

# The Voice of Service

Volume 51, Issue 2

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Oklahoma District

Summer 2018



"Serve the Lord with Gladness"  
Ps.100:2

## Special Convention Issue

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## Oklahoma District Celebrates 90 Years, Sets New Mission Goal, Elects Leaders



Left to Right: Beverly Bahr, Peggy Elon Grunow, Rev. Martin Herzberg, Jonith Grundmann, Kasey Meyer, and Sarah Yauk

Under the theme "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," the LWML Oklahoma District convened in Lawton to celebrate 90 years of mission service in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to vote on new mission grants for the biennium 2018-2020, and to elect new members to the Board of Directors.

Attendees arriving Friday morning participated in servant activities that included tying blankets, marking Bibles, making witness bracelets, and decorating memory boxes. District young women bagged popcorn to be given to attendees as they left on



Senior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Mark Bersche installs new leaders during the closing worship.

Saturday. Following a morning of these activities, as well as the opportunity to browse the many exhibits on hand, the convention began. Friday business included adoption of the \$104,600 biennium mission goal, presentation of the proposed mission grants, and voting on those grants. Ms. Cindy Steinbeck, Bible study author and owner of Steinbeck Vineyards and Winery, led the Bible study. Past LWML Presidents Linda Reiser and Virginia Von Seggern addressed the assembly. The first day of convention ended with a joy-filled worship service at St. John's, Lawton.

Saturday business included announcing the results of mission grant balloting, voting on officers, and participating in additional Bible study and interest sessions. Mission Speaker Rev. Dr. Brent Smith informed the assembly on the purpose of Mission Central, that is to support missionaries serving around the world. As part of the celebration of 90 years, descendants related to the founders of Lutheran Women's League (as it was first called) were invited forward and introduced to the assembly. The convention's closing worship service ended with "Sent Forth by God's Blessing," and attendees once again entered the mission field that is the Oklahoma District refreshed and renewed to follow God's plan for the LWML.

## In Joyful Service



Dianna Just,  
President

*Be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality (Romans 12:11b-13).*

### Faithfulness!

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" continues to be on my lips and on my mind these weeks after the convention. "Morning by morning new mercies I see" reverberates in my mind as spring is blooming. Lamentations 3:22-23 says, *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning, great is Your faithfulness.*

Our 90th anniversary blue Mite Box collection at convention required several trips to the bank. It included a spilled bag of coins before leaving the convention lobby and an overfilling of the bank's coin machine. Great Is Thy Faithfulness! Donations for the 90th Anniversary continue to be accepted until June 30. If you or someone you know didn't get your mites to convention, see the information within this issue of *The Voice of Service*. The five Oklahoma missions will be blessed with these mites.

God has such perfect timing. The week after convention my school curriculum provided texts from the King James Bible. I continue to thank God for the opportunity to share Psalm 23, Psalm 137, Matthew 5, and Luke 15:11-32. While I taught about the metaphors and construction of the texts, I prayed for the words to be much more to the minds and hearts of my students. The objectives of our convention were \*Celebrate His mercy, \*Receive strength today, \* Hope for tomorrow. God faithfully provides His Word and opportunity for us to "Tell!"

Please pray for our newly elected officers, pastoral counselor, and committee members as we work together to plan for Fall Fests and upcoming LWML Oklahoma District events. As the words from Thomas Chisholm's song say, "Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide!"

Go! Tell! Serve Joyfully!  
Dianna Just

### Food for the Soul

*Teach me Your way, LORD, that I may rely on your faithfulness; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name (Psalm 86:11 NIV).*

The LWML Oklahoma District recently celebrated 90 years of God's faithfulness to our ministry! God has been and will be faithful! He is faithful to guard and keep the ministries that proclaim Jesus and honor His name. God is also faithful to each of His children. He faithfully ensures that the sun rises each morning. He faithfully drives each of our heartbeats and each cycle of our breathing. God faithfully does this whether we acknowledge these incredible miracles or not. We can rely on His faithfulness.

Our Father God also calls His children to be faithful. Day after day, in our old or new responsibilities, God's Holy Spirit helps us persevere and complete the work we have promised to do—whether we are ever acknowledged for them or not. God will faithfully reward our faithfulness—we will someday be like Jesus *for we shall see Him as He is* (1 John 3:3).

*Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus (Philippians 1:6).*

Submitted by Peggy Elon Grunow,  
Vice President of Christian Life



*Save the Date  
For the  
38th Biennial  
Convention  
of the LWML*

June 20-23, 2019  
Mobile, Alabama

**Theme:** "In Praise to the LORD!"

**Scripture Verse:** *Sing to the Lord, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations (1 Chronicles 16:23-24a).*

**President:** Patti Ross

**Convention Goal Statement:** Led by God's power, we praise and proclaim the Lord among all the nations.

**Convention Objectives** -- Each convention attendee will:

- Sing and rejoice in celebration of His Word.
- Tell of His salvation for all.
- Declare His glory among the nations.
- Go forth in His joy!

## Pastoral Insights

### Jesus is the Secret!

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).*



Rev. Martin Herzberg,  
Pastoral Counselor

Greetings in Christ our Risen Lord. I am honored to be selected as a pastoral counselor for the LWML Oklahoma District. I have a history with this organization that I'd like to share. I want to tell you about a real Lutheran Woman in a League of her own. She's my Nana. This woman taught me so much about real faith. She taught me a lesson that the Concordia University—Wisconsin and Concordia Theological Seminary never could. You see, at these fine institutions I learned how to read and translate the words of Philippians 4:13, but Nana showed me how to live them. At the end of nearly every email that I ever got from her, at the end of every letter, at the end of almost every birthday, Christmas or Easter card, she signed, "Nana, Phil. 4:13." Here's one for your consideration.

*Hi, a plea for prayer (for me).*

*After 4 or 5 days of increasing pain I finally gave up about 5:00 this morning, and we went to the E.R. This time we got there under our own power, or that of the Taurus, but no sirens or flashing red lights. After x-rays and blood tests, etc. there is nothing to worry about, just go ahead and hurt. Dr. Richardson did change the med to Percocet to last until Monday when I have an*

*appointment with Dr. Baade, and we shall see what happens then. He did suggest Fentanyl patches, and it does seem to me that we went that way once with results not so great, but we'll see. What a pain in the posterior, guess that is both literal and figurative. I do feel some better, but both of us are exhausted. Dad is asleep on the bed, and I had a short nap while he went to get the meds, and we shall see what happens from here on. I promise to live to give you all a hard time for a long time. I just really wish it weren't so hard on your Dad.*

*Maybe chat with you all later.*

*Love you all a big bunch, honest.*

*Nana, Phil.4:13*

This woman didn't say it lightly. The pain she was talking about was the result of many back surgeries. The pain had been so great in her last years that she had to go to Missouri to get the prescription filled because Iowa wouldn't give her a high enough dose in her pain pump to be of any effect. This woman had been through the stillbirth of a child. In the last 5 years of her life, she was diagnosed with dementia. This woman who taught me most of what I know about grammar and language, who taught me my love of literature and had always been incredibly sharp, was having a hard time remembering our conversations. She had a brain tumor removed only to find that she also had breast cancer and had to go through surgery for that. And yet, "Nana, Phil. 4:13."

This woman showed me the meaning of that passage. It's not about the cool stuff you can do. It's not about getting everything you want or being able to do anything. It's about your source of strength. It's about knowing that you've got Jesus Christ and that's really all you need. As of this writing, it's been about 11 months since this wonderful and formative example of faith was called home to be with her Lord. She finished her race all the while trusting in the source of her strength that is Christ Jesus. I encourage you all in your efforts to remember that in all things Christ gives you all you need to accomplish the will of our Heavenly Father.

Pastor Martin Herzberg, Junior Pastoral Counselor

### 90th Anniversary Mite Collection Continues

Collection of mites in honor of 90 years of mission service in the Oklahoma District continues until June 30. Keep contributing to your special Mite Box. When filled, send your contribution to Sue Avis, 6814 Majestic Oak Blvd., Lawton, OK 73505.

Mites will be distributed to the following Oklahoma missionary projects:

- Rev. Glenn Meyer and his work at the Clayton Mission, based at Trinity, McAlester;
- Rev. Bernardo Rangel and his work with the Hispanic population, based at Good Shepherd, Tulsa;
- Rev. Nourreddine Bennai and his Islamic outreach ministry, based at Holy Trinity, Edmond;
- Rev. Mark Erler and Rufus Comfort Dog, Lutheran Church Charities Comfort Dog Ministry, based at Saint Mark, Edmond;
- Rev. Mark Wescoatt and his work among the Karen people of Burma, based at Trinity, Guymon.





## Introducing a Few New District Officers



### Vice President of Christian Life Peggy Grunow

I am a squirrely person who loves to have fun! My husband and I have labelled our Edmond home "L'ecureuil harve" which means "squirrel haven" in French. One of my favorite non-Biblical quotes is

"Be decisive. Right or wrong, make a decision. The road of life is paved with flat squirrels who couldn't make a decision" (author unknown).

Decisions, good and bad, have helped shape the woman I am today. More importantly, God has given me great joy in words, His words, the words He chose to use in the Bible to express His love and purpose to His chosen people. Perhaps, just perhaps, I could share these precious things with other women around me.

So here I am, humbly elected to serve the LWML women in Oklahoma, curious to see what God will teach me and determined to do what is necessary for this new role. I was raised as a Lutheran Christian. The Holy Spirit used Bible verses and hymns that I learned when I was young to pursue me and renew my fellowship with Jesus in my late twenties. I have served many roles in my adult life—wife, mother, pediatrician, Sunday school teacher, Bible club leader, mission team leader, grandmother, and "big fat sinner"—but I am most proud to say that I have been saved by Jesus Christ, disciplined by the Father and led by the Holy Spirit. I look forward to the gifts God will give me through my new part in LWML. I pray He will use me to bless the women of the LWML Oklahoma District.

*With Your help I can advance against a troop; with my God I can scale a wall. As for God, His way is perfect: the Lord's word is flawless; He shields all who take refuge in Him (Psalm 18:29-30 NIV).*



### Vice President of Communication Kasey Meyer

I was raised and graduated high school in Guymon, OK. I received my bachelor's from Oklahoma Panhandle State University in Goodwell, OK, and my master's of administration from West Texas A&M University in Canyon, TX. I also have my school library degree.

I have been married for 22 years. We have 4 children, 2 daughters-in-law, 1 adopted daughter, and 10 grandchildren.

I love being a reader and lifetime learner. I love spending time with my family, and I spend many spare moments with my grandchildren. I have just finished my first year as a school principal in Guymon. I loved every minute and believe my experience with LWML helped me be successful in this position.

My introduction to LWML District was when June Wadley asked me if I would consider the position of Panhandle Zone President. I believe God used June to push me from my comfort zone into a new and wonderful part of my life. My experience with the women of LWML has blessed me beyond my wildest dreams. The friends I have made through the years encourage me when I am struggling and guide me when I am confused. With each new experience, I feel God guiding me to remain a part of this great group of ladies.

I look forward to serving the Lord as Vice President of Communication. At times I feel it will be a daunting job, but then I remember all the support I will receive from past VPs of Communication and each and every board member. Thank you for this opportunity.

*"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).*



### Junior Pastoral Counselor Rev. Martin Herzberg

I'm a pretty straight forward kind of guy that likes to tell things how they are. This applies to everything from conversations to sermons. As far as hobbies I have too many to list, but at the convention everyone seemed to want to know what German Longsword is. Simply put, it's various German systems of using a two-handed sword taught by different fencing

masters of the 1400-1600's. It's a way to keep active and in good physical shape, not to mention a great way to relieve stress.



### Program Helps for Program Leaders

Go to [lwml.org/featured-program-helps](http://lwml.org/featured-program-helps) for June program ideas on the theme "Our Father's Care." Find ideas for an icebreaker, devotion, Bible study, mission servant project, and mission grant focus. Program leaders should bookmark this valuable page. Focused themes and activities are available each month.

## *Around the District*

### *Ponca City Zone Collects Bears for Oklahoma, Shoes for Peru*

We are told in 1 Corinthians 13 that "Love bears all...". In that spirit, First, Ponca City, recently collected teddy bears for the Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troup K to be given by troopers to traumatized children. Patrolman Chris Vaughn accepted the bears on behalf of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol.

Both St. John's, Newkirk, and First, Ponca City, hosted Rev. Edward Hosch, a missionary to Peru. In response to his message, First collected tennis shoes for his ministry.

Submitted by Jan Bartels,  
Ponca City Zone President



Pictured above are Sandy Sibley, Ponca City Society President and Patrolman Chris Vaughn, OHP, accompanied by a table filled with teddy bears.



Pictured above are Shirley Zimmerman, Sandy Sibley, Rev. Hosch, Edie Hunt, and a table filled with tennis shoes.

### *Recycling is Alive and Well in the Oklahoma District*

Here's a question to ask at your next society meeting: "Are we recycling?" Our district has actively recycled printer cartridges, cell phones, and other electronic devices since 2001. Began primarily to pay expenses for the 2003 LWML Convention held in Oklahoma City, the Recycling Fund has raised over \$81,000 through the years. Funds are dispersed in the following way:

- 25% of the funds go to national LWML Mites,
- 10% to the Oklahoma District Special Gifts Fund, and
- 65% to help with leader training expenses.

Significant changes to the program have occurred since January of this year, and it behooves each society to locate the list of qualifying items provided at [oklwml.org](http://oklwml.org). From the home page, click on the left sidebar where you see "New Recycling Update." Read about the program and its history. Find links to various qualifying lists and flyers. Print and distribute the flyers and lists to members of your society and congregation. Note that shipping guidelines have changed, and that a box of items needs to weigh between 20 to 40 pounds before shipping. When a society has a box of this weight, a representative of the group should contact Marguerite Christman, Recycling Manager, at [MChrist721@aol.com](mailto:MChrist721@aol.com). She will send via mail a prepaid shipping label to be used on the box. Societies who have been recycling should note that if they received their shipping labels prior to January of this year, then these labels must be destroyed and new ones acquired from Marguerite.

Recycling efforts have raised funds to assist with expenses in our district, allowed us to contribute to national mission grants, and provided a way for us to care for God's creation by keeping these items from landfills. All societies are encouraged to continue, or in some cases begin, these efforts. Go to [oklwml.org](http://oklwml.org) for all the information or contact Marguerite Christman for more details.



**Mustard Seed**  
Daily Devotions

### *Five ways to use Mustard Seed Devotionals*

In 1971, Mustard Seeds were written and distributed as a way to assist working women to share the Gospel ([lwml.org](http://lwml.org)). Since then they have been written and provided on many topics for women of all walks of life. Have you ever thought, "I read it. Now what can I do with it?" Based on [lwml.org](http://lwml.org), here are five ways to repurpose your Mustard Seeds.

- 1) Share with a friend in distress.
- 2) Keep your favorites on your desk and reread while waiting for your computer to reboot.
- 3) Keep a few handy for when you are placed on hold on the phone.
- 4) Use them as bookmarks in your library books.
- 5) Leave the bookmarks inside the books when you return them to the library.



## District Convention Recap



President Dianna Just leads the convention.



Rev. Dr. Brent Smith informs the convention about Mission Central.



Spotted at the Board of Directors meeting the evening prior to convention: Past LWML President Virginia Von Seggern, LWML President Patti Ross, Past LWML President Linda Reiser, and Bible Study Leader Cindy Steinbeck.



MOST Ministry Team Members from left to right: LWML President Patti Ross, LWML Oklahoma District President Dianna Just, Lori Steele, Sharon Schmidt, Ruth Kruse, and Kathy Quinn. The team reported on their trip to Guatemala where they conducted an eyeglass clinic.



Above: Pastoral Counselors Rev. Mark Bersche and Rev. Ned Moerbe display their boomwacker skills during activities led by the young women.

### *Gifts from the Heart for Family Promise, Lawton*

Collected at convention were:

- 3,016 diapers
- 10,036 baby wipes
- 203 onesies
- 11 bundles of baby socks
- 30 baby blankets
- 6 lap blankets
- 1 \$50 gift card
- Miscellaneous toy bears and items

Thank you to the young women attending the convention who sorted and boxed the items for delivery to Family Promise on Saturday.



At left: Rev. W. R. Rains presents to LWML President Patti Ross an LWML lamb and an LWML purple bear following his auctioning them to attendees. President Patti won the bears, contributing \$800 to the district mission goal.



## Convention Happenings



Descendants of women who established the LWML Oklahoma District joined the convention celebration on Saturday. Pictured above are (from left to right) Keira Laudwig, Jenny Laudwig, Alma Post, Joann Turner, Trudi Kinder, Beverly Stevens, Laurel Boyd, Treva James, Catherine King, Wanda Phariss, Mary Tressler, Carolyn Love, Pam Orf, Alex Rhude, and Stella Rhude.

Laurel Boyd and Catherine King are descendants of Mrs. B. J. Rogstad, First, Chickasha. All to the left of them are descendants of Anna Mindemann from St. Peter, Apache. All to the right of them are descendants of Carrie Wagner from St. Peter, Apache.

### *Thank You for Servant Activity Assistance*

Research the very early societies of the Ladies' Aid and you will find quilting as one of the first mission projects occurring in women's homes. As we celebrated 90 years of service, in keeping with this longstanding tradition, one of our district convention servant activities was tying lap blankets for the Veterans Administration Center in Lawton.

Last year while preparing for the servant activity, it was difficult to decide which 25 or 30 veterans



Granite quilters pictured above from left to Right: Faith McClure, Sue Dudek, Connie Roberts, Janet Graumann, L'Nora Barger, Kim Zachary, Patsy Hudson, and Gaylene Blevins



Carolyn Love, organizer of the convention servant activities, presents a tied fleece blanket to a representative of Lawton's Veterans Administration Center. Two hundred blankets were tied for 200 veterans.

out of the center's 200 would receive the lap blankets that time would allow to be made at the convention. Knowing the ladies from St. John in Granite quilted and tied blankets year round, I approached them to see if they were willing to finish all the other blankets. They never hesitated to say yes, but they informed me they would need money to buy the fleece and get started. The societies of St. John and Holy Cross of Lawton, First of Chickasha and St. Peter of Apache generously donated most of the money, and the societies went to work.

LWML Oklahoma District says thank you very much to them, and everybody who helped, so that all 200 veterans of the Lawton VA Center would receive a blanket.

Thank you to all of the generous people who donated to all other servant activities at convention. Every activity was successful.

Submitted by Carolyn Love,  
Servant Activities Chairman,  
2018 District Convention

## District Mission Grants for 2018-2020



GRANT		AMOUNT	PAID
1	OK District Ministerial Students	\$12,000	
2	OK District Professional Church Workers' Scholarships	\$12,000	
3	Equipment for Redeemer Lutheran Church, Claremore, OK	\$7,000	
4	MEND Medical Clinic and Pregnancy Resource Center, Tulsa, OK	\$5,000	
5	Canoes for Lutherhaven Retreat Center, Knowles, OK	\$2,000	
6	Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc., Tulsa and Edmond, OK	\$5,000	
7	Financial Assistance for Concordia Theological Seminary Food and Clothing Co-op, Ft. Wayne, IN	\$5,000	
8	Trinity Hope Haitian Feeding Program, Lutheran Churches in Haiti	\$5,000	
9	Assistance for LWML Members' Mission Trip, OK District	\$6,000	
10	Holy Cow Smokers Disaster Relief Ministry, Lamb of God Lutheran Church, Flower Mound, TX	\$5,000	
11	Mission Central Support for Missionary Expenses, Mapleton, IA	\$10,000	
12	Funds for iPads and Software for Underprivileged Students, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Midwest City, OK	\$4,000	
13	Lutherans for Life Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline Expansion, Nevada, IA	\$4,000	
14	Good Samaritan Fund, Lutheran Senior Citizens, Inc., Oklahoma City, OK	\$5,000	
15	Family Promise of Lawton, OK	\$2,550	
16	Outdoor Adult and Family Campfire Ring, Camp Lutheroma, Tahlequah, OK	\$4,500	
17	After School Tutoring and Outreach, Trinity Lutheran Church, McAlester, OK	\$3,000	
18	Summer Heights Day Camp, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, OK	\$2,100	
19	Bibles for Bethany, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Oklahoma City, OK	\$500	
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$104,600</b>	

## District Board

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Dianna Just

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Paula Keefer

### VP of Christian Life

Peggy Elon Grunow

### VP of Gospel Outreach

Beverly Bahr

### VP of Communication

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Keah Payne

#### Young Women Chairmen

Shari Stepanek

#### Teen LWML Coordinator

Shawna Duwald

#### Planning Facilitator



### Mission Statement

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.