

LWML Mission Statement

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

DISTRICT CONVENTION NEWS!

LWML CNH CONVENTION: APRIL 19-20-21, 2024

Looking forward to an inspiring Bible Study

By LaVada Terrell, Vice President Convention Planning

Our Bible Study leader for the convention is Jane Hoffmann. If you attended the 2019 District Retreat at ECCO, she was our Bible Study leader there and walked us through the book of Ruth. During the afternoon session, we composed songs, did pantomines, dramas, skits, drawings – we had a lot of fun!

Jane is a retired nurse educator who loves to write and teach Bible studies. She has led women's retreats in many churches and LWML zones including an LWML district retreat. For many years, she taught adult Bible classes at her church, Holy Cross in Los Gatos. She loves to see people having fun sharing and learning around the Word of God. She and her husband, "not-so-retired" pastor Paul, live in San Jose and enjoy traveling, especially visiting their three sons and their families.

Her Bible Study will be ***How May I Serve You?*** Through our study of Scripture, our singing and sharing, we will be affirmed in our service and we will explore new ways to do the "good works which God prepared in advance for us to do."

The first Convention Packet will be sent out the first week in January

The packet will include all the information about the Convention happenings, hotel, ingathering, servant events, the Registration Form, and so much more. **DO NOT CALL THE HOTEL TO MAKE RESERVATIONS UNTIL AFTER YOU RECEIVE THE PACKET.** All information about the hotel is on the back of the Registration form. The hotel will not have our LWML information until January and will not take your reservations until then.

The second Convention Packet will be sent out the end of February

It will contain Delegate information, including summaries of the proposed Mission Grants, by-law changes, and those nominated for office.

Both Convention Packets will also be on the lwmlcnh.org website after they are sent out.



WHERE:

Holiday Inn Convention
Hotel, 1900 Hilltop Drive,
Redding, CA 96002

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)

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS! I EXPECT TO SEE ALL OF YOU AT THE LWML CNH CONVENTION, APRIL 19-21,
2023, IN REDDING, CALIFORNIA!!**

THE DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Think about the miracles around you

Roxan Schwab, LWML CNH District President

In the last few months, I have had the pleasure of attending several zone functions. What gifted, hardworking, God-fearing women we have in our LWML CNH. I recently attended the 2023 LWML Prayer Service, held in Selma by Zone 15. It was beautiful and I really enjoyed getting to know the ladies of this zone. The new Zone President Marilyn Bowery is a true miracle. She had a lung transplant a couple of years ago and is back serving in full capacity! I know of many other miracles in our LWML CNH, in fact, several on the LWML CNH Executive Committee — women who have overcome cancer, heart failure, strokes and other health issues that years ago would have taken their lives. Think about all the miracles you serve with. Make sure to let them know how happy you are to be working side by side with them. As Christians, these miracles should remind us daily of the power of our risen Saviour Jesus Christ and His promise of new and everlasting life to those who trust in Him. To me, that is a true miracle freely given to us who believe and have been baptized. Our awesome God performs miracles every day; we need to recognize them and praise Him for them. Thank Him for talented doctors, nurses, and new procedures we are blessed to have and use.



Looking forward to attending Zone events

By the time you receive this newsletter, I will have had the opportunity to attend Zone 7 and Zone 18 Fall events. I am looking forward to attending the Zone 1 event in December. Please invite me to your local events. If I am free, I would love to join you!

District web site offers many resources

Visit our website, lwmlcnh.org. There are many events happening in the district that are advertised. Please try to attend one between now and the end of the year. If your zone or society has not held the LWML Prayer Service, it's not too late to do so. You can find all the materials needed on the LWML.org website. I am sure that you are all planning LWML Sunday. If you have not already done so, at your home congregation, I pray that they are successful and inspire new women to get involved. I would like to hear any success stories!

From now to the end of the year is a busy time for all of us. Let's take time to notice all the blessings and miracles in our daily lives. To God be the glory. ♥

*Please invite me to
your local events.
If I am free, I
would love to join
you!*

FROM YOUR COMMUNICATION TEAM

Social media gains followers!

By Carrie Rinaldo, Communication Team

We have continued working this year to increase our social media presence to inspire women, and we are excited to report that since the retreat in August, we have gained 70 followers on Facebook! Additionally, we had 500 "likes" on our posts and our posts were "shared" with others 1,000 times! The data shows that we are reaching many in the 25-35 age range, which is very exciting to be engaging more young women.

Please continue to visit our website www.lwmlcnh.org for information regarding mission grant updates, district events, and other important communications. You can also "follow" us and "like" us on Facebook (LWML CNH) and "follow" us on Instagram (lwmlcnh), where you will find recent pictures from LWML CNH events.

Are you on our newsletter email distribution list?

We currently have 335 subscribers to The Joyful Servant! This includes all Zone Presidents. It is possible your Zone President or other individual forwards the newsletter to you. If you would like to receive the newsletter directly, you can sign up here: [THE JOYFUL SERVANT](#) ♥



MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT CHRISTIAN LIFE

By Cathey King, Vice President Christian Life

Christian Life Retreat held August 25 – 27, 2023

The 2023 Retreat, *Unwrapping Your Spiritual Gifts*, was held at ECCO Conference Grounds, Oakhurst, CA, the weekend of August 25, 26, & 27. The attendance totaled 95 — 91 women and four men, including three pastors and a Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) employee.

During the busy weekend, ladies met a prayer partner, took part in a Bible study led by Michelle Ule, sang encouraging songs led by Melody Hues, glorified God in devotions led by Pastor David Floyd and Pastor Colter Knippa, took part in hands-on service projects, and were well entertained by a classic variety-type talent show! We ended the weekend with a worship service featuring communion.

Retreat highlights: Service projects, mite collection & donations for Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School in Maui

The attendees enjoyed making braille and large print books under the guidance of three LBW workers. They folded, labeled, and put mailing stickers on 400 large print sermons, pressed and completed 14 twenty-page books and 11 thirty-five-page books for a total 665 pages or twenty-five books! A free-will offering provided a donation of \$258. Other attendees colored greeting cards to be used by Phil's Friends to cheer cancer patients. This activity produced 70 cards for the project! A donation of \$220 was collected.

Mites were collected to specifically fund the CNH Grant projects. Barbara Guevara knit a table full of beautiful scarves and hats, donating the \$240 proceeds to the Mite Box. Our speaker, Michelle, stocked a table of her books for sale at \$10 each and donated the \$170 proceeds to CNH Mites. The Mite box donations and the worship service offerings accounted for another \$1,269.05.

The fires on Maui were on everyone's minds as we collected money to help Emmanuel Lutheran Church and School in Kahului fund scholarships for displaced students from Lahaina. \$2,383 was collected, including \$400 donated by Linda Patel from the sale of several of her Indian costumes.

Several new and fun activities at this retreat:

- ♥ All attendees received a small purple gift box filled with fun little items including a Bible verse bracelet (courtesy of a Thrivent grant)
- ♥ Bottles of bubbles for all first timers! (also from the Thrivent grant)
- ♥ Pastor's wives in attendance received a lovely Luther Rose pewter cross necklace
- ♥ A talent show that must be seen to be believed

My deepest thanks to my entire committee:

Judy Huber, Laura Lynn Ledson, Margaret Peterman, and Christa Hamilton, registrar extraordinaire. My prayer is that all in attendance received a blessing from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and that God was glorified by our activities! ♥



My ALL-TIME favorite retreat photo! Pastor Colter, first-timer, enjoying his bubbles!



Laura Lynn Ledson, Margaret Peterman, Judy Huber, Cathey King, and Pastor Colter, Retreat Committee members

MESSAGE FROM VICE PRESIDENT GOSPEL OUTREACH

Bev Viotor, Vice President Gospel Outreach

Grant #8: Mighty mites go to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Our LWML CNH mites, all \$10,000, Grant #8, Scholarships for International Seminary Student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, was presented at a special luncheon September 18, 2023. The day began when greeters from Gift Planning and Donor Services received the real check, then off to Chapel service, a VIP campus tour by Past President Dale Meyers, viewing of the J.S. Bach Bible, Presidents reception/luncheon presentation, concluding with a student tour/interview and special trip up the Luther tower to see the carillon belles—a full day that confirmed our mites grant to the seminary was a wise investment.

If you are thinking of taking the kids/grandkids to a Disneyland-type vacation, consider Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Hear the voices during chapel, soak in the rays from the stain glass windows, and listen to the students and professors talk with passion of LCMS history with plans for the future spreading of the gospel. A meal in the dining hall is a must. The building tells of the rich history of this most special LCMS treasure. I urge you to experience the Seminary for yourself; tell them Bev sent you!

Update: Grant #17 (2020-2022 biennium)

As you may recall we sent \$3,500 in mites in the 2020-22 biennium grants to Lutheran Lambs Pre-School for curriculum resources. In March of 1982 the Valley of Peace was created as a refugee community for immigrants fleeing from the Salvadoran Civil War to Belize. The children have difficulty acquiring the skills needed to succeed in school. Missionary Pastor Herb Burch and his wife, Markie, opened a preschool to meet this need and share the gospel.

Listen to the children sing “I am Jesus’ Little Lamb” in English:

[Lutheran Lambs Pre-School](#) ♥



Above (left to right): Vanessa Johnson, Executive Director of LWML at our national office which is on the campus; Dr. Ronald Mudge, Provost of Seminary; our own LWML CNH Pastor Counselor Rev. Colter Knippa; Bev Viotor, VP of Gospel Outreach, LWML CNH; Dr. Thomas Egger, President of Seminary, and Robert Payne, CNH brother.



Pastor Herb Burch is shown with the graduating class at Little Lambs Pre-school.

ZONE 1: SAN FRANCISCO

Annual Christmas gathering is December 16: “Serve the Lord with Gladness”

By Pauline Ha, Zone 1 President

Join us at our annual Christmas gathering in San Francisco on Saturday 12/16. Our main speaker is HUG preschool director Ms. Krissel, along with LWML CNH President Roxan Schwab and Heart 2 Heart leader Rebecca Weissshahn. Event starts at 10 am, followed by lunch. \$20/ person, at Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit, 2400 Noriega St, San Francisco. Register by 12/10. Seats are limited, first come, first served. **Please text Pauline Ha, LWML Love-in-Action President at 415.867.1301.** ♥

ZONE 10: SIERRA NEVADA

BETHANY LUTHERAN, HAWTHORNE, NEVADA

Service project benefits Leffa L. Seran Nursing Home

By Marlene Bunch, Zone 10 Treasurer

The Bethany Lutheran Ladies Aid has been working on fleece tied lap blankets for the Leffa L. Seran Nursing Home of Mt. Grant General Hospital. A total of 25 blankets have been tied with love and are on their way to the hospital. It was truly an act of love from our small group and so much determination to accomplish the project before the snow flies! We have some new members and are able to have the ladies back active on projects. Hallelujah! ♥



ZONE 9: CENTRAL COAST

Spring Rally held in May; Fall Rally set for November 4

By Carol Sanden, Zone 9 President

Our Spring Rally, held in May, featured speaker Susie Kenney who shared her "Teacup Story," which shows how God is our center, being the cup, with many different uses for us, as our cup truly runneth over with God's love and grace. This summer, the ladies at **Peace, Arroyo Grande**, had a successful rummage sale with proceeds going to Mites, our Preschool and our Community Outreach.

Sandy Shaw and I attended the recent National Convention in Milwaukee. Our sisters in Christ at **Redeemer, Atascadero**, and **Clear Promise, Lompoc** sent many quilts to the "Orphan Grain Train." A member here at **Peace** (Connie) sewed and shipped 450 "Little Dresses for Africa" out of pillow cases. Our upcoming Fall Rally will be November 4, hosted by our sisters at **Trinity Lutheran in Paso Robles** with a speaker from "The Lutheran Braille Workers." All are serving our Lord with Gladness. ♥

ZONE 19: EAST SACRAMENTO

MT. OLIVE LUTHERAN, FOLSOM, CA

Operation Christmas Child is longtime tradition

By Lana Sullivan, Zone 19 President

For many years our congregation has assisted LWML in filling boxes for children at Christmas time. We enjoy doing this and pray that children receiving these boxes also learn of Jesus' love for them. The pictures below are from a prior year as our deadline for this year is at the end of October. The boxes will be picked up and sent to Franklin Graham's Operation Christmas Child location for shipping in November. ♥



ZONE 4: WEST SACRAMENTO

August 5 LWML Baby Shower benefits Sacramento Life Center

By Susan Ambriz, Zone 4 President

Eighteen ladies from **Peace Lutheran, Sacramento** and beyond attended the benefit for the Sacramento Life Center's "Diaper Giveaway." We gathered 2,544 diapers plus all the extras! We are so proud that the ladies of Peace came through! Lourdes Ramirez walked us through the programs that SLC offers and many questions were asked about the amazing things that SLC does for our young mothers-to-be in the Sacramento area. Lois Brauer of Lutherans for Life brought information which was made available for the ladies to take back to their home church. And of course, cake and lots of food completed the event! ♥

Ladies from Peace Lutheran, Sacramento and beyond attended the benefit for the Sacramento Life Center's "Diaper Giveaway."



ZONE 3: NORTH SAN JOAQUIN

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN, JACKSON

New focus of care: Visits and gifts for shut-ins

By Judy Huber, Secretary

Immanuel Jackson ladies have got it "covered" for FALL! At our October meeting, we learned how to fold, tuck, and cover a roll of toilet paper with fabric to make a Fall Pumpkin decoration!

Our group is beginning a new focus of care for our congregation's shut-ins. We hope to make periodic visits, take a hand-crafted seasonal gift or other practical or spiritual items to members and friends who are unable to attend worship or LWML meetings.



"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above..."

James 1:17



ZONE 7: MT. DIABLO

Fall Gathering is November 4 at Our Savior, Pinole

By Sherry Bell, Zone 7 President

The theme for our Fall Gathering is *“His Harvest, Our Hands”* with presentation by Lutheran Social Services on the work they’re doing with foster children who are “aging out” of the system. An ingathering will be held in support of this LSS program to provide needed supplies for move-in kits given to young people as they transition into their own apartments.

HOLY CROSS, CONCORD, By Joyce Llebe

In August our Nifty Fifty (Seniors) group hosted a BBQ, in lieu of our monthly dining out. The theme was “Let’s Enjoy the Dog Days of Summer with a BBQ Fellowship. Baseball, Hot Dogs, Apple Pie, & Christians, Yay!”

RESURRECTION MINISTRIES, BRENTWOOD, By Jan Perry

This is truly a season of change for our women and our congregation. Our Pastor Dave received and, after much prayer and deliberation, accepted a Divine Call to serve as Associate Pastor at Alive in Christ Lutheran Church in Columbia, MO. Pastor Dave’s final service at Resurrection, was October 1, and we wished him and his family a very fond, somewhat tearful farewell with a well-attended potluck lunch following the service. *Your prayers are appreciated as we begin the search for a new pastor.* We are confident that God will provide for our every need.

Our Transition Team is now busily engaged in seeing that we move forward in accordance with God’s plans for us, meaning a need for many willing hands and hearts for His service. The next couple of months our women will plan service/outreach projects: Halloween Hoopla (10/29), Barrels for Thanksgiving, Thanksgiving meals to be delivered on Nov. 19, and our annual Angel Tree project.

FIRST LUTHERAN, CONCORD, By Lynnette Campbell

Our women helped with Vacation Bible School this summer—over 100 kids! Also, we are helping with the community Thanksgiving Day dinner which is held annually at First Lutheran.

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN, PINOLE, By Shirley Schmeyer

Our ladies have been busy preparing for the Fall Event on November 4th. It has been fun putting it together and we hope to see many of you here. Our Church has been involved in Grief classes and the turnout has been great, both from our Church and from the community. It is such a helpful presentation.

The Quilting group has been busy getting more lap quilts ready for the fall season. We have taken 40 quilts to 2 different care facilities. Christine, Normalisa and Shirley attended the LWML CNH Retreat in Oakhurst in August. Very inspiring. Normalisa was part of the evening entertainment when she performed a hula dance in honor of the victims in Lahaina, Maui.

ST. PHILIP LUTHERAN, DANVILLE, By Andrea Green

We will be sponsoring Christmas Child Shoeboxes (Operation Christmas Child). The target is 60 boxes. We are also hosting a “Trunk or Treat” for the neighborhood Saturday evening, October 28.

Our Savior, Pinole: Normalisa was part of the evening entertainment when she performed a hula dance in honor of the victims in Lahaina, Maui.



The “Nifty Fifty” Seniors group, Holy Cross, Concord.



ZONE 7: MT. DIABLO

OUR SAVIOR, LIVERMORE, *By Susan Contreras*

Women of Our Savior will be having a one-day retreat soon, studying *“God’s Provision in a Wilderness World”* by Lindsay Hausch. Our Women’s Bible Study group, led by Beth Young, is currently working through the book and videos of *“Blessed: Experiencing the Promise of the Book of Revelation.”* Because of the recent focus on John, I was surprised when I found a ceiling medallion in a church at Skridin in Croatia showing John writing on the Isle of Patmos. Exiled, yet graced by God to see heaven and write what he saw.

We have been working tirelessly to prepare for our Holiday Bazaar on November 4 and 5. Thanks to our leader, **Bev Trutner**, we are getting ready to take Lutheran World Relief items to the Ingathering at Bethel Lutheran Church in Cupertino. We have amassed 120 quilts, 75 care kits, and 18 fabric kits.

FAITH LUTHERAN, PLEASANT HILL, *By Mary Wolkenhauer*

The Women of Faith had a lovely Fall Tea in September. Each table was set by a different hostess so there were many different types of china and centerpieces. In addition to enjoying sweet and savory treats with our tea, we had a guest speaker who demonstrated the Japanese flower arranging technique known as *Ikebana*.

Our group is trying to meet every month. If there is not another event, we often have a brunch hosted at a member’s home. This is a nice opportunity for fellowship and a devotion. ♥



Our Savior women have gathered quilts, care kits and fabric kits for the Ingathering at Bethel Lutheran.

ZONE 12: NORTH SACRAMENTO

North Sacramento events and activities

By Martha E Dubke, Zone President

On October 7, twenty ladies met at Trinity in Redding, California, for the fall Zone Event. Along with a Bible study based on *“Let the Little Children Come to Me,”* two recipients of Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child shared their experience as children in a country where Christians are a minority and experience prejudice and persecution. Heart to Heart – Sisters of All Nations representatives were well received as they shared their purpose and experiences. Operation Christmas Child Ingathering items were dedicated and Mite offerings were gathered. For our “Mite-E Mercantile,” ladies bring items to be “bought” by others for a donation to the Mite Box. All proceeds go to LWML Mites. Zone 12 ladies are also making bags for the LWML CNH Convention, Spring of 2024. ♥



Zone 12 Board: Kerry Link, VP; Linda Benfield, Treasurer; Pastor Brian Cummins, Pastor, Trinity; Martha Dubke, President; Sandra Clark, Secretary.



Above, our Mite-E Mercantile. All proceeds go to LWML Mites and Zone 12 Ingathering for Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child.



ZONE 19: EAST SACRAMENTO

LIGHT OF THE HILLS, CAMERON PARK

By Elise Spleiss, Zone Communications

LWML Fall Rally held September 30

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.” John 15:5

This theme ran throughout the entire day, including a hymn of the same name at the service, decorations, and centerpieces. As with all our rallies, hospitality was exceptional. We were met at Light of the Hills, Cameron Park with a wonderful layout of refreshments which lasted through lunch in the afternoon.

While enjoying refreshments we were greeted by **Sheilah Gall**, LWML President of Light of the Hills who introduced **Lana Sullivan**, LWML Zone President.

Following a church service led by **Pastor Alan Sommer**, we enjoyed an in-depth Bible study including a word study of our biblical theme by Zone 19 pastoral counselor **Daniel Vang**.

Keynote speaker, Linda Patel shared her testimony

Keynote speaker, **Linda Patel**, with the Heart to Heart (H2H) – Sisters of All Nations program, gave her testimony going from her Hindu upbringing to being led to Christ. We learned *“Tips for Making Cross Cultural Friendships.”* First understand your own culture and how it defines you, which will help you understand other cultures. LWML has 40 districts with 18 zones—many opportunities to learn about other cultures.

We also heard from **Rebecca Weissahn**, Special Focus Ministry and H2H District Leader in Training and **Lynnette Campbell**, H2H Committee member working towards planning cross cultural events in each zone in the district. They shared that we have moved from use of the word “league” from the 1930’s to “Lutheran Women in Mission” today.

Additional reports:

Lois Brauer reported on working with the aging, including work to help stop the increase in senior suicides.

Bev Vieter, AKA Miss Penny shared a Power Point on our grants, gave us a review of convention highlights in Milwaukee and her trip to Concordia St. Louis Seminary to present President Thomas Egger with a check for (#8) \$10,000 for their International Seminary Students program.

LaVada Terrell told us of the planning taking place for the 2024 LWML CNH convention next April in Redding. We received an in-depth handout on everything ‘LWML Convention’.

Barbara Ellis told her story of God leading her to the next chapter in her life with a scholarship to begin her work through the Missions of Christ Network. She will be serving in former East Germany. For information: Barbara.ellis@missionofchrist.org. This was followed by our Zone meeting led by **Lana Sullivan**.

Following lunch, we went our own way into the ‘real’ mission field for many of us, back to our homes, workplace, and neighborhoods. ♥



Harpist Marilyn Hensley provided beautiful, calming background music for our day.

ZONE 14: REDWOOD EMPIRE

Ready for Redding

By Laura Lynn Ledson, Zone 14 President

The ladies of Zone 14 are busy preparing for the convention in Redding, California, in April 2024. Lovely tote bags are being sewn in our homes and by the church's quilting groups. St. Mark, Santa Rosa set up a financial aid account, assistance for registration costs or gas mileage. We welcome any additions.

Zone women will meet for a Servant Event on the 21st of October at St. Mark to sew more tote bags, construct Thanksgiving cards for veterans, and learn how to host a Bean Soup Luncheon. That will include bagging the ten beans for sale. All churches present will go home with a supply. You are invited to St. Mark on November 12 at 12:15 PM for their luncheon. Benefitting this year are these groups: Redwood Gospel Mission, Share Our Wealth, One for Israel, Convention Assistance, Youth. See you there! Love the Lord!



In September the Zone cooperated for the annual Mites Harvest. The total will be announced soon. We love helping the mission grants. ♥

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: JANUARY 15!

Guidelines for articles:

- ♥ Please provide short articles about future activities or successful past activities.
- ♥ Try to limit your articles to 50 – 100 words.
- ♥ Please include a title for your article.
- ♥ Provide your name, position, zone #.
- ♥ Photos when available are highly encouraged. Please provide a short caption.
- ♥ Submissions will be edited and proofed by the news editor & Communication Team prior to publication.
- ♥ Articles may be sent as an attachment in Word or typed in the body of your email.
- ♥ Include "JOYFUL SERVANT SUBMISSION" in the subject line of your email.

SUBMISSIONS FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER DUE JANUARY 15!

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

Newsletter Editor: Candy Kiel

Email submissions to: candicekiel1231@gmail.com