



Flashlight

December 2023
Volume 34, Issue 1

"Looking Ahead and Preparing"

VP District Administration ABC— Sherley Hearty

What do you see when you look ahead? Do you think about the future and plan for it? Do you look straight ahead and fix your eyes on what lies before us? How do you give careful thought to the paths ahead? How does keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, strengthen us when we meet obstacles?

Looking ahead for LWMLC, we see opportunities to gather around God's Word, support God's children, near and far. We see events to plan, Bible studies and social activities to participate in, and we see the LWMLC 12th Convention in July 2024; a time for ladies across this nation to come together in Bible Study, be uplifted by inspiring speakers, participate in servant events and be a part of the LWMLC community in person. What preparations would it take for you to attend as a Zone Delegate or as a guest?

Perhaps, our thoughts even wander to events in the next triennium. Would we like to serve, using the gifts and talents God has given, on the LWMLC Board of Directors or Committees? Perhaps we would like to serve in our society, zone, or community. May we always be ready and prepared for God's calling.

Beyond the next triennium, are we planning for future sustainability of LWMLC? Do we believe that time spent together as ladies of LCC is important? How do we want to share the benefits and blessings with future generations so they too may participate and experience God's love? Are we prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks, and do we do so in gentleness and respect?

Do we believe the value of community enough to invite others to our gatherings? Can we invite and encourage someone to feel comfortable to do the same? I know you do, it is so encouraging, as I have travelled around Alberta and British Columbia, I see ladies of LCC gathered around God's Word, engaging, and caring for one another, and supporting the mission of their church.

God has led the way, and His Word has been a strong cornerstone since the founding of LWMLC. God will not abandon us; His Word assures us of this. It is wise that we look ahead and prepare. God's Word tells us so in Luke 14:28-32, we are to be committed to the Lord. We are to seek Him first. *"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish our plans."* Proverbs 16:3 NIV We also know, *"In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ... who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory."* Ephesians 1:11-14 ESV

Help us proclaim God's glorious deeds and the wonders that He has done for us, especially when we meet obstacles on our path, let us share what God has done for us, that we may encourage future generations so they will know of His great love as His words tells us in Psalm 78:4-6. Never stop looking ahead and preparing until that glorious day when we see the Lamb of God upon His throne. To God Be the Glory, always. Called to Serve our Lord Jesus Christ, Faithfully, In His Service, Sherley Hearty, VP DA ABC



Member Development Committee — Linda New

Lights in the World

Philippians 2:12-13

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence, but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Jesus Founder and Perfector of Our Faith

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfector of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Our theme for the Fall/Winter Flashlight is most appropriate as we go forward in His love and His service with plans unfolding for Advent, Christmas and the upcoming Convention next summer. Check out the new Event Planning articles on Download on Demand, and recent additions to our blog "Serving in His Strength" from the Member Development Committee. Please note from the above passage that it is God who works in our hearts as we make our plans according to his good pleasure. (Philippians: 2:12-13)

By now most of you may have had an opportunity to attend the Seminar "The Oaks of Righteousness" either with your Society, Zone, or District. If you have not, I urge you to consider and make a plan. Even if only 2 or 3 are gathered together, the Bible study, songs, devotions and discussion questions will lift your spirit. There is real value in the answers to the questions posed. The value is in building relationship with God and then together with each other. The Oak tree has strong roots that go deep and hold the tree steady in the storm. We have an opportunity to discuss our roots (our faith in Jesus) and share with one another how He holds us steady, deep rooted in His love during the storms of life. Jesus is seated at the right-hand throne of God awaiting our prayers in time of need. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

To spark your interest, I will share with you two questions and my answers listed for discussion:

1. Do you have a favourite woman from the Bible? What do you like about her?
My answer: Mary of Bethany. Luke 10:39
"...she sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching."
2. How have you grown in your Christian walk?
Share Scriptures, hymns, inspirational books which have helped you.
My answer:
Scripture: Matthew 11:28-30
Hymns: LSB 770 What a Friend We Have in Jesus
LSB 728 How Firm a Foundation
Inspirational books:
Large Catechism - Martin Luther
Mere Christianity - C.S. Lewis
Screwtape Letters - C.S. Lewis

When we explore the answers to these types of questions, individually or in groups with others, we will grow in our relationship with Christ and with each other. We will gain experience to further share the good news with others. The Good News of the Gospel is: Christ has Risen, "It is finished", Christ has defeated sin, death and the devil. He is risen, He is reigning, we are reconciled, redeemed, restored, and are being regenerated daily (ongoing Baptism) as we die to sin (old man) and live in His righteousness (new man).

I close with the prayer quoted by President, LCC, Rev. Timothy Teuscher, in the May/June 2023 edition of the Canadian Lutheran in his article "We Value Relationships".

"May Almighty God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ grant the grace of His Holy Spirit so that we may all be one in Him and steadfastly remain in this Christian unity, which is well pleasing to Him. Amen" (FC Ep XI 22)

Christian Growth Committee—Pauline Huth

“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” 2 Timothy 4:2

In 2 Timothy 4:2 Paul tells Timothy to “be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.” We too should be prepared in and out of season, but how can we prepare?

In 1 Peter 3:15 it says “But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have, but do this with gentleness and respect.” The instructions are there in the Bible for us to follow, but because we are sinners, we sometimes fail, and we tend to want to do all the future planning for ourselves, forgetting that God himself has plans for us and our future.

In 1 Corinthians 2:9 it says: “However, as it is written: No eye has seen no ear had heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.” Wow! God’s preparing for us! Sometimes we get so worried about what our future will bring, we forget that God is in charge. We need to be prepared to tell others about Jesus and to share our faith as we receive instructions from 2 Timothy 4:2 and 1 Peter 3:15. We can do that by making sure we are reading our Bible so God can continue to talk with us, and by praying, so we can continue to talk to God.

LWMLC Christian Growth committee offers a monthly devotion and prayer calendar each month that can be found at www.lutheranwomen.ca You can download them, or print them and share with others.

There are other Christian Growth resources on the web site as well, to help you “Grow in God’s Word.”

We hope you all found the resources you needed to prepare for LWMLC Sunday in October. Our church, here in Vernon, downloaded the video “What is LWMLC” and showed that during the service.

Many are preparing for the LWMLC Convention to be held July 11-14, 2024 in London, Ontario. We ask you to pray for those who are on the convention committee who are preparing for that upcoming event. Please also pray for all those who are nominated for Board of Director positions who will lead us in the next three years. God already knows what the future of LWMLC is because “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love Him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9.

May God bless your preparations for the upcoming Christmas season, and the new year ahead of us.



VP Communication—Karen Hildebrandt

“Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 1:13

Planning and preparing. It’s in my nature to plan and then prepare. Currently I have several things on the go. There’s the planning and preparing for Christmas. This year we started the Christmas baking early because we’re going to see my mom, brother and family, and other relatives early in December and we always give everyone their favourite cookies for Christmas so I’m getting ready for that. Then early in the new year we are going on a road trip and vacation somewhere much warmer than here so planning and preparations are underway for that. We also have a family vacation planned for late October so planning has begun and right in the middle is our LWMLC Convention and the planning and preparation for that is underway as well!

In the midst of all the planning and preparation I remind myself that it’s all well and good but that God has a plan and I need to be open to whatever His plan might be. I have found that when I stop and give it to God that things turn out much better than I could ever have imagined. I think God often humours me by letting me make my plans and preparations and then sometimes He just steps in and says “No, you really need to stop and just wait until I tell you it’s ok to proceed.”

I visited London, ON for the first time this November for the Board of Directors meeting and must say that I can hardly wait to go back for Convention! Meeting the Convention Committee members and touring our convention location was the icing on the cake!

I encourage you that in your planning and preparations for Christmas to also include planning and preparing to attend convention. Our theme is “Sing to the Lord a New Song” Psalm 149:1 and it will be wonderful being together again with our sisters and brothers in Christ to sing, worship, fellowship, bible study, and so much more!

On behalf of the Communication Committee and your LWMLC Board of Directors, we hope to see you there!



Christian Mission Committee — Marilyn Witte

“In the wilderness, prepare the way for the Lord.” Isaiah 40:30a

At Christmas time we eagerly anticipate family gatherings. We spend a lot of time and energy preparing. We bake cookies, buy gifts, make lists of what needs to be done, and **prepare**.

How much of our “looking ahead and preparing” centers on the birth of Jesus? The wisemen were excellent examples of “Looking ahead and preparing.” They spend two years traveling and following the star to find the “King of the Jews.”

When we “Look ahead and prepare” we are often disappointed. The wisemen were looking for a king. They found a child of a peasant couple who had laid their baby in a food trough! I wonder how the wisemen felt? They recognized Him—the Christ Child. Were they surprised?

Have you ever been surprised at Christmas?

Perhaps the company arrived two hours late and the turkey was completely overdone. Perhaps someone didn’t appreciate the gift you spent so much time and money on. Perhaps you didn’t receive the gift you’d hoped for and hinted about. How did you deal with the disappointment?

The wisemen found what they were searching for. The wisemen were eager to worship Him. They spent their time talents and treasures seeking the Christ Child.

This Christmas may you seek and find Jesus. May you “look ahead and prepare” for His birth first.

Seeking to Serve,
Marilyn Witte
LWMLC Christian Mission Committee

The Christian Mission committee is “Looking ahead and preparing.”
We have received over 18 mission grant proposals to be reviewed.
We will carefully apply the criteria to each proposal to determine which proposals meet the criteria.
The proposals that are accepted will be presented for vote to the delegates at the July convention.



Christian Mission News

84 percent of our Mission Grants have been paid to date. Please ensure Mites are sent in before the end of March which is the end of our budget year.

Mission Grant proposals have been received for the next triennium and will be voted on at Convention July 11—14, 2024 in London, ON.

Financial Committee —Linda Horton

Our Theme this month “Looking Ahead and Preparing” at this time of year leads us to planning and preparing for many things – Advent, Christmas preparations for family gatherings and other festivities, maybe the holiday away? Some of these undoubtedly are on everyone’s mind at this time. But before all of those we are reminded that we need to prepare celebrations for Jesus’ birth and His second coming.

If He came today would we be ready and strong in our Faith to trust in Him no matter what may happen or take place prior or at the moment? Our world is in continual turmoil, and always has been, but if we truly give all our worries and trials to God—for He is in control of Everyone and Everything—trusting and being faithful to Him knowing He has a plan and has promised He will never leave us or forsake us, “Be content with what you have, because God has said “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.” Hebrews 3:5b. And the day He calls out our name we can truly say “here I am Lord.”

When I look at the giving of all our LWMLC members, I am eternally Thankful for the financial support given by our ABC District members who are so generously supporting our Mites and the mission work within each society. God is so good to us and the Holy Spirit is definitely at work in the hearts and minds of many of our faithful members and followers of Christ, sharing His Word and the many gifts given each of us.

Merry Christmas Everyone and God’s peace, love and joy in 2024,

Linda Horton, LWMLC ABC District Financial Committee Member



Lutheran Women's Missionary League - Canada
Working Expense Budget 2021 - 2024

	<u>Current Expenses</u>	<u>YTD Expenses</u>	<u>Current Budget</u>
	01-Oct-23	Apr 1. 2021	April 1 2021
	31-Oct-23	2023-10 31	Mar 31 2024
<u>Growing in Faith</u>			
Christian Growth Committee	\$ 283.16	\$ 4,573.09	\$ 3,850.00
Resource Centre Stock		\$ 8,708.84	\$ 13,315.00
Resource Centre Administration		\$ 2,794.33	\$ 4,986.00
Subtotals	\$ 283.16	\$ 16,076.26	\$ 22,151.00
<u>Putting Faith Into Action</u>			
Christian Mission Committee	\$ 283.67	\$ 4,887.49	\$ 4,749.00
Gifts for Growth Fund & Flexi GIC		\$ 16,562.62	\$ 22,077.00
Investment Pollex Bursary		\$ 34,505.05	
Mission Grants	\$ 12,813.19	\$ 169,194.21	\$ 130,000.00
District Mission Grants		\$ 43,975.00	\$ 121,000.00
Special Outreach Supprt**		\$ 6,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Convention Offerings Payout**		\$ 22,814.12	\$ 22,814.00
Subtotals	\$ 13,096.86	\$ 297,938.49	\$ 303,640.00
<u>Encouraging One Another in Faith</u>			
Communication Committee	\$ 283.67	\$ 8,224.39	\$ 10,920.00
Member Development Committee	\$ 283.67	\$ 4,693.08	\$ 3,778.00
Tapestry		\$ 54,774.17	\$ 85,950.00
Subtotals	\$ 567.34	\$ 67,691.64	\$ 100,648.00
<u>Working Together in Faith</u>			
Advertising		\$ 3,788.00	\$ 7,500.00
Bk Chgs/Visa/MC	\$ 65.10	\$ 2,897.73	\$ 2,085.00
Convention Expenses		\$ 9,793.87	\$ 9,794.00
Executive Expenses		\$ 8,375.19	\$ 6,000.00
General Council Meeting		\$ 10,159.18	\$ 18,740.00
Inter Committee Meeting		\$ 29,343.67	\$ 40,000.00
GST	\$ 161.83	\$ 3,126.20	\$ 7,200.00
Liability Insurance		\$ 3,435.00	\$ 4,950.00
Miscellaneous		\$ 1,304.18	
Professioanl Fees		\$ 11,906.40	\$ 12,000.00
Stucture Committee		\$ 300.00	\$ 1,000.00
Resource Centre Rent		\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
District Support from LWMLC	\$ 121.75	\$ 9,541.32	\$ 18,250.00
Subtotals	\$ 348.68	\$ 96,970.74	\$ 130,519.00
	\$ 14,296.04	\$ 478,677.13	\$ 556,958.00

Prepared by Karen Nerbas

08-Aug-23

Dec 2020 Prepd Convention Exp \$ 5,666.53

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE - CANADA

FINANCIAL POSITION

October 30, 2023

CIBC Bank Balance as at September 30, 2023	\$	40,247.71	Cash Available	\$34,581.18
			Deferred Revenue	\$5,666.53
Gifts For Growth Fund	\$	54,564.85	Gifts For Growth Fund	\$54,564.85
Pollex Bursary	\$	34,505.05	Pollex Bursary	\$34,505.05
CIBC Flexi GIC	\$	31,305.94	CIBC Flexi GIC	\$31,305.94
Total:		\$160,623.55	Total:	\$160,623.55

Change In Cash Position

Previous GL Balance October 31, 2023	\$	39,998.95		
Deposits October 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023	\$	14,545.32		
Expenses October 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023	\$	(14,296.56)		

G/L Balance as at October 31, 2023 **\$ 40,247.71**

Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce

Flexi GIC 12 mo.@ 1.6% May 27, 2019 (Net bal at May 29, 2023)	\$	31,305.94		
Interest Earned May 29, 2023 to May 28, 2024(Expected)				
Additional Deposit May 27, 2022 1 to May 26, 2023				
Less: Withdrawals				
CIBC Flexi GIC as at May 29, 2023	\$	31,305.94		

Gifts For Growth Fund:

Luth Foundtn(Net balance as at Jan 1, 2023)	\$	48,938.13		
Investment Returns to Mar 31, 2024	\$	116.70		
Unrealized Gains & (Losses)	\$	1,846.88		
Fees April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2024	\$	(140.86)		
Funds Deposited from CIBC - April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023	\$	3,804.00		
Funds Withdrawals				
Gifts For Growth Balance December 31, 2023	\$	54,564.85		

Pollex Bursary (Lutheran Foundation)

Transfer from Faithlife Financial	\$	35,810.58		
Investment Return (Jan 1 - Dec 31, 2023)	\$	719.93		
Administration withdrawal	\$	(525.46)		
Bursary Withdrawal (Aug 23)	\$	(1,500.00)		
Deposit to LMW C (Lutheran Foundation) Mar 2023	\$	34,505.05		

Less:

Designated Funds:

Deferred Convention Surplus	\$	5,666.63		\$ 5,666.63
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Prepared: October 31 , 2023

Karen Nerbas Treasurer

Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada

Revenue Report October 2023

Revenue	Current October 1 to 31, 2023	Trienium April 1, 2021 - Mar.31, 2024	Revised Budget April 1, 2021 - Mar.31, 2024
Growing in Faith			
Sale of LWMLC Resources	\$ 366.35	\$ 12,173.46	\$ 18,459.00
Putting Faith into Action			
Designated for Mission Grants	\$ 50.00	\$ 8,844.59	\$ 11,922.00
Donations	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Gifts for Growth - Honoraium/Memorial	\$ 1,496.00	\$ 16,250.17	\$ 11,947.00
** Flexi GIC	\$ -	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
Gifts for Growth - Interest	\$ -	\$ 6,434.93	\$ 10,635.00
**** Mites from District - Prior to Apr. 1, 2022	\$ -	\$ 39,557.73	\$ 41,060.00
**** Mites from Districts - After Apr. 1, 2022	\$ 11,556.42	\$ 174,743.36	\$ 219,180.00
**** End of Business Transfer from Districts	\$ -	\$ 40,866.36	\$ 32,212.00
* 2021 Convention Mite Offerings	\$ -	\$ 4,952.95	\$ 4,952.00
Encouraging One Another in Faith			
Advertising Income - Tapestry	\$ 913.55	\$ 11,856.60	\$ 6,600.00
Subscription Income - Tapestry	\$ 143.00	\$ 50,178.55	\$ 88,000.00
Miscellaneous Offering - Undesignated	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,001.00
Central District Seminar Registration	\$ -	\$ 4,880.00	
Working Together in Faith			
* Convention 2021 Revenue	\$ -	\$45,299.12	\$ 45,300.00
GST Rebate (50%)			\$ 7,200.00
*** Miscellaneous Other	\$ -	\$ 640.00	
Investment Support	\$ -	\$ 45,854.85	\$ 25,490.00
Gertrude Pollex Busary	\$ -	\$ 34,505.05	\$ -
TOTAL	\$ 14,525.32	\$ 506,037.72	\$ 556,958.00

Prepared July 31, 2023 by Penny Bobier, Financial Secretary

* Total 2021 Convention (mites and other)	\$50,252.07
*** Received in error, returned to ABC District March 2022	\$600.00
Refund from Manitoba Government	\$40.00
**** Total Mites received for Triennium	\$255,167.45

In Memory

St Paul LWMLC, Medicine Hat announce with profound sadness the passing of two of our members in 2023. Mary Rockabar and Gladys Rebmann were both long term faithful members of our Society and we will miss them. Blessed be their memories.

Marilyn Carter of Saviour Lutheran Church, Delta, B.C. went to be with her Lord in April, 2023. She was a founding member of the LWMLC, remembered for her detailed minutes, dedication to mission projects such as Baby Bundles for CLWR & keeping us all informed of LBT happenings. She led a weekly bible study using the extensive library of her Dad's (Rev. Carl Baase) commentaries and study guides. Her beautiful home grown flowers graced Saviour's altar many times and she enjoyed putting a choir together for special occasions. She is lovingly remembered and sadly missed.

The theme for the March 2024 issue of the Flashlight is **"Going Forward in Love"**

Please remember to submit Zone and Society news!

Email submissions are due February 15.

Please send to

flashlight.abc.lwmlc@gmail.com

(Clipart and Graphics used in this issue are through Creative Commons)

The current ABC District Representatives on the Inter-Committees are:

- * Sherley Hearty—VP District Administration ABC
- * Marilyn Witte—Christian Mission Committee
- * Pauline Huth—Christian Growth Committee
- * Linda New—Member Development Committee
- * Linda Horton—Finance Committee
- * [vacant]—Communication Committee

Upcoming Events:



April 5-7, 2024
Concordia & Evergreen
Zones Joint Retreat
What could be more
precious than

diamonds? You!

July 11-14, 2024 National Convention
Four Points Sheraton London, ON



ABC District needs someone to serve as our representative on the Communication Committee. This will not be an onerous and time consuming commitment. We need



someone willing to bring forth news and events from within our district to the Communication Committee that can be shared in the Update, Tapestry, blog, and social media. We need someone who would be willing to provide a listening and supportive ear to our webmaster, social media coordinator and communication assistant. You do not need website or social media training or previous experience to do this. Please email Sherley Hearty at vpdaabc@lutheranwomen.ca if you are interested.



News from the Zones and Societies

On Saturday, September 30th, 2023 the Vernon LWMLC society planned & hosted our Okanagan Zone Fall Ladies Day event, @ St. John's Lutheran. 33 women gathered & it was the first time that our 8 out-of-town guests got to see & be in our new church home. *(which we bought & moved into on April 1/23, Praise God!)*

Our **'God promises us Strength'** theme for the day was taken from 2nd Corinthians 12:9-10. 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness...for when I am weak, then I am strong.' We started the day with each guest bringing a bible verse with the word 'strength/strong' in it, to the registration desk; then coffee/muffins & our morning devotion, followed by the LWML pledge and greetings from Sherley Hearty (*VP ABC District Administration*). She then distributed 'puzzle paks' & explained that everyone was to color their individual puzzle piece & turn it in at the end of the day. This is a 'multi ABC zone project' & once every Zone's pieces are collected, Sherley will make a huge combined one, signifying that each individual is an important, unique piece of God's big puzzle....just like God sees us individually, 'precious in His sight'.

Our local missions offering choice was: non-spoilable food items for the Salvation Army's Vernon Food bank. What support we received....over 10 grocery bags full as well as some monetary donations. Our LWML members in-gathering also celebrated our 30th anniversary blessings & was designated: LBT-Martin & Joan Weber, Cameroon ministry. Thanks be to God, we collected \$477.00!

We had some humor via the 'bag lady' skit, presented by two Vernon members; followed by each Society in attendance giving a brief presentation that included their history & mission projects thru the years. This was interesting!

Our guest speaker (*former Vernon member, Carol Rath*) spoke to us about 'God's extravagant Love' and even though we may be 'in the waiting room' many years waiting for answered prayers, God does indeed answer them. It was a topic that resonated with every lady in attendance & there wasn't a dry eye in the crowd!

A delicious 5 varieties 'soup buffet' luncheon was enjoyed, followed by homemade (*Okanagan grown*) apple crisp & ice cream. In celebration of LWMLC's 30th anniversary we had a tasty engraved bakery cake to enjoy also. During the lunch hour all the 33 bible verses collected @ the start of day, were written down & photocopied for each guest to take home...to have as a personal encouragement.

Our afternoon started with singing, followed by a group participation bible study led by Pauline Huth, centred on 3 strong biblical women...Ruth & Naomi & Mary, mother of Jesus. A short business meeting followed & we ended the day (*on time!*) with a closing devotion, a farewell blessing & the lovely acapella singing of the beloved Common Doxology.

Submitted by,
Debbie Breikreutz
Event Coordinator & Vernon LWML member



News from the Zones and Societies

FALL GATHERING, FRASER VALLEY ZONE, NOVEMBER 4, 2023

Members of the Fraser Valley zone braved a major rainfall to attend the Fall Gathering at St Paul Lutheran Church in Chilliwack. 52 guests, 2 interpreters and one Pastor attended. Delighted to have Sherley Hearty, LWMLC V.P. ABC District Administration, our guest speaker, as well as 2 visitors: Deborah Gruben (Vancouver Island Zone) and Pat Fenske (Vancouver Zone).

Rev. L. Neitzel our Zone Counselor, opened the gathering with prayer and shared Psalm 126:3 "The LORD has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy."

A brief business meeting followed, chaired by Zone Chair Valerie Lowther. The Treasurer's Report was given by Dawn Loyie. Jean Gettle was selected as Convention 2024 Delegate and Jo-Anne MacAdam will be the Alternate.

V.P. District Administration ABC, Sherley Hearty was our guest speaker. She brought and distributed a "Daily Survival Kit" as well as a puzzle piece for all. Those in attendance were asked to



she is joining all the pieces from the ABC together during this triennium. Sherley discussed celebrating 30 years of LWMLC, sharing past history of LWML-whose Pledge was first introduced in 1955. LWML was recognized as an official society in 1928. In 1993, 800 women gathered in Edmonton, Alberta to form LWMLC, our guest Deborah Gruben was in attendance! Sherley suggested a Life 30-30-30 reset-30 minutes of study, reset and refocused deeper in God's word.

Chilliwack Society provided a lovely soup, sandwich and dessert lunch. A 30th year anniversary cake was shared by all.

Rev. L. Neitzel officiated at the afternoon worship service, remembering with gratitude the 30 years of LWMLC. Sisters in the Old Testament hearts were focused on the end of time. Sisters in the New Testament hearts were on the Lord.

Ingathering for Ann Davis Transition House were received and blessed.

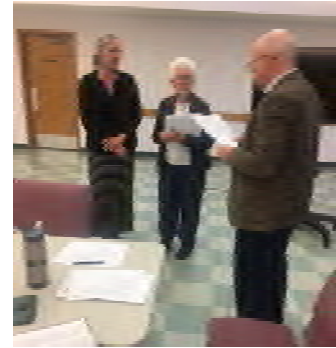
Jo-Anne MacAdam from Faith Lutheran Church, Surrey invited all to spring Renewal in 2024.

Shirley Wisdahl, Fraser Valley Zone Representative



News from the Zones and Societies

St Paul LWMLC Medicine Hat Alberta would like to announce the acceptance of our new member, Rachel Abrahamson. Pastor Edel and President Peggy Hansen presiding. Our Society welcomes her with joy and thanksgiving.



LWMLC Parkland Zone Fall Rally 2023

The LWMLC Societies of Torrington/Didsbury hosted together at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Didsbury on September 23rd, 2023, where there were 20 ladies in attendance, with a few gentlemen helping in various capacities. It was discussed that the gentlemen in our lives have helped with our LWMLC efforts in various ways from looking after meals, providing transportation, looking after the little ones or carrying LWMLC Supplies to and fro. THANK YOU!

There were fresh baked goodies and coffee greeting the LWMLC Ladies, which was much appreciated – especially for those who drove two hours to attend the Rally.

Meaghan Maskowitz welcomed all the ladies to the Rally and opened the Business Meeting with the LWMLC League Pledge and Devotion entitled Blessings Do Abound by Patricia Kreuzwieser. This may have been the fastest Business Meeting, will have to check previous meeting minutes, but we concluded the business by 10:35 am.

A small ceremony was held for the Dearly Departed LWMLC Sisters: Donna Schmuland, Margaret Henke, Lorna Reese, Ida Kihn, and Emma Ehrmann

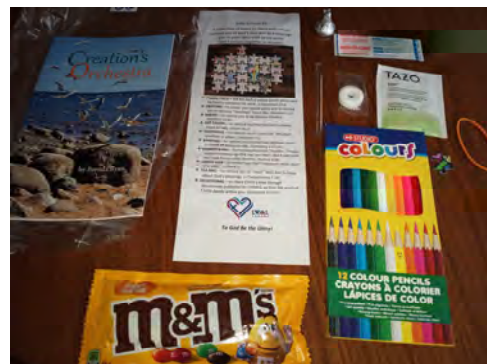
Meaghan Maskowitz led a Bible Study entitled Celebrate Like There is a Tomorrow, which was prepared by the Christian Growth Committee in Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of LWMLC. Lunch was provided, which included four amazing homemade soups, buns/biscuits and dessert, which was perfect for an Autumn Day. We were encouraged to try a helping of each of the soups.

An offering was collected for Mites—\$270.00

Sherley Hearty led the afternoon activities. She gave each lady a Daily Survival Kit. While Sherley was talking about sharing our gifts and how we are unique and sharing news from LWMLC National, the ladies were encouraged to colour their puzzle piece. Sherley collected the puzzle pieces and put them all together with others from ladies across ABC District. If you need anything contact Sherley, she has contacts and resources that can help.

Afternoon refreshments and cookies were provided before departure – a cookie may have slipped in my purse for the drive home. We look forward to seeing everyone again and more ladies at the LWMLC Parkland Spring Retreat at the 4H Centre, the last weekend of April.

Submitted by Melissa Henke-Lambert



News from the Zones and Societies

Let the trees of the forest sing for Joy!

On October 21, women of Vancouver Island gathered at St. Paul's LC in Nanaimo under the theme "They will be called Oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor." Each society took an active part in the



day's program while Zone Counsellor Rev. Adam Chandler led the morning and afternoon bible studies teaching us about the replanting of the exiles from Israel and in Genesis the exile of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Eden. Following picture

taking a delicious lunch was accompanied with a little dinner theater titled "The Storms of Life"



reminding us that although life is not always a smooth sail, we can take our burdens to the Lord, we can depend on Him to always be there in our time of

need. Sharing a meal together provided an opportunity to catch up with our sisters in Christ across the Island and to welcome our guests.

Guest speaker Paulette Langdough shared her experiences as a volunteer with the faith based Christian Crossroads Pregnancy Center.



In her words "if a client of our center obtains an abortion, we love her. If she carries to term, we love her, if she releases the child in an adoption, we love her. If she grieves after her abortion, without judgement we will mourn with her. If she is in need during parenting, we will care for her. If she struggles after abortion, we will support her." Our host society then led us in prayer and litany for the families and blessings upon the work done by the center and its volunteers.



Our short business meeting approved the establishment of a Zone equalization fund for the purpose of assisting with costs for a delegate and/or

young women's delegate to attend National conventions. Elected a delegate and alternate to the 2024 National convention. The day concluded with a closing devotion based on Proverbs 3:5 "At Jesus' feet, come and lay your burdens down" and the joyous singing of the great hymn How Great



Thou Art. On behalf of all the ladies here on our Island we would like to say a BIG Thank You to everyone who made this seminar possible. It was well worth an encore!

Submitted humbly by Deborah Gruben



News from the Zones and Societies

Twenty-five ladies, two pastors, and two guests met at Grace Lutheran Church, Edmonton, Alberta for the Concordia Zone Fall Renewal on Saturday, October 27, 2023.

Zone President, Martha Feculak, welcomed everyone and introduced our new zone Pastoral Counsellor, Rev. Jan Pastucha, who led our bible study based on Philippians 2:14-16, and Pastor Neil Stern (Grace) who led the opening devotion. Marilyn Witte gave a brief update on our LWMLC mission grants and how our mites do make a difference. We then watched the video LWMLC Mission Mites in Action https://youtu.be/_FGcGZ4evx4

President Martha welcomed our two special guests from The Rock, Kathleen Navis and Harold Niedegal. The Rock was the recipient of our ingathering. The Rock has served breakfast in our inner city for 27 years. In 2022 they served over 31,000 breakfasts. Some of our ladies in attendance volunteer for The Rock and were recognized for their service.

Pastor Pastucha led the closing prayer at the end of our program.

Some of ladies stayed afterwards and made thank you cards for The Rock volunteers. Forty cards were made and included a tea light with verse "Shine as lights in the World". These cards were then given out at their volunteer appreciation dinner on Saturday, October 28th.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Karen Hildebrandt,
LWMLC Concordia Zone Secretary



Shine as Lights Philippians 2:15



Pastor N Stern



Pastor J Pastucha



Kathleen Navis and Harold Niedegal from The ROCK



Concordia Zone Renewal attendees

