

The Mission Voice

LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District



Fall 2021 issue:

Steeplechase

Taste and See

Daily Exercise

Mission Grants Update

My Father's Shoes

For as far back as I can remember, my dad was my hero. I admired everything he did. When I was small, he would let me stand on his shoes; he would hold my hands, and we would "dance". When his shoes were off his feet, I would place my small feet into those shoes and try to walk in them. It was impossible. They were heavy, and in my weakness, I could not take steps.

And so, it is with our heavenly Father. He carries me and makes me dance for joy to be in His presence. Many times, I try to take care of things on my own, but the burdens are too heavy. When I am weak and troubled and cannot walk, God is there to be my hero. My troubles are never too heavy when I allow Him to wear the "shoes" and shield me. Through prayer I speak to Him, and He answers me through His Word. Thanks be to God, I am truly loved and forgiven by Him.

Pat Brady
Vice President of Special Focus Ministries



Steeplechase

Author Amanda Stacy, DCE, used Hebrews 12:1B-2A, *...let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...*, as the theme Bible verse in the LWML *Mustard Seed Devotion: The Race of Faith* 20/28 devotion entitled, "Focus Ahead." In this devotion Amanda Stacy explains that, "The author of Hebrews tells us where our focus must be in this race of life: Jesus. With eyes focused on Him, He will help us through life's obstacles. And with eyes focused on Jesus, the Holy Spirit will enable us to see that the race has already been won. His victory has become our victory."



Amanda writes in LWML *Mustard Seed Devotion series The Race of Faith* 25/28 devotion entitled, "Paul, Finishing the Race," — "While believers have the same finish line destination, we each have our own obstacles and celebrations along the race route. In all of those things, be like Paul. Let God lead. Praise Him in all circumstances and encourage others until you arrive in God's eternal rest."

As President of the LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District, I cordially invite you to participate in the 40th Biennial LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Convention to be held April 22 – 24, 2022. The convention theme, **"Running the Race...Looking to Jesus,"** is based on Hebrews 12:1-2, the same verses used by DCE Stacey and the June 2021 national LWML Convention in Lexington, Kentucky. The LA-MS District Convention will be held at the Lod Cook Hotel and Conference Center, on the lakes of the LSU Campus.

The Lod Cook Hotel and Conference Center are within ½ mile from The Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church which can be easily accessed by "racing" along the lakes' sidewalk. The Conference Center is next to the LSU Recreation Center, where you can purchase a guest pass for \$10/day to use their facility, and enjoy a "race" around the indoor track, climb the rock wall, or float on the lazy river.

Growing up in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, my sports fan parents, Ken and Ida Mall, took my brother Gary and me to LSU track meets on the LSU campus. One of my favorite races was the Steeplechase. Google reports that the steeplechase's origins can be traced back to the United Kingdom, especially Ireland. Runners would often race each other from one town's church steeple to the next. The steeples were chosen because they were easy to see from long distances, leading to the name "steeplechase." The countryside would also require runners to jump over various barriers over the course of their race. These included stone walls and small rivers. When the race was modernized, the walls were simulated with hurdles and the rivers and creeks were simulated with the water pit. Often, you'll see runners land one foot on the top of the

barrier to propel themselves over it, though many elite runners just clear the whole thing altogether.



In 1993, Bill and I began our married life in Lexington, Kentucky (he proposed in Triangle Park, same location as the start/finish of the 2021 LWML Convention Mission Pledge Walk on which route we could view several church steeples) where we were privileged to view the High Hope horse Steeplechase; which was quite majestic and thrilling on the area's rolling bluegrass covered hills and pastures.

Make plans now to attend the April 22 – 24, 2022 LWML LA-MS District Convention in Baton Rouge where we will be, “Running the Race...Looking to Jesus.” The hosting Southern Zone is joyfully preparing for your arrival. Worship services, Bible studies, Exhibits, Mission Grant selections, Mission speakers, Humorous Interrupters, Servant Events, and fellowship meals are all highlights. Also hoping to offer a mission “walk/race” for the whole family to enjoy. Pastors’ Registration fee is waived; professional church workers and YWRs receive a discounted Registration fee.

Please continue to prayerfully and faithfully contribute to your Mite Box offerings, enabling us to fully fund our LWML LA-MS District 2020-2022 Mission Grants, including \$5000 to MG #7 Steeple Replacement/Repair at Epiphany Lutheran Church, New Orleans, Louisiana, whose steeple is a beacon of Jesus’ grace.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at the district convention, focused on Jesus,
Michelle Zollinger

Taste and See that the Lord is Good

Psalm 34:8

Debbie Greene used that verse as the devotion theme for our Southwest Zone Rally. She began by asking how many ladies liked - sweet or sour, crunchy or chewy, salty or sugary – foods. What we like determines our choices at the grocery store, what we cook, and where we stop to eat when we are traveling. Our life choices should be determined by what God wants.

Debbie brought two types of dragon fruits and passion fruit juice for us to taste. Many of the ladies had not tried one, or even all three, of these “new” foods. Although the ladies were somewhat cautious, they were also intrigued about tasting the “new” foods. One of the dragon fruits was reddish-purple (what an appropriate color), and had big seeds. Another dragon fruit was white with small, dark seeds. The passion fruit juice was yellow and quite fragrant. Everyone saw what they were about to taste, but what would it taste like? Would it be sweet, bitter, sour, salty, gritty, or smooth? Everyone tried all three and chose their favorite.

Sometimes we get comfortable with our spiritual life. Good things happen and we thank God. However, we need to be aware that He can send new things into our life. Will these events be good or bad or just different from our 'normal' life? We need to recognize that He is the source of all that is in our life, and our life itself. "All that we have is thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from thee." LSB 781.

As you go through your day...

Taste and See that the Lord is Good.

Psalm 34:8

Respectfully submitted,
LWML LA-MS District Financial Secretary
Lauretta Houston



Daily Exercise!

With the LA-MS District Convention coming up in the Spring, focus is still on "The Race." If you follow the Mustard Seed Daily Devotions, you probably noticed that lately the theme has been on this subject also. How is your race going? I have never been an exercise person, which is not something I'm proud of, and I'm paying the price now that I'm in my 70's. I so admire people who have a regular routine that includes exercise (like a District President I'm familiar with!) I've said so many times that I'm going to begin exercising---maybe today will be the day!



In thinking about our Race as Christians there are so many topics to consider. First and foremost is the example of our Savior. From the day He came to earth He faced the course and never turned back. Unlike us, He knew how His race on earth would end but never turned back or changed His course---He traveled to the cross obedient to His Father and paid the price we could never pay for our redemption.

I think about the Apostles --- very different from our Lord. They were traveling the path in many different directions. But Jesus called each one from their life as they knew it to follow Him. And they did... following in a 180-degree direction, He changed their lives! Make no

mistake, for most of the trip they really didn't understand where He was leading them or what the journey would require of them. But they trusted Him and loved Him and followed Him. It wasn't until after His death on the cross, burial in the tomb, rising from the dead, appearing to them, and giving them the gift of the Holy Spirit did their race become clear. And the path was not easy. But they continued on.

Going back to exercise (I can see the puzzled look on your face.) Jesus exercised perfect obedience to His Father, in His will, in His commandments, in prayer, in His love, and in His path. His disciples exercised Jesus' obedience to all these things though imperfectly and with much loving discipline by their Savior. Now about OUR exercise!!! We're on the path, we know the destination (heaven)...we don't know how long we will be traveling and we don't always know what God wants to accomplish through us ----BUT we do know He loves us, He does know His plans for us, He gives us the gift of faith, prayer, His commandments, His Word, the power of the Sacrament, the Holy Spirit and His gifts-----the Full Armor of God! Daily we can exercise all these gifts, pray for the opportunity, direction, and courage to share them with the people in our pathAND CONTINUE ON!!!



Onward Christian soldiers!

With you in His love,

Bonnie Frasier

VP of Christian Life

Update on Grants

The 2020-2022 mission goal for LWML LA-MS District grants is \$30,000.00.

Thus far, we have paid \$14,500.00 in district mission grants. The next grant, "Drinking Fountains for Trinity Lutheran School in Baton Rouge," is \$5,000.00. The amount received towards funding this grant is \$3,673.71. When \$2,652.58 (50% of Mite Box offerings) more in mites is received, we will be able to pay this grant.



The next following grant is “The Steeple Replacement and Repair” for Epiphany Lutheran of New Orleans. The amount is \$5,000.00.

From the general fund, the LA-MS District sent \$1,000.00 to LCMS Southern District for Disaster Relief Fund for Hurricane Ida victims.

Information about subscription renewals for *Lutheran Woman’s Quarterlies* and Delegate Fund contributions will be sent out to societies in November.

There is not much time left till this biennium is ends. So, get your mites rolling into the District to fund the remaining grants.

Thanks for all you do in serving our Lord.

Elizabeth Smith, Treasurer

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth (Colossians 3:2).



**Listen to *I love to Tell the Story*
on the
LWML On The Go Podcast.**

LWML Celebrating 80 Years!

LWML will celebrate 80 years of being Lutheran Women in Mission in 2022! How do you plan to celebrate? Let us make it a year-long celebration. The LWML website (lwml.org) has multiple resources for all ages. It includes service activities for children or grandchildren. Many activities are listed under the service tab on the LWML homepage and click on Mission Service Activities in the dropdown menu. The celebration could be extending personal invitations to other women, inviting them to help with a mission service project, or attending a society, zone, or district LWML event.

Let us reflect on God's grace by blessing others with 80 something. These activities may be personal, society, zone, or district activities. A few examples are:

- 80 hours of visiting shut-ins
- 80 cans of food to an emergency shelter or local food bank
- 80 religious books donated to libraries
- 80 hours of Bible readings for the next year
- 80 pairs of socks and mittens, hats, or other clothing items to a preschool or shelter
- 80 Bibles marked for prison ministry
- 80 days of prayer for a missionary
- 80 dollars to Mission Grants



So many reasons to celebrate and so many ways to do it! How will you celebrate?

The 2023 LWML Convention is planning a montage of the activities from all districts. Please share pictures throughout the year of your celebration activities. Send the photos to Leslie Koenck by email (lkoencklwml@gmail.com). Photos will be posted on social media and placed in The Mission Voice as well as being displayed at the 80 years of celebrating LWML exhibit booth at the 2022 LA-MS District Convention.

What will be your 80?

May all that we do be for His honor and glory,
Leslie Koenck
LWML LA-MS District V.P. of Communication

By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you (1 Corinthians 15:2a).

Southern Zone Updates

Southern Zone Rally: Saturday, October 16, 2021

We met in person! WOW, what a blessing. 33 people attended.

- Pastor John Drosendahl led the Bible study on Tolerance. As usual Pastor Drosendahl's Bible study was deliberately thought provoking and enlightening, with the perfect touch of humor. He led us through human frailty to God's desires for us. God is tolerant with us; be tolerant to other 'sheep.' Our Savior is guiding us and helping to make us tolerant people through the fruits of the Spirit - ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law (Galatians 5:22-23 NIV).***
- A portion of the 2021 LWML Convention Livestream of Jan Struck and Abby Goehring was shown to 'wet their whistle' for their upcoming performances at the 2022 LWML LA-MS District Convention.

Convention Central Livestream Humorous Interruptions by Jan Struck and Abby Goehring:

<https://www.lwml.org/posts/free-resources/2021-convention-humorous-interruptions>

We are gearing up the, "Run the Race ... Looking to Jesus," for our 2022 LA-MS District Convention.

- ***Gifts from the Heart - Hurricane Ida Donations***

Rev. Ed Brashier, LCMS Southern District Disaster Response Coordinator, and Rose Schutt gave us a list of donations needed for those devastated by Hurricane Ida. Our Southern Zone churches surely made us proud. Donations were overflowing the table plus gift cards. **Hurricane Ida: Donations Needed**

Please only purchase/donate items on the wish list below. This is an amazing way to lovingly be the hands and feet of Jesus and to serve your neighbors in need.

- A donor who would rent/drive/or pay to bring supplies to New Orleans
- Gift cards (Home Depot, Walmart, Lowes, Target, Sam's Club, Costco)
- Toilet paper/pads/tampons
- Mold killer
- Pump sprayers
- Non-perishable food/snacks
- Bleach
- Pine-Sol for mopping/Bleach/Mop buckets
- Large plastic totes with lids
- Brooms/Rakes/Shovels
- Black, heavy duty garbage bags
- Work gloves
- Bug Spray/Sunscreen
- Beef Jerky/Canned Meat/Spam
- Dog Food/Cat Food
- Diapers size newborn-size 7/Baby Wipes
- Formula/Baby Food/Baby Juice/Baby Bottles
- Toiletries (shampoo, conditioner, body wash, razors, deodorant)
- Blue Tarps
- Gatorade/Bottled Water



In serving our Lord with gladness, our LWML ladies and men help Forged by Fire Feeding Ministry of The Village Lutheran Church cook and distribute food at devastated sites.



CHAPEL OF THE CROSS - BATON ROUGE

We are hosting Reformation “German Cuisine” Lunch on October 31st. Included will be special reformation music, games, and prizes. Pastor Gary Peterson will also be recognized with an appreciation gift. We continue to support the LSU food pantry. We took great pleasure in hosting the LA-MS LWM Board Meetings on October 8th and 9th and look forward to the 2022 Convention.

Thank you to Chapel of the Cross especially Kathy Abrams and Pastor Peterson

HOLY TRINITY - COVINGTON

Rhonda Jackson went to the LA-MS National LWML Convention as our delegate. We speak about the importance of the MITEs for LWML Sunday. We opened the meetings to the ladies from New Life Church in Folsom; our church is growing.

LAMB OF GOD - SLIDELL

Since the church picnic and JOY Boutique was on October 5th, we celebrated LWML Sunday on Oct. 12th. Lorraine Dupre made the banner “Our Hearts in His Hand” and we also hung-up last year’s banner, we handed out bookmarkers with the 2021-2023 Mission Grants listed with a prayer, placed the Mite Box in the middle of the entrance with posters of the first two mission grants displayed, sang a couple of LWML hymns and Pastor Eric Klemme included LWML in his sermon.

REDEEMER - MANDEVILLE

Redeemer Lutheran LWML was busy this past quarter planning for LWML Sunday, and making the missions more visible. We are putting mite information on the back of our Sunday Church bulletin which helps make our congregation more aware of the help their MITE coins make. Since we started posting the missions recently, we have collected \$369.39. The 28 missions were condensed into small articles; and for six Sundays, four or more of the missions were highlighted in the church bulletin. In addition to regular Mite Boxes, children were given special Mite Boxes. We feel confident we will surpass our \$900 goal! During our LWML Sunday, October 17th, we had ALL the women in the congregation stand when we said the LWML Pledge to emphasize that women of all ages whoever they are in our congregation are part of LWML whether they can attend the meetings or not. (Men also participate in activities and make contributions, but that was not emphasized as much this time.) Many who are unable to attend the meetings often participate in our projects. Two of the members made a large banner to use in the sanctuary during the month of October. We make visitation calls and send cards to the hospitalized and homebound. After Hurricane Ida members helped host Sunday dinner for members of the Lutheran Disaster Team that worshiped with us. Everyone can sign up for LERT to volunteer helping those devastated by Hurricane Ida at https://www.lcms-lert.org/need/?s=1&need_init_id=4758&drm=1

ST. PAUL - HAMMOND

2021 LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

“Welcome to Lexington for the 2021 National LWML Convention!” As President Debbie Larson reminded us, we will celebrate the miracles of faith, hope and love together, always “Running the Race...Looking to Jesus!”

Two of the convention highlights for my husband and I were participating in the hands-on Servant Connections. We were able to work on a team to prepare Braille books for LUTHERAN BRAILLE WORKERS. 50 COPIES OF 2 BOOKS, “Lift Me Up, Lord” and “God’s Promises to Me” were completed. We also observed the assembly of nutrient-rich meals to help alleviate malnutrition in children. 30,000 meals were packaged through the LOVE THE HUNGRY project.

We were also thankful to go on two of the Kentucky tours, arranged through the convention committee. Prior to the convention we traveled to the CREATION MUSEUM. The amazing exhibits travel through Biblical history, beginning with the Creation and continuing through present times. Each exhibit is the result of countless hours of planning, research, design and construction. A comparison and contrast of beliefs between naturalistic and Biblical is also presented.

Following the convention, we traveled a short distance from Lexington to the ARK ENCOUNTER, in Williamstown, KY. Just seeing the actual life-size structure was breathtaking, almost beyond imagination. Attempts were made to explain how the Ark was built and how so many animals were cared for on this incredible journey. Three decks were filled with stunning visuals to help explain the activities on the Ark and the way Noah and his family lived there. God’s presence and care of Noah and his family during this time in history is a true witness of His omnipotence and love for His people.

From these tour opportunities to the Opening Communion Worship Service to the Closing Sending Service, we were fed and nourished with the Word of God. As our keynote speaker,

LWML Past President Linda Reiser, emphasized that we were truly blessed to share this mountain-top experience.
Gail & Jim Gerike

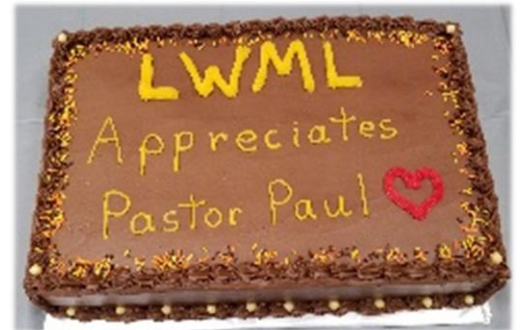
THE VILLAGE CHURCH - LACOMBE

We send Sunshine boxes from our church to people with cancer and other illnesses inspired by the 39th Biennial Convention from June 24 – 27, 2021 in Lexington, Kentucky. LWML Sunday was October 10th along with Pastor appreciation day which was a surprise for Pastor Paul Ernewein.

We help with Forged by Fire Feeding Ministry, feeding hot meals in devastated places.

We hosted the LWML LA-MS Southern Zone Fall Rally.

Thank you Pastor Paul and Carol Muller, The Village Church Society President.



TRINITY - BATON ROUGE

We will have a Women's Retreat on December 4, 2021. CHOSEN Retreat Registration with special guest Donna Snow <https://www.tlcbr.org/apps/form/CHOSEN>. Please join us at church for a day focused on refreshing and renewing your faith as we celebrate our ever-present God and His work in your life to bring His plans to fruition. Our day together will include*: - Light breakfast -Praise and worship -Fellowship - Study sessions - Lunchtime for personal reflection and prayer - Food collection for Southeast Ministries - Afternoon snack - Donna Snow's book signing.

We will have soup and bake sale in November. Honoring our Veterans, we give our Veterans free soup this day.

God's Blessings,

Kathy Capace, LWML LA-MS Southern Zone President

kcapace@gmail.com

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV).



We are the Heart of the LWML because we are HIS:

Held by His Word;

Inspired to share His Gospel; and

Surrounded by His grace.

Time to Remember Mites

Great News! Recently I received wonderful news about LWML LA-MS District Mission Grant #4: “Reaching the Homeless in District D of New Orleans.” After their congregation was severely affected by the COVID pandemic, the Ladies Aid Society of St. Paul Lutheran, New Orleans (Annette Street) was forced to step down from providing hot meals to the homeless of their community. The church also was damaged in Hurricane Ida. But just this month, I received a call that the ladies are enthusiastic and ready to prepare to once again reach out to the homeless with hot meals. Now we need to step up and provide the mites needed and promised for this project and the others still waiting for funding. Ladies, in order to fund the remaining district Mission Grants, we need to raise over \$11,000 before February 28, 2022! We pledged to send 25% of Mite Box offerings to National LWML Mission Grant projects which would be an additional \$3,000. Time to get planning and praying!

Sue McAdams
Vice President of Gospel Outreach

LWML LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI DISTRICT MISSION GRANTS 2020-2022

Mission Grant #4

Reaching the Homeless in District D of New Orleans.....\$5,000

**Faith in Your God
Hope for Your Future
Love of Your Neighbor
Let's Work Together**

Feeding God's People is a program of the Ladies Aid Society of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New Orleans. Prior to the pandemic, hot meals were prepared and distributed to the community and the homeless using the church's Fellowship Hall. Their utility bill assistance program provides nearby residents who are experiencing financial hardship with monetary help to prevent the termination of utility services. As we emerge from this time of pandemic and are able to once again gather together safely, the Ladies hope to return to this very timely project.

About St. Paul's Lutheran Church

- Located at 1625 Annette St. in New Orleans, St. Paul's is one of the oldest Black Lutheran Churches in the U.S.
- The Ladies Aid Society was established during the Spanish Flu Pandemic of 1918 and is still dedicated to loving their neighbor in tangible ways.





MAKE PLANS NOW TO JOIN US
"Running the Race....Looking to Jesus"
IN BATON ROUGE, LA
APRIL 22-24, 2022



Convention will be held at the
Lod Cook Hotel & Conference Center on the lake at LSU.
Call the hotel (225-383-2665) and say you are with the
LA-MS District LWML Convention to make your hotel room reservation.

Registration opens January 2022
Stay tuned to www.lwml-lams.org for the latest information and developments!

Plan for a weekend of Faith, Fellowship & Fun
full of God's Word and Service to His Kingdom!

Gifts from the Heart & Servant Events
Bible Study & Mission Grants



Silent Auction to benefit Mites for Missions!

Special Guests: Humorous Interrupters
Jan Struck & Abby Goehring





2022 Convention in Baton Rouge

April 22-24, 2022

The Cook Hotel
3848 W. Lakeshore Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
(225) 383-2665

GUEST ROOM BLOCK

**Be sure to tell them that you are reserving for the
Louisiana-Mississippi District Convention room block**

All hotel guest room rates are subject to transient occupancy tax, as well as any applicable state & local taxes

Each room is considered a double occupancy. For each additional person, there will be an extra ten dollar charge applied to the room fee. This includes adults and children over the age of 12.

Room Rates:

Standard Double / Standard King = \$119/night
(triple = \$129 / Quad = \$139)

Double Suite / King Suite = \$139/night
(triple = \$149 / Quad = \$159)

Suites are limited and used 1st by board & special guests, so they may not be available

A complimentary full buffet breakfast is served each morning from 6:00-9:30 am

