



Encouraging and equipping women to...

• GROW in God's Word • SERVE God's people • SHARE God's Son

January 2021 Edition

Pastor's Message

Christmas 2020/New Years 2021 Message

Dear Friends in Christ,

There has never been a time within the history of the world where there have not been times of trials and struggles. This is one of those things that we so easily forget – especially in a society which claims to have all that it takes to address the stark realities of human suffering. While I am not dismissing in any way the blessings that our Heavenly Father gives through doctors and scientists, inventors and social leaders – our basic needs and struggles always come back to that simple root problem of sin – that broken spiritual nature that just seeps through every nook and cranny of our existence to throw it off centre.

Christmas is a time when we celebrate that our Lord God and Creator has sent His Son Jesus into the world in order to be our Redeemer. He is the one that comes to re-centre us back to the source of our very being and life – not to destroy us but to forgive, comfort and renew us by the working of the Holy Spirit. This is why Jesus invites us to come to Him – with our weariness and heavy burdens – to find rest in Him (Matthew 11:28).

We do this when we use our baptism – beginning and ending each day tracing the sign of the cross over our foreheads and hearts “in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit” - not in a fit of superstition but, as Luther suggests in his orders of morning and evening prayer, as a way to remember our baptism and *whose* we are – that we have been baptized *into* Christ (Romans 6:3) – clothed in Christ (Galatians 3:27) – so that our lives are now *hidden* with Christ in God (Colossians 3:3). All of this means that, even as we face our present trials whether it is the pandemic itself or other hidden struggles that we carry in our hearts, that Jesus shelters us in His own life, death, and resurrection in order to grant us His joy and peace.

As we step into 2021, allow yourself time to develop a devotional routine which builds upon this blessed reality. Frame each day with that lively remembrance of what Jesus has done for you. Confess your sins and sorrows – absolutely! And rejoice in His salvation as we look forward to being able to gather again with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven – which includes redeemed 'sinners' like you and me – to stand before the Altar of the Lamb who comes to feed and nourish us with His own body and blood for life everlasting.

I wish you all God's peace in Christ as you enter this new calendar year!

In the Name of Jesus,

Rev. Dr. Richard A. Beinert, pastor

Saint James Lutheran Church

Winnipeg, MB

LWMLC Central District Pastoral Counsellor



en-LIGHT-en

President's Message

Are you a planner? Do you like to look ahead days, months or even years and make a plan to do something specific? Well for many of us, the plans we made for 2020 probably didn't happen. And 2021 will be full of uncertainty as well, I'm sure.

The women of LWMLC are a group of planners! Our Societies plan events and service projects. Zone's plan Renewals and Prayer Services. We plan our District and National Conventions years in advance. We choose our mission grants to be fulfilled over a period of three years. If that isn't a group of planners, I'm not sure what is! Well, LWML-Canada finds themselves in a time of planning for 2021 and guess what, plans have had to be changed. The National Convention is planned for July 2021. Due to the uncertainty of COVID restrictions on travel and gatherings, it's been decided that it will be an online Convention. Is this what we thought we'd be planning for? No! Are we going to shy away from this new plan? No! Will there be challenges with this new plan? Of course!



What about our 2022 District Convention? Well, of course it's too soon to tell what our world will be like in two years. What kind of lasting COVID restrictions may still be in place. But no fear, the 2022 Convention Committee is in place and have had their first meeting. Plans are underway and we will plan for an in-person Convention. And God willing, we will be blessed to do so.

So I ask you to plan for a couple of things. First, for the 2021 National Convention I encourage your Zone to plan to have a Delegate chosen to attend online. Second, for the 2022 District Convention, I encourage your Zone **and** each Society to plan to have a Delegate chosen to attend.

For some of us, we have ventured outside of our comfort zone and into a new normal of using technology to gather together in meetings and Bible studies. Although we love to physically meet together, we have had to forego those gatherings, and instead try to make the best of joining together online. Now having an online Convention will be another new step for us to navigate. So I ask for your patience and understanding as the Convention Committee and the LWML-Canada Board navigate this change to their Convention plans. More information will be shared with everyone once details are worked out.

2021 Convention Theme is 'Christ Lives In Me' based on Galatians 2:20 - "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who 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." (ESV)

Christ Lives In Me!

Pam

Contact info:

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en-LIGHT-en

Christian Mission

I thank and praise God for all His Blessings to us, and I thank God for you – for your talents and treasures, prayers and support. We have paid 2/3 of our mission grants in less than a year and a half!

Some societies met this fall or gave a lump sum near the year's end so we have been able to gather enough mites to **pay off** both of the grants (\$8500) for the Deaconesses in Cambodia! All praise to God! Thank you, ladies (and gentlemen), for sharing your treasures with us. At St. Paul, Cupar, we put out a rice box with posters of mite challenges. Thank you to Judy Gabler for ideas and support, and to Al and Eileen Turner for the information letter!

This winter, we will focus on **“The Great Technology Challenge”** for Edmonton Seminary. (See the accompanying article). They have needed technology now more than ever!

Camp Lutherland recently mailed out annual reports/letters to congregations. They thanked the LWMLC of Central District for the funds to purchase 14 double mattresses and fans, plus 18 single mattresses. They are hoping to go ahead next year with weddings and camps.

If you have any **Mission Opportunity Fund** (\$5000) ideas (immediate mission work that needs monetary help), please let me know! A proposal with a description and monetary request will be needed so that I can take it to the board. In the past, we have helped Lutheran schools, aid for foreign students, and LaRonge Lutheran Church in our District. Contact me at dennis4@sasktel.net or any of my Committee: Lavinia Henderson (SK), Bonnie Kasper (MB), Judy Burgstaler (ON).

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 (NIV)



The Great Technology Challenge

This past year, more than ever, we have relied on our phones, computers, iPads/tablets, and TV's to be connected to the world – news, friends/family, work/education, distractions in games, shows/movies.....and worship services!

The Edmonton Seminary saw a need for technology upgrades in its distance learning and our Central District approved its \$15,000 grant proposal. We have paid 1/3 of it. This winter we will focus on this grant through challenges and prayer/Bible verse.

Place 25¢ for each phone/tv/computer (device) you own at your home or cottage.

Place \$1.00 for working at home; online education for yourself or your children.

Place 10¢ each for the virtual apps/links (Zoom, Facetime, Webinar, GoTo Houseparty, Google Meets, etc.) you have used.

Place 5¢ for each phone call, text or email you've used to reach out to someone in a given day/week that you normally would not have done.

Acts 1:8b (NIV): “and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and to Samaria, and to all the ends of the earth.”

Dear Father in Heaven: We thank You for hearing our prayers and for the Edmonton Seminary which is trying to find creative and technological ways to reach its students. These students are raised up as servants of Christ who will become pastors to Your people. In turn they will use creative ways to reach out to those in their congregations and communities with the Gospel of Your Son, Jesus Christ – preaching Your Word of Love, Forgiveness and Salvation. We thank You Lord for the technology that connects us to our family and friends, colleagues/classmates and congregations. Keep us safe Dear Lord during this pandemic. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

Central District LWMLC Mission Grants – 2019-2022

December 31, 2020

NAME OF GRANT	AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT PAID TO DATE	AMOUNT LEFT TO PAY
CAMP LUTHER-LAND, Mattresses/fans	\$10,500	PAID!!	\$0
AURORA LUTHER-AN BIBLE 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	\$5454.85	\$9545.15
MISSION OPPORTUNITY FUND	\$5,000	0	\$5,000
THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR DEACONESSES, Cambodia	5,000 Requested May 28/20	PAID!!	\$0
DEACONESS SUPPORT, Cambodia	\$3,500 Requested May 28/20	PAID!!	\$0

PAID TO DATE: \$34,505.92

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



Christian Growth



Sing Hallelujah

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!”
Philippians 4:4**

There are years that are harder than others when we have deaths in our close circle, best friends moving away, health challenges, rebellious children, betrayals in relationships, etc.

Also, there is a time of testing when we feel powerless, when we don't see any growth in faith or any changes in attitudes that we expect in the lives of people to whom we are ministering to and for whom we are praying for. All we see are setbacks and more challenges.

These are the times of drought. The soil is hard. The weeds are taking over. The weather is not cooperating. We work hard, but produce no fruit... no harvest.

But yet, if you are in these situations, the Bible tells us that you are not alone.

After a strenuous battle with the prophets of Baal on the top of Mount Carmel when the Lord showed His victory, Elijah still had to flee from Jezebel. Jezebel, who was King Ahab's wife, wanted to take Elijah's life. Elijah felt afraid, lonely, exhausted and depressed. "I have had enough, LORD," he said. "Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors." (1 Kings 19:4b) [all references NIV 1984] The Lord sent an angel to strengthen him with food for his journey to Mount Horeb. On Mount Horeb, God visited Elijah and he unloaded his burdens to the Lord. The Lord reassured him that he was not alone--there were still seven thousand people in Israel who had not worshipped Baal. Then the Lord gave him new assignments and promised him a successor to his ministry. Elijah continued to serve God until the day God took him to heaven in a chariot of fire.

When Job was overwhelmed by his life challenges and losses, he said ..."Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; May the name of the LORD be praised." (Job 1:21). 'His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!"' (Job 2:9) and his friends accused him of doing wrongs that merited his punishment.

In the midst of great misery he kept his hope in the Lord saying, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." (Job 19:25-26). Job poured out his soul to the Lord who reminded him about His great power and majesty in the world and in all creation. At the end, even though Job knew he could not understand God's thoughts, he did learn that he could trust God and that God was in control. God knows exactly what He is doing. He is merciful and He loved Job. So, Job said, "My ears had heard of you, but now my eyes have seen you." (Job 42:5)

As a prophet of the Lord, Habakkuk also lived in a difficult time when people were wicked and violent. He wrote many of his complaints to the Lord. The Lord told him about His plan to use the Babylonians to bring His judgment. But He also told Habakkuk that the "righteous will live by his faith" (Habakkuk 2:4b) and "...the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea" (Habakkuk 2:14). The book ends with Habakkuk's prayer acknowledging the Lord's glory and power. Habakkuk knew that nothing could stop God's judgment. Notice how he wrote the last four verses: "I heard and my heart pounded, my lips quivered at the sound; decay crept into my bones, and my legs trembled. Yet I will wait patiently for the day of calamity to come on the nation invading us. Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Saviour. The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer; he enables me to tread on the heights." (Habakkuk 3: 16-19)

How can we praise the Lord, rejoice in Him, sing to the Lord in the face of hardships and challenges? Elijah, Job and Habakkuk trusted God and put their hope in the coming Messiah. They rejoiced not in their own strength but in God their Redeemer and Saviour.

We can learn also from King David. In his youth facing bears and lions as a young shepherd and then he was confronted by Goliath. David knew and proclaimed that it was the Lord who delivered him from those dangers. On his way to becoming king, David constantly had to deal with challenges from Israel's enemies then from King Saul. And as king in addition to Israel's enemies he had danger from his own people, even from his children. David made God his refuge and his rock. He foretold the coming Messiah as his Shepherd, his King and his Lord.

Here are a few verses from David's psalms. "Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.” (Psalm 103:1-2). Here David was reminding himself the Lord is worthy to be praised. We can pray Psalm 103 that we too recall the Lord’s benefits in quiet worship, praising the Lord even through tears, thinking about how much we are blessed by God through Jesus Christ.

“Awake, my soul! Awake, harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn.” (Psalm 57:8). When we read Psalm 57 we learn that David was in a difficult situation. He had fled from King Saul and was hiding in a cave. In the Psalm, David is talking about disaster and about being forced to live in the midst of lions and ravenous beasts. However, David is taking refuge in the Lord. Is it so that he can rise above fear, sorrow, self-pity, sadness, and loneliness? He says, “I will awaken the dawn.” He hopes in the Lord despite his hardship and suffering; David is not alone.

In Psalms 42 and 43 David wrote three times: “Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.” (Psalm 42:5, 42:11, 43:5). Again, we learn from David that he did not feel like praising the Lord, but he trusted God, he hoped in the Lord, because the Lord was His Saviour and His God.

“Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!” (Psalm 150:6)

In the New Testament we learn the apostle, Paul praised the Lord while he was in the prison. “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” (Philippians 4:4). In the midst of his sufferings, Paul rejoices in Christ. “Finally, brothers [and sisters], whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.” (Philippians 4:8)

We learn in James 1:2-4 ESV, “Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.” James exhorts us to count it all joy! He did not say that it is a joy, but for us who trust the Lord, to count it all joy.

I grew up in Indonesia where 90 percent of the population is Muslim. I heard them say at various times about Christians: “Those ‘Hallelujah People’”. They sing. They sing in the church. They sing at home. They sing at celebrations, at weddings, even in the hospitals. And when one of them dies, they sing, too.”

How beautiful is the Christian’s witness when we sing to the Lord! The world may not understand it but we do. We sing

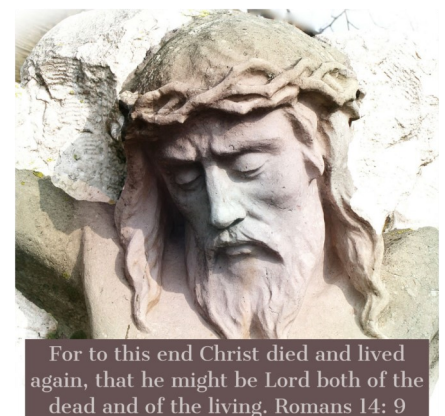
because the Holy Spirit is in us, praising God in our spirit in a difficult situation. When we know how much God loves us and how He sent Jesus to die in our place and to forgive us all our sin, to give us our home in heaven, and to restore our relationship with the Holy God, then all the difficulties we face on this earth become so insignificant. It is because we know the end of our story. We will have victory in Jesus. Our future is eternal life. If God is for us, who can be against us. (Romans 8:31) We can put our hope in God who is working everything together for good, for our benefit, according to His wisdom and power. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who^[a] have been called according to his purpose. (Romans 8:28) We might not understand why and how bad things happen. We might not have all the answers. We do not know what is going to happen next. But we do know that God is with us. He is God Almighty who is in control of every situation and at the same time He loves us. Our heavenly home is awaiting us. Our future is certain and secure with Him. Now we can rejoice, not for our circumstances, not for the situation, not for what man can do nor for what we can do. We can rejoice in the Lord.

After teaching His disciples they will suffer and be persecuted in this life, Jesus said, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

With this peace, let us sing ‘Hallelujah’ to the Lord all the days of our lives!

Heavenly Father, Jesus has paid for our sins, our soul praises You. You have promised to always be there for us, our soul praises You. When times are dark and our way is treacherous, You guide and protect us. Our soul praises You for Your love and faithfulness. Help us to share our praise for You with others, so they may also know You as their Lord and Savior. In Jesus’ Name, we pray. Amen.

Cynthia Schoubye,
Christian Growth
Writing Committee,
Winnipeg MB



For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. Romans 14: 9

Treasurer's Report

LWMLC Central District

Statement of Earnings and Expenses April 1, 2019 - December 31, 2020

Work Program	Actual		Budget
Mites	52,830.29		\$ 114,000.00
2019 Convention Mite Offering #1	2,544.85		
Total Work Program Income	55,375.14		
Expenses			
Mission projects	34,505.92		\$ 50,000.00
LWMLC 40% of Mites	20,760.32		\$ 45,600.00
Bank charges	127.16		\$ 150.00
Office Expense	231.10		\$ 200.00
Postage	37.43		\$ 200.00
Professional Service Fee	150.00		\$ 150.00
Supples 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-T0-Meeting			\$ 600.00
Total Work Program Expenses	62,581.68		
Net Surplus(Deficit) Work Program		-7,206.54	\$ 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		-6,316.90	
Total Work Program 2016-2019 Balance Forward		9,024.60	
2019-2022 Allocation		-6,316.90	
2019-Central District Convention		1,600.36	
Work Program Funds available Dec. 31 2020		4,308.06	
Memorial Account 2016-2019 Balance Forward		492.23	
Donations 2019-2022		130.00	
2019-2022 Allocation			
Memorial Account Dec. 31, 2020		622.23	
Ledger Balance		\$4,930.29	
Bank Statement Dec. 31,2020		\$4,930.29	
Less O/S Cheques			
Total funds available Dec. 31,2020		\$4,930.29	

Heather Chony, Treasurer

Financial Secretary Report

LWMLC Central District Financial Secretary Income Statement April 1 2019-Dec. 31 2020

		Total Received	Work Program		Work Program
			to Date		2019-2022
Mites		\$52,830.29	\$66,500.00		\$114,000.00
Convention Mite off#1	\$2,544.85	\$2,544.85			
Total Mites December 31,2020		\$55,375.14			
Other Income	April 2019 -Dec.31 2020				
Camp Lutherlan	Mattresses	\$318.29			
	Water Camp Aurora	149.85			
	LWML Sunday	\$261.50			
	Memorial	\$130.00			
		\$859.64			
Total Mites and	other income		\$56,234.78		
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	Dec.31,2020		\$91,097.63		

Zone Reports

Parkland Zone

LWMLC Member Retires as Church Secretary



Roberta Freitag retired as church secretary of St. John and St. Peter Lutheran Parish after serving for 37 years! She served alongside 6 pastors over the years: Rev. Greg Heidorn, Rev. Keith Reisdorf, Rev. Neil Otke, Rev. Bill Kronen, Rev. Greg Lutz and Rev. Jason Schultz. She thanked the parish for the many years of fond memories and special things they did for her including providing a steady supply of M&M candies, flowers and jokes for the church bulletins. She also thanked everyone for overlooking her typos! Roberta was thanked by congregation presidents Edgar Hammermeister and Ernie Brinkworth on October 18, 2020 for her dedication to serve her church family and her Lord. Roberta is still active in the LWMLC and has been for over 40 years. She has served as president and

secretary at the district level as well as at her local LWMLC society at St. John, Frobisher, SK where she is currently serving as secretary.

Rev. Jason Schultz

Thunder Bay Zone

A Special Christmas Tree

This year as an outreach project, the Atikokan Lutheran Ladies (T.A.L.L.) chose to give gifts to a local family of six. Each year the ladies sponsor the Christmas Cheer Fund, but this year with many people unemployed due to the pandemic, they also chose to give to a family in need. A small Christmas tree was put up and the ages along with the sizes of members of that family were hung on the tree. At our Advent gathering members of our group chose a person to buy a gift for. A Christmas greeting was included expressing God's love for them through the gift of His Son Jesus.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free **gift** of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (ESV)

God's Blessings

Sharon Beyak



Zone Reports

Wheatland Zone

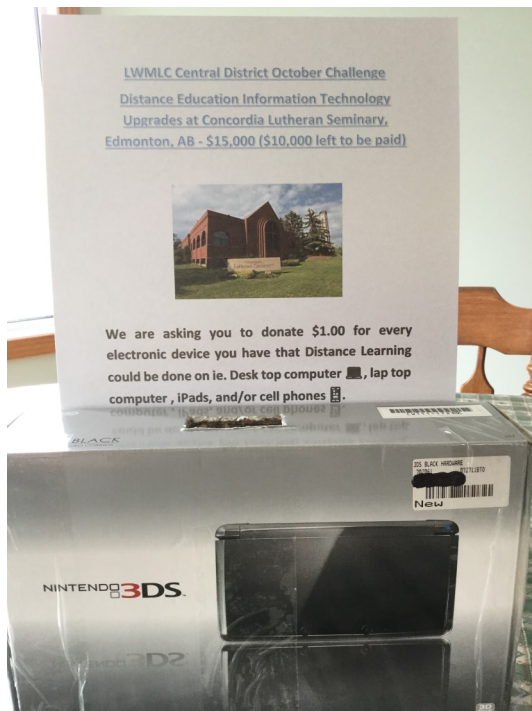
Christ/St. Paul's LWMLC Society Observes LWML Sunday October 4, 2020

For the month of October a sample of what our LWMLC Society, the Central District and LWMLC do was on display at Christ Lutheran Church, Neepawa then on October 4, 2020 (LWMLC Sunday) our society members in attendance at worship service posed before the display for a picture.



For the October monthly meeting our society has always collected a special offering for Concordia Seminary, Edmonton to be used where the greatest need is or for the Seminary Guild. This year because of the pandemic, with fewer society meetings being held and mite collections down we decided to open it up to the congregation

and put it towards the Central District Mission Grant to upgrade the technology at the Edmonton Seminary for distance education. We collected 200+ dollars.



October 5, 2020 was World Teachers day so our society gave 60 Ear Savers to the teachers at the two schools in Neepawa.



CONVENTION 2021

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 Sunday July 11, 2021

Where: Virtual



CONVENTION 2022

LWMLC Central District Convention 2022

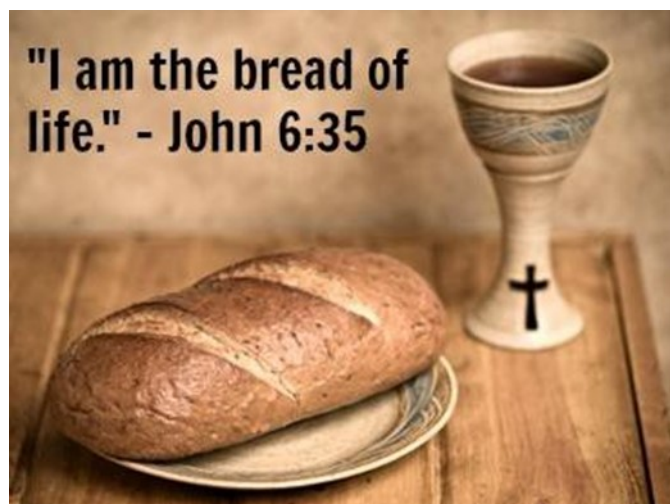
Theme: Bread of Life

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

When: May 27 to 29, 2022

Where: Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Regina Saskatchewan

Convention Chair: Carol Rein; **Co-Chair:** Lavinia Henderson





We would like to thank Silvia Virgilio-Findling for volunteering as the LWMLC Central District's Salt & Light Editor for the past three years. She has done a wonderful job preparing these newsletters for us. We congratulate Silvia on her new job as Town Administrator for Cupar SK.

Silvia, God bless you in your future endeavours. We look forward to seeing you at future Central District LWMLC functions when we are able to do so again.

Pam Burns, President

Lydia Parker, VP Communication



With the resignation of Silvia as our Salt & Light Editor, we are currently looking for someone to volunteer as the monthly Salt Shaker Editor. If you are interested, or know someone who may be, please contact Lydia Parker at moosejawmom321@gmail.com.