

## IT'S CONVENTION TIME!

“It’s Not the Jar- It’s  
JESUS”

SEPTEMBER 13-15, 2024



### THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Gayle Caruso

It's convention time! The 39<sup>th</sup> Biennial convention, “It’s not the Jar, It’s Jesus”, will be held on September 13-15, 2024 at the Marriott Lakeside in Orlando, FL.

This Evangel is filled with all the information you will need for the convention:

Who to expect:

Keynote speaker: Rev. Dr. Peter Meier,  
Executive Director of Missions and  
Outreach for the FL-GA District, LCMS  
National Representative: Mrs. Anita  
Werner, Treasurer for the LWML  
Music Leader: Mr. David Ludwig, Prince of  
Peace Orlando, FL  
Mission in Action Speaker: Rev. Dr. Paul  
Kreuger, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch  
Entertainment: Dee Collier  
Lots of Exhibitors!  
Young Women Representatives (YWR)  
And of course YOU!

Activities to look forward to:

Voting for Mission Grants and Officers  
Mission Walk on Saturday Morning  
Servant event Friday Afternoon

Worship Service Friday  
Evening  
YWR mixer  
Fellowshipping with your  
sisters and brothers.

The Executive Committee, Board of Directors, and the Host Committee are excited to welcome you. We pray that this convention will be uplifting, informative, and filled with the love of Jesus!

If you have any questions concerning the convention, please contact me at [gaylecaruso@gmail.com](mailto:gaylecaruso@gmail.com)

Questions about the delegates? Contact Kathy McCartin at [kathymccartin@gmail.com](mailto:kathymccartin@gmail.com)

Registration questions? Please contact our registrar Ada Jarmosevich at [PJarmosevich@brighthouse.com](mailto:PJarmosevich@brighthouse.com)

As you prepare for the convention, please continue to pray for the Host committee and all those traveling to Orlando.

Can't wait to see you there!





## It's Not the Jar - It's Jesus

39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention | September 13 - 15, 2024

Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside | 7499 Augusta National Dr., Orlando, FL 32822

**REGISTRATION FORM** | Complete this form OR register and pay online at [www.flgalwml.com](http://www.flgalwml.com)

Please print clearly and write only one name on each registration.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  I am between the ages of 18 and 35  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the appropriate category (only one). I am a:

- Non-Voting LWML Member
- Non-Voting District Board Member
- Non-Voting Designated Zone YWR
- Voting Delegate
- Voting District Board Member (BOD, EC)
- Pastor
- Deaconess
- Vicar or Deaconess Intern
- Guest (spouse, friend, etc.)
- Communion Service Only (no charge)

**MEALS**

Vegetarian  Gluten Free  Food Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

**CONVENTION MANUAL**

I would like a printed copy of the convention manual  I prefer an electronic copy of the convention manual

**FRIDAY SERVANT EVENT** Filling drawstring bags with toiletries for the Orlando Union Rescue Mission

Choose one:  Friday, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  Friday, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY MISSION GRANT WALK**

Yes, I plan to attend the Mission Grant Walk on Saturday, 6:30 a.m.

**SATURDAY "LUNCH & LEARN" PREFERENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 4<sup>th</sup>

A	B	C	D	E
Linda Gage Celebrate your Legacy Gifts of Love	Richard Cohrs Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty	Rev. Dr. Peter Meier FL-GA District Plant the Church	Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise Spreading God's Word Throughout the World	Ashley Pridgeon/ Lydia Landes Young Women Gathering

**REGISTRATION FEE** (includes event, Saturday lunch, and Saturday dinner/banquet)

- \$175 Early Registration postmarked May 1 to June 30 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$225 Registration postmarked July 1 to August 31 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$275 Late Registration postmarked September 1 to 7 \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$125 Pastor or Deaconess \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$125 Vicar or Deaconess Intern \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- \$125 Young Woman Representative (1 per Zone) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Cancellation Fee  
\$25

No refunds after  
August 31

No registrations after  
September 7

Make check payable to: LWML FL-GA DISTRICT

Mail check **AND** registration form to:  
 Ada Jarmosevich  
 15602 SW 13<sup>th</sup> Cir.  
 Ocala, FL 34473  
 Phone: (810) 706-0010  
 Email: [pjarmosevich@bighthouse.com](mailto:pjarmosevich@bighthouse.com)

**LODGING**  
 Hotel reservations are to be made DIRECTLY with the Marriott.  
 – Call (407) 851-9000 and mention LWML District convention OR  
 – Reserve online: <https://tinyurl.com/LWML-FLGA-hotel>  
 – Room Rates: \$140/night\*  
 \*For convention rate, make your reservations by August 22, 2024

The LWML FL-GA District will be taking photos during the proceedings and activities. Your registration for this event gives the LWML permission to use your image and comments in educational, informational, and promotional materials in a variety of media, including webcast and other electronic media.



## It's Not the Jar - It's Jesus

39<sup>th</sup> Biennial Convention | Orlando, FL | September 13 - 15, 2024

### INFORMATION SHEET

#### Theme

Convention theme: 2 Corinthians 4:7 - It's Not the Jar – It's Jesus: "But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us."

#### Parking

Hotel parking is \$11 per day (50% off standard rate of \$22 per day) with unlimited complimentary in/out privileges.

#### Registration

Fill out the registration form and mail it in or register and pay online at [www.figalwml.com](http://www.figalwml.com)

- Early registration: \$175 - MUST BE postmarked on or before June 30
- Regular registration: \$225 - MUST BE postmarked on or before August 31
- Late registration \$275 - MUST BE postmarked on or before September 7
- Guests may attend the opening worship service for no charge. Please register so we have an accurate count.

Cancellation/Refunds: Refunds will only be given for cancellations made prior to August 31. NO REFUNDS after August 31. There is a \$25 cancellation fee.

#### Meals

Two meals are included with the registration fee: Saturday lunch and Saturday dinner.

#### Lodging

Orlando Airport Marriott Lakeside | 7499 Augusta National Dr., Orlando, FL 32822

Rooms are \$140.00 per night for two double or one king-size bed. To get the convention rate, you must reserve your room directly with the hotel at <https://tinyurl.com/LWML-FLGA-hotel> or call (407) 851-9000 by August 22, 2024 and tell them you are attending the LWML FL-GA Convention.

#### Servant Event: Friday afternoon

Two hundred fifty drawstring bags will be filled with toiletries. The bags will be distributed by Orlando Union Rescue Mission at their annual Thanksgiving dinner held for the homeless community.

#### Items needed:

- |                                      |                                   |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| - Deodorant - men and women's        | - Soap bars liquid soap           |
| - Razors - men and women's           | - Non-alcohol mouth wash - mini's |
| - Shaving Cream - men and women's    | - Chapstick                       |
| - Lotions - body and hands           | - Hand sanitizer (4 oz mini's)    |
| - Toothpaste - adults and children's | - Dental floss                    |
| - Toothbrushes                       | - Cotton balls or swabs           |
| - Brushes and combs                  | - Socks                           |
| - Hair conditioner                   |                                   |

The Orlando Union Rescue Mission provides more than just relief – we equip the homeless for long-term independence and self-sufficiency built on a personal relationship with Christ. We are more than a homeless shelter. Our life-transforming services are designed to address every area of need (physical, emotional, social, and spiritual) so those who were once hungry, hurt, and homeless can become filled, restored, and secure.

#### Questions

Contact the registrar: Ada Jarmosevich at [pjarmosevich@brighthouse.com](mailto:pjarmosevich@brighthouse.com) or (810) 706-0010

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Peter Meier**

Peter Meier serves the FLGA District as Executive Director of Missions and Outreach. Prior to the FLGA District, Peter served as Executive Director of the Center for United States Missions, Concordia University in Irvine from 2013 to 2019. From 2005 to 2013, Peter served the Minnesota South District, LCMS, as Executive Assistant to the President and Assistant to the President for Missions. He served as Senior Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and School in Mayer, MN from 1982-2005.

Born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Peter is a life-long Green Bay Packer fan and is a Packer Team Shareholder. He received his undergraduate education degree from Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, IL in 1978, and his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1982. His Doctor of Ministry degree was granted in 2011 by Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. Peter's research and doctoral thesis was on the topic of missional leadership in Lutheran Schools.

Peter met his wife Kathy at Concordia Chicago; they were married in 1979. Kathy earned her master's degree in special education from Concordia St. Paul in 2009. The couple is blessed with three married children and eight very active grandchildren. His greatest joy next to sharing Jesus, is spending time with them. Peter's life verse describes his greatest joy and passion, "Living and sharing the Life that is truly Life," (1 Timothy 6:19).

**Mission Pledge Walk: Saturday Morning**

Start off Saturday by helping raise funds for District mission grants 2024-2026. Collect pledges and funds for the walk and bring them with you to the convention (see pledge sheet). The event starts at 6:30 a.m. Four times around the lake in front of the hotel equals approximately one mile. Join fellow early risers in starting off the new biennium's mission grant funds while getting in some exercise before sessions start. Be sure to check the 'Saturday Mission Grant Walk' box on the registration form.

**Saturday Lunch and Learn Sessions**

Our four lunch and learn speakers are:

1. Linda Gage- Celebrate your Legacy Gifts of Love: Come and see how you can celebrate your legacy with Gifts of Love.
2. Richard Cohrs- For Such a Time as this: Join Rich Cohrs (a.k.a. Benjamin Franklin) as he discusses the topics of Religious Liberty, Sanctity of Life, Marriage as an Institution, and Education and how the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty can empower, equip, and support you in being a Two-Kingdom Christian in the Public Square.
3. Rev. Dr. Peter Meier- Plant the Church: Here is your invitation to learn about and partner with God and His mission in the FLGA District. District Mission Executive Peter Meier will share how every church and every individual can be involved in planting the church where you are.
4. Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise: Spreading God's Word Throughout the World- Join Rev. Dr. Matthew Heise, executive director of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF), as he shares how God's Word is given to people in almost 100 countries around the world in their own languages.

**Exhibitors**

Some of the exhibitors that will be attending the convention include but are not limited to LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty, Lutheran Church Extension Fund, Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Lutheran Services Florida, Pastor Stephen Grant Novels, and Thrivent.

**ROOM TEMPERATURE**

The convention rooms are cold, and we **will NOT be able to have the temperature adjusted**. Please bring whatever you need to keep warm: sweaters, coats, gloves, socks, and/or blankets. Even if you don't tend to get cold easily, we recommend you bring additional layers just in case.



Dressing accordingly is your responsibility.



**VP MISSION SERVICE**

**Silvia Grasberger**



I just LOVE living in a place where most people vacation; Florida with its beautiful white sandy beaches, sunrises, and gorgeous sunsets. As a child our family vacationed here often, we made the drive all the way from New York City! Can't tell you how many times my parents heard, "Are we there yet?!"

Well back in 1978, we made our last trip to Florida to call it our forever home in Seminole, FL. I have such wonderful memories of growing up here; oh, if I could only turn back time.

Unfortunately, not everyone has a place to call home, and this is where organizations like the Orlando Union Rescue Mission, a faith-based ministry, plays a huge part. In September, we will be gathering for the 2024 LWML FL-GA District convention in Orlando, FL. The

Orlando Union Rescue Mission will be the recipient of the Gifts from The Heart, plus we will also be doing a servant event for them. We will gather to stuff two hundred fifty drawstring bags with toiletries. The bags will be distributed by Orlando Union Rescue Mission at their annual Thanksgiving dinner held for the homeless community.

Please see the page of items being collected for the Gifts from The Heart. The Servant Event needs are below.

**MITE GOAL UPDATE**

We are \$16,000 short— close out is June 30!

**Nickalos Wise, M.N.M.**  
 Major Gifts Advisor  
 Nickalos.Wise@ourm.org  
 P: 407-965-2176  
 F: 407-425-7510

**ORLANDO UNION RESCUE MISSION**  
 Since 1948  
 1521 W. Washington St. | Orlando, FL 32805  
 Bringing the hungry, hurting, and homeless to new life, new goals, and a new future in Christ.

**LWML FL-GA District Convention 2024**

Servant Event- Two hundred fifty drawstring bags will be filled with toiletries. A Thrivent Grant has been provided to purchase the bags. Items purchased can be full or travel size. Items such as toothbrushes, brushes and combs must be in a sealed package.

**Items needed:**

<b>Deodorant - Men &amp; Women's</b>	<b>Hair Conditioner</b>
Razors - Men & Women's	Soap bars/ Liquid Soap
Shaving Cream - Men & Women's	Non-Alcohol Mouth wash - mini's
Lotions - Body & Hands	Chapstick
Toothpaste - Adults & Children's	Hand Sanitizer (4 oz mini's)
Toothbrushes	Dental Floss
Brushes and combs	Cotton balls or swabs

Cash and check donations will be accepted at the convention; checks are to be made payable to the **LWML FL-GA District.**

**COUNSELOR'S CORNER****SR. COUNSELOR— Rev. Tim Brown**

“Summertime when the living is easy, fish are jumping and the cotton is high.” (George Gershwin, 1934) The opening line from the same titled song from Porgy and Bess always stuck in my head from the time my band director put it on the stand in front of me and I lifted my trumpet to wail out the notes of the song. Not all of that song is celebratory, but that line stuck because I loved summertime fishing in my uncle’s pond. My other memory of summertime was VBS at Holy Cross, and Boy Scout camp outside St. Louis, Missouri. Both of these were times of gathering and learning. VBS was a time of learning about the Lord’s blessings and the beauty of His Word. Boy Scout camp was about learning skills and learning about the Lord’s beautiful creation.

Most of the names of the people I gathered with are forgotten, but the experiences and the knowledge have stuck with me, and encouraged me in my ministry to gather the people and celebrate God’s creation and His people. The upcoming LWML FL-GA convention is another gathering of God’s people. It is one I have looked forward to for four years. We have missed the encouragement and learning that happens as the people of God gather and celebrate all that He has done, is doing and will do in our lives, individually and together. Come and celebrate the Jar and Jesus this September.

**ORLANDO UNION  
RESCUE MISSION  
DONATION WISH LIST**

**BED SUPPLIES****Twin sheet sets! (white)**

Full sheet sets  
Pillows— Standard to Queen  
Pillowcases— Standard to Queen  
Bedspreads, Sets of Two— T & F  
Bed Bug Zip Covers— T & F  
Waterproof Zip Covers— T & F  
Color Sheets, Sets of two— T & F  
Mattresses— T & F  
Bunkie Boards— T & F  
Baby Sheets— Reg Crib  
Baby Sheets— Mini Port Cribs

**UNDERWEAR (S-XXL)**

Boxers & Briefs— Men, Boys, Toddlers  
Underwear & Bras— Women & Girls  
Girls Toddler Briefs  
Socks— Adults & Children  
**Baby Diapers— All Sizes!**

**HYGIENE ITEMS**

Deodorant— Men & Women  
Razors— Men & Women  
Shaving Cream— Men & Women  
Lotions— Body & Hands  
Toothpaste— Adults & Children  
Brushes & Combs  
Shampoo & Conditioner  
Soap Bars & Liquid Soap  
Laundry Soap  
Mouthwash  
Chapstick  
Hand Sanitizer  
Dental Floss

**MEDICATIONS— Adult,  
Child & Infants**

Tylenol    Flu & Cold    Allergy  
Nyquil            Baby Aspirin  
Cough Syrup    Teething Gel

**Checks to LWML FLGA District—  
Gifts from the Heart in Memo**

**BATHROOM SUPPLIES****Bath Towels (white)!**

Hand Towels & Wash Cloths (white)  
Paper Towels  
Toilet Paper & Tissues  
Disinfectant Wipes Clorox or Lysol  
Shower Liners H/D (white or clear)  
Double— sided Shower Hooks  
Soap Dish  
Toilet Trash Sets  
Brush & Plunger Sets

**KITCHEN ITEMS**

<b>CHILDREN</b>	<b>ADULTS</b>
Milk & Cereals	Meat (Chicken, Ground Beef, etc.)
Chicken Nuggets	CanGoods (#10)
Mac & Cheese	Vegetables
Applesauce Cups	Salad Bar Items
Fruit Cups	
Juice Boxes	
Snacks	

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the LWML FL-GA District is to share the love of Christ with women of all ages and diversities and to foster a recognition that the mission field exists both at home and abroad.

<b>FINANCIAL SECRETARY</b>	<b>Christine Jennison</b>
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There is something that always amazes me and it just happened as I was preparing to write this report. I opened a devotion book, turned to this day's lesson and this is what I "found":

*For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right and says to you. Do not fear; I will help you (Isaiah 41:13 NIV).* With God's gracious help we can do the things that He wants us to do. For me, today, it will be to give you the information about the monies I have received and where these funds are placed in order to advance God's Word.

Mite deposit of March and April - \$19,125.06

Mite balance - \$165,100.13

Mites were collected at the EC and BOD meetings held in March.

Spring Rallies: Gold Coast  
                           Heartland  
                           Sarasota  
                           Southwest

Mission Grants: \$2,749.50

Scholarship: \$895.00

Convention Fund: \$1,543.00  
 (from rallies)

YWR: \$100.00

LWML Sunday: Marco Island, FL-  
 Women of Marco Lutheran  
 Bethlehem Lutheran - Lehigh  
 Acres, FL

In memory of: Kathy Griffin - Peace Lutheran,  
 Tifton, GA

In Celebration of: Rev. Tod Shouse - Our Savior  
 Lutheran, Zephyrhills, FL

Rinkenbaker Memorial Scholarship given by  
 St. Petersburg Zone, FL

Scholarship funds given by St. Paul, Miami, FL

Hopefully this gives you a general idea of where the monies that help the LWML FL-GA share God's love with others come from. Please let me know if I have omitted a special donation given by your group.

As Isaiah said: "Do not fear, God will help you."



<b>VP COMMUNICATIONS</b>	<b>Susan Hanes</b>
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When Hurricane Ian hit, and the entire 2022 convention had to be put online, what was your reaction? Were you impressed with how quickly and efficiently everything shifted? Were you glad that the recording was available in digital format for several months after the convention? Did you forgive the hiccups that occurred because the online transition was a learning experience for everyone? Were you grateful for the computer people who helped the non-computer people?

What about when Covid surfaced, and our worlds became virtual? Were you surprised at how creative pastors, churches, businesses, and other places got so we could all remain connected? Did you appreciate the new ways to live life that, in some ways, made things faster and easier? Are you glad we can all meet in person now, while still having some virtual options?

Along the way, the LWML FL-GA District similarly discovered a new way: electronic voting **for voters who are present at the convention**. Electronic voting will give us quick and accurate results, and no one will have to spend hours counting and recounting votes anymore. Instead, everyone can spend more time fellowshiping and enjoying the convention. The best part is, we are working with the electronic voting company that LWML National and some LWML district groups use. This company is very familiar with the LWML format and what we need. They also help us help you so that everyone feels comfortable with what to do.

Transition can be a blessing. We look forward to it.



**VP MISSION GRANTS****Karen McCarthy**

Oh, the simple days of summer when I was a child. A whole month on my grandparents' farm in Illinois—sleeping late, shelling peas, picking black raspberries down the road (and later pulling their prickles from my fingers), and “calling” the pigs to come and get their meals. Hot breezes rustled the growing corn and wheat, and there was always the garden to weed and fresh produce to harvest. There was lots of free time to watch clouds float by, read a good book, listen to the rain tap dancing on the roof as I fell asleep at night, and appreciate God's wonderful creation.

Fast forward to today. How my life has changed. My busy schedule often keeps me from being still and listening to and knowing God is God (Psalm 46:10). That is my main reason for attending LWML's group gatherings, retreats,

and conventions—to be with God and to grow in God's Word.

I hope and pray you will be able to join the LWML FL-GA District this September as we gather at the Orlando convention. There will be many worthwhile mission grant applications to consider and vote on for our Mite Box support as well as new officers to lead us and to receive our prayerful support as they grow in His service. Come, sing His praises in worship and song, fellowship with sisters (and brothers) in Christ, and be inspired by the mission service opportunities, mission ideas, and missionaries' stories. You will be blessed beyond measure!

**VP SPIRITUAL GROWTH****Carol Jones**

Summertime, summertime, sum, sum, summertime...

Hot town, summer in the city...

In the good old summer time...

Lots of fun songs bringing to mind the warmth and sunshine of the summer season. What I always loved best about summer as a child (aside from the smell of fresh cut grass) was the way it seemed to stretch out in front of you forever. The long, lazy days of not having to be anywhere, and the fun of deciding just how we wanted to spend the day. Which games would we play? Whose yard would we play in? Where would we rollerskate or ride our bikes today? The freedom to choose was just wonderful and the time to do it all seemed to always be there. Now that I'm older the summers seem much shorter and my schedule even more full. Guess I will just have to find some time to at least reminisce about summers that have come and gone.

By the time you read this, registration for our upcoming LWML FL-GA District Convention will be in full swing. Holding a convention at long last is really quite exciting. It seems like forever ago that we were able to share the experience together...but it will be here soon. I can't wait to explore 2 Corinthians 4: 6-7, and learn more about the emphasis being on Jesus and not the jars of clay in which we carry His light.

I have to admit that some days my jar feels a lot more fragile than other days, and sometimes I think every single one of my chips and my cracks are showing. That's when I try to remember verse 16 of that same chapter: “Therefore we do not lose heart. Though slowly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.” Thanks be to God that the Potter who created this jar is still holding it together! When the “*good old summertime*” is over I hope to “*see you in September*”.





**SCHOLARSHIP CHAIRMAN**

**Lois Ford**

**The Excitement Builds!**



JACOB ANDERSON

Four of our Scholarship recipients are heading to their Vicarage Assignments. Please keep all in your prayers as they move to the next step in their journey to be Called servants of the Word.

**Jacob Anderson** from Christ Our Savior LC in St. Augustine, FL will vicar at Mount Calvary LC, Warner Robins, GA.

**Tim Hendrick** from St. John, Ocala, FL will vicar at All Saints LC, Blairsville, GA. I love the photo of Tim using his son as his guitar stand.

**Euder Paul** from Concordia LC, Sarasota, FL will vicar at Our Savior Evangelical LC, Lake Worth Beach, FL.

**Josh Wareham** (no photo) from Faith, Eustis, FL our Kuiper Award recipient will vicar at LCMS Office of International Mission in St. Louis. He will spend this year with in-depth study for his future assignment to Sri Lanka. His photo is from his first sermon at Faith, Eustis. President Rockey attended to send encouragement and blessings.



EUDER PAUL



TIMOTHY HANDRICK

**LCMS FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT**

CALL DAY APRIL 23, 2024



JACOB ANDERSON



TIMOTHY HANDRICK



DEON HULL



JACOB MANNING



TIMOTHY MEHL



EUDER PAUL



ERICK QUEZADA

CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS



# Around the Zones...

## NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA ZONE

Cinara Navarro - President

Greetings to all our Lutheran Women in Mission. Yes, we are all always in mission mode and we need to remember that we serve with gladness. I recently came across a quote which reminds me of the attitude we must have. "As bad as you want to address it, sometimes it's best to let God defend you... He saw it too!" (Author unknown)

What such a quote tells me is that He is our LORD and King and we need to reserve all our strength to share His message. Let us commit to live in the Goodness of God and shine His love onto others. Our spring rally was all about that. The theme was "Let Your Light Shine Before Others" from Matt 5:16. We shared a memorable day with District President Gayle Caruso and I pray that we are passing the Light of Christ onto others. Enjoy your summer and mark your calendars for the September convention. *The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the Word of our God endures forever* (Is 40:8).

## 2024 ZONE RALLY DATES

### ATLANTA

Peace Lutheran, Decatur, GA  
Sat., October 19, 2024

### GREATER ORLANDO

Prince of Peace, Orlando, FL  
Sat., October 19, 2024

### HEARTLAND

Peace Lutheran, Okochobee, FL  
Sat., March 1, 2025

### NORTH CENTRAL FLORIDA

First Lutheran, Inverness, FL  
Sat., November 9, 2024

### SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Good Shepherd, N Ft Myers, FL  
Sat., November 2, 2024

### TROPICAL

St. Andrew, Hialeah, FL  
Sat., October 19, 2024





# Around the Zones...

## HEARTLAND ZONE – FL

Jean Harrison - President

Our Rally was held at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Placid, FL. We started our day with breakfast of rolls and coffees; followed by a communion service by Pastor Arias - Pastoral Counselor, and Pastor Norris. Our guest speaker was Scarlet Holcombe, FL-GA Medical Mission Teams Coordinator. Her presentation included slides from her recent trip to Kenya. Very interesting, with a great Q and A session afterwards. The Medical Teams are a great blessing to all and our Gifts from the Heart went to them. Our host ladies provided a great luncheon with a huge variety of homemade desserts.



## TREASURE COAST ZONE – FL

Betsy Ablott - President

The Treasure Coast Zone had their Spring Rally in conjunction with the South Palm Zone with *If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, nothing will be impossible for you* (Proverbs 17:20). Our Gifts from the Heart was The Salvation Army who showed us what a widespread, restorative program they serve the Lord with.

Our ladies in the zone have been busy this spring, sharing socks with the homeless, helping renovate church buildings, welcoming new members to their churches, and sending funds to various local charities.



We are busy in Bible study at meetings and other groups at our churches. The Lord has blessed our work and we hope to adopt new projects as suggested by our sister groups. Our ladies enjoy fellowship and renewing longtime friendships with the South Palm Beach Zone at the continental breakfast provided by Son Life Church, Boynton Beach.

## FALL EVANGEL DEADLINE

August 5, 2024

Send articles & photos to:

[evangel.flga@gmail.com](mailto:evangel.flga@gmail.com)

Write in **Word** with pics as attachments.

**Exec Board:** 250 words

**Zone Articles:** one paragraph plus pics

**PLEASE list everyone in all photos**

# Around the Zones...

## ATLANTA ZONE

Sarah Elston, Maria Parrish - Co-Presidents

What a blessed Spring Rally we enjoyed at The Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Atlanta, on April 20th, with 54 registered attendees and 11 guests from Stepping Stone Ministry. Pastor David Miller led us in Divine worship, noting how Mary was one of the first women in mission. She willingly gave her all to the will of God, to bring our Savior into the world. Pastor Joseph Song gave an overview of his calling to work with the homeless in Atlanta. Stepping Stone also shared a video with an overview of the home and land that has been purchased and the long term goals they have planned. They treated us to a choir hymn sing. Our Servant Event was to bag donated items by toiletries, feminine products, and food items. Maria Parrish said the blessing over the Gifts from the Heart. Pastor Terrell Davis led us in the closing devotion of Matthew 25:32-46, which perfectly pulled together the theme for our Rally. Serving the Lord with Gladness!



## WINTER HAVEN ZONE, FL

Joyce Munz - President

Our rally was on April 13 at Christ Lutheran, Lakeland with 22 attendees and two guests. The theme was "It's not about the jars: it's Jesus" from 2 Corinthians 4:7. Pastor Hazzard led a Bible study on this verse. Our speaker was Carlos Orellana, a member of Christ Church, and a member of the Central American Missions team that Christ supports. Carlos has applied for an LWML grant for a sterilizer for instruments used for surgery.

Our Gifts from the Heart will go to the orphanage Carlos visits in Honduras. We collected 131 pairs of socks, 84 pairs of panties for girls, and 79 pairs of boys underwear. There was also a cash donation of \$105. The ladies helped to pack these gifts and then worked on decorations for the upcoming district convention in September. More work groups will meet in August.

Election of officers was held. Elected: Cheri Briggs-President, Charlotte Mantz-Vice-President of Mission Service, and Pat Wittcop-Treasurer. They were installed after our Holy Communion Service. Charlotte was elected to fill Cheri's remaining year. Continuing to serve: Janet Avery as Vice-President of Spiritual Growth, and Jan Struck- secretary.

### We want news about YOUR zone!

Send a **paragraph** and **pictures** **evangel.flga@gmail.com** to be included in an upcoming issue!  
***Please identify everyone***

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# Around the Zones...

## **SOUTH PALM BEACH ZONE – FL**

Cindy Slinker - President

The LiftUP program at Boynton Beach Soup Kitchen which assists teens aging out of the foster care system were supplied with New Testaments and duffel bags purchased by Son Life Lutheran Church LWML.



Gina Blunker, Audrey Schneider, Ingrid Buch, Vicki Piper, Phyllis Saturnini, Connie Hager, Sammy Schulman, Priscilla Haynes, Carole Schacht, Donna Maloney, Tere Dobson



Tropical Zone: Betty Belair- Zone Treasurer, Sunita Pali-Holy Cross Group Treasurer, Jenny Lenchner- Zone President, Ann Maher- Holy Cross Spiritual VP, Randy Wagoner, Cindy Steen, Audrey Cox, Beth Bartels, Mildence Abel, Reverend Dennis Bartels- Emeritus/ Zone Pastoral Counselor.

## **TROPICAL ZONE - FL**

Jenny Lenchner - President

Praise to the Lord the Almighty and glorify His name! Holy Cross N. Miami LWML hosted our spring rally. We had 34 ladies and a few Mite-y men from the Florida Keys to North Miami-Dade attending the much needed Blessed Fellowship. Our zone is unique with its diversity, talents, and treasures. We have Spanish LWML Groups, a Hispanic VP Representative- Julie Kociuba, our very own LW professional photographer- Betty Belair, and we are home to the District's go-to banner/craft wizard, Elaine Stier. New officers elected: Betty Belair of Our Saviour- Treasurer, and Connie Jordan of St. Andrew- Recording Secretary. Also, great news of a YWR candidate, Yaquelin Montes de Oca of Faith, Hialeah. Liisa Tino was the Special Guest Speaker who gave a wonderful presentation on how to support or become missionaries. She also led Rally music with fun interactive songs. Gifts from the Heart were items for local homeless missions and the District LWML Convention Gifts from the Heart. We're excited to report we are still thriving and Serving the Lord with Gladness!



Rally Attendance winners with Trophy; Immanuel Lutheran of Tavernier Key: Karen Botorff, Reverend Donald Stier, Elaine Stier, Robin Larson, Kim Lee.

# Around the Zones...

## SOUTHWEST ZONE - FL

Vicky Manietta - President

Marco Island Lutheran hosted our spring rally on a beautiful morning in March. Funds and donations were collected for the PACE Center for Girls in Collier County. Our theme was *And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love* (1 Cor 13:13 NET). DCM Betsy Sabbides delivered a beautiful study on this theme of love. Agape (ἀγάπη), she said, is a love that loves without changing. It has nothing to do with our emotions but is a self denial for the sake of others. Whereas faith and hope are not for others and will no longer be needed when heaven is achieved, love, agape, is eternal. It is the love of God, the love of Jesus. Throughout the study we ladies sang "Jesus Loves Me," a song known by all, written as a comforting poem to a dying child. In its simple lines is a recounting of the Gospel: the love of Jesus, his death for us, and our adoption as his children.

1 Jesus loves me, this I know,  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
they are weak, but he is strong.

2 Jesus loves me he who died  
heaven's gate to open wide.  
He will wash away my sin,  
let his little child come in.

3 Jesus loves me, this I know,  
as he loved so long ago,  
taking children on his knee,  
saying, "Let them come to me."



The LWML of Trinity, Savannah, GA hosts a Christmas Party at a members home for the ladies of our church. We bring a covered dish and a gift to exchange. It's an afternoon of food, fellowship and loads of fun opening and exchanging gifts. Most important is having a time together relaxing in the busy season of Christmas.

## NORTHEAST GEORGIA ZONE

Kitty Anderson - President

Our zone Prayer Service was held April 13, at our Spring Gathering. Members met at Oak Road Lutheran Church and collected 27 pounds of fuzzy socks, small lotions, playing cards and a cash donation for Phil's Friends Care Packages. The service was attended by 18 ladies, including President Gayle Caruso.



## EAST CENTRAL GEORGIA ZONE

Lonna McEwen - President





# Around the Zones...

## SARASOTA ZONE – FL

Lucy Fuller - President

*Behold, I am the servant of the Lord* (Luke 1:38a) was the theme for our Spring Rally at Faith in Parrish, FL. Sixty women came to engage and worship in the Divine Service led by Pastors Patrick Pooch and David Dahlke. Gifts from the Heart were given to Lutheran Heritage Foundation and LWML. Parish LWML President Marilyn Howard, welcomed everyone, followed by an enlightening presentation by Pastor and Gwyn Pooch on their “Highlight on Missions – It’s All in the Family.”

After lunch the Great Room was filled to capacity while we played “Don’t snooze or you *mite* lose!” Everybody won, had their pictures taken, and was given a garden Cross to take home. A Closing Prayer sent everyone home with a renewed journey of faith.



Pastor & Gwyn Pooch

Right: Jane Otte– SP Zone Vice President. and Gail Leppert- SP Zone President).

## ST. PETERSBURG ZONE – FL

Gail Leppert - President

Our spring rally was on April 6 at Bethel Lutheran in Clearwater, with 48 in attendance. We collected 33 laundry baskets, 61 bath towels, 64 hand towels, 117 wash cloths, 31 bathmats, one laundry detergent, plus \$380 in cash for the Sheriff’s Youth Ranch in Safety Harbor. They have valued our donation at \$1,510!



Delivering items to the Youth Ranch: Karen Brasted, Gail Leppert- Zone President, Rick and Kathy Miller- Mission Growth Chairman, and Theresa Didriksen from the Youth Ranch.



Left: Scott Halback, speaker from Sheriff’s Youth Ranch



## MY HUSBAND WAS A HEREDITARY CHIEF OF THE MENDE TRIBE-

(And Now, You'll Know the REST of the Story...) by Anita Dennis

Years ago I wrote an article in the LWML Quarterly about how I married my college professor who was a hereditary chief of the Mende tribe in Liberia, West Africa. My husband, Ben, always loved his people and had pleaded with Liberia's President to cut a road over the Cambui Mountains, which had isolated his father's village of Vahun, from the rest of Liberia. In 1973, a crude road was bulldozed. Since that event Ben was instrumental in bringing the LCMS to Liberia. In 1982-83, our family spent a year there assisting missionaries who led the Vahun Lutheran Church.

My husband's dying wish was to have letters read in Vahun and in Somalahun, his parent's villages, and have his ashes spread there. Recently, our son Peter, and his two teenagers, Mali and Morlu, traveled to these remote villages. It was a treacherous ride over the mountain on a rainy night. At one point they had to detour around a crashed vehicle that had fallen into the ravine at the road's edge.

In each village Peter was part of numerous Mende and Gbandi ceremonies, and special gravesites were constructed honoring their ancestor who had done so much for them.

Ben's farewell letters were read. A cow was killed for the feast. The soccer game on the mission hill had uniforms with

Ben's picture, and Mali and Morlu participated. The masked beings once again came out to honor their Chief as they did in the 1970s.

The mission house was in great disrepair, overgrown with jungle foliage. During Liberia's two civil wars, it had been used as a place to murder villagers, but has been completely cleaned up. Hopefully it will become a rededicated place of worship for the second Lutheran church in Vahun, now called the "Dr. Benjamin G. Dennis Memorial Church."

A Lutheran Mission, Hope & Care Outreach, is currently operating orphanages, churches, schools, and radio ministry in Liberia. The memorial trip couldn't have been done without their help.

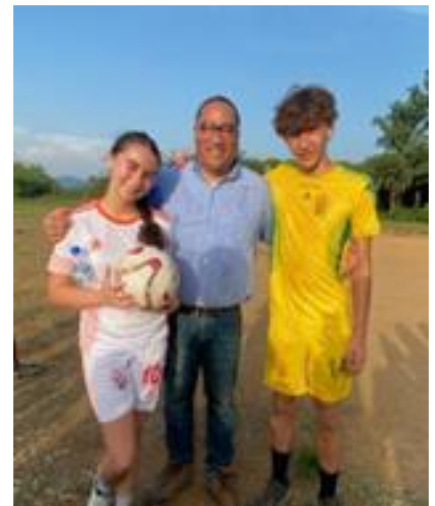
Love in Christ, Anita Dennis,

St. Michael Lutheran Church, Ft. Myers, FL


Her book, written a few years ago, is titled, "Beyond Myself: The Farm Girl & The African Chief."



killed for the feast. The soccer game on the mission hill had uniforms with







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Make all checks payable to LWML FL-GA District

\* Rectangular Slip

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_ In honor of \_\_\_\_\_ In celebration of \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Donated by: \_\_\_\_\_

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Name and address of family member where acknowledgement letter can be sent

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Donor Name & Address

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 LWML FL-GA District  
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Mites: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ LWML Sunday: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Prayer Service: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ District Mission Trip: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Endowment Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

LWML Convention Fund: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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**MISSION GRANTS DISBURSED AS OF 5/1/2024**

<b>GRANT RECIPIENT</b>	<b>GRANT</b>	<b>DISBURSED</b>	<b>BALANCE</b>
Scholarships for Pastoral & Church Worker Students	\$29,500.00	\$29,500.00	\$0.00
Food & Clothing Co-op, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
A Rising Need, A Spiritual Opportunity	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Blessings in a Backpack	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00
Healthy Children	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Feed the Children— Peru	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry	7,500.00	7,500.00	0.00
Filling Haitian Children Spiritually and Physically	10,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
Rebecca's Garden of Hope Next Level	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Dominican Republic Disability Ministry	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Christ Lutheran Mission	8,800.00	7,984.75	815.25
What Does This Mean – Bible Books for Haitian Families	8,500.00	8,500.00	0.00
Lutheran Hands & Hearts Helping with Haitian Earthquake Response	8,000.00	8,000.00	0.00
Bringing Spanish Braille Bibles to Central & S. America	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00
Migrant Resettlement and Assistance	7,432.23	7,432.23	0.00
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>146,732.23</b>	<b>140,916.98</b>	<b>5,815.25</b>

