



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

# Oregon Leaguer

Winter 2022

## UNFINISHED



This slogan was very popular as I grew up. Do any of you remember it? Have you ever wondered why life is still tough even when you have decided to follow Jesus and walk in His ways? Why do you still commit the same sins over and over? Or why aren't all your relationships working well? I could go on and on.

Why, then? Because you are God's workmanship [handiwork, craft, artwork] – you are God's “project” – and you are a work in progress. God still has a lot to do in you. You are like a special project of a great sculpture, being formed and sculpted from a piece of rock into

the likeness and image of Jesus Christ.



That is why it sometimes hurts – imagine you being the stone, and the sculptor is constantly chipping here and there with his mallet and chisel. It is not going to be an easy task and it will take a lifetime to finish, but God is building a beautiful masterpiece in you!

Fully trust your life to the Great Sculptor. He knows what He is doing in you even if at times you do not understand and it is painful. Change in us starts from the heart and mind. *But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.* [Romans 13:14 ESV]. We are in constant process of transformation from our old self to the new creation in Christ.

You need to be patient with yourself as God is patient with you. If you fall, stand up again and learn from the mistakes of the past. It is like a lifetime of moving some steps forward, but at times we step back. We are slowly being transformed from one degree of glory to another – see 2 Corinthians 3:18. Learn Kingdom character and behavior through the Word of God. God is at work transforming your character from the flesh to the Spirit, from the old to the new. The Bible is your guide towards what God is doing in you – transforming you to be more loving, kind, patient, gentle, forgiving, etc. - in other words, to be like Jesus Himself. See Galatians 5:19-23.

God is at work in you for a lifetime. Life will throw odd balls at you at times; will you respond as Jesus would? Life's challenges are there so Jesus can be visible in you. Will others see Jesus in you?

What areas in your life is God working on in you at the moment? How patient are you with yourself?

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”  
- Ephesians 2:10 ESV*

Adapted from Living Bulwark website; The Sword of the Spirit; Tom Caballes 2015

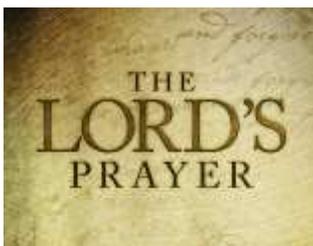
Carol Reis  
Oregon District President

### Table of Contents

President's Message .....	1
Christian Life .....	2
Nominating Committee .....	2
Senior Pastoral Counselor .....	3
Mites .....	3
Christian Life .....	4
Happy New Year .....	4
OR District Convention .....	5
Nominating Committee Prayer .....	5
Lucy Leader .....	6
Bible Study .....	6
Heart to Heart Sisters .....	6
Zine News .....	7
Officer Contact Information .....	8
LWML Mission Statement .....	8
Zone Presidents .....	8
Mustard Seed Daily Devotion .....	8

## “The Lord’s Prayer”

One of the gifts our Father has given us is the ability—actually the command—to pray. In prayer we develop our relationship with our Creator and Redeemer. Prayer is an act of worship where we praise and glorify God. We thank Him for what He has done and we bring our requests for ourselves and for others. It is not that we are informing Him of anything. He already knows our needs, but prayer is an act of faith that He will answer according to His will. The most common prayer is the Lord’s Prayer. The following reflection is a devotion by an unknown author.



### You and the Lord’s Prayer

I cannot say OUR if my religion has no room for others and their needs.

I cannot say FATHER if I do not demonstrate this relationship in my daily living.

I cannot say WHO ARE IN

HEAVEN if all my interests and pursuits are earthly things. I cannot say HALLOWED BE THY NAME if I, called by His name, am not holy.

I cannot say THY KINGDOM COME if I am unwilling to give up my own sovereignty and accept the righteous reign of God.

I cannot say THY WILL BE DONE if I am unwilling or resentful of having it in my life.

I cannot say ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN unless I am truly ready to give myself to His service here and now.

I cannot say GIVE US THIS DAY OUR DAILY BREAD without expending honest effort for it or by ignoring the genuine needs of my fellowmen.

I cannot say FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US if I continue to harbor a grudge against anyone. I cannot say DELIVER US FROM EVIL if I am not prepared to fight in the spiritual realm with the weapon of prayer.

I cannot say THINE IS THE KINGDOM if I do not give the King the disciplined obedience of a loyal subject.

I cannot say THINE IS THE POWER if I fear what my neighbors and friends may say or do.

I cannot say THINE IS THE GLORY if I am seeking my own glory first.

I cannot say FOREVER if I am too anxious about each day’s affairs.

TO THINK AND PRAY ABOUT: I cannot say AMEN unless I honestly say, “Come what may, this is my prayer.”

For resources on prayer check out the LWML website: <http://www.lwml.org/posts/category/prayer>. Here you will find devotions, Bible studies, Litanies, Responsive Readings and more. (Even a craft project.)

*The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:5-7*

Christian Life Committee  
Judy Chase



YOU are the Heart of LWML

### Our Treasure

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21)*  
... is Christ; our heart is with Him and is shown in service to others through the LWML.

*“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.”*

As Lutheran Women of the LWML Oregon District, we serve our Lord in a variety of ways. Today, we are asking how can you serve the Oregon District? The Nominating Committee is asking you to consider serving at the district level in saying, “Yes” to serving in one of the following positions: Vice President of Communications, Vice President of Christian Life, Vice President of Gospel Outreach, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Nominating Committee Member (3).

You are needed to engage in mission education, mission inspiration, mission service, and mission support. You will be mentored, you will have many resources, you will be surrounded by the LWML Oregon District, and continually lifted in prayer. Please contact one of the Nominating Committee Members listed below.

We are the Heart of the LWML because we are HIS:

Held by His Word; Inspired to share His Gospel; and Surrounded by His grace

*The LWML Oregon District Nominating Committee*

Carmen Nagel, [cknorlwml@aol.com](mailto:cknorlwml@aol.com)

Mae Smith, [maes7010@gmail.com](mailto:maes7010@gmail.com)

Kay Godfrey, [kaysck69@gmail.com](mailto:kaysck69@gmail.com)

## O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is...

Lutheran Service Book 372

*“Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”  
Luke 2:14 (ESV)*

Wednesday December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2 days before Christmas Eve, I was staying in my friend’s vacated apartment in Lynden Washington. For those of you who don’t have a map handy, Lynden is about 15 minutes from the Canadian border, and about 6 or 7 hours from Mt. Angel and my church. Why was I so far north so close to Christmas? I had the honor of being the pastor (and the best man) at a good friend’s wedding. He serves overseas in the US Army and therefore his window of opportunity for a wedding back at home was short. I was happy to be there for him and it was a wonderful day.

However, in the post reception calm, I found myself swimming against a rising tide of anxiety. *“My Christmas Eve poem isn’t done yet” “I haven’t practiced my trumpet in weeks!” “I know I must be missing something for these upcoming services!”* As I laid down to sleep on my friend’s couch, with his cat keeping me company, I turned to my phone as is often my habit in times of stress (a habit of questionable worth, but just being honest). YouTube recommended the hymn *“O Jesus Christ Thy Manger Is”* and I figured *“why not.”* As my head hit the pillow the first words came through and struck me. *“O Jesus Christ, Thy manger is my paradise at which my soul reclineth.”*



What sweet words! Immediately my spirit felt relieved. The Christmas season is not a season of stress. My anxiety and rushing add nothing to it. Instead, it is a season to focus us on God’s good gifts, namely His Son. The hymn continues in another verse *“He whom the sea and wind obey doth come to serve the sinner in great meekness.”* The focus is on Christ and His service for us. What type of man serves us? The one whose voice beckons the wind and the sea. This is not a man who will fail at His purpose. We are weak, but He is strong, so rest in him! Finally, the last verse in this particular rendition (though only the 4<sup>th</sup> verse in our hymnal) drove home the point for me. *Thou Christian Heart, Where’er thou art, be of good cheer and let no sorrow move thee! For God’s own Child, in mercy mild, joins thee to Him; how greatly God must love thee!*



*“How greatly God must love thee!”* What a sentiment to lift one’s heart. What are my burden’s compared to the freedom of God’s love? This is not to say that my responsibilities went away, or that anxiety and stress were never to make an appearance again this Christmas season, but now there was a different attitude. Instead of the ruling theme of my thoughts being *“what if I fail”* the theme was *“how loved I am.”* Furthermore, what can separate me from that love? God shows us this Christmas love before we had been made righteous, while we were *“still enemies”* (Roman’s 5:10). Will that love falter when I do? Will that love not stick if the worship service isn’t *“just right?”* By no means! God loves you and loves me, and this child we worship is proof positive of that. In God’s good will that child comes to bring you and me peace. So let us rest at the foot of that manger!

Pastor David LaFore, Trinity Lutheran Church, Mt. Angel

As a side note, the hymn *“O Jesus Christ, Thy Manger Is”* is an oldie in our Lutheran Tradition. Written by accomplished hymn composer Paul Gerhardt in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and translated into English for *The Lutheran Hymnal* in 1941, it has lightened the hearts of many Christians for many centuries. Take a listen yourself if you get the chance!



\$1,567.38 was raised on Saturday, February 5th at the EC and BoD meeting. Totally amazing!

I have made two additional deposits and now we are at \$10,194.17 needed by the end of March 31st to meet our commitment. If you could please mail in your Mites by March 28th, it would be appreciated.

Thank you,  
Coleen Gurske  
Financial Secretary

## A Rainbow in Winter

On a winter snowy day, the sun came through just at the right angle and caused a rainbow. All the colors played in my mind. I wonder if the colors of the rainbow are in the Bible.

**Red:** *For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last he will stand upon the earth. Job 19:25*  
*“Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. Isaiah 1:18*

**Orange:** (Jesus speaking) *These Scriptures are all about me! And here I am, standing right before you, and aren't (orange) you willing to receive from me the life you say you want. John 5:40, The Message, parenthesis, mine.*

**Yellow:** *The sun (yellow) shall be no more your light by day, nor for brightness shall the moon give you light; but the LORD will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Isaiah 60:19*

**Green:** *He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. Psalm 23:2*

**Blue:** *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD as the waters (blue) cover the sea (blue). Habakkuk 2:14*  
*The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky (blue) above proclaims his handiwork. Psalm 19:1*

**Purple:** *But you are a chosen race, a royal (purple) priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 1Peter 2:9*

God gave Noah the rainbow as a covenant, a promise. Being creative helped me to find all the colors of this rainbow of truths. Search for hope and true promises from the true and living God to be encouraged. Let God's light shine through the storms of your life and see His rainbow,

Janis Arnsdorf  
Christian Life Committee



## A Blessed New Year to All

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Board of Directors wishes each of our readers a blessed New Year. Through our Savior, we are offered a new beginning each and every day — an opportunity to serve and glorify our Lord. May you find new hope in each moment you are given, to bring you a clear understanding of His truth and to share it with all people.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (1 Peter 1:3).*

God's blessings to you through this New Year!

LWML President Debbie Larson  
and the Board of Directors



*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**—Joyce Twiss/Gladys Green

**Juniper Zone**—Pat Reck

**Mt. Hood Zone**—Connie Adams (Pro Tem)

**Myrtlewood Zone**—Joan Mahaffey

**Pacific Zone**—Coleen Gurske

**Southern Zone**—Janis Arnsdorf

**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."*

## Faith Is . . .

### Trusting Our Heavenly Father

*"I will be a Father to you, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:18).*

### Of the Word

A group of naturalists searching in the Alps for rare specimens of flowers discovered a beautiful flower on a rock ledge they could not reach. Calling to a nearby shepherd boy, they offered him several shiny coins if he would allow himself to be let down by a rope to secure the flower.

The boy very much wanted to earn the money. He looked at the strangers, and he looked at the precipice. He declined their offer, but they continued to plead with him. Then the boy had a bright idea. "Wait here until I come back," he said, and he darted away to a mountain cabin. Soon the lad returned with another man. The lad said, "I will get the flower for you now if you will let my father hold the rope."

We can safely go anywhere if our Heavenly Father holds the rope. Faith is trusting the strong arms of our faithful God. He will never let loose. His love will not allow it. He holds fast! God's promise is *I will never leave you nor forsake you* ([Joshua 1:5b](#)).

### Walking with My Lord

Thank You dear Father in heaven for Your love and faithfulness so that I can trust You for everything in my life. In Jesus' name. Amen.



\*\*\*New Location\*\*\*

You are God's Masterpiece

# SAVE THE DATE

## JUNE 24-26, 2022

### LWML Oregon District Convention

St. John Lutheran Church  
2142 NE McDonald Ln.  
McMinnville, OR 97128



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



The Nominating Committee is again asking you to join us in prayer for names to be placed on our hearts & minds of those willing to serve in various OR District LWML offices. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else, please contact Carmen Nagel, [cknorlwml@aol.com](mailto:cknorlwml@aol.com); Mae Smith, [maes7010@gmail.com](mailto:maes7010@gmail.com); Kay Godfrey, [kaysck69@gmail.com](mailto:kaysck69@gmail.com).

**Your kingdom come, Dear Lord, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. We place before you our need for women to serve in various positions for our Oregon District LWML. We seek to Serve with Joy as we support sharing Your grace & mercy in the various ministries of our home congregations, zones & district. May Your Holy Spirit guide & direct all of us as we consider how we may best serve You here in Oregon. May Your Word & Sacraments be our continual source of hope & strength. May God be gracious & bless us in the name of Jesus. Amen**

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

### Leaders are Prepared

#### Leadership Tips

Dear LWML Leaders,

Confidence in Christian leadership is being grounded in the Word.

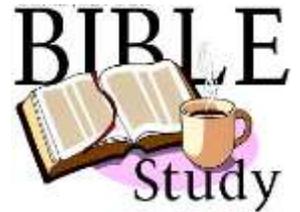
*Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 1:13).*

Leading a meeting sometimes feels like a daunting task, but there are directions to be found in God's Word.

As the meeting approaches, prepare your mind for action with prayer. Ask the Lord to lead you to what tasks are needed and to help others working with you to seek His guidance as well. Then be sober-minded, or disciplined, as arrangements are made and details handled. If you are prepared, you will lead with confidence. Give clear and concise directions and be available to answer questions if necessary. Finally, pray again. Pray for all participants — both those leading and those listening — that all may receive what God intends for them through this meeting.

When the meeting day arrives, set your hope fully on God's grace. Be confident that God will work through all those present to further His plan. Greet everyone with a smile and do your best.

God's got this!  
God's Blessings.



### For Such a Time as This

Esther went from an orphan to a queen. Joseph went from a slave to being second only to the King in all the land of Egypt. They both had ups and downs in their lives. This is typical of most of our lives as well. God has a plan for each of us, which eventually unfolds in His time and manner. His plans and purposes surface at exactly the right time.

Esther and Joseph were just two of many Biblical characters who had things happen in their earlier lives that prepared them for the special purpose God had planned for them. This Bible study looks at Esther's story, Joseph's story, and then offers the opportunity to reflect our own personal stories and consider how events in our lives have prepared us for the plan and purpose God has for our lives.

This three part Bible study with an optional retreat planning guide was written by Miriam Neumann. It looks at Esther's Story, Joseph's Story and then at our story. A leader's guide is included as well as a bonus coloring page.

[Download your free copy at www.lwml.org/posts/long-bible-study-for-such-a-time-as-this](http://www.lwml.org/posts/long-bible-study-for-such-a-time-as-this) today.



### The purpose of the Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations is to:

Motivate, equip, and ensure opportunities for women to serve others, participate in LWML, and grow in relationships as sisters in Christ.

Facilitate the Heart to Heart program.

The LWML recognizes there are gifted multicultural women serving with joy and passion in many multicultural ministries throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

We are committed to assisting LWML Districts in establishing Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations programs so multicultural women may mutually encourage one another, support each other, and work together, living out the beautiful diversity that is the body of Christ.

## Spring Leaguer Deadline

— March 15, 2022 —

**Publication Date—April 15, 2022**

PLEASE Send articles ***IN WORD FORMAT***  
& photos to:

**Carole Pletz: lwml.or.leaguer@gmail.com**



The LWML Oregon District Southern Zone rally was held Saturday, October 9 at St. Peter Lutheran Church in Medford.



Women in St. Paul's Ladies Guild, November, 2021. St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar for Missions is held annually to raise money for missions.



Women of Grace at Grace Lutheran Church, Ashland. In December, 2021 assembled gift bags with toiletry gift boxes, Moose Munch (a local treat similar to Cracker Jacks, only way better), a good book, and a package of something fun to eat. Some of the bags were for women and some were for kids. They were delivered to the Medford Gospel Mission Womens Shelter and to Dunn House, a home for abused women and their children. The Women of Grace wanted the women to know that they were remembered and loved at Christmas time.

