifesaving gospel message. The section called "Moved to Service" gives three reasons that discourage church members and new people from getting involved.

"An unfortunate concern that plagues many churches is that a handful of people usually ends up doing much of the work. Three problems contribute to this situation. **First**, many people fail to recognize that God wants them to actively serve in the congregation.

Second, pride and impatience on the part of some congregation members easily discourages others from serving. People stay at home because they feel that their service is neither needed nor appreciated.

Third, most of us keep ourselves too busy. We fill our time with things that do not encourage us or anyone else in the faith. How easily we slip back into the ruts!" (*The Lutheran Study Bible* pg. 1934)

The challenge for us is to think about the busyness of our world. How can we share the talents with which God has blessed us? How can we reach out to others in our sphere of Christian companions? What Bible messages can we share with others? New times? Daycare? Dinner? Breakfast Bible study? How can our projects reach our unchurched neighbor? How can we get the message of the Gospel OUT?

Please pray for our Church,
Pastors, and LWML.

Heavenly Father, we sing and praise You, Lord God. We are so very thankful that You have sent Jesus to live, die, and rise again. He fulfilled this sacrifice for our sins. We humbly thank You for Your great mercies. We ask You to send Your Holy Spirit to guide us so we can reach out to others in love and service. In Christ Jesus, Amen.



Lynne Beck, Vice President of Christian Life

Nicole:

God directs our paths in life, the places we will go, the many ways our lives are changed by everyone we know...

THANK YOU, for the many ways you've enriched the LWML Oregon District.

You will be missed!



LWML-OD ~ 2024 ~ Spring Zone Gatherings

<u>Zone:</u>	<u>Date:</u>	<u>Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>
Emerald Zone	April 13	10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	Grace Lutheran, Eugene, OR
Interstate Zone	April 6	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.*	Good Shepherd, Vancouver, WA
Juniper Zone	-----	-----	Fall Gathering Only - TBA
Mt. Hood Zone	April 13	9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Holy Cross, Portland, OR
Myrtlewood Zone	April 6	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Christ Lutheran, Coos Bay, OR
Pacific Zone	HELD	March 2	Trinity Lutheran, Sheridan, OR
Southern Zone	April 27	11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	St. Paul Lutheran, Grants Pass, OR
West Hills Zone	HELD	March 2	Pilgrim Lutheran, Beaverton, OR
Willamette Zone	April 20	9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.	St. Peter the Fisherman, Lincoln City, OR

***Bring your own lunch for afterwards**

Meeting Helps for LWML Leaders



Add Meaning in Your Meetings

We gather to support missions and to grow in fellowship and love for our Savior.

Here's some ideas to add variety to the meeting.

- Start by asking God to direct your group meeting as He desires.
- Ask for personal prayer requests and have conversational prayer together.
- Discuss plans for future events.
- Plan a book discussion, fictional with meaning.
- Share recipes that could be used at a future bazaar or activity.

From *lwml.org* website,

Using the Search box or click on The Word on the toolbar to find the seasonal resources. Right now, it is called Spring Resources.

There you will find:

- Sketches provide fun and meaningful skits to involve members.
- Crafts will take you to bookmarks, notecards, and crafts to assemble.
- Mission Service resources featured for the month to read and prayer together.
- Devotions.
- Bible Studies.
- Responsive Readings.
- Gifts from the Heart toolkits to assemble.

*You (God) keep him in perfect peace
whose mind is stayed on you,
because he trusts in you.
Trust in the LORD forever,
for the LORD GOD is an everlasting rock
(Isaiah 26:3-4).*

WANTED

Oregon
District
Bylaws
from years
prior 2020

Please send to Janis
Arnsdorf, Oregon District
Structure Committee
Chairman

jarnsdorf@outlook.com

or to: 1323 Severson Drive
Medford, OR 97504

Introducing the NEW Lutheran Women in Mission Mite Box!

Order your new LWML Mite Boxes at <https://lwml.cph.org/>



Leaguer Schedule

Summer 2024

Submissions Due: June 1, 2024

Publication Date: July 1, 2024

Send items and photos to:

Deb Weaver, Editor

debweaver@gmail.com



2024 Oregon District Spring Gathering Photos

Pacific Zone Gathering held March 2, 2024 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sheridan, OR



2024 Oregon District Spring Gathering Photos (cont.)

West Hills Zone Gathering held March 2, 2024 at Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Beaverton, OR



Prayer Chain Email!

Let us pray with you.

lwml.or.prayerchain@gmail.com

Blessings on your day, Lynne Beck, Prayer Chain Coordinator



Did you know? The LWML Oregon District has a Facebook page. If you're on Social Media, particularly Facebook, we welcome you to "like" our page so that you can see what is going on in our district! Here is the link for our Facebook page:

facebook.com/LWMLOregonDistrict/

Thank you, Janet Schultz, Interim VP of Communication



LWML Oregon District website:

lwmlor.org

LWML website:

lwml.org/home

View the Leader Development's Monthly

HUG-IN-A-MUG

lwmlor.org/servant-resources



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Mission Statement

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

Oregon District Mission Statement

Lutheran Women in Mission will, by God's grace, ignite, involve, equip and encourage women of the Oregon District to express their faith as servants of the Triune God through joyful Christian Ministry.

ZONE PRESIDENTS

Emerald Zone—Delores Feddersen

Interstate Zone—Joyce Twiss

Juniper Zone Contact—Donna Luinstra

Mt. Hood Zone—Connie Adams

Myrtlewood Zone—Joan Mahaffy

Pacific Zone—Zone EC Board

Southern Zone—Janis Arnsdorf

West Hills Zone—Judy Chase

Willamette Zone—Karen Clark

LWML Goal

Each woman of the LCMS is the Heart of LWML. Christ is in the heart of each woman as she engages in mission education, mission inspiration, mission service, and mission support. Each woman of the LCMS is invited to embrace her role as a Lutheran Woman in Mission.



Please remember to submit photos of your LWML gatherings and events for publication in the *Leaguer* to Deb Weaver, Editor, at




debeweaver@gmail.com.

“As a Lutheran Woman in Mission, I will share the joy and wonder of what is done through the LWML by the grace of God — the resources created, the missions supported, and the ministries provided.”



Thanks be to God! We are HIS!

We are:

-  Held by God's Word
-  Inspired to share HIS Gospel
-  Surrounded by HIS Grace