

Council of Lutheran Women
Spring Meeting
Monday, April 19, 2021
St. Paul Lutheran Church and Zoom
St. Clair Shores, MI

Opening Devotion-----Rev. David Rutter

Devotion opened, singing Psalm 148, "Let them praise the Name of the Lord, for His Name is exalted!"

HE HAS REASON!!!

Our LCMS founding President wrote:

No matter how sick a person may be in his soul, the Gospel can heal him.

No matter how deeply a person has fallen into the corruption of sin, the Gospel can pull him out.

No matter how troubled and affected a person may be, the Gospel can comfort him. (CFW Walther).

We closed singing "Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing."

President Lucie Witte called the Meeting to order @ 10:08 am.

Welcome-----Andrea Anderson

Minutes of the last Meeting ---Charlestine Gooden

Minutes were reviewed and approved – Report placed on file.

Treasurers Report-----Glory Drum

Report from Annual Luncheon, March 23, 2021, and Spring General Meeting, April 19, 2021. A reminder that some members have not paid their dues, so expect a call from Glory. Both reports were reviewed and placed on file.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

VP of Communication – Judy Shepard

Correspondence Coordinator – Martha Kurtz

Martha is the one that sends out all the documents.

Development Coordinator – Linda Conger

Linda contact people for Scholarship Donations

Membership Coordinator – Marlene Gunnell

Marlene is asking everyone if you have any changes in your address, etc.; please let her know to update her list.

Publicity Coordinator – Laura Thomas and Assistant Nora Baars

- Laura Thomas asked if anyone has any new ideas or information for the E-Newsletter; let her know.
- Nora enjoyed using her camera and making videos for the Annual Luncheon.

Scholarship Coordinator – Lucie Witte

- Lucie Witte highlighted notes from her written report---a student from Ft. Wayne and two students from St. Louis are eligible for Vicarage Placement. Four students from St. Louis will be

eligible for Call Placements. Our Deaconess student is also eligible for placement since she is in the long-distance program but her internship must be within 50 miles from her home. She is uncertain as to when a suitable position will be available.

- The times and places for these events are on our Facebook page , and the services can also be streamed live.

Website Coordinator – Judy Shepard

- Judy Shepard has put a lot of information on the website, so please check it out. Every Form is there, and every report is there, so please, go to the CLW website for any information you may need.

The report was reviewed and placed on file.

VP of Events – Sandy Hardies

- Gina Davidson is the one who takes the Women of the Year nominations.
- Barb Collins finds and arranges for all the places we meet. This year because of the Virtual Luncheon, she went all over the city with Nora Baars making videos of the luncheon participants.
- Candie Sionkowski takes care of all the Eventbrite reservations.
- Kendra Corman from H2H Consulting coordinated the Luncheon Event.

The Committee worked extremely hard along with Kendra to present a wonderful Luncheon. It was a joy to watch and highly informative. It made the CLW look great! Some Churches had groups who sat and watched, while another member in Florida was able to see it.

Upcoming events: Fall Mission Focus Meeting, September 27, 2021, @ Faith, Troy
Council Luncheon, March 2022, Sports and Expo Center, Macomb.

The report was reviewed and placed on file.

VP of Human Care – Willie Marie Henry

Operation Layette – Pam Stasko

- Operation Layette will hold an assembly evening on Thursday, June 3, at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Royal Oak.
- Currently need the following items (gently used and new): Cloth diapers, Onesies in 3–6-month size, Sleepers, Baby washcloths, Socks, Baby bottles (8-9-ounce and 4-ounce sizes)

Food Banks of Metro-Detroit – Ivy Thompson

- Ivy thanked everyone for their support of the Food Banks, especially Peace, because they are open on Tuesdays every week.
- Peace Lutheran Detroit Food Pantry continues to serve the neighborhood around Peace Church faithfully every Tuesday at 11:00 a.m. They feed 45 families each week. **(We have one gentleman, Tony, who is regularly at the pantry. He stopped in two weeks ago to donate \$10.00 and said he is so thankful that we are here because it is his food source for the week).** They have received 30 to 40 pizzas each week from Pizza Hut over the last three months. **Birdia F. Hambright Coordinator.**

- St. John Food Bank continues its efforts of feeding the unemployed, working poor, elderly, and physically challenged members of our community. They have monthly distributions of non-perishables, meats, dairy, and fresh produce. They also provide personal care items when available. They service approximately 50 families each month. **Editha D. Barnes, Chairperson**
- Pantry Needs: Non-Perishable Dry & Canned Goods (easy to open); Paper products (Kleenex, toilet paper, paper towels); Things for serving food (Styrofoam or paper plates, napkins, cups, plastic ware). Hygiene Items: washcloths & towels, deodorant, toothbrushes & toothpaste, soap & shower gel, and Monetary Funding.

Issues & Action Coordinator – Patty Jacques

- Prayer for our Nation – The annual National Day of Prayer is Thursday, May 6, 2021. The theme is **Lord Pour Out Your Love, Life, and Liberty**, taken from 2 Corinthians 3:17. Issues & Action urges all CLW churches to set up regular prayer times, Sunday mornings after Church each week, or monthly or biweekly.
- Celebrate Life. Hold a baby bottle drive, a diaper drive, or a baby shower for a Crisis Pregnancy Center in your area. A good time to have this is between Mother's Day and Father's Day. Lutherans for Life of Michigan is sponsoring a statewide Diaper Shower. For details about how to easily participate in the diaper shower, visit www.lflmi.org.
- Student Statesmanship Institute (SSI) – The "Lead Summer Program is a week featuring authentic leadership simulations in the legislative, media, judicial, campaign, and business fields under the direction of Christian professionals. For details go to www.ssionline.org

Mission Support Coordinator – Barbara Hoffmeier

- Thanks for all the generous items for the in-gathering today. Whenever we have a meeting like this, we have an in-gathering.
- Suggestion – Maybe your group would like to go on a Road Rally, where you take your donations to the places you are donating them to, for example, the Food Banks or Most Minutes.
- Annual Luncheon – raised \$1046.48 that went to the Foodbanks and Operation Layette.
- Website opportunities to serve – The list of our auxiliaries and inter-congregational organizations are on our website. Please remember to support them.
- Mission Focus – September 27, 2021.

Mission Focus will be in the morning, and our Fall Meeting will start at 1 p.m.

The report was reviewed and placed on file.

Historian – Pat Schultz (Oral Report)

For the history, I added (not) having an Annual Luncheon last year. All our records are on pen and paper, and we would like to know if there is a way to include the Luncheon video in our history files? Let us know if there is a way to do that.

President's Report – Lucie Witte

- I represented the Council of Lutheran Women at the Lutheran Center Board Meeting last November. They are hoping to have a Lutherfest this year but are waiting to make the final decision.

- A special thanks go to Patti Jacques for recommending H2H Consulting and then talking to Kendra Corman. A special thanks to the group that put everything together and met every two weeks until the Luncheon event.
- I prepared all the things on my list to do for the webinar.
- I prepared the USPS mailing of invitations to the Luncheon and scholarship forms to all Council members.
- I participated in the preparation and delivery of the Program packets for luncheon registrants and WOY Honorees. A special thanks to Barb Collins, Nora Baars, Sheri Comeford, Laura Thomas, and Hope member Martha Anderson for compiling the packets. Barbara Hoffmeier and Sandy Hardies also assisted in making deliveries of the packages and Laura, Sheri, Nora, and myself.
- I prepared a Follow-up email to the Registrants of the Virtual Luncheon to encourage additional support for the Scholarship Program. We will also send a USPS letter to each Congregation and Organization; this was a suggestion from H2H Consulting.

The report was reviewed and placed on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Review Luncheon

- The WOY recognition Virtual Luncheon is on our webpage. It is a PowerPoint, and we also have a You-tube recording without Jan Struck. So, if you would like to have a small group viewing at your Church later this year, you have the option to access it from our webpage. If you have pictures of your small group viewing, please share them with Nora to add to the Webpage and Judy to be put on the website.
- A special thanks to Laura for being our MC. and Lucie for doing her part.
- We have a tax receipt form available if you would like to have one.

Rescheduling of the mission focus

Barbara Hoffmeier gave the details of the Mission Focus Event. We need to get the word out about this event. Our goal is to have at least 200 people; it will be like a small convention. Barbara will be the MC.; the Event committee will oversee the food; this is a free event.

Other Old Business

- Sandy Hardies has announced the date for the 2022 Luncheon at the Sports & Expo Center in Warren on March 15, 2022.
- We are still waiting for the remaining balance of our money back from Burton Manor (\$2000).

Nominations Committee Coordinator – Barbara Hoffmeier

Our committee members are Sandy Hardies, Marlene Gunnell, Glory Drum, and Barbara Hoffmeier. The Committee presented a slate of officers : VP of Communications - Judy Shepard from Emmanuel in Dearborn, the incumbent, agreed to run for a second term; VP of Events - Candie Sionkowski from Guardian, Dearborn; and Recording Secretary's position is open. The President asked for nominations or volunteers, and Karen Linzing, from Historic Trinity, volunteered for the position of Secretary. The President entertained a motion that we accept this slate of officers by acclamation. Nancy Jones moved that we accept the slate of officers by acclamation, and Glory Drum supported. The motion was approved.

NEW BUSINESS

- There have been comments that everyone is not getting their emails. The EC committee discussed and decided to try Constant Contact for 12 months, giving us extra security with emails. We are hoping that this will help get all our emails through. If you miss getting emails of events, please go to the website.
- We have a couple of BOD vacancies, Martha Kurtz, Correspondence Coordinator, and Linda Conger, Development Coordinator. If you desire to serve on the Board or someone you know would be a good fit for the Board, please pass along their names.
- The Financial Review Committee will meet over the summer and report to the EC in August.
- Our every four-year By-Laws Committee will meet during the summer. We already have three volunteers from the EC Committee but need a couple more.

Reports of Inter-Congregational Organizations

Camp Restore Detroit – Elizabeth Parrish

So far this year, we have had 56 volunteers, 78 Camper nights, and have had 618 volunteer hours of service in our community. This Summer, May-August, we have 1,372 campers' nights booked. We are working on our community garden and maintaining the reflection garden. We are beginning physical work on our White House, which will be our children's outreach center.

The report is placed on file.

Concordia University Guild – No Report (Absent)

Family of God – No Report (Absent)

Gifts for All God's Children – Patti Jacques (oral report)

- Mission statement – to meet the needs and share the love of Christ with at-risk children in Southeast Mi.
- We had a two-week Virtual Vacation Bible School and gave out Camp Bags with the lessons and activities for each child by way of a Drive-thru pick-up.
- East Bethlehem started with no children; now, they have 200 children that are a part of the program and 25 children baptized.
- CKC Tutoring has now gone Virtual from your home, one hour a week. The curriculum is "Prayer & Superbook," a cartoon format of bible lessons. The core component is IXL, an interactive online learning system. There is a waiting list of children who need help, so we are asking for volunteers.
- In 2020 we gave away 759 spring bags, 57 received shoes, 47 received school uniforms, and 976 school bags. This year our spring bag giveaway jumped from 759 to 1780 this past March.
- We partnered with eight churches to form the GFAGC Model Replication Committee, guiding them through the year-round GFAGC ministry model at East Bethlehem.
- Troy Chamber of Commerce awarded us with the Troy Non-Profit Excellence Award.

Lutheran Heritage – No Report (Absent)

LHSA North – No Report (Absent)

LHSA Northwest – No Report (Absent)

LHSA Westland – No Report (Absent)

Lutheran Special Education – No Report (Absent)

LWML English District – Andrea Anderson (oral report)

The Greater Detroit Zone is having a Spring Rally Saturday, May 22, 2021, at St. Paul, 22915 Greater Mack, St. Clair Shores, 9:30am –1 pm, \$10.00 Registration that includes Lunch, and Speaker Birdia Hambright from Peace Lutheran's Food Bank. In-gathering of Baby items: bath towels, washcloths, burp cloths, toiletries, soap, and lotion will go to the LWML Convention in Lexington, KY in June.

LWML Michigan District

Carla Elenz is riding her bike from Gaylord, Michigan, to Lexington, Kentucky, to attend the Convention. She is planning to leave on June 11 and travel 50 miles /day. Carla is inviting us to support her with donations to Mites, and you can do this by going to lwmlmichigan.org/donate.

Dearborn/Downriver Zone – Kay Wolff, (oral report)

- Kay brought a greeting from Marybeth Heikkinen, Michigan District President, who could not attend.
- There will be an LWML MI District EC Meeting on May 8, 2021.
- The District now uses Constant Contact, and if you sign up, you can get e-News sent directly to you via email.
- Activity ideas from other zones: Virtually Ann Arbor Zone had a Prayer Service, and another zone had a pajama party with hot chocolate. If you need some help with your zone, let the District know, and they will try to help.

Greater Detroit Zone – Willie Marie Henry, No Report (Absent)

Macomb South Zone – Karen McClelland, (report on file)

- Macomb is partnering with the Evergreen Zone to have a Spring Rally Saturday, April 24, at Grace Lutheran Fellowship, 7525 32-mile Rd., Romeo, Michigan.
- We are planning a prayer service on May 22 at Trinity Lutheran, Clinton Township.

Wayne Oak Hills Zone – Sue Poole, (report On file)

- We are hosting our Spring Rally, Saturday, April 24, from 9am – 12pm at Shadow of the Cross, Farmington Hills. Our District President will be our speaker, Marybeth Heikkinen, In-gathering, Diapers.

LWML National – Barb Collins (oral report)

We want to encourage you to attend the National Convention in Lexington, Kentucky, June 24 – 27, 2021. There will be a lot of activities, Golf Outing on Wednesday. Thursday, there are three different time slots for servant events. You may choose from eight various events. MI District President Maier will be the proclaimer for the opening worship service Thursday evening.

Most Ministries – Sandy Hardies (oral report)

There has been no traveling done in the last year and none this year so far. We are planning to take teams out after June. Sandy is going to lead a team to Belize in August. If you would like to come to the office to help, they need volunteers, but you would need to make an appointment.

Poblo – Cynthia Kahn (Oral Report)

- Our mission is to share the Gospel with people from different countries.
- We have started six new ESL classes on Zoom.
- We provide Langrage Services to Churches that may have Arabic-speaking people in their congregation.
- We provide services to Luke Project 52 when they need an interpreter.

- Hamtramck has a space for the women who live there to start a Sewing Program. We are in the process of working on this offer.
- Our Sewing Program has started making Singers' Mask, and now we are getting orders from Schools and Churches for their choirs. They are a unique design for singers.
- We started a new program called Zoom Bells to connect American Women with women from other countries as prayer partners. We also link kids to families who may pray with them and offer support.
- We are working with the Michigan District of the LWML on the Zoom Heart to Heart Program.

Project Compassion – Willie Marie Henry, No Report (Absent).

The Luke Project 52 Clinic, No Report (Absent).

Wellspring Lutheran Services Aux. #2, #18, No Report (Absent).

Wellspring Lutheran Services, No Report (Absent).

Installation of Officers – Rev. David Rutter

Our new officers: Judy Shepard, Candie Sionkowski, and Karen Linzing.

Presentations on our Lutheran Seminaries

Rev. Larry Wright (Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne.)

- Rev. Wright opened his presentations with the words from Past President Dr. Wenthe, "We are blessed in the LCMS to have one seminary; it just happens to be in two different places."
- For those who had not seen the campus, he showed a flyover video.
- He shared another short video, "What a student's life looks like for a day."
- There are three primary programs at the Seminary, Master of Divinity, Alternate Route Certificate, and Master of Arts in Deaconess Studies.
- The College pays for 77.5 % of the tuition from endowments and investments. The balance comes from Seminary Grants, Outside Scholarships, Student Loans, etc. Tuition runs around \$22,000 for a single student and \$32,000 for a married couple with two children.
- We can help by Praying for our Pastors and Congregations; praying for more men and women to go into the Seminary, and continue to sponsor scholarships.

Laura Thomas (Concordia Seminary, St. Louis).

St. Louis seminary is one of the two private seminaries of the Lutheran Church---Missouri Synod. A group of emigrants from Germany started this school for Pastors in 1839. It provides men for the ministry, preparing women through its Deaconess Studies program and offering advanced degree programs to qualified theology students. In 2021 they have alumni of 12,600.

- There are two categories of study, the Ministerial Formation for those seeking to serve as a Pastor or Deaconess and those seeking advanced degrees in theology.
- On February 15, Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Egger was elected the eleventh president and started on March 15, 2021. He was already serving as the Gustav and Sophie Butterbach, Professor of Exegetical Theology, Chairman of the Exegetical Theology Department, and Academic adviser for first-year students. He has been at the Seminary for 16 years.
- Endowments are essential to us because it allows having stable funding. It is an investment in the market. There are annual distributions from the assets that enable us to count on a certain amount of revenue every year. We have increased our staff. We have 11 endowed chair professorships at the Seminary.

- The guaranteed tuition program came as the first and second choice for one of the most important reasons students can attend the Seminary; this came from a student survey.
- We have completed the Library's renovation with digitalization equipment for the rare book collection, which you can access from the website. We have renovated some faculty and student homes because we feel that a good living and learning environment is vital.
- There are many ways we could use your support but here are the three most important ways:
 1. Pray for future seminarians as they recognize and discern their calling to the ministry.
 2. Pray for current and future donors to be challenged to remove financial obstacles for these students.
 3. Refer student candidates to the Seminary, look for ways to connect. We deploy student recruitment ambassadors all over the US; one is here in this District, Pastor Bodley.
- Refer those with a special heart for the pastor to the Seminary. We can show them how they can joyfully participate in shaping the life of a current Seminarian through encouragement and financial support.
- We have a Food Bank, Resale Shop, and Adopt-a-Student. The best way to give is for whatever the need, called unrestricted giving.

Thank You because we should know how important we are; we are part of that community that sends these students to the Seminary.

President Lucie Witte closed the Meeting with the Lord's Prayer @ 2:16 p.m.

Upcoming Meetings

EC Meeting	Aug. 2, 2021	9:15 am.	St John, Detroit
BOD Meeting	Aug. 16, 2021	10 a.m.	TBD
Mission Focus/ Fall Meeting	Sept. 27, 2021	9:00am/1pm	Faith, Troy
58 th Annual Council Luncheon	March 15, 2022	11 a.m.	Macomb Sport & Expo Center
Spring General Meeting	April 25, 2022	9:15 a.m.	TBD