# The Joyful Servant

## California-Nevada-Hawaii District



## Spring 2022



President's Message

Martha E Dubke - LWML CNH District President

Dear friends,

In this season of Epiphany, we reflect on Jesus and his manifestation as God, performing miracles and establishing that He is the promised Messiah. We look forward to His final coming when He will take us to be with Him. In

the meantime, we have work to do focusing on our mission statement as Lutheran Women in Mission to continue to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

I traveled to St. Louis, Missouri, January 19 through the 22, 2022, to attend my last Presidents Assembly meeting as your District President. It was very special to gather together, to worship, to learn and to laugh with sisters and brothers in Christ. I will miss these special gatherings but trust that our next District President will be blessed as she attends and participates.

Our LWML District Convention in Sparks, Nevada, June 10 through the 12<sup>th</sup>, is fast approaching. Preparations continue as we work with our Convention Theme, **Trust in God's Timing**, based on Psalm 62:8, *Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our refuge.* Opportunities to join in Bible study, hear inspirational speakers, choose break-out

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sessions abound. The proposed Mission Grants for the 2022-2024 biennium will be voted on as well as the officers and Bylaw changes. Getting together to renew acquaintances and meet new friends can be fun and refreshing. It's not too soon to reserve your room at the Nugget Casino and Resort in Sparks, Nevada.

The next LWML Convention is planned for Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 22-25, 2023, where many people will join together under the theme, "Celebrate the Lord of the Nations" based on Psalm 33:12-13, *Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people he chose for his inheritance. From heaven the LORD looks down and sees all mankind*.

Zone Presidents are encouraged to pass on all the information that you receive from District and LWML to your individual groups or societies. You are important conduits to help the societies feel that they are a part of this wonderful organization. Never assume that they are getting the information. If you are not sure how to accomplish this, contact me and if I don't know the answer, I will make sure that you get the information.

**What's your 80?** This year, LWML celebrates 80 years of being in existence. Be creative as you make plans to celebrate! You may want to spend 80 hours of Bible reading this year or donate 80 cans of food to an emergency shelter, \$8 or \$80 extra mite offerings. Bake 80 cookies or 80 dozen and share with a first responders or emergency room workers. Document what you do by taking pictures and writing a brief story. Details will be coming as to where to send in your photos and stories. You may be part of a montage featured at the 2023 LWML Convention in Milwaukee.

(President's message continues next page)

(President's messages continues)

Our Executive Committee and Board of Directors will be meeting in Livermore the last weekend in February to finalize decisions for our District Convention. Our prayer is that the Convention will be a blessing to all those who attend and that we will be uplifted and encouraged to carry out our mission statement.

Finally, being the month of Valentines, how special it is to share with you God's special Valentine message to us from John 3:16. *God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.* His message is not just for Valentine's Day, but for always! As children of the King, we have that promise of being with Him forever.

Love in Christ, Martha

# Numbering Our Days Pastor Hal Toenjes Senior Pastoral Counselor



King David was facing the end of his life as he lamented his struggles. So he prayed, "O LORD, make me to know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!" (Psalm 39:4) Moses had prayed similarly years before, "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:4). **Teach us to number our days, O Lord,** that we not take them for granted.

There is no evidence that Bob Saget ever prayed that prayer, although his TV alter ego Danny Tanner (of "Full House" fame) seems like he might have. News of Saget's death January 9<sup>th</sup> spread quickly. His wholesome TV personality as the widowed father of three girls seems to have been balanced by a raunchy stand-up comedy routine later in life. That's what the 65-year-old was doing in Orlando when he was found dead in his hotel room, apparently of natural causes (more developments may have surfaced by the time you read this).



What stood out in the news of his passing was a tweet he sent at 3:42am, shortly after his last performance: "Loved tonight's show ... Appreciative audience... I had no idea I did a 2 hr set tonight. I'm happily addicted again to this. Check BobSaget.com for my dates in 2022." Shortly after that tweet he died. He had scheduled show days, but hadn't numbered his days.

We do it as well. We plan big investments or career moves without any guarantee we will be able to benefit. We plan for our retirement with no guarantee we will live to enjoy it.

## Teach us to number our days, O Lord, that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Of course, there's nothing wrong with making plans, setting goals, or looking ahead with purpose. It would be terrible to simply wait, purposeless, thinking about death. But there *is* something wrong with our tendency to ignore the inevitability of death and, thus, minimize the urgency to make the most of the opportunities God gives us to serve Him and our neighbor.

Instead, confident in our Lord's care for us (Matthew 6:26), God answers our prayer and teaches us to number our days as we hear His Word and receive His gifts and the guiding of His Spirit. No, we won't know how many days we have left, but by His grace we "number them" by using them well and by realizing they may be few. God bless your stewardship of His gifts of time and opportunities!

## LaVada Terrell, VP, Christian Life



## I share with you another tab on lwml.org: the following is under the Fellowship Tab

## RESOURCES DURING COVID

A Time for Everything – For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ...a time to ... (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Do these verses from Ecclesiastes describe the year 2020? With a COVID-19 pandemic, civil unrest, economic fluctuations, job uncertainty or upheaval in working conditions, changes in education, and disruption of church and religious activities, the world is indeed in tumultuous times!

What are we — Lutheran Women in Mission — to do?

How do we stay connected to each other in fellowship, remain connected to His Word, and continue to connect to others through service? **We carry on!** 

How do we accomplish that when there are national, state, or local restrictions on gathering? *We get creative!* 

Read about Ideas to assist you and your LWML groups not only to survive, but to *thrive* in these challenging times.

- continue meeting by distancing, meet outside (parks, parking lots)
- have officers make more decisions
- use electronic/technology: email, zoom, skype, etc.
- continue Bible studies and prayers through the same channels
- keep everyone up-to-date on all information from district and national
- continue to collect mites and sending them in
- if at all possible, continue with outreach projects

## **INOTHERWORDS, BE CREATIVE AND CARRY ON!!**

## **HEART TO HEART**

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.

There are many, many resources: handbook, videos, articles, bookmarks, power point presentations, brochures, Bible studies. If you have multicultural women in your congregations, check out these resources to help you invite them to your society and zone gatherings, meeting, and events.

## **LWML ONLINE**

In addition to the downloadable resources on the LWML website, there are a variety of ways to engage with LWML content online.

Download the LWML App to your smart phone or tablet: emails, blogs, podcasts, videos.

Follow LWML Online for daily upates and full-time fellowship: facebook, twitter, pinterest, instagram --- stay connected!

## **SPECIAL MINISTRIES**

As women of the LWML, we serve alongside those who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Blind and Visually Challenged, and Intellectually and Developmentally Challenged. Together we encourage **ALL** to be seen, heard, and understood as we share in the mission of proclaiming Christ.

Focusing on Accessibility, Awareness, and Advocacy, the Special Ministries Task Force will equip women of the LWML by:

- •connecting them with accessible resources.
- •building awareness of those with diverse capabilities.
- providing opportunities for advocacy.

## YOUNG WOMEN IN MISSION

- Energize and mentor younger women to connect and grow in relationships as sisters in Christian
- Equip and encourage young women to become more involved in their congregations and the mission of the LWML.
- Encourage Districts to continue incorporating their young women in local, zone, and District events
- Establish a positive, joyful, and educational experiences at the LWML Conventions
- Provide ideas for YOUth in Mission activities that encompass multiple generations.
- Educate and inspire young women to strengthen their relationship with their Savior

## **YOUth IN MISSION** (formerly Teen LWML)

- Suggest ideas as to how to make YOUth feel as though they are valued members of the body of Christ and the LWML.
- Connect YOUth with the big picture of LWML and its mission.
- Equip mentors with resources to engage YOUth in opportunities for spiritual growth, mission, and service.
- Provide ideas for YOUth in Mission activities that encompass multiple generations.

TAKE TIME AND GO TO THIS TAB AND READ ALL THE DETAILS FOR ALL THE RESOURCES – AND THEN PUT THEM INTO PRACTICE!



Vice President of Convention Planning - Roxan Schwab

## 2022 CONVENTION NEWS!

Date: June 10-12, 2022

**Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, NV** 

## **Convention Theme:**

## Trust in God's Timing

#### **Convention Bible Verse:**

Psalms 62:8 RSV: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us.

# Spacious rooms accommodate up to 4 per room. \$119.00

Phone number: 800-648-1177

Group Code: GLWML22

Hotel Link:

http://bookings.ihotelier.com/bookings.jsp?groupID

=3266039&hotelID=96145

#### **LARGE MEETING ROOMS**



GREAT BIBLE STUDY LEADER, ENGAGING INSPIRATIONAL SPEAKER, WONDERFUL MUSIC, FACT FILLED BREAK OUT SESSIONS, MISSION OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW AND SEND IN THE REGISTRATION FORM COMING SOON FOR YOU AND SEVERAL OTHER WOMEN. COME ONE COME ALL

## VP Gospel Outreach,

#### **Bev Vietor**

Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord. Psalm 27:14

Winter waiting.... Have you contemplated it this winter? We recently had a BIG snowstorm, a Christmas gift that lasted thru New Year's. Trees snapped and broke, heavy ice caved in roofs and the damage to the electrical infrastructure was as bad as a fire for our mountain village. We survived 10 days on a back up generator, which meant nights without power to save on fuel. So yes, I had time to ponder many things with no TV, internet and other distractions. Thus, I contemplated winter, a season from our Lord.

Winter, a dull time, no activities it seems, a lack of vibrance and life. Then I thought of bulbs, planted in the fall, lying dormant and often forgotten underground. Yet they are growing roots and preparing for growth above the ground. Trees lose their leaves to protect against cold damage and prepare themselves for new buds, flowers, and fruit. Without winter, there is no spring. Humm, if winter waiting is so vital and beneficial then why do I wrestle with it?

I wonder what our mites are doing this "winter"? Are they growing underground and just have not surfaced? Our goal for this biennium is \$124,000 to funded 22 grants. As of the end of December the mites total \$93,746, and we have funded 14 grants.

My *winter waiting* prayer is "Wait for the Lord, be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord." Ps 27:14. Take heart ladies, wait and pray with me for our grants to be funded by the end of March 2022.

Blessing and good health to each of you In this year of our Lord, 2022. Miss Penny Jan 1, 2022 - Pastor Doua and family sharing Jesus's Gospel, and Hmong young ladies and children in traditional dress







## **Update on Grant #13**

## Support for Lutheran Family Services: Jacmel Lutheran Home for the Elderly - Haiti

In January 2019, our elder home facility opened, and ten residents moved into Jacmel Lutheran Home. Our elders receive regular meals and round-the-clock medical care. We provide far more than standard of care at Jacmel Lutheran Home. Our Nurse Director is a nursing school graduate and we have a skilled physician that gives each resident a physical exam as they enter the home and prescribes medicine accordingly in addition we provide our elders spiritual care. They participate in daily devotions and attend a weekly church service. The elders have also formed their own choir.

Shortly after Haiti closed its borders in March 2020 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Jacmel Lutheran Home

was in lockdown. For eight weeks, the nursing director stayed on-site with carefully prepared meals, medications, and other supplies delivered in a safe manner. The precautions worked - we had no cases. To date, only three residents have passed away. It is nothing short of miraculous, given the condition the elders were in when they were admitted.

When talking among themselves our elders sometimes reminisce about their families and former life. They have all agreed they are each other's family now. Ministry in Mission is thankful, grateful and blessed for this unique opportunity to serve. We couldn't accomplish what we do without the generous partnership of the California-Nevada-Hawaii Lutheran Women's Missionary League.



The residents on the Jacmel Lutheran Home porch are ready to go to church!

## LWML CNH Special Focus Ministries:

#### Rebecca Weisshahn, Vice President



Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. James 1:2-3

As the pandemic looms on, things may seem to grow dim at times, but as Christians, we know that we can trust in our Lord and Savior at all times. As a result, we can live joyfully in the knowledge we are indeed, growing in Christ, through each and every trial that comes our way.

As the Convention in Sparks approaches, the Special Focus Ministries Committee has been joyfully

looking forward to, and planning for the ingatherings and other events.

Lori Fisher is in the process of confirming two shelters for our ingathering: Do Drop Inn and Austin's House. We will be collecting gift cards in \$10.00 increments for Walmart and Grocery Outlet, Starbucks and In and Out. The Starbucks & In and Out gift cards will be given to Austin's House for their group outings. We are also going to put together hygiene kits for Mercy Holistic Ministry's Shower Ministry for the homeless in the Sacramento area. Steve Magee is going to secure a grant from Orphan Grain Train to cover the cost of towels and wash cloths to wrap the toiletries along with a small nap-sac to carry their items.

Hygiene Items 1 Each
Bath Size Bar of Soap
Adult Size Toothbrush
Toothpaste
Shampoo
Sturdy Comb
Stick Deodorant
razor
6 Band-Aids (1/2" or 3/4")
secured together

We will also be marking Bibles for prisoners at the Convention. Lori Fisher has confirmed with one prison and is in the process of confirming with another. Cathey King is order supplies to put Bible marking supply packs together. There should be approximately fifty Bibles and supply packs available at the Convention.

Rose and Ed, from The Lutheran Braille Workers, will be coming Thursday night before the Convention, in order to set up and lead their event from 12 PM-5 PM on Friday. Their room will be paid for, Thursday and Friday night. They will need to register for the Convention for communion purposes.

At the Convention, The Special Focus Ministries Committee will have two display tables: one will have room for the Heart to Heart — Sisters of All Nations, Young Women and Human Care Committees, and the other will be set up for the two shelters.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as VP of Special Focus Ministries.

# Heart to Heart (H2H) Sisters of all Nations Linda Patel, Chair

The **Heart to Heart (H2H) Sisters of all Nations** is an intentional effort to ensure that multicultural women participate in the fellowship and work of Lutheran Women in Mission.

As your H2H District leader, I attended the LWML national convention last year in Lexington, KY, during this time I completed two days of training under the leadership of the national Heart to Heart Committee. The training was designed to equip district leaders to return to their district and help implement this amazing program

within the LCMS churches through LWML groups.

This photo was taken when Zone 15 invited me to be a guest speaker at their winter retreat this past weekend. I find the best way for me to help you implement the H2H program within your zone churches is to be available to come and present about H2H and a short training on how to build friendship with multicultural women and groups.

Please feel free to contact me at <a href="mailto:lpatel1260@gmail.com">lpatel1260@gmail.com</a> or (408) 859-6609.



## **Tonga Tsunami Relief Fund**



**WE HAVE A PLANE!** I am very excited to report we have access to a plane and shipping for our items which will go to Tonga. I am even more excited to announce the plane is being provided through the office of California State Senator Josh

Becker. Mele and Jesse were on a conference call with a liaison for this project and we were able to secure room for 20 pallets of supplies. The plane will be able to accommodate up to 158 pallets of supplies. What this means for us is that **all of our donations** are about TWICE as valuable because we are not paying for shipping.

As I write this, we have over \$6,000 which has been donated for Tongan Relief. I have heard additional people are planning to donate. In summary, we already have funds to provide 20 pallets of water. At the same time, pallets of rice, flour, and other items are more expensive. Since we have reserved 20 pallets worth of space, we can increase our gift even if we do not get any additional space. The people working on this project are soliciting corporations to fill out the remaining space.

Finally, if the community fills the plane, we have been assured there will be a second plane in 30-60 days to send another load of supplies. It is wonderful to have this opportunity and we are grateful for the partnership which is happening to help the people of Tonga.

If you would like to donate, here is the link.

God's Peace, Pastor Jon Coyne Bethany Lutheran Church Menlo Park, CA



Malo 'aupito (Thank you) to everyone who has been reaching out to support disaster relief in Tonga.

As you may know from various media outlets, a volcano erupted, followed by a tsunami that hit the main island of Tongatapu and several smaller outer islands. The tsunami caused severe damage to many villages and hundreds of homes. The eruption covered the islands in volcanic ash that has created extremely unhealthy air quality. The island is scarce with many supplies, including clean drinking water.

Please pray for our sisters and brothers in Christ. If you are moved to donate, please know that all donations will go to food, water, and supplies to help the people of Tonga overcome this devastating natural disaster.



## When has impossible ever stopped you?

I was feeling a bit down as I was driving home from an appointment. Even though my family and I had a wonderful Christmas celebration and we all stayed well, as our children and grandchildren departed, I and my husband came down with a respiratory virus (not COVID 19). It was just a normal winter virus but coming right after our nice visit with family and lasting 2 weeks had left me feeling lousy like the illness would never end. Add to that the general mood in the world due to the increase in the COVID 19 Omicron variant and other bad news and BOOM! I was dragging low.

The song "Rattle!" by Elevation worship was playing on the radio. When I heard the words of the song "since when has impossible ever stopped You?". I suddenly thought this is so true. Nothing can stop God! As the song went on it told of the miracles that God has done that are told in the Bible, raising people from the dead, healing people, feeding large crowds and most importantly the birth, life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I asked myself "why should I feel so low?" God will lead me through anything as He promises in His word "... And behold I am with you always, even to the end of the age" Matthew 28:20. How had I forgotten this? I asked God to help me do better on trusting Him to lead me through difficult times. I asked Him to help me remember all the miracles God has done in my life and all the times He has seen me through difficult patches.

It came to my mind that reaching out to others to offer encouragement can lift my own spirits. I decided to begin by calling a friend to check in on how they were doing. That call led to another call where I received encouragement from that person. God's gentle nudge to reach out and connect with others has helped me to come out of my low time and begin each day remembering the words of 1 Thessalonians 5:11 "Therefore **encourage one another** and build **one another** up, just as you are doing."

Let's all keep thinking about others who may need to have a word of encouragement and follow through with a phone call. At times like these two-way conversations can be very helpful. As there are more restrictions and warnings to isolate due to the spread of the COVID virus, we must keep the lines of encouragement open.

## **Update on Ad Hoc Website Study 2021 Committee**

This committee has met several times and discussed how we can improve our website. Our members are LWML CNH President Martha Dubke, Web Servant Carrie Rinaldo and LWML CNH Communications Director Lynnette Campbell. We will be working with LWML VP of Communication, Kathy Pavelock and the LWML Information Technology Committee (ITC) to improve the functions of our website and update the ease of using it. Read more about the LWML ITC in the <a href="https://example.com/en-line-new-sub-rule-new-sub-

## "In His Time – What We Can Learn from Life's Interruptions"

"Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." Proverbs 19:21 NIV

## Saturday, April 23, 2022

## **One-Day Regional Event**

This district-wide event is open to everyone!

**Bible Study Leader: Judy Huber** 

# Did you miss the LWML CNH Summer Retreat?

If so, we're bringing Judy Huber to the Bay Area to share the inspirational and thoughtprovoking Bible study presented at the retreat.

Let's study God's Word, sing praises to our Lord, and finally... get together, in-person, with our sisters-in-Christ!

## (All Covid-19 protocols will be followed.)

Zoom attendance will be available; however, we pray you'll join us in-person for the best experience.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 38451 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536

9:00AM: Registration & Continental Breakfast

9:30AM - 4:00PM: Bible Study, Singing & Fellowship

**Registration Fee: \$15.00** 

A continental breakfast, coffee, tea, bottled water, and dessert will be provided.

Bring your own lunch!

Registration deadline: 4/13/22

Download the flyer and the registration form at www.lwmlcnh.org/regional-event-april-2022

This event is hosted by LWML CNH Zones 2, 8, 16 and 18.

For more information, contact Linda Bradley, <a href="mailto:lindalwml@sbcglobal.net">lindalwml@sbcglobal.net</a> or 650-704-6472

# LWML CNH One-Day Regional Event Registration Form

## "In His Time – What We Can Learn from Life's Interruptions"

Saturday, April 23, 2022

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church 38451 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, CA 94536

9:00 am: Registration & Continental Breakfast 9:30 am - 4:00 pm: Bible Study, Singing & Fellowship

Registration fee: \$15. Registration Deadline: Wed., April 13, 2022

Continental breakfast, coffee, tea, bottled water & dessert will be provided.

## Bring your own lunch.

| I will attend in-pers             | A   | I need to attend by Zoom.<br>A Zoom link and Bible study materials will be<br>emailed to you on 4/18/22. |    |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|----|
| First & Last Name:                |   |  |    |
| Street Address:                   |   |  |    |
| City:                             | State: _  | Zip:   |    |
| Home Phone:                       |   | Cell:  |    |
| Email Address:                    |   |  |    |
| Church & City:                    |   | Zon  | e: |
| Please make your check payable    | to: "LWML"  |  |    |
| Send this form and your check to: | Barbara Guevara,<br>787 Berkshire Driv<br>Millbrae, CA 9403 | /e   |    |
| Registration guestions? Please co | intact Barhara Guei   | vara   |    |

tisbarb@sbcglobal.net

650-259-9981

# SAVE THE DATE: March 5, 2022 2022 LWML CNH Zone 8 Prayer Service



Prayer may be simple or complex — silent or corporate — memorized or free-flowing from our heart. It is a conversation with God and shows our love for our heavenly Father. The 2022 Prayer Service, based on Luke 11:1, "Lord, Teach us to Pray," looks at various forms of prayer used frequently by believers as we seek to honor Christ, the Lord of the Church, with our prayers. LWML thanks Rev. Grimm for authoring the 2022 LWML Prayer Service.

WHEN: Saturday, March 5, 2022

TIME: In-person & Zooming Live-10:00 AM

WHERE: Trinity Lutheran Church 1295 Middlefield Rd. Palo Alto, CA

**Rev. Stewart Crown, Prayer Leader** 

RSVP to attend <u>in-person</u> or to join live <u>online via zoom</u>
Posted to YouTube for Later Viewing

RSVP By March 2<sup>nd</sup>, (Ash Wednesday) to attend In-person, or to receive the Zoom Link & Service Bulletin:

Mary Deger Seevers <a href="mailto:seeversmd@aol.com">seeversmd@aol.com</a> & Lori Fisher <a href="mailto:dudettefisher@sbcglobal.net">dudettefisher@sbcglobal.net</a>





Zone 2 - Concordia

## Becky MacFarland, Zion Lutheran LWML, Piedmont

Zion ladies held cookie and ornament exchange in early December. Our attendance was down from the past years, but we yet had a great time. It was a perfect party to kick off the holiday season.

We also held our Christmas boutique on the first Sunday in Dec. (Dec. 5) We have adjusted putting the treats in Ziploc bags to reduce touching

We will have a meeting in February planning our yearly Bunco, another one of our fundraisers to hopefully happen in March.



Zone 3 - Northern San Joaquin Cathey King, Zone 3 President

As Zone President I had the pleasure of attending LWML Sunday service at **Trinity Lutheran Church** in **Stockton.** I was asked to speak to the congregation and share about LWML. My husband and I then attended a Bible study lead by LWML member, Pam Rapp, about DOORS. It was a wonderful day filled with new friends and fellow Christians sharing God's word and His work through LWML. Thank you to Pam and to Pastor Jeff Morey, who is our Zone 3 Counselor.

Members of **Zion Lutheran Church, Lodi**, LWML /Sewing Circle invited me to attend their January meeting where we discussed what goes into hosting a Rally. They are now enthusiastically planning the Zone 3 March 2022 Spring Rally! What an energetic group of ladies.

They shared with me their NICU blanket project. They make small (about 12") square flannel "blankets", two per family, for babies housed in their local NICU. Baby and mom both sleep with a square then trade blankets, so that they sleep with the square that smells like mom/baby. This is so helpful with bonding when mom and baby cannot be together.

These ladies also make quilts for cancer patients, personalized not only with their name, but also using squares with fabric personal to their interests. The ladies then pray over the blankets, bring the blankets before the congregation for prayer, sign a card for the recipient and then share the finished quilt with members, friends, co-workers, and others dealing with cancer and other debilitating illnesses.



## SAVE THE DATE! MARCH 19, 2022 @ ZION, LODI FOR ZONE 3 SPRING RALLY FEATURING LINDA PATEL SPEAKING ON HEART TO HEART — SISTERS OF ALL NATIONS!

News from Zone 4, West Sacramento

Londa Borer, LWML at Town & Country, Sacramento, CA

The ladies of the LWML at Town and Country Lutheran have had a busy fall of hosting luncheons and receptions. We began by hosting the 75<sup>th</sup> Reformation service for the Sacramento area. Rev. Paul Hoffman, son of Lutheran Hour speaker Oswald Hoffman, spoke. We sold approximately \$100 in quilts with proceeds going to LHM and Lutheran for Religious Liberty and another \$1000 from the offering was donated to the district LWML mite fund. In late November, we hosted a thank you luncheon for Rev. Robert Fickenscher who had served our congregation during a 3½ year vacancy. In early December, we hosted a cookie reception for our newly called pastor, Rev. Trevor Mankin. Plans are now underway for a March 13 luncheon for all women of the congregation who will be personally invited. We will wear green and celebrate St. Patrick's Day as well as welcome all women and invite them to participate in LWML.

## News from Zone 5 – South San Joaquin

#### Linda Lynch, Zion, Terra Bella, President and Zone 5 contact



As we go into the year 2022 and see what the Lord has in store for us, I reflected on the activities our society has done this last fall. We continued to learn about the opportunities of service in our community as we were updated on our school, Zion Lutheran School, in October and in November we learned about how the veterans were served by one of our local high school's organizations, The Heart Warmer's Club. This club, which was started by one of the teens in our church with seed money from our LWML about 3 years ago, had made tied blankets out of fleece to be given

to various people in need. In November we saw a news broadcast about how these blankets were given to the veterans the previous year who were supposed to go on the "Honor Flight" out of Fresno but couldn't go due to Covid. It was very heart moving.



In December we prepared and held our annual Christmas Bazaar and Soup Luncheon on December 5 after church. We are always amazed how the Lord blesses us with success even though we have a small group of women putting it on. We make enough money from this event to support two seminary students for the year as well as fund some of our donations to mission projects. Here are some pictures of items that were made and donated for this event. At our December meeting we always enjoy singing Christmas carols, having fun at our "white elephant" gift exchange, and bagging up treats for our church's shut-ins.

As we start this new year of 2022, we are mindful to always be open to the opportunities the Lord gives us and respond in the sharing of His love to others. We don't have any upcoming events in the works at this time, but we will be discussing what we may want to do this spring at our next meeting.

(Editor combining two half pages)

News From Zone 16 – Monterey Bay

Thankful to be of service.

Rebecca Weisshahn, Zone 16 President

May the God of hope fill you with all joy overflow with hope by the power

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

Things have been very slow in Zone 16 since Covid hit and people have been isolating more. I do look forward to that changing though, as the warmer spring months begin to approach and we

look forward to the Convention in Sparks this summer.

I will be making an effort to attend church at each of our zone parishes over the next few months in order to invite women of the congregations to attend the Convention. I would also like to pass out surveys asking how LWML can be of service to the women within our zone. I would like to learn from ladies across the spectrum, how the LWML can be helpful, welcoming and fun.

I would like to encourage women of all ages and backgrounds in our zone to become involved in planning an LWML gathering in order to connect within our own church community and reach out into the greater community as well.

Our Savior Lutheran Church LWML has begun meeting once monthly on Saturday mornings, and I would like to invite the ladies of other parishes to join us in our activities, as well, if they so desire.

It is disconcerting to me that over the last two years we have seen congregations, let alone LWML organizations, diminish, but I have great hope that with prayer, faith and perseverance both LCMS and LWML will be thriving again.



## News From Zone 6 - North Bay Bethany Lutheran Church Vacaville, CA. Georgia DeBarr

What is more fun than packing toys and gifts for needy children? Our group met on December 11 with piles of donations from members that amounted to 130 bags filled! Each bag contained a small stuffed animal, appropriate age toys and crafts and just plain fun

stuff! One hundred of the bags went to the Boys & Girls Club in

Vacaville, Calif., and the remaining 30 went to the Spero Pregnancy Support Group in Woodland, CA.

During our upcoming February 12 meeting and luncheon, we will be making Valentine cards and filling goody bags for our shut-ins. Due to Covid regulations, we are not including homemade candy and cookies this year.



L-R Clockwise: Terri Denton, Betty Anima, (background Pat Green and Georgia DeBarr) Debbie Duncan, Irma Skarshaug

L-R: Pat Green, Projects; Karen Mauer, Treasurer; Carol Schmidt, Fellowship; Terri Denton, Bible Study; Barbara Bessemer, Secretary; Amanda Rudeen, Vice President; Carole Wilson, President; Betty Anima, Georgia DeBarr,





## Trinity Lutheran, Fairfield, CA Submitted by Marian Durbin, written by Lori Garot

Outreach From Lutheran Women's Missionary League through Crafts

In December, the LWML ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church, Fairfield, CA worked for two hours on the "Candy Cane Meaning" craft. They cut the card stock, punched holes, inserted ribbons and attached candy canes happily, as they visited and enjoyed each other's company. It was so nice to hand out on Christmas Eve as an outreach to welcome visitors and remind our members of the red and white stripes and the shape of the candy cane and the Christian meaning behind it.



L-R: Lori Garot, Teresa Owens, Shirlee Pierce, Connie Erwin, Marian Durbin, Kit Stack, Kay Locatelli, Michelle Wyatt and Judy Serrano



The ladies also enjoyed a cookie exchange, suggested by Kay Locatelli, after finishing the crafts, and shared fellowship.



## Greetings from Zone 7 – Mt. Diablo



## Serving the Lord with gladness, Cherylene Brueckner, Zone 7 President



"A new year and a new beginning!" Sounds good to me! I am sure that many agree that we are ready for a year free of pandemics, fires, droughts, unplanned health issues, etc., but at the same

time are so very thankful to our Lord for the many blessings He covers (comforts and protects) us with during the darker times in our lives. 2022 may not turn out to be full of all that we wish for, but we are blessed with faith in the strength of our powerful God, hope in our eternal God, and the love of our God who sacrificed His only Son for us. Yes, every year... every day!... is a new beginning when we walk with Jesus, so let's go!

The women in Zone 7 have felt a bit disconnected after cancelling our 2021 Fall Event, but we are ready to step out in faith with plans for our 2022 Spring Event. The Women of Faith in Pleasant Hill are in the planning stages of hosting the event with a target date in late April or early May. Our speaker will be Room A, sponsored by Hillcrest Congregational Church in Pleasant Hill. Room A provides food and clothing for the needy. Now, more than ever, the needy are growing in numbers. One church, one organization, cannot care for them all, but together (and with God's help) we can make a difference. Whether we come together this spring with masks or no masks, inside or on the front lawn, we are eager to be about the Lord's work, serving the Lord with gladness. In the last issue of Joyful Servant, I wrote about featuring one society from our zone each issue and providing highlights from some of the others.

First Lutheran in Concord shares information for this issue. Thank you, Lynnette Campbell!

In the fall First Lutheran Church chose the theme of generosity. Each person in the church and preschool was given \$10 to use in being generous and to report back how they used the money. There were many creative ways that people used their \$10. Many of our ladies used their money to contribute to projects planned by the outreach committee:

- 1. Donate gift cards to homeless students through a program with the Mount Diablo Unified School District. The Homeless Outreach Program for Education (HOPE) helps these students all year round.
- 2. Create "Welcome Home" boxes, containing home & kitchen supplies, for people who are being matched with housing opportunities. We donated 13 boxes to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Concord, CA which has an active program to help people in need.





Welcome Home Gift Boxes

We are looking forward to the LWML events in April and June. Hopefully some of us will be able to attend in person.

## Highlights from **Benicia Lutheran Church, Benicia**, Sherry Bell reporting:

Have any of you been watching the television series, "The Chosen"? The women at our church have enjoyed it so much that we are now doing a Bible Study based on Series 1. Liz Barriga is leading our study. Our congregation still has a pastoral vacancy. We are thankful to have Pastor Phil Kohlmeyer serving as our interim pastor.

Highlights from St. Philip Lutheran Church, Dublin, Andrea Green reporting:

Our congregation still has a pastoral vacancy, and like many other churches in California we have had several families move out of state. In December we participated in Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes for boys and girls around the world, sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. Our women keep in touch, and we are looking forward to our Zone 7 Spring Event.

Highlights from **Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Concord**, Joyce Liebe reporting:

The Women of Holy Cross organized and completed our annual Lutheran Social Services Christmas gift drive. The "giving tree" went up just before Thanksgiving. The gift request tags were taken by members of the congregation so they could shop and return their gifts to church for wrapping. This year we had 43 adults and 7 children that we were able to fulfill all their wish requests. WoHC and two representatives from LSS met at church on 12/4 to wrap the gifts. The LSS workers loaded their "sleigh" to deliver the gifts.

(WoHC/LSS pics & more Zone 7 continues next page)

(WoHC pics & more Zone 7 continued)

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, "You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land."

Deuteronomy 15:11



WoHC Gift Wrappers

LSS Representatives

# Highlights from **Our Savior Lutheran Church, Livermore**, Susan Contreras reporting:

The Our Savior Quilters produced quilts, decorated towels, and a Christmas Tree Wall Hanging for the November Boutique and earned \$376 which was split to fund the Youth Gathering and the Endowment fund, which gives mini grants for missions. We praise God who has blessed our efforts.







← Livermore Quilts

Beth Young polled our Bible Study group for ideas, to determine our next Bible study. Suggestions abounded: Patricia Shirer's studies of either Elijah or Gideon; Beth Moor's studies of Galatians, James, or John. Finally, we decided to embark on the study of Elijah. We have been blessed by our studies, which are in person and on zoom. We hope every LWML group explores the wonderful studies available to all of us. Check out the <a href="LWML"><u>LWML</u></a> Bible Studies and mini studies that are available for our spiritual growth.

Highlights from **Our Savior Lutheran Church, Pinole**, Shirley Schmeyer reporting:

We have an active quilting group that meets regularly to make lap quilts. Our group is mostly LWML ladies, but several are not members of the church. We even have a man that sews with us. Thanks to Thrivent for their donations that help us purchase supplies for the lap quilts. They are donated to the Care Homes in the area and the Veteran Hospital in Martinez. Some quilts even made it to South Dakota last year to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.



Pinole Lap Quilt Quilters

Highlights from Faith Lutheran Church, Pleasant Hill, Mary Wolkenhauer reporting:

We are busy, busy, busy planning the 2022 Spring Event!

I look forward to reading this issue of Joyful Servant to see how other zones in CNH ended last year and any plans you have going forward in 2022. I know that we will all step forward in prayer and faith, trusting in God's care for us. I shared this Bible verse in the winter issue, but it bears repeating.

But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Isaiah 43:1-2

News from Zone 8 - Peninsula

## Barbara Guevara, Zone 8 President & Trinity, Burlingame President

How well do you know the LWML sister who has sat next to or across from you at meetings or events? Did you ever stop to think that maybe she is hurting financially?

For Christmas 2021 Trinity Lutheran – Burlingame decided to look around and see if they could identify a devoted LWML sister who needed some financial help. They were successful in finding one who could use some extra funds. The chosen sister was not even a member of their congregation. Pastor Schufreider and LWML ladies hosted a bake sale and boutique to raise funds. Other societies were contacted, and without mentioning any name, they were asked to help in this outreach. One society went so far as to set up an "adopt a senior" program as part of their Christmas outreach and were successful in adding to the total monies and gift cards in the amount of \$3,350 collected by Trinity, Burlingame which were given as a Christmas gift to the chosen recipient, who accepted the offering with many tears of joy and thanksgiving.

There is a lesson to be learned from this Christmas surprise, look close to home and maybe you will find a LWML sister who needs a tangible gift. You might redirect some portion of your 2022 budget or have a special offering from your congregation that could make a complete difference in someone's life. Does your zone or society always do the same projects or support the same missions? This is a new way you can support an LWML sister who is in need.

Should you decide to take on this project joy and blessings will flow larger than you can ever imagine.



**From Our Savior's, Pacifica by Mychelle and Lori** - December was a busy month as our church planned for the Christmas Celebration and Adopt-a-family program. We celebrated our 10th year of Christmas Caroling in our community. We had the opportunity to sing Christian carols to the Lindamar Care Center, local Fire Station, shut-ins, our pastor's family, and individuals in our community. We even had a person join our group as they heard us singing. We offered a free dinner

to our members and community which was followed up by a festive evening where we performed a live nativity scene in our parking lot (complete with a live goat, costumes, and very large sky spotlight). It was a beautiful opportunity to remind people that Jesus is the reason we celebrate Christmas.

Our church members also sponsored Christmas gifts and gift cards for two local families (6-family members each) through the Pacifica Resource Center. Generous donations came close to \$1,000.

We also searched out an Adopt-a-Senior recipient joining Trinity, Burlingame's fundraiser with gift cards and cash for a fellow LWML sister in need. Once more generous giving was just shy of \$500.



We heard several comments from individuals in our community that they were so happy to see people out celebrating this year.

The Dorcas Ladies warmed our bodies with a lite dinner of soup and salad prior to our souls being warmed by the Word of God at our Mid-Week Advent Services. The first evening which included decorating the Christmas tree with our Chrismon decorations, fed 22 people with the main pot being a 10-Bean Soup. The two following weeks we had different soups feeding 14 and 12 respectively.

The 10-Bean Soup recipe and beans will be available 1/30 & 2/6 to recreate the deliciousness just in time for the Superbowl LVI.



ALL proceeds will be going towards our LWML CNH Mites.

#### **News from Trinity, Palo Alto, by Marilyn Taddey**

Trinity LWML does not meet regularly but I encourage donations to the mite box projects and continue to invite the ladies to the Zone events. We'll be hosting the 2022 Prayer Service aka Day of Prayer on March 5th.

During January, Trinity hosted "Hotel de Zink" -- an overnight lodging for homeless people. We served a hot meal and provided items for their breakfasts, and lunch items that they took with them during the day. This year there were only 10 participants, but they were very appreciative of Trinity's support.

## Zone 9 – Central Coast

#### **Carol Sanden, Zone 9 President**

We had to postpone our Zone 9 board meeting and local LWML meeting till February due to the uptick in Covid cases here. This also affects our Spring Rally.

We still collect and send in our Mites on a regular basis. Praying that this all improves so that we can gather together in-person again soon.

## News from Zone 10 – Sierra Neveda Lynn Tappan, Bethlehem Lutheran, Carson City, NV

We still are not meeting; however, Diane Drumm and I have scheduled a "Chocolate Delights" bake sale on

February 13. Proceeds for mission projects.

I am hosting the CNH 2022 Convention Planning Meeting on February 19th at Bethlehem.

News from Zone 11 – Hawai'i
Nancy Kunert, LWML President, Zone 11

## \*\*\*SAVE THE DATE\*\*\*

March 26th - 10am-12 noon and 1pm-3pm **Hawai'i time** (2 options on the same day this year)

Theme: **Spreading the Word in Africa** 

Matthew 28: 19-20 "Therefore go and make disciples of every nation...."

Speakers: LCMS International Missionary to Africa - Krista Young and Lutheran Bible Translator Serena Derricks working in Cameroon (with her husband Elliot)

Watch your email as the invitation will be sent to the women in the CNH District once again.

# News From Zone 12 – North Sacramento **Submitted by Sandra Clark, President**

As a welcome Spring Gathering - April 30-May 1 - the women of Zone 12 will be heading to the mountains to Faith Lutheran Church, nestled in the tall, majestic trees of Burney, CA

Plans for this gathering were made almost 2 years ago by and for the women of Trinity Church in Redding. Covid immediately put the completed plans on hold. When the call came to host a Zone 12 Spring event this year, the decision was made to go ahead, do the retreat, and extend an open invitation for all the women in Zone 12 to join in.

As we look at the verse from scripture; "God, the Lord is my strength, He makes my feet like the deer's; he makes me tread on my high places" Habakkus 3:19, "Heading for Higher Places" became the theme chosen.

So, as we head up the mountains to Burney this Spring, we look forward to worshiping together in praise, worship, Bible study, fellowship and a journey to Burney Falls State Park on Saturday afternoon. For those staying overnight we will join the congregation at Faith Lutheran in worship on Sunday morning. May this special time be a blessing to each of us as we Thank God for the wonders of His amazing creation, filling our hearts and this small church with love and thanksgiving.

## News from Zone 14

## Laura Lynn Ledson, Zone 14 President

Zone 14 spans California's North Bay through four counties, Sonoma, Napa Lake and Mendocino ... many miles! We are happy to announce that due to a zone servant event sponsored by THRIVENT last October which as a part of the day bagged ten varieties of dried beans for soup and taught zone congregations on "How to Plan a Bean Soup Luncheon", St. Mark in Santa Rosa was able to gift two checks of \$913 each, proceeds of the luncheon to programs that well deserved the amounts. One was Redwood Gospel Mission, a very successful Sonoma County Christian endeavor at seven facilities ministering to men and women in need helping with food, clothing and shelter but most of all their reasons for life which starts with their relationship to Jesus Christ. The second was Share Our Wealth, a St. Mark board to aid victims of disasters such as fires, COVID or personal need. We thank Thrivent as the luncheon sponsor. We recognize the good that has spread. Some zone congregations have since told the "benefit of the beans". One church is planning a SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY. Guess what ... God's team wins!

Beginning 2022 the Zone Executive Committee gathered at the Union Hotel for a delicious lunch to plan the year. Our traditional Spring Rally is scheduled for March 12th, location to be determined. BIBLE verse I Peter 4:10 will set the stage, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace ..." This theme will open a forum for the ladies to draw forth their own stories how God has worked in their lives. The keynote speaker will be the WOMEN themselves, telling their inspirations in small three-minute segments. The day will of course include an ingathering, devotion, potluck lunch, business, and elections.

A great memorial has been bestowed on our zone. Ernie Frandsen, member of Good Shepherd, Healdsburg, has gifted \$1,000 in memory of his late wife, Marilyn Frandsen. While Marilyn was pregnant with their fourth daughter, she read an inspirational article in the 'Saturday Evening Post' about the Lutheran Church and its basic beliefs. She and Ernie travelled to Grace, Cloverdale, to hear sermons by Pastor Stahnky and Vicar Lumen. They enrolled in classes to join the church. The rest is history. Marilyn, a homemaker in everyday life, became active in LWML She weathered through the days of no church voting rights for women, but held a solid foundation organizing the rummage sales, helping people in need, attending a prayer group, holding LWML executive position of president, going to conventions. One of her strengths was that of the cook in the kitchen. That fit well with the saying that the Lutheran Church has the best cooks, which is true for the LWML. She and the ladies were known for their strong ethnic backgrounds from Norway, Sweden, Germany, and their old-fashioned recipes. This made men in the congregation smile, but potlucks made men in the congregation larger. Residents of Healdsburg, she and Ernie owned one of the two local grocery stores, a night and Sunday store. She now joins Jesus in heaven.

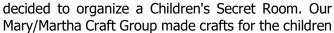
We are grateful for Marilyn's service to the Lord and her husband for making the contribution to benefit the LWML. Ernie and the Zone Executive Committee agreed to earmark the amount to help zone members, both existing and new groups, to attend the convention in Sparks. The total will be divided to zone members who commit to attending in June to pay their fees. They must notify the zone prior to the April 1st, thank you Ernie! This information is being offered to the Zone 14 societies with the news of the convention fund and the new 2022 calendar. A servant event will end the year in the fall. Please pray for our congregations who are needing ministers and for the new societies starting. Have hope! Keep the faith! Ladies, look forward to ANOTHER YEAR!

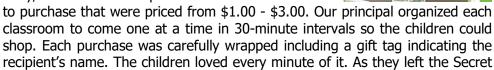
## News From Zone 15 – Central San Joaquin



## Carole Sell, LWML President, Grace, Visalia

Praise to God!!!!! Our LWML Children's Secret Room, Friday, November 5th, Craft Boutique & Luncheon, November 6th and Sunday Sale after both church services, November 7th marked the 2nd highest ever in funds received over the past 28 years. We have been wanting to somehow incorporate the children in our Christian day school & church family and





Room each child received a goodie bag with a juice box, snack and bracelet with the inscription, "I am a child of God". We heard the parents of the children were thrilled to

see the excitement in their child when they picked them up after school. I also heard from the grandma of one of the students that her grandson couldn't wait to give his parents their gifts and he didn't wait.

The funds received from our events is donated to local and worldwide charities besides we sponsor two students who attend Concordia Seminary in Ft Wayne,

Indiana & St Louis, Missouri. Here are some of charities: LCMS World Relief & Human Care, Lutheran Bible Translators, POBLO International, Sequoia Braille Transcribers, Kaweah Delta Hospice & Youth for Christ. We also give to Grace Christian School that helps with tuition assistance. We are blessed to give.

Mark your calendars, ladies, Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup> is Grace LWML annual Mother's Day Tea. Our theme this year is the Roaring 20's. Stay tuned for more information.





Women of Grace was filled with outreach activities to complete the year.

- Hearts2Hand ministry informed us of their outreach to the local homeless. We currently are collecting coats for this ministry.
- Central California Mennonite Services spoke on their residential facility which allows mentally disabled adults to reach their maximum independence in their daily lives.
- A representative from the Clovis Salvation Army shared their local outreach activities. We were given a
  family of 5 to support with a giving tree of which our congregation also supported.
- On January 15th, assemblyman Jim Patterson will be our speaker.

With each of the above outreach programs we were made aware of how we could be involved both as a group or as individuals. We're looking forward to a new year of Love God - Love Others - and Show It!

#### Ann Mach, President, Peace Lutheran, Fresno

American and Hmong congregations joined together to celebrate Oktoberfest with traditional German food of bratwurst, sauerkraut, red cabbage, hot potato salad, and a variety of other side dishes and desserts. German music was provided by an accordionist, and all joined in the fun chicken dances. A free will offering was taken from almost an hundred people in attendance. Monies were used to purchase 12 turkey dinners, 48 backpacks w/school supplies, and 20 jackets for a local elementary school. The balance of \$200 was sent to District for LWML mission projects. Praise the Lord for His abundance!!







# News from Zone 19 — East Sacramento **Bev Vietor, Trinity's Martha Circle**

The Mary Martha Circle ladies of Trinity Lutheran, Zone 19 celebrated Christmas with a Tea at their weekly Bible study. →

#### **Elise Spleiss, Messiah LWML Sunday**

Praise God for a meaningful LWML Sunday 2021

on October 24. Our members braved heavy God-sent rain to get there. Some of our ladies, led by cross-bearer Adelia Stephens, processed in as we had done for many years in the past. We greeted, ushered, read, and handed out our brand new LWML brochure, national mission grant goals, and Mustard Seed devotions. It was a nice surprise to have Sharon playing for the service.





The service and sermon reflected the purpose of LWML and why we support their mission. We thank Pastor Stephens for further explaining the symbolism of the current logo, which includes our baptism, as featured on this year's banner as seen above.

Our Hearts in His Hand" was the theme for LWML Sunday 2021 "and is based on Peter's first letter to persecuted Christians in Asia Minor. In chapter 4:8, Peter tells them, "Above all, keep loving one another earnestly". The heart of the LWML is its members; our hearts have been made holy by God. We are fully dedicated to serving Him, by serving His Church at home and abroad. Our hearts for Christ are in His hand of service, wherever and when He has need of us." (Source: LWML.org)

"For where two or three are gathering together in my name, there am I the midst of them". Matt 18:20. We never know how many ladies will be at our meeting each month. But we don't worry about it. We recite the LWML pledge, sing our LWML songs, Pastor Morris leads a short Bible study, and we share one or two Mustard Seed devotions.

No matter how many attendees we have: three, four, five or more, we are always blessed. Each month always turns out to be the best meeting, with the perfect mix of memories and words of wisdom brought out during the meeting, members personal connections to our zone Mite grant recipients, and how God has been active in their lives.

We have had a treat lately. One of our men, Dave, has been attending, adding a lot to our meetings, giving a new perspective on what we do. His mother was a devoted LWML member, he is carrying on her family tradition.

Messiah and LWML members have been participating in Operation Christmas Child for five years, even during the pandemic. Despite being a small congregation, we are mighty when it comes to taking on a cause which serves our Lord. Our ladies and gentlemen come through. Watch for report with photos in the next issue.

Finally, one of our members, Dolores Groth, who loved LWML, passed away in September. The family requested any donations in her memory be made to LWML for its local missions. We have received \$370 to date and a pending donation of \$1,000 which is in the works. We are so blessed by these funds which will lighten the donation shortfall being experienced throughout our zone due to the pandemic.

Our sites are now on the Fall Rally on December 4 at the new St. Matthews.

## SAVE THE DATE...for our "Winter" meetings in Livermore:

**Friday, Feb. 25, 2022, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m., EC meeting** in-person and on Zoom. Hopefully, dinner will be at a local restaurant if they can accommodate our group.

Saturday, Feb. 26, 2022, BOD meeting 9:30 a.m. continental breakfast (EC, Zone Presidents/Contacts, Linda Patel),

Meeting from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., in-person and on Zoom. Lunch will be served.



#### SUBMISSIONS FOR SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Especially Reports on Events & Promotion of Convention

APPRECIATED BY APRIL 15<sup>th</sup>

Email submissions to Lori Fisher at <u>dudettefisher@sbcglobal.net</u> cell: 650-922-0998

