



April 2021 Edition

Pastor's Message

Why Are You Cast Down?

Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God... My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you... (Psalm 42:5 ESV)

Psalms are among the many prayers of the church. Their varied sentiments contain familiar thoughts spanning dark moments to halcyon days.

Who are the psalmists? The Lord inspired sinners to write; ancient sinners acquainted with grief and sorrow and temptation. In so many words the psalmist will admit, "I'm sad, happy, miffed, despondent, lonely, betrayed. Can it get any worse or any better?" At times the psalmist can seem quite brazen. Why hold back? The Lord doesn't start tuning in when we bow our heads and fold our hands, or put pen to paper. Our secret thoughts we manage to filter out are no secret to Him.

Note how psalms are scarcely limited to feelings and self-examination. These faceless teachers (sons of Korah in this case) hear the living God speak. In turn they reiterate, yes preach, the Lord's faithfulness to the writer and to the reader (Ps 31 & 57) in good times and bad, in abundance and poverty, in sickness and health.



"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me?" It's because I have set my hope on vain things. My soul is screaming into a pillow because I am living on bread alone and drinking my own tears (Is 55).

Psalm 42 gives voice to a soul suffering silently from neglect that's arguably self-inflicted. So the psalmist's responds, "My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you [O Lord]." Ah! Return to the Lord your God (Ps 86) for absolution and benediction. His Word is your repose and refreshment (Ps 119 MEM; cf Job 23).

The psalmist returns to the Lord time and again. It doesn't mean he's insincere; neither does it mean God is a chump. God has said of Himself, "I, I am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins (Is 43:25 ESV).

He doesn't beckon us back to Him so He can strike us down. He prefers to strike down His own and only Son in our stead (Is 53:10). Unto us, a Substitute is given. He calls us back to Him because His faithfulness does not depend on ours (2Tim2:13 ESV).

Reading the psalms may not make hardship go away. Yet reading your Bible is a *returning to the Lord* isn't it. His Word assures you He hasn't left you to your own devices. The bread of life feeds the soul. It's the only food I can eat that doesn't impact my waistline.

Returning to the Lord is a return to the promise He made to you at the font. Being united with Him in a death like His unites you with Him in a resurrection like His (Rom 6). Your Redeemer lives! He lives indeed.

So why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love (Joel 2:13 ESV).

Just as water is to a seed, so too, feeding (reading/hearing/meditating) on God's Word causes us to grow in God's Word, the end that by God's grace we may come to everlasting life.

The Peace of the Lord be with you always

Rev Daniel W Barr, pastor

Faith Lutheran Atikokan



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President's Message

I can hardly believe it's April already! I don't know about you, but 2021 has been going by pretty quickly so far. A year of Covid 'normal' has come and gone. How have you been filling your Covid restricted time over the last year? Maybe this has been a very difficult time for you? Maybe you haven't found it as difficult as you might have thought? I imagine there has been a variety of difficulties for everyone, depending on your work, family, or health situation. Perhaps you've discovered new ways to fill the time we used to spend together in social gatherings and group events. It's been over a year now since that 'old normal' has changed. Have you settled into your 'new normal' or are you getting impatient with being restricted in what you can do and who you can see?

I'm hoping that the Bible Studies and Webinars that have been offered online have been somewhat helpful in your spiritual walk during this time. Many of you have been listening to Worship Services online. Some of you have been able to attend in-person Worship Services. Whatever your particular situation, I pray you have been able to stay spiritually fed.

With the 'normalcy' that the virtual Webinars and Worship Services have given to our lives, I encourage you to think about attending the upcoming virtual LWML–Canada Convention set for July 8-10, 2021. Information continues to be updated on the website and thru LWMLC Update email notices. The registration fee has been set at a fairly minimal cost of \$80/person in order to hopefully be affordable for more people to take advantage of the opportunity to attend, where normally they may not have been able to travel to BC, where the Convention was to be held, for an in-person event.

Some highlights include:

Keynote Speaker – Sandra Schaeffer, pastor's wife, teacher, mother and homeschooler

Guest Preacher at Opening Service – Rev. Timothy Teuscher, President of Lutheran Church–Canada

Intersession Speakers

- Rev. Jan Pastucha, grief counselling
- Dr. Jennifer Frim, diaconal training
- Rev. Steven Harold and Samantha Neeb, a youth worker for Trinity, Richmond, and Killarney, Vancouver

Check out the website for all the details at <https://lutheranwomen.ca/events/conventions>. Or if you haven't already signed up to receive the LWMLC Update email notices, you should consider doing so.

2022 marks the year of our next Central District Convention. God-willing we will be able to meet in-person next May! Plans are underway.

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I'm pleased to announce that we have our logo for our next convention.

Thanks to Kelly Klages from Morden, MB for designing the logo for us. We thank God for giving her such artistic talent and her willingness to share that talent with the LWMLC!

May God keep you all in His Loving Arms! Until we can all meet again in-person, I'm sending virtual hugs to you



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Christian Mission

Central District LWMLC Mission Grants – 2019-2022

As of February 6, 2021

NAME OF GRANT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	AMOUNT LEFT TO PAY
CAMP LUTHERLAND, Mattresses/fans	\$10,500	PAID!!	\$0
AURORA LUTHERAN BI-BLE CAMP, Water treatment system	\$8,000	PAID!!	\$0
PURCHASE OF DEVOTIONAL MATERIALS, Grace, Regina	\$2,000	\$1051.07	\$948.93
PURCHASE OF BIBLES, Mt. Olive, Regina	\$1,000	PAID!!	\$0
DISTANCE EDUCATION INFO TECH UPGRADES, CLS, Edmonton	\$15,000	\$5,454.85	\$9,545.15
MISSION OPPORTUNITY FUND	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR DEACONESSSES, Cambodia	\$5,000	PAID!!	\$0
DEACONESS SUPPORT, Cambodia	\$3,600	PAID!!	\$0

PAID TO DATE: \$34,505.92

TOTAL LEFT TO PAY: \$15,494.08 / \$50,000

Christian Mission, continued

Thanks to all participants/organizers and Dr. Gimbel for the Seminary/Central District Mission Grant Webinar on March 13. It was so informative! Dr Gimbel said he is patient and does not need the \$9500 grant money immediately as they are still working out what they need for remote/virtual teaching. Thank you for the support for the "Great Technology Mite Challenge".

I have had 2 requests for the Mission Opportunity Fund (\$5000) so the board will be reviewing the criteria for these proposals when they arrive next week. Also, the request from Grace, Regina is being prepared to be fulfilled for the children's devotionals. I will let you know when that is paid completely.

God bless you all in your sharing of His Gifts to you in helping us reach others through the mission grant projects. If you have monetary ideas or mission opportunities to share, please let my committee (Bonnie Kasper – Manitoba; Judy Burgstaler – NW Ontario; Lavinia Henderson – Saskatchewan) and myself know! We would love to hear from you!

In His Service,

Diane Dennis, VP Christian Mission Central District LWMLC

"We...will give attention to prayer and the ministry of the Word." (Acts 6:3b-4)

If you were unable to attend or would like to relive the Webinar **Mites in Action- Ministry of Concordia Lutheran Seminary: Presented by Dr. James Gimbel, President of CLS Edmonton** it is available through the Download on Demand Resource Catalogue (page 3) found on the lutheranwomen.ca website. Follow the order instructions on page 2 and while you have the catalogue open check out the other great resources available. They are all free of charge and a great way to stay connected through spiritual growth and Information.

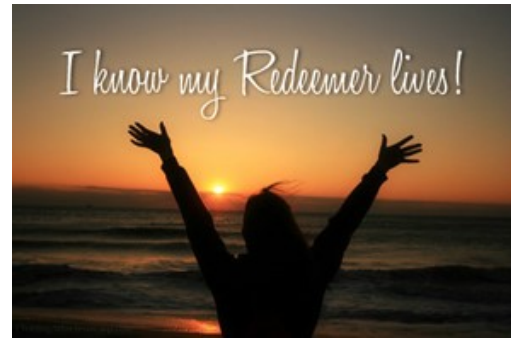
Patti Kreutzwieser, Download on Demand Co-ordinator



**CONCORDIA
LUTHERAN
SEMINARY**

Christian Growth

I Know My Redeemer Lives!



***"For I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will stand upon the earth.
And after my skin has been thus destroyed, yet in my flesh I shall see God," Job 19:25-26 ESV***

One of the greatest feelings in this world is the feeling of being loved! Many a tough day is turned around quickly by a kind, encouraging, loving word, smile, or hug from a friend. The very word 'friend' can make all the difference. Yes, being referred to as being someone's 'best friend' means that we are never alone. There is always someone who is willing to come with us on our life's journey, wherever it may lead to, to offer us a helping hand, or just a listening ear.

My definition of a true friend is someone who is not always there when we want him/her, but who is there when we need him/her. In other words, this type of friend may have other places to go, or other things to do; however, when times are tough, our true friend will drop everything to be there when we need him/her.

When it comes to Jesus being a true friend, we know He always goes truly beyond and above. Jesus is everywhere. Jesus has promised to be with us always even to the end. Jesus truly lives and loves us to the end!

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry.
Everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer! (LSB 770)

We refer to Jesus as the Christ, 'the Anointed One' or 'The Messiah!' As Christ, Jesus served and continues to serve as Prophet, Priest and King.

As a Prophet, Jesus spoke the truth and enlightened those who heard Him preach and teach. The Gospel speaks of Jesus' teachings as being marvelous because He taught as One who had authority.

"Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him." Psalm 98:1 ESV Jesus also fulfilled the words of the prophets of God.

Jesus as a Priest offers up prayers on behalf of those who call upon Him. As a Priest, Jesus not only offered up compassionate words for our sake; but He offered up Himself as the sinless sacrifice for the sin of the world, so that everyone who believes in Him will be saved! "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Finally, Jesus lives as a King as He has promised to share His glory, His kingdom with us! Jesus ascended into heaven, into His kingdom, but assures us that He lives on and will one day return and take us home to be with Him forever. Let us rejoice and be glad! "And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Acts 1:9-12

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my everliving head..

He lives triumphant from the grave,
He lives eternally to save,
He lives all-glorious in the sky,
He lives exalted there on high.

He live to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.



He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives;
I know that my Redeemer lives!
(LSB 461)

This beloved Easter hymn "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" is a celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Its lyrics rejoice in the life of Jesus and the salvation He gives to all mankind. This hymn describes Jesus' life after He rose from the dead saying, "He lives triumphant from the grave, He lives eternally to save, He lives all-glorious in the sky, He lives exalted there on high."

**"He is not here, for He has risen, as He said.
Come, see the place where He lay."** Matthew 28:6.

Let us Pray: Heavenly Father, through the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, You destroyed death and brought eternal life to light. Grant that we who have been raised with Him may abide in His presence and rejoice in the hope of everlasting life; In Your Name we pray. Amen.

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless, O, abide with me. (LSB 878 vs.1)



Treasurer's Report

LWMLC Central District

Statement of Earnings and Expenses April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2021

April 1-2019- Mar. 31, 2021					
Work Program	Actual			Budget	
Mites	63,890.75			\$ 114,000.00	
2019 Convention Mite Offering #1	2,544.85				
Total Work Program Income	66,435.60				
Expenses					
Mission projects	34,505.92			\$ 50,000.00	
LWMLC 40% of Mites	25,018.86			\$ 45,600.00	
Bank charges	142.01			\$ 150.00	
Office Expense	262.10			\$ 200.00	
Postage	37.43			\$ 200.00	
Professional Service Fee	150.00			\$ 150.00	
Supplies and Materials/Miscellaneous	82.00			\$ 300.00	
Travel and Meetings	6,537.75			\$ 9,400.00	
LWMLC Convention				\$ 2,500.00	
LWMLC Convention Y/W Pastor				\$ 4,500.00	
Honorariums	150.00			\$ 400.00	
Go-To-Meeting				\$ 600.00	
Total Work Program Expenses	66,886.07				
Net Surplus(Deficit) Work Program		-450.47		\$ 114,000.00	
Other Income:					
Supper meeting extras 8 X 20	160.00				
Camp Lutherland	110.04				
Mattress-Water Challenge	208.25				
Camp Aurora	149.85				
LWMLSunday	261.50				
Total Income	889.64				
Net Surplus(deficit) for the period		439.17			
Total Work Program 2016-2019 Balance Forward		9,024.60			
2019-2022 Allocation		439.17			
2019-Central District Convention		1,600.36			
Work Program Funds available Mar. 31 2021		11,064.13			
Memorial Account 2016-2019 Balance Forward		492.23			
Donations 2019-2022		130.00			
2019-2022 Allocation					
Memorial Account Mar. 31, 2021		622.23			
Ledger Balance		\$11,686.36			
Bank Statement Mar. 31 2021		\$11,717.36			
Less O/S Cheques # 385		\$31.00			
Total funds available Mar. 31, 2021		\$11,686.36			

Heather Chony, Treasurer

Financial Secretary Report

LWMLC Central District Financial Secretary Income Statement April 1 2019-March 31, 2021

		Total Received	Work Program		Work Program
			to Date		2019-2022
Mites		\$63,890.75	\$76,000.00		\$114,000.00
Convention Mite off#1	\$2,544.85	\$2,544.85			
Total Mites March 31 2021		\$66,435.60			
Other Income	April 2019 -Feb.28 2021				
Camp Lutherlan	Mattresses	\$318.29			
	Water Camp Aurora	149.85			
	LWML Sunday	\$261.50			
	Memorial	\$130.00			
		\$859.64			
Total Mites and	other income		\$67,295.24		
Designated Funds 2019 Central District Convention					
Offering #2		\$2,254.00			
Offering #3		\$2,094.00			
Ingathering (cash)		\$465.00			
Mission Walk		\$7,989.85			
Total Convention 2019 Funds		\$12,802.85			
2019 Dist. Conv.					
	Reg.	\$11,100.00			
	Meals	\$7,800.00			
	Sat. Reg.	\$1,500.00			
	Sat. Meals	\$635.00			
	Ex. Meal tickets	\$200.00			
	Ex. Fee	\$375.00			
	Pictures	\$210.00			
	Book Sales	\$80.00			
Total		\$21,900.00			
Cash meals 8X20		\$160.00			
		\$22,060.00			
Total Income 2019 Central District					
	Convention		\$34,862.85		
Total Income to	March 31,2021		\$102,158.09		

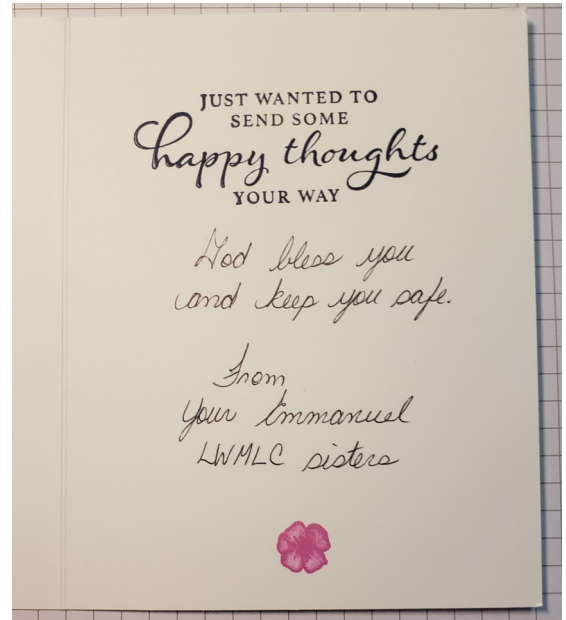
Sharon Beyak, Financial Secretary

Zone Reports

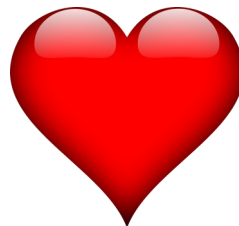
Southwest Zone

Emmanuel Society Reaches Out

The January Zone Chat Go-to-Meetings resulted in some wonderful ideas to reach out to Society members. Two of the Society committee from Emmanuel decided to send cards to their members letting them know they have not been forgotten. Homemade cards were mailed in February and were joyfully received.



Happy Mail!



LWML–Canada Convention 2021

Theme: Christ Lives in Me

Galatians 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but **Christ Lives in Me**. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

When: Thursday July 8 to Saturday July 10, 2021

Where: The home of the 2021 Convention will be online, please join us from your homes or churches anywhere in Canada.

Keynote speaker – Sandra Schaeffer, pastor's wife, teacher, mother and homeschooler.

Guest Preacher at Opening Service – Reverend Timothy Teuscher, President of Lutheran Church Canada

Intercession Speakers

- Rev. Jan Pastucha, grief counselling
- Dr. Jennifer Frim, diaconal training
- Rev. Steven Harold and Samantha Neeb, a youth worker for Trinity, Richmond, and Killarney, Vancouver

Registration for the convention is \$80

which covers the costs of the technical support/facilities required. The registration gives you access to the Thursday night church service and the convention events on Friday and Saturday. More information about registering for the convention will be out soon.

More details can be found at: <https://lutheranwomen.ca/events/conventions>



LWMLC Central District Convention 2022

Theme: Bread of Life

When: May 27 to 29, 2022

Where: Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Regina Saskatchewan

Convention Chair: Carol Rein

Co-Chair: Lavinia Henderson



John 6:35a: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life"