



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

# Oregon Leaguer

Fall 2021

## MITES



Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings **above and beyond** the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.

At the 1953 convention, Leaguers were reminded not to just tuck their Mite Box away out of sight and then on the day of the meeting take out a dollar bill, put it in an envelope and hand it to the secretary. Among the suggestions offered were:



- ⇒ Put your pennies in the box at the end of each day
- ⇒ Say "thank you" with an appropriate amount whenever calamity or misfortune has been averted
- ⇒ Empty all your loose change from your kitchen coin bowl into the box on meeting day

Throughout the decades, Lutheran women have stepped out in faith, setting goals and trusting God to move the hearts of His people to give generously to LWML to proclaim the Gospel.

The preceding is excerpted from the LWML website. The LWML Oregon District Mission Grant Goal for 2020-2022 is \$97,020. \$72,765 for Oregon District Mission Grants, with \$24, 255 for LWML.

Unfortunately this biennium we are short of our goal by approximately \$40,000.00. The biennium ends on March 31, 2022. We have six months to gather the funds for our 2020 -2022 Mission Grant Goal. I know that we have been challenged these past 18 months, but with God's guidance I also know that we can reach if not exceed our goal.

## We Need Your Help



With a humble heart I'm encouraging each of you to prayerfully look into your hearts to see if a little more can be added to your Mite giving. As an example, at my church we celebrated LWML Sunday this month and we collected over \$400.00 on that day. Remember that women, men and children can put money into the Mite boxes. Please keep the Mite giving in your prayers and keep feeding your Mite boxes.

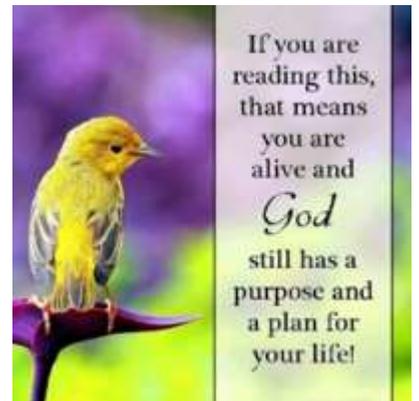


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Blessings to all in Jesus' ongoing joy!

Carol Reis  
Oregon District President

## “Seasons”

As the days grow shorter, leaves begin to lose their vivid green and begin to don their colorful fall hues. The oranges, rusts, pinks, reds, and golds, all give the waning warm days a glow. This often brings on the need to “Nest;” to make sure that things will be ready for the upcoming season. Things like warmer blankets, heavier coats, hats and gloves will be washed and ready. We watch the late summer flowers in the misty mornings wondering how long they will hang on. People harvest their gardens and begin to make hearty comfort food like soups and stews to stave away the chilly nights.



Savior. We can be in God’s word while His Spirit builds our comfort and confidence. We can search the Bible when we need advice and peace. We can be contagious with our love of God, sharing His wonderful saving message of our crucified and risen Savior with others so they may experience His peace and forgiveness. We can thank God for what He has done to carry us through each season of our lives. Ps 67: 1-3 says it well. “May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face to shine upon us, that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations. Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you!”



In every season, we honor and praise you Lord. Perhaps in this season we can share a hearty bowl of Chicken Tortilla Soup and Your Word.

- 1 cup onion, chopped
- 1 tsp fresh garlic, minced
- 2 TBS butter
- 1 32oz chicken broth
- 1 16oz salsa or picante sauce
- 2 cups chicken breasts, cooked and cubed
- 1 cup red bell pepper chopped
- ¼ tsp coarsely ground pepper
- ½ tsp ground cumin
- ½ cup vegetable oil for frying tortillas
- 6 small corn tortillas, cut into ½ inch strips
- 1 cup cheddar cheese grated
- sour cream for topping

In large soup pan, cook onion and garlic in butter over medium heat, stirring until onion is tender. Add chicken broth, salsa, chicken, bell pepper, pepper, and ground cumin. Bring to a boil. Cover; reduce heat to low. Simmer, stirring occasionally, 20 minutes. In large skillet, heat oil over medium heat until hot. Fry tortilla strips in oil until golden brown. Drain on paper towels. Ladle soup into bowls. Sprinkle tortilla strips on top. Add grated cheddar cheese and sour cream to your liking. (Serves 8)

Lynne Beck  
Christian Life Committee Member



God shares an all-knowing look at life in Ecclesiastes 3. God knows our strengths and weaknesses. He is forgiving and calls us back to Him when we stray. Sometimes we, as mortal humans, wonder how things are going to work out each season. We wonder what the next step is and when we can breathe a sigh of relief for our families and our lives

and be at peace. My friends, God has the answer to these questions and any others you might have. We can rely on him to comfort us and be with us no matter what is going on, even if we do have disasters. God assures us in Isaiah 41:10, “Do not fear for I am with you, be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.” The following verses also assure us that the Lord oversees every season and all things. “I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; What can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:5-6)”

As Autumn rolls in we see the seasonal changes in flora and fauna. Sometimes, however, we do not see the oncoming changes in our personal lives. God never said everything will be rosy all the time. But God is ready to help us at all times. In all seasons we can lay our thoughts and burdens at God’s feet through prayer. We can rejoice and praise Him in all situations because He sent Jesus, our



The Blessings Of  
*Christmas*  
PEACE★HOPE★JOY★LOVE

PLEASE READ: PSALM 37: 5

What can I do? Occasionally that question comes to mind when we hear of needs in our local LWML groups or in our church or community. We hear statistics that tell us that the percent of Christians in the world is shrinking, and the thought goes through our mind, "What can I do about it?" The easy answer that too often comes to mind is - "nothing" or "I don't know." But that is not God's answer! No, He says, you are my witnesses to the world. "Yes Lord, I know, but what can I do?" we ask. With God's help, far more than we might think. I came across this story in a book that has been sitting on my shelf for some time. It is not a current event, but it gives us something to think about.

Meet Wendy Stroker from Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Wendy, as a 19 -year- old first-year student at the University of Florida, had this story told about her.

"Last year she placed third, just 2 ½ points from first, in the Iowa Girl's State Diving Championships. She had worked two hours a day for four years to get there. Now, at the University of Florida, she worked twice as hard and has earned the number two position on the varsity diving team, and she is aiming for the national finals. Wendy is carrying a full academic load, finds time for bowling and is an accomplished water skier. But perhaps the most remarkable thing about Wendy Stroker is her typing. She bangs out 45 words a minute on her computer... with her toes. Oh, did I fail to mention that Wendy was born without arms?"

Ted Engstrom tells this story in his book, A Time for Commitment, to make two points about commitment.

1. Stories of courage, discipline and commitment are good reminders that we are never stuck in our own situation, regardless of what that may be. What we can conceive and believe, we can achieve with God's help.

2. Such stories encourage us to look beyond our own perceived limitations to the full potential that pulsates within us. But the idea of full potential is little more than a hollow dream, until we actually try to live up to it.



With those thoughts in mind, now might be a good time to do some thinking, conceiving and believing about the potential of the LWML. What does God want your local group and the Oregon District of the LWML to become? What is its potential and what part will you play in helping it to fulfill that potential? In other words, what is YOUR potential?

Well if you believe the words of Psalm 37: 5 - IT'S GREAT!



God acts through the lives of those who trust Him enough to go forward in His Name, no matter what the odds or obstacles. Think of the Prophets, or of the people who have been significant in the development of your spiritual life. They were all people just like you...people with potential. And as they committed themselves to the Lord and went forward trusting in His promises, God was faithful and unleashed their potential. He can and desires to do the same thing in your life and mine! What can you do? Oh, perhaps you cannot do everything, but you can do something. You can pray, you can listen, and you can step out in faith and allow Him to direct you into an area of ministry that He has equipped you for. And with His help, together we can make a huge positive impact in our local groups, our churches, our communities and the world. So, please, think about these things, pray about them and act on them. Commit your way to the Lord. Trust Him and let Him unleash your full potential to His glory and to the building up of His Kingdom.

In His service,

Pastor Ted



Sisters of the LWML,

Pastor Gehrke is celebrating 50 years of serving Christ our Lord. He has served as Pacific Zone counselor as well as District Pastoral Counselor. Feel free to drop a note or card to celebrate the Holy Spirit's work through Pastor Gehrke. 3230 LAVINA DR, FOREST GROVE, OR, 97116-1044.

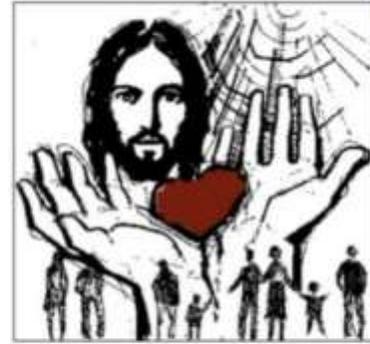
**SAVE THE DATE**

**JUNE 24–26, 2022**

**LWML Oregon District Convention**

**Macleay Conference & Retreat Center  
2887 74th Ave SE, Salem, OR 97317**

You are God's Masterpiece



*"For we are God's workmanship created in Christ Jesus to do good works"  
(Ephesians 2:10).*



Giving Thanks!

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever! (Psalm 106:1).*

Thanksgiving is next Thursday! We are so thankful to God for giving us His Son, so we can have eternal life, and we thank God for that gift every day. Let us also remember to thank those around us: our pastor, our church workers, and those who have helped and encouraged us. Show your appreciation by taking advantage of the different printables that LWML has available online for you to download. You can thank your pastor for his service using the [Pastor Appreciation Card](#). Use the [Thanksgiving bookmarks or notecards](#) and write a note of thanks on the back. Check out other [printables](#) throughout the year.

What a great opportunity to take time to give thanks to God and to each other! Happy Thanksgiving!

To be on the mailing list to receive Leader Development's Monthly

HUG-IN-A-MUG

Please contact:

Pat Reck

[pbmsreck@bendnet.com](mailto:pbmsreck@bendnet.com)



**Prayer Chain Email!**

[lwml.or.prayerchain@gmail.com](mailto:lwml.or.prayerchain@gmail.com)



**Oregon District:**

<http://www.lwmlor.org>

**LWML:**

<http://www.lwml.org/home>



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:

<https://www.facebook.com/LWMLOregonDistrict/>

Thank you, Nicole Knutson, VP Communications



## Zone News

### CALLING ALL LWML ZONE PRESIDENTS

#### Mission Servant Services event:

Zone Presidents please involve your Societies in making all women in Women's Shelters feel they are special and not forgotten.

All Societies please provide a container in your church and let your congregation know that their assistance is deeply needed in this project. By filling the container and dropping off at their nearest Women's Shelter they will let each woman know they are special and loved.

Items needed are:

All items need to be new and in sealed package.

Personal Hygiene products including tampons, pads, deodorant, combs, brushes, nail polish, nail files, nail clippers, socks, gloves, hair scrunchies, ethnic shampoo, shampoo, body wash, hand towel, bar soap, Portals of Prayer.

Baby diapers, pull ups, baby bottles, pacifiers, baby rattles.

Clothing items.

New or clean slightly used coats or heavy sweaters.

Items need to be dropped off at a Women's Shelter in your area by December 12, 2021. Please call them first so they can give you directions on their policy.

If you have questions, please contact: Joyce Twiss 503-891-4483 or Hana Laughton Cardona 971-703-8823 (Hana is studying to become deaconess; so proud of her.) There is such a need at the women's shelters that sometimes just a card to let someone know they are special and cared for means so much to them.

"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me." John 12:26

Thank you for your help. Take pictures to share.

Joyce Twiss/Mission Servant Services Chairman

## Mission Service Activity

### Sharing Jesus' Love



in Action — An Attitude of Gratitude!

We certainly can find many scripture references to confirm that our great God expects us all to have an "Attitude of Gratitude." For example: *Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus* (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God* (Philippians 4:6).

And, we know that God **encourages** us to share what He provides and to care for those less fortunate:

*Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world* (James 1:26-27).

#### God empowers our attitude with action for others ...

One way to prompt action is to organize your thanks-giving into categories such as personal, community, and global. SPECIAL NOTE: The ideas listed below apply to ALL generations — this is a wonderful way to help children learn to have an "attitude of gratitude"!

For personal blessings you might take action in these ways:

- ♦ Write thank-you notes to all the people who serve you in some way — doctors, teachers, supervisors, babysitters, you name it! Be specific about how they are a blessing to you. Include a Bible verse such as — *I thank my God every time I remember you* (Philippians 1:3). If possible, hand-deliver these.
- ♦ Share time with people who have blessed you, find ways to be a blessing to them. Take your parents to lunch, babysit for a neighbor who has mowed your lawn — the possibilities are endless!



## Oregon District Day Retreat "Thank You"

I would like to express my thanks and appreciation to the members of the Christian Life Committee for all the hard work they put into planning the Oregon District

LWML Day Retreat that was held at Living Savior Lutheran Church on Saturday, August 21, 2021.

We were blessed with 66 people in attendance and our ingathering activity produced 470 Blessing Bags. In addition to the bags, each Zone took home a big box filled with left-over items to distribute within their church and community.

### Christian Life Committee Members:

Gladys Green, Committee Chairperson  
Judy Chase  
Janis Arnsdorf  
Lynne Beck  
Janet Schultz  
Carolyn Nelson  
Pastor Ted and Pastor David  
President Carol

I will admit that the best part of the day for myself was when Pastor David led us in singing of "A Mighty Fortress is Our God." What a great version he played for us on his guitar and what a great way to end the day!!

Thank you for your continued support to the Christian Life Committee and its members.

Deb Weaver  
VP Christian Life



## Board of Directors (BOD) meeting held September 18 at Hope Lutheran in Woodburn



### Leaders Focus on Glorifying the Lord!

Dear LWML Leaders,

Confidence in Christian leadership is being grounded in the Word.

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves (Philippians 2:3).*

The key to biblical leadership lies in keeping our eyes on the goal. The goal is to honor and worship God by serving others. The only way we are going to be able to do that correctly is if we value people the way Jesus did.

The role of a leader is full of snares: self-glorification, posturing, greediness, empty ambition, etc. Consciously choosing to enhance others' God-given skills and abilities as we lead is the better way to give God the glory.

God's Blessings,



*Thanks be to God! We are HIS!*

We are:

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

## OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

**President**—Carol Reis

Email: [crlwmlor2020@outlook.com](mailto:crlwmlor2020@outlook.com)

**Vice President of Christian Life**—Debbie Weaver

Email: [boodsmom@centurytel.net](mailto:boodsmom@centurytel.net)

**Vice President of Gospel Outreach**—Elizabeth Bier

Email: [ebier@comcast.net](mailto:ebier@comcast.net)

**Vice President of Special Focus Ministries**—

Lindah Hagglund

Email: [lhachilenge@gmail.com](mailto:lhachilenge@gmail.com)

**Vice President of Servant Resources**—Donna Geisler

Email: [dbgeisler@msn.com](mailto:dbgeisler@msn.com)

**Vice President of Communication**—Nicole Knutson

Email: [tennisqn2000@gmail.com](mailto:tennisqn2000@gmail.com)

**Recording Secretary**—Char Kroemer

Email: [kroemer2@frontier.com](mailto:kroemer2@frontier.com)

**Financial Secretary**—Coleen Gurske

Email: [cngsixty@gmail.com](mailto:cngsixty@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**—Debra Schlueter

Email: [dachlu49@msn.com](mailto:dachlu49@msn.com)

**Pastoral Counselor-Senior**—Pastor Ted Will

Email: [twilljr@gmail.com](mailto:twilljr@gmail.com)

**Pastoral Counselor-Junior**—Pastor David LaFore



## 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**—Betsy Ablott

**Juniper Zone**—Pat Reck

**Mt. Hood Zone**—Eunice MacKenzie

**Myrtlewood Zone**—Joan Mahaffy

**Pacific Zone**—Coleen Gurske

**Southern Zone**—Carolyn Nelson

**West Hills Zone**—Debbie Vosseler

**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.



*"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."*

## Everyday Celebrations How Many Birthdays?

### In the Word

““Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you” (Isaiah 46:4a NIV).

### Of the Word

The cake was smothered in candles to accurately commemorate Grandma's milestone birthday. When the family gathered to sing, the youngest grandchild stared at the glowing cake and announced, “Wow! Grandma's birthday is getting dangerous!”

As the number of candles increases for each of us, it can be surprising. We question, “Who is that old person looking at me in the mirror?” We see the proof of passing time in photo albums and clothing sizes; yet our minds want to argue the facts.

The loving Father of all ages reassures us, *Even to your old age and gray hairs I am he, I am he who will sustain you* (Isaiah 46:4a NIV). Aging can bring concerns about good health and financial security. That is when we remember we have a merciful Redeemer who controls all of our days. God has promised to sustain us at all times and to carry us through all circumstances. He wants us to entrust our life to Him. We can live each day in joyful service and confident hope.

### Walking with My Lord

Lord of the Ages, let me be grateful for the blessings represented by each candle on my birthday cake. Help me be ever faithful to You in the coming year. In Jesus' name. Amen.

