

Oregon District President Carol Reis



New Year, New You?

I realize that we are ten months into the “new” year, but since most of us are Returning after taking some time off during the summer season; I thought it might be a good time to look at the resolutions we might have made at the beginning of the year.

Have you made any New Year’s (or middle of the year) resolutions?

- Have you resolved to exercise more?
- Eat more healthy food?
- Adjust your behavior or attitude?
- Spend less (or give more)?
- Get better organized?

Resolutions are a challenge and an inspiration for those who thrive on meeting goals. For others, they become another failure to live down, or another frustrated goal not met.

Table of Contents

President’s Message .....	1
President’s Message (cont.) .....	2
President’s Message (cont.) .....	3
Welcome Senior Pastoral Counselor ...	4
Junior Pastoral Counselor .....	5
Christian Life.....	6-7
The Israelite & God’s Provisions .....	8-9
Zone Fall Gatherings.....	10
Juniper Fall Happenings .....	11-12
Nominating Committee News .....	13
2024 District Convention News .....	14
National Convention Photos .....	15-21
Convention by the numbers .....	22
Where to find things.....	23
District Fall Retreat Photos .....	24
Officer Contact Information.....	25

Whether you are working on one or more resolutions or you have resolved to not make resolutions anymore, God’s Word has some encouragement for you!

*For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind (Isaiah 65:17).*

*I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses. And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you (Ezekiel 36:25a, 26a).*

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come (2 Corinthians 5:17).*

## President's message continued

Here are some Biblical references to assist and inspire you to keep up with your resolutions, whenever you make them.

### **STRETCH:**

*O Lord my God, you are very great! You are clothed with splendor and majesty, covering yourself with light as with a garment, stretching out the heavens like a tent (Psalm 104:1b–2).*

### **WALK:**

*Whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked. (1 John 2:6).*

### **RUN:**

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us (Hebrews 12:1).*

### **WEIGHTS:**

*Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ (Galatians 6:2).*

### **RELAY:**

*Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:13–14).*

### **DEEP KNEE BENDS:**

*So that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth (Philippians 2:10).*

### **COOL-DOWN:**

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (Matthew 11:28).*

*But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31).*

### **POTENTIAL:**

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me. (Philippians 4:13).*

God's Word is always trustworthy, and in it He tells us that He loves us unconditionally. He has made us new, so that we are in Christ, re-created to be His holy children. I encourage you to search the Bible for more of this wonderful truth; let it settle deeply into your heart and soul, and then help others to hear and know all that He has done for you and all the world.

## President's message continued

*Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to the Father through him (Colossians 3:16–17).*

Paraphrasing Colossians 3:16–17 for the prayer:

Dear Lord, let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly so we can teach and admonish each other in all wisdom. Put thankfulness in our hearts so that whatever we do, we do it in the name of our Lord Jesus. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Bible verses are taken from the ESV translation unless otherwise noted.

Adapted from a devotion found on lwml.org

New Year, New You? by Linda Koch, San Diego, California

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lwml.org

Blessings on each of you as we walk together as God's daughters!

## ***Leaguer Schedule***

**Winter, 2023**

**Submissions Due: December 1, 2023**

**Publication Date: January 1, 2024**

Send items and photos to:

Deb Weaver, Editor  
[debeweaver@gmail.com](mailto:debeweaver@gmail.com)



## Welcome our new Senior Pastoral Counselor Pastor Brian Larson!



I have served as St. John's, Vancouver, pastor since 2015. Our family moved here from Ohio (we lived in Arizona before that). This is the third congregation I have served since 2003, when I completed my ministry training with Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri. I grew up in a small town, an hour west of St. Louis (no wonder I am an avid Cardinals baseball fan!).

My parents retired, after dad served for 30 years as a Lutheran pastor and mom supported our family and her community with several different jobs. My mom now lives with Jesus and my dad lives with my sister's family in Nebraska. Jesus called my sister to serve as a music teacher in a Lutheran high school, and her husband to serve as a pastor of a vibrant, rural Lutheran church in Nebraska. Our parents and a great church family provided wonderful examples that contributed to both of us becoming church workers.

My wife, Sarah, also grew up as a pastor's kid, living several places on the west coast. Her parents live here in Vancouver and we are glad to be this close. Sarah and I met in St. Louis where we studied together at Concordia Seminary. She earned a Masters in Theology, and what she has learned about God drives her devotion to our kids, her friends, and her work as a highly capable administrative professional for Thrivent Financial.

Our family spent seven years as licensed foster care providers. We aren't a perfect family, but I believe that God does amazing work in the home (even when we are not completely put together). It's a great setting to lean into His Word, express His forgiveness, experience His grace, and grow in our faith. We are no longer a fostering family, and we are finding new ways to walk along with Jesus in the mission field of our daily lives.

God called us to this community that He loves and we continue to learn how to move with Him in our little niches here – whether with our church, at our schools, ball fields, or neighborhood. We get to be a small part of Jesus' big job of redeeming people, restoring lives, and reconciling people to His Father.

I am amazed that Jesus lets me work with Him to serve His Church. I love preaching, teaching, and caring for people because it gives me the opportunity to put the focus on Jesus. I love helping people discover the reconciliation Jesus gives us with the Father. I love helping people understand that Jesus' Easter resurrection gives us hope for a future with no more dysfunction, disease, or death. The future with Jesus is so good! It makes a big difference to live in light of His presence now and the hope of the future He has earned for us.

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).*

## Settling In – Psalm 65

It's October. The days are going shorter, the harvests are in or coming in shortly. Here on the coast preparations for the rainy season fill the day — getting the firewood in, cleaning the gutters, etc. In the midst of these preparations, I invite you to turn to Psalm 65 with me as we reflect on the season.

Historically Psalm 65 was read on the first Sunday of the liturgical new year, the “crown of the season” (see Psalm 65:11). In our current lectionary it is read twice in series A, in proper 10 during the season of Pentecost and then again for the Harvest Observance in all three series. James Mays summarizes, “Psalm 65 is a song of joyful praise. From the beginning to end, it does not cease its grateful recital of God’s works and their benefits” (219).

The congregation along with the psalmist enter God’s presence in his temple. *Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion... you who hear prayer* (Psalm 65:1, 2). Thanksgiving begins with a recognition of whose we are and to whom we give thanks. As we enter *the holiness of your temple* (Psalm 65: 4) we confess our sin and receive atonement. St. John writes, *the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin* (1 John 1:7). We “settle in” to the change of season confident and *blessed...to dwell in your courts* (Psalm 65:4). Stanza one: God in his temple.

From the steps of the temple the psalmist looks out with a cosmic view asking, just who is this God who forgives and elects? He sees a God of *awesome deeds* (Psalm 65:5), *who by his strength established the mountains* (Psalm 65:6), and *stills the roaring of the seas* (Psalm 65:7). Our Savior is also our Creator.

Indeed the signs of his power in creation are the assurance of his power to save. We “settle in” as *those who dwell at the ends of the earth...in awe at your signs* (Psalm 65:8). Stanza two: God of the world.

From the cosmos to the ground, the psalmist’s gaze takes in the fields and vineyards that surround Jerusalem asking, who is this that cares for even the least of creation? Central to the experience of the psalmist, to all who live in an arid land, water is a blessing of God. *You visit the earth and water it: you greatly enrich it...* (Psalm 65:9). Dry ground yields to the plow reluctantly turning up clods in irregular furrows but God *settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth* (Psalm 65:10). It is God who produces the harvest, his *wagon tracks overflow with abundance* (Psalm 65:11). And then the final paeon of praise, a picture of all creation girded with joy, the splendor of our fall colors lights up our eyes with joy as we “settle in” at the changing of the season. Stanza three: God of the earth.

Settle in. No matter what the change of season or circumstance that faces you in the coming days know that God is in His temple. He continues to hold all of creation in His hand. And He will bless you with His bounty. Amen.

Pastor J. Wesley Beck

## Keeping Our Focus Morning, Noon, and Night



The fog begins to disperse as the sun comes up over the hills. The sun lifts its head bringing the new day from twilight to morning. God's day opens possibilities for us. *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness* (Lamentations 3:22–23). Each morning we awake by God's grace. His love for us helps us in all we do; listen to Him *In Him (Christ) was life, and the life was the light of men* (John 1:4). The light, our faith through baptism and hearing the Lord's Word leads and guides us.

Send O Lord your Holy Spirit  
On your Servant now we pray;  
Let him prove a faithful shepherd  
that no lambs be led astray,  
Your pure teaching to proclaim,  
to extol your holy name,  
and to feed your lambs, dear Savior,  
make his aim and sole endeavor  
(*Lutheran Service Book* 681.1)

As the day lengthens, the sun rises higher giving us distinguishing details of our surroundings. Our scene broadens, our focus adjusts. We study God's word, and pray that we are able to focus on God's will for our life. *For the Law was given by Moses; grace and truth came in Jesus Christ* (John 4:17). We ask ourselves: "do I turn right or left?" We make our choice keeping God's word as part of our decision making process. If the choices are similar pray and make a choice. Then rely on God's promise to be with you always. Remember Joseph from the Old Testament? He was sold to traders. But Joseph maintained his faithfulness and the Lord blessed Him. Was his road smooth? No, Joseph met challenges along the way. Your choice may meet challenges too. But the Lord will be with you, comforting you. *Again, Jesus spoke to them, saying "I am the light of the world, whoever follows me will not walk in darkness. But will have the light of life"* (John 8:12).

You, O Lord, Yourself have called him  
For your precious lambs to care;  
But to prosper in his calling,  
He the Spirit's gifts must share,  
Give him wisdom from above,  
Fill His heart with Holy love,  
In his weakness, Lord be near him,  
In his prayers, Good Shepherd hear him.  
(*Lutheran Service Book* 681.2)



# Christian Life

## Keeping Our Focus Morning, Noon, and Night continued

As our day comes to a close and the sun begins to set brilliant fiery colors streak across the sky. Our eyes lift to the heavens -- our hope ... *and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him, You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you* (John 14:16–17).



Help, Lord Jesus, help him nourish  
All our children with your Word.  
That in fervent love they serve You  
Till in heaven their song is heard,  
Boundless blessings Lord,  
bestow On his faithful toil below  
Till by grace to him be given  
His reward the crown of heaven.  
(*Lutheran Service Book* 681.3)

Lynne Beck, Vice President, Christian Life

## The Israelite and God's Provisions

Most of you know that I moved to Junction City, Oregon about six months ago. We left our home of 23 years in Scappoose, Oregon to be closer to my in-laws in Eugene and to help with the care they are now requiring at this stage in their lives. I would say that I turned into an Israelite about two weeks after we settled into our new home.

If you have ever read the book of Exodus, you will see how God's people grumbled and complained as they wandered in the wilderness. No matter what provisions God gave to them they would moan and groan about how bad their lives were. Manna would fall from heaven and they would complain. Water was provided and they complained. Moses heard nothing promising from these people. They turned on God and always wanted more. Sound familiar?

That is who I became after living in my new home for about two weeks. I did nothing but complain. I complained about the town, I complained about my brand-new home, I complained that I had no friends, I complained about not knowing how to get to places, and the list just grew and grew. I am not sure how my husband Rich tolerated it. A very positive person had suddenly turned into a whiner and sniveler. I hated everything, every day. God's provisions were terrible and I found myself traveling through the wilderness day after day, just like the Israelites. I was mad at God and He knew it!

It took a trip back to Scappoose just a few weeks ago to turn things around for me. We were headed back home in my mind. I could not wait to see my friends, hang out with the people I knew and loved and just be "home" for a while. Maybe I would get lucky and we would decide to move back home. That would be just fine with me. No more Junction City, no more in-laws to care for, and no more wilderness to traverse through.

After two days in town, I asked my husband if we could go home. This was the first time since our move that I referred to our new place as home. I am not sure what caused this change in my attitude. Something had shifted.

I guess when you hear the saying "you can never go home again" there might be some truth to that. The places all seemed the same, the people we spent time with all seemed the same, but something had changed. I had changed.

I realized that I was looking at the places and the people as if I were a visitor. And that was indeed what I was, a visitor. I had a new home, a new town, new church, and new responsibilities. I no longer lived in Scappoose.



## The Israelite and God's Provisions continued

God did not stop giving me the provisions that I needed in a new place. I had stopped seeing them. I was too busy complaining to see what God was now providing for me.

I am still not sure about this new town or my new home. I am sure that God's provisions for me are bountiful and way beyond what I deserve. He is here. And I am confident that He has a plan for where He has now placed me. I am home.

*And the Lord said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the people of Israel. Say to them 'At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall be filled with bread. Then you shall know that I am the Lord your God.'"* (Exodus 16:11–12).

Deb Weaver

*Leaguer Editor*



# Fall Zone Gathering Information

Here is the information on the Fall Zone Gatherings.



Juniper Zone	October 6–8, 2023	Char Kolzow's Cabin Crescent Creek, OR
Interstate Zone	October 7, 2023`	Grace Lutheran Church, Vancouver, WA 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
West Hills Zone	October 7, 2023	Grace Lutheran Church, Scappoose, OR 9 a.m.—1 p.m.
Southern Zone	October 7, 2023	St. Peter Lutheran Church, Medford, OR 11 a.m.—1:30 p.m.
Mt. Hood Zone	October 14, 2023	Trinity Lutheran, Oregon City, OR 9 a.m.—1 p.m.
Pacific Zone	October 21, 2023	St. John, McMinnville, OR 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
Willamette Zone	October 21, 2023	Bethlehem, Lebanon, OR 9:30 a.m.—2 p.m.
Myrtlewood Zone	October 28, 2023	St. Johns, Sutherlin, OR 10 a.m.—3 p.m.
Emerald Zone	No Fall Gathering scheduled	

## Juniper Fall Happenings

Trinity, Bend, women have been meeting the third Saturdays of each month this spring/summer with well over 12-14 ladies attending, often sharing salad lunches. They raised money for three mission projects at their annual Pie-by-the-Slice Sunday.

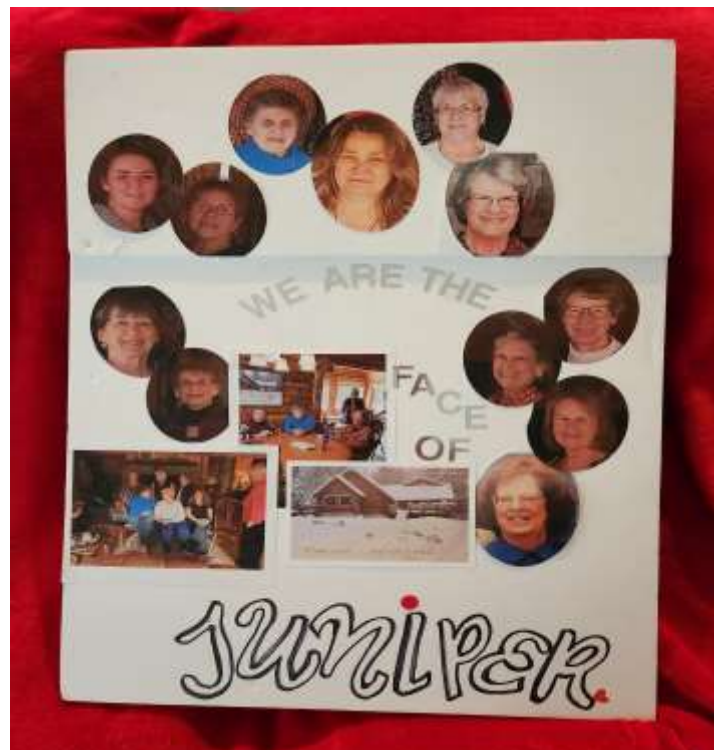
A very capable slate of officers worked on updating Junipers' outdated Zone By Laws, now in the hands of District Structure Committee. That is a huge relief to us all.

The annual **FALL JUNIPER ZONE Gathering will be held OctOber, 6-8** at the "famed" KOLZOW KABIN ON CRES-CENT CREEK! The family lodge sleeps 30+ women, and rumor has it there will be two babies in attendance; that will be a great draw. The capable LaPine "Kitchen Queens" are planning the meals again this year. Many come for one or all days by the carloads.

Theme of the gathering *is* "**A Study on The Psalms,**" and returning this year is Heather Stueve, Trinity's Director of Christian Life & Family Connections, to lead the group with her strong knowledge and Lutheran heritage! (She is renown Dr. Ray Halms' daughter, Concordia University, Irvine, California).

Submitted by: Pat Reck, Trinity Lutheran

See the following color photos of "our gang!"



## Juniper Zone Fall Happenings continued

Faith LaPine Gals



## Nominating Committee News

*Serve the LORD with gladness!* (Psalm 100:2). The LWML Motto says volumes. We serve. We serve our Lord. We serve joyfully. Similarly, the LWML Mission Statement, *As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others*, states clearly who we are and what we do.

Your 2022–2024 Nominating Committee has been hard at work. Here is a photo from their September committee meeting which was held at Priscilla Greig's home in beautiful Lincoln City, Oregon.

Doesn't it look like serving in the LWML Oregon District is a lot of fun?



Your Nominating Committee is looking for servants — willing Lutheran Women in Mission who will say, “Here am I,” and consider serving on the district board. Is that servant YOU? Your friend? Someone in your LWML Group or Zone? Pray about the possibilities God is giving to *serve Him with gladness!*

For more information, contact one of the Nominating Committee members:

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Priscilla Greig, [pvgreig@gmail.com](mailto:pvgreig@gmail.com)



# Exciting News!!!

**2024 The LWML Oregon District Convention will  
be June 21-22, 2024.**

**The Convention will be held at Living Savior Lutheran  
Church, Tualatin, Oregon**



**Mark 16:15**

*And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim  
the gospel to the whole creation (Mark 16:15)."*



# Lutheran Women's Missionary League 40th Biennial Convention, Milwaukee, WI

June 22—24, 2023

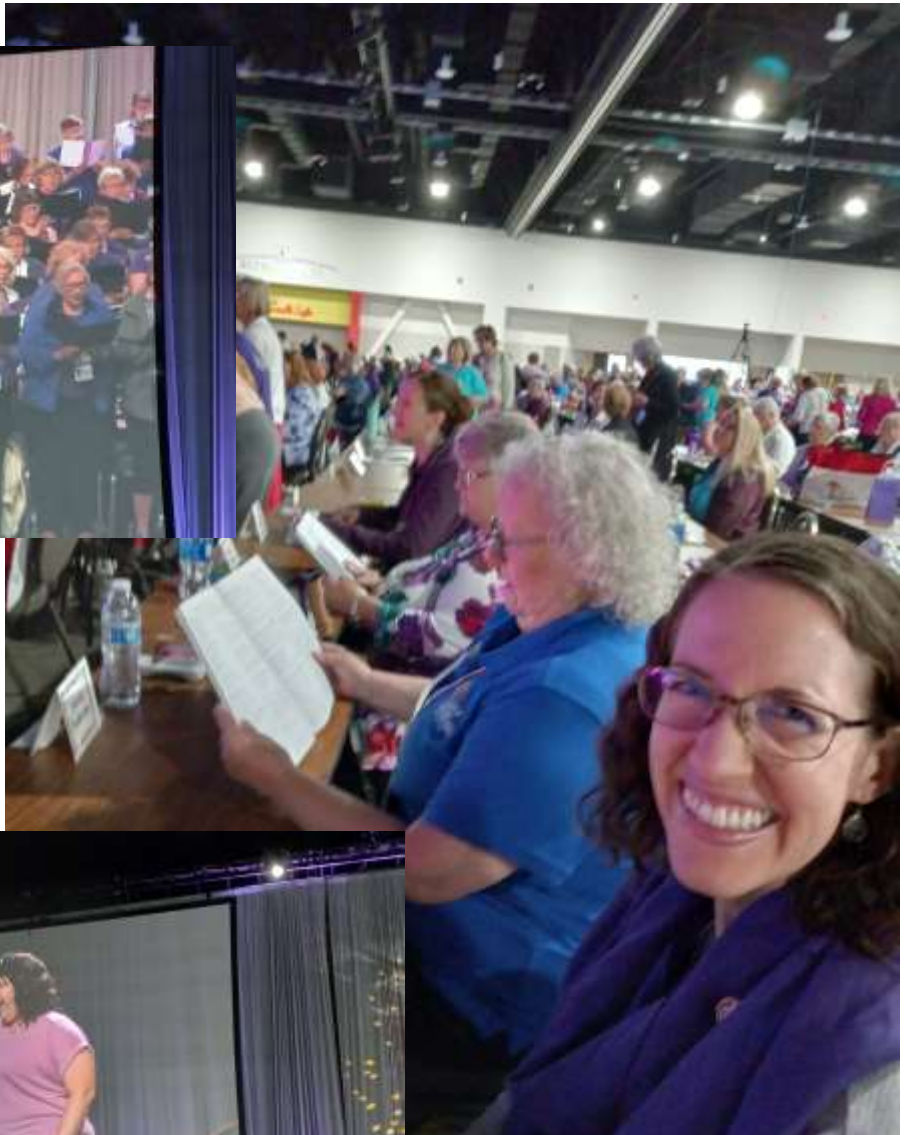
"Celebrate the Lord of the Nations," Psalm 33:12-13



















Newly elected President: Eden Keefe



Invitation to the 2025 Convention



## Convention by the Numbers (“Celebration Chronicles,” convention newspaper)

375 Host Committee Volunteers

4,000 expected to attend opening worship

60 volunteers helping with worship

309 singers in the choir

30 sets of communion ware

555 pounds of clay used to make communion ware

15 gallons of wine for Common cup

2,500 individual Communion cups

1,200 servant event participants

79 units of blood donated to American Red Cross

566 backpack school kits assembled for Orphan Grain Train

162 fleece blankets made for Phil’s Friends and a Place of Refuge

1,167 Braille books and calendars assembled for Lutheran Braille Workers

50,000+ meals packed for Orphan Grain Train

4,751 witness bracelets made for MOST Ministries

443 cards of encouragement written for Refuge for Women

254 cards and bookmarks of encouragement written for mission workers and military

457 cards of hope for Phil’s friends

3 people riding bicycles to convention

14 LWML District charter motorcoaches

775 people who attended the morning Bible studies

1,400+ hotel rooms booked

49 states or districts attending convention

3 Bible studies available each morning

3,439 people using the Whova App

Countless people wearing purple

125 golfers in Tee Up 4 Mites (31 women golfers)

\$35,000 raised for the LWML Mission Goal

\$100,000+ total impact since 2011

### MISSION GRANTS

83 Mission Grant countries

**\$2,350,000.00**

NEW! 2023-2025 LWML Mission Goal

**\$28.9 million**

80-year national mission grant impact

**Priceless**

Standing hand-in-hand with sisters in Christ singing the Doxology

## 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, Nicole Knutson, VP Communication



**LWML Oregon District website:**

***lwmlor.org***

**LWML National website:**

***lwml.org/home***

**View the Leader Development's Monthly**

**HUG-IN-A-MUG**

*lwmlor.org/servant-resources*



Fall retreat photos... just a couple of “teasers.” (More photos will be placed in the Winter *Leaguer* and on the district website.)

A lovely group of ladies!



Past district presidents: (L to R) Joan Mahaffy, Char Kroemer, Priscilla Greig, Carolyn Stucky, Carmen Nagel and current president Carol Reis.





## OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Email: [jwesleybeck27@gmail.com](mailto:jwesleybeck27@gmail.com)



## 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**—Pat Reck

**Mt. Hood Zone**—Connie Adams

**Myrtlewood Zone**—Joan Mahaffy

**Pacific Zone**—Nicole Knutson

**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](mailto: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