



Encouraging and equipping women to...
• GROW in God's Word • SERVE God's people • SHARE God's Son

August 2021 Edition

Pastor's Message

Summer Rest Is In God's Word



"Summer breeze makes me feel fine" words from a song sung in 1972 by Seals and Croft. Summertime 2021 is here. Camping along with many outdoor activities abound. Summertime is believed by many to be a "get-away from it all," to be a time of "rest and relaxation." Many go to the lake or a cabin, many do "get away from it all" so to speak.

I enjoy summertime. I enjoy warm days and clear skies. I enjoy the smell of fresh mown lawns. It is a time I try to rest and relax, although summertime

does not remove obligations.

What does "get-away from it all" mean? For many it means to get away from everything routine in life. The pandemic has changed the lives of all people. It still affects us and will into the future. The pandemic has increased stress in our lives. Not everyone is affected in the same way, still all are affected.

Many speculate the cause of the pandemic and some have strong opinions. But through the eyes of faith, we know the pandemic is a reminder of our sinful world, our sinfulness and our need for forgiveness of all our sins through a Saviour.

In Luke 13 Jesus spoke about the Jews killed by Pilate in the temple and their blood mingled with the blood of the sacrifices. When the tower of Siloam fell and killed eighteen. Jesus asked, "if those people were worse sinners than others?" He responded, "No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will likewise perish." We are all conceived and born in sin God's Word tells us. We are all going to one day die, our life in this world will end. Until then, we will have pain and suffering.

Many years ago, a farmer was plowing during the spring thaw. There were many muddy low spots in his field. Chugging into one particularly wet spot, the farmer's tractor got stuck. The more he tried, the more stuck his tractor became. Finally, he walked to his neighbour's place to ask for help. The neighbour came over, investigated the situation, shook his head, and said, "It doesn't look good, but I tell you what. I'll give pulling you out one good try, but if we don't get your tractor out, I'll come and sit in the mud with ya!" Compassion is sitting in the mud with a friend. Jesus came to sit with us in our mud, the mud of sin.

We confess in the Christian Creeds: Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, died and was buried. God's Son Jesus lived out His compassion for us. Jesus took our place under the wrath of God the Father on His cross to give us forgiveness, life, and salvation. In the waters of Holy Baptism we are washed clean, forgiven, and adopted by God the Father. God the Father places within us His Holy Spirit to guide us on the path to our heavenly home. God given faith in Christ Jesus is alive and needs to be fed often.

On Maundy Thursday Jesus instructed His disciples: "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches" John 15: 4, 5a (ESV). Disconnected branches die. Those baptized into Christ need to be connected to God's Word daily to live and grow in the faith.

continued.....2

Without being fed by the Holy Spirit through God's Word and Sacraments the faith in them dies. Rest and relaxation also come only through God's Word and Sacraments. May this summer be a time of rest and relaxation in God's Word and Sacraments for you to be fed and grow in the faith. God's peace to all.

Pastoral Counsellor Rob Grout

en-LIGHT-en

President's Message

"May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." Romans 15:5-7 ESV

Well ladies, here we go! The national convention is now over and we are going to see some changes coming in the future. Ultimately though, we are here to serve the Lord through our mission work. We are members of LWMLC because of the work that we do, not because of the business of LWMLC. Let us remember who LWMLC belongs to. The Lord unites us together to share His Love and His Word to those around us. Let us continue to serve Him in these ways.

We now look ahead to our District Convention next May. Plans are underway and we encourage you to begin to plan to join us in Regina in 2022. When your societies start meeting again in the fall, please discuss having a voting delegate and plan to choose both a delegate and an alternate. We will be voting on Mission Grants so we ask you to prayerfully consider and research the needs in and around your community, or beyond your borders, for projects that may be appropriate for our mission grant selections. Our VP Christian Mission, Diane Dennis has included information in this newsletter to help you navigate that process. Don't hesitate to reach out to Diane though if you need any help or have any questions.

Mark your calendars! Convention dates are May 27-29, 2022 at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Regina, SK. Watch for more information and details to come out in the fall.

We look forward to gathering together and reconnecting with our LWMLC Sisters!

In His Service,

Pam Burns

Central District President



Central District LWMLC Mission Grants – 2019-2022

As of July 20, 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	PAID!!	\$0
PURCHASE OF BIBLES, Mt. Olive, Regina	\$1,000	PAID!!	\$0
DISTANCE EDUCATION INFO TECH UPGRADES, CLS, Edmonton	\$15,000	PAID!!	\$0
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: \$45,000.00

TOTAL LEFT TO PAY: \$5,000.00/ \$50,000

continued.....4





CONCORDIA
LUTHERAN
SEMINARY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

June 8, 2021

Pam Burns, President of LWMLC Central District
pamburns@myaccess.ca
Diane Dennis, Treasurer
Verla Schmirler, Grant shepherd

Dear Pam, Diane, Verla ... and all of the beloved sisters of LWMLC in the Central District:

Grace and peace to you from God the Father, through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ!

On behalf of our students, our faculty/staff, and our regents, *thank you* for the many ways that you partner with us in our mission of "forming servants for Jesus' sake."

These are such odd and unique days. It was great to connect with some of the LWMLC members through the webinar in March. It was great to connect ... time flies.

Again, I thank you for your generous support for the ongoing technology needs and upgrades that we face, through your three-year mission grant. We have used those upgrades extensively, including the pre-recorded Sacred Convocation that we aired on May 28, 2021. You can still catch the recording. A number of our courses will be shared with our sister seminary in St. Catharines this upcoming year, and we will also have a few more of our courses taught completely online.

I cherish you all. You are all precious sisters in Christ, fellow servants for Jesus' sake, partners in living and proclaiming the message of Christ in mission. Thank you for this partnership.

Seminary work is busy, wrapping up last academic year and preparing for the next one to begin in August. But the campus is fairly quiet nowadays. We anticipate a good recruiting year, and expect to place seven new pastoral candidates, one pastoral colloquy candidate, and three vicars into ministry at our Sacred Convocation this May. It will be an exciting time that you have supported.

We covet your prayers, your best qualified men and women as students for ministry, and your ongoing financial support of our mission.

Thank you ... and may God richly bless you ...

Rev. James R. Gimbel, Ph.D., President, Professor of Theology

Christian Mission, continued

Thanks be to God for all His Gifts to us! Many thanks to our societies and congregations and supporters for supporting our Mission Projects this past triennium by prayer, involvement and financial contributions. We have **PAID ALL** of our **voted** projects, and just await the requests for the Mission Opportunity Fund grants that total \$5000 – \$1500 to Beautiful Saviour Lutheran School in Winnipeg; and, \$3500 to Dryden for its VBS/LAMP opportunity in 2022.

It is important NOW more than ever, that our societies and zones look to mission opportunities to help fund ministries in our district! The deadline is Nov 1/21 for mission grant proposals to be voted upon at the May/22 District convention. I have provided the Guidelines on HOW to write a proposal [see attachment] (look in past convention manuals for samples). I have invited Camps Aurora and Lutherland to submit, as well as Beautiful Saviour Lutheran School. Our district hosts many ministries and outreach events, such as clothing/Bible give-aways, food cupboards and Lutheran preschools. Please search one out or ask your pastor or Regional Rep. We need to support our Central District's missions! I am attending the national meetings on how to transfer the district's mission projects to National. In our district, we pay \$50,000 in mites toward district, national and international projects and it is important that we stress to National that they keep a minimum amount of funds to cover 53% of mites to all 4 districts' missions.

We are in the planning stages of our 2022 convention, so my committee – Judy Burgstaler (Ontario), Bonnie Kasper (Manitoba), Lavinia Henderson (Saskatchewan) – will be planning the walk and mission grant selection. I look forward to us being all together again as we celebrate the "Bread of Life" found in Jesus Christ our Lord.

For any questions or inquiries, please don't hesitate to contact me by email (dennis4@sasktel.net) or phone (306-723-4321).

In His Service,

Diane Dennis

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



Christian Growth

We Are Chosen By God

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

1 Peter 2:9 ESV

Ten months after I began working at my first accounting firm as a file clerk, the firm acquired a small Montreal firm to expand its practice. All of the acquired firm's client files needed to be integrated into our firm's filing systems. The task was enormous, so my boss appointed me to accompany her to Montreal to get the job done. We spent two weeks in those dusty file rooms entering information into our computer system, generating new labels, and organizing all of the files according to our firm's standards. But there was a great perk, the hotel where we stayed sat in the heart of the city and we had a weekend between the two work weeks to explore. Talk about fun! I was twenty-five and had never been to Montreal before. It was October, so she and I enjoyed crisp fall weather, ate at great restaurants, and spent our free weekend visiting the Place Ville Marie, taking in the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Botanical Gardens, Riviere-du-Loup and Montreal Tower. Even though the work was tedious, being appointed to go to Montreal was one of the best experiences of my working career. Why am I telling you this?

Because you and I have also been chosen by God to do His marvelous work.

He chose us as branches for His vineyard and appointed us to bear fruit that lasts. Our work in His vineyard may be tedious at times, but it is rooted toward His mission from the very start. Our effectiveness as His missionary fruit-bearer rests in Jesus, the true Vine, working in and through us.

Jesus willingly set aside the privileges of heaven for over thirty years to invest Himself in disciples who would spread His message following His death and resurrection. As soon as Jesus began calling disciples to become fishers of men, their appointed work was not tedious filing, but active practice.

During three years of earthly ministry, Jesus taught us that workers of all vocations were to be laborers in the vineyard. *"Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together."* John 4:36.

continued.....6



Jesus made it clear that the disciples would play an active part in the Great Commission beyond His time here on earth. *"Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, 'Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high. And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple blessing God.'" Luke 24:45-53.*

Over and over in the New Testament, we see Jesus appointing His disciples to go bear fruit. We see this first and foremost in the Great Commission. *"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20.*

Jesus sent the disciples into the world with the specific mission to witness what God had done.

Our effectiveness as His disciples (branches of the true Vine) rests in Jesus' working through us. And even though Jesus' hands-on discipleship training was confined to His earthly ministry, He appoints us without reservation to a worldwide ministry. When Jesus ascended to heaven He sent the Holy Spirit, just like He promised, so that we could carry out the Great Commission. Being chosen by God means that you and I are part of Team Jesus. Now, as part of His team, we have been chosen.

I was chosen to be an employee of the accounting firm. However, once an employee, I was then chosen to go to Montreal to help set up the new office. Being chosen is specifically task-based.

You and I are chosen to be branches in His vineyard, but each of us is chosen to complete varying tasks within His vineyard.

When He created us, God gifted us with certain abilities and skills. When He chooses us to do specific tasks, He provides the opportunity to grow and to develop those skills. All disciples are grown and matured to bear fruit for the glory of God, and the sweetest fruit comes from our areas of God-given giftedness. What abilities and skills has God given you? How are you using them to bear fruit for His glory?

I have served as a soprano in my church's music ministry. However, don't ever ask me to do anything mechanical or technical. That is definitely not my gift. Yet when God brings all physical and musical skills to work together, each appointed in their areas of giftedness, He creates beautiful music and a beautiful church to draw people to glorify Him. Being appointed is not something to fear, but a wonderful privilege to embrace as we go about doing His work.

"For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth." Deuteronomy 7:6

Let us pray: Dear God, we thank you for gifting us with many abilities and skills to do specific tasks. We pray that You would use us both to strengthen and to grow your gifts as we bear fruit for His glory. In Jesus Name, we pray. Amen.



Treasurer's Report

LWMLC Central District

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

Work Program	Actual		Budget
Mites	73,080.10		\$ 114,000.00
2019 Convention Mite Offering #1	2,544.85		
Total Work Program Income	75,624.95		
Expenses			
Mission projects	45,000.00		\$ 50,000.00
LWMLC 40% of Mites	29,555.98		\$ 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	160.00		\$ 2,500.00
LWMLC Convention Y/W Pastor	80.00		\$ 4,500.00
Honorariums	275.00		\$ 400.00
Go-To-Meeting			\$ 600.00
Total Work Program Expenses	82,282.27		
Net Surplus(Deficit) Work Program		-6,657.32	\$ 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		
LWMLC conv. Donation	100.00		
Total Income	989.64		
Net Surplus(deficit) for the period		-5,667.68	
Total Work Program 2016-2019 Balance Forward		9,024.60	
2019-2022 Allocation		-5,667.68	
2019-Central District Convention		1,600.36	
Work Program Funds available July 31 2021		4,957.28	
Memorial Account 2016-2019 Balance Forward		492.23	
Donations 2019-2022		130.00	
2019-2022 Allocation			
Memorial Account July 31, 2021		622.23	
Ledger Balance		\$5,579.51	
Bank Statement July 31 2021		\$16,153.59	
Less O/S Cheques #392,394,395,396		\$10,574.08	
Total funds available July 31, 2021		\$5,579.51	

Heather Chony, Treasurer

Financial Secretary Report

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

		Total Received	Work Program
			to Date
Mites		\$73,080.10	\$88,666.67
Convention Mite off#1	\$2,544.85	\$2,544.85	
Total Mites July 31, 2021		\$75,624.95	
Other Income	April 2019 -June 30, 2021		
Camp Lutherlan	Mattresses	\$318.29	
	Water Camp Aurora	149.85	
	LWML Sunday	\$261.50	
	Memorial	\$130.00	
	Donation for National	\$100.00	
		\$959.64	
Total Mites and other income			\$76,584.59
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	<u>\$80.00</u>	
Total		\$21,900.00	
Cash meals 8X20		\$160.00	
		\$22,060.00	
Total Income 2019 Central District			
	Convention		\$34,862.85
Total Income to July 31 2021			\$111,447.44

Sharon Beyak, Financial Secretary

National Convention Results

Convention Offerings

Offering #1 for Mission Grant Goal - \$3,654.45

Offering #2 Shared by Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton and Concordia Theological Lutheran Seminary, St. Catharine's - \$3,860.00

Offering #3 for BC Mission Boat Society- \$4,001.00

Mission: Fit or Freestyle - \$11,711.62

Ingathering for Wagner Hills Farm Women's Campus, Langley, BC - \$765.00

Thank Offering to help offset convention technology costs incurred to host this virtual convention - \$1,540.00



Congratulations to the Nominees who have been elected for the next Triennium:

- ◆ President - Linda Long
- ◆ VP Christian Growth — Patti Kreutzweiser
- ◆ VP Christian Mission - Iris Barta
- ◆ VP Communication - Becky Wandio
- ◆ VP Member Development -Annette Borchardt
- ◆ Recording Secretary— Jamie Fulton
- ◆ Financial Secretary— Penny Bobier
- ◆ Treasurer - Karen Nerbas
- ◆ Pastoral Counsellor—Rev James Keller

Mission Projects for 2021—2024

Street Reach Program, Rev. D.J. Kim, Regina SK	\$ 12,000.00
Vancouver Youth Worker, Samantha Neeb	\$ 18,900.00
Contribution Towards Land Purchase For Building First Lutheran in Costa Rica	\$ 10,000.00
National Youth Gathering 2022	\$ 5,000.00
Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Electronic Library Upgrade	\$ 15,000.00
Translation And Formatting French Sunday School Materials	\$ 14,000.00
Development Of New Mission Site In Lviv, Ukraine	\$ 12,000.00
Jackfish Lutheran Camp, Roblin MB	\$ 8,500.00
Diaconal Support In Nicaragua, Central America	\$ 8,600.00
Mission Opportunity Fund (20% of Total)	\$ 26,000.00
Total Mission Grants	\$130,000.00

The CRA Bylaw Revision Resolution was accepted. The Ad Hoc Committees will now be moving forward with Bylaw, Handbook and Policy Revisions. The 2021 Convention is now in recess to allow for the time needed to develop these documents for approval. The Convention is set to continue on December 15, 2021 with a specially called meeting of the 2021 Convention Delegates and General Council to approve the revised Bylaws.

We ask you to please continue to submit your mites to the District until the end of our triennium in 2022. Please keep in mind that the District still has expenses to be paid and we don't want to jeopardize our financial position by making changes to how mites are submitted at this time. LWML-Canada is confident that if CRA questions our process that they will be patient when they know that we are working on rectifying it. I understand there may be some confusion over the receipting portion of your mite donations, so if you have any questions or concerns as to how your society handles submitting and receipting for mites, please don't hesitate to contact Pam Burns. Ph#306-949-1752 or email pamburns@myaccess.ca.

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

Deadlines

Mission Grant Proposals: November 1, 2021

Society Delegates: January 15, 2022



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