

Pam's Pearls

Recently I went for a bike ride. More than once there were stray dogs in my path and not knowing if they were friendly I took a different path, and was able to arrive home safely.

There are times in life when unforeseen dangers stand in our path. However, we have only to seek God's guidance and He will protect and lead us safely to our eternal home.

Even though I didn't take my usual route, I still enjoyed the scenery and the exercise. Even though God may take us on a path in life unfamiliar to us, we can still enjoy the journey and learn from our experiences. We may find new ways to worship and serve Him, make new friends, and enjoy His creation.

Fall Fest or Fall Retreat may be the place for you to serve Him, make new friends, or rest and enjoy His creation.



My prayer for each of us is that we be willing to change our path when God leads us knowing His path is always best.

Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will act (Psalm 37:5).

Pam Wiederkehr, District President

Lift My Soul

Come back to VBS!

Summer has come and gone. But the songs I learned while volunteering in this year's vacation Bible school continue to play in my head. The lyrics remind me of God's daily actions toward me as His child. "God knows me. God hears me. God gives me comfort. I am His and there's nothing better. Forgiven and chosen forever...I am a treasure!" No matter your age, no matter how long you have followed Christ, come back to VBS! Remember you are a child of God and preach the Gospel to yourself every day!

Peggy Grunow, VP Christian Life

Look What's Coming!

- Zone Fall Fests, mid-September through mid-October, see dates and locations at bottom of page.
- Lutheran World Relief Pickup, Oct 5 at Messiah in OKC, 9–12 noon.
- 2022–2024 Mission Grant Application Deadline, September 30, 2021
- Women's Fall Retreat, November 5–6, 2021 at Canyon Camp and Conference Center, Hinton, OK
- LWML Oklahoma District Convention, April 8–9, 2022 at Hilton Garden Inn, Edmond, OK

Press On! Attend Fall Fest

The Christian walk is not for the faint hearted. Each of us is running the race and we all need encouragement to **Press On!** St. Paul encouraged the believers in Philippi to persevere in following Christ by sharing his own commitment: *I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus* (Philippians 3:14).

Be encouraged and encourage the women of the Oklahoma District LWML by attending one of the eight zone Fall Fests. **Press On** to know Christ through participating in Bible studies written by Pastor Joel Heckmann, our Senior District Pastoral Counselor. **Press On** in fellowship with your LWML sisters. **Press On** to share Christ by learning about mission opportunities and sharing God's gifts with saints in the mission field.

Several zones have chosen the dates and locations of their Fall Fests. If your zone is not listed, please contact your zone president (www.oklwml.org) for more information.



September 18 Kingfisher Zone at Our Savior, Guthrie
September 25 Lawton Zone at St. John in Lawton
October 2 Tulsa Zone at Trinity, Broken Arrow
October 2 Miami Zone at Bethlehem, Adair

October 2 OKC Zone at Holy Trinity, Edmond
October 2 Ponca City Zone at Zion, Guthrie
October 9 Enid Zone at First Lutheran, Pond Creek
October 16 Panhandle Zone at Trinity, Guymon

Voice of Service Goal Statement — To Inform and Encourage OK LWML Women



Pastor's Perspective



My favorite season of the year is fall. I enjoy the changing of the leaves, the changing of the temperature, and, when Reformation Sunday and Advent finally roll around, a welcome change from Pentecost green on the altar! In general, I appreciate the different seasons of the year, and of the different times and events that mark each.

Yet, for all the change that you and I appreciate, sometimes we need a little consistency. The world is constantly changing around us in *difficult* ways. As many of you in our LWML know, these difficult changes in the world around us often spark the LWML to gracious action and service. Think disaster relief, funding for those in financial hardship, clothing and food drives for those without basic physical needs. You have your own difficult life changes with which you've been dealing, too. Yes, change can be good, but we need some consistency, too.

This brings me to share both a Bible verse and a hymn verse I've had on my mind lately. Many of you know the hymn, "Abide With Me" from our *Lutheran Service Book*.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

It was my late grandmother's favorite hymn, especially the words of verse four:

"Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me."

Coupled with this powerful hymn verse is this powerful Scripture verse: *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).*

We thank God for variety in life, but more than this, we thank Him for His consistency. As the world rapidly changes, and you, dear women of the LWML, graciously respond to these changes, the Lord remains the same. He always loves you. He always forgives your sins. Nothing can separate you from His love for you in Christ. He is consistently gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God strengthen you as life changes with His love and forgiveness which remain the same in Christ – yesterday and today and forever.

— Pastor Heckmann



OKLWML Fall Retreat



Ladies ... It's our wonderful Oklahoma Fall and that "get-away time of year" to pack your Bible, your overnight bag and your sheets and towels (Due to Covid guidance).

A spiritual rest awaits you at Canyon Camp and Conference Center in Hinton, Oklahoma on November 5-6. Activities include:

Bible study, fun and games, crafts and lots of singing. Registration starts at 5 p.m. on Friday and closing at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

A registration fee of \$70 includes all meals and your reserved bed in the lodge. This year's theme is "God's Quilt of Comfort" based on the Psalms. Childcare is available on-site if needed. A registration form will be coming soon. Watch the oklwml.org website. Questions can be addressed to Joan Anderson: Email—bensamben2@gmail.com, Cell—307.689.1727.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Giving Tuesday



On September 14, 2021, you may donate through the LWML website, under the "Giving" tab, in honor of those "Shining Lights"

in your life, making an eternal difference in the lives of others.

You may also mail your donation labeled for "September to Remember" or "GivingTuesday" to:

LWML
801 Seminary Place, Ste. L010
St. Louis, MO 63105

Reminder to Zone Presidents

Remember to send a copy of your Fall Fest packet to Marilyn Alsip, Oklahoma Archivist-Historian. Of special importance are minutes from any such meeting or event. Also, send a copy of any special recognitions, reports, news articles or other such interesting news items.

Send to: Marilyn Alsip
509 N. Poplar Lane
Midwest City, OK 73130-2923
405-769-4220 marilynalsip@yahoo.com

Around the District

Save the Date — 2022 Convention



Therefore as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience (Colossians 3:12 NIV).

“Chosen to love and serve”, based on Colossians 3:12, is the theme for the next LWML Oklahoma District Convention. It will be held April 8–9, 2022 at Edmond Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center. Save the dates, plan to attend and invite other women to join you!

*Chosen by God — Clothed with Christ's character —
Empowered to serve with God's love*

“Miracles in Between”

“You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven” (Mathew 5:14–16).

A couple of weeks ago I was in Illinois visiting my sister Perla and her family. During our stay there we visited Chicago's downtown and Lake Michigan, it is a beautiful place. But it also has very rough parts, like the neighborhood I grew up in. As most of you know Chicago has one, if not, the highest crime rate in the nation. After a brief discussion and saying a prayer, we decided to go into the inner city. Why? You might ask. Because I wanted to see and show my children the neighborhood I grew up in. We went to the house where my mother and we spent a lot of our early years. It definitely brought back a lot of memories. If you have read my book, the little corner store where I went and ask for “thirteens”

Oklahoma City Ice Cream Social

The Priscilla Circle of Zion Lutheran Church in Oklahoma City provided an evening meal with sandwiches, chips, fruit, and veggies, along with ice cream, for their annual Ice Cream Social.

Our Thrivent Action Team sponsored the event, which held a free-will offering fundraiser to collect money for Rufus the Comfort Dog, who resides at St. Mark's Lutheran in Edmond. Rufus was at Zion with his trainer who spoke to the group about the Lutheran Church Charities K9 Comfort Dogs Program. All money collected was donated for Rufus's food and care.

It was a great evening and a lot of fun for all of our members. It was good to get back together again and socialize.

Vivian Stehr, Priscilla Circle



Photo by Sheila Rudat

instead of tortillas is still there, it is not a store anymore, but it is still there. We also drove by my home church La Santissima Trinidad Lutheran Church on 28th & Karlov. To my dismay, it is not a Lutheran church anymore, another denomination now owns it or leases it.

What happened? I thought, what went wrong? A lot of thoughts raced through my mind as we drove past this beautiful, wonderful church. A church that changed my mother's life and mine as well. A church that had been a beacon to this neighborhood for so many years and it had touched so many lives. This was a thriving Hispanic ministry back in the 80's, full of young families. Our youth group was a very talented, smart and God driven group, six pastors came out of this youth group, three Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod! Incredible! But how come it all stopped?

Continued on https://oklwml.org/309211_2

Faith and Service/Heart to Heart

In HIS Service, Nelly Castañeda

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

Around the Mission Field

Worker Wellness for Chaplain Families Mission Grant #18 \$3,000



Worker Wellness for Chaplain Families, Grant #18, recently received \$3,000 from the LWML Oklahoma District. This money supports workshops given for the 200 Military chaplains (active duty, reserved, National Guard or Civil Air Patrol) and their families to focus on their own health and connect with other Chaplain families in the military. Here are some of their comments:

"...This gathering of LCMS Chaplains and spouses is usually the only chance we have each year to visit with those who serve our Synod in the Armed Forces. The training is always good and helpful and the fellowship with other LCMS servants is invaluable as we seldom serve near each other." MS

And, *"Ladies of the LWML, thank you so much for the grant money to help pay for Military wives to attend the Chaplain Conferences with their husbands. It is through your generosity, that we have not only the opportunity to attend wonderful training, but also a time of refreshment for our souls and minds, as well as spending time with our husbands. The Military Life can be lonely sometimes, especially during deployment and training, but these conferences give us time, as a couple, to step out of the Military and just enjoy time with fellow LCMS chaplains and families. Thank you so much for help to make this possible, and know you are a blessing from God that reaps a tenfold harvest as we go back to Military life refreshed and ready to continue His work." JC*

Beverly Bahr, VP Gospel Outreach

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!

Most recently funded grants are # 4 (partial), 6, 9 (partial), 12 (partial), 18

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; Peggy Grunow, VP of Christian Life; Beverly Bahr, VP of Gospel Outreach; Kasey Meyer, VP of Communication; Caroline Honeycutt, VP of Special Focus Ministries; Sarah Yauk, Recording Secretary; Myrna Lou Meyer, Corresponding Secretary; Jonith Grundmann, Treasurer; Teresa Heater, Financial Secretary; Rev. Joel Heckmann, Senior Pastoral Counselor; Rev. John Wackler, Junior Pastor Counselor

www.oklwml.org

- ♥ + 1. Ministerial Students, OK District \$12,000 (partial)
- ♥ 2. Bringing Christ's Light to Those Living in Darkness, Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc. \$5,000
- + 3. AED Devices for Camp Lutherhoma, Tahlequah, OK \$4,690
- ♥ + 4. Professional Church Workers Scholarships, OK District \$12,000 (partial)
- + 5. Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) Food and Clothing Co-op, IN \$5,000
- + 6. King of Kings Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dog Ministry, Glenpool, OK \$5,000
- + 7. Pregnancy Resource Center of Southwest Oklahoma, Lawton, OK \$5,010
- ♥ 8. MOST Ministries Water Filters, Ann Arbor, MI \$7,050
- ♥ + 9. Assistance to LWML Members Team Mission Trip, OK District \$6,000 (partial)
- + 10. Good Samaritan Fund at Concordia Life Care Community, Oklahoma City, OK \$5,000

- ♥ + 11. Tools for Oaks Indian Mission, Oaks, OK \$3,500 (partial)
- ♥ + 12. Pastors, Vicars and Lay Ministers Wives Retreat, OK District \$4,000 (partial)
- + 13. Healing Spaces--Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Minot, ND \$5,000
- + 14. At Just The Right Time, Mission Central, Mapleton, IA \$10,000
- + 15. God Speaks Today--A Lutheran Voice, Quetzaltenango, Guatemala \$10,020
- ♥ 16. Equipping People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities to Share the Gospel, Bethesda Lutheran Communities, Watertown, WI \$5,000
- + 17. Tablet Technology for St. John's Lutheran School, Moore, OK \$5,700
- + 18. Worker Wellness for Chaplain Families, LCMS, St. Louis, MO \$3,000
- ♥ 19. Summer Heights Day Camp, Immanuel Lutheran, Oklahoma City, OK \$2,000
- ♥ 20. Training Leaders to BOLDLY Declare Y'shua as Messiah, Israel \$90