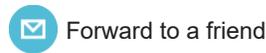
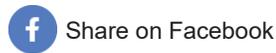


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Edition 43 | [Read this eNews on our website](#) | May 2020

eNews ... a monthly email publication of news and information
by and for the women of the LWML MN South District.

Two Great Symbols of Sacrifice



Flowers! How we love them. Some of us will receive a bouquet on Mother's Day. Some of us will go to a greenhouse just to admire the flowers. Others may buy some flowers and begin planting them around our homes to bring beauty. On Memorial Day, some of us will place a wreath of flowers on a loved

one's grave. You may even see a veteran selling red poppies.

Why a red poppy and not a pretty, colorful carnation? The red poppy is the lasting memorial symbol of those who had fallen and sacrificed their lives in World War I and later wars. After the fighting ceased in the First World War, nature took over the battlefield, and wildflowers began to grow, including the red poppy. That is why you see veterans selling red poppies before Memorial Day. It symbolizes the bloodshed and sacrifice of many brave soldiers.

Let's also not forget that we have the cross that reminds us of what Christ did for us. He received the punishment that should have been ours. He was crucified as our substitute. On the cross, he bore our sins. He lay down His life for us as a slaughtered Lamb, shedding His blood for us. Because of Jesus' sacrifice, our sins are paid for, pardoned, and put away. The cross is our symbol of God's great goodness and eternal love that saved us and gives us eternal life.

*"Greater love has no one than this,
that someone lay down his life for his friends."
(John 15:13 ESV)*

2020 LWML MN South District Convention



Many of our faithful LWML members have been wondering what is happening with our 2020 LWML MN South District Convention scheduled for June 19-20, 2020. The Executive Committee met on April 18, 2020 through ZOOM web conferencing. After much discussion and prayer, it was decided that the convention would be cancelled. It was a difficult decision to make and a sad one. Our decision was based on the results of a survey that was given to all our zones' societies, along with the consideration of keeping our Board members,

as well as all delegates and guests of our Minnesota South District, safe from the Coronavirus.

We do not know what the future holds for us, only God does. As an organization, with the help of God, we will continue to move forward. It was decided to hold the election for our new officers, vote on our Bylaw amendments, set our mission goal, and select our mission grants for the upcoming Biennium, 2020-2022. We are considering the use of Election Buddy for our balloting process which is an electronic/online program, along with a paper ballot for those who do not have e-mail access. Voting will take place from June 15 through June 19, 2020. More details regarding this process will follow in the weeks ahead.

The Executive Committee has decided to hold a celebration event this fall, 2020. It will be a one-day event with the date and place yet to be determined. Some things will not change; i.e. the use of our theme, "Tell Everyone What He Has Done" and our Scripture verse (shown at the end of this article). The celebration event this fall will not be an ordinary convention or a workshop. We are planning a celebration jubilee to praise our Lord who has not left us, who still loves and cares about us, and is walking along with us through this pandemic. We will have plenty of stories to share, along with "Telling Everyone What He Has Done" and is doing still.

*"Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be made known in all the earth."
(Isaiah 12:5)*

With Praise to the Lord



The LWML Minnesota South District has reached and surpassed its mite goal of \$265,000.00 for the 2018-2020 Biennium.

Earlier this year it seemed as if we would have a hard time reaching our mite goal. Many societies did not meet in the winter months, then came the Coronavirus pandemic in the United States advising us not to meet in groups of more than 10. Now, we are advised to stay at home except for essential business.

The generosity of the members of the LWML Minnesota South District has been overwhelming. Many reasons for the generosity came from the response to President Deb's suggestion that each society consider giving \$120.00 to help meet our goal. Mites received also came from an increased number of honorariums as well as from individuals who had not been able to attend society meetings, from individual Mission Grant donations, and a very generous donation from the estate of Beverly Schuette, per her wish.

On a personal note this has been a very rewarding time for me. I have had many 'goose bump' moments as I opened daily mail and would find enclosed a check in a generous amount along with a personal note included. My heart has truly been filled with praises to the Lord.

A special THANK YOU to all LWMLers who donated mites through their society, to those who sent their personal checks, as well as to those who submitted honorariums. Your generosity has helped us meet our goal and ultimately fulfill our commitment to the mission project recipients selected at our last convention. THANK YOU!

Irene Mensing
LWML MN South District Financial Secretary

St. John's, Chaska, MN ~ Mission Fair

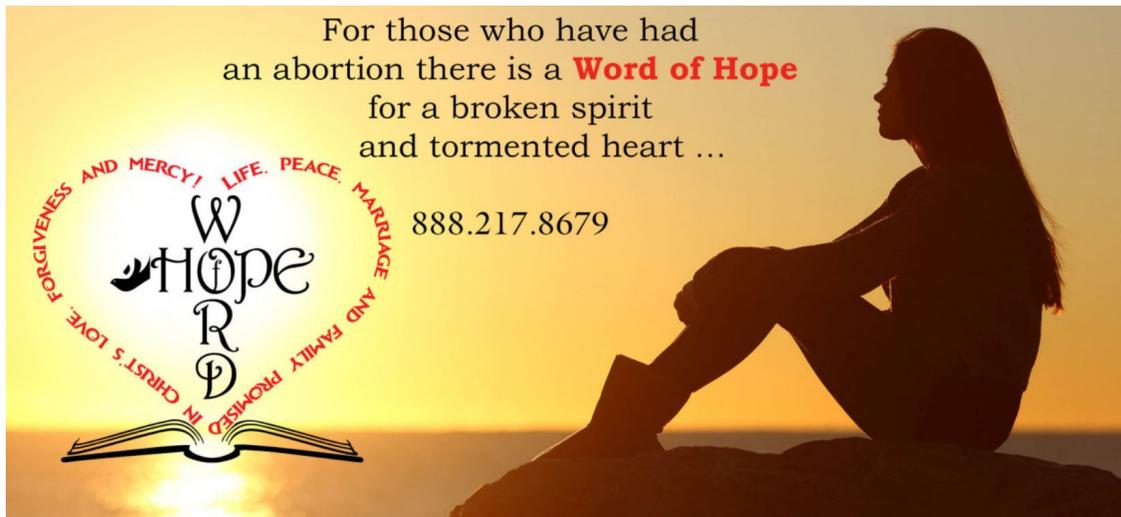


St. John's Lutheran Church, Chaska, is blessed with two women's groups. In cooperation with one another, the groups held a Mission Fair on November 24, 2019. It consisted of 31 organizations from St. John's as well as other ministries in the Carver County area.

St. John's Mary Martha Guild had an informative display set up which described each of the LWML Mission Grants being supported through their Mite contributions both at the MN South District level and at the LWML National level. The Mary Martha Guild also displayed the mission projects that they supported at St. John's which includes providing catechisms for the 3rd grade students, cradle roll packets for children who are baptized, and Portals of Prayer. The group also supports mission projects in the community. St. John's Ladies Aid also had a display set up of the various projects they support at St. John's and throughout the community. A delicious lunch was served for all who attended.

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
(1 Peter 4:10)

Word of Hope: Mission Grant Focus



You may not recognize Word of Hope as one of the mission grants our mites are supporting, but it is a vital resource in bringing the saving news of Jesus Christ to hurting individuals who may need it most.

Word of Hope is a nationwide ministry of Lutherans for Life and is shown on our mission grant list as “Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline Expansion”. Deaconess Intern Chrissie Gillet, a trained clinical psychologist, is the director of the ministry. For women who’ve had an abortion, or for any other family members involved in the decision or process, post-abortive guilt can be an overwhelming burden to bear. If this unresolved bereavement goes unchecked, it can become a debilitating condition known as Post-Abortive Syndrome (PAS) which consists of one or more of the following: feelings of guilt, depression, anxiety, nightmares, and intrusive memories. But real help can be a phone call away!

What makes Word of Hope different from other crisis hotlines available to women? God’s Word! Word of Hope longs to share exactly what its name implies: the hope of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Gillet recognizes that abortion creates not only an emotional struggle, but a “spiritual condition that needs to be met with the love of Christ.” Her goal is to communicate that Christ died for all sins, and that He ultimately desires to forgive and restore sinners, that they may live lives full of peace and joy.

Our mites will help Word of Hope accomplish this by providing more online exposure, more resources, better referrals, and ongoing training for those providing this unique type of Christian care. If someone you know is struggling in the aftermath of abortion, weeks, months, or even years later, please let them know that help is available. Word of Hope's contact information is provided below. As sisters in Christ, may we always remember to carry the burdens of these women (and men!) to the Lord in prayer, trusting in the power of Jesus’ blood to heal and restore them.

Word of Hope

Phone: (888) 217-8679

Website: word-of-hope.org

Email: info@word-of-hope.org

Submitted by Molly Loder,
Gospel Outreach Committee Member

A note from Carol Hubert, VP of Gospel Outreach: The COVID-19 pandemic has us sheltered in our homes maintaining contact with friends and family via telephone and the internet. This is standard operating procedure for one of our current mission grant recipients, "Lutherans for Life Post-Abortion Crisis Hotline Expansion". Their ministry connects with people through the Word of Hope hotline and by email. This ministry was the "Focus of the Month" for the April 2020 Mite Calendar. The mission grant to them in the 2018-2020 biennium has been paid in full.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
(1 John 1:9)

The St. Paul, Waseca "MASKeteers" ... and Sharing YOUR Talents



Back on March 25, Pastor Larry Griffin of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Waseca, MN suggested to Linda Seifert and Judie Waters that they try making face masks to keep them safe from COVID-19. They did a little research, tried a few ideas and ultimately came up with a 3-piece mask. It was then that the sewing started. The ladies contacted various assisted living homes and had their first orders totaling 124 masks. Two more orders of 50 masks each followed. Four more ladies called to volunteer to sew at home while three other ladies cut fabric and prepared "mask kits" ready to pick up by those who wished to sew. What an idea this turned out to be!

As of April 22 the ladies have made OVER 900 MASKS, sending them all over the United States --- from Minnesota to Oregon Air Force to Florida, as well as many masks staying in the Waseca area. Every member of the Waseca LWML

was offered the opportunity to make masks and the project immediately took off. The main setback was finding elastic to meet the need, but with prayers for adequate supplies and family members going online in an attempt to place orders, the ladies have now secured five large rolls of elastic. The ladies are now being even more creative and finding cute material. What a terrific project that anyone can do to help everyone stay safe!

Praise God for His guidance in this fun project!

* * * * *

How might you assist? Separate from the mask project of the Waseca LWML, our MN South District LCMS Office in Burnsville has submitted the request for face masks as printed below. Even if you don't sew, perhaps you could be helpful by securing fabric or elastic, or you could offer to help cut the masks to put into kits that others might sew.

In the interest of assisting others during this pandemic,
the following appeal for face masks is published at
the request of the LCMS MN South District office.

Do you have people in your congregation who enjoy sewing and who may have some free time while staying safe at home? Please share this with them. Many sewers and quilters have a stash of fabric available and a heart to help on a project like this. Quality quilting fabric has been tested as a good alternative to the medical masks in keeping people safe during this pandemic. Elastic or ties needed for these masks are at times hard to find. Perhaps others can help find these materials for interested members, especially those who aren't comfortable going to the store or shopping online. You could have willing members make porch drop-offs of these supplies or make them available in a bin outside the church for people to pick up.

Also consider having a drop-off bin outside the church for sewn masks to be bulk mailed to one of the organizations in need that we've heard from below.

Organizations that have requested cloth face mask donations:

1. Rev. Derek Lecakes is president of the Atlantic District, which serves the metro New York City area. He has issued a plea to the Church for cloth face masks. There are communities of hundreds of thousands who simply are too poor to afford the material to make their own face masks. Needless to say, those communities are among the hardest hit with the COVID-19 virus in the world.

If you can help by sending homemade face masks to help the hardest hit area, please send them to:

Pastor Derek Lecakes
40-30 219th Street
Bayside, NY 11361-2352

<https://ad-lcms.org/>
derek.lecakes@ad-lcms.org

2. Lutheran World Relief urgently needs cloth face masks to send to vulnerable communities they work with. You can visit their website to make a pledge and help them reach their 75,000 face mask challenge. They also have several easy tutorials to help you learn how to make cloth face masks.

Completed masks can be sent to their warehouse:

Lutheran World Relief
398 East Richmond Street
South St. Paul, MN 55075
651-457-9009

Thank you for whatever you are able to do to help!

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,
as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."
(1 Peter 4:10)

Here Comes The SON!



When I was in college, I led a youth ministry team that did “lock-ins” at churches around Milwaukee. These “lock-ins” were all-night events for the youth of these churches consisting of games, devotions, and songs, all led by a student team from my school. These events went all night long and most of us, kids and us college students, didn’t sleep at all. This seemed like a great decision until about 3am. At this time most of us hit a wall, a wall no amount of pop could help us overcome and we could barely function. But then, depending

on the year, something would happen, the sky would grow bright at 4 or 5 in the morning and the sun would eventually peek over the horizon.

Maybe it was the fact that we were coming to the end of the event, maybe it was the brightness waking up our bodies, much like how our phones keep us awake when looking at them in the evening, but whatever it was, we were filled with new energy. The rising sun changed things for us, even though we were in the same place we were all night long.

There is no doubt that we live in very dark times. Every night the toll of those fighting the Coronavirus illness rises, as does the number of those who lost their fight. Food distributions have become common in our bustling communities. And even if we are not personally affected by these things, we are all touched by the isolation. If there is one thing that will endure for all of us, regardless of how we have been touched, it is the isolation that so easily moves into loneliness. However you look at it, times are dark.

But yet in this Easter season we celebrate, albeit in new ways to us, the rising of the Son, Jesus Christ. Jesus has risen from the dead and that changes how we see things. Even though we are in the same place we have always been these past few weeks, even though things may look the same, the rising Son changes how we see the world around us. When the sun rises, we are reminded that it is a new day. We are reminded that in many ways the old is gone and the new has come. The same is true with us as believers. 2 Corinthians 5:17 tells us, *“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”*

The rising of the Son, Jesus Christ changes our lives. In baptism we were put into His very death and resurrection and changed forever. We have new hope in life today, and in the new days that are to come. It is with the confidence that we are known, loved, forgiven, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, that we face the dark days before us, shining His light wherever we are.

Pax,
Pastor Matthew Barry, Associate Pastor
St. John’s, Chaska
(Pastor Barry also serves as the Zone Pastoral Counselor
for the South Carver County Zone.)

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