



"Serve the Lord with gladness." Psalm 100:2

Oregon Leaguer

Spring 2023



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME?

Therefore I tell you,
do not worry about your life,

what you will eat or drink;
or about your body, what you will wear.
Is not life more than food, & the body more than clothes?

Look at the birds of the air;
they do not sow or reap or store away in barns,
& yet your heavenly Father feeds them.
Are you not much more valuable than they?

**Can any one of you by worrying
add a single hour to your life?**

-Matthew 6:25-27

I'm not sure how many of you have trouble when it is time to "change the clocks", but somehow "losing" an hour each spring is harder for me than "gaining" an hour each fall.

This concept of losing and gaining time got me to thinking that we, as Christians,
who believe that Jesus:

- * Came from heaven;*
- * Lived and walked on this earth as a human;*
- * Took all of our sins to the cross and died to redeem us;*
- * Rose to defeat sin, death and the devil;*
- * Ascended to heaven to prepare a place for us;*
- * Sent the Holy Spirit to guide us,*

need to remember that with the Holy Spirit's guidance, we are living in God's time. God will always answer our prayers, with a yes, no or not now (yet).

Our times may seem to be in turmoil right now, but God is with us and will protect us as He has planned. Our prayers of praise, thanksgiving, adoration, intercession, requests, even our groans when we don't have the words to say (use) are all our direct conversation with God.

He does hear us.

He does want to be included in our lives.

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President's Message continued

We are not alone, even though it might seem that way at times and *even* when the time “changes”!

- ♦ May God's love surround you,
- ♦ God's Spirit guide you,
- ♦ God's whisper cheer you,
- ♦ God's peace calm you,
- ♦ God's shield protect you,
- ♦ God's wisdom arm you, wherever God may lead you.

Carol Reis
Oregon District President

Thank you to Carole Pletz



Dear Carole,

Thank you for the awesome job you did on the LWML Oregon District publication, the *Leaguer*. God blessed us through your work and the care you gave to produce a quality newsletter. I look forward to seeing what God's next plan is for you as you *serve Him with gladness*.

Blessings in Jesus' ongoing and forever joy,

Char Kroemer

Carole,

Thank you for sharing your editorial gifts with the LWML Oregon District. You always searched for articles of mission opportunities of the LWML that would excite the women of the district to *Serve with Gladness!*

May God bless you.

Carmen Nagel

Life in Easter

I am writing this just after we, the church, celebrated the Fifth Sunday in Lent; the last of the Sundays “in” not “of” Lent. Here at Redeemer we sang *Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good*, a joyful, if a little subdued hymn in keeping with the idea that even during the penitential season, every Sunday is a little Easter. The sermon asked the question, “What is life in Lent?” And we found the answer in Paul’s letter to the Romans. *we ... walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit* (Romans 8:4).

But now we walk on the other side of Easter, in the shadow of the cross and the full sun of the empty tomb. I pray that yours was a joyous, even glorious celebration as we once again listened to the angel. *“Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay”* (Matthew 28:5-6). As we gathered with the full congregation, even the visitors, especially the visitors. As we enjoyed Easter breakfast amid smiles and cheerful greetings and perhaps even a new hat!

But joy can be short-lived and will likely fade away with time and so I ask you to return to that pre-Easter sermon theme and ask; “What is life in Easter?” We relish and rejoice in the full-blown joy of the day, even the week of Easter. (We actually have lectionary readings assigned for Easter Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.) And then the readings run out and life returns; the day-to-day living in the time between Christ’s first coming and his second.

And again, we walk. Paul to the Galatian Christians suggests, *If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit* (Galatians 5:25). We walk with the Spirit who ushered us into the faith in baptism. Who continues to feed us with the Word. Who delivers the absolution – YOU ARE FORGIVEN. And here we find the precious key to life in Easter; forgiven means forgiving.

We pray as much in the fifth petition. “And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” Sometimes it seems hard to do ... but that is only when we are looking outwards; when we are looking at the person who offended us. But stop, look inward, and contemplate the blackness of your own heart, try to measure the magnitude of forgiveness already given to you in Christ by the Spirit.




Forgiven and forgiving ... life in Easter revolves around the gift given and regifted to others. Life in Easter is not counting the sins against us but burying them in the open tomb. *“Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you”* (Ephesians 4:32). Amen.

Pastor J. Wesley Beck



Thanks be to God! We are HIS!

We are:

-  **H** Held by God’s Word
-  **I** Inspired to share HIS Gospel
-  **S** Surrounded by HIS Grace

Beautiful Savior -- A Joy To Behold

Newness of life: daffodils, birds, baby animals, warm sunshine, and longer daylight all signify spring is here. That is also the newness of life we celebrated on Easter! God fulfilled His promise in sending a Savior. *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins* (1 John 4:10). But oh, how our sorrow turns to joy as we see the empty tomb! Jesus rose from the dead! He set us free from the curse of our sins! What a joy we celebrate. The song "Beautiful Savior" shares the joy to which we hold fast.



Beautiful Savior, King of creation,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Truly I'd love Thee, truly I'd serve thee,
Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.

LBS 537

John 1:1-5 shares the promise that God made from the beginning of time. *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ²*He was in the beginning with God.* ³*All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.* ⁴*In him was life, and the life was the light of men.* ⁵*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.* We marvel at God's creations. The tallest mountains, the winding valleys, the wild oceans, and calm lakes dot communities across the world. But also, the tiniest insect, the molecules of the atmosphere and the growing knowledge that we need to take care of all of God's world. Our stewardship is important. We are commanded in Genesis to care for the earth and though our passage through time has diverted us from the thought of stewardship, as Christians, we can help to do our part to preserve God's beautiful creation. With joy we praise God for such beauty and uniqueness!

Fair are the meadows, Fair are the woodlands,
Robed in flow'rs of blooming spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer;
He makes our sorr'wing spirit sing.



Our joy at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, His baptism, His transfiguration, and ministry show us the deity-man. Jesus shares His mission with His disciples and teaches them. Jesus teaches us too. He shines His spirit through our pastors, teachers, and Bible studies. This sparkling light is shared in John 12:46,49-50, ⁴⁶*I have come into the world as light, so that whoever believes in me may not remain in darkness.* ⁴⁹*For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak.* ⁵⁰*And I know that His commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has told me.*

Christian Life

Our light of understanding and faith brightens when we hear God's word, read our Bibles, and share our faith with others. Our faith reaches out to people around the world through the mission grants of LWML too.



Fair is the sunshine, Fair is the moonlight,
Bright the sparkling stars on high;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels in the sky.

Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world. ³ He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs (Hebrews 1:1-4). Our light and joy now resides in heaven! He prepares a place for us. He intercedes for us before God blotting out our transgressions. Look to Him for your source of joy each day. Each morning we, by God's grace, rise to begin our tasks...for Jesus. Sweeping the floors, doing laundry, being at our workplace, loving and caring for our children and family. Yes, these vocations done with Christ in our hearts show our love for the Lord. Our Beautiful Savior. Our deep appreciation for God's immense love for us shows through our attitude and joyous thirst after Him.



Beautiful Savior, Lord of the nations,
Son of God and Son of Man!
Glory and honor, Praise, adoration,
Now and forevermore be Thine!

We pray:

Dear Father, creator of all, we pray and sing Your praises for delivering us from death through Your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank You for Your unfailing grace and love. Help us to cling to You in all circumstances and stay true to You. Please grant us forgiveness for our sins. Help us in our faith journey to grow and be light to those around us. In Your Holy name, Amen

*"Beautiful Savior" Münsterisch Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677
tr. Joseph A Seiss, 1823-1904 Public Domain*

Vice President Christian Life, Lynne Beck



Calling all zones and church groups

The Oregon District Structure Committee needs a copy of your By-laws and Standing Rules.

No matter how old

No matter if it is handwritten or digital

It all looks good to us!

Please send them to Structure Chairman Janis Arnsdorf

email to: jarnsdorf@outlook.com



April 1, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT!!!



The LWML Oregon District has reached the Mission Grant Goal for the 2022-2024 Biennium! The goal is \$100,000 and we reached that goal in March 2023. Please keep those amazing mites coming and we can save for the 2024-2026 biennium.

We are so blessed. Our God is so Great.



*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever!*
(Psalm 118:1).

Thank you everyone!





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.

There are opportunities for YOU to serve. Take note of the information on the LWML Oregon District website. Both [Open Positions](#) and [Candidate Forms](#) are available at lwmlor.org on the home page. Learn about the positions on the district board that will be open in 2024. Download the candidate form and use it to encourage someone to serve or maybe YOU will consider serving.

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:

Deb Weaver, debeweaver@gmail.com

Char Kroemer, kroemer2@frontier.com

Priscilla Greig, pvgreig@gmail.com

May God bless you. In Jesus’ abundant and forever joy,

Char Kroemer, Nominating Committee Member

Announcement from Gospel Outreach

The 2024-2026 grant applications will be posted on the LWML Oregon District Website by April 30, 2023.

Barb Northrop, Vice President Gospel Outreach



Plan to join us for a fun filled weekend Retreat at
Aldersgate Retreat Center
Turner, Oregon
September 22-24, 2023

aldersgateretreat.com

Aldersgate Retreat Center has beautiful grounds to enjoy, walk and relax in. Come enjoy your LWML friends and meet new ones too.

We are excited to have Mary J. Smith for Bible Study!

Mary J Smith has written and led Bible studies in a variety of settings. She is developing an interactive Bible study for our retreat! Mary has served in LWML in many ways including Structure Committee and currently serves as chair of the Christian Resource Editors Committee.

"A woman walking with God, sharing her faith through her leadership and knowledge of the Bible. She loves sharing this through her engaging teaching style." Carmen Nagel

Other free time activities are being planned. Including the **Purple Elephant Table**. Bring items and join the fun. Funds raised by this activity will go to mites.

*Registration will be available this summer. Questions can be directed to Lynne Beck, 503- 812-5258 or by email at lynnebeck5@gmail.com



Local Group = Society

What's in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet" —from the play *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare.

My rose garden has a variety of roses: St. Patrick, Mustard and Ketchup, Peaches and Cream, Sugar Moon, and Kissing Red. All have different names but they are still vibrant, beautiful roses. Each one is a treasure to me. I love the variety.

At the 2022 LWML Oregon District Convention, the voting assembly changed the title "society" to "local group" in Oregon District documents. For some, it was a welcome change. For others, the change was a pregnant pause before transitioning from a good word for another. One friend felt society was a more honorable title. Another friend thought it was high time we moved from formality to inviting.

Figure 1: Photo by Janis Arnsdorf

LWML remains open and honoring to the names of each group in our district. You have your Circles, Ladies Aids, Action Groups, and the list goes on. The thing that does not change is the beauty and fragrance of the Lutheran Women in Mission.

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing (2 Corinthians 2:14-15).

Each of your groups are unique in your approach to mission education, mission inspiration, and mission service. When put together, God is praised and His voice is heard, in our hearts and in the world.

Janis Arnsdorf

Oregon District Structure Committee Chairman

Oregon District Standing Rule Minor Changes Made

LWML Oregon District Standing Rules have been re-numbered and updated with a ruling on the Mite Fund moved to the LWML Oregon Bylaws, Article XVII – Mission Grant Proposals, Section 3c.

As I looked at the district bylaws, I noticed there were inconsistencies in the formatting of the Articles and Sections and the line spacing. I have corrected those inconsistencies, the text has not been altered.

The Oregon District website has been updated with these changes.

Janis Arnsdorf, Chairman, LWML Oregon District Structure Committee

LWML Oregon District Zone News and Gatherings



Karen Clark, President and Darla Schulte, Secretary, recently elected Willamette Zone officers

Juniper Zone Fall Rally Gathering



Prayer Chain Email!

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



Leaguer Schedule

Summer, 2023

Submissions Due: June 1, 2023

Publication Date: July 1, 2023

Send items and photos to:

Deb Weaver, Editor

debeweaver@gmail.com

Cell: 971-506-2924



Date: June 22–25, 2023

Location: Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Theme: Celebrate the Lord of the Nations

Scripture Verse:

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man (Psalm 33:12–13).

OFFICER CONTACT INFORMATION

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Pastoral Counselor-Senior—Vacant

Pastoral Counselor—Junior—Rev. J. Wesley Beck

Email: 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.



"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."

Deborah — Encourager

(Deborah's Story: [Judges 4, 5](#))
In the Word

Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah ... and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment ([Judges 4:4-5](#)).

Of the Word

"You want me to do what?" could have been Deborah's response when Barak, commander of the army, stated, *"If you will go with me [into battle], I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go"* ([Judges 4:8b](#)). After all, it was Barak, not Deborah, God told to go into battle! Deborah had many reasons not to go with Barak. She was a judge; she was needed by the people. She wasn't a warrior; women didn't go to war. She was a wife; her household came first. But she used none of these as excuses. She went with the troops, encouraging them, and God gave them victory over the enemy.

God chose Deborah to support Barak and his troops. God also gives us opportunities to support and encourage others. It may be in a card, a letter, or a phone call. It may be at a food bank or at a health center. It may be praying with someone. *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works ... encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near ([Hebrews 10:24, 25b](#)).*

Walking with my Lord

Lord, help me answer Your call to encourage others, knowing my support is in You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

