

LWML Mission Statement

As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.

THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

God is our safe haven

Roxan Schwab, LWML CNH District President

Recently, a young man who was having some trouble at home and just needed a break, stopped in to see my husband and me. As we were sitting at the dinner table, he said, "It's so nice to have some place to come that you know you are always welcome." I was happy he felt that way, and it occurred to me that in Jesus we all have this same kind of welcome: Deuteronomy 33:27 ***"The eternal God is your dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms."***



This verse reminds us that God is our safe haven and that we can rest secure in His arms, even in the most troubling times. Picturing being in the everlasting arms of our heavenly Father, feeling His strength and constant support is truly comforting. Why do we spend so much time fretting and worrying, when our God is always there for us?

Preparing for our recent convention made me anxious and full of self-doubt, so it also kept me on my knees and praying for strength and guidance, and God did give me strength. I called on God's promise in Isaiah 41:10: ***"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*** Keep this promise in mind when you are asked to chair an event, hold an office, or witness to others.

We are all sinful and need to ask for forgiveness. We are fortunate that it is by grace alone we are saved and through Jesus' death and resurrection, we are all welcome in heaven through faith. Yes, even a sinner like me. Romans 3:23-24 states ***"for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."*** What an amazing God we serve! I know that I am always welcome to sit at the feet of my Lord.

For all who attended the convention, I pray it was enjoyable and inspirational to you. Bring a friend along to Sacramento in 2026.

- ♥ ***"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*** Philippians 4:13, ESV
- ♥ ***"Fear not, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*** Isaiah 41:10, ESV
- ♥ ***"When I am afraid, I put my trust in you."*** Psalm 56:3, ESV
- ♥ ***"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God: for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God."*** Psalm 42:11, ESV
- ♥ ***"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."*** Proverbs 3:5-6, ESV ♥

MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT CHRISTIAN LIFE

Planning for August 2025 Retreat has begun!

By Cathey King

I want to thank everyone who voted for me in the election at Convention. I know I was unopposed, but being elected provides a certain amount of confidence. I am happy to announce that my wonderful committee, Judy Huber, Laura Lynn Ledsen, and Margaret Peterman have joyfully agreed to continue for the next 2 years!

At the Redding convention, the Christian Life committee provided a tri-fold bulletin board with pictures of last year's activities. We also offered a selection of give-away items that were varied and fun.

As far as the retreat goes, I have already found a speaker, the theme is being discussed, and some new activities are being planned. We are planning to retreat again at ECCO (Episcopal Conference Center Oakhurst) in August 2025. Start your plans early and prepare for a blessed time of worship, learning, fellowship, and fun!

I am continuing to write a monthly newsletter, *Christian Life Line*, and I hope you are enjoying it. Please be sure to share the monthly Life Line with your group members. Let me know if there is something you really enjoyed (or hated!) and anything you would like to read about. ♥



Above (left to right): Pastor Colter Knippa, Counselor, Cathey King, Vice President, Judy Huber, Margaret Peterman, and Laura Lynn Ledsen, committee members.

DISTRICT CONVENTION REPORT

Convention encourages us to share Christ through service, ministry and missions

By LaVada Terrell, Vice President Convention Planning

LWML CNH Convention in Redding, CA is now a memory after two years of planning with a fantastic committee of Pastor Counselors and LWML sisters. I believe the Theme, Scripture, Goal and Objectives of the Convention were presented well by and through the Worship Services, Music and Praise, Bible Study, In-Service Events (Phil's Friends, Bible Marking Ministries, MOST Ministries (witness bracelets), Mission Moments, Mission Grants (\$117,500 goal for 18 grants), Ingatherings (Exodus Farms, Good News Rescue Mission, and LifeNet Family Services), Exhibits, Meditation Prayer Walk, as well as the service of so many at the hotel and VPs/Committees, and Host Committee. There were 190+ registered attendees, 20+ extra male guests, 20+ exhibitors, and 7 YWRs.

The many convention events inspired us to meet our objectives:

- ♥ Discover and embrace our spiritual strengths and gifts;
- ♥ Build our relationships through fellowship and servant events;
- ♥ And to confidently serve God and others with joyful hearts.

All praise, glory, honor, and thanksgiving go to our Lord and Savior for this wonderful weekend, where so many used their gifts, talents, and abilities to ensure everything went smoothly. ♥



THEME:

Gifted to Serve by God's Grace

SCRIPTURE:

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.

I Peter 4:10 (ESV)

GOAL:

Because of God's undeserved love to us, we are encouraged to share Christ through our service, ministry, and missions.

MESSAGE FROM OUTGOING VICE PRESIDENT GOSPEL OUTREACH

Bev Vietor, "Penny"

Can you guess what my favorite song is?

Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;

Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Oh, yes, I am writing a report about what I've done the last 2 years of my life as your Vice President of Gospel Outreach. As you know, the GRANTS fill my moments and days, as they are my primary responsibility. The grant process is a 2-year cycle (biennium). Guidelines and criteria are the beginning — all the way from receiving the grant proposals, through the review committee, Board review, ballot process to funding. Grant funding comes from the collection of mites, thanks to you wonderful LWML mites collectors. When a grant is funded, I contact the administrator and get the paperwork processed, then send out eblasts to you all.

Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of They love;

Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

During this entire process I am in constant contact with the different grant missions, writing emails and newsletter articles. Many times, I have visited the churches or ministries to personally deliver our mites checks. My feet have walked Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and the Little Lambs pre-school in Belize.

Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee.

One of my favorite duties is talking to everyone about the grants. I have gone to Zone rallies, retreats and society meetings sharing information and slide shows about the grants. Hopefully, I got to meet you during the last two years. I also talk to the grant recipients, walk through their facilities and listen to messages. Oh, the joy of meeting and visiting with the special people to whom grantees minister.

Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine:

Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

Take my intellect and use Every pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

Where do I use the intellect and skill God put into me? At all the LWML Board and zoom meetings, phone calls and prayer time, where I try to give up my will for the Lord's work. But I did not do all this alone. I had the **MOST WONDERFUL COMMITTEE MEMBERS, Jan Froh, Susan Contreras, and Sharon Willweber**. They each used their own unique skills doing our committee work. And what a wonderful team they were, especially as prayer warriors during the entire two years. They were my Aarons, always there when called upon. Thank you dear ladies!!

Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;

Take myself, and I will be, Ever, only all for Thee.

Take my silver and my gold, Not a MITE would I withhold!

♥ Penny ♥

Visit our [website](#) to see all the 2024–2026 grants.



Below are the first four grants to be funded in the 2024–2026 biennium.



Maui Storms of Life Scholarship



Outreach to Chico State/Butte College Students



Windows for God's Children



Sow to Reap,
Monterey Youth Ministry

MESSAGE FROM COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

By Lynnette Campbell

Listening to you and improving the Convention experience

In 2020 and 2022, we used the *Election Buddy* platform to prioritize the Mission Grants and set the Mission Goal for each biennium. This year we did the same. We had 91 delegates registered to select the order in which the grants would be funded. Using this method helps save quite a bit of time compared to hand counting ballots and summarizing the results during the Convention. It also allows us to have the Mission Grant bookmarks showing the Mission Grants which we select printed prior to the Convention so we can distribute them at the Convention, saving a lot of postage.

For the 2024 Convention, the LWML CNH Board of Directors made a decision to address comments we have received in the past that “many attendees, who are not delegates, would prefer not to sit through the business.” We decided to have the delegates meet on Friday afternoon after *Worship and the Word* (formerly called SWAPP) and the opening worship service. This was the first district convention where we conducted the business during a Delegate meeting on Friday afternoon rather than spread it throughout the convention. I believe we will get good feedback on this new way of doing district conventions. We will make plans for future Conventions based on the feedback we get from the attendees. There were 71 registered voting in-person delegates on Friday. They elected four officers and a new Pastoral Counselor.

Congratulations and thank you for your willingness to serve!

- ♥ Barbara Ellis, Treasurer
- ♥ Edda Bevilacqua, VP of Special Focus Ministries
- ♥ Janet Froh, VP of Gospel Outreach
- ♥ Cathey King, VP of Christian Life
- ♥ Rev. Doua Xiong, Junior Pastoral Counselor

MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT HUMAN CARE COMMITTEE

By Lori Fisher

Convention In-Service benefits three ministries

Thank you to all the ladies who volunteered for In-Service projects that were helped by Thrivent Action Team Grants. We marked 20 bibles for *Lutheran Prison Ministries*, colored 20 greeting cards and 10 bookmarks for *Phil's Friends*, and made 215 witness bracelets for *MOST Ministries*!

Steinbeck & Rubin Scholarship news

The Human Care committee's display table had printed copies of all four years of the *Steinbeck Thank You Stories* and our first year *Rubin Thank You Stories* in yearbook style, along with a special Thank You written to be read at our convention from four-time Steinbeck Scholarship recipient Noah Hoech. If you missed picking up a copy and would like one mailed or emailed to you please contact Lori Fisher at dudettefisher@sbcglobal.net.

The Steinbeck Scholarship invite letter for Fall 2024 was sent out to 25 different missionary families which included most of our 2022 recipient students with a possible 50 missionary kids continuing or starting college this fall. Within 24 hours, I received one completed application, two inquiries of qualifying and five declines. One graduated, another in the Air Force and three having one more year of high school. **Please keep our missionary families in your prayers especially as they will see their children off to college while they stay in the mission field this Fall.**



In-Service projects above: Lutheran Prison Ministries, Phil's Friends, MOST Ministries.

ZONE 10: SIERRA NEVADA

ST LUKES | RENO, NEVADA

Princess Tea for all daughters of the King of Kings

By Elizabeth Henningsen, Ruth Guild member/Social Ministries Chair

On April 27th, the St. Luke's Ruth Guild, in collaboration with our social ministries, delighted in hosting our inaugural Princess Tea event. All "daughters of the King of Kings" were invited. Nearly 90 participants graced our gathering, elegantly spread across nine tables, each lovingly hosted by members of the Ruth Guild and other congregation ladies. Delighting in the tradition of tea, attendees brought their cherished China to adorn their tables, adding a touch of personal warmth to the affair.

In addition to the tea, we embraced the beauty of nature as everyone contributed flowers, which we joyfully used to create exquisite arrangements and delicate flower crowns, much to the delight of our young attendees. The afternoon unfolded in a tapestry of vibrant blooms and heartwarming fellowship, creating lasting memories for all who attended. ♥



Attendees brought flowers to share, which we joyfully used to create exquisite arrangements and delicate flower crowns.



Lights shined brightly at Convention!

Jane Krider, Convention Delegate

I was honored to be the Delegate at the Convention. Candy Kiel, Jo Luckemeyer and I enjoyed the road trip to the Convention.

This year, our Ruth Guild Bible Verse theme is *"Ye shine as lights in the world, holding forth the word of life."* (Phillipians 2:15-16) The lights were the brightest in all directions at this Convention!

What a pleasure to spend time with the Zone 10 ladies at the Delegate Assembly. We got to experience online voting for the first time, shining the light on the future. The Mission Moments, Exhibit Hall and Turtle Bay Meditation Walk were inspirational. The music brought tearful lights to everyone's eyes. My favorite was *Shine Jesus Shine* sung at Trinity Lutheran Church. Thanks to Roxan and all for a very successful Convention! See you in Sacramento.

ZONE 19: EAST SACRAMENTO

ST MATTHEW | ROCKLIN, CA

Corsages and boutonnieres for local Children's Hospital Prom for teens

By Sharon Junge, Society President

Combining our passion for children and our joy of crafting for a purpose, we offered our skills to St. Matthew's Lutheran Church's recently formed **HUGS for Kids – (HOPE in UNCERTAINTY by GOD'S STRENGTH)** ministry. It serves children and youth with chronic medical conditions at a local children's hospital. For this project we made corsages and boutonnieres for teens who were unable to attend their local high school proms. Over 70 youth attended the prom held at the local hospital. ♥



ZONE 19: EAST SACRAMENTO

Convention review

By Elise Spleiss, Communications

The Spring 2024 LWML CNH District Convention was attended by nearly 200 sisters in Christ and other attendees at the Holiday Inn Convention Hotel in Redding, California April 19-21, 2024.

An opening service Friday night at Trinity Lutheran set the stage for an engaging weekend, including reminiscing with old friends and meeting new ones.

A Color Guard Presentation by Redding Girl Scout Troop 70239 kicked off opening ceremonies on Saturday morning. Displays and exhibits were available to peruse at one's leisure in-between convention sessions, speaking with missionaries, collecting giveaways and learning about mission grant recipients and other Lutheran organizations.

Missions come to life

Presentations called "*Mission Moments*" brought 10 missions funded with our Mites to life, explaining how these programs, which began with an idea on a grant application, are coming to fruition and changing lives of recipients all over the globe.

We also heard the story behind the work of VBS for the Lord's Disabled, Walking with Women Leaders, (LINC Bay Area), and Barbara Ellis with 'Mission of Christ Network'. Ellis answered God's call to work between home and a mission program in Germany.

Gospel Outreach Chair Bev Vietor, made the 'big reveal' of the order in which the CNH 2024-2026 mission grants will be paid. Maui Storms of Life Scholarship for \$9,300 will be paid first.

Special banquet music was provided by the Neighborhood Swing Band. Music leaders, Bryan and Stacy Widstrand, Worship Directors of Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Paso Robles, led a long weekend of both fun entertaining and sacred music in different settings, including two 'Songfests' and accompanying the choir for the Sunday morning Sending Service.



Above left: Enjoying Saturday's Western-themed banquet: Liz Barriga, Cherylene Brueckner, Susan Contreras, Mona Thennis, Sherry Bell. Right: Young Women Representatives carry the Zone 19 banner. ♥

Join us for a simmering Women's Retreat Getaway!

By Diane Flynn, Board member

We will share encouragement, fellowship, and fun as we enjoy God's Word, music, service project, raffle, skit, and even a coffee bar.

Whatever the shape, flavor, and texture of our days and however our lives are packaged, we can savor God's overflowing supply of love in Christ.



Love is Brewing

"The greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13

Faith Lutheran Church

4000 San Juan Avenue, Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Saturday, June 22, 2024

9 am-3 pm

\$15.00 (Includes meals and materials)

For more information, contact:

JoAnn Rathjen: grathjen@msn.com

Dianne Flynn: stoptheponi@aol.com

ZONE 6: NORTH BAY

TRINITY LUTHERAN | FAIRFIELD, CA

Outreach Project: Sock Sundays in February; Undie Sundays in March

By Lori Garot, Secretary Zone 6

The LWML ladies of Trinity Lutheran Church in Fairfield, CA, invited a speaker from **Insight Housing** to present at our November 2023 meeting. This organization provides housing and basic essentials for veterans who are in need. Coordinator, Steve Marshall, told us that they do not accept monetary donations, however, they do accept socks and underwear for men, women and children. The ladies decided to have Sock Sundays, in which new socks were collected each Sunday during the month of February, and Undie Sundays in March when new undergarments were collected each week. The ladies were overwhelmed by the support of the congregation with over 50 pairs of socks and a large box of underwear donated! These supplies were received with much appreciation from the Insight Housing group. As we continue to pray for our veterans and current military personnel, Trinity LWML ladies are very proud of this outreach project. ♥



ZONE 3: NORTH SAN JOAQUIN

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN | VALLEY SPRINGS, CA

Spring Rally, new craft club, inspiring convention

By Judy Huber, Secretary

The Zone #3 women of Immanuel Lutheran, now located in Valley Springs, have been blessed with special events in our town, zone, and district. We enjoyed the **Spring Rally on March 16** at Good Shepherd Turlock and were inspired by the work of Jessica's House, a grief ministry for families and also got to meet Genesis, their comfort dog who does important work for all ages.

Our group is busy developing a **"CARE AND SHARE CRAFT CLUB"** with the goal to make handmade gift items that show God's love and compassion as well as be an outreach tool of our joint congregations. We met at the Rollingwood Community Clubhouse to tie fleece blankets and had five new ladies from the community join us!

Recently four of us from Zion Lodi and Immanuel Valley Springs put on our cowboy boots and hats and attended the District Convention! Thanks to all who made it an inspirational experience! ♥



MaryLou Rempert, Lissa Lefler, Marjorie Duerr, Judy Huber at Convention in Redding. (Zion Lodi/Immanuel/Valley Springs members)

ZONE 12: NORTH SACRAMENTO

Gifted to serve

By Martha E Dubke, Zone President

The ladies of Zone 12 used their varied gifts at the LWML CNH Convention in Redding, California the third weekend in April, 2024. From hosting the Friday night Worship Service and reception, to helping out as hostesses throughout the convention, as well as sewing bags, they gladly served the Lord by assisting those who attended. It was great to have Young Woman Representative, Amy Finger, of Willows and Corning representing Zone 12. After the wrap-up meeting in May, we are planning our Fall Zone event in October, "Come and See", hopefully, at Redeemer Lutheran in Chico. ♥



Immediate left: YWR Amy Finger holding Tacey, Rev. Sylvan Finger, Pastor of Mt. Olive, Corning and First, Willows, with Taylor



Top left: Ladies from St. Paul Lutheran, Red Bluff, with the new Zone 12 banner - Marjie, Karen, Barbara, Linda, Mary, Maudean, Karen, Charlene, and Martha.

Bottom left: The ladies of Zone 12 who served at the convention: Bottom L to R: Linda, Karen, Karen, Pat, Barbara, Lois, Linda, Sandra, Karen, Maudean, Debbie Top R to L: Martha, Kerry, Janet, Mary, Marjie, Alyson, and Joan

ZONE 13: NORTH COAST REDWOOD

ST MARKS | FERNDALE, CA

Super Bowl Auction on Super Bowl Sunday is 15-year tradition

By Beverly Hansen Givens, Contact Person and Society Treasurer

For over 15 years, we have had a Super Bowl Auction on Super Bowl Sunday at St Marks Lutheran Church to raise money for "Bites For Mites". We had a lot of Super Bowl food donated this year and a lot of people stayed to participate in the Auction. We were blessed with the highest proceeds ever. Now that the game is scheduled later in the day, it has allowed more to attend. We have so much fun. We are pleased to send a large donation to the Financial Secretary at the District for the Grant Projects. This is our biggest Fund Raiser of the Year in our Society. ♥



The St Marks Super Bowl Sunday fundraiser had the highest proceeds ever, benefiting "Bites for Mites."

ZONE 11: HAWAII

CHRIST LUTHERAN | HILO, HAWAII

By Deane Kysar, Secretary

Delegates and Young Women Reps travel from Oahu, Maui and Hawaii

We are filled with joy to have had our Zone 11 represented at the LWML-CNHL convention in Redding, CA by three voting delegates and two LWML Young Women Representatives, from churches on the islands of Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii. Tabitha Dubke, a teacher at Emmanuel Lutheran School in Lahaina, was a speaker during the Saturday meetings. Her powerful presentation demonstrated the continuing need of our support for victims of the Maui fires. Mahalo for continuing to drop that loose change into your mite boxes. The total biennium grant budget of \$116,115 is funded by mites.

Fall Retreat at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park October 4-6, 2024

We extend an invitation to all Women of LCMS to the Zone 11 2024 FALL RETREAT at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Oct 4-6. **Register by July 15 for early bird \$275 Lodging and five meals.** Theme: Grace, Mercy, Peace - Growing in God's Grace. Please join us and enjoy a weekend of fellowship, inspiring speakers, and various activities in the cool rain forest above Hilo, Hawaii. See Invitation and Registration Form at right. For more information, email dinnie.kysar562@gmail.com. ♥



Students have been greatly benefited by the Maui Storms of Life Scholarship. Tabitha Dubke was a speaker during the Saturday meetings. Her powerful presentation demonstrated the continuing need of our support for victims of the Maui fires.



Hawai'i CNH Zone 11 invites you to its **LWML FALL RETREAT** On Hawai'i Island at Kilauea Military Camp in **Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park**
OCTOBER 4-6, 2024

Grace, Mercy, Peace: Growing in God's Grace
Registration, 2 nights lodging, 5 meals
Speakers, devotions, activities, servant event.
Early registration by July 15: \$275
Or after, \$300 until August 15.

Check payable to **LWML-CNHL Zone 11**
Mail to D. Kysar, P.O. Box 172, Hakalau, HI 96710
With registration information:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Telephone: _____

Home Church/Congregation/City _____

Hilo Airport Arrival Information:

Airline _____ Flight # _____

Date and Time _____

Yes ___ I need to be picked up at airport.

Questions? Please contact Dinnie Kysar
808-896-7284 or dinnie.kysar562@gmail.com

ZONE 3: NORTH SAN JOAQUIN

GRACE LUTHERAN | MODESTO, CA

Joyful Tea returns and honors Cathy Rosenow

By Julie Goodwin, President

Grace Lutheran's Mary-Martha Circle in Modesto recently enjoyed our Joyful Tea! We honored our LWML sister, Cathy Rosenow, who passed away a few years ago from Alzheimer's disease. Proceeds from the tea will be donated to various local and national charities, including the Alzheimer's Association. Entertainment for the day was provided by the Gallo Arts YES Co. kids and pianist, Aidan Wilkes (a high school student who is a member at Grace! We all enjoyed the afternoon, and we so happy to bring it back after taking off a few years! ♥



Proceeds from the Joyful Tea will benefit various local and national charities, including the Alzheimer's Association.

ZONE 15: CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN

EMMANUEL | CLOVIS, CA

Women of Grace Supporting Breaking the Chains and Evangel Home

By Cheryl Deis

The Women of Grace group at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Clovis is delighted to reach out to their community. They recently collected clothing items for **Breaking the Chains**, a resource for women and children affected by sex trafficking. With the help of other church members, they made a significant contribution to this worthy cause.

The Women of Grace are also proud to be involved with Evangel Home of Fresno, a sanctuary for abused women and their children. They hosted a tea and devotional, bringing joy and comfort to these women.

They are now eagerly preparing for a similar event for the women of Emmanuel in late May, looking forward to making a positive impact in their lives. ♥



Clothing donations to Breaking the Chains



Women of Grace: Loving God, Loving others, and Showing It

ZONE 7: MT DIABLO

By Sherry Bell, Zone President

ST PHILIP | DUBLIN, CA

Ladies of St Philip-Dublin are continuing our year of **“Be a Missionary, No Matter Where You Are.”** February was “Bag of Love.” We created 50 health care kits and had a packing party. Thanks to Thrivent for their help.

Our March focus was mites to make it **Mighty Mite in March.** We created a flower cross for our Easter celebration. And this summer, we will be helping the children in VBS to create 100 personal care kits for LRW.

FAITH LUTHERAN | PLEASANT HILL, CA

The Women of Faith gather mites every month. We also gather in fellowship at a monthly brunch. The brunch location rotates to a different home each time.

FIRST LUTHERAN | CONCORD, CA

Our ladies are getting excited to attend the Zone

Gathering at Our Savior Livermore. Two of us were able to attend the Redding Convention. Judy Bennett served as our delegate and it was her first LWML Convention. We also enjoyed the drive. The Convention was a wonderful time for us. Quote from Judy Bennett: **“As a first-time convention attendee, I felt truly blessed to gather with 200 sisters and brothers in Christ. What a joyful experience! A very moving church service Friday night, a fun dinner and band on Saturday, and Bible studies. I felt honored that I was asked to be a Delegate. Voting on LWML grants and officers is so important. Thank you for the opportunity.”**

WOMEN OF HOLY CROSS | CONCORD, CA

So far this year we have focused on Board reorganization & planning more regular gatherings. First, we simplified our Board & Bylaws to create a basic, good foundation for our group.

While our ladies participate (& often lead/coordinate) many congregational gatherings, we have not met as the WoHC for many months. It’s even more important now as we’ve been blessed by several new ladies joining our church in the last year, and we now have members of Grace Lutheran (formerly in Pittsburg) worshipping with us. So, on Sunday, 6/9, we are inviting all women to meet after worship and bring their favorite cup/mug. The theme is: **“Christ, Coffee, & Change,”** with the bible verse from Hebrews 13:8: **Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.** We will focus on **“Life Changes, but God Does Not!”** We will ask each lady to introduce themselves & talk about the mug they brought. Our goal is for us to get to know each other, connect, engage, & encourage a feeling of belonging. Our plan is to continue with a gathering each quarter.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH, PINOLE CA

By Shirley Schmeier, President

We carpoled to Martinez for our January meeting, visiting the Contra Costa County Historical Society. April’s meeting involved prayers, discussions and a craft session by Maude and Charlotte on how to make butterflies to be used as lapel pins. Cookie, Maude, Normalisa and Shirley attended our wonderful and inspiring LWML CNH Convention in Redding.



A lady from Benicia Lutheran, Nita Tyree, designed and sewed a new Zone 7 banner, which made its debut at the LWML CNH Convention.



Cookie was recognized at the District Convention as being the oldest attending member. We are so lucky to have her in our group!

ZONE 7: MT DIABLO

OUR SAVIOR | LIVERMORE, CA

Linda Patel is the new leader of Lutheran Women in Mission at Our Savior Livermore. To God be the glory.

Our Bible study leader, Beth Young, guided us to a new study which is very needed for current times. **Jude: Contending for the Faith in Today's Culture**, by Jackie Hill Perry. Jude, a short book, packs a punch when it comes to the defense of our faith.

BENICIA LUTHERAN | BENICIA, CA

Our society gave Valentine's Day gifts to the staff of Noah's Ark Preschool. They were so surprised and pleased. What a gift we have in our Christian preschools. ♥



Benicia Lutheran ladies share Valentine gifts with preschool teachers.

ZONE 8: PENINSULA

By Lori Fisher, Zone President

Morning of Prayer held February 17

Our Zone 8 invited the ladies to come to Trinity, Palo Alto for our Morning of Prayer led by Pastor Stewart Crown using the MOP program from the LWML.org website. Sixteen ladies, plus one husband and two pastors were in attendance.

Spring Gathering hosted by Dorcas ladies of Our Savior's

Our Spring Gathering on March 16th, hosted by the Dorcas ladies of Our Savior's Lutheran Church Pacifica, welcomed 13 ladies and 2 pastors. What a beautiful day on the coast to hear our bible study led by their interim Pastor Charles Froh on **Focusing on Jesus** using Psalm 100:2. Our speaker was VP of Convention Planning LaVada Terrell who doubled as our District Rep reminding all of us about the wonderful convention that was coming up April 19-21 in Redding, CA. The ingathering of socks and towels was for Good News Rescue Mission one of the convention's recipients.

Seven from Zone 8 attend convention

Zone 8 had seven ladies at the 2024 Convention in Redding: District Financial Secretary Barbara from Trinity, Burlingame; Zone President Lori from First Lutheran, So. San Francisco; Karla and Shirley from Grace, San Mateo; and three from Our Savior's, Kay, Debbie and first-timer Lisa.

Coming up: A Fall Gathering, hosted by Trinity, Burlingame, with Speaker from Phil's Friends, theme TBD. ♥



Above left: GLC delegate Karla Noland pictured with our Zone 8 Convention banner that Shirley Gangelhoff made. Shirley's very first banner. Above right: Barbara Guevara, Lori Fisher, Karla Noland, Kay Vanderpool, Shirley Gangelhoff, Debbie Simmonds, Lisa Pruett

ZONE 5: SOUTH SAN JOAQUIN

Serving the Lord with gladness

By Linda Lynch, Contact Person

Although LWML Zone 5 has not recently held rallies or gatherings, our individual societies are active. We pray for encouragement and inspiration for all our society's women. We ask for the Lord's guidance in all of our activities so that we may serve the Lord with gladness! Many of our groups don't typically meet during the summer, but they will be planning fall events.



CHURCH OF PRAYER | BAKERSFIELD, CA

Church of Prayer's Society in Bakersfield is a newer, small society and they are looking to learn how to support their women. Currently, they help provide meals for some of their members. Money raised from this has helped support missionary families.

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS | LAKE ISABELLA, CA

Shepherd of the Hills LWML, Lake Isabella will be planning for their annual Back-to-School Backpack give away as they work with their community.

GRACE LUTHERAN | BAKERSFIELD, CA

The Ladies' Guild at Grace Lutheran, Bakersfield has had a change in leadership as their former President moved out of state. Their new President, Katherine James, looks forward to planning their annual Swedish Meatball Luncheon, which is held before Thanksgiving.

ZION LUTHERAN | TERRA BELLA, CA

The LWML at Zion Lutheran, Terra Bella, reaches out to church members by sending over 70 birthday cards and encouragement cards to those in need. We will be working on crafts this summer for our annual Christmas Bazaar. We also submitted a Mission Grant to replace old windows in two classrooms of our church's parochial school. **We are so very excited (and humbled) that our grant was selected as one of the Mission Grants for 2024-2026! Zion thanks you all for your support! ♥**

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS...



Above, left to right: Friday night service at beautiful Trinity Lutheran Church. Music Leaders Bryan and Stacy Widstrand were wonderful! Members of the Welcome Team were so welcoming and helpful. Roxan Schwab, President LWML CNH District with Pastor Knippa, Pastoral Counselor.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: JULY 15!

Tell us about your past successes and what is planned for future.

Newsletter Editor: Candy Kiel

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