



Flashlight

"Celebrating the Harvest with Joy!"



September 2025
Volume 35, Issue 4

VP District Administration ABC — Sherley Hearty

Celebrating the Harvest with Joy!

"May the peoples praise you, God; may all the peoples praise you. The land yields its harvest; God, our God, blesses us." Psalm 67:5-6 NIV

There are several ways to arrive at your destination, you can travel by plane or by automobile. Flying offers the perspective of what may be visible below the clouds should you have an airplane window view. I had the privilege to fly into the heartland of Omaha, Nebraska in June for the LWML 41st Biennial Convention, Growing in God's Grace, 2 Peter 3:18. The view from the airplane did not compare to the experience on the ground. I look forward to sharing all the blessings God provided through this opportunity.

I recently had the privilege to be on a road trip to Regina, SK with President Marilyn Witte for a tour of venues with the Convention Chairs and other members for the 2027 LWMLC 13th Convention. Driving the prairie highways provided ample views of fields of grain standing tall, far onto the horizon. God is good and has visually blessed the farmers with an abundant harvest.

No matter how we get to our destination, we come together to celebrate God's goodness. In our lives today, the "harvest" might look different for us from crops growing in these fields—it could be something like financial provision, new opportunities, or spiritual growth – but the principle remains the same. God calls us to give thanks with joyful hearts, acknowledging Him as the ultimate source of our blessings. Thanksgiving and joy are not dependent on circumstances but

on what is in our hearts and how we perceive things.

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him." Psalm 28:7 NIV

Our strength comes from the Lord, and His joy gives us the strength to meet the challenges that come each day. Are we daily feeding our soul on God's Word and in prayer to gain the deep trust to meet each day's challenges? Only when we trust God in "all" things will thanksgiving and joy radiate from within. If you feed your body food multiple times a day, we also need to feed our soul multiple times a day.

I invite you to strengthen your prayer-time by gathering with ladies in your home or in your church and participate in the "nation-wide" prayer retreats this fall. Each LWMLC District is offering this Prayer Retreat, be sure to check out the Events Calendar for a location near you or choose to participate online. The ABC District Prayer Retreat, Saturday, November 1st, will be broadcasted and will begin at 9:30 am MST (8:30 am PST) and will conclude with a fellowship luncheon, perhaps you will choose to provide something similar for your friends.

Remember to celebrate the harvest with thanksgiving and joy, each day, all year round.

In His Service,
Sherley Hearty



Christian Growth Committee Member — Pauline Huth

Celebrating the Harvest with Joy!

Read: Matt. 13:24-30 - The Parable of the Weeds

Harvesting Weed?

“Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: first collect the weeds and tie them into bundles to be burned; then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn”
Matthew 13:30 NIV

We live in a desert area of BC near Vernon. We have what is called “Zero” Landscaping in our yard. In other words, we have rocks and gravel and no grass. We do have flowers, and a few potted plants that we have to nurture to keep alive. This year it seems as if we also have an abundant growth of WEEDS! My husband has been out at least once a week with a solution of Epsom’s salts, vinegar, and dish soap spraying those nasty weeds. After he has sprayed the weeds, our yard smells like a fish & chip restaurant. The weeds seem to shrivel up for a short time, but he just can’t seem to control them, they keep coming back!

Weeds can be destructive, and it seems as if the bad weeds are taking over the world we live in. We can’t get rid of them, and sometimes it is really hard to control them, but we can try and protect the seedlings and plants we have planted.

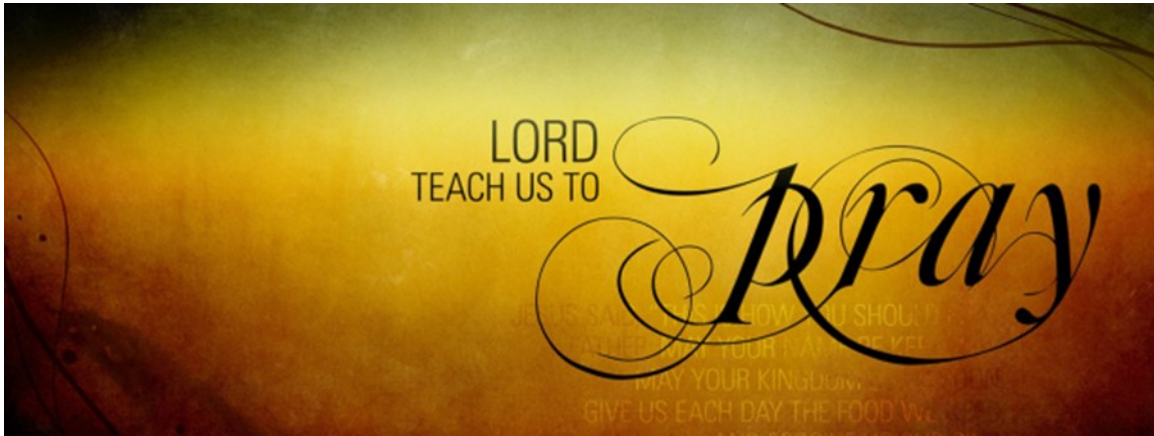
If you are a mother, grandmother, or great grandmother, we can feel the need to protect those whom we love, from the bad weeds of this world. We cannot always do that, but we can stay firm in God’s word and keep our loved ones always in our prayers. Jesus prayed for those He loved in John 17:15: “My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.” We too can support our

loved ones by praying for their protection daily and frequently remind them that God is watching over them. We can find JOY in the harvest of each young life we pray for. Keep on nurturing those seedlings so that they will continue to thrive.

What is Christian Growth doing to nurture you in your growth of faith? Well, we have been contributing to the web page “Blog.” Check it out at www.lutheranwomen.ca We are also working on completing the LWMLC prayer service. We have contributed to the “Fall Tapestry” and if you have not already seen it, we have created new confirmation booklet for teens “Texts From God.” They can be ordered from the LWMLC resource center for \$10.00 each. The booklet has a QR code so that the teens can download it onto their phones. They can take the wisdom of God along with them. Don’t forget to check out the monthly devotion and prayer Calendar on the LWMLC web page, and share them with your friends, neighbors and relatives. We can always encourage others by sharing the word of God and pray for each other. We continue to serve you as a Christian Growth committee hoping we are indeed encouraging all of you to keep the bad weeds of the world away by nurturing each of you in your personal faith walk.

In His Service,
Pauline Huth





Come Celebrate All Saints Day
at
LWMLC ABC Prayer Retreat
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2025

Presenter: Rev. Neil Stern, Lead Pastor
Grace Lutheran Church, 9907 – 114 St Edmonton, AB

Plan to attend at the broadcast centre
or gather ladies together at your church or in your home.

9:30 am to 1 pm MST (8:30 am to 12 noon PST).



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To register
for in person or to receive the link for the ABC Prayer Retreat,
email Sherley at
vpdaabc@lutheranwomen.ca

material adapted from:
Lutheran Prayer Retreat
Authors: Rev. Cameron Schnarr and Rev. Dr. Richard Beinert,
Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church Winnipeg, MB

Christian Mission

Mission Grant Update as of April 2025

<u>GRANT</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>PAID</u>	<u>BALANCE</u>
Regina Street Reach, Rev. DJ Kim	\$ 24,000.00	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 16,000.00
Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary Technology Upgrade	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -	\$ 7,500.00
Lutheran Hospital Ministries Southern Alberta Society (LHMSAS)	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00
Diaconal Support Cambodia	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
National Youth Gathering	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ -
Bible and Catechism Booklets, Mount Olive, Regina, SK	\$ 1,000.00	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
LAMP 55x55 Anniversary Project	\$ 15,000.00	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00
Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Central Region	\$ 6,000.00	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00
Nicaragua Ministry and Outreach	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
French Liturgy Foundations	\$ 3,735.00	\$ 3,735.00	\$ -
Ethiopian Ministry and Outreach	\$ 21,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 14,000.00
First Lutheran Academy, Windsor, ON	\$ 9,475.00	\$ -	\$ 9,475.00
CLS/CLTS Joint Faculty Retreat	\$ 4,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,000.00
Bus Ministry, Christ Our King, Mississauga, ON*	\$ 3,880.00	\$ -	\$ 3,880.00
Youth Director, Trinity/Killarney Community Lutheran Churches*	\$ 27,910.00	\$ 9,303.33	\$ 18,606.67
Mission Opportunity Fund:	\$ 50,200.00	\$ 7,750.00	\$ 42,450.00
	\$ 251,200.00	\$ 63,288.33	\$ 187,911.67
1) Central Region Pastor's Wives Retreat: \$ 500.00		\$ -	\$ -
2) Camp Lutherland Christian Resources \$ 750.00		\$ -	\$ -
3) LWMLC Fraser Zone - Trinity LC of The Deaf \$3,000.00		\$ -	\$ -
4) Central Region Pastor's Wives Retreat \$ 500.00		\$ -	\$ -
5) Haiti Lutheran Mission Society-50 Emergency Kits \$3,000.00			\$ -



News from the Zones and Societies

Foothills Society, Calgary, Alberta

Spring Tea



On May 9th, a warm sunny day in Calgary, Foothills Society hosted a spring tea for the residents of Foothills Manor. With Deaconess Miriam Winstanley on the piano and Pastor Bode leading the singing, we sang hymns such as “I Know that My Redeemer Lives” and “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” and songs like “In the Good Old Summertime” and “Let the Sunshine In”. We then enjoyed fellowship over delicious refreshments. While visiting, we played a game whereby words for each letter of the word SPRING were called out. A door prize was given to one of the residents, a mum plant for her to take home. Our afternoon together was a wonderful way to welcome spring!



News from the Zones and Societies

Foothills Society, Calgary, Alberta

Memory Books

Foothills LWMLC Society has been working on the production of Memory Books for ladies who are no longer able to attend our meetings. The books are simple spiral bound pages with card stock front and back printed covers. Included are photographs of the recipients involved in LWML activities which we obtained after searching through the scrapbooks assembled from the past. There is a section where visitors can record their visit and provide comments and practical information, such as a new phone number. The Lord's Prayer, the Creeds and Luther's Morning and Evening Prayers are printed on other pages.

What fun we had during a work bee looking back at the photos, laughing and enjoying our joint memories! As we produce each book, we find that we have more ideas about what can be included or changed in various ways. We have been blessed with creative and talented ladies whose ideas have made this project a much appreciated reality.

Pictured here are Elise Glans, recipient of her memory book, and Jutta Colhoun (left) and Marilyn Harrison (right), who made the delivery.

Written by Geraldine Chimirri-Russell, Society President



News from the Zones and Societies

Fraser Valley Zone Spring Renewal

Those who attended the Spring Renewal held at Hope Lutheran Church, Port Coquitlam, B.C., Saturday, May 24, 2025, enjoyed a day filled with music and singing reflecting the theme "May We Sing With Our Hearts to the Lord" from Ephesians 5:19b "Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord."

The day began with coffee and goodies, followed by a brief business meeting led by Chair Val Lowther. The Treasurer, Dawn Loyie, reported that the Fraser Valley Zone received funding from Mission Opportunity Fund to help defray the cost of translators which will enable the Trinity of the Deaf LWMLC Society to attend our renewals and the planning committee meetings for the remainder of this triennium.

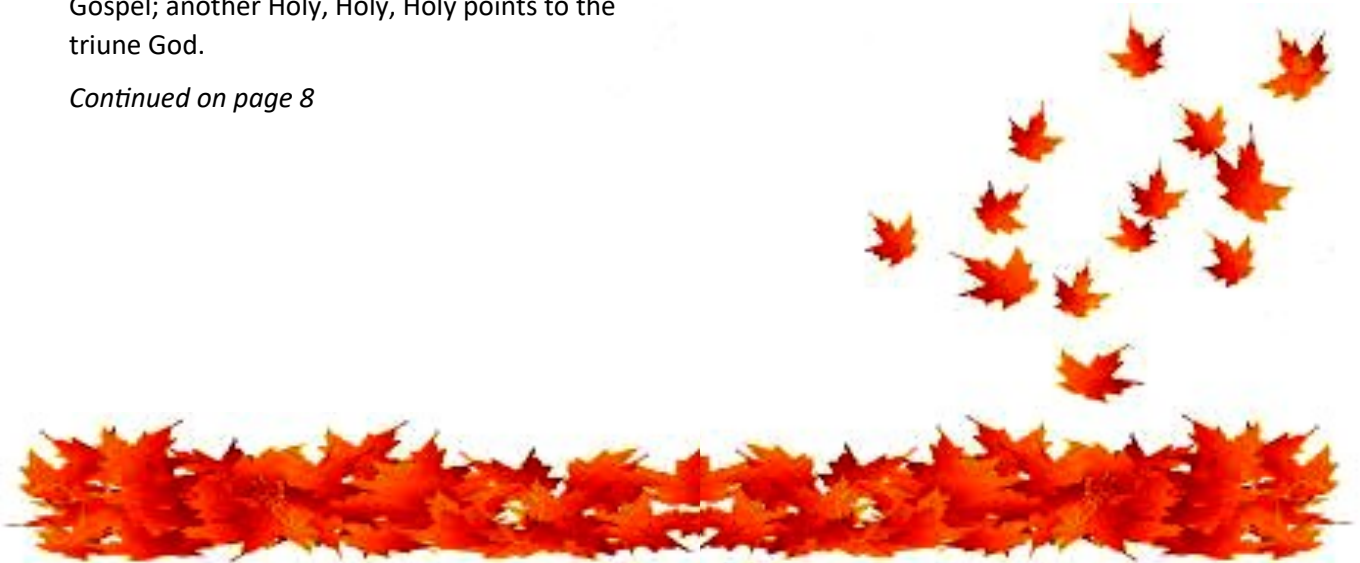
All those present enjoyed making cards of courage. Thanks to Trudy and Marjorie for supplying the materials to make these lovely cards.

Pastor L. Albrecht and his wife, Janine, led a most interesting study about Christian music and lyrics and began with singing. The most important part of the lyrics of the hymns we sing is that they contain words that convey the message. Secular music alone can only point to a message, example; Vivaldi's Spring; other examples indicate Law and Gospel; another Holy, Holy, Holy points to the triune God.

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Receiving the Mission Opportunity Grant is Dawn Loyie, Fraser Valley Zone Treasurer, Carolyn Becker, Trinity of the Deaf LWMLC and Mary Kostashuk.



News from the Zones and Societies

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God calls us to sing in Psalm 96: "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth, Praising His Glory and Majesty", to be filled with the Holy Spirit and sing songs of praise to the Lord. Paul's letter to the Ephesians 12: 19-20 states "speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord". God's love gives a foundation. The foundation for all Christian songs is the word of God, grounded in scripture. We also learned that Mary's Magnificat was the first song in the New Testament and it was pointed out that all songs are composed using 12 notes, providing an infinite amount of music.

A service of music and song followed a lovely lunch provided by the hosts.

Reverend L. Neitzel has been the Fraser Valley Zone Counsellor for several years, Reverend L. Albrecht will be our new Counsellor. We are so grateful for Reverend Neitzel's counsel and look forward to serving with Reverend Albrecht in the days ahead.

The Zone was happy to supply an ingathering for The Share Food Bank.



A group photo of those who attended the Fraser Valley Zone Spring Renewal



News from the Zones and Societies

St. Paul's Society, Nanaimo, B.C.

On Sunday, July 6, St Paul's, Nanaimo, BC society celebrated LWMLC Sunday and our 65th anniversary with a communion service and luncheon. We were delighted to have our zone president, Deborah Gruben join us. It was the exact date in 1960 that we received our certificate of membership to LWML. Our founding member, Cathy Armstrong, attended the convention in Omaha, Nebraska. She brought back the idea of this international organization. With the support of Pastor Eichenlaub and Mrs. Irma Blazer, the ladies became a society.

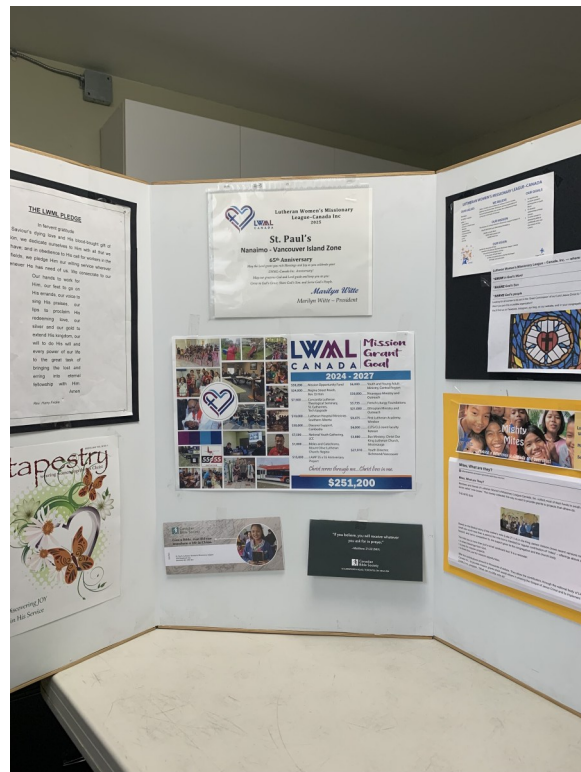
In 1993, Elaine Murphy attended the founding convention of the Canadian organization. Our motto "Called to Serve" was selected based on Deut 10:12, "And now O Israel, what does the Lord you God ask of you but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord our God with all your heart and with all your soul".

Some of the early mission projects included a foster child through Foster Parents Plan, the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem, the Haiti Lutheran Mission Society Canada, and the Canadian Bible Society (which we have supported for 32+years). We have sponsored two mission trips to Haiti and one to Kenya for a couple members of our congregation.

Our quilters sent several hundred quilts to CLWR over the years along with pillowcase dresses, knitted stuffies and dolls and several donations through Gifts from the Heart each Christmas.

Locally, we have contributed to all ages from our Crossroads Pregnancy Centre, a girl's mentorship program through the Boys and Girls club, the Nanaimo Women's Shelter, and our Good Samaritan Seniors facility. BC Mission Boat Society and LAMP have also been beneficiaries of our society.

All of our earliest members have gone on to be with our Lord but we are so blessed to continue serving our Lord with gladness.



St. Paul's Society's 65th Anniversary Display



Called to Glory

Janice Nora Quinton went to be with her Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday, April 20, 2025.



She was 86 years old. Janice was a faithful LWMLC member, first in Saskatchewan and later in Leduc, Alberta. She served as an assistant at St. Peter's Kindergarten for many years and was much loved by the students. In our LWMLC Society she served many years as Christian Growth Chairman with a strong belief in the importance of Bible Study. Her legacy is one of compassion and an unwavering commitment to her faith, family and Church family. St. Peter's LWMLC Society has made a donation to LWMLC Gifts for Growth in her memory.



The theme for the December 2025 issue of the Flashlight is

"Looking Ahead and Preparing"

Please remember to submit Zone and Society news!

Email submissions are due **November 15, 2025**.

Please send to

flashlight.abc.lwmlc@gmail.com

