



Women
Of the
Word
Winter 2020



PSD LWML President Nila Rodriguez
2020-2024

Hello PSD Women (and Men) in Mission!

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker! For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand (Ps 95:6-7).

What are you doing for Thanksgiving this year? As I write this in early November, I am participating in the daily "Eucharisteo Project" from LWML.org – Giving thanks to God with reading and writing and sometimes drawing various Scripture passages daily. What a blessing to ME by giving thanks to GOD through this form of thanksgiving! Thanksgiving – let's make it about thanksgiving.

Shortly we will be moving on to Advent, the BEGINNING of the Church Year. Many of us will experience a new way of celebrating Advent and perhaps even Christmas! Rather than being upset or sad about doing things differently, let's celebrate it as a NEW BEGINNING! At the center of the celebration is Christ, the BEGINNING and the End (Rev. 21:6). Because of Christ, our repentance and forgiveness of sins is a NEW BEGINNING (2 Cor. 5:17) every day. So, let's work together to uplift and support each other through our NEW BEGINNINGS of all kinds during this season, and especially, the NEW BEGINNING we have in Christ.

The NEW BEGINNING of the year 2021 will also bring challenges and opportunities. Both national and district LWML are prayerfully planning in-person events and hope you consider joining us.

The **PSD LWML Women's Retreat** will be held in Las Vegas February 19-21, 2021 where we will hear from Stella Yau-Lok (LINC-SoCal) about being Women in Mission. *Note this is a change in speaker.* Retreat registration forms, hotel information and safety protocols can be found on psdlwml.org.

In the summer, we will be traveling to the **LWML Convention** in Lexington, KY June 24-27, 2021. The Convention theme is "Running the Race . . . Looking to Jesus" based on Hebrews 12:1-2. The speakers, activities and music are always so special at these events. This time we have Linda Reiser, a former LWML President; as keynote speaker Heidi Goehmann, a very gifted Bible Study leader; Dr. Dina Vendetti, our talented Song Leader; and a very Humorous Interrupter, Jan Struck. Join us - go to LWML.org for more about registration, etc.!

Stay in the Word, pray for each other, support your Mite Box, plan a socially distant activity – and celebrate our NEW BEGINNING!

May God bless and keep you until we see each other again!

Nila Rodriguez
PSD LWML District President



Psalm 121 (NIV)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.

Every morning the first thing I do is to prepare my coffee, feed my St. Bernard dog, and then drink my coffee. I do this every morning when I'm at home and then get going on my activities for the day. Before this Covid virus pandemic, we had a very active life going places like restaurants, shopping centers, visiting national, state and regional parks, and spending time with friends, and so forth. Of course, we used to go to church to worship with our friends in the house of the Lord.

Since last March we have been dealing with this virus and all the restrictions we need to follow to be safe. However, this is causing anxiety and discomfort because we want to get back to normal in our social life. Children at home are desperate for outdoor activities. Ladies are counting the days to get back to shopping. Men are looking at the door or through the window waiting for the day when they are free to go to park and practice baseball or softball, or even soccer. I can give more examples, but the idea is that we are not having the same activities and social life as before ... our lives have changed.

Then what? Hum? Well, I realized some four weeks ago that I had more free time than before for TV programs, movies, and sports events which were exciting at first, but then they became boring. So I turned to my book shelf and found something called the Holy Bible. I said to myself: "Maybe the Lord is giving me time during this pandemic to spend more time reading His Holy Word meditating and praying."

I think the Lord has given us the opportunity to relax at home, get our Bible and read it. Then we can lift our eyes and see that our help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth, the One that we can find in His creation. His Word brings us to Jesus Christ where we have our hope and help. Let us lift our eyes and hearts to the One who gives us life and salvation!!

In HIS service & love –

Pastor Ramon Contreras
PSD LWML Junior Counselor



Women of the Word can be sent directly to your email. Sign up at psdlwml.org. It is found on the left hand column of the web page.

District Retreat – Women in Mission
Spend time in the Word and enjoy in-person fellowship and friends!
February 19-21, 2021 starting Friday 4PM until Sunday 1 PM
Hampton Inn – Tropicana 4975 S. Dean Martin Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89118
Speaker: Stella Yau Lok, SoCal City Director with LINC-SoCal
Registration Form and Scholarship information at psdlwml.org
Book your room through *Hampton Inn-Tropicana* 702-948-8100.
The code is LWM for hotel reservations.

GIVING TUESDAY

2020 has been a year of uncertainty for us. A year of changes and doing things differently.

Your Pacific Southwest District has had to do that too by embracing and trying new ways to make mite giving easier as we continue to fund our mission grants.

Giving Tuesday is one such opportunity for all of us to come together, to support our mission grants. Tuesday, December 1, 2020 we will be having our very own **Giving Tuesday!**

We are encouraging you to donate through the online Mite Donations link @ psdlwml.org or through the mobile **GivePlus+** app. Look for Giving Tuesday in the fund list. Checks can also be mailed to the Financial Secretary Linda Moat.

All of us working together can make a difference in our communities and around our district. So mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 1, 2020. We also have a group of donors who will match donations up to \$1,750.

Tuesday, December 1, 2020

Giving Tuesday PSD LWML



Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver (2 Corinthians 9:7).

New Information for Pacific Southwest District Retreat

As of 11/10/2020, we received word that our scheduled speaker for the February 19-21, 2021 Retreat, Karol Selle, has decided not to travel from Wisconsin, in the best interest of her own health.

We have secured another speaker who will speak on the same theme, **Women in Mission**. Stella Yau Lok is a SoCal City Director with LINC-SoCal, a Kingdom-focused organization that works with ministry leaders to equip and empower them in their ministries, many of which are cross-cultural. They are our #12 grant recipient this biennium. Stella will speak of her experiences and provide us some exercises and guidelines for creative ways to immerse ourselves in mission work to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are looking forward to this great event. Think of it as a Christmas gift to yourself! Please make sure you get your registration in before the deadline, February 1st. Find the Retreat Registration Form at <https://www.psdwml.org/> Look under the Events tab and click on Retreat. We look forward to seeing you there.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST LWML DISTRICT

2021 RETREAT

February 19-21, 2021 (Friday-Sunday)

Hampton Inn – Tropicana

4975 S. Dean Martin Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89118

Stella Yau Lok, SoCal City Director with LINC-SoCal

“Women in Mission”

Isaiah 6:8 ESV

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

***Prayer pockets will be set up and ready to receive treats; mini devotionals; pens; notes/cards; gifts; and all the goodies you want to share with your prayer partners and other attendees that you know or will get to know.



Dear Lucy Leader ... Christmas Event Planning



Dear Lucy Leader,

Christmas time is coming soon. I want to do something special with my group, but I just don't think I have the time or energy to do it. Can you help me?

Not So Merry Mary

Dear Not So Merry Mary,

Christmas time can be incredibly stressful these days. First, it is important for you to carve out time to spend in the Word to let the Spirit refresh you. *But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint* (Isaiah 40:31). God promises to give us rest. *Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest* (Matthew 11:28).

Fear not! For behold, I have tidings of great joy! Start your planning early. LWML has a multitude of resources to help you plan special Christmas events for your group. Multi-session and short Bible studies to help your group focus can be found at www.lwml.org/winter. You can find interactive litanies, responsive readings, and short programs at www.lwml.org/program-helps-litanies. A [birthday party for Jesus](#) and other fun Christmas mission service ideas and directions to make [Christmas paper ornaments](#) can be found on lwml.org. You can find even more ideas by going to lwml.org and typing "Christmas" in the search bar. LWML has so many good ideas for you that the hardest part will be choosing what you want to do!

Let me leave you with this Bible verse:

*For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace* (Isaiah 9:6).



*Merry Christmas, Mary!
Lucy Leader*

Posted on LWML.org October 22, 2020
12:00 PM by System Administrator



LWML Gifts of Love Ministry



Is it Time?

"If I plan my estate or end of life decisions, it means that I accept that I will die, and I don't want to talk about such things."

That was Susan's response to a Gift Planning Counselor of the LCMS Foundation. That counselor pointed her to the words of Jesus when He said, **"I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die"** (John 11:25-26). Their conversation centered on the truth that because of Jesus and His death and resurrection, death no longer has mastery over us (Romans 6).

Whether here on earth or with the Lord in heaven, life continues. **For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life** (2 Corinthians 5) NIV.

Having this conversation gave Susan a sense of peace. She put her Lifetime Plan for Giving™ together with her Gift Planning Counselor. She was thankful that this process had finally enabled her to get beyond the fear of death and dying that had haunted her throughout her life.

Is it time for you to do the same? Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Linda Gage for more information.

Email: Linda.Gage@lfnd.org Phone: 800-741-4138 lwmlgiftplan.org

LWML OCOTILLO/PALO VERDE ZONE 27/30

The Fall Rally was a virtual event on October 17, 2020. President Amy Gill hosted the one and a half hour event on Zoom. Counselor Rev. Peter Spallek presented a Bible Study using the LWML Sunday theme of the parable of the tenants (Matt. 21:33-45). LWML Pacific Southwest District president Nila Rodriguez brought greetings and news and answered 'Getting to Know You' questions from participants. District VP of Special Focus Ministries (and VP of Zone 27/30) Chris Mahler introduced our guest speakers: LWML PSD Young Women's Representative Michelle Fritz of Mountain View Lutheran Church (Apache Junction, AZ), and the LWML PSD Heart To Heart Sisters Angelina Jauregui, Priscilla Estrada, and Melissa Salomon. The Zone business portion of the meeting included the Society Roll Call, Treasurer's Report, Election and Installment of Officers, Society Reports, and Announcements. The Rally closed with the Lord's Prayer led by new president, Sandra Wardwell. The virtual Rally was available on the web for three weeks after the event for those who were unable to zoom in. Although we missed the usual activities of refreshments, ingathering, prizes, luncheon and fellowship, we had the unique opportunity of visiting with several of our District's leadership team up close and personal!



Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Sun City West, AZ had a Sock Drive for Veterans. Crown of Life is part of Saguario Zone 26. The church members collected 619 pairs of socks that were in turn donated to an organization Bridging AZ. The socks will be distributed to Veterans in need.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Despite the pandemic, the women of **Saguaro Zone 26** happily met on November 7 for their Fall Celebration. It was so wonderful to see one another, hear from the representative of **Lutherans in Africa**, and feel comfort from our scripture passage in Psalm 143:10, **Teach me to do your will, for you are my God. May your good spirit lead me on level ground.** There were 31 ladies and 5 guests in attendance.



Megan Larson, administrator of Atonement Lutheran School, shared her life experiences at the Saguaro Zone 26 Fall Celebration. She was so appreciative of the zone's ingathering for the school, which is a recipient of a District Mission Grant to supply art supplies for its new program.

Socktober Success!



Thank
You!



Zone 14 Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) celebrated **Socktober** by collecting over 1000 pairs of socks for men, women, boys and girls. The socks will be distributed by Lutheran Social Services of Orange County. Zone 14 includes Christ in Brea; Zion and Prince of Peace in Anaheim; Searchlight Ministries in Fullerton; Messiah and Bethel in Buena Park.

Stitchin' for Missions



Oct. 24, 2020 - Pastor Harnack from First Lutheran Burbank blessed the quilts and backpacks created by ladies from local churches - **First**, Burbank; **Trinity**, Simi Valley; **First**, Van Nuys; **Faith**, Tujunga; and **Faith**, Moorpark through **Stichin' for Missions**. Our LWML Sunday celebrations always include this tradition before we ship to Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Border Concerns. Generally we decorate the sanctuary with these items, but this year our sanctuary includes the playground in our parking lot because . . . Covid can't stop Stichin' for Missions! To God be the glory - His work, our hands.





The **Stitchin' for Missions** group from **Zones 3 & 4** have donation months and pre-pack events for the health kits and pencil packs. They also get a Thrivent Action Grant to help with the expenses. They filled 550 Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes for boys and girls, ages 12-14. The group set up boys and girls table stations with various items to help facilitate the stuffing of all the shoe boxes. Great idea!!!





TREASURED! 39TH BIENNIAL CONVENTION

JUNE 3-5, 2022 • TEMPE, ARIZONA

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it (Matthew 13:44-46 ESV).

Are you a Hidden Treasure? Do you know where we can find one?

The LWML has had many challenges this past year and at times it seems like it will never end. Through them all the PSD has had great leadership that has met all the challenges head on with faith and grace while keeping in mind the great plans our Savior has for each of us as individuals and LWML as a whole. With our faith in HIM we search our mission field looking for the “hidden treasure” among us, the “pearls of great value” that are waiting to be discovered and be given to the Lord to complete His work. Remembering that God does not call the equipped, he equips the called, please pray and search your hearts to see if you are ready and willing to accept HIS challenge. “Be not afraid” because we know that he will always be with us and know that the wonderful women leaving office will help you and encourage you in every step of your journey. Due to our inability to meet each other in person our job will not be an easy one but we know that “we can do all things through HIM.” I look forward to working with Elizabeth Cross, and Marie Burkhardt and our two new committee members, Linda Koch and Michelle Fritz, over the next two years as we search to find ladies who are “ready to be equipped” and who will be ready and eager to be candidates for the 2022 election. If you would like to take a “leap of faith” as a candidate, please contact me or any of the other committee members listed on the next page.

Available on our website: Nomination Forms, descriptions of the general duties for each office to be elected at the 2022 Convention, and a form for submitting suggestions for nominees to the Nominating Committee. Please pray for this committee as they seek the treasures for our coming biennium, and also for God to prepare the hearts of those He will call for each office. The Suggestion Form is also available in this newsletter.

Carol Vigliotti

Nominating Committee Chairman

951-491-0516 Home or 760-519-2036 Cell

*This flyer and the nominating form can be found on the website.



Please help us as we search for Hidden Treasures (Officer Candidates) in our LWML Pacific Southwest District!

Who do you know who has the suggested skills for the positions listed below?

<input type="checkbox"/> Vice President Gospel Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Vice President Organizational Resources
<input type="checkbox"/> Recording Secretary	<input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer
<input type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Counselor	<input type="checkbox"/> Nominating Committee (need <u>10</u> nominees)

Name (please print) _____

For what position? _____

Contact information (if known): Zone/Church _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Please contact any member of the Nominating Committee with this information.

Carol Vigliotti (Chairman) - carolvigliotti@aol.com Elizabeth Cross - Elizabeth.cross81@gmail.com
 Marie Canonge Burkhardt - mariecanonge@gmail.com Linda Koch - lwmlbutterfly@gmail.com
 Michelle Fritz - cynnabun98@gmail.com Rev. Tim Jenks - pastortimcplc@gmail.com



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Carol Vigliotti (Chairman) - carolvigliotti@aol.com Elizabeth Cross - Elizabeth.cross81@gmail.com
 Marie Canonge Burkhardt - mariecanonge@gmail.com Linda Koch - lwmlbutterfly@gmail.com
 Michelle Fritz - cynnabun98@gmail.com Rev. Tim Jenks - pastortimcplc@gmail.com

Young Women IN MISSION

What Can I Do to Help Get More

Young Women Involved with LWML?

Build a relationship with a younger woman in church. Start off with a normal conversation.

Tell her about the LWML and your involvement in it. The more excited you are to tell her about it, the more excited she will be to attend an event.

If she has children, help her arrange child care, welcome her child/children, or plan family-friendly activities! (I have NUMEROUS adoptive aunts and grandmas through the LWML.)

If she starts to participate, do not overwhelm her. Gradually allow her to get comfortable. She will know when she is ready for a leadership position. If she suggests new ideas, be open to it! Not all new ideas are bad ideas!

Review your meeting time to determine if it is young woman friendly. Be open to have your activities at a time that accommodates most women. Also consider working with young women to start a new group that works best for them.

....biggest one of all...If she tells you no at first, keep asking.

Find more ideas on Young Women in Mission Page/Involvement Resources.

CONNECTING tips during COVID-19

Resources During COVID-19

<https://www.lwml.org/covid>



Advent Devotions from Lutheran Hour Ministries

God with Us

What better news is there than to know that God is always by our side! In *God with Us*, we learn again what God the Father has done—He has kept His promise. In so doing, He has announced that grace and forgiveness are available to all, freely given in the birth of Jesus: God's Son, our Savior. He is Immanuel, "God with us."

The story of God coming to earth as a human child is a profound one. In *God with Us*, we find no aloof divinity who is unconcerned and remote somewhere in the cosmos. Rather, He is deeply involved in all our affairs—our joys as well as our heartaches. He *knows* us for He became one of us. At Christmastime, we celebrate the birth of Jesus, Lord of the universe, Savior of the world, Shepherd of our lives.

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them [delivered right to your inbox](#), [podcast the audio devotional](#), access them on your mobile device through the [FREE app](#), or listen with [Spotify](#), [iHeart Radio](#), [Alexa](#), or [Google Home](#). Seasonal Devotions for [Advent](#) and [Lent](#) are available here in both [English and Spanish](#), as well as in [French](#) from our ministry center in Canada. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.

They can also be printed from the website!

Shared from Lutheran Hour Ministries

<https://www.lhm.org/advent/>



Pay it Forward Mite Kit!



Joyce Kelly, Mary Corklin, Pastor Schmidt, Michele Schmidt, Melissa Solomon



Zone 23 President Mary Corklin presented the grant check to Concordia Lutheran Church for the District Mission Grant, **Reaching Preschool Families with the Gospel**. Pastor Schmidt explained what worked in the past to connect unchurched families no longer works as well today. Most want to connect on their schedule not our schedule. Concordia plans to self-produce new high-quality resources to reach the families with the Gospel on their time schedule from people they know and trust. Although they had to social distance and wear face masks, the presentation went very well. Pastor Schmidt was presented with the check for \$10,000 along with a **Pay it Forward Mite Kit!** It consists of a purple bucket to collect mites on purple bucket Sunday, a crafty mite box garland, and a supply of mite boxes! This is a great way for Mission Grant recipients to pay it forward for future Mission Grants. Pastor Schmidt was a real trooper! He posed with the purple mite bucket and the mite box garland around his neck! What a fun time it was. It's amazing what can be accomplished when we all work together in the name of the Lord!



Left to right: Melissa Salomon, Community Life Coordinator Zone 23 President Mary Corklin, Rev. Richard Schmidt, Michelle Schmidt, Director of Concordia Preschool, Alex Parker, Family Ministry DCE



Southwest District Mission Grants

A complete list of the LWML national Mission Grants can be found at www.lwml.org or in a current edition of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*.

1. Patient Care Assessments—Alternatives Medical Clinic, Encinitas CA . PAID \$10,000
2. Atonement Lutheran School Art Easel Sets, Glendale AZ \$ 3,000
3. Living in Grace Home—a faith response to financial responsibilities, Las Vegas NV \$10,000
4. Homeless Native Americans Find Hope—Lutheran Indian Ministries, Phoenix, AZ. \$10,000
5. SUBMERJ—Saving Unborn Babies, reach out to Jesus, Downey, CA.. PAID \$ 7,744
6. Little Lambs Tuition Scholarships Christ Lutheran, Boulder City, NV.. PAID \$10,000
7. Equipping, Encouraging & Empowering in Christ—Mental Health First Aid, Phoenix, AZ .. \$10,000
8. Scholarships for St James Lutheran Preschool, Imperial Beach, CA .. PAID \$10,000
9. Reaching Preschool Families with the Gospel Concordia Lutheran, Chula Vista PAID . \$10,000
10. An Equine Endowment—Saddles of Joy Inc. Yuma, AZ. \$ 7,700
11. Van Go Home Grocery Delivery for Shut-Ins, Lake Havasu, AZ. \$10,000
12. LINC Los Angeles Urban Mission Training, Los Angeles, CA. \$10,000
13. Strategic Envisioning for Iglesia Lutherana la Santisima Trinidad, San Bernardino CA ... \$ 8,000
14. Deaf Outreach Training Workshops—Lutheran Deaf Outreach, Sun City, AZ. \$ 9,000
15. Operation School Bell—Assistance League of Yuma, Yuma AZ. \$10,000
16. Make a Difference—Hospice of Yuma, Yuma AZ. \$10,000
17. Playground Safety Surfacing Trinity Lutheran Church & School Temecula, CA \$10,000

Application and Guidelines for the 2022-2024 PSD Mission Grants on line now! Don't wait until the last moment!
DEADLINE: September 15, 2021



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Nancy Heredia, Editor and Layout

Pastor Tim Jenks, Doctrinal Review

Kathy Baumhofer, Copy Reader

Linda Koch, Copy Reader

Email news and photos to wow@psdlwml.org

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Post pictures and make comments but remember not to tag photos!