

# *The Mission Voice*

LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District

## **Winter 2025 Issue:**



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## **Sharing the love of Christ**

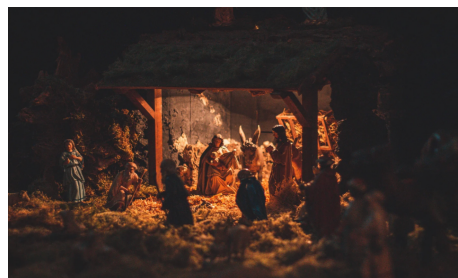
Fall has arrived, and we will soon enjoy our Southern winter weather. We are preparing for the Christmas season with anticipation and joy. *For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be* (Psalm 139:13–16). As we reflect on our Lord's deep love for us, I hope we share our love by inviting a sister in Christ to come and participate in the District Retreat. It is an excellent time to fellowship and be together in God’s Word. May the Lord lead us all to share our blessings with those to whom we wish to proclaim Christ as we support missions and serve others with gladness.

The District Board is busy with many tasks. Each society has received a memo from District Secretary Rhonda Jackson requesting your Quarterly count for 2025 and the society's contribution of \$35. Rhonda and the Zone Presidents are collecting emails from each society's contact person(s). By having the emails for key contact persons, the district can send material directly to these contacts and save on postage.

The district team is looking for a group of ladies to spearhead making the district banner for the LWML National Convention. If you are interested in helping with this task, please get in touch with Leslie Koenck.

I look forward to attending the Presidents Assembly meeting in Omaha, Nebraska, on January 22-24, 2025. It is an honor to represent and serve the Louisiana-Mississippi District in this capacity, and I will learn from other district presidents. May you all have a blessed season as we prepare our hearts and minds in anticipation of the celebration of His birth.

In our Lord's service,  
Leslie Koenck  
LWML LA-MS District President



*And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul (Deuteronomy 10:12).*

### **“Celebrate the Lord of the Nations”**

Greetings in the name of the LORD! I pray that all is well with you, with your families, with your congregations, with your LWML societies, with your LWML zones, and with the LA-MS LWML District. “May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.” (Jude 1:2) As you know, our theme for this next biennium is drawn from Psalm 33, verses twelve and thirteen, which read:

*<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!<sup>13</sup> The LORD looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; (Psalm 33:12-13, ESV)*

When we read the word, “LORD”, in the ESV translation, we should also have in mind that this is the personal name of God, “YHWH”, typically pronounced Yahweh, that he revealed to Moses at the burning bush in Exodus 3:14-15. As such, this is the name of the one true God, the triune God – The Father, Son & Holy Spirit. So, with that in mind, we could rewrite of our theme verses as:

*<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is [YHWH], the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!<sup>13</sup> [YHWH] looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; (Psalm 33:12-13)*

or

*<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is [the one true God, the triune God - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit], the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!<sup>13</sup> [The one true God, the triune God - the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit] looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; (Psalm 33:12-13)*

In our last newsletter, I focused on the work of God the Father. In this newsletter, I will focus on the work of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity, God the Son.

*<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the nation whose God is the [one true God, the triune **God – the***

*Father, **Son**, and Holy Spirit], the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!<sup>13</sup>  
The LORD [one true God, the triune **God – the Father, **Son**, and Holy Spirit]**  
looks down from heaven; he sees all the children of man; (Psalm 33:12-13)*

When it comes to the work of God the Son as it is identified in the Second Article of the Creed, “And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.”, we were taught in Dr. Luther’s Small Catechism to believe and confess the following:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with HIS innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

“Blessed is the nation”, blessed are you, whose God is YHWH, the triune God. Blessed are you because the God the Son took on human flesh to be with us, our Immanuel (Mt. 1:23), to save us from our sins, our Lord Jesus (Mt. 1:21). And this is why we celebrate the LORD of the nations in our midst and in the world around us, remembering that while we were enemies of God and couldn’t do anything to please Him (Rom. 8:7-8), God sent His Son into the world, the one with whom He is well pleased, to reconcile the world to Himself (2 Cor. 5:18-19). This is why we continue to joyfully proclaim Christ, the Light of the World, into this world of darkness **“For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”** (2 Cor. 4:6) We are, as Jesus said, **“the light of the world”** (Mt. 5:14) who continue to **“proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light”** (1Pet. 2:9) that all may come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved (1Tim. 2:4) through the power of the Holy Spirit. And while, at times, it might seem like the darkness is overcoming the light, I am reminded of the words of Saint John in chapter one of his Gospel account in verse five: **“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”** And while these words are about Jesus, I believe that that they are also about His church (1 Thess. 4:18) and His Means of Grace – His Word and Sacraments (Ps. 119:105, 1 Cor. 11:23-26).

“Blessed is the nation”, blessed are you, whose God is YHWH, the triune God. Blessed are you because **“while you were weak”**, God the Son in the flesh, Christ Jesus, **“died for the**

**ungodly**” (Rom. 5:6). Blessed are you because **“while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”** (Rom. 5:8) Blessed are you because **“while we were enemies of God we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son”.** (Rom 5:10a) And blessed are you **“much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life.”** (Rom. 5:10b) And this is why we celebrate the LORD of the nations in our midst and in the world around us, remembering and trusting in our Lord’s promise. **“if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved. For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.”**” (Rom. 10:9-12) And while it can be difficult, at times, to see how God is doing these things in this fallen broken world that we live in, I am reminded of the words of the Lord in Isaiah, chapter fifty-five, verses ten and eleven: **“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.”**

“Blessed is the nation”, blessed are you, whose God is YHWH, the triune God. Blessed are you because God the Son in the flesh, Christ Jesus, has made you part of His kingdom through faith and baptism (Mk. 16:16a, 1 Pet. 3:21) as you were baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection (Rom. 6:4-5). Blessed are you because your **“old self was crucified with Him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.”** (Rom. 5:6) Blessed are you because you have **“died with Christ”,** and you now **“also live with Him”.** (Rom. 6:9) Blessed are you because **“[o]nce you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.”** (1 Pet. 2:10) And this is why we celebrate the Lord of the nations in our midst and in the world around us, remembering, knowing, and trusting that our Lord has the power and ability to take what is spiritually blind (1 Cor. 2:14) and dead in its sins and trespasses (Eph. 2:1) and give it new life in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:4-5). And while it can be difficult, at times, to see the fruits of God’s work in this culture that we live in, I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul in Romans, chapter seven, verses twenty-four and twenty-five: **“Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!”**

May the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of all mercies and God all comfort be with you now and always.

Pastor Boldt  
LA-MS LWML District, Sr. Pastoral Counselor

## **Organizational Resources**

Organizational Resources are still working on updated bylaws for our churches in our 5 Zones.

**Encouraging everyone to attend:**

**\*The 2025 LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Retreat from Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> –**

**Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at Eagle Ridge Conference Center and Resort in Raymond, Ms.**

Please print your registration form and mail it to Liz Slothower, 26314 Holly Ridge Dr., Denham Springs, La. 70726. Make checks payable to LWML LA-MS District.

<https://www.lwml-lams.org/upcoming-events-1>

<https://eagleridge.hindscc.edu/>

**\*The 41<sup>st</sup> Biennial LWML Convention from Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> 2025 in Omaha, Nebraska.**

[https://unite-production.s3.amazonaws.com/tenants/lwml/attachments/485828/2025-Omaha-Convention-Insert\\_web.pdf](https://unite-production.s3.amazonaws.com/tenants/lwml/attachments/485828/2025-Omaha-Convention-Insert_web.pdf)

**LWML YWR** – Encouraging mature young women, preferably 22-35 years of age, who are members of the LCMS to make our LWML energized with new ideas.

<https://www.lwml.org/posts/young-women-resources/ywr-selection-guidelines>

God's blessings,

Kathy Capace

LWML LA-MS VP of Organizational Resources

kcapace@gmail.com

*Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever (Psalm 118:1)!*

## **Are You Being Called?**

LWML-LAMS has many wonderful sisters with many different talents and skills. Perhaps you can serve on the Executive Board. Consider your talents and skills or those of a sister in Christ. Could you supply the nominating committee with a name for an office that will be elected during the Convention in 2026?

The offices that will serve for four years are the Vice President of Organizational Resources, Vice President of Special Focus Ministries, Treasurer, and Junior Pastoral Counselor. A nominating committee that will serve for two years will also be elected.

The nominating committee team members are Gerta Portier, Terry Kendrick, Cindy Twardzick, and Anita Granger.

Please pray for the nominating committee, the current Board of Directors, and the potential candidates for offices to be elected in 2026.

Let us continue to serve the Lord with gladness and grow in His grace.

Lauretta Houston

Nominating Committee Chair

## Gospel Outreach

Great news! The second grant is ready to be funded – Praise the Lord for His rich blessings.

PAID.	Grant 1. Concordia Seminary – Re-Sell It Shop and Food Bank.
Pending check.	Grant 2. Epiphany Lutheran Church
To be paid.	Grant 3. Forged by Fire Services Grant 4. Southern District LCMS – workers Grant 5. New Life Pregnancy Center, Leesville, LA Grant 6. St. Paul Lutheran Handicapped Access Doors

The gathering of MITES is mighty! When MITES are collected and combined, they become formidable acts of generosity that benefit those who serve Him.

Please continue to encourage your ladies and congregation to donate their MITES every month.

- **2 Corinthians 9:6-7:** God wants people to give willingly, not out of obligation, and that he loves cheerful givers.
  - **Galatians 6:2:** People should carry each other's burdens to fulfill the law of Christ.
  - **1 Timothy 6:17-18:** People should be generous, willing to share, and put their hope in God.
  - **Hebrews 13:16:** People should do good and share with others, as God is pleased with such sacrifices.
  - **James 1:27:** People should look after orphans and widows in their distress, and keep themselves from being polluted by the world.
  - **Malachi 3:10:** It is well with the man who deals generously and lends.
  - **Luke 6:38:** People should give, and it will be given to them.
  - **Psalms 37:21:** The righteous give generously, while the wicked borrow and do not repay.
  - **Matthew 10:8:** Jesus told his disciples, “Freely, you have received, freely give”
- My confirmation verse: *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you (Matthew 7:7).***

May our Lord and Savior bless you and your family.

In His Service,  
Andrea Ferguson

## Historian/Archivist Update

I have received and reviewed all materials from Kathy Abbott and appreciate all her hard work

on this committee to update files. Materials are in easy-to-store containers and will be easy to work with.

So far, I have been working on picture identification of ladies from past officers and conventions. I will bring these photos to the Retreat for assistance in identifying ladies. My next goal is to collect needed information from the zones and societies. I would like to start with the following:

- 1) Signed copies of executive, board, and society meeting minutes (back 2 years if possible)
- 2) Reports from officers, if you have them (2 years)
- 3) Zone rally agendas (2 years)
- 4) Any photos associated with LWML that you would like to have archived. (All photos must be labeled with names, dates, and locations.)

These materials can be emailed to me at [gailnjim@att.net](mailto:gailnjim@att.net) or snail mail to Gail Gerike, 41017 E. Renee Drive, Ponchatoula, LA 70454. If you have any questions, please call me at 985-507-3413. I'll be sending additional requests for other materials in the months ahead. You can also collect these items and bring them to the Retreat.

Thank you for any help you can give me in collecting this information for our district archive.

Gail Gerike  
LA-MS District Historian/Archivist

## **Financial News**

*And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).*

Every time I read or hear this verse, I start singing The Messiah. It means Christmas to me. I have now taken on the LA- MS District LWML Financial Secretary role. Laretta Houston and I are working closely together to keep accurate records of our district's monies. Good news: November was a very generous month. Our second grant can be paid, leaving a start of \$1000.00 available for our next grant (Forged by Fire Services \$5000.00)! We have a total of six grants.

I have enjoyed receiving the checks, Quarterly Reports, delegate and half-national delegate contributions, memorials, conventions, and retreats. On November 7, 2024, I participated in a Financial Boot Camp Zoom meeting from National. It taught me some things I didn't know. I also met with Laretta Houston monthly to work on records. I also contacted Andrea Ferguson, Joanie Schendel, and Leslie Koenck when mite funds became available so that they could be paid. I continue to pray for our LWML.

Please send all monies to:

Elizabeth Smith  
PO Box 1644  
Rosepine, LA. 70659

## Zone News from Mississippi



LWML Mississippi Zone Rally, September 28, 2024

The Mississippi Zone held an in-person Rally at St. Luke LCMS in Starkville, MS. Hosted by the ladies from Our Savior LCMS in Columbus, MS. Life Choices Pregnancy Care Center in Columbus, MS, was the recipient of the in-gathering. A special door offering went to Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Brandon, MS. The 22 ladies, and Pastor Hartung, enjoyed a “pot-luck lunch” and fellowship.



Sherri Adam  
MS Zone President

### *Reminder to Zone Presidents:*

*Please email the zone minutes to District President Leslie Koenck at [lkoencklwml@gmail.com](mailto:lkoencklwml@gmail.com).*

## 2025 Spring Retreat

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I have been so blessed to work with the Spiritual Growth Committee on the Spring Retreat, "Journey to Faith: The Trip for a Lifetime." The retreat is scheduled for **May 2-4, 2025**, at Eagle Springs Resort in Raymond, MS. Registration is now open and will end on **January 27, 2025**.

I encourage all of you to join us for a wonderful, Spirit-filled retreat. It will include Bible Study, fellowship, and various activities, such as skits, singing, and sharing love for each other.

Looking forward to sharing with each of you the time Spiritual Growth members have planned.

Below is a copy of the registration form that must be turned in by **January 27, 2025**.

Rita Salathe  
VP of Christian Life  
LWML LA-MS District

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your heart through faith (Ephesians 3:16-17).*



## REGISTRATION FORM

LWML Louisiana-Mississippi District Christian Life Retreat  
***"Journey to Faith: The Trip of a Lifetime"***

Eagle Ridge Conference Center, 1500 Raymond Lake Rd., Raymond, MS 30154  
May 2 (3:00p.m. - 12:00p.m.) May 4, 2025

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (home) \_\_\_\_\_

Congregation \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Circle One: Pastor    LWML member    Guest  
(Pastors participate free- no fee for hotel, meals, or registration)

**REGISTRATION: October 9, 2024 - January 27, 2025**  
(Must be postmarked by January 27, 2025 and include payment.)

**REGISTRATION Fee includes Retreat fee, five meals - 2 breakfasts, lunch, 2 dinners & two nights lodging.**

Standard rooms have two full beds, 4 maximum occupants  
Parlor suites have one king bed, 2 maximum occupants

Full weekend with a standard room:

1 person in room \$355 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 persons in room/ \$259 per person \_\_\_\_\_  
3 persons in room/ \$235 per person \_\_\_\_\_ 4 persons in room/ \$223 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Full weekend in a Parlor Suite:

1 person \$440 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 persons in room/ \$302 per person \_\_\_\_\_

Please check your choice, and if sharing a room please list roommate or roommates.  
Roommate/s: \_\_\_\_\_

Special needs(dietary, mobility, etc...) \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday only: includes registration fee and meal/s

Retreat and lunch \$58 \_\_\_\_\_

Retreat, lunch and dinner \$90 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail completed form and payment to: Liz Slothower  
26314 Holly Ridge Drive  
Denham Springs, LA 70726

**Make checks payable to: LWML LA-MS District**

## ***District Young Woman Representative Nominees***

LWML LA-LS District is looking for a young woman in your congregation, ages 22- 35, who is passionate about serving the Lord and growing in faith. What a fantastic opportunity for her to represent our district at the LWML Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, June 26-29, 2025.

For questions or to submit a nominee, please get in touch with Leslie Koenck (lkoencklwml@gmail.com) and Kathy Capace ([kcapace@gmail.com](mailto:kcapace@gmail.com)) for the application form. ***The deadline is February 15, 2025.***

Let's lift up in prayer and encourage the next generation of LWML leaders!

### **2025 Key Dates**

<b>January 27</b>	Registration deadline for LA-MS District Christian Life Retreat
<b>February 15</b>	District YWR Applications Due
<b>March 1</b>	LWML Convention Registration Opens Convention Details in the 2025 Winter Quarterly
<b>May 2 - 4</b>	District Spring Retreat "Journey to Faith: The Trip for a Lifetime"
<b>June 26 - 29</b>	LWML Convention, Omaha, Nebraska