

LWML Pacific Southwest District

# WOMEN OF THE WORD

Winter 2022 Newsletter

## President's Message: Hello PSD Women (and Men) in Mission!

*Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.  
(1 Thess. 5:11)*

We are THANKFUL – not just in this season, but at all times, for all things. We are thankful for the celebration of the first coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ. We are thankful for those who tell the world, and our family and neighbors and co-workers, of His saving grace and love. We are thankful for the servants who build houses and clothe and feed those in need. We are thankful for the prayer warriors who cover all these activities in prayer. And we are thankful for LWML, which gives us opportunities to participate in all these things. **As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others.** That is our mission in the LWML.

**Joyfully Proclaim Christ:** Have you registered for the Women's Retreat? We'll be fed from the Word of God that weekend to better equip us to "joyfully proclaim Christ"! You can obtain registration and scholarship forms in this WOW or on the [psdlwml.org](http://psdlwml.org) website under "2023 Women's Retreat". It will be held February 3-5, 2023 in Ontario, CA; we have a fabulous speaker, Deb Burma, who is a renowned author and speaker. More information is available on the 2nd page of the registration form, giving the logistical details and details around prayer partners and the ingathering.

**Support Missions:** We just had our Giving Tuesday donation to support District Mission Grants on November 29. If you don't have a regular mite offering collection at your church, feel free to send a Mite Offering to Barb Virus, our Financial Secretary (address in this edition or on the [psdlwml.org](http://psdlwml.org) website). Twenty-five percent is shared with LWML to fund the national mission grants and seventy-five percent stays in the Pacific Southwest District to help fund our list of District mission grants, which are always given to ministries within our District. I also encourage you to associate with a ministry or a missionary that gives you "God-bumps"/goosebumps when you think about the people who are helped and with whom the Gospel is shared. Support them in prayer, funding, or your precious time, helping them to spread the Gospel.

*President's message continued*

**Equip Women to Honor God:** Our District just sent five trainees to the Assembly of Leaders – Adventures in Equipping Leaders. We each attended about a dozen classes and are making plans for a couple of training events for all! The Board of Directors will get a taste of it at our next meeting, December 3. Watch for a special edition of the WOW early in 2023 to give you the full plan. The District is also providing a monthly opportunity to be in the Word together on Zoom – the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Pacific time. Studying the Word is honoring our God. Sign up on the website if you aren't receiving these notices.

**Serving Others:** The pictures and articles in this edition are just a sample of serving events going on in our District. We have people involved in the ministries receiving grants, diligently working in schools, with foster care, with refugees and immigrants, helping those in need with food and other physical necessities, supporting various local ministries in their communities and many other serving opportunities. I encourage you to join in the opportunities to serve others.

We are also looking forward to the LWML Convention in Milwaukee, WI, June 22-25, where we will “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations” based on Psalm 33:12-13, which says: *Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! The Lord looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man.* This event will definitely provide opportunities to joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions and equip women to honor God by serving others. Check this edition for the Frequently Asked Questions that has been put together by the Convention Manager, Shelley Moeller and the Convention Programming Committee Chairman Dcs. Betty Knapp. Registration will be online and will begin January 9 – watch for that and register early!

Planning is underway for the 2024 District Convention. If you would like to volunteer for any of the committees, please contact me by email or through the website. We still need various committee chairs to arrange all the aspects of the convention, such as Worship, Hospitality, Pre-Convention Sessions, and Properties. We are working on the location (L.A./San Gabriel Valley area) and special speakers, so watch for those updates in upcoming editions of the WOW.

I encourage you to stay in the Word, pray for each other, support your Mite Box, plan a servant or fellowship activity – and connect with your LWML Sisters and Brothers because YOU ARE THE HEART of LWML.

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

*Nila Rodriguez*

*LWML PSD District President*



**Nila Rodriguez, LWML PSD District President 2020 - 2024**

## Junior Pastoral Counselor's Message

Christmas is coming! Some might hear that phrase and be filled with excitement. Are there some of you who have already started listening to music? Watching Hallmark movies? Decorating? There might be some who hear that and get frustrated by the cost, the consumerism, the loneliness, or the hectic pace these coming weeks seem to create. Wherever you fall on that spectrum, it is true that Christmas is coming, but for us there is a greater meaning that far transcends the typical traditions of this year.

Christmas means that God has come down to you and me. In Isaiah 64:1, the request is made that God would open the heavens and come down. When you look into the manger and see Mary holding Jesus, then you see that God answered that request. We can rejoice and find meaning in that wonderful news. Here's why...

1. God has proven He is real by showing up in this world.
2. Jesus came not as a judge but as a Savior.
3. Jesus is always present with you.

Christmas is coming, and that is great news because of Jesus. I pray that you will experience that good news and that you will share it with someone close to you this year. Here's a prayer that can focus our hearts in that direction...

*Heavenly Father, we rejoice that Jesus came into the world for us. Fill our hearts with the joy of this news, dispel loneliness by your presence, lead us away from the sins of the season, and give us boldness to share the news of Jesus with someone. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

*Pastor Michael Hall*

*LWML PSD Junior Pastoral Counselor*



**Pastor Michael Hall, Junior Pastoral Counselor 2022 - 2026**



Love Lutheran  
Service Book?  
Learn more about  
our Synod's  
Hymnal by clicking  
here!





**LWML**  
Lutheran Women in Mission

**NATIONAL  
NEWS &  
EVENTS**

The Season of Advent is Upon Us  
What Do You Mean, "Be Still"?

The season of Advent has begun. Christmas is fewer than four weeks away. How can anyone, in this busy season, be still? Yet, the Lord commands us, *Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!* (Psalm 46: 10).

The Lord is not scolding His people when He shares these words with us. He is simply giving us the opportunity to experience His peace. As we begin to make preparations for this busy time of year, I pray we will take time each day to savor the stillness and peace that comes when we trust our Lord and Savior.

In a short Bible study titled "What Do You Mean, Be Still?" written for LWML in 2014, the author shares that God has the power to speak to us any time, anywhere, and in ways we cannot ignore. However, He often chooses to speak to us quietly. The stillness of the Christmas season is the stillness that comes from knowing the Lord Jesus Christ.

As you make all the preparations associated with this Christmas season, are you preparing your heart to receive His will for you? Join me and choose a different devotion, Bible study, litany, or mission activity each day. There is no better way to prepare for our Savior's birth!

Today, and always, we are surrounded by God's grace,

*Debbie Larson*

*LWML National President*



**Debbie Larson, LWML National President 2019 - 2023**

*My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful of the humble estate of his servant.  
From now on, all generations will call me blessed,  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me-  
holy is his name. ~Mary to her Lord (Luke 1: 46-49 NIV)*

# Lutheran Woman's Quarterly

Upcoming Issue

Share your stories with us at [editor@lwml.org](mailto:editor@lwml.org).

SUMMER 2023: Proclaiming Christ  
What does proclaiming Christ look like?  
(Submit by Jan. 1, 2023)

theme:

*Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!* (Psalm 96:3).



## Mite Explanation and History

Based on the Biblical account of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1–4), the Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of "mites" — offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Mite Box contributions amount to millions of dollars that fund district and national mission grants and implement the LWML program.

Mite Boxes, available from the district, zone, or LWML office, are distributed to every woman in a society, and often to each member of the congregation. Local groups submit Mite Box offerings to the appointed district officer.

## The Widow's Mite

*Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything — all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41–43 NIV).*

## St. Paul's Counsel on Giving

*And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. So we urged Titus, since he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But just as you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in your love for us — see that you also excel in this grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:1–7 NIV).*





# 40th Biennial Convention of the LWML

Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
June 22-25, 2023

Now is the time to invite your friends to join you as you plan to attend. An LWML Convention Poster is available [here](#) to download, print, and post in your church. Use it as a way to begin the discussion of how you and your LWML friends can join with thousands of other Lutheran Women in Mission in Milwaukee as we “Celebrate the Lord of the Nations.”

## Order Your Convention Shirt Now

The 2023 Convention Polo Shirt Order Form is available on the 2023 Convention webpage. The beautiful royal blue shirt was revealed at the January LWML Presidents Assembly meeting — now is your opportunity to order a shirt for yourself.

The Convention Programming Committee would be pleased if you would wear this shirt at upcoming zone and district gatherings — meetings, conventions, retreats, etc. Make the order form available to your members by including a link in your district communications or by having copies of the form available at upcoming events.



**CLICK HERE**

to order your convention shirt



# DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS

## A Message from Barb Virus, PSD LWML Endowment Chairman

Exciting news! Our district has received a \$25,000 gift designated for an endowment! An Endowment Guidelines Committee has been appointed to recommend the purpose of the endowment as well as guidelines. Please join our Board of Directors and me in praising the Lord for His provision and also in praying for wisdom for the Endowment Guidelines Committee. Members are President Nila Rodriguez, Treasurer Denise Jackman, VP of Organizational Resources JoAnne Sloan, Past District President Karen Duprey, Pastoral Counselor Rev. Ramon Contreras, and Barb Virus, Endowment Fund Chairman.

Financial support of the Lord's work includes gifts now, gifts in the future, and gifts spread over time. Planning gifts from one's estate often allows for gifts that match all the other gifts given in a lifetime.

When the Lord calls you home, and you no longer need assets to support your body and life, you are free to use those gifts for Godly purposes, caring for family and supporting ministry. Your LWML Gift Planning Counselor can help you plan.



Contact LWML Gift Planning Counselor Linda Gage.

Her contact information is [Linda.Gage@lfnd.org](mailto:Linda.Gage@lfnd.org)

Phone 800.741.4138.

Also see [lwmlgiftplan.org](http://lwmlgiftplan.org).

Do you need a speaker for your next event?

Contact one of your LWML PSD Gift Planning Advocates:

Cheryl Keithly    [ckeithly@keithlywilliams.com](mailto:ckeithly@keithlywilliams.com)    Phone: 928-726-2566 Cell: 928-581-9299

Linda Koch    [lwmlbutterfly@gmail.com](mailto:lwmlbutterfly@gmail.com)    Phone: 858-271-6852 Cell: 858-414-4618

Barbara Virus    [bvirus@juno.com](mailto:bvirus@juno.com)    Phone: 714-639-1970 Cell: 714-801-5252

My husband and I took a road trip to Oklahoma this fall and I took note of towns and cities where God is working in the Pacific Southwest District. I offered prayers of thanksgiving for the faithful saints who serve Him.

This quarter I would like to highlight the importance of keeping good minutes and financial records for groups and zones. This includes maintenance of signers on your bank account, based on your bylaws. There should be a minimum of two signers (not necessarily signatures) on your account, and this information needs to be updated at election time or upon the resignation or death of a signer.

The LWML website has some wonderful documents, including LWML Financial Officer Guidelines at [lwml.org/financial-officers](http://lwml.org/financial-officers) that should be reviewed by all zone and group officers on a regular basis.

THANK YOU for your heartfelt mite donations! Your mite offerings have made an impact on countless lives, helping God's servants share the Good News of Jesus Christ.

**Please make note of the address to send Mite Box offerings  
or request vouchers and mite boxes:**

**Barb Virus, 542 E. Lomita Ave., Orange, CA 92867-6848**

Continue to pray for all mission grants and please continue your cheerful mite donations!

God's blessings and peace,

*Barb Virus*

*LWML PSD Financial Secretary*



**Barb Virus, LWML PSD Financial Secretary 2021 - 2024**

*Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her  
will be accomplished! ~Elizabeth to Mary (Luke 2:49 NIV)*



Pacific Southwest District  
psdlwml.com

**2022-2024 MISSION GRANTS**

<b>PAID</b> 1. Whatever You Did for the Least of These, Orphan Grain Train, Surprise, AZ	\$10,000
<b>PAID</b> 2. Jesus Helping Hand; ESL Program for 1st Generation Korean Women, Bethany Mission Church, Westminster, CA	\$10,000
<b>PAID</b> 3. Women’s Resource Medical Centers of Southern NV, Las Vegas, NV	\$10,000
<b>PAID</b> 4 . Standing in the Gap Scholarship, Mt Olive Lutheran Church and Preschool, Poway, CA	\$10,000
<b>PAID</b> 5. Providing Missionary Stories to Build Faith of Students in PSD Lutheran Schools, PSD LCMS, Irvine, CA	\$2,839
<b>PAID</b> 6. An Educational Need, A Spiritual Opportunity, Yuma Lutheran Schools, Yuma, AZ	\$10,000
7. <b>Victory Lutheran Church Resource Center, Chula Vista, CA</b>	\$10,000
<b>PAID</b> 8. Camperships for Arizona Lutheran Outdoor Ministry (ALOMA), Prescott, AZ	\$10,000
<b>PAID</b> 9. Promise Multicultural Ministry, Promise Christian Church, Murrieta, CA	\$10,000
<b>PAID</b> 10. Audio-Visual Equipment Upgrade, Trinity Cristo Rey Lutheran Church, Santa Ana, CA	\$10,000
<b>PAID</b> 11. Prison Ministry Christianity Explored Program, Hawthorne, CA	\$5,000
<b>PAID</b> 12. Participant Scholarships for Crisis Church Workers, Shepherd’s Canyon Retreat, Phoenix, AZ	\$7,000
<b>PAID</b> 13. Zion Bags of Love, Zion Lutheran Church, Blythe, CA	\$10,000
<b>PAID</b> 14. Fruit of the Vine Food Bank, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Ontario, CA	\$10,000
15. <b>Reaching the Unreached with the Good News of Jesus Christ, Faith Lutheran Church Huntington Beach, CA</b>	\$10,000
<b>PAID</b> 16. Spanish Language Study Bibles for LCBM Bible Institute Students, San Diego, CA	\$9,000
<b>PAID</b> 17. Calling Mamas Out of the Darkness Over the Closed Gate, IV Life Center, Imperial, CA	\$10,000

**Please continue your generous mite offerings as we look toward funding our next biennium Gospel Outreach Mission Grants.**

## A Message from Bonnie Karch, LWML PSD Vice President for Gospel Outreach

God is good all the time, and all the time God is good! We have been so blessed with our grants; they are listed in this newsletter and posted to our website. We have been blessed with these donations and the recipients are joyfully using their grants to God's glory. Despite the gifts that have been received for grants, don't think it's time to stop collecting MITES! We need to continue our faithful giving so we can continue to fund future grants.

It's time that we start saving backpacks and school supplies! Many stores have reduced the price of backpacks at this time, so it's a great time to go shopping. This will be our ingathering at our March 4th Board of Directors meeting!

Have you donated books for Lutheran Border Concerns? Our mission outreach for this quarter is to collect and send Spanish Bibles and Christian stories for the children across our border!

Go to <https://www.lhfmissions.org/support/donate-now/> to donate money for LBC. See our Lutheran Heritage Foundation page in this newsletter.

It's not too early to begin thinking about grants that your church or group would like to submit in the next year. There will be Zoom Gospel Outreach Mission Grant seminars February 14 and 15, 2023, from 8:30-11:30 am. This important information will help you select a Gospel Outreach project that needs funding and give you step-by-step guidance on how to fill out the grant application.

*Bonnie Karch*

*LWML PSD Vice President  
for Gospel Outreach*



**Bonnie Karch, LWML PSD VP of Gospel Outreach, 2022-2026**

**CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE:**

Did you know that the District website has a wealth of information and resources for your edification and use in your Zones?

Go to [www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org) and see for yourself!



## Gifts from the Heart for Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry

From: LWML Pacific Southwest District  
Gospel Outreach Committee

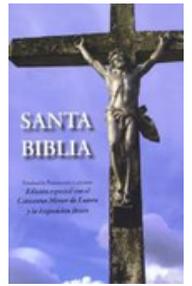
Concerning *Gifts from the Heart* for  
December Board of Directors Meeting

At the September Board of Directors meeting it was suggested we purchase books for the Lutheran Border Concerns children. After deeper discussion with Pastoral Counselor Ramon Contreras, he has suggested that our BOD and zones send donations directly to **Lutheran Heritage Foundation**. They will match the number of books with the amount of donations collected and ship them directly to Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry. The need is great as LBCM has approximately 800 children in their care.



LUTHERAN  
HERITAGE  
FOUNDATION

51474 Romeo Plank  
Macomb, MI 48042  
800.554.0723



The books selected:

A Child's Garden of Bible Stories (\$5.00) x70

The Bible and Luther's Small Catechism (\$10/copy) x48

It is easy to donate:

Go to <https://www.lhfmissions.org/support/donate-now>

Fill in as shown:

Gift amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Designation: **Spanish Projects**

Tribute Gift: This gift is in honor, memory, or support of someone

(Choose honor because support doesn't come up)

This gift is for **Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry**

Billing Address

Make this gift on behalf of an organization

Organization: LWML Pacific Southwest District

(The rest of the donation information is your payment method)

If you choose to pay by check, use the Lutheran Heritage Foundation address at top of page. Write on the memo line: on behalf of LWML PSD for Lutheran Border Concerns Ministry.



# WOMEN'S RETREAT 2023

Pacific Southwest District LWML

February 3-5, 2023

Friday 3:00 p.m. to Sunday 12:00 p.m.

Hampton Inn at 4500 East Mills Circle, Ontario, California 91764

Dave & Busters at 4821 Mills Circle, Ontario, CA 91764

and Redeemer Lutheran Church at 920 W. 6th St., Ontario, CA 91762

*Stepping Out - Living on the Edge" with Deb Burma, Guest Speaker*

(Please print or type)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

CONGREGATION \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ This is my first LWML Retreat

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to be a Prayer Warrior\* at the Retreat

\_\_\_\_\_ I require American Sign Language interpretation

\_\_\_\_\_ Special diet needs (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Other needs (Please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

\*Prayer Warriors are those who are willing to pray for the retreat while there. Prayer Warriors are also willing to be available during the retreat to pray with other women, if requested.

Parking on site at the hotel is complimentary. Friday and Saturday dinner, Saturday lunch are included in registration fee. Complimentary Saturday and Sunday breakfast for hotel guests only.

Room reservations: Phone Contact: 909-980-9888, or click the link

<https://group.hamptoninn.com/7nygj6>, where you will be taken to the February 2023 calendar. When you click on the date, you will be asked to Select a Room and you can update the dates and number of guests before finalizing.

REGISTER EARLY: SPACE IS LIMITED TO 150 people

Registration \$200 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS JANUARY 15, 2023.**

In case of cancellation, \$10 will be retained. No refunds after January 15, 2023.

Make checks payable to Pacific Southwest District LWML. Mail registration form with check and a stamped, self-addressed envelope (for your confirmation) to:

**Linda Mojonier, 1842 Hope Avenue, Kingman, Arizona 86401 Phone: 520-273-7333**

**Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1:9 NIV)**



## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

RETREAT: Feb. 3-5, 2023

Dave & Buster's  
4821 Mills Circle, Ontario, CA

Scholarship Award \$200.00 covers retreat registration and meals noted on retreat flyer.  
Hotel/lodging is on your own. We will inform you of award.

Please print or type:

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Zone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Home Congregation \_\_\_\_\_

If you are awarded a scholarship to the District LWML Retreat 2023:

Why do you wish to attend this event? Explain why you should be awarded this scholarship.

How do you think attending this event would change your thinking about how you might  
"Be the Face of God" in your community outside of the church?

If you are already involved in LWML, what offices have you had in LWML, or would like to explore?

If you are not involved in LWML, what activities are you involved in in at your church?

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Send application form to:  
Barb Virus, Endowment  
Fund Chairman 542 E Lomita Ave.,  
Orange, CA 92867-6848  
714-801-5252 bvirus@juno.com

**DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 31, 2022.** Note: If you are applying for a Scholarship, please do not send a Registration Form until awards are determined. We will work with the Registration Chairman so that your registration will not be late.

# Retreat Changes

**“There’s one thing that never changes, and that’s the fact that there will always be changes.”**

**So, as Patsy Clairmont says,**

**“Change is inevitable, misery is optional, so stick a geranium in your hat and be happy.”**

**Let us embrace this new retreat format, be inspired by the words of Deb Burma, and enjoy fellowship with our sisters in Christ.**

First, check into the Hilton Hampton Inn & Suites at 4500 East Mills Circle in Ontario, CA. Be sure to check in also at the retreat registration table in the hotel lobby, which opens at 3 p.m. If you arrive after 5:00 pm, the retreat registration table will have relocated to Dave & Busters, 4821 Mills Circle.

Dave & Busters is in the Ontario Mall. Cross the parking lot and walk over to the mall. You may also drive across to the mall; however, it only took me 4 minutes to walk there. It is up to you, but consider we’ll be finishing well after dark, so it may be safer for you to drive.

Look for the Dave & Buster’s sign and enter through the middle door, which is also the main door. If you go in the two side doors, you will enter the arcades, but you will eventually find your way. The staff is very friendly, so ask them if you get lost.

If you enter the middle door, you will go up 5 steps and continue to the left. You will see the entrance to our meeting room. We will meet there Friday night and all day Saturday. This room will have a prayer corner, buffet dining and tables and chairs, and of course, our Prayer Pockets, where you can leave notes and small gifts for your friends and your prayer partner. This is a very elegant room. There will also be a table with Deb Burma’s books for sale with the opportunity for autographs with purchase.

There are bathrooms located right outside our meeting room.

On Sunday, we will be going to Redeemer Lutheran Church (920 W 6th Street, Ontario) for worship services. Breakfast is included with your room reservation at the hotel, prior to attending worship service. After the service, you may return to your homes.

If you are a committee member, please go to the Fellowship Hall for a wrap-up meeting.

**Reminder: Don’t forget to bring gas station gift cards (\$10-\$25) for our Ingathering, Gifts from the Heart, that will support the Fruit of the Vine food bank at Redeemer.**

If you are asking why we made these changes, here is the answer. Prices have gone up so much during the past two years, we tried to find a venue that would be a little less expensive. We are, after all, good stewards of the Lord’s blessings.

Please feel free to contact Bonnie Karch at 702-743-3258 or [sunflower.nana2015@gmail.com](mailto:sunflower.nana2015@gmail.com) if you have any questions or concerns.

## BACKPACK BONANZA #3



February 13, 2023 California-Arizona-Nevada Collection Center

Dear Women in Mission,

Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

We and the LWML ladies are inviting the congregations of the Pacific Southwest District and the English District to participate in a Gifts from the Heart Ingathering for:

Backpacks - non spiral notebooks - pencils - pens - composition notebooks - erasers, sharpeners, crayons - white and colored paper - glue sticks, scissors - colored pencils - washable colored markers- rulers - socks of various size - assorted size balls and new socks

This will help fill the constant need for backpacks and school supplies for school children in the ministries of 1000 Generations in Tijuana, Lutheran Borders Concerns Ministry and others. The ladies of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League will assist in coordinating the ingathering by circuit and the Zone Presidents will bring the ingathering to the District LWML Meeting in March, 2023.

If you cannot bring your donations to this meeting and the quantities are significant, Orphan Grain Train will make arrangements to pick them up. The Arizona congregations may take their donations to Orphan Grain Train Phoenix if they so wish.

This is an excellent outreach project, and we are hoping there will be a great response from our church members.

We pray for your support and are excited about the potential response.

Thank You!

In His Service,

Steve Rice, OGT Collection Center Manager

steveric58@gmail.com

42217 55th St W Lancaster, CA 93536

661-305-0561

San Diego Area

Contact: Shirley Anderson

555 Manzanita St

Chula Vista, CA

91911-2506 619-421-5269

Cell #619-254-2666

[nanashirleyanderson@gmail.com](mailto:nanashirleyanderson@gmail.com)

(I am willing to pick up donated items in San Diego County. Perhaps each zone can have a pickup location.)

And we know that in *all* things  
**God works for the good  
of those who love him,**  
who have been called  
according to his purpose.

-Romans 8:28  
BibleVerseImages.com

**Jesus is calling you...**



## LWML PSD Nominating Committee

**God has a plan for you...** how does knowing who He desires us to be empower us as we serve Him and others? By grace through faith, we know that God is molding us into the people He wants us to be.

**What talents and gifts has the Lord given you?** Honor His gifts by prayerfully considering one of the district positions that will need to be filled in 2024. Answer the call to leadership.

**Prayer:** *Lord God, send Your Holy Spirit to work in us so that we might better understand who we are in You and how we might better reflect You as we serve through Your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.*

### Desirable traits for VP of Christian Life

- Humble and depends totally on the Lord
- Good listener
- Well organized
- Delegates responsibility
- Knows and understands her duties
- Proficient with computer use and software
- Has served in the LWML for at least three or four years
- Has a servant heart
- Puts best construction on everything

### Desirable traits for VP of Communications

- Humble and depends totally on the Lord
- Committed to growth.
- Has a servant heart
- Works with people
- Sets expectations
- Good listener
- Well organized
- Delegates responsibility
- Proficient with computer use and software

### Desirable traits for Nominating Committee

- Humble and depends totally on the Lord
- Aware of the total LWML program.
- Well organized
- Sufficiently acquainted with the membership
- Willing to work with other committee members
- Knowledgeable about accepted procedures of the nominating committee as listed in the bylaws
- Good motivator
- Industrious
- Has integrity

### Desirable traits for VP of Special Focus Ministries

- Humble and depends totally on the Lord
- Committed to growth.
- Has a servant heart
- Works with people
- Good listener
- Well organized
- Sincere
- Patient
- Open to new ideas

## Desirable traits for Financial Secretary

- Humble and depends totally on the Lord
- Well organized
- Knowledgeable about accepted procedures of Financial Secretary as listed in the bylaws
- Disciplined
- Has integrity
- Hard working
- Works with people
- Has a servant's heart
- Motivates others

## Desirable traits for President

- Humble and depends totally on the Lord
- A caring heart
- Listening ear
- Disciplined
- Integrity
- Person of vision
- Passionate
- A servant heart
- Works with people
- Well-organized
- Responsible

Christianity demands ultimate optimism concerning what God can accomplish in our lives. Jesus is calling you... use your spiritual gifts

Find the general description of officers and nomination forms at [www.psdlwml.org](http://www.psdlwml.org)

Look under:

Resources, then Nominating Committee

*Heavenly Father, Thank you for calling us to be leaders, whether it is in the corporate world or to our children, to those you place in our lives at various times and in various situations, and everywhere in between. As I study the qualifications for a Christian leader, lead me to rejoice in those areas in which I excel by Your grace and strengthen me in those areas where work still needs to be done. Equip me to be the Christian leader You would have me to be. In the precious name of Jesus I pray. Amen!*

Taken from *Christian Leaders Bible Study* written by Rev. John Heckman, published by LWML

While exhibiting on behalf of the LWML-PSD at the PSD Pastors Conference, President Nila encouraged attendees to enter our Retreat Raffle for a pastor and his wife to win free registration and lodging for our LWML-PSD Retreat February 3-5, 2023, in Ontario, CA. The winners are Pastor Assefa Gugsu and his wife, Ruth, from Medhanialem Ethiopian Lutheran Christian Fellowship in San Diego. Congrats to Pastor Assefa and Ruth! Nila and Ruth are pictured here.



## A Message from Susan Thomas, VP Communications

*For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger. (Luke 2: 11-12).*

Wow, it's a new church year and we are all getting ready to welcome the Baby Jesus. There are Sunday School pageants, choir rehearsals, mid-week Advent services, shopping to do, decorations to be hung, carols to be sung, and packages to wrap.

The new website has been up for several months now. I hope you are enjoying it. We still have the same web address: [psdlwml.org](http://psdlwml.org). If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, you can send them to me. Go the "About Us" page and scroll to the bottom. Fill out the form. The form comes directly to me, and not some never-reviewed email that some companies use. If you can't find something, try looking on the Resources page. There is a lot of general information there.

If you were receiving the eBlast emails with District news and Bible study invitations, but haven't been receiving them lately, use the same form in the paragraph above and ask to be added to the email list.

Hoping you have a joyous Christmas season,

*Susan Thomas*

*PSD VP Communications*



**Susan Thomas , VP of Communications 2020-2024**

## A Message from Barbara Wade, VP Christian Life

District ZOOM Bible Studies

Bible studies are held on the 3rd Monday of each month on ZOOM at 6:30 pm (Pacific time).

One-session downloadable Bible studies are used.

If you want to participate, go to [psdlwml.org](http://psdlwml.org) and scroll down to "Join us on Zoom" to add your email address so you will begin receiving District emails, Zoom links, etc.

Anyone interested in facilitating one of these Bible studies in 2023, please pick your month and contact me.

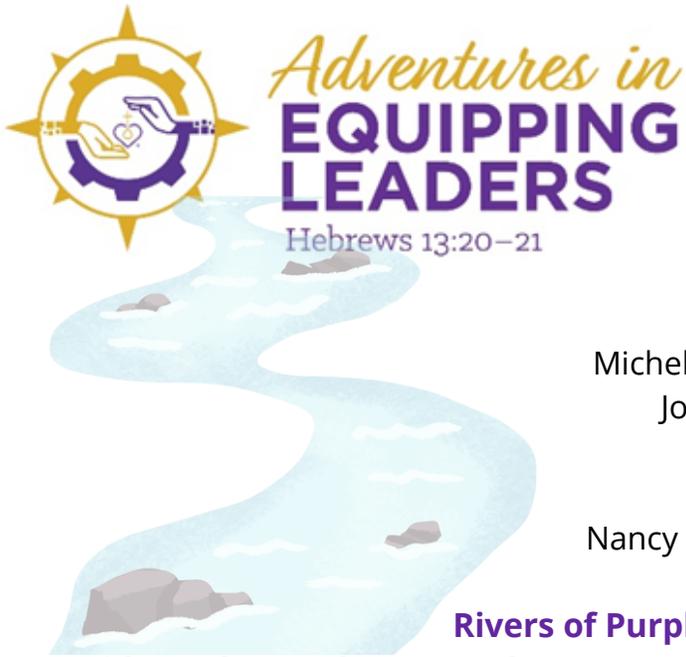
Barbara Wade ([bewade@cox.net](mailto:bewade@cox.net))

*Barbara Wade*

*PSD VP Christian Life*



**Barbara Wade, VP of Christian Life 2020-2024**



The Assembly of Leaders, Oct. 19-22, 2022,  
was attended by:

Anna Baker, Assistant to the President  
Michelle Fritz, former Young Women Representative  
JoAnne Sloan, VP Organizational Resources  
Pastor Mike Hall, Jr. Pastoral Counselor  
Nila Rodriguez, District President  
Nancy Heredia, Church Workers in Mission Chairman

### **Rivers of Purple Flowing to the Sea**

**Did you know that over the course of 80 years, LWML has funded over 98 million dollars in missions all over the globe? God has plans that go beyond our wildest imagination! Underestimating God's vision might just be one of the biggest mistakes we make sometimes. God is working through the Lutheran Women in Mission and continues to make a global impact with that little pocket change we call mites.**

**Over 235 Lutheran women from East to West and North to South in the United States were led to St. Louis to the Assembly Of Leaders. "Why?" you ask. Because God was calling them and strangely enough, they just couldn't say no.**

**Essential to this gathering was the willingness to learn, and learn we did! We learned to keep our thumbs facing forward when making a presentation, not to slouch, and most importantly, to be ready to talk about our faith. *"But keep the Lord Christ holy in your hearts. Always be ready to answer everyone about the hope you have."* (1 Peter 3:16)**

**Have you ever wondered and been overwhelmed with the question of how to go and spread the gospel? Well, we will have lessons on venturing out of your comfort zone, ways to equip yourself and others to be leaders and discover ways to share God's love and grace, along with Jesus' salvation in our everyday mission world, whether across the street or across the globe. I promise you will leave our gathering fired up for the Lord like never before.**

***Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, 21 equip you with everything good that you may do his will, working in us[a] that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.* (Hebrews 13:20-21)**

**Now off you go, rivers of purple flowing to the sea, teaching and discipling along the way, helping and supporting each other.**

***Submitted by Anna Baker***



# ZONE NEWS & EVENTS



## WHAT'S YOUR 80?

1942–2022 — 80 Years of God's Grace

Celebrating 80 Years of LWML!

In thanksgiving for 80 years of the LWML, each member, group, zone, or district is encouraged to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 something. Women all over the country have been busy!

Click the link below to learn how your zone can participate!

Learn more

LOOK FOR THE PURPLE LETTERING TO READ ABOUT  
HOW LADIES IN OUR ZONES HAVE CELEBRATED THEIR 80  
AND BE INSPIRED TO CELEBRATE YOURS!

### ***Zone 26- Crown of Life Lutheran Church in Sun City West, AZ***

The congregation donated hygiene products and a grant from Thrivent was used to purchase drawstring backpacks. On October 11, 2022, forty-four ladies gathered to fill the 80-plus hygiene bags that were donated to Heaven's Healing Hands- an organization that advocates for all neighbors without doors experiencing homelessness, including military service veterans, to receive essential services with respect and dignity. The congregation also donated several boxes of gently used and new clothing.



*Submitted by Rita Grover*

## ***Zone 23/24 - St. James Lutheran Church in Imperial Beach, CA***

The women of Zones 23 and 24 met at St. Paul's in San Diego on October 22, 2022, to be challenged by speaker Linda Stoterau to think about the issues of immigration. After a Bible Study based on Romans 12:1-2, "A Living Sacrifice," led by Pastoral Counselor Douglas Jones, Linda spoke about the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service all around the US. She also invited women from Christ Lutheran, La Mesa, to tell about their work with Afghan refugees.

The thirty-five women present at the Fall Celebration donated \$377 to LIRS and bags and bags of children's socks and underwear, far exceeding the goal of \$80 for the 80th anniversary of LWML and 80 packs of socks/underwear for the 80 years of welcome by LIRS!

The enthusiasm spilled over as one of the participants went to check out a pumpkin carving event at a park the following day for newly settled Afghans, organized by Christ Lutheran, who provided forty pumpkins!

Prayer: Lord, help our eyes and hearts be open to the needs of displaced people, who long to be back home. Help us to get to know them and thereby open the doors of hope in Jesus.

*Submitted by Chris Camberg*



### **Zone 3- Canoga Park Lutheran Church in Los Angeles, CA**

The ladies of Canoga Park Lutheran LWML assembled 25 Christmas Stockings for active duty military. With the help of a Thrivent grant and the generosity of congregation members the stockings were filled to the brim. Sunday school children participated by hand-making cards and writing to the soldiers. Christmas cards from the ladies were included, letting the soldiers know how much their sacrifice for our freedom is appreciated. The stockings will distributed by the Soldiers' Angels organization.

*Submitted by Rica Harding*



*Don't urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me. ~Ruth to Naomi (Ruth 1:16-17 NIV)*

## **Zone 26- Life of Christ Lutheran Church in Saguardo, AZ**

The ladies of Zone 26, Saguardo, met on November 5th at Life of Christ Church in Peoria, AZ, for their Fall Celebration. There were 41 people in attendance.

Pastor Phil Gustafson from Grace Lutheran Church is the recipient of our backpack ingathering. He told the women about the special work the church has done for the homeless.

There are numerous homeless people in the vicinity of the church, and Grace Lutheran, in partnership with 42 Phoenix churches, distributes clothing and supplies to the homeless. Grace Lutheran also offers a program called Heat Respite, which allows the homeless to rest within the church on hot summer days. The church also provides free meals Sunday through Thursdays and a shower trailer on Saturdays.

We collected over 100 backpacks, and using Thrivent Action Team money from two members, Rita Grover and Lucille Beyer, purchased hygiene items to put in the backpacks. Using permanent markers, the ladies wrote messages of hope and drew pictures on the canvas backpacks.

*Submitted by Susan Thomas*



## ***Heartland Zone 22- Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Poway***

Heartland Zone 22 had an uplifting and inspiring Fall Celebration at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Poway on October 15, 2022.

Those attending were encouraged to bring personal hygiene items for Interfaith Community Services in response to LWML's "What's Your 80?" challenge, and succeeded in donating 240 items!

Guest speakers Zach and Michelle Southall of Charity on Wheels in Orange County shared their passion for helping the homeless with the 30 attendees, encouraging us to do whatever we are able in our own communities.

We were also blessed by a short but powerful Bible study led by Zone Pastoral Counselor Rev. Jeffrey Horn.

After a short business meeting, which included reelection of the zone officers and information about upcoming district and national LWML events, we shared a potluck lunch, celebrated LWML's 80th birthday with some cake, and enjoyed lots of warm fellowship.

*Submitted by Linda Koch*



**The LWML-PSD just grew!** We received new LWML group applications from Alive in Christ Church Lutheran in Tucson, AZ (Zone 29) and from St. John's Lutheran in Oxnard, CA (Zone 1 / 2). Welcome ladies! Looking forward to seeing you at upcoming events and hearing about your missions and servant activities.



*Dear Nila and Laura,*

***Many thanks to both of you for so quickly facilitating the approval process for the LWML Alive in Christ, Tucson, Certificate of Membership. We were presented with the framed certificate at the Zone 29 Fall Rally held October 15 at Trinity Lutheran Church, Casa Grande, AZ. Attached is proof of the event! It was a wonderful experience as we were welcomed by LWML sisters in Christ!***

***In His Service,  
Belva Schindler***

### ***Zone 31/32- Trinity Lutheran Church in St. George, UT***

Members recognized LWML's What's Your 80? celebration on Sunday, October 9 during our LWML Sunday by gifting our local Family Support Center with a Walmart purchasing card. The Family Support Center helps parents in the St. George area by providing emergency care and lodging for children during difficult family times. The gift card will enable the center to purchase items needed on a moment's notice. Our LWML has supported the Family Support Center for a number of years. We are planning a special congregational ingathering to support the Center in the spring of 2023.



## Zone 21- Zion Lutheran Church in Fallbrook, California

The ladies of Zone 21 met at Zion Lutheran Church in Fallbrook, CA on October 1 for their Fall Rally. Jake Schlepp shared his work with the Dream Center Pantry in Lake Elsinore. An ingathering was collected and project enjoyed to make hygiene packages for the visitors to the Dream Center. A delicious lunch and a basket raffle were enjoyed by all.



## **Zones 31/32- Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Kingman, AZ**

“Nothing is better in life than working for Jesus” was the theme for the Fall Celebration held at Good Shepherd in Kingman, AZ on October 15th, attended by 28 cheerful and giving LWML members of Zone 31/32.

All attendees were greeted with warm hospitality and provided a wonderful breakfast and welcome bag with our theme Bible verse imprinted: *Colossians 3:23-24 “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your award. You are serving the Lord Christ.”* Inside the bag were items donated by the host LWML members. It was a beautiful and heartfelt gift. The luncheon after the meeting was fabulous and enjoyed by all.

Our Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Brad Beckman, held our opening devotion. He enthusiastically explained the theme Bible verse. Christ, our redeemer, came to be our servant/slave. What better way to show our love of Christ but through our service to others in Christ's name.

The mission project of tied fleece blankets benefitted the local Cornerstone Mission. Cornerstone Mission has helped people in need for over 20 years. The center provides shelter, food and other resources to all that need assistance.

Zone elections were held. Elaine Voight (President), Ina Wertzberger (Treasurer), and Nancy Heredia (Nominating Committee Chairman) were elected to serve.

A silent auction of premier items was held throughout the day. The funds raised will help cover costs for the Zone representatives attending the National LWML Convention in Milwaukee, WI, June 22-25, 2023.

*Submitted by Elaine Voight*



## **Zone 19- Grace Lutheran Church in Banning, CA**

Our October 1st Zone 19 Fall Rally had a great turnout, with 54 ladies from 8 churches. As the ladies registered, they received a picture frame with words of encouragement addressed to them from God, "I will be handling ALL of your problems today. I will not need your help. So relax and have a great day."

Pastor Paul Miller, zone counselor, opened the program with a Bible Study on "A Voice of Strength and Peace". Our God of strength and peace can give us all we need in this life, no matter what type of road we travel. He gives courage, wisdom, love, and a heavenly eternal home which we will enjoy with Him and all believers.

Nila Rodriguez, President of the Pacific Southwest District LWML, told us about what is happening in the district and invited us to the LWML Retreat, "Stepping Out - Living on the Edge", in Ontario February 3-5.

Pastor Nader Hanna spoke of a "Woman of Valor" as found in Proverbs 31 and shared his ministry of spreading the gospel to Muslims and Middle Easterners in Southern California, and asked us to become disciples of Christ. Several quilts were given to Pastor Nader for those in need.

Phyllis Hafliger, our zone president, presented the zone finances and words of encouragement. After a leisurely lunch the ladies slowly departed, thanking the ladies of Grace for a beautiful day.

*Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God...because God is love....if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us (1 John 4:7,8,12).*

*Submitted by Carol Modellmog*



### **Women of the Word**

**Winter 2022**

Women of the Word (WOW) is published quarterly.

Brenda Hood, Editor and Layout  
Pastor Michael Hall, Doctrinal Review  
Nila Rodriguez, Copy Reader  
Linda Koch, Copy Reader

Send email news in Word or Google documents and pictures in jpeg to [wow@psdlwml.org](mailto:wow@psdlwml.org).

Spring Submission Deadline is March 15, 2022.

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