



Laurentian District Newsletter

Spring 2021

Pat's Ponderings

My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him. (Psalm 62:1 NIV)

What's new for you? Have you had a vaccine?

We have a new granddaughter named Lena who was born on November 3, 2020. She lives in Montreal. We Zoom with Lena on Tuesdays (every two weeks) and Zoom with Céleste every two weeks on Thursday afternoons. We are thankful for Zoom as we can see Lena and talk to Céleste. I admit I long for the day when I can actually hold Lena and speak to her in person. I'm thankful that Céleste knows who Nana and Poppa are, but I miss seeing her in person, playing with her, and receiving hugs & kisses.

We drove to Brockville on April 20 so Wayne could get his vaccine. After standing in line for four hours, I received my vaccine on the 22nd at a Perth pharmacy. It was cold and windy. Now it's the waiting game for the second shot. (Wayne has a date, I do not.)

After experiencing many changes in a short period of time, I remember when Wayne's dad commented "When you're older, it takes some time to process the change." The pandemic has affected all of us around the world and I have trouble understanding how some are still in denial.

Marie Sack is now serving the LWMLC Laurentian District as Vice President Christian Service. She agreed to fill the vacancy created by a resignation until our convention in 2022. We welcome Marie back to the board!

Valley Zone representative Maryanne Mask died on March 27, 2021. She was also Grace, Locksley's society president. I will be contacting the societies so a new representative can be chosen soon. Please consider taking this position—there are three societies in the valley: Christ, Petawawa; Grace, Locksley; and St. John's, Pembroke. (After much thought and discussion, the LWMLC society at Zion, Augsburg decided to disband.)

The pandemic has affected how our women meet. I'm pleased to report that some are communicating via telephone, email, Zoom, or through Bible studies sent out. Consider taking in the webinars offered by the other districts, Bible & a Beverage with national VP Christian Growth Patti Kreutzwieser, or the convention itself.

The national LWMLC convention will take place online July 8 to 10, beginning with an evening worship service. Friday and Saturday will have Bible studies, business, and the convention speaker.

I pray for Christmas with families this year. It will be good to be involved in corporate worship at the church sometime in the future. I pray that the vaccines are beneficial for all.

He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken. (Psalm 62:2 NIV)

God's Joy & Peace to All!

Pat Geick
Laurentian District President
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From the Pastoral Counsellor

Joy Over Fear

Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart. (Psalm 37:4)

The joy of the world is, at best, an imperfect and fleeting thing. Man's desire for happiness can never be perfectly satisfied by the joys of this life. He will always find something lacking to make his joy complete. Those of the world tell that in the midst of their pleasures they can find no real and lasting enjoyment. All the joys of this life pass away. He that is laughing today may be weeping tomorrow. Finally death comes and ends all pleasures.

A Christian does not seek happiness only in the things of this life. The true joy of a Christian is of a higher order. The Christian's joy is described in the words of Jesus: *I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you (John 16:22)*. The Christian's greatest joy is the possession and enjoyment of Jesus. All the earthly joys are as nothing when compared with this joy in Jesus, our Saviour. The same is true of our sorrows and fears. Not that a Christian is instantly and entirely beyond the reach of trouble and constantly filled with the blissful feeling of Christ's gracious nearness. Rather, this joy consists in that God no longer imputes or ascribes our own sin to us and is well

pleased with us. He alone is truly happy who is sure that his sins are forgiven, that God is his dear Father, that he is God's beloved child, and that heaven is his home.

This joy shall not be taken from us. It shall continue in the bright days and the dark days of life. Are not, then, the children of God in a truly blessed state? Great is their present blessed condition; but far greater things are yet in store for them. Therefore: *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice (Philippians 4:4)*. Let your faith be revived by the joy-inspiring message of the Gospel. Lift up your head in joyful expectation, and let joy prevail.

Let us pray:

Merciful Lord, by Your grace we have lived to see gladness and joy. We thank You that You have been our Saviour and Redeemer, our Guardian and Keeper, our Comforter and Helper. We thank You that You have sustained us in body and soul. We thank You that You have preserved and protected us, so that we still have life. Guard and guide us, O Lord, that nothing sinful may be in our thoughts, words, or actions. Lead us, Your needy sheep, in the paths of Your holy Word, which removes fear, is our only comfort, and the fountain of genuine joy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Rev. Bill Stanfel

Vice President Christian Service

The mission of Lutheran Women's Missionary League–Canada is to equip, motivate and encourage women to Grow in God's Word, Share God's Son, and Serve God's People.

Throughout the year we collect mites and regularly receive reports on the Mission Grants.

Let's start reporting our mission service for 2021.

These are some suggestions:

- kits – hygiene, school;
- sewing – quilts, socks, hats, pillowcase dresses;
- financial support to charities;
- collecting eyeglasses, etc.

Keep a list for the year and by December 31, 2021, I'll ask each society to report their list to me. I will then compile a Laurentian District list to be included in the 2022 District Convention Manual.

Let's get started!



*Marie Sack
VP Christian Service*

Financial Reports

LAURENTIAN DISTRICT LWMLC Treasurer's Report

April 1, 2019 - April 30, 2021

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Opening Balance | 8,773.36 |
| Total Deposits | 13,915.16 |

| | Feb 1 - Apr 30, 2021 | Triennium to Date | Triennium Budget | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| LWMC Mites | 1,229.64 | 5,054.63 | 9,660.00 | |
| Mission Grants | - | 4,000.00 | 9,000.00 | |
| Convention Attendance | - | - | 3,000.00 | |
| Travel | - | 142.25 | 500.00 | |
| Communication | - | - | 50.00 | |
| Supplies | - | - | 50.00 | |
| Misc. | - | - | 150.00 | |
| Bank Fees | - | - | 90.00 | |
| Equalization | - | 403.75 | | |
| Convention Expenses | - | 1,874.62 | | |
| Delegate Expenses | - | - | | |
| Total Expenses | 1,229.64 | 11,475.25 | 22,500.00 | 11,475.25 |
| Closing Balance | | | | 11,213.27 |

Rachel Kuhl
Treasurer

Laurentian District LWMLC Financial Secretary Report

April 1, 2019 - April 30, 2021

| | February 1 to April 30, 2021 | Triennium to date |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| Mites | \$1,770.00 | \$12,636.58 |
| Delegate fund | \$0.00 | \$810.00 |
| Equalization | \$0.00 | \$403.96 |
| Convention | \$0.00 | \$64.62 |
| Total | \$1,770.00 | \$13,915.16 |
| Total Delegate Fund | \$1,185.88 | |

Brenda Pighin
Financial Secretary

Zone News

Capital Zone

The Capital Zone is introducing a new initiative: The Great LWMLC Mail Exchange! The hope is to bring together women in the zone and encourage them in this time of isolation, even those without access to internet or technology.

In this initiative, each participant will be matched with another participant.

Here is how it works:

Step 1: Sign up by sending your name and mailing address to <https://lwmlc-capital-zone.herokuapp.com/mailExchange>.

Step 2: Wait to receive a name and address from the coordinator.

Step 3: Write your assigned match a letter or send them a card in the mail!

Step 4: Meanwhile, someone else is writing you a letter or sending a card. Wait to receive it! Write back, if you want.

Step 5: In a few months, you'll be assigned a new person to write to, and a new person will be assigned to you.

Society News

Christ Risen Ladies Guild, Kanata

The pandemic that we are now experiencing has changed so many things throughout the world. One of those things is how we can meet together. Sitting around a table is something the Ladies Guild did every month, but this has not been happening for over a year. Our group is small (5) and within the past year several of our ladies are having health/medical issues within their families that are taking a good deal of their time and are having a rather significant effect on their physical and emotional lives. We can't do what we used to do together, but we do what we can as we serve our Lord and the people around us in ways that are permissible and safe. Tapestry and our mite offerings do help to keep us involved and knowledgeable about LWMLC activities and outreach.

But in spite of all of this, we do know that God is in control over what is going on in the world, and we do remember He promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us. And this is what gives us hope for the future.

Eloise Schaan

Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Ottawa

As we began our 2020-21 meetings in September, and with COVID still upon us, we had to come up with another way of getting Bible studies to our ladies. Betty

Threinen and I decided to have the Bible studies emailed or mailed to each member. This has worked out extremely well.

Our Bible studies also include a *Creative Corner – On the Lighter Side* where each woman can submit a favourite poem, Bible verse, hymn, story, etc. to be enjoyed by all.

Mites have been received and continue to be sent to Laurentian District.

Each month, Betty Threinen phones the women to ensure they are all doing well, or wish them a happy birthday, and let them know what our Bible study for the month will be based on, and when to expect the email.

Our Bible Studies have included:

September: God's People – Called to Serve

October: God's Plan for Our Lives

November: JOY

December: Our Christmas Traditions/Memories

January: People in Jesus' Life – Joseph

March: People in Jesus' Life– Mary as a Mother; John the Baptist; Simeon and Anna

April: Bible study (with permission) by Allison Kuhl (from Fall Rally 2020)

We continue to support Caldwell Family Centre, The Ottawa Mission, and the Deaconesses of Nicaragua.

Society News (cont'd)

Our Saviour, Ottawa (cont'd)

Participation is the key to the continued success of our LWMLC meetings, and all has been well received.

We pray that the pandemic will soon end, so that we are able to meet once again at the church for our meetings and fellowship. We continue to pray and encourage one another to ***GROW in God's Word, SERVE God's people and SHARE God's Son.***

We keep in our prayers the family of Maryanne Mask, Grace Lutheran Church, Locksley (Pembroke), who passed away March 27, 2021. She was a very loving, kind and caring woman of God. She will be greatly missed.

Carol Sutcliffe

Christ, Petawawa

To help support our convention mission project (the addiction recovery program at the Women's Campus of Wagner Hills Farm Society in Langley, B.C.), congregation members were invited to tune in via Zoom on Sunday evening, April 25 for a half-hour COVID Online Hymn Sing, and make a donation.

Marie Sack, Mission Services, and coordinator of the Online COVID Hymn Sing, would like to thank all participants for making this event such a success. Special thank you to Lois Detlefsen for running the Zoom platform, Dr. Jason Sack for compiling the hymns and Pastor Stanfel for prayer.

National News

NATIONAL CONVENTION

July 8-10, 2021

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS JUNE 1

Registration is set at \$80.00 per person with a deadline of June 1, 2021. We are hoping that with this reduced registration many of our members will attend! We are encouraging you to find ways to "convention together" and make this a celebratory event as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted.

In keeping the registration to a nominal fee so MORE members can attend this incredible virtual convention, LWMLC invites societies to consider supporting convention expenditures with a freewill thank offering to help to offset technology costs, etc. that have proved to be more costly than anticipated.

We would like to encourage any societies that are able to do so to make a Thank Offering donation. Monies received will go towards offsetting Convention costs.

Ladies, please consider mentoring an LWML member who has not attended a convention in the past or inviting a friend to attend.

Manuals will be sent out electronically. If a registrant does not have the ability to print one please provide the name and email address of someone who has the ability to do that for them.

The convention opening worship service on Thursday July 8 will be live streamed and the virtual convention will be Friday, July 9 and Saturday, July 10.



National News (cont'd)

Don't let being unfamiliar with using the webinar function of Go-to-Meeting keep you from participating in the convention. Delegates and alternates will have an opportunity to practise. Details will be sent directly to them. And in June all other participants will have an opportunity to become familiar with how it all works.

NOMINATIONS

The slate of nominees for the upcoming convention is as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| President | Linda Long |
| VP Christian Growth | Patti Kreutzwieser |
| VP Christian Mission | Iris Barta |
| VP Communication | Becky Wandio |
| VP Member Development | Annette Borhardt |
| Recording Secretary | Jamie Fulton |
| Financial Secretary | Penny Bobier |
| Treasurer | Karen Nerbas |

We are grateful to God that He has provided a full slate of nominees! Bios and photos of the nominees will be in the convention manual. Although the January 15, 2021 deadline for nominations has passed, additional nominations may be made virtually "from the floor of the convention." To do so it is required that you have permission in writing from the person to be nominated and provide information regarding their qualifications and service in LWML–Canada. It is recommended that you obtain a nomination form from your district president or a member of the nominating committee or download a copy from www.lutheranwomen.ca well in advance of the convention. Fill in the necessary information and obtain the required signatures. A "Willing to Serve" form is also required. To speed things along at the convention, please send it to the nominating committee chairman, Barb Jurgens, prior to the convention.

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The *Laurentian District Newsletter* is published twice yearly (Spring and Fall) by the Communications Committee of the Laurentian District, Lutheran Women's League–Canada. If you would like a copy sent to your inbox, email the editor.

Sharing news about what your society or zone is doing helps others see the fellowship and opportunities to serve our Lord that are available through LWMLC. Send news and photographs to district editor, Elaine Stanfel (elaine.stanfel@gmail.com).

Visit our district webpage under the "Districts" tab at www.lutheranwomen.ca.