

LIFELINES

of

LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Plano, Texas

July 2022

LWML Texas District Convention

Last month, I had the privilege of representing the interests of Lord of Life's women as their delegate to the LWML Texas District Convention. Pastor asked me to write about it for this newsletter. (Whether out of genuine interest or avoidance in writing an article himself, I'll let you decide.) Of course, I said Yes! I have been enjoying LWML conventions since I was a teenager. The fellowship with my fellow Lutheran sisters in Christ is something I look forward to every time. Here are some of the highlights of this convention.

God Bless,
Cindy

Lutheran Women's Missionary League Texas District 42nd Biennial Convention was held in Houston June 16-18 and 452 registered voters and guests attended. The key objectives for the convention were:

In a world of uncertainty, we will:

1. Know and Trust in God's Faithfulness to His promises and to us
2. Rejoice in His might through worship and praise
3. Share His faithfulness and might with others

On Thursday, there were on-site mission service activities and off-site servant events that we could participate in and exhibits to visit before the opening Divine Service with Holy Communion on Thursday evening. The proclaimer was Rev. Mike Newman, President, Texas District LCMS. On Friday and Saturday, we conducted LWML business and participated in engaging Bible

studies and listened to great speakers sprinkled throughout.

We adopted the 2022-24 Mite Goal of \$390,000 and selected which mission grant applicants would receiving mite funding. We also voted for our new district officers for this biennium.

Mission Grants Selected

1. Seminarian Scholarships for Texas Students - \$50,000
2. Offering Women Hope: Blue Blossom Pregnancy Centers, Houston - \$10,000
3. Acts of Love Early Childhood Education Center, Leander - \$25,000
4. Orphan Grain Train, Houston - \$25,000
5. Let Your Light Shine, Bethany, Austin, and LSEM - \$10,000
6. Homeless to Housed, LINC Austin Outreach - \$10,000
7. The Garden Young Adult Ministry, North Texas - \$10,000

- 8. Gospel Driven Education, Faith Lutheran High School, Warda - \$20,000
- 9. Bible Brigade, Lutheran Disaster Care - \$16,000
- 10. The Table of Los Fresnos Mission Outreach - \$25,000
- 11. Each Child Complete in Christ, Faith Lutheran School, Plano - \$14,128.92 (partial)

New District Officers

VICE PRESIDENT OF COMMUNICATION
Kelly Bernhardt

VICE PRESIDENT OF GOSPEL OUTREACH
Patti Samsel

RECORDING SECRETARY
Amanda Halbert

TREASURER
Sandra Paniello

PASTORAL COUNSELOR
Rev. Dustin Beck

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Debbie Curry — Chair
Sally Krueger
Rosemary Schoenfeld

Gifts from the Heart

- Gift cards (divided among each of the recipients): \$2630

- 65 sets of sheets
- 233 pairs of children’s under clothing
- 15 patriotic quilts
- 2592 diapers
- 1316 wipes
- 46 body lotions
- 9 baby quilts
- 178 paper towels
- 471 toilet paper rolls

Offering #1 for LWML Texas District Mite Goal: \$6849.76

Offering #2 for Abba’s House: \$3469.03

Offering #3 for POBLO International: \$3,172.00

Mites in Motion: \$2,812.73

Highlights from the convention including the worship service, speakers, Bible studies, and humorous interrupter will soon be available on the LWML Texas District YouTube channel. Because the recorded data is a large file it will take time to get it into viewable segments and the goal is to have it in place by mid-July. You can access this YouTube channel by clicking the YouTube icon in the top right corner of any page at www.lwmltxdist.org.



Members of our Dal-North Zone gathered for a picture after one of the convention sessions.



prepare for worship in july

July 3: Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Is. 66:10-14; Gal. 6:1-10, 14-18; Luke 10:1-20

Hymn of the Day: "Jesus Has Come and Brings
Pleasure," 533

July 10: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Lev. (18:1-5) 19:9-18; Col. 1:1-14; Luke
10:25-37

Hymn of the Day: "Where Charity and Love Prevail,"
845

July 17: Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 18:1-10a (10b-14); Col. 1:21-29; Luke
8:26-39

Hymn of the Day: "My Hope Is Built on Nothing
Less," 575

July 24: Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Gen. 18:(17-19) 20-33; Col. 2:6-15 (16-19);
Luke 11:1-13

Hymn of the Day: "Come, My Soul, with Every Care,"
779

July 31: Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Texts: Eccl. 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26; Col. 3:1-11; Luke
12:13-21

Hymn of the Day: "Come, My Soul, with Every Care,"
782



New Testament Standard Giving

Whenever the topic of stewardship and giving comes up, the conversation inevitably turns to the question: "How much should I give?" Answers will vary because the motive behind such questions vary also.

Sometimes the motive behind asking this question is for self-justification. Even though as Lutherans, we know that we are not saved by our works but by grace through faith because of Jesus' substitutionary atonement. Yet the natural religion of fallen man is to earn God's favor by what we do.

Take for example the response of our Lord to the rich young ruler who asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus first tells him to keep the commandments. The rich young ruler responds by indicating that all this he has kept from his youth. But Jesus tells him that he lacks one thing: He must sell all that he has and give it to the poor and then follow him. This rich, young ruler went away sad because he was quite wealthy and could not part with his possessions.

Here we see that those who seek to justify themselves by their giving will hear a response that intensifies the duty that God places upon them. Indeed, they will hear a response that makes it impossible to win God's favor by their works.

But to those who genuinely desire to know what their duty is, as Christians, in the arena of giving, we look to the Bible for our answer. We believe that the Bible is the Word of God. And we know that the Word of God has been "breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

So, we begin to answer the question, “What should I give?” with the question, “What does the Bible say about how much we should give and to whom?”

The Old Testament is explicit. The expectation is that the people of God would give a tithe, that is 10 percent, of the first fruits of their labor to support the full-time ministry of the Levites. This is what the Lord gave Moses to teach the people:

“You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year. And before the Lord your God, in the place that he will choose, to make his name dwell there, you shall eat the tithe of your grain, of your wine, and of your oil, and the firstborn of your herd and flock, that you may learn to fear the Lord your God always. And if the way is too long for you, so that you are not able to carry the tithe, when the Lord your God blesses you, because the place is too far from you, which the Lord your God chooses, to set his name there, then you shall turn it into money and bind up the money in your hand and go to the place that the Lord your God chooses and spend the money for whatever you desire—oxen or sheep or wine or strong drink, whatever your appetite craves. And you shall eat there before the Lord your God and rejoice, you and your household. And you shall not neglect the Levite who is within your towns, for he has no portion or inheritance with you.

“At the end of every three years you shall bring out all the tithe of your produce in the same year and lay it up within your towns. And the Levite, because he has no portion or inheritance with you, and the sojourner, the fatherless, and the widow, who are within your towns, shall come and eat and be filled, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands that you do.”
(Deuteronomy 14:22–29)

This principle of tithing is carried over into the New Testament, though not explicitly by calling it a tithe. St. Paul teaches the Church at Corinth this: We are to give to the church regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first fruits (1 Cor. 16:1–2; Gen. 4:4; Prov. 3:9; Lev. 27:30) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). And all of this is because the “Lord has ordained that those who preach the Gospel should make their living by the Gospel” (1 Cor. 9:14), just as the Levites did.

This our New Testament standard. Since Christ became poor for us in order to make us rich in Him – blessing us with the riches of heaven – so we also have been so blessed to follow the example of our Lord and Savior and give of ourselves and the work of our hands to bless others with the same.



If we have been lax in this, let us – like our Lord, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross and scorned its shame – likewise begin to work toward this goal of regular giving of a generous proportion of the first fruits of God’s giving to us. And let us do so not begrudgingly, but for the joy set before us—with a spirit of eagerness, cheerfulness, and love—to share the blessings of God with those placed into our care.

– LCMS Stewardship Ministry: lcms.org/stewardship

Lord of Life Small Groups

EPIC PARENTING

- † For 30ish couples with kids
- † For info contact Ben Scarth
BenjaminScarth@yahoo.com
- † Usually meet one Sunday a month in the afternoon or evening

FRUITS OF THE VINE CARE GROUP

- † For info contact Scott Peters at 972-898-3351 cell or speters@planolutheran.com
- † Usually meet one Sun. a month at 5:30 PM

GOOD NEWS CARE GROUP

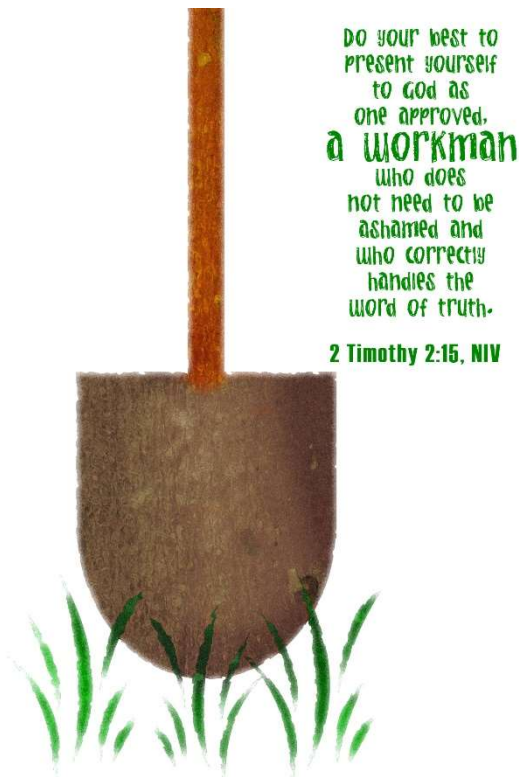
- † For info contact Mike Kunschke at (847) 951-6974
- † Usually meet the 2nd Sat. of each month at 6:30 PM for Bible study

MIXED BLESSINGS

- † For info contact Fred and Ruth Bernhardt at (972) 398-0771
- † Will meet Sat., July 9 at 3:00 PM

COLLEGE GROUP

- † For students in college or recent grads
- † For info contact Pastor Shaltanis at PastorShaltanis@yahoo.com
- † Usually meet after the late service for lunch and Bible study



- 1 Don Bunger
- 1 Chad Reese
- 2 Ana Scarth
- 2 Emily Scarth
- 3 Nelda Schrank
- 5 Mike Phelan
- 7 Sylvia Rippey
- 8 Emma Padgett
- 8 Suzanne Smith
- 10 Brooks Smith
- 12 Donovan Cawood
- 12 Suzan Grabow
- 13 Carter Bunger
- 13 Sandy Ehrett
- 13 Ethan Hacker
- 13 Garrett Hacker
- 14 Carol Nance
- 15 Gary & Charlotte Bennefeld (61)
- 17 Becky Padgett
- 17 Ben & Melanie Scarth (12)
- 18 Katherine Plagens
- 19 Carolyn Moudy
- 19 Emma Ziegelbein
- 19 Noah Ziegelbein
- 20 Don Padgett
- 20 Magdalena Shaltanis
- 22 Kevin Reeves
- 23 Charlie & Lynda Abbott (56)
- 24 Jonelle Peters
- 26 David Armstrong
- 26 John Frinsko
- 26 Winona Parish
- 28 Mark Knowles
- 28 Susan Knowles
- 29 Phil & Candace Klein (33)
- 30 Charlotte Bennefeld
- 30 Kenneth Tabor
- 30 Charles & Dixie Hacker (28)

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
Statement of Activity
5 Months Ending May 31, 2022

	Y-T-D Operating Funds	Y-T-D Budget	Variance	Jan-Dec 2022 Budget
Contributions				
Regular Offerings	\$232,859	\$237,996	-\$5,137	\$560,692
Other	\$37	\$0	\$37	\$0
Total Income	\$232,896	\$237,996	-\$5,100	\$560,692
Expenses				
Benevolences	\$16,300	\$16,660	-\$360	\$39,248
Elders	\$163,929	\$160,960	\$2,969	\$386,297
Education	\$194	\$350	-\$156	\$1,000
Outreach	\$94	\$250	-\$156	\$600
Office Expenses	\$5,357	\$4,925	\$432	\$12,090
Utilities	\$12,075	\$13,880	-\$1,805	\$33,415
Property Maintenance	\$15,114	\$16,150	-\$1,036	\$34,440
Stewardship	\$0	\$350	-\$350	\$350
Family Ministries	\$784	\$2,520	-\$1,736	\$5,290
Youth Board	\$2,391	\$3,000	-\$609	\$6,100
Children's Ministry	\$273	\$2,450	-\$2,177	\$6,700
Admin Council	\$1,180	\$1,050	\$130	\$2,600
Total Operating Expenses	\$217,692	\$222,545	-\$4,853	\$528,131
Mortgage Payment	\$12,900	\$12,900	\$0	\$30,960
Total Expenses	\$230,592	\$235,445	-\$4,853	\$559,091
Surplus or (Deficit)	\$2,304	\$2,551	-\$247	\$1,601
Other Information:				
Operating Fund Balance	\$101,117			
Restricted Funds Balance	\$123,853			
Loan Balance @ 1-1-22	\$154,660			
Regular Mo Princ Pmts	\$8,706			
Extra Princ Pmts	\$31,915			
Building Loan (May 2022)	\$114,039			