



# Flashlight

*"Growing in Service, What Can I Do?"*



June 2026  
Volume 36, Issue 3

## Vice President District Administration ABC District — Sherley Hearty

### Growing in Service, What Can I Do?

Being a part of LWMLC provides opportunities to grow in service, whether you are a member, leader or guest. We each have opportunities to grow in God's Word and to grow in service to one another.

In every season of life, God invites us to grow—not only in faith, but in service. Sometimes we wonder, "What can I do?" The good news is that God does not call us to serve in grand, complicated ways. He simply calls us to be willing, faithful, and open to where He leads.

Being part of LWMLC provides a beautiful opportunity to grow in God's Word and grow in service, whether you are a member, a leader, or even a guest just beginning to explore. Each role matters, and each person has something meaningful to offer.

Service begins with the heart. In **Galatians 5:13**, we are reminded: *"Serve one another humbly in love."* This kind of service is not about recognition or perfection; it's about love in action. It can be as simple as offering a kind word, lending a helping hand, or showing up when someone needs encouragement.

If you are a **member**, your presence is already a blessing. You can grow by participating, supporting and encouraging others, and using your unique gifts, whether that's organizing, listening, praying, or creating. God has equipped each of us differently, and every gift has purpose.

If you are a **leader**, your service becomes an example. Leadership is not about authority, but about shepherding others with humility and grace. Jesus Himself modeled this when He washed His disciples' feet (John 13:14-15). As a leader, we grow by lifting others up, guiding with

compassion, and trusting God for wisdom.

If you are a **guest**, you are not on the outside—you are invited into something meaningful. Sometimes the first step in service is simply being present and open. God often begins His work in us before He works through us.

Growing in service also means stepping out in faith. You don't need to have everything figured out. God often uses small beginnings to accomplish great things. As it says in **1 Peter 4:10**, *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace."*

Ask yourself: Where do I see a need? What gifts has God given me? How can I show love today? The answers don't have to be complicated. Start where you are. One of the many blessings of LWMLC is that even though we may not be able to travel to the mission field we can support the work through our mite offerings. Service is not just something we do—it shapes who we become. As we serve, we grow closer to God, deepen our relationships with others, and discover the joy that comes from living with purpose. So, *what can you do?* You can show up. You can care. You can serve.

In preparation for our LWMLC Convention in 2027, I ask that you prayerfully consider where you or someone you know can serve in the upcoming triennium and let your intentions and recommendations be known to the Nominating Committee. And as you do, trust that God is working in and through you—growing your faith, your heart, and your impact in ways you may not yet see.

In His service, Sherley Hearty, VPDA ABC, LWMLC, Inc

## Christian Growth Committee Member — Pauline Huth

### “Growing in Service, What can I do?”

The world of nature seems to be doing what God has designed and planned for it to do. The trees are budding, the flowers are beginning to bloom, lilacs and forsythia and many other spring blossoms are showing their colors this spring. God has designed a plan for each of us so we can each grow and bloom as He has designed and planned for us.

God wants us to “Bloom where we are planted.” 2 Peter 3:18 tells us to “*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*” If we keep growing in our wisdom of the scriptures each day, we can trust that God will show us how to serve Him. God will help us to use our talents when others ask us to serve. When we are asked to serve, we contribute to showing the love of Jesus to those we serve. Colossians 1:6 states that: “*All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth.*” We can all serve in some small way each day. Phone a shut-in, if you are a shut-in, pray for others who share your circumstances. We can all serve others each day, even if it is just sharing a smile. Our Christian Growth Committee had a meeting on May 7th, and we continue to serve you all by writing and recording the monthly devotions as well as including a prayer calendar for each month. We hope that you are sharing those

devotions and calendars with others in your church or in your neighborhoods. We contribute to the blogs that can be found on the web page at: [www.lutheranwomen.ca](http://www.lutheranwomen.ca), so check them out every week.

In case you are interested the next webinar online will be on June 6. For more information, or how to sign up to hear about the LWMLC ladies who went to the Philippines and what they have to share please email [webinar@lutheranwomen.ca](mailto:webinar@lutheranwomen.ca)

We are already planning for the 2027 Convention July 15-18 at the Royal Hotel in Regina, Sask. The theme is: “Go and Tell” Mark 16:15. The Christian Growth Committee is planning a skit, and we are working on writing the room devotions. We are also planning the Prayer Service for 2027 based on the Hymn: “Take My Life and Let It Be.” (LSB 783-784.)

Finally, I ask you to please keep praying for all of the LWMLC executive and committee members as well as the convention planning committee. We all need your prayers. Continue to Grow in God’s Word, Share God’s Son, and Serve God’s people, where and however you can.

In His Service,  
Pauline Huth  
Christian Growth Committee Member for the  
ABC District



**Love. Grow. Serve.**

## Communication Committee Member — Becky Wandio



A **MISSION IN ACTION webinar** featuring Marilyn Witte, Sherley Hearty, Jill Munoz, and Linda Long who travelled to the Philippine Lutheran Women's League (PLWL) convention is planned for **June 6, 2026**.

To register for this free event, send your request to [webinar@lutheranwomen.ca](mailto:webinar@lutheranwomen.ca)

### REMINDER - MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS REQUIRED BY OCTOBER 31, 2026

It is not too early to start thinking about mission grants for our next triennium! Proposals for our next triennium are due then and it takes time to put one together. Does your project focus on people, programs, Christian materials, bricks and mortar? Does the mission extend the ministry of the Word and God's kingdom and communicate the Word of the Gospel to those who have not heard the Good News of Jesus Christ? Think about a project in as much detail as possible. This will help in the review to determine if they follow the guidelines and are eligible to go on the ballot.

[Download the forms and guidelines.](#)

**2027 LWML—Canada CONVENTION  
July 15-18, 2027 Regina, Saskatchewan  
“Go and Tell” (Mark 16:15)**

**For more information check out the website**  
<https://lutheranwomen.ca/national-convention/>

The theme for the September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026  
issue of the Flashlight is

**“Celebrating the Harvest with Joy”**

Please remember to submit  
Zone and Society news!

Email submissions by **August 15, 2026**.

Please send to

[flashlight.abc.lwmlc@gmail.com](mailto:flashlight.abc.lwmlc@gmail.com)

## Finance Committee Member — Rachel Abrahamson

### Lutheran Women's Missionary League-Canada Revenue Report to March 31, 2026

Revenue	Current Mar. 1 - 31,2026	Trienium April 1, 2024 - Mar.31, 2027	Proposed Budget April 1, 2024 - Mar.31, 2027
<b>Growing in Faith</b>			
Sale of LWMLC Resources	\$ 1,134.27	\$ 10,332.59	\$ 18,900.00
Sale of 2024 Convention Video	\$ -	\$ 50.00	
<b>Putting Faith into Action</b>			
** Mites	\$ 7,300.72	\$ 231,962.61	\$ 270,000.00
Gifts for Growth - Honoraium/Memorial	\$ 225.00	\$ 14,243.75	\$ 10,000.00
★ Flexi GIC - Reinvestment	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
★ Flexi GIC - Interest Reinvested	\$ -	\$ 948.20	\$ -
★ GfG & Gertrude Pollex - Interest Reinvested	\$ -	\$ 14,247.71	\$ 7,425.00
★ Gifts for Growth & Gertrude Pollex - Bursaries	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	
<b>Encouraging One Another in Faith</b>			
Advertising Income - Tapestry	\$ 418.00	\$ 8,285.55	\$ 16,000.00
Subscription Income - Tapestry	\$ 12,360.00	\$ 31,736.12	\$ 70,000.00
<b>Working Together in Faith</b>			
Convention 2024 Registration	\$ -	\$ 48,890.00	\$ 104,000.00
Convention 2024 Sponsorship	\$ -	\$ 2,150.00	
** Convention 2024 Offerings	\$ -	\$ 13,045.01	\$ 22,000.00
Convention 2021 Revenue - deferred	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,666.00
GST Rebate (50%)	\$ -	\$ 5,713.41	\$ 3,300.00
Investment Support			\$ 46,150.00
<b>TOTAL (including deferred)</b>	<b>\$ 21,437.99</b>	<b>\$ 391,409.04</b>	<b>\$ 581,441.00</b>
Bank Statement	\$ 21,362.33		
Add Cr. Card fees and charges deducted from payment of \$100.00	\$ 75.66		
Book Balance	<u>\$ 21,437.99</u>		
<b>Prepared by Penny Bobier, Financial Secretary</b>			
* 2024 Convention Registration - Deferred	\$ 6,900.00		
* 2024 Convention Offerings - Deferred	\$ 40.00		
* 2024 Convention Mite Offerings - Deferred	\$ 20.00		
<b>Total Deferred</b>	<b>\$ 6,960.00</b>		
<b>** Year to date Mites (Convention #1 and Mites to date)</b>			
	\$ 231,962.61		
Convection Offering # 1 and Mission Movement	\$ 13,835.93		
Mite offerings to date	\$ 218,126.68		
<b>2024 Convention Report</b>			
	Current	Trienium (YTD&Deferred)	
2024 Convention Registration	\$ -	\$ 48,890.00	
2024 Convention Sponsorship	\$ -	\$ 2,150.00	
2024 Convention Offerings 2, 3 and ingatherings	\$ -	\$ 13,045.01	
Offering #1 Mites (including Mission Movement pledges of \$7,349.85)	\$ -	\$ 13,835.93	
<b>Total Convention</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 77,920.94</b>	

★ Not included in Deposits

## Finance Committee Member — Rachel Abrahamson

### Lutheran Women's Missionary League—Canada Inc. Working Expense Budget 2024 - 2027

	<u>Current Expenses</u>		<u>YTD Expenses</u>		<u>Current Budget</u>	
	Mar. 1, 2026 -		Apr 1, 2024		April 1 2024	
	Mar.31, 2026	Mar. 31, 2026	Mar. 31, 2026	Mar. 31, 2026	Mar 31 2027	Mar 31 2027
<b><u>Growing in Faith</u></b>						
Christian Growth Committee	\$ -	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 42.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Resource Centre Stock	\$ -	\$ 6,822.19	\$ 6,822.19	\$ 6,822.19	\$ 10,500.00	\$ 10,500.00
Resource Centre Administration	\$ 19.44	\$ 878.10	\$ 878.10	\$ 878.10	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 4,000.00
Subtotals	\$ 19.44	\$ 7,742.29	\$ 7,742.29	\$ 7,742.29	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 17,000.00
<b><u>Putting Faith Into Action</u></b>						
Christian Mission Committee	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Gifts for Growth Fund	\$ -	\$ 13,868.75	\$ 13,868.75	\$ 13,868.75	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Flexi GIC	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 6,991.00	\$ 6,991.00
Mission Grants	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 162,381.11	\$ 162,381.11	\$ 162,381.11	\$ 251,200.00	\$ 251,200.00
Bursary & Sem. Student Support	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Convention Offerings Payout	\$ -	\$ 13,045.01	\$ 13,045.01	\$ 13,045.01	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Subtotals	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 214,294.87	\$ 214,294.87	\$ 214,294.87	\$ 295,691.00	\$ 295,691.00
<b><u>Encouraging One Another in Faith</u></b>						
Communication Committee	\$ -	\$ 115.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 115.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Tech Support & Education	\$ 241.98	\$ 9,589.47	\$ 9,589.47	\$ 9,589.47	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Member Development Committee	\$ -	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Tapestry	\$ 1,577.68	\$ 30,991.22	\$ 30,991.22	\$ 30,991.22	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 64,000.00
Subtotals	\$ 1,819.66	\$ 40,697.69	\$ 40,697.69	\$ 40,697.69	\$ 89,000.00	\$ 89,000.00
<b><u>Working Together in Faith</u></b>						
Advertising	\$ -	\$ 2,716.00	\$ 2,716.00	\$ 2,716.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Bank Charges/Visa/MC	\$ 74.36	\$ 1,696.55	\$ 1,696.55	\$ 1,696.55	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Convention Expenses - 2024	\$ -	\$ 85,454.75	\$ 85,454.75	\$ 85,454.75	\$ 94,150.00	\$ 94,150.00
Convention Expenses - 2027	\$ -	\$ 634.55	\$ 634.55	\$ 634.55	\$ -	\$ -
Board Directors Expenses	\$ 721.20	\$ 9,441.96	\$ 9,441.96	\$ 9,441.96	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Board Directors Meetings	\$ -	\$ 4,713.01	\$ 4,713.01	\$ 4,713.01	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
Inter Committee Meeting	\$ -	\$ 14,574.33	\$ 14,574.33	\$ 14,574.33	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00
GST	\$ 111.83	\$ 4,656.54	\$ 4,656.54	\$ 4,656.54	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 3,500.00
Liability Insurance	\$ -	\$ 4,515.00	\$ 4,515.00	\$ 4,515.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 28.10	\$ 1,956.80	\$ 1,956.80	\$ 1,956.80	\$ -	\$ -
Professional Fees	\$ -	\$ 9,182.45	\$ 9,182.45	\$ 9,182.45	\$ 8,300.00	\$ 8,300.00
Resource Centre Rent	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
District Support from LWMLC	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 2,193.80	\$ 2,193.80	\$ 2,193.80	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Subtotals	\$ 1,935.49	\$ 143,735.74	\$ 143,735.74	\$ 143,735.74	\$ 184,450.00	\$ 184,450.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$ 8,774.59</b>	<b>\$ 406,470.59</b>	<b>\$ 406,470.59</b>	<b>\$ 406,470.59</b>	<b>\$ 586,141.00</b>	<b>\$ 586,141.00</b>

Prepared April 6, 2026

Linda Horton - LWML—Canada Inc., Treasurer

## Finance Committee Member — Rachel Abrahamson

**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE - CANADA**  
**FINANCIAL POSITION**  
**March 31, 2026**

CIBC Bank Balance at March 31, 2026	\$ 43,824.09	General Funds	\$43,449.09
Gifts For Growth Fund & Pollex Bursary	\$ 120,856.23	Designated Funds	\$375.00
CIBC Flexi GIC	\$ 32,911.03	Gifts F.Growth Fund & Pollex B.	\$120,856.23
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$197,591.35</b>	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$197,591.35</b>

**Change In Cash Position**

Previous GL Balance at Feb. 28, 2026	\$ 31,236.35
Deposits Mar. 1, 2026 to Mar. 31, 2026	\$ 21,362.33
Expenses Mar. 1, 2026 to Mar. 31, 2026	\$ (8,774.59)
<b>G/L Balance at Mar. 31, 2026</b>	<b>\$ 43,824.09</b>

**Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce**

Flexi GIC 12 mo.@ 2.25% (Net balance @ May 20, 2025)	\$ 32,911.03
Interest Earned May 20, 2025 to May 20, 2026	\$ -
Deposits	\$ -
Less: Withdrawals	\$ -
<b>CIBC Flexi GIC as at May 30, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 32,911.03</b>

**Gifts For Growth Fund & Pollex Bursary:**

Net balance as at April 1, 2024	\$ 97,739.77
(Gifts For Growth \$61,911.36 and Pollex B. \$35,828.41)	
Deposits-Gifts For Growth Fund from CIBC-Apr.1/24-Mar.31/27	\$ 13,868.75
Investment Returns: April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2027	\$ 17,803.98
Unrealized Gains & (Losses): April 1,2024 -March 31,2027	\$ (1,725.23)
LFC Administration Fee (0.60% of fund per year)Mar.31/27	\$ (1,110.90)
Investment Management Fee:April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2027	\$ (720.14)
Withdrawals-Bursary & Sem Students (Apr.1/24-Mar.31/27)	\$ (5,000.00)
<b>Gifts For Growth &amp; Pollex B. Balance October 31, 2025</b>	<b>\$ 120,856.23</b>
(Gifts For Growth \$84,235.16 and Pollex B. \$36,621.07)	

**Less:**

**Designated Funds:**

Convention Offerings	\$ -
Gifts For Growth	\$ 375.00
<b>TOTAL Designated Funds:</b>	<b>\$ 375.00</b>

**TOTAL General Funds:** **\$ 43,449.09**

Prepared by:

Linda Horton - LWML–Canada Inc., Treasurer  
 April.15, 2026

# 2026 LWMLC Vicars Dinner



## LWMLC VICARS' DINNER-Friday, April 17, 2026



Giving thanks to God for Vicar Nicolas Goerz and Vicar Terry Pattison and their willingness to serve God's people. Our LWMLC ABC District is truly blessed by the wonderful team at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Stony Plain, AB, within the LWMLC Evergreen Zone. Their warm hospitality in hosting our annual gathering and providing an incredible meal was a highlight of the evening. We are grateful for this meaningful opportunity to come together, offering encouragement and support to our vicars as they prepare for the next season of ministry. Our appreciation extends to Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, for forming 'Servants for Jesus' Sake' and for Lutheran Church Canada and for all who came out to support our event.



LWMLC held a similar Vicars' Dinner for the Vicars from Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines, ON.



## News from the Zones and Societies

### CARIBOO ZONE

#### Spring Rally

The ladies of Zion Prince George LWMLC were excited to host 13 members and 6 guests for the Cariboo Zone Spring Rally on April 25th, 2026. Among the guests were two teens who at the end of the Rally one wanted to know when they could join the League! This sparked a conversation on starting a Young Women's LWMLC Society in Prince George.

The Rally theme was Encourage Each Other. We sang, we ate, we listened to how our guest speakers encouraged other Sisters in Christ. We participated in Mission projects of tying quilts and making earrings. Everyone enjoyed the day of fellowship and activities.



*LWMLC  
Cariboo  
Zone Rally  
April 25,  
2026  
13 Members and  
6 Guests  
Participated*

*Friday Night  
Dinner*



*Afternoon Projects  
~ making earrings and tying quilts*



The weekend started with a supper on Friday night with members from 100 Mile House, Prince George, the guest speakers and one local guest where we encouraged each other with fellowship and getting to know each other better. The Rally started at 9 am on Saturday and ended at 3 pm with a communion service.

We brought stamps which were taken by one of the guest speakers to their home congregation; emergency candle making and school supplies which were taken to Williams Lake to pass on to other organizations in their community.

We sang and we voted on our Zone Delegate and Alternate to the LWMLC Convention in 2027. An enjoyable day of encouraging each other!

## News from the Zones and Societies

### CONCORDIA AND EVERGREEN ZONES



**Concordia and Evergreen Zones Joint Retreat**



On March 13-15, 2026, 21 women gathered together at the Star of the North Retreat Centre for the annual Concordia and Evergreen Zones joint retreat. This year's retreat was based on the 2020 LWMLC Seminar, "One" – Ephesians 4:4-6. We began on Friday evening with a welcome, opening devotion, singing and some mixers which included building puzzles and the Vibrant Conversation Card deck from LLL.

Saturday included three sessions, an in-depth Bible Study led by Pastor Jan Pastucha, Concordia Zone Pastoral Counsellor, and personal prayer walk, assembling 21 hygiene kits plus extra supplies for the Edmonton Youth Empowerment and Support Services (YESS), and an evening worship service led by Pastor Jan. We concluded the retreat with a Sunday Worship Service led by Pastor Garry Dombrosky. The weekend was filled with lots of fellowship, singing, conversations, laughter, and very tasty food as we spent time being One in Christ.



**Ingathering for YESS**

## News from the Zones and Societies

### CONCORDIA ZONE

#### Spring Renewal



Spring flowers and nesting birds greeted the 12 ladies and four guests who were warmly welcomed by the gracious hosts of Bethel Lutheran Church on a blustery April 25th, 2026 for the Concordia Zone Spring Renewal.



Both Rev. Dr. Jonathan Strand, an instructor at Concordia University College, and Michael Sandstrom, missionary through CIAM broadcast radio, spoke on the theme: "Faith Comes From Hearing".



Bethel society was presented with their 25th anniversary certificate and Grace society was given their 75th. Jeanette Stern stepped down from the position of Vice President after serving in that position as well as President for many years. Current president, Martha Feculak, led us in praise and thanksgiving with the singing of several favorite hymns, closing our time together with "Encourage Each Other".

### EVERGREEN ZONE

#### Spring Rally at Mellowdale Church

On Saturday, May 2, 2026, the LWMLC Ladies of Christ Lutheran Church in Mellowdale held the Spring Rally for the Evergreen Zone and celebrated their 70th anniversary.

24 ladies and one vicar, Ben Rast, with his family attended.



The guest speaker was Sherley Hearty, who spoke about her travels in the ABC District, the States and the Philippines. It was really interesting learning about the differences between the LWMLC here and the ladies' groups in the Philippines.



There was an ingathering for Amber's Hope Maternity Home, which is a local charity aimed at pregnant women in crisis.

The theme was "Growing in God's Grace" from 2 Peter 3:18. For the luncheon, two gentlemen of the congregation were invited because their late wives, Linda McKellar and Laurel Kalmbach, were very much involved in LWMLC.

The day closed with prayer by Vicar Ben Rast and he included all the blessings that were written by the ladies, which made the prayer special.



## News from the Zones and Societies

### FOOTHILLS SOCIETY, CALGARY, AB

#### Spring Tea at Foothills Manor



On the afternoon of May 8th, Foothills Society held our annual spring tea at Foothills Manor. We enjoyed singing, visiting, and refreshments as we welcomed spring with the manor residents. Pastor Bode led us in song and shared stories behind the lyrics of some familiar hymns such as "How Great Thou Art" and "Just as I am Without One Plea". We also sang some popular seasonal songs like "You are my Sunshine" and "Take me out to the Ball Game". Deaconess Miriam Winstanley accompanied us on the piano.

Everyone went home with a little gift box, crafted by Christine Heumann. Each box was topped with an encouraging message and had a surprise treat tucked inside.

Pictured here are Pastor Bode and his wife Brenda, Deaconess Miriam Winstanley, Christine Heumann and some of the many other ladies in attendance.



**Grounded in Faith**



*Growing to Serve*

## News from the Zones and Societies

### FRASER VALLEY ZONE

#### Spring Renewal

Trinity Lutheran Church, Abbotsford, B.C. was the location of the 2026 Spring Renewal. There were 52 attending, including members, guests and three Pastors. The theme for the day was "Growing Together by Grace".

Bible passage: 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 *"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow, So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building"*.

The day began with coffee and refreshments, followed by a short business meeting. A Bible study, lead by Reverend Telkemariam, based on the Bible passage followed. Emphasizing how we are all missionaries, planting seeds, watering the planted seeds by praying. Only God will grow the seed.

Those present were divided into four groups to

discuss where we are sharing are faith; where someone depends on us; who has God placed in our lives; planting and watering the seeds; and what is one small step we can take in the days ahead.

Following the lunch break, a Worship service also based on the Bible passage was lead by Reverend Telkemariam. He shared we should be mission minded, be of same mind, same love, working together.

All were then invited to attend the fall rally at Faith Lutheran Church in Surrey.

The Cyrus Centre in Abbotsford was the recipient of an ingathering. Maple Melder-Crozier, member of the board of Cyrus Centre, was in attendance and spoke of the service the centre provides. It is a 24-hour shelter, support and services to youth aged 12-24 who are without a safe and stable place to live. The Cyrus Centre also includes a wide variety of supports including shelter, meals, advocacy, shower, laundry services and much more.



## News from the Zones and Societies

### OKANAGAN ZONE

#### Spring Event

On Saturday May 2nd the ladies of Concordia Penticton hosted the Zone Spring Event "I Can't! but...with God I CAN!" to help us learn how to share God's gift of compassion with those around us who are hurting. This is based on the Bible Verse *"So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind"*.

Philippians 2:1-2

The ladies were invited to start the morning with coffee, refreshments and fellowship. Pastor Michael Schutz led the Opening Devotion based on Philippians 2. An Ice Breaker followed where the ladies had to determine whether statements were true or false based on appropriate Bible Verses.



The morning Bible Study was divided into three sessions. In the first part we studied why there is suffering and how our own suffering is a result of the consequences of sin. The second session gives us the assurance that we know we are forgiven sinners. God's forgiveness gives us confidence to relate to our friends and families and co-workers that may have "heavy hearts" over many matters, whether big or small. Finally, through God's Word

and Sacraments we can receive comfort and we can offer comfort to others and relate compassionately to those who are suffering. When we can't even find the right or best words to say, we can take heart from Luke 12:12 where the Bible reminds us that "the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say."



After having lunch the ladies viewed Zone Archive Material on Display. What do we save?

To start the afternoon session, Zone Chairperson, Val Royer, gave a short Zone News report and a group photo was taken. We then watched the Mission Video from Lutheran Hospital Ministries, South Alberta which featured Rev. Mark Rekken who serves as their Director of Pastoral Care. Lutheran Hospital Ministries (LHMSAS) provides visits and worship services in care facilities in Calgary, and surrounding communities. Their initiative is called, "A Wide Door for Effective Work".

"Gifts of Love" an Ingathering Litany, was used to collect a donation of \$240.00 for LWMLC Mites.

The afternoon finished with the Closing Devotion – God My Help, Comfort, Refuge.

Coffee and Refreshments were provided for the ladies before travelling home.

It was an enjoyable day and wonderful to spend time with our LWMLC sisters in Christ.

# News from the Zones and Societies

## PARKLAND ZONE

### Spring Retreat



On a windy, snowy day at the end of April, 41 ladies came together for the LWMLC Parkland Zone Spring Retreat at the 4-H Centre in Westeros, AB. Lynn Hemming, our Facilitator for the weekend, put it best, “The devil tried his very best to keep us from attending, but thanks to prayer, we miraculously had nearly 100% attendance.”

The theme of the weekend was Daughter of the Divine, presented and created by Lynn Hemming.

The focus was on three different types of daughters: the Tired Daughter, Discouraged Daughter and the Triumphant Daughter.

Take Home Points:

1. God needed Rest! (Genesis 2:2-3) And we need rest for our bodies and souls. It is in Jesus we find rest for our souls.
2. God commands us to be encouragers to others. Even when life sucks, God does not abandon us. God assures us we will overcome.
3. God lavishes us with love, we experience Jesus’ presence in our lives, and we are Daughters of the Divine.



We had two wonderful song leaders, Sharlinda Teske and Virginia Chicone, who led us in songs over the weekend.

As always, there was fierce competition over the silent auction items. This year, we raised over \$1100, which will help keep registration costs down for future Spring Retreats and a portion is set aside to pay for delegates for Conventions.

One of the great joys of the Spring Retreat is that no one had to cook. The 4-H Centre provided great meals all weekend. If one got hungry between meals, one just headed over to the snack table, where there was an abundance of choices.

An offering was taken for Mites.

A short business meeting was held, where Crystal Saville was elected as President, Carol Maskowitz as Treasurer and Melissa Henke-Lambert as Vice-President/Secretary.

Big thank you to the Retreat Committee, Host Society and everyone who helped make this event a wonderful weekend.

Next year’s Spring Retreat will be held April 30<sup>th</sup> – May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2027



## News from the Zones and Societies

### SAVIOUR SOCIETY, DELTA, BC

#### 50 Promises of God

*“For all the promises of God find their Yes in Him. That is why it is through Him that we utter our Amen to God for His glory.” 2 Corinthians 1:20*

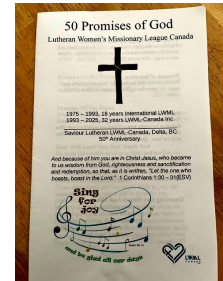
November 16, 2025 Saviour LWMLC, Delta, B.C. celebrated LWMLC Sunday and also the 50th anniversary of our society. Rev. Leonardo Neitzel had every member of our society involved in the service. From the bold to the shy, each member willingly stood in front of the congregation and did their part.

It was a wonderful witness to God’s presence!



After the service, our society hosted a coffee and presented to all women of Saviour a copy of the 50 Promises of God which was an extension of the 30 Promises of God done by LWML—Canada in 2023.

We thank Linda New and Pat Fenske for taking on that project.



God has been faithful to Saviour LWMLC with supportive pastors, a helpful congregation and dedicated members. To God be the glory! Great things He has done!



## News from the Zones and Societies

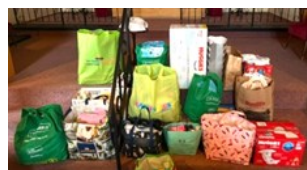
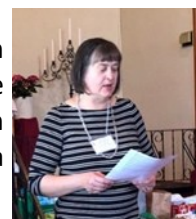
### VANCOUVER ISLAND ZONE

#### Spring Rally

On Saturday April 11, the Island Zone Spring Rally, was hosted by the Courtenay ladies, under the theme Be Encouraged for God is with Us, based on Proverbs 3:5 *“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding”*

God blessed this event with safe travel and 27 LWMLC attendees plus three Pastors.

Our day began with a warm welcome from host society newly elected President Karen Kubke followed by a Divine Service led by host Pastor Kubke as officiant with Zone Counsellor Pastor Chandler as proclaimer. Providing a great opportunity to grow in faith and commune with our league sisters in Christ which usually only happens at a convention.



A litany for the blessings on completed mission projects and our ingathering gifts was led by host society President Karen. These gifts of love to be delivered later to the Nesting Place- a local society offering practical support for families in need, pregnancy options as well as grief support for the whole family.

We gathered for a picture taken on the front steps of the church and after a delicious lunch reassembled for singing and presenting our ingathering in support of the Nesting Place.



Guest speaker Adrianna Blitterswyk a recipient of one of our 2024-2027 mission grants shared her faith journey through a power point presentation. This helped us learn more about how God led her to accept the position of Youth Director for Trinity, Richmond and Killarney Park congregations as well as provided insights into the challenges of her ministry.

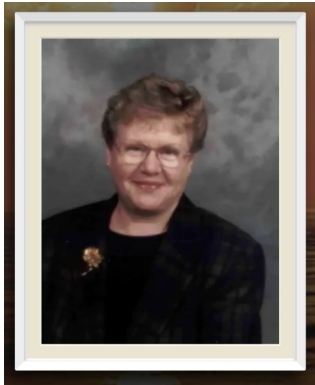
A humorous skit performed by the ladies of Port Alberni encouraged us to love each other as well as our neighbor. This was followed by a brief business meeting chaired by the Zone President and a closing devotion by Nanaimo society concluding our day.

It was a wonderful day for growing in our faith, serving the Lord, and making and renewing friendships. A day full of fun, fellowship and friends.



Blessings to all and all praise to God

## Called to Glory



### Sharon Bernhardt (nee Gabert)

November 11, 1945 - March 17, 2026

Sharon was born in Edmonton and lived on the farm near Bruderheim. She attended school at Deep Creek, Fort Saskatchewan and Concordia University. Her married life she lived in Sherwood Park and participated in LWMLC Concordia Zone. Sharon served her Lord and Savior with a servant heart and held various roles in LWMLC Concordia Zone.

In the picture, at the Joint Concordia-Evergreen Zone Spring Retreat, March 16-18, 2018, you will notice Sharon sitting next to her sister Elsie Rodeman.

We were blessed to have Sharon participate regularly for as long as her health allowed. Our Gracious Lord chose to call Sharon home on Tuesday, March 17, 2026. Memorial service was held at Bethel Lutheran Church in Sherwood Park on March 27, 2026.

More details can be found on serenity.ca <https://share.google/lKdDC84lGtVjrPx2Z>

We give thanks to God for the life of Sharon Bernhardt. We pray that her sister Elsie, brother Don, and her husband Hermann and their children and grandchildren are comforted in the peace and assurance that only Jesus can provide. We look forward to our final reunion.

