



Flashlight

"Going Forward in Love"

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VP District Administration ABC— Sherley Hearty

God loves you with deep, unconditional love. God's love is amazing. God sees you through the lens of Jesus.

We know that 'Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.' 1 Corinthians 13:7 ESV Our response to God's great love, is to 'go forward in Love' loving one another so we may all be filled with all the fullness of God. Our love may be in words of affirmation, gifts, acts of service, quality time, physical touch, whatever love language God has placed in our heart. 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,' Galatians 5:22 ESV. 'By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.' John 13:35 ESV

I thank you for sharing your love with others, for your continued participation in your society gatherings, for your mite contributions, and your participation at zone spring events.

I encourage you to seek out ways to support your zone delegate to travel and attend in person the LWMLC Twelfth Convention to be held this July 11-14, 2024, in London, Ontario. Your zone delegate will experience the fellowship of women from across this nation coming together to Sing to the Lord a new song! Your delegate will grow in Bible Study and hear first-hand in the business meeting. She will have the opportunity to participate in the servant events and Mission Movement and will represent your zone with a voice and vote at the LWMLC convention. Your delegate will relay to your respective zone election results and mission grants chosen, financial goals for the coming triennium, information on new programs and convention highlights. The dedicated love of our sisters (and brothers) in Christ, will be sure to encourage you and keep your walk of faith uplifted and inspired, going forward in Love, shining Jesus' Light.

Prayerfully, In His Service,
Sherley Hearty, VP DA ABC



Member Development Committee — Linda New

1 John 4:7 *Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.*

Galatians 5:14 *For the whole law is fulfilled in one word; "you shall love your neighbour as yourself."*

As individual members of the Church and LWMLC we are called to serve one another in love. As we go forward in **God's love** as LWMLC members in families, Church, communities and across the provinces and the nation, may God's Word inspire, strengthen and equip you to follow and worship Jesus. Today we will read and meditate on the direction given in the Scripture passage:

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs with thankfulness in your hearts to God.*

We will examine one selection of each of the categories listed, i.e., psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs for our inspiration and encouragement. I have chosen Psalm 100, Hymn 706 LSB, and song "Brothers and Sisters in Christ". In the texts we are called to offer praise and thanksgiving to God. It describes the love of God as faithful, steadfast, enduring and eternal. His love is extended to us in grace, mercy, and forgiveness. As we gather together and make plans for upcoming events in our Societies, Zones, and District, and further plans for attendance at our National Convention this July; may we be reminded of these words and break forth into songs of JOY proclaiming the Good News of our salvation in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord. Let us rejoice and sing!

PSALMS

Psalm 100 His Steadfast Love Endures Forever

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!
Serve the Lord with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!

Know that the Lord, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
We are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!

For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever,
And his faithfulness to all generations.

HYMNS

LSB 706 Love in Christ Is Strong and Living

Love in Christ is strong and living,
Binding faithful hearts in one;
Love in Christ is true and giving,
May His will in us be done.

Love is patient and forbearing,
Clothed in Christ's humility,
Gentle, selfless, kind, and caring,
Reaching out in charity.

Love in Christ abides forever,
Fainting not when ills attend;
Love, forgiving and forgiven,
Shall endure until life's end.

Text: Dorothy R. Schulz 1980 Concordia Publishing House

SPIRITUAL SONGS Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Sing Alleluia! Amen!

Let your prayers and praises ascend.
Lift up your voices and sing to our
Lord God, our Saviour and King!
Here brought together by grace,
We are gathered as friends in this place.

REFRAIN:

And assembled as one, in the name of the Son,
Lifting hearts, lifting hands,
Celebrating as friends,
And proclaiming the Lord,
All our praises afford,
We are brothers and sisters in Christ.

Man walked alone and in need,
Without faith, hope or promise or creed;
Wandering aimlessly lost
unaware of the staggering cost;
That God in his mercy would save
All his people from death and the grave. REFRAIN

Lord, teach us how to proclaim
All your goodness, your love and Your name!
Lord teach us how to forgive, and in love,
teach us Lord how to live.
Raising our voices in song,
Help us tell the world we belong. REFRAIN

Words and Music by: Terry K. Dittmer

We close in prayer:

Colossians 3: 17 *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Amen.*

Mission Committee—Marilyn Witte

Going Forward in Love

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and love your neighbour as yourself.” Luke 10:27

Love changes us and helps us to move forward in life. Love transforms us in the best ways. We can move with the love of God, bringing God’s love to those who need it most. We can build one another up by walking in love and giving thanks in love. Love doesn’t come easily. There is always something to be overcome. This applies to loving God. Sometimes it is a battle against self, or society or even people close to you. There are struggles that can cause conflict. So we need to be prepared.

We can move forward with the love of God, bringing God’s love to those who need or have never experienced the love and the grace and the mercy of God. We need each other, we cannot do it alone. As members of LWMLC, we can join together to move forward in love.

Love is a choice. Jesus had the kind of love that chose YOU. The kind of love that sustains YOU. As His love pours into your life let it flow through you into the lives of those around you.

When we focus on what His love can do in our lives, He will inspire us and strengthen us.

Christian Mission Committee Update on mission grants. All of the grants have been paid in full with the exception of the following:

- Outreach Support Timmins/Sudbury \$3621
- Aurora Camp \$10,000
- BC Mission Boat \$5,000
- Camp Lutherland \$2,131.55
- Seminary Edmonton \$5,179.76
- Mission Opportunity Grant \$8,105.25 (Up to \$5,000 has been approved for Alberta Youth retreat)

VP Communication—Karen Hildebrandt

The theme of this issue is Growing in Love. I can’t think of a better way to grow than to be in God’s Word.

As LWMLC members, we have so many opportunities to grow!

Our Christian Growth Committee provides so many wonderful resources and each month we have a monthly devotion as well as the monthly prayer calendar. We also have the bible studies that are included in our quarterly issues of Tapestry that can be used within our societies. We have our Zone Renewals and this year we have our National Convention in London, Ontario. Ideally everyone could come in person but we realize that isn’t always possible due to physical limitations or cost. Yes, flights from BC

and AB are expensive. With that in mind, you can attend virtually. So whether you can come join us in person or via your computer, tablet, or smartphone, we hope to “see” you this July as we grow as Christian women as we “Sing to the Lord”.

Register at:

<https://forms.gle/E75bJTCQpLjcnQDf7>

Please visit the website often at

lutheranwomen.ca.

If your society or zone has an event planned, please email the date, title, and contact info to vpcommunication@lutheranwomen.ca so that it can be added to our LWMLC Events Calendar.

Christian Growth Committee—Pauline Huth

“Going Forward in Love” Christian Growth – Pauline Huth

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

As we go forward this year, we see Lent beginning on February 14th, Valentine’s Day! What a wonderful way for us to recognize God’s everlasting and deep love for us. That is what John 3:16 tells us in the scripture under the title. Valentine’s Day can and does point to the Love that God has for us, but Ash Wednesday can remind us that it did take the sacrificial death of Jesus to complete the promise of eternal life for those who believe. This is indeed a paradox of both joy and sadness. Let us think on this paradox as we continue “Going Forward in God’s Love” throughout Lent as we awaken to the Joy that is ours on Easter Sunday.

Many people “give up” something for Lent. How about a new twist on that and think about just “giving to others” during Lent. Think about ways you can “GIVE” during the season of lent. The Bible tells us in Romans 12:11-13 to: “Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need, practice hospitality.” Perhaps you can give of your time to visit a shut in, give of your resources for a special mission project you have been praying for, or offer up a prayer daily for a different missionary or mission project.

There are many creative ways to give or share the gifts that God has given you over the 40 days of Lent. If we try to be a more giving person during those days of Lent we may find and experience joy even during the solemn time of lent.

There are some wonderful Lenten devotions and Bible Study materials that you can find on the download on demand section of www.lutheranwomen.ca web page. You can access these resources for personal use or group events. Our national Christian Growth committee is also working on preparing for the LWMLC National Convention in July. We are writing room devotions, as well as opening devotions for each session. The Theme is “Sing to the Lord a New Song.” The “LWMLC Update” publication that comes out regularly has the updated information on the convention news, so that will keep you all informed.

The LWMLC Christian Growth committee will also be hopefully debuting our new devotional-recipe booklet “Feed my Body, Feed my Soul” at the convention, so watch for news about this new little gift item you may want to purchase from the LWMLC Resource Centre also found online on the website above.

Yes, there are some exciting events happening this year as we “Go Forward in Love” during this season of Lent. Hebrews 13:16 reminds us: “And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.” May you all find the joy in “Giving” during this season of Lent and Easter.



News from the Zones and Societies

COZY TREE for the unhoused

At Saviour Lutheran Church in Delta, BC, our LWMLC society has been organizing a Cozy Tree for a few different charities over the Advent Season.

I was curious when LWMLC started this mission project and found information in our minutes on the history of the Cozy Tree at Saviour.... This has been our LWMLC mission project with congregational participation since 2016. The first 4 years, donations were collected for the 'Food On the Corner Ministry' for the Downtown Eastside Vancouver area. There was no collection in 2020.

The last 3 years, the Ladner Extreme Weather Shelter at Ladner United Church has been so happy to accept donations collected by Saviour. They open their doors when the weather is extreme for the unhoused and this year they welcomed anyone in need of help. They give us their wish-list and the rest is up to the congregational members to pick what they'd like to donate.

There is a daycare on our premises during the week and they also participate in collecting donations. In the past, we had other user groups in the building (pre-pandemic) and they also helped.

This idea for the Cozy Tree came from an article in the Tapestry, Summer 2016. "Cozy Tree benefits others" Brandon, Manitoba.- The ladies of Grace LWMLC erect a "Cozy Tree" each Advent season in the church narthex.

We have adapted the idea over the years to fit our area and the needs. At first we collected mostly toques, mitts, scarves, socks and underwear. Now it includes some of the same but also food and gift cards (was \$5, now it is \$10) to the local fast food restaurants so the recipients can be inside for longer when the weather is extreme, hot or cold.

Here is a list of the donated items collected this 2023 year: 54 pairs of socks, 5 pair of gloves/ mitts, 3 scarves, 15 toques, 17 men's underwear, 24 women's underwear, 6 undershirts, 10 hotshots for hands, 10 pair hotshots for feet, 2 noodle bowls, 6 fruit cups, 31 granola bars, 16 juice boxes, 5x\$10 MacDonalds gift cards, 3 toothbrushes, 1 toothpaste, soap, lotion, shampoo, conditioners, 1 pair leg warmers, 1 vest, 5 hoodies, 2 tops, 3 jackets, 1 sweater.

There were a few more pieces of clothing that the Shelter couldn't use so those will be donated to the Salvation Army Thrift Store, Saviour LWMLC, Delta, BC:

shampoo, conditioners, 1 pair leg warmers, 1 vest, 5 hoodies, 2 tops, 3 jackets, 1 sweater. There were a few more pieces of clothing that the Shelter couldn't use so those will be donated to the Salvation Army Thrift Store. Saviour LWMLC, Delta, BC



News from the Zones and Societies

The small group of LWMLC Grace Society Ladies and congregation members at Calgary, AB had a very busy and exciting fall and into Christmas.

On September 10, 2023 – our society and congregation members – 10 in all cooked a hot meal at Ronald McDonald House for 70 people. What a great experience and they were all so appreciative for the meal.

In September and October gift cards were collected for Concordia Lutheran Seminary Cupboard Food Program.

On October 1st we celebrated LWMLC Sunday by setting up a display table, assisted in service, showed LWMLC Video as well as Mission Projects video and served snacks plus an Anniversary Cake which was baked and decorated by one of our youth. In October we collected pantry staples, toiletries, cleaning supplies and monetary donations for the Calgary Dream Centre. We also did up Halloween treat bags for the children attending Discovery Preschool Program which are renting space for their program at Grace Lutheran Church for the second year!

For the month of November, we collected items for the Mitten Tree with all items going to the Mustard Seed. A group of us also did a shift at Samaritan Purse warehouse checking and inspecting packaged shoe boxes, tapping them up, stacking in larger boxes for shipping and then placing on conveyor belt to be loaded on semi-trucks for delivery for shipping.

In December we delivered Christmas Cards to the Grace Manor next door to the church for all the residents and included an invitation and schedule of our Advent and Christmas services. We also did up Christmas bags for the children in the Discovery Preschool which is held in the church each week. In each bag we included 2 Christmas Tree ornaments made by us, an angel ornament, card with Bible Verse, nativity scene with stickers, schedule of our Advent and Christmas Services and an invitation to attend our weekly Sunday School on Sunday mornings. Our members also led a Sunday morning Sunday School class in December.

Submitted by Linda Horton

Calgary Dream Centre Donations

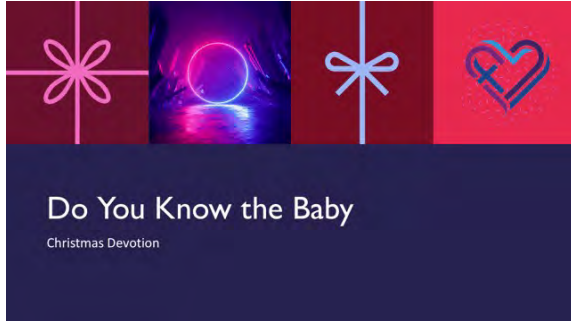


Packaged Christmas Bags



Chefs at Ronald McDonald House

News from the Zones and Societies



Grace Lutheran Church Edmonton, AB, Concordia Zone LWMLC held their Christmas Social and Prayer Pal Gift Exchange on Saturday, December 16. We used the Christmas Devotion “Do You Know the Baby” written by Deaconess Ruth Ann Endicott which was on our US LWML Sisters website. The devotion featured some of the women in scripture with accompanying Christmas hymns between each reading.



Sherley Hearty, Helga Danielson, and Karen Hildebrandt did the readings and Martha Feculak led us in the singing of the hymns. Afterwards we exchanged prayer pal gifts and drew names for 2024. We collected funds for The Rock so that they can stock up on needed pantry supplies for their breakfast program.

Submitted by Karen Hildebrandt

Vancouver Zone Fall Rally

Saturday, October 28 began with coffee and muffins while ladies from Vancouver Zone reunited with each other and also our guests from the Fraser Valley Zone. What a joy to be together with fellow sisters in Christ!

We gathered to work together on the shortened version of “Oaks of Righteousness”. Saviour had taken part in the original version but knew others had not. We felt the seminar was so well written it needed to be shared with more. Because it was a complete package with opening and closing devotions plus the seminar itself it was an easy project for Saviour to host. All we had to add was the coffee, muffins, soup and buns! Our in-gathering was non-perishable food for the Delta Food Bank who were pleasantly surprised with our gift because it wasn't Thanksgiving or Christmas!?! Food for thought?? (pun).

Thank you to the gifted and Holy Spirit inspired writers of “Oaks of Righteousness” ***They will be called oaks of righteousness, a planting of the Lord for the display of His splendor.*** Isaiah 61:3b

Submitted by Linda Rittaler



Even though it has been 6 months since we celebrated the LWMLC 30th anniversary with our congregation, Saviour LWMLC society, Vancouver Zone, was so impressed with the replication of the LWMLC logo that a bakery put on our cake, we felt we needed to share it. Not only did the cake look lovely but it also was delicious!



The theme for the June 2024 issue of the Flashlight is ***“Growing in Service, What Can I Do?”***

Please remember to submit Zone and Society news!

Email submissions are due May 15.

Please send to

flashlight.abc.lwmlc@gmail.com

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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

