



Pam's Pearls

Thank you! Yes, you—District Convention Planning Committee, Host Zone Planning Committee, Hilton Garden Inn staff, exhibitors, pastors, delegates, babysitting staff, and guests. All the planning and preparation gave the 250+ attendees time for Bible study, worship, and fellowship. God truly blessed every part of our convention as we celebrated being **Chosen to love and serve!**

Now, it's time to share those convention experiences with your groups. Talk about the interest sessions you attended. Share the joy of the worship service. Was there a speaker or activity that touched your heart or opened your eyes to a new opportunity to serve your Lord? Act on it - now! **You** are **Chosen to love and serve**, not just during convention, but **every day!**



Pam Wiederkehr, District President



Lift My Soul

“Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.” Psalm 23:6

As we enter into spring, I am reminded of God's creativity and the abundance of His blessings. Trees come to life, flowers bloom in glory, baby birds hatch and our grocery stores are filled with ripe fruit. He created all of this for us because He loves us!

God does not hold back His blessings. Any expectations we hold for His generous blessings far exceed our imagination. Our successes and blessings in this life are the sum of all the possibilities God has planned for us. And beyond this life awaits God's ultimate blessing and plan for us—to abide alongside Him in heaven.

Delia Collard, VP Christian Life

Celebrating 80th Anniversary of the LWML

In 1942 LWML became an official auxiliary of the LCMS. That is 80 years! To celebrate those 80 years, each district was asked to participate in their unique and special way!

Here in Oklahoma District, we chose for our celebration a display at convention using the theme of “Serving Around the World in 80 Years.” It was a hot air balloon with the basket being a large Mite Box, for the incoming mite offerings. Mites received were \$6,664.52. It was split with twenty-five percent (25%) \$1,666.13 going to national LWML for mission grants and seventy-five percent (75%) \$4,998.39 going to Oklahoma LWML mission grants. With convention opening worship offerings of \$3,330 for the Oklahoma District mite goal, we were blessed to receive \$8,328.39 toward our 2022-2024 biennium mite goal of \$120,000. Praise the Lord!

If your group hasn't participated but would like to, there is still time. So we ask, “What is your “80?”





Pastor's Perspective



Proverbs 16:9 “*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.*” A weird thing happened as I rode my motorcycle on the 120 mile round trip to the LWML Board meeting on April 30. My FitBit registered steps while I was riding. I should have had 2-3 thousand, but it counted over ten thousand steps.

One of the reasons I am fascinated by LWML is that steps are taken faithfully. The fascinating thing is that those steps that are taken are multiplied by the Lord in ways that are truly amazing.

“*The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps.*”

The mission of LWML is to take steps in faith. We do our planning, but the Lord establishes those steps and grants them success. Graciously, God has given LWML a role in His plan to reconcile people to Himself through Jesus.

It is a blessing to me to be taking steps in faith together with LWML Oklahoma District. I pray God will bring many to His Son through these steps.

*Rev. John Wackler,
Senior Pastoral Counselor*



God's Love and Faithfulness



Nelly Castañeda, our Friday evening banquet mission speaker at convention, shared her inspiring story about how God's incredible love and faithfulness has carried her and her family through this life; most notably, her mother's struggles ending in redemption, triumph and perseverance. Nelly's three greatest influences have been God, her mother and the Lutheran Church.

Nelly also spoke of God's faithfulness and the Church's impact and influence in the communities outside our church doors; His Church is a beacon of hope for all who seek Him. We have a responsibility to spread the Good News of the Gospel and support the growth of the Church and His Kingdom.

Nelly's presentation also included a lyrical dance routine performed by Karen Reade. Nelly published a book in 2020, *I Remember* which tells the story of her mother.

Inspiring YWR Session



“Molly's Interest Session for the YWR's was inspiring and full of creativity. The group shared lots of ideas about how to get more involved in our communities and our churches. I left feeling empowered to go out and find ways to get involved.”

*Molly Dixon,
Young Speaker Woman*

Candice Morris

Generous Hearts and Busy Hands

Wow! At our April convention, the Gifts from the Heart brought in 911 items for SafeNet, Community Crisis Center, and Ray of Hope. These items were then delivered by the Miami Zone



Host Committee to those grateful organizations. Fifteen baby blankets and 20 burp cloths were also donated and divided between MEND in Tulsa and Willow Pregnancy Resource Center in Edmond.



During the servant activities the following were made: 247 MOST ministry bracelets (857 were made prior to convention and brought by a church group) for a total of 1,104, 400 Braille pages, 120 encouraging cards for Veterans Centers, 30 Bibles marked for prison ministry and 51 baby blankets tied for Willow Pregnancy Resource Center in Edmond. Thank you!

Lisa Teter

Around the District

Long Distance Quilting!

Before the Lexington convention, President Pam Wiederkehr learned that an LWML member in Indiana had 205 quilt tops to share. They had been made by several ladies who had worked all through the Covid shut-down. She would bring them to Convention, and interested quilters could pick them up.

"And this, my friends, is what our God can do with a few ladies with servant hearts and the love of Christ. Praise the Lord!"

The quilt tops were made from dozens of strips and squares of brightly-colored fabrics. Finished quilts were given to Orphan Grain Train and Lutheran World Relief. As one LWML member stated, "And this, my friends, is what our God can do with a few ladies with servant hearts and the love of Christ. Praise the Lord!"

June Wadley and Myrna Lou Meyer

80 Quilts for Orphan Grain Train

Rex and Tammy Rozel, Orphan Grain Train worker, Teresa Hauschild, Mary Geiger, Myrna Lou and Dave Meyer are standing with some of the 80 quilts they took to Wichita on May 7. Knotty Ladies have used all of the tops from

the Indiana lady who brought them to the Lexington convention, then added extras to commemorate the 80th anniversary of LWML.



Valentine Dinner at Zion

Every February the LWML Priscilla Circle at Zion Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City invites all of the congregation to a Valentine Dinner/Party. This year we went to Earl's BBQ. After dinner, we went back to the church to play dart ball (men vs women). Olinda Berry, age 102-1/2, came along.



When it was her turn to throw the dart, she got a double and on her next turn, she got a home run. The attached pictures are of her. Olinda has been a member of Zion in OKC since 1937 and a member of the LWML since 1940. Olinda will turn 103 on July 24.

Vivian Stehr



President Pam sent that message around the Oklahoma District. Piecemakers at Trinity, Guymon, and Knotty Ladies at Holy Trinity, Edmond, each asked for 50 of the tops. After borrowing a little wagon, Joyce Watson and June Wadley were able to load their van with the boxes for Guymon. Because the Oklahoma van was too full, President Pam and Steve loaded Holy Trinity's boxes into their pickup. About a week later, they delivered them to the Mission House where Knotty Ladies work each week.

Christmas Party at Christ the Redeemer

The women of Christ the Redeemer had a Christmas party on December 2. It was great to get together again. Everyone brought either an appetizer or dessert and we socialized for a while. Then we exchanged wrapped ornaments with a story about the left-handed Frosty. For closing we sang Christmas songs. It was a delightful time!



Daphnee Brian

Baby Quilts for Eden Clinic



Gayle Brown presents Jodi Shumway, Eden Clinic Development Director, with baby quilts made by members of the Mary Circle, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Midwest

City, Oklahoma. The quilts will become part of a layette basket that each young woman receives after participating in the Eden Clinic Pregnancy Wellness Program. Eden Clinic takes great joy in telling their young moms that layette items were provided by people in the community who really do care about them. Eden Clinic has offices in Midwest City and Norman.

Debbie Hudson

Submit news items and pictures for our newsletter to Sharon Greene at oklwmleditor@gmail.com

Around the Mission Field

A Refreshing Gift for Cristo Rey

District Mission Grants listed in the side columns are marked with a cross if they are fully funded. Grants with an open heart still need your help!

-  1. Financial Aid for OK District Ministerial Students \$12,000
-  2. OK District Professional Church Workers Scholarship \$12,000
-  3. Camp Lutherhoma—Pool Cover, Tahlequah \$8,000
-  4. Pregnancy Resource Center, Lawton \$5,971
-  5. LCC Comfort Dog Ministry, King of Kings, Glenpool \$5,000
-  6. Lutheran Braille Workers, Tulsa and Oklahoma City \$5,000
-  7. Upgrade and Maintenance AC Units, Cristo Rey, OKC \$9,000
-  8. MOST Ministries—Feet on the Ground for Jesus \$6,000
-  9. Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary Food & Clothing Co-op, Ft Wayne, IN \$5,000

Grant #7 Upgrade and Maintenance of AC units for Cristo Rey, OKC — \$ 9,000

We are already experiencing summer heat in May!

The congregation at Cristo Rey, located in primarily a Hispanic neighborhood in Oklahoma City, was established in 1992 as a mission church to serve the Spanish and Latino population through worship services, Sunday school, Bible studies and fellowship events. As the church structure ages, constant maintenance is needed. Currently, two of the six air conditioning units supplying the church sanctuary and classrooms are in need of replacement. But, because of the low attendance caused by the pandemic and the economic status of many of their members, they cannot afford to repair these units. The LWML Oklahoma District will deliver a check in May for \$ 9,000 to repair and replace two nonfunctioning AC units. This will make it more comfortable to participate in worship and hear the redeeming Word of Jesus for this Latino community and the people who work in these buildings.

Prayer

Dear Father, thank You for graciously supplying our needs. May we daily remember all that we have is a gift from You. We are grateful, Lord, for the spirit of generosity You have given to us. May the mites we give be used to Your glory as they provide hope for others. Bless all who have given these mites and all who receive them. May each of us be blessed as we witness Your mighty works. Help us always to be mindful of others' needs and thank You for the opportunity to serve through mite offerings. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:4-6

Katie Schroeder, VP of Gospel Outreach

How to donate: LWML OK District Financial Secretary, P.O. Box 1464, Lawton, OK 73502
Thank you for your prayers and offerings!

District Officers

Pam Wiederkehr, President; Joan Anderson, VP of Organizational Resources; Delia Collard, VP of Christian Life; Katie Schroeder, VP of Gospel Outreach; Cyndi Smith, VP of Communication; Caroline Honeycutt, VP of Special Focus Ministries; Sandy Hentges, Recording Secretary; Myrna Lou Meyer, Corresponding Secretary; Sherrie Schroeder, Treasurer; Teresa Heater, Financial Secretary; Rev. John Wackler, Senior Pastoral Counselor; Rev. Joel Heckmann, Junior Pastor Counselor

www.oklwml.org

 10. Mission Central—Running the Race \$10,000 (Partially Paid)

 11. Mozambique Dorcus Sewing Project \$5,000

 12. Good Samaritan Fund, Concordia Life Planning Community, Oklahoma City \$10,000

 13. Sponsorship Support for Rev. Dr. Christian Tiews LCMS Missionary in Germany \$9,000

 14. Pastors, Vicars and Lay Ministers Wives Retreat, OK \$4,000

 15. Good Shepherd Lutheran School—Technology for Learning, Midwest City \$6,250

 16. Trinity HOPE Haitian Feeding Program—Feeding Haitian Children Spiritually and Physically \$5,000

 17. Messiah Lutheran Church—Share Day, Oklahoma City \$2,000

 18. Mantongo Seminary Chapel, Kenya (Partially Funded) \$779

Most recently funded grants are #7, #10 partial.